CONTENTS

Foreword vi
Acknowledgments v
ADB Operations in the Pacific vii
Abbreviations viii
Weights and Measures viii
Overview 1
Regional Initiatives 9
Cook Islands 14
Federated States of Micronesia 15
Fiji 17
Kiribati 19
Marshall Islands 21
Nauru 24
Niue 25
Palau 26
Papua New Guinea 28
Samoa 31
Solomon Islands 32
Tonga 35
Tuvalu 37
Vanuatu 39
References 42

TABLES, FIGURE, BOXES, AND MAP

TABLES
1 Urban Population in Pacific Developing Member Countries 3
2 Alignment of ADB Portfolio with the Pacific Urban Development, Water, and Sanitation Sector Road Map 2021–2025 7

FIGURE
Impact of Cyclone Harold in Tonga 36

BOXES
1 ADB’s Strategy 2030 and Urban Services in the Pacific 2
2 Integrated Approach to Solid Waste Management for Ebeye 23
3 Making Urban Sanitation More Inclusive in Papua New Guinea 30
4 Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2035 34
5 Tonga Multi-Hazard Disaster Risk Assessment 36

MAP
FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the Pacific Urban Update of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Pacific Urban Update provides an annual review of ADB’s technical assistance, grant, and lending activities in the Pacific region. I am pleased that this 2021 issue features the voices of our clients and beneficiaries. Similar to previous issues, it also showcases the impacts and outcomes of ongoing and recently completed initiatives as of April 2021 and describes the projects that are being prepared and are aligned with ADB’s Pacific Urban Development, Water, and Sanitation Sector Road Map 2021–2025. This issue also highlights ADB’s initiatives in building resilience to the coronavirus disease and other pandemics, such as integrating water, sanitation, hygiene, and health.

The ADB Pacific Department partners with governments, communities, and the private sector to increase access to essential goods, services, and opportunities. Such partnerships also aim to promote planning for more livable towns and cities and build resilience to climate change and external shocks. ADB promotes the urban sector of its Pacific developing member countries by supporting safe, efficient, and reliable urban services (including water supply and sanitation) to achieve equitable socioeconomic growth and sustainable results.

As reflected in ADB’s Pacific Approach 2021–2025, ADB’s goal is to support a resilient Pacific, by enabling Pacific DMCs to prepare for and respond to shocks, deliver sustainable services, and achieve inclusive growth. In this regard, the 2021 edition highlights the knowledge solutions and the impacts of ADB’s core activities in the Pacific urban sector, and what ADB aims to achieve in the future with our clients and partners.

Leah Gutierrez
Director General
Pacific Department
Asian Development Bank
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


For more information, contact:
Urban Development and Water Supply Division
Pacific Department
Asian Development Bank
pauwinternationalstaff@adb.org

Jingmin Huang, Director
Stephen Blaik, Principal Urban Development Specialist
Vivian Castro-Wooldridge, Senior Urban Development Specialist
Maria Vicedo Ferrer, Urban Development Specialist
Yuki Ikeda, Public Management Economist
Anupma Jain, Senior Urban Development Specialist
Kristina Katich, Senior Urban Development Specialist (outposted in Fiji)
Herzl Erin F. Banacia, Operations Assistant
Ana Theresa L. Cervantes, Associate Project Analyst
Lassie Lucky A. Fernando, Operations Assistant
Rhea Mae Pleños Maningo, Operations Assistant
Ryan Bert C. Peralta, Associate Project Officer
Rhea Rochelle G. Vicente, Operations Analyst

Other Pacific Department Staff working on urban development and water supply division include:

Katherine Guy, Infrastructure Specialist
Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji

Shinjini Mehta, Infrastructure Specialist
Vanuatu Country Office

Maria Melei, Senior Country Coordination Officer
Samoa Extended Mission

Elma Morsheda, Infrastructure Specialist
Solomon Islands Country Office

Grace King, Senior Project Officer (Financial Management)
Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji

Vijay Narayan, Senior Project Officer
Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji

Maria Tran, Senior Project Officer (Urban Development)
Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office, Sydney, Australia

Maria Theresa J. Villareal, Unit Head, Portfolio Management
Papua New Guinea Resident Mission

Hanna Uusimaa, Senior Climate Change Specialist
Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji (outposted)
NOTE: This list is based on the statement under OVERVIEW of the Pacific Urban Update.
ABBREVIATIONS

ADB – Asian Development Bank
ADF – Asian Development Fund
DMC – developing member country
FCAS – fragile and conflict-affected situations
GHUDSAP – Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan
GIS – geographical information system
KALGOV – Kwajalein Atoll Local Government
MDG – Millennium Development Goal
PNG – Papua New Guinea
PRF – project readiness financing
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS – small island developing states
WASH – water, sanitation, and hygiene

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

km – kilometer
km² – square kilometer
m³ – cubic meter
OVERVIEW

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) operates in 14 developing member countries (DMCs) in the Pacific region—the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Many of the Pacific DMCs are small, remote, and fragile. They experience natural constraints and external shocks, making the achievement of sustainable and inclusive growth even more challenging. Their smallness and isolation increase the costs of providing services, while their high exposure to climate change and disasters, and their small size and narrow economic base make them extremely vulnerable to shocks.

ADB’s Strategy 2030 aims to better respond to a rapidly changing situation and landscape in Asia and the Pacific by achieving “a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty” (ADB 2018). It recognizes the distinct development challenges of small island developing states (SIDS) as well as fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCAS). The Strategy also promotes a differentiated approach to operations among Pacific DMCs.

Making cities more livable is one of ADB’s seven operational priorities that focuses on delivering integrated solutions (Box 1). The concept of urban resilience is central to the Pacific DMCs. It goes beyond focusing on climate change and disaster risk management to including a range of other socioeconomic and institutional pillars of resilience. Using a differentiated approach, the Pacific Department is working to provide essential urban services to growing urban populations. The approach addresses the root causes of vulnerability and fragility, including low institutional capacities for planning and managing urban development. It also calls for integrated and coordinated investments in urban water supply, sanitation, and other municipal infrastructure and services based on ADB’s Pacific Approach 2021–2025 strategic agenda. The Pacific Department is also strengthening regional coordination and integration through a water utility webinar series to promote knowledge sharing between countries. It will also support regional networks like the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association and scale up support for solid waste management, aligning with ADB’s Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies.

The Pacific Urban Update 2021 discusses active and proposed programs and projects, and active technical assistance in Pacific DMCs. The cutoff date for this update is 30 April 2021. Pipeline programs, projects, and technical assistance proposed for 2021–2023 are also discussed.

Urban development, water supply and sanitation projects account for 8.9% of the total value of ADB’s portfolio in the Pacific.

20 ongoing projects totaling $312.48 million in ADB financing.

URBAN PORTFOLIO IN THE PACIFIC

2021–2023 ADB’S URBAN PIPELINE IN THE PACIFIC

8 projects at $275.6 million, including $102.7 million in cofinancing.

Note: Figures are provided as of 30 April 2021. The number of projects includes technical assistance.

Note: This does not include planned technical assistance.
Box 1: ADB’s Strategy 2030 and Urban Services in the Pacific

ADB’s Strategy 2030 sets operational priorities for achieving a more prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development path in Asia and the Pacific. To do so, it establishes seven focus areas to guide its operations. Text boxes in this Pacific Urban Update 2021 highlight the way in which Pacific urban initiatives are aligned with Strategy 2030. The following are ADB’s urban initiatives in the region that support each operational area:

**Address remaining poverty and reduce inequality** by (i) tackling the social dimensions of urbanization and critical issues of affordability, access, equity, and jobs; (ii) promoting inclusive urban planning and infrastructure; and (iii) promoting affordable urban water supply and sanitation, and access by the urban poor.

**Accelerate progress in gender equality** by (i) encouraging women-friendly city designs, (ii) promoting women’s participation in urban water supply and sanitation planning and governance, (iii) promoting gender-responsive infrastructure designs and development, and (iv) including women as important stakeholders for consultations.

