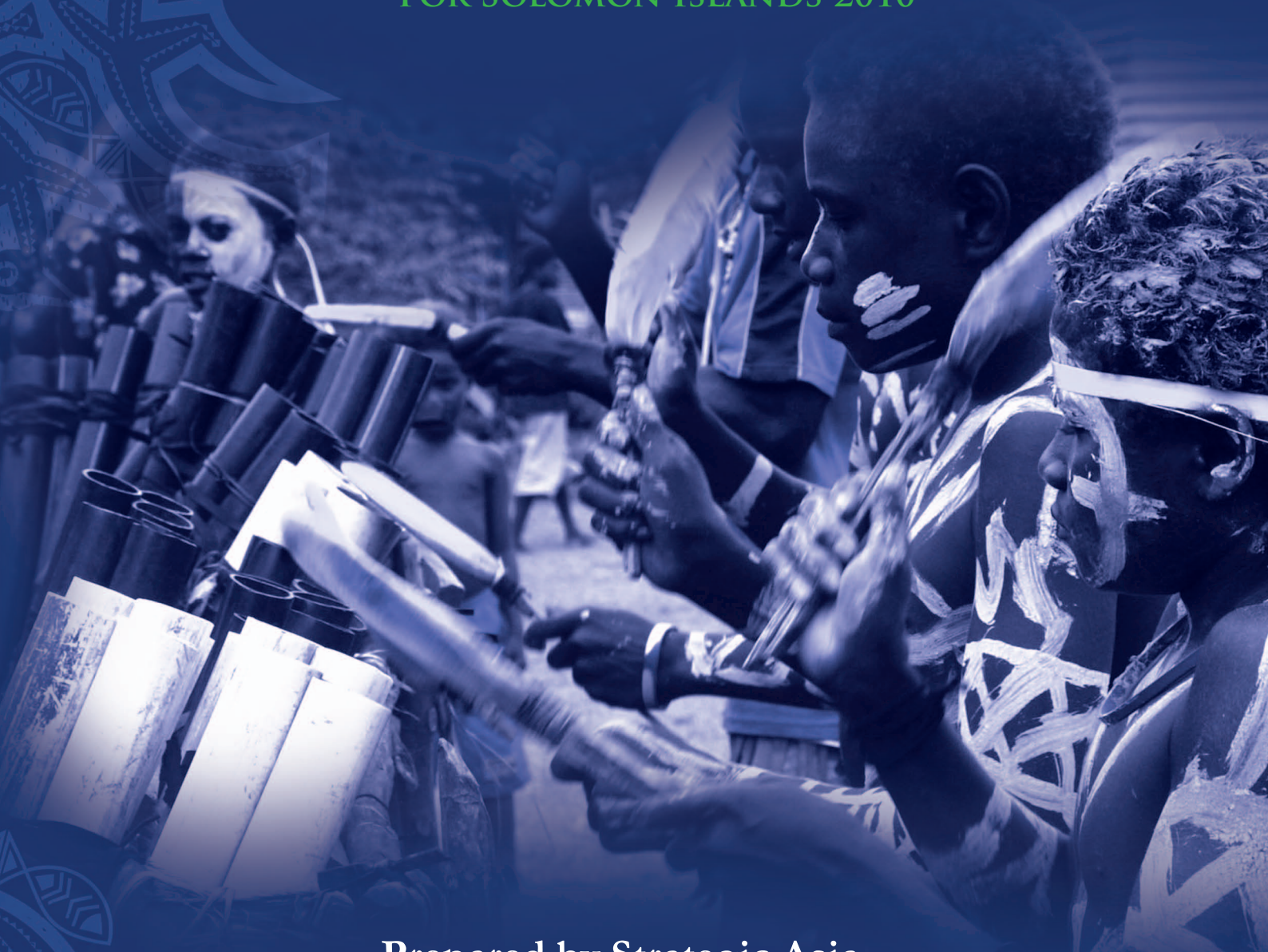




# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROGRESS REPORT FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS 2010



Prepared by Strategic Asia  
Commissioned by UNDP



Ministry of Development Planning & Aid Coordination



## **Millennium Development Goals Report for Solomon Islands 2010**

November 2010

This report is result of extensive consultations with the Government, Thematic MDG Working Groups, UN Agencies, and Civil Society

