



Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility



Annual Report 2020

December 2020





PRIF partners include the Asian Development Bank, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Union, European Investment Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, United States Department of State and the World Bank Group.

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I. Introduction

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) was officially launched in 2008 to provide an interface between development partners and Pacific member countries to improve the quality and coverage of infrastructure and service delivery. As a multi-partner coordination and technical assistance facility, it enhances coordination of PRIF partner investments in the region and provides technical advice on infrastructure development and sustainable infrastructure management to PRIF partners and member countries.

PRIF's operations cover 14 Pacific Island member countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Papua New Guinea is an associate member country.

PRIF's development partners include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), European Union, European Investment Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, United States Department of State, and the World Bank Group.

The facility entered its fourth phase with funding approval on 31 October 2019, and its partners have provided \$12.5 million for the 4 years from November 2019 to October 2023 (ADB, \$2.0 million; Australia, \$4.1 million; New Zealand, \$4.5 million; and the US, \$2.0 million).

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on 30 January 2020, has impacted PRIF's activities in 2020.

This PRIF Annual Report covers activities during the PRIF Phase IV startup period, 1 November to 31 December 2019, and the first full year of operation, 1 January to 31 December 2020.

II. PRIF Major Achievements

During the reporting period, PRIF had the following significant achievements:

- Established the PRIF Coordination Office team and approved its Phase IV work plan.
- Convened partner coordination activities during COVID-19, with 19 infrastructure working group meetings discussing the impact of the pandemic and sharing experience and approaches to dealing with its impacts on Pacific infrastructure development work.
- Launched a \$2.9 million program of infrastructure planning for Pacific member countries and undertook country planning work in Cook Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu. As well as considering priority infrastructure project planning for long-term economic development, the program helps governments consider short-term priorities for post-COVID-19 economic recovery and jobs.
- Undertook a post-COVID 19 Aviation Strategy study for the Pacific that considered the impacts of the pandemic, scenarios for aviation restarting and recovery, issues to address on the critical path to border reopening, and the financing required. This work was prepared in consultation with governments, airlines, and other stakeholders and led to partner coordination meetings to consider how to meet the aviation sector's financing requirements. Further work supported the Association of South Pacific Airlines to consider airline collaboration to explore cost-sharing and scale economies to support airline sustainability.
- Initiated/completed other technical assistance projects in collaboration with partners, member countries, and regional organizations, including:
 - Cook Island and Fiji waste audits
 - Review of the framework for action on energy security in the Pacific 2010–2020 and development of framework 2021–2030
 - Scoping study for a Pacific water and sanitation training center

- Preparation for publishing of the guidance document and 3 country reports on the diagnostic study of constraints in the application of building codes in the Pacific and support for updating of the Kiribati national building code
- Pacific infrastructure performance indicators 2020
- Samoa public expenditure and financial accountability assessment of climate responsive public financial management
- Pacific clean energy financing potential
- Benchmarking maintenance in the Pacific island countries
- Gender equality and social inclusion issues in infrastructure
- Diagnostics of Pacific water and wastewater utilities
- Climate change impact scenarios for infrastructure planning
- Revamped the PRIF website and created social media platforms to provide an avenue to promote PRIF and partner activities and host a knowledge hub for information on infrastructure development in the Pacific.

III. PRIF Phase IV Activities Report

A. PRIF Phase IV Startup Activities

1. Funding Approval and PRIF Coordination Office Staffing

ADB approved the technical assistance (TA) providing PRIF Phase IV funding on 31 October 2020. ADB, the PRIF administrative partner, immediately commenced engaging staff for the PRIF Coordination Office (PRIF CO) to work in the new office space provided by the ADB Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney. Five of six PRIF CO staff positions were in place by January 2020, and one of the first orders of business was to prepare the work plan for PRIF Phase IV, which involved a strategic review and consideration of enhancements to PRIF delivery.

2. Preparation of the Phase IV Work Plan

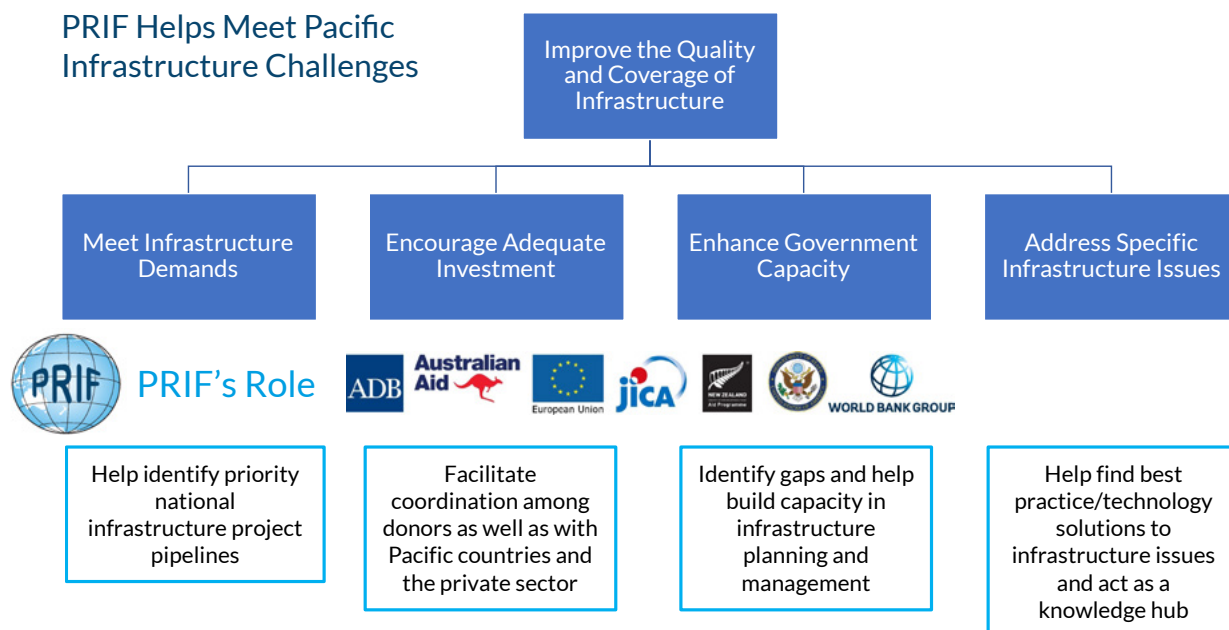
As part of the preparation of the PRIF Phase IV Work Plan, PRIF CO undertook a strategic review that considered the challenges in Pacific member countries, the likely needs of member countries, a review of the scope of development partner infrastructure activities, and the recommendations of a 2019 independent review of PRIF operations.¹



1 Strategic Review of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, PRIF February 2019.

Figure 1 illustrates PRIF’s role in meeting Pacific infrastructure challenges.

Figure 1: Role of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility



Source: PRIF

To meet Pacific infrastructure demands—PRIF helps member countries identify priority economic infrastructure project pipelines considering climate change impacts and mitigation.

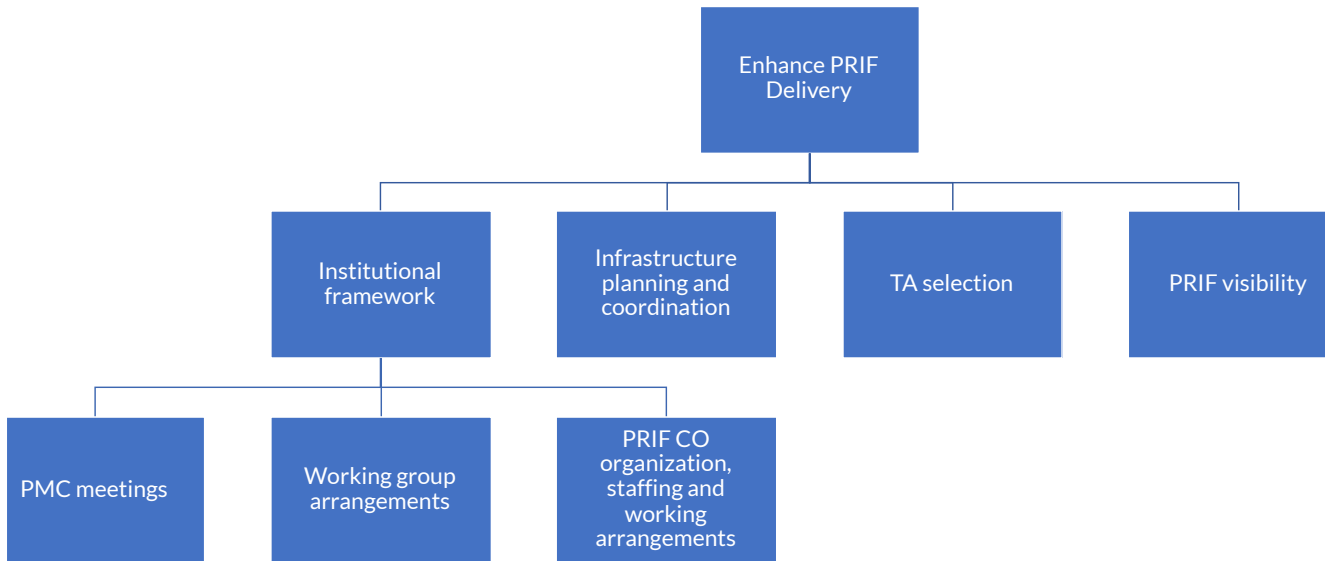
To encourage adequate investment—PRIF facilitates donor coordination and links with member countries to finance priority infrastructure projects. It can also help identify opportunities and encourage private sector participation.

