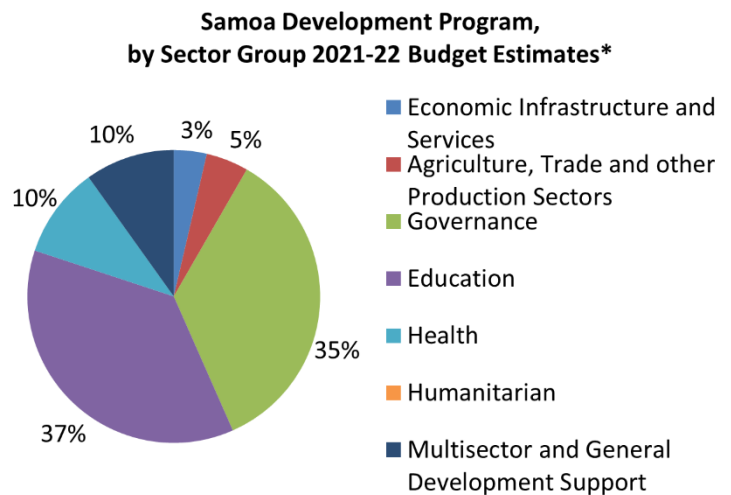


2021-22 SAMOA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

The COVID-19 Development Response Plan for Samoa has been extended through 2022-23. In 2022-23, the Samoa program will continue to have a focus on economic governance and growth, education and skills, health security, climate change, gender, disability and social inclusion in support of the Government of Samoa’s *Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021-26*.

Program Budget	2021-22 Budget Estimate \$m*
Bilateral	27.0
Regional	10.0
Global	0.1
Other Govt. Departments	2.6
Total ODA	39.7



*Actual expenditure is expected to be available in early 2023. Due to rounding, totals may not match the sum of components.

Our development program to Samoa contributes towards achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



The 2021-22 Samoa Development Program Progress Report summarises progress with implementation of the Australia – Samoa COVID-19 Development Response Plan and highlights program results.

CONTEXT

Australia’s longstanding partnership with Samoa is underpinned by development, economic, and security partnerships, and rich people-to-people links. In 2020-21, we reoriented our development program to respond to the challenges of COVID-19. In 2021-22, we continued to focus on COVID-19 response and recovery across each of the three Partnerships for Recovery pillars. Samoa recorded its first COVID-19 case on 17 March 2022. Australia supported Samoa’s response, including through vaccine and other medical supplies, eHealth support and budget support. At the same time, we continued to consolidate and reposition our programs to ensure they were responsive to the development context. The new Government of Samoa (GoS) under Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata’afa introduced a *new Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021-26*. Our programs have been oriented to directly support this strategy. This included the **establishment of the Tautua Human Development for All facility, and a Governance and Economic Growth facility** that is being mobilised in the last quarter of 2022.

The Samoan economy contracted in 2019-20 (-3.1 per cent), 2020-21 (-7.1 per cent) and 2021-22 (-5.3 per cent). **Border closures have weighed heavily on the tourism-reliant economy (24 per cent of pre-COVID GDP) and have only been partially offset by growth in remittances.** Further, Samoa’s high import reliance (52 per cent of GDP) means it is highly exposed to increases in global food and fuel prices driven by supply chain disruptions.



AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The confirmation of the new Fiaame Government in September 2021 has led to a reorientation of Samoa's development priorities, including a significant focus on community driven development. The advent of COVID-19 community transmission resulted in slower-than-expected progress in many of our programs. This also placed government systems and capacity under further strain, resulting in GoS focus being directed to support COVID-19 response. In the context of restricted work and mobility arrangements, reporting delays and, in some programs, a lack of evidence, our ability to assess program performance was limited. However, the GoS and partners continued to deliver key services, including COVID-19 immunisations, under difficult circumstances. Programs in the infrastructure and governance sectors, some of which had been in progress for ten years, reached completion during the reporting period. Australia will continue to work in these areas during the next reporting period, including through the new Tautai Governance and Economic Growth facility and proposed climate investments, designed to respond to lessons learned from previous programs and to consolidate existing efforts.

Health Security


Australia supported Samoa's health sector to respond to COVID-19. We have committed \$4.7 million over three years (2020-23) for COVID-19 vaccine access, including delivery support and vaccine procurement, drawing on Australia's Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (VAHSI). Through VAHSI, Australia is supporting Samoa to achieve comprehensive vaccine coverage. In 2021-22, Australia supported the delivery of more than 64,000 vaccination doses from its domestic supplies and an additional 111,150 through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). As at 16 October, more than **92 per cent of Samoa's population aged 5 years and above were fully vaccinated** (two doses), and booster doses are continuing. Samoa's highly successful vaccination rollout allowed the country to open its borders on 1 August 2022.

