

FINAL EVALUATION

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE GENDER
INEQUALITY OF RISK AND PROMOTING
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN
SOLOMON ISLANDS



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UN WOMEN SOLOMON ISLANDS

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCP	Australia Pacific Climate Partnership
AHP	Australian Humanitarian Partnership
A\$	Australian Dollars
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil society organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EMG	Evaluation Management Group
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
FGD	Focus group discussion
FRDP	<i>Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific</i>
GBV	Gender based violence
GBVIE	Gender based violence in emergencies
GERAAS	Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System
GESI	Gender equality and social inclusion
GiHA	Gender in humanitarian action
GIR	Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Project
HCC	Honiara City Council
IDA	Initial damage assessment
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
KII	Key informant interview
LARF	Logic, Assumptions and Risks Framework
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex
MCO	Multi-Country Office
MELF	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework
MP	Member of Parliament
MWYCF	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

NDC	National Disaster Council
NDCA	<i>National Disaster Council Act</i>
NDM Plan	<i>National Disaster Management Plan 2018</i>
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDOC	National Disaster Operations Committee
NDS	<i>National Development Strategy 2016-35</i>
NGO	Non-government organisation
NPC	National Protection Committee
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee
P-DOC	Provincial Disaster Operations Committee
PPC	Provincial Protection Committee
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RCC	Recovery Coordination Committee
SADDD	Sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data
SEP	Stakeholder engagement plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SIRCS	Solomon Islands Red Cross Society
TOC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USD	United States Dollars
USP	University of the South Pacific

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2021, Sustineo was engaged by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) to provide an independent final evaluation of the *Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience Project in Solomon Islands* (referred to hereafter as ‘the Project’). The Project commenced in June 2019 as a joint initiative of UN Women, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)/Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS). The Project was completed in December 2021. This evaluation report provides findings and recommendations derived from integrated analysis of data from stakeholder consultations and a desk assessment of project documents.

Women in Solomon Islands are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, which is unsurprising given the poor level of gender equality across the country. Women’s risk of being killed during disasters is directly related to their lower socio-economic status compared to men, while traditional gender roles mean that women typically have primary responsibility for caring for those affected by disasters.¹ The lower socio-economic status of women also inhibits their ability to recover from disasters. Solomon Islander women are overrepresented in the agricultural and informal sectors² making them more vulnerable to loss of livelihood due to disasters and climate change.

Project description

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Project was designed to mitigate gender inequalities in the loss of lives and livelihoods and enhance community resilience to natural disasters in Solomon Islands. The Project had three outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Government and key stakeholders in Solomon Island generate and use evidence/data on gender dimensions of disaster risks, particularly women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and capacity, to inform their policy and program interventions.
- **Outcome 2:** National and community disaster risk governance is gender-responsive.
- **Outcome 3:** Women meaningfully participate in and lead in DRR and resilience building.

The Project was designed to ensure the effective integration of gender in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (the Sendai Framework) in Solomon Islands. The Project was aligned with a range of other UN strategies and plans, including the

United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022, the *UN Women Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021*, and the *UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office Strategic Note 2018-2022*. The Project was also aligned with the *IFRC Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013-2020* and the *IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Strategic Plan for Gender and Diversity*.

IMPLEMENTATION AND BUDGET

The Project was implemented between June 2019 and December 2021 as a joint initiative of UN Women, the UNDRR, and the IFRC/SIRCS. UN Women was the Implementing Partner, UNDRR and IFRC were classified as Responsible Parties, and SIRCS was designated as a Partner. These four key actors worked with a range of Solomon Islands and other stakeholders to implement Project activities in eight provinces: Isabel; Makira; Malaita; Rennell and Bellona; Central; Guadalcanal; Gizo; and Temotu. Implementation was overseen by a Steering Committee.

Project activities were originally planned to finish by June 2021, with the Project evaluation concluding by September 2021. However, the Project timelines were significantly affected by COVID-19, political unrest, natural disasters, and delayed disbursement of funds. As a result of these

¹ French Red Cross, 2012. *Weaving a culture of resilience: A Gender-sensitive approach to disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands*. <https://cupdf.com/document/weaving-a-culture-of-resilience-weaving-a-culture-of-resilience-a-gender-sensitive.html?page=2>.

² ESCAP, 2014. *The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on Vulnerability and Exclusion in a Time of Rapid Change*. <https://www.unescap.org/resources/state-human-development-pacific-report-vulnerability-and-exclusion-time-rapid-change>.

delays, some Project activities were cancelled, while others did not conclude until December 2021. The evaluation was not completed until October 2022.

The Project was funded by the Australian Government, with an initial planned budget of A\$2.03 million, which was later reduced to A\$1.87 million due to alterations made in response to COVID-19. This occurred because the Project had a large underspend at the height of COVID-19 in March–April 2020, which prompted the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to reallocate funds from the Project to support other elements of the Australian Government’s response to COVID-19 in the region. As part of this process, some funds allocated to IFRC/SIRCS were reallocated to UN Women.

Evaluation purpose and scope

This evaluation is intended to fulfil three purposes:

To demonstrate results and accountability by providing information to stakeholders, participants and donors about project achievements and about intended and unintended effects on women’s empowerment, gender equality and human rights as a result of the intervention.

To provide credible and reliable evidence for decision-making by providing information about project design, implementation, and resource allocation and providing knowledge on participants’ and stakeholders’ needs, project functioning and project effects.

To contribute to important lessons learned about normative, operational, and coordination work in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women in DRR — including what is working well, what is not, and what this means for the project and other development efforts.

The evaluation focused on assessing the Project’s contribution to improved creation and use of data on the gender dimensions of disaster risks, improved gender-responsiveness in risk governance, and increased meaningful participation and leadership by women in DRR and resilience building in Solomon Islands. As an end-of-project evaluation, it assessed project activities conducted in the period between June 2019 and December 2021. The evaluation covered five of the eight provinces where Project activities were implemented: Isabel; Makira; Malaita; Rennell and Bellona; and Guadalcanal. The primary users for this evaluation include the UN Women Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, the UN Women Fiji Multi-

Country Office (MCO), and the project implementing partners. Secondary users include the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the Project’s direct beneficiaries.

Evaluation methodology

The study was designed as a theory-based, mixed methods evaluation, focused on using evidence from stakeholder consultations and a review of program documentation to assess whether the Project produced the changes defined in the Theory of Change (TOC). This process was participatory at all levels (where relevant and possible) and underpinned by *Tok Stori*, a Melanesian Indigenous methodology built on the values of reciprocity, respect, love, and humility.

The evaluation was structured around five of the six Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) evaluation criteria: relevance; coherence; effectiveness; efficiency; and sustainability. In addition, the evaluation assessed the Project’s contribution around gender equality and human rights. Within these six criteria, the evaluation team used 11 Key Questions to structure data collection and analysis.

Data collection involved three main methods: semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs); a focus group discussion (FGD); and a detailed assessment of project documents. The team engaged with 32 stakeholders through 26 KIIs and one FGD involving six participants, while the assessment of project documents involved the Project’s technical, financial, and monitoring and evaluation documentation.

Findings

The evaluation produced 19 findings across the six criteria, which are outlined below.

RELEVANCE

The evaluation team found that Project interventions were relevant to the needs of national partners and provincial-level beneficiaries. At the national level, Project activities were aligned with the SIG’s intention to integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into its DRR policies. At the outset of the Project, SIG DRR policies³ did not adequately address GESI issues, while women and other vulnerable groups were not sufficiently involved in DRR decision-making at the community, provincial, and national

³ Two key policy documents are: National Development Strategy 2016 – 2035 (p. 42-43), and the National Disaster Management Plan 2018.

levels. In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the Project facilitated the integration of GESI considerations into relevant SIG policies and supported the increased involvement of women and other vulnerable groups in DRR policy development. At the provincial level, the Project addressed the need for gender-sensitive DRR training – which had previously been a gap in capacity building efforts – but did not address a similar need among village-level beneficiaries. The Project’s scope was adjusted due to COVID-19, which necessitated a shift in focus from risk reduction to disaster response and led to some budget cuts. However, the evaluation team found that these changes were relevant and necessary.

COHERENCE

Overall, the evaluation team found that the Project was aligned with UN Women’s policies and with the actions of other actors in the DRR space in Solomon Islands. The overall goal of the Project – which covered mitigating gender inequalities in disaster responses and resilience in Solomon Islands – was aligned to UN Women’s focus on gender equality in DRR, as specified in the UN Women *Strategic Plan 2018-2021* and the subsequent *Strategic Plan 2022-2025*. There are several domestic and international actors working in the DRR space in Solomon Islands, including the SIG, the World Bank, the Australian Humanitarian Partnerships, and SIRCS. The evaluation found that other major international actors were not delivering similar activities to the Project, and there was a clear requirement for GESI issues to be integrated into the DRR policy and programming in Solomon Islands. There was also a notable effort to coordinate with both international and domestic actors working on DRR in Solomon Islands. One noteworthy challenge in this area was potential overlap between Project activities and IFRC/SIRCS standalone provincial-level interventions. However, it seems likely that the issue was mitigated through significant efforts to coordinate across Project partners.

EFFECTIVENESS

The Project achieved most of the outcomes defined in its Performance Monitoring Framework. Training delivered through the Project was effective in improving participants’ knowledge and awareness of gender issues in DRR, and the effort to revise the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Manual to ensure that it includes GESI considerations was successful. However, there were some areas in which the results achieved by training could have been amplified, and thus far the CBDRM Manual has not been rolled out for general use.

EFFICIENCY

The efficiency with which the Project was able to deliver results varied across activities. Overall, Project implementation experienced significant challenges and delays due to the reluctance of the IFRC/SIRCS to join the Project during its early phases, due to the overlap concerns noted above. Partner and stakeholder responses to COVID-19, flooding, and the Honiara riots took time and resources away from Project activities and caused further delays. Additionally, some partners experienced internal issues – such as staff turnover – that impacted timely implementation of their activities in some provinces. Of particular note, the coordination for the disbursement of funds across UN Women, IFRC, UNDRR, and SIRCS was found to be inefficient.

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Project was designed and implemented with a good focus on ensuring women’s participation in DRR decision-making at the national and provincial levels. Implementation ensured that more women representatives from communities across the country participated in training and data collection activities and had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of different types of disaster-related data and understanding of DRR and disaster responses at the community level. The evaluation team did not find significant evidence that the Project empowered people with disability and other vulnerable groups. Collection of sex- and age- disaggregated data was a significant achievement of the Project, contributing to the country’s delivery of several Sendai Framework Monitor commitments.

SUSTAINABILITY

The evaluation team found that the sustainability of Project results will depend on the future leadership and advocacy of relevant stakeholders at the national and provincial levels. The Project initiated important work related to enhanced data collection on vulnerable groups and DRR, and it is now up to local stakeholders – especially provincial leaders – to proactively take this forward. The support of the SIG in the form of funding and continued advocacy will be crucial for the sustainability of Project results. It is possible that limited success in building local ownership during the Project design phase may impact the sustainability of its results.

Conclusions

The evaluation team developed five conclusions based on the findings summarised above. The conclusions are

intended to provide cross-cutting takeaways relevant to similar programs and any subsequent follow-up activities in Solomon Islands.

- **Conclusion 1:** the Project made a significant contribution to the increased involvement of women in DRR and improved sex- and age-disaggregated data collection, but more efficient implementation would have amplified effectiveness.
- **Conclusion 2:** The training delivered through the Project was effective, but it could have been made accessible to a wider range of stakeholders and more focused on the underlying barriers to women's involvement in DRR.
- **Conclusion 3:** The Project's strong focus on women sometimes overshadowed intersectional characteristics associated with vulnerability in the context of disasters.
- **Conclusion 4:** The Project did not adequately build local ownership during the design phase, which may impact the sustainability of its results.
- **Conclusion 5:** Strong leadership from UN Women and the Steering Committee helped the Project to adapt to changing circumstances – such as the emergence of COVID-19 – and deliver meaningful change.

Recommendations

These recommendations are based on the evaluation team's findings described above. They are intended to support improvements to future UN Women programs in Solomon Islands and elsewhere in the Pacific. The recommendations were validated with UN Women during the process of drafting this report.

- **Recommendation 1:** UN Women and UNDRR should continue with efforts to build on the achievements of the Project, particularly at the community level.

Rationale: It is vital that the momentum generated by the Project is carried forward to create increased local understanding of women's role in DRR, ensure that communities support mainstreaming GESI in local-level DRR plans, and help build stronger women's leadership at the community level.

- **Recommendation 2:** UN Women should build on the achievements highlighted above by making training related to women's participation in DRR more widely accessible and contextually grounded. **Rationale:** The training provided through the Project was an effective tool for driving change, but its impact was limited by the narrow focus on training SIRCS staff and volunteers, and the failure to comprehensively address cultural barriers to women's participation in DRR.
- **Recommendation 3:** UN Women and UNDRR should continue to work with the SIG and the NDMO to support the development of a central database for DRR data. **Rationale:** The Project greatly improved the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data for the Sendai Framework Monitor system in Solomon Islands but did not involve a concerted effort to encourage widespread use of this data to inform DRR policies and programming.
- **Recommendation 4:** Future projects should feature more consultation with local stakeholders during the design phase and avoid beginning activities until this consultation is complete. **Rationale:** Ensuring local ownership will be vital to ensuring that future UN Women projects in the DRR space in Solomon Islands are locally driven and owned, and responsive to local needs; this in turn is likely to support the long-term sustainability of intervention results.

1. INTRODUCTION

In December 2021, Sustineo was engaged by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) to provide an independent final evaluation of the *Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience Project in Solomon Islands* (referred to hereafter as ‘the Project’). The Project commenced in June 2019 as a joint initiative of UN Women, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)/Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS). The Project was completed in December 2021. This evaluation report provides findings and recommendations derived from integrated analysis of data from stakeholder consultations and a desk assessment of project documents.

This introduction outlines the context for the Project’s delivery; provides an overview of the Project; describes the evaluation’s purposes, objectives, and scope; and defines the structure for this evaluation report.

Background and context

OVERVIEW

Solomon Islands is an archipelagic Melanesian state that covers an area of approximately 725,200km² in the Southwest Pacific. It comprises over 900 geographically diverse islands: some are low-lying coral atolls and others are mountainous. The population is estimated to be approximately 722,400 people (2022),⁴ with over 80 percent living in coastal areas on six major islands.⁵ The most recently available data (2009) suggests that 95.3 percent of the population is Melanesian.⁶ Although English is the official language, there are around 64 indigenous languages and most people use Solomon Islands Pijin in their daily lives. The country was ranked 151 out of 189 countries on the 2020 Human Development Index,⁷ and it is reliant on development assistance and subsistence agriculture.⁸

Solomon Islands gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1978. Between 1998 and 2003, the country suffered a period of violence and unrest known as ‘the Tensions’. Primarily affecting the island of Guadalcanal (where the capital, Honiara, is located), the Tensions were the apotheosis of decades of tensions between Guadalcanal people and migrants from the nearby island of Malaita. Following requests from successive Solomon Islands governments, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was deployed in July 2003. Less than 200 fatalities occurred during the Tensions,⁹ but the negative economic and social effects of the period are still being felt.

VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Solomon Islands is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. In 2021, Solomon Islands was ranked second out of 181 countries on the World Risk Index, which assesses the risk of an extreme natural event leading to a disaster.¹⁰ Since 2000, the country has experienced droughts, high magnitude earthquakes, flash floods, tsunamis, and cyclones. These events have affected over 160,000 people (see Figure 1), with impacts including loss of life, temporary and permanent population

⁴ Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, nd. *Population: Projected population by province 2010 - 2025*. <https://www.statistics.gov.sb/statistics/social-statistics/population>.

⁵ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, nd. *Solomon Islands – Australia’s commitment to strengthening climate and disaster resilience in the Pacific*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/solomon-islands-australias-commitment-to-strengthening-climate-and-disaster-resilience-in-the-pacific>.

⁶ The remainder of the population comprises Polynesians (3.1 percent) and Micronesians (1.2 percent), and other smaller groups. See <https://www.britannica.com/place/Solomon-Islands>.

⁷ UNDP, 2020. *Human Development Report 2020: The next frontier – Human development and the Anthropocene*, <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr2020pdf.pdf>.

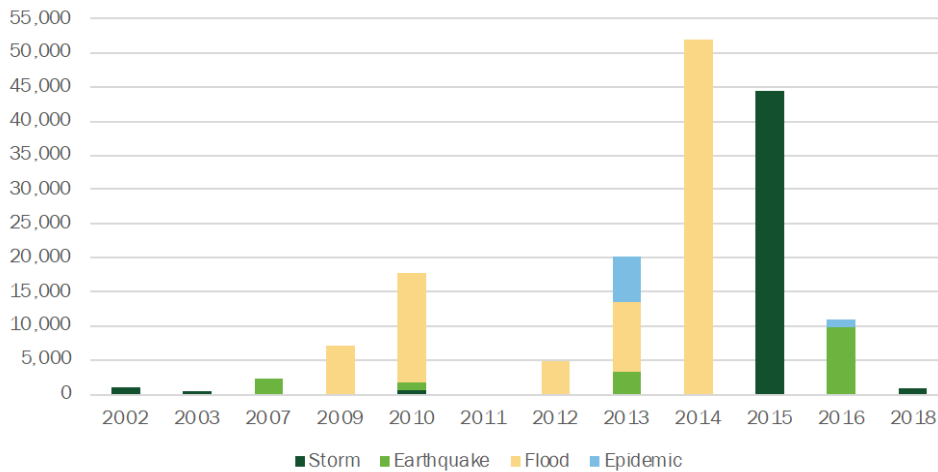
⁸ UN Sustainable Development Group, nd. *Solomon Islands*, <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/solomon-islands>.

⁹ Barbara, J., 2008. Antipodean Statebuilding: The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and Australian Intervention in the South Pacific. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 2 (2):123-149.

¹⁰ Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, 2021. *WorldRiskReport 2021 - Focus: Social Protection*. Ruhr University Bochum – Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).

displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased incidence of disease.¹¹ The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre predicts that natural disasters are likely to displace an average of 4,000 people per year in Solomon Islands.¹² Since 2020, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has added a layer of difficulty to disaster management in Solomon Islands. For example, the international and domestic response to Tropical Cyclone Harold—which caused widespread damage to crops, houses, and public infrastructure—was hampered by travel restrictions and the need to avoid spreading COVID-19 in the country.

Figure 1: number of people affected by natural disasters in solomon islands, 2002-2018¹³



GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality in Solomon Islands has made limited progress (see Table 1)

The country is typically patriarchal, with men holding the majority of leadership positions. There are currently four women in Solomon Islands parliament out of 50 Members of Parliament (MPs) (8 percent), with slightly more representation at the local government level.¹⁴ Women are more likely to be in informal, vulnerable employment than men. According to a 2015 ADB study, the ability of Solomon Islands women to engage in formal employment is constrained by a range of factors, including: domestic responsibilities; poor numeracy and literacy; workplace discrimination; poor health; geographic isolation; lack of access to government business services and information; lack of decision-making power; and limited access to financial services.¹⁵ Finally, there are no recent statistics on women’s land ownership and access, but it is widely acknowledged that women have “little control over land and natural resource management”¹⁶ due to the patriarchal nature of the Solomon Islands.¹⁷

¹¹ World Bank, nd. *Climate Change Knowledge Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers – Solomon Islands*, <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/solomon-islands/vulnerability>.

¹² International Disaster Monitoring Centre, 2021. *Sudden-onset hazards and the risk of future displacement in the Solomon Islands*. <https://reliefweb.int/report/solomon-islands/risk-profile-sudden-onset-hazards-and-risk-future-displacement-solomon>.

¹³ World Bank, nd. *Climate Change Knowledge Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers – Solomon Islands*, <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/solomon-islands/vulnerability>.

¹⁴ Pacific Women in Politics, nd. *National Women MPs*, <https://www.pacwip.org>.

¹⁵ Asian Development Bank, 2015. *Solomon Islands Country Gender Assessment*, p. xv. <https://www.adb.org/documents/solomon-islands-country-gender-assessment>

¹⁶ Minter, T., 2021. *A call to protect women’s rights in Solomon Islands’ forestry legislation, policy and practice*, https://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/infobrief/8205-infobrief.pdf.

¹⁷ UN Women Asia and the Pacific, nd. *Solomon Islands*, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/solomon-islands>.

Table 1: Overview of key gender equality measures in Solomon Islands

Indicator	Data year	Women	Men
Life expectancy (years) ¹⁸	2018	75	71
Employment (percent) ¹⁹	2019	62.4	80.3
Vulnerable employment (percent) ²⁰	2009	75	54
Annual income (USD) ²¹	2019	1,569	2,467

Gender based violence (GBV) is very common in Solomon Islands. Approximately two-thirds of women aged between 15 and 49 have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner.²² The *Family Protection Act 2014* is intended to protect families from domestic violence and provide support for domestic violence survivors, but women’s access to justice is limited. When justice for survivors does occur, it is usually delivered through traditional dispute resolution leading to compensation payments.²³ Moreover, specialist support services are limited, especially outside Honiara.²⁴

GENDER EQUALITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Women in Solomon Islands are disproportionately affected by disasters, which is unsurprising given the gender equality issues noted above. For example, women and children represented 96 percent of casualties in the 2014 Solomon Islands floods.²⁵ Women’s risk of being killed during disasters is directly related to their lower socio-economic status compared to men: they typically have lower levels of access to information and early warnings. Traditional gender roles mean that women typically have primary responsibility for caring for those affected by disasters,²⁶ which significantly increases their workload and emotional burden. The lower socio-economic status of women also inhibits their ability to recover from disasters; they often lack access to land, and they generally have less control of and access to economic resources, which limits their personal autonomy. Additionally, Solomon Islander women are overrepresented in the agricultural and informal sectors,²⁷ making them more vulnerable to loss of livelihood due to disasters and climate change.

There is no specific Solomon Islands data available on the intersections between gender and other characteristics in the context of disaster resilience. Globally, various studies have shown that women with disabilities, older women, women living in rural areas, and women from other marginalised groups are disproportionately affected by natural disasters.²⁸ This is also likely to be the case in Solomon Islands.

18 Ministry of Health and Medical Services, 2020. Descriptive Health Core Indicator Report Solomon Islands 2019, p. 8. <https://solomons.gov.sb/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CIS-2018-Statistical-Report-01-May-2019.pdf>.

19 International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA), 2020. Gender Insights in the Solomon Islands: Findings from a two province study using the Individual Deprivation Measure, <https://equalityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Gender-insights-in-the-Solomon-Islands-Equality-Insights.pdf>.

20 Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, nd. National Strategy on the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls 2020-2023. <http://www.mwycfa.gov.sb/resources-2/strategic-plans-policies/gender-equality-women-s-development/57-nseewg-2020-2023/file.html>.

21 IWDA, 2020. Gender Insights in the Solomon Islands: Findings from a two province study using the Individual Deprivation Measure, <https://equalityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Gender-insights-in-the-Solomon-Islands-Equality-Insights.pdf>.

22 IWDA, 2016. The new service connecting rural women survivors in Solomon Islands to crisis support, <https://iwda.org.au/the-new-service-connecting-rural-women-survivors-in-solomon-islands-to-crisis-support/>.

23 Homan, S., Honda, T., Leung, L., Fulu, E. & Fisher, J., 2019. Transforming Harmful Gender Norms in Solomon Islands: A study of the Oxfam Safe Families Program. The Equality Institute, Monash University, and Oxfam Australia, Melbourne, <https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Transforming-Gender-Norms-Report-FINAL.pdf>.

24 Ibid. p. 22.

25 UN Women, nd. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands - DFAT Proposal – Investment Design Template (Project Document). p. 1.

26 French Red Cross, 2012. Weaving a culture of resilience: A Gender-sensitive approach to disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. <https://cupdf.com/document/weaving-a-culture-of-resilience-weaving-a-culture-of-resilience-a-gender-sensitive.html?page=2>.

27 ESCAP, 2014. *The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on Vulnerability and Exclusion in a Time of Rapid Change*, <https://www.unescap.org/resources/state-human-development-pacific-report-vulnerability-and-exclusion-time-rapid-change>.

