FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands Project (December 2018 – June 2021)

Khurram Jilani

External Evaluator, UNDP-ILO EYAPSCSI Project

Table of Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DSE	Development Services Exchange
EYAPSCSI	Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
ILO	International Labour Organization
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
MTGPEA	Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace, and Ecclesiastical Affairs
MWYCFA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs
NYP	National Youth Policy
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TGB	Traditional Governance Bill
TRC	The Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WVSI	World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI)
YECSI	Young Entrepreneurs Council in Solomon Islands
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands (EYAPSCSI) project (December 2018 – June 2021) was launched by UNDP and ILO in December 2018. The project was funded by UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in pursuance of its PBF Strategy (2020-24) focus area "Implement and sustain peace agreements – political dialogue", it strived to empower marginalized young Solomon Islanders, particularly young women, to engage in decision-making and act as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances.

The **two outcomes of the project** were:

Outcome 1: Young people's, particularly young women's, voices in decision making processes related to issues identified in the 'perceptions survey' on peacebuilding are strengthened in Honiara, North Malaita, the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal, and border communities in the West.

Outcome 2: Communities in the hotspot areas are more resilient to conflict with more socially, economically, and politically empowered youth, in particular young women, engaging as peace builders.

The activities under these two outcomes were based on the premise that (i) the act of increasing young women and men's ability to influence the decision-making processes will reduce their sense of powerlessness and marginalization and result in decisions that will better address the sources of frustration for young people that could otherwise undermine peace; and that (ii) the young people have the potential to create and implement innovative solutions to local issues that could become sources of disputes, disharmony and fragmentation of social cohesion and trust, but were constrained from doing so by a lack of support and low social expectations of what young people can and 'should' do.

Evaluation objective

UNDP and ILO commissioned this summative, external evaluation of EYAPSCSI project in Solomon Islands with the objective to determine the extent to which anticipated outputs and outcomes are achieved. Specifically, the evaluation of the EYAPSCSI project serves two objectives:

Firstly, it employs standard evaluative tools to provide an independent, objective-assessment on the relevance, efficiency, cohesion, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project; and

Secondly, it provides some of the key insights, lessons learned and recommendations to inform future initiatives and investments around peacebuilding and social cohesion in Solomon Islands.

The evaluation findings, learning and recommendations will be helpful in informing design, implementation and management of UN's future initiatives and efforts towards youth empowerment, peacebuilding, and social cohesion in Solomon Islands and similar context.

Evaluation methodology

The evaluation involved a mixed method approach, using both primary and secondary data, to provide an accurate and plausible assessment and analysis on key evaluation themes/ questions. Review of secondary sources included analysis of data and information from key policy documents, project design documents, perception surveys, progress reports, beneficiary database and M&E reports. Primary data involved 16 key informant interviews; 5 focus group discussions; and 3 visits to youth caucuses for direct observations of youth-led social entrepreneurship initiatives during field-based interviews. In total, 51 related stakeholders and individuals (29 male, 22 female) were consulted from Honiara, Weather Coast, North Malaita, Shortland and Fiji during the primary data collection. The collected data/ information is predominantly qualitative and descriptive. Therefore, the evaluation

used qualitative content analysis and narrative analysis to document responses and generate evidence around project interventions, implementation strategies and results.

Key findings and recommendations

Key findings and recommendations of the evaluation are:

Relevance

The analysis of multiple primary and secondary information sources confirmed the relevance and appropriateness of the EYAPSCSI project, its design and implementation approaches in Solomon Islands. The project sufficiently identified and worked towards addressing the most relevant peacebuilding issues faced by the people of Solomon Islands, particularly the sources of grievances among the young people which had been the main causes of the Tensions (1998-2003). The Tensions were caused by multiple factors; however, young people – which constitute over 70% of the total population – were affected the most by the incidents of violence and the repercussion of these incidents; and thus, were considered as a key target group of the project. Among young people, women were identified as the most vulnerable due to the prevailing gender inequalities, which meant that they were particularly excluded from decision-making and access to opportunities which had been at the source of the Tensions.

Key findings

- In terms of its strategic focus, the project responded to the critical needs identified by the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), UNDP's Peacebuilding Perception Survey 2018, and 2018 National Youth Policy (NYP).

- At an intervention level, the project approach, intervention areas, geographical focus and main interventions were designed in consultation with the government and implementing partners and addressed local community-level peacebuilding issues such as empowerment and entrepreneurship. The project also involved local organizations working in the targeted area utilizing their technical expertise and social network for the community benefit.

- In terms of relevance to the context, the overall context of the Solomon Islands remained same during implementation, except for the outbreak of the COVID-19 that delayed the project start.

Learning and recommendation

- Tribal leaders, church and traditional groups do not see the youth caucuses as competing, power-and-resource sharing structure, rather they expressed their confidence and support to these youth caucuses. The involvement of these groups in project consultations, capacity building activities and social entrepreneurship projects build their confidence on the project as well as the youth caucuses. Therefore, future PBF projects may also consider engaging – through formal and informal ways – with church and community leadership to further empower youth caucuses for peacebuilding initiatives.

Coherence

Interviews with key stakeholders and review of project related documents established that the EYAPSCSI project remained coherent with internal and external initiatives, and this has been achieved due to: (i) the unique position and value-addition of UNDP and ILO on the project and in Solomon Islands; (ii) UNDP's role as focal point for Peacebuilding Fund; and (iii) the design of the project serving as a 'catalyst' to drive wider structural change in the society wherein young people are proactively playing their role in broader social, economic, political and peacebuilding activities.

Key findings

- The internal coherence in the project was achieved through strong inter-output and inter-outcome linkages, which ensured complementarians and synergies. The establishment of youth caucuses

under outcome 1 provided a platform to connect with the young people in the community for trainings on leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, etc. and participating in subsequent activities such as training on entrepreneurship skills and community-based social entrepreneurship projects.

- For external coherence, the project effectively utilized the existing country-level coordination mechanism for the strategic alignment, coordination, and implementation; and augmented the interventions of UN's Peacebuilding Fund Project Phase II by implementing activities in almost same conflict affected zones around themes such as peacebuilding, peace and reconciliation, empowering women's and youth groups and community. The project has also provided a well-functioning platform of youth caucuses to other community-based projects such as the PBF funded Governance of Natural Resources Project.

Efficiency

Review of the project management structure, project design elements and progress against output level indicators and interventions suggests that the EYAPSCSI project remained largely efficient. The project design and implementation approach i.e., working through youth caucuses proved to be highly efficient and effective in achieving, rather exceeding most of the results that were set in the project results framework. The management structure, partnerships and coordination mechanism were diligently defined to deliver activities in a resource efficient manner, as the project delivered activities beyond the set targets (See table below. Progress against output level interventions and results). The project also demonstrated high degree of resilience and adaptiveness to external challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns and travel restrictions; politically charged atmosphere in the run up to the 2019 elections and related incidence of violence; difficulties in reaching out and sustaining engagement with communities in farthest, hard-to-reach and hotspot areas. This was also made possible due to PBF's support and willingness to provide a 6-months, no-cost time extension to the project which enabled UNDP and ILO to deliver the remaining activities and take some concrete actions towards adoption and sustainably of achieved results.

Key findings

- The EYAPSCSI project achieved and exceeded most of its targets at output and intervention level, without getting into cost overrun. In quantitative terms, the project exceeded the number of participants that are trained on leadership, peacebuilding, governance, gender equality, and entrepreneurship. Similarly, against the target of 8, the project delivered 26 social entrepreneurship projects. In qualitative terms, all the project activities especially establishment of youth caucuses, trainings and social entrepreneurship projects were highly acknowledged by the respondents from key government officials, as well as the tribal leaders and communities.

- Establishment of youth caucuses enabled efficient delivery of subsequent activities on the project, as these youth caucus provided a unique platform to EYAPSCSI project to work with youth in the targeted communities. Most of the interventions were anchored around youth caucuses. The government also sees these youth caucus as future point for contact for engaging with the youth in these communities.

- Activity sequencing was a good approach especially in order to strengthen the peacebuilding focus and coherence of the project; at the same time, it created a time-lag across all subsequent interventions which somewhat compromised the timely implementation of project activities. The project design and implementation approach were helpful in building EYAPSCSI project on solid foundation, wherein every activity was derived from and/or build on a predecessor activity. However, this approach required more time to implement all the activities in the project. The activities under outcome 2, especially the social entrepreneurship projects were implemented during last 8-months of the project which resulted in less time for the project to mentor, monitor and strengthen these social entrepreneurship projects.

- The local organizations (World Vision Solomon Islands, Development Services Exchange) with relevant skills, experience and community-outreach were engaged which made the trainings, mentorship, entrepreneurship initiatives context-specific and time- and cost-efficient. The project and its partners effectively engaged church and tribal/community leadership to mobilize over 45% of women (compared to project's total beneficiaries) on all the project activities[1]; and thus, efficiently distributed the resources between different target groups.

- The EYAPSCSI project and UN PBF demonstrated high degree of resilience and adaptiveness to external challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns and travel restrictions; 2019 election campaign related incidence of violence; difficulties in reaching out and sustaining engagement with communities in farthest, hard-to-reach and hotspot areas. An innovative communication mechanism through virtual calls (phone calls, Facebook etc.), where possible, was adapted by the project team to mitigate the challenge of consistent and regular contact with the project beneficiaries, particularly youth caucus members, during the pandemic.

- The quality assurance of the project was ensured by establishing a robust M&E and performance management system from the outset of the project. The information collected and analyzed through M&E activities such as pre- and post-training assessments, weekly tracker of social entrepreneurship projects, database of youth caucuses with membership details, project semi-annual progress reports, etc. was effectively used by the project manager, PBF fund team, project partners and stakeholders to take informed decisions about the project, manage project performance, take corrective measures, and learn and adapt to changing context such as COVID-19 emergency.

Learning and recommendations

- A project such as EYAPSCSI should follow the Gantt chart (tool) to planning and scheduling activities, so that if one activity in a sequence is delayed, the impact on follow-up activities is assessed and a proper management plan is devised to bring the project back on track.

- Since local partnerships with CSOs benefitted the EYAPSCSI project in improving its efficiency and effectiveness, it is advisable to identify and engage these partners from the very start of the project. The recommendation is especially in the context of DSE, which was identified and contracted very late on the project for delivery of outcome 2 related activities.

- It is also recommended that PBF projects such as EYAPSCSI, with short-duration and anticipated behavioral changes should take a focused approach – i.e., by concentrating on selected geographical location instead expanding the geographical outreach to demonstrate more substantial and sustainable change/impact.

Effectiveness and Theory of Change

The interviews and focus group discussions with community leaders and members suggest a notable shift in the young people's position in the society in the project target zones, which is a validation of EYAPSCSI Project's ToC. The engagement of youth in community level productive activities such as youth caucuses, regular community meetings on social and economic issues, trainings, role in community affairs, social entrepreneurship projects etc. has changed the perspective of both the young people who have started to recognize their potential, importance and respect in the society; and the communities who have started to find young people more capable and responsible to take part in decision making processes and lead initiatives. In particularly, the young women who are part of the youth caucuses (as leaders and/or members) are found to have clearer vision to transform the role of youth, and they are more meticulous in managing the functioning and utility of youth caucuses. These are evident from key initiatives such as 26 youth-led social entrepreneurship projects that were

---

[1] Project beneficiary database i.e., youth caucus membership database; social entrepreneurship projects' database, training database, project semi-annual progress reports.

identified, designed and being managed by the youth caucuses for addressing local level social and economic issues.

The remarks from key informants (provided below in the effectiveness section) also suggests that the church, tribal leaders, communities, and families of young people have started to engage youth in decision making processes, which is the first step towards youth empowerment. However, the sources of grievances are huge and multiple, and can mostly be addressed by engaging at a level where power and resources are concentrated.

Key findings

- The EYAPSCSI project ToC and related assumptions remained/ proved valid during the life of the project and based on the 'trajectory of change' that has been noticed in the evaluation.

- The project interventions and outputs have significantly contributed to change at outcome level, which is evident from major structural and societal shifts experienced, noticed, and reported by the stakeholders and respective communities. At the community level, the project made a substantial effort towards empowering marginalized young Solomon Islanders, particularly young women to engage in decision-making and act as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances. Most of the members of youth caucuses reported that they have been consulted for the first time by any project for capacity building and entrepreneurship support. This is among the many 'firsts' that this project was able to initiate.

- Major shifts in the status of youth (men and women) and resultantly their contribution to peacebuilding and social cohesion include, but are not limited to the ones listed here: (i) individual young men and women are organized as part of the semi-structured, semi-formal youth caucuses – a platform for young men and women to raise their voice and formally engage with decision makers at community level and with the government; (ii) youth is now seen by tribal leaders and church as part of solution, rather than part of the problem; (iii) young people's behavior towards citizenship, gender issues, drugs and working with others has changed in targeted communities as they identified, designed and implanted 26 community-led social entrepreneurships projects; and (iv) young people have started taking self-initiatives to address their problems, rather than complaining about the situation.

Learning and recommendations

- In addition to integration of youth caucuses in the National Youth Congress and relevant ministry, UNDP, ILO and other PBF partners may consider ways to build their future projects so as to build on and strengthen these youth caucuses. The youth caucuses represent enormous potential to work in a country which has over 70% youth population.

- Young men and women demonstrated substantial capacity and commitment through community-based social entrepreneurship project to resolving issues of their respective communities. The future efforts should involve working with the National Youth Congress (NYC) and relevant ministries to find ways to graduating progressive young men and women to next level of youth leaders, peace promoters and entrepreneurs who could work beyond their respective communities to focus on wider reforms such as legislation on youth, women rights, land reforms, governance, democracy, electoral reforms, accountability, and corruption, etc. and proactively engage with key decision-makers on issues of employment and economic opportunities, education and skills enhancement, land dispute management system, etc.

- Social entrepreneurship projects respond to a major part of the youths' concern (45% youth consider economic and employment opportunities as their biggest issue, Solomon Islands Youth Status Report 2018). Therefore, future PBF funding may also consider and prioritize 'local economic opportunities' as part and parcel of youth empowerment and peacebuilding efforts.

