

# ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEMBER FACT SHEET



## Kiribati: 2020 Loans, Grants, Equity Investments, Technical Assistance, and Trade and Supply Chain Finance and Microfinance Program Commitments (\$ million)<sup>a</sup>

Product Type	Sovereign	Nonsovereign	Total
Grants	76.83	–	76.83
Technical Assistance <sup>b</sup>	5.34	0.20	5.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.17</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>82.37</b>

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

Notes:

Commitment is the financing approved by ADB's Board of Directors or Management for which the legal agreement has been signed by the borrower, recipient, or the investee company and ADB.

Grants and TA include ADB-administered cofinancing.

<sup>a</sup> Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

<sup>b</sup> Financing for TA projects with regional coverage is distributed to their specific DMCs where breakdown is available.

## Kiribati: Cumulative Loans, Grants, Equity Investments, Technical Assistance, and Trade and Supply Chain Finance and Microfinance Program Commitments<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>

Sector	No.	Total Amount (\$ million) <sup>a</sup>	% of Total Amount <sup>a</sup>	COVID-19 Response (\$ million) <sup>e</sup>
Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development	8	2.09	1.05	–
Education	1	0.21	0.11	–
Energy	6	16.07	8.06	–
Finance	4	1.72	0.86	–
Health	2	3.10	1.55	2.52
Industry and Trade	–	0.07	0.03	–
Information and Communication Technology	1	21.74	10.90	–
Multisector	1	0.62	0.31	–
Public Sector Management	19	31.54	15.82	8.55
Transport	11	39.01	19.57	–
Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services	14	83.19	41.73	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>199.36</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>11.17</b>

– = nil, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DMC = developing member country, TA = technical assistance.

<sup>a</sup> Grants and TA include ADB-administered cofinancing.

<sup>b</sup> Includes sovereign and nonsovereign loans and technical assistance.

<sup>c</sup> Using primary sector in reporting of commitments.

<sup>d</sup> Financing for TA projects with regional coverage is distributed to their specific DMCs where breakdown is available.

<sup>e</sup> Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

ADB assistance to Kiribati will focus on long-term investments to improve water supply, outer-island maritime infrastructure, renewable energy, and disaster resilience programs.

## KIRIBATI

Kiribati consists of 33 islands spread over 3.5 million square kilometers of ocean. Its economy has enjoyed sustained growth—averaging annual gross domestic product growth of 4.1% from 2015 to 2019—bolstered by public spending on infrastructure and government revenue from fishing licenses. Although Kiribati is physically vulnerable to external shocks (including pandemics and climate change), its sustained fishing revenues and low reliance on international tourism have helped insulate it from the economic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been supporting Kiribati to build fiscal stability and upgrade infrastructure since 1974. Core areas of ongoing support include helping to reduce poverty, improve the business climate and create economic opportunities, enhance disaster resilience and fiscal sustainability; and upgrade infrastructure, including sanitation, water supply, transport, and renewable energy assets.

Since 1974, ADB has committed loans amounting to \$34.1 million, grants totaling \$90.8 million, technical assistance worth \$18.5 million, and ADB-administered cofinancing of \$56 million for Kiribati. Cumulative loan and grant disbursements to Kiribati amount to \$58.8 million. These were financed by concessional ordinary capital resources and the Asian Development Fund.

### ADB-SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

In 2020, ADB committed a \$1.5 million grant from the [Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund](#) to help Kiribati finance its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bank also committed contingent disaster financing of \$8 million for Kiribati, which will improve resilience to



disasters triggered by natural hazards and health emergencies. From 2012 to 2020, ADB provided financing for the [South Tarawa Sanitation Improvement Sector Project](#). The project's goal is to increase access to sanitation in the city. To provide greater access to safe water, ADB committed \$13 million in 2020 for the [South Tarawa Water Supply Project](#), which is cofinanced by the Green Climate Fund and the World Bank. With a total investment of \$61.8 million, the project aims to develop water supplies from ground sources, harvest rainwater, and use solar-powered seawater desalination by reverse osmosis.