To improve government capacity—PRIF provides support to build capacity in infrastructure planning and management. It can also help identify gaps in capacity and key infrastructure issues with data and comparative analysis.

To address special infrastructure issues—PRIF helps find best practice and technological solutions to common infrastructure issues such as overcoming the high cost of infrastructure provision and acts as a knowledge hub.

Also, as part of the PRIF Phase IV Work Plan preparation, consideration was given to how PRIF CO could improve its delivery. A PRIF CO planning meeting was held on 17 January 2020 to consider areas for enhancement. The planning meeting considered the PRIF Management Committee (PMC) and other stakeholder feedback and the findings of the 2019 Independent Review. The key areas considered were PRIF’s institutional framework, its coordination and planning and management work, its TA prioritization, and the visibility of PRIF (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Areas for Enhancing Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility Delivery



CO = Coordination Office, PMC = PRIF Management Committee, PRIF = Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, TA = technical assistance.

Source: PRIF

The PRIF Phase IV Work Plan focused on the following enhancements:

Effective PRIF Institutional Framework—PRIF CO was to ensure PMC meetings were strategic and as productive as possible and that working group activities met partner needs and were better linked to the PMC. For PRIF CO, the aim was to maintain a well-functioning team with clear goals, a work plan, and effective working arrangements.

Better Infrastructure Planning and Partner Coordination—Country infrastructure planning and partner coordination was to be central to PRIF’s operations, with the aim to better coordinate partner programs and increase cofinancing and joint activity.

A Well Targeted TA and Knowledge Program—PRIF CO was to take a more strategic approach to TA and knowledge operations through the application of new PMC-approved criteria.

A Higher Profile—PRIF CO was to raise its profile with stakeholders and make PRIF the “go-to” place to find information, funding, or support for infrastructure development in the Pacific.

The PRIF Phase IV Work Plan was prepared and submitted to the PMC in February 2020 and was approved at the 5 March PMC meeting.²

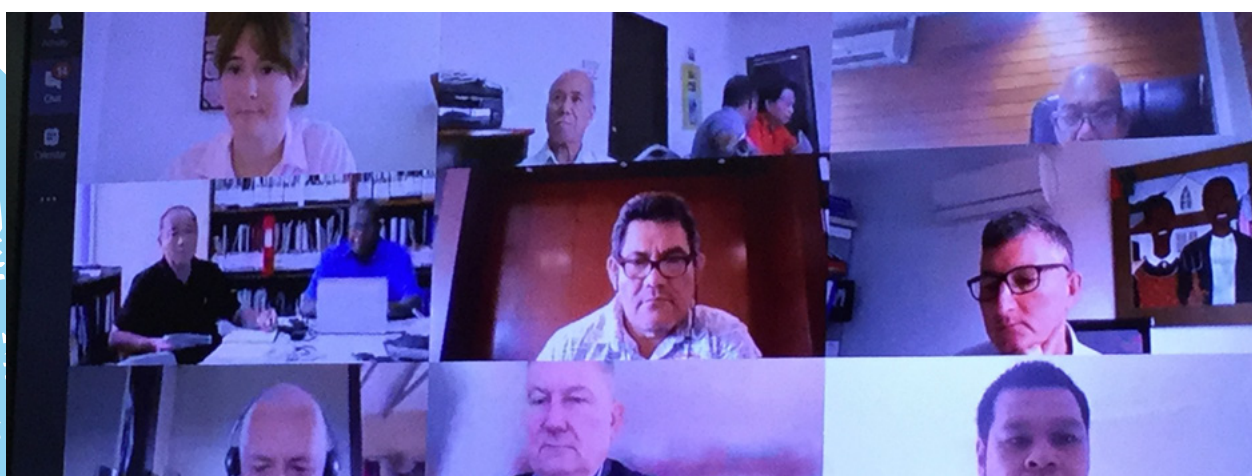
2 PRIF CO Phase IV Work Plan, PRIF March 2020

B. PRIF Phase IV Activities

This section reports on PRIF's activities in 2020 and the implementation of its work plan including delivering on its partner coordination and TA mandates for improved infrastructure in the Pacific.

1. COVID-19 Impact

PRIF's Phase IV activities were impacted by COVID-19 almost immediately following the approval of the PRIF Phase IV Work Plan. Border closures, cessation of airline services, and loss of tourism and other industries have severely impacted Pacific member countries. PRIF focused its partner coordination and member country TA efforts on responding to COVID-19. PRIF CO staff moved to work from home from 18 March 2020, and all business operations during the reporting period were carried out through remote access, including remotely implementing ongoing TAs and other activities. The following sections report PRIF COVID-19 responses.



PRIF donor partners dialogue with Pacific Utility CEOs, 27th August 2020

2. PRIF Partner Coordination

a. PRIF Management Committee

The PMC comprises senior officials of PRIF partner agencies and provides strategic oversight of PRIF activities. PMC meetings provide a venue for high-level partner coordination and have a dedicated session for updates of each agency's program activities in the Pacific. PRIF CO convened five PMC meetings during the period. Mr. Paul Alexander of NZ-MFAT was the chair from 21 November 2019 to 10 December 2020. Ms. Fei Deng of the World Bank took over the role and chaired the PMC on 10 December 2020. The below and Appendix 1 summarize key highlights of the PMC meetings during the reporting period.

PMC 21 November 2019 (22 participants)—Reviewed PRIF Phase III implementation and discussed enhancements for Phase IV. Approved the continuation of ongoing PRIF Phase III TA activities under Phase IV.

PMC 5 March 2020 (31 participants)—Approved the PRIF Phase IV Workplan, including the Communications and Outreach Strategy and the PRIF working group stocktaking findings. Also, the PRIF-supported Solomon Islands national infrastructure plan was discussed with the participation of partner desk officers.

PMC 4 June 2020 (virtual with 22 participants)—Discussions focused on how infrastructure can boost economic recovery and jobs post-COVID-19, with a case study on the Solomon Islands. PMC considered and approved the \$2.9 million Comprehensive Program of National Infrastructure Planning and Management. PMC also endorsed the proposal for Papua New Guinea, originally a non-PRIF member, to be an associate PRIF member in order for the country to benefit from PRIF's regional activities and knowledge products.

PMC 3 September 2020 (virtual 24 participants)—The Post COVID-19 Pacific Short-Term Aviation Strategy

Study findings were presented to the meeting and partner funding and support for Pacific aviation were discussed. There was a presentation of PRIF Phase IV work plan implementation and discussion of areas for possible future PRIF assistance.

PMC 10 December 2020 (virtual 31 participants)—The seven PRIF working group chairs reported on their group's 2020 activities and discussed 2021 plans. The PMC approved seven TA projects amounting to a total of \$780,000.

b. Sector and Thematic Working Groups

Working groups are central to PRIF's mandate. They are the main platform for partner coordination and drive PRIF's TA activities. There are seven working groups: energy, transport, information and communication technology (ICT), water and sanitation, urban development, environmental and social safeguards, and sustainable infrastructure management. They comprise project officers and specialists from PRIF partner agencies working in the Pacific. Working groups were established to identify and advocate for sector priority initiatives and TA projects to be incorporated in the PRIF work plan; enhance donor coordination through knowledge and project pipeline sharing; and provide sector expert guidance and advice to PRIF CO in the implementation of its activities.

