



# Aid for Trade Work Programme 2018-2019

# “Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and Connectivity for Sustainable Development”

## Global Review 2017 – in numbers



- 111 questionnaires
- 145 case stories
- A flagship report with 8 author organizations
- 4 regional reports
- 55 sessions, 1,500 participants
- 2.7 million social media views
- All information publicly available on [WTO website](#)



# Digital connectivity



## AIDFORTRADE AT A GLANCE 2017



PROMOTING  
TRADE,  
INCLUSIVENESS  
AND CONNECTIVITY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

- Digital connectivity intertwines physical connectivity
- Digital divide is a market access one too
- Lack of digital connectivity reinforces economic isolation
- Digital divide characteristics: rural, MSMEs, gender
- Accessible and affordable connections needed
- Positive supply and demand measures available
- Key role of services' trade policies



# Aid for Trade & Financing for Development



- National connectivity plans – WSIS
- European External Investment Plan
- Working with the private sector
- Investment facilitation ideas & proposals
- Investment remains a thorny issue at WTO



# Trade facilitation



22 February 2017  
Legal entry into force  
of the TFA

- Border delays also obstruct ecommerce – particularly for MSMEs
- Digitalization of customs processes supports efficient clearance
- Evidence of mainstreaming of trade facilitation by developing countries and their development partners
- Positive impacts of support programmes



# Empowerment



- Female entrepreneurs face an additional range of obstacles as compared to their male peers
- Access to a digital connection is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition for ecommerce
- Positive news on mainstreaming:
  - 34 donor M&E respondents indicated that gender empowerment features in their AfT programmes
  - All developing country M&E respondents believe that AfT can make a contribution to women's economic empowerment
- Strong link between poor connectivity (physical/digital) and poverty, the burden of which falls disproportionately on women and girls.

# Pacific Events at the Fifth Global Review



- Context: 5GR “Reducing Trade Costs for Sustainable, Inclusive Growth”
- The Pacific region has the highest nature-caused trade costs
- Session 6: Reducing Trade Costs in Asia Pacific
  - Mere Falameka, Ambassador, Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum to the WTO)
  - Marokon Alilee, Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business, Vanuatu
- Session 8: Access to cooperation for SVEs through AfT (Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister for Public Enterprises, Samoa)
- Side Event 23: Discovering the Pacific Trade Potential (EIF, PIFS, Australia, WTO)
- Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands also contributed to discussion.



# Pacific Events at the 2017 Global Review

- Session 13: Regional Focus Session: “Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific: Promoting Connectivity and Inclusive Development”. Organizers: Asian Development Bank, World Trade Organization
  - Tuifa’Asisina Misa Lisati Leleisiuao Palemene, Associate Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Samoa
- Session 27: Development Hub: “Hack the Pacific: Bringing the Hackathon to Aid for Trade”. Organizer: Mission of Australia to the World Trade Organization
  - Robyn Ekstrom, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat

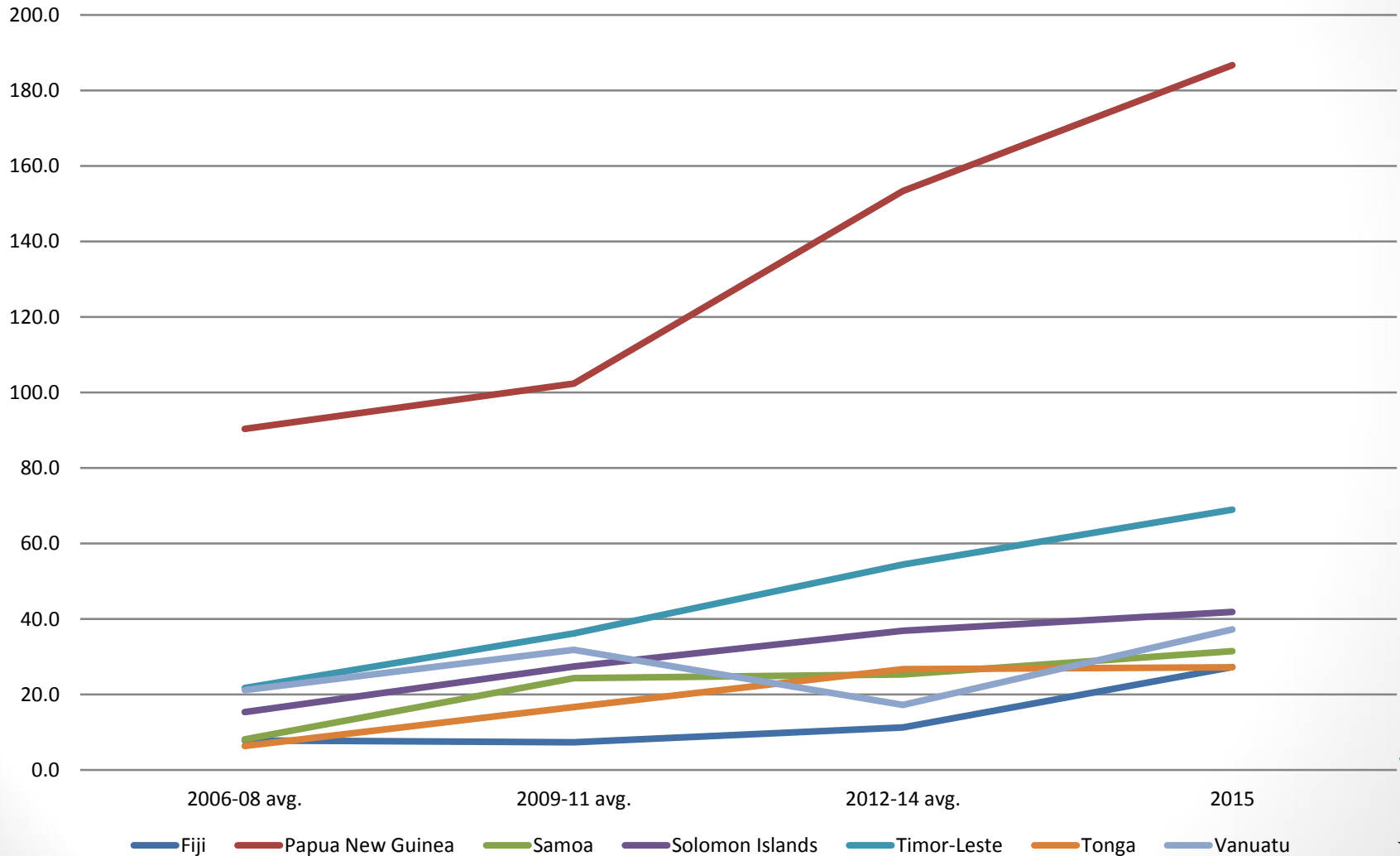




# Aid for Trade Flows to the Pacific Region

## AfT Disbursements to Oceania

(in million US\$, 2015 constant)



# Aid for Trade Flows to the Pacific Region

- Over the period 2006-2015
  - US\$ 3.39 bn ODA disbursed to Oceania (or 1.2% of US\$ 275 bn total)
  - US\$ 0.66 bn OOF disbursed to Oceania (or 0.3% of US\$ 245 bn total)

	2006-08 avg.	2009-11 avg.	2012-14 avg.	2015
— Fiji	7.8	7.4	11.3	27.3
— Papua New Guinea	90.4	102.3	153.4	186.7
— Samoa	8.1	24.3	25.3	31.5
— Solomon Islands	15.3	27.4	36.9	41.9
— Timor-Leste	21.7	36.2	54.4	69.0
— Tonga	6.4	16.7	26.7	27.2
— Vanuatu	21.2	31.8	17.3	37.2

