

Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) - Indicators for Outcomes Report

June 2025



The RIF is a \$1.2 billion government fund launched in July 2024 to strengthen regional economic growth and resilience across New Zealand.

To ensure transparency, accountability, and effective impact measurement, Cabinet approved a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in June 2024. This framework sets out 11 key outcomes for the fund, along with multiple indicators to assess whether the fund is achieving these outcomes and to what extent.

The Indicators for Outcomes Report tracks progress against these indicators. For each outcome, it shows:

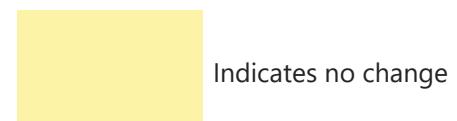
- the baseline value
- the latest available value
- whether the change is moving in the desired direction

Data for these indicators comes from multiple sources with varying update schedules. Values will be refreshed as new data becomes available.

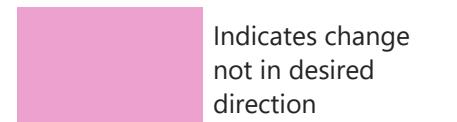
CHANGE LEGEND



Indicates change in
desired direction



Indicates no change



Indicates change
not in desired
direction



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Definitions

In this report we use the Infometrics regional groupings 'Provincial' and 'Rural' for some indicators.

The regional groupings are made up of groups of territorial authorities based on that area's characteristics. The groupings are:

Provincial

Ashburton District, Central Otago District, Far North District, Gisborne District, Hastings District, Horowhenua District, Invercargill City, Kaipara District, Kapiti Coast District, Manawatu District, Marlborough District, Masterton District, Matamata-Piako District, Napier City, Nelson City, New Plymouth District, Rotorua District, Selwyn District, South Taranaki District, South Waikato District, Southland District, Tasman District, Taupo District, Thames-Coromandel District, Timaru District, Waikato District, Waimakariri District, Waipa District, Waitaki District, Wanganui District, Western Bay of Plenty District, Whakatane District.

Rural

Buller District, Carterton District, Central Hawke's Bay District, Clutha District, Gore District, Grey District, Hauraki District, Hurunui District, Kaikoura District, Kawerau District, Mackenzie District, Opotiki District, Otorohanga District, Rangitikei District, Ruapehu District, South Wairarapa District, Stratford District, Tararua District, Waimate District, Wairoa District, Waitomo District, Westland District.

We use these groupings as they exclude metro areas so better reflect outcomes in the regions.

Increased flood protection



The baselines for indicators 1.1 to 1.4 have been set at zero as of July 2024, which corresponds to the commencement of the fund. The baseline setting does not indicate the absence of pre-existing flood protection measures. It reflects that these indicators are designed to capture the incremental flood protection attributable exclusively to RIF-funded investments, as opposed to protection already in place prior to the fund's inception.

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
1.1 Residential, commercial, and industrial land protected	0 July 2024	203 June 2025	203 	ha.	Area (ha.) of residential, commercial, and industrial land protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline
1.2 Pastoral, horticultural, catchment area land, and wetlands protected	0 July 2024	200 June 2025	200 	ha.	Area (ha.) of pastoral, horticultural, catchment area land, and wetlands protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline
1.3 Road and rail protected	0 July 2024	0 June 2025	0 	kms	Length (kms) of rural/urban (local) roads, highways, and railways protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline
1.4 Structures protected	0 July 2024	1 June 2025	1 	n structures	Number of structures protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure (including bridges, hospitals, schools, marae, halls, power pylons, substations, telecommunication towers, airports)	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline
1.5 Value of contracted RIF investments that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$228M June 2025	\$228M 	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
1.6 Number of RIF investments that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	48 June 2025	48 	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

Increased water security

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
2.1 Irrigation volumes increase	5.7bn June 2024	5.7bn June 2024	0 →	cubic metres	Volume of irrigation (cubic metres)	Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA)	Increase over baseline
2.2 Water storage volumes increase	58.0bn June 2024	58.0bn June 2024	0 →	cubic metres	Volume of consented water storage (cubic metres)	Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA)	Increase over baseline
2.3 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$65M June 2025	\$65M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
2.4 Number of RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	9 June 2025	9 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