Impact and sustainability

The contribution of the EYAPSCSI project was intended at two levels i.e., the community level, and in the broader context of Solomon Islands. The project mostly focused on community level interventions, with some engagement, advocacy and influencing at policy and institutional level.

Key findings

- At the institutional level, the project ensured formal and continues engagement with the relevant ministries through its Board, and by engaging officials from these ministries in conducting trainings and key learning sessions. This has also enhanced the capacity of relevant ministries, including National Youth Congress in following ways: (i) improved access to young men and women through youth caucuses; (ii) improved training capacity, especially the understanding and knowledge of UN's training manual on topics such as leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, governance and social entrepreneurship; (iii) better understanding of factors and causes of concern of youth and their expectations – with the purpose to inform government's policy and initiatives towards youth empowerment, employment, entrepreneurship and peacebuilding.

- The project also contributed to some unintended, yet positive changes in the Solomon Islands. For example, the community-based social entrepreneurial projects provided economic and employment opportunities at the local level, thereby contributed to reducing migration of young Solomon Islands to Honiara and other urban centers for employment.

- The change in project outcomes and impact is directly attributable to EYAPSCSI project, as the intervention design was unique, and project focused on areas which were long neglected. The youth caucuses established under the project are unique and represent first ever forum developed to organize young men and women around peacebuilding, social cohesion, and social entrepreneurship. The EYAPSCSI project also conducted training of young men and women using a gender sensitive training manual which was developed in consultation with relevant ministries based on the customized needs of the project and priorities of the relevant ministries, its thematic focus and audience. The idea of community-based social entrepreneurship projects was also unique and involved 26 projects from PBF's project budget. All these interventions, and the resultant change is directly attributable to EYAPSCSI project.

Learning and recommendations

- The EYAPSCSI project represented a huge agenda of structural reforms in Solomon Islands i.e., empowering youth to lead peacebuilding efforts and proactively participate in social, economic and political decision making. The targets in the 'project results framework' were equally ambitious, requiring this wider change to happen in 24-30 months of the project. Though it is preferred to keep the ambition high, the duration of the project may need to be matched with its complexity, ambition, scope, scale, and coverage. In case of EYAPSCSI the delivery challenges were compounded by extraneous factors such as COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, 2019 elections and related incidence of violence, etc.

- Since Solomon Islands continues to be eligible to the PBF, the Fund might need to consider phasing of wider peacebuilding agenda through short-duration projects with no major intervals. This will help build on previous work and continue momentum of change towards durable peace and social cohesion.

- It is also recommended that PBF projects such as EYAPSCSI – having short-duration, deeper focus, and community-level interventions – should take a focused approach i.e., by concentrating on selected geographical location – instead of expanding the geographical outreach – to demonstrate more substantial and sustainable change/impact.

- The easing up of COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions reinstated the migration of young people to capital Honiara, mainly for education and employment purposes[2]. This resulted in a notable

---

[2] Reported by youth caucuses and community leaders during key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

turnover of membership of youth caucuses in other provinces, wherein new members joined and replaced the departing members. This has also created a capacity gap among members of youth caucuses, wherein older members are trained on leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, entrepreneurship, etc. while the new members are not. In this situation, it is advisable to hand-over simpler version of training material (at-least on key topics) to educated members of youth caucuses so that they can provide induction to new, incoming members. Also, the training manuals developed under EYAPSCSI project may also be institutionalized in the NYC annual plans with provision of adequate budget for follow-up trainings of youth caucuses.

- At this stage of the project, the youth caucuses and the community leaders have expressed their satisfaction and sufficient clarity on their respective social entrepreneurship projects, and on how these will be managed, and the returns will be shared. However, a follow up assessment of social entrepreneurship projects may ideally be conducted in 6-12 months (from the date of award of these projects) to analyze the status of these social entrepreneurship projects, as whether or not these projects are running and maintained well by the youth caucuses; whether the benefits of these projects are equitably distributed among young men and women; and whether or not these projects have improved social cohesion and peace among youth, communities, etc. or whether or not these projects have created some kind of conflicts among youth/community on ownership or division of economic returns and dividends etc.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. About the EYAPSCSI project

The Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands (EYAPSCSI) project was launched by UNDP and ILO in December 2018, as a 30-months project which concluded in June 2021. The project was funded by UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in pursuance of its PBF Strategy (2020-24) focus area "Implement and sustain peace agreements – political dialogue", it strived to empower marginalized young Solomon Islanders, particularly young women, to engage in decision-making and act as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances.

The project worked towards addressing the underline factors and causes of weak participation of young Solomon Islanders – particularly young Solomon Islander women – in the decision-making processes by adopting two complementary approaches: empowering marginalized youth to become agents for peace; and giving them meaningful opportunities for a good life.

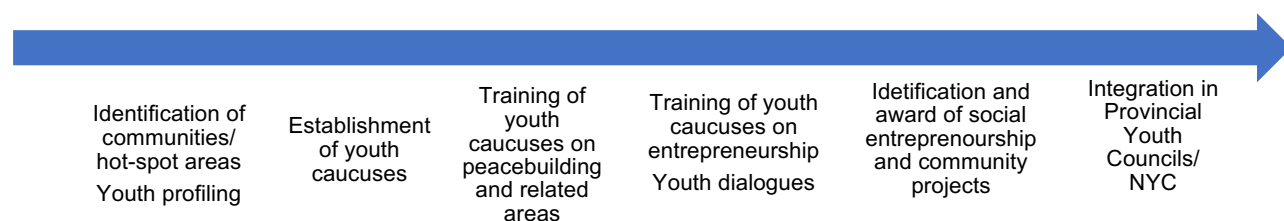The **two outcomes of the project** were:

Outcome 1: Young people's, particularly young women's, voices in decision making processes related to issues identified in the 'perceptions survey' on peacebuilding are strengthened in Honiara, North Malaita, the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal, and border communities in the West.

- Activities to support achievement of outcome 1 were based on the premise that the act of increasing young women and men's ability to influence the decision-making processes will reduce their sense of powerlessness and marginalization and result in decisions that will better address the sources of frustration for young people that could otherwise undermine peace.

Outcome 2: Communities in the hotspot areas are more resilient to conflict with more socially, economically, and politically empowered youth, in particular young women, engaging as peace builders.

- Activities to support achievement of outcome 2 were based on the premise that young people have the potential to create and implement innovative solutions to local issues that could become sources of disputes, disharmony and fragmentation of social cohesion and trust, but were constrained from doing so by a lack of support and low social expectations of what young people can and 'should' do. In particular, it was assumed that the 'double disadvantage' faced by young women places particularly binding constraints on their ability to act on their initiative, and so there would be especially high returns to empowering them.

Intervention design and activities

| Identification of communities/ hot-spot areas Youth profiling | Establishment of youth caucuses | Training of youth caucuses on peacebuilding and related areas | Training of youth caucuses on entrepreneurship Youth dialogues | Idetification and award of social entreprenourship and community projects | Integration in Provincial Youth Councils/ NYC |

Objectives, structure and functions of Youth Caucus

Objectives of Youth Caucus at community level
• To establish a platform for youth to voice their concerns and suggest solutions through meaningful participation and involvement in decision-making processes. • To support, facilitate and advise the village committees, provincial youth caucus/council and provincial government in the implementation of youth-related initiatives aligned with policy priorities for youth development at provincial and national levels. • To strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and other entities to promote peacebuilding, social harmony and social entrepreneurship in the communities.
Key Roles and Responsibilities of community-level Youth Caucus
• Collaborate with the respective community/village committees to ensure youth voices are included in decision making and link to provincial youth caucus to implement youth activities in the region. • Promote youth participation in decision-making and conflict resolution. • Report to and conduct regular consultations as required and requested by the provincial youth caucus/council, youth coordinator/desk officer, minister responsible for youth affairs and provincial executive. • Communicate regularly, consult and/or recommend/advise village committees on issues affecting youths. • Continuedly seek dialogue with village chiefs and church leaders, women's groups to positively engage young people. • Be the voice for young people in the region to external partners and stakeholders. • Communicate regularly, consult and/or recommend/advise provincial youth caucus/council, youth coordinator/desk officer and other entities on the effective implementation of peacebuilding initiatives and activities. • Facilitate community leaders, relevant government authorities to alert (early warning mechanism) when conflicts emerge/turn violent at the community level. • Facilitate, coordinate and participate in community reconciliation and peacebuilding work, if needed. • Link and learn with other Provincial Youth Caucuses and relevant entities at the national level, such as UN agencies, the Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs and Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs (MWYCFA).
Structure of the Youth Caucus at community level
• The members of youth caucus at community level will be elected by the youths and chiefs from the target communities. • Community level youth caucus will be established at cluster/zone level which the project has finalized during the community selection process. • The number of members in each youth caucus at community level will be varied considering the dynamics of respective cluster/zone of target communities. • The age of youth caucus members will be between 16-24. • To ensure the gender equality, 50% of youth caucus members will be females. • Chairperson and Vice chairperson must be a male and a female or vice versa.

Demographic focus and geographical coverage

In terms of demographic focus and geographical coverage, the project attempted to take peacebuilding efforts in a new direction, and into new locations that have traditionally been beyond the coverage of development efforts and government services. The activities were designed to help

nurture a new generation of effective peace advocates and nation builders. Specifically, the approach could be summed as following:

- Demographically, the project worked with young people between the age of 16 and 24, with a particular focus on working with young women and single mothers

- Geographically, the project worked with underprivileged communities in Honiara, Guadalcanal (Weather Coast), North Malaita and Western Province Border Region (communities with Bougainville)

Project resources

The **total budget of the project was $ 2.018 million**, which included:

- $1.481 million (plus $0.22 million from UNDP's core fund) as UNDP's share, with the mandate to lead, manage and monitor the EYAPSCSI project through a Project Manager (International, P3), project-based staff and a permanent office in Honiara

- $0.371 million as ILO's share

Key stakeholders and partnerships

The **project collaborated with key government stakeholders and established partnerships with civil-society organizations** to ensure ownership, synergies, and effective implementation of its activities. Key collaboration and strategic partnership were:

- National and provincial governments: These include the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) with its provincial offices in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province; Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace, and Ecclesiastical Affairs (MTGPEA) with its provincial offices in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province; and Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Young Entrepreneurs' Council, National Youth Congress.

- Implementing partners: These include the World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) and the Development Services Exchange (DSE).

Major operational changes

The project was initially conceived as a 24-months initiative; however, its duration was extended for another six-months i.e., until June 2021 to accommodate:

- The delays caused by the riots occurred during the General Elections in 2019[3]. Triggered by political, social and economic grievances, these riots escalated in April 2019 due to young people's dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the previous political government. indignation further exacerbated with youth's intuition of 'buying of votes' by political elite through patronage with big business elites, and the misuse of various funding mechanisms, most notably the controversial Rural Development Constituency Fund. Political instability caused by the unrest following the April 2019 elections had an impact on the timely delivery of the project interventions. Consequently, this resulted in a deferred start of the implementation in August 2019, once a reasonable level of political stability is achieved.

- The restrictions relating to global pandemic (COVID-19) also had an impact. In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and the proclamation of the State of Emergency by the SI Government, all non-essential activities were restricted which inevitably hampered the active, full-scale

---

[3] Reported by youth caucuses and community leaders during key informant interviews and fo

implementation of the project[4]. To address this extraneous challenge, the project sought no-cost, time extension for six-months till June 2021. This however had no implication on the budget, and results commitment at an intervention, output, and outcome level. A deeper analysis on implication of COVID-19 will be undertaken as part of this external evaluation and through primary data sources.

In addition to ensuring full delivery of project activities, the EYAPSCSI Project Progress Report, June 2021 claimed that **the no-cost time extension** was effectively used by the project team to culminate interventions into more sustainable results. The causes of delay, impact of quantity and quality of project delivery, and impact on results and the sustainability of results will be analyzed as part of the evaluation and through primary data collection.

1.2. Country context and justification of the project

The project "Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands (EYAPSCSI)" was developed in 2018 in the backdrop of number of unprecedented events and consequential policy and institutional measures introduced by the Government (as mentioned below). All these were critical in conceptualization of the EYAPSCSI project, its interventions, and the implementation strategies. Predominantly, the project was inspired by the National Youth Policy (2018) and sought to approach the funding window of UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), with an aim to empower[5] marginalized young Solomon Islanders, particularly young women to engage in decision-making and emerge as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances.

Some of the key factors which formed the contextual relevance of the project were:

- **The youth bulge**, wherein youth make up to 70% of the population of Solomon Islands. Nonetheless the 2018 Solomon Islands State of Youth Report revealed a limited participation of youth in the economy, politics, and decision-making[6]. The report further underscored youths' grievances in terms of being disadvantaged, disempowered, and with low self-esteem. To address these, the report provided recommendations on both aspects: (i) the youth participation in education, employment and livelihoods; and (ii) the youth participation in politics and governance, including elections, national government, provincial governments and community-level decision-making.

- **The Tensions (1998-2003),** which were caused by mainly the ethnic conflict with contributing factors such as land disputes, traditional versus non-traditional authority structures, unequal access to government services, unequal development and economic opportunity, inadequate law and justice institutions, youth unemployment and lack of participation, and a lack of educational opportunity[7]. This violence affected young people the most, both as victims and the combatants; and thus increased the likelihood of youth being prone to any such violence should it breaks out again.

- **The persistence of structural issues relating to tensions,** as youth including young women were politically, socially and economically disenfranchised due to poverty, ethnic stereotypes and divisions, elite capture of state resources, low levels of rural development, lack of access to services, and marginalization of women from politics and decision-making. On this, the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) had aptly pointed to the critical need for (i) increasing youth participation in decision making at local and national level policy processes; (ii)

---

[5] In the context of EYAPSCSI project, the Empowerment refers to the internal capabilities (leadership, communication, insights) and external positioning (organization, voice, social construct) of youth, particularly women to proactively engage in decision making processes related to matters such as governance, peace, social cohesion and gender equality and to emerge as pro-active social entrepreneurs.
[6] Solomon Islands youth Status Report, 2018
[7] The Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

providing youths with employment; and (iii) encouraging learning from the tensions so that such conflict is avoided from the outset.