To enhance the efficiency and safety of maritime infrastructure, ADB committed \$12 million for the [Outer Islands Transport Infrastructure Investment Project in 2020](#). In addition to capital investments, the project supports the upgrading of navigational charts for safe maritime transport.

ADB also committed \$8 million in 2020 for the [South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project](#). The project assists Kiribati in reducing its dependency on diesel and introducing cleaner and cheaper renewable energy.

ADB has also disbursed grants totaling \$7.5 million to help improve [Kiribati's economic and public sector management](#). This assistance has helped the Government of Kiribati enhance revenue measures, maintain

expenditure restraint, and implement structural reforms.

## NONSOVEREIGN OPERATIONS

As a catalyst for private investments, ADB provides financial assistance to nonsovereign projects and financial intermediaries. Total commitments in loans and equity investments from ADB's own funds in 2020 amounted to \$1.4 billion for 38 transactions in economic and social infrastructure, finance sector, and agribusiness. ADB also actively mobilizes cofinancing from commercial and concessional sources. In 2020, ADB mobilized \$1.9 billion of long-term project cofinancing and \$3.3 billion of cofinancing through its [Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program](#) and [Microfinance Program](#). Total outstanding balances and commitments of nonsovereign transactions funded by ADB's own resources stood at \$14.3 billion as of 31 December 2020.

## PARTNERSHIPS

ADB is part of Kiribati's Economic Task Force, formed by the government to implement the Kiribati Economic Reform Plan, which aims to revitalize and streamline the country's public financial management. The task force developed a joint policy matrix focusing on revenue diversification and fiscal resilience, financial governance, human

capital, and infrastructure development. Australia, the European Union, New Zealand, and the World Bank are also members. The task force also liaises closely with the International Monetary Fund and the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre.

ADB's [Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative](#), cofinanced by the governments of Australia and New Zealand, has been active in Kiribati since 2008. This regional initiative works to reduce constraints to doing business, incentivize entrepreneurship and investment, foster new business models, and remove barriers to women's full participation in the economy.

ADB also supports Kiribati through the [Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility](#), which provides technical advice on infrastructure development and sustainable infrastructure management and enhances the coordination of development partner investments in the Pacific.

## FINANCING PARTNERSHIPS

[Financing partnerships](#) enable ADB's financing partners, governments or their agencies, multilateral financing institutions, and commercial organizations to participate in financing ADB projects. The additional funds are provided in the form of loans and grants, technical assistance, and other [nonsovereign cofinancing](#) such as [B loans](#), [risk transfer arrangements](#), [parallel loans](#) and [equity](#), [guarantee](#)

### Kiribati: Evaluation Results for Sovereign and Nonsovereign Operations, 2011–2020

	Total Number of Validated and Evaluated Projects and Programs	Evaluation Ratings		
		Highly successful and successful	Less than successful	Unsuccessful
Sovereign Operations	2	2	-	-
Nonsovereign Operations	-	-	-	-

- = nil, IED = [Independent Evaluation Department](#).

Note: The figures indicate the number of sovereign and nonsovereign operations in the country that have been validated or evaluated by the IED and their overall performance ratings. The coverage consists of all validated or evaluated project completion reports and extended annual review reports circulated by ADB within the 10-year period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2020. See [evaluations](#) related to Kiribati.

Source: IED success rate database (as of 31 December 2020).

### Kiribati: Portfolio Performance Quality Indicators for Sovereign Lending and Grants, 2019–2020

	No. of Ongoing Loans <sup>a</sup> (as of 31 Dec 2020)	
	2019 (\$ million)	2020 (\$ million)
Contract Awards <sup>b, c</sup>	-	-
Disbursements <sup>b</sup>	0.29	-
No. of Ongoing Grants <sup>a, d</sup> (as of 31 Dec 2020)		
	2019 (\$ million)	2020 (\$ million)
Contract Awards <sup>b, c, d</sup>	-	-
Disbursements <sup>b, d</sup>	0.69	2.00
At Risk Projects (%) (as of 31 Dec 2020)	-	

- = nil.

