



Final Report: Marginalized Youth Empowerment Training

Coconut Technology Centre
21st December 2017

Acknowledgement

The Coconut Technology Center (CTC) would like to acknowledge the support of friends and stakeholders who have participated in getting this project to a reasonable conclusion despite many challenges. We would like to thank especially;

Funding Agency

UN Peace Building Fund, UNDP Office Honiara
UNDP Office Project Team

Implementation Body

CTC Board of Directors
CTC Project Team and Staff
PJ Construction

Facilitating Organizations and Experts

Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP)
Ministry of Police and National Security (MPNS)
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)
Commodities, Exports and Marketing Authority (CEMA)
Maraghoto Holdings Ltd
Kokonut Pacific Ltd (SI)
Solomon Islands Small Business Enterprise Centre (SISBEC)
ANZ Bank
Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI)
Taiwan Technical Mission Farm
Kastom Gaden
Zai Na Tina Organic Farm
Mr. Basil Gua (Expert)

Contracting and Services

All who have rendered services to the project in terms of logistics to Weathercoast by boat and road transport in North Malaita

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
INTRODUCTION	7
BACKGROUND	7
Project design	7
Project Justification	8
Training Component	8
Monitoring and Evaluation Component	9
Project Contract	10
Project Budget	10
TRAINING	10
The Model	10
Training Topics and Justification	11
Logistics and Youth Localities	13
Localities	13
Logistics	14
YOUTH PROFILE	15
Youth marginalism	15
Youth Participants	17
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	17
Community Impact	18
South Guadalcanal	18
North Malaita	22
M& E Overview	24
Individual Action Plans	26
RECOMMENDATIONS	29

CONCLUSION	31
ANNEXES	32
Annex 1 – Project Proposal	32
Annex 2 – Project Contract	32
Annex 3 – Youth Profiles	32
Annex 4 – Project Phase Acquittals	32
Annex 5 – Individual Action Plans	32
Annex 6 – Photos of Training & M&E Exercise (E-Copy Only)	32
Annex 7 – Training Schedule and Time Tables	32

Introduction

The Youth Empowerment Training funded by the UNDP office, Honiara was carried out between the 12th June 2017 – 20th December 2017 at the Coconut Technology Center (CTC), Lungga, East Honiara. The total project proposal cost was SBD834,295.00. The project was the initiative of the Peace Building Fund (PBF) under UNDP focused on the training youths to be effective peace builders in their communities. A hundred youths were initially planned to attend the training from North Malaita and South Guadalcanal, two of the most affected regions in the Solomon Islands (SI) during the social unrest of 1998-2003 however only eighty youths actually participated by the end of the project. The project highlighted the issue of '*marginalism*' in rural youths in SI, and presupposed the idea that peace was integral to any meaningful participation by young people, socially and economically in their respective communities. Eve

The report discusses the full project implementation; project design matrix, the training, profiling, monitoring and evaluation and also recommendation of findings and lessons learned as valuable information for any future projects of a similar kind.

Background

Project design

The project proposal was applied by CTC on May and signed on the 6th April 2017 between Coconut Technology Center (CTC) and UNDP. The actual project proposal is presented in Annex 1 of the Report.

There are two components to the proposal; A Training Component and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Component. The training covered three main headings: Peace-Building and Conflict Resolution, Business and Finance literacy and Understanding Rural Opportunities.

The Training Component was designed to be implemented over a period of two weeks in groups of twenty (20) (*i.e. it was the recommended number to cater for an ideal full class*). Each group would be repeating what the previous group was taught and the full project would be completed within three months provided everything else remained unaffected.

Project Justification

Training Component

Peace was essential to personal wellbeing and development consequently healthy communities as well. Youths in SI make up 70% of the population and surveys show that of this category, 85% of young people are '*out-of-school*' and do not have active engagements. Annual youth development budgets since 2012 is only around SBD 3.5m highly insufficient to tackle this national predicament. Young people who are frustrated about their situation have been found to display anti-social and behavioral incidents in local communities, with additional issues such as teenage pregnancy for young girls.

The peace-building component is aimed to cover ideas about conflicts, conflict resolution and the underlying benefits of having and maintaining peace in the communities and to encourage youths to be conflict negotiators and peace-builders.

Secondly, the youths were also introduced to basic financial and business topics. One of the reasons youths also don't get far is the lack of good information about how and where to actually start in turning ideas into income or managing whatever income they have. Some youths who do make an attempt find themselves falling-short due to a lack of knowledge to sustain their ideas. The basic financial and business literacy covers simple bookkeeping and how to manage money.

