

PFTAC Countries Overview 2014

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and Concrete Results Achieved (January-November 2014)
Cook Islands	Public Finance	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External PEFA commenced 24 November and is scheduled for completion in mid-December. This follows on a PEFA Self-Assessment conducted in November 2013; • Cook Islands participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Cook Islands participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Cook Islands participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External PEFA is in process as of this writing and should be completed by December 12, 2014.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer Pricing Regulations drafted; • Deep Sea Mining legislation drafted. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer Pricing Regulations implemented; • Deep Sea mining legislation implemented; • Legislation drafter and Tax policy representatives participated in workshop on Deep Sea Mining Fiscal Issues.
	Financial Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance was performed for the Cook Islands during 2014; • The staff was invited to attend both the annual Meeting of Supervisor of Pacific Countries and the Regional Workshop on Banking Supervision. Cook Islands did not send any delegates to either event.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality and timeliness of the Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) series; • Revamp the Balance of Payments (BOP) compilation system and provide staff training on BOP issues; • Participated in PFTAC regional workshop focusing on constant price estimation in national accounts. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QNA methodology improved; • QNA series first published in December 2013; • Plans in place for improving on-going timeliness; • BOP compilation system completely simplified and revamped; • BOP staff now more actively involved in completing the back series and updating the BOP tables; • Active presenter in regional national accounts training course.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Fiji	Public Finance	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in preparing a PFM Reform Roadmap; • Training budget analysts for preparation of the 2015 Budget in a new format; • Review of PFM legal framework; • Fiji participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Fiji participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Fiji participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft PFM Reform roadmap has been prepared; • The 2015 budget estimates volume contained explanatory narrative at the activity level; • PFM law revisions proposed by TA are under review by MOF.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided guidance to the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) on replacing its current IT system with a Customized Off the Shelf (COTS) system, taking into consideration existing functionality, future requirements and the benefits and disadvantages of a COTS solution; • Designed an IT strategy and user requirements for a new IT system; • Assisted FRCA to determine its corporate direction and develop a corporate strategy and implementation plan with a five year outlook and rollover and assisted in a review of its corporate structure to ensure its alignment to achieve the revised corporate direction and strategy; • Assisted in the design and implementation of a new Pay As You Earn (PAYE) final system; • Provided an overview of the importance of a design unit in the headquarters organizational structure and an overview of industry partnership initiatives geared towards improving tax compliance; • A high level review of core tax functions and a TA plan to address gaps; • Facilitated regional cooperation by matching FRCA IT skills with Nauru IT need; • Supported FRCA as host of regional Pacific Islands Tax Administrators Association secretariat to develop the secretariat into a standalone member funded agency, and with development of the regional training program. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the new PAYE final system; • A tender issued for a new COTS IT system; • A project team appointed to come up with solutions for a new organizational structure; • A technical assistance plan agreed to for improving audit, arrears collection and risk management; • FRCA has provided an IT solution for Nauru; • Regional training workshops delivered.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 3 day Workshop on Consolidated Supervision of Conglomerates was held for 24 staff of the Reserve Bank of Fiji's Supervision Department. Fiji representatives attended two of the PFTAC Advisor's workshops at the Oceania Confederation of Credit Unions' Annual Technical Congress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulatory Challenges to credit Unions in the Pacific ○ Understanding Financial Reports for Information and Decision Making; • Representatives from the Banking Supervision Department attended the annual one week PFTAC Banking Supervision workshop which was held in Samoa. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve Bank Supervision Department staff received advanced banking supervision training which will be used to perform on-site examination of commercial banks; • Credit Unions will be able to adapt to the changing needs of Regulators with the use of up to date financial reporting tools.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop methodologies for the compilation of quarterly GDP estimates by production and annual GDP estimates by expenditure and income in current prices; • Plan for the rebase of GDP estimates using 2011 as a base year; • Participated in PFTAC regional workshop focusing on constant price estimation in national accounts. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental annual GDP estimates by expenditure and income almost complete; • Plans for rebasing GDP estimates have started; • Draft producer price index series developed for manufacturing and agriculture; • Active presenter in regional national accounts training course.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.