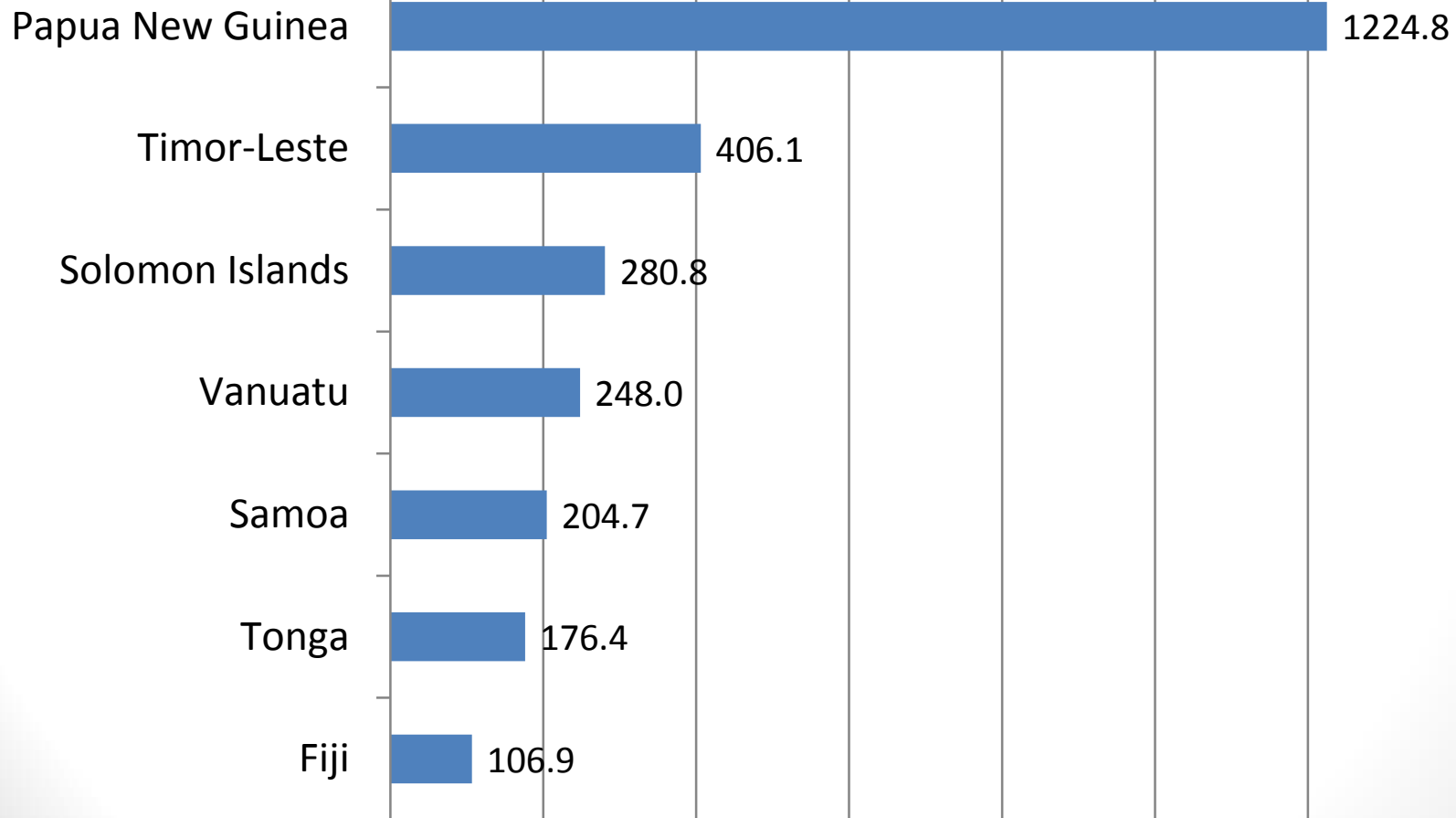


# Aid for Trade Flows to the Pacific Region

## Oceania Aft Recipients (Disbursements for 2006-2015)

*In million US\$, 2015 constant*

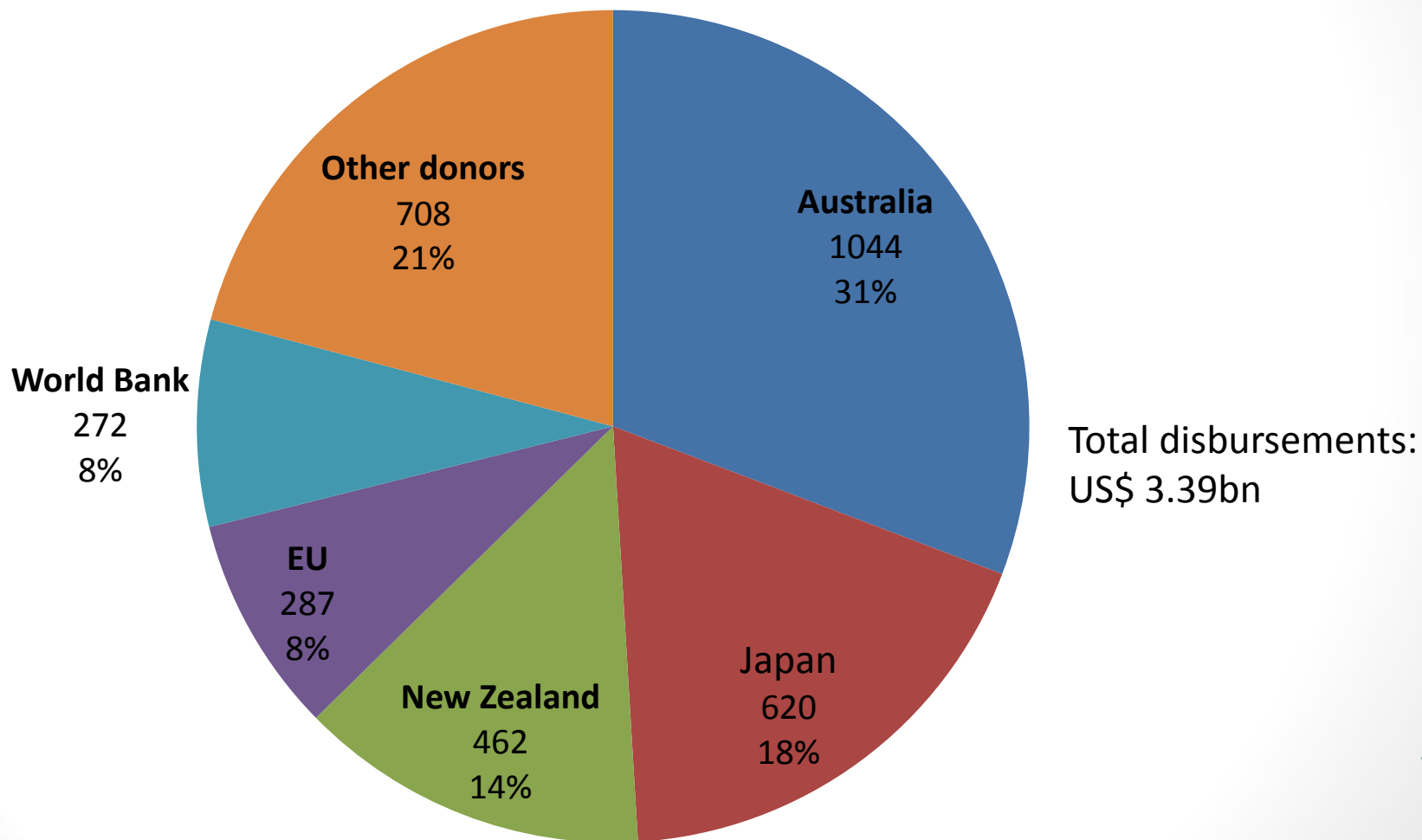
