

IRF – PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE 2.1



United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)/ Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

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|--|---|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------|------------|--|----------------------|
| <p>Project Title: Supporting peaceful and inclusive transition in Solomon Islands</p> | <p>Recipient UN Organization(s): UNDP UN Women</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Project Contact: Address: Azusa Kubota Telephone: +677 7496353 E-mail: azusa.kubota@undp.org</p> | <p>Implementing Partner(s) – name & type (Government, CSOs, Academia): Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) Prime Minister Office (PMO) Youth@Work (NGO), USP, SINU</p> <p>Project Location: Solomon Islands</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Project Description: This project will support the Government of Solomon Islands and national stakeholders during a transitional period, to create an inclusive space for dialogue and reconciliation and to strengthen national capacity for implementing the Solomon Islands national peace building policy including women’s and youth engagement in peace and reconciliation.</p> | <p>Total Project Cost:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Peacebuilding Fund</td> <td>USD 2,500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">(parallel funding)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UN/World Bank T.Fund*</td> <td>USD 200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP CO Resources**</td> <td>USD 200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SINU</td> <td>USD 20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>USD 2,920,000</td> </tr> </table> | Peacebuilding Fund | USD 2,500,000 | (parallel funding) | | UN/World Bank T.Fund* | USD 200,000 | UNDP CO Resources** | USD 200,000 | SINU | USD 20,000 | | USD 2,920,000 |
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| SINU | USD 20,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | USD 2,920,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Proposed Project Start Date: 1 July 2016 Proposed Project End Date: 31 Dec. 2017 Total duration (in months): 18 months</p> | <p>* Initial discussion with World Bank commenced. Max. proj. fund USD 500,000 ** UNDP CPR Trust Fund</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Gender Marker Score: 2 Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective. Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective. Score 1 for projects that will contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly. Score 0 for projects that are not expected to contribute noticeably to gender equality.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Project Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive space established for dialogue and reconciliation, and national capacity strengthened for implementation of peace policy Youth engaged in peace process with society and leadership | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes focus of the project: <i>Priority Area 1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue - (1.4) Political Dialogue.</i> Note there are significant elements of <i>(Priority Area 2) Promoting coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts – especially (2.1) National reconciliation – yet these are part of the commitments of the peace agreement and formal process.</i></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

IRF PROJECT DOCUMENT


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| <p><i>(for IRF-funded projects)</i> Recipient UN Organization(s) <i>Name of Representative</i> Osnat Lubrani Resident Representative <i>Signature</i>  <i>Name of Agency</i> UNDP <i>Date & Seal</i></p> | <p>Representative of National Authorities <i>Name of Representative</i> Justus Denni <i>Signature</i>  <i>Title: Permanent Secretary</i> Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace <i>Date & Seal</i> 16/6/2016</p> |
| <p>Recipient UN Organization(s) <i>Name of Representative</i> Aleta Faye Miller <i>Signature</i>  <i>Name of Agency</i> UN Women <i>Date & Seal</i> 29/6/16</p> | <p>Representative of National Authorities <i>Name of Representative</i> Ethel Sigimaru <i>Signature</i>  <i>Title: Permanent Secretary</i> Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs <i>Date & Seal</i> 16/06/2016</p> |
| <p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) <i>Name of Representative</i> Oscar Fernandez-Taranco <i>Signature</i>  Peacebuilding Support Office, NY <i>Date & Seal</i> 05/07/2016</p> | <p>Resident Coordinator (RC) <i>Name of Representative</i> Osnat Lubrani Resident Coordinator <i>Signature</i>  RCO, <i>Date & Seal</i></p> |

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PROJECT COMPONENTS:

I. Peacebuilding Context and Rationale for Peacebuilding Support

a. Peacebuilding Context

The Solomon Islands is an archipelagic nation with six major land masses and over 900 smaller islands. A diverse population of approximately 600,000 (around 85 per cent living in remote rural areas) the country's traditional groups have strong kinship ties and varied customary practices (*kastom*), and they speak 70 living languages. Planters, missionaries, colonial forces, combatting Japanese and Allied WWII armies, and modernisation, have all influenced local power structures. Traditional leaders were often more self-made than hereditary. Solomon Islands gained independence in 1978 after seventy-five years of British protectorate administration. At independence, the country adopted a unitary constitution which provided for the establishment of a national parliament, the Honiara City Council, and nine provincial governments. Findings of the literature review and academic consultations in March 2016, reaffirm that the country faces many challenges, including unreliable, difficult and costly transport/connectivity; inequality in development investments between the capital Honiara and outer provinces; heavy reliance on primary products and aid; corruption in business practices and resource allocation; high unemployment, high illiteracy, including among youths; uncontrolled land development and settlement patterns; rapid urbanisation including rise in squatter settlements around Honiara (undermining community cohesion); weak capacity of governance systems to deliver services (undermining legitimacy, political stability, and affecting social attitudes and behaviours); persisting inter and intra-island tensions dating back to colonial times related to the incongruence between traditional norms and cultural values and modern governance systems.

The above challenges were also key causes of open conflict in 1998-2000, largely between armed men from Guadalcanal and Malaita, which left over 100 dead and displaced more than 20,000 people from Guadalcanal. In October 2000, the signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement between the warring parties led to the cessation of armed confrontations. The State found difficulty to maintain law and order due to prevalence of arms and criminality. In 2003, at the invitation of the Solomon Islands government, a regional policing and security force was deployed to restore public safety and security, known as the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Efforts of the government and civil society, including faith-based organizations also contributed to restoration of stability. Although the conflict occurred in Guadalcanal, its impacts, both economic and social, affected the entire nation.