More jobs for locals (especially job seekers)

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
3.1 Increase in filled jobs in regions RIF will invest in.	1.55M July 2024	1.54M June 2025	-11.26K 	n filled jobs	Employment in filled jobs in regions (excl. Auckland)	Stats NZ employment indicators	Increase over baseline
3.2 Reduction in MSD Job Seeker numbers.	196K June 2024	216K June 2025	20K 	n people	Number of MSD Working Age Population (18-64) receiving Job Seeker Support	MSD Quarterly Reporting – Benefit Fact Sheets	Decrease under baseline
3.3 Number of Annual FTEs employed by RIF funded projects.	0 July 2024	80.0 June 2025	80.0 	FTEs	Number of Annual FTEs employed by RIF funded projects.	Number of Annual FTEs employed by RIF funded projects.	Increase over baseline
3.4 Regional multipliers estimates of FTEs sustained by RIF investments.	0 July 2024	2.9K June 2025	2.9K 	FTEs	FTEs from regional multipliers include direct, indirect, and induced FTEs	Kānoa economic impact estimates using regional multipliers	Increase over baseline
3.5 Proportion of local persons employed on RIF funded projects.	0 July 2024	79% June 2025	79% 	%	Proportion of project employees local to the region	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	Increase over baseline



For indicators 3.1 and 3.2, the RIF is expected to have a limited impact, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence.

More jobs for locals (especially job seekers)

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
3.6 Proportion of persons employed from off Job Seeker Support by RIF funded projects.	0 July 2024	0.3% June 2025	0.3% ↑	%	Proportion of project employees previously on Job Seeker Support	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	Increase over baseline
3.7 Proportion of Māori employed by RIF funded projects.	0 July 2024	16% June 2025	16% ↑	%	Proportion of Māori project employees	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	Increase over baseline
3.8 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$275M June 2025	\$275M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
3.9 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	55 June 2025	55 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

Improved access to finance for locals and Māori

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
4.1 Firms and Māori businesses and organisations invested in are more able to access additional finance from private providers.	0 July 2024	1 June 2025	1	n investments	Firms and Māori businesses and organisations invested in indicate they are more able to access additional financial from private providers	Kānoa administrative data - project completion reports	More able to access private finance following RIF funding
4.2 Value of co-funding for RIF funded projects.	0 July 2024	35% June 2025	35%	% ↑	Proportion of co-funding to total contracted RIF deal value	Kānoa administrative data - application, assessment, and reporting	Ratio of co-funding to total RIF deal value of at least 30%
4.3 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$68M June 2025	\$68M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
4.4 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	8 June 2025	8 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

Increased private investment in local economies

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
5.1 More private investment in areas serviced by the infrastructure RIF creates. 	406K July 2024	411K June 2025	5K 	Geographic units (n businesses)	Geographic units (businesses) for regions	Stats NZ Infoshare	Increase over baseline
5.2 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$235M June 2025	\$235M 	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
5.3 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome	0 July 2024	49 June 2025	49 	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline



For indicator 5.1, the RIF is expected to have a limited impact, as this measure is affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence.

Reduced impacts of natural disaster

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
6.1 In the event of an actual natural disaster the RIF infrastructure resilience investments perform as expected.	TBC	TBC		TBC	RIF infrastructure resilience investments perform as expected during an actual natural disaster (including reducing what otherwise would have been spent on disaster recovery)	Multiple sources	Performance as expected
6.2 Regional insurance premium increases slow or decrease after RIF infrastructure resilience projects complete construction. ⓘ	\$1.8K April 2024	\$1.8K April 2024	\$0 →	\$	Insurance affordability by region	Treasury-Finity insurance price monitoring data	No rises each quarter
6.3 Insurance retreat in areas where the RIF invests in resilience infrastructure is slowed or reversed after these projects complete construction. ⓘ	79% April 2024	79% April 2024	0% →	%	Availability of insurance by region	Treasury-Finity insurance price monitoring data	No decline each quarter



For indicators 6.2 and 6.3, the RIF is likely to have a limited impact, as these indicators are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence.

