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US Ambassador visits Building Inclusive and Resilient Communities (BIRC) project communities in East Guadalcanal

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) recently had the honour of hosting the U.S. Ambassador Anne Marie Yastishock, on a two day visit to Marau. This visit aimed to provide the Ambassador with firsthand insights into the community development projects funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by World Vision Solomon Islands.

In her remarks, Ambassador Anne Marre stressed how important it is as donors to understand what the challenges are and how do we help you break through the challenges.

“What’s been enlightening and very informational for us and important is about how each community addressed their individual, issues and challenges over disaster risk reduction and the issues we are seeing with climate change.” Said Ambassador Anne Marrie. “Each community has its own challenge and what this program is about, is to help you design what you need as a community and us to support you in doing that.”

WVSI National Director, Jimmy Napdapdap acknowledged the partnership and development assistance to Solomon Islands through World Vision. He also expressed his gratitude for the ongoing support through the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

World Vision through it’s Building Inclusive and Resilient Communities in Solomon Islands project, has conducted a series of capacity building workshops and training for 5 communities across East Guadalcanal in Disaster Readiness and Risk Reduction. The participants are



members of communities supported by the project to lead and make their communities a safe place.

Through World Vision’s work in disaster risk reduction, communities are taught how to prepare for potential disaster to mitigate their impact.



Empowering Communities, Protecting Children: World Vision Solomon Islands

World Vision Solomon Islands has been actively working to strengthen communities and protect children in Malaita. Through various initiatives, the organization has empowered local leaders, educators, and children to create positive change.

Capacity Building for Sunday/Sabbath School Teachers

In a significant step towards child development, World Vision trained 20 communities' Sunday/Sabbath school teachers on the Goodfella laef module. This module equips teachers with essential skills to impart valuable life lessons, foster spiritual growth, and create a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Advocacy for Child Rights

World Vision conducted 18 campaign consultations to engage community members, both adults and children, in amending Section 10 of the Islander's Marriage Act. This initiative aims to protect children from harmful practices and ensure their rights are upheld.

Strengthening Child Protection

To safeguard children from abuse and exploitation, World Vision has trained community leaders and stakeholders on child protection referral pathways. This training empowers communities to identify and respond to cases of child abuse and neglect. Additionally, the organization has established child protection committees to address these issues promptly and effectively.

Amplifying Children's Voices

By involving children in child advocacy committees, World Vision ensures that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed. Children actively participate in discussions on community issues, contributing to decision-making processes and shaping their own future.



Mercy's Story: A Fight for Dignity and Sanitation in Mamarakwe



Since the establishment of this village; women, girls, men and boys did not use latrine toilets but usually went to a separated location in the bush to relief themselves. Male will used one location which will be call men's toilet and female will used another location in the bush as women's toilet. Some time we usually go to the bush around our houses or anywhere that was convenient during bad weather.

It was very bad for me us a woman when I have child but no toilet closer to my house. I used to go to the bush around the house for relief when no one was at home to keep my child. Some time I had to carried my baby and went to the women toilet

Recently I experienced that there was no privacy since community is expanding and gardening area spread everywhere. Especially for the women and girls, we have to leave early in the morning or late in the evening

I used to go to the women toilet at 5am for the purpose of keeping my privacy and dignity. Those people that used 6:00am to 7:00am will be watching at each other squatting around the bush.

I attended CLTS awareness which was conducted by the staffs of world vision and village volunteers in our village. one of the village volunteer in from our village.

After attended the CLTS awareness I decided that I must have a toilet closer to my house. Immediately my husband and I draft our work plan and started our sanitation work. However, according to our community work plan, the community help each other to dig a pit for each household. After the pit digging, I try my best and struggled for money to buy Sato pan, Chicken wire, empty drums, tie wire and bag cement to build my toilet. I was struggling for money for almost 6 months. I grow some vegetables to sell which add to my savings to meet the cost of the materials.

Earning in the rural area was not enough to meet all the family needs and wants. When I had completed my toilet and used it, I was very happy that my fears and my stress was gone.

By using the toilet, my children and I were feel so secured and no longer walked about 100 meter to the bush. we no longer run through the rain, cyclone and no longer using the bush as we used before. This first toilet facility for us is an eye opener for us and the other families in the community of Mamarakwe.

I also experienced that before I always go to clinic regularly every month to access medication but now, I no longer visit the clinics regularly. My children were living healthy and attend school every day.