Since the arrival of RAMSI in 2003, security has remained largely stable and governance has improved. Economic recovery has gained some momentum but prospects for rapid development remain modest due to unresolved root causes of conflict noted above. "Conflicts, sometimes violent, between members of the same community, or between members of different communities, continued to surface even years after the formal end to the Tensions"¹. The Townsville Peace Agreement (TPA, 2000) was a formal peace process that focused solely on combatants, leaving most of the longstanding grievances of local villagers unaddressed. Representatives of Solomon Island women were also not invited to participate in Townsville. "In addition, transgressions and atrocities committed between

¹ Brigg, Morgan (2015), Solomon Island National Peace Council: Inter-Communal Mediation. pacific.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20%26%20Publications/

communities and among villagers during the Tensions created an additional level of animosity that, while unaddressed, remains a constant threat to peace.”²

Since 2013, RAMSI’s operations have gradually scaled down with complete withdrawal planned for June 2017. The term ‘uncertainty’ is often invoked in discussions about Solomon Islands’ future. The upcoming transition period and the years to follow will test whether the significant investment in stabilization over more than a decade will serve as a solid foundation to consolidate peace and development in the longer term. Capitalizing on the improvements seen in law and order as well as the strong commitment of the present government to prioritize peace and stability, there is a window of opportunity to undertake concerted actions in coming months to support successful transition into a post-RAMSI era and sustain peace:

First, consolidated action is called for to engender stronger ownership within government and across society to drive the peace building and reconciliation agenda, including conflict management and dispute resolution at the national and communal level. Support for effective coordination among all key actors, including across formal machinery of government, as well as between government and non-state actor/civil society and local communities is key to success. Many of the key causes of conflict highlighted above are symptoms of the following: unresponsive state institution; poor policies, lack of inclusive and realistic planning, coordination and foresight; and absence of conflict sensitive approach to development. It is envisaged that if the project strengthened national technical and institutional capacity to plan, coordinate and mainstream peace building and conflict sensitive approaches across the whole-of-government, then they will be better enabled to address the root causes of the conflict and to prevent relapse into conflict.

Secondly, there is room for immediate support to accelerate action for implementation of actionable recommendations put forward in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, building on government’s commitment and recent track record to advance the peace and unity agenda. A Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) has been formed; a National Peace-building Policy was developed with UNDP’s support and launched in 2015³. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has completed its work and issued a report and work has already commenced, led by national advisors in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) to plan for the implementation of TRC recommendations on reconciliation and reparations. The cabinet is now discussing the recommendations of the TRC report with a view to table its proposed TRC implementation roadmap for parliamentary discussions in 2016. In addition, PMO is planning to present a forgiveness and reparation bill in parliament to provide a legal basis for the implementation of the TRC implementation road map. The government’s strong interest to partner with the UN on the peace and unity agenda builds on many years of UN presence in the country, during which the UN has forged partnerships with an array of relevant stakeholder institutions and individuals.

Third, engaging youth as partners for peace is another critical element. The project will facilitate peacebuilding activities and dialogues for young people with national leaders to build the capacity of young people to influence national debates and provide a direct link to decision makers. The country has a large proportion of unemployed, marginalized youth population. Youth formed the backbone of many militia groups during the tensions. Even if

² *ibid*

³ The Peace Policy was developed with technical assistance from UNDP

youth did not necessarily have grievances, they were drawn to engage in violence due to economic need and absence of opportunities to engage in society. Many rural youth are driven to congregate in Honiara for the same reasons. Unemployment amongst the country's youth is almost 60 per cent⁴. A 2011 UNICEF report found that 25.9 per cent of male, and 32.2 per cent of female youth, aged between 15 and 29, could not read at all or could only read part of a sentence⁵. In addition "a culture that predisposes young people to be shunned from participation in community affairs, a high number of school dropouts, and a sense among young people that they are being left out"⁶ necessitates a strong focus on youth empowerment.

Fourth, there is an immediate opportunity to apply practical, targeted measures to ensure that more women, through a unified voice, can come together to influence national and provincial decision making processes and outcomes. Women in the Solomon Islands suffer from some of the highest rates of personal violence recorded globally. According to the 2009 Family Health and Safety Survey, two thirds of the women in Solomon Islands suffer from physical or sexual abuse.⁷ As violence is a learned behaviour, children growing up during periods of civil unrest will experience greater violence and continue this behaviour into adulthood⁸. In addition, there is a documented correlation between civil unrest and war and increases of violence against women, with incidences of interpersonal violence and sexual violence used both as weapons of war, as well as a symptom of loss of protection and breakdown of law and order during periods of violence.

In spite of situation facing women in Solomon Islands as highlighted above, there is ample evidence that women of the Solomon Islands played a critical role in advocating for restoration of peace and stability during and after the tensions. Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2002 and the Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) is in the final stages of drafting a National Action Plan (NAP). A well connected "Young Women in Parliament" group is already actively engaged. Women hold strong potential to contribute to consolidation of peace during the transition phase if they are supported and capacitated to engage fully and more equally.