Reduced impacts of natural disaster

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
6.4 Investments in enhancing resilient regional transport networks (land, sea or air).	0	0	0	\$	Value of total investment (funding and co-funding) in resilient regional transport networks (land, sea or air)	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: rail or road or airports sectors	Increase over baseline
6.5 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0	\$253M	\$253M	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
6.6 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0	51	51	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

More vital assets and services protected

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
7.1 Number of vital assets and services protected increases.	0 July 2024	1 June 2025	1 ↑	n structures	Count of vital assets and services protected	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (from projects completed)	Increase over baseline
7.2 Resilience of vital assets and services increases.	0 July 2024	1 June 2025	1 ↑	n investments	Vital assets and services are more resilient according to RIF project completion reports	Kānoa administrative data – project completion reports	Increase over baseline
7.3 Investments in digital connectivity.	\$0 July 2024	\$0 June 2025	\$0 →	\$	Value of RIF investments in digital connectivity	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: ICT & digital connectivity sector	Increase over baseline
7.4 Investments in food security.	\$0 July 2024	\$0 June 2025	\$0 →	\$	Value of RIF investments in food security	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: agriculture/horticulture sector	Increase over baseline

More vital assets and services protected

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
7.5 Investments in energy security.	\$0 July 2024	\$9M June 2025	\$9M ↑	\$	Value of RIF investments in energy security	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: energy sector	Increase over baseline
7.6 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$263M June 2025	\$263M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
7.7 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	52 June 2025	52 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
8.1a Provincial economies grow during and post the period of investment.	\$104.5bn March 2024	\$104.5bn March 2024	\$0 ⇒	\$	Change in GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.1b Rural economies grow during and post the period of investment.	\$18.3bn March 2025	\$18.3bn March 2024	\$0 ⇒	\$	Change in GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.2 The Māori economy grows during and post project completion.	\$32.0bn 2023	\$32.0bn 2023	\$0 ⇒	\$	Change in Māori economy GDP nationally	MBIE & BERL Te Āhanga Māori	Increase over baseline
8.3a Growth in new and emerging industries (incl. aquaculture, agritech, advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, technology and innovation) in provincial areas.	\$25.3bn March 2024	\$25.3bn March 2024	\$0 ⇒	\$	Change in new and emerging industry GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline

 For indicators 8.1a to 8.3a, the RIF is expected to have a limited impact, as these indicators are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence. See page 2 for definitions of provincial and rural.

Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
8.3b Growth in new and emerging industries (incl. aquaculture, agritech, advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, technology and innovation) in rural areas.	\$3.6bn	\$3.6bn	\$0	\$	Change in new and emerging industry GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.4a Arts and recreation services sectors of provincial economies grow post completion of investments that fit this outcome.	\$1.2bn	\$1.2bn	\$0	\$	Change in arts and recreation services industry GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.4b Arts and recreation services sectors of rural economies grow post completion of investments that fit this outcome.	\$227M	\$227M	\$0	\$	Change in arts and recreation services industry GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline



For indicators 8.3b to 8.4b, the RIF is expected to have a limited impact, as these indicators are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence. See page 2 for definitions of provincial and rural.

Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
8.5a Construction industry of provincial economies grows during the period of investment. ⓘ	\$7.5bn	\$7.5bn	\$0	\$	Change in construction industry GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.5b Construction industry of rural economies grows during the period of investment. ⓘ	\$1.1bn	\$1.1bn	\$0	\$	Change in construction industry GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.6 More Māori employed in provincial and rural areas ⓘ	172K	172K	0	n people	Māori employment in filled jobs	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
8.7 Regional multipliers estimates of regional GDP created by RIF investments	\$0	\$285M	\$285M	\$	GDP from regional multipliers include direct, indirect, and induced GDP impacts of RIF investment outputs	Kānoa economic impact estimates using regional multipliers	Increase over baseline



For indicators 8.5a to 8.6, the RIF is expected to have a limited impact, as these indicators are influenced by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence. See page 2 for definitions of provincial and rural.

Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
8.8 Value of investment in cultural institutions, such as marae, museums, and performing arts centres.	\$0 July 2024	\$5.1M June 2025	\$5.1M ↑	\$	Value of total investment in the arts and recreation sector	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by enabling infrastructure allocation: arts and recreation sector	Increase over baseline
8.9 Value of investment in food production.	\$0 July 2024	\$6.4M June 2025	\$6.4M ↑	\$	Value of total investment in the agriculture / horticulture, aquaculture and fishing sectors	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by enabling infrastructure allocation: agriculture / horticulture, aquaculture and fishing sectors	Increase over baseline
8.10 Value of investment in whenua Māori land entities.	\$0 July 2024	\$0 June 2025	\$0 →	\$	Value of total investment in whenua Māori land entities	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by enabling infrastructure allocation: agriculture / horticulture, aquaculture and fishing sectors; and Māori entity	Increase over baseline
8.11 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$262M June 2025	\$262M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
8.12 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	52 June 2025	52 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

Increased local innovation



For indicator 9.1, the RIF is likely to have a limited impact, as this measure is affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence.

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
9.1 Increase in local innovation (new firms, products and production) that leverages or benefits from RIF funded local infrastructure.	406K July 2024	411K June 2025	5K ↑	Geographic units (n businesses)	Number of businesses (geographic units) in regions	Stats NZ Infoshare	Increase over baseline
9.2 Increase in firms with new or improved products or production methods from RIF investments that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	1 June 2025	1 ↑	n organisations	Number of firms that introduce new products or new production methods from RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and project completion reports on project benefits to RIF outcomes.	Increase over baseline
9.3 RIF investments in more innovative food production.	0 July 2024	0 June 2025	0 ⇒	n investments	Number of RIF investments in more innovative food production	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
9.4 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	\$80M June 2025	\$80M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
9.5 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	10 June 2025	10 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline

Increased local productivity

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
10.1a Higher levels of GDP per employee (or per capita) in provincial areas ⁽ⁱ⁾	\$63K March 2024	\$63K March 2024	\$0 →	\$	Change in GDP per employee (or per capita) in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
10.1b Higher levels of GDP per employee (or per capita) in rural areas ⁽ⁱ⁾	\$69K March 2024	\$69K March 2024	\$0 →	\$	Change in GDP per employee (or per capita) in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
10.2 Higher levels of Māori economy GDP ⁽ⁱ⁾	32.0bn 2023	32.0bn 2023	0% →	\$	Change in Māori economy GDP	MBIE & BERL Te Āhanga Māori	Increase over baseline

 For indicators 10.1a to 10.2, the RIF is expected to have a limited impact, as these indicators are influenced by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence. See page 2 for definitions of provincial and rural.

Increased local productivity

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
10.3 Increase in small business average productivity in regions where the RIF has invested. i	-6.1% Change in avg 2022 to 2023	-6.1% Change in avg 2022 to 2023	0%	%	Change in small business average productivity - business sales per hour worked - in regions where the RIF has invested	Xero small business productivity by region	Higher average productivity change post RIF investments 2026-2028
10.4 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$67M June 2025	\$67M	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
10.5 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	8 June 2025	8	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline



For indicator 10.3, the RIF is likely to have a limited impact, as this measure is affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence.

More highly-skilled local workers

Indicator	Baseline value	Latest value	Change	Units	Indicator description	Data source	Target
11.1a A greater proportion of employment in provincial areas is in higher skilled jobs. (i)	36.2% March 2024	36.2% March 2024	0% →	%	Highly-skilled share of total employment in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
11.1b A greater proportion of employment in rural areas is in higher skilled jobs. (i)	37.3% March 2024	37.3% March 2024	0% →	%	Highly-skilled share of total employment in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline
11.2 Types of jobs created by RIF investments (more high skilled jobs).	0 July 2024	TBC		%	Occupation breakdown of RIF jobs directly created	Kānoa application form: applicant estimates of FTEs created by broad skill level	Proportion of skilled jobs is greater than low-skilled jobs created (i.e. >50%)
11.3 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	\$0 July 2024	\$88M June 2025	\$88M ↑	\$	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline
11.4 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	0 July 2024	10 June 2025	10 ↑	n investments	Number of total RIF investments that fits this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline



For indicators 11.1a & b, the RIF is likely to have a limited impact, as this measure is affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may not be sufficient to offset other forces that exert a negative influence.

See page 2 for definitions of provincial and rural.