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FSM	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance & skeleton provided to prepare a PFM Reform Roadmap; • Review of proposed legislation to establish a supplemental defined contribution pension plan for employees of the federal government; • TA to draft a law consistent with good practice for supplemental defined contribution plans; • FSM participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • FSM participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFM Reform Roadmap drafting has started; • Draft law for supplemental defined contribution plan is awaiting legislative review.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a review of the tax administration and identified future TA needs; • Developed and agreed to phasing in a risk-based Compliance Improvement Strategy. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance Improvement Strategy workshop facilitated and analysis of key risks underway.
	Financial Sector	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of the Banking Commission attended the Regional workshop on banking supervision held in Guam {one week}; • The Banking Commissioner and a representative from the Attorney General's office attended a workshop on Credit Union legislation held in Guam {one week} Result; The Banking Commissioner attended the annual meeting of Supervisors of Pacific countries held in PNG which included a three day workshop on "Managing a Supervision Department" {one week}. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Credit Union Act was completed; • Banking Commission staff received advanced on-site examination training to support their banking examination program.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the knowledge of local staff regarding their national accounts methodology; • Identify areas where the methodology can be improved; • Create greater staff involvement in national accounts data collection and compilation; • FSM staff participated in training at the sub-regional level with compilers from Palau and RMI. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff knowledge of national accounts methodology improved by direct missions and sub-regional workshops; • Workshops have developed knowledge-sharing between countries in the Northern Pacific region where compilation methodologies are similar; • Staff are developing a business survey which will strengthen the national accounts methodology; • Methodology problems relating to the residence of fishing boats have been identified and are being corrected.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014

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Kiribati	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance was provided in 2014; • PFTAC PFM Advisor participated in review of proposals for an EU-funded Treasury Advisor in Kiribati; • Kiribati participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Kiribati participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Kiribati participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-funded Treasury Advisor is expected to take up post by December 2014; • Note: implementation of earlier PFTAC recommendations (2012 & 2013) regarding organization of the Kiribati National Economic and Planning Office, as well as modifications to the FMIS, chart-of-accounts, and treasury business processes are being implemented by the ADB, Australia, and EU-funded advisors.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a review of the tax administration and determined future TA needs. A plan for TA has been agreed to; • Assisted in the implementation of VAT and provided information on the IT upgrade. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of VAT; • Agreement to a future technical assistance package to strengthen core tax functions and compliance management.
	Financial Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance was performed in 2014
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop methodologies for the compilation of GDP estimates by expenditure; • Provide capacity supplementation and build capacities for the compilation of annual GDP estimates by production and Gross National Income (GNI) estimates; • Assist the national statistics office in improving access to administrative data and particularly tax data; • Participated in PFTAC regional workshop focusing on constant price estimation in national accounts. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies for the compilation of GDP estimates by production improved; • Methodologies for the compilation of household and government final consumption expenditure developed; • Agreement on data sharing reached with the Taxation Office.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Marshall Islands	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014; • RMI participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • RMI participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • RMI participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: A PFM Reform Roadmap was prepared in 2013 that identified several aspects of PFM needing attention.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a review of the tax administration and determined future TA needs. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing to facilitate the introduction of a TA plan to address needs.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of the Banking Commission attended the Regional workshop on banking supervision held in Guam {one week}; • The Banking Commissioner and a representative from the Attorney General’s office attended a workshop on Credit Union legislation held in Guam {one week} Result; Draft Credit Union Act was completed; • The Banking Commissioner attended the annual meeting of Supervisors of Pacific countries held in PNG which included a three day workshop on “Managing a Supervision Department”. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Credit Union Act was completed; • Banking Commission staff received advanced on-site examination training to support their banking examination program.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the knowledge of local staff regarding their national accounts methodology; • Identify areas where the methodology can be improved; • Create greater staff involvement in national accounts data collection and compilation; • Provided training at the sub-regional level with compilers from Palau and FSM. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff knowledge of national accounts methodology improved by direct missions and sub-regional workshops; • Workshops have developed knowledge-sharing between countries in the Northern Pacific region where compilation methodologies are similar; • Staff are developing a business survey which will strengthen the national accounts methodology; • Methodology problems relating to the residence of fishing boats have been identified and are being corrected.
Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014 	

