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To: Government of Australia**

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**Cover photo:** Market Vendor-Farmer at her newly acquired farm in Fiji. Credit: UN Women

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AMVA	Auki Market Vendor Association
CMBE	Continuing Market Business Education
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EC	Executive Committees
GMVA	Gizo Market Vendor Association
GRB	Gender-responsive budgets
HCC	Honiara City Council
HCMVA	Honiara Central Market Vendor Association
IPI-VF	Improving Productivity and Income for Vendor Farmers
IDRW	International Day of Rural Women
IWD	International Women's Day
LMC	Luganville Municipal Council
M4C	Markets for Change programme
MPG	Malaita Provincial Government, Solomon Islands
MTMVA	Marobe Tanvasoko Market Vendor Association
MVA	Market Vendor Association
NIMVA	Northern Islands Market Vendor Association
PMC	Project Management Committee
SVMVA	Silae Vanua Market Vendors Association
TC	Tropical Cyclone
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), with generous support from the Government of Australia, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), launched the programme, “Markets for Change – Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu” (M4C programme) (ATLAS 89127, 89128, 89129; Australia reference: 69575). This fourth progress report covers the period from January to December 2017.

The **overall goal** of the six-year initiative (2014-2019) is to ensure that marketplaces in rural and urban areas in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory environments, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. In 2017, the programme built on 2016 achievements in Outcome areas 1, and 3 with progress continuing in Outcome area 2 and substantial achievements made in Outcome 4 in Fiji. In Solomon Islands, the project expanded to include Gizo market in Western Province. In Fiji, the project is close to completing infrastructure work following the effects of Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston, which struck Fiji in February 2016.

### **Outcome 1: Inclusive, effective and representative marketplace groups are created and grow, contributing to gender, social and economic advancement, the elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence and expanded economic opportunities**

The programme supported the initial stages of one new Market Vendor Association (MVA) (Gizo) and strengthened 18 existing MVAs capacity to be inclusive, effective and representative marketplace groups<sup>1</sup>. Seventeen MVAs are legally registered with five MVAs newly registered in 2017<sup>2</sup>. Thirteen MVAs<sup>3</sup> have more than 50 per cent of leadership positions filled by women. Women head ten MVA Executive Committees (ECs). MVAs with membership lists reported 6,169 members across the region, of which 5,184, or 84 per cent are women.<sup>4</sup> In all three countries, MVA ECs continue to function effectively by organizing elections, annual general meetings, and provide services that benefit their members. MVAs across all countries are continuing to effectively engage with local government, participating in government consultations on infrastructure development, market management, budget development and/or discussions on ordinances for markets.

### **Outcome 2: Improved socioeconomic security of women market vendors (WMV)**

Financial management and agricultural practices of WMV have improved in the areas of record keeping, business management and budgeting. Self-reported changes in savings have increased, as has access to and use of financial services. Vendor farmers are continuing to improve agricultural practices such as pest and disease management, and post-harvest handling for increasing yields. Changing practices and behaviours requires long term support to determine whether interventions will lead to an increase in savings and

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<sup>1</sup> We are noting Gizo in this report, but will report it as an MVA in 2018 only.

<sup>2</sup> Fiji MVAs Levuka, Savusavu, Rakiraki, Tavua and Namaka all completed legal registration in 2017.

<sup>3</sup> MVAs include formal associations, women’s clubs and groups.

<sup>4</sup> Figures fluctuate as membership increases and decreases throughout each year. At the time of reporting, this represents a reduction of 1,777 members compared to 2016. The decrease is attributed to decline in membership in SVMVA in 2017 (refer to Output 1.1). However, the percentage of women members has increased by over 4 per cent since 2016. .

improved socioeconomic security. This will be a focus of the 2018 planned midterm review, which will provide guidance on moving this outcome area forward. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as the responsible party for Outcome 2 activities, provided training under the Continuing Market Business Education programme to 1,333 vendors (832F, 501M), and Improved Productivity and Income for Vendor Farmers training to 1,122 (636F, 486M) vendor farmers.

### **Outcome 3: Local governments and market management are gender-responsive, effective and accountable to WMV's needs**

Following gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) training, local governments in all three project countries committed to engage in GRB. The frequency and complexity of consultations continued to increase in 2017 between MVAs and local government partners with MVAs included in consultations on budgets, infrastructure, market management, health committees and the development of market by-laws. Local government is engaging with MVAs, recognizing their role as critical to positive management and the operation of market places. Local governments participation in and support for activities, including GBR workshops and training, the completion of the Safety and Discrimination Assessments and inclusion of MVAs in key government committees is further evidence of the commitment of local government to consider gender-responsive policies and plans.

### **Outcome 4: Physical infrastructure and operating systems are improved to make markets more sustainable, resilient to disaster risks and climate change, safer and more accessible**

Infrastructure work in Fiji progressed significantly in 2017, with the focus on completing all post-disaster infrastructure projects to cyclone resistant standards following TC Winston. Fiji completed agreements for infrastructure in three markets (Nausori, Namaka and Ba) with infrastructure progressing in Rakiraki and Suva markets. Planning and agreements for infrastructure work is progressing in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Vanuatu completed land negotiation agreements for the Emua marketplace and draft plans are now complete for the Luganville market. In Solomon Islands, an infrastructure consultant has been recruited to move work forward at Auki and Honiara markets. Market-level disaster preparedness and action plans were completed for all 17 market sites in 2017, following the Vulnerability and Resilience Assessments of 2016.

## **II. PURPOSE AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

UN Women, with generous support from DFAT, launched the M4C programme that is guided by a theory of change, which is that gender-equitable economic and sociocultural empowerment of WMV within the market environment of the three countries can be attained through the programme's four expected outcomes.

During the reporting period M4C expanded to Gizo, Western Provincial Government with the addition of a new market at the request of the Government of Australia, which is supporting infrastructure development in Gizo town, including a new marketplace. DFAT requested M4C support all programme components including marketplace relocation, establishment of a MVA, training and consultations on infrastructure development as a priority.

The programme increased its visibility by participating at the Pacific Agricultural Research Development Initiative workshop and the 13<sup>th</sup> Pacific Women's Ministerial Triennial Conference. MVA leaders influenced the outcome document to include a focus on informal sector women. All three project sites hosted high-level delegations during the reporting period, further showcasing achievements. M4C was invited to submit a proposal valued at USD 2.5 million to the Government of Canada to expand the programme to three additional market sites through 2020.

The M4C programme continues to receive significant media coverage as a result of strong relationships with media representatives cultivated by UN Women staff in the three country offices. In 2017, 159 media pieces specifically mentioned M4C (42 in Fiji, 65 in Solomon Islands, 47 in Vanuatu and five regional) appeared in print or on radio. M4C was consistently featured in social media with 61 Facebook and Twitter posts to more than 20,322 (Facebook) and 6,569 (Twitter) followers. This a key strategy to ensure information flows back to DFAT, among other stakeholders; an additional benefit of media coverage is that the public acknowledgement of the achievements of MVA members empowers MVA leadership and strengthens the associations.

### III. KEY PARTNERSHIPS

UN Women currently partners with 19 representative marketplace groups in three countries.<sup>5</sup> UN Women liaises with and maintains partnerships at both local government as well as provincial and national Ministerial levels. UNDP is a key partner for many activities under Outcome 2. The private sector, donors and partner agencies that provide training and services are also central to the programme. In late 2017 UN Women signed a Project Cooperation Agreement with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum<sup>6</sup> to provide training in 2018 to all MVA ECs and local government partners on governance, leadership, communications finance processes, accountability and market operations. UN Women M4C became a member of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research reference group for the Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative (DFAT's primary regional agricultural programme).

In **Fiji**, key partners include the members of the 12 municipal councils where the programme operates; the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Women; Children and Poverty Alleviation; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Labour; the Fiji Development Bank; Fiji National University; and the Fiji National Provident Fund. The Fiji Red Cross is a partner in select activities. Westpac Bank is the primary partner for financial literacy.

