



# Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Solomon Islands

## 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 more than 30 years of experience in community development in Solomon Islands. World Vision works with children, families, government, communities and other partners to improve lives and combat poverty.

## Where We Work

<b>CENTRAL ISLANDS</b>	<b>15 Communities</b>
<b>SOUTH MALAITA</b>	<b>15 Communities</b>
<b>MAKIRA</b>	<b>15 Communities</b>
<b>TEMOTU</b>	<b>11 Communities</b>



**Every 3  
Weeks**

**a woman dies from complications in pregnancy or childbirth**

**Every 7  
Days**

**6 infants die from a preventable illness**

*These figures are averages for the Solomon Islands according to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health & Medical Services*



*Photo: Emily Gordon/World Vision Solomon Islands*

## Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition in Solomon Islands

Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) statistics for the Solomon Islands have improved over the last 10 years.<sup>1</sup> However, maternal and infant mortality rates remain high and immunisation rates are low compared to other South Pacific nations. Lack of knowledge regarding nutrition and birth spacing, as well as inaccessibility to health centres and medical support, hinders improvement in MCHN. Without intervention, delivery of underweight children and high mortality rates are inevitable.

## Our Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Projects

World Vision uses international health knowledge of nutrition, pregnancy, and MCHN best practice, to educate and promote maternal and child health issues in communities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, World Vision has established a network of Village Health Volunteers, who help parents monitor their children's health, and raise awareness in regard to eating a healthy diet and living a healthy lifestyle. The projects strengthen relationships between communities and health facilities by providing local health staff with specialised training on MCHN. All World Vision MCHN projects aim to improve health delivery for children 0-5 years.



*Photo: Emily Gordon/World Vision Solomon Islands*

<sup>1</sup> As determined by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services.



Photo: Rolland Gito/World Vision Solomon Islands

## Maternal Child Health and Nutrition

All World Vision MCHN projects establish Village Health Committees (VHC) and train local Village Health Volunteers in MCHN care and support. Community Support Groups help new mothers with breastfeeding support, nutrition and cooking classes.

## Village Health Volunteers

Village Health Volunteers (VHV) work alongside registered nurses at the community level. They are responsible for tracking pregnant women and newborn children in their community to ensure they are up-to-date with antenatal and postnatal care. Pregnant women are encouraged to attend antenatal checks and plan for a health facility delivery. Mothers with newborns must ensure their child has regular growth monitoring, full immunisation, vitamin A supplements, and de-worming.

## Project - Makira & South Malaita

These projects began in October 2011 and have been extended until 2017. They are supported by the Australian Government and World Vision Australia.

## Project - Central Islands

This project focuses on 16 communities in the Russel Islands. It is supported by the Australian Government and will run from January 2014 until September 2017.

## Project - Temotu

This project focuses on 11 communities in Temotu Province. It is supported by UNICEF and World Vision NZ and will run until 2017.

## Our Key Partners and Stakeholders

- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
  - Ministry of Health and Medical Services
  - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
  - World Health Organization
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- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
  - Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
  - Provincial Governments of Makira-Ulawa, Malaita, Central Islands, and Temotu
  - Rotary Club of Honiara
  - Constituencies of Savo Russel
  - United Nations Human Population Fund (UNFPA)
  - Other Non-Government Organisations
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- Anglican Mothers Union
  - Kastom Garden Association
  - Solomon Islands Churches
  - Solomon Islands Communities

## Funding

World Vision receives funding from private donors, businesses, foundations and government grants. Corporations or government agencies also donate gifts-in-kind such as food, commodities, clothing and school supplies to resource education and other projects.

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**Learn More:** [www.wvi.org/solomon-islands](http://www.wvi.org/solomon-islands)  **WorldVisionSI**

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