

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (MESA) DIAGNOSTIC STUDY



Back and Rational

- The Solomon Islands National Development Strategy (NDS 2016-2035) outlines the country's commitments to advancing human and economic development, ensuring peace and security, protecting the natural environment, and meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- The country's development priorities are aligned with the United Nations (UN) 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Doha Programme of Action and the SAMOA Pathway.
- As such effective monitoring and reporting of the NDS implementation;
 - Requires reliable, meaningful, and timely data from all sectors and stakeholders.
 - Robust national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system
 - Required adequate capacities to design effective development policies, strategies, programs and formulate development budgets.
 - Increasing and alarming climate change, disaster risks and global pandemic – such as COVID19 requires reliable data for effective decision making and resilience.
- The Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination (MNPDC) as the custodian of the NDS identified that one of the major gaps of the NDS implementation since its launch in 2016 and now into its 7th year, is the weak monitoring, reporting and

evaluation of the strategy. This prompted the Ministry to reach out to the World Bank for support in 2022.

- The World Bank through the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) supported the Ministry with technical support by engaging two consulting firms – Alinea International, Australia base and Dignity Pacific – Locally base, to conduct the MESA diagnostic study from October 2022 to February 2023.
- The MESA study identify capacity constraints and opportunities for strengthening the national M&E systems and capacities in Solomon Islands.
- It provides an analysis of the national M&E ecosystem in Solomon Islands
- Informs the design of an M&E Capacity Development Plan to guide future investments in M&E systems and capacities in the country.

Objectives

- The high level objective of the MESA study is to contribute to evidence-based policies and decision making for government and the people.
- Understand current M&E systems, practices and capacities for collecting and using data and evidence.
- Identify gaps , opportunities and priority areas for strengthening national M&E systems
- Raise awareness about the need for better M&E to support learning and adopting evidence-based policy making
- Understand current MEL enabling environment, systems and practices , organisational and individual capacities in the Country (i.e., develop a baseline of the M&E ecosystem)
- Start building MEL capacity across MNPDC through conducting the MESA cooperatively.

Key Deliverables of the MESA

- The key deliverables of the MESA diagnostic study are;
 1. MESA diagnostic study report
 2. Capacity Development Plan
 3. Lessons Learned Report for GEI
- The MESA study took almost a year with the inception report initially planned to take three months from May to July 2022, when actually took six months before its completion. While the actual survey consultations commenced towards end of October 2022 and completed in February 2023.

- The Solomon Islands MESA study is the first in the Pacific Islands and is very new in the country as well the region hence takes longer than initially planned.

Outcome of the MESA Study

- The MESA study report has been completed but final draft is yet to be submitted to the Ministry with a more summarized version to accompany the detail MESA report. The report is now currently with GEI for finalization.
- The Capacity development Plan/Strategy is currently in draft for further inputs by the Ministry and the wider stakeholders. This is the implementing vehicle for the MESA report findings as it outlines the major Key issues identified in the report with practical solutions to address them. And it provides a clear guidance and direction of the priority areas for action and intervention in improving and strengthening the MEL ecosystem in the country. Having this document will also help Development Partners and donors easily identify areas that they can support pertaining to their programme focus areas.
- The MESA Lessons learned report had been submitted to the GEI by the consultants.

Next Steps of the MESA

- The final draft MESA report will be presented to the Advisory Committee upon receiving from the GEI in the third quarter of 2023 before the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry present to the Cabinet.
- The draft Capacity Development Plan/Strategy will be presented to the government ministries with other stakeholders before presenting to the Advisory Committee for their final input and endorsement. Finalization of the Plan will be done in third quarter of 2023. The final draft will then be presented to the cabinet as well by the Permanent Secretary.
- Once this are presented to the cabinet, it can then be shared with the wider/public community.