

Palau Country Brief

March 2025

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# About Pacific Women Lead

Pacific Women Lead (PWL) is a portfolio of regional investments valued at AUD170 million over 5 years (2021 – 2026). PWL aims to advance gender equality and is ambitious in its intent to take a Pacific-led, intersectional and transformative approach to promoting gender equality in the region and bringing new emphasis to strengthening regional action and architecture in support of gender equality.

The goal of PWL is for: Pacific women and girls, in all their diversity, to be safe and equitably share in resources, opportunities and decision-making with men and boys. For more information visit [www.pacificwomen.org](http://www.pacificwomen.org)

# Overview of Pacific Women Lead activities in Palau

As of 31 March 2025, 12 Pacific Women Lead projects were being (or had been) implemented in Palau, with a total funding of AUD11,697,369.30.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Table 1 shows how each of these projects are linked to the different PWL portfolio components.[[2]](#footnote-3) Through these components, technical support and funding is provided to Pacific civil society organisations, multilateral and regional organisations, government and other stakeholders.

Table 1: Summary of PWL projects in Palau as of 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PWL Components | # of projects | Ongoing | Completed | Total Funding (AUD) |
| PWL at SPC projects  | 4 | 3 | 1 | $1,272,492.30 |
| PWL Governance Board projects | 0 | - | - | - |
| Pacific Women’s Funds projects | 0 | - | - | - |
| DFAT regional and research projects | 5 | 1 | 4 | $10,424,877 |
| DFAT bilateral projects | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| PWLES projects  | 0 | - | - | - |
| **Total**  | **12** | **10** | **5** | **$11,697,369.30** |

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## Pacific Women Lead at SPC

The Pacific Community (SPC) is a distinct implementing partner of PWL (known as PWL at SPC) and has a grant agreement with DFAT Canberra, valued at AUD57,600,000. From this total value, SPC provides technical support to Pacific governments, hosts and supports regional convenings and implements a grants program for its government partners and civil-society organisations across the Pacific.

In Palau, PWL at SPC funds 4 downstream implementing partners to implement 4 projects.

Table 2: PWL at SPC projects in Palau as at 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Project Name and Partner | Project Description | Value (AUD) / Timeframe | Project Status |
| 1 | Strengthening gender mainstreaming awareness and capacity within Palau government, civil society, women and vulnerable groups to create safe and inclusive space to engage(Bureau of Domestic Affairs) | The project enhances the Bureau of Domestic Affairs' capacity to implement Palau’s Gender Mainstreaming Policy by developing frameworks, conducting audits, and supporting stakeholders. The project also coordinates the Gender Coordinating Committee, promoting gender equality integration and improving data collection. Additionally, it facilitates national coordination for regional and international reporting, while collaborating with community groups and media to raise awareness about gender equality, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups through advocacy campaigns and key national events. | $299,928.302024 – 2025 | Ongoing (new) |
| 2 | Country Focal Point - Support for implementation for the Government of Palau's gender mainstreaming policy and strategy(Ministry of Culture and Community Affairs – Gender Division) | This project funds a Country Focal Point (CFP) in Palau (previously national Gender Analyst position). The CFP supports the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy/Strategy. | $34,0002022 - 2024 | Completed |
| 3 | Just, Safe, Resilient and Empowered Pacific Communities(Pacific Conference of Churches - PCC) | The Project works to establish a reporting system for member churches to track and report on their gender equality performance, implement a Safe Church policy on zero tolerance of VAWC in church communities and the Code of Conduct and development and roll out of the Pacific regional faith-based EVAWG strategy. The Project also works to increase women’s participation and access in Church leadership and theology, collaboration of women theologians and national, regional Feminist Organizations, development of Church programm to address masculinity and violence. | $500,0002024 - 2025 | Ongoing(new) |
| 4 | Raising innovative sport enablers (RISE) (Palau National Olympic Committee) | The project aims to enhance women's leadership and economic empowerment through sports, fostering pathways for women to excel in executive, coaching, and entrepreneurial roles. The project supports women leaders, engages male champions to challenge stereotypes and promotes positive messaging about women’s leadership.  | $438,5642024-2025 | Ongoing (new) |

## Pacific Women Lead Governance Board

The PWL Governance Board comprises 13 members, 12 of whom are from the Pacific region. DFAT’s Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Development Branch serves as an ex-officio member of the Board.

