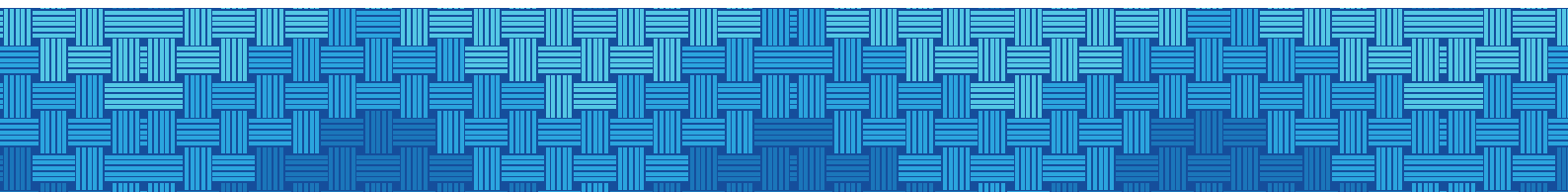




Australia-Pacific Partnerships Platform



At a Glance



**6**

countries

**41**

partnerships

**USD****8,721,161**

spent during 2025

**37**personnel engaged in 2025
(28 deployed, 9 remote)**68%**women
personnel**42**total
advisers

About the Australia-Pacific Partnerships Platform

Building stronger Pacific partnerships starts with listening.

The Australia-Pacific Partnerships Platform (Partnerships Platform) ensures Pacific governments are equipped with the expertise, resources and support they need to turn priorities into action: strengthening governance, stability and resilience across the region.

It does this by providing practical implementation support, specialist expertise and operational services that respond to Pacific partner needs. These include but are not limited to enabling services such as:

Recruitment

Procurement

Advisory support

Training

Monitoring and evaluation

Program management

Partnerships are at the heart of our approach, bringing together Australia and partner Pacific countries to co-design and deliver solutions as they continue working together to build a stable, prosperous and secure region.

In 2025, the Partnerships Platform provided six countries: Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Cook Islands with a suite of flexible, fit-for-purpose services.

What we do



Deliver flexible, on-demand services, from recruitment and procurement to advisory support, program management, research and evaluation.

How we add value



Bring together the right people, partnerships and capabilities to help development investments achieve lasting impact.

The Australia-Pacific Partnerships Platform is supported by the Australian Government and managed by DT Global.

 Federated states of Micronesia

 Republic of the Marshall Islands

 Kiribati

Countries

6

Nauru: **16** personnel

Tuvalu: **11** personnel

Kiribati: **8** personnel

FSM: **1** personnel

Cook Islands: **1** personnel

 Nauru

 Tuvalu

 Cook Islands

Areas/sectors

 Public financial management

41% personnel

 Governance

27% personnel

 Infrastructure

14% personnel

 Climate resilience

 Education

Key in-country activities

 Providing technical support

 Strengthening public financial management and governance systems

 Enhancing government capability through mentoring and institutional strengthening

 Delivering operational and enabling services including embedding GEDSI, safeguarding and MERL into program delivery

 Supporting sustainable, government-led reform through strong partnerships and adaptive management.

Progress through Partnership

What worked best in 2025



Rapid Response for the MIRA trust fund



RMI

When the Australian High Commission in Majuro identified an urgent need to strengthen the Marshall Islands Resilience and Adaptation (MIRA) Trust Fund's governance and operational processes, the Partnerships Platform responded quickly, to co-develop a Terms of Reference. Following this, it undertook a targeted recruitment process and rapidly deployed a Short-Term Adviser. This timely support helped ensure the Fund was ready to receive its first transfer from the Government of Australia before the end of the financial year.

“One of the benefits of the Partnerships Platform is that it can provide short-term and very targeted support. We've supported an adviser to help the new MIRA fund develop its governance and fiduciary policies. This is an important, sovereign fund, which Australia is also supporting through a foundational 2 million USD contribution, for the Government of RMI to be able to disperse funds for climate-related projects.”

Paul Wilson, Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Australian Embassy



Keeping FMIS improvements on track



Kiribati

Support from the FMIS Specialist helped address long-standing challenges by updating Standard Operating Procedures, strengthening user capability through targeted training, and establishing clear support arrangements. Government staff continue to use the tools and resources developed during the engagement, while National Economic and Planning Office (NEPO) staff have taken ownership of delivering FMIS training in i-Kiribati; helping ensure knowledge and skills remain embedded within government for the long term.

“IFMIS is making a real difference in the way we manage public finances across the entire country, with the implementation, improving accounting and financial reporting that is ensuring the Government of Kiribati's overall service.”

Toromon Metutera, Accountant General, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Economic Reforms



Making the budget more accessible



Tuvalu

In 2025, Tuvalu launched its first Citizens Budget Guide, providing a simple and accessible overview of how public funds are raised and spent. Successfully shared with communities across the outer islands, the guide strengthened transparency and accountability while encouraging greater public participation in national budget discussions. It enables Tuvaluans to better understand government spending, revenue sources, and the decisions that shape national development.



This initiative reflects Tuvalu's commitment to transparency and accountability. By providing citizens with accessible information about the budget, we open opportunities for stronger dialogue between government and communities.

Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination Department (PBACD) representative



Improved Tax Compliance in Nauru

📍 Nauru

The Nauru Revenue Office improved tax compliance among the Chinese business community through translated resources, taxpayer education and stronger engagement. In February 2026, the NRO hosted two public education seminars to help taxpayers better understand their tax obligations and filing requirements. Staff capability and compliance outcomes have also improved through training, audits and regular taxpayer support.



The whole experience has been eye-opening. The training sessions have taught us so much and helped us put our learning into practice.

Heartson Scotty,
Senior Tax Auditor

What made it happen

Women leading the way

📍 Cook Islands

Mentoring and technical support helped build the confidence and leadership of female scientists within the Seabed Minerals Authority (SBMA). Women took on more prominent roles in research, stakeholder engagement, and international initiatives, including the 2024 Women in Science Expedition and internationally recognised publications. The support also strengthened SBMA's ability to communicate complex scientific issues more effectively.



John encouraged me to be more involved and not restricted to my expertise. I've had the opportunity for exposure to the more technical side of seabed mining and marine resources, and the opportunity to engage in policy.

Rima Browne, Senior Knowledge Management Officer

A Simpler path to school success

📍 FSM

In Yap State, targeted support has simplified school accreditation, strengthened early childhood education, and improved classroom learning. New tools, structured preschool programmes, and enhanced teaching resources have contributed to a 5% increase in literacy outcomes, with Yap's approach now recognised nationally as a model for other FSM states.



Schools actually moved a level up because we made the process simple, something our department could understand and trust.

Jonathan Mathau, Bridging the Gap Officer

2025 in Action

Responsive support

The Partnerships Platform Support Unit, a regional remote shared services hub, coordinated recruitment, contracting and operational support, helping governments access expertise quickly and efficiently.

6 countries supported

85% of planned technical outputs delivered

21 new personnel recruited within 30 days of selection

100% partner satisfaction with Support Unit responsiveness & support

8 in 10 personnel rated support as responsive and effective

This responsiveness reduced duplication, improved efficiency and ensured continuity across the portfolio, even as priorities and demands shifted across different country contexts.

Stronger systems, improved ways of working and enhanced local capability are helping governments lay the foundations for lasting reform and better outcomes for their communities.

Strong local ownership

The Partnerships Platform supported governments to build lasting improvements that will continue beyond external support. Across partner countries, new ways of working became part of everyday government practice, with local staff taking on greater leadership and responsibility.



Nauru: stronger financial management practices are now part of routine Treasury operations.



Tuvalu: financial reform oversight and reporting are now built into regular government decision-making, helping make reforms part of everyday government business.



Kiribati: local staff gained skills to manage critical government systems and train others.



Yap State: education officials independently carried out school reviews.

Inclusion in practice



Click/Scan to read more about GEDSI in action.



A stronger focus on inclusion saw gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) become more embedded in everyday planning, implementation and reporting.

To support this, two new GEDSI in Action guides were developed and shared across the Partnerships Platform:

- *A guide to mainstreaming inclusion within locally-led development*
- *A guide to mainstreaming inclusion in climate resilience*

A Navigating Disability Equity and Rights Tip Sheet was also released, shared on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December) and published on the Partnerships Platform's website.

These resources are helping personnel and partners build more inclusive approaches into their work, making inclusion part of everyday development practice.

Real impact through a diverse workforce



Working alongside Pacific governments, local organisations and communities, our personnel helped address critical frontline challenges such as climate change, economic resilience and local leadership development.

GEDSI and safeguarding integration was strongest where inclusion prompts were embedded in routine systems—such as planning, workplans, reporting and risk management—rather than treated as stand-alone topics. Recruitment patterns reflected the Partnerships Platform's scale and diversity pipeline.

- In 2025, women held **32%** of contracted technical specialist roles, while Pacific personnel comprised **30%** of those roles. These results indicate progress continues toward a more diverse workforce
- **19** activities provided verified instances of GEDSI mainstreaming across policy, systems and practical level actions.
- **304** people, of which **173** were women, demonstrating changes in work practices after training.
- **9** government organisations supported to strengthen accountability systems.
- **2** government organisations supported to strengthen inclusion.
- Improved GEDSI mainstreaming: **35%** of personnel in 2025 took a comprehensive approach to GEDSI in their work, an increase of **24%** since 2021

Challenges & how they are managed

Progress is rarely without challenges, especially across remote Pacific Island countries where staffing, recruitment and logistics can be complex. The Partnerships Platform worked alongside governments to overcome these challenges, adapt support, find practical solutions and keep important work on track.



Planning ahead for accommodation and local arrangements helped personnel settle in quickly and start work with minimal delays.



When recruitment took longer than expected, interim support kept important work moving while new team members came on board.



Clear roles and regular check-ins with partners helped everyone stay aligned, speed up decisions and keep work moving smoothly.

Learning as we go

Key lessons emerged in 2025:



Plan early. Allow for recruitment, approvals and local operating conditions.



Communicate often. Clear roles and regular engagement keep work moving. Regular contact with government partners and DFAT helped build trust and kept work moving, even when teams or circumstances changed.



Support local ownership. Sustainable reform happens when governments lead change at a manageable pace.



Simple, practical ideas shared across countries helps teams avoid repeating mistakes and build on what already works.



www.partnershipsplatform.org