28 For a summary of the literature in this area, see <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/12651.pdf>.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

There are a range of key plans, policies, frameworks, and laws relevant to disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Solomon Islands. At the broadest level, the *National Development Strategy 2016-35* (NDS) Objective Four is “resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management response and recovery”²⁹ and Medium Term Strategy #10 is to “improve disaster and climate risk management including prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery as well as adaptation as part of resilient development”.³⁰ The *National Disaster Management Plan 2018* (NDM Plan) was established under the *National Disaster Council Act 1989* (NDCA). It puts in place national, provincial, and local institutional arrangements focused on preparedness, early warning, response, and recovery.³¹ At the regional level, the Solomon Island Government (SIG) has endorsed the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017–2030*.³²

There is evidence that the SIG is committed to integrating gender inclusion into its DRR.³³ The NDM Plan defines a set of principles to guide its processes, including that “The involvement of women in arrangements at all levels is essential for effective disaster management”.³⁴ It later states that “women will be expected to be taking leading decision-making roles”.³⁵ Under the NDM Plan, sub-national government bodies are required to feature representation from women.³⁶ More generally, all SIG ministries have gender focal points and Women’s Desks at the provincial level, and Permanent Secretaries have gender criteria in their performance measures.

KEY ACTORS

The Solomon Islands DRR landscape features both domestic and international actors. There are a range of relevant national and sub-national government bodies:

The **National Disaster Council (NDC)** coordinates and monitors national-level DRR planning and implementation. It was established by the NDCA and comprises the **National Disaster Operations Committee (NDOC)** and the **Recovery Coordination Committee (RCC)**.

The **National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)** reports to the NDC, and is responsible for the coordination, development, and implementation of disaster risk management.

Provincial Protection Committees (PPCs) and are responsible for DRR arrangements and planning their province, consistent with the NDM Plan. They report to both their Provincial Assembly and the NDC.

Village Disaster Committees (VDCs) undertake DRR planning within their communities.

Key domestic non-government organisations (NGOs) include:

- SIRCS
- World Vision Solomon Islands

²⁹ Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, 2016. *National Development Strategy 2016-2035*. p. 14. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-sol-2017-2019-ld-01.pdf>.

³⁰ *Ibid.* p. 43.

³¹ National Disaster Council, 2018. *National Disaster Management Plan 2018*, <https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/National-Disaster-Management-Plan-2018.pdf>.

³² Pacific Community, 2016. *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017 – 2030*.

³³ UN Women, 2019. *Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands. Baseline and Target Setting Report* (Project Document).

³⁴ National Disaster Council. 2018. *National Disaster Management Plan 2018*. p. 16. <https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/National-Disaster-Management-Plan-2018.pdf>.

³⁵ *Ibid.* p. 30.

³⁶ Pacific Community, 2017. *Solomon Islands Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance Assessment: Final Report*, <https://spccpstore1.blob.core.windows.net/digitallibrary-docs/files/56/569048f2ead83fb41e9705722b8f3a93.pdf>.

- Oxfam Solomon Islands
- People with Disability Solomon Islands.

There is also a wide range of international actors in the DRR space, including the UN agencies, development banks, large global NGOs, NGOs operating under the banner of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), and donor governments that provide development assistance (see Table 2).

Table 2: Overview of international actors in the DRR space

UN Agencies	UN Women UNDRR UNDP
Development banks	World Bank Asian Development Bank
International NGOs	IFRC Save the Children Live and Learn
AHP	Oxfam Australia World Vision Australia Caritas/CAN DO CARE Australia Plan International Australia
Donor governments	Australia New Zealand United States

Project description

OBJECTIVES

The Project was designed to mitigate gender inequalities in the loss of lives and livelihoods and enhance community resilience to natural disasters in Solomon Islands.

Outcomes, Outputs, and activities

The Project had three Outcomes, each of which comprised two Outputs. These are described below.

Outcome 1: Government and key stakeholders in Solomon Island generate and use evidence/data on gender dimensions of disaster risks, particularly women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and capacity, to inform their policy and program interventions.

This Outcome focused on supporting the SIG and stakeholders to improve their capacity to gather sex-disaggregated data related to disasters, analyse this data, then use it to inform the development of effective DRR policies and programs. This was intended to address the lack of sex-disaggregated data related to disasters in Solomon Islands and improve the quality

of DRR policies and programs.

Output 1.1: Government and key stakeholders have enhanced capacity to assess and analyse gender dimensions of disaster risks. Specific activities under this Output included:

- Revising the Solomon Islands' Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Manual to integrate gender and social inclusion, and international best practice
- Reviewing and revising the SIG's Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) tool
- Technical support for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) to review existing data collection processes and sources to better identify gender dimensions of risk

Output 1.2: Diverse women, women's groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) groups and persons with disability organisations and stakeholders are able to inform disaster risk assessments at all levels and usage at all levels. Specific activities under this Output included:

- Organisation of a national DRR forum on gender and social inclusion to build capacity of women's organisations
- Funding a National Project Coordinator to the NPC with COVID-19 preparedness and response

Outcome 2: National and community disaster risk governance is gender-responsive.

This Outcome focused on improving the gender-responsiveness of disaster risk governance at the national and community levels. It was linked to the first outcome of the SIG *Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy*, which covers gender-responsive government programs and services.

Output 2.1: NDMO, national development planning and gender equality institutions and stakeholders have improved capacity to ensure evidence-based gender-responsive DRR laws, regulations, policies, plans and programs. Specific activities under this Output included:

- Reviewing national sectoral post disaster assessment and the IDA tool
- Convening a roundtable for Honiara City Council (HCC) and its partners to review the city's DRR plan and integrate gender issues

Output 2.2: National stakeholders are able to monitor and track gender equality commitments of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (the Sendai Framework) and the SDGs (including MWYCFA). Specific activities under this Output included:

- Providing technical support to the NDMO and SIG
- Development of communication and knowledge products, including for Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19 activities

Outcome 3: Women meaningfully participate in and lead in DRR and resilience building.

This Outcome focused on improving women's participation and leadership in DRR and resilience building by developing their skills and capacity, supporting the implementation of gender sensitive early warning systems, and involving them in assessments of vulnerability and hazards during community development planning processes. It was linked to the second outcome of the SIG *Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy*, which covers equal participation of women and men at all levels of decision-making, governance, and leadership.

Output 3.1: Government and key local stakeholders are able to develop a more inclusive and gender-responsive early warning system. Specific activities under this Output included:

- Training SIRCS staff and volunteers on the updated CBDRM manual
- Supporting NDMO consultation on the CBDRM manual
- Training for SIRCS staff to integrate gender equality and social inclusion into national and sub-national SIRCS DRR

arrangements

- Establish monitoring and evaluation, learning, and reporting

Output 3.2: Women have enhanced capacity to advocate, lead, and engage in DRR and resilience building. Specific activities under this Output included:

- Training for all SIRCS staff, board members, and volunteers on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion policies

Across these Outcomes and Outputs, there were 11 Indicators used to assess progress (see Annex G).

Strategic approaches

Underpinning the Outcomes were four mutually reinforcing ‘strategic approaches’:

1. **Strengthening and applying strategic information and evidence.** The Project aimed to address a key gap in Solomon Islands by generating and applying gender– and diversity–sensitive information. It also sought to strengthen monitoring mechanisms related to the Sendai Framework.
2. **Nationally and locally driven and owned.** The Project engaged a wide range of stakeholders from Solomon Islands and was implemented through UN Women, UNDRR, SIRCS, local women’s groups, and relevant SIG ministries. A key aim of the Project was to implement activities responsive to local needs.
3. **Inclusive and intersectional approach to support (diverse) women’s leadership and engagement.** The Project recognised that women are not a homogenous group and that some women are more vulnerable to disasters than others. It also recognised the need to engage men and boys. Drawing on the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ and ‘nothing about us, without us’, the Project sought to employ an inclusive and intersectional approach to ensure that all women were involved in the development, implementation, and monitoring of DRR laws, policies, and programs.
4. **Building community resilience.** The Project focused on mobilising women community leaders to develop local solutions by setting up inclusive early warning systems, developing community-based monitoring mechanisms, and building local capacity for disaster risk reduction.

The strategic approaches were intended to guide Project implementation.

Beneficiaries

According to UN Women documentation, the Project had 258 direct beneficiaries from training and capacity building activities, including six women living with disability (see Table 3).³⁷ In addition, through examining Project documentation the evaluation team identified a range of other training activities implemented throughout the Project (see Table 4). It appears that these additional activities reached at least 269 additional direct beneficiaries (including 127 women), although the true figure is likely to be higher due to missing data for some activities. Sex- and disability-disaggregated data was not available for all training events. It should also be noted that the evaluation team has not been able to confirm these figures through independent sources.

Table 3: Direct beneficiaries

Training/Workshop	Males	Females	Total
Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) and IDA workshop	10	13	23
Tingoa PPC and GBV in Emergencies (GBViE)	22	3	25
Auki PPC and GBViE	17	8	25

³⁷ UN Women, nd. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands- Beneficiaries data (Project Document).

Training/Workshop	Males	Females	Total
Tulagi PPC and GBViE	11	13	24
Steering Committee Meetings	2	10 <i>(Including 2 people living with disability)</i>	12
GiHA and post-disaster needs workshop	9	19 <i>(Including 1 person living with disability)</i>	28
GiHA in Auki	11	14	25
Inclusive CBDRM Manual Finalisation Workshop	4	7 <i>(Including 1 person living with disability)</i>	11
NDOC Protection Committee: Preparedness & Response Planning Workshop	7	15 <i>(Including 1 person living with disability)</i>	22
National Gender in DRR Forum	12	51 <i>(Including 1 person living with disability)</i>	63
Total	105	153	258

Table 4: Additional training/workshops delivered under the Project

Implementing partner	Training	Male participants	Female participants	Total
UNDRR	March 2019: training on the Sendai Framework Monitor for staff from the NDMO, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women (National Disaster Council stakeholders) and UNDP. ³⁸	25 ³⁹	9 ⁴⁰	34 ⁴¹
	November 2019: roundtable discussion with HCC, partners, and market vendors to review and analyse the Honiara City DRR Plan (2018) through a gender lens. This strengthened HCC staff capacity to conduct gender-sensitive DRR planning and coordination with stakeholders. ⁴²	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

³⁸ UN Women, 2019. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands: Baseline and Target Setting Report.

³⁹ UN Women, 2019. GIRSI 2nd Annual Narrative Report to Australian Government, January–December (Project Document). p. 11.

⁴⁰ Ibid. p. 11.

⁴¹ Ibid. p. 11.

⁴² Ibid. p. 9.

Implementing partner	Training	Male participants	Female participants	Total
	December 2020: four-day virtual workshop for NDMO and National Statistics Office staff on Sendai Framework Monitoring and Data Entry. ⁴³	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SIRCS	Throughout the Project: 101 SIRCS staff and volunteers (including 42 women) received training in a range of gender and inclusion issues using SIRCS tools, some of which was supported through the Project. ⁴⁴	59	42	101
	SIRCS partnered with the Honiara Campus of USP TAFE to deliver leadership training for 28 female SIRCS staff, board members, and volunteers. ⁴⁵	0	28	28
	Throughout the Project: SIRCS rolled out gender and diversity training across its five sub-national branches, reaching 106 staff (including 48 women). ⁴⁶	58	48	106
Total		142	127	269

The Project also had a wide range of indirect beneficiaries, including SIG officials involved in implementing DRR and other stakeholders working in the DRR space that did not directly participate in Project activities. More broadly, indirect beneficiaries could be considered to include the female population of Solomon Islands (estimated to be 353,375 in 2022),⁴⁷ which is intended to benefit from more gender sensitive DRR.

THEORY OF CHANGE

The Project's Theory of Change (TOC), as described in the UN Women Donor Report (UN Women's final report to the Australian Government), is presented in Figure 2. To interrogate the relevance of the TOC, the evaluation team conducted an Outcomes Logic Map and a Logic, Assumptions and Risks Framework (LARF) process. The reconstructed TOC, featuring its underlying assumptions, is provided in Annex L.

⁴³ UN Women, 2020. *GIRSI Third Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government* (Project Document). p. 11.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.* p. 6.

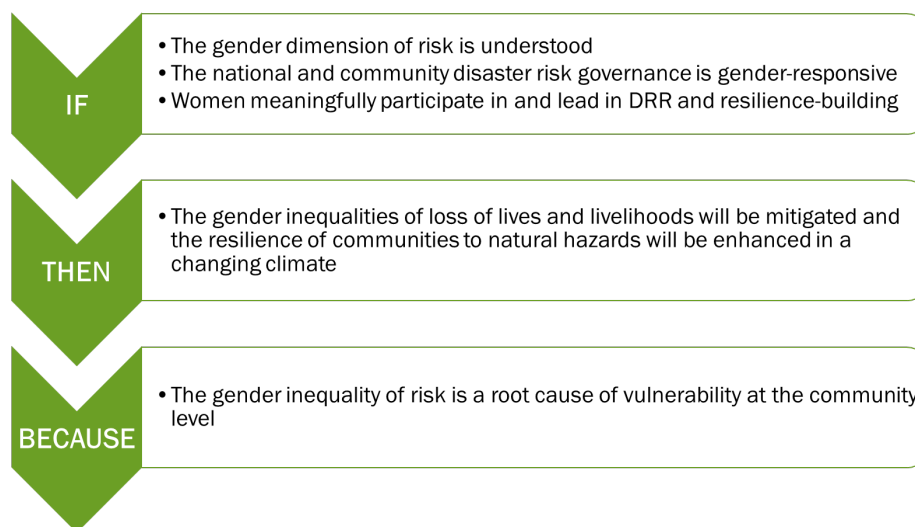
⁴⁵ UN Women, 2022. *Addressing Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in the Solomon Islands: Final Narrative Report* (Project Document). p. 3–4.

⁴⁶ UN Women, 2022. ANNEX C "A Field Report on the Revised CBDRM Consultation held in Malaita and Guadalcanal Province" to M1908003 - *Addressing Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in the Solomon Islands: Final Narrative Report* (Project Document).

⁴⁷ Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, nd. *Population: Projected population by province 2010 - 2025*.

<https://www.statistics.gov.sb/statistics/social-statistics/population>.

Figure 2: Theory of Change



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Project was designed to ensure the effective integration of gender in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Solomon Islands. It aimed to achieve this by incorporating gender sensitivity into the *National Disaster Risk Management Plan of Solomon Islands*⁴⁸ and the *Solomon Islands 2016 National Disaster Management Plan* to reduce the gender inequality of risk, promote community resilience, and deliver the commitments to gender- and disability-responsive DRR inscribed in the Sendai Framework and the related FRDP.⁴⁹

The Project was aligned with a range of other UN strategies and plans:

- *United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022*: aligned to Outcome 1 (Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Environmental Protection) and Outcome 2 (Gender Equality).
- *UN Women Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021*: aligned to Outcome 5 (Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and from humanitarian action) and Output 15 (More women play a greater role in and are better served by disaster risk reduction and recovery processes).
- *UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office Strategic Note 2018-2022*: the Project was situated under Outcome 4.2 (Pacific Women lead preparedness for and response to natural disasters).

The Project was also aligned with the *IFRC Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues 2013-2020* and the *IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Strategic Plan for Gender and Diversity*. Further detail on the Project's strategic alignment with UN Women strategies and plans is provided in Finding 3, while information regarding the Project's relevance to SIG priorities is provided in Finding 1.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Project was implemented between June 2019 and December 2021 as a joint initiative of UN Women, the UNDRR, and the IFRC/ SIRCS (see Table 5). UN Women was the Implementing Partner, with overall responsibility for the Project and delivering Outcome 1. UNDRR and IFRC were classified as Responsible Parties, tasked with delivering Outcomes 2 and 3.

⁴⁸ Solomon Islands Government, 2018. National Disaster Risk Management Plan, <https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/National-Disaster-Management-Plan-2018.pdf>.

⁴⁹ Pacific Community, 2016. *The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017 – 2030*, <https://gem.spc.int/projects/frdp>.

SIRCS was designated as a Partner, with joint responsibility for delivering Outcome 3 with the IFRC. These four key actors worked with a range of Solomon Islands and other stakeholders to implement Project activities (see Table 6). The Project was delivered in eight provinces: Isabel; Makira; Malaita; Rennell and Bellona; Central; Guadalcanal; Gizo; and Temotu. Implementation was overseen by a Steering Committee, which was established as a sub-committee of the NDC and comprised 21 members (see Annex H).

Table 5: Roles, responsibilities, and activities for key actors

Key actors	Role	Responsibilities	Activities
UN Women	Implementing partner	Outcome 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial management Operation and project coordination Overall project reporting
UNDRR	Responsible Party	Outcome 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project and financial management for funds disbursed to them
IFRC	Responsible Party	Outcome 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project and financial management for funds disbursed to them
SIRCS	Partner	Outcome 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project and financial management for funds disbursed to them

Table 6: Involvement of other stakeholders

Other stakeholders	Project involvement
MWYCFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated the NPC and PPCs Key platform for implementing Project activities, such as training workshops
NPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key platform for implementing Project activities, such as training workshops
PPCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key platform for implementing Project activities, such as training workshops
NDMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services to oversee the revision of the CBDRM Manual Collaborated with the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services to support the integration of gender, social inclusion, and protection in humanitarian response and DRR work
Solomon Islands Meteorological Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with the NDMO to oversee the revision of the CBDRM Manual Collaborated with the NDMO to support the integration of gender, social inclusion, and protection in humanitarian response and DRR work
NDOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members received capacity-building support for integrating gender and social inclusion
RCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members received capacity-building support for integrating gender and social inclusion
Australia Pacific Partnership (APCP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided technical guidance on climate change for key Project activities
AHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated activities with Project partners

Project activities were originally planned to finish by June 2021, with the Project evaluation concluding by September 2021. However, Project timelines were significantly affected by four factors: COVID-19; political unrest; natural disasters; and delayed disbursement of funds. Consequently, some Project activities were cancelled, while others did not conclude until December 2021. The impact of these factors on the Project are further discussed in Finding 2 and Finding 8. As a result of these delays and further COVID-19 complications, the evaluation was not completed until October 2022.

BUDGET

The Project was funded by the Australian Government, with an initial planned budget of A\$2.03 million, which was later reduced to A\$1.87 million due to alterations made in response to COVID-19 (see Table 7). The reduction was made because the Project had a large underspend at the height of COVID-19 in March–April 2020, which prompted the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to reallocate funds from the Project to support other elements of the Australian Government’s response to COVID-19 in the region. As part of this process, some funds allocated to IFRC/SIRCS were reallocated to UN Women. The IFRC/SIRCS budget allocation was most severely affected, with a decrease of nearly 42 percent. Overall, UN Women received 66.14 percent of funds, the UNDRR received 9.53 percent, and the IFRC/SIRCS received 24.33 percent.

Table 7: Original and revised budget allocations by implementing partner

Implementing partner	Initial budget allocation (\$A)	Revised budget allocation (\$A)	Change (%)	Share of total revised budget (%)
UN Women	1,043,355	1,234,891	18.36	66.14
UNDRR	206,506	177,866	-13.87	9.53
IFRC/SIRCS	779,197	454,228	-41.71	24.33
Total	2,029,058	1,866,985	-7.99	100

Note: The total figures were rounded up in budgeting documents provided by UN Women.

Evaluation purpose, objectives, and scope

The UN Women commissioned this evaluation to fulfil **three purposes**:

1. To demonstrate results and accountability by providing information to stakeholders, participants and donors about project achievements and about intended and unintended effects on women’s empowerment, gender equality and human rights as a result of the intervention.
2. To provide credible and reliable evidence for decision-making by providing information about project design, implementation, and resource allocation and providing knowledge on participants’ and stakeholders’ needs, project functioning and project effects.
3. To contribute to important lessons learned about normative, operational and coordination work in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women in DRR — including what is working well, what is not, and what this means for the project and other development efforts.

The evaluation has the following **specific objectives**:

- To assess the relevance of the intervention at national levels and alignment with international agreements and conventions on gender equality, women’s empowerment and DRR.
- To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of project intervention in progressing towards the achievement of gender equality, women’s empowerment and DRR results as defined in the intervention.
- To assess the sustainability of the intervention in achieving lasting outcomes in gender equality, women’s empowerment and DRR.
- To analyse how the human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in implementation.

- To identify and validate lessons learned, good practices and innovations that ensued or were applied in implementation.
- To provide actionable recommendations with respect to future work in this area by UN Women and other stakeholders.

PRIMARY USERS

The **primary users** for this evaluation include the UN Women Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, the UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO), and the project implementing partners. In particular, lessons learned from the evaluation are intended to inform the design of UN Women’s future work on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building programs in the Solomon Islands and other Pacific Islands. The **secondary users** include the SIG and the Project’s direct beneficiaries.

EVALUATION SCOPE

Thematic scope

The evaluation focused on assessing the Project’s contribution to improved creation and use of data on the gender dimensions of disaster risks, improved gender-responsiveness in risk governance, and increased meaningful participation and leadership by women in DRR and resilience building in Solomon Islands.

Chronologic scope

This was an end-of-project evaluation, and covered project activities conducted in the period between June 2019 and December 2021.

Geographic scope

The evaluation covered five of the eight provinces where Project activities were implemented: Isabel; Makira; Malaita; Rennell and Bellona; and Guadalcanal. Coverage of the first four provinces was mandated by the Terms of Reference (TOR). The decision to add Guadalcanal to the evaluation scope was made jointly by the evaluation team and UN Women in response to the combination of COVID-19 travel restrictions and poor internet and phone coverage, which drastically reduced access to potential evaluation participants.

Evaluation methodology

This section describes the evaluation methodology, covering the approach and design, management structure, criteria, stakeholder involvement, data sources, sampling, and data collection.

EVALUATION APPROACHES AND DESIGN

The study was designed as a theory-based, mixed methods evaluation, focused on using evidence from stakeholder consultations and a review of program documentation to assess whether the Project produced the changes defined in the TOC. This process was participatory, and underpinned by *Tok Stori*, a Melanesian Indigenous methodology.

Participatory approach

Fundamental to the evaluation approach was an emphasis on participatory dialogue and inclusiveness. The evaluation team used participatory methods at all levels, where relevant and possible. This entailed consultative processes with UN Women and other partners in Solomon Islands during the evaluation Inception Phase and working with an experienced local researcher to ensure that processes for data collection and consultation were both culturally sensitive and appropriate to context.

Incorporating Melanesian Indigenous methodology

The evaluation was underpinned by adherence to *Tok Stori*, a Melanesian Indigenous methodology built on values of reciprocity, respect, love, and humility. *Tok Stori* firmly places the power to define the subject matter within the encounter between the researcher and the participant (Sanga *et al*, 2018), and the values remind the researcher and participants of

obligations to treat disclosure of information with utmost respect. The approach emphasises asking of questions that are culturally relevant to the communities involved in the research. *Tok Stori* was critical to the successful facilitation of all consultations with stakeholders and creating a space for the voices of vulnerable people to be heard.

EVALUATION MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The evaluation team initially comprised two international consultants and a national research assistant. The international consultants developed the Inception Report, drafted the data collection instruments, managed the data collection process, conducted remote interviews with the UN Women team and implementing partners, presented preliminary findings to the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG), and developed this evaluation report. The national consultant conducted remote and in-person data collection.

The evaluation was conducted under the guidance of the UN Women Fiji MCO Deputy Representative, with support from UN Women Solomon Islands and the ERG. The ERG comprised UN Women, UNDRR, IFRC, SIRCS, the NPC, and the APCP. The Evaluation Management Group (EMG) — which was composed of the UN Women Gender and Humanitarian Specialist, the regional evaluation specialist, and Project staff from partner organisations — oversaw the evaluation process and made key decisions related to quality assurance and evaluation independence.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation was structured around five of the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria: relevance; coherence; effectiveness; efficiency; and sustainability, as well as a standalone criterion on gender equality and human rights. However, the process of determining the evaluation questions for these criteria was complex. During the evaluation’s Inception Phase, the Outcomes Logic Map and LARF Process noted above were used to generate a set of evaluation questions, but these have not been used in this report. This is because key personnel left the evaluation team at a critical point due to external circumstances, and following this, the new team members reviewed the Outcomes Logic Map and LARF outputs. They concluded that the evaluation questions developed through this process were not fit for purpose as they did not align to OECD-DAC criteria.