EMPOWERING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ON THE WEATHER COAST

Recently, a joint visit by World Vision Solomon Islands and World Vision USA to the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal provided a reflective moment in assessing the effectiveness of the ongoing Build Inclusive and Resilient Communities (BIRC) program funded by the USAID - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

This trip was crucial as it provided an on-the-ground evaluation of how the program empowers vulnerable communities to withstand and adapt to challenges such as natural disasters and socio-economic pressures. Direct engagement with community members allowed for valuable insights into the real-world impact of the initiatives.

Key activities of the program include:

- Empowering communities to initiate and implement climate change mitigation activities.
- Enhancing knowledge and skills in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation.

- Establishing Village Disaster Climate Risk Committees (VDCRC) to foster self-reliance and community-level decision-making in the event of a disaster.

- Promoting the conservation of forest resources and coastal ecosystems.

- Soil management, crop diversification, and animal diversification training

Community members have expressed that the training received through the program has equipped them with essential skills, increasing food production and availability.

As Faustina Hurapata from Makaruka shared, "It is very interesting to learn that kumara has male and female vines. And they must be planted together to get a high yield."

We kept hearing from the communities that the impact was increased resilience to disasters and the effects of climate change.

Painting the Future: Children's Day at Burns Creek



This year, Children's Day was celebrated at Burns Creek community. More than 50 children attended the program. Lessons on celebrating families were facilitated for the children during the event, with the goal of equipping families to create a safe and loving environment for children's well-being and nurture. They learned about "my hope and dream for my family." The children drew pictures on paper to illustrate their hopes and dreams and shared them with each other. A 12-year-old girl shared her picture about her hopes and dreams for the future. She said, "I want to be a good girl in my family and a better leader to lead our community here at Burns Creek."

Bringing Hope: WVSI and MWYCFA deliver gifts to sick children

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI), in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs (MWYCFA), visited the Children's Ward at the National Referral Hospital on November 18, 2024 to present gifts to sick children.

The team delivered gift packages filled with swimming soaps, diapers, baby wipes, and swimming towels, in honor of the International Children's Day celebrations held in Honiara on November 13, 2024.

This year's International Children's Day theme, "Evri Pikinini Garem Sem Raet," (Every Child Has Equal Rights), emphasizes the importance of ensuring every child's well-being and happiness. The gift-giving initiative aligns with this theme by providing comfort and joy to children facing health challenges.

The visit aimed to uplift the spirits of children undergoing treatment and remind their families that their rights to love, care, and support are recognized and valued.

During the visit, Mr. Cornelius Komasi, a spokesperson for WVSI, highlighted the importance of bringing hope and joy to children, especially during challenging times.

"Children are at the heart of what we do, and this visit underscores our commitment to ensuring every child feels cared for and valued," Mr. Komasi said.

The MWYCFA also highlighted the visit's significance in advocating for children's rights to health and happiness, aligning with the broader objectives of International Children's Day.

The hospital staff commended the collaboration, noting the positive impact of such initiatives on the children's emotional well-being and recovery.

Transforming Lives: The Positive Impact of the Savings Club in Wahere Community, Marau Sound

In the heart of Marau Sound, the Wahere community—a small yet vibrant village—has undergone a remarkable transformation, thanks to the establishment of a Savings Club, an integral part of the broader Market Linkage Project Phase II (MLP2) implemented by World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI). This initiative funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has become a beacon of hope, dramatically improving the lives of community members through financial empowerment and stability.

One of the most significant impacts of the Savings Club has been on education. Prior to the club's establishment, many children in Wahere were unable to attend school due to the unaffordable costs of school fees. This all changed with the initiation of the Savings Club. By enabling parents to save and manage their finances better, the club has made it possible for more children to attend school, thereby securing a brighter future for the next generation.

In addition to education, healthcare access has also seen a marked improvement. The Savings Club provides financial support that families can rely on for medical expenses. This has been a critical development in a community where access to immediate funds for healthcare was previously a significant challenge.

The Savings Club has also empowered community members to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. Small loans from the club have enabled individuals to start or expand small businesses, particularly in local markets. This has not only increased household incomes but also stimulated the local economy.

Hilda Rouikera, a community member, shared her experience stating: "Through the project, we were able to save money. Many go fishing, sell their catch to the fishery, and then save part of their earnings in the savings group. Before, it was hard to find money for loans or contributions. Now, the savings club makes it easier to manage expenses for things like church contributions and school fees."

Allen Kahunimae, an elder in the community, also highlights how the club has brought about a more organized and financially literate community. He emphasized that men are now more involved in financial planning and decision-making, which has led to more balanced and thoughtful economic activities within households.

