



# Youth Caucus Capacity Building Training

## Malaita & Western Province

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By: Najib Baig and Gaylyn Puairana

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## Introduction:

Youth, as described in Solomon Islands' National Youth Policy, are individuals between the age of 14 and 29. Youth make up a substantial part of the country's population, but their involvement in society is limited<sup>1</sup>. Youth face a number of social challenges such as exclusion from decision-making at community, provincial and national levels.

A national youth congress established in 1980 aims to encourage young people to participate in the country's development<sup>2</sup>. Its functions include supporting provincial governments through advocacy and other means. Unfortunately, though, the congress has been quiescent in recent years.

In response to that, the UNPBF project helped form the Western Province & Malaita Provincial Youth Caucus following the Youth Peacebuilding Innovation Forum in 2018. Young leaders from across the province attended the forum and nominated youth caucus members, including females and males.

Following the inauguration of the Western Province and Malaita Province Provincial Youth Caucuses in April 2019, the UNPBF project will facilitate a capacity building training to enhance Youth Caucus members' leadership and advocacy skills. It is expected that this training will prepare Provincial Youth Caucus members to advocate on youth issues and make recommendations to the Western Provincial Government.

## Objectives:

- To appreciate Provincial Youth Caucus members in understanding their personal strengths and weaknesses as leaders in order to work together efficiently.
- To enhance understanding of Provincial Youth Caucus members on basic tools and innovative approaches needed for advocacy and concepts of gender.
- To help Provincial Youth Caucus members understand about provincial government mechanics and protocols.
- To orient Provincial Youth Caucus members about the Provincial Women Caucus structure established under PBF project.
- Ensuring inclusivity in all provincial government workplan actions.

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<sup>1</sup> Solomon Islands Youth status Report, 2018

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/solomon-islands/>

### Participants Details:

Province	Youth Caucus (F)	Youth Caucus (M)	Total	Other (F)	Others (M)	Total	Grand Total	Remarks/Comments
Western	5	4	9	2	3	5	14	<b>Others:</b> 2 female Women Caucus members and 3 male officials from Western provincial government (1 youth Coordinator and 2 DPS).
Malaita	4	4	8	2	3	5	13	<b>Others:</b> 2 female Women Caucus members and 3 male officials from Western provincial government (1 PS, 1 Youth Coordinator, 1 Youth Development Desk Officer).
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	

### Training Proceedings:

The following topics were discussed during the training which were identified by the participants during Provincial Youth Caucus (PYC) trainings.



Figure 1: Topics discussed during the Provincial Youth Caucus Training

#### *i. Provincial Youth Caucus Training: Western Province:*

- Ms. Gaylyn Puairana (UNDP: Deputy Project Manager) started the training by sharing overall objectives of the training with participants and provincial government officials.

- Mr. Patrick Toiraena, Deputy Provincial Secretary (DPS) for the Western Provincial Government talked about the provincial government structure and mechanisms. The session helped participants to understand the government structure as it the first-hand information provided by the government representative. The session by the DPS was much appreciated by the participants as it provided them an opportunity of interface with government officials by asking questions related to government priorities, especially related to youth development. One of the key updates shared by the DPS was about ward development committees being established by the planning division. The DPS highlighted youths are included in the committees, along with men and women, to ensure inclusiveness of different groups in the committee.
- Mr. Nasario Maena (Youth Coordinator Western Provincial Government) talked about the evolution and structure of the Youth Congress and highlighted the importance of Youths as catalyst for change.
- Two females Provincial Women Caucus (PWC) members including Ms. Barbara Unusu and Ms. Nanette Panda, briefed participants about the structure of Women Caucus and the gender sensitive advocacy initiatives undertaken to facilitate the provincial government. The PWC mandated to; advise the provincial Executive on the National Women`s political participation, promote women`s political participation especially in conflict resolutions and consult with the Provincial Minister for Women`s Affairs, the WP premier and Executive. Successes includes: One of their three of their members have been appointed to the five-member Western Provincial Assembly Advisory Committee and the PWC has endorsed by the WPA in 2018, held dialogue with the 26 WP MPAs.
- Mr. Najib Ullah Baig (M&E Specialist: UNDP) facilitated session on the Leadership & Management. The session focused to brainstorm some basic concepts of leadership with participants. These include; different between leader & manager, leadership styles, team development dynamics, skills of a good leadership. The session consisted of some group exercises and Power Point Presentation which participants enjoyed.
- Ms. Gaylyn Puairana (UNDP: Deputy Project Manager) facilitated a session on some basic concepts of gender including; gender vs sex, gender equality and gender mainstreaming. A group exercises was included in the session to reflect on *Where do you stand?* The exercise was well appreciated by the participants as it helped participants to understand the gender related discussion in a more realistic way which participants had never encountered before.
- Ms. Merinda Valley (Comms Specialist-UNDP) facilitated the session on concepts of advocacy and lobbying with different tools. The session was facilitated by sharing the best practices and some tools developed under the UNDP-PBF project. The participatory approach was employed in which participants were practically encountered through different steps of advocacy on the issues identified by participants through *Newspaper Exercise*.
- Mr. Nasario Maena (Youth Coordinator Western Provincial Government) shared youth related activities planned by provincial government for 2019. The discussion suggested a great potential for Youth Caucus members` involvement to facilitate

