Samoa has two main islands—Savaii and Upolu—and several smaller ones covering 2,934 square kilometers of land. The country depends on fisheries and agriculture for exports while importing most of its fuel and commodities. The combined impact of a measles outbreak in late 2019 and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 saw gross domestic product contract by 3.3% in fiscal year 2020. Moreover, although remittances grew by 4.9%, visitor arrivals fell by 30.3% due to border closures. Further contraction occurred in fiscal years 2021 and 2022 (with estimates of –7.1% and –6%, respectively) with a slow restart in tourism after borders reopened in August 2022.

Samoa is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1966 and has been receiving support from the bank for infrastructure development and policy reforms, and strengthening its climate resilience. Samoa has been making good progress in addressing poverty and managing gender, health, education, and environment issues.

To date, ADB has committed 147 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totaling $484.3 million to Samoa. Cumulative loan and grant disbursements to Samoa amount to $320.61 million. These were financed by concessional ordinary capital resources, the Asian Development Fund, and other special funds. ADB’s ongoing sovereign portfolio in Samoa includes 1 loan and 7 grants worth $138.4 million.1

ADB assistance to Samoa focuses on enhancing its resilience against climate and economic shocks through infrastructure investments and support to private enterprises.

### Samoa: 2022 Commitments (\$ million)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Sovereign</th>
<th>Nonsovereign</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance†</td>
<td>4.97</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Supply Chain Finance Progm1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12.47</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>13.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = nil, DMC = developing member country, TA = technical assistance.

Notes:
- Commitment is the financing approved by ADB’s Board of Directors or Management for which the legal agreement has been signed by the borrower, recipient, or the investee company and ADB.
- Grants and TA include ADB-administered cofinancing.
- Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.
- Financing for TA projects with regional coverage is distributed to their specific DMCs where breakdown is available.
- Short-term ADB-financed commitments from private sector programs with maturity of less than 365 days.

### Samoa: Cumulative Commitmentsb, c, d

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Amount ($ million)*</th>
<th>% of Total Amount*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project and Technical Assistance</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>535.59</td>
<td>99.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>42.31</td>
<td>7.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36.38</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>108.64</td>
<td>20.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31.44</td>
<td>5.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19.17</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry and Trade</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31.17</td>
<td>5.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisector</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>41.41</td>
<td>7.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector Management</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>75.51</td>
<td>14.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>125.73</td>
<td>23.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18.70</td>
<td>3.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Supply Chain Finance Progm1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry and Trade</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>536.33</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DMC = developing member country, TA = technical assistance.

- Grants and TA include ADB-administered cofinancing.
- Includes loans, grants, TA, and private sector programs.
- Using primary sector in the reporting of commitments.
- From 2020, financing for TA projects with regional coverage is distributed to their specific DMCs where breakdown is available.
- Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.
- Short-term ADB-financed commitments from private sector programs with maturity of less than 365 days.

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1 Sovereign portfolio consists of loans, grants, equity investment, and sovereign guarantee committed and not financially closed. Regional projects with loans/grants to multiple countries are reported separately.

Updated as of February 2024
In 2020, ADB committed $7.5 million for Samoa under a project to support vaccine rollout and strengthen health systems. As part of its COVID-19 response, ADB committed an additional $8 million to the project in 2021.

ADB is supporting projects to enhance the safety, security, and sustainability of the Apia port, and to upgrade Upolu’s central cross island road. In 2021, ADB committed $5 million to prepare priority land transport projects.

Samoa is prone to disasters triggered by natural hazards. In 2017, ADB committed $6 million under the Pacific Disaster Resilience Program as contingent financing for post-disaster early recovery and reconstruction activities. In April 2020, ADB expanded the program to include health emergencies. The program was replenished with a $10-million grant in December 2020, which Samoa drew down in April 2022 upon confirmation of COVID-19 community transmission. Samoa then drew down a $2.9-million grant in response to the COVID-19 emergency and the remaining $3.1 million loan when the program was closed in December 2022.

ADB committed and disbursed $7.5 million for budget support under subprogram 1 of the Strengthening Macroeconomic Resilience Program in 2022. The program supports policy reforms for restoring fiscally sustainable growth led by the private sector, which has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADB further supports private sector development through the Samoa Agribusiness Support Project that facilitates access to financing and business support services to selected agribusinesses. The project is cofinanced by the Government of Australia.

Nonsovereign operations. Total outstanding balances and undisbursed commitments of ADB’s nonsovereign transactions in Samoa as of 31 December 2022 was $800,000 representing 0.01% of ADB’s total private sector portfolio.

Operational challenges. ADB projects in Samoa continue to be affected by geographical isolation, capacity constraints, and issues related to environment and social safeguards. A submarine internet cable, which went live in 2018, has helped overcome the challenges of remoteness through improved connectivity, while the project to improve Apia’s port will help reduce trade and transport costs.

Capacity constraints limit project implementation in Samoa, though the capacity of both the government and the overall economy is gradually increasing. The COVID-19 pandemic imposed serious challenges including the impact of border closures on the tourism industry and the delayed mobilization of contractors to implement major government projects to stimulate the economy. Improved internet connectivity allowed virtual engagements with development partners to seek expert support.
KNOWLEDGE WORK

ADB brings added value beyond its important role in project financing. In Samoa, ADB has supported economic and policy reforms, building and supplementing capacity to strengthen areas such as state-owned enterprises performance, public financial management, the business-enabling environment, and gender equality. ADB’s flagship publications, including the Asian Development Outlook and the Pacific Economic Monitor, provide key analytical work to support decision-making.

ADB also participates in joint missions with its development partners in line with the International Monetary Fund’s Article IV consultations, which feature robust discussions with the government on strategic priorities and other critical issues that require coordinated support.