Finally, there is an absence of regularized dialogue platform or engagement mechanism to facilitate democratic dialogue between citizens and those in provincial or national government/position of authority. Present opportunities for citizens to engage in government or parliamentary process are largely driven by government-led consultations such as the ongoing constitutional reform process and the parliamentary process of public hearing on bills presented for parliamentary review and approval. This project will work through the MNURP and PMO to explore establishing a formal platform for dialogue about peace and development issues and the future of the country, with emphasis on the inclusion and participation of women and youth. This platform will include mechanisms for regularised engagement between the government and citizens of the country and create a new opportunity to amicably negotiate closure to some of the long standing and challenging demands.

⁴ 2013 Statement by Ms Ethel Sigimanu Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs
http://www.unicef.org/eapro/Adolescents_-_Solomon_Islands_statement.pdf

⁵ http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/State_of_the_Pacific_Youth_Report_web.pdf

⁶ http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Solomon_Islands_2003_Youth_Study.pdf

⁷ UNICEF, Harmful Connections, 2015, p. 6

⁸ *ibid*, p. 10

b. Mapping of existing peacebuilding activities and gaps:

PBF/IRF intervention is complementary to as well as responds to gaps and new entry points identified through ongoing or completed UN and non-UN programmes (see Table 1). The project builds on momentum created through a number of previous UN initiatives: *inter alia* joint UN (ILO, UNDP and UNICEF) Human Security Trust Fund (HSTF) project in 2015 that started to address lingering causes of conflict, including pervasive political manipulation, social fragmentation, chronic poverty, and lack of basic social facilities. The HSTF focused on empowering both ex-combatants and affected communities by improving local governance and community participation, and the post-conflict recovery of affected communities, promoting human security and co-existence. The key lessons learnt from the HSTF project are: (i) there is a need to build a national consensus amongst the political leadership and citizens on post conflict support; and (ii) greater involvement of national leadership including key line ministries in designing any peacebuilding programme. The PBF will build on HSTF component on dealing with conflict affected communities, but with specific focus on women and youth in marginalized areas.

The PBF/IRF intervention will also build on past, ongoing and planned future work of UNDP in the Solomon Islands which has had a notable foot-print in advancing governance reforms. This includes the Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands Project (SECSIP) with the Election Management Body focusing on electoral reform and women's political participation as well as work to strengthen provincial governance to bridge the centre-periphery gap. UNDP's existing partnership with the MNURP and PMO through the social-cohesion and peace building portfolio will also facilitate quick wins in achieving results.

Progress made under the PBF is expected to serve as a sound foundation for fresh multi-year programming that would be needed to provide follow up support to addressing the root causes of conflict in the medium to longer term. It is envisaged that the findings of policy research papers to be undertaken in partnership with SINU and MNURP; the findings of a baseline and end-line perception surveys to be undertaken during the life of this project; lessons learnt from implementation of the government led-TRC implementation roadmap; and experiences from south-south exchanges to be facilitated through this project will provide a solid basis for the formulation of multiyear peace and governance reform programme framework. Already discussions have been initiated to explore the potential for scaling up ongoing work of the World Bank on community governance and traditional conflict resolution methods by accessing the Joint UN-World Bank Fragility and Conflict Partnership Trust Fund⁹. In this regard, initial understanding has been reached to proceed with a funding proposal leveraging this PBF investment. In addition, there is strong potential for the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (GAI) Fund to complement the project in financing women's engagement in peace and security.

An essential strategic element in bringing together government and isolated sectors of society is the focus on engagement of women and marginalized youth (as articulated in the theory of change). The project will work closely with community leaders and within communities to identify participants. The partnership with MWYCFA and women's groups (including on the NAP) will be key to achieving a breakthrough in positioning women to bear influence beyond their traditional roles in society. It will build on current programmes that have been working with women through leadership and capacity building efforts; and will leverage

⁹ www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/un-world-bank-fragility-and-conflict-partnership-trust-fund

those opportunities by creating the space, and ability for women to actively and meaningfully engage in the NAP process. Coordination among key institutions and stakeholders in the peacebuilding process has been weak. This project, by working through institutions with a coordination mandate will enhance information and knowledge sharing and improve effectiveness in the implementation of the peace policy, as well as the overall peace process.

The project also intends to forge a strong partnership between academic peacebuilders, in USP, a newly established Solomon Islands National University (SINU), and international universities, with policy makers in Government. Such partnerships will guide substantive/analytic programmatic and policy decisions as well as support evidence-based measurement of the contributions and catalytic nature of the PBF/IRF interventions.

Table 1 – Mapping of peacebuilding activities and gaps

| Project outcome | Source of funding (Government/development partner) | Key Projects/Activities | Duration of projects/activities | Budget in \$ (NB some in AUD – yet for period of review parity with USD can be assumed) | Descr. -major gaps in Outcome Area, programmatic or financial |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Implementation of (selected) TRC recommendations. | Solomon Island Government | Reconciliation | Ongoing | TBD | Absence of nat. consensus on TRC follow up |
| Economic Governance and 'Machinery of Government'. (Two of three pillars). | RAMSI. 2013-2017 Regional inputs – yet 95% Australia funded. (AusAid and DFAT) | Support to capacity building and expansion of SIG offices | 2003-2013 | Economic Govn. & 'Machinery of Govt'. About AUD 600 million 2003-2013 | Progress yet to be ascertained |
| Law and Justice pillar. (Largely now professionalizing the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)) | RAMSI. This pillar accounted for some 83 % of expenditure to 2014 | Trainings to the Police and Rule of Law apparatus and infrastructure | 2003-mid-2017, since 2013 with focus only on police | Law and Justice AUD 2.2 billion to 2014. Continues with diminished budget. | Capacity of the SIG to take over need to be supported |
| ROL/Justice | Australia DFAT | TBD | 2017 on | TBD, continued substantial advisory support to RSIPF | |
| ROL/ Justice | New Zealand MFAT | TBD | 2017 on | TBD, likely support to RSIPF | |
| Community Governance | The World Bank | Grievance Resolution, Community organisation | Ongoing | USD 3 million | Only in two provinces. |