(1) Working Group Stocktaking

As part of the PRIF Phase IV work planning process, PRIF CO conducted a stocktaking of working groups to consider their structure and function. The seven working groups comprise some 130 PRIF partner sector specialists in the Pacific. In past years, they convened once or twice a year, mostly at ADB-PLCO with video links to those who could not physically attend. They were also held at the sidelines of regional events where most members were present. The consensus was strong among working group representatives that working groups had facilitated collaboration, information sharing about ongoing projects, discussion of issues and priorities for regional development in the sector and sharing proposals and reports seeking feedback. Working group members valued the camaraderie in the group meetings and its enrichment of bilateral discussions among counterparts.

The stocktaking concluded that all the seven working groups should be retained as they reflected partner sectors and areas of operation. It concluded that rather than all being referred to as sector working groups, that they are differentiated into sector and thematic clusters—five sector working groups (energy, transport, urban development, ICT, and water and sanitation), and two thematic working groups (climate change, environment and social safeguards, and sustainable infrastructure management). A new terms of reference for working groups was established clarifying the link to the PMC by:

- (i) enhancing donor coordination through knowledge and project pipeline sharing;
- (ii) updating project pipelines every 6 months;
- (iii) developing a PRIF response to priority and emerging subsector development issues and challenges in the region;
- (iv) coordinating activities and advocating for PRIF engagement with other sector-based activities, forums, and regional expert networks;
- (v) providing sector expert guidance to the PRIF CO in the identification and assessment of technical expertise for engagement under TA funds and in quality assurance of TA outputs; and
- (vi) reporting to PMC on working group priority issues, work plan and progress, and donor pipelines through quarterly reports.

(2) Working Group Activities in 2020

During 2020, due to COVID-19, all working group meetings were held virtually. Each working group meeting typically featured a presentation from PRIF or partners, discussed PRIF TA activities, shared experience and approaches to dealing with COVID-19, and had a round of reporting on each agency's activities and project pipelines, which facilitated coordination. The virtual format and having a common theme attracted great interest and wider participation by partner representatives in working group meetings, with 19 held during 2020 at an average of 20 people per meeting (versus 9 meetings in 2018, 10 meetings in 2019, and an average of 10 participants per meeting).

Summaries of working group activities are presented below.



The working group met three times in 2020: 31 March, 21 August, and 21 October, with an average of 26 attendees per meeting. Ms. Ella Drake of the European Investment Bank chaired the first two meetings and Mr. Mitsunori Motohashi of the World Bank chaired the third.

Ensuring the Lights Are on in the Pacific during COVID-19.

In April 2020, during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, PRIF CO, the Energy Sector Working Group in collaboration with the Pacific Power Association reached out to power utilities to gather ground-level information on fuel supply and other aspects of their operations. The findings were that utilities were able to maintain fuel supplies and their operations.

As months progressed, many utilities experienced delayed maintenance and implementation of capital projects. Travel restrictions affected deployment of foreign contractors. Disruption of supply chains of equipment and components continued. The Energy Sector Working Group, together with the Pacific Power Association convened a "Pacific Utility CEOs and Donors Dialogue" to bring together 12 utility CEOs and PRIF donor partners to share experiences, assess impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in the energy sector in Pacific countries, and strategize a way forward.



The 31 March meeting discussed the status of the proposed Pacific Energy Regional Training Program and Centre and funding interest from partners; the impact of the COVID-19 on ongoing projects and approaches to managing contracts; updates on the PRIF TA on Energy Framework 2020–2030; updates on partners' energy project pipeline; suggestions for future sector PRIF TAs and benchmarking exercises; and upcoming regional initiatives and events.

The 21 August meeting was for a Pacific Power Utility CEOs dialogue. It was attended by the Pacific Power Association Secretariat and CEOs/Managing Directors of 11 power utilities and 26 representatives from seven PRIF development partners. Utility CEOs reported on the operational and financial challenges brought by COVID-19, the support received from their respective governments, and further support required. The dialogue highlighted the challenges experienced by many utilities in implementing projects.

During its 21 October meeting, ADB presented its proposal on the "Scoping Study for a Pacific Regional Clean Energy Financing Facility" and a PRIF consultant presented the draft "Pacific Regional Energy Framework 2021–2030". The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (NZ-MFAT) Martin Garrod agreed to co-lead the working group for the next 12 months.

Potential sector TA proposals discussed by the group include (i) opportunities for energy efficiency and transport energy, (ii) assessment of bulk fuel storage in the Pacific, (iii) bioenergy in the Pacific, and (iv) renewable energy demand analysis in the Pacific.

The working group met four times in 2020: 17 March, 21 July, 1 September, and 8 October 2020, all chaired by Mr. Pierre Graftieux of the World Bank, with an average of 32 attendees per meeting.

PRIF Pacific Post COVID-19 Short-term Aviation Strategy

COVID-19 border closures, quarantine, and travel restrictions have had especially severe impact on Pacific aviation, including airlines, airports, and related industries like tourism. The PRIF Transport Sector Working Group commissioned an in-depth scoping study of this essential sector. The study assessed the status of the aviation industry, identified priority recovery strategies, and estimated that about \$100 million of financial support would be needed for airport infrastructure, airlines, regulatory measures, and route subsidies to revive the aviation industry. PRIF undertook a further study for the Association of South Pacific Airlines to help them explore airline collaboration and cost-sharing options to address the financial stress.

The studies guided coordination, tracking, and effective deployment of ongoing assistance by PRIF partners. PRIF CO convened regular Pacific aviation coordination meetings and transport working group meetings to coordinate support for the aviation sector. PRIF CO also briefed ADB and World Bank regional management on the results of the studies.

In the meetings, PRIF partners discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of ongoing projects and shared requests received from member countries to address COVID-19. They shared highlights of the ADB Asia-Pacific Transport Forum held on 24–28 August and discussed findings and recommendations of the NZ-MFAT Study on *Pacific Aviation COVID-19: Impact and Recovery*. They also provided guidance on the implementation of PRIF's *Post COVID-19 Pacific Short-term Aviation Strategy Study*. The latter meetings focused on the findings of the aviation study and reviewed the inception and draft final reports of the consultants. Partner support for aviation was also discussed.

Topics proposed and discussed by the group included: (i) a scoping/options study of a new Tuvalu airport runway, (ii) use of plastic waste in rural road construction, (iii) transport state-owned enterprises and their needs, (iv) manpower (crew) issues in aviation and shipping that may affect resumption of services, (v) maritime transport study, and (vi) follow-on work from the recommendations of the aviation strategy study.



The working group was led by Mr. Stephan Dahan of the World Bank and met three times during the year: 14 April, 30 July, and 24 November, with an average of 19 participants per meeting.

During the 14 April meeting, DFAT presented its Water for Women Program and adaptations for COVID-19. Partners shared their activities and COVID-19 responses and discussed the challenges in mobilizing on-the-ground actors to implement water and sanitation programs and the need to support utilities and infrastructure during recovery from COVID-19.

At the 30 July meeting, the highlights of the Pacific High-level Dialogue on Water and Sanitation and related activities of the Pacific Community (SPC) were presented. Also, ADB shared its forthcoming regional TA on *Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Practices in the Pacific*, and a PRIF CO consultant presented the inception report of the TA on *Scoping Study on a Regional Approach to Water and Sanitation Training*.

