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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME- Sub-Office, Solomon Islands			Mission Report Date: 7 – 14 June 2019 Consultation Mission in the Weather Coast Guadalcanal
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/Marau/Honiara			List of Available Resources: 2 life jackets, 1 dry bag with the following items: 1 satellite phone, 1 flare, 1 GPS (?)
From: 7 – 14 June 2019			Other mission members: Junior Lana, Planning Officer Guadalcanal Province Office.

Weather Coast Guadalcanal Communities visited:

Consultation Venues	Date and Time	Villages represented	No of participants	Males	Females
PUREPURE, East Guadalcanal constituency	Tuesday 11 June 2019 9.15am	Raurebo, Kidivora, Sauri, Malaisu, Chupuchupu, Longu, Ligi, Lambeana, Tambakolo, Baranabuluka, Ngalato, Pili and Purepure	62	40	22
NAHO, East Guadalcanal Constituency	Tuesday 11 June 2019 1pm	Naho (quite isolated village)	21	16	5
MAKARUKA, East Guadalcanal constituency	Tuesday 11 June 2019 4pm	Komuvaolu, Sukiki, Bokasughu and Makaruka	22	20	2
MARAU, East Guadalcanal constituency	Thursday 13 June 2019 10am	Hautahe, Makina, Simeruka, Purakiki, Su'u, Kopiu Bay,	14	7	7



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		Visunaru, and Niu Area			
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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.
- Get agreement to engage in their communities

Visit Outcomes:

PUREPURE – comments and issues

- Overall, the 13 communities represented are willing to engage with UNDP on the project; they acknowledged this is the first opportunity they have, to work with UNDP.
- The Weather Coast is highlighted as an extremely difficult area to implement projects given its geographical context, current changing and unpredictable weather patterns, poor transport services and lack of access in communication.
- World Vision has a very poor reputation in these communities because they have not completed water and sanitation projects. It was strongly recommended that UNDP remove World Vision as a key partner, from the project.
- There is no community hall for trainings/meetings in Purepure.
- The community wanted to know - ‘why the weather coast’ (and not the rest of the island) when conflict period is way over and communities have moved on peacefully. For them, they feel it is quite demeaning to be regarded in need for peace when they have experience peace now in their communities. This was clarified
- It was raised that a feasibility study need be conducted to find out what projects can work and what may not, so that they can focus only on those that can.
- UNDP was strongly encouraged to return to the weather coast and implement and not leave



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things too long.

NAHO – Comments and issues

- Naho community also spoke in support of the project welcoming UNDP to work in their community.
- They raised, the fact that UNDP, under the SWOK project, however, is a failed project in their area. This was quite a challenging moment, but this message was received professionally offering clarification about the present initiative, the schedule of the activities and monitoring component in place.

MAKARUKA – Comments and issues

- A Form 7 male youth spoke very highly of the project being a youth himself.
- All 4 communities that were represented spoke in support of engaging with UNDP on this project acknowledging that the target group is the population ('reactive age' they said) that desperately needs attention right now in the communities.
- The consultation learnt that World Vision also had a similar peace building initiative in the Makaruka area.
- Participants were made aware that the project can build on past initiatives that may have failed, if lessons learnt are considered in planning.
- A call to carefully contextualize new project initiatives so that they sustain.

MARAU – Comments and issues

- The only location where there was a balance in gender – 7 males and 7 females representing 8 communities that scatter across the islets and coast. .
- It is obvious that the 8 communities are quite scattered in the lagoon and on the main land so there might have to be a second location for trainings.
- Word Vision is present and currently implements activities and so, people's perception about is positive.

Lessons Learned

- WORLD VISION – Learning of the organization's reputation in the WC, the project will need to re-plan and think about other options.
- WEATHER - The main obstacle is the weather. Initially, both East and South Guadalcanal were to be visited, however, due to bad weather, only East Guadalcanal was possible to be covered. Geographically known as one of the most challenging regions in the Solomon Islands, the area is also known for its beautiful yet rugged and mountainous landscape which, combined with the easterly winds and associated rains at this time of the year (May – July) has made travelling (sea and land) extremely tough in East and impossible for South. This could have been easily addressed in planning, however, due to limited consultation time available before project board meets to endorse the implementation phase of the project, the team has had to deliver. Future



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travel plans must now consider weather seasons as well as tidal predictions.

- MEETING WITH HON MPs – The consultation continues to note the importance of having the respective Members of Parliament informed about the project. They are: Bradley Tovosia for East Guadalcanal, Rollen Seleson for South and Anthony Veke for West Guadalcanal. Due to the motion of Sine Die then, it wasn't possible to meet them before departing for the Weather Coast. However, it is still an action point as the project may need their support in the near future.
- Weather Coast, a high risk for project failure: in the farther 3 sites, the team consistently noted comments relating to failed projects. This flagged a warning to plan, assess and decide very carefully.
- Still need to visit South and West Guadalcanal to do consultation: when the weather is back to normal, they say around September and October.

Best Practices Learned

- Take time to obtain local knowledge of the area and accommodate that in work plan.
- Travel guide must be from the local area who can provide advice and options for decision making.
- For the weather coast, always have several options – A, B, C even D, situations change every now and then, plans should never be permanent.
- Work plan should include two days of travel between key implementation sites as team is directly at nature's mercy.

Next Steps/Action Plan

- Need to decide on an option now that World Vision is out.
- Touch base with Guadalcanal Provincial Youth Caucus, respective Hon MPs for South and East Guadalcanal constituencies.
- Obtain a copy IPAM's manual *on Know Your Public Service (KYPS)*.

Distribution List

Country Manager, Project Manager, Bimlesh Raj, Matthew Johnson-Idan, Lana Junior, Youth Coordinator G-Province.

Any Other Comments

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Signature:

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Date: 26 June 2019