**Tackle climate change, build climate and disaster resilience, and enhance environmental sustainability** by (i) promoting an integrated approach, with coordinated and multisector planning, to address climate change mitigation and adaptation imperatives (i.e., risk-informed approach); (ii) installing resilient infrastructure that utilizes low-emission technologies and climate-resilient approaches; and (iii) employing nature-based solutions to urban water and flood risk management.

**Make cities more livable** by (i) localizing the global agenda on sustainable urban development and supporting cities to prepare and implement city-specific plans; (ii) enhancing urban governance, planning, and finance to help cities better engage with important stakeholders; (iii) transforming urban water supply and sanitation agencies into financially autonomous and accountable corporatized service providers; (iv) partnering with the private sector on operations and maintenance; (v) ensuring wastewater is treated and reused, and promoting citywide inclusive sanitation systems, including sewered, non-sewered, and fecal sludge management solutions; (vi) establishing effective regulatory regimes and enforcement; and (vii) reducing waste and preventing and managing pollution.

**Promote rural development and food security** by strengthening rural–urban economic linkages through resilient urban water supply and sanitation planning, and infrastructure development; and incorporating a holistic approach to strategic, long-term multisector urban planning that looks beyond the municipality administrative boundaries.

**Strengthen governance and institutional capacity** by (i) facilitating effective partnerships among the government, private sector, and civil society organizations to improve service provision; (ii) enhancing transparency and accountability of utilities and public institutions in cities; and (iii) improving urban water supply and sanitation service delivery to consumers and clients.

**Foster regional cooperation and integration** by promoting regional/global public goods, and regionalizing solid waste management, clean-up of ocean plastics pollution, and the improvement of oceans’ health.

The Urban Context of Pacific Developing Member Countries

PNG accounts for almost 80% of the population across the 14 Pacific DMCs; but the urban population in PNG only accounts for about 56% of the total urban population across the 14 countries (Table 1). Half of the 14 Pacific DMCs have more than half of their population living in urban areas (the Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, and Tuvalu). Except for the Cook Islands and Samoa, urbanization rates are increasing in all Pacific DMCs.

Table 1: Urban Population in Pacific Developing Member Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>15,613</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>(-0.91)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>0.050</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>11.20</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0.890</td>
<td>18.27</td>
<td>504.63</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>5,639</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>0.120</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>66.00</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>0.050</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>38.70</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>3,669</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>8,330</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>0.0020</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>15,074</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>16.36</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>16,261</td>
<td>around 250</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>8.930</td>
<td>462.80</td>
<td>1,187.69</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>around 600</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>2.84</td>
<td>36.20</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>4,258</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(-0.40)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>0.710</td>
<td>28.90</td>
<td>172.53</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>1,724</td>
<td>around 900</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>22.70</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>4,011</td>
<td>around 170</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>3,545</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>0.290</td>
<td>12.19</td>
<td>73.37</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>2,876</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.402</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,160.14</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, GDP = gross domestic product, km² = square kilometers.
* Does not include small islets.


People are increasingly attracted to towns, as these urban areas become centers of commerce, seats of government, and places of opportunity and hope. Informal settlements dominate urban growth and are now a permanent feature of the urban landscape in many Pacific towns and cities. These informal settlements usually have inadequate levels of basic services and infrastructure, such as water, sanitation, and waste disposal. Utility providers often have no obligation to provide services to settlements. Insecure land tenure further hinders efforts to improve services to residents.

Urban concentration in many Pacific DMCs contributes to public health risks. Statistics shows the prevalence of diseases in urban areas; and these diseases are related to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene, such as diarrhea, gastroenteritis, dysentery, typhoid, conjunctivitis, tinea, and ringworm. Large household sizes are common across Pacific DMCs. The Marshall Islands, for instance, has an average of 8.2 people per household while Kiribati has 6.2 people per household. Large household sizes increase the likelihood of transmission of communicable diseases. Households often expand without corresponding improvements in basic water and sanitation facilities.
Adequate infrastructure and services for water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management are enablers for economic development, and particularly important for tourism-oriented Pacific economies. Pollution control is key for eco-tourism and protection of the environment.

**Urban Development in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations of Pacific Developing Member Countries**

All 14 Pacific DMCs are considered SIDS and experience elements of fragility. FCAS countries in the Pacific are the FSM, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, PNG, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. As all Pacific DMCs are considered SIDS, these classifications require a differentiated approach to working in the urban sector in the Pacific.

Using a differentiated approach, ADB is working to provide essential services to growing urban populations by addressing the root causes of vulnerability and fragility, including low institutional capacities for planning and managing urban development. Specific interventions focus on (i) strengthening urban resilience in Pacific DMCs, (ii) assisting in urban strategic planning and multisector investment prioritization, (iii) reform planning and implementation, and (iv) institutional strengthening and capacity development. The Urban Development and Water Supply Division is working with the Social Sectors and Public Management Division on implementing the regional technical assistance that would draw out the lessons from considering fragility in urban development initiatives (see section on regional initiatives).

**Water Resources in Pacific Developing Member Countries**

Water resources in Pacific DMCs are often limited to rainwater harvesting, and are vulnerable to natural variability in precipitation patterns or changes in storm tracks. Although surface water is found on islands with higher altitudes (parts of Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu), on low islands and atolls, it is often brackish and not usable as a freshwater resource. Groundwater—in particular, the fragile lenses found in the low-lying atolls of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Tuvalu—is increasingly under threat due to population growth in urban areas, contamination, and the impacts of climate change. These water resource challenges have prompted governments to look for alternative water sources, which are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

**The Sustainable Development Goals**

Half of the 14 Pacific DMCs met the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for water, while 3 of them met the MDG for sanitation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new set of interrelated goals that carry on the work begun for the MDGs. While specific goals are set for sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), the SDGs emphasize the importance of reaching across sector lines, breaking sector silos, and using resources more efficiently through a circular economy.

SDG 3 on health aims to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” A specific goal under SDG 3 by 2030 is to “substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water pollution and contamination.”

SDG 6 on water and sanitation aims to “ensure access to water and sanitation for all” by 2030. Specific targets under SDG 6 include achieving “universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” and achieving “access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.”

SDG 11 on livable cities aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.” Specific targets under SDG 11 include reducing by 2030, the “number of deaths and number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations,” and by 2020, increasing “by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, [and] resilience to disasters.” In line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework, SDG 11 also seeks to develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

---

SDG 3 and SDG 6 are linked as they are critical to improving public health, especially for the most vulnerable, through improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Both SDG 6 and SDG 11 are interlinked with other sector-specific SDGs (e.g., SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy) and those which are more crosscutting in nature (e.g., SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production and SDG 13 on climate change). For example, specific targets under SDG 12 include achieving “sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources” and reducing “waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.”

The SDG targets are an important foundation for developing sustainable cities and communities in the Pacific, providing improved water and sanitation services, promoting improved hygiene practices, and delivering more efficient urban services more broadly.

ADB supports Pacific DMCs in achieving the SDGs by 2030. ADB aligns its Pacific urban and water operations with DMC policies and ADB’s Strategy 2030, including the livable cities approach.

Sustainable social and economic development in the Pacific region’s cities and towns requires significant investment and corresponding institutional reforms to improve the quality of, and access to, urban services. Together with Pacific DMCs, ADB is developing solutions on a case-by-case basis, according to the unique situation of each country, and drawing upon lessons from past projects in the region. During project design and implementation, careful consideration is given to capacity constraints, climate change adaptation, gender equality, and identifying innovative approaches to ensure the long-term sustainability of investments.

ADB’s Pacific operations envision for each intervention to build the resilience of people, institutions, the environment, and infrastructure through investments, knowledge, and partnerships.

**Climate and Disaster Resilience**

The wide-ranging and immediate impacts of climate change exacerbate the existing vulnerabilities in Pacific countries. Sea level rise is already impacting coastal communities, with king tides now associated with worsening coastal flooding that threaten settlements, water supply, and terrestrial food production. Other significant threats result from prolonged droughts, weakened marine ecosystems from bleaching and acidification, and more intense tropical cyclones.