| Project outcome | Source of funding (Government/development partner) | Key Projects/Activities | Duration of projects/activities | Budget in \$ (NB some in AUD – yet for period of review parity with USD can be assumed) | Descr. -major gaps in Outcome Area, programmatic or financial |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Assistance to MNURP – drafting of a National Peacebuilding Policy and Social Cohesion Programme | UNDP | Peace Policy Capacity Building National Discussions | Until Dec 2016 | USD 500,000 | Very limited budget to fund programme activities |
| UN Human Security Trust Fund for tension reduction and rehabilitation | UNDP | Empower ex combatants and affected communities Improve socio economic situation Improve water and sanitation services | 2012-2015 | USD 2,200,000 | Not able to mobilize national support to the HSTF programme and no reconciliation support |
| UNDP Governance strengthening Programme | UNDP | Electoral Management Bodies Parliamentary Support Prog Local Government Anti-Corruption | Ongoing since 2012 | USD 32,000,000 | Peace and conflict analysis, linkages and mainstreaming have not been fully incorporated The focus is at political reform and local government |
| Advancing Gender Justice Prog. – with Women's Pol Participation & CEDAW. | UN Women – includes WPS / NAP support | CEDAW advocacy and report Women political participation | Completing in June 2016 | completed | Not reaching to isolated provinces and communities |
| Women's Economic Empowerment | UN Women (Markets for Change) | Market Vendor Association, Business skills, infrastructure improvement | Ongoing until 2019 | AUD 3,000,000 | Only in Auki and Honiara |
| Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) | UN Women – Pacific Facility Fund – small grants to CSOs and Joint Programme SIG/UN New programme on multi-sectoral support services starting in 2017 | Training on GBV, media project on survival stories, youth awareness and family support | Until 2017 New Project starting in 2017 on services | USD 200,000 AUD 1.2 million | Only in Honiara and Western Provinces Nil services and systems to support survivors of violence |
| Youth Engagement | SPC Youth@Work Queens (UK) Young Leaders Foundation | Training, (sponsored intern) employment opportunities and life skills – and leadership training | Ongoing | TBD | Marginalized communities and hot spots areas are not covered by Youth at Work programme and overall gap in youth participatory and inclusion in peacebuilding and dialogue processes |

c. Rationale for this IRF

The imminent withdrawal of RAMSI in mid-2017 presents an opportunity to strategically invest in a package of programmatic support that can ensure a smooth transition but also build confidence and ownership in the medium to long term peace and unity agenda. Government leadership, relevant institutions and other key stakeholders in society are eager to benefit from expert advice and support from a neutral multilateral partner to build on gains already achieved to accelerate progress. The UN in the Solomon Islands has been requested by the Prime Minister to support the country during the transition period. The broader base of UN membership and its global nature is viewed as a distinct advantage in engaging with stakeholders on sensitive issues related to governance, leadership and reconciliation.

Sustaining stability in Solomon Islands in this transition period and beyond calls for creation of an inclusive political space for coordinated dialogue and action that can establish new or stronger linkages between all critical actors, and especially those who are marginalized yet can be a force for good (e.g. women, youth), but also - if left out they can be drawn into conflict. There is a sense of urgency. The voiced 'uncertainty' for the near future highlights the need for a flexible facility that can be quickly deployed to address emerging needs. As peacebuilding plans are committed to in this current transitional period, an element of negotiation with society and traditional leaders will be required. While not all expectations can be met (e.g. monetary compensation will not be accommodated by UN supported initiatives), there is an opportunity to amicably negotiate closure of some of the unfeasible demands. Some elements may attempt to undermine the broad societal commitment toward stability and progress that the government aims to achieve. The project will build on the work already done to identify potential spoilers and those under trauma and engage with them directly and indirectly through supporting MNURP and PMO in their planning and strategy reaching out to broad based of groups in Solomon Islands. In order to further strengthen the evidence base for target selection during the inception phase, UNDP will build on partnership with a research effort led by Australian National University (ANU) looking into the youth, in urban and peri-urban issues, as well as the data and research collected by the crime prevention and community policing unit of the Royal Solomon Island Police Force.

This research may include working with those who are in need of support to heal and move on with their unfinished grievances through the combatant association and other organizations. A potential risk and opportunity is the engagement of marginalised youth within the structure of the National Youth Council, where they could act as spoilers or as positive contributors to the peace processes. In determining the target group, the project will work with the target groups currently being identified by MNURP and PMO in preparing the national reconciliation events to be held in July 2016. By supporting the existing SIG dialogues and inclusive reconciliation processes, it is expected that a consensus will be reached and resolutions will emerge from the involvement of all national stakeholders, including women and youth. There is an imperative to get the most challenging issues on the table whilst some of RAMSI's 'stabilizing' presence remains.

