

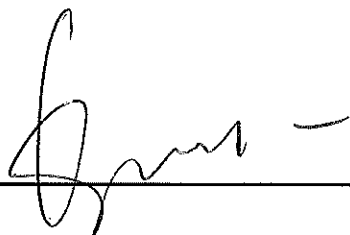
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project
2016 Fourth Quarterly Report

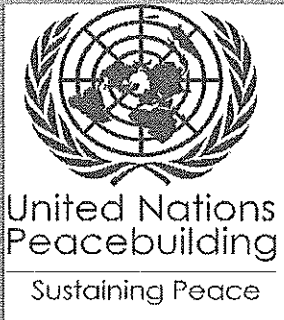
Country: SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Peacebuilding Solomon Islands

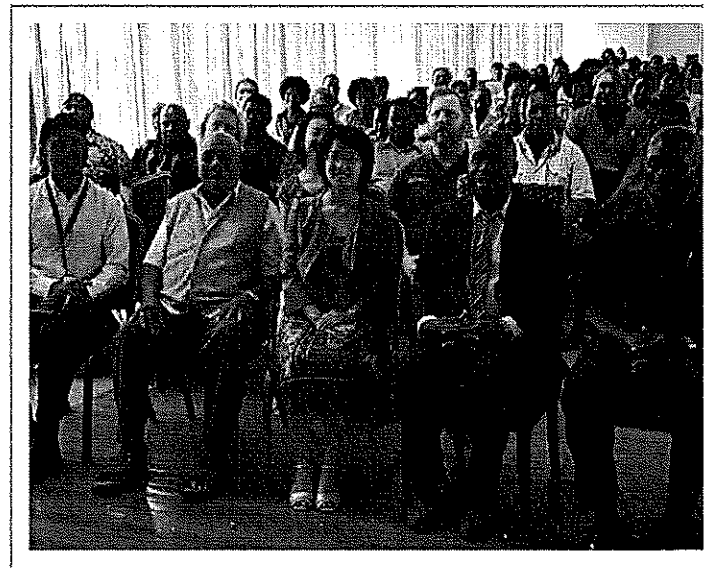
Quarterly Review 2016

Discussions with the UNPBF project adviser group took place prior to both the Guadalcanal and Malaita Provincial dialogue series. Unlocking Development Challenges and Investing in Future Development Aspirations was part of a three day dialogue held consecutively in both Provinces.

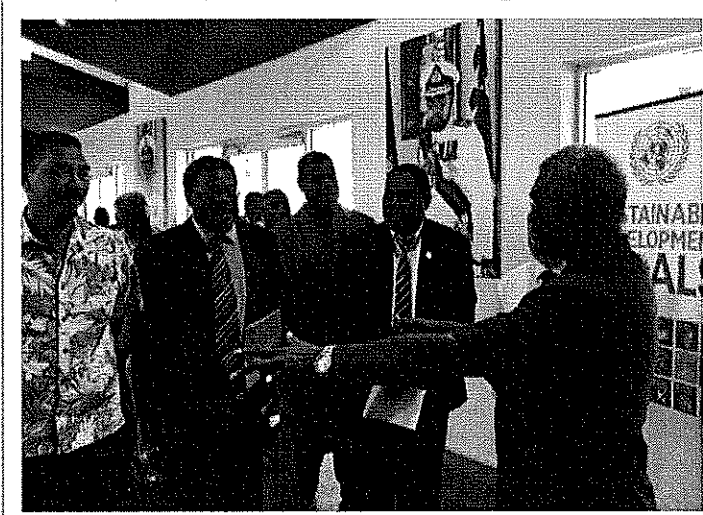


Economic development and sustainable peace are connected, this dialogue therefore opening a safe space for leaders and people to examine and discuss challenges. Development challenges and opportunities are numerous so by seeking an alternative future citizens can aspire to and discuss how to achieve them through specifically targeted programmes. Several hundred leaders joined the dialogue in late November with a large number of resolutions being approved and endorsed by the participants. In this environment land reform, federal governance, central government's role for Honiara, custom practices and women and youth involvement in decision making were at the forefront. This meeting was the first joint meeting of those from

the two Provinces in eleven years, a significant milestone as part of a joint initiative of UNDP - UNPBF, Guadalcanal and Malaita Provincial Governments and the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace. Early next year a National Consultation will bring the eight Provinces together for further talks on the future vision for peace. There was much enthusiasm for talks and the focus was on solutions for the future. There is strong leadership and a willingness to engage with the people.