In **Solomon Islands**, key partners are the Honiara City Council (HCC), Malaita Provincial Government (MPG) and the MVAs of Honiara, Auki and Gizo. Other government partners

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<sup>5</sup> MVAs include formal associations, women's clubs and groups. Rakiraki market in Fiji had two associations which merged in 2016. Two new markets were added in 2016 and one in 2017. The total number at the end of 2017 was 19 groups.

<sup>6</sup> Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific – see <http://www.clgf.org.uk/regions/clgf-pacific/>

include: the Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening; Environmental Health and Health Promotion Divisions of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services; National Disaster Management Office; and the Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs. New partnerships were established with the Western Provincial Government as part of the expansion to Gizo. The programme partnered with the Australia National University’s Department of Pacific Affairs<sup>7</sup> to research urban market places in Honiara, with the Bank of South Pacific and Solomon Islands Small Business Enterprise Center for business training, and with the Kastom Gaden Association for agricultural training.

In **Vanuatu**, key partnerships are in place with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Department of Local Authorities, Shefa Provincial government; the Port Vila municipal council; the Luganville Municipal Council (LMC); and the Department of Women under the Ministry of Justice. The Vanuatu Women’s Center was engaged to implement the Market Safety and Discrimination assessment in Vanuatu. UNDP and the National Bank of Vanuatu provide financial literacy and business training to market vendors under the “Continuing Market Business Education” (CMBE) component under Outcome 2. Under the agreement formalized with UNDP, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides training to market vendors under the “Improving Productivity and Income for Vendor Farmers” (IPI-VF).

#### **IV. RESULTS<sup>8</sup>**

MVAs in all project countries have grown in capacity and are better able to provide support and services to their members. MVA membership slowed after the rapid growth experienced in 2015-2016 with one MVA reporting a loss in membership. Local governments are more willing and better able to support WMVs and continue to include MVAs in local government processes. There is progress in monitoring and supporting training with self-reported increases in income and independent savings, and evidence of uptake with improved business and agricultural practices. Infrastructure projects are continuing to progress in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with rapid progress on both plans and completion of some infrastructure work in Fiji (see **Annex A** for expanded results tables that include indicator definitions and **Annex B** for personal accounts).

#### **Outcome 1: Inclusive, effective and representative marketplace groups are created and grow, contributing to gender, social and economic advancement, the elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence and expanded economic opportunities**

**Outcome Indicator 1:** Number of marketplaces that have registered MVAs in place that are assessed to be effective, representative and accountable.

<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
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<sup>7</sup> The Department of Pacific Affairs was formerly called the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia.

<sup>8</sup> Results are reported against the four expected outcomes, 10 outputs, and 11 output indicators of the programme. Most results are presented by country to highlight specific results and achievements in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

<b>Fiji</b>	9	<b>Fiji</b>	12 <sup>9</sup>	Surpassed
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2	<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2 <sup>10</sup>	Reached
<b>Vanuatu</b>	3	<b>Vanuatu</b>	3	Reached
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Strengthened capacity of rural and urban WMV to claim rights through participation and leadership in MVAs.		<b>Output 1.2:</b> Strengthened capacity of MVA ECs to lead their MVAs and represent the interests of market vendors with local government and market management.		
<b>Output Indicator 1.1:</b> Number of marketplaces with MVA ECs with at least 50% women in leadership roles.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>	
<b>Fiji</b>	10	8 (out of 12)	Not reached	
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2	2	Reached	
<b>Vanuatu</b>	3	3	Reached	
<b>Output Indicator 1.2:</b> Number of women and men participating actively in MVAs' decision-making processes				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>	
<b>Fiji</b>	700	2,918 members (1,987 women, 427 new)	Surpassed	
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	300	449 members (415 women, 48 new)	Surpassed	
<b>Vanuatu</b>	318	2,802 members (2,745 women)	Surpassed	
<b>Output Indicator 1.3:</b> Number of MVAs that have initiated interventions to improve the socioeconomic status of women and men in the markets				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>	
<b>Fiji</b>	5	5	Reached	
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2	3 *note 1 MVA not registered	Surpassed	
<b>Vanuatu</b>	4	5 *note 2 MVAs not registered	Surpassed	

In 2017, MVAs continued to demonstrate evidence of strengthened ability to grow and represent their membership, contributing to the social and economic advancement of market vendors. To date, 18 MVAs have been established or strengthened (under the M4C programme<sup>11</sup>). Twelve of these were already legally registered, while five MVAs registered

<sup>9</sup> There are 13 markets with market vendor associations in Fiji supported by the project, one of which is not legally registered, the Ba Market Vendors Association.

<sup>10</sup> The Gizo MVA in Solomon Islands is not legally registered and is therefore not included here.

<sup>11</sup> In 2017 there were 18 MVAs, not including the Gizo MVA, which was in the process of being formed in late 2017 and will be counted under this outcome in 2018.

in 2017<sup>12</sup>. Women head 10 MVAs, and 13 MVAs have more than 50 per cent women in leadership positions. MVAs with membership lists reported 6,169 members across the region, of which 84% per cent are women. Membership in Fiji and Solomon Islands grew, while Vanuatu experienced a decrease in membership following TC Pam resulting in an overall decrease in membership of 1,777 across all countries since 2016<sup>13</sup>. In all three countries, MVA ECs are better able to demonstrate effective functioning by organizing elections and annual general meetings (AGMs), events and other activities for the benefit of their members, and are increasingly interacting and advocating with local government. Market vendor leaders demonstrated capacity to represent their members at the Pacific Regional Women's Ministerial Triennial conference where they successfully advocated to improve working conditions for WMV and women in the informal sector.

### MVAs Advocate for Women's Empowerment

MVA leaders joined government ministers and other partners to discuss progress on women's economic empowerment at the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Ministers for Women held in Suva, Fiji from 2-6 October 2017. Their advocacy led to the inclusion of two recommendations in the outcome document<sup>14</sup> calling on the public and private sector to improve marketplaces and include market vendors as a special interest group in promoting women's influence and agency.



*Photo: MVA leaders at the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Ministers for Women. Credit: UN Women/Caitlin Clifford*

<sup>12</sup> Fiji MVAs (Levuka, Namaka, Rakiraki, Savusavu, and Tavua) all completed legal registration in 2017.

<sup>13</sup> The overall decrease of 1,777 members represents a large drop in membership in one MVA balanced against some growth in membership registered in a number of other MVAs. Note, SVMVA decreased in membership from over 3,000 to 405 following TC Pam, while other MVA membership. Please refer to Annex B and Vanuatu output 1.1 section.

<sup>14</sup> MVA leaders called on the public and private sectors to improve working conditions for women by: improving infrastructure and governance of market places to create inclusive and gender-responsive environments; and called on the public and private sectors, CSOs, FBOs, CROP agencies and development partners to adopt measures to promote gender equality in all areas of life by: promoting women's influence and agency by supporting the capacity of special interest groups, such as market vendors, to develop their bargaining power in economic areas.



## **Output 1.1 Strengthened capacity of rural and urban WMV to claim their rights through participation and leadership in MVAs.**

MVAs have continued to increase capacity to form and grow associations where vendors can claim their rights. MVAs are demonstrating accountable governance by organizing and holding AGMs and elections. During the reporting period, MVAs held AGMs and membership drives with a focus on strengthening their operations and services. Six of the 18 MVAs (not including the new MVA forming in Gizo) held AGMs/elections, with most MVAs holding regular documented member meetings<sup>15</sup>. M4C has supported the strengthening of MVA capacity through a range of activities, including provision of mentoring on operational management of associations coupled with training in leadership, governance and communications, resulting in stronger associations. The existence of organized MVAs indirectly supports non-registered market vendors operating out of the same markets (refer to **Annex C** for an overview of all MVAs as of December 2017).

**Fiji:** In 2017, MVAs continued to increase in capacity, grow and form associations, as evidenced by an increase in association numbers and overall MVA membership. Two new associations, Savusavu and Levuka (Ovalau and Moturiki MVA) completed formation activities with a total of five MVAs formally registering their associations with the Ministry of Labour (Rakiraki, Namaka, Tavua, Levuka and Savusavu). MVAs membership increased by 481 members: from 2,437 (818M, 1,619F) to 2,918 (931M, 1,987F).