As a result, the new team developed a set of 11 Key Questions derived from the slightly different lists of evaluation questions provided in the Project’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) and the evaluation TOR. These Key Questions were validated by UN Women. The final Key Questions are provided in Table 8 (see Annex A for the underlying Evaluation Matrix).

Table 8: Evaluation criteria and key questions

Criteria	Key Questions
Relevance	1. To what extent were Project interventions relevant to national partners’ and beneficiaries’ needs and priorities in the area of gender-responsive disaster risk management?
	2. To what extent has the Project responded to the changing needs of national partners’ and beneficiaries’ in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?
Coherence	3. To what extent is the project coherent internally with UN Women policies and externally with the interventions of other actors?
Effectiveness	4. In which areas does the Project have the greatest achievements, and what were the factors that contributed to these successes? How can UN Women build on or expand these achievements?
	5. In which areas does the Project have the least achievements, and what were the constraining factors?
Efficiency	6. To what extent did the Project’s management structure and governance support efficient implementation?

Criteria	Key Questions
	7. Has there been an economical use of financial and human resources, and were resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?
Gender and human rights	8. To what extent has the Project strengthened the SIG's collection and usage of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) to support Solomon Islands' delivery of commitments under the Sendai Framework?
	9. To what extent has the Project empowered women, people with disability, and other vulnerable groups to influence disaster risk management in Solomon Islands?
Sustainability	10. To what extent has the Project increased partners' capacity to assess and analyse the gender dimensions of risk?
	11. How likely is it that the results identified will be sustained after the Project ends?

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Initially, the evaluation team developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) featuring 56 individuals. The SEP was based on analysis of Project documentation, scoping consultations, and details provided by UN Women for key project staff from UN Women, IFRC, SIRCS, and the NDMO. However, the evaluation team was not provided with nominated representatives or contact details for several key positions, despite repeated attempts to obtain these from the ERG and EMG. The effects of this on data collection are discussed in Sections 0 and 0.

Supplementary to the SEP, the evaluation team conducted a rights-based stakeholder analysis aligned to the guidance of the UN Evaluation Group's *Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation: Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations*.⁵⁰ This served two purposes. First, it was used to identify relevant direct and indirect beneficiary groups, which included men and women living with disability, community leaders, and staff from relevant local NGOs. Second, these stakeholder groups and the stakeholders from the SEP were assessed against four criteria:

- Their role in the Project
- The purpose of their involvement in the evaluation
- Their priority level for involvement in the evaluation
- The capacity in which they would participate in the evaluation.

The resulting stakeholder analysis matrix is provided in Annex J.

DATA SOURCES

Primary data for the evaluation were sourced from key informant interviews (KIIs) and a focus group discussion (FGD). The evaluation team used a slightly different set of questions for each stakeholder group (See Annex 0), shaped to their engagement with the Project. Remote engagements with representatives of UN Women and international partners, DFAT, and NGOs were conducted online by the international consultants. Remote and direct engagements with Solomon Islands participants were led by the national research assistant.

Secondary data came from project documents, including annual narrative reports written by UN Women for DFAT, the UN Women *Baseline and Target Setting Report* (2019), and the UN Women final report to DFAT. A full list of analysed documents is provided in Annex B. Wherever possible, primary data was triangulated with data from secondary sources.

⁵⁰ UN Evaluation Group, 2014. *Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations*, <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1616>; UN Evaluation Group, 2020. *Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation*, <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>.

SAMPLING

The majority of stakeholders were consulted due to their role in the Project implementation. For Solomon Islands direct beneficiaries, the evaluation team used purposeful sampling, aimed at engaging participants with direct experience of the Project (the potential disadvantages of this approach are discussed in Section 0). Execution of the purposeful sampling was guided by a stakeholder list provided by UN Women. The evaluation team was able to interview key informants from all stakeholder groups defined in the SEP, with the exception of IFRC and people living with disability.

DATA COLLECTION

Data collection involved three main methods: semi-structured KIIs; FGDs; and a detailed assessment of project documents. The original plan (defined in the evaluation organisation's response to the TOR) was that data collection would involve up to 10 key KIIs with project staff and non-local community representatives, combined with 12 FGDs involving local community direct beneficiaries from four provinces. However, this plan had to be revised due to the intensification of COVID-19 restrictions (including lockdowns, external border closures, and in-country travel restrictions) in Solomon Islands over the evaluation period. FGDs were very difficult to organise due to these restrictions, so the evaluation team shifted the focus to conducting KIIs. Additionally, several stakeholders identified in the SEP did not respond to interview requests or declined to make themselves available for interview (although some recommended alternative interviewees). Unfortunately, this included all IFRC staff identified in the SEP. The end result was that the team engaged with 32 stakeholders through 26 KIIs and one FGD involving six participants.

Interviews

A total of 26 remote and in-person interviews (with 14 women and 12 men) were conducted. Prior to an interview, participants were provided with a Participant Information Sheet featuring details on the evaluation and research ethics (Annex D). The Participant Information Sheet and all interview and FGD questions were translated into Solomon Islands Pijin where relevant. Table 9 provides a breakdown of interviewees by stakeholder group, and Table 10 shows stakeholder locations and the format for the KIIs.

Table 9: Stakeholder locations and methods used in engagements

Stakeholder group	Stakeholders	KIIs
Donors	DFAT	1
	APCP	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>	3
Implementing Partner	UN Women	3
	<i>Subtotal</i>	3
Responsible Parties	UNDRR	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>	2
Partner	SIRCS	4
	<i>Subtotal</i>	4
Other stakeholders	MWYCFA	1
	NDMO	1
	Malaita PPC	1
	Malaita Provincial Officer	1
	Malaita Provincial Council of Women	1

Stakeholder group	Stakeholders	KIIs
	Malaita Provincial Disaster Office	1
	Malaita SIRCS	2
	SIRCS community volunteer (Guadalcanal)	1
	Rennell and Bellona Provincial Disaster Office	1
	Rennell and Bellona Provincial Council of Women	1
	Isabel PPC	1
	Makira Provincial Government	1
	Makira SIRCS	1
	<i>Subtotal</i>	14
	Total	26

Table 10: KII location and format

Stakeholder location	Remote KIIs	In-person KIIs	Total
Solomon Islands			
Guadalcanal	5	4	9
Makira	2	-	2
Malaita	5	1	6
Rennell and Bellona	2	-	2
Isabel	1	-	1
International			
Fiji	2	-	2
Australia	4	-	4
Total	21	5	26

Focus Group Discussion

The single FGD was conducted over half a day in Auki (the capital of Malaita Province) with six women from different Malaitan villages. It was facilitated by a local researcher in Solomon Islands Pijin. Discussion questions covered the women's awareness of the Project, their involvement, their views on its relevance, and their experiences of any benefits and other outcomes.

Project documents

A significant portion of data was drawn from the Project's technical, financial, and monitoring and evaluation

documentation.⁵¹ Key documents included:

- **Baseline and Target Setting Report (2019):** A baseline assessment conducted by UN Women in consultation with IFRC, UNDRR and SIRCS to identify baseline data for Project indicators.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (2019):** A monitoring framework developed by UN Women during in the first 12 months of the Project for tracking progress against indicators.
- **UN Women Donor Report (2021):** The Project’s final report, prepared by UN Women for DFAT.
- Various annual workplans and budgets prepared collaboratively by delivery partners.
- Various annual progress reports prepared by UN Women for DFAT.

A full list of documents reviewed is provided in Annex B. Project documentation was used to validate data from the qualitative engagements, and triangulate the findings presented in this report.

Ethical Considerations

The evaluation adhered to the highest standards of research ethics, with careful attention paid to confidentiality, privacy, and the informed consent of all research participants. The following strategies were put in place to ensure that the research was conducted ethically:

- The local researcher was given training on dealing with sensitive issues during data collection.
- The evaluation team developed comprehensive Participant Information Sheets and consent forms (see Annex D and Annex E) that ensured the ethical conduct of the research.
- To ensure participant privacy, interview and focus group discussion (FGD) audio and translated transcripts were stored securely online in a folder structure only the evaluation team could access.

Study limitations

The evaluation process faced a range of challenges, which were addressed through relevant mitigation strategies (see Table 11).

Table 11: Challenges and mitigation strategies

Challenge	Mitigation strategy
The second wave of COVID-19 hit Solomon Islands in April-May 2022. This delayed the conduct of fieldwork and forced the evaluation team to reorient towards remote data collection.	The revised approach faced significant difficulties, including very poor internet connectivity and participants not answering or returning calls. With the reopening of in-country travel in late May 2022, the evaluation team was able to conduct some fieldwork in Malaita.
Staff turnover was a major impediment to gathering data. In particular, high turnover at the NDMO and delivery partner organisations meant that few staff with comprehensive knowledge of the Project remained by the time the evaluation took place.	The evaluation team sought referrals from existing staff to those who had been involved in Project delivery. However, it was not possible to track down former project staff within the timeframe for the study.
The availability of high-level stakeholders was very limited due to their various other	With the support of UN Women, the evaluation team made repeated requests for interviews. This resulted in some high-level

⁵¹ UN Women, 2018. GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template, Annex 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (Project Document); and UN Women, 2019. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (Project Document).

Challenge	Mitigation strategy
<p>commitments.</p> <p>No IFRC staff made themselves available for consultation, but local SIRC staff were interviewed.</p> <p>The purposeful sampling strategy utilising contacts provided by UN Women may have introduced an element of bias into the data.</p>	<p>stakeholders being interviewed.</p> <p>With the support of UN Women, the evaluation team made repeated requests for interviews. However, this did not achieve any success, and the lack of primary data from one of the Responsible Parties is a significant gap in this study. It should be noted that SIRCS staff were interviewed.</p> <p>The evaluation team attempted ‘snowball sampling’⁵² using provincial officers as the starting point. However, this was ineffective because community participants proved to be extremely difficult to contact for remote interviews (common challenges included lack of access to a mobile phone, limited electricity meaning that participants could not charge their mobile phone, poor mobile phone reception, lack of phone credit or data, and reluctance to answer or return calls).</p> <p>To mitigate potential biases in the sample, the evaluation team analysed all primary data with reference to the positionality of the participants. This was to ensure that any biases could be identified and corrected for through the triangulation process. However, the team did not note any significant bias issues – participants were generally open in their reflections on the Project’s strengths and weaknesses.</p>

Overall, these challenges limited the amount of evidence available to develop evaluation findings. However, the evaluation team is confident that the findings presented below are robust and evidence-based thanks to efforts to triangulate the data.

⁵² This entails selecting several well-positioned people and asking them to suggest information-rich participants (see Patton, M. Q., 2015, *Qualitative research and evaluation methods: integrating theory and practice*. SAGE Publications, LA. p. 298).

2. EVALUATION FINDINGS

Relevance

The OECD-DAC defines relevance as “the extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries’, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change”.⁵³

The Key Questions in this area were:

Key Question 1: To what extent were Project interventions relevant to national partners’ and beneficiaries’ needs and priorities in the area of gender-responsive disaster risk management?

Key Question 2: To what extent has the project responded to the changing context such as COVID-19 pandemic?

The evaluation team found that Project interventions were relevant to the needs of national partners and provincial-level beneficiaries. At the national level, Project activities were aligned with the SIG’s intention to integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into its DRR policies. At the outset of the Project, SIG DRR policies⁵⁴ did not adequately address GESI issues, while women and other vulnerable groups were not sufficiently involved in DRR decision-making at the community, provincial, and national levels. In collaboration with the NDMO, the Project facilitated the integration of GESI considerations into relevant SIG policies and supported the increased involvement of women and other vulnerable groups in DRR policy development. At the provincial level, the Project addressed the need for gender-sensitive DRR training – which had previously been a gap in capacity building efforts – but did not address a similar need among village-level beneficiaries.

The Project’s scope was adjusted due to COVID-19, which necessitated a shift in focus from risk reduction to disaster response and led to some budget cuts. However, the evaluation team found that these changes were relevant and necessary.

FINDING 1

The Project was relevant to national partner and provincial-level needs and priorities in relation to the application of gender inclusion within the DRR space, but less so for village-level beneficiaries.

The SIG had a set of interlinked needs related to achieving its priorities related to gender equality in DRR. First, the baseline assessment noted that there was a need for the practical application of gender inclusion in the DRR space. For example, while the *2018 National Disaster Risk Management Plan* acknowledged women can play an important role in DRR operational processes, it did not define any practical actions in support of this. Additionally, the *National Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy 2016–2020*, which was active during the Project’s implementation, did not reference DRR under Key Outcome 3 (equal gender participation in decision-making across all levels of society) or Key Outcome 5 (recognition of women’s role in peace and security). Second, the baseline assessment noted a need for more effective collection, analysis, and sharing of gender related data in the DRR space.⁵⁵ Solomon Islands did not have “centralized, systematic databases and retrieval systems”, and the NDMO did not have authority to ensure other SIG agencies shared relevant DRR data (including data-disaggregated by sex and age).

Provincial-level beneficiaries had an identified need for gender-sensitive DRR training, which had previously been a gap in capacity building efforts.⁵⁶ The Project addressed this through its various training activities, which were acknowledged by provincial stakeholders to be relevant to their needs. For example, PPC members interviewed for the evaluation stated that the gender focus of the training complemented the disaster management knowledge that they had gained through previous

⁵³ OECD, nd. *Evaluation Criteria*. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>.

⁵⁴ Two key policy documents are: *National Development Strategy 2016 – 2035* (p. 42-43), and the *National Disaster Management Plan 2018*.

⁵⁵ Baseline and Target Setting Report (2019).

⁵⁶ See Pacific Community, 2016. *The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017 – 2030* and UNDRR, 2015. *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and Poverty in a Changing Climate*, <https://www.undrr.org/publication/global-assessment-report-disaster-risk-reduction-2015>.

SIRCS projects. However, PPC interviewees also noted that it would have been valuable for the Project to reach village-level beneficiaries to enhance their capacity to deliver gender-sensitive DRR.

Overall, the Project's activities were aligned to SIG policy gaps and the needs of provincial-level beneficiaries. It supported the practical application of gender inclusion in the DRR space through activities such as the integration of GESI considerations into the CBDRM Manual and SIG's Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) tool, and support for the establishment and training of new PPCs featuring participation from women and people with disability. The Project also directly addressed the need for more effective collection, analysis, and sharing of gender-related DRR data through activities including technical support for reviews of data collection by NPC subcommittees and assistance with familiarising women's organisations with the Sendai Framework Monitor system. The relevance of these activities was acknowledged by interviewees, several of whom noted that the Project had played an important role in helping the SIG to improve the gender-responsiveness and social inclusion of its DRR tools.

FINDING 2

COVID-19 forced the Project to adapt its scope, but this change was relevant and necessary.

The emergence of COVID-19 in March 2020 had two major effects on Project scope. First, the Project shifted some of its focus to responding to the disaster at hand by supporting Solomon Islands actors to integrate GESI considerations into their COVID-19 preparedness and response plans. This included activities such as providing technical support to the NPC as it worked to set up an Emergency Operation Centre and Functional Cells to coordinate the repatriation of citizens and expatriates. Based on an assessment of Project documentation, the evaluation team found that the adjustments to Project scope made in response to COVID-19 were necessary and driven by requests from SIG and local partners. For example, the Project supported the provision of GBV and child protection training to members of Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOC) in Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Central Provinces, which resulted in these P-DOCs providing more inclusive quarantine and isolation sites during COVID-19.⁵⁷ Nevertheless, the need to assist with the response to COVID-19 somewhat diluted the intended Project focus on risk reduction.

“The project was supposed to be a risk reduction project, but because of COVID and other events in the country we had to prepare and respond instead of actually implementing risk reduction activities”

– UN agency representative

Second, the change in scope and budget reduction noted above forced the Project to cut some of its planned risk reduction activities. The evaluation team was not able to ascertain which planned activities were cut, although some interviewees mentioned that COVID-19 resulted in some activities being implemented in fewer provinces. This could not be corroborated through analysis of Project documents. However, Project documentation shows that in the context of reduced funds, the Project still addressed key result areas – albeit on a smaller scale than initially planned.⁵⁸

Coherence

The OECD-DAC defines coherence as “The compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution”.⁵⁹ The Key Question in this area was:

Key Question 3: To what extent is the Project coherent internally with UN Women policies and externally with the interventions of other actors?

Overall, the evaluation team found that the Project was coherent with UN Women's strategic aims, and with the actions of other actors in the DRR space in Solomon Islands.

⁵⁷ UN Women, 2020. Third Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 14.

⁵⁸ UN Women, 2020. Workplan and Budget Revision (Project Document).

⁵⁹ OECD, nd. Evaluation Criteria. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

FINDING 3

The Project's focus was aligned with UN Women policies.

The overall goal of the Project was aligned to UN Women's focus on gender equality in DRR. UN Women aims to create an enabling environment to advance gender equality and women's empowerment by both leading and coordinating with its partners.⁶⁰ In the DRR space, the UN Women *Strategic Plan 2018-2021* Outcome 5 (Statements 73 and 74) describes the organisation's aim of preventing and mitigating disaster and climate risks by empowering women as leaders in DRR efforts and building their resilience.⁶¹ This Outcome was retained as the fourth thematic area in the subsequent UN Women *Strategic Plan 2022-2025*. The thematic area notes that the organisation aims to support efforts to increase women's agency in DRR and disaster response and mainstreaming a gender perspective in prevention, preparedness and recovery strategies, systems, and other tools.⁶² The Project's overall goal – which covered mitigating gender inequalities in disaster responses and resilience in Solomon Islands – is clearly aligned to these strategic aims.

FINDING 4

The Project was aligned with the activities of other stakeholders in the DRR space in Solomon Islands.

As shown in Section 0, there are several domestic and international actors working in the DRR space in Solomon Islands. The evaluation team found that the Project was generally aligned with the activities of these other international actors, which included:

- providing cash transfers to affected communities and working with the NDMO to create a disaster information management system (AHP)
- using grants to fund medical kits and debris removal after floods (ADB)
- supporting the SIG to deliver multi-hazard early warning systems (World Bank).

Other major international actors were not delivering similar activities to the Project, and there was a clear requirement for GESI issues to be integrated into the DRR policy and programming in Solomon Islands.

There was a notable effort to coordinate with both international and domestic actors working on DRR in Solomon Islands. Representatives of international stakeholders contributed to several Project activities: for example, staff from World Vision and Oxfam took part in workshops on revising the CBDRM Manual. This cooperation is aligned with UN Women's *Strategic Plan 2022-2025*, which lists improving multi-stakeholder coordination and scaling up partnerships with relevant organizations as key interventions under the 'Women, peace and security, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction'.⁶³ Key domestic stakeholders were members of the Steering Committee, while the Project focus on collecting SADD complemented the SIG's efforts to deliver on its Sendai Framework commitments.

However, there was one noteworthy challenge in this area. At the outset of the Project, IFRC/SIRCS had some concerns that there would be overlap between Project activities and their standalone provincial-level interventions. This caused some friction between UN Women and IFRC/SIRCS and delayed the commencement of Project activities (further discussed under Finding 11). Due to the fact that IFRC declined the evaluators' invitation to participate in the evaluation, the evaluation team was not able to identify what these potential areas of overlap were, or whether the concerns regarding duplication were borne out. However, it seems likely that the issue was mitigated through significant efforts to coordinate across Project partners. For example, SIRCS staff interviewed for this evaluation stated that the Project built on and strengthened their existing initiatives at the community level to enhance gender responsiveness and social inclusion. The Project also supported the recruitment of a SIRCS Protection, Gender, and Inclusion Officer.⁶⁴ This position was key for SIRCS in

⁶⁰ UN Women, 2017. *Strategic Plan 2018–2021*, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/8/un-women-strategic-plan-2018-2021>.

⁶¹ *Ibid.* p. 20.

⁶² UN Women, 2021. *Strategic Plan 2022–2025*, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025>.

⁶³ *Ibid.* p. 13.

⁶⁴ Solomon Islands Red Cross, 2019. *Annual Report 2019*, https://data-api.ifrc.org/documents/SB/AR_SolomonIsland_2019-2019.pdf p. 14.

monitoring the progress of its DRR activities in the communities.

Effectiveness

The OECD-DAC defines effectiveness as “the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups”.⁶⁵ The Key Questions in this area were:

Key Question 6: In which areas does the Project have the greatest achievements including in gender equality and women’s empowerment in DRR? What were the factors that contributed to these successes? How can UN Women build on or expand these achievements?

Key Question 7: In which areas does the Project have the least achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can they be overcome?

The Project achieved most of the outcomes defined in the Performance Monitoring Framework. In particular, training delivered through the Project was effective in improving participants’ knowledge and awareness of gender issues in DRR, and the effort to revise the CBDRM Manual to ensure that it includes GESI considerations was successful. However, there were some areas in which the impact of training could have been amplified, and thus far the CBDRM Manual has not been rolled out for general use.

FINDING 5

The Project met or exceeded most of its desired outcomes as per the Performance Monitoring Framework, but did not achieve some outcomes due to changes in SIG focus and data monitoring issues.

Based on UN Women documentation, the evaluation team found that the Project achieved the majority of the output indicator targets needed to produce the desired Project outcomes. However, it fell short of the outputs required to achieve some outcomes due to changes in SIG focus and data monitoring issues (see

Table 12). The baseline for each indicator was derived from the UN Women *Baseline and Target Setting Report* study conducted in 2019. Several output targets were exceeded, including those addressing gender-responsive disaster risk assessments (all indicators under Indicator 1.1), enhancing capacities for gender-responsive DRR (Indicator 2.1.1), engagement with the Sendai Framework (Indicator 2.2.1), and women’s participation in local disaster committees (Indicator 3.1).

However, several outputs were not achieved due to various challenges. The target of increasing the number of DRR policy frameworks that address gender specific disaster risks (Indicator 2.1) was not met due to SIG shifting its policy work away from this area. There are no results reported for the number of women participating in the assessments of vulnerability and hazards as part of the community development planning process (Indicator 3.1.2). While this indicator was described as difficult to monitor, there were no project activities reported that directly contributed to this indicator. Monitoring issues also impacted the assessment of the number of women in Project areas who felt confident to engage in DRR capacity (Indicator 3.2.1). Although UN Women reported that the target output for this indicator had been achieved, there was no systematic collection of data on trained women. This is a significant oversight further addressed in Finding 7. The Project results were just below the target outputs for increasing the number of communities with end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems that address gender-specific risks (Indicator 3.1.1): gender-specific early warning systems were implemented in three communities instead of the required four. The evaluation team was not able to ascertain the reason for this as this activity was the responsibility of IFRC, which declined to participate in the evaluation.

The data in

Table 12 is drawn from the *UN Women Donor Report* and has been cross-checked against the 2020 update to the Performance and Monitoring Framework (included as an Annex to the UN Women’s *Third Annual Narrative Report* provided to DFAT). The results were also discussed in consultations with Project staff.

⁶⁵ OECD, nd. *Evaluation Criteria*. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

Table 12: Project results

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Result
Indicator 1.1: Number of government agencies and key stakeholders that have undertaken one or more gender-responsive disaster risk assessments	2	4	6 – Risk assessments undertaken by SIRCS, Oxfam, MWYCFA (NPC and PPCs), UNDRR, World Vision, People with Disability Solomon Islands.
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of national and subnational tools for gender-responsive disaster risk assessments developed and/or adapted for gender-responsiveness.	1	2	2 – Tools developed were the CBDRM Manual and an initial damage assessment tool.
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of government agencies, national planning, statistical offices and gender equality institutions at local and national levels with enhanced capacities to collect sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and conduct gender analysis for risk assessments and analysis.	1	10	14 – Achieved through UNDRR support to NDMO on the Sendai Framework Monitor and training on gender in humanitarian action delivered by UN Women for NDOC committees and the RCC.
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of women’s groups, persons with disability organizations and groups for diverse women and men at the local and national levels, empowered to influence on the disaster risk assessments.	0	10	11 – Achieved through the process of revising the CBDRM Manual, which involved women’s groups, disability organisations, and persons with disability.
Indicator 2.1: Number of disaster risk reduction policy frameworks that address gender-specific disaster risks.	1	2	1 – No activities were conducted.
Indicator 2.1.1: Number of government ministries and gender equality institutions and women’s groups at the local and national level with demonstrated enhanced capacities on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction.	0	10	19 – Achieved through UN Women’s work on establishing and training PPCs, and training provided to the NPC.
Indicator 2.2.1: Number of gender equality institutions and women’s groups engaged in the Sendai Framework reporting and monitoring processes.	0	5	16 – Achieved through the National Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Forum.
Indicator 3.1: Number of women self-reporting meaningful participation in local disaster committees	0	10	17 – Achieved through the National Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Forum and provincial workshops.
Indicator 3.1.1: Number of communities with end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems that address gender-specific risks.	0	4	3 – Planned activities were not implemented
Indicator 3.1.2: Number of women participating in the assessments of vulnerability and hazards as part of the community development planning process.	0	120	Unknown – No activities directly contributed to this output, and the indicator was not monitored.