Currently, there is no representative from Palau on the Governance Board.

The Board has a $5 million discretionary fund for projects that it can use to add value to and building on existing PWL activities. To date, no projects in Palau have been funded by the Board.

## Pacific Women’s Funds

The Pacific Women’s Funds is made up of 3 feminist organisations: Women’s Fund Fiji, Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific and Pacific Feminist Fund.

The Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) is liaising with the Pacific Women’s Fund component and will include, if any, projects being funded in Palau under this component in the next update.

## DFAT regional

This section presents information on regional (multi-country) gender activities in Palau. These regional gender activities are managed by either DFAT Post in Fiji or Canberra (Australia).

In Palau, there are 5 DFAT regional projects implemented by 3 distinct implementing partners. Of these, 1 is ongoing and 4 have been completed.

Table 3: DFAT regional projects in Palau as at 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Aidworks Number | Project Name and Partner | Project Description | Value (AUD) / Timeframe | Project Status |
| 1 | 69294/45 | Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women-owned Businesses through Organic Value Chains(Land Resources Division- SPC) | This project strengthened the recognition of women's vital role in organic agriculture by promoting both sustainable farming practices and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI). Through targeted activities, the project raised awareness of women's contributions to organic agriculture, enhanced their access to resources and decision-making processes, and supported initiatives that improved women's economic empowerment in the sector. By integrating GESI principles, the project ensured that women, along with other marginalised groups, had equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from organic agriculture initiatives. | $965,6002021–2023[[3]](#footnote-4) | Completed |
| 2 | 77520 | Gender responsive Climate Policy and Women’s Climate Leadership in the Pacific (Women’s Environment and Development Organisation) | This project sought to advance Pacific women’s leadership in climate change decision-making through WEDO’s Women Delegates Fund (WDF) program. By providing funding and capacity-building opportunities, the WDF enabled Pacific women to engage meaningfully in global climate discussions, ensuring their perspectives were reflected in critical decision-making processes. The project also aimed to enhance gender-responsive climate policy in the Pacific by strengthening the capacity of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points through targeted training and resources to support the integration of gender considerations into national climate policies and strategies. | $699,9002022–2024 | Completed |
| 3 | 69294/67 | Pacific Community’s (SPC) Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division Support | This project provides program funding to support the implementation of the SPC HRSD Business Plan 2021-2026. The plan focuses on strengthening inclusive, transparent, and responsive governance and institutions for human rights and social development; promoting gender equality, equity, and social inclusion; preserving and protecting positive cultural expressions; and accelerating impact through knowledge, learning, and innovation. The project aims to achieve a just, equitable, and resilient Pacific Island society by ensuring that state laws, policies, and institutions uphold the rights of all people, providing equitable access to social services and economic opportunities for women, youth, and marginalised groups, promoting non-violence and inclusion in communities, and safeguarding cultural heritage. | $2,700,0002022–2026 | Ongoing  |
| 4 | 69294/46 | Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (Human and Social Development Division - SPC) | This project focused on strengthening gender mainstreaming by enhancing policy design, implementation, and monitoring to advance gender equality outcomes. It worked to build the capacity of Pacific governments to integrate gender considerations across policies, programs and services. The project also supported improved collection, analysis, and use of gender data and statistics at both country and regional levels. By strengthening data systems, the project aimed to provide evidence that informs policy decisions, tracks progress on gender equality commitments and ensures that the needs and experiences of women and men were accurately represented. | $2,156,4012021–2023[[4]](#footnote-5) | Completed |
| 5 | 78400 | Progressing Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Priorities(Pacific Island Forum Secretariat) | This project provides funding for the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting (PIFWLM) and supports broader gender equality and disability inclusion efforts by the Secretariat, including the implementation of PIFWLM outcomes and the coordination and monitoring of key regional frameworks such as the revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED), the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD), and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) commitments outlined in the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan. | $3,902,9762023-2026 | Completed |

## DFAT bilateral

This section presents information on bilateral gender activities in Palau. These bilateral gender activities are managed by the Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) on behalf of Palau DFAT Post.

In Palau, DFAT Post funds a Family Protection Adviser role that is managed by PWLES.

