CLIMATE CHANGE & NATURAL DISASTERS

Pacific Island countries are at the global forefront of climate change and natural hazards. Six of the world’s top 20 most at-risk countries from natural disasters are in the Pacific. Many countries are low-lying and increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels and king tides, causing damage to homes, agriculture and public infrastructure.

The World Bank is helping Pacific Island countries reduce vulnerability through early warning systems, retrofitting roads and buildings to withstand future disasters and severe weather, and piloting an insurance scheme to provide immediate cash in the event of a disaster. When natural disasters do happen, the World Bank plays a lead role in helping countries assess immediate and long-term needs, and provides funding to support recovery in the short and long term.

ENERGY

Affordable and reliable energy is vital for improving living standards and driving economic growth. In PNG, the World Bank provides assistance to the government to help deliver on their target of 70% access to electricity by 2030, up from just 10% in 2012.

Many Pacific Island countries are setting ambitious renewable energy goals and the World Bank is supporting governments to reach these targets. The Tuvalu Energy Sector Development Project is working towards 40% renewable energy in Tuvalu by 2019. In Kiribati, solar panels are reducing the need for imported fuel, saving the government as much as US$290,000 per year, and in Vanuatu, World Bank support is helping to bring renewable energy to 85,000 people by 2019.

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

With more than 60% of Pacific Islanders living in rural areas, agriculture plays a crucial role in the Pacific.

In Samoa, where two out of every three people are employed in agriculture, the World Bank is working with farmers to improve livestock and vegetable farming practices. In Papua New Guinea, the World Bank is working with coffee and cocoa farmers to increase knowledge and access to services to boost farmers’ prices and yield.

The Pacific is also home to some of the world’s richest fish stocks. The World Bank is working with countries across the Pacific to improve the sustainable management of fisheries to ensure long-term viability and increased revenues.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

For the Pacific region, transport infrastructure – roads, ports, airports – provides essential links between people and their jobs, families, education and public services.

In Kiribati, the newly rehabilitated South Tarawa Road provides the only connection for 50,000 people between Bétio Island and B莫aki. In Samoa, a key section of road between the airport and the capital is being upgraded and strengthened, benefiting more than half of Samoa’s population.

The Pacific Aviation Investment Project is working with five countries to improve the safety and reliability of international air transport. Support includes navigational aids and communications equipment, staff training and runway resurfacing.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

As one of the most remote and dispersed regions in the world, being better connected is critical for the Pacific Island countries to reduce the tyranny of distance.

Through the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program, an underwater fiber-optic cable was built to bring high-speed internet to Tonga, resulting in a 60% reduction of internet prices and a quadrupling of users. Similar projects are now underway in the Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa and Palau.

The World Bank also supports governments – through assistance to regulatory bodies – to reduce costs for phone and internet users.

EMPLOYMENT

On average, 35% of Pacific Islanders are aged 14 or younger. Ensuring they are well prepared for the job market of the future is a priority for many Pacific Island governments.

In Papua New Guinea, the Urban Youth Employment Project has provided 360,000 days of work and on-the-job training to more than 8,000 young people. In neighboring Solomon Islands more than 12,000 young people have undertaken more than 654,000 days of work and training through the Rapid Employment Project.
International countries are also at the forefront of climate change; they are some of the most taking both country-specific and regional approaches to projects and research. Pacific Island countries have substantial natural resources, cultural riches, and development challenges: they are far away from major markets, often with recent growth of internet cables. However, these countries also face unique low-income governments, and lenders to investors promote foreign direct investment, and contributing to private financing to developing countries.

The World Bank is increasing its assistance throughout the Pacific, to build on their strengths, while managing their vulnerabilities. The Bank provides advisory services and supports research into areas of strategic importance for Pacific Island countries. The quality of government policy and institutions plays a central role in the development of Pacific island countries. The World Bank has supported Pacific Island governments and regional bodies to develop an NCD Roadmap to reduce the burden of NCDs on the Pacific.

Increasing the number of kids in school and the quality of what they are taught is vital for future development. Access to health and education is fundamental for development and growth. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as heart diseases and diabetes are already causing a health and economic crisis in the Pacific region. The World Bank has supported Pacific Island governments and regional bodies to develop an NCD Roadmap to reduce the burden of NCDs on the Pacific.

For example, the World Bank’s Pacific Possible research is providing Pacific Island governments with deep insights into the transformative opportunities and challenges that the region will face over the coming decades. To learn more, visit worldbank.org/pacificpossible.

The World Bank provides advisory services and supports research into areas of strategic importance for Pacific Island countries and for the region as a whole.

**Regional**

**Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands**

Pacific Island countries have substantial natural resources, cultural riches, and widespread use of English and are now better connected thanks to a network of newly built internet cables. However, these countries also face unique development challenges: they are far away from major markets, often with small populations spread across many islands and vast distances. Pacific Island countries are also at the forefront of climate change; they are some of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural disasters and severe weather events.

The World Bank is increasing its assistance throughout the Pacific, taking both country-specific, and regional approaches to projects and research. The World Bank supports Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Pacific Island countries to build on their strengths, while managing their vulnerabilities.

**Who we are**

**The World Bank Group**

We use our unique blend of expertise and financial tools to help countries achieve sustainable growth.

**Who we are**

**The World Bank**

Funds and advises governments to promote foreign direct investment, and contributing to private financing to developing countries.

**International Financial Corporation (IFC)**

Provides equity financing to commercial companies.

**Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**

Provides political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders to promote foreign direct investment in developing countries.

**Settlement of Investment Disputes**

Settlement of investment disputes.

**International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**

Updated exclusively on the private sector, the ICSID provides advice to businesses & governments, & contributes to investor confidence.

**Our expertise**

**Health & Education**

Access to health and education is fundamental for development and growth.

**Policy & Institutional Reforms**

The quality of government policy and institutions plays a central role in the development of Pacific island countries.

**Advisory Services**

Many Pacific Island governments have limited financial and human resources, making it a challenge to undertake research and analysis to inform decision-making. The World Bank provides advisory services and supports research into areas of strategic importance for Pacific island countries and for the region as a whole.

*All details correct as of October 2017.*