

Key Results from PFIP-II Final Evaluation - December 2019



Unlocking Public and Private Finance for the Poor

The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) was developed to support the expansion of financial inclusion in one of the least-banked regions in the world: the Pacific islands. PFIP-II is organized by macro- meso- and micro-level interventions implemented through three workstreams: 1) Policy and Regulations, 2) Financial Innovation and 3) Consumer Empowerment. PFIP-II also emphasizes the importance of financial inclusion through a gender- and human rights-lens, which are aligned with the United Nation’s goal of “Leaving No One Behind” in pursuit of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2008

Initiated to further financial inclusion in the least banked region in the world-the Pacific Islands. Provide performance based grants and technical assistance to eligible FSPs.

2008-14

Work in the areas of mobile money, capacity development of central banks, National Financial Inclusion Task Force.

2014

Continue to work in 3 core areas: 1) Policy and Regulations, 2) Financial Innovation and 3) Consumer Empowerment Greater focus on gender and to provide meaningful solutions to migrant populations for advancing financial inclusion in the region.

2017

Program funding increased by USD 26.2 million. Working in synergy with regional and national plans and in different contexts-geography and natural disaster, etc.

Phase I-PFIP

Phase II-PFIP

Key Results



Driving National, Regional, and Global Synergies in Policymaking



Support to Key Market Actors Test New Models in Support of the Underbanked

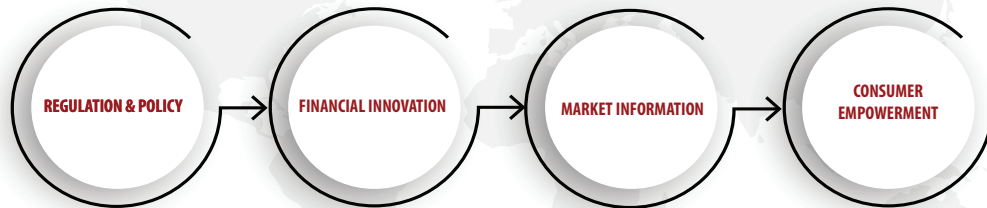


Knowledge Products Appreciated by Key Partners and Used in the Development of Policy, Regulations and Product Development



Programme is Relatively Cost-Efficient with Good Sustainability Prospects on the Policy Front

Work Streams



Constraints



PFIP Could Pay More Attention to Questions of Consumer Protection



PFIP Could Put More Attention on Developing Gender Sensitive/Gender Transformative Products



PFIP Could Improve Outcome Monitoring - Including SDG Monitoring - in its Results Measurement System

Conclusions

Extremely successful in ensuring that each focus country has a NFIS (National Financial Inclusion Strategy) in place that provides a structured policy pathway towards determined financial inclusion goals.

Further supported the development of a financial inclusion ecosystem in Pacific island countries. Programme support to embed financial education in school curricula was particularly appreciated.

The financial innovation workstream facilitated the testing of many new products, solutions and channels through the innovation Hub

At the time of evaluation, programme partners had enrolled 779,633 consumers into formal financial services against a target of 1.5 million people! To date, impacts on product uptake, usage and adoption can be considered moderate.

Recommendations

Policy and regulations: enhance engagement with central banks; bring payments system to the center stage and contextualize agency banking for Pacific Island countries.

Consumer empowerment: replicate and scale FinEd initiative to other PICs; strengthen integration of consumer awareness initiatives in innovation projects; drive compliance to consumer protection framework as an industry practice across PICs.

Financial innovation: focus on financial products/services/channels that need attention (e.g.: insurance, digitization of G2P; SME financing); set up agency banking for success; bring gender center stage through focused implementation; build a stronger accountability framework for implementation partners; compare programme costs with peers to streamline budgetary allocations.

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