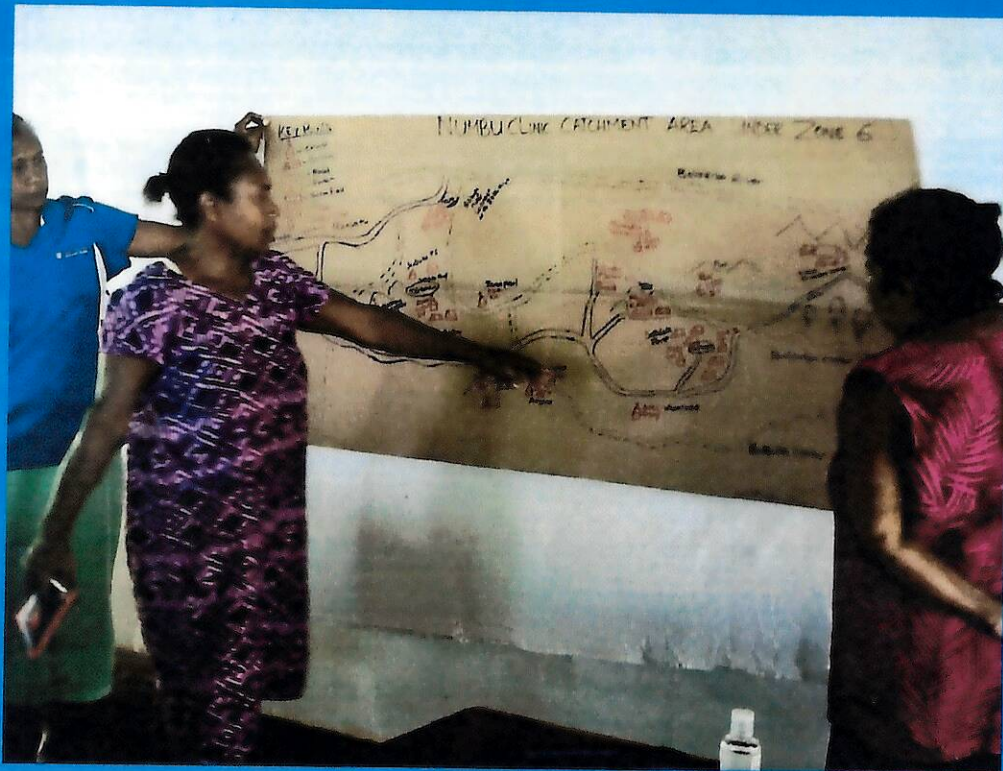


# PROPOSAL

## Support to Solomon Islands Response to COVID 19



**January 2021**

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO:

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

unicef  for every child

UNICEF PACIFIC MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE

## Joint Programme Document: Cover Page

PROJECT SUMMARY	
Fund Name	India-UN Development Partnership Fund
Country	Solomon Islands (Asia-Pacific Region)
Sustainable Development Goals	3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages
Programme title	Support to Solomon Islands Response to COVID 19
Agency(s)	UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Office United Nations Office for South to South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
Project duration	12 months
Expected beneficiaries	2,000 Health Workers
Implementing partners	Ministry of Health and Medical Services of the Solomon Islands Government
Duration of contribution	12 months
Budget	US\$ 980,329 (Co-funding from other donors 700,000)
Contacts	Vathinee Jitjaturunt Deputy Representative, UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Office vjitjaturunt@unicef.org Phone: +679 992 5613

Short description

In line with Phase 2 of the COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan (PAP) for health sector preparedness and response which focuses on mitigation and containment, the project will specifically contribute to the second and third objectives of the Plan to ensure that All Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have access to the latest science, technical guidance, clinical care, equipment & supplies to reduce preventable morbidity, mortality and the adverse social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and that health care workers are kept safe through access to the knowledge, skills and resources needed for safe practice, including access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and optimal infection prevention and control practices. The project will fund the procurement of PPE for health care workers in the Solomon Islands to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and essential medical equipment and supplies.

