

# Rehabilitation of schools in provinces affected by the ethnic conflict in Solomon Islands



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Solomon Islands

**Duration:** November 2002 to October 2003

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP

**Other Implementing Partners:** Rural Development Volunteers Association

**Budget:** \$309,000

**Key Words:** Conflict-affected communities; access to education; youth

## BACKGROUND

The outbreak of violent conflict in the Solomon Islands in 1999 resulted in massive destruction of key industries and infrastructure; the breakdown of law and order; and the displacement of more than 30,000 people out of a population of 523,000. Even with commitments from the Government to address reconciliation, many of the root causes of the conflict including poverty, disenfranchised youth, a lack of

basic social services, as well as a climate of distrust and division among communities remained unresolved. In addition, the unrest caused massive destruction of public buildings in the education system which had already suffered from overcrowded classrooms and deteriorating facilities, thus resulting in growing obstacles to deliver adequate education to children and youth.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project supported efforts towards improving the learning environment for children and adolescents in the conflict-affected provinces of Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province. These included: (i) repairing school facilities and building new

classrooms in order to address overcrowding of educational facilities; (ii) refurbishing schools with desks, blackboards and learning materials; and (iii) providing schools with water and sanitation facilities.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project covered 24 primary schools, 9 secondary schools and 15 community high schools in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province. The primary beneficiaries were approximately 17,000 students who benefited from new and renovated school buildings equipped with water and sanitation

amenities. Moreover, in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of disenfranchised youth into society, the project recruited, trained and employed out-of-school youth who had participated in the conflict.