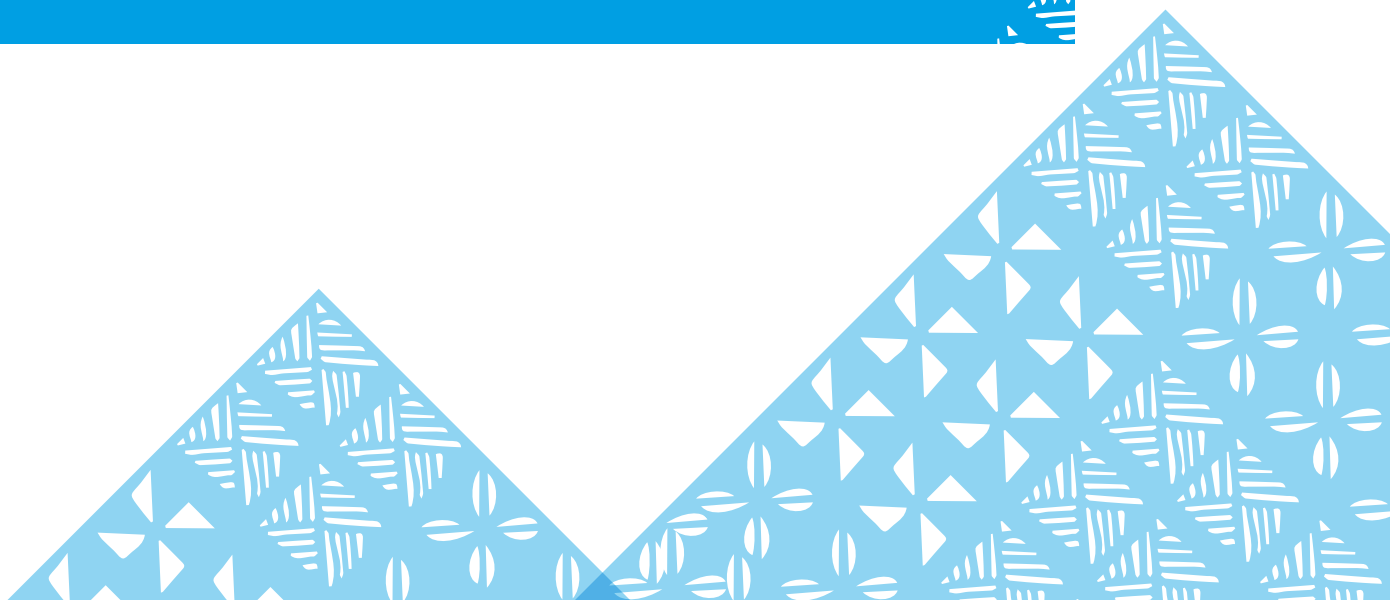
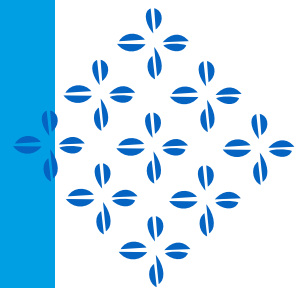
The 24 November meeting considered TA to carry out a diagnostic of Pacific water utilities to identify gaps and areas for investment that will help countries achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets and COVID-19 prevention. The PRIF CO consultant presented the findings of the TA on a *Scoping Study on a Regional Approach to Water and Sanitation Training*.

Topics proposed by the working group included: (i) improving rainwater harvesting systems focused on community-based distribution, (ii) performance-based service contracts to cover maintenance of utilities, (iii) strengthening management of Pacific Water and Wastewater Association water utilities through a review of performance indicators, and (iv) sanitation options for selected countries.

PRIF explores a regional approach to water and sanitation training in the Pacific.

The Pacific region is lagging on Sustainable Development Goal 6, with only 52% of people having access to safe water and 31% to secure sanitation. Improving training will help provide services to more people, including in rural communities. This is especially important during COVID-19, with the need to reduce transmission and to wash hands regularly.

The Water and Sanitation Sector Working Group considered a regional training approach would consolidate efforts and be the most effective approach to improve capacity in the sector. The group commissioned a PRIF TA to explore a coordinated regional approach through partnership among PRIF partners and key stakeholders, such as the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association, the University of South Pacific, the International Water Centre, Pacific Community, and the United Nations International Children's Fund. The study is ongoing and will be finished by the end of March 2021. The study could help initiate development agencies and stakeholder support for a regional program.

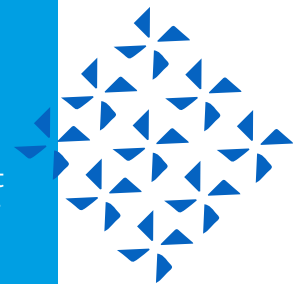


The working group had two meetings during the year. The 2 June 2020 meeting chaired by Mr. Nick Valentine of the World Bank had 21 participants and the 3 November meeting chaired by the new lead, Ms. Jingmin Huang of ADB, had 19 participants.

Waste audits in the Pacific were the main topic of the 2 June meeting. A TA Steering Committee for waste audits was established to provide guidance, coordinate support, and review the consultant's outputs and deliverables. The lead consultant for the PRIF TA on *Waste Audits in Fiji and the Cook Islands* presented their approach and work plan for the audits considering travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, partners working in waste audit and management provided status updates on their projects. The working group agreed to identify new discussion topics and activities under urban development for the TA program.

PRIF Working with Partners for Regional Solid Waste Solutions

PRIF established a waste audit methodology that is being used as a standard by Pacific countries and regional partners to collect country data on waste management and recycling materials. Together with the World Bank, PACWASTE (EU), SPREP, GEF, JICA and IUC, PRIF is coordinating waste audits across the Pacific to collect data that will be used to scope a regional recycling centre in the Pacific Region. Currently, PRIF is finalizing the waste audit in Fiji, where it is working with the Ministry of Local Government and training two local councils remotely. PRIF finalized the Cook Islands Waste Audit Report, which will be published in February 2021.



The 3 November meeting further discussed the Cook Islands waste audit and the use of ICT during COVID-19 to remotely train staff, collect data and photos (on cell phones), and develop a GIS map of sites. This remote delivery created stronger local capacity. ADB presented its activities in the solid waste area and discussed how PRIF work could contribute. The status of PRIF's building code diagnostic work and follow-on work in Pacific island countries was also discussed.

Areas to expand the scope of the urban working group included: land use planning, building codes/standards, and affordable housing. PRIF CO was asked to consider further opportunities.



The working group had three meetings during the year: 19 May, 4 August, and 1 December, all chaired by Ms. Natasha Beschorner of the World Bank, and had 15, 17, and 23 participants, respectively.

The 19 May meeting discussed partners' efforts to develop ICT in Pacific countries by accelerating the completion of submarine cable projects between countries in the region, thereby improving international and regional connectivity. It also discussed the need to focus on outer-island connectivity, in particular, in Tuvalu and Kiribati. The working group noted that COVID-19 had renewed interest in digitization—video-conferencing, telemedicine, remote learning, e-government, and e-commerce.

The 4 August meeting provided a forum for disseminating and discussing the impending World Bank/MFAT reports on digital economy opportunities and digital government in the Pacific region. PRIF CO informed the group on the updating of Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators for 2020.

The 1 December meeting considered issues about smaller nations and outer islands not benefiting from submarine cables. The meeting included ADB presentations on private funding of satellite communications and from the International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Office for Project Services on smart islands.

Topics identified included (i) digital technology—link to finance and other sectors; (ii) cybersecurity post-COVID-19—assessment of risks, needs, and interventions; (iii) case studies on successes in e-government, e-procurement, and e-health, especially during COVID-19; (iv) stocktaking of ICT (including problem analysis) in the region to help understand areas for intervention; and (v) training needs analysis and strategies on the development of digital skills in member countries.



The working group met twice during this reporting period—5 May and 30 October—with an average of 20 participants per meeting.

PRIF Launches National Infrastructure Investment Planning Program

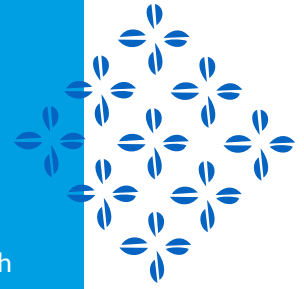
In June 2020, PRIF approved a \$2.9 million Program of Infrastructure Planning for Pacific countries to help them strengthen public infrastructure investment management. Early screening and prioritization of infrastructure projects is vital to ensure long-term development and, particularly in post-COVID times, to identify and select those projects that would best revitalize economies and create jobs. PRIF is assisting Cook Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The program assists in the development of National Infrastructure Investment Plans, with a strong focus on capacity building and institutionalization of investment planning.



Mr. Richard Neves of the International Monetary Fund led the 5 May meeting. PRIF CO presented its comprehensive national infrastructure investment planning program proposal for group endorsement to the PMC. It used the 2019 Solomon Islands national infrastructure investment planning as a case study to identify priority project pipelines post COVID-19 by applying economic recovery and job creation criteria and cited the importance of maintenance work, labor-intensive infrastructure, and use of domestic labor. SPC and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative presented the PacRISK information system, which provides disaster and climate risk information and associated tools for enhancing risk management and providing better-informed development planning and financing decisions. The International Monetary Fund presented its Public Investment Management Assessment framework, which includes climate change and COVID-19 aspects.

