



FACTSHEET 2 - APPLYING FOR PRIF ASSISTANCE

What assistance does PRIF provide?

PRIF provides assistance to Pacific island countries for infrastructure activities through :

- Advisory and technical assistance [through the Pacific Infrastructure Advisory Centre (PIAC)]: sector-wide analysis, strategy formulation, priority identification and project formulation; and
- Investment in infrastructure projects: project design and development and both capital and recurrent costs.

Pacific island countries are encouraged to have:

- A single government agency responsible for coordination of other infrastructure agencies and for contact with PRIF development partners on their infrastructure needs;
- A process to determine infrastructure priorities that will lead development partners; and
- A roadmap for future investment in economic infrastructure.

Countries can request PRIF assistance through PIAC to help them develop these processes, priorities and roadmaps.

Steps in applying for PRIF assistance

The key steps in applying for funding assistance through PRIF are as follows:

Step	What (When)	By Whom
1. Application	Partner countries may submit a funding proposal or technical assistance request at any time using the TA Request Form	Partner country, with advice and input from PIAC if/as requested.
2. Initial screening	PIAC will review requests and proposal applications against threshold criteria	PIAC
3. Assessment and approval	PIAC will assess the proposal against funding guidelines and PRIF principles. Depending on	PIAC plus other technical inputs if/as needed, providing advice to the IWG and SMT.

	the fund requirement, PIAC can directly fund the request or make recommendations to the Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) for either PRIF funding by a lead PRIF development partner or other funding agencies. Final approval of PRIF-funded projects will be done by the SMT upon endorsement by the IWG.	
4. Funding agreement	PIAC and/or the lead PRIF development partner will manage formal documentation of funding arrangements.	Partner country, lead PRIF development partner and/or PIAC

1. Application

Funding assistance through PRIF will be assessed in accordance with the PRIF priority principles.

Pacific island country governments may apply for grant funding, advisory and technical assistance, and infrastructure development support at any time, however the application should:

- Indicate that the proposal has been formally endorsed by the partner country's aid coordination unit, Ministry/Department of Finance, or similar unit;
- Indicate the total amounts, fund sources and timing to implement the activity (including Government budget, loans, donor contributions together with the amounts and timing of PRIF assistance sought within these totals);
- Indicate whether the application has been discussed with representatives of one or more of the PRIF development partners at a country level and, if so, whether it has PRIF development partner support;
- Be submitted to the Pacific Infrastructure Advisory Centre (PIAC) by emailing: piac@theprif.org

2. Initial screening of applications

PIAC will conduct initial screening of fund applications to:

- Ensure that they conform with PRIF and Partners' principles, country ownership, and support good governance and institutional capacity;
- Determine whether the proposed activity can be assisted through PIAC or will need to be referred to the PRIF Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) for funding decision.

3. Assessment and approval of application

PIAC will conduct technical assessment of requests and proposals by country governments and may offer suggestion to ensure that they address the country's infrastructure development needs and priorities. PIAC may also assist in expanding the terms of reference for the proposal , identify the specialists (in consultation with the country government) to undertake the assignment, prepare detailed implementation and cost schedules, and ensure that risks and cross-cutting issues that may impact on the project have been considered.

4. Funding agreement

Each approved funding proposal will be subject to a formal funding agreement entered by the relevant Pacific island government with either the PIAC (for small-scale technical assistance proposals) or one or more of the development partners (for all other approved funding proposals).

These agreements will need to be tailored to the country and the approved activity in question, but will include for instance:

- the agreed purpose, form, amount, timing and duration of PRIF funding;
- the delivery mechanism for PRIF funding (e.g. stand-alone financing, hypothecated budget support delivered via the country partner's budgetary system);
- disbursement triggers such as milestones for the disbursement of any performance-related components of the PRIF funding;
- financial management and procurement procedures and standards;
- lead responsibility for ongoing liaison with the country partner in relation to the activity;
- monitoring, evaluation and financial auditing arrangements; and
- Development partner policy requirements in relation to relevant cross-cutting issues.

Individual funding agreements will clearly specify lead responsibilities within the country partner and amongst the development partners for ongoing liaison and joint monitoring/evaluation arrangements. Amongst the development partners a single partner will be assigned lead responsibility ,or alternatively, that responsibility will be formally delegated to PIAC.

Criteria used to assess requests for PRIF Assistance

The following criteria will be applied when considering and assessing the merit of Requests for PRIF technical assistance and investment.

Is the request/proposal:

A. Merit of the Request/Proposal

1. Aligned with national and infrastructure sector development priorities? (Does it fit with the country's infrastructure plans, national development plans, and national budget, deliver on MDGs and provide or improve basic infrastructure)?
2. Well formulated and designed to target the identified needs or requirements of the sub-sector(s)?
3. Providing a clear justification in terms of specific objectives and outcomes?

B. Economic and Financial Evaluation

1. Supported by a government budget allocation?
2. Supported by a cost-benefit analysis?
3. Encouraging the opportunity for alternative sources of financing support, including private sector involvement?

C. Institutional Capacity and Governance

1. For the benefit of a small or fragile state?
2. Likely to strengthen a sub-sector that has lacked investment and support from past donor interventions?
3. Supportive of good governance and public sector reform including reform of State Owned Enterprises?
4. Supportive of improved financial management and public administration in the infrastructure sectors?
5. Likely to improve the legal and regulatory environment in the infrastructure sector?

D. Country Ownership

1. Country-led and supported by the finance and aid coordination agencies?
2. Consistent with and designed to advance the national agenda on infrastructure investment and operational effectiveness?
3. Exhibiting good practice in the implementation of infrastructure projects and effective development.

E. Alignment with PRIF and Partners' Principles

1. Supportive of the PRIF principles?
2. Linked to current or anticipated projects and/or supports those in the PRIF pipeline?
3. Aligned with proposed regional or country operational strategies of PRIF development partners?
4. Encouraging "good" country dialogue with donor partners; showing desire for long-term or increased level of engagement; and supporting the aid effectiveness agenda.

Figure 1: Application and screening process for requests for PRIF assistance