Thirdly, the training is also aimed to disseminate useful information about how to recognize opportunities that already exist in the rural areas. Much of the nation's wealth is confined and made in rural settings and youths can contribute in this if they know how and what to look for. Some scenarios and ideas are offered in this part of the training to help the youths see some low-capital ideas that can be implemented in their villages immediately, e.g. tree planting, gardening, livestock etc.

Together the training is theory based, group discussions, group and individual presentations and field visits to some targeted organizations and locations in and out of Honiara. The youths are encouraged to come up with Actions Plans (APs), which they think they can start in their villages as an economic activity to challenge themselves. Other topics such as Project Management and life skills are also presented separately.

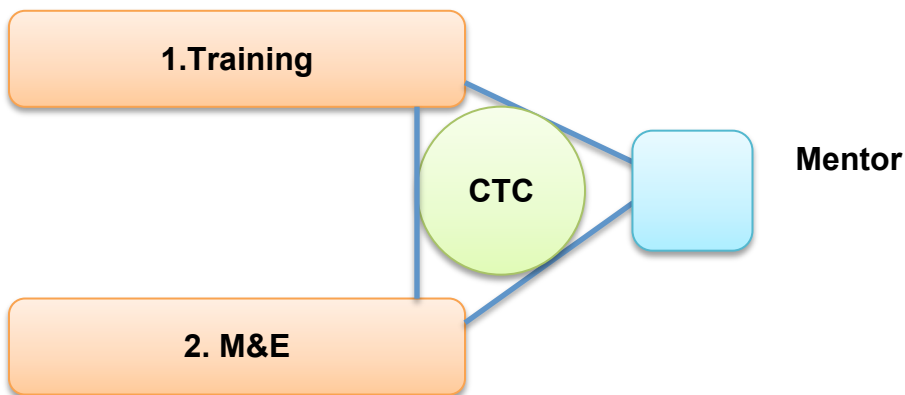


Figure 1: CTC Project Matrix

Monitoring and Evaluation Component

The second part of the project, which is the M&E use the APs to monitor each youth and their activities as suggested in the training. The project utilizes the help of a mentor for each community who attends the training and has a supporting role in keeping CTC updated on the activities of the youths when they return back to their communities. (See Figure1)

Project Contract

The full project contract is presented in Annex 2. It was signed on the 6th April 2017.

Project Budget

The entire project budget was SBD834, 295.00 and disbursed by the UNDP Office in Honiara in three tranches. The first tranche of SBD312, 860.00 was received on the 1st May 2017 and acquitted on the 14th August 2017. The second tranche of SBD 263,047.75 was received on the 6th September 2017 and acquitted on the 26th October 2017. The third and final tranche of SBD 208,574.00 was received on the 2nd November 2017 and acquitted on the 20th December 2017 along with the final project documents. About 85% of the entire proposed budget was actually spent towards the project under the various budget headings and activities. This can be followed under Annex 4 of the report.

Training

The training took place at the CTC, Lungga from 12th June 2017 to 3rd November 2017. The training venue was the research shed which houses the CTC head office and research DME unit. A training room was partitioned specially to accommodate 20-30 people equipped with folded tables and chairs, a lectern, teacher's table/desk and projector white board and equipment to accommodate the training of youths

The Model

As mentioned the model included training twenty youths per group, which comprise ten from North Malaita and ten from South Guadalcanal per group. Twenty was a recommended number, which is conducive for participants to individually maximize what was taught. Each group was trained over two weeks

and were selected directly from their communities and fared into Honiara. Table 1 shows the training dates and periods of each group that took part.

Table 1: Training days and periods for each youth group

Group	Training Days	Training Period
1	11	12 th -22 nd June 2017
2	12	3 rd July- 14 th July 2017
3	15	25 th September – 9 th October 2017
4	18	16 th October – 3 rd November 2017

Annex 7 represents the training schedules for each group (1-4). Group 4 was especially longer than the other groups because the youths had to participate in a 3-day Innovation Forum also run by the UNDP office.

Training Topics and Justification

The following components were delivered to all the groups who attended the training.

Topic: Peace Building & Conflict Resolution (*PEACE BUILDING, COMMUNITY POLICING AND LAW ISSUES*)

Facilitators: MNURP, RSIPF

Objective: Encourage Youth Peace Builders in Rural Communities

Rationale: The MNURP was responsible over the bulk of this component. Participants were introduced to peace building concepts, conflict resolution ideas and techniques, and also impacts and challenges of peace building. The RSIPF contributed towards this component under their Community Policing role and talked about important legislation and laws pertaining to community wellbeing such Family Protection Act 2014. Important issues were covered such as domestic violence, prostitution, child abuse and trafficking, dangers of face-book use and social media in general and also local penalties that relate to some of the discussed offences.