PRIF Reviewing Progress in Pacific Infrastructure Development

PRIF is collecting Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators, which will cover all member countries and track the performance of infrastructure across the key economic sectors: energy, telecommunications, transport, solid waste, and water and sanitation. This information will be published in 2021. The performance indicators report will enable Pacific governments, PRIF development partners, and other stakeholders to assess infrastructure performance across countries and to track performance using Pacific infrastructure performance indicator reports in 2011 and 2016. The performance indicators are being collected in partnership with SPC and with the support of other CROP agencies, strengthening vital networks with regional organizations.



The second meeting was held on 30 October and co-chaired by Messrs. Sean O’Sullivan of PRIF CO and Richard Neves. PRIF CO provided updates on the five national infrastructure investment plans under implementation and gained the endorsement of the concept note on infrastructure maintenance benchmarking study. Partners updated related planning and asset management work in the transport and maritime sectors.



The working group had two meetings, 13 May and 19 November, with an average of 18 participants.

Ms. Jean Williams of ADB chaired the 13 May meeting, which discussed the status of the draft *Shared Approach for Management of Environmental Social Risks and Impacts*. The report will be used to enhance environmental and social safeguard assessments and help PRIF partners work more effectively with member countries. The need to manage the heightened environmental and social risks during the COVID-19 pandemic because of remote processing and implementation of donor assistance was also highlighted. Other safeguards issues, such as child protection, sexual abuse, and exploitation prevention, gender equality and social inclusion were suggested to be brought into future working group discussions.

Philip Martin of DFAT chaired the 19 November meeting, which endorsed two TA proposals. The first seeks to strengthen integration of gender equality and social inclusion issues across the infrastructure project cycle and the second will review climate change research and literature to identify impact scenarios for infrastructure planning for Pacific countries.

3. Technical Assistance and Knowledge Work

a. Priority Areas of Assistance

PRIF TA and knowledge work is driven by demands from PRIF partners, PRIF member countries, and regional organizations. TA requests from these stakeholder groups are prioritized, developed, endorsed by the relevant working group, and approved by the PMC. PRIF CO prepares the concept note and administers the funding, procurement, and implementation of the assistance in close consultation with the responsible sector or thematic working groups. The criteria for consideration of a TA proposal are as follows:

- (i) be consistent with PMC approved PRIF TA main operations areas and key strategic areas;
- (ii) benefit the work of several PRIF partners; and/or
- (iii) benefit several PRIF member countries—Country TA may be justified if the results would be of interest and shared with other countries;
- (iv) be consistent with national development strategies, national infrastructure investment plans, and of expressed interest by the relevant country/countries.

b. Infrastructure Planning and Management Technical Assistance

In June 2020, the PMC approved a \$2.9 million comprehensive program to improve national infrastructure planning and management. The aim was to have an ongoing program of working with government counterparts to regularly develop, review, and update member country's priority infrastructure project pipelines. The program integrates climate change, asset management, cost-benefit indicators, and budget parameters into infrastructure planning, and it is anticipated to hold regular regional networking workshops for PRIF member countries to support this work. The program is designed to be a central pillar of PRIF's coordination role and to better link PRIF with member countries. The program also seeks to provide PRIF member countries with a good level of capacity for project pipeline preparation. Work was commenced in five countries—Cook Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The national plans for Nauru and Tuvalu were endorsed by the respective governments in 2020.

c. General Technical Assistance Activities

During the reporting period, PRIF CO had 17 TAs under implementation (Table 1). Appendix 2 briefly describes each PRIF TA as well as their implementation status. PRIF had country-specific TAs in 9 out of 14 Pacific member countries and 11 regional TAs.

As of 31 December 2020, \$1.72 million of TA had been approved by PMC, and \$0.88 million had been contracted. In terms of human resources, PRIF CO has engaged 25 consultants for a 50.9 person-months—17 international consultants for 37.3 person-months and 8 national consultants for 13.6 person-months. Of the 17 international consultants, three were female and 14 male; and among the eight national consultants, five were male and three female.

PRIF CO has established framework contracts with 23 specialists in infrastructure planning and investment management, asset management, climate change and disaster risk management/environment, infrastructure finance and economics/public financial management, gender and social aspects, and private sector development. To-date, eight specialists from the framework contracts have been engaged for 12 person-months of international consultants' services and 1 person-month of national consultant services.

Two TAs were carried out by PRIF CO long-term staff (Technical Assistance Officer): the revision of the Tuvalu Infrastructure Strategy Investment Plan 2020–2025 and the Samoa Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment.

PRIF introduced a new short-term response TA modality to provide expert services to member countries to solve infrastructure issues. This assistance would normally be 1 person-month with a maximum of \$50,000, including out-of-pocket expenses. The first assistance under this modality was approved for Kiribati building code support TA.



SPC 50th Meeting of the Committee of Representatives and Government Administrations (CRGA), November 2020

Table 1: PRIF CO Technical Assistance Activity, as of 31 December 2020

Country	Technical Assistance	Sector	PMC Approved Budget (\$)	Committed Amount (\$) (31 Dec. 2020)	Period of Implementation
Cook Islands	Country (Cook Island) Waste Audit	Urban Development	99,000	76,000	May-Sep 2020
Fiji	Country (Fiji) Waste Audit	Urban Development	99,000	86,261	May 2020-Aug 2021
Nauru	Finalization and publication of the Nauru Infrastructure Investment Plan 2019	Multisector	8,000	7,800	Jan-April 2020
Regional	Review of the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP) 2010-2020 and Development of Framework 2021-2030	Energy	99,000	65,172	Feb-Oct 2020
Regional	Scoping Study for a Pacific Water and Sanitation Training Centre	Water and Sanitation	150,000	93,041	July 2020 -Apr 2021
Regional	Preparation for publication of the Guidance Document and 3 country reports on the Diagnostic Study of Constraints in the Application of Building Codes in the Pacific	Urban Development	10,000	10,000	July-Nov 2020
Cook Islands	Midterm Review and Updating of Cook Islands National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2015	Multisector	100,809	81,630	Oct 2020-Apr 2021
Palau	Preparation of Palau National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2020-2030	Multisector	155,000	117,355	Sept 2020-Mar 2021
Solomon Islands	Updating of the 2019 Solomon Islands Infrastructure Strategic Plan	Multisector	35,000	11,322	Nov 2020-Feb 2021
Tonga	Tonga National Infrastructure Investment Plan 2020-2030	Multisector	150,000	123,719	Sept 2020-Mar 2021
Tuvalu	Revising the Tuvalu Infrastructure Strategy and Investment Plan 2020-2025	Multisector		-	May-Nov 2020
Regional	Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators 2020	Multisector	74,000	52,900	Oct 2020-Mar 2021
Regional	Post-COVID-19 Pacific Aviation Short-term Strategy Study	Transport	100,000	109,650	Jul--Nov 2020
Samoa	Samoa Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment of Climate Responsive Public Financial Management	Environment and Social	Sep-Dec 2020
Regional	Supporting the Association of South Pacific Airlines Explore Regional Options for Pacific Aviation Sustainability	Transport	40,299	42,799	Nov-Dec 2020
Regional	Pacific Clean Energy Financing Potential	Energy	130,000		Mar-Aug 2021
Regional	Benchmarking Maintenance in the Pacific Island Countries	Multisector	110,000		Mar-July 2021
Kiribati	Updating of Kiribati National Building Code	Urban Development	48,000		Mar-July 2021
Regional	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Issues in Infrastructure	Multisector	60,000		Mar-Aug 2021
Regional	Diagnostics of Pacific Water and Wastewater Utilities	Water and Sanitation	135,000		Mar-Sep 2021
Regional	Climate Change Impact Scenarios for Infrastructure Planning	Environment and Social	120,000		Mar-Aug 2021
Total			1,723,108	877,649	