MVAs increased leadership capacity in governance and operations was demonstrated through representative and well-run elections and governance processes. Eight of the 12 elections resulted in a woman president, an increase from 6 women presidents in 2016. Five out of 12 MVAs held AGMs involving 326 vendors (217W) resulted in three new women elected as President and a woman appointed as legal advisor for the Suva United MVA. The three new women have never served before as President, thus expanding leadership roles to new women members. A national MVA Learning Exchange Forum was organized for 73 MVA representatives in August to learn new skills, access information, and exchange information on challenges and solutions related to the formal registration process. The Forum contributed to existing skills and helped to build new skills in advocacy, networking and problem solving. The Forum is a key activity towards sustainability of MVAs. UN Women supported MVA governance through ongoing consultations with MVA ECs on planning, elections and governance, negotiations and conflict resolution with farmers, councils and market management.

MVAs are better able to plan, fundraise, and implement market-level awareness programmes. Without UN Women's assistance, 10 MVAs<sup>16</sup> planned and organized events for International Women's Day (IWD) or International Day for Rural Women (IDRW) that attracted high-level speakers from senior government, including representatives of the Ministries of Local Government and Health. These events help build membership and increase member participation (e.g. the Namaka MVA encouraged women from different ethnic groups to attend their events, which resulted in 30 new members joining the association).

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<sup>15</sup> Three MVAs in Fiji, one in Solomon Islands and two in Vanuatu.

<sup>16</sup> 10 MVAs (Namaka, Labasa, Lautoka, Levuka, Rakiraki, Suva, Savusavu, Nausori, Ba, Tavua)

“We used what we learned during the Leadership & Communication trainings for MVA EC members to be aware of roles and responsibilities and how to negotiate – this helped us with the negotiation on waiving [stall] fees.” Lako Oгатia, President Lautoka MVA

**Solomon Islands:** In 2017, the Honiara Central Market Vendor Association (HCMVA) and the Auki Market Vendor Association (AMVA)<sup>17</sup> demonstrated strengthened capacity to organize and grow their membership, with HCMVA increasing from 339 in 2016 to 375 in 2017 and AMVA from 62 in 2016 to 74 in 2017. AMVA increased member services and benefits, which encouraged increased membership, and demonstrated the capacity to manage and provide services for its members by securing an office and cooperative space to sell goods and generate income for members. AMVA provides a savings scheme, low interest loans, and cooperative store investments for their members. UN Women provided a legal consultant to facilitate the review through a series of workshops and mentoring sessions, including on good governance processes, and developing guidelines for dispute resolution and a Code of Conduct. Additional capacity for members through fundraising also occurred.

By the end of the reporting period both MVAs had women presidents, and had an average of 68 per cent of leadership positions filled by women<sup>18</sup>. An increase in men’s membership in AMVA resulted in fluctuations in the overall percentage of EC roles held by women, which decreased to 67 per cent from 78 per cent by the end of 2017. Overall, women continue to hold leadership roles in both the HCMVA and AMVA, and the increase in men’s participation is viewed positively as an affirmation of the value of involvement in a MVA.

The MVAs organized meetings to share key information with members, including financial, activity and partnership reports. HCMVA held two full member meetings during the reporting period, in addition to specific member meetings on revising the constitution, and will hold an AGM in early 2018 to approve changes. Following the 2016 HCMVA AGM, 36 new members were registered in early 2017. AMVA held three full member meetings and one AGM, including EC elections for 40 participating members (4M, 36F).

In October 2017, Gizo market was added to the project and its vendors have demonstrated capacity to grow and organize through the formalization of the Gizo Market Vendors Association (GMVA), which will be complete in 2018. Thirty-one members (8M, 23F) of the GMVA participated in “Getting Started” and constitution development workshops.

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<sup>17</sup> HCMVA and AMVA were registered in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

<sup>18</sup> Combined the two MVAs have a total of 449 members (377 women), it is estimated that they indirectly support an additional 1,400 non-registered members.



*Photo: M4C recipient of Australian High Commissioner's IWD Award. Credit: UN Women*

UN Women provided financial support for MVA events on IWD and IDRW. MVAs demonstrated increased independence and initiative, determining IWD/IDRW activities. HCMVA and AMVA initiated an exchange visit to share in their IDRW celebrations, partnering to increase information sharing and learning. The Solomon Islands National Provident Fund was also present, and supported the MVAs by raising awareness on financial services for rural women. HCMVA and AMVA were awarded the 2017 Australian High Commissioner's IWD Award for their leadership and support for inclusive decision-making for market vendors in Solomon Islands<sup>19</sup>.

M4C continued to mentor HCMVA and AMVA to build skills on reporting, strategic planning, financial management, running effective AGMs and conducting elections.

**Vanuatu:** Silae Vanua MVW (SVMVA) held 16 general meetings with the Presidents of its 20 sub-associations. Meetings were led and guided by MVA executives with the participation of sub-association members. Following TC Pam in 2015, membership in SVMVA surged, alongside the distribution of post-disaster humanitarian support. When support ceased in 2017, membership declined, with only dedicated market vendors opting to renew membership<sup>20</sup>. SVMVA Executives experienced challenges communicating with members and balancing the voluntary management of the Association and their own market vending work, which in some cases has resulted in lower incomes for very active EC members<sup>21</sup>. SVMVA faces additional communication and logistical challenges as their Executive and membership are spread over several market sites. Despite these challenges SVMVA played an active role in supporting members to develop sister agreements, liaise with the Port Vila Municipal Council on vendor's fees and participate in key events such as IDRW. With UN Women's financial support, in Efate, SVMVA sub-associations raised close

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<sup>19</sup> Please see: <https://www.solomonstarnews.com/news/national/12442-honiara-market-vendors-association-wins-australian-high-commissioner-s-international-women-s-day-award>

<sup>20</sup> Membership numbers changed from 3,260 in 2016 to 405 by December 2017

<sup>21</sup> Information gathered based on interviews with EC members, who acknowledged challenges as well as opportunities gained through their participation in ECs.

to USD 5,000 during the two-day IDRW celebration event hosted by Mele village. M4C will refocus efforts on supporting the SVMVA EC to regain the confidence of members and focus on fundraising efforts that will provide income in support of MVA activities.

The Northern Islands MVA (NIMVA) held an AGM and elections with financial support from the project, which helped to ensure active member participation in the association's governance. UN Women supported NIMVA to develop internal governance systems and processes. The inaugural AGM was well coordinated and provided key information to the 452 (444F 8M) members present, including financial and activity reports dating back to the establishment of the association. During the AGM, members appointed a new Vice President, endorsed the MVA's Operational and Budget Plan 2018-2020, made constitutional amendments to be inclusive of the elderly and persons with disabilities, and voted to reduce renewal fees. NIMVA also successfully advocated for the *pro bono* provision of office space from the LMC. In Santo, IDRW celebrations were organized by NIMVA and hosted by Fanafo community, with support from UN Women.

Due to internal conflicts between members, Marobe Tanvasoko MVA (MTMVA) did not hold an AGM or other member meetings. MTMVA did however hold consultations between members and Shefa Province on the Marobe market strategic plan, and on the development of sister agreements with SVMVA and NIMVA. Sister agreements demonstrate innovative governance and the leadership capacity of these MVAs to negotiate and represent their members (refer to output 1.2 below). UN Women provided a short-term consultant to support MTMVA to develop the Marobe market redevelopment proposal, and to assist them to develop internal governance systems and processes.

In 2018, UN Women will increase support to both SVMVA and MTMVA as new organizations.

"I started selling at Marobe market last year because of the sister agreement between SVMVA and MTMVA. Before this I used to sell at Port Vila market. I see that changing location from Port Vila market to Marobe market is good because I am making more money and the market fee is only 200 Vt. Even though they have small money, they have to travel down to the Port Vila market to do their shopping. But when they go there, they are only able to buy a few things as they have to pay for bus fare also. But when I am here at Marobe market, I help them a lot because they just buy from the market and walk home" Ednar Kalsar, SVMVA member

### **Output 1.2: Strengthened capacity of MVA EC to lead their MVAs and represent the interests of market vendors with local government and market management.**

MVAs are better able to represent their members to claim their rights by participating in consultations with government stakeholders and providing and/or linking members to services (e.g. savings clubs, training, fundraising). In 2017, there was increased evidence of the ability of MVAs to provide services to members including the development of sister agreements in Vanuatu, increased access to savings and financial services through MVAs in Solomon Islands and linking members to service providers in Fiji. Vendors, governments and external stakeholders recognize MVAs as critical to the successful functioning of marketplaces, with MVAs now included in consultations, high-level delegations and events.