To help Pacific DMCs build greater resilience to climate change and disasters, ADB seeks to support a more comprehensive approach to urban and infrastructure planning. Such support, among other things, involves integrating climate change and disaster risk management into urban strategies and action plans for Honiara, Port Vila, Nuku’alofa, and Koror/Babeldaob and supporting climate resilient and low carbon water supply infrastructure in South Tarawa.

The urban project teams are supported by two ADB technical assistance projects: (i) Support to Climate Resilient Investment Pathways in the Pacific and (ii) Pacific Disaster Resilience Program. Through the latter, ADB is currently leading a comprehensive multi-hazard risk assessment for Tongatapu, Tonga that will serve as a model for a risk-based planning approach to inform future multisector ADB investments.

**ADB’s Pacific Urban Development, Water, and Sanitation Sector Road Map 2021–2025**

ADB’s Pacific urban, water, and sanitation operations are structured along three main pillars:

(i) Improving and sustaining basic services

- Increase access to safe water and improved hygiene and sanitation.
- Upgrade and rehabilitate water supply networks and reduce non-revenue water.
- Improve urban flood management.
- Improve solid waste management services.
- Strengthen the quality, sustainability, and resilience of urban services.
- Develop the capacity of water utilities, reform the utilities, and strengthen their financial performance.
- Develop the capacity of planning ministries and municipality councils, and support good governance and finance.
- Promote stakeholder engagement and empower communities, including women and youth, in decision making on water and sanitation services.
(ii) Improving spatial planning
- Facilitate strategic urban planning and capital investment frameworks for urban centers, including the application of geographical information systems (GIS) for land-use planning.
- Ensure a risk-based approach to urban planning.
- Consider ecosystems in urban planning and design.

(iii) Increasing resilience to climate change and protecting the environment
- Mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation and attract climate finance.
- Use spatial data for planning and disaster risk and vulnerability assessments.
- Use multi-hazard risk assessments for infrastructure planning.
- Consider higher-end scenarios. A sea level rise greater than 1 meter is likely at some point in the 21st century and sea level rise of 2 meters by 2100 is plausible.\(^2\)

**Spatial Urban Planning and Development in Pacific Developing Member Countries**

Spatial urban planning and development in Pacific DMCs is essential to efficient land use, zoning, and development control for a defined physical area. It provides strategic direction and guidance for addressing urban growth issues, such as land use management, tourism development and diversification, housing provisions, infrastructure development, environmental protection and management, and economic growth.

ADB is exploring new operational modalities through multisector/integrated solutions. For instance, the regional technical assistance on Implementing a Differentiated Approach to Urban Development in the Pacific is promoting the delivery of integrated solutions. To improve the quality of urban services in selected Pacific Island DMCs, the regional technical assistance will develop capacities on urban planning and project development, prepare subregional solid waste management strategy, establish regional networks, and produce knowledge products.

ADB is increasingly supporting Pacific DMCs in developing their long-term integrated urban strategic and resilience planning and multisector investment prioritization frameworks through its differentiated approach. These long-term plans include a common vision and aim at building an urban center in phases—first focusing on the nuclei of a city or urban center (i.e., central business district) before expanding to the outskirts, and then synergizing the overall planning and development activities. Owing to the nature of urban growth, these plans require coordination and cooperation between the municipality and neighboring province, and among government and non-government stakeholders. ADB has supported the following governments in their long-term integrated resilient urban planning and capital investment pipelines:

- Government of Solomon Islands: Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2035 (approved by the Cabinet in September 2018),
- Government of Vanuatu: Greater Port Vila Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2030 (accepted and endorsed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in October 2020), and

---

**Table 2: Alignment of ADB’s Portfolio with the Pacific Urban Development, Water, and Sanitation Sector Road Map 2021–2025**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project/Technical Assistance</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Pillar 1</th>
<th>Pillar 2</th>
<th>Pillar 3</th>
<th>Climate Change and Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Cook Islands Wastewater and Sanitation Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management Investment Program</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nadi Flood Alleviation Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>South Tarawa Water Supply Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>Ebeye Water Supply and Sanitation Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Majuro Integrated Urban Services Improvement Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>Nauru Sustainable Urban Development Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>Koror–Airai Sanitation Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strengthening Urban Planning and Management</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Technical Assistance: Support for Water and Sanitation Sector Management</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water Supply Scheme for Tete Settlement Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greater Honiara Solid Waste Management Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greater Honiara Urban Planning Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>Integrated Urban Resilience Sector Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Funafuti Water and Sanitation Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Greater Port Vila Urban Resilience Project</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luganville Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project</td>
<td>proposed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Technical Assistance: Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioral Change in the Pacific</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Implementing a Differentiated Approach to Urban Development in the Pacific</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Strengthening Urban Infrastructure Investment Planning in the Pacific</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Pacific Urban Development Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Pacific Urban Development Investment Project Enhancement and Capacity Development Facility</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, WASH = water, sanitation, and hygiene.

A typical traffic scene along the streets of Suva, Fiji (photo by ADB).
REGIONAL INITIATIVES

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioral Change in the Pacific

Objective: Reduce disease transmission pathways in ADB Pacific developing member countries’ populations

The regional technical assistance is part of ADB’s response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the Pacific as water supply, sanitation, and hygiene are critical factors in building resilience to pandemics. The technical assistance aims to improve WASH practices in households and public areas and strengthen the enabling environment for improved and sustainable hygiene in ADB’s Pacific DMCs. It will help identify WASH priorities in the 14 DMCs, and support hygiene behavior-change campaigns, installation of handwashing facilities, and planning for improving water supply in informal settlements. A targeted operational support will also be provided to utilities. The technical assistance will focus on developing and implementing approaches to ensure the sustainability of WASH activities. To date, the technical assistance has provided support to some utilities in the region on business continuity planning and water safety planning. It has also supported a monthly webinar series for utility managers, in collaboration with the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association. Topics include pandemic planning, asset management, and strategies for supplying water to informal areas and handwashing in public places. The technical assistance is providing support to Samoa’s Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture in rolling out WASH campaigns in schools; and to Nauru’s Department of Climate Change and National Resilience in updating its National WASH Policy and in establishing a sector steering committee.

ADB’s Collaboration with the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association in Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioral Change

“Evolving out of the need to focus attention on the role of utilities for WASH because of the current pandemic, PVWWA is fortunate with the timely collaboration with ADB in bringing together our 30 member utilities to learn from industry and sector experts and from each other through a monthly webinar series on utility management. It should be recognized that the development of collaborative relationships that facilitate engagement of multiple sectors and agencies in the water and sanitation sector is key to building strong, sustainable and safe communities, and critical in responding effectively to any major disaster.” - Lusia Sefo-Leau, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association
**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Implementing a Differentiated Approach to Urban Development in the Pacific

**Objective:** Support the integration of a differentiated approach to ADB’s operations in the urban areas across the Pacific region.

The regional technical assistance recognizes the distinct development challenges of SIDS and fragile situations and promotes a differentiated approach to operations in these DMCs. The technical assistance is supporting the integration of a differentiated approach to ADB’s operations in the urban areas across the Pacific region through the following:

(i) Help SIDS and FCAS adopt a longer-term horizon for planning, and support governments in preparing a more programmatic and multisector approach to urban infrastructure investments.

(ii) Strengthen institutional and capacity development.

(iii) Strengthen regional coordination and integration by supporting regional studies and existing and new regional networks.

Under the technical assistance, ADB has helped strengthen the Majuro Water and Sewer Company in the Marshall Islands, supported the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association Conference in 2019, and developed a Pacific Urban Resilience Measurement Index that was tested in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The technical assistance project plans to support a subregional solid waste management strategy and investment plan, and the development of a 10-year investment roadmap and capital investment plan for Port Moresby, PNG.

**Technical assistance amount:**
$3.50 million

**Funding sources:**
ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund
$3.00 million

ADB Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund
$0.50 million

**Executing agency:** ADB

**Implementing agencies:** Various agencies

**Website:** [https://www.adb.org/projects/52259-001/main](https://www.adb.org/projects/52259-001/main)

**Status:** Active
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Strengthening Urban Infrastructure Investment Planning in the Pacific

Objective: Build the capacity of Pacific developing member countries in planning and assessing priority urban infrastructure investments to support more sustainable urban development in Pacific cities and towns.