In addition, the government has stated its plan to accelerate the national reconciliation agenda and schedule to organize various peacebuilding activities around the national independence celebration in July 2016. The government intends to make significant and immediate progress on the reconciliation efforts while RAMSI is still in the country, the project aims to strengthen relations between non state actors and the government to effectively develop framework on peacebuilding and reconciliation agenda. There is a need for urgent support to

ensure the government initiatives are consulted with the public and the need to initiate the support through the PBF to ensure the reconciliation process are fully consulted and dialogues are facilitated to ensure the inclusivity. There is a risk that without dialogue and strengthened relations between the government and the public, the peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts would fail.

II. Specific Objectives of PBF/IRF support and proposed implementation

a. Project Outcomes and Theory of Change

This project is designed to achieve sustained peace and stability in Solomon Islands during the transition period and to establish a sound foundation for follow up peacebuilding work, through two mutually reinforcing outcomes:

- 1. Inclusive space established for dialogue and reconciliation, and national capacity strengthened for implementation of peace policy**
- 2. Youth engaged in peace process with society and leadership**

The theory of change outlined here explains the intended chain of results to be achieved and assumptions. Against the background presented earlier:

If inclusive space for dialogue on national development issues and addressing key bottlenecks in the reconciliation process, national capacity is strengthened, women and youth are meaningfully engaged in advancing the peace process with the leadership; then the relationship and trust between the SIG and the society would be strengthened, key issues with regards to social cohesion and reconciliation would be identified and addressed collectively, transition would proceed more peacefully and effectively, stability gained since RAMSI intervention would be sustained and broader development and governance reform agenda would advance effectively in the Solomon Islands (illustrated in Fig. 3 below).

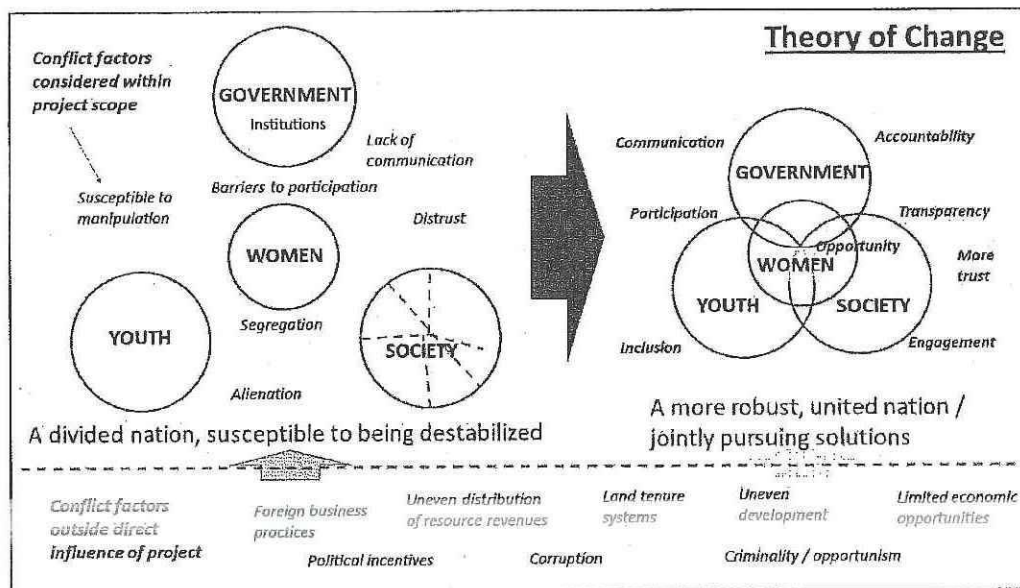


Fig. 3. Theorizing change -- a focus on uniting stakeholders.

Explanation of project strategy:

(i) Steps will be taken to address gaps in coordination and interface between various international, national, sub-national and community-based actors in peace building and dispute resolution; and (ii); Marginalised societal actors, in particular, women and youth will be empowered and capacitated to engage in peace building advocacy/action. This will enable the country to advance in a few, strategic, interlinked, areas, relevant to advancing a longer-term peace and development agenda, and concurrently serving to leverage additional resources for its implementation beyond the life of the project.

To this end, the following strategies have been adopted.

Outcome 1 centres on enhancing national capacity to implement selected recommendations from the National Peace Policy (NPP)-and the National Development Strategy (NDS). The project contributes UN expertise and neutrality to help progress the implementation of the policies effectively and in a timely manner in areas where the UN brings added value.

In particular, Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) will be supported to lead the design, implementation, and management of coordination mechanisms to ensure peace building efforts across government machinery, non-state actors/CSOs, faith-based and community-based organisation are coordinated, complementary and synergised. The project will thereby address the commonly cited gaps in coordination, public outreach and inclusivity. The establishment of a mechanism to institutionalize regular coordination and a multi stakeholder forum for implementation of national policy will create new space where national stakeholder relationships and capacities can be strengthened to address national peace building and reconciliation priorities.

To assist informed policy and strategy decision-making the project will support research, analysis and policy papers in close cooperation with research institutions, including SINU.