**Fiji:** MVA ECs are more confident and skilled to negotiate on matters that affect their members livelihoods and wellbeing, including directly negotiate with market management and government councils on issues such as market stall fees. Four MVAs successfully

negotiated reductions in stall fees by presenting evidence of the impact fees had on their earnings<sup>22</sup>. MVAs are better able to organize around key issues such as allocation of market stalls and shortage of space on peak market days (weekends) for women. The Lautoka MVA negotiated a waiver of council fees for the cooked food stall vendors due to the doubling of fees by two government bodies (Council and Ministry of Health). They also successfully negotiated a reduction in fees for the newly built covered market area. Initially the MVA tried to negotiate with their council, however when that was not successful, they successfully strategized by directing their issue to the Ministry of Local Government. Namaka MVA also successfully negotiated a reduction of stall fees following the example from the Lautoka MVA.

Five MVAs negotiated inclusion into the membership of Municipal Council Working Committees, which previously consisted of Council members only (two did so in 2016). MVAs assumed appropriate leadership and management of their organizations, developing individual MVA work plans in 10 markets. In Suva, five MVA EC members were included in the Suva City Council's Occupational, Health & Safety Committee demonstrating an ability to solve problems and raise issues confidently and constructively. These skills have convinced Councils to increasingly include MVA representatives in their committees.

UN Women provided mentoring as well as formal training support through the Commonwealth Local Government Forum for MVAs on leadership, negotiation, conflict resolution and governance. Through this training, MVA EC members learned valuable skills in negotiation, including "solution driven" models that increased their capacity to advocate with government councils and market management. This positive and proactive approach has led to greater appreciation of the role of MVAs by market management and government.

**Solomon Islands:** HCMVA and AMVA have established clear guidelines on how they communicate with market management and advocate for member's needs. These were developed through regular monthly meetings and government forums. Both HCMVA and AMVA are represented in their respective M4C local authority Infrastructure Taskforce committees.

AMVA engaged with the Healthy Market Setting Committee of the MPG. The committee brings together government stakeholders and external partners to support market management and improve market facilities. During the reporting period, the Committee's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was monitored and reviewed against progress to date. AMVA also participated in the market budget consultations resulted in the MPG decision to allocate funds to repair stalls.

HCMVA member's participation in HCC Market Budget consultations resulted in the installation of seven new 5,000 litre water tanks in Honiara Central market. The programme, provided financial and infrastructure support for installation of the water tanks (also see Outcome 4). The inclusion of HCMVA EC members in planning meetings with the HCC Law Enforcement officers and Market Management staff resulted in the design of safe market exits and improved accessibility following the M4C disaster preparedness consultations.

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<sup>22</sup> They are: Lautoka, Namaka, Ba, Rakiraki

The new GMVA represented their market vendors during consultations with the Western Provincial Government, Australian Government and Reeves International on their plans for the redevelopment of Gizo Market. GMVA Executives participated in discussions on plans to relocate to temporary market site and the design consultation on redevelopment of Gizo Market, ensuring that the market vendors voices were included in design process. Through these processes, the GMVA is now formally represented in the Gizo Market Steering Committee, which is the guiding government body that oversees the Gizo town redevelopment project.

“[I am] very happy that they included market vendors in this workshop so that I know how the market will be designed...[and] gave us the chance to provide feedback on the design of the new market, which shows us that our voices are heard and included” Ruth Pana, Gizo Market Vendor

UN Women provided ongoing mentoring support to MVAs on leadership and organizational management, including preparing MVA EC members for engagement with formal government processes. Skills developed include reporting, record keeping, public speaking and strategizing.

**Vanuatu:** In 2017, the MTMVA Executives successfully presented a Marobe market redevelopment proposal and secured 500,000 VT from the Shefa Provincial Government Council (SPGC) for handicraft stalls at Marobe market. MTMVA Executives were part of a working group committee established by the SPGC to oversee the Marobe redevelopment plan. In addition, the MTMVA secured an office space within the Shefa Provincial Government market site at Marobe, which both MTMVA and SVMVA are able to use. Despite exhibiting increased confidence to advocate for its members, the weak relationship between the Port Vila Municipal Council and SVMVA affected the ECs activities and advocacy plans for 2017 for Port Vila market vendors. The SVMVA EC instead focused on the building its membership. NIMVA effectively advocated with the LMC to address security issues within the marketplace by improving lighting and hiring a security guard. NIMVA Executives also negotiated use of a temporary office space within the LMC.

SVMVA, MTMVA and NIMVA demonstrated innovation and leadership in developing a sister agreement that spells out support between the MVAs, allowing marketing and accommodation benefits for interested members across market locations. Previously, vendors were not allowed to sell at markets if they were not registered. Through the sister agreement, vendors from Santo can sell seasonal produce in other markets such as Marobe. Other benefits include the MVAs commitment towards mentoring and advice to strengthen each other’s governance as part of the MVAs’ learning exchange initiative.

## Outcome 2: Improved socioeconomic security of WMV

<b>Outcome Indicator 2:</b> Number of women and men market vendors reporting increased incomes and/or savings.			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Market vendors’ lives improved due to strengthened financial	<b>Output 2.2:</b> Increased access to financial and social services including	<b>Output 2.3:</b> Increased productivity and incomes for farmers	<b>Output 2.4:</b> Number of market vendors engaging in improved supply chains and

competencies and record keeping so that they can better leverage business and financial access opportunities.	access to savings, credit, payments, micro insurance and livelihood protection of market vendors.	and market vendors.	supplying to new markets.
<b>Output Indicator 2.1:</b> Number of market vendors practicing improved record keeping and business management. Results defined as verified record keeping after the training.			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	15% of MVs trained 40 trained (40 Unique)  60 MVs with verified results	124 trained (124 Unique – 92F/32M)  10 MVs with verified results  Additional 59 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Surpassed  Not reached (17% of target verified, additional 98% of target unverified)
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	20% of MVs trained 90 trained (30 Unique)  15 MVs with verified results	82 trained (82 Unique – 76F/6M)  3 MVs with verified results. Additional 15 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Surpassed  Not reached (20% of target verified, additional 100% of target unverified)
<b>Vanuatu</b>	20% of MVs trained 205 trained (105 unique)  40 MVs with verified results	133 trained (109 unique – 98 F 11 M)  7 MVs with verified results Additional 36 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Surpassed  Not reached (18% of target verified, additional 90% of target unverified)
<b>Output Indicator 2.2:</b> Number of market vendors with increased access to financial services (including banking, credit, saving, insurance).			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	20% 200 trained (120 Unique)  60 MVs with verified results	1,017 trained (906 Unique – 440F/466M)  49 MVs with verified results Additional 8 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Surpassed  Not reached (82% of target verified, additional 13% of target unverified)
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	15% 140 trained (50 Unique)	93 trained (60 Unique – 57F/3M)	Surpassed

	15 MVs with verified results	10 MVs with verified results Additional 8 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Not reached (67% of target verified, additional 53% of target unverified)
<b>Vanuatu</b>	15% 310 trained (135 Unique) 40 MVs with verified results	94 trained (27 Unique – 24F/3M) 11 MVs with verified results Additional 32 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Not reached  Not reached (28% of target verified, additional 80% of target unverified)
<b>Output Indicator 2.3:</b> Number of market vendor farmers engaging in improved agricultural practices to increase productivity; and <b>Output Indicator 2.4:</b> Number of market vendors engaging in improved supply chains and supplying to new markets (these indicators are measured through same targets)			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	50% 220 trained (100 Unique) 30 MVs with verified results	935 trained (650 Unique – 288F/362M) 15 MVs with verified results Additional 45 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Surpassed  Not reached (50% of target verified, additional 150% of target unverified)
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	50% 60 trained (Nil Unique) 30 MVs with verified results	Nil trained  22 MVs with verified results Additional 2 MVs with self-reported (unverified) results	Not reached  Not reached (73% of target verified, additional 7% of target unverified)
<b>Vanuatu</b>	50% 220 trained (75 Unique) 70 MVs with verified results	179 trained (148 Unique – 124F/24M) 42 MVs with verified results	Surpassed  Not reached (60% of target)

Market vendors are changing practices to improve economic security through better financial management and agricultural productivity. Early indications are that changes in practices are improving livelihoods. The programme is now focusing on how to progress from economic advancement to economic empowerment through changes in the delivery of the CMBE and IPI-VF financial literacy and basic business management practices training components.