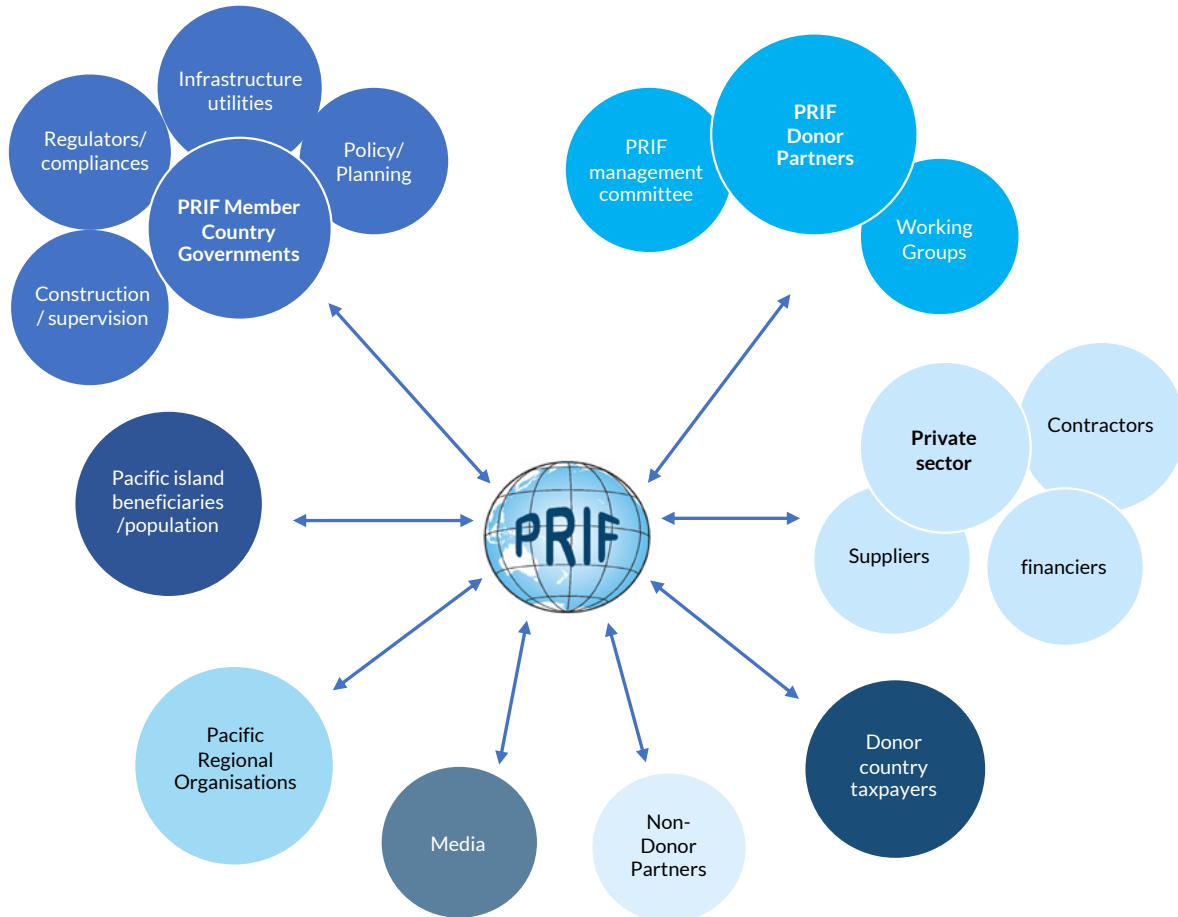
Source: PRIF

4. Communications and Outreach

A comprehensive communications and outreach strategy was approved in March 2020. It aimed to do the following:

- Generate public awareness of PRIF and its donor partner activities.
- Promote effective engagement with PRIF donor partners, member countries, and other regional stakeholders (Figure 3).

Figure 3: PRIF Stakeholder Mapping



Source: PRIF

The strategy outlined key outreach activities for 2020, including the revamp of the PRIF website, the establishment of PRIF social media handles, and regional engagement.

PRIF CO completed the redesign of the PRIF website (www.theprif.org), which improved functionality and quality of content. It enabled better interaction with PRIF stakeholders, provided a more dynamic and interactive web platform, and served as an essential PRIF communication medium to disseminate PRIF news, knowledge products, and information. The website provides a snapshot of PRIF's key role, PRIF partners, and where it works and why, allowing users to understand PRIF's services and products better.

The redesign also included building an intranet portal (restricted site) for the PMC and each of PRIF's seven working groups to improve knowledge sharing and partner coordination. The restricted site will enhance partner engagement to contribute to the work of PRIF through sharing of pipelines, project information, and other relevant information.

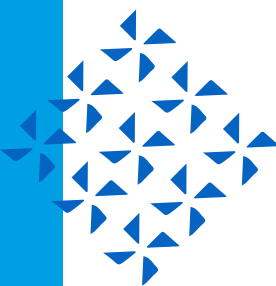
PRIF CO created the PRIF Facebook page, a LinkedIn account, and revived its Twitter handle. All PRIF social media banners were redesigned to create a style and branding for PRIF partners, PRIF services, and Pacific country members.

By the end of the year, the PRIF Facebook account (facebook.com/theprif.org) had 614 views, 157 likes, 163 followers, 14,010 posts, and 914 engagements, with the post on the post-COVID Pacific aviation strategy study gaining the most views and response. The PRIF LinkedIn page (linkedin.com/company/pacific-region-infrastructure-facility/) recorded 357 clicks and 339 followers and averaged 5,178 impressions. The PRIF opportunities post attracted the largest number of impressions. The PRIF Twitter page (twitter.com/theprif) averaged 4,900 impressions per month, an increase from 94 at the beginning of the year. For the year, 70 tweets were posted, mainly on the activities of the working groups.

Among the PRIF posts that had a large reach were the launching of the Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan, the aviation sector study, heads of utilities dialogue, country-level activities such as the waste audit in the Cook Islands, and regional engagement, such as the PRIF presentation at the Private Island Private Sector Organization webinar with the Pacific countries' private sector group.

2020 PRIF knowledge products

- Asset Condition Assessment Methodology Manual
- Regional Diagnostic Study of Constraints in the Application of Building Codes in the Pacific
- Cook Islands Waste Audit
- Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan
- Tuvalu National Infrastructure Investment Plan
- Post COVID-19 Pacific Short-term Aviation Strategy' Study



In outreach, PRIF CO presented PRIF's role in developing countries' infrastructure pipelines at the Pacific Infrastructure Investment Seminar organized by the Australia Pacific Business Council on 18 February 2020. On the invitation of the Socio-economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 CROP Taskforce, on 15 October 2020, PRIF CO presented its COVID-19 response for Pacific countries. This included the findings and recommendations of the Aviation Short-Term Strategy Study and PRIF's national infrastructure investment planning flagship program to help inform the Taskforce's report to the Forum Leaders. PRIF CO also met virtually with the Senior Management Team of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme on 12 November 2020 to discuss areas of common interest and potential collaboration. PRIF CO attended SPC's first virtual meeting of the 50th Committee of Representatives, Governments, and Associations from 17–19 November 2020 and presented the PRIF "[*Observer Statement*](#)" outlining PRIF work and areas of PRIF/SPC collaboration.

PRIF expanded its knowledge products in building standards and codes, asset maintenance, solid waste, aviation, and infrastructure plans to help member countries enhance knowledge of infrastructure planning and management.



Nauru government virtual launching of the Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan, August 2020

5. PRIF CO Administration

Functionally, in the management and scope of PRIF CO's work, the PRIF CO team leader reports through the chairperson to the PMC. Administratively the PRIF CO team leader reports to ADB through the ADB project officer based at the Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney.

a. Reporting

The ADB TA paper—*Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility Coordination Office—Leveraging Infrastructure for Sustainable Development 2019* is the guiding document for PRIF Phase IV and its design and monitoring framework is the basis for PRIF CO's monitoring and evaluation work. Regular monitoring information has been reported to PMC at quarterly meetings, through the PRIF CO quarterly and other reports. Presentations have been made to the PMC on the progress of the PRIF Phase IV Work Plan and the working group activities. During the period, PRIF CO prepared the following reports (Table 2).

Table 2: PRIF CO Schedule of Reports

Report	For the Period Ending
Draft PRIF CO Work Plan 2020–2023	21 February 2020
Final PRIF CO Work Plan 2020–2023	31 March 2020
PRIF CO Quarterly Progress Report 1	March 2020
PRIF CO Quarterly Progress Report 2	June 2020
PRIF CO Quarterly Progress Report 3	September 2020
PRIF CO Quarterly Progress Report 4	December 2020

Source: PRIF

b. PRIF CO Staffing

PRIF CO has six fulltime staff, all working from ADB's Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney. Due to the expanding operation under the Phase IV Work Plan, COVID-19, and the need to liaise with regional organizations, the PMC approved a new TA officer position for Fiji. The current staffing and contracting status of the PRIF CO are indicated in Table 3.

