

# 11th ADB International Education and Skills Forum

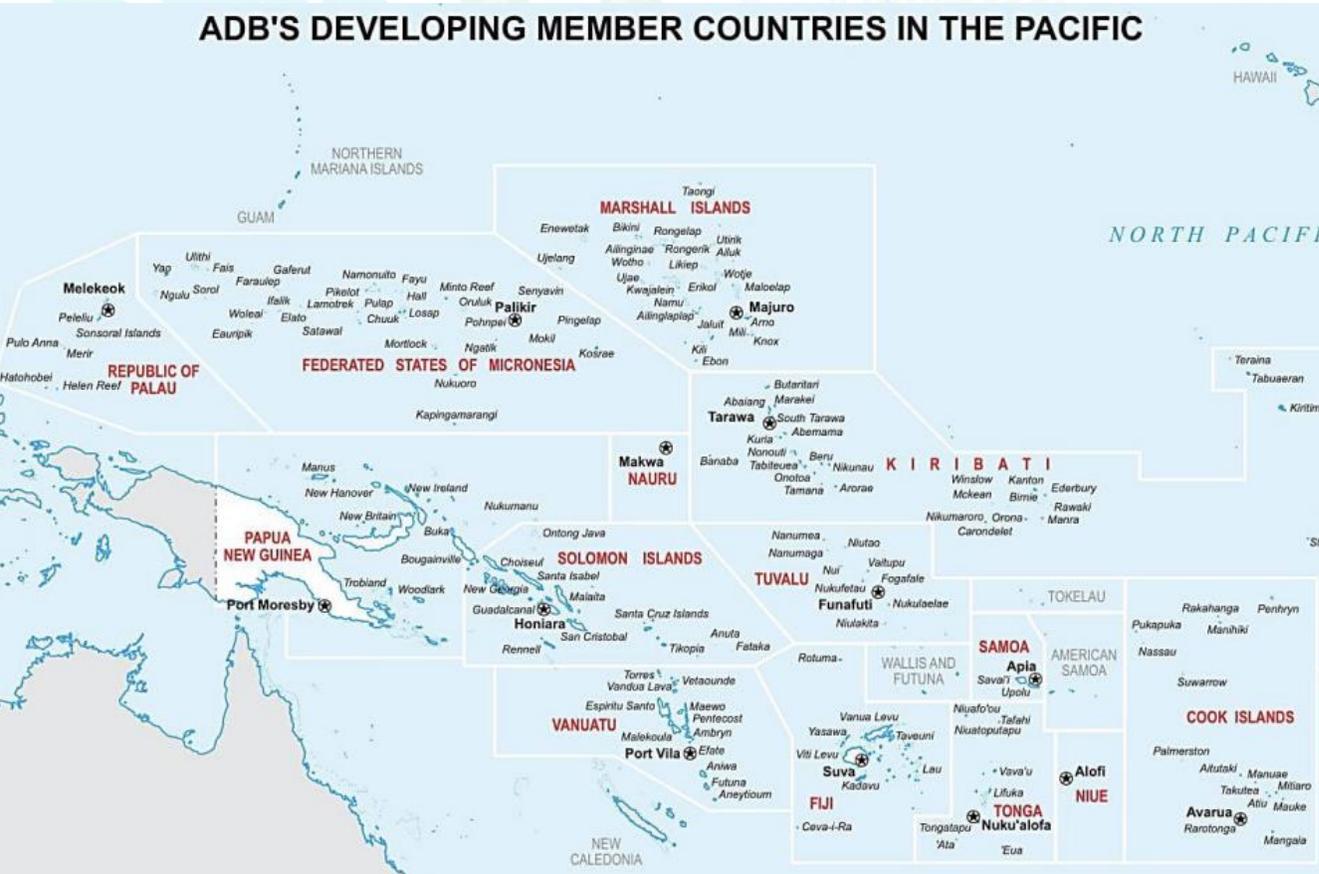
Applying a Fresh Lens to Unlock the Power of Human Capital



## REGIONAL SESSION 3.2 PACIFIC REGION

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# ADB's Education Work Across the Pacific



