



FACT SHEET

Upgrading Tonga's international port

Project Name: Nuku'alofa Port Upgrade

AIFFP INVESTMENT

GRANT: AUD31.3 million

PARTNERS

Government of the Kingdom of Tonga
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

CONSTRUCTION

2022 onwards

COMPLETION

2025

About the project

Australia, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), has provided a grant package to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga alongside support from the Asian Development Bank for upgrades to the Queen Salote International Wharf of Nuku'alofa Port. The works involve rehabilitating existing port infrastructure across four wharves and expanding shipping capabilities to facilitate increased international operations. The project's climate-resilience measures include building a concrete seawall and strengthening existing rock walls to protect against sea level rise;

upgrading port access roads including installation of solar powered lighting; upgrading rainwater harvesting systems; and improving stormwater drainage. In the event of emergency, the upgrades will enable Tonga to continue trading and quickly deploy lifesaving products and services to communities. In addition, the project includes institutional strengthening support for the Ports Authority of Tonga to improve its operational practices, develop an asset maintenance plan and through training on port operations, environmental sustainability, health, and safety and security.

Map





Infrastructure highlights

In partnership with governments and private sector firms in the Pacific, the AIFFP facilitates the delivery of high quality, resilient infrastructure. This project's anticipated infrastructure footprint will include:



4 WHARVES
UPGRADED



**50 METRE
EXTENSION**
OF WHARF 2 WITH
NEW NAVIGATION
MARKERS, MOORINGS
AND BUOYS



**NEW
CONCRETE
SEAWALL**
AND
STRENGTHENED
ROCK REVETMENT



**CONTAINER
YARD HARD
STAND AREA**
RECONSTRUCTED



**PORT
ACCESS
ROAD**
UPGRADED



**AUXILIARY
PORTS
FACILITIES**
REPAIRED

Impact at a glance

Across all its projects, the AIFFP prioritises lasting development and economic outcomes for people and communities. Its approach is guided by five impact areas: local content; climate resilience; social and environmental safeguards; gender equality, disability and social inclusion; and quality and integrity.

The project aims to promote safer, more reliable and more affordable transport infrastructure and services in Tonga through improving the capacity and operations of the Nuku'alofa Port. Its impact to date includes:

GENDER EQUALITY, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

With a gender action plan in place, the project is required to employ **women in at least 10 per cent of construction roles**, involve a minimum of **14 per cent of women in training courses** and at least **20 per cent of women in consultation**, as well as undertake **gender awareness training**. The AIFFP, in collaboration with the ADB as co-financier, has prepared and are implementing and monitoring the gender action plan. Women are leading efforts in several of the project's work areas, including non-traditional areas for female workers in Tonga. **67 per cent of project management office roles held by women** and **one female engineer** has been mentored on the job to lead the quality control testing of the project's concrete batching plant.

New facilities will **prioritise the safety of women, children and other vulnerable groups**, with the port access road to be upgraded with solar powered night lighting and a pedestrian crossing to be built at the port entrance with **gender sensitive signage**.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

With Tonga being one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change, the port upgrades have been designed carefully to be **climate-resilient**. Allowances have been made for increases in precipitation and temperature, sea level rises, storms, wind speeds, earthquakes and tsunamis, ensuring **minimal disruption to Tongans' livelihoods** in the event of an emergency.

LOCAL CONTENT

In line with the AIFFP's approach to local content, the project is **contributing significantly to local employment**, with Tongans making up on average **80 per cent of the project's workforce**. Locally sourced materials and equipment are also prioritised, leading to **innovative technical solutions** such as the use of rock waste bags for the port's revetment. The onsite concrete batching plant and precast yard is **100 per cent** operated and managed by the local workforce.

To build the skills of the project's workforce, **on-the-job training** for local staff focuses on topics including occupational health and safety. To encourage workers to be proactive about safety, 'see-say-do' reporting was implemented, with more than **900 reports completed** to date.



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