"There is a noticeable difference with children attending school. Before the MLP2 project, many children couldn't attend because of school fees. After the MLP2 project, more children are attending school," said Mr. Kahunimae.

WVSI National Director Jimmy Nadapdap firsthand learned about the impact of the Savings Club during his recent visit to the community. He was inspired by the stories of transformation and recognized the positive changes brought about by the MLP2 project in the community.

The Savings Club has fostered a sense of solidarity and mutual support within the community.



SBD 1,179,571

members across the 73 groups. Savings are shared out at the end of each S4T cycle.



WVSI Launches Community Bylaw for NBS and FMNR Project in Makira

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) launched a significant community environmental bylaw on July 22, 2024, as part of the Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Project at its Kirakira office.

The bylaw, aimed at enhancing community resilience and sustainable resource management, represents a significant step forward in empowering local communities to safeguard their natural resources and environment at large, while mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The event saw the official signing of the bylaw by representatives from the beneficiary communities of Tadahadi, Manita, Tawarodo, and Mwanihuki, along with officials from the Kirakira Police and WVSI.

The ceremony commenced with an opening address by the FMNR Project Manager, Barnabas Koroa, who highlighted the significance of the bylaw and its anticipated impact on the communities. Mr. Koroa provided an overview of the bylaw's background, its benefits, and the expected outcomes, emphasizing the role of the bylaw in promoting sustainable

land management practices and enhancing community resilience against climate change.

"I must first acknowledge the Australian government for funding the project through DFAT, on the same note; I would like to also thank WWFA, WVA and our local implementing partners for their invaluable support, mifala say tagio tumas".

"To our community leaders and representatives that are present here today, having such bylaws in place, could provide a clear map to regulate and manage your actions towards the usage of resources, such as the newly regenerated terrestrial and mangrove forests".

"It will also help your communities reduce the over-exploitation of aquatic resources and other coastal livelihoods within the defined boundaries of these by-laws, likewise, to ensure the sustainable management of coastal water resources and protect these valuable assets from the encroachment of external intruders," Mr. Koroa stated.

Also, during the event, WVSI's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation

(CCA) Sector Portfolio Manager, Mr. Bradley Alungo, presented the sector plans for community resilience and sustainability. He outlined future initiatives and strategies to strengthen these efforts in the project areas.

Acting Provincial Police Commander (PPC) for Makira/Ulawa, Mr. George Fafale, expressed the police's support for the bylaw and its enforcement, underscoring the importance of community collaboration in maintaining order and promoting environmental conservation.

Community participants' representative, Mr. Albert Wate, shared the community's perspective, voicing their commitment to adhering to the bylaw and actively participating in the project's initiatives. He expressed gratitude to WVSI and the stakeholders for their support and efforts in improving the livelihoods and sustainability of the communities.

The bylaw signing marks a pivotal moment for the NBS and FMNR Project, signifying the communities' dedication to sustainable practices and the collaborative efforts towards a resilient and environmentally sustainable future.

WVSI hand-over Market House to communities in North Malaita

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) officially handed over the new Nanadi Market House Facility in North Malaita, Malaita Province, on October 8, 2024. This facility was made possible through the Melanesia Rural Market and Innovation-Driven Development (MERMAID) Project, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The Nanadi Market Facility is set to serve communities across Wards 9, 10, and 12 in the Lau Baelelea Constituency, benefiting the surrounding areas. The market is not just a physical structure but a symbol of empowerment, aiming to connect women, youth, and entire communities

to broader market opportunities while fostering stronger relationships.

The National Director of WVSI, the CEO and the Associate Director of World Vision New Zealand (WVNZ), a representative from the New Zealand High Commission- Honiara, Solomon Islands, officials from the Malaita Provincial Government, and other World Vision staff were present for the opening and handover. This high-level representation underscores the project's importance in advancing the region's economic prospects.

The project aligns with World Vision's commitment to improving economic outcomes

for vulnerable populations by creating spaces where local entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, can sell their goods. This market facility will play a vital role in building economic resilience and enabling sustainable livelihoods for those who rely on agriculture and small-scale commerce.

WVSI extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the stakeholders and local communities whose collective efforts made the Nanadi Market House Facility a reality. This project, a true reflection of collaboration and shared vision, was made possible through the dedication and support of key partners, especially IFAD.

BHA Project Brings Disability Inclusion to Niu and Marapa Communities in Marau Sound

The Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA) Project is making significant strides towards ensuring no one is left behind in disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, particularly focusing on disability inclusion within the Niu and Marapa communities of Marau Sound.