The rationale was the idea that without peace there can be no meaningful development or individual achievement. Peace was

essential to the life of communities and their development. It was important that participants understood the underlying causes of conflict and its effects but also resolution measures. Youths can then be Peace-Builders in their respective communities.

Topic: Business/Financial Literacy

Facilitators: SISBEC, ANZ, CBSI

Objective: To introduce participants to basic finance and money minded concepts and relate it to community examples

Rationale: How do we turn ideas into income? How do we appreciate and manage money if we make money? This is the rationale behind the financial component. Having an idea the youths are shown how to turn ideas into income using rural case models like a village canteen, piggery etc etc. SISBEC with vast experience in rural business training is backed by two bank institutions the CBSI and ANZ.

Topic: Rural Potentials and Ideas (*VALUE OF TREE PLANTING, ORGANIC FARMING, BEE KEEPING, LIVESTOCK, NGALI NUT AND OTHER NICHE CROPS, COCONUT OIL,*)

Facilitators: Various Stakeholders (Maraghoto Hld Ltd, Basil Gua, Kastom Gaden, Zai Na Tina

Objective: Be introduced to economic resources and ideas practical for the participants when they return to their villages and communities.

Rationale: Economic resources are abundant in the villages in Solomon Islands. Lack of knowledge of what's out there and how to go about it is one reason why many young people think that there is nothing to do in the villages and so flood to Honiara or are not active in their communities. This part of the training introduce them to some potential ideas that they can be involved with, e.g. tree planting, bee farm, vegetable farm, coconut and cocoa processing, village

canteens, piggery and poultry and others. This component also includes field visits to actual sites.

Topic: Project Management and Action Plan (*What is Project Management? Action Plans*)

Facilitators: Various Stakeholders (CTC)

Objective: Participants to learn the basic concepts of project management and proposal drafting for self-start ups but also grant opportunities. Participants use this to create their Action Plans of what they plan to do when they return to their villages, which they will also be monitored and evaluated against.

Logistics and Youth Localities

Forty youths came from South Guadalcanal and Forty Youths came from North Malaita.

Localities

The Project demarcated areas in South Guadalcanal where the youths came from are:

- Veramoho
- Kuma
- Alosolo
- Raeavu
- Malagheti
- Haliatu
- Kolina
- Duidui
- Horabau
- Tovunaovo
- Tamanu



Figure 1: Project demarcated region on South Guadalcanal

- Mbiti
- Vasavolavola (Uraghai)
- Chimba
- Veuru
- Sughu (Wander Bay)
- Duidui, Aruligho (Vunusa)
- Vatukulau, Aruligho (Vatukulau)
- Horabau, Aruligho (Pite)
- Duidui, Aruligho (Isuna)
- Duidui, Aruligho
- Horabau, Aruligho (Tamanu)

The Project demarcated areas in North Malaita where the youths came from are:

- Manaere
- Afenakwai
- Fo'ondo
- Aiofia
- Diula
- Kafoabu
- Gwaidingale
- Rameai
- Ngongora
- Takwa
- Afufu
- Musukui



Figure 2: Project demarcated region on North Malaita

Logistics

The youths had to be transported from their communities. This was one of the biggest challenges of the project. For South Guadalcanal, a high-powered outboard motor was hired to pick up all the youth participants. Just to get to

South Weather Coast region of Guadalcanal took around 4-6 hours with the weather reasonably fine. Weather-coast is synonymous for rough weather and high seas and knowledge and skill to sea-navigate is essential and therefore only boats in the region could be hired and used to travel to the area and pick the youths. Boat hires cost around SBD2500 per trip and SBD5000 for a return trip. The project experience included rough weather, which on one occasion for Group 2 some of the youth participants had to swim in order to get to the boat. Such were the difficulties faced.

In North Malaita, the youths had to travel by road to Auki. Road travel took around 7 hours to Auki for some of the youths living in places like Rameai where they had to catch the ship at Auki for Honiara. Sea travel to Honiara took around 5-6 hours.

South Guadalcanal youths were picked from Aruligho in West Guadalcanal into Honiara and Malaita youths were picked from the main wharf to their place of accommodation. Budget wise, mobilization that includes transporting the youths, accommodating them in Honiara and also daily subsistence allowance is the biggest project cost.