Table 3: Staffing of PRIF CO

Position	Name	Start Date	End Date
PRIF CO Team Leader	Sean O'Sullivan	16 December 2019	31 October 2021
TA Officer	Jane Romero	10 November 2019	31 October 2021
TA Officer	Lorena Estigarribia	10 November 2019	31 October 2021
TA Officer in Fiji	-		
Infrastructure Economist	Roger Guinery	6 April 2020	5 April 2021
Communications and Secretariat Coordinator	Caroline Tupoulahi-Fusimalohi	14 January 2020	15 January 2022
Operations and Finance Officer	Nina Mines	2 December 2019	31 December 2021
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	-		

Source: PRIF

c. PRIF CO Budget

(1) TA Funding

Total PRIF Phase IV TA funding is \$12.5 million and, to date, \$8.5 million has been received and is being used to fund PRIF activities (Table 4). Of this, \$3.1 million has been committed or contracted, equivalent to 37% of funds received and 25% of total TA funding.

Table 4: PRIF Partner Funding

PRIF Partner	Funding Commitment (USD equivalent)	Funds Received (USD equivalent)
Australian Aid (DFAT)	4,089,000	-
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NZ-MFAT)	4,451,062	4,451,062
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	2,000,000	2,000,000
United States Department of State	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total Funds	12,540,062	8,451,062

Source: PRIF

(2) Disbursement

Disbursement to-date is \$1.5 million, which is 41% of the PRIF Phase IV Year 1 budget or 12% of the total PRIF funding of \$12.5 million (see Table 5 below). In Phase IV four-year implementation, it would be expected that disbursement would follow an S curve, and in the first-year disbursement would be lower as operations are initiated and then ramp up. However, disbursement was lower than expected due to the impact of COVID-19, which has resulted in three deferred TAs (two that require onsite work) and limited travel by both PRIF CO and TA consultants. In addition, remote interaction and engagement with government counterparts has led to slower TA implementation. TA disbursements are expected to increase in 2021 as many TA consultants will have been engaged and travel to the region may be able to resume.

Table 5: PRIF Expenditure (as of 31 December 2020)

Cost Category	Approved Budget (\$)	Year 1 Budget (\$)	Actual Disbursement to Date (\$)	Utilization Rate, Year 1 (%)
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(c)/(b)
Technical assistance projects	7,065,000	2,166,000	333,736	6.79
PRIF CO staff cost and travel	3,597,000	1,036,000	973,585	74.84
Workshops and Training	61,000	18,000	1,093	6.07
Equipment	61,000	35,000	0	0
Miscellaneous expenses	1,431,000	329,000	184,187	50.97
Financial audit	128,000	-	0	0
Contingencies	196,000	80,000	0	0
Total	12,539,000	3,614,000	1,492,601	41.30

Source: PRIF

Appendix 1: Summary of PRIF Management Committee Meetings

Dates of PMC Meetings	Participants	Highlights of PMC Meeting
21 November 2019	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRIF CO presented the final operational report summary and financial status of Phase 3 and expenditure up to 30 Sept 2019. Approved the concept note for scoping a regional approach for training in water and sanitation in the Pacific and endorsed follow-through activities from the Pacific building codes diagnostic study, regional energy training program, and cybersecurity and safeguarding electronic transactions in the Pacific. Approved the transfer of procurement and implementation of five technical assistance (TA) projects to Phase IV: Road Pavement design for the Pacific, affordable coastal protection: monitoring system, financial management planning and tariff study of the Fiji Water Authority, scoping study of the regional recycling network, and framework for action on energy security in the Pacific. PMC reflected on PRIF performance during Phase 3, including what worked well, lessons learned, and areas of opportunity, and provided suggestions on improvements for PRIF Phase IV relative to the PMC and sector working group roles and structure, the extent of TA portfolio, outreach planning, and early pipeline identification. PRIF CO to conduct a stocktaking of sector working groups, membership, terms of reference, meeting schedules, outputs, and how to best ensure the overall strategic focus of the PMC and a structure that delivers on cross-cutting thematic issues as well as leverages sectoral expertise from all members. PRIF CO to report on actions against the recommendations of the Strategic Review of PRIF in next quarterly report.
5 March 2020	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved the PRIF Phase IV Work Plan and budget, including its Communications and Outreach Strategy, and the sector working group stocktaking and recommended to convene meetings of each working group. PRIF CO presented the 2019 Solomon Islands national infrastructure investment planning to the PMC and PRIF partner representatives in Solomon Islands and endorsed continuous coordination sessions as other national infrastructure investment plans are prepared. Approved the PRIF CO proposal for a Comprehensive Program of National Infrastructure Planning and Management and work commencement in Tuvalu, Tonga and the Cook Islands.
4 June 2020	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the Solomon Islands national infrastructure investment plan as a case study, PRIF CO showed how the infrastructure projects in the national infrastructure investment plans can boost economic recovery and jobs post-COVID-19 and COVID-19 support would be considered for member countries under the Comprehensive Program for National Infrastructure Planning and Management. Approved the \$2.9 million comprehensive program for infrastructure planning and management and the delegation of approval authority to the PRIF CO Team Leader for TA proposals under the program. Approved Papua New Guinea (PNG) as an associate PRIF member, benefitting from regional TA studies and participating in PRIF events, capacity building and knowledge activities.

Dates of PMC Meetings	Participants	Highlights of PMC Meeting
3 September 2020	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the preparation of the 2020 Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators. • PRIF consultants presented the interim findings of the Post COVID-19 Pacific Short-term Aviation Strategy Study. • Partners proposed areas for PRIF assistance, which PRIF CO will look into together with the working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for Pacific construction contractors in project management, financial management, proposal preparation, and contract tendering for development projects, project planning, and quality control. • Procurement capacity building for governments including establishing specifications, market analysis, procurement methods, and conducting good evaluations. • Maritime sector support • Water and sanitation utility diagnostics • Renewable energy market assessment and financing options • ICT and digital economy development • Public financial management and governance linked to planning and infrastructure management.
10 December 2020	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working groups reported on 2020 Activities • PRIF consultants presented the status of the Post COVID-19 Pacific Short-term Aviation Strategy Study. • Approved 7 TAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Clean Energy Financing Potential • Benchmarking Maintenance in the Pacific Island Countries • Updating of Kiribati National Building Code • Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Issues in Infrastructure • Diagnostics of Pacific Water and Wastewater Utilities • Climate Change Impact Scenarios for Infrastructure Planning • PRIF CO TA officer in Fiji

PRIF = Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, PMC = PRIF Management Committee,

Appendix 2: PRIF Technical Assistance Activities

Project Name	Brief Project Description and Status of Implementation	Status
National Infrastructure Planning		
Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2019	The Nauru Integrated Infrastructure Strategic Plan was completed in September 2019. PRIF CO prepared the document for Nauru Cabinet endorsement and for publication. The Plan was formally launched in Nauru with PRIF CO attending virtually on 7 August 2020, and copies have been distributed to the Nauru Government and development partners and an electronic copy posted in the PRIF website.	Completed
Updating of the Cook Islands National Infrastructure Investment Plan	The technical assistance (TA) concept note was endorsed by the Cook Islands Infrastructure Committee in early September, followed by the preparation of the consultant's terms of reference for procurement. The 3 international consultants mobilized on 19 October followed by the 2 national consultants on 27 October. The TA inception report is expected by 6 November and a draft national infrastructure investment plan by end January 2021.	Ongoing
Preparation of Palau National Infrastructure Investment Plan	The Government of Palau requested assistance in the development of a national infrastructure investment plan and approved the concept note in August. The two international consultants commenced virtual/remote work on 28 September while awaiting contracting of the two national staff which joined the team on 26 October. The first draft of the Palau national infrastructure investment plan 2021–2030 was submitted by end-December 2020 and a second draft was expected for submission to the incoming Government in January 2021.	Ongoing
Updating of the 2019 Solomon Islands National Infrastructure Investment Plan (SINIIP)	The Government requested a review of the Solomon Islands infrastructure pipeline given that most projects included in the 2019 high priority list now have committed funding, and new projects have been identified since then. The Government approved the concept note for the preparation of SINIIP 2020–2030, where work is proposed to be done by a national infrastructure consultant with PRIF CO support and guidance. Consultant procurement and TA commencement was in October, with a draft SINIIP by 31 December 2020 and a final one by the end of January 2021.	Ongoing
Review and Updating of the Tonga national infrastructure investment planning 2013-2023	The TA concept note was approved in August, and the two international consultants commenced virtual work on 28 September while the two national consultants were being contracted. An inception report was received on the last week of October. The draft national infrastructure investment plan is expected before the end of December and a final Tonga national infrastructure investment plan by the end of January 2021.	Ongoing
Update the Tuvalu Infrastructure Strategic Investment Plan	The Tuvalu Ministry of Finance undertook the work with the assistance of the PRIF CO TA Officer. Detailed project profiles and prioritization were conducted in July and August, and a draft <i>Tuvalu Infrastructure Strategy and Investment Plan—Revised for 2020 to 2025</i> was submitted to the government and PRIF partners in September for review. It was approved by the Tuvalu Cabinet in December 2020.	Completed

