

# THE PACIFIC DIGITAL ECONOMY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



Supporting the development of inclusive digital economies in the Pacific

## OBJECTIVE



The Pacific Digital Economy Programme (PDEP) aims to support the development of inclusive digital economies in the Pacific that allow rural communities, women and MSMEs, as well as labour mobility workers to enhance market participation, resulting in poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and economic growth.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



## SUPPORTED BY



## PROGRAMME TIMEFRAME

2021-2025

## IMPLEMENTING IN



Fiji



Solomon Islands



Vanuatu



Tonga



Samoa



Kiribati



Timor Leste



Papua New Guinea

## EXPANDING TO



Republic of Marshall Islands



Federated States of Micronesia

## TARGET SECTORS



RURAL COMMUNITIES



SEASONAL WORKERS



WOMEN



MSMEs



YOUTH

## KEY WORKSTREAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



**WORKSTREAM 1:  
ENABLING POLICY  
& REGULATION**

### NATIONAL E-COMMERCE STRATEGY

developed for Solomon Islands with Timor-Leste and Fiji in the pipeline.



### FIJI'S NATIONAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2022-2030 DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED

together with the Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP) and central banks.



### PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PACIFIC DIGITAL ECONOMY REPORT

analyzing the emerging trends of the digital economy in the region.



### 2021-2022 INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECONOMY SCORECARD (IDES)

A policy tool to support understanding of country level digital transformation in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. 2020 scorecard for Solomon Islands finalized and published.

## WORKSTREAM 2: OPEN DIGITAL PAYMENT ECOSYSTEMS



## 4 E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS SUPPORTED

to assist MSMEs in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga migrate their businesses online and expand outreach to new and existing markets.

## DIGITISING THE POLICE CLEARANCE PROCESS



Portal launched in Vanuatu to reduce the financial and logistical costs and challenges of manually applying for a police clearance. A feasibility study has been conducted to digitise the process in Fiji, portal development planned in 2023.

# PACIFIC ISLANDS FINTECH INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Successfully executed with 5 FinTech winners with market ready solutions that address key challenges faced by 4 PICs in developing digital payment ecosystems. Implementation of solutions planned for 2023.



## WORKSTREAM 3: INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

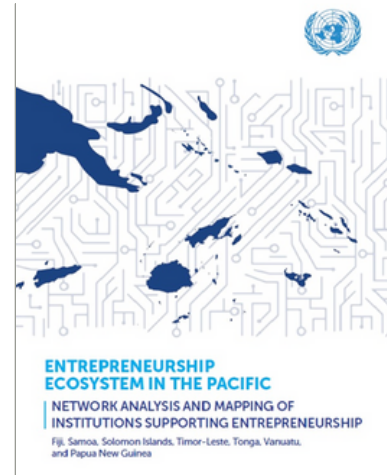
### PUBLICATION ON THE VIABILITY OF DIGITAL FINANCE IN THE PACIFIC

outlining the challenges of scaling mobile money and digital financial services in the Pacific.



### PUBLICATION ON PACIFIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM

outlining key characteristics of the existing entrepreneurship ecosystem in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea.



## WORKSTREAM 4: EMPOWERED CUSTOMERS

### DIGITAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY BASELINE SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN SEVEN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

to fill existing data gaps on digital and financial literacy to enable informed policy actions and interventions with the goal to strengthen financial and digital literacy in last mile population segments. Survey undertaken in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Samoa and Papua New Guinea.



Fiji



Solomon Islands



Vanuatu



Tonga



Timor Leste



Samoa



Papua New Guinea

## PLANS FOR 2023-2025

### WORKSTREAM 1: ENABLING POLICY & REGULATION

- Support development and implementation on national e-commerce strategy in Fiji and Timor-Leste.
- Support Demand Side Survey and formulation of National Financial Inclusion Strategy in Kiribati.
- Support implementation of regional e-commerce initiative in partnership with PIFS.
- Undertake landscape assessment on inclusive remittances, provide technical assistance for regulators to update regulations.

### WORKSTREAM 2: OPEN DIGITAL PAYMENT ECOSYSTEMS

- Piloting and scaling of social welfare payments.
- Implementing innovative e-government initiatives such as Electronic Police Clearance Certificates (e-PCC).
- Supporting Fintech and payment innovation to promote digitization of merchant payments targeting retail merchants.
- Arranging Agri-MSME Digital Innovation Challenge 2023 to promote digital innovations for agriculture value chains, Agri-MSMEs and cooperatives.

### WORKSTREAM 3: INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

- Regional and country level capacity building initiatives for start-up incubators, innovation, accelerators, and women entrepreneurs.
- Exploring partnership with Pacific universities to establish a Pacific Digital Innovation Hub.

### WORKSTREAM 4: EMPOWERED CUSTOMERS

- Implementing targeted financial and digital literacy initiatives based on the findings of the Digital and Financial Literacy Survey 2022.
- Support tertiary educational institutions (e.g., TVET providers and universities) to design/integrate digital and financial literacy related courses and capacity building training courses on emerging digital technologies.
- Design and pilot customer protection initiatives for financial sector customers and e-commerce customers partnering with regulators and service providers.