Youth Profile

Youth marginalism

The requirements to be qualified for the training was that youths had to come from the respective regions of North Malaita and South Guadalcanal and within the demarcated areas shown on Figures 1 and 2. Then they had to be youths who were not currently occupied with any formal employment, study or business. A pre-training assessment was done for all the youths in the beginning of every training to gauge the different backgrounds and identify surrounding factors to the issue of marginalism. It was identified that some were students, others have

had some form of income generating activity already happening but the majority fitted the category.

The pre-assessment interviews with the youths found that the major causes of marginalism or inactive young people in SI rural communities were;

- Parental divorce
- Financial constraint due to very big families, the absence of economic opportunities in rural communities
- Cultural barriers with Malaita very conscious about female participation
- Access to education
- Illness
- Accidents

It was also found that the reason why many of these young people continue to stay inactive is because;

- There is very little support by way of tangible social support structures in their communities
- Prejudice views about young people still exist
- Lack of good mentors in rural communities
- Poor quality education offered in rural areas
- Lack of useful information and resources to give them any sense of direction
- Unresolved personal traumas
- Poor government support or services

In terms of support, the only medium that is meaningful because it physically exists in all the villages that are represented in the training was the local Churches and Church programs that often accommodate these youths through music, sports and youth conferences and other important meetings. However, youths still consider their environments as scarce of meaningful opportunities

and would like to see more happen for them. Many of the youths find it difficult to relate their experiences and have confidence issues.

It was realized that the challenges are almost similar in a community context for all the communities represented; anti-social activities including the abuse of home brew and alcohol, marijuana, teenage pregnancy are rife in all the environments.

What is very evident as an overview is that many youths still feel detached in their own polities. Some are frustrated by the lack of recognition and support from government leaders and community elders alike. They still long for a sense of belonging and some of these are compounded by deep issues that have remained in their families over a long time, by circumstances that are beyond their control such the experiences of some who have to sacrifice their education for other siblings because of large numbers in the family or in the instances of family break-ups.

Youth Participants

There were 80 youths from a total of a 100 that was initially proposed to attend the training. Their names and profiles are detailed in Annex 3 of the report.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for youths in their communities happened between 11th November – 5th December 2017. First in South Guadalcanal and then North Malaita. A team was sent to cover all the villages that were part of the training. 85% of the youths who attended the training were located and the other 15% were either not present in their localities, not contactable by phone or have left the country in one particular case.

The M&E was designed to support what was covered in the training and therefore focused on three main areas: 1. Community Impact 2. Individual Impact and 3: Individual Action Plans (*which can be seen in detail in Annex 5*)

CTC had appointed for some communities mentors who would work alongside the youths and support the monitoring process; their views were also collected alongside family members of some of the youths and also prominent people in the villages.

In Guadalcanal the demarcated area is from Itina River (Southwest Guadalcanal) to Alivahato River (South East Guadalcanal) a stretch that covers three provincial administrative wards, Dui dui, Vatukulau and Talise.

In North Malaita, the demarcated areas are Fondo, Fo'otana, Malu'u and Matakolao.

It must be said on first impression that some youths tried their best to utilize what they have learnt despite criticisms and negative reception and also little resource and support even from own family members.

Community Impact

South Guadalcanal

The demarcated project regions have their challenges. In South Guadalcanal the location is considered remote, with no road access and infrequent shipping services, so access is mostly by private owned out-board motors. Adding to this is the weather, which is a real factor by any attempt to do work in South Guadalcanal.

This challenge must have weight in considering the youths of South Guadalcanal and what they can and cannot do as efficient as some may think. Many young people in South Guadalcanal have succumbed to this reality and thus many find themselves forcing to migrate and settle in the outskirts of Honiara like in Aruligho (*West Guadalcanal*), NZ Camp Henderson, Tina (*Central Guadalcanal*) instead of South Guadalcanal if they want to find any meaningful opportunity

being school or work. South Guadalcanal remains today one of the least developed regions of Solomon Islands for obvious reasons.

During the M&E exercise it was discovered that many of youths returned and had varied degrees of success in sharing what they learnt from the training particularly the peace-building training. Everyone was expected to hold awareness in their communities about what they learnt. Those that did pull their communities together and were able to hold awareness in their communities seem to be successful when they worked in groups. The individual cases were not so sighting in holding awareness though one or two did.