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ADB:</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AUSAID:</b>	Australian Government Overseas Aid Programme
<b>CBSI:</b>	Central Bank of Solomon Islands
<b>CEDAW:</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CO2:</b>	Carbon Dioxide
<b>DHS:</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>EEZ:</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EU:</b>	European Union
<b>FDI:</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GDP:</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HDR:</b>	Human Development Report
<b>HIES:</b>	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
<b>AIDS:</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>HIV:</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>IMF:</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>INGOs:</b>	International Non Governmental Organisations
<b>IPCC:</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>LDC:</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>MALD:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development
<b>MDG:</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MDG Plus:</b>	Millennium Development Goals Plus
<b>MDPAC:</b>	Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination
<b>MECM:</b>	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology
<b>MEF:</b>	Malaitan Eagle Force
<b>MEHRD:</b>	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
<b>MFAET:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
<b>MHA:</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>MHMS:</b>	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
<b>MID:</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure Development
<b>MLHS:</b>	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey
<b>MRDIA:</b>	Ministry of Rural Development and Indigenous Affairs
<b>MSG-FTA:</b>	Melanesian Spearhead Group Free Trade Area
<b>MTDS:</b>	Medium Term Development Strategy
<b>NBSAP:</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

**NERRDP:** National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan

**NGOs:** Non-Government Organisations

**NTD:** Neglected Tropical Diseases

**NZAID:** New Zealand Aid

**ODA:** Official Development Assistance

**OECD:** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

**OPMC:** Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**PACER:** Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations

**PACP:** Pacific ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific)

**PICTA:** Pacific Islands Trade Agreement

**PNG:** Papua New Guinea

**PPP:** Purchasing Power Parity

**PS:** Permanent Secretary

**RAMSI:** Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands

**SI:** Solomon Islands

**SIDHS:** Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey

**SIDS:** Small Island Developing States

**SIG:** Solomon Islands Government

**SOE:** State Owned Enterprise

**STI:** Sexually Transmitted Infections

**SWAP:** Sector Wide Approach

**TB:** Tuberculosis

**UK:** United Kingdom

**UN:** United Nations

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

**UNICEF:** United Nations Children's Fund

**USD:** United States Dollars

**WB:** World Bank

**WHO:** World Health Organisation

**WWF:** Worldwide Fund for Nature



## FOREWORD

This report provides a thorough assessment of where the Solomon Islands stands as of 2010 in its quest to achieve the goals, targets and overall intentions of the Millennium Declaration. The Solomon Islands government is committed to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 and the MDGs figure very prominently in its overall development planning and policy stance as seen in the Mid Term Development Strategy.

The Solomon Islands Government is currently in the middle of a detailed assessment of the progress of MDGs and results reproduced in throughout this report show significant progress in the health and education, reasonable progress in reducing poverty and hunger, combating HIV, and building an effective development partnership.

This is a very encouraging result for Solomon Islands given the difficult times that the country has passed over the last decade. In fact, in the context of the MDGs and targets which chart progress between 1990 and 2015, it can be seen that since the late 1990s the Solomon Islands has not experienced more than two or three years of overall normality. First the domestic tensions, then a sharp spike in world food and energy prices followed by the onset of the global economic crisis. These has all hit the Solomon Islands very hard. The fact that despite this, Solomon Islands has some impressive achievements in terms of MDGS is a testimony to strong grass roots social institutions, for instance in family sharing

mechanisms, as well as to the strength of the development partnership that we have built with the international community.

The Government of Solomon Islands owe special thanks to the Governments of New Zealand and Australia for their support in promoting education and health and to the donor community generally for helping to put in place effective programmes in almost all the areas covered by the MDGs.

Solomon Islands' government's commitment to poverty alleviation and to a more equitable distribution of the fruits of future development between rural and urban areas, and between one Island and another is also seen in the design of a comprehensive Rural Development Strategy. This a core priority for us and we look forward to continuing development assistance to realise this programme which has critical inter-linkages with sustainable resource development and equity. Raising the quality as well as the pace of future development is the overriding goal of our government.

Over the next few years as we approach 2015, the Solomon Islands would like to establish with UNDP and other international agencies a plan for an accelerated path to MDG attainment. At the same time, we intend to initiate changes in our statistical information system designed to track year on year changes in MDG and MDG Plus indicators. Such data tracking accompanied by annual MDG progress reports will help to pin-point short falls. They will also help us

raise awareness of the importance of MDGs in our national life and thus build a development consensus between the government and local communities as well as between the Government and the international community on how best to accelerate the achievement of MDGs in the shortest possible time.

Solomon Islands as a Small Island Developing State realise that as a country we are not alone in our struggle to reach MDG targets by 2015. Other countries in the Pacific face some similar problems. We will be working closely with them to explore what lessons we can learn from each other, what common milestones on the road to future development might be established and how we might best participate and contribute to development and trade initiatives in the region as a whole. It is for this reason that we have endorsed the preparation of Pacific Economy Regional

MDG Reporting as well as at the country level.