Key words

- COVID-19 Response
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Pacific Islands Countries
- Solomon Islands

Overview of Budget to be spent by Agency

<b>UNICEF</b>	951,776
<b>UNOSCC</b>	28,553
<b>TOTAL Programme Funds</b>	980 329
<b>Other Funds contributing to Programme Objectives</b>	700,000

Timeframe

Start Date	End Date	Duration
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	12 months

Partners

Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Solomon Islands  
World Health Organisations  
World Food Organisation

Signature page

<b>Resident Coordinator</b> Sanaka Samarasinha, UNRC Date: Signature and Seal: 	<b>National Coordinating Authority</b> Name: Pauline Boseta McNeil, Permanent Secretary, MHMS Date: Signature and Seal: 
<b>Participating UN Organisation</b> Name of PUNO: UNICEF Name of Representative: Sheldon Yett Date: Signature and Seal: 	



## Contents

I.	List of Acronyms .....	4
II.	Executive Summary .....	5
III.	Background and Rationale.....	5
IV.	Expected results .....	6
V.	Target Audience.....	7
VI.	Implementing Modality .....	7
VII.	Monitoring and Reporting.....	8
VIII.	Results Framework.....	8
IX.	Results-based Budget .....	9
X.	Detailed Budget: PPE Procurement List Of Items.....	9
XI.	Communications and Visibility .....	10

## I. List of Acronyms

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
HCWs	Health Care Workers
IHR	International Health Regulations
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
JIMT	Joint Incident Management Team
LMIC	Low-to-middle income countries
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
nCoV	novel coronavirus
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

## II. Executive Summary

In line with Phase 2 of the COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan (PAP) for health sector preparedness and response which focuses on mitigation and containment, the project will specifically contribute to the second and third objectives of the Plan to ensure that All Pacific Island Countries (PICS) have access to the latest science, technical guidance, clinical care, equipment & supplies to reduce preventable morbidity, mortality and the adverse social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and that health care workers are kept safe through access to the knowledge, skills and resources needed for safe practice, including access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and optimal infection prevention and control practices. The project will fund the procurement of PPE for health care workers in the Solomon Islands.

The COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan covers the 14 Pacific Islands of the American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu & Wallis and Futuna and has a total planned budget of US \$43 million.

## III. Background and Rationale

In December 2019, the novel coronavirus (nCoV), a new strain of coronavirus detected in humans was identified. By end of January 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the outbreak of this new coronavirus, COVID-19, constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. WHO declared it a global pandemic in March 2020 after it has spread to some 114 countries. Between December 2019 and October 2020, over 37 million COVID-19 cases and 1 million deaths were reported globally. In the week preceding 11 October, over 2.2 million new cases and 39,000 deaths of COVID-19 have been reported, the highest number of reported cases so far in a single week. Towards the end of 2020, second waves are hitting countries all over the world and Governments once again are struggling to mount COVID-19 response plans along with mitigation and containment responses. Small island states are not spared.

Governments of 14 Pacific Island Countries (PIC) are implementing phase 2 of the COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan for health sector preparedness and response which is supported by the WHO-led Western Pacific Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT) for COVID-19. UNICEF Pacific is a member of the JIMT and provides technical, operational, and procurement assistance. The JIMT for COVID-19 has been working on supporting health sector preparedness and response activities throughout the Pacific since January 2020, in complete alignment with the *WHO Global Response Strategy for COVID-19* and the draft *JIMT Pacific Regional Action Plan for Response to Large-scale Community Outbreaks for COVID-19 (17 March 2020)*.

Epidemiological evidence shows that COVID-19 is transmitted from person to person through respiratory droplets released into the air through coughing and sneezing, personal contact, and from the surface of contaminated objects. Unlike the closely related SARS-CoV there is increasing evidence of virus shedding in COVID-19 up to two days before the onset of symptoms, and a variable number of asymptomatic cases whose role in transmission is not known. Aerosol-generating procedures are a particular risk to unprotected health care workers (HCWs) i.e. there are HCWs who are not wearing the recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the activities they carry out.