For example in Raeavu village Thomas Malata, Kenneth Malata, Pamela Ngele and Samantha Ngele (*All Group 4*) presented together and received both positive comments but as well sarcasm from the audience. Community sarcasm was duly noted, some stemming from other projects experiences that have not generated community expectations but also because of the wrong perceptions people have. For others it was simply an attitude problem. Some did show appreciation for what the youths learnt and offered them encouragement and some of the youths were even endorsed for further responsibilities. Thomas Malata from Raeava in this case was appointed by the village chief as ‘*go-in-between*’ community person between young people and village leaders having his previous connections with the young boys in the village. This recognition afforded only after they held the awareness talks straight after the training. The M&E project team notes;

“Chief Albert Luvusia of Raeavu community is really impressed and thankful for the four youths of his community taking part in the youth empowerment training under the UNDP peace building program, he and the other elders in the community have made an appointment in the community for the four youths to work with chiefs and other elders as peace advocates. He also appointed the four youths to assist in dealing and addressing the high rise of antisocial behavior in the community especially in times like these when it’s heading towards the Christmas and New Year festive sessions.

The chief has come to share that he now looks to the four youths as his helper and has vested his trust on them, he said that with the new knowledge and skills that they learn during the two weeks of training, he believes that they are better equipped with some more new knowledge that will be of importance to help curb the high rise of antisocial behavior back in the rural communities. He said that he sees the training as very important and a real bonus to his roles and responsibility down in the community.”

The training has clearly provided confidence to community leaders as to whom they can entrust to work with in addressing youth issues in their communities for one but also community issues in general. This was also the case in Ghorabau and Duidui communities where John¹ Martin and Carlos Kona (*both Group 1*) were endorsed in the regional chief's meeting to undertake community-policing roles. This particular community initiative is supported by the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation and also Ministry of Police which is why John and Carlos were endorsed at the highest meeting of community elders and leaders meeting.

For others who have had some form of leadership role particular in church youth groups prior to the training like Kennedy Tara (Kiva) (*Group 3*) of Chimba and Anita Sandato (*Group 2*) of Veuru, the impact of the training at the community level

was a more informed leader returning back to their community and sharing what they have learnt to

their various groupings. In other ways, the youths have implemented approaches based on their individual environments and what they perceive to be helpful with regards to what they took back.

Emma Hardy (*Group 2*) of Ghorabau community successfully initiated sports soccer competition for young boys in her area as a medium to promote peace and building awareness but also reduce anti-social activities on Fridays.

In some communities, the perception on the individual is a community one. We learn in Ham Maeli's case in Tamanu, that his participation brought pride to his whole community. Everyone considered him one of theirs as expressed by his father. Ham cleared a hectare of land (Figure 3) and proceeded to build a teak tree nursery as his personal action plan. The training provided seeds. He also



Figure 3: Ham Maelis proposed site for tree planting - Tamanu, South Guadalcanal

¹ At the time of writing this report John Martin who was inspired out of the training and given a community-policing role in his community is waiting for the results of his application to join the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSPF). An example of what this training planted in one youth.

utilized the UNDP Training certificate presented to him and was successfully accepted into the CITREC scholarship program between the GP government and Canadian government, which he started in November. This was a classic case of someone who was inspired to do something for himself straight after the training.

While a few have impacted their communities immediately others are making something for themselves and being examples in other positive ways and causing others to follow. Jenny Grace (*Group 2*) and Diana Saihanakoti (*Group 3*) of Mbiti who have now started up their small canteens, and is a positive step for other girls in their village. Emma Hardy also has started to raise ducks and has gathered and encouraged a small support group of girls in her village to also go into poultry. Emma gained the confidence and used the support of her father who used to work at Kastom gaden who helped her with advice.

For many communities who have youths in the program, their immediate families have been impacted and can see the difference. Jack Lou (*Group1*) says that he was not successful in getting community awareness but the training provided him with tools and skills for conflict resolution and so far he has converted one of his cousins to living meaningfully and keeping out of problems. Almost all the youths interviewed during the M&E exercise mention a change in perception in how they see themselves and life in general after the training, which cause them to want to do something.

Some of the youths have decided to go into further studies, like Nelson Kiore (*Group 1*) who successfully applied and was accepted into SINU² in November to do a plumbing certificate.

For South Guadalcanal youths some have resettled in Honiara after the training and were not located when the M&E team arrived in their villages.

² Solomon Islands National University

North Malaita

In North Malaita the challenges are different and it is essential to have an understanding. Cultural barriers are quite evident for some communities who could not easily send girls or girls who attended faced some additional hurdles due to cultural views than encouraging their individual potentials. This was noticeable even for those that attended the training; strict monitoring was given to ensure their stay in Honiara was restricted to the training and nothing else. One of the girls who came also shared her challenges at home as a female was one of high skepticism about what she was doing in Honiara. She returned and wanted to start farming but felt short because of the criticisms and so resorted back to her normal chores as a young female in the village.