The regional technical assistance provides support to governments in preparing their strategic resilient urban development plans and capital investment frameworks for major cities and key urban centers. It supports governments in developing a more coordinated, long-term, multisector approach to urban planning and development—with a common city vision and consideration to alternative development scenarios.

Strategies and action plans have been prepared to respond to the challenges caused by rapid urbanization and growth beyond city or municipality boundaries—taking into consideration growth and movement patterns into neighboring provinces, states, or wards. Climate change vulnerability and disaster risk are integrated into a long-term vision for greater urban resilience across five pillars (social, physical, economic, environment, and institutional). Stakeholders, including communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector are consulted. Implementation arrangements are defined, involving key stakeholders. There are also plans to assess delivery and management of urban services, address challenges and opportunities for municipal finance, and identify priority investment needs linked to strategic urban development goals.

The technical assistance project has supported the preparation of integrated urban development plans. In Solomon Islands, for instance, the technical assistance supported the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey in preparing the Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan, which was approved by its cabinet in September 2018. In Palau, the technical assistance project supported the government in preparing the Koror-Babeldaob Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan approved by the Ministry of Finance in December 2020. The strategies will develop the concept of livable and resilient cities, in line with Strategy 2030. The regional technical assistance will support the preparation of similar urban strategies and investment plans in other cities, and subsequently, capacity development support in these countries.

The technical assistance project has supported the governments in GIS hazard risk mapping. In Vanuatu, GIS technology was used to overlay existing asset data with hazard risk data on maps. These maps illustrate the high-risk and vulnerable areas. The government used these maps to inform the zoning and development control plan for Greater Port Vila, and findings were incorporated into the Greater Port Vila Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2030.

In Palau, the technical assistance project supported the Office of the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System (PALARIS) of the Ministry of Finance. A multi-criteria spatial evaluation tool has been developed to measure and compare land on Babeldaob Island for its suitability for development. The findings were incorporated into the Koror–Babeldaob Resilient Island Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2030.

Technical assistance amount: $2.40 million
Funding source: ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund—$2.40 million
Executing agency: Asian Development Bank
Implementing agencies: Ministry of Land, Housing and Surveys (Solomon Islands); Ministry of Finance (Palau); and others
Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/49460-001/main
Status: Active
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pacific Urban Development Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility

Objective: Build the capacity of Pacific developing member countries in planning and assessing priority urban infrastructure investments to support more sustainable urban development in Pacific cities and towns.

The transaction technical assistance facility provides Pacific DMCs with technical support and policy advice in urban development, capacity building, and preparation of a series of projects. It supports the Pacific Approach 2016–2020 strategic priorities: (i) enabling value creation by promoting livable and economically vibrant urban areas, (ii) supporting projects that will help governments with long-term urban planning to ensure that services can be sustained, and (iii) encouraging private sector and civil society organization involvement in providing urban infrastructure and services. The technical assistance facility also supports the Pacific Approach 2016–2020 by providing (i) stronger, better, faster project delivery through the expanded use of regional approaches and faster delivery mechanisms, and (ii) improved generation and sharing of knowledge.

The technical assistance facility is currently supporting project preparation in PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, and will provide future project preparation support to Nauru. Technical expertise in project and contracts management, water, sanitation, and hygiene have been provided to governments in the FSM, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.

Technical assistance amount: $4.90 million

Funding source: ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund—4.90 million

Executing agency: Asian Development Bank

Implementing agencies:
Eda Ranu and Department of National Planning and Monitoring (Papua New Guinea); General Directorate for Water and Sanitation, National Directorate for Water Services, National Directorate for Basic Sanitation, and National Directorate for Water Resources Management (Timor-Leste); Kosrae Utility Authority (FSM); Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation and Nauru Utilities Corporation (Nauru); Palau Public Utilities Corporation Water and Wastewater Operations (PAL); Solomon Islands Water Authority (Solomon Islands); and Port Vila Municipality Council, Department of Local Authorities, Luganville Municipal Council, and Vanuatu Project Management Unit (Vanuatu).

Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/51175-001/main

Status: Active

Additional financing: $2.0 million (proposed in 2022)

Funding source: ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund—$2.0 million
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pacific Urban Development Investment Project Enhancement and Capacity Development Facility

Objective: Provide Pacific developing member countries with capacity building, policy advice, and project preparation support.

The transaction technical assistance facility focuses on helping governments follow long-term urban planning to ensure that urban services can be sustained. It encourages private sector and civil society organization involvement in providing urban infrastructure and services to promote livable and economically vibrant urban areas. The technical assistance will specifically support the following projects, among others: (i) Water and Sanitation Project (Cook Islands); (ii) South Tarawa Water Supply Project, additional financing (Kiribati); (iii) Urban Planning Project (Solomon Islands); and (iv) Kosrae Water Supply and Sanitation Project (FSM). The technical assistance will prepare feasibility studies on ensuing urban development projects; provide demand-driven urban technical advice, assessment, and capacity development assistance; and enhance knowledge sharing among Pacific DMCs.

Technical assistance amount:
$1.5 million

Funding source:
ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund—$1.5 million

Executing agency:
Asian Development Bank

Implementing agencies:
Asian Development Bank
(in close consultation with participating governments)

Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/54010-001/main

Status: Active

Additional financing:
$3.3 million (proposed in 2022)

Funding source:
ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund—$3.3 million

Women doing laundry along a river near Tiki Village, Papua New Guinea (photo by ADB).
Cook Islands Wastewater and Sanitation Project

Objective: Increase access to environmentally safe sewerage systems and waste treatment facilities in urban centers.

The Government of the Cook Islands’ long-term investment aims to develop a centralized sewer and sanitation system and improve the water quality of the lagoons in Rarotonga and Aitutaki. The government is leading public consultations for a holistic approach including wastewater, land zoning, wetland protection, and urban planning. Technical assistance for project preparation will be provided through the Pacific Urban Development Investment Project Enhancement and Capacity Development Facility.

Population (2020): 19,105
Urban Population (2019): 76.5%
Access to at least basic water supply (2017): 99.9% (urban: not available)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2017): 97.6% (urban: not available)
Utility: To Tatou Vai

Project amount: $20.00 million
Funding sources:
ADB Ordinary Capital Resources $20.00 million
Government of the Cook Islands To be determined
Executing agency: To be determined
Implementing agency: To be determined
Website: Forthcoming
Status: Proposed in 2022/2023
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

PROJECT READINESS FINANCING
Preparing the Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Objective: Prepare the Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project and facilitate a transition to a smooth project implementation

Voice from Chuuk

“With support from ADB and the United States through the Omnibus Infrastructure Development Project, Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC) is now able to provide reliable, resilient, and affordable electricity to residents of Weno, the largest center and capital of Chuuk State. CPUC is now rolling out electricity services to other communities in Chuuk. With the recently approved Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project, CPUC will improve access to safe water supply and sanitation services to residents of Weno and surrounding islands in Chuuk Lagoon.” – Kembo Mida, CEO, Chuuk Public Utility Corporation

Population (2020): 104,650
Urban Population (2019): 22.4%
Access to at least basic water supply (2017): 78.6% (urban: not available)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2017): 88.3% (urban: not available)
Utilities: Yap North–Gagil Tomil Water Authority, Yap Central–Yap State Public Service Corporation, Yap South–Southern Yap Water Authority, Kosrae–Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Pohnpei Public Utilities Corporation, Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation

Project readiness financing amount: $5.43 million
Funding sources:
ADB Asian Development Fund
$5.00 million
Government of FSM
$0.43 million
Executing agency: Department of Finance and Administration
Implementing agency: Chuuk Public Utility Corporation
Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/fsm-53284-001-prfr
Status: Active
Chuuk Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Objective: Improve efficiency, climate change and disaster resiliency, and sustainability of safe water and sanitation in Chuuk State

The project was approved by ADB in 2020 and will improve water supply and sanitation services on Weno Island, the administrative center of Chuuk State. It aims to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and other hygiene-related and waterborne diseases through increased access to safe water and an improved sanitation service. The project will build on water supply improvements in Chuuk under the Weno Water Supply Well Remediation Project completed in 2012. The project aims to achieve:

(i) continuous and safe water supply through new water supply connections, construction and expansion of water mains, construction of a new surface water intake and water treatment plant, and network management measures to reduce non-revenue water;

(ii) effective, efficient, and safe sanitation through new sewer connections, a wastewater inflow and infiltration management program, sewer network and pumping station improvements, and strengthened sludge management; and

(iii) a financially and technically sustainable utility (Chuuk Public Utility Corporation) through training and support for implementing a new tariff framework.