## Ongoing Education Investments

- **PNG:** Improved TVET for Employment (approved 2022; \$60.6 million)
- **RMI:** Women and Youth Skills, Empowerment, and Resilience (2024; \$21.84 million)
- **RMI:** Improving Quality of Basic Education (2017; \$6.5 million)
- **FSM:** Improving Quality of Basic Education (2017; \$8.3 million)
- **SOL:** Senior Secondary Education Improvement (2023; \$45.7 million)
- **VAN:** Supporting the Delivery of Skills Delivery (2024; \$19.44 million)
- **KIR:** Equitable Access to Quality Education (2025; \$38.6 million)
- **REG:** Expansion of USP campuses in KIR and SOL

## Technical Assistance

- **REG:** Strengthening Education in the Pacific (\$22 million)
- **REG:** Preparing Education Projects (\$4.87 million)

## Pipeline 2026 and early 2027 (Concept Note Developed)

- **PNG:** Reforming Inclusive Secondary Education
- **RMI:** Lifting Educators for Advancing Results in Neighboring Islands

# Papua New Guinea: Improved TVET for Employment Project

**Total Financing:** USD 66.39 million

**Executing Agency:** Department of Treasury

**Implementing Agency:** Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

**Implementation:** 2024–2030

**Outcome:** TVET colleges strengthened to provide programs that are relevant and responsive to labor market needs in priority sectors.

**Why It Matters:** Qualified staff are needed in PNG's construction and agriculture sectors. The project will train 7,000 new graduates annually, improving productivity and quality.

## Key Outputs

1. TVET college governance and management supported
2. High-quality TVET teacher training provided
3. Curriculum for demand-driven TVET programs developed
4. Gender-responsive TVET infrastructure and equipment established
5. National TVET governance and industry links developed.



# Solomon Islands: Senior Secondary Education Improvement Project

**Total Financing:** USD 45.7 million

**Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Education & Human Resource Development

**Implementation:** 2023–2029

**Outcome:** Improved quality, relevance, and gender-responsiveness of senior secondary education for a climate-resilient economy.

**Why It Matters:** Builds pathways to a climate-resilient workforce and expands safe, inclusive, and equitable learning opportunities

## Key Outputs

### 1. Quality of Learning Improved

New curriculum & assessments, teacher training, career guidance & homerooms, and support for young mothers

### 2. Climate-Resilient, Inclusive Facilities

Upgrades in 10 schools; classrooms, dorms, WASH; gender-responsive & inclusive designs

### 3. Stronger School Management

Principals' training, including in disaster/climate planning and maintenance; leadership training for women



# Marshall Islands: Women and Youth Skills, Empowerment, and Resilience Project

**Total Financing:** USD 21.84 million

**Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance, Banking & Postal Services

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs

**Implementation:** 2025–2031

**Outcome:** Vulnerable women's and youth's skills, resilience, and empowerment increased.

**Why It Matters:** Women and young people in the Marshall Islands face high unemployment, early motherhood, gender-based violence, and limited access to training and childcare. Climate change and out-migration exacerbate vulnerabilities.

## Key Outputs

### 1. Climate-Resilient, Gender-Responsive Facilities

Women's and youth center expanded; new childcare and family-friendly facilities at CMI; seawall reconstructed; solar power installed.

### 2. Skills & Livelihood Programs

Regular training, mentoring, counselling, and outreach for women and youth; livelihood and resilience programs including canoe-building and rural skills training.

### 3. Stronger Institutions & CSOs

Capacity development for MOCIA and CSOs; revitalized youth and gender councils; national childcare policy and procedures developed.



# Vanuatu: Supporting the Delivery of Skills Development

**Total Financing:** USD 19.44 million

**Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Education and Training

**Implementation:** 2023–2029

**Outcome:** Delivery and access to quality, inclusive, and gender-responsive skills training expanded.

**Why It Matters:** Vanuatu faces persistent shortages of skilled workers, low access to higher-level qualifications, and major barriers for women, youth, and persons with disabilities.



## Key Outputs

### 1. Institutional Capacity Strengthened

New and upgraded qualifications, trainer upskilling, improved governance, and better learning materials and systems.

### 2. Climate-Resilient, Inclusive Infrastructure Expanded

Upgrades in 10 schools; classrooms, dorms, WASH; gender-responsive & inclusive designs

### 3. Inclusive & Targeted Training Delivered

Scholarships for women, disability-inclusive training and supports, mobile outreach programs, and tailored bridging options.