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Nauru	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFM Roadmap update/progress review; • Review of budget process and integration of planning/budgeting; • Guidance in improving its asset management, accounting and reporting; • Assistance on fixed assets valuation; • Nauru participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Nauru participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Nauru participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap review identified some progress in FMIS implementation, but problems remain with the chart-of-accounts, and need remains for preparing financial instructions properly aligned to policy and FMIS capabilities; • Complete fixed asset stock-take, and government assets recorded in an asset register; • Valuation of major fixed assets completed.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted legislation to implement a new tax system for Nauru including an employment tax and non-resident withholding tax, and a Revenue Administration Act; • Developed procedures for Withholding tax implementation; • Designed a new organizational structure integrating the Revenue and Customs Department; • Facilitated regional cooperation between Nauru Revenue office and Fiji FRCA to develop simple IT system for Nauru; • Assisted with recruitment of long term resident advisors funded by AusDFAT. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New laws for withholding taxes drafted and implemented; • Withholding tax regime implemented; • AusDFAT advisors in place; • Operational procedures for Withholding taxes drafted and implemented; • Laws on business profits tax nearing completion – to be implemented on 1 July 2015; • New Revenue and Customs office structure to be completed by end 2014; • New IT system in place.
	Financial Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance was provided in 2014.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity supplementation and build capacities for the compilation of annual GDP estimates by production; • Participated in PFTAC regional workshop focusing on constant price estimation in national accounts. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft GDP estimates by production compiled until 2012-13 and previous years' estimates revised; • Methodologies and data sources for the compilation of GDP estimates by production significantly improved.
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity supplementation on public debt. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p>

Date of last update: 02 December 2014

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="506 204 1297 228">• Updated estimate of public debt outstanding by creditor (as of Dec 2013).

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Niue	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the integration of planning & budgeting; using asset register information to estimate asset repair/replacement funding requirements; Refinements to the 2012 PFM Reform Roadmap; Niue participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A skeleton/template for a more policy focused budget document integrating previously separate documents (National Strategic Plans, Corporate Plans, Annual budget) was prepared and the most recent information from Niue staff is that the recommendation was accepted for trial beginning with the FY2016 budget; A refined PFM reform roadmap has been drafted.
	Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct technical assistance is planned for Niue during 2014 but staff are invited to attend PITAA and PFTAC training initiatives. A representative attended the Taxpayer Services Workshop held in Fiji during November 2014.
	Financial Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct Technical Assistance was performed in 2014.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide capacity supplementation and build capacities for the compilation of annual BOP estimates; Similar support planned for the compilation of annual GDP estimates by production. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft BOP estimates for 2012-13 compiled with revisions to previous years' estimates as required; BOP compilation system fully documented.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Palau	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance was provided in 2014; • Palau was invited to participate in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014, but was not able to attend; • Palau participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Palau participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <p>Note: PFTAC assisted with a PEFA Self-assessment in 2013.</p>
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two missions carried out to assist in strengthening political and community support for the implementation of VAT; • Legislative drafting. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New laws currently being debated and a TA plan for improving tax administration under discussion.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of the Banking Commission attended the Regional workshop on banking supervision held in Guam {one week}; • The Banking Commissioner and a representative from the Attorney General's office attended a workshop on Credit Union legislation held in Guam {one week} Result; Draft Credit Union Act was completed; • The Banking Commissioner attended the annual meeting of Supervisors of Pacific countries held in PNG which included a three day workshop on "Managing a Supervision Department" {one week}; • A one week mission was held to provide technical support with the oversight of Credit Unions. This included the development of a reporting system; • Participated in a panel discussion on SME at the 2nd annual Economic Symposium. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Credit Union Act was completed; • Banking Commission staff received advanced on-site examination training to support their banking examination program; • The Credit Union's sector was briefed on the upcoming legislative reform and they indicated that they will provide their support to the program.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for the compilation of annual GDP estimates by production estimates. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau participated in a sub-regional training conducted with compilers from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in order to reduce reliance on external TA providers. Simplification of the data capture system was started.