In the M& E exercise the training raised the importance of youth issues in general after some of the youths carried out their awareness and received positive feedback. In Rameai for example Joy Tologa's (*Group 3*) father wanted more programs to come into their community like the '*community police awareness and peace building*'. He said at times youths have too many things to do that they get bogged down and not succeed in completing anything which he says is a challenge and youths need further support (*he was referring to other youth activities that usually come up like church programs that also demand their time and at times making them travel away from the village*) He said the training is very good and the community supports it and was thankful because it was not really expected that such an opportunity would happen for them. Her daughter Joylyn partnered with Everlyn Funusulia (both in *Group 3*) and completed their poultry house as part of their individual action plans, pictured in Figure 5.

Joseph Dania (*Group 3*) also of Rameai started his action plans with two male pigs and two female ones and went into cassava planting for pig feed something he learnt in his visit to the TTM during the training. He says it's a challenge still because not many family members supported him in building his pig fence, but his actions have come to the notice of people. Some parents are trying to support

their children who came to the training and a common issue raised was limited resources. The training has really given the spark some of these youths didn't have before and this has taken the notice of their families. Lawarencia (*Group 3*) of Takwa has gone into planting crops, Susan Liofalea (*Group 1*) has attempted to start her tailoring idea despite challenges. The underlying interest by all the youths who have started something was whether further funding was going to be provided under UNDP which was clearly explained during the training as not so. Yet the idea of projects in SI has over the years been so entrenched to mean 'money' in some form eventually and the views remains for this project base don the M&E feedback gained.. The empowerment training yet has achieved in a sense that many of the young people who came have immediately gone back an tried especially for the Malaita experience. For Malaita the personal Action Plans have have given the motivation for most and have impacted the community in a way. Jimmy Usiramo of Maluu started his printing and gained a small contract for printing Form 3 and 5 school leavers T-shirts and wants to build his enterprise further. Aside he also started rearing local chickens. Money that has been earned has gone towards helping family members Jimmy says. Jimmy reckons he still face discriminatory attitudes from peers based on what he used to do before the training as opposed to what he is now and it's hard at times. The skepticism coming out from the awareness talks and personally on the youths vary. Usual prejudice attitudes towards young people still exist, for others it is simply coming up against naysayers. Junior Berry Iniga (*Group 2*) despite the naysayers wants to continue and achieve his honey production idea. He wants support but is determined irrespective.



Figure 4: Junior Berry Iniga building his honey bee boxes, Ngogora, North Malaita

Generally comments from village elders and family were positive. Billy Funusulia (*Maluu Mentor*) was of the opinion that it will take time should anything show. Harrison Sau a schoolteacher was positive of the training and says he can see the changes with the youth attitude as now always up to something unlike before where they just sit idle and do nothing. He also spoke of the community view as also positive about the training in general, he thinks that there is a problem with leadership in the community and says the youths especially the two who went on the communities behalf can fill in those roles for the young people.

Also in the North malaita youths some took up studies after the training. Judson Liolea (Group 1) of Afenakwai, Neverlyn Wanemae and Luisa Wane of Fondo (Group 1) are all pursuing degree studies at USP. Neverlyn today is also a

qualified football referee and made the newspapers some months after the training. Abraham Maesua (Group 3) of Takwa took up his printing passion and re-located to Auki where he has started his printing doing jobs for schools and church groups. Timothy Eke (Group 3) joined the Marist brothers and recently travelled to India on church mission.



Figure 5: Joylyn Tologa and Everlyn Funusulia standing in front of their recently completed poultry house, Rameai - North Malaita

M& E Overview

Overall the community impact caused by the youths after the training varied. There were mixed responses, both good and negative. The underlying sentiments that existed towards the youths are really to do with flawed assumptions, community notions and expectations about what projects and training opportunities are, and usually to mean money and tangible assistance and really nothing to do with the idea of *'empowerment'*. On the good side communities had pride in their youths to have attended the training. In particular

community elders and leaders who handle difficult roles in rural SI on a daily basis saw the valuable role these youths would offer in support of their leadership in the communities and some youths were alleviated to responsibilities immediately. Leonard Ramo in his community of Aiofia in North Malaita was instrumental in settling a family dispute that had existed for years straight after the training. It made him stand out and now his community elders are using him to guide the youths in his community moving back and forth between Honiara and Malaita on a good number of occasions in attending community matters. The topic on peace-building and conflict resolution stood out for most communities because of its relevance.