A project readiness financing (PRF) is assisting the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation to improve by funding surveys, detailed design of the proposed infrastructure, procurement support, safeguards support and community engagement, and project management support.
Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management Investment Program

Objective: Increase access to reliable and adequate water supply, sanitary and environmentally safe sewerage systems, and waste treatment facilities in urban centers.

The two-tranche program involves building and renovating infrastructure to improve access to safe water and sewerage systems in the greater Suva area, ensuring further growth is sustainable and public health is improved. A project design advance assisted the government in preparing the concept design for a design–and–build contract, the conceptual and detailed engineering designs for wastewater treatment (WWT) expansion and sewerage works, and the bidding documents for all works. The advance supported the technical evaluation of bid proposals as well as other preparatory work for the project. It allowed the government to complete engineering designs before the proposed project became effective.

The ongoing program supports several infrastructure investments. Under tranche 1, a new water intake station and the associated water supply infrastructure will be constructed—expanding water supply by 40,000 cubic meters (m³) per day. Under tranche 2, the wastewater network will be rehabilitated and expanded and the Kinoya WWT plant and the associated sewer coverage will be improved—expanding the WWT capacity at Kinoya by 164% to serve approximately 277,000 people.

Population (2020): 900,105
Urban Population (2019): 56.7%
Access to at least basic water supply (2017): 93.8% (urban: 97.8%)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2017): 95.1% (urban: 95.3%)
Utility: Water Authority of Fiji

Project amount: $405.14 million

Funding sources:
ADB Ordinary Capital Resources
$153.20 million
Green Climate Fund
$31.04 million
Government of Fiji
$150.10 million
European Investment Bank
$70.80 million (collaborative cofinancing)

Executing agency: Ministry of Economy
Implementing agency: Water Authority of Fiji
Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/49001-002/main
The program will improve supply and access to safe water and increase WWT and management capacity in the Greater Suva Area. It will also support program management and capacity development of the Water Authority of Fiji for sustainable service delivery. By improving the network and expanding the WWT capacity, the Water Authority of Fiji will ensure that 60% of households in the Greater Suva Area will have access to a reticulated sewage collection system by 2023. The remaining households with individual septic units will be catered by a fecal sludge management system.

The program integrates climate change into the design and includes adaptation measures for building a new water intake on the Rewa River at Viria, increasing the distance between the water system intake and the river mouth from 29 kilometers (km) to 49 km. The design feature will help avoid future climate change impacts embodied in projected rising sea levels and the potential migration of the saltwater wedge up the river.

**Voice from Fiji**

“When you have a nation building project like the Republic of Fiji’s Viria Water Project, that will benefit hundreds of thousands of people, working as the one team, between government, funders, the beneficiaries is critical to delivering on promises made years before.”

Mr. Barry Omundson, Water Authority of Fiji, Chief Executive Officer

---

**Preparation the Nadi Flood Alleviation Project**

**Objective:** Reduce flood risk due to frequent flooding in the Nadi town and the lower Nadi River floodplain, and sustain Nadi’s strategic economic importance to Fiji.

The technical assistance project is helping prepare the proposed Nadi Flood Alleviation Project. In 2017, Nadi town had an urban population of 59,717. The town is Fiji’s fourth largest urban area after Suva, Nasinu, and Lautoka. A commercial and tourism center of Fiji, Nadi significantly contributes to Fiji’s gross domestic product (GDP). The tourism industry accounts for earnings equivalent to 19.1% of GDP (2017).

The proposed project will include structural and non-structural measures to protect the Nadi town and the lower Nadi river floodplain from frequent flooding, and sustain Nadi’s strategic economic importance to Fiji.
**South Tarawa Water Supply Project**

**Objective:** Improve the health of South Tarawa’s population through water supply infrastructure investments and hygiene practices

The project builds upon the recently completed South Tarawa Sanitation Improvement Sector Project. It will address the factors resulting in the high incidence of waterborne diseases in South Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati, by delivering and effectively managing the new and rehabilitated climate-resilient water supply assets and by improving hygiene practices. The project aims to (i) build climate resilient and low carbon water supply infrastructure; (ii) increase the capacity of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy and Public Utilities Board to effectively manage water supply infrastructure; (iii) raise awareness on WASH and climate change issues; and (iv) ensure efficient and effective project implementation.

A project design advance of $2 million assisted the Government of Kiribati in improving project readiness by financing surveys and through detailed design of the water supply network infrastructure, procurement support, safeguards support and community engagement, and project management support. ADB has assisted the government in securing a grant financing of $28.63 million from the Green Climate Fund to support the investment.

**Population (2020):** 116,905  
**Urban Population (2019):** 55%  
**Access to at least basic water supply (2017):** 71.6% (urban: not available)  
**Access to at least basic sanitation (2017):** 47.8% (urban: not available)  
**Utilities:** Public Utilities Board

**Project amount:** $61.83 million  
**Funding sources:**  
- ADB Asian Development Fund  
  $13.00 million  
- Green Climate Fund  
  $28.63 million  
- World Bank (not administered by ADB)  
  $12.96 million  
- Government of Kiribati  
  $7.24 million  

**Executing agency:** Ministry of Finance and Economic Development  
**Implementing agency:** Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy  
**Additional financing:** $5.00 million (proposed in 2021)  
**Funding source:** Global Environment Facility—$5.00 million  
**Website:** [https://www.adb.org/projects/49453-002/main](https://www.adb.org/projects/49453-002/main)  
**Status:** Active
Impact of the South Tarawa Sanitation Improvement Sector Project, 2011–2020

“The new toilets with ADB support have improved sanitation in our community. This has also helped to protect the water lens that we depend on for our water supply.” - Ioane Enere, project beneficiary in the Te Kawai ae Boou community
Ebeye Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Objective: Improve access to safe water and sanitation in Ebeye

The Ebeye Water Supply and Sanitation Project will help improve the island’s public water supply system and ensure continuous supply of safe drinking water to all households. A new seawater reverse osmosis plant, with a production capacity of 1,600 m³ per day, has been built, along with two new saltwater wells with the capacity to fully meet saltwater demand. Since the new seawater reverse osmosis plant was commissioned in September 2017, the incidence of waterborne diseases in Ebeye decreased by 37%.

The sewerage system in Ebeye will be upgraded to minimize the frequency and severity of uncontrolled sewage overflows, and to reduce environmental and health impacts. A hygiene awareness and promotion program, focusing on women and children, is being implemented over the project duration. The power generation and electrical distribution system in Ebeye will be improved to reduce risks to the island’s water supply and sewerage systems. The project includes support to Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utilities Resources in building its financial, technical, and operational sustainability through the implementation of its reform strategy.

Population (2020): 54,993
Urban Population (2019): 77.4%
Access to at least basic water supply (2017): 88.5% (urban: 86.7%)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2017): 83.5% (urban: 91.1%)
Utilities: Majuro Water and Sewer Company, Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resources

Project amount: $22.40 million
Funding sources:
ADB Asian Development Fund
$8.0 million
Government of Australia
$4.0 million
Government of the Marshall Islands
$10.4 million

Executing agency: Office of the Chief Secretary
Implementing agency: Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utilities Resources
Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/46346-002/main
Status: Active
**PROJECT READINESS FINANCING**

**Preparing Urban Service Improvement Projects**

**Objectives:** Prepare two ensuing projects (the Ebeye Solid Waste Management and the proposed Majuro Water Supply and Sanitation projects) and facilitate the projects’ preparation and a smooth transition to implementation.