**Output 2.1: Market vendors' lives are improved due to strengthened financial competencies and record keeping so that they can better leverage business and financial access opportunities.<sup>23</sup>**

**Fiji:** In partnership with UNDP and Westpac Bank basic financial literacy, record keeping and business basics training was provided to 124 vendors (92F, 32M) in Levuka and Savusavu. UNDP completed delivery of four training sessions to cover the catchment areas<sup>24</sup> of the two new market sites of Levuka and Savusavu. In addition to training, mentoring and support for new skills was provided in 2017 for those trained in 2016. Market vendors are making progress in record keeping and profit tracking practices. Of the 124 trained, 69 beneficiaries were interviewed to assess changes in skills. All 69 indicated increased savings and/or improvements in their business management practices, including improved decision-making on spending, increasing savings, and diversifying their product offerings. Although many market vendors verbally described changes, only those that provided evidence by showing a copy of a business records that could verify the change described could be counted by the project, leading to a lower than target number of market vendors with a verified result.

**Solomon Islands:** Market vendors joining savings schemes including informal savings groups, which continue to be an important vehicle to support short-term savings goals. Market vendors have reported improved socioeconomic stability, including being better able to support their children's education and basic household needs. Market vendors are more willing to take up new practices such as record keeping and profit tracking, although these changes have not yet translated into sustained increases in long-term savings. Of the 82 individuals trained in financial literacy and business basics (76F and 6M), all 18 interviewed indicated increased savings and/or improvements in their business management practices (only three were verifiable). Further support and mentoring is required to ensure that those practices adopted are sustained and other skills learned are also tried and adopted.

**Vanuatu:** Market vendors have greater skills in record keeping and profit tracking leading to improved business practices. In Vanuatu of the 133 people trained in rounds 1 and 2 of the CMBE programme in 2017 approximately 90 per cent of the 48 beneficiaries interviewed indicated increased savings and/or improvements in their business management practices. UNDP and the National Bank of Vanuatu conducted five training sessions in Efate and Santo in 2017.

**Output 2.2: Increased access to financial and social services, including access to savings, credit, payment, micro-insurance and livelihood protection of market vendors.**

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<sup>23</sup> Output progress is captured through self-reported behavioural change related to collective and individual spending and saving and business expansion including into non-market areas. The CMBE training was introduced in Fiji in 2015, and then implemented in all three countries in 2016 and 2017, including for new markets (Levuka and Savusavu) in Fiji in 2017.

<sup>24</sup> Training was held at the markets and taken to rural communities on Moturiki in the case of Levuka Market.

**Fiji:** Market vendors are opening bank accounts, receiving financial advice and enrolling in retirement funds, with banks and other government services now operating in marketplaces through the project. Service providers reported that they have increased their product offerings, and have liaised with vendors through the project including at the UNDP Financial Fair<sup>25</sup> activities held from May to October in 2017 at six locations. Over 1,000 vendors received training; of those, 57 vendors were interviewed and confirmed that the CMBE training modules improved ways in which they spent money, helped them to increase their savings, and had encouraged them to diversify the ways they planned and saved funds. While only beneficiaries that could provide evidence of opening of a bank account were counted in the results (49 verifiable), leading to a lower than target figure, self-reported change indicates an overall increase of access to financial and social services.

"I always kept records in my business, but after the training I took it seriously. When we went to the bank, they needed to see cash flow from three years back and [projections] for three years forward and I was able to do that because of the records I had. The market vendors who really took the training seriously are the ones who are getting ahead. They are climbing the steps." Shabnam Nisha, Farmer Vendor, Ba Market

**Solomon Islands:** Market vendors are increasingly accessing financial services (e.g. opening bank accounts, enrolling in retirement funds and participating in informal savings clubs/secure lending schemes). UNDP and the Bank of the South Pacific provided a total of 19 CMBE training sessions, six of which addressed financial services. Of the 60 participants trained (57F, 3M), all of the 18 beneficiaries interviewed indicated increased savings and/or improvements in their business management practices. This included those that had completed rounds that specifically addresses financial services such as savings and loans<sup>26</sup>. For the first time, a Financial Fair was held in Honiara for a week in October over IDRW, bringing together rural women, market vendors and financial service providers. Financial literacy refresher training attracted 33 (2M, 31F) vendors and 40 rural women from other groups. The Fair was delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, the Central Bank of Solomon Islands and the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund.

**Vanuatu:** Market vendors are trying new business ideas and/or expanding their current businesses as documented in vendor interviews. Some 27 new<sup>27</sup> market vendors were trained in financial literacy and business basics (24F, 3M). Approximately 90 per cent of the 48 beneficiaries interviewed indicated improvement in savings or business management practices. UNDP provided five training sessions across eight markets on Efate (Epau, Marobe, Emua, Mangalilu, Melemaat, Paungagisu and Port Vila) and Santo (Luganville) including on the Eton and Mosso Island.

### **Output 2.3: Improved market vendors' business and leadership skills to advance economic security and rights<sup>28</sup>**

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<sup>25</sup> The Fairs provided an opportunity to meet participants and track which financial services they had enrolled in.

<sup>26</sup> A total of 94 participants attended the training, 27 were new participants.

<sup>27</sup> The training interventions for this Output will be completed in 2018 with round 3 (Financial Fairs)

<sup>28</sup> The focus of IPI-VF training under Output 2.3 was on actions to ensure that crops are more resilient, due to improved soil quality, and pest and disease management. This approach aims to decrease the economic vulnerability of individual farms by improving the quality and quantity of production, and ensure that produce prices are profitable by considering all costs associated with production, including transport.

Through UNDP training on IPI-VF, post-training documentation shows an uptake of skills to improve soil, pest and disease management with some self-reported increased yields. While there is no verified evidence, vendor farmers reported increased income through a combination of increased agricultural output through bigger acreage farmed, concentration on products with higher prices, better yield from proper fertilizer application, and farming new crops.

**Fiji:** Market vendor farmers showed encouraging progress towards increasing or maintaining productivity and income despite extreme weather in some market catchment areas. Participants reported they were more willing to take up new skills in record keeping and profit tracking. A total of 650 individuals were trained in eight different agricultural topics (288F and 362M)<sup>29</sup>. Approximately 71 per cent of the 85 beneficiaries interviewed indicated increased savings and/or improvements in their business/farm management practices, including improvements in agricultural practices following the training. While vendor farmers are reporting improved practices, because project sites are often remote and expensive to visit, some project sites were not visited post-training, and therefore the uptake of new methods has not yet been verified. The Marketing and Post-Harvest Handling training, which began in 2016, was completed with Fiji National University in four markets, reaching 115 vendor farmers. Pest and disease control and weed management clinics were delivered in 10 locations across seven markets<sup>30</sup>, and a refresher training of two topics was delivered in Nausori.

IPI-VF beneficiaries in five markets who were the recipients of agricultural inputs did improve their agricultural productivity in 2017, with other market areas affected by heavy rains that washed away newly planted crops. One noted outcome of the agri-distribution was that market vendors who only farmed for family consumption were able to sell additional produce at the market. The Nasau Banana Farmers Association, whose pack house was rebuilt in 2016 with M4C assistance, demonstrated a regrowth with the maintenance of business records and some new farming practices adopted<sup>31</sup>.