The project will make provision for targeted technical, logistical and discrete financial support to complement ongoing government-led efforts to address the causes and consequences of the conflict through the government-led national reconciliation efforts. The

reconciliation activities in Solomon Islands have been criticized as a series of uncoordinated events rather than a cohesive process with strong public support. UN expertise will be provided to the Prime Minister's Office on national reconciliation processes, including transfer of experience and knowledge from other post conflict countries by facilitating south-south experience sharing within the pacific region and internationally. Targeted substantive reconciliation projects will be piloted to demonstrate the benefits and importance of having a nationally-led and owned reconciliation and healing approach to peace building.

Key to the success of this outcome is incorporating women's capacities at all stages – ensuring their voices are heard and that they participate in decision making. The historic role of women, bridging ethnic groups as peacebuilders, will also be leveraged in increasing understanding between groups on rights and responses to grievances. Clarity, consistency and communication have been missing from post conflict related reconciliation and reparations to date – and are a significant causal link in the overall conflict analysis.

The project will support efforts to unify and amplify women's voice and support by facilitating enhanced dialogue between women groups and the national leadership through Women's Forum. This will be achieved through trainings and provincial consultations, as well as support to the implementation of national action plans on Women Peace and Security (WPS). The project places high importance on reducing barriers to women's participation in political and social life. There is a momentum of support to temporary special measures (TSM) and the project will use this momentum through provision of TSM refresher course and supporting the development of a TSM implementation plan.

Outcome 2 is focused on ensuring that youth are engaged in peacebuilding with society and leadership at different levels. 'Marginalized' youth will be identified and engaged with the leadership to seek solutions to barriers they face and chart a way forward to become engaged for a positive influence on the peace consolidation efforts, such as through the National Youth Councils and associated networks. Engagement of young women will be prioritized. Significantly more is known about the situation of women and children in Solomon Islands than that of youth. Particular interest lies in surveying and mapping more marginalized youth – especially in informal settlements and those most affected by the tensions. Activities implemented under this outcome area will be specifically researched and designed, building upon ongoing work – with expansion into marginalized areas in direct relevance to connections to peacebuilding.

The project is based on the belief that sustainable peace in the Solomon Islands requires active and stronger participation of young people as peace advocates. Supporting youth leaders to become peace advocates will mobilize this crucial segment of society as an asset to peacebuilding, not spoilers. It will reduce the risk of violence and potential use of youth people as negative political agents. The project will identify young leaders, train them and facilitate the engagement with the national leadership. The project envisages support to the expansion of Youth@Work programme (with a greater focus on peace building initiatives) to marginalized areas and cultural and sport activities perceived as peace promoting activities. Youth@Work has been in operation since 2012 to tackle the growing challenge of youth unemployment. The programme aims to provide young people with skills and experience that are directly applicable at work, includes mentoring and training as well as work placement internship. A follow up tracer study by Secretariat for the Pacific Community reported 39 percent of participants found further employment following the experience and it is one of few existing national projects widely seen as effective in reaching out to youth who is often untapped in Solomon Islands. UNDP partnered with Youth@Work during the HSTF project implementation as mentioned earlier and will build on lessons and partnerships gained in this project. To support PBF, discussions were conducted and an initial agreement reached on expanding the programme to North Malaita, Weather Coast in Guadalcanal and Shortlands in

Western Province, focusing on marginalized youth who would not otherwise be obviously targeted by conventional youth programmes and initiatives.

For support to young women, the project proposes support to lobbying and advocacy work, including provincial activities and national consultations. The activities to support young women would allow for more in-depth discussion and exchange between the young women and the government. It will provide the young women with a space for dialogues on development issues and the current reconciliation efforts. The linkages will be built through providing an opportunity for women to have access to the discussions and influence national peacebuilding programme and TRC recommendations, currently being planned and implemented by MNURP and PMO. In addition, through the output supporting young women, it also envisages women voices from provinces will be heard, visible and incorporated in the national programme on effective national reconciliation and agenda on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) to be implemented by MWYCA.

b. Outputs and Activities

Output 1.1. MNURP / PMO capacity strengthened and evidence base and coordination improved

The Government has a National Peace Policy (NPP) as a basis for national peacebuilding work in the country. Coordination and capacity to implement the policy are lacking, in particular, the absence of functioning implementation mechanisms; also lack evidence-based analysis to inform policy making. The project activities will contribute to addressing gaps through this output:

1.1.1. Providing substantive and technical support to MNURP and PMO to coordinate peacebuilding work, including policy formulations, and specialized expertise on specific issues.

1.1.2. Through proactive engagement with national and regional research institutions, research on priority topics will be supported that will provide input to policy decisions and implementation, including production of policy papers to provide evidence-based policy options and analysis.

1.1.3. Strengthening SIG capacity to implement selected peacebuilding activities by providing supplemental resources to expedite implementation and/or height quality. The activities to be considered are dialogue platforms for PMO and MNURP to engage with and in marginalized communities on peacebuilding plans and future issues.

Output 1.2. Effective national reconciliation initiated

The project will not resource specific TRC recommendations but will facilitate increased coherence, professionalism and effectiveness of Government action. Activities include:

1.2.1 Support formulation of reconciliation policy, guidance and action plan through provision of substantive expertise in national reconciliation

1.2.2 Logistical, communication and other support to related government outreach and public awareness with respect to the national reconciliation efforts

1.2.3 Timely support to substantive reconciliation events and activities (when gaps in government and other resources are evident) to be implemented by SIG. These will be undertaken coherently within the plan, and relevant to the peacebuilding implementation overall.

1.2.4 Facilitation of international and regional sharing of experiences, lessons learnt on reconciliation and national unity.