The PRF was used to prepare the Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project, which was approved by ADB in 2020. The PRF continues to support project start-up activities. It is also supporting the preparation of the proposed Majuro Urban Services Improvement Project and a smooth transition to project implementation. The PRF aims to (i) create an enabling environment for the ensuing investment projects; (ii) identify the investment scope, achieve project readiness, and complete advance procurement activities for ensuing projects; (iii) review the tariff frameworks and fee collection systems and strengthen the Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) water supply network operations; and (iv) develop an integrated solid waste management investment plan for Majuro.

**Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project**

**Objective:** Improve solid waste management for the communities in Ebeye Island located in the Kwajalein Atoll

The project will support the establishment of a sustainable and integrated solid waste management system for at least 1,020 households in Ebeye (Box 2). It will also assist the Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGOV) in implementing the reform strategy as set out in the Kwajalein Atoll Solid Waste Management Plan 2019–2028 (Action Plan: 2019–2023). The reform strategy aims to enable KALGOV in delivering improved and sustainable waste management services. The project will construct a high-temperature incinerator, and upgrade the waste disposal site and recycling facility; improve the municipal solid waste collection, transport, and disposal operations; and strengthen institutional capacity to sustain solid waste management service delivery and local engagement. The PRF provided support to the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities and KALGOV in preparing the project.
Box 2: Integrated Approach to Solid Waste Management for Ebeye

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting Ebeye, the second largest urban center of the Marshall Islands, in developing a long-term and sustainable solution to its solid waste management challenge. In 2020, ADB approved the Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project to explore the use of small-scale incineration technology under a design–build–operate or design–build–manage contract. The project is supporting the initial operations and maintenance (O&M) phase and provide behavior change support to help ensure waste segregation at the household level. It will also support the utility and the government in developing a sustainable financing strategy for O&M, and in developing and implementing a solid waste management tariff framework. To ensure the technical sustainability of the infrastructure, climate and climate-change-proofed approaches will be embedded in the project. A seawall will be built to adapt to sea-level rise, protect the infrastructure, and prevent solid waste from sliding into the lagoon. As part of ADB’s response to the coronavirus disease pandemic, the project will also help improve the management of healthcare waste in addition to municipal waste. ADB expects that the experience of small-scale incineration for Ebeye will be informative for other low lying atoll countries facing severe land constraints for landfills, lacking soil for landfill cover, and with no viable local recycling market.

Source: Y. Ikeda and V. Castro-Wooldridge.

Majuro Integrated Urban Services Improvement Project

Objectives: Improve delivery of water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management services to urban households through better water distribution and sanitation infrastructure, and strengthen municipal solid waste collection, transport, and disposal operations.

The proposed project will improve the quality and quantity of water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management services for households in Majuro. The proposed outputs are to (i) provide reliable and resilient urban water supply services, (ii) provide efficient and safe urban sanitation services, (iii) improve the integrated solid waste management in Majuro, and (iv) strengthen the financial and technical sustainability of MWSC and Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC). The proposed project will finance priority investments identified in MWSC’s 20 Year Water and Sanitation Strategic Plan, including a replacement of the existing outfall and the implementation of a non-revenue water improvement plan. In the area of solid waste management, the proposed project will assist MAWC in (i) upgrading and strengthening the existing dump site, including the seawall beside the site; (ii) constructing and operating a high-temperature incinerator; and (iii) upgrading and replacing equipment for solid waste collection, transport, and disposal. The PRF is supporting the government in preparing the proposed project.
PROJECT READINESS FINANCING

Preparing the Nauru Sustainable Urban Development Project

ADB plans to support the Government of Nauru in addressing the challenges of a growing population and land constraints. The PRF will (i) help develop an enabling environment for the proposed project and for the sectors of water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management; (ii) help finalize the priorities for investment and non-physical support for water supply, sanitation, and solid waste management sectors; (iii) prepare a whole of island urban development plan taking into consideration climate change impacts; and (iv) support project preparation and smooth transition to implementation. The support will build on existing government strategies and masterplans, including the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility support for preparing the Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Sector Strategy, approved on 27 November 2019.

Population (2020): 11,690
Urban Population (2019): 100%
Utility: Nauru Utilities Corporation (water supply)

Project amount: $5.21 million
Funding sources:
ADB (concessional ordinary capital resources lending/Asian Development Fund) $5.00 million
Government of Nauru $0.21 million

Executing agency: Department of Finance and Sustainable Development
Implementing agencies:
Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (lead)
Department of Commerce, Industry and the Environment
Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation
Nauru Utilities Corporation

Website: Forthcoming
Status: Proposed in 2021
The only support that is ongoing or proposed for Niue related to urban development, water supply, or sanitation is the Regional Technical Assistance on Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioral Change in the Pacific.

**Population (2020):** 1,738  
**Urban Population (2019):** 0.6%  
**Access to piped improved water supply (2017):** 86.9% (percentage of urban: not applicable)  
**Access to at least basic sanitation (2017):** 78.0% (percentage of urban: not applicable)
Koror–Airai Sanitation Project

Objective: Provide effective, efficient, and sustainable sewage collection systems in Koror and Airai

The degraded condition and limited capacity of the Koror sewerage network, and rapid development and unsuitable soils for septic tanks in Airai are causing environmental and health issues with serious impacts on the Palau economy. The Koror–Airai Sanitation Project aims to improve the country’s environment and public health. The outcome of the project will be improved delivery of sanitation services by the Palau Public Utilities Corporation. This will be achieved through (i) effective, efficient, and sustainable sewage collection systems in Koror and Airai; (ii) sewage treatment and disposal that meets Palau’s environmental standards; (iii) safe and hygienic public toilet facilities in Koror; and (iv) effective project management.

Project amount: $30.00 million

Funding sources:
- ADB ordinary capital resources
  - $26.90 million
- ADB concessional ordinary capital resources lending
  - $1.90 million
- Government of Palau
  - $1.20 million

Executing agency: Ministry of Finance

Implementing agency: Palau Public Utilities Corporation

Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/42439-013/main

Status: Active
**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Strengthening Urban Planning and Management**

**Objective:** Support the implementation of the approved urban multisector strategic development plan for improved land use and investment planning on Babeldaob Island.

The proposed technical assistance will support the Government of Palau in strengthening its institutional capacity in urban planning and management. It will also assist the government in implementing the approved Koror–Babeldaob Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2030 (Map 1), which was supported by ADB through the regional technical assistance on Strengthening Urban Infrastructure Investment Planning in the Pacific. The overall vision is to have a resilient and widespread improvement in general standards of living while preserving cultural and environmental values for the people of Palau. The technical assistance has three goals: (i) build resilient housing and livable neighborhoods, (ii) ensure that Palau’s tourism industry benefits Palauan people, and (iii) develop effective urban planning and management of public assets including built, natural, and cultural resources.

---


Aerial shot of a bridge going to Babeldaob Island in Palau (photo by ADB).
Support for Water and Sanitation Sector Management

Objective: Improve water and sanitation sector management and strengthen the government’s capacity to implement Papua New Guinea’s National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy.

The capacity development technical assistance will assist the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and the Water PNG in strengthening the management and delivery of water sanitation infrastructure. The goal is to ultimately increase access to improved water and sanitation, particularly in urban settlements. The technical assistance is also supporting the improvement of sector coordination and leadership, as well as the feasibility studies for the proposed investments in selected provincial towns. These activities will be pursued through the proposed Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project (proposed 2022).
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Objective: Improve water and sanitation sector management and strengthen the government’s capacity to implement Papua New Guinea’s National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy.

The proposed project will improve access to safe water and sanitation in provincial towns of PNG. This will be achieved through the construction of water supply and sanitation infrastructure in selected provincial towns, which will be complemented by a hygiene awareness program. The project is in line with PNG’s National WASH Policy, which targets 95% of the urban population to have access to a safe, convenient, and sustainable water supply and 85% of the urban population to have access to safe, convenient, and sustainable sanitation. Lessons learned from ADB interventions in PNG will be applied to the proposed project.

Water Supply Scheme for Tete Settlement Project

Objective: Improve the health of peri-urban population

The pilot project will improve access to safe water in Tete settlement in the capital city of Port Moresby, PNG. Port Moresby has an estimated urban population of 800,000, of which more than half reside in informal settlements. The growth rate in informal settlements is between 5% to 8%, while for the urban population, it is around 2%. This rapid urbanization has contributed significantly to a growing landless class living in squatter and informal settlements with limited or no access to basic social services. These settlements are now an established feature of the urban landscape in Port Moresby.