- **The renewed policy emphasis on youth empowerment**, demonstrated through 2018 National Youth Policy (NYP)[8]. The NYP provided a holistic 3-tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Islands – empowerment, employment, and entrepreneurship. Amid this, the NYP called for actions to (i) empower youths as agents of positive change, participating in leadership, decision making and governance mechanisms including traditional leadership and governance at all levels including household, village, community, provincial and national levels; and (ii) contributing to long-term social harmony and cohesion, peace and security, gender equality, equal opportunity and national unity that leaves no one behind.

- **The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF),** The PBF is the UN's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF has invested in Solomon Islands since the aftermath of the conflict in 2003 and contributed through UN entities, government, and civil society organizations to build a durable peace in the country. Working with youth has always been a focus of the UN's peacebuilding work in Solomon Islands. The EYAPSCSI project corresponds to PBF focused area "Implement and sustain peace agreements – political dialogue" by designing activities which respond to imminent threats to the peace process. In addition, the project is fully aligned with UN priorities, thereby contributing directly to UN Pacific Strategy Outcome 5: By 2022, people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed and transparent decision-making processes; accountable and responsive institutions; and improved access to justice.

---

[8] Solomon Islands National Youth Policy (2017-2013)

SECTION 2: EYAPSCSI PROJECT EVALUATION

UNDP and ILO commissioned this summative, joint independent evaluation of EYAPSCSI project in Solomon Islands with the objective to determine the extent to which anticipated outputs and outcomes are achieved. It also seeks to generate evidence, learning and insights on project's ToC and related assumptions; how efficient were the project implementation strategies; and what worked well and what didn't; etc. The evaluation also analyzes how well the project adapted to internal and external changes and ensured progress towards results framework.

2.1. Evaluation objective

In line with the ToR, the evaluation of the EYAPSCSI project serves two objectives:

Firstly, it employs standard evaluative tools to provide an independent, objective-assessment on the relevance, efficiency, cohesion, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project; and

Secondly, it provides some of the key insights, lessons learned and recommendations to inform future initiatives and investments around peacebuilding and social cohesion in Solomon Islands.

Specifically, the external evaluation followed OECD – DAC framework[9] to provide an objective assessment on:

- **Relevance,** as if the project addressed the most relevant peacebuilding issues, ensured alignment with National Peacebuilding Policy and the National Youth Policy, and addressed the relevant needs of the project beneficiaries. The evaluation also assessed the UN's added value in supporting sustaining peace priorities in Solomon Islands, including addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender and social cohesion in Solomon Islands.

- **Coherence,** as if the project leveraged other interventions to strengthen its interventions and impact. This includes both: the internal coherence, synergies and interlinkages between outcome 1 and outcome 2; and the coherence and complementarities with external, yet relevant stakeholders and interventions.

- **Efficiency,** included the review and analysis of projects' implementation strategy, institutional arrangements as well as its management and operational systems and value for money.

- **Effectiveness,** as if project outputs contributed to the achievement of change at outcome level, and to what extent EYAPSCSI project has made a concrete contribution in terms of building and consolidating peace in Solomon Islands, and whether the project Theory of Change was realized.

- **Impact,** involved assessment on whether the support provided by the EYAPSCSI Project has promoted the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda, allowed a specific focus on youth's access to decision making processes, and whether all the peacebuilding interventions supported by the PBF factored in gender equality.

- **Sustainability,** as if the EYAPSCSI project interventions and results such as youth caucuses; improved capacity of young men and women on peacebuilding, gender equality, leadership, governance, etc.; improved entrepreneurial capacity and social entrepreneurship projects; improved institutional capacity of implementing partners; and capacity and outreach of relevant government ministries are going to sustain after the life of the project.

- **Documented good practices, innovations and lesson learnt,** by providing concrete and actionable recommendations for future programming.

---

[9] https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm

2.2. Evaluation methodology

Both primary and secondary data was employed to undertake the evaluation of the project. This ensured evaluation-rigor, with more accurate and plausible assessment and analysis on key evaluation themes/ questions.

Data collection approach/ tools

Secondary data – desk review

The evaluation started with the desk review of the secondary data and related documents provided by the project team. (**Annex-3.** List of documents for desk review). This includes policy documents, project background documents, project design document, perception surveys, progress reports, beneficiary database and M&E reports.

Primary data – FGDs & KIIs

The primary data collection is preceded by the analysis of desk review and involved qualitative approaches such as focus group discussions and key information interview. The FGDs and KIIs were held during July 26 to August 13, 2021.

- **Focus group discussions (FGDs).** Five (05) FDGs were conducted to augment findings of the desk-review, and to collect primary data from beneficiary groups, particularly the cohort of trainees, the member of youth caucuses, the young community leaders, members or beneficiaries of social enterprises etc. through open-ended questions. In order to add objectivity to the FGD-questionnaires, the questions were organized around relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of project interventions, along with taking care of likely additional reasoning and descriptive information. The number of FDGs by respondent groups and interventions are explained in the 'data collection plan'.

- **Key informant interviews (KIIs).** Sixteen (16) KIIs were conducted to collect information from key informants, primarily the UNDP/ILO project management, key government counterparts, members of youth congress, etc. on their informed perspective about project's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Likewise, the KIIs questions were used to seek a concerted response, along with insights, explanatory remarks and recommendations.

- **Direct Observations.** Three (03) direct observations were made by the National Evaluator during field-based interviews. This was of particularly importance for interventions such as youth caucuses and the youth-led social entrepreneurship initiatives supported by the project.

    Annex-4 provides the list of data collection instruments/ questionnaires used for FGDs, key informant interviews and direct observation.

2.3. Data analysis and interpretation approach/ tools

The data/ information collected during (i) desk review; (ii) focus group discussions; and (iii) key informant interviews is predominantly qualitative and descriptive. Therefore, the evaluation used:

- **Qualitative content analysis,** to document responses and establish contributions and attributions of project to ensure its consistency with evaluation objectives and scope, analysis and interpretation of the respondents.

- **Narrative analysis,** to generate evidence by interpreting respondents' experiences and stories around project interventions, implementation strategies and results.

In both the data analysis approaches, qualitative data was properly documented, synthesized, analyzed and interpreted to provide evidence-based assessment.

2.4. Ethical considerations

The evaluation method, data collection tools, data collection process, and evaluation report ensured the adherence to the following ethical considerations.

- **Consent to participate in evaluation.** All respondents were requested for their consent that they are interested in participating in evaluation and providing their responses freely. In addition, for virtual interviews, the respondent's informed consent was obtained before recording the interviews and responses.

- **Confidentially of the respondents.** All respondents were assured that their information will remain non-attributable and will not be made public as an exclusive response(s). And that the individual responses will be kept anonymous, while consolidated findings of the report will be shared with relevant stakeholders.

- **Obligations to participants**. Evaluators (both national and international) remained respectful to individuals/beneficiaries' participating in the evaluation. Evaluators did not ask for divulging any sensitive information or insisted on a response where beneficiary lacked information or was reluctant to share it.

- **Avoidance of harm.** Evaluators ensured to minimize risks to, and burdens on, those participating in the evaluation; and sought to maximize the benefits and reduce any unnecessary harms that might occur from negative or critical evaluation, without compromising the integrity of the evaluation.

- **Independence and impartiality of evaluator.** The international evaluator remained unbiased to the project and its evaluation. Also, the evaluator followed a professional, impartial approach towards undertaking evaluation, and is presenting the findings in a credible and transparent manner.

- **Accuracy, completeness and reliability.** Evaluators ensured that the evaluation report is accurate, complete, and reliable.

2.5. Limitations and constraints

- **A mixed method approach with both quantitative and qualitative data would have been ideal, however due to COVID-19 and related travel restrictions the evaluation opted for a qualitative approach (as per approved evaluation-ToR).** Survey is usually a preferred method of data collection for evaluation "quantification of results" of such projects. However, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions the survey was not feasible. Therefore, this limitation was addressed by introducing rigorous qualitative analysis to establish the key contributions and attributions, and lessons learned and recommendations of the project.

- **Project result framework defined the output and outcome level indicators in terms of 'percentage' of targets groups which could not be measured through qualitative approach of evaluation.** Reporting on EYAPSCSI project's results framework at output and outcome level required a representative survey of targeted beneficiaries (young people, trainees, community leaders, etc. – disaggregated by gender, age, and location) in target communities. Since this evaluation involved qualitative approach i.e., using desk-review, structured and semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions, the reporting on quantitative results as per the defined indicators and data collection process was not possible. However, qualitative evidence has been gathered which explains the 'direction of travel or trajectory of results' towards project outputs and outcomes.

SECTION 3. KEY FINDINGS

The evaluation findings have been structured in line with the framework underlined in the study TORs. Also, they are consistent with OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, i.e., relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact.

3.1. Relevance

> Relevance measures the extent to which the EYAPSCSI project design and implementation approaches responded to the contextual challenges faced by youth in Solomon Islands, in relation to political, economic and social empowerment and specifically in relation to main sources of tensions/ grievances.

Summary findings

Relevance of the project (overall)	Highly relevant

- The project was a qualified response to the critical needs identified by the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)
- The project design and its interventions appropriately responded to key issues identified in the UNDP's Peacebuilding Perception Survey 2018
- The respondents across all provinces confirmed that the use of drugs by the young men, and violent behavior under the influence of drugs was the main issue in the society
- The project approach, focus areas, and main interventions were designed in consultation with Government and Implementing partners
- The EYAPSCI project supported the implementation of 2018 National Youth Policy (NYP)[10] by planning activities around its three-tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Islands – empowerment, employment, and entrepreneurship
- The overall context of the Solomon Islands remained same during implementation, except for the outbreak of the COVID-19 that delayed the project start
- The project also involved the local organizations working in the targeted area utilizing their technical expertise and social network for the community benefit

Supporting data, evidence, and commentary

The analysis of multiple primary and secondary information sources such as National Youth Policy, Solomon Islands Youth Status Report 2018, conflict analysis by UNDP, interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders and beneficiaries confirmed the relevance and appropriateness of the project, its design and implementation approaches in Solomon Islands. The evaluation found that the EYAPSCSI project sufficiently identified and worked towards addressing the most relevant peacebuilding issues faced by the Solomon Islands, particularly the sources of grievances among the young people which were the main causes of the Tensions (1998-2003). The Tensions were caused by multiple factors; however, young people – which constitutes over 70% of the total population – were affected the most by the incidents of violence, both as victims and the combatants; and thus, were considered as a key target group of the project. Among young people, women were identified as the most vulnerable section due to the prevailing gender inequalities which undermines both, the prospects of realization of their potential as active members of the society, and the important role that they can play in peacebuilding and mitigation of the risks of any future violence.

---

[10] Solomon Islands National Youth Policy (2017-2013), developed by UNDP and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

The below-mentioned evaluation findings provide further explanation and furnish evidence on the relevance of EYAPSCSI project in terms of addressing the most pressing peacebuilding issues, alignment with National Peacebuilding Policy and the National Youth Policy, addressing the important needs of the project beneficiaries, and also in terms of enabling the UN's added value in promoting peace in Solomon Islands, including addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender inequalities in Solomon Islands.

- **In terms of its strategic focus, the project responded to the critical needs identified by the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** which emphasized the need for (i) increasing youth participation in decision-making at local and national levels; (ii) providing young people with employment opportunities; and (iii) encouraging learning from the tensions so that such conflict is avoided from the outset. The project, by its design, was aimed at empowering marginalized young Solomon Islanders, particularly young women, both to engage in decision-making and as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances and thereby minimizing the risk of any future violence.

- **At an intervention level, the project design and its interventions appropriately responded to key issues identified in the UNDP's Peacebuilding Perception Survey 2018.** The key issues identified were employment and job opportunities (40.5%); uncertainty and pessimism among Solomon Islands on sustainability of peace after the withdrawal of RAMSI's (36.5%); and need for provision of greater power to provincial assembly/authorities (20.6%). The project interventions such as establishment of youth caucuses; capacity building of youth on peacebuilding, gender equality, leadership, governance, entrepreneurship, and communication skills; and the community-based social entrepreneurship projects led by youth sufficiently addressed these issues. The interviews with community leaders and FGDs with the community members also confirmed that the EYAPSCSI project were critical in engaging the youth in productive activities, and in taking them away from drugs, acts of violence, and disregard to law and community norms.

> *One of the main (peacebuilding) challenges in my community was to bring all youths together in one place, as some of them were involved in drugs, some were affected by the ethnic Tension and had no care, patience, and respect for other community fellows.*
>
> *After the project started, young people saw the importance of working as a youth group so now we work together in a group. It started with the trainings. After training, this business project come in again and this is what makes our youths to listen and engage in productive activities.*
>
> *- A female community representative, 27 years, Purepure Village, Weather Coast, Southeast Guadalcanal*

- **In response to the question on most important peacebuilding challenges in respective communities at the beginning of the Project,** the respondents across all provinces confirmed that the use of drugs among young men, and inappropriate and violent behavior under the influence of drugs was the main issue in the society. In almost all FGDs and KIIs, the community leaders and members were of the view that youth are involved in drugs, violence, and non-productive activities, as they are illiterate, do not have any employment and economic opportunities, and they are not accepted as responsible members of the society with role in decision-making and community development. The evaluation also found that the project design and interventions made a concerted efforts to address these issues, and in promoting a shift in the society where young people, including women and young single mothers, are seen as responsible individuals with an active role in social, economic, and political decision making.