**Solomon Islands:** Market vendor farmers in the Solomon Islands are willing to take up new record keeping and profit tracking practices. Continuation of these practices is contingent upon factors including time, safety of personal possessions such as record books and support for new practices. Those who continued new practices post-training from 2015-2016 showed greater business diversification. While training was not carried out in 2017, all 24 beneficiaries trained in 2015-2016 interviewed<sup>32</sup> indicated increased savings and/or improvements in their business management practices. In 2017, monitoring activities were

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<sup>29</sup> Participants were from Lomaivuna (part of catchment area of Suva Market), Rakiraki, Tavua, and Ba on Vanua Levu and Levuka on Ovalau.

<sup>30</sup> Participants were from Nadi, Nausori, Suva (2 locations each), Rakiraki, Tavua and Ba on Viti Levu and Labasa on Vanua Levu.

<sup>31</sup> The Association was established by 70 banana farmers (38F, 32M) from Tailevu. Farms were impacted by TC Winston in 2016.

<sup>32</sup> These were farmer vendors from New Tenabuti Area, and Guadalcanal Plains.

undertaken in Solomon Islands<sup>33</sup> only. Monitoring, financial fairs and refresher trainings are planned for 2018.

**Vanuatu:** Increased savings and improved business and agricultural practices was evident following interviews with all 42 beneficiaries interviewed following training of 148 (124F, 24M) market vendor farmers, most of whom were from new rural areas. UNDP delivered nine training sessions across the eight markets on Efate and Santo. More comprehensive monitoring is planned for 2018 alongside Market Fairs to encourage access to financial, agricultural, and other social services, and refresher trainings<sup>34</sup>.

#### **Output 2.4: Increased productivity and income for farmers and market vendors** <sup>35</sup>

Based on finding of a survey of vendor farmers, UNDP's preferred focus is on climate-smart approaches, which are environmentally friendly and improve productivity leading to greater financial resilience of vendor farmers, therefore please refer to result reported under Output 2.3. In addition to those, in Fiji, the team completed the TC Winston humanitarian distribution in Suva, Nausori and Lautoka markets to 870 farmer vendors. Post-distribution monitoring between April and May 2017 revealed that 23 of 27 farms run by women had used the seeds and tools distributed. Many farmer vendors stated that the quality of the seeds enabled them to increase savings and improve business following TC Winston. Vendor farmers, reported an increase of between FJD 3,000 to 10,000 in earnings by the end of 2017.

Following the loss of all of their crops during TC Winston, Maca and her husband now grow vegetables from seeds received through the programme's TC Winston humanitarian distribution in Sigatoka. During the year they rotated crops to earn more than FJD 10,000 in savings and surplus to cover stall fees, school expenses and food. "We also were able to extract, dry seeds from the first harvest...what we were able to grow we got produce to sell from which we used the earnings to purchase more seeds". Maca Ravouvou, farmer and vendor

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<sup>33</sup> These will be supported by further training and mentoring in 2018.

<sup>34</sup> Interventions planned in 2018 include training and mentoring to reinforce skills. Continued support to partnerships with the National Bank of Vanuatu, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will contribute towards the use of these technical resources in the future.

<sup>35</sup> As reported in 2016, opportunities to link vendor-farmers with new value-chain opportunities were explored in 2015 and found to not be effective for the M4C target group, who have access to markets. UNDP's survey of vendor farmers revealed that only 5 per cent of farmers not accessing external markets were interested in being connected to external markets/contracts. The remaining 95 per cent preferred to strengthen links with local markets. Although external markets are being accessed by 9 per cent of vendor farmers surveyed, their preference was to strengthen links to local markets.



Photo: Maca Ravouvou at her farm. Credit: UN Woemn/Kasanita Isimeli

**Outcome 3: Local governments and market management are gender-responsive, effective and accountable to women market vendor needs**

<b>Outcome Indicator 3.1:</b> Number of local-level governments (councils) where there is evidence of increased gender mainstreaming in local decision-making process (e.g. amendments to by-laws/ordinances have been implemented and/or budgets allocated that specifically address women market vendor needs).			
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Strengthened capacity and commitment of local government and market management to draft, adopt and implement gender responsive market by-laws, policies, plans, and budgets for the provision of safe and secure market infrastructure, adequate amenities and services, and transparent revenue generation and expenditures.		<b>Output 3.2:</b> Increased levels of consultations and communication between local governments, market management and MVAs in everything that regards markets governance and market life.	
<b>Output Indicator 3.1</b> Number of marketplaces where mechanisms have been established by to improve communication between market management and market vendors.			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	9	11	Surpassed
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2	3	Surpassed
<b>Vanuatu</b>	6	2	Not reached
<b>Output Indicator 3.2</b> Number of marketplaces where local-level government and market management have held consultative processes which included women and men market vendors.			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	9	8	Not reached
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2	3	Surpassed
<b>Vanuatu</b>	6	3	Not reached

Local government and market managers increasingly work with and involve market vendor associations and women in consultative decision-making processes on infrastructure, budget allocations and market management. Improved communication and working

relationships have led local government to be more willing to engage MVAs as partners in market management and the rely on MVAs to communicate with vendors, resolve conflicts, and develop and implement solutions (e.g. waste management, security).

Evidence that local government and market management understand the importance of considering the needs and concerns of market vendors in budgets and management was verified by the support and participation of local government partners in the Safety and Protection Assessments that were completed in 2017. Local government partners demonstrated commitment to vendor interests through inclusion in planning processes with all countries undertaking commitments in 2017 towards GRB.

**Output 3.1: Strengthened capacity and commitment of local government and market management to draft, adopt, and implement gender responsive market by-laws, policies, plans, and budgets for the provision of safe and secure market infrastructure, adequate amenities and services, and transparent revenue generation and expenditures.**

**Fiji:** Local government and market management have progressed plans in all market sites to adopt and implement gender-responsive policies, plans and budgets. GRB training in 2016 and 2017 provided a forum for council budget managers and staff to analyse and discuss GRB principles with their heads of departments. Subsequently, local government authorities requested follow-up workshops, which brought together market vendors, council staff, the Ministry of Women and UN Women. Ten budget managers, representing 11 markets, undertook a survey of 440 market vendors and presented their findings at workshops to 11 councils alongside 260 vendor representatives. These workshops provided a forum to discuss survey findings and how to integrate gender equality principles in council budget processes (e.g. council staff composition being more inclusive of women and allocation of resources in areas such as water and sanitation were discussed). The programme provided training, financial support and technical assistance for the GRB workshops and surveys.

**Solomon Islands:** Local government continues to include WMV in the development of market budgets and plans. In Auki, government partners ensured that AMVA EC members participated in formal budget consultations and the development of the Auki Disaster Management Plan. The MPG ensured that AMVA participated in the review of the Auki Healthy Market Setting Strategic Plan (2016-2020), which ensured that vendors voices were included in the Auki Market Ordinance drafting instructions submitted to the Attorney General. The vendors were also able to advocate successfully for the recommencement of Food Handling and Hygiene trainings for market vendors in 2017.

Auki and Gizo market management demonstrated accountability towards MVAs by having representatives in their monthly meetings, and by acting on issues raised by vendors. The Western Provincial Government (WPG), included WMVs in the Gizo Market Steering Committee's discussions on plans and design of the market and in decisions on the temporary relocation of market vendors. This resulted in market vendors having access to improved shelter, water and sanitation at the temporary site in Gizo. Space and access to exits was a key vendor concern in Honiara. The HCC Law Enforcement and Market Management Staff worked with the HCMVA to resolve these issues ensuring that markets are safer and more accessible moving forward.

The programme helped build capacity of local government through GRB training, with additional gender training requested for staff and Councillors of HCC. The Director of Women and M4C were invited to present at the Solomon Islands 9<sup>th</sup> Premiers Conference, increasing awareness among Premiers and Provincial Secretaries on the importance of GRB. UN Women also supported WPG and the Gizo Market Steering Committee to develop the Action Plan on market redevelopment.

**Vanuatu:** In Port Vila, market management recruited two female staff to support market administration and WMV. In Luganville, in response to vendor concerns, the council reduced table fees from 450 VT per day to 600 VT for three-days, including toilet access and floor space.