Activities conducted under the Phase 2 Plan will work towards accomplishing the following overarching end of program outcomes:

1. Country readiness and response operations for COVID-19 scaled up for containment and mitigation

2. All PICs have access to the latest science, technical guidance, clinical care, equipment & supplies to reduce preventable morbidity, mortality and the adverse social and economic impacts of COVID-19
3. Health care workers are kept safe through access to the knowledge, skills and resources needed for safe practice, including access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and optimal infection prevention and control practices
4. COVID-19 transmission reduced through non-pharmaceutical interventions, risk communication and community engagement

In this request for support, the focus is on procurement of personal PPE under outcomes 2 and 3 and will contribute to keeping health care workers safe through procurement of supplies. Adequate supply and correct use of PPE in clinical, quarantine and isolation settings are critical to the main strategies for infection prevention and control (IPC) to reduce the spread of COVID-19. PPE includes gloves, medical/surgical masks, protective eye covering, gowns, respirators and other medical equipment, as identified in the WHO's guidance document *COVID-19 Technical Specifications for Personal Protective Equipment and Related IPC supplies*. It may also include core, basic materials needed to establish a safe setting to manage the COVID-19 response in health, quarantine, and isolation settings. To prevent shortages of PPE in the Solomon Islands, key PPE procurement considerations and justification were done.

In early 2020, UNICEF procured and disbursed PPE for the Primary Health Care systems in the Solomon Islands based on possible outbreak scenarios. In 2021, these consumable items need replenishment to ensure protection of HCWs and to reduce the risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 transmission.

This proposal for funding to the Government of India will expand the Solomon Islands' ability to set up effective, safe COVID-19 responses through the procurement of PPE to protect HCWs in clinical, quarantine and isolation settings.

The Pacific Island of the Solomon Islands is categorized as a low-to-middle income country (LMIC) by the World Bank, and remains COVID-19-contained, meaning there is currently no community-spread of the virus and all positive identified cases are in government mandated isolation. The Ministries of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) have put in place measures to ensure the COVID-19 virus is identified and kept within the border quarantine and isolation stations and to keep communities safe. Borders remain partially closed, allowing repatriation for citizens with a mandatory 14-day quarantine. In the Solomon Islands, as of November 12, 2020, a total of 16 cases have been identified, with 5 recovered and 11 still active. Most cases reported have been mild; no mortality recorded.

The risk of introducing COVID-19 remains a high concern; any leak in the quarantine and isolation stations could allow the infection to enter the community. Additionally, Papua New Guinea, where COVID-19 cases are high, is a close neighbor to the Solomon Islands, raising concern about border crossing and infection transmission.

#### IV. Expected results

The support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund will be used to support the Government of the Solomon Islands to procure needed PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) include disposable items (face shield, mask, surgical gowns, etc) which create a barrier to prevent blood, bodily fluids or respiratory secretions from passing from one person to another. For the Solomon Islands, critical equipment and supplies needed include water tanks, water buckets, masks, gowns (levels 1, 2 and 3 – depending on the protection needed for the circumstance), face shields, head covers, boot covers and hand sanitizer to protect HCWs in clinical, quarantine and isolation settings. The request also includes procurement of two tents (72 m<sup>2</sup> and 42 m<sup>2</sup>) to set up quarantine wards, and isolation facilities, to accommodate repatriated citizens.

Additionally, UNICEF requests support to procure needle burners to dispose of used needles and biohazard bags to support necessary waste management. Medical waste management may include disposal of needles, sharps, and materials contaminated by bodily fluids, as well as pathological waste. These PPE and waste management needs were identified by the MHMS in partnership with UNICEF, as below:

- 2,000 sets of masks
- 1,000 packs of gowns
- 400 packs of gowns, level 2
- 2,000 packs of gowns, level 3
- 300 face shields
- 100 pack of needle burner syringe destroyer
- 500 pack of disposable boots and shoe covers
- 10,000 disposable sterile surgical head covers
- 250 water tanks (5,000 litres per tank)
- 1,000 water containers
- 1,000 water buckets
- 1,000 bags
- 4,500 hand sanitizers
- 10 tents (72m<sup>2</sup>)
- 30 tents (42m<sup>2</sup>)
- 2 biosafety cabinet

Through UNICEF support, and through Phase 2 of the Pacific COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan for Preparedness and Response, the Solomon Islands will have a clear understanding of their current PPE inventory, including their utilization rate. An initial procurement of PPE supplies for 6 months was done in early 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the Solomon Islands will need to procure additional PPE supplies to protect HCWs and border security forces as they implement quarantine and isolation procedures. Section XI details the list of requested PPE supplies and budget.

