



World Vision Solomon Islands

World Vision

Maternal Child Health and Nutrition

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Who We Are

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

Inspired by our Christian values, World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. World Vision has over 30 years of community development experience in the Solomon Islands. World Vision partners with children, families, government, communities and other partners to improve lives and combat poverty.



Baby being weighed ©WVSI

Where our maternal and child health programs are located in:

South Malaita
Makira-Ulawa Province
Temotu Province
Central Province

Maternal and Child Health in the Solomon Islands

The statistics for Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) in the Solomon Islands have been improving over the last 10 years, however maternal mortality and infant mortality rates are high and immunisation rates are low compared to other South Pacific nations. These issues are difficult to address given the isolated location of many communities within the Solomon Island's 992 islands.

The general lack of knowledge regarding nutrition, birth spacing and inaccessibility to health centres to receive medical support including access to iron foliate supplementation, tetanus toxoid injections and malaria prevention hinders improvement in MCHN. Without these interventions, delivery of underweight children and higher mortality rates are inevitable. Mothers who are anaemic are also at higher risk of death. Size at birth was reported to be lower amongst births to mothers under 20 years of age, first order births, and mothers with no education. (2007, Solomon Islands Ministry of Health Survey).

Exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and adequate complementary feeding are not practiced by most women in rural areas. Up to 30 percent of children are born in their home, often hours away from the closest health centre. Appropriate essential newborn care is often overlooked, being replaced by traditional rituals which in some cases compromise the health of the newborn child.

Due to the remoteness of communities, immunisation coverage is poor, as is Vitamin A supplementation. Neonatal, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria are the main causes of death in children under 5 years (2007, Solomon Islands Ministry of Health Survey).

Funding Resources

World Vision is a global partnership based on a federated model, with country offices in both the developed and developing world.

Contributions come from private donors, businesses, foundations and government grants. Gifts-in-kind such are also donated by corporations or government agencies to resource education and other projects. Supported by various donors, World Vision has channelled more than USD\$6.4 million in 2013 and an estimated USD\$8.2 million in 2014 to projects in the Solomon Islands

Baby receiving vaccination. ©WVSI.



Key Partners & Stakeholders

World Vision Solomon Islands partners with a variety of government agencies, NGOs, community groups and churches.

- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
- ◆ Provincial Governments of Makira-Ulawa, Malaita, Central and Temotu
- ◆ UNICEF
- ◆ UNFPA
- ◆ World Health Organisation
- ◆ Kastom Garden
- ◆ Mothers Union
- ◆ Community
- ◆ Churches

Our Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Projects

World Vision has four Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) projects in the Solomon Islands. Projects use international MCHN best practice as well as World Vision International 7/11 methodologies. Comprehensive baseline studies have been carried out in Temotu, Malaita, Makira and Central provinces and the findings shared with communities as well as partners and stakeholders. The baseline reports revealed key maternal child health issues such as malnutrition and anaemia due to not eating a balanced diet and poor hygiene practices at home.

Mothers in target communities are being educated about maternal and child health issues and are being encouraged to make regular visits to clinics for antenatal checks, advice and growth monitoring. More men in target communities are identifying themselves alongside their wives as equal players in the family health cycle. Target communities have developed an understanding of the great need for proper nutrition and mother and child care. In close cooperation with the ministry of Health and Medical Services, a network of Village Health Volunteers has also been established which is helping with monitoring children's Growth Charts and spreading messages on eating healthy food and living a healthy lifestyle.

South Malaita Maternal Child Health Project

This four year project began in mid-2011. It aims to improve health practices in 15 villages of South Malaita, especially those of women and children focusing on increasing knowledge of health issues, nutrition, pregnancy, delivery and children 0-5 years. It also seeks to improve the relationship between existing health centres and the community through supporting the village health worker network. Funding for this project has been provided by Australian Aid and World Vision Australia.

Makira Maternal Child Health Project

This project is similar to the South Malaita project, with similar goals and outcomes, focusing on improving mother and child health and nutrition. This four year project will target 15 communities throughout Makira including the Weathercoast area. This four year project will be ongoing until 2015 and is funded by Australian Aid and World Vision Australia.

Temotu Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Project

This project aims to assist communities to adopt improved health practices to protect the health of women and children in Temotu Province. The project targets men, women and children in 15 communities. The project is similar to the South Malaita and Makira MCHN project, with similar goals and outcomes, focusing on improving mother and child health and nutrition. This four year project started in 2013 and is funded by Ministry of Health and Medical Services, UNICEF and World Vision New Zealand.

Central Province Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Project

This four year project started in 2014 and aims to improve the health of women and children in 16 target communities focusing on increasing knowledge of health issues, nutrition, pregnancy, delivery and children 0-5 years. This project is funded by Australian Aid and World Vision Australia and is the first World Vision project in Central Province.