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity supplementation on long-term fiscal planning. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepared long-term fiscal planning framework with documentation that outlines the policy options relating to long-term fiscal pressures, notably the expiry of Compact grants in 2023.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
PNG	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNG was invited to participate in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014 but was unable to do so; • Training in the PEFA methodology to support a Self-Assessment, and quality checks on implementation; • Review and restructuring of IFMS/ICT operations to facilitate expanded IFMS coverage of national ministries/departments; • Assessment of cash management issues; • PNG participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft PEFA self-assessment has been prepared and is undergoing revision; • Significant changes are being implemented in IFMS/ICT operations; • Plans agreed for further PFTAC assistance with cash management in 2015.
	Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct technical assistance has taken place during this period; • PNG is invited to all PFTAC and PITAA training initiatives. Representatives attended the Managing Modern Tax Administration workshop and the Taxpayer Services workshop held in Suva.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNG hosted the annual meeting of the Association of Financial Supervisors of Pacific Countries. (In attendance: PNG, Salomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands. Regrets Cook Islands and Timor-Leste) (2 days); • Workshop on Managing a Banking Supervision Department was held for all participants (3 days); • Representatives from the Banking Supervision Department attended the annual PFTAC Banking Supervision workshop which was held in Samoa {one week}. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Bank staff received advanced training in managing a Supervision Department which will help them manage the off-site supervision and on-site examination of commercial bank.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for the compilation of annual GDP estimates by production; • Review methodologies and data sources; • Strengthen the national statistics office's institutional and methodological capacities to compile macroeconomic statistics. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-engaged with the authorities and improved cooperation between the Department of Treasury, the Bank of PNG and the national statistics office; • PNG participated in training at the sub-regional level with compilers from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; • Improved methodologies for the compilation of value added estimates for the agriculture, fishing and mining industries; • Started developing chain Laspeyres volume indices.

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building on developing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- integrated macro-fiscal framework for monitoring and projection activities;- multi-year fiscal planning process. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated macro-fiscal framework developed;• Staff trained to use framework effectively.