Agus Wandu (UNPBF), Sir Paul Tovua (Project Adviser), Azusa Kubota (UNDP), Hon Anthony Veke (Provincial Premier) and Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare at the Guadalcanal Provincial dialogue



The Prime Minister greets senior Provincial leaders.



Conflict and Mediation Workshop attendees

Acknowledging the role of media in information transfer and public influence along with the industry need for support two international journalists supported a week long programme here in Honiara, partly in the classroom and then in the newsroom. The key outcome was for senior journalists and media owners to consider peace issues as part of peace time journalism. The local Media Association is reforming so the timing for this programme was crucial. In a relatively small media market networking discussions are a successful means of learning.



Malaita Provincial leaders met in Auki for dialogue.

Elisabeth Scheper from New York joined us and presented a day on Conflict Prevention and Mediation. Discussions began by identifying Solomon Islands in the implementation phase of the process of consultation. Gender issues and the entry point for women into consultation processes was covered. Significant improvement in representation has been made, by example no women were part of the Townsville peace process in October 2000. At both recent Provincial meetings women and youth had a voice.



Happy group of journalists gather for their workshop

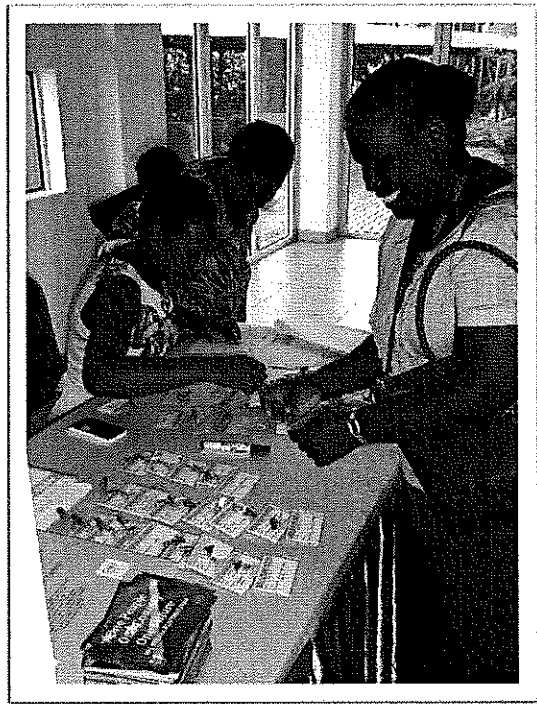


Women at work during Summit

In October the National Women's Summit supported by UNPBF, the first ever Solomon Islands' National Women's Summit to discuss systematic inclusion of women in peace building and policy making processes. It was held in Honiara and jointly coordinated between UN Women, UNDP and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. The Summit brought women's leaders and representatives from each of the provinces. The Summit provided women with substantial discussions with national leaders on key national agendas, including security transition, RAMSI withdrawal, reparations and removing barriers for women's participation in politics.

Participants were presented with action plans and recommendations, including from the truth and reconciliation report (TRC), which was the basis to begin the dialogue and reconciliation process after the ethnic tensions. The presentation was the first time many women learned in detail the findings and recommendations.

The Summit resulted in an agreement and MoU for cooperation between community-level women's groups and the Government to fully implement the National Action Plan and other efforts to advance women's participation in peace building and policy making at both the national and provincial level.



Audrey Manu of UN Women prepares for the participants

Youth as Leaders component of the project has supported the latest edition of the Youth @ Work organization YOSI (Youth of Solomon Island) magazine. Youth perspectives on peace building and development from across the country were collated in a special peace edition. The project partnered with the Youth@Work program to give young writers and artists a platform to share their personal stories and contribute ideas to the national peace building debate. The magazine will be accessible to youths in remote communities through a distribution of 10,000 copies into the Provinces. The peace edition's widespread success will improve perceptions of youth, and enhance engagement between decision makers and youths.

The UN's Peacebuilding Fund Programme is supporting national stakeholders to sustain peace by creating an inclusive space for dialogues, supporting implementation of Solomon Islands' national peace policies, and engaging women and youth in peace activities.



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Launch of the magazine with the young editorial team.

One People One Country One Future

We Are All Peace Builders



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