Indicator 3.2.1: Number of women in Project areas who feel confident to engage in disaster risk reduction with capacity.	0	50% of participants	Unknown – <i>According to UN Women the output was achieved, but data was not recorded.</i>
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FINDING 6

Training delivered under the Project was effective in improving participants’ knowledge and awareness of gender issues in DRR, and the role of women during disaster.

The Project delivered several training workshops and forums – facilitated by different project partners – that supported gender mainstreaming in DRR. As noted in Section 0, there were a wide range of training/workshop events which reached more than 527 beneficiaries, including at least 280 women.

The evaluation team found that these training and workshop activities were effective in improving participants’ knowledge and awareness of gender issues in DRR, and the role of women during disaster. Interviewees from the SIG, PPCs, and international agency representatives all reported that participating in training had:

- increased their awareness of the disproportionate effects of disasters on women
- increased their understanding of the importance of including women in DRR decision-making
- improved their capacity to develop and implement strategies for mitigating the incidence of GBV during disasters and their aftermath
- the importance of gender equality more broadly.

Interviewees did not provide any examples of how they had used their knowledge and awareness in practice. However, Project documentation indicates that training participants applied their new knowledge and awareness in a range of ways, including to review the IDA tool, use the Sendai Framework Monitor. Further to this, Following the UN Women GiHA training in October 2020, participants formed a network of gender-trained personnel to exchange information across sectors.

The evaluation team also found that training sessions facilitated by the Project increased awareness of gender-responsive DRR among male and female staff from organisations involved in implementing Project initiatives, particularly SIRCS. Importantly, several male interviewees also highlighted that participation in training delivered through the Project increased their understanding of the gendered impacts of disasters, and the need for involving women in DRR decision-making.

“From most of the trainings and awareness work, we have more awareness of gender issues and violence happening during disaster, and how to deal with those”

– Male provincial officer

Due to the failure to implement mechanisms for gathering post-training feedback, the evaluation team has not been able to identify which training sessions were particularly effective, which could have been improved, or the overall quality of training during the project.

FINDING 7

Training was primarily limited to staff from partner organisations and neglected some important topics such as cultural barriers to women’s participation in DRR.

Although training was effective in improving participants’ knowledge and awareness of gender issues in DRR, the evaluation team also found that the results generated by training were somewhat limited. First, the Project did not effectively raise awareness of gender in DRR for general community members. The evaluation found that training sessions were typically attended by SIRCS Provincial Officers and volunteers, and that there is little evidence that information from the training was more broadly shared with local communities. Similarly, frameworks and policies developed at the national level were not

necessarily transposed to the provincial and community levels. There is a distinct need for further work on socialising Project priorities at the community level (see Finding 6).

Second, various issues related to gender equality were not covered in the training. Community-level interviewees reflected that training sessions did not address the role of systemic gender discrimination as a barrier to the participation of women in DRR decision-making. This gap reflects a broader need to build community consultation into the design of training and workshops. Further to this, training did not typically engage with the role of cultural norms in impacting women's active participation in DRR. Interviewees indicated that while training informed them about the importance of women's leadership in DRR, there was no acknowledgement that a key constraint in this area is the cultural belief that leadership is for men. The failure to address cultural barriers to women's participation in DRR in a consistent and comprehensive way is a key oversight.

“The training on gender was very useful for us. But I know that culture is the obstacle [to women's participation] ... the Project did not deal with parts of our culture and traditions as the barrier”

– Female community representative

FINDING 8

COVID-19 negatively impacted Project effectiveness by reducing human resource availability, constraining implementation, and reducing the available budget.

There were three main ways in which COVID-19 reduced the Project's effectiveness:

1. The human resources available for Project delivery were significantly reduced. There were several reasons for this: Solomon Islands-based international staff were repatriated; overseas-based international staff were not able to travel to Solomon Islands; local staff were diverted to focus on the COVID-19 response.⁶⁶ This resulted in reduced on-the-ground capacity to support the implementation of activities and technical expertise to exercise oversight of the quality of Project initiatives. Remote management was not an adequate substitute due to issues with internet connectivity. This was somewhat mitigated by the Project engaging local consultants to support implementation activities.
2. Domestic travel restrictions and lockdowns constrained the delivery of Project activities. Project staff were required to work from home and were unable to travel to provinces to deliver training and other activities. Participants were unable to travel to Honiara or provincial capitals for forums and workshops. This resulted in significant delays: for example, the national DRR forum on gender and social inclusion had to be postponed from 2020 until May 2021 due to the SIG's declaration of a State of Public Emergency.
3. As noted above, the Project budget was reduced, and its scope was adjusted. This led to a diluted focus on the risk reduction aspects of DRR in favour of responding to the disaster at hand, and the decision to not implement some activities.⁶⁷

While these impacts meant some activities were not rolled out (for example: not delivering SADD collection training for NPC member organisations on data collection and compilation)⁶⁸ the opportunities for the Project to make tangible contributions to the SIG's COVID-19 response were valuable and welcomed by the SIG (noted in Finding 2).

FINDING 9

Gender and social inclusion considerations were integrated into the CBDRM Manual and IDA tool, but the practical application of these by Solomon Islands stakeholders has so far been limited.

⁶⁶ UN Women, 2020. Third Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 3.

⁶⁷ UN Women, 2021. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Donor Report Number 3: Final Narrative Report (Project document). p. 17.

⁶⁸ UN Women, 2020. Workplan and Budget Revision (Project document).

The revision of the CBDRM Manual and the IDA tool were key Project achievements. The Manual was developed by the NDMO in 2014 as a tool for training local people in DRR, but it was not gender-responsive or socially inclusive. As a result of a two-day learning forum hosted by the Project in October 2019, the CBDRM Manual Review Task Force was established to improve the Manual, including integrating gender and social inclusion considerations.⁶⁹ With the support of the Project, the Taskforce ran virtual consultations with key stakeholders (including MWYCFA, World Vision, Oxfam, the APCP, SIRCS, and UNDRR)⁷⁰ and tested a new draft of the Manual in 10 communities across Malaita and Guadalcanal.⁷¹ Recommendations emerging from the review included incorporating the voices of vulnerable groups, using gender neutral language, and having a dedicated section addressing LGBTQI+ people and people with disabilities. The final version of the Manual featured simplified content for people in rural and remote communities. The SIG's IDA tool is intended to support the production a comprehensive report on impacts and response options 14 days after a disaster. With the support of the Project, the NDMO approved gender-responsive and socially inclusive updates to the IDA tool derived from the 2020 Gender in Humanitarian Action workshop for NDOC committees.

To date, there is limited evidence that the updated CBDRM Manual and IDA tool have been used. According to the Project's Final Report, the NPC applied the revised IDA tool in the aftermath of the 2021 riots in Honiara. This was not mentioned by any of the stakeholders consulted by the evaluation team. The Manual is still under final review by the NDMO and had not been rolled out nationally at the time of writing. However, according to both Project documentation and some interviewees, the process of revising the Manual to ensure that it is gender-responsive and socially inclusive has served to raise awareness of these issues among national- and community-level stakeholders, including SIRCS staff, PPCs, and members of the NPC.⁷² The next stage of socialising the CBDRM Manual in communities across the country will be crucial to ensuring that it supports the mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion in local-level DRR plans.

FINDING 10

Overall, despite the challenges there was effective coordination across the Project's stated goals, activities, Outcomes, and Outputs.

The evaluation team used the Outcomes Logic Map and the LARF process to assess whether the Project's goals and activities were aligned to its stated Outcomes. This involved a desk review that mapped the hierarchy of project planning and guidance documents against each other to verify the consistency of the Project's central themes and goals. The resulting Outcomes Logic Map (shown in Annex 0) used the wording of existing documents to verify what the Project expected to achieve, how it was expected to be achieved and what success was expected to look like. The Project's goals and activities were found to be adequately aligned to its desired outcomes.

Efficiency

The OECD-DAC defines efficiency as "the extent to which the intervention delivered, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way".⁷³ The Key Questions in this area were:

Key Question 8: To what extent does the management structure and governance of the intervention support efficiency for Project implementation?

Key Question 9: Has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?

The efficiency with which the Project was able to deliver results varied across activities based on the accounts of evaluation participants and Project documents analysis. Overall, Project implementation experienced significant challenges and delays in several activities due to poor partner coordination at the inception phase. The main barrier was the reluctance of key partners and stakeholders to join the Project during early phases of the Project, which required effort to resolve. Partner

69 UN Women, 2019. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands: Baseline and Target Setting Report (Project document).

70 UN Women, 2020. Third Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 13.

71 Ibid. p. 16.

72 UN Women, 2019. Second Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 8.

73 OECD, nd. Evaluation Criteria. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/dacriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>.

and stakeholder responses to COVID-19, flooding, and the Honiara riots took time and resources away from Project activities and caused further delays. Additionally, some partners experienced internal issues—such as staff turnover—that impacted timely implementation of their activities in some provinces. Of particular note, the coordination for the disbursement of funds across UN Women, IFRC, UNDRR, and SIRCS was found to be inefficient.

FINDING 11

The slow process of confirming the Project’s key partners caused delays in commencement and significant challenges.

The process of confirming all Project partners created significant delays at the beginning of the Project. UN Women signed the core contract with DFAT in June 2018, but UNDRR did not sign on until eight months later. It then took a further three months for IFRC to sign the contract. Hesitancy on the part of IFRC was a significant challenge, compounded by the organisation failing to communicate its position to UN Women and UNDRR. IFRC’s initial reluctance stemmed from the fact that IFRC and SIRCS had standalone activities of a similar nature already underway in the provinces, and apparently believed that Project activities were too ‘top-down’ and would result in unnecessary duplications of work. Moreover, early in the Project, provincial SIRCS staff found that they did not have any funding for Project activities. This led to a time-consuming process of seeking clarification from IFRC management in Suva. Despite this, during the negotiation period UN Women, UNDRR, and IFRC carried out joint missions to the provinces to build relationships and conduct implementation planning, while UN Women and UNDRR began to implement some activities. As noted in Finding 4, these initial concerns appear to have been overcome, and SIRCS staff noted that the Project had strengthened their community focused DRR programs.

The extended contract negotiations and the decision to progress some Project activities in “good faith” during this period caused significant challenges.⁷⁴ First, the delay in official commencement meant that some planned activities had to be put off, leading to significant adjustments to the implementation schedule and challenges with confirming training dates and venues. This created additional administrative burden for Project partners, who were required to enact frequent revisions to their annual workplans.⁷⁵ Second, some activities commenced before consultations with the SIG and other partners had been conducted. This is not a best practice approach. It delayed the development of relationships with key actors such as the NDMO, meant that Project staff had to spend considerable time on reworking activities, and is likely to have contributed to concerns regarding local ownership. More positively, this back-tracking process eventually helped to ensure that the Project was fit for purpose.

FINDING 12

COVID-19 and other emergencies exacerbated issues related to implementation.

The occurrence of COVID-19 and other emergencies exacerbated the challenges noted above and pushed Project staff to the limits of their capacity. Due to COVID-19, international staff had to leave the country, while overseas-based partner staff were unable to travel to Solomon Islands. This severely reduced the level of oversight and guidance that key staff from UN Women were able to provide. Meanwhile, SIRCS and the SIG were preoccupied with responding to a series of emergencies, including the 2019 floods, the 2021 floods, and the riots in Honiara, and various waves of COVID-19. Consequently, the Project pivoted to help in these areas: as noted in the UN Women’s Final Report to DFAT, although the Project “was not meant to focus on humanitarian response, in a country facing continuous threats and emergencies, [it] had to engage on that end”.⁷⁶ This stretched the capacity of key staff involved in Project implementation and caused delays in implementation, but constituted a necessary and proportionate response to changing circumstances.

FINDING 13

The Steering Committee provided effective support for Project staff based in Solomon Islands.

Despite the challenges noted above, the evaluation team found that the Steering Committee supported efficient Project implementation. The Steering Committee comprised representatives of UN Women, UNDRR, IFRC, the SIG, the NDMO, civil

⁷⁴ UN Women, 2021. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Donor Report Number 3: Final Narrative Report (Project document). p. 8.

⁷⁵ Ibid. p. 6.

⁷⁶ Ibid. p. 17.

society groups, and PPCs.⁷⁷ Its role was to:

- oversee Project delivery and monitor activities
- approve annual workplans and budgets, and recommend adjustments to Project partners if needed
- develop and support the implementation of reporting mechanisms
- ensure operational coordination.⁷⁸

Despite some Steering Committee members contracting COVID-19 during 2021, others were able to meet virtually to ensure progress was made on the ground.

The Steering Committee’s effective support for Project staff based in Solomon Islands was valuable. Examples included the prompt review of Project reports and work plans, encouraging emails from Steering Committee members providing guidance to Project staff, and rapid responses to key questions. Advice was also provided to Project staff during individual online calls or group sessions. The support and guidance from the Steering Committee was crucial given the ongoing management and implementation challenges, which would have been difficult for Project staff to resolve in isolation. The availability of high-level guidance and support throughout the Project supported efficient delivery.

FINDING 14

There was adequate use of financial and human resources in accordance with the Project plan, with some areas in which efficiency could have been improved.

The evaluation team found that although the use of human and financial resources was adequate, efficiency could have been improved through greater use of key stakeholders’ local staff and more streamlined disbursement of funds. A breakdown of the allocation of funds across Project elements is provided in Table 13. To deal with the COVID-19 related funding cut, Project budgets were reallocated away from areas managed by IFRC. It is therefore not surprising that these were the Outputs for which some Indicator targets were not met (see Finding 5). The evaluation team did not uncover any evidence of significant financial mismanagement or poor use of human resources.

Table 13: Allocation of Project funds

Category	Implementing partner	Initial budget allocation (\$A)	Revised budget allocation (\$A)	Change (%)	Share of revised budget (%)
Activities	Output 1.1	107,000	213,632	99.66	11.44
	Output 1.2	215,000	283,970	32.08	15.21
	Output 2.1	175,000	320,905	83.37	17.19
	Output 2.2	243,000	75,300	-69.01	4.03
	Output 3.1	480,000	114,336	-76.18	6.12
	Output 3.2	39,000	39,096	0.25	2.09
	Sub-total		1,259,000	1,047,238	-16.82
Project support	Staffing	-	546,536	-	29.27
	UN Women Project support	150,000	124,584	-16.94	6.67
	UNDRR Project support	120,000	20,461	-82.95	1.10
	IFRC Project support	260,200	29,716	-88.58	1.59

⁷⁷ UN Women, 2019. Second Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 6.

⁷⁸ UN Women, 2018. GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal (Project document). p. 26.

Category	Implementing partner	Initial budget allocation (\$A)	Revised budget allocation (\$A)	Change (%)	Share of revised budget (%)
	Monitoring and evaluation	89,460	98,447	10.05	5.27
	Project administration	150,293	-	-	0.00
	Subtotal	769,953	819,745	6.47	43.91
Total		2,028,953	1,866,983	-7.99	100

Note: The total figure is slightly different to the total in Table 7 due to currency fluctuations. Initial budget was provided in A\$, while the revised budget has been converted from US\$ at the exchange rate specified in the relevant UN Women workplan. Project support costs were allocated in different ways across the two budgets, hence change from 'Project administration' and 'Staffing'.

The Project had sufficient human resources for implementation but was hampered by significant staff turnover in partner organisations. For example, the project focal person in SIRCS resigned in October 2019, while IFRC technical staff who came on board in March 2020 as part of the International Protection and Gender Inclusion Surge left earlier than expected in September 2020. This turnover caused significant delays in Project implementation by IFRC/SIRCS due to the loss of experienced staff and the time-consuming task of on-boarding new people. Additionally, it appears that the Project did not draw effectively on key stakeholders' local staff: notably, Honiara-based DFAT staff were not fully engaged in or aware of the Project.

In the area of financial resources, the key issues were confusion over funding sources and the slow disbursement of funds. As the lead partner, UN Women had a clear understanding of the Project's funding structure, but this was not effectively communicated to IFRC and other partners. As a result, Project partners made assumptions about funding sources for their activities – particularly co-funded activities – but did not discuss these openly with other organisations, creating significant confusion. The slow disbursement of funds also created challenges. First, due to the contracting delays noted above, SIRCS provincial staff began implementing activities then found that funds for these activities were not available. Second, the UN Women Final Report noted that SIRCS only had a single account, which caused a bottleneck in the disbursement of funds. This meant that SIRCS provincial staff did not receive funds on-time for Project activities, resulting in delays that caused additional administrative time spent on revising workplans. Overall, the coordination for the disbursement of funds across UN Women, IFRC, UNDRR, and SIRCS was not efficient.

Finally, some interviewees took the view that the smaller provinces did not receive a fair share of Project funding and resources. This perception was likely created by three factors:

- COVID-19 made travel to the provinces difficult, leading to concentration of Project activities in Honiara
- The challenges with SIRCS funding noted above
- The relatively short Project timeframe, taking into account disruptions due to emergencies

The evaluation team could not find evidence to support this perception, which is likely to have been influenced by changes in funding arrangements due to COVID-19, and by broader, longstanding debates regarding the decentralisation of power and financial resources in Solomon Islands. Due to limited evidence, the evaluation team has not put this forward as a standalone finding. However, it is worth noting as something that could have been addressed through a more consultative Project design phase, and improved communication.

Gender equality and human rights

The Key Questions in this area were:

Key Question 8: To what extent has the Project strengthened the SIG's collection and usage of SADD data to support Solomon Islands' delivery of commitments under the Sendai Framework?

Key Question 9: To what extent has the Project empowered women, people with disability, and other vulnerable groups to

influence disaster risk management in Solomon Islands?

The Project sought to incorporate the principles of gender equality and human rights into its design and implementation. The Project was designed and implemented with a good focus on ensuring women's participation in DRR decision-making at the national and provincial levels. Implementation ensured that more women representatives from communities across the country participated in training and data collection activities. Women participants indicated their appreciation of the Project in terms of enhancing their knowledge of different types of disaster-related data and understanding of DRR and disaster responses. The evaluation team did not find significant evidence that the Project empowered people with disability and other vulnerable groups. Collection of sex- and age- disaggregated data was a significant achievement of the Project, contributing to the country's delivery of several Sendai Framework Monitor commitments.

FINDING 15

The Project played an important role in improving the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data in Solomon Islands, but there was little progress in collecting other types of diversity data.

The evaluation team found that the Project greatly improved the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data for the Sendai Framework Monitor system in Solomon Islands. A key achievement included providing sex- and age-disaggregated data on Target A (mortality as a result of disasters) and Target B (the number of people affected by disasters) for the first time.

Improvements in data collection were achieved through extensive Project-assisted training, which helped Solomon Islands stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the kinds of data that need to be collected to facilitate gender-responsive DRR. Provincial participants noted that the inputs of UN Women and SIRCS into training helped them to learn that disasters affect people differently, and that to better understand the impact of disasters on women and other vulnerable groups it is necessary to collect accurate disaggregated data. Through the process of collecting SADD, the Project also supported the documentation of community-based understandings of the needs of different people before, during, and after disasters. This was an important contribution, as this knowledge had not previously been codified.

However, there is no evidence that the Project succeeded in improving the collection of disability-disaggregated data, despite this being specified as an aim under Project Indicator 1.1.2.

FINDING 16

Stakeholders had different levels of understanding of relevance of data to the Sendai Framework.

The evaluation team found that the understanding of the Sendai Framework and its relations to the Project was not the same across all participants and stakeholders. A March 2019 training provided by UNDRR and supported by UN Women to socialise the Sendai Framework was delivered to 34 staff (9 women and 25 men) from the NDMO, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Health, MWYCFA and UNDP.⁷⁹ There is no evidence of a similar training for provincial and community members. Responses from provincial officers and community participants indicated that either they did not know or had little understanding of the Framework compared to partner and implementing organisations stakeholders who had a good understanding of the Framework.

Time constraints on Project implementation contributed to an uneven understanding of the Sendai Framework among stakeholders. Interviewees indicated that training focused on DRR responses, preparation, and the gender dimension, and less on drawing the connection to the Sendai Framework. This led to a narrow view among some participants that the data that they were to collect was required for SIG purposes only. However, the progress made so far constitutes important steps towards integrating gender into DRR data collection.

FINDING 17

The Project successfully empowered a large number of women to influence DRR decision-making in Solomon Islands, but there is no evidence of similar results for people with disability and other vulnerable groups.

⁷⁹ UN Women, 2019. First Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 7.

The evaluation team found that a key success of the Project was the increased involvement of women in DRR decision-making. At the community level, the establishment of women-led PPCs in three provinces (Central, Malaita, and Rennell and Bellona) and subsequent capacity-building for these PPCs has led to greater participation by women in Provincial Disaster Operations Committees (P-DOCs) in those provinces.⁸⁰ The Project also enabled more women – including from the SIG and gender equality organizations – to become involved in advocating for women’s leadership in disaster preparedness and response at the national level through activities such as the National Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Forum, training for MWYCFA staff, and the GiHA and IDA workshop.⁸¹ For example, participants in the UN Women GiHA training became ‘gender focal points’ for their sector committees in the National Emergency Operations Centre, and formed a network to exchange gender and protection information across sectors.⁸²

“The different sector agencies are now seeing women taking up leadership positions where previously they were only held by men. It was good to see more women taking part in the workshops and training for the Project. Women are rising up the ranks within the government which is good”

– Senior SIG official

The emergencies that took place during Project implementation— including COVID-19; flooding in 2019 and 2021; and the 2021 Honiara riots—provided opportunities to reinforce the value of integrating gender considerations into DRR. Women’s organizations were proactive responders: at the provincial level, most of the front-line response staff were women PPC members, who led the mobilization and coordination of resources and stakeholders. The Project made a significant contribution to these results through its support to the NPC and PPCs.

The evaluation team did not find any evidence that the Project supported significant improvements in the ability of people with disability and other vulnerable groups to influence DRR decision-making. Records of attendance show that only six people with disability took part in training and workshops supported by the Project; however, the true number may be higher as some participants may have chosen not to disclose their disability. There is no information available regarding the involvement of other vulnerable groups in Project activities, although the evaluation team acknowledges that this may be due to poor record keeping.

Sustainability

The OECD-DAC defines sustainability as “The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue”.⁸³ The Key Questions in this area were:

Key Question 10: To what extent has the Project increased partners' capacity to assess and analyse the gender dimensions of risk?

Key Question 11: How likely is it that the impacts identified will be sustained after the Project ends?

The evaluation team found that the sustainability of Project results will depend on the future leadership and advocacy of relevant stakeholders at the national and provincial levels. The Project initiated important work related to enhanced data collection on vulnerable groups and DRR, and it is now up to local stakeholders – especially provincial leaders – to proactively take this forward. The support of the SIG in the form of funding and continued advocacy will be crucial for the sustainability of Project results. However, it is possible that limited success in building local ownership during the Project design phase may impact the sustainability of its results.

FINDING 5

There is limited evidence of increased capacity to assess and analyse the gender dimensions of risk, but there is strong potential to build on Project activities in this area.

⁸⁰ UN Women, 2020. Third Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 16.

⁸¹ Ibid. p. 17.

⁸² Ibid. p. 10.

⁸³ OECD. nd. Evaluation Criteria. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

As noted above, the Project helped enhance awareness regarding integrating gender considerations into DRR, and supported improved SADD collection. While these are important steps towards improved capacity, there was limited evidence that these improvements will be sustained: the short life of the Project and disruptions at different stages meant that it was not possible to track stakeholders' capacity to assess and analyse the gender dimensions of risk on an ongoing basis.

