



# Gender

## 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

**HONIARA  
WEATHER COAST  
TEMOTU**

**5 Communities**  
**15 Communities**  
**15 Communities**



**OVER 50%** of all spousal arguments in the Solomon Islands end in physical violence

**38%** of Solomon Islands' women say their first sexual encounter was forced

Source: World Vision/Australian National University Baseline Survey and The Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey of 2006-2007.



Photo: Rolland Gito/World Vision Solomon Islands

### Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination in Solomon Islands

Gender-based violence and gender discrimination is a serious problem in the Solomon Islands. There is frequent use of severe physical punishment to discipline women with two out of three women saying they have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner.<sup>1</sup> Deeply held local beliefs and attitudes re-enforce these social practices and there are few support services available nationally for survivors of gender-based violence.

### Our Channels of Hope for Gender Projects

World Vision's Channels of Hope methodology is an innovative Biblical approach, which works to change attitudes and behaviours in regard to gender and gender equality. In the Solomon Islands where more than 90% of the population identify as Christian, the project supports faith leaders to promote gender equality and non-violence in their communities. It provides church leaders, community leaders, police, and other service providers with improved capabilities for addressing and reducing gender-based violence (GBV) and works with these groups to help increase understanding of the causes of GBV. The project also builds links between existing support services and communities to help survivors of GBV find support.



Photo: Rolland Gito/World Vision Solomon Islands

<sup>1</sup>Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study: A Study of Violence Against Women and Children, Noumea: SPC (Secretariat of Pacific Countries). 2009, p3.



Photo: Rolland Gito/World Vision Solomon Islands

## Community Vision for Change Phase II

This project aims to reduce GBV in five communities in Honiara using the Channels of Hope for Gender Methodology. The Target communities are Sun Valley, Burns Creek, Fulisango, Mamanawata and White River. The project is funded by World Vision Australia and the Australian NGO Cooperation Program. It is due to end in 2017.

## Community Channels of Hope Weather Coast & Temotu

This project aims to reduce GBV by working with churches and community leaders using a Christian context. 30 communities across Temotu and Guadalcanal provinces have implemented the project. The approach has proven effective in positively transforming people's beliefs, attitudes and behaviours regarding gender issues. The project is funded by the Australian Government and World Vision Australia. It is due to end in March 2017.

## Channels of Hope Program Evaluation

*“The Biblical approach sits in harmony with cultural and social norms in both project locations. In places where the messages has been effectively communicated the project is receiving high levels of community support and almost no resistance. Given the entrenched norms (or at least perceived entrenched norms) surrounding gender roles and violence in Solomon Islands, this is quite remarkable.”*

*Excerpt from Evaluation Report: Weather Coast and Temotu Community Channels of Hope Project Phase I, University of Queensland, August 2015.*


## Our Key Partners and Stakeholders

- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
  - Ministry of Health and Medical Services
  - Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
  - Provincial Governments of Guadalcanal and Temotu
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- Christian Care Centre
  - Family Support Centre
  - Safe Pleis
  - Other Health Care and Social Welfare Service Providers
- 
- Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
  - Solomon Islands Bar Association
  - Solomon Islands Director of Public Prosecution
  - Solomon Islands Public Solicitors Office
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- Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM)
  - Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA)
  - Solomon Islands Full Gospel Association (SIFGA)
  - Honiara-based Churches and Pastors
  - Chiefs and Community Leaders

## 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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