



The Central Bank of Samoa (CBS) in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), will be co-hosting a workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020, at the Lava Hotel to launch and discuss the report on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Access to Finance in Samoa. This report is the culmination of an assessment conducted by Mr. John Harding which was initiated in late 2019. Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic the opportunity to conduct a further assessment on MSME impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic was also undertaken. As such, an additional COVID-19 supplementary report and recommendations was commissioned and will also be released and discussed at the workshop. Both reports will be available on the CBS and ESCAP websites following the workshop. These studies were undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada.

The MSME Access to Finance report is a key complement to the Samoa MSME Development and Policy Strategy spearheaded by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL). Both assignments were commissioned around the same time and was a great opportunity for these studies to collaborate.

The consultation and the objective of the workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> August aims to:

- Further dissemination of the findings and recommendations in a multi-stakeholder format.
- Discuss the key recommendations and how the recommendations can be applied and taken forward to support MSME access to finance and business growth in Samoa.
- Discuss the key recommendations and how the recommendations can be applied to specifically support women owned/led MSMEs in Samoa.
- To gain consensus on the key recommendations to be taken forward, the responsible entity to lead such initiatives and consensus as to what additional support/resources/efforts are needed to advance the recommendations into action.