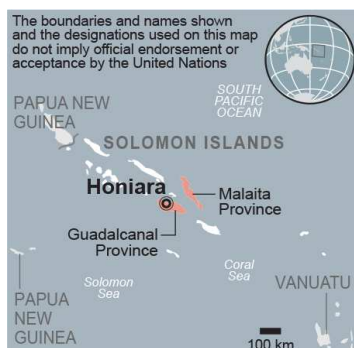


Human security initiatives for tensions reduction, reconciliation and rehabilitation in the Solomon Islands



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Solomon Islands

Duration: October 2011 to October 2015

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; ILO; UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: National Ministries; Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Trade Union Congress; NGO's; CSOs

Budget: 2,268,296.80

Key Words: Post-conflict peacebuilding; capacity-building; reconciliation; ex-combatants; access to basic social services

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 remain unresolved.

Moreover, former combatants have yet to be reintegrated into host communities and remain unable to access education and economic opportunities. As the Solomon Islands works towards consolidating the peace process, the complex nature of insecurities during this period of social, economic and political transition highlight the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of the conflict and advances mechanisms that empower marginalized and vulnerable communities.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project will provide concrete and sustainable benefits to the most marginalized groups of ex-combatants and their host communities by implementing activities that focus on both freedom from fear and freedom from want. Through improving local governance and community participation, the project aims to: (i) empower ex-combatants and

affected communities while promoting social cohesion; and (ii) improve the socio-economic situation of communities in the most affected areas through vocational training, improved water and sanitation services, and the establishment of local monitoring mechanisms.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targets approximately 12,000 people, including 3,000 ex-combatants that remain in the capital city of Honiara and the provinces of Guadalcanal and Malaita. Moreover, the project will

target over 3,000 stakeholders among Government, policymakers, NGOs, and community based organizations.

APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

In order to prevent a relapse into conflict, human security interventions target a broad range of interconnected issues that pose a potential threat to the transition from a conflict-prone to a conflict-resilient society. For example, by addressing economic insecurity and unemployment among disenfranchised youth, the project aims to improve personal and community security, such as reducing rising incidences of domestic violence and communal tensions. Similarly, the project recognizes that upgrading basic social services, such as water and sanitation facilities that were destroyed during the war, will not only have positive implications on health but will also contribute to conflict resilience by improving people's daily lives.

Furthermore, when casting a human security lens over the specific peacebuilding needs of the Solomon Islands, the need for a dual top-down protection and bottom-up empowerment strategy to address the

situation of former combatants and their host communities emerges as a critical priority. In response, the project compliments efforts to build the capacity of Government institutions responsible for the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants with initiatives to empower the former combatants and their communities through the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities. This dual approach highlights the importance of community participation and engenders a commitment from former combatants and their communities to take ownership of the implementation process. Moreover, this mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment implementation methodology demands multi-level cooperation between UN agencies, national authorities, and community based organizations that help create the foundations for stability and reconciliation and contribute to social cohesion within fragile communities.