Solomon Islands also owe a special thanks to the Secretary General and the constituent bodies of the United Nations for their continuing support to the Solomon Islands. The Millennium Declaration and the MDGs have undoubtedly led to an heightened realisation that we do indeed live in a globalised and inter-dependent world. This world is progressively bringing together not only the developed countries but the developing countries as well thus opening us the possibility of accelerated South South Cooperation. It has also been successful in mobilising specialised support for countries such as ours which fall in the special case category of the Small Island Developing States. We on our part will work hard to continue this partnership with the UN Agencies and with the larger donor community in the years to come.

**Hon. Snyder Rini**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2000 at the historic United Nations Millennium Summit Solomon Islands, together with 188 countries, pledged to take part in the ambitious Millennium Development Goals project, setting the roadmap for developed and developing countries to work together and agree on a set of issues centred on poverty reduction, education, health and aid to developing countries. During the Summit, eight Millennium Development Goals were identified as the major challenges for the world at the opening of the new century, and the Millennium Development Goals clearly and concisely outlined the need to establish objectives crucial to support national development plans.

The present Millennium Development Goals Report is the second produced by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) with the support of UNDP. The report is the result of three months of work entailing extensive consultations with the SIG, the donor community in Honiara, multilateral and bilateral organizations, civil society groups, NGOs and UN bodies, and provides the basis for a periodic review to monitor and evaluate where Solomon Islands stands in relation to its mission to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015. It is also meant to provide an overview of the challenges and priorities to address enhanced commitment towards the achievement of the MDGs. Since the first Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals Report in 2004, the country has made considerable progress in most Goals, but at the same time there is ongoing awareness amongst

both the donor community and SIG that much still needs to be done to achieve the set targets within the next five years. The first Millennium Development Goals Report was a timely contribution to policy making and direction for the country in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, and this second edition should help close the gap between the actual situation and the desired one. This report will revisit, outline and analyze constraints, bottlenecks and enabling conditions to shape an accelerated strategy for progress against specific indicators.

Furthermore, the publication of a second report, following six years of post conflict renewed stability, provides a significant platform for understanding and improvement over Solomon Islands' advancement towards its development vision. While acknowledging achievements particularly in the health and education sectors, combined with ongoing support of development partners aligning to government priorities, this report looks at the commitments that the government and the donor community will need to take from now on.

In the past six years SIG has shown exceptional dedication towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, by both incorporating targets into its National Development Plan and by outlining strategies for achieving national development objectives. This strategy has allowed development partners to work closely together and align on mutual

objectives, despite a perceived lack of leadership from the SIG.

It is relevant to emphasize that even while Solomon Islands has moved away from the internal conflict, it has been affected by a series of very abnormal years throughout the past decade, a result of the food crisis followed by an increase of commodity prices and by a global financial crisis in 2008. The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals has therefore been hampered by external factors.

This document has been produced with the hope

to raise awareness on the Millennium Development Goals in Solomon Islands as well as to draw a roadmap for the country to address targeted policies to fulfil its Millennium Development Goals commitments.

Special thanks should be given to the SIG, particularly to all staffs from MDPAC, the Joint UN Presence in Solomon Islands, and to reviewers of the UNDP Pacific Centre, which have supported the Strategic Asia consulting team throughout the whole preparation of this report.

## PREPARATION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS' MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROGRESS REPORT 2010

The process of compiling the present Millennium Development Goals report assessment was initiated by the UNDP Sub-Office in Solomon Islands in the third quarter of 2010 as a way to evaluate in-country Millennium Development Goals progress and possible acceleration strategies. Strategic Asia external consultants were mobilized to conduct on the ground information gathering through a series of visits, focus groups discussions (FGDs) and meetings with representatives of the Government, civil society and international development organizations. The process was complemented via a set of presentations organized in September 2010 with government counterparts and the donor community in Honiara discussing preliminary findings over the draft version of this report.

The present assessment was conducted over a period of three months and makes use of much of the available in-country data originating from official government and international organisation sources. The Millennium Development Goals progress report draws upon lessons and recommendations produced by previous reports on Millennium Development Goals in Solomon Islands and the results obtained in this assessment are expected to become the basis for strategic guidance. This review also aims to provide sufficient information to the Government of Solomon Islands and UNDP to improve the quality of progress on the medium and long term attainment of the eight development goals.

The report first sets out the development context of the country and the adaptability of international goals and values to the specific context of Solomon Islands. It then unfolds by reviewing status and progress to date, challenges faced, enabling environments, priorities and monitoring and evaluation capacity assessment for each one of the Millennium Development Goals.