A community of 8,000 residents, Tete is on the northern outskirts of Port Moresby. It is currently serviced by one standpipe, which provides an intermittent and unpredictable water supply. Through the project, Tete residents will benefit from new water supply infrastructure, which will be managed at the community level. The intervention represents the piloting of a community-driven water supply in an informal settlement area with potential for scale-up or replication in PNG and regionally. The technical assistance on Support for Water and Sanitation Sector Management will complement this small stand-alone grant to implement a community-driven pilot.
To complement ADB’s investments in PNG, a small-scale technical assistance was completed in 2018, financed by the Water Financing Partnership Facility, via the Sanitation Partnership Fund from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The technical assistance aimed to improve access to safe sanitation in Port Moresby by exploring fecal sludge management and non-sewered sanitation options in PNG, including the provision of various training, awareness raising, and knowledge activities to strengthen institutional capacity. A report on the technical, social, and political economy assessment of the status of fecal sludge management in Port Moresby was completed (Box 3).  

---

Box 3: Making Urban Sanitation More Inclusive in Papua New Guinea

Poor access to sanitation undermines public health, constrains sustainable development, and exacerbates hardship, particularly for women and girls. For these reasons, ADB has been providing technical assistance in Papua New Guinea to identify opportunities for the government and stakeholders to make sanitation more inclusive. The 2020 ADB publication *Making Urban Sanitation More Inclusive in Papua New Guinea* summarizes the current status of urban sanitation in Papua New Guinea, highlighting conditions in informal settlements in Port Moresby and peri-urban communities in selected provincial towns. Only 6.8% of the urban population residing in informal settlements can be considered to have access to a “safely managed” sanitation service. The report recommends the introduction of an operational fecal sludge management framework, and offers the following lessons and recommendations to be explored further through potential pipeline investments and future technical assistance:

(i) Recognizing the role of sanitation in meeting PNG’s development goals is critical.
(ii) Adopt a holistic and adaptive planning and management approach in tackling urban sanitation challenges.
(iii) Ensure meaningful community participation and engagement in urban sanitation initiatives.
(iv) National program funding should leverage on local counterpart funding in a transparent and efficient manner.
(v) Explore viable business models on urban sanitation.
(vi) Pursue technically feasible, sustainable, and resilient solutions.
(vii) Promote regional partnerships and cooperation.
(viii) Strengthen the knowledge and learning base in government programs.

Author: A. Conroy

A busy Sunday in central Apia’s fish market, Samoa (photo by ADB).

The only support from ADB that is ongoing or proposed for Samoa related to urban development, water supply, or sanitation is the Regional Technical Assistance on Strengthening WASH Practices and Hygiene Behavioral Change in the Pacific.

Population (2020): 202,506 (48.4% women)
Urban Population (2019): 18.1%
Access to at least basic water supply (2015): 95.9% (urban: 99.5%)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2015): 96.6% (urban: 98.1%)
Utility: Samoa Water Authority
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project

Objective: Improve access to safe water and improved sanitation in urban and peri-urban areas of Solomon Islands

The Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project will improve access to safe water and better sanitation in urban areas of Solomon Islands. The target outcome is to improve efficiency, climate change and disaster resiliency, and sustainability of safe water and sanitation in Greater Honiara Area and five other urban areas. These towns include Auki, Gizo, Noro, Munda, and Tulagi.

The project will (i) secure safe urban water supply; (ii) provide effective, efficient, and safe urban sanitation services; (iii) enhance awareness of hygiene and water issues and sustain improved hygiene behavior; and (iv) enable Solomon Water to become financially and technically sustainable. A focus on climate and disaster resilient water supply is one of the project’s key features. It also aims to reduce non-revenue water, improve septage management and sewage discharge, increase the beneficiaries’ knowledge of the benefits of improved sanitation and hygiene behavior, and improve operational efficiency and financial performance of Solomon Islands Water Authority. A PRF assisted the Solomon Islands Water Authority in improving project readiness by financing surveys, and through detailed design of the proposed infrastructure, procurement support, safeguards support and community engagement, and project management support.4

Voice from Solomon Islands

“The Auki water supply upgrading subproject is the first component of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project. In partnership with ADB, Australia, the European Union, and the World Bank, Solomon Water is implementing its 30-year strategic plan to deliver safe, reliable, and accessible water supply and sewerage services to the urban areas of Solomon Islands.”

- Ian Gooden, CEO of Solomon Water

Project readiness financing amount:
$3 million

Funding sources:
ADB Asian Development Fund
$3 million

Government of Solomon Islands
To be determined

Executing agency: Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Implementing agencies: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; Honiara City Council

Website: Forthcoming

Status: PRF proposed in 2022; Ensuing project proposed in 2024

**Greater Honiara Urban Planning Project**

**Objective:** Improve access to integrated and resilient urban services in line with the Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2035 (Box 4).

The proposed project will support the government to further implement the Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan approved in 2018. The proposed project will support the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey to strengthen its capacity in urban planning and development. The strategy and action plan provides the foundation for ADB to pursue a sector lending project. The focus areas on integrated urban planning and governance, improved financial sustainability, and greater urban resilience are aligned with Strategy 2030 and operational priorities.

**Box 4: Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2035**

The Greater Honiara Area (GHA) is the center of Solomon Island’s urban growth and hosts the main international gateway and port of entry to the country. It is a hub for employment, public administration, education, and health services, and represents the largest single market for both local and imported products. The population in GHA is expected to grow from 100,000 in 2015 to 235,000 by 2035, with a significantly young population.

The Government of Solomon Islands’ Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey prepared the Greater Honiara Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (GHUDSAP) with the support of ADB’s regional technical assistance on Strengthening Urban Infrastructure Investment Planning in the Pacific. The government approved GHUDSAP in 2018. The plan seeks to address the challenges of rapid urban growth in Honiara City and adjacent areas of Guadalcanal Province, particularly Tandai and Malango Wards, which together are referred to as the GHA. The GHUDSAP will be implemented in three phases: (i) prepare the GHA for the Pacific Games 2023 (2018–2022); (ii) upgrade the city center to encourage investments in businesses, particularly tourism (2023–2027); and (iii) strengthen the economic potential of the city center, by creating a tourism hub at Point Cruz and emphasizing well-distributed growth by further catalyzing developments in Henderson and in the planned housing expansion areas at the south (2028–2035). The proposed Urban Planning Project will support the government in implementing the GHUDSAP and in further strengthening urban and investment planning capacity.

Integrated Urban Resilience Sector Project

Objective: Improve the living standards in Nuku’alofa and strengthen its resilience to extreme natural events and to the threat of climate change

Development pressure in Tonga’s capital, Nuku’alofa, is increasing due to population growth. Further investment in sustainable urban infrastructure is required, particularly in building disaster and climate change resilience. The Integrated Urban Resilience Sector Project aims to provide high-priority urban infrastructure, improve living standards in Nuku’alofa, and strengthen the capital’s resilience to disaster and climate change. The project will implement effective flood risk management infrastructure, improve water supply service in Nuku’alofa, enhance public and environmental health, and strengthen urban resilience. Urban development plans will build on a multi-hazard disaster risk assessment (Box 5).