> *Youth involvement in drugs and crimes, youths become drunk all the time before the project comes in our community. This project is a relief to the community because when the trainings are*

> *done, crime and drugs intake starts to gradually slow down, until now most youths left drug and involved in productive small business.*
>
> - *An extract from the report of a FGD with community members in Sulagwalu, North Malaita, Malaita Province*

- **The project approach, focus areas and main interventions were designed in consultation with Government and Implementing partners.** The EYAPSCI project supports the priority policy outcome 5 (PPO5) of the NYP 2017-2030. The main focus of PPO5 is leadership, governance, peacebuilding, social inclusion and citizenship[11]. The project activities, such as the establishment of youth caucuses are designed to resolve peacebuilding issues through social inclusion of youth and their participation in the decision-making process. The intervention also includes different training for the young men and women in the areas such as communication, confidence building, understanding of provincial and community decision-making processes, and how to influence them, conflict and peace and local ways of resolving conflict. This includes influencing strategy promoting positive behavior. The initiation of the formal process of transferring the youth caucuses to the National Youth Congress also indicates the project's relevance to the national policy. Review of project outcomes and activities also indicates its relevance to various SDG goals[12].

- **The EYAPSCI project supported the implementation of 2018 National Youth Policy (NYP)[13] by planning activities around its three-tier policy framework for youth development in Solomon Islands – empowerment, employment, and entrepreneurship.** The NYP called for actions to (i) empower young people as agents of positive change, participating in leadership, decision making and governance mechanisms including traditional leadership and governance at all levels ranging from household, village and community to provincial and national levels; and (ii) contributing to long-term social harmony and cohesion, peace and security, gender equality, equal opportunity and national unity that leaves no one behind. In addition, the Solomon Islands Youth Status Report (2018) also provided 10 broad recommendations across two thematic areas: youth participation in education, employment, and livelihoods; and youth participation in politics and governance, including elections, national government, provincial government, and community-level decision-making. Activities under output 1 and out 2 of the EYAPSCSI project adequately address these priority areas, and involving empowering youth playing proactive role in social, economic, and political activities.

> *While capacity building and leadership for peacebuilding was well supported by the UN's peacebuilding project in the last three years, I think there is a need to increase financial support into youth entrepreneurship activities. More importantly, UN peacebuilding office needs to support the Ministry of Education in developing a curriculum that inculcates values of citizenship, peace, harmony and social cohesion in the children.*
>
> - *Expressed by a Senior Official at Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs)*

- **The overall context of the Solomon Islands remained similar since the time of project design to that of project implementation, except for the outbreak of the global pandemic that slightly delayed few project activities**. Nevertheless, the designed activities, especially the formation of Youth Caucuses, were helpful to draw local communities and government closer to each other during the pandemic. The government capitalized the youth caucus platform effectively to increase capacity of youth on governance related matters including transparency and accountability, access to justice and democratic governance. Additionally, youth caucuses were

---

[11] Youth Development & Empowerment - Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (mwycfa.gov.sb)
[12] 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 5 (Gender Equality) through effective implementation of Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
[13] Solomon Islands National Youth Policy (2017-2013), developed by UNDP and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

proactively involved in consultative process by the relevant government ministries[14] on reform agenda focusing on land reforms, traditional governance bill and revitalization of provincial youth council etc. Youth caucuses demonstrated their impressive analytical skills while participating in the reform discourse. The project created equal opportunities for women to participate in social, economic and political processes, which is evident from ensuring almost 50% representation of women in all project activities. Consequently, the project built a conflict-sensitive, gender-inclusive and human rights-based environment. It supported 26 entrepreneurship projects – three times more than the number of initiatives proposed in the project design. The high demand for the entrepreneurship component also indicates its relevance to the context. The youth involvement in the entrepreneurship projects shows a positive trend among youth for demonstrating leadership in resolving socio-economic issues.

- **The project also involved local organizations working in the targeted area to utilize their technical expertise and social network for the community benefit.** That 26 entrepreneurship projects got an endorsement from the Development Service Exchange, an umbrella organization of the local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is an indicator of the success of this innovative model. The role of youth caucuses in winning of 26 community peace projects is highly commendable. Besides, the involvement of the World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) in delivering capacity building component of the project and execution of the mentorship program by the Young Entrepreneurs Council in the Solomon Islands (YECSI) indicates the appropriateness of the project intervention to the institutions implementing it.

3.2. Coherence

The extent to which other the EYAPSCSI project ensured (i) internal coherence i.e. synergies and complementarities among outcome 1 and outcome 2; and (ii) external coherence i.e. complementarities and synergies with other projects and their initiatives.

Summary findings

Coherence (overall)	Highly coherent
- The EYPASCI project augmented the interventions of UN's Peace Building Fund Project Phase II (January 2018 – September 2019) by implementing activities in almost same conflict affected zones around themes such as peacebuilding, peace and reconciliation, empowering women's and youth groups and community - Inter-output and inter-outcome linkages of the project were strong and ensured complementarians and synergies - The selection of implementing partners (WVSI and DSE) also helped leverage support on the project as well as across EYAPSCSI project themes - The project effectively utilized the existing country-level coordination mechanism for the strategic alignment, coordination, and implementation - The external coherence in the project was ensured through the hiring of staff on a cost-sharing basis working for other PBF funded projects	

Supporting data, evidence, and commentary

Interviews with key stakeholders and review of project related documents established that the EYAPSCSI project remained coherent with internal and external initiatives, and this has been

---

[14] Ministry of lands housing and survey, MTGPEA, MWYCF

achieved due to the unique position and value-addition of UNDP and ILO on the project and in Solomon Islands; UNDP's role as focal point for UN Peacebuilding Fund; and the design of the project serving as a 'catalyst' to drive wider structural change in the society wherein young people are proactively playing their role in broader social, economic, political and peacebuilding activities.

Internal Coherence

- **The EYPASCI project augmented the interventions of United Nations Peace Building Fund Project Phase II (January 2018 – September 2019),** by implementing activities in the same conflict affected zones i.e., Malaita, Guadalcanal and Honiara and have followed the similar theme, i.e., peacebuilding, peace and reconciliation, empowering women's and youth groups and community. Moreover, it supports the achievement of the objectives of the PBF funded Governance of Natural Resources Project, implemented by the UNDP and UN Women, for revitalizing the National Youth Congress and making PBF investments sustainable.

- **Inter-output and inter-outcome linkages of the project were strong and ensured complementarians and synergies.** For example, establishment of youth caucuses under outcome 1 provided a platform to connect with the young people in the community for trainings on peacebuilding, gender equality, leadership, governance, and communications, and participating in subsequent activities such as training on entrepreneurship skills and award of community-based social entrepreneurship projects. The activities were coherently designed, which demonstrated sequential planning and implementation with increased prospects of sustainable change.

- **The selection of implementing partners (WVSI and DSE) also helped leverage support on the project as well as across EYAPSCSI project themes.** Both implementing partners brought significant value to the project. The project benefited from their extensive experience of working in the communities, outreach and penetration in the community and their technical expertise in their respective areas of work. WVSI has over eighteen years of physical presence in Solomon Islands with amazing outreach and presence in farthest, hard to reach and hotspot communities. Also, WVI was implementing several other projects such as youth WASH project, gender-based violence project, etc. The EYAPSCI project complimented the implementation of both these projects targeting youth of two similar regions (Honiara and Weather coast) of the Solomon Islands. Similarly, the partnership with Development Service Exchange (DSE) also added significant value to the EYAPSCSI project in terms of its role in designing and refreshing the knowledge acquired from entrepreneurship trainings, maintaining database of certified mentors for the mentorship program, and in facilitating youth caucuses in identifying, planning, and managing social entrepreneurship projects. The DSE also holds the role of a focal point for NGOs and civil society organizations in the Solomon Islands[15], which indicated an additional degree of complementarities across other youth empowerment initiatives in Solomon Islands.

External Coherence

- **The project effectively utilized the existing country-level coordination mechanism for the strategic alignment, coordination, and implementation of EYAPSCI project.** The project board is comprised of a diverse group, which includes all the signatories of project documents. It also has the representation of the government of the Solomon Islands through different relevant ministries - Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children and Family Affairs. The project board provided oversight, strategic guidance and ensured alignment of the EYAPSCSI project with the policy objectives and strategic priorities of the government towards youth empowerment, peacebuilding, and social cohesion in Solomon Islands. The Ministry of Commerce, Labour and Immigration, though not the member of the project board, was regularly updated and consulted in relation to the entrepreneurship

---

[15] Civil Society Brief: Solomon Islands (adb.org)

component. To this end, the project ensured partnership with this ministry in running the Iumi Waka Youth Centre.

- **UNDP aligned its other projects with EYAPSCSI project by working through youth caucuses and in the same communities.** Youth caucuses established under EYAPSCSI project have become focal point for wide range of community-based projects that UNDP is implementing in Solomon Islands. Similarly, UNDP has further established itself as a credible organization among local communities, especially in hotspot areas of Solomon Islands. Both of these strengths are helping UNDP achieve coherence across its projects in Solomon Islands. For example, UNDP has prioritized working with youth caucuses and EYAPSCSI project areas for its other projects such as access to justice project, strengthening disaster risk management project and the PBF funded inclusive governance of natural resources project, thus ensuring a catalytic effect to the initial intervention.

- **The external coherence in the project is ensured through the hiring of staff on a cost-sharing basis working for other PBF funded projects.** The project also utilized the technical expertise of the specialized organizations working in different sectors, e.g., the part of mentorship coordinator based at Young Entrepreneurship Council is funded by the project. In addition, all the project staff worked under the supervision of the project manager (International, P3), which ensured a strong leadership, clear direct and effective coordination with all stakeholders. Also, the monthly coordination meeting mechanism was in placed with all the stakeholders, including the UN agencies and implementing partners.

> The EYPASCI is also consistent with and complements the interventions of following organization and projects in the similar context.
>
> - **South Sea Evangelical Church of Honiara Association Youth Ministry,** having focus on establishment of the youth center for helping youth who are experiencing social, cultural, drugs and alcohol-related issues.
>
> - **The Solomon Islands Association of Vocational Rural Training Centers (SIAVRTCs),** having role in strengthening the institutional and human resource capacity for the improvement of the community livelihood by working in coordination with other stakeholders striving for the development and sustainability of the community.
>
> - **Olofou Youth Program (OYP)** has a mandate to increasing young people's participation in community organization and development. ·
>
> - **Young Women's Parliamentary Group,** with a mission to educate youth on politics and political system; and impart young women with leadership, research, training, and advocacy skills.
>
> - **Youth Work Program** pursues the goal of improving the long-term economic prospects of the unemployed youth of the Solomon Islands through skills training and facilitating pathways towards formal work experience and business start-up.
>
> - **Hearing many voices project (2016-2019),** by OXFAM in multiple regions addresses the needs of the communities in in the area with a focus on capacity building, coordination, advocacy skills, etc. of the civil society organizations.
>
> - **Starting Fires Project (2016-2019),** by OXFAM aims to strengthen the youth councils/ groups and advocacy for youth inclusion.
>
> - **Youth involvement in village development committees,** by Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) is determined to increase youth's representation in decision-making committees and reporting youth concerns to provincial and national governments.
>
> - **Youth WASH project and Gender-based violence projects,** by WVSI ensures inclusion of youth representatives in community project committees.

3.3. Efficiency

> The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.

Summary findings

Efficiency (overall)	Mostly efficient

- The EYAPSCSI project exceeded most of its targets at output and intervention level.
- Establishment of youth caucuses warranted efficient delivery of subsequent activities on the project.
- Activity sequencing was a good approach; however, it created a time-lag across all subsequent interventions which somewhat compromised the timely implementation of project activities.
- The project mobilized the local resources and skills for the implementation of the activities which enabled time- and cost-efficiency.

Supporting data, evidence, and commentary

Review of the project management structure, project design elements and progress against output level indicators and interventions suggests that the EYAPSCSI project remained largely efficient. The project design and implementation approach i.e. working through youth caucuses proved to be highly efficient and effective in achieving, rather exceeding most of the results that were set in the project results framework. The management structure, partnerships and coordination mechanism were diligently defined to deliver activities in a resource efficient manner. For example, the implementing partners such as WVI and DSE not only ensured delivery of wide range of project activities in the toughest and farthest areas of Solomon Islands, but also made possible the efficiency savings which were used by the project to expand the scale of project activities especially the component of community-based social entrepreneurship.

The project also demonstrated high degree of resilience and adaptiveness to external challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns and travel restrictions; politically charged atmosphere in the run up to the 2019 elections and related incidence of violence; difficulties in reaching out and sustaining engagement with communities in farthest, hard-to-reach and hotspot areas. The project demonstrated effectiveness of the use of digital communications for blended learning such as hybrid or virtual meetings (through phone calls, digital platforms and Facebook etc.). The approach was adapted by the project team to mitigate the challenge of consistent and regular contact with the project beneficiaries, particularly youth caucus members, during the pandemic. This was also made possible due to PBF's support and willingness to provide a 6-months, no-cost time extension to the project which enabled UNDP and ILO to deliver the remaining activities and take some concrete actions towards adoption and sustainably of achieved results. Despite the extension of project duration, there remained little time for delivering outcome 2 related interventions smoothly such as entrepreneurship training, mentorship program and social entrepreneurship projects, and these interventions were squeezed to last eight months of the project.

- **The EYAPSCSI project achieved and exceeded most of its targets at output and intervention level.** Most significant activities include (i) establishment of 20 youth caucuses, which provided foundation for the project and was critical in bringing the communities and the government closer; (ii) leadership training "Youth Take the Floor" to empower youth to act as agents for peace and social cohesion, and as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances; (iii) training of 462 young men and women (53% men, 47% women) on peacebuilding, gender equality, leadership, governance, entrepreneurship and communication

skills; (iv) consultation sessions with over 1,000 young people, including young females, for youth profiling, and to increase young people's (particularly young women's) role as change makers and peacebuilders; (v) youth-focused capacity building initiative on entrepreneurship competencies, along with a new generation of certified mentors to support the youth in rural communities to implement their social entrepreneurship/peace projects; (vi) 26 social entrepreneurship initiatives – as community-based projects, being identified, designed and implemented by the selected youth caucuses; and (vii) youth empowerment talks/dialogues (YEP Talks), an initiative similar to TED talks, to create a forum for an inter- and intra-generational dialogue on youth empowerment with a focus on emphasizing the role of young people as decision makers and peace makers and creating conditions for youth participation and social entrepreneurship. With the allocated budget, the project indeed exceeded the target in terms of the number of youths trained, and also managed to support 26 social entrepreneurship projects against a target of 8 projects.