<sup>a</sup> Based on commitments.

<sup>b</sup> Includes closed loans/grants that had contract awards or disbursements during the year.

<sup>c</sup> Excludes policy-based, results-based, and financial intermediation/credit loans and grants.

<sup>d</sup> Includes only Asian Development Fund and other ADB special funds.

### Kiribati: Projects Cofinanced, 1 January 2016–31 December 2020

Cofinancing	No. of Projects	Amount (\$ million)
Sovereign	6	92.20
Grants	5	92.05
Technical Assistance	1	0.15

## Kiribati: Share of Procurement Contracts for Loan, Grant, and Technical Assistance Projects

Item	2019		2020		Cumulative (as of 31 Dec 2020)	
	Amount (\$ million)	% of Total	Amount (\$ million)	% of Total	Amount (\$ million)	% of Total
Goods, Works, and Related Services	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.19	0.01
Consulting Services	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.97	0.01
<b>Total Procurement</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14.16</b>	<b>0.01</b>

0.00 = less than \$5,000; less than 0.005%.

### Top 5 Contractors/Suppliers from Kiribati Involved in Goods, Works, and Related Services Contracts under ADB Loan and Grant Projects, 1 January 2016–31 December 2020

Contractor/Supplier	Sector	Contract Amount (\$ million)
Hi-Tek Construction	WUS	0.17
Big-D Enterprise	WUS	0.04
Others		8.12
<b>Total</b>		<b>8.33</b>

WUS = water and other urban infrastructure and services.

### Top 5 Consultants from Kiribati Involved in Consulting Services Contracts under ADB Loan, Grant, and Technical Assistance Projects, 1 January 2016–31 December 2020

Consultant	Contract Amount (\$ million)
Individual Consultants	0.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.55</b>

cofinancing, and cofinancing for transactions under ADB's [Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program](#) and [Microfinance Program](#).

ADB began cofinancing operations in Kiribati in 1995. Since then, sovereign cofinancing commitments for Kiribati have amounted to \$149.32 million for eight investment projects, and \$4.64 million for seven technical assistance projects.

In 2020, Kiribati received a total of \$77.29 million grant cofinancing from the Government of New Zealand, the Green Climate Fund, the Strategic Climate Fund, and the World Bank, for three investment projects.

A summary of projects with cofinancing from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020 is available at [www.adb.org/offices/south-pacific/cofinancing#kiribati](http://www.adb.org/offices/south-pacific/cofinancing#kiribati).

## PROCUREMENT

Each year, ADB provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to fund projects and activities in its developing member countries and several billion dollars in contracts to procure goods, works, and consulting services. Most contracts are awarded on the basis of international competition, which is open to firms and individuals from all ADB members.

### Share of ADB's Procurement Contracts

#### Goods, Works, and Related Services

ADB's procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for goods, works, and

related services under loan and grant operations totaled \$14.19 billion in 2019 and \$22.79 billion in 2020. Cumulative procurement since 1966 has been \$216.35 billion covering 222,415 contracts.

For contractors and suppliers from Kiribati, 41 contracts worth \$13.19 million have been awarded since 1974.

#### Consulting Services

ADB's procurement contracts in Asia and the Pacific for consulting services under loan, grant, and technical assistance operations totaled \$756.72 million in 2019 and \$732.11 million in 2020. Cumulative procurement since 1966 has been \$14.13 billion covering 67,086 contracts.

For consultants from Kiribati, 39 contracts worth \$0.97 million have been awarded since 1974.

## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Kiribati needs significant resources to invest in infrastructure and address social challenges. The population of about 100,000 lives on 21 different islands, many of which are vast distances from each other. South Tarawa is home to almost half the total population and is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Residents endure a lack of clean water and poor sanitation, exacerbating costly but preventable health issues. Kiribati's geographic isolation—both between islands and from the rest of the world—raises the cost of development and public service delivery, leading to infrastructure gaps that severely limit opportunities for

private sector development. Economic activity primarily consists of fisheries and copra, with the latter heavily subsidized as social support for isolated populations on remote islands. Weaknesses in governance, business regulations, and access to credit—due to the lack of expertise and technologies—exacerbate Kiribati's geographic challenges.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

ADB assistance to Kiribati focuses on improving outer island maritime facilities, building disaster resilience, promoting renewable energy sources, extending immunization coverage including COVID-19 related assistance, and sustaining good fiscal management. This operational focus aligns with Kiribati's Vision 2016–2036.

Well-focused technical assistance will help strengthen Kiribati's capacity in public sector management for sound economic management and implementation of state-owned enterprise reforms. Where appropriate, ADB will include Kiribati in new regional technical assistance activities in line with the [Regional Operations Business Plan for the Pacific, 2021–2023](#). Regional approaches to energy efficiency, climate change, and economic infrastructure will be explored. Support for infrastructure planning will be provided by the ADB-administered [Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility](#) and support for improving business environments provided through the ADB-administered [Private Sector Development Initiative](#).





## ABOUT KIRIBATI AND ADB

### ADB Membership

Joined 1974

### Shareholding and Voting Power

Number of shares held: 426 (0.004% of total shares)  
Votes: 39,540 (0.297% of total membership,  
0.457% of total regional membership)

\*Overall capital subscription: \$6.14 million

\*Paid-in capital subscription: \$0.3 million

\*United States dollar figures are valued at rate as of 31 December 2020.

**Teuea Toatu** is the Governor and **Benjamin Tokataake** is the Alternate Governor for Kiribati in ADB.

**Tony McDonald** is the Director and **David Cavanaugh** is the Alternate Director representing Kiribati on the ADB Board of Directors.

**Masayuki Tachiiri** is the ADB Regional Director of the Pacific Subregional Office (SPSO) in Suva, Fiji. SPSO opened in 2004 and provides the primary operational link for activities between ADB and the governments of the subregion, the private sector, civil society stakeholders, and development partners. SPSO engages in policy dialogue, country partnership strategy development and programming, portfolio management, and knowledge-based solutions for the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

In 2019, ADB established its Kiribati Pacific Country Office. The office has strengthened the bank's presence in the country, improving relationships between ADB and the government, enhancing development partner coordination, and helping build local capacity in the design and implementation of ADB-supported projects.

The Kiribati government agency handling ADB affairs is the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

## ABOUT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB is a multilateral development bank owned by 68 members, 49 from Asia and the Pacific and 19 from other parts of the world. ADB's main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance. In 2020, lending volume was \$26.9 billion (149 projects), with technical assistance at \$293.56 million (275 projects) and grant-financed projects at \$1.08 billion (62 projects). In addition, \$16.41 billion was generated for sovereign and nonsovereign cofinancing in the form of loans and grants, B loans, risk transfer arrangements, guarantee cofinancing, parallel loans, parallel equity, and cofinancing for transactions under ADB's Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program and Microfinance Program. From 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020, ADB's annual lending volume averaged \$19.69 billion. In addition, investment grants and technical assistance funded by ADB and Special Funds resources averaged \$805.5 million and \$230.81 million respectively over the same period. As of 31 December 2020, the cumulative commitments excluding cofinancing were \$323.17 billion in loans for 3,369 projects in 44 countries, \$11.3 billion in 495 grants, and \$5.01 billion in technical assistance grants, including regional technical assistance grants.

### Notes:

Figures are estimated by ADB unless otherwise stated. "\$" refers to United States dollars. Data are updated as of 31 December 2020 unless otherwise indicated.

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### Useful ADB websites

Asian Development Bank  
[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

Annual Report  
[www.adb.org/documents/series/adb-annual-reports](http://www.adb.org/documents/series/adb-annual-reports)

Asian Development Outlook  
[www.adb.org/publications/series/asian-development-outlook](http://www.adb.org/publications/series/asian-development-outlook)

ADB Data Library  
[data.adb.org](http://data.adb.org)