



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME- Sub-Office, Solomon Islands			Mission Report Date: 23 May – 1 June 2019 Consultation, mobilizing new communities for engagement
Name Ednah Ramoau	Title: Team Leader, Inclusive Growth	Phone No. 7495561	Travel Authorization Number:
Deborah Bora Kole	Community Liaison Officer, Empowering Youth as Agents of Peace and Social Cohesion Project	7492605	
Approved Mission Itinerary: Honiara/Auki/Honiara			List of Available Resources:
From: 23 May 2019 To: 1 June 2019			Other mission members:

North Malaita Communities visited:

Sulagwalu, Kafoasila, Fulifo’oe, Sikwafata and Fo’ondo. Representation of community, church, women and youth groups included surrounding villages within walking distance to each of these main locations. So in total, there are approximately 27 communities that are represented in this consultation visit. There are 5 language speaking groups in the whole of North Malaita region: Fataleka, Baegu, Baelelea, Lau and Tobaita. North Malaita constituency is the Tobaita language speakers.

Aim/Purpose of the Mission:

The aim of this visit is to find out whether or not these communities agree and are willing to work with UNDP on the project – “**Empowering Youths as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion**”.

Objectives of Mission:

To:

- Conduct consultation with community, church, women and Youth leaders explaining the
 - project aim,
 - target age group,
 - key partners
 - key outcome areas
- Provide opportunity for communities for discussion and feedback
- Discuss the community selection criteria with the communities.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

- Get agreement to engage in their communities

Visit Outcomes:

- Overall, the consultation notes that people embrace the idea and are willing to engage with UNDP on this youth empowerment project. All of them expressed that their youths have always been left out of community activities, have an addiction problem to liquor, behave disorderly and so, do not contribute positively to peace in the community.
- Village chiefs in particular see this project as a way for them to engage effectively with their young people. The project will fill a gap that community leaders has identified and need assistance with.
- Total of five communities have shown interest to engage.
- Key contact person's and contacts details are confirmed for all communities, which will make it easier to start with trainings.
- These communities are highly supportive of engagement that is 'action-oriented' (as opposed to 'training/workshop oriented') which is particularly addressed by the entrepreneurial component of the project. They expressed having enough of just trainings and strongly believe that this will work as it is comparatively different to other projects.

Lessons Learned

- Missed opportunity to touch base with Malaita Provincial Youth Caucus: it would have been an added bonus to be able to make the link during the consultation between the provincial youth caucus that was set up by PBF and the community-based youth caucus planned for this project.
- Meeting with Hon MP for North Malaita to get his support: it would be useful to get the support of the Member of Parliament for North Malaita constituency since the project will engage his communities.
- Risk management lens: there were a few questions about risks – for instance, what if something happens and the project discontinues, what's the strategy to be used? Communities need to be able to consider the likely challenging circumstances in the project as well.
- Link with Youth @ Work activities: the presence of Youth@Work in North Malaita also means a structure is there already and understanding how it works for the community is important to ensure the project is not up against it but work alongside it or in some cases, use it if it is already working well.
- Opportunities with IPAM: it was raised that the project should check out what IPAM (Institute of Public Administration and Management) is already doing in terms of education around governance to see if the project can adapt parts of it. It is called Know Your Public Service (KYPS) manual. Or the project can engage with IPAM to facilitate IPAM staff to do awareness on the government systems and roles during project trainings.
- Youth situation on the ground is dire. There is apparent sense of neglect among people and youths. Youths need to be engaged positively.
- Community leaders need support to actively engage young people.
- Anecdotal evidence of increased consumption of kwaso and marijuana among young people.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Best Practices Learned

- Each of these communities has 2 – 4 church denominations, beside tribal and family, women and youth groupings, yet, because of 'youths' being the focus of this project, they express commitment and very strong desire to be united to address this issue in their various concerned groupings. It is very encouraging to note their leaders' eagerness to support the project and more importantly, to see that it is successfully implemented in their communities.
- Project will continue to work through existing community committees leadership to ensure buy in and long-term support. This is supported by the communities.

Next Steps/Action Plan

- Consider some of the points raised in North Malaita in the Weather Coast consultation.
- Touch base with Guadalcanal Provincial Youth Caucus, respective Hon MPs for South and East Guadalcanal constituencies,
- Arrange to meet with MP for north Malaita.
- Check content of Know Your Public Service (KYPS) manual.
- Briefly include risk management in consultation
- The key target age group raised a lot of questions. Community leaders and youth leaders themselves feel that UNDP is leaving behind a lot of young people in the process. Hence, while key focus is on the project age group, we will encourage those who are interested to attend to continue to attend trainings and support those from their communities.

Distribution List

Anna Chernyshova, Jether Billy, Anthony Cameron

Any Other Comments

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. HOUA". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Date: 03 June 2019