However, the evaluation team found that the Project laid important groundwork for future capacity development. Most notably:

- The protection and gender-sensitisation sessions conducted by SIRCS helped staff and volunteers at the provincial level to develop a better understanding of gender and inclusion programming across all areas of their DRR activities.⁸⁴
- As noted above, UN Women's GiHA training for relevant government and NDOC sector committees led to the creation of a network for exchanging gender and protection information across sectors.⁸⁵
- The CBDRM Manual features guidance on gender- and disability-responsive DRR, which will have a significant impact if rolled out effectively.

These activities have provided the foundations for future efforts to ensure that DRR in the Solomon Islands is informed by GESI considerations.

FINDING 6

The Project did not adequately build local ownership of its initiatives.

The evaluation team found that there was very little sense of local ownership over the Project among interviewees. This finding is in contrast to a finding in the Project's final report, which stated that COVID-19 border closures "encouraged localization and fostered local capacity as the program quickly pivoted to national experts for workshops and other activities".⁸⁶

"A major problem was related to the question of who owns the Project, and who was in charge of its implementation and engagement with communities.... People saw it as UN Women project – no ownership"

– Senior SIG official

"I don't feel there is community ownership of this project, and there are no achievements to measure"

– Provincial protection committee member

In the view of the evaluation team, these findings are not contradictory. It is likely that despite the enforced localization of some aspects of the project due to COVID-19 (such as engaging local consultants), the sense of a lack of ownership persisted for some stakeholders due to what they saw as the top-down nature of the Project's design. This could also be linked to the unmet village-level needs that some provincial representatives – particularly from smaller provinces – identified with regard to Project implementation (as noted in Finding 1). For example, stakeholders from Renell and Bellona felt that participating in two workshops in Honiara was insufficient to address their communities' concerns, and the lack of follow up implementation work made them question whether these concerns were being taken seriously.

In summary, the Project's effective pivot towards localization during the implementation phase (in response to COVID-19) did not overcome lingering concerns over lack of ownership among national stakeholders generated during the Project design phase.

⁸⁴ UN Women, 2019. Second Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p13.

⁸⁵ UN Women, 2020. Third Annual Narrative Report to the Australian Government (Project Document). p. 11.

⁸⁶ UN Women, 2021. Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Donor Report Number 3: Final Narrative Report (Project document). p. 17.

3. CONCLUSIONS

This section presents five conclusions derived from the evidence presented above. The conclusions are intended to provide cross-cutting takeaways relevant to similar programs and any subsequent follow-up activities in Solomon Islands.

Conclusion 1

The Project made a significant contribution to the increased involvement of women in DRR and improved sex- and age-disaggregated data collection, but more efficient implementation would have amplified effectiveness.

- Derived from findings 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 17

The Project began the process of addressing the significant need in Solomon Islands for greater integration of GESI into DRR policies and programs, and for capacity building that supports women to become more involved in DRR decision making. In this context, training delivered through the Project was effective in improving participants' knowledge and awareness of gender issues in DRR, and revisions to the CBDRM Manual and IDA tool ensured that both now include GESI considerations. The Project's work on sex- and age-disaggregated data collection served to both build local capacity and support Solomon Islands to deliver on the country's Sendai Framework commitments.

However, the effectiveness of the Project was constrained by delays to implementation and coordination challenges. The partnership approach was laudable but proved difficult to execute as noted above, the SIG and IFRC's lack of initial engagement negatively impacted project effectiveness and efficiency. There needed to be more open consultation with the SIG during the design phase to build trust, alongside more communication between UN Women, IFRC, and SIRCS regarding funding and resource allocation, roles, and responsibilities.

Conclusion 2

The training delivered through the Project was effective, but it could have been made accessible to a wider range of stakeholders and more focused on the underlying barriers to women's involvement in DRR.

- Derived from findings 6, 7, and 17

The evaluation team found that training delivered through the Project was effective in increasing the capacity of women to contribute to DRR decision-making. However, this could have been amplified in two ways. First, training could have been made more widely accessible. Training delivered through the Project was typically attended by Provincial Officers and volunteers, and there is little evidence that information from the training was more broadly shared with local communities. Making training more widely available could have significantly increased the effectiveness of the Project at the grass roots level.

Second, the content of training sessions did not adequately address the role that systemic gender discrimination and cultural norms play in constraining the participation of women in DRR decision-making. As noted in Section 0, gender equality in Solomon Islands is poor, with men holding the majority of leadership positions. However, training sessions did not address these barriers in a contextually grounded way. Linked to this, there was limited participation by men (particularly young men) in training sessions, despite the importance of engaging with both men and women to address gender barriers embedded in cultural norms.

Conclusion 3

The Project's strong focus on women sometimes overshadowed intersectional characteristics associated with vulnerability in the context of disasters.

- Derived from findings 7, 15, and 17

The key area in which this issue manifested was regarding women with disability. This was evident across different aspects of the Project. Records of attendance show that only six people with disability took part in training and workshops supported

by the Project (although the lack of a mechanism for collecting systematic data on training participants means that the true number may be higher). Consequently, there was no evidence that the Project supported significant improvements in the ability of women with disability to influence DRR decision-making. Furthermore, the Project greatly improved the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, but there was no evidence that it succeeded in improving the collection of disability-disaggregated data. Similarly, there is no information available regarding the involvement of other vulnerable groups – such as girls and LGBTQI+ women – in Project activities.

There was a clear need to balance the focus on women as a homogenous group with the understanding that women in Solomon Islands may have a range of intersectional characteristics that increase their vulnerability in the context of disasters. This could have been more clearly set out in early planning documentation to embed intersectionality in the Project from the beginning.

Conclusion 4

The Project did not adequately build local ownership during the design phase, which may impact the sustainability of its results.

- Derived from findings 11, 14, and 19

Local ownership of development interventions is vital for generating sustainable change. The evaluation team found that there was very little sense of local ownership over the Project, primarily due to what some stakeholders saw as the top-down nature of the Project's design. Linked to this, poor communication by the central team with provincial-level stakeholders sometimes created confusion regarding the overall focus and goals of the Project, the roles of specific actors in Project implementation, and the logic behind funding adjustments in response to COVID-19. This manifested in the perception that smaller provinces did not receive a fair share of Project funding and resources, noted under Finding 14. The issue could have been mitigated through improved communication and transparency, aligned to the Project's Strategic Approaches.

Concerns regarding local ownership may impact the sustainability of Project results. For example, Project outputs such as the CBDRM Manual require local buy-in if they are to effectively shape approaches to DRR in the Solomon Islands. The long-term impacts of the Project are heavily dependent on the future leadership and advocacy of national and provincial stakeholders, and commitment to gender sensitive DRR at the community level. At this stage, it is not clear whether the Project did enough to embed this local ownership.

Conclusion 5

Strong leadership from UN Women and the Steering Committee helped the Project to adapt to changing circumstances – such as the emergence of COVID-19 – and deliver meaningful change.

- Derived from findings 2, 3, 5, 10, and 13

The Project's implementation period encompassed the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, riots in Honiara, flooding, and a tropical cyclone. Throughout these setbacks, UN Women provided effective leadership – which was particularly important in the context of COVID-19 and the challenging working relationship with the IFRC. UN Women led consultations with SIG through NDMO, acted as chair of the Steering Committee and led the agenda for Steering Committee meetings. During lockdowns, UN Women provided significant support for MWYCFA in terms of training related to COVID-19 response. This demonstrated the importance of having an organisation acting as the focal point for coordination, able to adapt implementation to changing circumstances and exercise on the ground leadership.

Similarly, having a strong Steering Committee that provided continued guidance throughout Project implementation was vital. As noted under Finding 13, support from the Steering Committee was noted by Project staff as valuable during implementation. The Committee's responsiveness to staff questions and the guidance it provided helped the morale of staff – particularly during challenging times. This helped facilitate effective delivery of Project activities despite the changing circumstances.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are based on the evaluation team’s conclusions described above. They are intended to support improvements to future UN Women programs in Solomon Islands and elsewhere in the Pacific. The recommendations were validated with UN Women during the process of drafting this report and with the ERG through two findings presentations made as part of evaluation reporting.

Recommendation 1

UN Women and UNDRR should continue with efforts to build on the achievements of the Project, particularly at the community level.

Aligned with	Conclusion 1 and Conclusion 4
Recommended timeline	February 2023 – December 2025
Urgency	High
Difficulty	High
Impact	High
Directed to	UN Women, UNDRR

Rationale: It is vital that the momentum generated by the Project is carried forward to create increased local understanding of women’s role in DRR, ensure that communities support mainstreaming GESI in local-level DRR plans, and help build stronger women’s leadership at the community level. Key activities could include supporting the rollout of the CBDRM Manual at community level, providing ongoing capacity building support for PPCs, and extending training on women’s leadership in DRR to the village level (see Recommendation 2).

Recommendation 2

UN Women should build on the achievements highlighted above by making training related to women’s participation in DRR more widely accessible and contextually grounded.

Aligned with	Conclusion 2
Recommended timeline	February 2023 – December 2025
Urgency	High
Difficulty	Medium
Impact	High
Directed to	UN Women, SIRCS

Rationale: The training provided through the Project was an effective tool for driving change. However, its impact was limited by the narrow focus on training SIRCS staff and volunteers, and the failure to comprehensively address cultural barriers to women’s participation in DRR. There is an opportunity for UN Women and SIRCS to revise training tools to ensure that they address cultural barriers, then deliver training to a wider audience. In the first instance, revising training tools will

require extensive consultation with local stakeholders, including adult women and men, young women and men, and people with disability. Then, the revised training could be rolled out to both men and women involved in DRR at the village level. This could be done through VDCs, which undertake DRR planning within their communities, and could prove to be an effective way of changing grass roots attitudes towards women’s involvement in DRR.

It is also important that any future training activities include mechanisms for gathering post-training feedback to help identify which training sessions were particularly effective, which could have been improved, and the overall quality of training provided.

Recommendation 3

UN Women and UNDRR should continue to work with the SIG and the NDMO to support the development of a central database for DRR data.

Aligned with	Conclusion 1
Recommended timeline	February 2023 – December 2024
Urgency	Medium
Difficulty	Low
Impact	Medium
Directed to	UN Women, UNDRR

Rationale: The Project greatly improved the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data for the Sendai Framework Monitor system in Solomon Islands. However, this was not linked to a concerted effort to encourage widespread use of this data to inform DRR policies and programming. UN Women and the UNDRR could build on their existing relationships with key SIG and NDMO stakeholders to develop a centralised database for DRR data. This would improve access to consolidated information for key actors in the sector, including MWYCFA, PPCs, and NGOs, and allow them to use the data to target their interventions.

Recommendation 4

Future projects should feature more consultation with local stakeholders during the design phase and avoid beginning activities until this consultation is complete.

Aligned with	Conclusion 4
Recommended timeline	February 2023 – December 2025
Urgency	Medium
Difficulty	High
Impact	High
Directed to	UN Women

Rationale: Ensuring local ownership is vital to ensuring that future UN Women projects in the DRR space in Solomon Islands are driven and owned locally, and responsive to local needs. In turn, this is likely to support the long-term sustainability of intervention results. Linked to this, project activities should not begin until all consultation with local stakeholders has been completed, to avoid the perception that the project is being driven by external priorities. The most important way of ensuring local ownership is to involve Solomon Islands partners in the design phase of any future projects in the DRR space.

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ANNEXES

A. Evaluation matrix

Criteria	Key Questions	Indicators	Data sources
Relevance	1. To what extent were Project interventions relevant to national partners' and beneficiaries' needs and priorities in the area of gender-responsive disaster risk management?	The degree to which national and sub-national stakeholders felt that the Project met their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation
	2. To what extent has the Project responded to the changing needs of national partners' and beneficiaries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	The ways in which Project scope changed in response to the emergence of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation • FGD
Coherence	3. To what extent is the Project coherent internally with UN Women policies and externally with the interventions of other actors?	The alignment of the Project with UN Women policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation
		The alignment of the Project with the interventions of other actors in the DRR space in Solomon Islands	
Effectiveness	4. In which areas does the Project have the greatest achievements, and what were the factors that contributed to these successes? How can UN Women build on or expand these achievements?	Qualitative assessment of Project success and contributing factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation • FGD
	5. In which areas does the Project have the least achievements, and what were the constraining factors?	Qualitative assessment of Project challenges and contributing factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation • FGD
Efficiency	6. To what extent did the Project's management structure and governance support efficient implementation?	Efficiency of Project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation
	7. Has there been an economical use of financial and human resources, and were resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?	Allocation of financial and human resources to different Project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation

Criteria	Key Questions	Indicators	Data sources
Gender and human rights	8. To what extent has the Project strengthened the SIG's collection and usage of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) to support Solomon Islands' delivery of commitments under the Sendai Framework?	SIG achievement of Sendai targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation
	9. To what extent has the Project empowered women, people with disability, and other vulnerable groups to influence disaster risk management in Solomon Islands?	Increased involvement of women, people with disability, and other vulnerable groups in DRR decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation
Sustainability	10. To what extent has the Project increased partners' capacity to assess and analyse the gender dimensions of risk?	Effectiveness of partners' capacity to assess and analyse the gender dimensions of risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation
	11. How likely is it that the results identified will be sustained after the Project ends?	Commitment to change among key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIIs • Project documentation

B. List of reviewed documents

This is a complete list of Project documents reviewed by the evaluation team.

File name and type
2020 revised GIR Workplan.xlsx
Annex 1 Problem analysis_May 2018.docx
Annex 2 Program Logical Framework_May 2018.docx
Annex 3 Program Management Implementation Arrangements_May 2018.docx
Annex 4 Budget_May 2018.docx
Annex 5 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework_May 2018.docx
Annex 6 Risk Register including safeguard risk assessment_May 2018.docx
Annex 7 Implementation Schedule_May 2018.docx
Annex 8 Position description for DRR Officer (IFRC- Solomon Islands Red Cross)_May 2018.doc
Annex 8 Position description for DRR Officer (IFRC)_May 2018.docx
Annex 8 ToR for UN Women Programme Specialist_May 2018.docx
Annex 8 ToR for UNISDR_May 2018.DOCX
Annex A_Results framework_GIR 2020_final draft.docx
Annex B_UNDRR Country Assessment Report Solomon Islands_Draft01102020.pdf
Annex C_CBDRM Field Consultation Report. Final.pdf
Annex D_GIR revised workplan with budget_2021_April_final draft.xlsx
Copy of GIR revised workplan with budget_2020_May_final.xlsx
Draft_Terms of Reference Protection Committee _Latest Version.docx
GIR_UN Women beneficiaries data.xlsx
GIR Baseline Report 20 Oct 2019.pdf
GIR Baseline Report_annexC.docx
GIR Cross Learning Forum in CBDRM_Concept Note_230919[1].docx
GIR Cross Learning Forum Summary Report_annexD.docx
GIR MELF_AnnexB.docx
GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal_6 June 2018 final.docx
GIR Project_Cross Learning Forum Report (DRAFT)_211019[1].docx
Interim Financial Report 31 Dec 2019 PID 111099 Donor 11854.pdf
Jerry Siota_An analysis of responses from Women and Girls.pdf
M1908003 for Solomon Is_.pdf
Results framework_GIR 2019_annexA.docx

File name and type

The Sendai Framework_some notes.docx

UN_Women_Letter to DFAT_GIR Payment 3_2020-06-01.pdf

2019_4_30_GIR Donor Narrative Report.docx

2019_4_30_GIR Narrative Report_Annex A_GIR Workplan.xlsx

2019_4_30_GIR Narrative Report_Annex B_Minutes_SC Meeting and Member list.docx

2020_GIR Donor Narrative Report final for submission.pdf

111099 GIR SI 2nd narrative report Jan-Dec 2019 to Australia FINAL for submmision.docx

GIR final report to DFAT_final for submission.docx

GIR Cross Learning Forum_Summary Report_annexD.docx

GIR Cross Learning Forum in CBDRM_Concept Note_230919[1].docx

C. Interview protocols

International Agency Representative Interview Questions

Cross-section engagement on the project

1. How did the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience (GIR) Project attempt to identify the DRR needs, and priorities as defined by national partners and beneficiaries?
2. Was the GIR Project able to engage with the right national disaster management offices, gender equality departments/ministries and other relevant government institutions?
3. What made these successes possible? Are they likely to be sustainable?
4. How did the project contribute to better DRR assessments or increased access to and use of Sendai Framework data? (training, data collection, data management tools)
5. How did the project improve the cooperation of national stakeholders to share and act on evidence?
6. How have the project's actions reduced the impact of crises that have happened during the project and since?

Relation to SIG

7. What causes of SIG policy inaction on GIR in DRR did the project address?
8. Did the GIR Project fail to achieve any of what it aimed to do? Can you give any examples of what made it difficult?
9. Did the management structure and governance of the GIR Project support its implementation? What aspects of project management worked and what didn't?
10. Did the GIR Project parties work effectively together? Did any of the Party's role and scope change during the project?
11. Do you observe that the SIG collection and usage of sex-, age- and diversity-disaggregated data for disaster management has improved at all?

Gender-related questions

12. Are there any examples of better awareness of the interests of older women or girls, persons with a disability or inter-sex people?
13. Were men and boys engaged by the GIR Project in raising awareness of gender considerations in disaster management?

Other project outcomes

14. Was the experience of the GIR Project in Solomon Islands generalizable to different nations or contexts? Have insights from this project been shared in regional or international forums?
15. What achievements of the Project did you observe? What obstacles to women's participation in DRR did the project address?
16. What can be done to build on the GIR Project's achievements or to make them more sustainable?
17. Was the GIR Project a good use of resources? Could the resources have been better used in any way?

Questions for SIG and NGO representatives

Ministry or Organisation of Participant: _____

Awareness of the Project

1. Are you aware of the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience (GIR) Project?
2. Was it clear who was involved in the project and why?

3. What was your role (if any) in the project?

Cross-sector engagement

4. Did the GIR Project engage with the right national disaster management offices, gender equality departments/ministries and other relevant government institutions?
5. Did the GIR project improve the cooperation of national stakeholders to share and act on evidence?
6. Did the GIR Project engage at the community level as well as with Government and NGOs?

Awareness for Government policies

5. Do you think the Project contributed to the improvement of Government Policies and Actions?
6. What contributions did the project make to the improvement of Government Policies and Actions?
7. Can you describe what ways the GIR Project has contributed to strengthening the Government's collection and usage sex-, age- and diversity-disaggregated data to support Solomon Islands' accountability towards delivery of commitments under the Sendai Framework?
8. How well was the GIR Project lined up with the views of your Government / Ministry / Agency on the needs and priorities for disaster management?

Gender related project outcomes

9. Are there any examples of better awareness of the interests of older women or girls, persons with a disability or inter-sex people?
10. What obstacles to women's participation did the project address? What gender issues still remain to be addressed?
11. Were men and boys engaged by the GIR Project in raising awareness of gender considerations in disaster management?
12. Has there been any improvement in the consideration of gender in responses to disaster in the Solomon Islands in recent years?

Other project outcomes

13. What are the key achievements of the Project did you observe? What made these successes possible?
14. Did the GIR Project fail to achieve any of what it aimed to do? Can you give any examples of what made it difficult?
15. Was the GIR Project a good use of resources? Could the resources have been better used in any way?
16. Are improvements achieved likely to be sustainable and lasting?

Questions for Community representatives

1. Are you aware of the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience (GIR) Project?
2. Was your community consulted by project representatives on the issues and needs of women and vulnerable groups in planning for disasters and recovering from disasters?
3. What did the GIR Project achieve in your community?
4. Have these things lasted since the project finished?
5. What are some of the benefits / good things that the project brought to your community?
6. Are the benefits / good things continuing after the project ended?

7. Were there any problems for the GIR Project being useful?
8. Was the project useful? If not, what was not useful about the project?
9. What were some of the challenges / problems of the project?
10. Does your community have a good understanding of how gender and different types of discrimination impact whether people are able to survive disasters?
11. Is it clear in your community how many women, children or people with disabilities would need extra support to recover from a disaster?
12. If there is a disaster, does your community know how many women, children or people with disabilities would need extra support to recover from the disaster?
13. Did the GIR project help with training on how to assess and collect information on different people's needs in disasters?
14. Has there been any follow up on training or assistance provided by the project?
15. Have you noticed any changes to government policy or action that improves women's participation in disaster management?
16. What has made it difficult for women to be a part of planning for disasters? Did the GIR Project do anything to help with these?
17. Can you think of any examples of women's views being heard on preparing for disasters or responding to disasters?
18. Are there cross gender / trans / intersectional [man to man and woman to woman?] members of your community? Have they ever been involved in disaster management planning or response?
19. What are the ways that older and younger women in your community can speak about what they need in disaster management?
20. Do members of your community agree on the best ways to prepare for and respond to disasters? Are there different groups that disagree or have different needs? How are disagreements managed?
21. Did the GIR Project involve boys and men in activities to understand the importance of women's participation in disaster management?
22. Were you aware of who was running the GIR Project?

D. Participant information sheet

13 April 2022

Greetings.

As an important stakeholder in the above project, you are invited to take part in the group consultations or individual interviews that will be conducted in the Solomon Islands from April to May 2022. The consultations are part of on-going effort from the Solomon Islands Government and UN Women, to address the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Project (GIR Project), a joint initiative of UN Women, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The GIR Project sought to address the marginalisation of women's leadership potential, help better recognising frequently ignored and undervalued contributions in enhancing resilience and disaster risk reduction, and to address the barriers that women face in accessing disaster recovery assistance.

What does participation in the research entail?

The study involves interviews and small group discussions with representatives of stakeholders in Solomon Islands. In particular, project participants and beneficiaries located in the five provinces will be involved. Interviews and group discussions with community members in the different project sites will be conducted by Ms Anika Kingmele, and the remote interviews with Honiara stakeholders will be done by two researchers based in Australia. This work will be conducted under the guidance of an Australian-based research firm, Sustineo (www.sustineo.com.au). You are invited to be part of an individual interview which will take no more than one hour, or a group discussion which will not be more than 2 hours.

Background

In December 2020, the UN Women engaged Sustineo to design and implement the above Evaluation. It involves the conduct of small group discussions and key interviews with relevant stakeholders including project beneficiaries, community leaders, government officials, and social society representatives.

The interview and focus group questions relate to your understanding of:

- project benefits to yourself and your community
- issues related to project implementation
- reasons for the issues related to project implementation
- project challenges for people with disabilities
- what needs to be done to improve the beneficiaries experience of the project

Based on the consultations, Sustineo will develop a report which will be submitted to the UN Women Office.

Research Approval

The data collection for this Evaluation is part of the Project, hence a research approval is not necessary.

Benefits of participation

An interview with your good self as a beneficiary of the project/community leader or government/civil society official will provide relevant insights into the broader experiences of the project. Your view and experience would be invaluable in partners' evaluation of the project and lessons learned for similar future work in Solomon Islands. The interview and group discussions are a treasured opportunity include your view and invaluable advice for future project design improvement.

The final report created from this research will be used to understand the achievements of the project and its effects on women's empowerment and gender equality. We hope that our research will contribute to lessons about how UN Women's future work can support gender equality in disaster risk reduction.

Confidentiality

While keeping participants' identities anonymous is a common research practice that Sustineo strongly adheres to, we believe that there are unique benefits when perspectives of key national figures such as yourself are publicly shared. We would like therefore to ask your permission for disclosure of your interview responses as part of our final report. This will mean what you shared with us can be used as a 'quote' in the report. We sincerely hope that this meets your approval. If it is your preference, we would be happy to confirm any quotes attributed to you, prior to any report being made publicly available. However, should you wish to remain anonymous that will be respected. Your answers and opinions will be treated in a strictly confidential manner and please know that whatever information you provide will never be used against you in anyway. If what you share with us is used as a 'quote' in the report, we will use a pseudonym (another name) so no one will know it was attributable to you. Any information that you provide to us will be de-identified and stored in a secure password-protected computer. Depending on your consent, the discussion may be recorded.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal

While we would greatly appreciate your kind participation in this study, it is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw or decline to take part at any time. If you are uncomfortable with a question, you do not have to answer. You do not need to provide an explanation for your withdrawal.