Output 1.3. Women's voices unified and connected

Women's organizations are already engaged in peace and reconciliation policy and implementation, but with varying capabilities and differing areas of focus and geographic reach in the Solomon Islands. Support will focus on consolidation of a unifying platform for women

to jointly influence the peace and unity agenda. Activities include:

1.3.1 Consultation and drafting of a Women's Forum MOU with relevant partners, including all elements of advocacy.

1.3.2 Training of forum members on WSP, SC 1325 and National Action Plan as well as the support of initial coordination work.

1.3.3 Provincial-level consultations between diverse women groups to reach out and highlight women voices from provinces that leads to advocacy and incorporation into national programme on peace, reconciliation and women's participation (4).

1.3.4 Workshops on WPS/NAP opportunities to identify/support integrated actions within multi-sectoral plans – and onward action with MNURP and MWYCA.

Output 1.4. Reduction of barriers to women's participation

Reducing barriers to participation of women in social and political life will link up with the current political reform work, including specific efforts within in the electoral system, including discussions around TSM to address barriers to women's participation. Proposed activities are:

1.4.1 TSM refresher courses with Women's groups and related partners

1.4.2 Development of a TSM implementation plan and SIG commitment to follow up (with some related actions being undertaken under the project)

Output 2.1 Youth leaders upheld as peace advocates

This output will identify youth leaders and help to empower them as peace advocates, with focus on marginalized areas. Activities include:

2.1.1 Mapping of and identification of youth (areas of tension and potential for engagement) in selected, prioritized areas, and training/Engagement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

2.1.2 Preparation and facilitation of engagement of young leaders in strategic events (e.g. youth parliament; discussions/exchanges with national leaders)

Output 2.2. Economic and cultural engagement increased for enhanced national unity

This specific output will enhance the engagement of youth in education, skills development and livelihood opportunities - linking this to government outreach in this regard. Activities include:

2.2.1 Remodeled Youth at Work programme through a peace building angle expanded to priority, identified marginalized areas.

2.2.2 Grants for projects focused on youth engagement in reconciliation efforts through music, sports, culture celebrating diversity and common identity for national unity.

Output 2.3. Young women included in nation-wide peacebuilding

Young women are currently marginalized from national and provincial dialogue. This output will specifically facilitate involvement of young women in all related projects. Note WPS/ NAP-related action throughout. Activities will include:

2.3.1 Specific outreach (including through other ongoing projects) to identify, lobby for and involve young women in relevant events. Preparation and support for engagement.

2.3.2 Proactively engage women in provincial activities with (4) specific dialogue sessions and consultations that would serve as input into national peacebuilding policy.

2.3.3. Facilitation of the involvement of young women in national-level consultations to highlight their concerns and voices and how to channel through government decision making processes and outcomes. The consultations will be on inputs on national policy on youth, government peacebuilding programme and national political reform. The project will support consultation events between young women representatives with MPs, MNURP, MWYCA and the Prime Minister Office (2).

Data generated and utilized for peacebuilding planning:

Robust engagement with academic institutions will serve to compile research and analysis of peacebuilding-related data – and make use of this data/analysis to inform implementation as well monitoring and evaluation. The research and analysis work is not just about the project but about creating an important evidence based and disaggregated data for the national stakeholders' medium term peacebuilding policy and programmes. The project is helping to build local research capacity and support MNURP engagement with SINU and other research institution on peacebuilding research. As demonstrated with the 'literature review' and preparatory consultations, there is considerable academic interest in the Solomon Islands, with a body of research focused on RAMSI, conflict causes and recovery efforts. This project, in partnership with SINU, USP and others, will ensure that this knowledge is effectively utilized:

Monitoring and evaluation of the PBF project: The project will establish a robust baseline against agreed indicators of success. Academic inputs will be sought for focused peacebuilding-related stocktaking of surveys and relevant indicators – cognizant of RAMSI's 'people's surveys' and ongoing 2016 plans from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT). Indicators (as initially expressed in the results matrix of this project) will reflect these 'baselines' and the change effected over time. The project envisages two perception surveys, one in 2016 and will use the people survey by DFAT and late 2017 on the endline survey.

Specific research in topics relevant to the project and national peace building efforts (under output 1.1.2): During the inception phase a thorough mapping of existing research and data will be conducted to guide the selection of research topics important for policy setting of national peace building efforts over and above the PBF project.

d. Targeting and sequencing

The UN works closely with key national institutions as well as other non-government actors active in the peace and unity agenda, based in Honiara. In addition, the UN has forged relationships with local authorities as well as civil society and community members, including youth and women beyond Honiara, notably in Malaita, Weather Coast, Guadalcanal and Choiseul.

The project will target the marginalized and disconnected communities and youth through working closely with various community leaders in marginalized communities. Community advises on the disconnected youth will be sought prior to the work in the marginalized communities. The criteria will be developed with MWCYA and Youth National Council on selecting youth leaders from marginalized groups, but the current analysis highlight the focus should be on the youth leaders that have influence in their community.