Youth Desk Office (YDO) in terms of planning and implementation of youth related activities. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that YDO of Western Province Government (WPG) has allocated some budget for the PYC-western province. This suggests willingness of YPG to support Provincial Youth Caucus.

- Based on the review of Western Provincial Government youth related workplan for 2019, PYC members also developed their workplan. Additionally, PYC draft ToR review exercise was also conducted to obtain their agreement on ToR. ToR was updated based on the discussion with PYC members. *Please see annex A.*
- On day five of the training, a meeting was held between the officials of Western Provincial Government officials and PYC members which aimed primarily aimed to create linkages of PYC-Western province with WPG officials. The deputy premier was very happy to see the youth caucus formed. He encouraged the youths to work together with the provincial government, however, for youth caucus to be the representative for the western provincial youths, the executive and the provincial assembly must endorse the Youth caucus. Therefore, an executive paper and submission will be done and presented to the executive of the WPA for their endorsement in the next assembly which the dates yet to be confirm.

***ii. Provincial Youth Caucus Training: Malaita Province:***

- Ms. Gaylyn Puairana (UNDP: Deputy Project Manager) started the training by sharing overall objectives of the training with Participants, Provincial Secretary, Youth Coordinator and Youth Desk Office official.
- The session on “Understanding the Provincial Government structure & mechanism” was well facilitated by the recently appointed Provincial Secretary (PS)-Malaita Province (Mr. Fredrick Fa’abasua). The presence of PS-Malaita Province was well capitalized not only in terms of introducing the mechanism of PYC but also briefing on work which UN-PBF project has achieved up till now with the support of provincial government. At the end of the session, PS-Malaita province assured that his office and relevant officials would put forward the proposal of PYC for its endorsement and support from the upcoming provincial government.

*Note: Provincial Elections in Malaita are expected to be held on June 12, 2019 to form a new provincial government.*

- Two females Provincial Women Caucus (PWC) members including Ms. Clera and Ms. Rose Rarangia, briefed participants about the structure of Women Caucus and the gender sensitive advocacy initiatives undertaken to facilitate the provincial government.
- Leadership & Management session was conducted by Mr. Najib Ullah Baig (M&E Specialist: UNDP). The session focused to introduce participants with concepts and skills of leadership. Participatory approach of facilitation was employed during the session which not only helped to ensure participants involvement but also helped to understand the different leadership related notions joyfully.

