

## COMMUNITY CHANNELS OF HOPE PROJECT FACT SHEET









### PROJECT BRIEF

**Duration:** 1 August 2018 until 30 June 2022  
**Donor:** The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.  
**Location:** Weathercoast of Guadalcanal, Temotu province

### Solomon Islands



### DID YOU KNOW?

-  As of 2017 Solomon Islands was ranked 156 of 188 countries in the United Nations Development Index<sup>1</sup>.
-  64% of married women aged 15-49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months<sup>2</sup>.
-  73% of women believe a man is justified in beating his wife under some circumstances.
-  18% of women who have experienced violence reported that they have received legal advice or help from health services, shelters, and people in positions of authority.
-  37% of women are sexually abused before the age of 15<sup>2</sup>.
-  Women who have experienced domestic violence are 4.5 times more likely to report that their children have been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by their partner, than those who have never experienced partner violence<sup>3</sup>.

### PROJECT GOAL

The project works alongside churches and community members to cultivate community-driven solutions to addressing violence against women.



## KEY PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Target communities and churches demonstrate more respectful behaviors that value men, women, and children.
- Survivors of violence against women (VAW) have improved community support and access to government and non-governmental support services.
- Target communities better address substance abuse or other triggers for VAW.

## OUR PARTNERS

- Solomon Islands National Government Ministry of Women, Youth, Child and Family Affairs
- Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP)
- Churches in Solomon Islands (ACOM, Catholic, United Church, South Sea Evangelical Church and others)
- Seif Ples
- Christian Care Centre
- Family Support Centre
- National Council of Women
- Vois Blong Mere



Community members in role play to demonstrate and identify acts of violence against children during a group activity.



Beautiful children of Weathercoast area program awaiting to welcome visitors with their flower garlands.

## HOW THE PROJECT WORKS

Channels of Hope works to reduce violence against women in target communities. The project partners with national church leaders and communities to adopt the Community Channel of Hope for Gender (CCOHG) teaching methodology and utilize it in their faith-based teaching across Solomon Islands. The CCOHG teaching methodology is used to emphasize gender equality, human rights and resulting action to address inequality rooted in Christian teaching. The methodology will help the national church leaders and communities to explore and examine their understanding of religious texts, cultural norms and their own personal experiences. It will help them to apply this diversity of knowledge to themselves and their families.

Church leaders at national and local level will be trained on COH to acquire necessary skills to become more proactive in promoting faith-based gender equality and messages of anti-violence. Community and church leaders will be equipped with skills and knowledge to better manage response to violence, and support to implement the methodology in their communities. Community Hope & Action Team (CHAT) groups will gain skills so they are better able to facilitate positive change and appropriate support inside their communities concerning gender inequality and gender-based violence.

The project will support target communities in developing plans to address VAW and connects survivors to support services. The project will enable communities to develop sustainable networks with access to support services and police, as well as utilize these networks when women experience VAW.

The project will support facilitation of the identification of triggers and develop local solutions and approaches to reduce VAW. The project will also support the establishment of loan and saving groups in the targeted communities.



Community and church leaders are equipped with skills and knowledge to better manage and support the response to gender-based violence.