Voice from Tonga

“The multi-hazard disaster risk assessment is a critical tool for policymakers and multi-sector planners to make informed decisions where infrastructure development, reconstruction, or relocation are being considered. Such informed decisions will ensure that all stakeholders develop and implement enduring and adaptive plans that protect our people’s well-being and livelihoods.” – Rosamond C. Bing, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Government of Tonga

Population (2020): 105,401
Urban Population (2019): 22.7%
Access to at least basic water supply (2017): 99.9% (urban: 99.8%)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2017): 93.4% (urban: 96.6%)
Utilities: Tonga Water Board, Waste Authority Limited

Project amount: $21.32 million
Funding sources:
Asian Development Fund
$18.27 million
Government of Tonga
$3.04 million

Executing agency: Ministry of Finance
Implementing agency: Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/49455-002/main
Status: Active
Box 5: Tonga Multi-Hazard Disaster Risk Assessment

The Multi-Hazard Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (MHDRA) was carried out from June 2020 to May 2021 and is funded by the Pacific Disaster Resilience Program. During a preparatory phase in 2019, the Government of Tonga’s Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources worked with ADB on the assessment of greater Nuku’alofa, the nation’s capital on the island of Tongatapu. The assessment mainly seeks to address the information needs of the Government of Tonga on the damage and loss potential from inundation hazards (i.e., rainfed floods, coastal flooding, and tsunamis), climate change (i.e., excessive rainfall and sea level rise), and earthquakes and windstorm hazards. Each inundation hazard was analyzed independently (Figure 1) and against various climate change scenarios. The assessment also looked at the impact from sea level rise on its own, in relation to recurring high astronomical tides. The MHDRA analyzed the risks posed to wider Nuku’alofa in relation to the population, buildings/housing, transport, and energy and water sector assets. The results are aggregated at the town level. These results are an essential basis for upstream adaptation planning and will be fed into the design of an integrated climate and disaster resilient urban development strategy and investment plan for greater Nuku’alofa under the Tonga Integrated Urban Resilience Sector Project to be implemented in 2022.

Figure: Impact of Cyclone Harold in Tonga

---

Source: Alexandra Galperin.
**TUVALU**

![Rainwater tanks installed at a home in Tuvalu (photo by ADB).](image)

## Project Readiness Financing

### Preparing the Funafuti Water and Sanitation Project

**Objective:** Prepare the proposed Funafuti Water and Sanitation Project and facilitate a smooth transition from preparation to implementation.

The PRF will prepare the ensuing project (the proposed Funafuti Water and Sanitation Project) and facilitate a smooth transition to project implementation. The PRF aims to create an enabling environment for the ensuing investment project, identify the investment scope, and complete the detailed engineering design.

**Population (2019):** 11,000 (percentage of women not available)

**Urban Population (2019):** 63.6%

**Access to at least basic water supply (2017):** 99.3% (urban: 49.8%)

**Access to at least basic sanitation (2017):** 77.8% (urban: 78.6%)

**Project readiness financing amount:** $4.33 million

**Funding sources:**
- ADB Asian Development Fund: $4.00 million
- Government of Tuvalu: $0.33 million

**Executing agency:** Ministry of Finance

**Implementing agencies:**
- Ministry of Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Environment, Labour, Meteorology, and Disaster
- Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, and Gender
- Ministry of Local Government and Agriculture

**Website:** [https://www.adb.org/projects/53417-001/main](https://www.adb.org/projects/53417-001/main)

**Status:** Active
Funafuti Water and Sanitation Project

Objective: Increase access to safe water and improved sanitation to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases in Funafuti

The proposed investment project will increase access to safe water and improved sanitation to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases in Funafuti. The project outputs and investments will be identified and selected during the project preparation phase. Possible outputs may include (i) improved water supply infrastructure and service, (ii) improved sanitation infrastructure and service, (iii) enhanced and sustained awareness and behavior on hygiene and water conservation, and (iv) financially and technically sustained water supply and sanitation services.
Objective: Improve access to integrated resilient urban services in the Greater Port Vila.

The Greater Port Vila is the economic hub and capital city of Vanuatu. In 2016, it had a total population of about 81,712. The Port Vila Municipality had a population of about 51,437. The projected population of Greater Port Vila in 2030 is 111,808. The project will improve urban resilience in Greater Port Vila through capacity building, institutional strengthening, and the construction of two multipurpose emergency shelters. The project is guided by the Greater Port Vila Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2030 (GPV RUDSAP). The strategy and action plan envisions that, by 2030, the Greater Port Vila is a safe, inclusive, resilient, and a vibrant economic hub based on sustainable development. The Ministry of Internal Affairs prepared and endorsed the GPV RUDSAP in 2020, with the support of ADB’s regional technical assistance on Strengthening Urban Infrastructure Investment Planning in the Pacific. The project will strengthen resilience in urban planning and management, enhance urban resilience through local partnerships, construct a resilient urban infrastructure in the Greater Port Vila, and strengthen asset management and institutional capacity.

Population (2019): 288,000 (49.3% women)
Urban Population (2019): 25.3%
Access to at least basic water supply (2017): 47.1% (99.5% urban)
Access to at least basic sanitation (2017): 34.1% (48.3% urban)
Utility: Union Electrique du Vanuatu Limited

Project amount: $11.77 million
Funding sources:
ADB Asian Development Fund $9.64 million
Government of Vanuatu $2.13 million
Executing agency: Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
Implementing agencies:
Ministry of Internal Affairs, Port Vila Municipality Council
Website: https://www.adb.org/projects/52031-001/main
Status: Active
The project also supports efforts to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Tropical Cyclone Harold. Focusing on the vulnerable, women, and the “new poor,” the project will provide preventive measures for health and social safety nets, and establish partnerships and investments that generate jobs and stimulate the local economy.

PROJECT READINESS FINANCING
Preparing the Lukanville Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project

Objectives: Help the government prepare the proposed Lukanville Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project, facilitate a smooth transition to project implementation, and expedite contract awards and initial disbursements. The PRF will finance a consulting firm and individual consultants.

Lukanville is Vanuatu’s second largest urban area with an estimated population of 20,500. It has grown at about 4.9% per year over the past 10 years. Its population is estimated to increase to more than 40,000 by 2035. Less than 60% of households in greater Lukanville have access to piped water supply, relying mainly on rainwater tanks and shallow groundwater wells that are vulnerable to drought, climate change, and contamination from poorly performing septic tanks and from floods. No centralized wastewater collection or treatment exists in Lukanville. Most households and businesses have on-site septic tanks, which are in poor condition (e.g., many are unsealed, and most are rarely emptied). In addition, Lukanville was greatly impacted by Cyclone Harold in 2020.
The PRF for Luganville is supporting the government in undertaking baseline investigations and in preparing base designs, detailed designs, and associated specifications for the Luganville Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project (LUWSSP). It will also support due diligence and start-up activities for LUWSSP, and the project’s implementing agencies in early LUWSSP implementation activities. It targets three outputs: (i) project water supply components are procurement- and approval-ready, (ii) project sanitation components are procurement- and approval-ready, and (iii) project start-up and capacity building activities are completed. In the aftermath of the cyclone, the design of multi-purpose shelters was added to the scope of work, to be funded under the ensuing project.

**Proposed Luganville Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project**

**Objective:** Improve access to safe and reliable water supply and to better sanitation and resilient multi-purpose shelters.

The Luganville Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project will (i) improve access and the quality, and reliability of water supply services through a performance-based services contract, (ii) improve sanitation through city-wide and inclusive sanitation planning, improvements in fecal sludge management, and institutional strengthening, and (iii) build community resilience through the construction of multi-purpose shelters. An attached technical assistance is proposed to support the implementation of the government's planned water sector reforms. The PRF will ensure high readiness and support a smooth transition from project preparation to implementation.

**Project amount:** $29.0 million

**Funding sources:**
- ADB concessional ordinary capital resources lending $17.0 million
- ADB Asian Development Fund (ADF) $3.0 million
- ADF climate change and disaster risk resilience pool $9.0 million
- Government of Vanuatu To be determined

**Executing agency:** Ministry of Economic and Financial Management

**Implementing agencies:**
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources - Department of Water Resources
- Ministry of Internal Affairs - Department of Local Authorities
- Luganville Municipal Council

**Website:** Forthcoming

**Status:** Proposed in 2022
REFERENCES


Pacific Urban Update 2021

This publication provides an overview of active and proposed urban programs, projects, and technical assistance initiatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the Pacific region as of April 2021. It explains how ADB supports its Pacific developing member countries in providing safe, efficient, and reliable urban services (including water supply and sanitation) that drive equitable socioeconomic growth and achieve sustainable results. It highlights some of ADB’s core activities in the Pacific urban sector, the impacts these have on people’s well-being and on economic growth, and what ADB aims to achieve in the future in line with its Strategy 2030.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.