Australia supported implementation of contact tracing protocols and systems during COVID-19 outbreaks in 2021-22. The **Tamanu and Tupaia software applications provided authorities with up-to-date information on hotspots** and an ability to pin-point 'at risk' households. Tamanu enabled several suspected cases in the community to be traced and taken into isolation as a precautionary measure. Contact tracing was conducted for the initial confirmed community cases which identified COVID-19 hotspots and supported targeted lockdowns. Using the Tupaia and Tamanu e-health systems, we supported Samoa to roll out its vaccination program. Tupaia and Tamanu improved systems for infection prevention by ensuring authorities have access to population-wide overviews of COVID-19 vaccination rates and COVID-19 laboratory test results, thereby permitting tailor-made vaccination programs. These applications were instrumental in supporting Samoa to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the Pacific. An **Australian Volunteer epidemiologist was also mobilised to Samoa** in June to provide support to the Ministry of Health in reviewing and updating its Climate Adaptation Strategy and conduct hospital risk-resilience assessments for the District Health facilities.

Stability

Australia continued to work in partnership with New Zealand and GoS to improve quality, access and relevance of education through the Education Sector Support Program. School closures due to COVID-19 appear to have impacted heavily on learning outcomes. Australia continues to support **research into the impacts of COVID-19 on student learning outcomes and greater levels of resilience in the education system**. With Australia's support, **Samoa finalised the Education Sector Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Strategy, Sector ICT Policy and Inclusive Education Implementation Plan**. Due to a variety of factors, including the impacts of COVID-19, GoS self-assessment reporting, a condition for release of education sector support funds, was delayed and incomplete. Funds were eventually released in 2022-23.

Australia continued to support gender, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) initiatives across the development portfolio. Our funding support allowed Samoa, through its Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, to compile its **first Report on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**. This important report has



been critical in ensuring that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the voices of persons with disabilities have been heard, and support for broader inclusion has remained an important priority. The report process also provided **forums for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** to advocate for their stakeholders and engage the broader public. This led to a standardised process for on-going consultations with OPDs in developing inclusive governance and policies for persons with disabilities. A new Samoa Gender Partnership Program commenced at the end of the reporting cycle, working with key civil society organisations to **support ending violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, economic empowerment and women’s leadership**. Noting the impact of COVID-19 on women and persons with disabilities, as well as room for improvement on gender ratings in investment monitoring reports, a focus for the next period will be to better integrate and target GEDSI across the development program.

Security continued to be a key focus. Through the Samoa-Australia Police Partnership, the Australian Federal Police worked with the Samoa Police, Prisons and Correction Services (SPPCS) to further strengthen SPPCS’ leadership, management, corporate and technical capabilities, to maintain a safe and stable Samoa. The Australian Defence Force continued to support Samoa to **secure its maritime boundaries, including through capacity building and training**. Australia has committed to gift Samoa a new Guardian Class Patrol Boat in 2023. Australia funded the establishment of Samoa’s Cyber Emergency Response Capability Team (SAMCERT). Five positions were recruited for the SAMCERT over the last twelve months and have been instrumental in supporting Samoa in transitioning to greater use of online systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SAMCERT is responsible for coordinating nation-wide responses to cyber-attacks and threats and has been active over the reporting period in addressing and defending against a number of cyber-attacks on GoS systems. It has also commenced **training with key government departments and the private sector to strengthen resilience against cyber-attacks, including in the banking and finance sectors** - critical to supporting economic inflows during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic recovery

In partnership with the World Bank, ADB and New Zealand (through the Joint Policy Action Matrix), Australia provided \$8 million in budget support from the bilateral development program, and another \$10 million from the regional Pacific COVID-19 Response Package. **Our support incentivised key socio-economic and fiscal policy reforms**. Notably, this included the development of a tax invoice monitoring system, which resulted in increased revenue collection. The GoS also commenced **development of a Social Protection Framework that provides a basis for targeting benefits to vulnerable and affected households in responses to economic shocks**. Samoa also continued a commitment to responsible debt management, including a policy of no new external non-concessional borrowing. An Australian funded Senior Procurement Advisor worked closely with the Ministry of Finance and other key ministries to strengthen Samoa’s procurement systems, which have come under strain during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Training and capacity building occurred in key areas including public procurement, fraud and corruption, procurement planning, contract management, and insurance**. These trainings have assisted procurement practitioners in the country to manage procurement processes more effectively and efficiently, mitigate corruption and fraud, and supported early identification and detection of risks.