Table: Progress against output level interventions

Outputs and Interventions	Progress rating	Explanation/ Justification
Outcome 1: Young people's, particularly young women's, voices in decision making processes related to issues identified in the Peacebuilding Perceptions Survey strengthened in Honiara, North Malaita, the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal, and border communities in the West.		
Output 1.1. Marginalized young men and women capacitated to engage in decision-making processes and structures at the provincial and community level.	Exceeded	• Consultation sessions were held with over 1,000 young people for youth profiling, and to increase young people's, particularly young women, role as changemakers and peacebuilders. • A leadership training "Youth Take the Floor" was conducted to empower youth to act as agents for peace and social cohesion, and as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances. 40 participants attended the training, whereas the training was designed for 35 participants. • 462 young men and women (53% men, 47% women) were trained on peacebuilding, gender equality, leadership, governance, entrepreneurship, and communication skills. In addition, some of these were also trained on prevention of corruption and access to justice as additional set of skills delivered through other UN led interventions as integrated efforts under one UN umbrella. • Youth empowerment talks/dialogues (YEP Talks) were organized as an initiative to create a forum for an inter- and intra-generational dialogue on youth empowerment with a focus in emphasizing the role of young people as decision makers and peace makers and creating conditions for youth participation and social entrepreneurship.
Output 1.2. Youth caucuses established in the hot spot areas of Weather Coast, North Malaita, Bougainville Border Communities, and settlements in and around Honiara as inclusive forums for	Achieved	• Twenty (20) youth caucuses were established, with 47% representation of women youth, as youth-led platforms to strengthen the voice of marginalized, socially excluded, and remote youth and facilitate meaningful engagement with the upstream actors such as the government, development partners, etc. The integration of youth caucuses in the National Youth Congress/ Provincial Youth Councils is

youth views to be collected and amplified		underway, which is a key step towards institutionalization and sustainability of these youth caucuses.
		• A reconciliation event was organized by the youth caucus in Fulifo'oe, North Malaita, between Ubere/To'onisafu and Afo'oa communities. The event brought together both communities to get reunite for durable peace among the communities by resolving the issue related to land.

Outcome 2. Communities in the hotspot areas are more resilient to conflict with more socially, economically and politically empowered youth, with special attention to young women, engaging as peacebuilders.

Output 2.1. Marginalized young women and men capacitated to coherently plan, implement and sustain community projects using the tools of social entrepreneurship.	Achieved	• A comprehensive gender-responsive training manual/ guide was developed on leadership governance, gender equality and peacebuilding.
		• A "Training of Trainers for Mentors on Social Enterprise" was conducted in which 10 mentors were trained/certified. These mentors applied gained knowledge and skills for guiding fellow youth to design and implement community projects, which was the main objective of this training program. The training also involved stories of female role models.
		• Youth-focused capacity building initiative on entrepreneurship competencies along with a new generation of certified mentors supported young people in rural communities to implement their social entrepreneurship/peace projects.
Output 2.2. Community projects of marginalized youth groups prioritized, and support mechanisms established.	Exceeded	• 26 community/social entrepreneurship projects (three times more than original target) were supported. These projects are catalyst in engaging young people in economic and social activities; thereby reducing grievances and risk of youth's involvement in drugs, criminal and violence activities.
Output 2.3. Community projects of marginalized youth groups implemented, monitored and celebrated.	Achieved	• 26 youth-led community/social entrepreneurship projects supported in project's target locations with mentoring. This represents an over-achievement against a target of 8 planned projects. However, follow-up support on effective management of these entrepreneurship projects i.e., mentorship, monitoring, troubleshooting etc. could be provided to youth caucuses due to delayed award i.e. last quarter of the EYAPSCSI project. The results of these components of the project might get compromised due to inadequate follow-up support and could be considered as a risk to project effectiveness, impact, and sustainability.

- **Establishment of youth caucuses warranted efficient delivery of subsequent activities on the project.** The establishment of youth caucus provided a unique platform to EYAPSCSI project to work with youth in the targeted communities. Most of the interventions were anchored around

capacity building of members of the youth caucuses on leadership, peacebuilding, governance, gender equality, communications and entrepreneurial skills. The community-based social entrepreneurship projects were also awarded to these youth caucuses. In addition to the project, UNDP and the Government engaged youth caucuses in multiple interventions. For example, government engaged youth caucuses in promoting COVID-19 related awareness to the communities; UNDP engaged selected youth caucuses in access to justice project, and disaster risk reduction project, etc. The government also sees these youth caucus as future point for contact for engaging with the youth in these communities.

> *The youth caucus established with very clear intention and youths have taken this to building their leadership capacity and promote equity and acceptable governance. In parts of Weather coast this project has helped youth to participate in peacebuilding, community leadership and entrepreneurship. Some of the impacts of the youth caucus are as follows:*
>
> - *Young women and men are participating in the community development*
> - *Youth is emerging as forefront force in the peacebuilding efforts*
> - *Young people are learning to participate in the decision making*
> - *Young people are engaging in business activities*
> - *It is fostering cooperation and joint working among youths, community, and church*
>
> *Youth caucus transformed the lives of many youth people who in the past were involved in criminal activities to become assets of their own community, family and this nation.*
>
> - *Expressed by a Senior Official at Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs*

- **Activity sequencing was a good approach; however, it created a time-lag across all subsequent interventions which somewhat compromised the timely implementation of project activities.** The project design and implementation approach were helpful in building EYAPSCSI project on solid foundation, wherein every activity was derived from and/or build on a predecessor activity. However, this approach required more time to implement all the activities in the project. The activities under outcome 2, especially the social entrepreneurship projects were implemented during last 8-months of the project which resulted in less time for the project to mentor, monitor and strengthen these social entrepreneurship projects. In addition, internal and external factors such as delayed hiring of a project manager, delay in selection of implementing partner (DSE for delivering activities under outcome 2), COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, 2019 elections and campaign related violence caused delays in the timely execution of project activities especially those which came late in the sequence. The project still demonstrated a high degree of resilience and adaptiveness to cater for most of these challenges and delivery 100% of the activities. Additional time would have definitely ensured a more systematic mentorship and hands-on support to youth caucuses on management of these social entrepreneurship projects.

- **The project mobilized the local resources and skills for the implementation of project activities which enabled time- and cost-efficiency.** The local organizations (WVSI, DSE) with relevant skills, experience and community-outreach were engaged which made the trainings, mentorship, entrepreneurship initiatives context-specific and time- and cost-efficient. The project and its partners effectively engaged church and tribal/community leadership to mobilize over 45% of the women on all the project activities; and thus, efficiently distributed the resources between different target groups. Additionally, Iumi Waka Youth Centre, UNDP's innovative initiative to empower the youth of Solomon Islands, was, in partnership with Ministry of Commerce, Labour and Immigration, leveraged by the project which not only ensured value for money by providing free of cost youth space, but also contributed to enhancing the capabilities of youth through youth-

led social entrepreneurship, dialogues, learning discourses, networking and access to digital transformation opportunities etc.

- **The EYAPSCSI project and UN's PBF fund demonstrated high degree of resilience and adaptiveness to external challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns and travel restrictions; 2019 election campaign related incidence of violence; difficulties in reaching out and sustaining engagement with communities in farthest, hard-to-reach and hotspot areas.** An innovative communication mechanism through virtual calls (phone calls, Facebook etc.), where possible, was adapted by the project team to mitigate the challenge of consistent and regular contact with the project beneficiaries, particularly youth caucus members, during the pandemic. Similarly, the project delivered rather exceeded most of its activities and results without a cost overrun or compromising on the quality of delivery. This was also made possible due to PBF's support and willingness to provide a 6-months, no-cost time extension to the project which enabled UNDP, ILO and implementing partners to deliver the remaining activities and take some concrete actions towards adoption and sustainably of achieved results.

- **The social entrepreneurship projects were primarily identified by youth caucuses and their respective communities, awarded based on the defined criteria, and by-type respond to the community needs.** The 26 entrepreneurship projects were identified and delivered by the EYAPSCSI project, through its partner DSE,based on the broad criteria which includes considerations such as (i) project to be identified and led by youth; (ii) project should contribute towards community level peacebuilding and social cohesion; (iii) project should demonstrate active participation and representation of young women in overall design and implementation process. The projects were awarded after building the capacity of youth caucuses on two key areas. Firstly, training on peacebuilding, gender equality, leadership, governance, entrepreneurship, and communication skills; and secondly, training on entrepreneurship. One of the key aspects of the entrepreneurship training was the designing of the entrepreneur projects – which were mainly designed by the youth caucus in consultation with community leaders and mentoring support provided by entrepreneurship mentors. Youth-led entrepreneurship ideas were screened by the implementing partner (DSE) against the broad criteria. At the time of evaluation, the procurement of goods and services for these entrepreneurship projects was underway; while youth caucuses confirmed their clear understanding and planning to execute their businesses.

Province/ Project Type	Number of Projects	Average Grant Amount (USD)
Guadalcanal	**5**	**39,000**
Reatil - grosssory shop	2	39,000
Retail - selling of petrol fuel	2	39,000
Fish farming	1	39,000
Honiara	**7**	**27,857**
Poultry farming	2	39,000
Brick and toilet slabs making	1	39,000
Land scaping	1	13,000
Organic farming	1	13,000
Piggery farming	1	39,000
Retail - fresh meat	1	13,000
Malaita	**5**	**39,000**
Retail - selling of petrol fuel	3	39,000
Organic farming	1	39,000
Reatil - grosssory shop	1	39,000
Shortlands - Western	**9**	**21,667**
Retail - selling of petrol fuel	6	13,000
Reatil - grosssory shop	3	39,000

Grand total	26	30,000

The above social entrepreneurship projects were awarded under outcome 2 of the EYAPSCSI project and represent small-scale, community-based, local economic development and employment generation initiatives. (Note: Analysis and commentary on contribution of social entrepreneurship projects towards EYAPSCSI project outcome(s) is explained in the below section on effectiveness).

- **Community-based, youth-led social entrepreneurships projects experienced delayed implementation which might undermine the project's overall effectiveness and impact.** Due to COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions, delay in hiring of implementing partner (DSE), and the way project was sequenced, there remained time constraints for outcome 2 related interventions such as entrepreneurship training, mentorship program and social entrepreneurship projects, and duration of these interventions was enfolded to the last eight months of the project. The community-entrepreneurship projects were approved in April 2021 while establishment of these continued till end June. At the time of evaluation, the procurement of goods and services for these entrepreneurship projects were underway.

- **The quality assurance of the project was ensured by establishing a robust M&E and performance management system from the outset of the project.** Key M&E tools including results' trackers, sex disaggregated training database with pre & post assessment, sex disaggregated beneficiaries' database and donor reporting protocols were employed, maintained and followed. The information collected and analyzed through these M&E activities was effectively used by the project manager, PBF fund team, project partners and stakeholders to take informed decisions about the project, manage project performance, take corrective measures, and learn and adapt to changing context such as COVID-19 emergency. The critical analysis of the project results framework, based on its logical flow, suggested capturing of concrete and simple indicators instead of focusing on too many aspects in one indicator (Please refer to the commentary on the project's results framework in the section on effectiveness).

3.4. Effectiveness and Theory of Change

To what extent the project outputs contributed to the achievement of change at outcome level, and EYAPSCSI project has made a concrete contribution in terms of building and consolidating peace in Solomon Islands, and whether the project Theory of Change was realized.

Summary findings

Effectiveness	Highly effective

- The EYAPSCSI project ToC and related assumptions remained/ proved valid during the life of the project and based on the 'trajectory of change'.

- The project interventions and outputs have significantly contributed to change at outcome level, which is evident from major structural and societal shifts experienced, noticed and reported by the stakeholders and respective communities.

- Major shifts in the status of youth (men and women) and resultantly their contribution to peacebuilding and social cohesion include, but are not limited to the ones listed here: (i) individual young men and women are organized as part of the semi-structured, semi-formal youth caucuses; (ii) youth is now seen as part of solution, rather than part of the problem; (iii) young people's behavior towards citizenship, gender issues, drugs and working with others has changed in targeted communities; and (iv) young people have started taking self-initiatives to address their problems, rather than complaining about the situation.

Theory of change

The underlying theory of change was that:

- **IF** young Solomon Islanders in at-risk communities, particularly young women, are empowered to create their own solutions to sources of frustration, have a stronger voice in decision making, and have more meaningful opportunities for a good life, **THEN** they will be better able to use their creativity and energy to address pertinent social problems that might otherwise contribute to the grievance, and thereby reduce the risk of violence re-emerging during the upcoming critical period, or thereafter.

The interviews and focus group discussions with community leaders and members suggest a notable shift in the young people's position in the society, which is a validation of EYAPSCSI Project's ToC, The engagement of youth in community level productive activities such as youth caucus, regular meetings, trainings, role in community affairs, social entrepreneurship projects etc. changes the perspective of both, the young people who have started to recognize their potential, importance and respect in the society; and the communities who have started to find young people more capable and responsible to take part in decision making processes and lead initiatives. In particularly, the young women who are part of the youth caucuses (as leaders and members) found to have clearer vision to transform the role of youth, and they are more meticulous in managing the functioning and utility of youth caucuses.

So-far youth is organized and has gained some confidence and respect of communities, church and tribal leadership; capacitated to meaningfully engage with decision-makers; and is capable to identify and develop local level solutions to their problems. This provides a right trajectory towards the 'change – as envisaged in the ToC', wherein young people's creativity and energy was deemed to be channelized towards addressing pertinent social problems that might otherwise contribute to the grievance. The evidence also suggests that the church, tribal leaders, communities, and families of young people (more so for young men than women) have started to engage youth in decision making processes, which is the first step towards youth empowerment. However, the sources of grievances are huge and multiple and can mostly be addressed by engaging at a level where resources exist. And strategies corresponding to a robust power analysis can address this because power remains fluid and can be shifted towards disempowered people through sustained interventions.