About Sustineo's Team

Sustineo is an Australian based research and evaluation consulting firm. The name Sustineo means 'to sustain' or 'uphold' and this sentiment is embedded as a core part of our company's ethos. Established in 2010, Sustineo prides itself on combining research excellence with an acknowledgment of culture and context. Due to COVID-19 restrictions Sustineo's team leader, Alison May and Asenati Chan Tung are unable to travel to Solomon Islands. They will however continue to involve remotely working closely with Ms Anika Kingmele, our Honiara-based researcher.

Thank you very much in advance for your participation in this study. If you require further information or have any concerns or questions about the study, please contact us using the following information:

Alison May, Principal Consultant at Sustineo – Email: alison.may@sustineo.com.au

E. Participant consent form

I / Participant understand the information about the *Final Evaluation of the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Project (GIR Project)*, which was explained by the researcher, that my questions and concerns about the project have been addressed to a satisfactory level, and that I / Participant understand withdrawal from the Study is possible at any time.

Researcher to tick relevant box:

Noting the above, I / Participant agree to participate in the project. YES NO

I / Participant understand that any information provided will be kept confidential and de-identified on an individual basis in reporting. YES NO

Consent for participation is given through:

Oral Consent

Written Consent

Participant Name and signature:

Date:.....

Researcher's signature:

Date:

F. List of consulted stakeholders

Position	Method
Solomon Islands	
UNDRR focal point	Remote interview
Disaster Management officer	Remote interview
UN Women project coordinator	Remote interview
MWYCFCA and Chair, National Protection Committee	Remote interview
Resilience coordinator	Direct interview
Acting Director SI-NDMO	Direct interview
Resilience coordinator, Min Agriculture & Livestock	Direct interview
Dep Secretary. Min of Ag & Livestock	Direct interview
Provincial officer, Auki	Remote interview
Chair, Malaita Provincial Committee	Remote interview
Chair, Provincial Council of Women	Remote interview
Red Cross focal point	Direct interview
Namaruka Community	FGD
Darigwata Community	FGD
Kibokosi Community	FGD
Lilibaola Community	FGD
Damascas Community	FGD
Kalafonia Community	FGD
Senior officer, Malaita Province Disaster Office	Remote interview
Red Cross Focal Point, Red Cross office, Auki	Remote interview
Volunteer Duidui Community, West Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province	Remote interview
Provincial Disaster Officer, NDMO	Remote interview
Chair, Provincial council of women, Tingoa	Remote interview
Chair of Provincial Protection Committee	Remote interview
Women Provincial Government representative	Remote interview
Red Cross Focal Point	Remote interview
Australia	
Australia Pacific Climate Partnership	Remote interview
DFAT	Remote interview
Australia Pacific Climate Partnership	Remote interview

Position	Method
Former Gender & Resilience Specialist UN Women Solomon Islands	Remote interview
Fiji	
UN Women Programme Specialist, Gender & Protection	Remote interview
Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, DRR	Remote interview

G. Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators

Aligned to its broader goal, the Project had three Outcomes, six associated Outputs, and 11 indicators. These are listed in Table 14.

Table 14: Project outcomes and associated outputs

Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators
<p>Outcome 1: Government and key stakeholders in Solomon Island generate and use evidence/data on gender dimensions of disaster risks, particularly women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, to inform their policy and program interventions.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1: Number of government agencies and key stakeholders that have undertaken one or more gender-responsive disaster risk assessments.</p>
<p>Output 1.1: Government and key stakeholders have enhanced capacity to assess and analyse gender dimensions of disaster risks.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of national and subnational tools for gender-responsive disaster risk assessments developed and/or adapted for gender-responsiveness.</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2: Number of government agencies, national planning, statistical offices, and gender equality institutions at local and national levels with enhanced capacities to collect sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and conduct gender analysis for risk assessments and analysis.</p>
<p>Output 1.2: Diverse women, women’s groups, LGBTQI+ groups and persons with disability organisations and stakeholders are able to inform disaster risk assessments at all levels assessments and usage at all levels.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of women’s groups, persons with disability organizations and groups for diverse women and men at the local and national levels, empowered to influence on the disaster risk assessments.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: National and community disaster risk governance is gender-responsive.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of disaster risk reduction policy frameworks that address gender-specific disaster risks.</p>
<p>Output 2.1: NDMO, national development planning and gender equality institutions and stakeholders have improved capacity to ensure evidence-based gender-responsive DRR laws, regulations, policies, plans and programs.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of government ministries and gender equality institutions and women’s groups at the local and national level with demonstrated enhanced capacities on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction.</p>
<p>Output 2.2: National stakeholders are able to monitor and track gender equality commitments of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the SDGs (including Ministry for Women, Ministry for Youth, Children & Family Affairs).</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.1: Number of gender equality institutions and women’s groups engaged in the Sendai Framework reporting and monitoring processes.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Women meaningfully participate in and lead in DRR and resilience building.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1: Number of women self-reporting meaningful participation in local disaster committees</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Government and key local stakeholders are able</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Number of communities with end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems that</p>

Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators
<p>to develop a more gender-responsive early warning system.</p> <p>Output 3.2: Women have capacity to lead and engage in DRR and resilience building.</p>	<p>address gender-specific risks.</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2: Number of women participating in the assessments of vulnerability and hazards as part of the community development planning process.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.1: Number of women in program areas who feel confident to engage in disaster risk reduction with capacity.</p>

H. Steering Committee members

Name	Role and organisation
Alvina Erekali	Country Programme Coordinator, UN Women Solomon Islands
Andrew McElroy	Sub-Regional Coordinator Pacific, UNDRR
Cameron Vudi	Community Disaster Risk Manager, SIRCS
Everlyn Fiualakwa	National Protection Committee Coordinator, MWYCFA
Faith Pwea	PPC Chair, Makira province
Hotoravu Alenge	Principal Disaster Officer, NDMO
Hudson Khinoa	Acting Director of Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
Loti Yates	Director, NDMO
Rina Evo	PPC Chair, Isabel province
Rochelle Braaf	Head, Humanitarian Unit, UN Women Fiji MCO
Stephanie Zoll	Disaster Risk Management Coordinator – Pacific, IFRC
Vaela Devesi	Acting Director of Women's Division, MWYCFA
Vini Talai	Humanitarian Coordination Specialist, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Aaron Pitaquae	Chair, NPC
Dolores Devesi	Co-Chair, NPC
Nashley Vozoto	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
Jemma Malcolm	Australian High Commission SI
Greg Furness	Australian High Commission SI
Naomi Tai	People with Disabilities Solomon Islands
Georgina Harley Cavanough	DFAT
Dylan Jones	DFAT

I. Achievement of Indicator targets

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Target	Result	Detail
1	Indicator 1.1: Number of government agencies and key stakeholders that have undertaken one or more gender-responsive disaster risk assessments	2	4	6	Risk assessments were undertaken by SIRCS, Oxfam, MWYCFA (NPC and PPC), UNDRR, World Vision, People with Disability Solomon Islands
	Indicator 1.1.1: Number of national and subnational tools for gender-responsive disaster risk assessments developed and/or adapted for gender-responsiveness.	1	2	2	The tools developed were the CBDRM Manual and an initial damage assessment tool
	Indicator 1.1.2: Number of government agencies, national planning, statistical offices and gender equality institutions at local and national levels with enhanced capacities to collect sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and conduct gender analysis for risk assessments and analysis.	1	10	14	This was achieved through UNDRR support to NDMO on the Sendai Framework Monitor and training on gender in humanitarian action delivered by UN Women for NDOC committees and the RCC
	Indicator 1.2.1: Number of women's groups, persons with disability organizations and groups for diverse women and men at the local and national levels, empowered to influence on the disaster risk assessments.	0	10	11	This was achieved through the through the process of revising the CBDRM Manual revision, which involved women's groups, disability organisations, and persons with disability
2	Indicator 2.1: Number of disaster risk reduction policy frameworks that address gender-specific disaster risks.	1	2	1	No activities were conducted to address this indicator
	Indicator 2.1.1: Number of government ministries and gender equality institutions and women's groups at the local and national level with demonstrated enhanced capacities on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction.	0	10	19	This was achieved through UN Women's work on establishing and training PPCs in Malaita, Central, and Rennell and Bellona, and training provided to the NPC.
	Indicator 2.2.1: Number of gender equality institutions and women's groups engaged in the Sendai Framework reporting and	0	5	16	This was achieved through the National Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Forum

Outcome	Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Target	Result	Detail
	monitoring processes.				
3	Indicator 3.1: Number of women self-reporting meaningful participation in local disaster committees	0	1	17	This was achieved through the National Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Forum and provincial workshops
	Indicator 3.1.1: Number of communities with end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems that address gender-specific risks.	0	4	3	Planned activities were not implemented
	Indicator 3.1.2: Number of women participating in the assessments of vulnerability and hazards as part of the community development planning process.	0	120	Unknown	No activities directly contributed to this output, and the indicator was not monitored
	Indicator 3.2.1: Number of women in program areas who feel confident to engage in disaster risk reduction with capacity.	0	50% of trained participants	Unknown	According to UN Women the output was achieved, but data was not systematically recorded

J. Stakeholder Engagement Plan and matrix

This SEP represents the list of potential contacts identified by the evaluation team, from which a number of scoping and key stakeholder interviews would be derived. As shown, the names of many of the contacts were not provided by the EMG or ERG as undertaken in the Inception Meeting. The evaluation team has attempted to fill in details through whatever information they could glean on the ground in Honiara and from scoping interviews. The SEP also includes a rights-based stakeholder analysis.

Name	Position	Remote or direct interview	Method of approach	Responsible team member
Solomon Islands - Honiara				
(Removed privacy)	for SIRCS Secretary General	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for UNDRR focal point	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Disaster Management officer	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for UN Women project coordinator	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for MWYCFA. Chair, National Protection Committee	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for DRR Program Management Officer	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Resilience coordinator	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, DRR	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Humanitarian Response, Risk & Recovery Branch, Humanitarian, NGOs & Partnerships Division Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Government of Australia	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for IFRC, Suva Office	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster & Meteorology / NDMO	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Former Gender & Resilience Specialist UN Women SI	Remote	Email	Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for Former Director, NDMO	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Oxfam Team Leader, Honiara	Direct	Email	Anika

Name	Position	Remote or direct interview	Method of approach	Responsible team member
(Removed privacy)		interview		
Australia				
(Removed privacy)	for Australia Pacific Climate Partnership/DRR	Remote	Email	Alison & Asenati
(Removed privacy)	for DFAT	Remote	Email	Asenati & Alison
(Removed privacy)	for Australia Pacific Climate Partnership	Remote	Email	Asenati
Fiji/Japan				
(Removed privacy)	for UN Women Program Specialist, Gender & Protection	Remote	Email	Asenati
Bangkok Thailand				
(Removed privacy)	for Former UNDRR specialist	Remote	Phone	Asenati
Solomon Islands - Malaita				
(Removed privacy)	for Senior officer, Malaita Provincial Government	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Chair, Malaita Provincial Committee	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Chair, Provincial Council of Women	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Manager, Malaita Community Rehabilitation Unit Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Senior officer, Malaita Province Disaster Office	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Red Cross Focal Point, Red Cross office, Auki	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for PPC	Face to face	Phone	Anika
Solomon Islands - Rennell and Bellona				
(Removed privacy)	for Chair, Renbell Provincial Government	Direct	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Owner, Crystal Accommodations & member of provincial council	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Red Cross focal person	Direct interview	Phone	Anika

Name	Position	Remote or direct interview	Method of approach	Responsible team member
(Removed privacy)	for Disability focal person, Renbell Provincial Government, Tingoa	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Provincial Disaster Officer, NDMO	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Chair, Provincial council of women, Tingoa	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Provincial Protection Committee representative	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
Solomon Islands - Isabel				
(Removed privacy)	for Chair of Provincial Protection Committee	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Provincial Government Representative	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Red Cross focal point	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Women's representative, Provincial Govt	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Disability Representative, Provincial Govt	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Loretta Kelimana. Chair of Provincial Protection Committee	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
Solomon Islands - Makira				
(Removed privacy)	for Women Provincial Govt representative	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Representative of disability group	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for Red Cross Focal Point	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for DMO representative	Direct interview	Phone	Anika
(Removed privacy)	for PPC	Direct interview	Phone	Anika

RIGHTS-BASED STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Stakeholders	What (their role in the project)	Why (purpose of involvement in the evaluation)	Priority (for involvement in eval)	When (to engage them)	How (will they participate)
DFAT (2 Key Interview Informants - KIIs) (Humanitarian Response, Risk & Recovery Branch, Partnerships Division Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Aust Gov)	Funder, and has the authority to make decisions related to the project	Inform: Keep informed of the evaluation's progress and findings	High level	Inception phase Management response Dissemination	Member of Management Group
UN Women (2 KIIs) SI based project coordinator Members of project management	Duty bearer with direct responsibility for the project	Consult: Keep UN Women informed of the evaluation's progress and findings, listen to them, and provide feedback on how the stakeholder's input influenced the evaluation Collaborate: Work with UN Women to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; make sure that they have the opportunity to review and comment on options, and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation	High level	Inception and primary research Data collection (Interview participant) Management response Dissemination	Member of Management Group Member of Reference Group As an informant
IFRC Suva Office (1 KII) (Project Partner)	Duty bearer with direct responsibility for the project	Consult: Keep IFRC informed of the evaluation's progress and findings, listen to them, and provide feedback on how the stakeholder's input influenced the evaluation	High level	Data collection (interview participant) Management response	Member of Reference Group As an informant
SIRCS (Project Partner) (2 KIIs)	Duty bearer with direct responsibility for the project	Consult: Keep SIRCS informed of the evaluation's progress and findings, listen to them, and provide feedback on how the stakeholder's input influenced the evaluation	High level	Inception and primary research Data collection (interview	Member of management Group Member of Reference

Stakeholders	What (their role in the project)	Why (purpose of involvement in the evaluation)	Priority (for involvement in eval)	When (to engage them)	How (will they participate)
		Collaborate: Work with SIRCS to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; make sure that they can review and comment on options, and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation		participant)	Group
				Management response	As an informant
DRR (Project Partner) (2 KIIs)	Duty bearer with direct responsibility for the project	Consult: Keep DRR informed of the evaluation's progress and findings, listen to them, and provide feedback on how the stakeholder's input influenced the evaluation Collaborate: Work with DRR to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; make sure that they can review and comment on options, and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation	High level	Inception and primary research Interview participant Management response	Member of management Group Member of Reference Group As an informant
MWYCFA (Project Partner) (1 KII)	Duty bearer with direct responsibility for the project Represents SIG & has authority to make decisions related to the project	Collaborate: Work with MWYCFA to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; make sure that they have the opportunity to review and comment on options, and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation	High level	Inception and primary research Data collection (Interview participant) Management response	Member of Reference Group As an informant
Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Social Welfare Division	Duty bearers with indirect responsibility for the project	Collaborate: Work with Ministries to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; make sure	Medium level	Data collection (Interview participant)	As an informant As audience

Stakeholders	What (their role in the project)	Why (purpose of involvement in the evaluation)	Priority (for involvement in eval)	When (to engage them)	How (will they participate)
(1 KII)		that they have the opportunity to review and comment on options, and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation			to be informed of the evaluation results
Community leaders At least one from each province including provincial women coordinators, provincial govt chairs, and protection committee members (Potentially 8 KIIs)	Rights holders who one way or another benefit from the project	Collaborate: Work with them to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation. Empower: Transfer power for the evaluation over to them. Share evaluation findings with to inform their decisions.	High level	Data collection (Interview participant)	As an informant As audience to be informed of the evaluation results
Persons with Disabilities – Women Including Disability focal points in all four provinces: <u>Malaita, Isabel, Makira, Renell and Bellona</u> (4 KIIs)	Rights holders who one way or another benefit from the project	Collaborate: Work with them to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation. Empower: Transfer power for the evaluation over to them. Share evaluation findings with to inform their decisions.	High level	Data collection (Interview /FGD participant)	As an informant As audience to be informed of the evaluation results
Persons with Disabilities - Men Participants are yet to be confirmed	Rights holders who one way or another benefit from the project	Collaborate: Work with them to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; and provide feedback on how their input was used in evaluation. Empower: Transfer power for the evaluation over to them. Share evaluation findings with to inform their decisions.	High level	Data collection (Interview/FGD participant)	As an informant As audience to be informed of the evaluation results
Women	Rights	Collaborate: Work with them	High level	Data collection	As an

Stakeholders	What (their role in the project)	Why (purpose of involvement in the evaluation)	Priority (for involvement in eval)	When (to engage them)	How (will they participate)
<p>beneficiaries⁸⁷ (up to 40 FG participants) <u>10 from Rennell & Bellona</u> including project training participants <u>10 from Malaita</u> including community participants <u>10 from Isabel</u> including project training participants <u>10 from Makira</u> including project training participants</p>	holders who one way or another benefit from the project	to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation. Empower: Transfer power for the evaluation over to them. Share evaluation findings with to inform their decisions.		(Interview /FGD participant)	informant As audience to be informed of the evaluation results
<p>Men beneficiaries⁸⁸ (about 24 FG participants) 6 from each province including training participants, Red Cross & NDMO focal points</p>	Rights holders who one way or another benefit from the project	Collaborate: Work with them to ensure that their concerns are considered when reviewing various evaluation options; and provide feedback on how their input was used in the evaluation. Empower: Transfer power for the evaluation over to them. Share evaluation findings with to inform their decisions.	High level	Data collection (Interview /FGD participant)	As an informant As audience to be informed of the evaluation results
<p>Other: Indirect beneficiaries (Up to 28 participants) one representative each of: International Organisation for Migration</p>	Other interest groups who did not directly participate in the project	Inform: Keep the stakeholder informed of the evaluation's progress and findings	Low level of relevance	Dissemination	As audience to be informed of the evaluation

87 Based on data from UN Women SI office. Data on beneficiaries in Makira and Isabel provinces not yet made available to the Evaluation team

88 Based on data from UN Women SI office. Data on beneficiaries in Makira and Isabel provinces not yet made available to the Evaluation team

Stakeholders	What (their role in the project)	Why (purpose of involvement in the evaluation)	Priority (for involvement in eval)	When (to engage them)	How (will they participate)
Save the Children					
Royal SI Police Force					
Live and Learn					
Vois Blong Meri Solomon					
People With Disabilities Solomon Islands					
UN-Habitat					

K. Outcomes Logic Map

Project Aim: Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands (the Project) is a joint program between UN Women, UNDRR and IFRC that aims **to build resilience and reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods resulting from natural hazards in Solomon Islands.**

Goal (achievement of aim looks like): Gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods mitigated and resilience of communities to natural hazards enhanced in a changing climate in Solomon Islands.

Theory of Change: If (1) the gender dimension of risk is understood; if (2) the national and community disaster risk governance is gender-responsive; if (3) women meaningfully participate in and lead in disaster risk reduction and resilience building; then (4) the gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods will be mitigated and the resilience of communities to natural hazards will be enhanced in a changing climate; because (5) the gender inequality of risk is a root cause of vulnerability at the community level.

Theme: Project Impact				
Outcome (What)	Outputs (How)	Source	Indicators of success (Looks like...)	Evaluation questions
<p>Outcome 1: Government and key stakeholders in Solomon Island generate and use evidence on gender dimensions of disaster risks, particularly women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, to inform their policy and program interventions.</p>	<p>Output 1.1: Gender- government and key stakeholders have enhanced capacity to assess and analyse gender dimensions of disaster risks</p> <p>The Sendai Framework specifically calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gender sensitivity in disaster risk reduction training and education emphasizes the importance of disaster data-disaggregated by gender 	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>Third UN World Conference (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 1: Whether or not Solomon Islands have undertaken one or more gender-responsive disaster risk assessments Update/develop gender-responsive disaster risk assessment and analytical tools and guidelines and develop gender and diversity profiles at national and sub-national level for disaster-prone areas. Review processes for the collection and use of sex, age and diversity-disaggregated data (SADDD), make recommendations, and make periodic follow up reviews to document. support to government agencies on using the Sendai Framework Monitor and associated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have gender-responsive disaster risk assessments been undertaken? What was done under the GIR project to enable DRR assessments? (training, data collection, data management tools)

<p>Sendai Framework Priority 1: <i>Understanding Disaster Risk</i> that indicates that policies and practices of disaster risk management must be based on the understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and people and assets. Proper understanding of gender and diversity inequalities in society that directly affect the ability to cope with hazards and shocks, is crucial.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognises the need to pay special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>		<p>Damage and Loss Database as tools for improved policymaking and reporting on the gender dimensions of disaster risk.</p>	
	<p>The Project will support generation and application of gender and diversity sensitive information.</p> <p>It will also strengthen gender-responsive monitoring mechanisms related to the Sendai Framework through greater availability of sex and age-disaggregated data and structured gender and diversity analysis.</p> <p>Strengthening and applying strategic information and evidence. (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>Third UN World Conference (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p> <p>“Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework” Oct 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project recognises that women are not a homogenous group and that some women are more vulnerable to disaster risk and impacts than others. Research and program data generated through this Project will be used to inform and drive disaster risk reduction policy and budget decisions Indicator 1.1.2: Government agencies, national planning, statistical offices and gender equality institutions at local and national levels with enhanced capacities to collect sex, age and diversity-disaggregated data and conduct gender analysis for risk assessments and analysis, e.g. NDMO, Ministry for Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs, national protection committee, Women’s Rights Action Movement and National Council of Women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were there any aspects of the Sendai Framework or SADDD collection that were not suited to the SI context? Are there sub-categories of risk/vulnerability not captured in the Sendai Framework? What examples are there of SADDD informing DRR policy?
	<p>Output 1.2: Diverse women, women’s groups, LGBTQI+ groups</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 1.2.1: Number of women’s groups, LGBTQI+ groups and persons with disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What target groups have been further empowered

	<p>and persons with disability organisations and stakeholders are able to inform disaster risk assessments at all levels assessments and usage at all levels.</p> <p>The initiative will seek to identify and address those needs by conducting inclusive and intersectional gender analyses to better the understanding of the influence of gender norms, power imbalances, social injustices vulnerabilities and needs of diverse women and girls, including those most marginalized.</p>	<p>Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>UN Women “Second Annual Progress Report To the Government of Australia” January – December 2019</p>	<p>organisations, at local and national level, empowered to influence on the disaster risk assessments; e.g. members of the National Protection Committee – Vois Blong Mere; Family Support Centre; National Council of Women; Women’s Rights Action Movement; People with Disability Solomon Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training to women-led micro and small businesses and follow-up support in basic risk assessment and business continuity planning on disaster resilience. • The Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) manual was reviewed 	<p>as a result of the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any groups or levels of policy influence that the project was not able to assist / influence? • Are the risks and resilience needs of diverse groups better represented in policy and planning?
<p>Outcome 2: National and local disaster risk governance is gender-responsive.</p> <p>Sendai Framework Priority 2: <i>Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disasters</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1: NDMO, national development planning and gender equality institutions and stakeholders have improved capacity to ensure evidence-based gender-responsive disaster risk reduction laws, regulations, policies, plans and programs.</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>Third UN World Conference (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 2.1.1: Number of government ministries and gender equality institutions and women’s groups at local and national level with demonstrated enhanced capacities on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction • This will include members of the National Protection Committee, Women’s Rights Action Movement, Family Support Centre, National Council of Women, and People with Disability Solomon Islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which ministries and institutions have enhanced gender-responsive capabilities as a result of the project? • Has the project had more impact at the national or local level? • How have planning and response plans and procedures become more

<p>that aims to provide clear vision, competence, guidance across all sectors, as well as the participation of all the stakeholders.</p>		<p>“Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework” Oct 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity of NDMO and women’s ministries in gender-sensitive planning, response, and coordination. • Strengthen capacity of the Honiara City Council in gender-sensitive planning, response, and coordination, with a focus on market traders. • Policies and plans are adapted to manage the limitation of capacities during disasters due to a higher demand for emergency services, breakdown /collapse of systems and deaths. 	<p>gender-sensitive and likely to support women in vulnerable groups during a crisis?</p>
	<p>Output 2.2: National stakeholders are able to monitor and track gender equality commitments of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and SDGs.</p> <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>UN Women “Baseline and Target Setting Report”, October 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 2.2.1: Number of gender equality institutions and women’s groups engaged in the Sendai Framework reporting and monitoring processes • Support the Government to include gender-responsive targets and indicators for progress monitoring in the formal reporting systems of the Sendai Framework and overlapping SDGs. • Organise technical training and follow up support on use of the Sendai Framework Monitor to enable national women’s organizations to partner with the government on collection and analysis of disaggregated data to map vulnerability and inform policy. • Solomon Islands shares the lessons learned on gender-responsive Sendai Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many more institutions and groups are engaged in the Sendai Framework? • What has been done to support government involvement? • How has follow up on technical training been achieved? • Has the SI increased its contributions of lessons on gender-responsive DRR?

			implementation at the regional and international disaster risk reduction platforms.	
<p>Outcome 3: Women meaningfully participate in and lead disaster risk reduction and resilience building.</p>	<p>Output 3.1: government and key local stakeholders are able to develop a more gender-responsive early warning system</p> <p>The Sendai Framework specifically calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the empowerment of women to lead and participate in disaster risk reduction processes promotes disaster risk reduction capacity building for women <p>Recognise the need to also engage men and boys to increase the gendered analysis of risk, while upholding that livelihoods for women requires a targeted approach.</p> <p>Building community resilience. (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>Third UN World Conference (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. “Cross-Learning Forum on Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion into Community-based Disaster Risk Management” 15-16 October 2019</p>	<p>implementation at the regional and international disaster risk reduction platforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 3.1. Number of women self-reporting meaningful participation in local disaster committees Community members, particularly local leaders and women’s groups will be capacitated and mobilized (e.g. training on leadership skills) for disaster risk reduction to find local solutions to their problems through setting up inclusive early warning systems, community-based monitoring mechanisms and capacity development for disaster risk reduction. multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms or institutional arrangements where sector stakeholders, women’s organizations and gender equality institutions could strategize together to deliver gender-responsive disaster risk reduction actions. Evidence of application of FINPAC model? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has there been an increase in women participating in DRR committees at any level? What evidence is there of the impact of women’s contributions being heard and acted upon? Have any community adaptations been linked to training and capacity building under the project? What links between gender equality institutions and other DRR coordination agencies have been built?