Targeted training was provided to **54 key Samoan public service staff** from the Samoa Audit Office (SAO), the Office of the Ombudsman of Samoa (OOS) and the Public Service Commission’s Office, which enabled staff to uphold fit for purpose government systems during the state of emergency period and several national lockdowns. Training delivered by the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) supported students’ skills development in a range of priority economic sectors, including tourism, hospitality, construction, plumbing and counselling. In the reporting period, APTC has also focussed energy and resources on **strengthening local Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers**. A partnership with the Samoan disability advocacy organisation Nuanua O Le Alofa (NOLA) culminated in publication of a research paper on inclusive TVET in Samoa.

ANNEX 1: PROGRESS AGAINST COVID-19 DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE PLAN RESULTS INDICATORS

Health Security

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Number (and nature) of instances of strengthened health systems, including preparedness for emergencies and public health crises	<p>Extension of the mSupply health management software from the Central Pharmaceutical Warehouse and TTM National Hospital to six district health facilities in 2021-22 linked all health facilities to one system, enabling better monitoring, and timely replenishments of pharmaceutical supplies and medical resources.</p> <p>Implementation of Tupaia, a health data aggregation and visualization tool, supported the Ministry of Health's infectious disease surveillance systems, giving visibility of areas with low vaccination rates allowing for appropriate deployment of vaccination teams. Expansion of Tamanu, a patient-level electronic medical record system, to District Health Facilities has enabled authorized health staff to have access to a patient's record from any health facility.</p>
Evidence of improved response to health security threats	<p>Implementation of GoS' contact tracing protocols and systems during COVID-19 outbreaks in 2021-22 using Tamanu and Tupaia provided authorities with up-to-date information of hotspots and an ability to pinpoint 'at risk' households. This enabled authorities to take the decision that a nation-wide lockdown was necessary.</p> <p>Tamanu and Tupaia also improved systems for infection prevention by ensuring authorities have access to population-wide overviews of COVID-19 vaccination rates and COVID-19 laboratory test results, thereby permitting tailor-made vaccination programs. These applications were instrumental in supporting Samoa to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the Pacific.</p>
Number of people immunised with Australian support	Australian support delivered 175,150 COVID-19 vaccination doses in Samoa in 2021-22.
Number of women and men accessing SRHR services provided with Australian support	Australian support enabled 7,218 women and men to access SRHR services between July-Dec 2021, 5,560 of whom were women and 1,589 were young people. This is a 12 per cent decline compared to the pre-COVID19 baseline of 8,215 due to COVID19 lockdowns for vaccination campaigns and community outbreak.
Total number of SRHR-related appointments held at frontline service units, provided with Australian support	Supported the delivery of 22,828 SRHR-related services at both static and mobile clinics.
Contraceptive protection from unplanned pregnancy made available through Australian support	Supported 261 instances of contraceptive protection from unplanned pregnancy made available.

Stability

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Number (and nature) of instances of improved social protection-related policies and/or measures	Ongoing development of a social protection framework within Government budget that provides a basis for the targeting of benefits to vulnerable and affected households in responses to economic shocks. This represents a significant shift for the Government of Samoa and will form the basis for their approach to a range of support measures for a number of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.
Number of women and girl survivors receiving support services	301 women and girls (including seven with disabilities and five pregnant mothers) out of 427 cases sought assistance through the Helpline.
Number (and nature) of instances of improved policies and/or measures that seek to combat gender-based violence (GBV)	Publication of the Talanoa Toolkit for village-based advocates to facilitate conversations and dialogues to address family violence. Capacity building for community leaders on their roles and responsibilities in responding to child protection and domestic violence cases.
Percentage of Year 4 and Year 6 students meeting a minimum Level 3 for literacy and numeracy	<u>FY 2020-21 results</u> (not available at time of 2020-21 report) Yr 4 Boys: Numeracy: 42 per cent; English: 22 per cent Yr 4 Girls: Numeracy: 41 per cent; English: 26 per cent Yr 6 Boys: Numeracy: 38 per cent; English: 32 per cent Yr 6 Girls: Numeracy: 41 per cent; English: 38 per cent <u>FY 2021-22 results</u> Yr 4 Boys: Numeracy: 3 per cent; English: 5 per cent Yr 4 Girls: Numeracy: 4 per cent; English: 11 per cent Yr 6 Boys: Numeracy: 8 per cent; English: 32 per cent Yr 6 Girls: Numeracy: 11 per cent; English: 38 per cent Decline in results stems from COVID-19 related lockdowns in early 2022.
Number of students with disabilities enrolled at all levels	Supported the enrolment of 229 students with disabilities: Primary: 202; Secondary: 16; APTC: 10; Vocational: 1.
Percentage of schools implementing online learning plans	The Moodle Cloud initiative targeted 36 Government schools (21%) to ensure students and teachers were able to communicate. It offers a wide range of curriculum-based resources and supplementary information to support teachers. 14 Government colleges (58%) continue to use Moodle as their primary Learning Management platform. 1,857 teachers (74%) have registered and are notably active on the Moodle platform.
Number (and nature) of instances of improved policies and/or measures that seek to improve education quality for all	A new ICT sector policy, finalised awaiting ESSP support in the May ESWG meeting, that comprises an Education Sector ICT Digital Strategic Framework and an Education Sector Information Management Policy Framework and which together will facilitate increases access to good quality education and training opportunities.