This impactful project recognizes the specific needs and vulnerabilities of people with disabilities in times of disaster. By integrating disability inclusion into DRR strategies, the BHA Project empowers individuals with disabilities to actively participate in preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

"We all have a role to play in keeping our communities safe," said Disaster Risk Reduction Project Committee Secretary and elder Mr. John Marahare. "The

BHA Project's focus on disability inclusion ensures everyone has the knowledge, resources, and support they need to prepare for and recover from disasters."

The BHA Project's initiatives likely include:

Disability awareness training: Educating community members and stakeholders on the importance of disability inclusion in DRR.

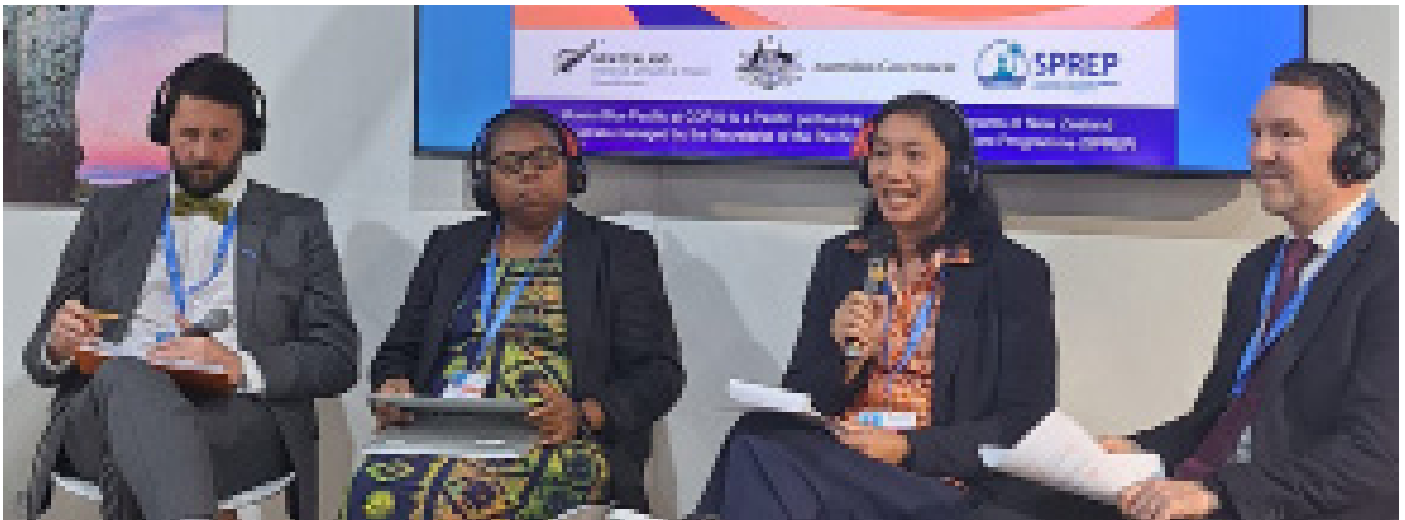
Accessibility assessments: Identifying and addressing physical and communication barriers that may hinder people with disabilities during disasters.

Development of inclusive evacuation plans: Ensuring evacuation plans consider the specific needs of people with disabilities and their families.

Provision of assistive devices: Distributing wheelchairs, walkers, and other assistive devices to those who need them to navigate emergencies safely.

By implementing these and other initiatives, the BHA Project is fostering a more inclusive and resilient Marau Sound. This project serves as a model for other communities in the Solomon Islands and the Pacific region, demonstrating the importance of integrating disability inclusion into all aspects of DRR.

The BHA project, funded by USAID, and implemented by WVSI focuses on equipping vulnerable communities in the Solomon Islands to enhance their resilience and preparedness for natural disasters.



“Hunger and Climate Change: a Challenge to Child Well-Being”

Solomon Islands Government and World Vision Solomon Islands hosted a side event in COP29 Baku, Azerbaijan titled “Hunger and Climate Change: a Challenge to Child Well Being” in Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion on Tuesday, 19 November 2024.

Taking place on Food, Agriculture and Water Day at COP29, the panel discussion is aimed to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on child hunger in Solomon Islands and share solutions to build resilience and adaptation to the challenges.

Climate change has a devastating, compounding impact on hunger and malnutrition, and this impact is seen most visibly in the lives of vulnerable children. According to UNICEF, 1 in 6 children under 5 years of age in the Pacific region, are experiencing severe child food poverty. This is compounded by the impacts of Climate Change; Pacific SIDS including Solomon Islands are one of the lowest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions but are paying the greatest price. Solomon Islands is dealing with the existential threat posed by climate change including the impacts

on the right to food.