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Samoa	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • In cooperation with the Australia Department of Finance, PFTAC assisted Samoa authorities in improving the non-tax revenues management policy and legal framework, systems, and in rebasing the existing fees and charges; • Samoa participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Samoa participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes were authorized in many non-tax revenues resulting in a revenue increase roughly equal to 1% of GDP; • Complete implementation of new NTR framework including NTR law, policy manual, and NTR budgeting and accounting systems.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted in the development of an integrated Compliance improvement strategy for Revenue & Customs. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement reached to implement a new compliance improvement strategy with PFTAC assistance.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa participated in the annual PFTAC Banking Supervision workshop for southern region Supervision department (18 participants); • The Technical Advisor attended the pre-meeting of the Association of Financial Supervisors of Pacific Countries (AFSPC). <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Bank staff received advanced training in managing a Supervision Department which will help them manage the off-site supervision and on-site examination of commercial bank.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance was provided in 2014. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided training to the compilers of national accounts statistics; • Active presenter in regional national accounts training course.
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building on developing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - integrated macro-fiscal framework for monitoring and projection activities; - multi-year fiscal planning process; and - assessing debt sustainability. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated macro-fiscal framework with debt dynamics developed; • Staff trained to use framework effectively.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Solomon Islands	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Islands participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Guidance on preparing a PFM Reform Roadmap, enhancing awareness of key stakeholders, and identifying issues on implementation; • Preparatory missions assisting the MOF to begin a non-tax revenue review; • Solomon Islands participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Solomon Islands participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PFM Reform Roadmap was prepared and submitted to Cabinet; • Work has started on gathering basic information for a more thorough review of non-tax revenues during 2015; • Need for TA on cash management and accounting identified for implementation in 2015.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tax policy and tax administration mission focussed on natural resource revenues was carried out in October, 2014 (led by IMF HQ). <p><u>Concrete results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Islands enacted a new fiscal regime for mining in April 2014 to which PFTAC contributed.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the Banking Supervision Department attended the annual PFTAC Banking Supervision workshop which was held in Samoa {one week}; • PFTAC monitored the deployment of the Financial Supervision information System (FSIS) provided by the Reserve Bank of NZ. This was a pilot which was successfully deployed at the Central Bank. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Bank staff received advanced training in managing a Supervision Department which will help them manage the off-site supervision and on-site examination of commercial bank; • With the use of the FSIS the Central Bank is able to provide timely reports on the performance of the banking sector.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity supplementation for the regular compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics; • Plan and prepare for the GDP rebase; • Improve capacities for the compilation of national accounts estimates. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced national accounts statistics by incorporating historical business survey results back to 2003; • Improved methodologies for the compilation of GDP estimates by production and by expenditures; • Compiled experimental estimates of household final consumption expenditure using the 2012-13 household survey in preparation for the upcoming rebase of GDP estimates; • Provided training at the sub-regional level with compilers from the PNG and Vanuatu; • Based on PFTAC advice the NSO developed a core inflation index which has been released regularly since January 2014 as a monthly measure of the underlying inflation.
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building on developing integrated macroeconomic – fiscal framework for monitoring and projection activities. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p>

Date of last update: 02 December 2014

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macroeconomic monitoring / projection framework – in progress;• Staff trained to use framework effectively – in progress.

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Timor-Leste	PFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct Technical Assistance was provided in 2014.
	Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct technical assistance has taken place during this period but Timor-Leste is invited to all PFTAC and PITAA training initiatives. A representative attended the Taxpayer Services Workshop held in Suva in November 2014.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Technical Advisor joined the IMF staff mission to Timor-Leste. He had the opportunity to meet with numerous development partners and government officials; A mission was held to establish the level of technical support the Credit Union sector will require over the next few years. The assessment revealed a need to draft a new Credit Union Act and perform a number of capacity building exercises with the staff of the Central Bank on how to adequately perform the oversight of Credit Unions. There will also be a requirement to set up a standard financial reporting regime; The IMF Legal department drafted a Credit Union Act that was submitted to the Central Bank for its review and comments. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Bank has a draft credit union law to support the transition of that sector from the Ministry of Commerce to the Central Bank; The Credit Union sector is aware of the proposed transition to the oversight of the Central Bank.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct in-country Technical Assistance mission was conducted in 2014. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided training to the compilers of national accounts statistics.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Tokelau	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelau was invited to participate in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014 but was unable to do so; • Guidance was provided on undertaking a PEFA Self-Assessment. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partial PEFA Self-Assessment has been completed for over half the indicators. Completion of the self-assessment and the external assessment is not anticipated until 2015.
	Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct TA was delivered to Tokelau during this period but staff are invited to attend PITAA and PFTAC training initiatives.
	Financial Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.
	Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014; • Participated in PFTAC regional workshop focusing on constant price estimation in national accounts.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Tonga	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonga participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Assisted authorities in completing a PEFA Self-assessment to support finalization of their PFM Reform Roadmap; • Tonga participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Currently discussing way forward for strengthening the FMIS; • Tonga participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PEFA Self-assessment was completed; • A PFM Reform Roadmap, started with PFTAC/ADB assistance in 2012, has been completed and endorsed in principle by the Cabinet.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted in the development of legislation for a Small Business Tax Regime; • Drafted legislation to prepare the Income Tax Amendment Bill for a new deep sea mining regime; • Assisted in review of risks with VAT refund administration; • Conducted a review of the tax administration and determined future TA needs; • Assisted in the selection of AusDFAT funded TA resident experts (PACTAM advisors). <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Small Business Tax came into force on August 1, 2014; • PACTAM advisors appointed; • Deep sea mining legislation drafted and will be pursued after the elections; • Agreement reached on a future technical assistance plan that will focus on improving compliance management; • An evaluation of PFTAC and IMF recommendations has shown that the large majority have been implemented.
Tonga	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the Banking Supervision Department attended the annual PFTAC Banking Supervision workshop which was held in Samoa {one week}; • The Technical Advisor established a comprehensive on-site examination program at the National Reserve Bank of Tonga. The program included a mission to develop the appropriate steps required for the staff to prepare for an on-site examination of a commercial bank. A subsequent mission dealt with the actual on-site examination and the preparation of a draft report; • A program is now in place whereby the PFTAC Technical advisor will participate in the planning of the examination program and attend each on-site examination for the purpose of providing technical advice in the interpretation of findings and the drafting of the final report. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank staff increased its ability to adequately manage the delivery of an off-site supervision and on-site examination program of its commercial banking sector.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the methodologies used to compile national accounts estimates; • Improve capacities for the compilation of national accounts estimates. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided training to the compilers of national accounts statistics.
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p>