In line with the Phase 2 JIMT plan, the project will contribute to the following outcomes:

- 3.3** PIC HCW's can respond to a COVID-19 outbreak in a safe manner

## V. Target Audience

Target audience of the project is the 2,000 of health care workers in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

## VI. Implementing Modality

UNICEF will support the MHMS in the procurement of PPE listed under section 7 on Detailed Budget. Policy guidance and documents for PPE procurement from WHO will be used as reference and guidance to the MHMS. UNICEF will continue to provide ongoing national preparedness support in the public health sectors. UNICEF will partner with the World Food Programme (WFP), a member of the JIMT logistics pillar, to support transportation needs to deliver supplies from regional warehouses to the Solomon Islands given the border closure and non-availability of commercial flights. Most of the supplies will be procured via UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen while few items will be procured locally. The freight costs have been included in the proposed budget. All

procurement will be conducted based on availability, cost-effectiveness and will consider efficient timing options. All procurement will be done in partnership with the MHMS.

**Governance arrangements:** In line with India-UN Fund Guidelines, some oversight of the project is needed which includes representatives of the Embassy/Government of India, the Ministry of Health and the WHO/UNICEF. As this funding is only to be used for procurement, it is intended to keep the processes light, particularly to reduce unnecessary meetings for the Ministry of Health. The list of procurement has been agreed already with the Ministry of Health and as procurement processes will follow those of the WHO and UNICEF globally, the focus of the oversight will be for update purposes and to discuss communications and visibility only.

As such it is proposed to establish two virtual project meetings with representatives from the High Commission of India, the Ministry of Health and the WHO/UNICEF. The agenda for the meetings will be:

- Ensure all members are aware of the items to be purchased using the Funds from the Government of India and expected timelines for delivery
- Discuss and agree how the contribution of the Government of India can be acknowledged once items are received.

**Management arrangements** for the project will be similarly placed in the relevant mechanisms of the JIMT as well as under UNICEF's Health Section under the Deputy Representative in close collaboration with WFP and MHMS. The National Disaster Committee for Health (NDOC for Health) chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Health serves as the focal point and UNICEF's liaison in terms of supplies distribution and coordination.

## VII. Monitoring and Reporting

The implementation and delivery of the project will be monitored within the monitoring framework in place for the implementation of the COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan Phase 2. Specific to the Project, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services of the Solomon Islands will provide inputs on the satisfactory delivery of PPE and the appropriate distribution and use. Arrangements will also be made for the participation in key monitoring activities by the nominated Indian representatives from the High Commission of India in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, which is accredited to the Solomon Islands.

UNICEF Pacific will submit to UNOSSC a Financial Report every quarter and narrative report every six months in the duration of the project.

In addition, monthly updates of two-three bullet points will be emailed to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). This will start from inception until the conclusion of the project and will provide inputs to UNOSSC' monthly updates to all partners.

## VIII. Results Framework

This project will contribute to the results of the larger COVID-19 Pacific Action Plan for Health Sector Preparedness and Response, Phase 2, targets 3.3.

**Goal:** Containment of the outbreak through the slowing and stopping of COVID-19 transmission, prevent outbreaks and spread. Mitigation of the effects of an outbreak through reducing preventable morbidity and mortality, minimising negative health, social and economic impacts and facilitating early recovery.

**End of Program Outcome 3 (EPO3):** Health care workers are kept safe through access to the knowledge, skills and resources need for safe practice, including access to personal protective equipment and optimal infection prevention and control practices.



Immediate Outcomes	Activities	Indicator of Progress
3.3 PIC HCW's can respond to a COVID-19 outbreak in a safe manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCWs trained in the safe PPE use and IPC</li> <li>- PPE and IPC supplies procured and distributed for standard, droplet, contact and respiratory precautions, safety boxes, biohazard bags etc.</li> <li>- Support for developing IPC strategies in low resource settings (or in the absence of adequate PPE)</li> <li>- Facilitate refresher training for HCWs in the donning and doffing of PPE and IPC practices</li> </ul>	<p>No PPE stockouts</p> <p># HCWs provided with refresher training on donning and doffing PPE</p>

## IX. Results-based Budget

**Goal:** Containment of the outbreak through the slowing and stopping of COVID-19 transmission, prevent outbreaks and spread. Mitigation of the effects of an outbreak through reducing preventable morbidity and mortality, minimising negative health, social and economic impacts and facilitating early recovery.