The **assessment of key ToC assumptions** is below:

Assumptions (as per ToC document)	Validity assessment and explanation
With the right engagement, decision makers will be willing to give marginalized young people space in the decision-making process.	**True,** because: - Interviews and group discussions with church, community and tribal leaders confirmed their acceptance and willingness to engage youth (organized under youth caucuses) in the community-level decision making processes. This was made possible due to the EYAPSCSI project which equipped these young men and women to be organized, build knowledge, capacity, skills, and confidence to meaningfully engage with decision-makers. Also, the tribal leaders and traditional groups did not see these youth caucuses as parallel, power-and-resource sharing structure, rather they expressed their confidence on and extended support to these youth caucuses and encouraged the role of young women in decision making. **However,** two aspects of this assumption are yet to be confirmed.

	• Firstly, if the decision makers at a higher level (beyond local communities, and where power and resources exist) will be equally positive and willing to engage with young men and women? The integration of youth caucuses into provincial youth councils and national youth congress is a step towards youths' engagement; however, how 'meaningful' this engagement would be to increase the voice of youth and tackle their marginalization is yet to be experienced.
	• Secondly, if the youth caucuses would keep on demonstrating the same level of capacity, clarity and confidence in the engagement at higher level of decision making (where major power and resources exist) to meaningfully negotiate solutions for their social, economic and political grievances.
At least some of the potential triggers for conflict can be addressed locally, and that with the right support marginalized young people can lead an effective response.	**True,** because:
	• Interviews and group discussions with church, community, tribal leaders, and government confirmed that three local level issues have been substantially addressed. These were (i) use of drugs; (iii) incidence of local/ community level violence; and (iii) acts of disregard to law and community norms by youth (young men in most of the cases). The EYAPSCSI project facilitated this shift by engaging young men and women in youth caucuses, training activities, community level decision-making and social entrepreneurship projects.
	However, other sources of grievances and triggers for conflict are yet to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following:
	• Firstly, young people are concerned about the lack of economic and employment opportunities (beyond individual UN's PBF funded community-based social entrepreneurship project)
	• Secondly, young people are concerned about the direction to which Solomon Islands is heading towards – as they see the Country is not moving toward positive change (unpublished project supported UNDP perception survey 2020) [16]
	• Thirdly, the persistence of structural issues which caused the Tensions (1988-2003), such as land disputes, traditional versus non-traditional authority structures, unequal access to government services, unequal development and economic opportunity, inadequate law and justice institutions, youth unemployment, and a lack of educational opportunities.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the EYAPSCSI project is derived from the quality of its design and is established with the major structural and societal shifts it has brought in the context of Solomon Islands.

• **The project has clearly defined two objectives which signifies the quality of its design.** The objectives are aligned with project's theory of change. In depth analysis of project objectives and its theory of change infers that the overall focus of the project was to strengthen the voice of the most marginalized group of the Solomon Islands, i.e., youth especially women, and to building

---

[16] The project's Baseline Survey was transformed to a broader Perception Survey, to capture among the others, the socio-economic impacts to sustaining the peace amid Covid-19 Pandemic. The Perception Survey; however, was not published and was distributed to the main stakeholders only.

resilience to conflict by empowering them socially, economically, and politically. Similarly, the assessment of project theory of change employed that the empowerment of young women had a positive impact on the society wherein energies of young women were used to resolving social issues, peacebuilding and reducing the likelihood of violence.

> *I come from a place that is affected by tension (referring to conflict), therefore, I wanted to involve in the project to help our youth so that they can lead a positive and meaningful life again and stop themselves from socially prohibited activities like drugs and crime.*
>
> *- Remarks by a female vice chairperson of youth caucus, Shortlands- Western Province*

- **Youth is organized in some form through youth caucuses.** This is one of the major shifts in the society as young men and women (in targeted areas) are now formally represented through a semi-structured, yet well recognized youth caucuses. This brings strength and meaningfulness to the voice of youth, where they act as a bridge between marginalized youth and key decision makers at community, church, and government level.

- **Youth is now seen as part of solution, rather than part of the problem.** The national perceptions survey on peacebuilding (2018) suggested communities sees youth as part of the problem, as they were at the forefront of the Tension and related violence incidence. However, the evaluation found a positive shift in the views of community leaders and community women who are now seeing youth as leaders in resolving community-based issues and helping their respective communities and families in tackling some of the social and economic issues. The change in community views is influenced by youths' active involvement in youth causes, social entrepreneurship projects and reduced use of drugs.

> *When I went through the trainings, I build my capacity and confidence to work with the community leaders, in the end community leaders as well as the young people started trusting me. Before the project I was nobody in the community, nobody respected me or ever asked me for any decision. Now I am allowed to participate in all community meetings which is a big change for me and my role in the community.*
>
> *- Remarks by a male youth caucus chairperson, Naho - Cluster 1, Weather Coast, Guadalcanal Province*

> *Before I didn't know how to analyze problems and how to handle them. Now I am trained on leadership, gender equality, peace building and so when issues happen in community, I know exactly why these issues are happening and how to handle it – This is one change in my life.*
>
> *Also, the project empowered me to lead awareness in my community, this brings trust from the people we live with, and I build my confidence to speak to people.*
>
> *- Remarks by a male chairperson, White River Youth Caucus, Honiara*

Table: Key Initiatives of Youth Caucuses – Beyond Participating in EYAPSCSI Project Activities

Key initiatives	Example(s)	Source
Resolving issues related to the land dispute (North Malaita, Guadalcanal)	Youth Caucus in Fulifo óe from North Malaita actively facilitated the tribal chiefs in promoting reconciliation between Ubere/ To'onisafu and Afo'oa communities on land dispute.	KIIs with leadership of youth caucuses confirmed a broad role of youth caucuses in resolving local issues such as land disputes. The EYAPSCSI Project progress report includes the example from

Key initiatives	Example(s)	Source
	Additionally, conflicts/ disharmony in the communities, especially amongst youth, mainly caused by the drugs were resolved by youth caucuses by engaging youth in sports activities and peacebuilding advocacy meeting in close collaboration community leaders and religious groups (church groups). Youth Caucus, Naho Cluster, Guadalcanal reported their support to local leaders in church related activities, and in dealing with community conflicts.	North Malaita where youth caucus actively supported tribal chiefs in bringing reconciliation between two communities.
Helping elderly people and people-with-disabilities in their household chores, and in social and local economic activities (multiple locations)	Youth Caucuses in Guadalcanal, Honiara, Weathercast and North Malaita reported their active involvement in community-based social and economic activities. For example. • Youth Caucus, Naho Cluster, Guadalcanal reported that they have made their youth plans to help old people/PWD in cutting firewood, collecting water, cleaning gardens etc. • Youth Caucus, White River, Honiara reported that they actively led the disaster response during flooding by rescuing people lives and assets. They also reported that they responded to other emergencies such as fire in a house where they rescued a child who was left inside and manage to curtail the fire till the fire brigade reached.	These individual examples of support to communities are reported during KIIs with chairpersons and vice chairpersons of youth caucuses.
Participation in consultative process to develop gender sensitive Traditional Governance Bill (TGB)	Young men and women, part of the youth caucuses, were engaged in the consultative process to develop gender sensitive TGB bill under another PBF funded project i.e. Inclusive Governance and Natural Resources Management. Additionally, engagement of youth caucus members in other capacity building initiative under other UNDP projects including Transparency and Accountability, Access to justice and Disaster Risk Reduction not only helped the youth to first get sensitised about the importance of being involved in the decision-making process but also motivated to advocate on same issues in the community, particularly with community leaders and youth.	KII with UNDP officials confirmed engagement of youth caucuses in the consultative process on Traditional Governance Bill (TGB).
Exchange initiative for promotion of peace	The youth exchange initiative for youth caucus leader was also a unique	This was a project supported initiative; however, its impact was

Key initiatives	Example(s)	Source
and social cohesiveness between the conflict affected Malaita and Guadalcanal provinces (Malaita, Guadalcanal)	initiative, implemented by the project, to bring young men and young women of communities from two Tension affected communities of provinces (Malaita & Guadalcanal) together for the promotion of peace and social cohesiveness between the conflict affected provinces. Youth, who exposed with youth exchange initiative, helped the youth and communities to change their negative perception about each other for being violent and aggressive.	wider and resulted in building peace and social cohesion among two communities.
Delivering COVID-19 awareness messages and aid delivery (multiple locations)	Selected youth caucuses were engaged by the government for COVID-19 awareness messages and aid delivery.	The EYAPSCI project progress report reported the role of youth caucuses in COVID-19 awareness. KII with UNDP officials also confirmed that youth caucuses were formally engaged by the government to deliver awareness messages an aid.
Community Youth Policing initiative (Malaita)	Fulifo'oe Youth Caucus, Malaita took the initiative of involving youth in Community Youth Policing, wherein youth is involved in monitoring and controlling excessive use of alcohol and drugs, and youth-related violence incidents.	Reported by president and vice president of Fulifo'oe Youth Caucus, Malaita during KII.
Development and launching of Sulagwalu community bylaws (Malaita)	Sulagwalu Strife Youth Caucus held dialogue and shared ideas with community leaders for promoting peaceful environment in Sulagwalu. As a result, Sulagwalu Youth Caucus developed and launched its community bylaws. The launching was witnessed and validated by Church leaders, Tribal Churches, Malu'u Police and the Provincial Police Commander, and funded by World Vision SI. Other initiatives taken by Youth Caucus includes: (i) helping young women prepare/ establish their gardens and do marketing; (ii) launching campaigns for cleaning community places, cutting timber, etc.; and (iii) building a community hall for which they were actively seeking support (at the time of evaluation).	Reported by members of the Sulagwalu Strife Youth Caucus during FGD.

- **Young people's behavioral change towards citizenship, gender issues, drugs and working with others.** The EYAPSCSI project especially the training on peacebuilding, gender equality, governance and social entrepreneurship has ignited the positivity among youth, and they have started to act more responsibly in their communities. The data review of training's pre & post assessments indicated change in understanding of themes discussed, especially gender related topics. Additionally, the change in the behavior of youth has been widely noticed, experienced,

and reported by the women and tribal leaders in the community. The chairpersons of most of the youth caucuses reported that the members of their youth caucuses have reduced or completely quit the use of drugs, and therefore the number of cases of irresponsible acts, gender-based violence incidences, and other incidences of violence have reduced – in which young men under the influence of drugs were reportedly involved. Rather, there is a shift in the behavior of young men as they have started behaving positively towards others including female, family members, church, and community leaders.

> *This is the story of a 17-year old male (member of youth caucus) who has not attended school since he grew up and was involved in criminal activities in my community and people don't really like him. His mother died when he was a little boy. When he received the training, there was a part in the training that talks about "your purpose to live in this world" and this was the point that changed the young teenager, he saw his importance and now he changed his behavior and live a life that everyone in the community noticed. He was also happy to see the youth caucus project and said that he now sees his future in this project.*
>
> - *Shared by a female chairperson, Nila Youth Caucus, Shortlands Western Province*

- **The social entrepreneurship projects funded under EYAPSCSI project have significant prospects to achieve outcome 2, which requires that the communities in hotspot areas are more resilient to conflict with socially, economically, and politically empowered youth, in particular young women, engaging as peace builders.** The social entrepreneurship projects are primarily local economic development, employment and income generating projects with no direct, immediate bearing on peacebuilding in Solomon Islands. However, these correspond to the wider narrative, causal effect that is defined by the EYAPSCSI project's ToC "that **IF** young Solomon Islanders in at-risk communities, particularly young women, are empowered to create their own solutions to sources of frustration, **THEN** they will be better able to use their creativity and energy to address pertinent social problems that might otherwise contribute to the grievance, and thereby reduce the risk of violence re-emerging during the upcoming critical period, or thereafter". This underlined assumption has been validated by all the key stakeholders i.e., community leaders, community members, youth itself and the key government officials during key informant interviews and focus group discussions. For example. one of the key informants from a government ministry (MTGPEA) instated that "integrating the community system and entrepreneurship in the peacebuilding is possibly a good way to youth's self-reliance". At the local level, community members including female leadership of youth caucuses reported a shift in the attitude and behavior of young men from drugs, local-level violence, non-responsiveness to increasing focus on productive activities such as community support, business, entrepreneurship, and income generation. Interestingly – despite probing, none of the respondents reported any imminent risk of domestic violence on ownership, sharing of resources or distribution of income of these entrepreneurship projects. On the contract, the respondents confirmed their complete clarity on the ownership, management and sharing of profits of these entrepreneurship projects.

  These are yet early indications of change, as the entrepreneurships projects were in the inception phase at the time of this evaluation and its data collection. Any follow-up assessment, probably after the maturity of these entrepreneurship projects, might be able to suggest how effectively social entrepreneurships projects contributed to the project outcomes and the objective of peacebuilding in Solomon Islands.

- **Young people have started taking self-initiatives to address their problems, rather than complaining about the situation.** One of the major shifts reported by quite a significant number of respondents such as church, community/tribal leadership and youth caucuses is that young women and men have started to take charge of their lives, and they are findings solutions to their problems and taking initiatives. This seems to be one of the significant shifts (in project areas and targeted communities) in comparison to situation in 2018.

Before, I never contributed in anything in the community, after going through a business training I started my small business on Bakery with my other members. Our business is growing now, I am happy with UNDP – This is big change for me – I can help my children with eating balance food, I can now pay their school fees, and make contributions to my community.

-   Remarks by a female youth caucus member, North Malaita

Our youths organize ourselves and help community leaders to deal with community conflicts as and when they happen. We also run our petrol business (with the assistance of EYAPSCSI project) to provide income to help our youth in the community. In addition, young people are helping our older people in the community to carry water for them and in collecting firewood.

-   Remarks by a female Vice Chairperson, Naho Youth Caucus, Guadalcanal

3.5. Impact and Sustainability of Results

The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects and if the net benefits of the interventions continue or likely to continue.

Summary findings

Impact and sustainability of results	High impact, with likelihood of sustaining most of these
- At the policy and institutional level, the project contributed to enhancing the capacity of relevant ministries, including National Youth Congress on peacebuilding initiatives, connecting with young men and women, and in informing youth and peacebuilding strategies. - The change in project outcomes and impact is directly attributable to EYAPSCSI project, as the intervention design was unique, and project focused on areas which were long neglected. - Five main results are analyzed from sustainability purpose. Three (03) are likely to sustain; one (01) is somewhat likely to sustain; while one (01) is likely to diminish overtime.	