	A new Education Sector Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Strategy finalised with ESSP support in Sept 2021 and was due to be endorsed by the ESAC in Jan 2022 but the meeting was postponed due to lockdown.
Number (and nature) of instances of improved food security-related policies and/or measures, including farmer resilience under climate change conditions and market challenges	No data is available against this indicator as there were no bilateral investments covering this area in 2021-22.

Economic Recovery

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Number (and nature) of instances of the Government of Samoa having adopted responsible and evidence-informed fiscal and economic measures that mitigate the impacts of COVID-19	<p>Australia's budget support through the multi-donor Joint Policy Action Matrix incentivised a number of key reforms critical to addressing the fiscal and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of a social protection framework (details under stability). • An electronic Tax Invoice Monitoring System (TIMS) implemented throughout the business community, which ensures businesses are complying with taxation obligations has improved tax compliance and revenue inflows. A Ministry of Customs and Revenue initial impact assessment indicates an increase of around 1-2 per cent on revenue collections, thereby supporting GoS maximise revenue, which has significantly decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Number (and nature) of instances of the Government of Samoa having adopted responsible and evidence-informed fiscal and economic measures that support inclusive growth and resilience	In the last 12 months, our contribution to the World Bank led Enhanced Road Access Project funded the completion and opening of two new bridges on the main island of Upolu. The Aia and Nu'usuatia bridges have been built at transport junctions and will support continuity in the movement of goods and services within the country and ensure transport pathways are open that support economic growth and greater resilience. Investment in these infrastructure projects has created jobs and economic opportunities for local business and worker, and is an important element in supporting Samoa's pathway to economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19.
Number of people supported to have raised incomes and better jobs or livelihoods	314 APTC Graduates upskilled with qualifications including construction, plumbing, counselling, International Skills Training and Commercial Cookery
Examples of partnering with the private sector and other partners to ensure supply lines are open	No data is available against this indicator as there were no bilateral investments covering this area in 2021-22.
Australian budget support as a per centage of the partner country's domestic revenue	Australia provided budget support to the amount of 6.91 per cent of total domestic revenue in 2020-21.

ANNEX 2: INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender Equality
Samoa Education Sector Support Program – Phase 2 Investment duration: 2019-24; Budget: \$14.1m	2022	4	4	4
	2021	4	4	4
Samoa Health Program Investment duration: 2013-22; Budget: \$9.2m	2022	5	4	4
	2021	4	4	4
Women in Leadership in Samoa Investment duration: 2018-22; Budget: \$3.0m	2022	4	3	4
	2021	3	3	4
Samoa Fiscal Resilience Program Investment duration: 2018-22; Budget: \$10.0m	2022	5	5	3
	2021	5	5	1

FINAL INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender Equality
Samoa Parliament Complex Redevelopment Investment duration: 2012-22; Budget: \$13.2m	2022 FIMR	3	3	2
	2021 IMR	3	4	2
Samoa Economic Infrastructure Program Investment duration: 2012-22; Budget: \$18.7m	2022 FIMR	3	3	3
	2021 IMR	4	3	1
Samoa Governance Support Program Investment duration: 2018-22; Budget: \$9.45m	2022 IMR	3	3	2
	2021 FIMR	3	3	3

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas.

5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas.

1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.