For families they saw a difference in the individual youths after the training. What stood out for those who were interviewed, was that they (youths) returned and immediately started something or tried to be useful a difference before the training. Malaita youths were more business-centered in their goals and in what they tried and it's probably due to accessibility both to markets and opportunities that were within their vicinity. They were more practical about what they received in the training in particular individual endeavors and economic opportunities. South Guadalcanal youths were similar but there was a noticeable emphasis on the importance of leadership that many desired immediately, the need to keep youths together and engaged reflecting on the action plans a good number wanted to be community leaders. Economically they were interested in longer and sustainable projects, like tree planting, but also livelihood so farming or gardening was also popular. Their strength centered on grouping. Malaita was still culturally sensitive in some aspect of the female's place in the community, while in Guadalcanal this might also be true knowing that part of the island however it wasn't really expressed during the M&E.

It would be reflective of these needs and expressions gathered in the M&E exercise that the youths of each region can be further assisted should the project move to a next phase.

Individual Action Plans

The individual actions plans were a way of holding the youths accountable to some of the topics learnt in the training when they returned to their villages. The list below represents all the youths who have had contact with the CTC M&E team which is not all the youths who have attended the training.

No	Youth	Action Plan	Started	Comment
North Malaita				
1	Ketty Talai	Poultry	Yes	Completed poultry house and need capital for
2	Dickson Feniata	Piggery Copra Buying	Yes	Pig feed often scarce. Need training on business
3	Debbie Bae	Grow Cabbage	Yes	Weather affected her plans so she changed to peanut growing
4	Betty Talisia	Grow Cabbage	Yes	Weather affected so change to peanut growing and resume work at DME
5	Junior Berry Iniga	Honey Production	Yes	Completed building honey boxes but need further help on bee raising
6	Jimmy Usiramo	Printing and Design	Yes	Assistance may be helpful (color, design training)
7	Susan Liofalea	Tailoring	Yes	Require sewing machine and support
8	Lawrencia Koiko	Gardening	Yes	Work activity sometimes hindered by other youth programs
9	Hudson Waiga	Piggery	Yes	Does vegetables and planting crops on the side to support family
10	Joseph Dania	Piggery	Yes	Using on money and resources is difficult
11	Joylyn Tologa	Poultry	Yes	Complete poultry house with Everlyn and support with selling

				of cooked food and cakes.
12	Everlyn Funusulia	Gardening	No	Teamed up with Joylyn instead to build poultry house
13	Margaret Siuna	Furniture making	No	Works in the community DME
14	Ireen Talisia	Gardening	No	Says she will start in 2018
15	Richard Jediael	Piggery	No	Says he will start in 2018
16	Esau Gagalia		No	Says he will start in 2018. Currently works in village DME
17	Daniel Iro	Piggery	Yes	Built a piggery house and started with three piglets. Also working in village DME.
18	Chrisma Afu	Piggery	No	Says she will start in 2018. Works as shop keeper in sisters canteen
19	Augustine Fatai	Poultry	Partially	Says he will start in 2018. Currently selling green and dry nuts for income
20	Margaret Naomi		Partially	Says she will start in 2018
21	Nelly Baekalia	Poultry	No	Says she will start in 2018. She sells doughnuts for income
22	Douglas Ofai	Piggery	Yes	Teamed up with John Kado and completed Pig House
23	John Kado	Piggery	Yes	Teamed up with Douglas Ofai and completed Pig House
24	Kevinson Kutai	Piggery	Yes	Has also taken up nursing studies at SINU after the training
25	Susan Narii	Gardening and village canteen	Yes	Started her garden and began working on building her canteen
26	George Ramo	Cocoa	Yes	Brushed new area and upgraded old plantation. Needs drums for dryer.
27	Leonard Ramo	Tree Planting	Yes	Has also stepped up as a leader of youths in his community and already seen as a community peace builder