Contribution analysis

The contribution of the EYAPSCSI project was intended at two levels i.e., the community level, and in the broader context of Solomon Islands. The project mostly focused on community level interventions, with some engagement, advocacy and influencing at policy and institutional level. The project by design took a catalytic approach, whereby it was intended to demonstrate success, generate evidence and provide foundation for scale of peacebuilding through youth empowerment.

- **At the community level, the project made a substantial effort towards empowering marginalized young Solomon Islanders, particularly young women to engage in decision-making and act as pro-active social entrepreneurs to address local sources of grievances.** This is evident from the 'effectiveness' aspects of evaluation which provides examples and evidence of *how* project interventions and outputs contributed to bring about a positive change the lives of the young Solomon Islanders i.e., from being marginalized to being recognized and

empowered. The project also took the peacebuilding efforts into new locations that were traditionally beyond the coverage of development efforts and government services. Most of the members of youth caucuses reported that they have been consulted for the first time by any project for capacity building and entrepreneurship support. This is among the many 'firsts' that this project was able to initiate.

- **At the policy and institutional level, the project contributed to enhancing the capacity of relevant ministries, including National Youth Congress on peacebuilding initiatives, connecting with young men and women, and in informing youth and peacebuilding strategies.** The project ensured formal and continues engagement with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace, and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Labour and Immigration and the National Youth Congress through its Board, and by engaging officials from these ministries in conducting trainings and learning lessons.

- **The project also contributed to some of unintended, yet positive changes in the Solomon Islands.** For example: The community-based social entrepreneurial projects provided economic and employment opportunities at the local level, thereby contributed to reducing migration of young Solomon Islands to Honiara and other urban centers for employment. The population pressure on urban centers such as Honiara has been a growing concern, and the center is yet not able to provide adequate housing, employment and income generating activities. Also, influx of people and pressure on resources was one of the reasons that caused the ethnic strife among various regions.

- **The change in project outcomes and impact is directly attributable to EYAPSCSI project, as the intervention design was unique, and project focused on areas which were long neglected.** The youth caucuses established under the project are unique and represent first ever forum developed to organize young men and women around peacebuilding, social cohesion, and social entrepreneurship. The EYAPSCSI project also conducted training of young men and women using a gender sensitive training manual which was developed in consultation with relevant ministries based on the customized needs of the project and priorities of the relevant ministries, its thematic focus and audience. The training material now is being utilized by the PBF funded, IOM led Gender Responsive Peacebuilding in Extractive Industries in Isabel Province, Solomon Islands Project. The idea of community-based social entrepreneurship projects was also unique and involved 26 projects from PBF's project budget. All these interventions, and the resultant change is directly attributable to EYAPSCSI project.

Sustainability analysis

The relevance, coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness define the continuation or likely continuation of benefits of the project in the context of Solomon Islands. The suitability of the results guarantees the perpetual value of project and its results.

Intervention and related results	Rationale/ justification
1. Youth caucuses established under EYAPSCSI project	**Likely to sustain** There are four key reasons to believe this. - Firstly, youth caucuses are regarded by young women and men and other community members as highly effective platforms for discussing and addressing the concerns and issues of youth and wider community. Also, young men and women are feeling dignified in the leadership and/or membership role of youth caucuses.

Intervention and related results	Rationale/ justification
	• Secondly, the community-based social entrepreneurships are one of key sources of motivation for youth caucuses and are likely to remain intact and active.
	• Thirdly, the National Youth Congress (NYC) and Provincial Youth Caucuses are willing to integrate these community-level youth caucuses. This means some degree of formalization with likelihood of provision of some technical support and financial resources in the future. Once this institutionalization is formally done, there is likelihood that most of these youth caucuses will sustain and continue to perform their functions.
	• Fourthly, increasing involvement of youth caucuses in other activities, beyond EYAPSCSI project, such as COVID-19 awareness session, other projects such as access to justice, transparency, and accountability, disaster risk mitigation, inclusive governance and natural resources management etc.
2. Improved capacity of young men and women on peacebuilding, gender equality, governance, etc.	**Likely to diminish overtime** Currently, most of the trainees confirm their increased understanding and knowledge on peacebuilding, gender equality, governance, etc. They have also reported examples of how these training have improved their behaviors and practices in communities. However, there is greater likelihood that the improved knowledge and capacity might diminish overtime. There are two factors which can slow down the 'drop-off' effect of this interventions: • Firstly, if members of the youth caucuses continue to meet, discuss, and internalize these topics and related practices. • Secondly, if any other project or relevant government ministries take forward the existing knowledge by organizing refresher courses for the trained young men and women on these topics.
3. Improved entrepreneurial capacity and social entrepreneurship projects	**Likely to sustain** There are three reasons to believe that the social entrepreneurship projects will sustain: • Firstly, young men and women are seeing these entrepreneurship projects as game changer and once a lifetime opportunity to change their socio-economic status. There is a great degree of seriousness around these projects, and youth caucuses are making their best to make them succeed. • Secondly, these projects are mostly local economic development projects, dealing in goods and services which are demanded by the communities. Also, these projects are simple in nature, being identified and designed by the youth caucus so they are likely to manage and maintain these well. However, the resources for the entrepreneurship initiatives were awarded quite late in the project due to delays mainly caused by global pandemic, which has undermined some of the follow-up support that project could have delivered through its mentorship initiative for the sustainability of these initiatives.
4. Improved institutional capacity of	**Likely to sustain**

Intervention and related results	Rationale/ justification
implementing partners i.e., WVSI and DSE	Both partners had confirmed benefits of partnering with UNDP/ILO under PFB funded. There is a greater likelihood that they will sustain institutional strengthening initiatives, particularly quality assurance, and financial management, skills, knowledge, and learning contributed by the project. • Firstly, both organizations got access to and received extensive support in the designing of gender sensitive training manuals under outcome 1 and outcome 2. These were specialized manual developed with expertise and knowledge of UNDP and ILO. • Secondly, both organizations have confirmed that they will keep on pursuing for similar peacebuilding projects for UN as well as other funding sources to further build their capacities, and act as local partners with unique capability.
5. Capacity and outreach of relevant government ministries	**Somewhat likely to sustain** The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace, and Ecclesiastical Affairs and the National Youth Congress were part of the project board, have participated in project activities such as youth profiling, consultations, trainings etc. and have regularly received project related progress and learning. All these engagements resulted in improved capacity and outreach of these ministries on peacebuilding and youth empowerment, and engagement with youth men and women in remote areas. The ministries will further sustain these capacities if: • Firstly, the government sustain their engagement with youth caucuses for training, capacity, and any other community related tasks. • Secondly, the Government design and implement similar, youth empowerment project focusing on peacebuilding, social cohesion, and social entrepreneurship projects. • Thirdly, if government starts developing/ updating gender-sensitive national peacebuilding policy and incorporates its learning from EYAPSCSI project on these policies/ strategies.

3.6. Cross-cutting issues

The extent to which cross-cutting issues such as social dialogue, gender and marginalization has been addressed through project design, its implementation approaches, and activities.

Summary findings

Cross-cutting issues	**Significant,** with clear evidence of achieving/ exceeding project gender marker, and inclusive results.
• The EYAPSCSI project sufficiently leveraged its engagement with key stakeholders to build ownership of the project, create recognition for the role of young women and men in peacebuilding, and uplift young people to participate in decision making processes.	

- The EYAPSCSI project provided entry points to young women and men to demonstrate their ability to provide leadership, promote positive change and address practical issues of their respective communities.
- Female represents over 45% of the project beneficiaries, with major roles in leadership of Youth Caucuses, mentorship activities, social entrepreneurship projects and in community-level peacebuilding activities.
- The project particularly addressed the stereotyping and perception that "women could not be leaders in their community (9.3% of all respondents of 2018 National Perception Survey on Peacebuilding in Solomon Islands). FGDs and KIIs with both, the community leaders and the members of the youth caucuses confirmed change in percepti yon where they acknowledged the role of women in addressing local issues and promoting peaceful cohesion in the society.

Supporting data, evidence, and commentary

The review of project documents and meetings with key government officials and local/ trial leaders confirmed an increased emphasize of the project on an inclusive, participatory and gender-responsive project design, implementation approaches and the selection of interventions. Particularly, this represents an add-on by UN agencies to project-induced peacebuilding efforts, wherein youth, women, and other marginalized groups such as young single-mothers were made part of the project interventions. The social dialogues created wider acceptance of the issues of marginalization and women and youth suffering amid threat to peace in Solomon Islands, and thus resulted in behavioral change of the government officials and community leaders towards youth and women. The value proposition is established by the fact that the impact of project is greater than the sum of impact of individual interventions, demonstrated by increasing role of youth and women in leadership, peacebuilding, entrepreneurship, and decision-making processes.

Social dialogue

- **Consultations with senior government official and community/tribal leaders were critical in creating discourse and consensus on the role of young people and women in peacebuilding.** The EYAPSCSI project approach involved consultations and dialogues with key stakeholders for building ownership of the project, creating recognition for the role of young women and men in peacebuilding, and uplifting young people to participate in decision making processes. These dialogues and consultations sufficiently addressed the issues of lack of understanding and confidence of key stakeholders i.e. government institutions, community leaders, and wider community on the potential role that young women and men can play in addressing the local sources of grievances and in promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion.

> **EYAPSCSI project's dedicated activities to support gender and social inclusion**
>
> - Thirty (30) consultations and meetings/dialogues held with various community leaders (women and men) including tribal chiefs, young leaders, religious leaders, women leaders etc. and relevant national and provincial government officials.
> - Twenty (20) participatory dialogues/consultation meetings with the young men and young women from target project locations including Honiara, Weather Coast, North Malaita and Shortlands for the establishment of 20 Youth Caucuses.
> - Consultants with over 1,000 young people for youth profiling, and for the identification and engagement of underprivileged/vulnerable youth in the contextually innovative interventions initiated by the project.
> - Youth Empowerment Talks (YEP Talks), with gender-balanced paganists, to promote youths' perspective on issues of young people and women, and their role in peacebuilding efforts.

The manifestation of this is established by the fact that (i) youth caucuses are established as a well-recognized youth platform; (ii) selected youth caucuses were engaged by the government for

COVID-19 awareness messages and aid delivery; (iii) youth caucuses have been recognized as a bridge between community and government; (iv) youth caucuses were awarded with the community-based social entrepreneurship projects; and (v) youth is given more liberty to take self-initiatives to address local, community-based issues. The entry-points also helped young women and men to demonstrate their ability to provide leadership, promote positive change and address practical issues of their respective communities.

Sulagwalu youth caucus have held a dialogue with community leaders and shared ideas for dealing with community issues and grievances to promote peace and social cohesion. As a result of this dialogue, on November 25, 2020, Sulagwalu launched its "community bylaws" and community have witnessed a peaceful environment for the first after many years and the Ethnic Tensions. The launching of community bylaws was witnessed and validated by Church leaders, tribal leaders, Malu'u Police and the Provincial Police Commander.

- FGD with members of Sulagwalu Youth Caucus, Sulagwalu, North Malaita

---

As community leaders, the Project has changed our life – when the youths started to quit alcohol and work in the community, this makes us very happy and supportive to what they want to do.

Now we respect them to attend our community meetings, involve in dialogue, involve in community activities and although most of them are illiterate but now they can talk and discuss with us, before they never do this.

FDG with Foodo Community Leaders (6, 4 men & 2 women), North Malaita

---

Gender and social inclusion

- By design the EYAPSCSI project involved specific focus on mainstreaming of women and other marginalized groups such as single mothers in the project's supported peacebuilding and social entrepreneurship activities. This was also in line with the steer provided by Solomon Islands Youth Status Report, 2018, which confirmed that women were particularly vulnerable to intimidation and sexual violence that occurs during Ethnic tension.

> **Gender and social inclusion in EYAPSCSI project interventions**
>
> - Females represents 47% of membership (98 young women out of total 208) within youth caucuses, including representation in the leadership role. The youth caucuses are led by chairperson and vice chairperson, and either of these positions are held by female.
> - The project and its partners effectively engaged mobilized over 45% of the women on all the project activities; and thus, efficiently distributed the resources and benefits of the project between different target groups.
> - 45% of 402 youth beneficiaries of the social entrepreneurship component were women (including 31 single mothers), and they are activity involved in the management of their respective social entrepreneurship initiatives. Also 50% of the mentors are women.

- The critical initiatives that spur the engagement of women from the beginning of the project were (i) the profiling of youth including women and subsequent inclusion of over 45% women in the youth caucuses, (ii) the gender-responsive training of youth, with dedicated modules on gender-equality, stories of women leaders, etc.; and (iii) role of women in social entrepreneurship projects. The training of youth on leadership, governance, gender-equality and peacebuilding has specially created the change in social behaviors towards women's participation in community-based activities. Particularly, the project emphasized to address the perceptions issues which says, "women could not be leaders in their community (9.3% of all respondents of 2018 National Perception Survey on Peacebuilding in Solomon Islands), as it was not allowed by culture (60.3%) and that the women were not as good as men (29.9%)".

> *This project supported me with trainings on leadership, gender equality, peacebuilding and how I can run a business. The project taught me to live and promote peace in my family and community, and to lead the Youth Caucus to address issues of my community.*
>
> *Before, I never contributed in anything in the community, after going through a business training I started my small business on Bakery with my other members. Our business is growing now, I am happy with UNDP – This is big change for me – I can help my children with eating balance food, I can now pay their school fees, and make contributions to my community.*
>
> - *Remarks by a female youth caucus member (23 years, single mother), North Malaita*

- Majority of the respondents (community leaders, community members) believe that the women can play an active role in peacebuilding, social and economic activities; provided they are adequately supported and empowered to perform this role. The respondents further shared that woman are the most affected the most by the violence incidents and their aftermaths, so they can effectively talk about their experiences and the impact of such violence on them, their families, and communities. Through these dialogues, women can effectively persuade communities to achieve peace and social harmony. Some of the key limitations that women currently face in effectively delivering these dialogues include more training, material on peacebuilding, funding and platforms for such peacebuilding dialogues.