	<p>Output 3.2: Women have capacity to lead and engage in disaster risk reduction and resilience building.</p> <p>Employ an intersectional approach ensuring all women, especially those who experience intersectional marginalization – women living in high disaster-risk areas; elderly women; women with disability; young and adolescent women; lesbian, bisexual and transgender women; poor women; women living with HIV; women of ethnic/caste/religious minority groups; women household heads; and indigenous women - are engaged and have a say in the development, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction laws, policies and programs.</p> <p>The Project will promote women’s leadership as active agents of change by challenging and shifting power dynamics, harmful social norms and values, inequalities and discrimination</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>Third UN World Conference (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</p> <p>UN Women “Second Annual Progress Report To the Government of Australia” January – December 2019</p> <p>UN Women “Baseline and Target Setting Report”, October 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indicator 3.2.1: % increase of women in project areas who feel confident to engage in disaster risk reduction with capacity. ● The Project will foster partnership across government agencies, gender equality departments/ministries and diverse groups of women led organizations, to create space for women’s leadership and participation in institutional mechanisms and structures responsible for disaster risk reduction. ● Developing women’s capacity, especially in technical and leadership skills, and the creation of institutional mechanisms for women’s leadership and participation in disaster risk reduction (including, where necessary, quota systems in decision-making fora, facilitating access to protection mechanisms and resources for resilience building). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To what extent has dialogue among women on DRR increased as result of the project? ● What examples are there of new space created for women’s participation in DRR mechanisms? ● What DRR technical and leadership skills have been grown through the project? ● What examples are there of intersectionality marginalized women being engaged through the project? ● What has been done to shift harmful social norms and engage men and boys in the project?
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	which impede the realization of women's and girls' full potential and their enjoyment of human rights.			
	<p>Through the process of localization, the Project seeks to adapt and implement activities that are based on and responsive to local needs and solutions.</p> <p>The Project is based on principles of empowerment, effectiveness, and localization</p> <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inception phase of the Project will ensure strong participation of local stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations, media, research institutes, the UN and others, to foster a strong engagement and to capitalize on existing resources and relationships for effective implementation. • The Project will develop and consolidate a cadre of national and regional resources on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have international and national standards and goals been translated into local contexts? • What existing local mechanisms and DRR adaptations have been integrated into the project? • What locally accessible resources have been created for gender-responsive DRR.
Theme: Project Management				
Outcome (What)	Outputs (How)	Source	Indicators of success (Looks like...)	Evaluation questions
The Project will coordinate with and leverage existing DRR and climate change programs and initiatives at country level, to generate synergies and obtain the highest levels of	<p>The Project will capitalise on the relative comparative advantages of the three organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women leads gender and protection coordination in the Pacific. It maintains a strong relationship with the Solomon Islands Government and supports 	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>UN Women “Baseline and Target Setting Report”, October</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parties have agreed that UN Women will act as the overall project and administrative lead, and IFRC and UNDRR will be key project partners, officially named ‘Responsible Parties’. • IFRC will coordinate and support Solomon Islands Red Cross Society and draw in critical expertise from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre using strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the intended roles and administrative arrangements understood and effective? • Was each of the Responsible Parties able to make use of their comparative advantages? Any inhibitors?

<p>effectiveness and efficiency.</p>	<p>the National Protection Committee in local coordination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC has experience in local programming in disaster risk reduction at government and community level in Solomon Islands and has strong relationships with government agencies and organisations in country. • UNDRR has a track record of providing disaster risk reduction policy advice and technical support to Pacific Island countries including Solomon Islands. 	<p>2019.</p> <p>“Cross-Learning Forum on Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion into Community-based Disaster Risk Management” 15-16 October 2019</p>	<p>global and local networks of volunteers and national societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDRR will provide substantial leadership and convening power on disaster risk reduction and its technical support to the Solomon Islands Government to effectively implement and report to the Sendai Framework. • UN Women’s global body of knowledge and expertise on gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as its strong network of women and civil society organizations through its field presence. 	
	<p>A steering committee will be established as the Project’s governance mechanism to provide strategic direction for country level implementation and to ensure monitoring and reporting in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation plan.</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p> <p>“Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework” Oct 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The steering committee will meet twice a year to coordinate with the Project focal points of the three agencies, share updates and ensure effective coordination of the delivery of Project results. • An inception phase will develop a comprehensive performance monitoring framework with particular focus on refining and strengthening the all the indicators, targets and means of verification. • The committee will provide periodic reports to the donor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the form and function of the steering committee effective? • Did any alternative/additional work around governance channels need to be created? • Were all monitoring and reporting requirements met?

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approving annual work plans and budget, as well as recommending necessary adjustments. 	
<p>SIG engagement achieves political will and capacity to implement Project.</p>	<p>Achieving gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk reduction governance through greater engagement and ownership of national disaster management offices, gender equality departments/ministries and other relevant government institutions, such as national planning commissions, statistical offices, finance ministries, ministry of home affairs, etc.</p> <p>Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) human rights norms encourage Member States to take steps to establish effective and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>The proposed Project will directly contribute to the national priorities of Solomon Islands, in line with the Framework and the country's National Disaster Risk</p>	<p>DFAT "GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template", 6 June 2018</p> <p>UN Women "Baseline and Target Setting Report", October 2019.</p> <p>SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT. 2010. "National Disaster Risk Management Plan".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project engages SIG, particularly its DRR and gender machineries. • Stakeholder consultations at the national, sub-national and community levels to create an enabling environment for the Project. • Key stakeholders include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NDMO ○ Ministry of the Internal Affairs ○ Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs ○ National Protection Committee ○ Honiara City Council ○ Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation ○ Solomon Islands Red Cross ○ Femlink - Vois Blong Mere/ Women's Weather Watch ○ Family Support Centre ○ People with Disability Solomon Islands ○ Solomon Islands National Council of Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the most significant indicators that the SIG was or wasn't engaged and invested in this work? • Were all intended national disaster management offices, gender equality departments/ministries and other relevant government institutions, able to be engaged in the project? • Was the project complimentary to other national initiatives in the same space?

	<p>Management Plan.</p> <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Women’s Rights Action Movement ○ ActionAid ○ Development Services Exchange NGO <p>● Solomon Islands is a State Party to CEDAW, and expected to report its progress on the implementation of CEDAW in 2018</p>	
<p>The Project contributes to the Pacific regional DRR initiatives through regional coordination mechanisms</p>	<p>Lessons learned and best practices from the Project will generate upscaling potential to other countries in the Pacific, as well as potentially other regions, to accelerate gender-responsive disaster risk reduction globally.</p> <p>Solomon Islands has been selected as a pilot location for the Project in the Pacific</p>	<p>DFAT “GIR Pacific Solomon Islands Proposal: Investment Design Template”, 6 June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Project will generate evidence on ‘what works in gender and DRR and why’ in Solomon Islands and beyond. ● This will include: the Asia-Pacific Regional Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre; the Asia-Pacific Stakeholder Group on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Disaster Risk Management and Regional Resilience Building; the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster; and the FRDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How have insights from this project been shared in regional or international forums? ● Was the experience of the GIR project in SI generalizable to different nations or contexts?

L. Logic Assumptions and Risks Framework

Theme: Project Impact					
From: Outputs	To: Outcome	Because: Logic	Assumptions	Risks	Evaluation questions
<p>Output 1.1: Gender-government and key stakeholders have enhanced capacity to assess and analyse gender dimensions of disaster risks</p> <p>The Sendai Framework specifically calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● gender sensitivity in DRR training and education ● emphasizes the importance of disaster data-disaggregated by gender ● recognises the need to pay special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Government and key stakeholders in SI generate and use evidence on gender dimensions of disaster risks, particularly women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, to inform their policy and program interventions.</p> <p>Sendai Framework Priority 1: <i>Understanding Disaster Risk</i> that indicates that policies and practices of disaster risk management must be based on the understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity</p>	<p>Access to evidence on gender dimensions of disaster risks will increase the likelihood that action will be taken to address the disproportionate risk of women and vulnerable groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That lack of action is due to lack of information. ● That policy changes will translate into reduced impact of disasters and hazards during crises in practice. ● That-disaggregated data will show a compelling disparity. ● That data is available to disaggregate. ● There is capacity to use the tools for data processing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient reliable data. ● SIG and stakeholders are not able or willing to make effective policy changes. ● Policy and process changes are not actioned in the midst of a crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did the amount of SADDD in SI that need to be increased? ● What were the factors behind the inadequate or insufficient SADDD data? ● Are there adequate levels of domestic capacity and tools for collecting and processing data? ● Does SADDD show a disparity in GIR that will compel policy action? ● What actions were taken to increase likelihood that gender-responsive policies would be actioned during a crisis?
<p>The Project will support generation and application</p>		<p>The Sendai Framework is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That data is available to disaggregate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Sendai Framework is not the most suitable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are there adequate levels of domestic capacity and

<p>of gender and diversity sensitive information.</p> <p>Strengthen gender-responsive monitoring mechanisms related to the Sendai Framework through greater availability of SADDD and structured gender and diversity analysis.</p> <p>Strengthening and applying strategic information and evidence. (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>and people and assets. Proper understanding of gender and diversity inequalities in society that directly affect the ability to cope with hazards and shocks, is crucial.</p>	<p>the best way for SI institutions to produce and analyse SADDD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is capacity to use the tools for data processing. • That lack of action is due to lack of information. 	<p>approach for SI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient reliable data. • Data is not accessible to all agencies at all levels. 	<p>tools for collecting and processing data?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the factors behind the inadequate or insufficient SADD data? • How did the project contribute to increased access to and use of Sendai Framework data?
<p>Output 1.2: Diverse women, women’s groups, LGBTQI+ groups and persons with disability organisations and stakeholders are able to inform disaster risk assessments at all levels assessments and usage at all levels.</p> <p>The initiative will seek to identify and address those needs by conducting inclusive and intersectional gender analyses to better the understanding of the influence of gender norms, power imbalances, social injustices vulnerabilities and</p>		<p>Giving diverse women, women’s groups, LGBTQI+ groups and persons with disability organisations opportunities to present evidence and have voice in DRR planning forums will improve policy and reduce their vulnerability to disasters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are representative groups to engage at all levels. • There is sufficient reliable data for intersectional gender analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse representation does not result in policy change or action. • The needs and preferences of diverse representative groups is conflicted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the factors behind the inadequate or insufficient SADD data? • Did the project find or create representative groups to engage with at all levels? • Were there power dynamic conflicts or contradictory need amongst representatives of intersectional groups? How was this managed?

needs of diverse women and girls, including those most marginalized.					
<p>Output 2.1: NDMO, national development planning and gender equality institutions and stakeholders have improved capacity to ensure evidence-based gender-responsive DRR laws, regulations, policies, plans and programs.</p>	<p>Outcome 2: National and local disaster risk governance is gender-responsive.</p> <p>Sendai Framework Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disasters that aims to provide clear vision, competence, guidance across all</p>	<p>Capacity building in evidence-based law and policy development will allow gender-responsive data to impact on action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That SIG policies and plans are evidence-based. • That lack of adequate capacity was a cause of insufficient evidence-based, gender-responsive policy and laws. • Capacity enhancements will be institutionalised and sustainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required capacity levels are not achieved. • That increased capacity does not result in positive change in evidence-based gender-responsive governance. • Policy and process changes are not actioned in the midst of a crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does SADD show a disparity in GIR that will compel policy action? • What actions were taken to increase likelihood that gender-responsive policies would be actioned during a crisis? • How were project actions shaped to achieve sustainability? • What causes of policy inaction did the project address?
<p>Output 2.2: National stakeholders are able to monitor and track gender equality commitments of the Sendai Framework on DRR and SDGs.</p> <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>sectors, as well as the participation of all the stakeholders.</p>	<p>Tracking progress on the Sendai Framework on DRR will motivate local and national governance agencies to have more gender-responsive DRR strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That SIG policies and plans are evidence-based. • That lack of action is due to lack of information. • There is capacity and willingness to continue to consistently acquire data to track overtime. • Relevant groups have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient reliable data. • SIG and stakeholders are not able or willing to make effective policy changes. • The Sendai Framework is not the most suitable approach for SI. • Training is not accessible for all stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions were taken to increase likelihood that gender-responsive policies would be actioned during a crisis? • What causes of policy inaction did the project address? • How did the project improve the cooperation of national stakeholders to share and act on evidence?

			the capacity to cooperate to engage in the monitoring process.		
<p>Output 3.1: government and key local stakeholders are able to develop a more gender-responsive early warning system</p> <p>The Sendai Framework specifically calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the empowerment of women to lead and participate in DRR processes promotes DRR capacity building for women <p>Recognise the need to also engage men and boys to increase the gendered analysis of risk, while upholding that livelihoods for women requires a targeted approach.</p> <p>Building community resilience. (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Women meaningfully participate in and lead DRR and resilience building.</p>	<p>When women’s voices are excluded from DRR planning and decision-making processes, the gendered dimensions of vulnerability and risk are absent from DRR laws, policies and programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That lack of a gender-responsive EW system is due to lack of information. That policy changes will translate into reduced impact of disasters and hazards during crises in practice. Women and vulnerable group representatives want to participate and lead in DRR There are multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for women to gain consensus on what they need from an EW system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIG and stakeholders are not able or willing to make effective policy changes. Policy and process changes are not actioned in the midst of a crisis. There are power dynamic conflicts amongst representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What causes of policy inaction did the project address? What actions were taken to increase likelihood that gender-responsive policies would be actioned during a crisis? How have the project’s actions reduced the impact of crises that have happened during the project and since? Were there power dynamic conflicts or contradictory need amongst representatives of intersectional groups? How was this managed? What obstacles to women’s participation did the project address?
<p>Output 3.2: Women have capacity to lead and engage</p>		<p>The participation of women and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of political commitment & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are power dynamic conflicts amongst 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were there power dynamic conflicts or contradictory

<p>in DRR and resilience building.</p> <p>Employ an intersectional approach ensuring those who experience intersectional marginalization – women living in high disaster-risk areas; elderly women; women with disability; young and adolescent women; lesbian, bisexual and transgender women; poor women; women living with HIV; women of ethnic/caste/religious minority groups; women household heads; and indigenous women - are engaged in DRR laws, policies and programs.</p> <p>Promote women’s leadership as agents of change by challenging and shifting power dynamics, harmful social norms, inequalities and discrimination which impede the realization of women’s and girls’ full potential and their enjoyment of human rights.</p>		<p>vulnerable group representatives in DRR and resilience activities and forums will stimulate political commitment and stronger accountability mechanisms, as well as transparent budgeting and financial allocation to fund gender-responsive efforts.</p>	<p>accountability for gender-responsive efforts is not deliberate and is due to lack of understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and vulnerable group representatives want to participate and lead in DRR • There are multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for women to gain consensus on what they need from in DRR and resilience building. 	<p>representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectional women are reluctant to identify themselves and engage. • Harmful social norms prevent women from participating in leadership capacity building. 	<p>need amongst representatives of intersectional groups? How was this managed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What obstacles to women’s participation did the project address? • What examples are there of new space created for women’s participation in DRR mechanisms?
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<p>Through the process of localization, the Project seeks to adapt and implement activities that are based on and responsive to local needs and solutions.</p> <p>The Project is based on principles of empowerment, effectiveness and localization</p> <p>Nationally and locally driven and owned (GIR Project strategic approach – RFP)</p>		<p>Local consultation and engagement will increase the effectiveness and sustainability empowerment and DRR efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is awareness and interest in DRR and gender-responsive resilience at the local level. • There are differences between local-level needs and solutions and those at the national level. • Localization will provide more opportunities for gender-responsive DRR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are other issues taking priority for attention at the local level. • Local stakeholders don't trust regional, national, and international institutions. • national and regional resources on gender-responsive DRR are not accessible at the local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What causes of policy inaction did the project address? • How did the project achieve engagement and impact at the community level? • Were all actions at the national and provincial level translated to local community levels?
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Theme: Project Management

From: Outputs	To: Outcome	Logic	Assumptions	Risks	Eval Questions
<p>The Project will capitalise on the relative comparative advantages of the three organisations.</p>	<p>The Project will coordinate with and leverage existing DRR and climate change programs and initiatives at country level, to generate synergies and obtain the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency.</p>	<p>The project's success will come from the collaboration of the three Responsible Parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three agencies have distinct and complementary strengths. • All of the three agencies are relevant to GIR and DRR. • The cooperative mechanisms are in place for the three agencies to collaborate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agencies' efforts become stove-piped and disconnected from the project aim. • One of the agencies suffers an organizational disruption which impacts their capacity. • Events change the de-prioritise involvement for any of the agencies. • Reputational damage to one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the Responsible Parties have distinct and complementary strengths? • Were there effective collaborative mechanisms in place? • Did any of the Party's role and scope change during the project?

			effectively.	of the agencies effects the entire project.	
A steering committee will be established as the Project's governance mechanism to provide strategic direction for country level implementation and to ensure monitoring and reporting in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation plan.		The Steering Committee will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Project staff need an oversight body to make higher level coordination and administrative decisions •The members of the Steering Committee will be able to make informed decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Steering Committee does not convene often enough to make required decisions. •Steering Committee members are not available to provide guidance and advice as required. •The Steering Committee is not able to manage across the three Responsible Parties. •The Steering Committee fails to ensure that reporting requirements are met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Was the form and function of the steering committee effective? •Did any alternative/additional work around governance channels need to be created? •Were all monitoring and reporting requirements met?
Achieving gender-responsive and inclusive DRR governance through greater engagement and ownership of national disaster management offices, gender equality departments/ministries and other relevant government institutions, such as national planning commissions, statistical offices, finance	SIG engagement achieves political will and capacity to implement the Project.	Achievement of the Project's goals and their sustainability requires SIG buy-in and involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The project is aligned with SIG objectives and plans. •SIG has the capacity to engage with the implementation of the project. •SIG is motivated to address GIR in DRR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There are political issues that inhibit SIG from supporting the project. •SIG has other priorities that detract from capacity to support the project •The project is not aligned with other initiatives/standards such as the CEDAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What were the most significant indicators that the SIG was or wasn't engaged and invested in this work? •Was the project complimentary to other national initiatives in the same space? •How did the project improve the cooperation of national

<p>ministries, ministry of home affairs, etc.</p>					<p>stakeholders to share and act on evidence?</p>
<p>Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) human rights norms encourage Member States to take steps to establish effective and gender-responsive DRR.</p>					
<p>The proposed Project will directly contribute to the national priorities of Solomon Islands, in line with the Framework and the country's National Disaster Risk Management Plan.</p>					

<p>Lessons learned and best practices from the Project will generate upscaling potential to other countries in the Pacific, as well as potentially other regions, to accelerate gender-responsive DRR globally.</p> <p>Solomon Islands has been selected as a pilot location for the Project in the Pacific</p>	<p>The Project contributes to the Pacific regional DRR initiatives through regional coordination mechanisms</p>	<p>Investment of effort in the SI will have benefits for optimizing gender-responsive DRR elsewhere.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Project achieves some 'best practice' activities. •Reporting and documentation are adequate to record lessons. •Lessons from the SI context are relevant to other national contexts. •It is possible to accelerate gender-responsive DRR globally. •International institutions appreciate the value of the GIR SI project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regional DRR initiatives are too different from those in SI. •The pilot in the SI is not successful. •External factors such as COVID-19 and political unrest prevent collection of evidence on what works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What examples of best practice in GIR DRR did the project achieve? •How have insights from this project been shared in regional or international forums? •Was the experience of the GIR project in SI generalizable to different nations or contexts?
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M. Terms of reference

Terms of Reference for Procurement of a company or organization to provide a Team of International Expert and National Research Assistant for the Final Evaluation of the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience Project in Solomon Islands

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, humanitarian action, human rights and peace and security. UN Women provides support to Member States' efforts and priorities in meeting their gender equality goals and for building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors. The UN Women Pacific sub-region has four main thematic areas: Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership, Ending Violence against Women, Women's Economic Empowerment and the Gender and Protection in Humanitarian Action, which includes the project Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Project (GIR Project).

According to the 2016 World Risk Report, Solomon Islands is one of the countries most at risk to natural disasters, ranking 6th worldwide. This is due to the frequency and severity of natural disasters it faces, environmental degradation and increasing risks posed by climate change. Annual maximum and minimum temperatures have risen in Honiara, with maximum temperatures having increased at a rate of 0.15°C per decade since 1951, indicating the strong effects of climate change on the country. As predominantly coastal dwellers, low lying communities in Solomon Islands are highly susceptible to sea level rise and climate change. With rising sea levels, many communities have begun processes for re-settling inland.

The global COVID-19 pandemic prompted Solomon Islands to close its national borders in 2020. This early warning and early action by the Solomon Islands Government has limited COVID-19 cases to isolated border quarantine instances as the government repatriated citizens from overseas. As with all Pacific Island SIDS, the impact on already isolated and import/tourism-dependent economies has been significant. As Solomon Islands strove to keep COVID-19 at bay, it also had to cope with several major disasters such as extensive flooding and landslides in Rennell Islands in March as well as Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold in April in 2020. TC Harold affected up to 150,000 people – many of them women and girls. The National Emergency Operations Centre indicated that 57 houses were destroyed and another 20 were damaged. Twenty-seven passengers on board the vessel MV Taimareho were washed overboard during rough seas associated with the cyclone. Disasters affect women, girls, boys, and men differently. Research shows that women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters, are more likely to die in disasters, to lose their livelihoods and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. In the case of the 2014 floods in the Solomon Islands, for example, women and children constituted 96% of casualties. Women face strong gender-specific barriers in disaster recovery and their specific needs, leadership potential and contributions

are frequently ignored and unleveraged in resilience building and disaster risk reduction. This undermines the sustainability of entire communities and leaves the most impoverished and marginalized furthest behind in disaster prevention, preparedness, and recovery. Traditional customs are a major part of life in Solomon Islands, with gender norms and relations influencing society in terms of division of labour, property rights and decision-making. Women in the Solomon Islands experience significant gender inequality, lower access to paid employment and economic resources, high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, and lower access to information and early warning of disasters. Furthermore, traditional gender roles in Solomon Islands call on women to be the primary caretakers for those affected by disasters, significantly increasing their workload, emotional burden, and ability to recover in the aftermath of disasters.

