

# Employment generation and economic recovery through the rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure using labour-based equipment supported technology



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Solomon Islands

**Duration:** January 2003 to July 2004

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP

**Other Implementing Partners:** ILO, Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace; Ministry of Public Works

**Budget:** \$1,038,181.29

**Key Words:** Post-conflict reconstruction; infrastructure; community reconciliation; ex-combatants; conflict-affected communities

## BACKGROUND

The outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict in the Solomon Islands in 1999 brought the country to the brink of collapse. In the wake of the conflict, more than 30,000 people were displaced, the local economy laid shattered, unemployment was rampant, and vital infrastructure, such as, roads, sewerage systems, schools, bridges and community buildings were in poor condition or entirely destroyed. In addition, former combatants were unable to access educational

and economic opportunities and needed to be reintegrated into civilian life. In spite of commitments from the Government to address reconciliation, however, many of the root causes of the conflict including poverty, disenfranchised youth, lack of access to basic social services, as well as a climate of distrust and division among communities remained unresolved.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to contribute to post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation through restoring key infrastructure and providing temporary employment to former combatants and the unemployed. To this end, the project introduced a comprehensive infrastructure-construction initiative

that (i) contracted disenfranchised persons, particularly ex-combatants, to conduct rehabilitation work; (ii) provided workers with the necessary tools, equipment and training; and (iii) promoted social cohesion by reintegrating ex-combatants into civilian life.

### BENEFICIARIES

Targeting the provinces of Malaita, Guadalcanal and Western Province, the project directly benefited 2,180 persons who obtained employment in a series of infrastructure projects. They also benefited from the provision of tools, equipment and skills training. In

addition, entire communities benefited from the rehabilitation of water supply systems and the reconstruction of roads and bridges, which improved accessibility to and from village markets as well as health facilities.