- Ms. Gaylyn Puairana (UNDP: Deputy Project Manager) facilitated the session on some basic concepts of gender including; gender vs sex, gender equality and gender mainstreaming. A group exercises was included in the session to reflect on *Where do you stand?* The exercise helped participants to reflect gender related concepts in more practical way.
- The session on Advocacy and Lobbying was conducted by Mr. Najib Ullah Baig (M&E Specialist: UNDP) by different learning aids including videos and illustrations. Basic concepts and steps of Advocacy and lobbying were articulated through an exercise (*Newspaper Exercise*) in which groups were tasked to identify an issue related to youth. At the end, groups presented their group work which helped to ensure peer learning during the session.
- Youth Coordinator-Malaita presented the workplan for youth desk office-Malaita province. He explained that within this current structure, there is already a mechanism for the youth caucus to be setup. However, it would be more effective if the province updates its Youth Policy. The current youth policy is expired, and it is a right time and potential opportunity of technical assistance, where UNDP project and the provincial government can work together by engaging the PYC.
- During the training, PYC-Malaita developed the workplan for the next six months. The discussion with PYC-Malaita suggested that they would need support, both financially and technically, from provincial government and UNDP to execute the identified activities. *Please see Annex B for PYC-Malaita workplan.*
- On last of training, draft ToR for PYC-Malaita Province was reviewed and updated based on the suggestions by PYC members, Youth Coordinator and Youth Development Desk officer. *Please see Annex C: ToR for PYC-Malaita.*

### Participants' Feedback:

*"The most interesting thing which I liked during the training was discussion on gender. It was short by meaningful"* Remarks by a female PYC member-Malaita

*"The training helped to learn new things. For example, I learnt about different advocacy platforms and the significance of right information & timeliness of for advocacy"* Remarks by a female PYC member-Western Province

*"Provincial Youth Caucus is a good platform for us to bear the voices of young peoples from different communities".* Youth Coordinator from Youth Desk Office-Malaita

### Participants' Recommendations:

- The participants of PYC-Western Province training expressed dissatisfaction over the training venue (PT 109) as they found it more disturbing and distractive. It is

worth mentioning that training venue (PT 109) was selected due to unavailability of previously used training venue (Women Resource Centre) and other training venues in Western Province.

- Facilitators to ensure time management. For example, session on leadership and management got prolonged which could have been shortened.
- Follow up support to be provided to PYCs in terms of implementation of activities identified by PYCs in their workplans.

### Key Lessons Learnt

- Discussion with training participants suggested that training and formal orientation meetings with provincial executive should have been done last year, immediate after the establishment of Youth Caucus, to ensure timely buy in of relevant authorities and provision of support to provincial government through PYC platform. It is suggested to continue proper and consistent support to PYCs in future as PYCs identified the follow up support to implement their activities identified in the workplans.
- The training participants' feedback analysis echoed that training contents were relevant, and it helped PYC members to get acquainted with discussed topics including; Advocacy, Gender, Leadership etc. which they never encountered before.
- Discussion with provincial government officials, especially youth coordinators, echoed receptiveness by government to mainstream youth voices in the decision-making processes through a pilot platform of Provincial Youth Caucus.
- Based on the learning from the first training (PYC Western Province training), the PPTs were amended by making the PPT less wordy and inclusion of visuals and videos.
- Arrange venues which are relevant and feasible for the participants in terms of less crowded and conducive for learning.
- There is a need to ensure coordination and integration between PYCs and PWCs.
- Participation of senior officials from provincial government was very effective. It not only helped PYC members to get informed about the provincial government structures but also helped create linkages with provincial government officials

### Follow Up Actions:

- Support to be provided to Youth Coordinators of both provinces including; Malaita and Western Province through the development of executive paper on PYC.
- Follow up meetings with the provincial executives would be needed to mainstream and formally endorse PYC.
- After reviewing the available budget of PBF project (phase-2), PYCs may be supported to execute their activities identified in their workplan.
- PYCs in collaboration with Youth Development Desk Office may hold a meeting to facilitate planning division. i). to review the development committees' structure,



especially with reference to inclusion of youths in committees, and ii). support for establishment of development committees at ward level.

- Support the development of the provincial youth Policies. This will provide mechanism for the Youth Caucuses.

### **Annex A: ToR for PYC-Western Province:**



Draft Terms of  
Reference - WPYC.doc

### **Annex B: PYC-Malaita workplan**



Draft Malaita Youth  
Caucus Workplan.xlsx

### **Annex C: ToR for PYC-Malaita:**



Draft Terms of  
Reference - MPYC\_Ju