With Solomon Islands ranked 143rd of 187 countries on the Human Development Index, poverty is a critical issue. About 60.4% of Solomon Islands women are in employment, compared to 72.2% of men, with over three-quarters of these women participating in subsistence work (76.2%), compared to 58.1% of men. Only around 30% of Solomon Islands women in employment are engaged in the non-agricultural sector. Solomon Islands women make up less than 30% of the public service and hold just 6% of senior public service positions.¹ At the same time, women are over-represented in the informal sector where most work is low paid, part-time and unregulated, labour rights are unprotected, and job security is vulnerable

to economic volatility. This means that a large proportion of women have limited access to resources and savings to prevent and cope with disaster impact. For women and their families living in poverty, disasters and the impacts of climate change exacerbate their struggle for basic survival. Female headed-households, which tend to be poorest due to gender barriers in access to jobs, land and property, are most exposed to climate-related disaster risk since they lack the financial means to move to higher and safer land, and predominantly rely on environmental resources for subsistence. Women in the Solomon Islands also have limited say in influencing and deciding the laws, policies and programs that affect them. Despite their contributions to the agricultural sector, most women do not have rights to own or control land and other productive resources due to unfavourable inheritance laws and traditional cultural norms around land ownership. About 73% of Solomon Islands land titles are held by men, with only 2% of land in the hands of women. In the patrilineal societies of Solomon Islands, land rights are inherited from father to son, and men maintain their recognised ownership and decision-making over land. Consequently, women retain limited ownership and access to land, and hold overall lower status in society than men.

The Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016-2035 is the country's main development strategy. The Strategy has 5 main objectives, one of which focuses on disaster risk management, response, and recovery. The need to strengthen women's involvement in decision-making as well as promoting gender equality is continuously highlighted throughout the Strategy.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

In one of its core areas of work on humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction, UN Women prioritizes the empowerment for women and girls as a life-saving intervention to ensure survival, protection, and recovery through crisis. Recognising the gender inequality of the risks faced, UN Women is implementing the Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience in Solomon Islands Project (GIR Project). The GIR Project is a joint initiative of UN Women, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The budget for the three-year joint project is 1.2 million USD, with activities implemented in Honiara and selected provinces in the Solomon Islands. The project duration is from June 2018 to December 2021.

The GIR project is designed to ensure the effective integration of gender in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and at a broader level, to contribute to the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to achieve this by accelerating national efforts through the National Disaster Risk Management Plan of Solomon Islands and Solomon Islands 2016 National Disaster Management Plan (draft) to reduce the gender inequality of risk, promote community resilience and deliver the commitments to gender and disability-responsive disaster risk reduction (DRR) inscribed in the Sendai Framework and the related Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific - An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017 – 20303.

The project is aligned with the UN Women Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021 under Outcome 5 (Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and from humanitarian action) and Output 15 (More women play a greater role in and are better served by disaster risk reduction and recovery processes). In addition, the project is specifically situated under Outcome 4.2 (Pacific Women lead preparedness for and response to natural disasters) of the UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office *Strategic Note 2018-2022*.

The GIR project capitalises on the relative comparative advantages of the three implementing organisations: UN Women leads gender and protection coordination in the Pacific. It maintains a strong relationship with the Solomon Islands Government and supports the National Protection Committee in local coordination. The agency's experience in gender programming was applied to develop a focus on gender in DRR and preparedness. UN Women acts as the overall project and administrative lead, with IFRC and UNDRR as key project partners. IFRC coordinates and support's Solomon Islands Red Cross Society with a longstanding work at the community level. UNDRR provides its technical support to the Solomon Islands Government to effectively implement and report to the Sendai Framework.

Collaboration and strategic partnerships were forged with disaster management entities within government, the women's machinery, civil society organisations, particularly women's organisations and other key stakeholders in DRR and resilience building, including the National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and

National Protection Committee. The Project advocated for the advantages of gender-responsive DRR and maintained strong relationships with these partners and stakeholders to ensure inclusiveness, ownership, and effective cooperation.

UN Women, UNDRR and IFRC leveraged their respective comparative advantages, expertise, networks, and capacities to deliver the following outcomes:

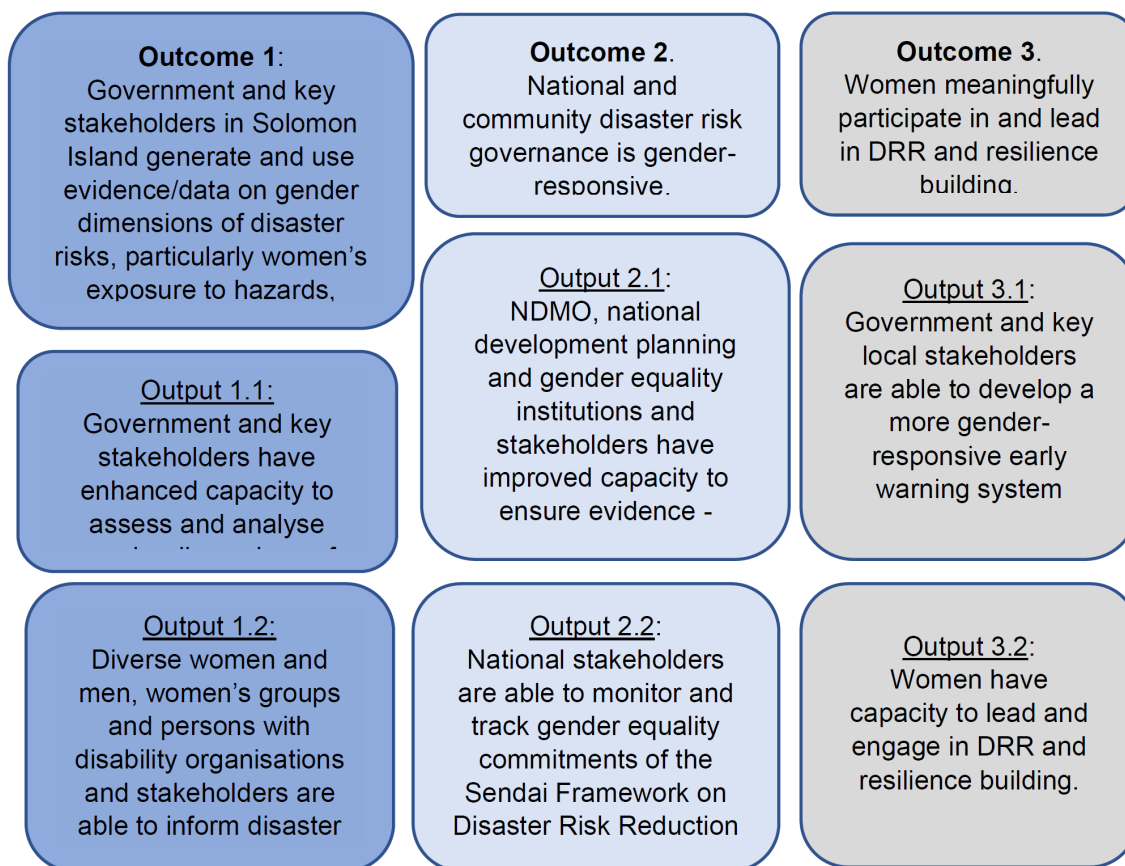
- Outcome 1: Government and key stakeholders in Solomon Island generate and use evidence on gender dimensions of disaster risks, particularly women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and capacity, to inform their policy and Project interventions.
- Outcome 2: National and local disaster risk governance is gender-responsive.
- Outcome 3: Women meaningfully participate in and lead DRR and resilience building.

The project theory of change (TOC) is elaborated as: If (1) the gender dimension of risk is understood; if (2) the national and community disaster risk governance is gender-responsive; if (3) women meaningfully participate in and lead in disaster risk reduction and resilience building; then (4) the gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods will be mitigated and the resilience of communities to natural hazards will be enhanced in a changing climate; because (5) the gender inequality of risk is a root cause of vulnerability at the community level.

The Outcomes and Outputs of this Project are illustrated below:

Project Goal : Gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods are mitigated and resilience of communities to natural hazards is enhanced in Solomon Islands.

Specifically, the initiative will contribute to ensure that:



To achieve the outcomes, the GIR Project uses four mutually reinforcing strategic approaches:

1. Strengthening and applying strategic information and evidence.
2. Nationally and locally driven and owned.
3. Inclusive and intersectional approach to support (diverse) women’s leadership and engagement.
4. Building community resilience.

The Steering Committee, established as the GIR Project’s governance mechanism, provided strategic direction for country level implementation. The Steering Committee comprised of the three partner agencies: UN Women, UNDRR and IFRC, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (DFAT) as the funder and also other partners, including the government and civil society organisations. The Steering Committee meets twice a year to coordinate with the Project focal points of the three agencies, share updates and ensure effective coordination of the delivery of Project results. This includes joint review, monitoring and quality assurance.

The GIR project faced a range of implementation challenges throughout the project duration. The project had a long inception phase requiring extensive consultations with national stakeholders and building relationships, and implementation did not start until late 2019. In early 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic also affected the Solomon Islands, and the country closed its boarder and placed restrictions on gathering and movements within the country. This has significantly delayed implementation, while the project budget was reduced by 15% for reallocating funds to COVID-19 response. Planned activities were scaled down. However, the overall framework of the project remained.

EVALUATION PURPOSE

This evaluation will be carried out for three main purposes:

1. To demonstrate results and accountability by providing information to stakeholders, participants and donors about project achievements and about intended and unintended effects on women’s empowerment, gender equality and human rights as a result of the intervention.
2. To provide credible and reliable evidence for decision-making by providing information about project design, implementation, and resource allocation and providing knowledge on participants’ and stakeholders’ needs, project functioning and project effects.
3. To contribute to important lessons learned about normative, operational and coordination work in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women in DRR —including what is working well, what is not, and what this means for the project and other development efforts.

The lessons learnt from this evaluation will inform the design of UN Women’s future work around gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building programming in the Solomon Islands and other Pacific Islands.

USERS OF THE EVALUATION

The primary users of the Final Evaluation are GIR stakeholders, including the three partner agencies (UN Women, UNDRR and IFRC) and government and civil society organisation (CSO) partners, the Steering Committee, donors and development partners in the Pacific working in the gender-responsive DRR area. The evaluation findings will be used by the GIR partners and donor to inform future programming in the area.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the evaluation are guided by the United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards for Evaluations and UN Women’s Evaluation Guidelines to assess progress made towards achieving the expected results, identify lessons learned and present recommendations for any potential further project phases. The objectives of this evaluation include:

- Assess the relevance of the intervention at national levels and alignment with international agreements and conventions on gender equality, women’s empowerment and DRR.

- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of project intervention in progressing towards the achievement of gender equality, women’s empowerment and DRR results as defined in the intervention.
- Assess the sustainability of the intervention in achieving lasting outcomes in gender equality, women’s empowerment and DRR
- Analyse how the human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in implementation.
- Identify and validate lessons learned, good practices and innovations that ensued or were applied in implementation.
- Provide actionable recommendations with respect to future work in this area by UN Women and other stakeholders.

Following key questions will be asked under each objective:

Relevance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent were project interventions relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by national partners and beneficiaries and responded to national policies and strategies on gender equality and social inclusion in DRR? • To what extent has the GIR project responded to the changing context such as COVID-19 pandemic?
Effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In which areas does the Project have the greatest achievements including in gender equality and women’s empowerment in DRR? What were the factors that contributed to these successes? How can UN Women build on or expand these achievements? • In which areas does the Project have its the least achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can they be overcome?
Efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does the management structure and governance of the intervention support efficiency for Project implementation? • Has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?
Coherence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have the GIR stakeholders and partners worked together to strengthen Government’s collection and usage sex-, age- and diversity-disaggregated data to support Solomon Islands’ accountability towards delivery of commitments under the Sendai Framework? • To what extent have stakeholders and partners worked together to strengthen Government’s accountability towards delivery of commitments under the Sendai Framework? • To what extent did the project address gender equality issues, including equality, non-discrimination, participation, inclusion, empowerment, accountability and social transformation?
Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the GIR increased partner’s capacity to assess and analyse gender dimensions of risk? • How are the results, especially the positive changes generated by the project in the lives of women and girls, likely to be sustained after this project ends?

EVALUATION SCOPE

Timing

The evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project. Some activities will continue until the end of the 4th quarter of 2021. However, the evaluation will assess activities completed at the time of the planned data collection. The evaluation will commence as soon as possible and be completed by March 2022.

Time Frame

The Evaluation will provide an assessment of the Project from June 2019 to October 2021. The project inception phase from June 2018 to June 2019 was without activity implementation.

Geographical coverage

The evaluation will cover four out of eight provinces where the GIR project activities were implemented. The evaluation team will engage with partners and beneficiaries the four sites, namely Isabel, Makira, Malaita and Rennell and Bellona provinces, where activities of three partner agencies overlap the most.

Travel

It is anticipated that site visits to at least two of the four provinces (Isabel, Makira, Malaita and Rennell and Bellona) will be undertaken by the National Research Assistant. Proposed travel, and related expenses, should be included in the proposal. Due to travel restrictions, the international expert will complete all work remotely.

Thematic Coverage

The evaluation will explore all thematic areas of the project. However, it will not include every activity in each outcomes and outputs, and selection of activities will be decided during the evaluation inception phase.

Limitation

The evaluation may face a number of limitations.

- Data availability (especially quantitative data-disaggregated by sex, age and disability). The Solomon Islands has limited national data at the national, provincial and community level.
- COVID-19 restrictions: Site visits may be limited and may need to be replaced by virtual meetings and data collections.
- Stakeholder availability due to competing priorities and access.

The evaluation will assess selected sample activities and beneficiaries. The process will ensure to the extent possible a balanced representation of project activities, stakeholders, and beneficiaries.

EVALUATION DESIGN (PROCESS AND METHODS)

Evaluation Team

The evaluation will be conducted by a company consisting of an International Expert and National Research Assistant with extensive experience in conducting evaluations with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment in disaster risk reduction. The Expert will have the overall responsibility for the design of the evaluation process, and provide support in carrying out the assessment, finalising the relevant components and ensuring submission of a consolidated high-quality report. Some of the data collection will be conducted by a national research assistant.

Evaluation Design

A detailed evaluation methodology will be developed by the Team and presented for approval to the Evaluation Reference Group. The methodology should use a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods. The assessment will be made using a theory-based approach against the project logframe as well as the Theory of Change. It should be utilization-focused, gender-responsive and explicitly outline how it will integrate a human rights-based approach and explore the possibility of utilising participatory methods for developing case studies. Data should be-disaggregated by sex and according to other relevant parameters. The team will discuss with stakeholders involved in the Project including direct beneficiaries who are in women-led committees, traditional leaders and indirect beneficiaries including government ministries and departments and CSOs.

These complementary approaches will be deployed to ensure that the evaluation:

- Utilises both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods to enhance triangulation of data and

increase overall data quality, validity, credibility, and robustness and reduce bias and will include among other processes a desk review, meetings, and consultations with different groups of stakeholders;

- Consider data collection instruments and methods for example interviews, observations, focus groups, and site visits.
- Take measures to ensure data quality, reliability and validity of data collection tools and methods and their responsiveness to gender equality and human rights.

Following UNEG Evaluation guidelines and UN Women Evaluation Policy, the evaluation will aim at systematically engaging all key stakeholders throughout the process. The evaluation will be guided by UN Women Evaluation Policies and United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) guidelines on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in evaluation⁴. The following key principles will be respected: national ownership and leadership; fair power relations and empowerment; participation and inclusivity; independency and impartiality; transparency; quality and credibility; innovation.

Evaluability

The project baseline was established in 2019 and indicated in the project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework. Other key documents for data will include annual donor reports (2019, 2020) with a result framework, annual and quarterly report from UNDRR and IFRC as well as activity, workshop and mission reports of implementing partners.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation phases will be as follows:

Task	Description
Inception Meeting	At the very beginning of the project, the expert and national research assistant will have a meeting with UN Women and Management Group. The ToRs will be discussed at length to ensure that the Management Group and the evaluation team
Development of Inception Report	<p>An Inception Report will be developed and presented to the Management Group and Reference Group at an inception meeting. An inception report which contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation objectives and scope, • Description of evaluation, • Methodology/methodological approach, • Evaluation questions, • Sampling methods • Data collection tools, • Data analysis methods, • List of key informants/agencies • Detailed work plan and reporting requirements. <p>It should include a clear evaluation matrix relating to all of these aspects and a desk review with a list of the documents consulted.</p>

Data Collection and Site Visits	According to the plans and tools which were agreed upon in the Inception Report, data collection will be carried out. This will include some virtual interviews and consultations by the evaluation team. Site visits will be also conducted to selected provinces and communities to consult beneficiaries and stakeholders.
Data Analysis	Data analysis will start parallel to the data collection exercise. Qualitative and quantitative data will be analysed. At the end of analysis period, preliminary findings will be presented to Evaluation Reference Group for their comments/feedback. This will be followed by developing a draft report on the agreed format.
Validation	The evaluation report will be updated in line with comments/feedback of project team and its stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The assessment will involve the following key stakeholders in addition to the three project partners:

- Solomon Islands Red Cross
- Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
- National Protection Committee and its members (including Oxfam, Live and Learn, Solomon Islands Persons with Disability)
- National Disaster Management Office
- Provincial Protection Committees
- Honiara City Council
- DFAT
- UNOCHA
- Community members in project implementation areas with a focus on women, girls and persons with disabilities

The Evaluation Reference Group will consist of UN Women, UNDRR, IFRC, SIRCS and Australian Government (DFAT).

ETHICAL CONDUCT IN EVALUATION

The evaluators should abide by the principle of UN Evaluation Group's Guideline and Code of Conduct for Evaluation in UN System and follow the UN Women Evaluation Handbook. They are also requested to sign UN Women Evaluation Expert Agreement.

The data collection from the stakeholders and beneficiaries needs informed consent. The data should be safeguarded in the whole process of collection, utilization and maintain to ensure the confidentiality and rights protected in line with UN Women policy.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The evaluation team is expected to provide:

#	Deliverables	Approximate number of days	Deadlines
1.	Develop, present, and discuss an Inception Report to the Management Group and Reference Group at an inception meeting. An inception report which contains evaluation objectives and scope, description of evaluation, methodology/methodological approach, the evaluation questions, data collection tools, data analysis methods, key informants/agencies, detailed work plan and reporting requirements. It should include a clear evaluation matrix relating all these aspects and a desk review with a list of the documents consulted.	8	
	Submit an inception report- 20%		November 30
2.	Conduct desk and literature review	3	
3.	Conduct data collection in Honiara and provinces	20	
4.	Debrief with key stakeholders (UNW, UNDRR, IFRC)	2	
5.	Collate data and conduct analysis of the data	7	
6.	Presentation of preliminary findings to ERG	1	
7.	Develop the first draft report to UN Women. The Draft evaluation report (30 pages max excluding annexes) should follow the recommended structure	5	
	Submit 1st draft report -40%		January 31
8.	Submission of second draft report incorporating feedback	3	
9.	Powerpoint presentation of key finding based on the second draft	1	
10.	Finalize the report by addressing final comments	3	
11	Submit final report Final payment: 3rd Tranche – 40%	Total 53 days (cumulative days)	March 15

Deliverable 11: Production of final report incorporating comments from ERG. Final evaluation report (30 pages max excluding annexes) which should be structured as follows:

- Title Page, table of contents, acronyms
- Executive Summary (maximum five pages)
- Purpose of the evaluation
- Evaluation objectives and scope

- Evaluation methodology including consultation structures put in place during the evaluation process
- Context of subject
- Description of the subject
- Findings
- Lessons Learnt
- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Annexes (including but not limited to: original Terms of Reference, List of documents reviewed, Data collection tools used, List of UN agencies, implementing partners, staff and other stakeholders consulted).

The evaluation report will follow the quality standards outlined in the UN Women Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS), available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/accountability/evaluation/decentralized-evaluations>. The evaluation expert is expected to familiarize with the evaluation quality standards as they provide the basis for the final assessment of the evaluation report.

MANAGEMENT OF THE EVALUATION

UN Women will manage the evaluation under the guidance of the UN Women Representative. The process will follow UN Women standards as outlined in the UN Women Evaluation Handbook: How to Manage Gender-Responsive Evaluation, available at <https://genderevaluation.unwomen.org/en/evaluation-handbook>.

The evaluation will establish a Management Group and Reference Group and members of these groups will be involved at various stages during the evaluation process. This includes, among other things, providing comments on the methodology and evaluation process, reviewing the draft evaluation report, discussing the draft evaluation recommendations, and supporting the utilisation and dissemination of the evaluation findings. Further information on evaluation management arrangements and roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders is provided below in the TOR under the section of Management of the Evaluation.

The Evaluation Reference Group will provide support for the evaluation at the technical level. They will review and provide comments to the inception report and the draft report. The Reference Group members will provide comments to the inception report and draft report either through meetings or online via email communications. The role of the group will not lead to influencing the independence of the evaluation, but rather to ensure a robust and credible evaluation process and ensure the use of the evaluation findings and recommendations through formalized management responses and associated action plans. The work of the Reference Group will be guided by the agreed TORs for the Reference Group.

Logistics

UN Women will facilitate this process by providing contact information such as email addresses and phone numbers of their respective partners. The evaluation team is responsible for their own travel arrangements, dissemination of all methodological tools, conducting interviews, group discussions etc.

EVALUATION TEAM COMPOSITION, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCES

A team of international expert and national research assistant will undertake the evaluation. It is expected that the team will meet the following competencies and requirements.

Core Values:

- Respect for Diversity
- Integrity
- Professionalism

Core Competencies:

- Awareness and Sensitivity Regarding Gender Issues;
- Accountability;
- Creative Problem Solving;
- Effective Communication;
- Inclusive Collaboration;
- Stakeholder Engagement;
- Leading by Example.

Please visit this link for more information on UN Women's Core Values and Competencies: <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/about%20us/employment/un-women-employment-values-and-competencies-definitions-en.pdf>

An international expert with the following skills and experience:

- At least a master's degree in gender, social development studies, environment, sociology, international development, or related areas. A special training in Monitoring and Results Based Management is considered an asset.
- At least 5 years' experience and knowledge in conducting gender-responsive evaluations (quantitative and qualitative methods).
- Extensive experience in conducting evaluations with a focus on gender equality, women's empowerment. Specific experience in disaster risk reduction or evaluation of a disaster risk reduction related Project will be an added advantage.
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of Results Based Management methodologies;
- Experience and understanding of gender equality, human rights, and women's empowerment programming of UN agencies, development partners and government;
- Application and understanding of UN mandates on Human Rights and Gender Equality;
- Knowledge of regional/country/ local context will be an asset;
- Proven experience and excellent networking and partnership skills with UN agencies, government and CSOs;
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written and strong presentation skills;
- Excellent spoken and written English (all deliverables to be in English);
- Capacity to work independently and use own equipment.

A National research assistant with the following skills and experience:

- Undergraduate degree in gender, social development studies, environment, sociology, international development, or related areas. A special training in Monitoring and Results Based Management is considered an asset.
- 3 years of working experience in evaluation, and at least 1 in evaluation of development and gender programs;
- Knowledge and experiences in working in community development, disaster risk reduction or gender equality programs and projects;
- Knowledge and experience in basic qualitative research methodologies such as conducting focus group discussions and interviews;
- Experience in conducting project/ program evaluation or assessment as an asset;
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written skills;

- Fluency in Pijin;
- Capacity to work independently and use own equipment.

The independence of the evaluation team is outlined by the UNEG Norms and Standards as well by the UN Women Evaluation Policy. According to the UN Women Evaluation Policy, evaluation in UN Women will abide by the following evaluation standards: Participation and Inclusiveness, Utilization-Focused and Intentionality, Transparency, Independence and Impartiality, Quality and Credibility as well as Ethical Standards. UNEG Norms and Standards and the UN Women Evaluation Policy are publicly available under <http://www.unwomen.org/about/evaluation.php>;

The Evaluator is to act according to the agreed and signed TORs and to proceed according to all stated agreements.

Ethical Code of Conduct

This end of term evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The expert must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing the collection of data and reporting on its data. The expert must also ensure the security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses with the express authorization of UN Women and partners.

Annexes

1. UN Women GERAAS evaluation quality assessment checklist
2. UN Women Evaluation Expert Agreement Form
3. UNEG Norms and Standards for evaluation
4. UN Women Evaluation Handbook