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# Aid for Trade Flows to the Pacific Region

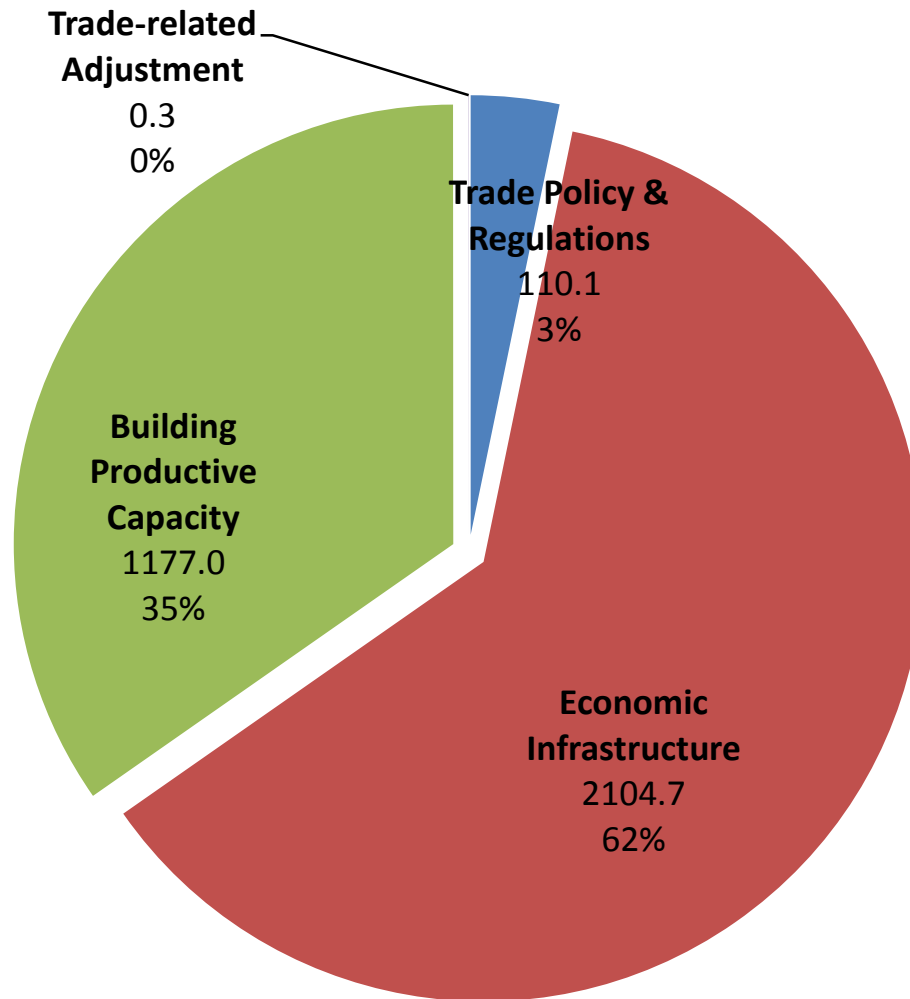
## Aid for Trade Disbursements to Oceania per Donor (2006-2015)