World Vision, in conjunction with communities and government partners in Solomon Islands, has spoken to almost 100 children on the impacts on climate on their food security. Their responses were unequivocal climate change is having a negative impact on children and their communities access to food.

The panel discussion consists of PS Susan Sulu of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Irene Marbun of the WV Solomon Islands Operations Manager and Alan O’Brien Deputy Director of Climate Unit, Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs Ireland.

During the panel discussion, PS Susan Sulu underscored the critical need for substantive action on emission reductions to maintain the target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. She articulated the important nexus between climate and ocean as well as the significance of the ocean in addressing food security and the deep cultural and emotional significance of the ocean to Solomon Islanders. Ms Sulu

shared the poignant response of a group of young boys from Sikaiana, an outer island in Malaita province, regarding the effects of climate change on their communities, yet a resolute determination to remain on their island rather than relocate because they do not want to disconnect with their oceanic way of life.

In a similar vein, Alan O’Brien emphasized the collective responsibility of being global custodians of the ocean, highlighting the necessity of its protection. He also affirmed Ireland’s commitment to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including the Solomon Islands. Furthermore, Irene Marbun stressed the importance of amplifying children’s voices, noting that they are essential stakeholders in shaping a sustainable future.

In conclusion, collaborating effectively to combat child hunger is essential. This partnership plays a critical role in addressing the challenges posed by climate change, as it enables shared resources, innovative strategies, and a more comprehensive approach to ensure resilience and sustainability in our communities.



World Vision and Solomon Islands Government Strengthen Partnership

The National Director and staff of World Vision Solomon Islands, and the CEO and Associate Director of World Vision New Zealand had the privilege of meeting with the Acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Bradley Tovosia, and his Advisory Team on Monday 7 October.

We are particularly encouraged by the government's commitment to ongoing collaboration, communication, and alignment. As discussed, World Vision remains fully dedicated to working alongside the Solomon Islands Government, especially through our partnerships with the Ministry Of Health & Medical Services on the Global Fund, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Solomon Islands. As a Christian, child-focused, and community-based organization, World Vision aligns closely with the Solomon Islands Government's priority of ensuring that children and families are empowered to succeed. We look forward to further strengthening this partnership.

WVSI officially handover Jacobs Ladder to A'ama community

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) has officially handed over a brand new 108-meter Jacobs Ladder (a series of concrete steps) to the A'ama and surrounding communities in North Malaita on October 8, 2024.

This simple but incredible project, funded by the New Zealand Government through their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was a youth-led initiative under WVSI's Youth Skills and Employment Development (YSED) program. The handover ceremony saw representatives from the New Zealand High Commission, the National Director of WVSI, the CEO and Associate Director of World Vision New Zealand, and officials from the Malaita Provincial Government in attendance.

The Jacobs Ladder project is a testament to the dedication of World Vision and its partners in enhancing the lives of children and families in the Solomon Islands. Chosen by the youth as a community project following World Vision's IMPACT+ life skills program, this small infrastructure project showcases the power of providing skills, leadership, and support opportunities to young people.

The new Jacobs Ladder will greatly improve access to A'ama and inland communities, especially to schools and health facilities, making a significant difference to people's lives and particularly during the wet season.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

We're excited to share some changes within our team! As we continue to adapt and grow, we're realigning some roles to better serve our mission.

Sponsorship Team

Daniel Setiawan Tamba
Program Manager

Vivian Inoni
Deputy Program Manager

Rachen Lano
*Community Development
Officer*

Alick Jeffery Konare
*Community Development
Officer*

Jorday Tucker Sarukiki
DME Coordinator

Hickson Richard
Sponsorship Specialist

Maila delos Santos
Sponsorship Manager

Regreening by ANCP

Osbert Lalahu
Project Manager

Vahid Namo
Project Coordinator

Kelly Housiho
*Community Development
Officer*

Maternal and Child Health

Madeira Gatu Manepuhi
Program Coordinator

Joseph Taungani
Program Coordinator

CBDRM by WV Korea

John Funi
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Douglas Marape
*Community Development
Facilitator*

Urban Resilience by

Nathaniel Salini
Project Coordinator

WASH Base Funding

Tema Wickham
Project Manager

BHA (DRR & El-Nino)

Cora Makini
DME Officer



World Vision
SOLOMON ISLANDS

COMMITMENT
RESPECT
LOVE
ACCOUNTABILITY
COLLABORATION
DISCIPLINE
SOLIDARITY



Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so

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