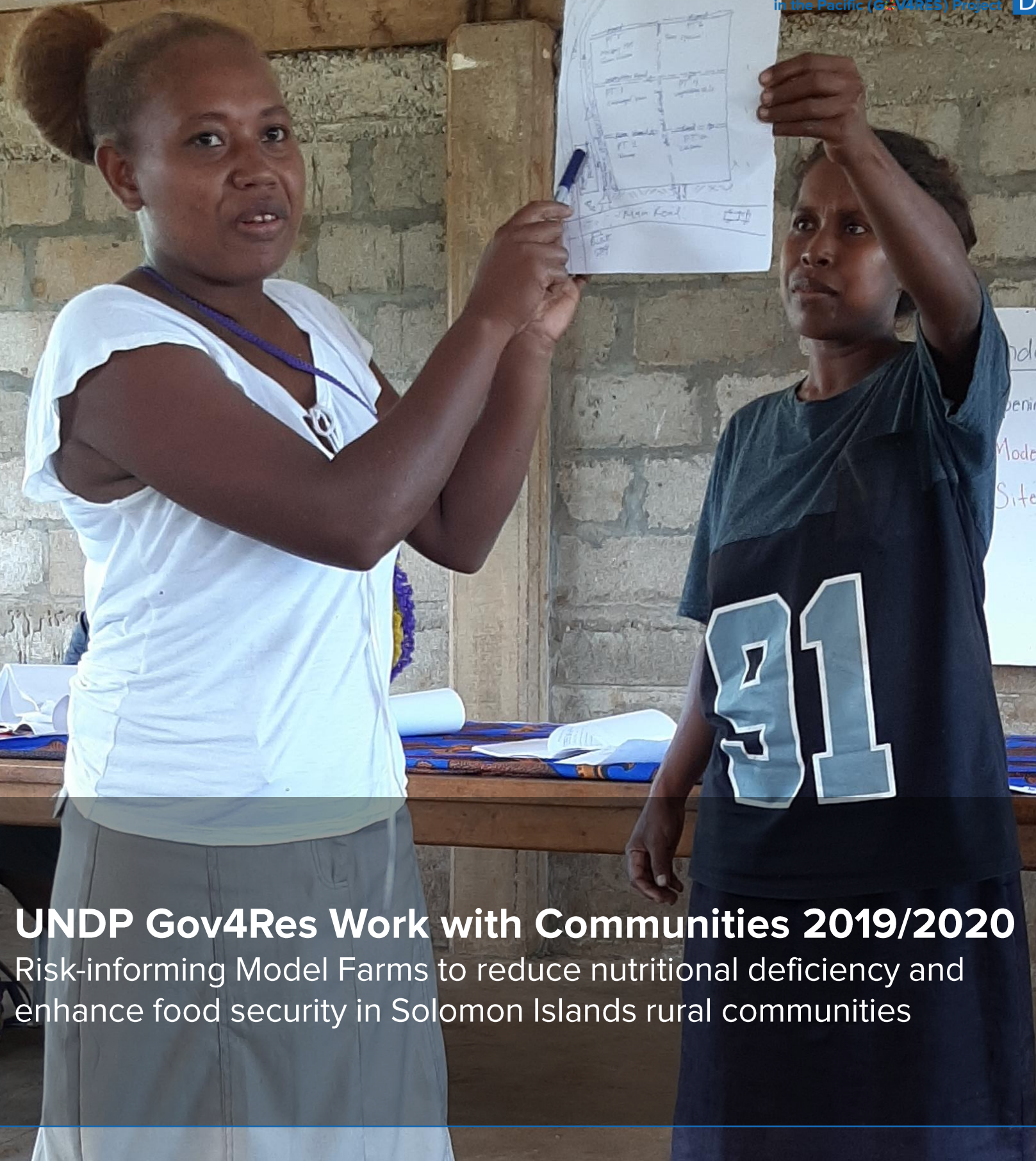




Governance for Resilient Development
in the Pacific (Gov4Res) Project



UNDP Gov4Res Work with Communities 2019/2020

Risk-informing Model Farms to reduce nutritional deficiency and enhance food security in Solomon Islands rural communities

BACKGROUND

Solomon Islands, like many Pacific Island nations, face challenges relating to nutritional disorders, which COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold have recently exacerbated. In response, the Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH), have commenced a project to reduce nutritional disorders in provincial areas.