SECTION 4: KEY LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Sequence-activities approach improved effectiveness; however, require more than usual time for implementing projects like EYAPSCSI

Recommendations (improving efficiency):

- The project such as EYAPSCSI should follow the Gantt chart (tool) to planning and scheduling activities, so that if one activity in a sequence is delayed the impact on follow-up activities is assessed and a proper management plan is devised to bring the project back on track.

4.2. Local partnerships were instrumental in ensuring efficiency and outreach to farthest, remote, and hot-spot areas

Recommendations (improving efficiency):

- Since local partnerships with CSOs benefitted the EYAPSCSI project in improving its efficiency and effectiveness, it is advisable to identify and engage these partners from the very start of the project. The recommendation is especially in the context of DSE, which was identified and contracted very late on the project for delivery of outcome 2 related activities.

4.3. Youth Caucuses brought structural change in the society, wherein young people are gaining a more meaningful role in communities

Recommendations (improving impact and sustainability):

- In addition to integration of youth caucuses in the National Youth Congress and relevant ministry, UNDP, ILO and other PFB partners need to find ways to build their future projects on the strengthen and position of these youth caucuses. The youth caucuses represent enormous potential to work in a country which has over 70% youth population.

- Young men and women demonstrated substantial capacity and commitment to resolving issues of their respective communities. The future efforts should involve working with the NYC and relevant ministries to find ways to graduating progressive young men and women to next level of youth leaders, peace promoters and entrepreneurs who could work beyond their respective communities to focus on wider reforms such as legislation on youth, women rights, land reforms, governance, democracy, electoral reforms, accountability, and corruption, etc. and proactively engage with key policy makers on issues of employment and economic opportunities, education and skills enhancement, land dispute management system, etc.

4.4. Social/ community entrepreneurship projects and integration of youth caucuses in NYC are the critical factor for keeping the youth caucus and its members intact and active

Recommendations (effectiveness and impact):

- Social entrepreneurship projects respond to a major part of the youths' concern (45% youth consider economic and employment opportunities as their biggest issue, Solomon Islands Youth Status Report 2018). Therefore, future PBF funding may also consider and prioritize 'local economic opportunities' as part and parcel of youth empowerment and peacebuilding efforts.

- At this stage of the project, the youth caucuses and the community leaders have expressed their huge satisfaction and clarity on their respective social entrepreneurship projects, and on how these will be managed, and the returns will be shared. However, a follow up assessment of social entrepreneurship projects may ideally be conducted in 6-12 months (from the date of award of these projects) to analyze the status of these social entrepreneurship projects, as whether or not these projects are running and maintained well by the youth caucuses; whether the benefits of these projects are equitably distributed among young men and women; and whether or not these projects have improved social cohesion and peace among youth, communities, etc. or whether or not these projects have created some kind of conflicts among youth/community on ownership or division of economic returns and dividends etc.

4.5. Member's turnover in youth caucuses remained high, which might diminish the capacity of youth caucuses

Recommendations (efficiency and effectiveness):

- As the COVID-19 related restrictions started easing up, the migration of young people to capital Honiara increased for education and employment purposes[17]. This resulted in a notable turnover of membership of youth caucuses in other provinces, wherein new members joined and replaced the departing members. However, this has created a capacity gap among members of youth caucuses, wherein older members are trained on leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, entrepreneurship, etc. while the new members are not. In this situation, it is advisable to hand-over simpler version of training material (at-least on key topics) to literate members of youth caucuses so that they can provide induction to new, incoming members. Also, the training manuals developed under EYAPSCSI project may well be institutionalized in the NYC annual plans with provision of adequate budget for follow-up trainings of youth caucuses.

4.6. Tribal leaders and traditional groups do not see these youth caucuses as parallel, power-and-resource sharing structure, rather they expressed their confidence on these youth caucuses

Recommendations (relevance):

- Interviews with all relevant stakeholders confirmed that church and the tribal/community leaders are all positive and supportive of youth caucuses. This is attributable to UNDP's approach, wherein the project involved/consulted tribal leadership and church on the project, and in profiling youth for youth caucuses. This approach proved to be highly effective in the context of Solomon Islands, and no single respondent or member of the youth caucus reported any undue influence of the community leader or church. The future PBF projects might also consider engaging with church and community leadership.

- Also, the role of church and tribal leadership is very well ingrained in all community-level social, political and economic decision-making in Solomon Islands; therefore, UNDP, ILO and other PBF partner should consider ways to engage them through formal as well as informal ways.

4.7. Duration of the project was short considering the mandate, outreach and unforeseen incidents

Recommendations (effectiveness):

---

[17] Learnt during the FGDs and KIIs with the communities

- The EYAPSCSI project represented a huge agenda of structural reforms in Solomon Islands, involving empowerment of youth to lead peacebuilding efforts and proactively participate in social, economic and political decision making. The targets in the 'project results framework' were equally ambitious, requiring this wider change to happen in 24-30 months of the project. Though it is preferred to keep the ambition high, the duration of the project may need to be matched with its complexity, ambition, scope, scale, and coverage. In case of EYAPSCSI the delivery challenges were compounded by extraneous factors such as COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, 2019 elections and related incidence of violence, etc.

- Since Solomon Islands remained on the priority of UN's PBF, the Fund might need to consider phasing of wider peacebuilding agenda into short-duration projects with no major intervals. This will help build on previous work and continue momentum of change towards durable peace and social cohesion.

- It is also recommended that PBF projects such as EYAPSCSI – having short-duration, deeper focus, and community-level interventions – should take a focused approach i.e., by concentrating on selected geographical location – instead of expanding the geographical outreach – to demonstrate more substantial and sustainable change/impact.

SECTION 5: ANNEXURES

Annex-5.1. Evaluation TORs

Annex-5.2. Evaluation inception report

Annex-5.3. List of documents reviewed

S. No.	Documents
A	**Documents relating to contextual background of the project**
1	National Youth Policy (2017-2030)
2	Solomon Islands Youth Status Report, 2018
3	UN Peacebuilding Fund, and the eligibility documents for PBF in country
4	Conflict analysis by UNDP
5	National Youth Congress
B	**Project design documents**
6	Project design document + No-cost extension document re- COVID-19 implication, including result framework
7	Peace building perceptions survey(s) and other related perception surveys
8	Progress reports – bi-annual reports (3)
9	Project success stories/ most significant change stories
C	**Beneficiary details – databases, listings, sheets (in any form as these exist)**
10	List of project interventions - by outcome and output
11	List of youth caucuses – including leadership and membership of youth, geographical locations, date of formation, and type of support provided.
12	Social entrepreneurship initiatives – any database or listing (by type, value, social-impact)
13	Training/ trainees database, including pre- post learning assessments

Annex-5.4. Type of data collection instruments/ questionnaires used

Category	Type of data collection questionnaire/ form
Key informant interviews	KII Respondent Category 1 PBF Project Staff (UNDP, ILO, UN RC Office)
	KII Respondent Category 2 Government Partners (MTGPEA, MWYCFA, NYC)
	KII Respondent Category 3. Implementing Partners (World Vision and DSE)
	KII Respondent Category 4. Community leaders (beneficiaries)
	KII Respondent Category 5. Youth Caucus/Youth Entrepreneurs (beneficiaries)

Category	Type of data collection questionnaire/ form
Focus group discussions	FGD Respondent Category 1. Youth Caucus/Youth Entrepreneurs (beneficiaries) FGD Respondent Category 2. Community Members in Project Areas
Direct observations	Direct Observation 1. Youth Caucus/Youth Entrepreneurship Project

Annex-5.5. Number of stakeholders consulted during evaluation

Type of stakeholder	Stakeholder	Honiara	Weather Coast	North Malaita	Shortland	Fiji
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)		**9**	**3**	**5**	**2**	**2**
UN Agency	UNDP	2	0	0	0	0
UN Agency	ILO	0	0	0	0	2
Government	Ministry of Peace (MTGPEA)	1	0	0	0	Not Applicable
Government	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	1	0	0	0	
Government	National Youth Council	1	0	0	0	
Implementing partner	Development Service Exchange (DSE)	1				
Implementing partner	World Vision	1				
Indirect beneficiary	Community leader-Men	0	0	1	0	
Indirect beneficiary	Community leader-Women	1	1	0	1	
Direct beneficiary	Youth caucuses (young men)	1	1	2	0	
Direct beneficiary	Youth caucuses (young women)	0	1	2	1	
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)		**2**	**0**	**4**	**0**	
Indirect beneficiary	Community members (men & women, mix)	1	0	2	0	
Direct beneficiary	Youth Caucus members/Youth entrepreneurs' group (67% young men and 33% young women)	1	0	2	0	
Direct observations		**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**	

Type of stakeholder	Stakeholder	Honiara	Weather Coast	North Malaita	Shortland	Fiji
Direct beneficiary	Youth Led Entrepreneurs project	1	0	2	0	

Annex-5.6. Evaluation management response

Evaluation recommendations	Evaluation management response					
	Remarks (fully agreed/ agreed/ disagreed)	Action on recommendation	Responsible organization(s)/ official(s)	Applicability – EYAPSCSI project and/or future projects	Significance (high/ medium/ low)	Resource requirement
A. Improving relevance						
1. Interviews with all relevant stakeholders confirmed that church and the tribal/community leaders are all positive and supportive of youth caucuses. This is attributable to UNDP's approach, wherein the project involved/consulted tribal leadership and church on the project, and in profiling youth for youth caucuses. This approach proved to be highly effective in the context of Solomon Islands, and no single respondent or member of the youth caucus reported any undue influence of the community leader or church. The future PBF projects may also consider engaging with church and community leadership for their ownership and support to project activities. (Best practice from EYAPSCI project, recommended for replication)						
2. The role of church and tribal leadership is very well ingrained in all community-level social, political, and economic decision-making in Solomon Islands; therefore, UNDP, ILO and other PBF partner should consider ways to engage them through formal as well as informal ways on future projects.						
B. Improving efficiency						
3. The project such as EYAPSCSI should follow the Gantt chart (tool) to planning and scheduling activities, so that if one activity in a sequence is delayed the impact on follow-up activities is assessed and a proper management plan is devised to bring the project back on track.						
4. Since local partnerships with CSOs benefitted the EYAPSCSI project in improving its efficiency and effectiveness, it is advisable to identify and engage these partners from the very start of the project. The recommendation is especially in the context of DSE, which was identified and contracted very late on the project for delivery of outcome 2 related activities.						

5. As the COVID-19 related restrictions started easing up, the migration of young people to capital Honiara increased for education and employment purposes. This resulted in a notable turnover of membership of youth caucuses in other provinces, wherein new members joined and replaced the departing members. However, this has created a capacity gap among members of youth caucuses, wherein older members are trained on leadership, peacebuilding, gender equality, entrepreneurship, etc. while the new members are not. In this situation, it is recommended to hand-over simpler version of training material (at-least on key topics) to literate members of youth caucuses so that they can provide induction to new, incoming members. Also, the training manuals developed under EYAPSCSI project may well be institutionalized in the NYC annual plans with provision of adequate budget for follow-up trainings of youth caucuses.						
C. Improving effectiveness						
6. The EYAPSCSI project represented a huge agenda of structural reforms in Solomon Islands, involving empowerment of youth to lead peacebuilding efforts and proactively participate in social, economic and political decision making. The targets in the 'project results framework' were equally ambitious, requiring this wider change to happen in 24-30 months of the project. Though it is preferred to keep the ambition high, the duration of the project may also need to be matched with its complexity, ambition, scope, scale, and coverage. In case of EYAPSCSI the delivery challenges were compounded by extraneous factors such as COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, 2019 elections and related incidence of violence, etc.						
7. Since Solomon Islands remained on the priority of UN's PBF, the Fund might need to consider phasing of wider peacebuilding agenda into short-duration projects with no major intervals. This will help build on previous work and continue momentum of change towards durable peace and social cohesion in Solomon Islands.						
8. It is also recommended that PBF projects such as EYAPSCSI – having short-duration, deeper focus, and community-level interventions – should take a focused approach i.e., by concentrating on selected geographical location – instead of expanding the geographical outreach – to demonstrate more substantial and sustainable change/impact.						
Improving impact and sustainability						
9. In addition to integration of youth caucuses in the National Youth Congress and relevant ministry, UNDP, ILO and other PFB partners need to find ways to build their future projects on the strengthen and position of these youth caucuses. The youth caucuses represent enormous potential to work in a country which has over 70% youth population.						

10. Young men and women demonstrated substantial capacity and commitment to resolving issues of their respective communities. The future efforts should involve working with the NYC and relevant ministries to find ways to graduating progressive young men and women to next level of youth leaders, peace promoters and entrepreneurs who could work beyond their respective communities to focus on wider reforms such as legislation on youth, women rights, land reforms, governance, democracy, electoral reforms, accountability, and corruption, etc. and proactively engage with key policy makers on issues of employment and economic opportunities, education and skills enhancement, land dispute management system, etc.						
11. Social entrepreneurship projects respond to a major part of the youths' concern (45% youth consider economic and employment opportunities as their biggest issue, Solomon Islands Youth Status Report 2018). Therefore, future PBF funding may also consider and prioritize 'local economic opportunities' as part and parcel of youth empowerment and peacebuilding efforts.						
12. At this stage of the project, the youth caucuses and the community leaders have expressed their huge satisfaction and clarity on their respective social entrepreneurship projects, and on how these will be managed, and the returns will be shared. However, a follow up assessment of social entrepreneurship projects may ideally be conducted in 6-12 months (from the date of award of these projects) to analyze the status of these social entrepreneurship projects, as whether or not these projects are running and maintained well by the youth caucuses; whether the benefits of these projects are equitably distributed among young men and women; and whether or not these projects have improved social cohesion and peace among youth, communities, etc. or whether or not these projects have created some kind of conflicts among youth/community on ownership or division of economic returns and dividends etc.						