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building on developing integrated macroeconomic and fiscal framework for monitoring and projection activities. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macroeconomic monitoring / projection framework – in progress;• Staff trained to use framework effectively -- in progress.

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Tuvalu	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuvalu participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Developing a medium-term budget with better integration of planning/budgeting, and beginning an asset repair/replacement account; • Revising Financial Instructions; • Tuvalu participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget document prepared for 2015 (with significant support from an Australian funded budget advisor) is expected to have a greater policy focus and give more attention to medium-term issues; • An asset repair/replacement account centrally managed by MOF and DPW will likely be created in the 2015 budget; • Revised Financial Instructions have been drafted, and are undergoing Cabinet review. Adoption is anticipated soon.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Administration Review May 13 – 15, 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation mission planned for February 2015.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request for technical assistance with developing the oversight of the banking sector was received by PFTAC in November. The request is being reviewed.
	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve capacities for the compilation of national accounts estimates. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided training to the compilers of national accounts statistics.
	Macroeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct Technical Assistance in 2014

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Vanuatu	PFM	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanuatu participated in the annual PFTAC/Australia DOF Strategic Development Program in February 2014; • Training and implementation assistance on use of the “Teammate” software, and Guidance to improve Internal Audit policy and legal frameworks, business processes and institutional arrangements; • Preparatory missions assisting the MOF to begin a non-tax revenue review; • Vanuatu participated in the Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014; • Vanuatu participated in the workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan formulated to improve non-tax revenue management, and first stage of non-tax revenue review has started in preparation for more intense follow-up in 2015; • Internal Audit plan now being revised to become risk-based; use of audit management software (Teammate) for audit operations; and building up database of audit findings started.
	Revenue	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a review of the current reform program and Compliance Improvement Strategy and Training needs identified; • Evaluated the current corporate strategy and refreshed the Strategy in line with the new Directors Vision and Mission. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiencies improved through a more robust approach to compliance management – agreement reached to further strengthen the Compliance Plan in 2015; • A refreshed Corporate Strategy was produced in November, 2014 and is currently under discussion.
	Financial Supervision	<p><u>Technical Assistance provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the Banking Supervision Department attended the annual PFTAC Banking Supervision workshop which was held in Samoa {one week}. <p><u>Concrete results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff of the Supervisory department increased its knowledge of principles of banking supervision.
Vanuatu	Statistics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the GDP rebase; • Analysis of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (2010) (HIES) results; • Improve compilation system and collect additional data; • Assist with the consumer price index (CPI) rebase. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provided on CPI rebase methodology; • HIES analyzed for incorporation on the rebased estimates; • Compilation system streamlined and better documented; • Collection of business annual accounts underway; • Vanuatu participated in training at the sub-regional level with compilers from the Solomon Islands and PNG.
	Macroeconomics	<p><u>Technical Assistance Provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building on developing integrated macroeconomic - fiscal framework for monitoring and projection activities. <p><u>Concrete Results:</u></p>