Table 4: DFAT bilateral projects in Palau as at 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Aidworks Number | Project Name and Partner | Project Description | Value (AUD) / Timeframe | Project Status |
| 1 | Not applicable | Family Protection Adviser and activities (Ministry of Health and Human Services - Bureau of Public Health) | The Family Protection Adviser supports the Division of Human Services to coordinate implementation of reporting of the Family Protection Act and related activities.  | 2023 - 2025 | Ongoing |

## Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services

Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) provides whole-of-portfolio monitoring, evaluation and learning oversight, technical advisory support and grant management services. PWLES has an independent Quality and Technical Assurance Group (QTAG) panel of approximately 50 consultants. PWLES is valued at AUD32 million.

PWLES provides technical and advisory support to Palau DFAT Post, and the management of the Family Protection Adviser.

# Impact stories and reach data for DFAT bilateral projects

This section will provide links to impact stories collected for DFAT bilateral projects when available online. There is currently no reach data available.

# More information and support

This country brief was prepared by Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES). PWLES provides support for DFAT Posts and PWL at SPC in the following ways.

## Monitoring, evaluation and learning support

PWLES manages the PWL portfolio MEL system. The MEL system has two databases:

1. A **Quantitative database** that tracks progress against PWL indicators and can be accessed through a dashboard on the PWL website: [Pacific Women Lead - Our Impact](https://pacificwomen.org/our-impact/). The dashboard is updated six monthly after each reporting cycle.
2. A **Qualitative database** that allows the PWLES MEL team to code partner narrative reports against qualitative change domains.

The MEL system has the capability to organise and provide data, particularly for DFAT’s reporting processes (IMR and Tier 2 reporting), and qualitative evidence or quotes that can be used for briefing documents or speeches.

**Collection of qualitative impact stories:** PWLES collaborates with partners in each country to collect impact stories twice a year (February and July). These stories are used to inform the PWL MEL system and can be used by the PWL components for public diplomacy. These stories are published on the PWL website: [Pacific Women Lead - Stories](https://pacificwomen.org/latest-updates/stories/)

**Monitoring the rights of people with disabilities Framework:** PWLES developed two guidance notes to support partners to enhance data collection and reporting on disability inclusion. The guidance notes can be accessed here: [Pacific Women Lead - Resources](https://pacificwomen.org/resources/). PWLES has also facilitated a webinar discussion on these guidance notes which you can watch here: [Monitoring the journey towards the realisation of rights for people with disabilities](https://youtu.be/JCeG_6OmOuE?si=WgwOnXcFATJoiKG7).

**Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop:** Each year, PWLES co-convenes an Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop in September that brings together partners across the PWL portfolio to collaborate and analyse data to understand the program’s progress and make recommendations for the program. A summary of the 2024 Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop can be watched here: [Second Pacific Women Lead Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop (2024)](https://youtu.be/p5gbcZHlKdg?si=7LXyyJI6AQalYxBT).

**Clear Horizon Academy PWL MEL Platform:** PWLES has developed 3 training modules with Clear Horizon Academy to support PWL partners:

* Using data for reporting and learning,
* collecting impact stories
* understanding, monitoring and reporting disability inclusion.

These are online and self-paced modules and partners can seek access through the PWLES.

## Quality Technical Assurance Group (QTAG)

Through the QTAG, PWLES provides technical support to smaller DFAT Post in Tuvalu, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Niue, and Republic of Marshall Islands.

## Grant management

PWLES provides program management support to DFAT Posts in smaller countries and DFAT Canberra. Currently, PWLES provides grant management support to:

* One regional program: Balance of Power
* Three projects in Tuvalu (funded through the Tuvalu DFAT Post Gender Country Plan), and
* Management of Gender Advisers in Tuvalu (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser), FSM (Family Protection Adviser) and Palau (Family Protection Act Adviser).

## Contact and feedback

If you have questions or feedback on this country brief, please contact PWLES on info@pwles.org

1. Note that total funding only reflects the grants managed under these components that are being implemented in Palau and does not reflect the total value of the components. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Each component is a distinct implementing partner of PWL, which means that organisations have a direct grant agreement with donors or funders. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Project evaluation completed in 2024. Plans for next phase to be funded under Pacific Women Lead at SPC. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Next phase to be funded under Pacific Women Lead at SPC. Details to be confirmed. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)