Contributing factors to the Solomon Islands' conflict (1998-2003) are associated with migration of people (largely from Malaita) to 'squatter' settlements on Guadalcanal community-owned land. These peri-urban areas near Honiara have swelled following the expulsion of up to 20,000 Malaitans in 1999. Such areas will be a priority for research, analysis and intervention under this project. Other areas geographically targeted include selected urban and peri-urban areas in Malaita, with a legacy of receiving arms and mobilizing combatant youth at the time of the expulsions. The Weather Coast of (Southern) Guadalcanal is a densely populated zone of remote villages historically marginalized from services, and a previous zone of combat – with many outstanding grievances since the tensions. Weather Coast is also frequently cited as a potential source of instability should it be excluded from the reconciliation, reparations and peacebuilding efforts. In relation to Bougainville, coastal areas of northern Choiseul also require research, analysis and support.

Please refer to Map (Annex 4) for a pictorial representation of these project-target areas.

e. Budget

The budget estimates as presented below are based on the experiences of comparable and similar projects implemented in Solomon Islands. Given the nature of the geographical make of the country, traveling between islands is costly; domestic flights, due to absence of competition, are often as expensive as international flights to destinations in the region. It often entails flying to a provincial centre and hiring a boat to visit the sites prioritized for this project. The Weather Cost is only accessible by a long boat ride. In order to ensure quality implementation of the activities, the project requires adequate resources for regular monitoring and partnership building with communities.

In terms of staffing for the project, since this is a directly implemented project by the UN agencies, existing resources available in the organizations will be utilized to the extent possible, to build on the knowledge and technical capacities of the resource UN staff. In line with the UNDP and UNWOMEN's direct project costing policies, the time allocated by the existing staff (for example, the national Team Leaders for Effective Governance, Inclusive Growth M&E and results reporting officer – NOB/C, Operations Manager – international P3, administration staff for finance and procurement – G5/6/7) to the direct implementation of the project will be cost recovered from the project. This will contribute to substantive cost effectiveness by avoiding a prolonged hiring process for a 18 months focused initiatives, but also by maximizing programmatic synergies with other ongoing and future UN initiatives.

Table 2: Project Activity Budget

| Outcome/ Output number | Output name | Output budget by RUNO | UN budget category | Remarks / budget justification |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Inclusive space for dialogue and reconciliation established, and national capacity strengthened for implementation of peace policy | | | | |
| Output 1.1 | MNURP / PMO capacity strengthened and coordination improved | UNDP USD 507,810 | Personnel USD 191,061 Supplies USD 35,528 Equipment USD 47,500 Contractual USD 123,000 Travels USD 36,500 Transfers/Grant USD 20,000 Op/Direct Cost USD 21,000 GMS USD 32,221 | Significant element of proj. Substantial prof. staff required. |
| Output 1.2 | Effective national reconciliation initiated | UNDP USD 614,199 | Personnel USD 143,018 Supplies USD 60,000 Equipment USD 52,000 Contractual USD 170,000 Travels USD 120,000 Transfers/Grant USD 0 Op/Direct Cost USD 29,000 GMS USD 40,181 | |
| Output 1.3 | Women's voices unified and channeled | UN Women USD 213,856 | Personnel: USD 63,951 Supplies USD 2,376 Equipment USD 1,760 Contractual USD 27,820 Travels USD 32,700 Transfer/Grants USD | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | 64,500 Op/Direct Cost USD 6,759 GSM USD 13,990.62 | |
| Output 1.4 | Reduction of barriers women's participation - TSM | UN Women USD 80,238 | Personnel: USD 34,186 Supplies USD 1,188 Equipment USD 880 Contractual USD 0 Travels USD 6,200 Transfer/Grants USD 30,000 Op/Direct Cost USD 2,535 GSM USD 5,249.23 TOTAL: USD 80,238.23 | |
| 2. Youth engaged in implementation of national peace strategy | | | | |
| Output 2.1 | 2.1 Youth leaders upheld as peace advocates | UNDP USD 164,445 | Personnel: USD 67,687 Supplies USD 6,000 Equipment USD 5,000 Contractual USD 53,000 Travels USD 15,000 Transfer/Grants USD 0 Op/Direct Cost USD 7,000 GSM USD 10,758.09 | |
| Output 2.2 | 2.2. Economic / cultural engagement increased for national unity | UNDP USD 494,575 | Personnel USD 50,220 Supplies USD 25,000 Equipment USD 6,000 Contractual USD 10,000 Travels USD 18,000 Transfers/Grant USD 350,000 Op/Direct Cost USD 3,000 GSM USD 32,355 | USD 350,000 in transfers / grants |
| Output 2.3 | 2.3. Young women included in nation-wide PB | UN Women USD 229,918 | Personnel: USD 78,009 Supplies USD 1,782 Equipment USD 1,320 Contractual USD 20,000 Travels USD 32,000 Transfer/Grants USD 74,500 Op/Direct Cost USD 7,266 GSM USD 15,041.39 TOTAL: USD 229,918.39 | |
| 3. Monitoring and evaluation. Data generated and utilized for peacebuilding planning and monitoring – and specific research on peacebuilding topics. | | | | |
| | 3.1 M&E systems and mechanisms established and become functional. 3.2 Specific Research Projects | UNDP USD 194,959 | Personnel USD 50,226 Supplies USD 14,979 Equipment USD 15,000 Contractual USD 79,000 Travels USD 9,000 Op/Direct Cost USD 14,000 GMS USD 12,754 | Includes stipends to enumerators. Training. |
| Total | | USD 2,500,000 | | |

Note there are currently major constraints in finding the national staff of the required capacity to implement this project, thus, some reliance is placed on international staff and consultants with a significant level of expertise.