In May 2017, UN Women provided six senior local government finance officials with GRB training and assisted in the development of the terms of reference for a national GRB steering committee. With their enhanced knowledge, the six officials have raised awareness on GRB with their respective offices and are participating in the national steering committee, established in 2017, to oversee GRB in four government ministries. Local authorities also participated in the Safety and Discrimination assessments field work undertaken in the three main markets and five roadside markets by the Vanuatu Women's Centre (the assessment team was trained through the programme). Following the assessment, the MVAs, alongside government staff, participated in more training including participating in a radio programme that promotes EVAW awareness with the Centre.

"I learned many new things from the GRB workshop. I used to think that gender is just about women, but now I know it is about both men and women." Josiane Tabiaga, Senior Finance Officer, LMC at the GRB training

### **Output 3.2: Increased levels of consultations and communication between local governments, market management and MVAs in everything that regards markets governance and market life.**

There continues to be an increase in consultations and communication between government and MVAs. MVA representatives attended a regional Ministerial conference to raise the concerns and experiences of women informal sector workers. MVA representatives attended and presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Pacific Women's Ministerial Triennial conference, resulting in the inclusion of gender aware commitments in the conference outcomes document (see Outcome 1)<sup>36</sup>. Please also refer to Outcome 1 and Output 3.1 for examples of increased communication and consultations between local governments, market management and MVAs at all project sites.

**Fiji:** Four markets reported increased engagement with their market vendors in Suva, Ba, Lautoka and Levuka following the GRB awareness workshops (also see Outcome 3.1). In Ba, the CEO, and builders with stall and material samples, consulted with 30 WMVs on the construction of vending tables so that women will not need to sell their goods from the market floors. The CEO noted that the project exposed him to the benefit of this level of consultation. Market managers have realized the value of employing female market

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<sup>36</sup> Please see: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/340899/fiji-conference-helps-women-s-trade>

attendants through exposure to the project. Labasa Market hired a second female attendant, while Sigatoka Market is looking to replace their female attendant.

**Solomon Islands:** In Honiara and Auki there is daily interaction between the market management and the MVA EC representatives on various issues (e.g. enforcing by-laws, waste management, and cleanliness). The WPG demonstrated commitment to consultations and communication by actively engaging GMVA in the Gizo market redevelopment. This positive working relationship with vendors resulted in the successful relocation of market vendors to a temporary market site. Ongoing interaction is taking place between the Gizo Town Council and the MVA on waste management and cleanliness.

M4C contributes to increased communication through mentoring and collaborative practices (e.g. consultations, committees, complaints mechanisms, regular meetings) between the MVAs and the local authorities, with Market Infrastructure Taskforces now in place in Honiara and Auki and the Gizo Market Steering Committee in WPG. Previous training provided to both local government and MVA ECs in leadership and communications (see Outputs 1.2 and 3.1) has increased capacity for improved communications.

**Vanuatu:** Following the Climate Resilience and Disaster Management workshop organized by UN Women, Port Vila market vendors reported improved consultation and participation in organized market management meetings and decision-making processes. In 2017, market section presidents were invited to the market management presentation held at the Port Vila Municipal Council, following which, market vendors expressed that market management were seeking consultations with them more frequently. Communication within the marketplace has also improved with the introduction of M4C funded public address systems in Luganville and Marobe markets, which are used to disseminate information to vendors on various information (e.g. on AGM meetings and other organised activities or updates).

In Luganville and Shefa, local government and market management continued regular meetings with the MVAs. NIMVA met regularly with the LMC and market management to advocate for improved infrastructure and security in the marketplace. MTMVA met with the SPGC to discuss the Marobe Market Development Project and administration of the Marobe market. UN Women continues to provide mentoring support and advice to MVA executives during consultations with local government and market management.

**Outcome 4: Physical infrastructure and operating systems are improved to make markets more sustainable, resilient to disaster risks and climate change, safer and more accessible**

<b>Outcome Indicator 4:</b> Number of marketplaces with improved gender-responsive infrastructure that better meets the health, safety, universal access, and convenience needs of WMV.	
<b>Output 4.1:</b> Marketplaces reached by the project are resilient to disaster risks, including climate change.	<b>Output 4.2:</b> Marketplace physical infrastructure promotes safety and access.



<b>Output Indicator 4.1</b> Number of markets that have plans in place to respond to extreme weather and natural disasters. <sup>37</sup>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	8	4	Not reached
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	2	2	Reached
<b>Vanuatu</b>	5	0	Not reached
<b>Output Indicator 4.2</b> Percentage of market infrastructure development plans, which have been developed based on consultations with women and men market vendors.			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Target 2017</b>	<b>Result 2017</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	100%	100%	Reached
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	100%	100%	Reached
<b>Vanuatu</b>	100%	100%	Reached

The activities under Outcome 4 require extensive consultations and approval processes through government structures, making results in this outcome area inter-related with other outcome areas (particularly Outcomes 1 and 3). Infrastructure development relies on several processes, including sensitive ones such as securing customary land and complex procurement processes by national parties, which are beyond the programme's control. Progress is often contingent on the circumstances and capacities of local governments to engage in infrastructure work. Although challenging, infrastructure work progressed in 2017 and MVAs generated recommendations for improved infrastructure, including increased accessible market spaces for persons with disabilities.

In 2017 progress was made in relation to infrastructure work and planning. Projects from 2016 were completed that supported rebuilding after TC Winston. Plans were completed and partial approvals for infrastructure received for: three Ring Road markets in Vanuatu, four markets in Fiji and planning is ongoing for two markets in Solomon Islands. Infrastructure work progressed significantly in Suva and Rakiraki and plans for infrastructure development progressed in Namaka, Nausori, Savusavu and Ba markets in Fiji.

**Output 4.1: Marketplaces reached by the project are resilient to disaster risks, including climate change.**

In 2017, 17 markets<sup>38</sup> received support to develop individual market disaster preparedness and action plans, jointly with market vendors and management. The development of these plans increased market vendors understanding of and planning for disasters, and resulted in concrete plans for marketplace preparedness. These plans built on the 2016

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<sup>37</sup> Plans that have been developed are only counted towards progress against this indicator upon being endorsed by government. As of the reporting period, only 6 of the 17 plans developed were endorsed by government. For the list of all 17 Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Plans completed, refer to footnote 38.

<sup>38</sup> Plans completed for 17 markets included: 12 markets in Fiji (Suva, Nausori, Sigatoka, Nadi, Namaka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Levuka, Lautoka, Savusavu and Labasa), Vanuatu (Port Vila, Luganville and Morobe), Solomon Islands (Auki and Honiara).

assessments entitled, “Building Market Resilience to Climate Change”. The Market Disaster Preparedness and Action Plans are now being submitted to local government for official endorsement.

#### **Output 4.2: Marketplace physical infrastructure promotes safety and access.**

Marketplace physical infrastructure has either improved, or concrete plans were prepared in 2017 to make future improvements. There are four plans for improved markets in Vanuatu, three in Solomon Islands, and six in Fiji. In all markets, UN Women, via M4C, supported consultations with market vendors on safety and access as well as infrastructure development through technical and financial assistance. In 2017 Fiji completed all activities related to infrastructure needs which were part of the post-disaster response to the 2016 TC Winston, while in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu activities focused on infrastructure consultations, design and approval processes.

**Fiji:** M4C provided direct technical support to municipal councils and market management to assist with the development of their project proposals for market reconstruction/upgrades following TC Winston (Levuka, Nausori, Rakiraki, Savusavu) and for market infrastructure development/improvement in, Ba, Namaka and Suva. All markets progressed towards infrastructure development or planning with the exception of Levuka. Specific activities included:

- The ground-breaking ceremony for the Rakiraki market took place on 7 May with the Prime Minister of Fiji. The design includes a women’s accommodation and training centre. An Infrastructure Project Consultant began work in August 2017 to oversee the construction of the market.
- An estimated 350 market vendors will be housed in the new market in Namaka that will include a women’s accommodation centre with 48 beds and two food stalls. The ground-breaking ceremony was officiated on 27 September by the Minister of Local Government.
- Rural market vendors at the Suva women’s accommodation centre benefited from the completion of a women’s dormitory washroom in early 2017, which addressed a long-standing safety issue as women no longer need to use public washrooms during their stay.
- A shelter for juice sellers was completed in the Suva Municipal market that will benefit rural women vendors who have been selling while exposed to the natural elements for many years.
- Women vendors from the three provinces of Naitasiri, Rewa and Tailevu will benefit from the Nausori Market Women’s Accommodation Centre. Building plans were revised to include a ramp to link the ground level to the top floor to accommodate disabled vendors.
- An unintended outcome of the M4C is the Ba Council, through its exposure to the project, initiated a consultation with 30 rural WMV on the design specifications to build benches and tables to sell freshwater mussels. For many years, women sold mussels on wet concrete floors of the market.