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Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macroeconomic monitoring / projection framework – in progress;• Staff trained to use framework effectively -- in progress.

Country	TA Sector	List of Activities and concrete Results achieved (January – November 2014)
Regional	PFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2014 PFM Strategic Development Program (with Australia DOF) focused on Budget Preparation. Fourteen participants represented 12 PICs; • Workshop (sponsored jointly by PFTAC and SPC) on Deep Sea Minerals Fiscal Issues in May 2014. Participants came from 12 PFTAC/SPC members, as well as several regional NGOs, academic institutions, and DSM exploration and mining companies; • Workshop co-sponsored by PASAI, PFTAC, and PICPA on International Accounting Standards in July 2014. Participants included 45 senior officials from 12 PICs; • Liaison/training coordination with PICPA.
	Revenue	<p>PFTAC provided assistance in establishing PITAA as a Regional Training Association. The following training initiatives were presented during this period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Modern Tax Administration • Taxpayer Services • Training needs analysis conducted • Regional workshop on capacity building and support frameworks.
	Financial Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Technical Advisor attended a number of Financial Sector Development Partners meetings aimed at exchanging on the work been performed in the region and to seek common ground on how to adequately service the need of the Pacific and avoid duplication; • The Technical Advisor attended the annual Credit Union World Conference that was held in Australia in July. He was involved as a moderator for a session on Anti Money Laundering; • Presented two workshops at the Oceania Confederation of Credit Unions' Annual Technical Congress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulatory Challenges to credit Unions in the Pacific ○ Understanding Financial Reports for Information and Decision Making; • The Technical Advisor attended the annual PFTAC steering Committee meeting held in Nadi and presented on his activities; • The Technical Advisor will attend the annual Governors' meeting in December. He will present on his activities and plans for next year; • PFTAC sponsored the annual one week Banking Supervision workshop which was held in Samoa in 2014. A short-term expert was engaged to provide the training component; • The Technical Advisor organized a three day workshop in PNG for regional Supervisors focused on "Managing a Banking Supervision Department". Participants included representatives from PNG, Salomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands; • The Technical Advisor held a five day workshop on Risk Based Banking Supervision in Guam for Island countries of the Northern region. (Palau, Marshall Islands and FSM); • The Technical Advisor with the support of the IMF Legal Department held a one week workshop on Credit Unions legislation in Guam for countries of the Northern Region (Palau, Marshall Islands and FSM).

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Regional	Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop focused on data sources and data capture systems improvements for national accounts compilers from FSM, Palau and RMI. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with a local resident statistics advisor; • Workshop focused on the incorporation of household income and expenditure survey data in the national accounts and CPI for compilers from the PNG, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; • Workshop focused on methodologies used to compile national accounts statistics in constant prices and QNA methodologies for national accounts compilers from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu; • Coordination of statistical activities with other TA providers, donors and TA recipients within the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee which oversees the implementation of the Ten Year Plan Statistics Strategy recently redeveloped for the period 2014-2017.
	Macroeconomic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on the monetary policy transmission mechanism in the Pacific (organized and conducted in coordination with the Center for Central Banking Studies at the Bank of England); • Workshop on fiscal policy analysis and forecasting (organized and conducted in coordination with the IMF Singapore Training Institute); • Workshops on macroeconomic forecasting and fiscal planning (organized and conducted in coordination with the ADB, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the University of the South Pacific's Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration (PICPA)).