The presence of an office in Samoa enables ADB to play a key role in regional cooperation and integration, and in development partner coordination.

FINANCING PARTNERSHIPS

Financing partnerships enable ADB’s financing partner governments or their agencies, multilateral financing institutions, and private organizations to participate in financing ADB projects. The additional funds provided may be in the form of loans and grants, technical assistance, and nonsovereign cofinancing.

Cumulative cofinancing commitments in Samoa:

- Sovereign cofinancing: $140.5 million for 9 investment projects and $2.63 million for 7 technical assistance projects since 1984
- Nonsovereign cofinancing: $1 million for 1 investment project since 2017

In 2022, Samoa received a total of $30.9 million grant cofinancing from Australia, New Zealand, and the World Bank for the Strengthening Macroeconomic Resilience Program – Subprogram 1.

A summary of projects with cofinancing from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 is available at www.adb.org/countries/samoa/cofinancing.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

ADB’s Pacific Approach, 2021–2025, guides the bank’s operations in Samoa. The strategy focuses on building resilience against economic shocks, delivering sustainable services, and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth while recovering from the impacts of COVID-19. The strategy introduces new priorities areas, including a more programmatic approach to climate change support; a deeper focus on long-term capacity support, including the use of capacity supplementation; increased flexibilities in procurement and contracting; and an emphasis on gender equality.

ADB will continue to help build sustainable capacity for sound economic and public sector management and support reforms for state-owned enterprises.
ADB AT A GLANCE

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. It has 68 members—of which 49 are from Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside. ADB headquarters is in Manila, Philippines and has 43 offices around the world, with 3,775 staff from 66 members as of 31 December 2022.

ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance to its members by providing financing and tailored knowledge solutions through policy dialogue and advisory services, among others. It mobilizes financial resources through cofinancing from official, commercial, and export credit sources.

ADB met strong demand for its assistance in 2022. It unlocked greater resources for its members through the private sector and partnerships. ADB provided financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, education quality and access, affordable health care, and more sustainable and climate-resilient food systems. In 2022, 97% of ADB operations contributed to gender equality. ADB fostered greater regional collaboration on issues such as health threats and tax cooperation. ADB also responded to demand for tailored knowledge solutions from its members.

ADB operations. In 2022, ADB committed $20.5 billion in loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, private sector programs, and technical assistance to both the public and private sectors of its borrowing members. ADB bolstered its total support with cofinancing of $11.4 billion.

As of 31 December 2022, ADB's cumulative commitments in 45 countries stood at $358.4 billion covering 4,189 loans, $12.6 billion in 566 grants, and $5.5 billion in technical assistance grants, including regional technical assistance grants. In addition to loans, grants, and technical assistance, ADB uses guarantees, equity investments, and private sector programs to help its developing member countries.

Total commitments in nonsovereign loans, equity investments, and guarantees from ADB's own funds in 2022 amounted to $11.1 billion for 37 transactions in economic and social infrastructure, finance sector, and agribusiness.

In 2022, ADB mobilized $1.7 billion of long-term project cofinancing and $5.3 billion of cofinancing through its Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program and Microfinance Program. Total outstanding balances and undisbursed commitments of nonsovereign transactions funded by ADB’s own resources stood at $12.8 billion as of 31 December 2022.

FINANCING PARTNERSHIPS

Total sovereign and nonsovereign cofinancing commitments, 2022

- $11.39 billion for 165 projects, of which:
  - $11.2 billion, 75 investment projects,
  - $126.49 million, 87 technical assistance projects,
  - $60 million transaction advisory services mandates for 3 projects.

Cumulative sovereign and nonsovereign cofinancing commitments, 1970–2022

- $151.87 billion for 3,292 projects, of which:
  - $147.81 billion, 1,163 investment projects,
  - $2.92 billion, 2,120 technical assistance projects,
  - $1.13 billion transaction advisory services mandates for 9 projects.

PROCUREMENT

ADB’s Procurement Contracts, 2022

Goods, Works, and Related Services
ADB’s procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for goods, works, and related services under loan and grant operations:

- $15.23 billion in 2021
- $16.19 billion in 2022
- $247.06 billion covering 228,149 contracts, cumulative procurement since 1966.

Consulting Services
ADB’s procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for consulting services under loan, grant, and technical assistance operations:

- $706.65 million in 2021
- $535.61 million in 2022
- $15.45 billion covering 74,995 contracts, cumulative procurement since 1966.

MORE ABOUT SAMOA AND ADB

Shareholding and Voting Power
Number of shares held: 348 (0.003% of total shares)
Votes: 39,462 (0.297% of total membership, 0.456% of total regional membership)

*Overall capital subscription: $4.63 million
*Paid-in capital subscription: $280,000

*United States dollar figures are valued at rate as of 31 December 2022.

ADB Governor: Lautimuiu Uelese Vaai
ADB Alternate Governor: Saʻoleitiiti Maeva Betham-Vaai
ADB Director: Made Arya Wijaya (Indonesia)
ADB Alternate Director: Llewellyn Roberts (New Zealand)
ADB Director’s Advisors: Rosemary Abigail Lee Hang (Samoa) and Mohammed Jabid (Fiji)

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Useful ADB websites
Asian Development Bank
www.adb.org
Annual Report
www.adb.org/documents/series/adb-annual-reports
Asian Development Outlook
www.adb.org/publications/series/asian-development-outlook
ADB Data Library
data.adb.org

Notes: (i) Figures are estimated by ADB unless otherwise stated.
* “$” refers to United States dollars. (ii) Data are updated as of 31 December 2022 unless otherwise indicated.