*In million US\$, 2015 constant*



# Aid for Trade Flows to the Pacific Region

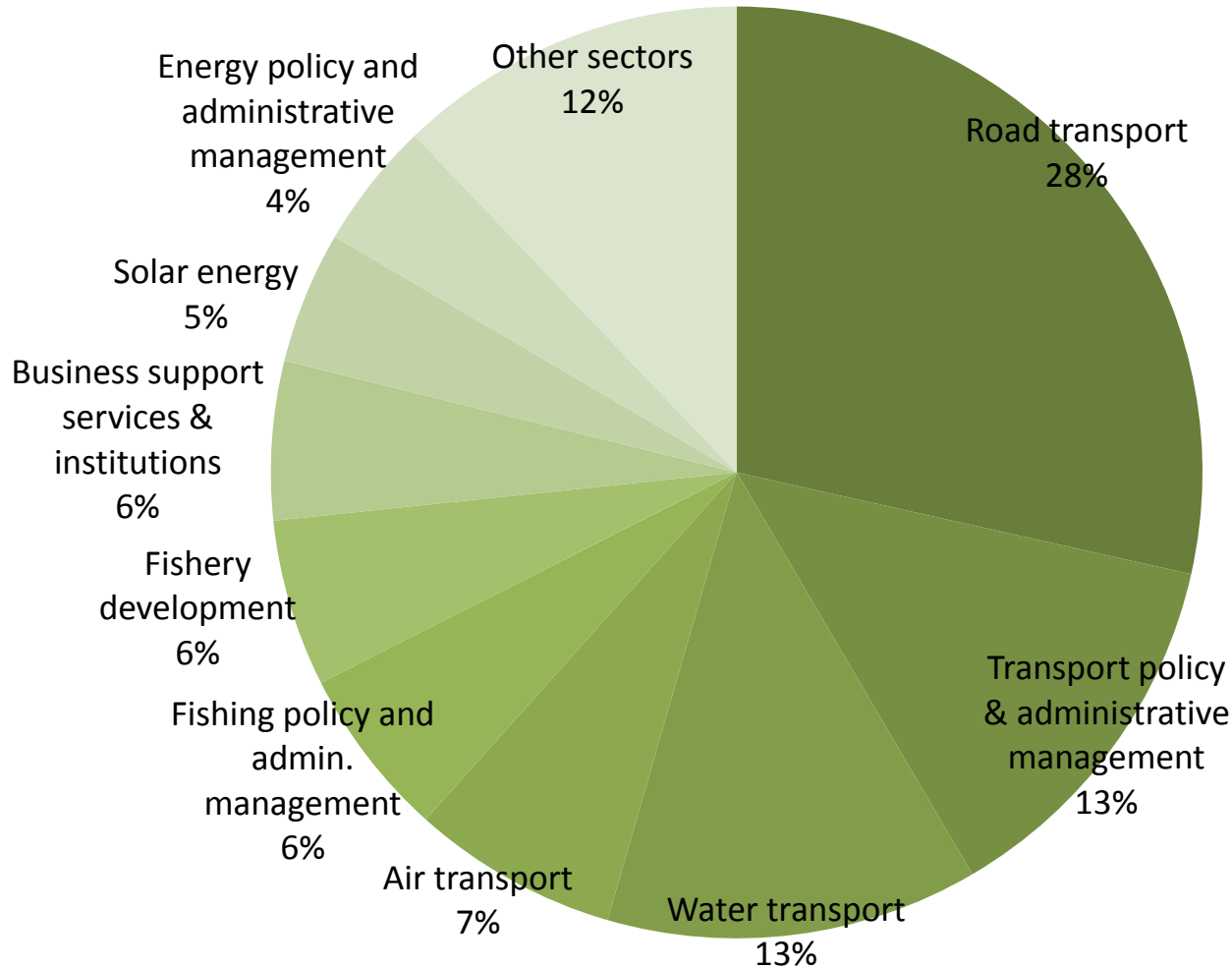
AfT Disbursements to Oceania by Category (2006-2015)