Initially proposed for six sites across six provinces, the project involves the development of model farms or gardens, training programs on health, nutrition and agriculture jointly delivered through MAL and MOH extension networks, and the distribution of seeds, equipment and tools.

UNDP GOV4RES SUPPORT

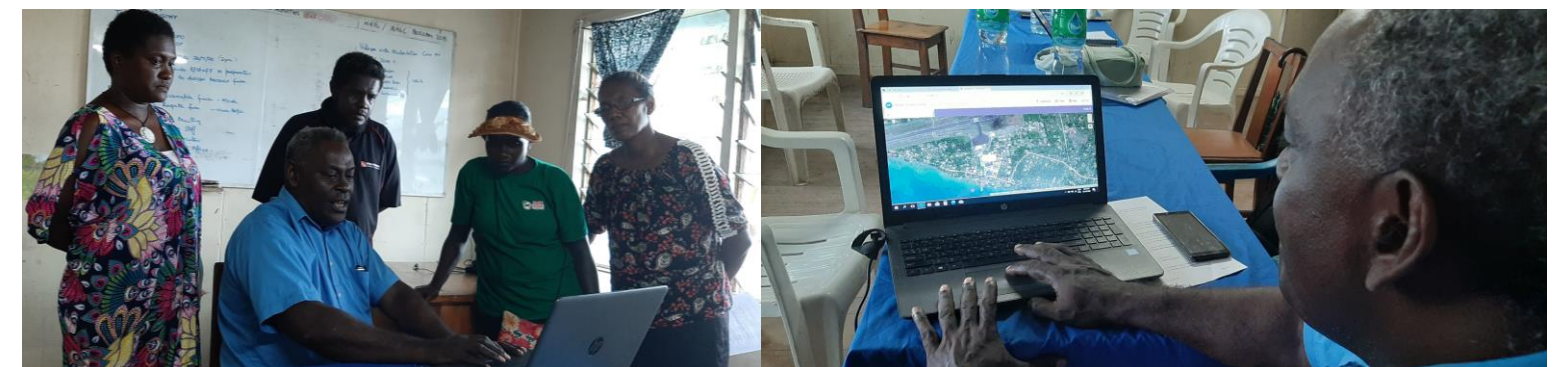


(Training participants having a group discussion, Gnulahage Village, Photo: UNDP Solomon Islands Office)

The MAL recognises that to ensure their model farm investments are sustainable, they will need to firstly understand and analyse potential climate change, disaster and gender and social inclusion risks, and secondly design management measures to mitigate these risks. Consequently, MAL has partnered with the UNDP Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific Project (Gov4Res) to risk-inform their model farms. Financing for the establishment of the farms will come from the ministry's development budget, whilst UNDP Gov4Res will provide additional financing for implementation of risk management measures.

Scoping and preliminary design missions for the project commenced in June 2020, with teams from MAL, MOH and UNDP visiting six provinces. The outcomes of the missions included highlighting of the differing needs of male, female and youth farmers within communities, identification of natural hazards such as soil erosion, sea level rise, landslide, drought and low soil fertility impacting the farm sites, and a strong desire from communities to be able to access both health and agriculture training. Construction of the farms is anticipated to commence in the last quarter of 2020.

Risk-informing the model farms will enhance their resilience in the face of climate change and disaster events, as well as ensure that they meet the needs of all people in the community, including youth, elderly, and people of all genders. In the long run, this will ensure that the impact of the farms are greater, and result in cost savings for the government as the farms are more likely to withstand events and not need to be rebuilt.



(Colleagues from MAL discussing their plans for 2020 activities, Photo: UNDP Solomon Islands Office)