In December, M4C supported the signing of Letters of Agreement between the Ministry of Local Government and: (i) Nausori Town Council to implement the Nausori Market Women’s Accommodation Centre valued at 600,000 FJD; (ii) Nadi Town Council to

implement the Namaka Market Extension Project valued at 402,000 FJD; and (iii) Ba Town Council to implement the Ba Market Upgrading Project (Phase 2) valued at 93,026 FJD. M4C recruited an Infrastructure Project Consultant in August to provide technical assistance to these processes and DFAT generously provided oversight of the construction of markets through their consultant Engineer for the period February to December.

“The women have never been asked before about having tables and benches, this is the first time”. Alesi Nakuturi, shellfish vendor, Ba market

“Council came with the measuring tape and asked us how high we want it, the level, the size of the benches, concrete top or tiled top.” Manueli, Shellfish vendor, Ba market

**Solomon Islands:** Construction in Honiara and Auki markets faced challenges, including the lack of available technical capacity and human resources, and inconsistent cash flow for governance and maintenance. To respond, in March, M4C supported the establishment of an Infrastructure Taskforce to coordinate the work in Auki and Honiara. The project also recruited a construction manager to support local authorities and provide technical advice on infrastructure work in the markets. In Auki, proposed infrastructure development includes rebuilding of the sanitation blocks with increased facilities, including disability accessible washrooms, water supply and security fencing, in addition to the repairs required due to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which struck Solomon Islands in December 2016. Per output 1.2, seven 5,000 litre water tanks were installed at the Honiara Central Market to address vendor needs, with 100% funding support from the Government of Australia which agreed to waive the 50% matching funds from the HCC. Installation, reporting and inspection was completed in September 2017. In Gizo, consultations with market vendors and local government took place to ensure that the design of the new market will promote safety and access, taking into consideration the views and needs of WMVs.

**Vanuatu:** The LMC and SPGC progressed with infrastructure plans and land agreements. In Luganville, physical market infrastructure plans have been redesigned and the bill of quantities finalized. The new plan covers an extension and market upgrade work including increased toilet facilities, improved drainage and disability access. UN Women, via M4C, engaged an infrastructure consultant to support the LMC with the redesign and support to LMC in progressing the infrastructure work. Market designs include solar systems and water tanks to support the market vendors. In Emua, a newly registered market location has been negotiated. Land tenure was secured with the Emua Cooperative Society (Lessee) and Emua Council of Chiefs (Lessor) to allow the Emua ring-road market to be built on the Cooperative’s land. M4C facilitated five consultative meetings with the parties and WMV representatives to finalize the Agreements to Build for Emua and Melemaat markets. In Beverly Hills, the Central Government and the Beverly Hills Development Committee welcomed the decision to build a marketplace in the community. UN Women worked with the SPGC Legal Counsel to develop and carry out consultations on the draft agreements to build the market in the registered community land space.

## V. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Some of the challenges experienced in 2016 remain, such as the need to invest in the professionalization of MVAs and the need to balance MVA growth with MVA development as new entities. Translating the skills beneficiaries have acquired on financial and agriculture management into behavioural change also remains a challenge. While there is

measurable evidence of improved business practices (e.g. record keeping) and agricultural productivity, changes need to be measured over a longer period to link M4C investments in capacity development with economic empowerment of beneficiaries. A continuing challenge has been ensuring that M4C training and capacity development is practical and relevant (e.g. GRB training for local government was an approach with immediate uptake from project stakeholders following the training). The lack of human and technical resources within local government to move infrastructure plans forward, coupled with the instability of personnel often due to political and other internal changes is challenging. In Solomon Islands this has led to strained relationships of M4C in Honiara. Emerging challenges and lessons in 2017 include:

**Working with MVAs:** MVAs in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands put in place strategies to slow rapid growth and focus on building internal capacity to limit risks associated with the rapid growth experienced in 2015-2016. Across all countries MVAs are providing more services to their members and developing more complex operations and agreements. M4C outputs need to change to reflect the needs of the more mature MVAs. Problems linked to immature associations (e.g. loss of members due to poor communication, conflict among members, leaders/ECs showing signs of being self-serving and disconnected from members)<sup>39</sup> will need to be monitored carefully, with support provided to ensure that MVAs remain representative bodies of members. The inclusion of rural vendors in the Fiji MVAs remains a challenge as they are only in the market setting for short intensive periods so specific strategies to include rural vendors will need to be developed.

**Economic advancement to economic empowerment:** Capacity development in financial literacy, access to financial services and support for women in leadership roles has supported women's leadership in MVAs. However, the in-depth vendor profile monitoring exercise undertaken in 2017 revealed that despite gains in skills and capacities, women do not have increased power and decision-making over finances and financial decisions at the household level. M4C needs to examine key indicators for women's economic empowerment and the transition from economic advancement to empowerment.

**Including men:** A missing element of M4C's approach may be the inclusion of men in business planning and financial literacy. Including women's partners in training activities, may lead to acceptance of equality in financial decision-making and planning at the household level. The project will need to examine increasing men's involvement while focusing on women's economic empowerment.

**Advocacy and research:** M4C investments in monitoring and data collection were fully realized in 2017. While the project has a solid knowledge management strategy and monitoring and evaluation framework, there has not been sufficient time or resources put aside to enable project teams to analyse and reflect on data collected, or collate information and share lessons learned with other partners. At the Women's Ministerial Triennial Conference, WMVs shared project lessons, which led to references on women in the informal sector being included in outcome statements. The project needs to consider the

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<sup>39</sup> Elite capture is a process whereby resources transferred designated for the benefit of the larger population are usurped by a few individuals of superior status—be it economic, political, educational, ethnic, or otherwise

resources required to analyse information, share lessons and advocate for women's economic empowerment.

**Work with vendor farmers:** An emerging challenge is how to address the needs of small-holder vendor farmers in bringing their costs of production down when their farms are harder to access than commercial farms, and more labour intensive. The post-disaster lesson is the immediate need for diverse agricultural supplies to be distributed to market vendor farmers for immediate production of crops with emphasis on encouraging climate smart crops that are more resilient and immediately available for propagation, post-disaster.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

In 2018, a midterm review will examine progress in the four outcome areas, and include a review of the latest Monitoring and Evaluation framework theory of change and indicators. Any changes required will be made in 2018-2019.

Priority focus in 2018 will be: (Outcome 1) Supporting the internal growth and capacity of MVAs through leadership, governance, conflict resolution, negotiation and management training and the development of an MVA training toolkit that will consolidate successful M4C training materials. (Outcome 2) Improving capacity development in financial literacy and agricultural productivity with a focus on understanding barriers to uptake and retention of skills. (Outcome 3) Implementing GRB skills developed in 2017. (Outcome 4) Moving forward and completing infrastructure projects, taking into consideration recommendations from the Safety and Discrimination assessments and the Disaster Preparedness planning exercises. In addition a Regional Forum for government partners will take place in July 2018. This Forum will follow-up on South-South exchanges and will provide a forum for the exchange of market management ideas.

## **VII. PROJECT GOVERNANCE**

M4C's governance mechanisms include a Regional Project Board, with national-level Project Management Committees (country-level board, which includes government and donor partners) and Project Working Committees (operational group that includes all stakeholders including MVA representatives). During the reporting period, these mechanisms provided guidance and oversight from partners and key stakeholders and continued to be the formal mechanism by which annual plans were reviewed and approved. These mechanisms act as coordination and information sharing bodies. In 2017, Vanuatu started a Project Working Committee as per their decision in 2016 to implement one. All governance committees continued to function effectively with more regular meetings during the year (see Annex D for a list of M4C governance meetings held in 2017).

## **VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Please see the attached interim financial report. A Certified Financial Statement will be provided separately.