# Aid for Trade Flows to the Pacific Region

## Oceania - Top Sectors of AfT Disbursements (2006-2015)

*In US\$ million, 2015 constant*



# Where next?

## Issues

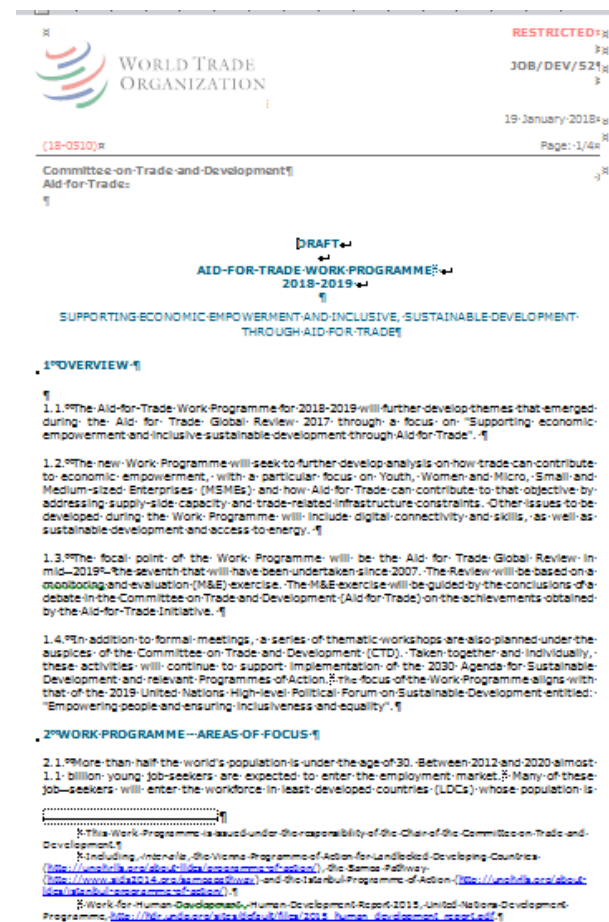
- Changing trade and aid landscape
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- LDC participation in multilateral trade

## Process

- Ministerial conference
- New work programme for 2018-19



MC11  
BUENOS AIRES  
2017



# Supporting Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade

Elements of economic empowerment to be :

- Youth
- Women
- MSMEs

Focus aligns with 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Other areas of work programme focus:

- Digital connectivity and skills
- Sustainable development and access to energy





## Supporting Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade



- More than half the world's population is under the age of 30.
- Almost 1.1 billion young job-seekers are expected to enter the employment market between 2012-20
- Young people aged 15 to 24 years disproportionately more affected by unemployment than their adult counterparts.
- Research suggests that young women are badly affected by youth unemployment.
- High-growth firms in developing countries tend to play a disproportionately large role in job creation. Such firms tend to be small in size (less than ten employees) and young in existence (i.e. less than ten years old).

# Supporting Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade



- Unprecedented speed of technical change in the global economy
- Skills are an area Global Review identified as critical
- Digital skills are a foundational element for participation in e-commerce



## Supporting Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade

- Pursuing structural transformation and export diversification in the context of the transition to green economy.
- SDG 7 that relates to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Access to electricity highlighted as a major constraint for digital connectivity.
- Energy generation is also one of the largest items in Aid-for-Trade (AfT) spending by development partners.

# Supporting Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade

- Overview of AfT achievements
- Discussion of monitoring methodology and frequency of Global Reviews.
- Next Global Review planned mid-2019