# Kiribati: Equitable Access to Quality Education Project

**Total Financing:** USD 38.6 million

**Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance & Economic Development

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Education

**Implementation:** 2026–2033

**Outcome:** Enhanced access to quality, safe, and gender-responsive education for students across the Gilbert Islands.

**Why It Matters:** Improves equity, safety & learning for outer-island students; strengthens resilience, digital readiness & teaching quality

## Key Outputs

### 1. Climate-Resilient, Inclusive Infrastructure

Upgraded primary schools, new dormitories, improved school transport, and island maintenance officers

### 2. Curriculum, Assessment & Resources Strengthened

Digital technology curriculum & computer labs, enhanced family-life education (FLE), updated assessments

### 3. Teacher Training & Community Engagement

Training in digital skills, FLE & classroom management, community engagement on student retention, dropout-prevention & attendance tracking



# (Proposed) Papua New Guinea: Reforming Inclusive Secondary Education (RISE)

**Total Financing:** USD 60.0 million

**Executing Agency:** Department of Treasury

**Implementing Agency:** National Department of Education

**Implementation:** 2027–2032

**Why It Matters:** Expansion of secondary education is critical for PNG. Only 12% of girls and 16% of boys who start grade one finish grade 12. The government's ambition is to provide 13 years (1+6+6) of free education for all. Investing in secondary education complements other development partners' support and is aligned with the government's strategy.

## Indicative Outputs

### 1. Improve Access

Expand the number of secondary places, construct quality school infrastructure, increase enrollment in FODE and VET.

### 2. Improve Quality

Upgrade teachers' qualifications and skills, develop and distribute teaching and learning materials.

### 3. Digitize Learning and Data Flow

Support e-learning, repository of digital materials, ICT-hubs, enhance collection, analysis, and usage of education data.

### 4. Students' well-being

Safe school environments, sustainable living, healthy relationships, transformative gender actions.



# (Proposed) Marshall Islands: Lifting Educators for Advancing Results in Neighboring Islands (LEARN)

**Total Funding:** USD 22.0 million

**Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Education, Sports and Training

**Implementation:** 2027–2032

**Why It Matters:** Shortage of qualified teachers and limited training undermines education quality, particularly in the neighboring islands where about 52% of teachers lack the required associate degree, undermines education quality in primary schools resulting in low learning outcomes especially for boys and contributes to high and persistent socio-economic inequality.

## Indicative Outputs

### 1. Professional development for teachers and school leaders expanded

Developing and offering flexible hybrid degree, recognition to prior learning, contextualized curriculum, digital CPD

### 2. Gender-responsive and climate resilient teacher accommodation

Build short term accommodation for teachers in Majuro with childcare support, with disability accessible and prioritizing safety of women

### 3. Enabling environment for women teachers

Community based GBV advocacy, household financial training, supportive logistics and allowances program and institutional gender budgeting



# Technical Assistance: Strengthening Education in the Pacific Region

**Total Financing:** USD 22 million

**Implementing Agencies:** The University of the South Pacific (USP), The Pacific Community (SPC), UNICEF and UNESCO

**Implementation:** 2018-2026

**Why It Matters:** Pacific education leaders recognize the value of knowledge and resource sharing, co-development of regional goods, and establishment of common standards. The TA is a platform for collaboration, a unique and innovative financing model with multiple funding partners, a Program Facilitation Unit, and support for the development of regional goods and the creation of knowledge.

## Key Outputs

- 1. Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) implementation supported**
- 2. Regional repository and e-learning management platform for open, distance, and flexible learning (ODFL) established**
- 3. Small assessments, studies, exchanges and capacity support to expand knowledge development, and program/project development supported**



# TA: Preparing Pacific Education Sector Projects

**Total Financing:** USD 4.87 million

**Implementing Agencies:** Pacific DMC education ministries and training institutions

**Implementation:** 2021–2028

**Why It Matters:** Provides Pacific countries support to design high-quality, climate-resilient, and inclusive education investments. The TA strengthens project design, readiness, and capacity so new projects can be approved and implemented faster.



## Key Outputs

### 1. Quality Education Projects Designed

Support to Pacific DMCs to prepare concepts, due diligence, and project documents for new education and skills investments.

### 2. Implementation Capacity Strengthened

Training, tools, and advisory support to improve procurement, FM, safeguards, gender, and project management.

### 3. Innovation Integrated into Designs

Application of innovative, digital, climate-resilient, and gender-responsive approaches in upcoming project designs.