**End of Program Outcome 3 (EPO3):** Health care workers are kept safe through access to the knowledge, skills and resources need for safe practice, including access to personal protective equipment and optimal infection prevention and control practices.

Immediate Outcomes	Activities	2021	
		India Funds	Other Funds
3.3 PIC HCW's can respond to a COVID-19 outbreak in a safe manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPE and IPC supplies procured and distributed for standard, droplet, contact and respiratory precautions, safety boxes, biohazard bags etc.</li> <li>- Facilitate refresher training for HCWs in the donning and doffing of PPE and IPC practices</li> </ul>	906,453	700,000
	Total UNICEF Programmable	906,453	
	UNICEF recovery cost (5%)	45,323	
	Total received by UNICEF	951,776	
	UNOSSC/UNDP general management services (3%)	28,553	
	<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>980,329</b>	

## X. Detailed Budget: PPE Procurement List Of Items

List of Items for Solomon Islands						
Item No	Complete description, make, model, size, supplier etc, accessories, consumables, spare parts	Catalogue Number	Unit	Quantity	Unit price USD	Total Amount (USD)
1	Mask,surgic,typellR,ear loop,disp.pack50	S6780358	Set	2000	\$ 18.00	\$ 36,000.00
2	Gown,isolation,nonwoven,disp, pack10	S00005136	Pac	1000	\$ 47.95	\$ 47,950.00

3	Gown Level 2 - ISOLATION GOWN, LEVEL 2 - PACK OF 10 (DG-2)	tender	Pac	400	\$ 80.00	\$ 32,000.00
4	Gown Level 3 -	tender	Piece	2000	\$ 83.33	\$ 166,662.00
5	Faceshield, fog-resistant, fullface, disp is EA	S0305116	Piece	300	\$ 13.20	\$ 3,960.00
6	Needle Burner Syringe Destroyer	tender	Pac	100	\$ 50.00	\$ 5,000.00
7	Disposable Boot & Shoe Covers   Non-Skid 100-pack (50 Pairs)	tender	Pac	500	\$ 10.60	\$ 5,300.00
8	Disposable Sterile Surgical Disposable Head Cover	tender	Piece	10000	\$ 1.96	\$ 19,600.00
9	Water Tanks 5000L per unit	tender	Piece	250	\$ 722.00	\$ 180,500.00
10	Water-cont, LDPE,10l, collapsibl., w/o logo	S5007311	Piece	1000	\$ 1.58	\$ 1,580.00
11	Bucket,HDPE,with lid and tap,14 l	S0005860	Piece	1000	\$ 4.01	\$ 4,010.00
12	Bag, biohazard, 20L, box/100 is box/100	S0001437	Pac	1000	\$ 6.90	\$ 6,900.00
13	Hand sanitizer Alcohol >60% 500ml w.pump is 500ml/EA	S0006559	Piece	4500	\$ 34.95	\$ 157,275.00
14	Tent,light weight,rectangular,72m <sup>2</sup>	S5088020	Piece	10	\$1,876.00	\$ 18,760.00
15	Tent,light weight,rectangular,42m <sup>2</sup>	S5088015	Piece	30	\$1,265.00	\$ 37,950.00
16	Biosafety cabinet,class II,stand alone	S0001339	Piece	2	\$1,276.50	\$ 2,553.00
<b>Item Totals</b>						
Sub-Total for Product Costs:						\$ 726,000
Freight: Air + Sea						\$ 180,453
<b>Total UNICEF programmable</b>						<b>\$ 906,453</b>
UNICEF recovery cost (5%)						\$ 45,323
Total received by UNICEF						\$ 951,776
UNOSSC/UNDP general management services (3%)						\$ 28,553
<b>Grand Total:</b>						<b>\$ 980,329</b>

## XI. Communications and Visibility

UNICEF Pacific, with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services of Solomon Islands, will undertake efforts to acknowledge the contribution from the Government of India on appropriate occasions. For any major and national events, arrangements will be made to ensure the participation of the High Commission of India at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea at the highest level as possible. The High Commission would be kept regularly informed on the progress of the project. Support of India would be mentioned in all publicity materials related to the project. India-UN Fund logo and UNOSSC logos will be displayed in all communication materials as appropriate.