Project Name	Brief Project Description and Status of Implementation	Status
Working Group Studies		
<p>Development of the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP): 2021–2030 (formerly Framework for Action for Energy Security in the Pacific 2020–2030)</p>	<p>A project that assisted the Pacific Community (SPC) in conducting a review of FAESP 2010–2020 and develop a new <i>Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021–2030</i>, with strengthened links to existing and future Pacific Island energy sector development plans and policies. The new framework considered greater use of renewable energy and energy resilience and the role of the private sector.</p> <p>The consultants commenced work in early March 2020, and an inception report was received on 27 April, which was peer-reviewed by the energy sector working group members and other development partners. Due to border lockdowns and travel restrictions, desk review and virtual consultations were held with key stakeholders in Pacific governments, CROP agencies, and development partners. Draft Regional Energy Framework report received on 30 September consisting of two volumes: Volume 1: The Main Framework Document and Volume 2: Background, Issues, and Annexes. The report was circulated to the energy sector working group and discussed at its 21 October meeting. Two webinars were conducted presenting the report to energy focal agencies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories and members of CROP agencies, with comments and recommendations incorporated in the final report received on 30 October. The 2-volume report is repositied with SPC for tabling in next year’s Forum meeting.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Country Waste Audits (Fiji and Cook Islands) and Scoping Study for a Regional Recycling Network</p>	<p>Part of a regional project to conduct waste audits and institutional assessments of public institutions and the private sector in Fiji and the Cook Islands to help inform the regional recycling hub’s design.</p> <p>Consultants terms of reference approved in April 2020, and consultants commenced work on 28 May. Inception report received on 12 June, which was presented and discussed at a Steering Committee meeting for Pacific Waste Audits. Draft waste audit report for the Cook Islands received 24 September for presentation at the 3 November meeting of the Urban Development sector working group. Fiji waste audit commenced in August for completion by December 2020.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Regional Diagnostic of Constraints in the Application of Building Codes in the Pacific—Phase 1</p>	<p>This is a PRIF Phase III project that investigated the capacity of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu apply their national building codes; produced national building code action plans and prepared a 5-year costed roadmap/program of support that PRIF development partners can consider for future national building code updates, administration, management, and compliance enforcement. The study’s final report and three country reports are being prepared for web publication. Consequently, PRIF CO facilitated discussions with PRIF partners in supporting the study’s recommendations and is in the process of preparing Phase 2 of the project.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Project Name	Brief Project Description and Status of Implementation	Status
Scoping Study for Regional Water and Sanitation Training Centre	<p>A scoping study to explore needs and assess the feasibility of a regional approach to water and sanitation sector training in the Pacific and develop models for such an approach in partnership with key stakeholders.</p> <p>The consultant commenced on 1 July 2020 and the inception report was presented and discussed at the PRIF Water and Sanitation sector working group meeting of 30 July. An interim report on “Needs and Scope of a Regional Approach to Water Sector Training in the Pacific” received on 15 September and a second interim report on “Options for a Regional Framework for Water Sector Training” received on 30 October have been circulated to the water and sanitation sector working group for review and comments. A sector working group meeting with invited relevant stakeholders will be organized in November to discuss the two interim reports and provide guidance for preparing a detailed implementation framework for regional water sector training in the Pacific. A resource person with experience in Pacific technical and vocational education and training and water sector knowledge has been engaged to assist with the implementation plan. A final study report was received in December 2020.</p>	Ongoing
Road Pavement Design for the Pacific Region, Phase 3	Phase 3 terms of reference have been revised to include pilot testing use of plastic waste in low-volume road construction in Pacific countries and approved by the project Technical Implementation Committee. The procurement of consultants is postponed until travel restrictions to the region are lifted, as country missions are essential for the work.	On hold
Affordable Coastal Protection - Phase 3: Monitoring System	Terms of reference have been prepared. Consultant engagement has been postponed until travel resumes in the region, as country missions are necessary to implement the project.	On hold
Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) Financial Management Planning and Tariff Study	PRIF CO will re-engage on the tariff reform work once the water authority is prepared to continue with the reform consultations.	On hold
Preparation of 2020 Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators	The concept note to update the 2016 Pacific infrastructure performance indicators was approved by the PMC on 3 September, followed by procurement of the international consultant who commenced work on 1 October. The Pacific Community is a partner in the preparation of the 2020 Pacific infrastructure performance indicators. An inception report was received by October, which recommended hiring a Fiji-based national consultant to assist with data collection. The draft Pacific infrastructure performance indicators report is expected in January 2021.	Ongoing
Benchmarking Infrastructure Maintenance in the Pacific	The concept note to help improve maintenance of infrastructure in the Pacific countries through benchmarking maintenance performance indicators and raise the profile of infrastructure maintenance issues within governments, development partners, and stakeholders was drafted in September and presented at the Sustainable Infrastructure Management working group meeting of 30 October 2020 for endorsement to the PMC. The concept note was presented at the 10 December PMC meeting and was endorsed.	Ongoing

Project Name	Brief Project Description and Status of Implementation	Status
COVID-19 Response		
Scoping Study for Post COVID-19 Pacific Short-term Aviation Strategy	<p>A study to develop a viable post-COVID-19 short-term aviation strategy for Pacific countries through a detailed assessment of individual country's aviation sector and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, a summary of scheduled passenger and freight services in the Pacific prior to and during COVID-19, and COVID-19 recovery scenarios, issues, and challenges, and preliminary strategies and initiatives.</p> <p>Consultants commenced on 1 July 2020. A resource person was recruited to assist PRIF CO and the Technical Implementation Committee on strategic oversight of the study. The inception report was presented at the PRIF Transport sector working group (TSWG) meeting on 21 July 2020. An interim report received on 30 August was presented and discussed at the TSWG meeting of 1 September, PMC meeting of 3 September, and at a PRIF Aviation Donors' Dialogue on 17 September. The Study Draft Final Report was received on 10 October, followed by presentations to the TSWG, Pacific country governments and aviation industries, and PRIF development partners through webinars and donor dialogues. The final scoping study report was received on 6 November and identified broad needs, priority areas of support, and indicative financing instruments and costs for consideration by development partners.</p>	Completed
Request from Regional Organizations		
Samoa PEFA Assessment of Climate Responsive Public Financial Management	<p>The Samoa PEFA climate assessment to be conducted by IMF-PFTAC aims to examine the responsiveness of Samoan public financial management systems to the country's climate change policies, identify opportunities to make public financial management more climate-responsive where gaps are identified, and help the government update the financial sector plan to ensure it supports the objectives contained in the environmental sector plan where climate change policies are provided.</p> <p>PRIF CO's TA officer was chosen to be part of the oversight team for the finalization of the concept note/terms of reference, design of the questionnaire, data collection workshop delivery, peer review of findings, and finalization of the report, and presentation to authorities. The study ran from September to December 2020.</p>	Completed
Supporting the Association of South Pacific Airlines Explore Regional Options for Pacific Aviation Sustainability	<p>Based on the PRIF TA's findings and recommendations on "Post COVID-19 Pacific Aviation Short-term Strategy," the Association of South Pacific Airlines requested assistance to explore regional options for Pacific aviation sustainability, including a road map and business case for the preferred option(s). Understanding Pacific airlines' situations and potential regional options would help guide discussions in the forthcoming Aviation Officials Meeting in late 2020 or early 2021.</p>	Completed

CO = Coordination Office, PMC = PRIF Management Committee, PRIF = Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility



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