28	Joana Alick	Farming	Yes	Started clearing her garden
29	Timothy Eke	Farming	No	Joined the Marist Brothers and left for India on mission
30	Abraham Maesua	Screen Printing	Yes	Prints for youth groups and schools based in Auki need assistance with sales and marketing
31	Judson Liolea	Furniture	No	Study at USP and awaiting scholarship
32	Thomas Malata	Community Peace builder	Yes	Elected by village chief to be youth rep and mediator
33	Kenneth Malata	Community Peace builder	Yes	Already youth leader in his village
34	Samantha Ngelle	Selling of home made doughnuts	Yes	Wants to start with doughnut sales with long-term to go into business
35	Pamela Ngele	Gardening/Farming and Textile dying	Yes	Started her vegetable garden but think about the textile idea
36	John Martin	Poultry	No	Took up jobs in carpentry and recently applied to join Royal SI Police.
37	Carlos Kona	Tree Planting	Yes	Started his tree nursery and planted eucalyptus and teak trees
38	Ham Maeli	Tree Planting	Yes	Started nursery for teak trees and local trees, cleared huge area for tree planting (1 hectare). Also applied for Police and also accepted for CITREC program (Canada-GP scholarship program)
39	Diana Olinta	Poultry (Local chickens) and Canteen	Yes	Built a village canteen and poultry
40	Jefferson Thresa	Bakery	Yes	Has a running bakery selling buns

41	Anita Sandato	Bakery	No	Returned to Honiara now living in Kakabona
42	Loretta Martin	Tree Planting	Yes	Started
43	Jackson Kesa	Village canteen and Gardening	Yes	Planned to grow bettlenuts but still nursery stage as he finds it a challenge to get old bettlenuts
44	Emma Hardy	Poultry	Yes	Started with broilers and ducks
45	Jeanrose Katui	Cabbage Farm and Trade store	No	Will be going overseas to babysit
46	Kenneth Sua	Honey Farming	No	Went into melon farming
47	James Varo	Farming	Yes	Planted local tobacco instead (i.e. three gardens)
48	Florence Ago	Poultry	Yes	Started with 20-30 chickens
49	Rockson Saerevo	Fuel Depot	No	Opted for Ngali Nut instead and preparing sales for Maraghoto Hold Ltd (a stakeholder in the training)
50	Redley Calvin	Piggery	Yes	Piggery started with total of six pigs so far
51	Kendrick Tova	Vegetable Farming	Yes	Is also busy with his role as Deacon of his church.
52	Jack Lou	Farming and planting of Fruit trees	Yes	Also applied to Batuna RTC to do electrical in 2018
53	Tannella Seseuka	Farming	Yes	Might try to do something more than gardening
54	Nelson Kiore	Farming	Yes	Also started SINU in 2017 doing plumbing
55	Jenny Grace	Village canteen	Yes	Erected a canteen with support of parents.
56	Elmah Marisi	Village canteen	No	She was asked to babysit for an aunt at White River and could not fulfill her plans

Recommendations

The recommendations are categorized as follows:

Project Proposal

- It is recommended that the Project Proposal design should be reviewed thoroughly before final signature to have a collective understanding of all parts of the project phases and components especially details of budget headings and definitions by both funding agency and project implementer
- It is recommended that funding agency should not in the future have the discretion to alter any part of the original project proposal without agreeing to make up for the costs incurred or lost to the project implementer before doing so.

Training and Participants

- It is recommended that future trainings to adopt a more effective way of delivering the same quality of information in larger groupings than twenty per group which is shown to have logistical difficulties.
- It is recommended that better incentives of the range SBD200-SBD300 per facilitator per day be considered when undertaking repetitive training programs which require facilitators to return after each grouping.

Budget

- It is recommended that acquittal procedures and periods by funding agency give more consideration on the project timeframe when assessing acquittals and what is most practical to deliver the project on the ground to avoid delays and frustration in implementation.

Communication

- It is recommended that all matters of importance should be documented (email) to keep a log of developments during project implementation, including issues arising.

Future Project

- It is recommended that the youths engaged in this training should be supported to have their ideas take off, not necessarily in cash but can be on kind or focus trainings that is relevant to their specific goals.

Conclusion

The report presents the entire description of the Youth Empowerment Project, which took place at CTC from 12th June 2017 to 3rd November 2017. The project aimed at empowering over eighty youths from North Malaita and South Guadalcanal. The youths were trained in various topics from basic financial literacy, tree planting, organic farming, project management, and peace building. Other important areas such as community policing were also covered. About 70% of the youths trained responded during the M&E exercise to indicate very positive feedback of what the training achieved in the various communities who attended. In valuable also were the lessons learnt helpful for future designs of similar training programs towards youth empowerment.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Project Proposal

Annex 2 – Project Contract

Annex 3 – Youth Profiles

Annex 4 – Project Phase Acquittals

Annex 5 – Individual Action Plans

Annex 6 – Photos of Training & M&E Exercise (E-Copy Only)

Annex 7 – Training Schedule and Time Tables