The methodology used to construct the current assessment was developed on the available data around goals, targets and indicators for all Millennium Development Goals approved and endorsed by the Government of Solomon Islands and formulated in the First National Millennium Development Goals Progress Report in 2004. The report also reviews the consistency of existing government policies with the Millennium Development Goals agenda, and takes into consideration the ongoing steps taken and the resources needed in order to ensure that Solomon Islands can achieve the country-specific Millennium Development Goals. Targets and indicators have been interpreted through a thorough analysis of the current situation, reviewing policies and interventions currently implemented, leading to a need to mobilize additional resources and efforts to accelerate the full attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

A series of information sources have been used among which include policies for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy

Papers, Mid-Term Development Frameworks, sectoral strategies, and direct consultations with line ministries, the National Bureau of Statistics, and other national and international sources of data. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination were the major governmental sources for the information used in the report. In each Ministry, consultations were conducted with top officials or Permanent Secretaries (PS).

While the final version of the report outlines much of the needed information, the report faced a number of problems in data gathering. One of the weaknesses of this report derives from the fact that the external consultants weren't able to visit the outer provinces and conduct a first-hand assessment and verification of the statistical information supplied to this report. This was the result of a lack of time available, which would have otherwise allowed the consultant teams to conduct independent surveys and direct field interviews as well as to collect own data in the Millennium Development Goals specific format verifying inequalities among the different regions.

The second major weakness originates from the availability and reliability of data. Currently the National Statistics Office (NSO), a government department, is the cluster for official statistical system of the country and most official statistical

operations fall within the mandate of this office. Over the past few years the NSO has built up a considerable good capacity to gather data, however Millennium Development Goals data gathering formats have not yet been developed – leading to considerable difficulties in the identification of set indicators for determining progress over the specific indicators for each of the Millennium Development Goals. There have been organisational changes and transformations to the NSO due to continuing statistical developments, increasing demands in statistical information for evidence based decision making, policy formulations and monitoring and evaluation of policies. However discrepancies of data still exist.

Also, the National Census data which was conducted at the end of 2009 was not yet finalized when this report was completed and therefore its findings have not been made available to the data sets presented in the present Millennium Development Goals report.

When data was lacking, secondary data sources have been used for each of the Millennium Development Goals. UN agencies and the World Bank Solomon Islands country office in Honiara, often visited by the consultant team, were the main suppliers of the missing data. Document sources used to compile this report have been made available to the reader in the bibliography and annexes.

The Millennium Development Goals progress report in itself should be considered a tool for guidance on MDGs attainment. The Millennium



Development Goals report expects to track development progress of internationally agreed time bound goals, by building national capacity for benchmarking, assessing progress and highlighting achievements and gaps versus expected results. It also aims to increase the participation of a wide range of partners including international organizations, donors, the private sector and civil society organizations. The Millennium Development Goals report is not an in-depth review of policy reform, institutional change and resource allocation, yet it attempts to reflect national development priorities on the basis of the available data. The report will ensure increased awareness in promoting the correct inflow of Overseas Development Assistance needed, including technology transfer, donor coordination and filling up the gaps form the core support elements of Millennium Development Goals,

including monitoring, analysis, campaigning and mobilization and operational activities.

The draft report was prepared between the end of August 2010 and September 2010, with 2 stakeholder forums and presentations at the MDPAC office and at the World Bank in Honiara, to review initial findings. The first rounds of presentations were attended by Solomon Islands Government counterparts, NGOs, civil society organizations, international organizations. Additional data for the finalization of the report was supplied during a second visit to Honiara in January 2011, where the team of consultants and government counterparts met to review and incorporate concerns and suggestions of stakeholders to this review to fill up gaps before the finalization of the Millennium Development Goals Progress report.

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AT A GLANCE

Six years on from the first Millennium Development Goals Report for Solomon Islands, progress to attaining the MDGs is re-assessed in the scorecard format. The following traffic light coded table presents a summary of the key findings of the following Millennium Development Goals 2010 Report.

MDG	Description of progress:	MDG Score
<b>MDG 1:</b> Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<b>Mixed progress.</b> While the Solomon Islands is not fully on track to meeting targets under MDG1, evidence from HIES and other data relating to health, education, employment shows that Solomon Islands does not have large proportions of the population living in extreme poverty but that many people are 'cash poor'. The HIES study suggests that there is a high number of people just above the poverty line making access to land and subsistence farms.	
<b>MDG 2:</b> Achieve Universal Primary Education	<b>Good progress.</b> The Solomon Islands are likely to achieve this goal in primary enrolments. For secondary enrolments, there is mixed progress (Millennium Development Goals Plus).	
<b>MDG 3</b> Promote gender equality and empower women	<b>Mixed progress.</b> Solomon Islands is making good improvements to advance female representation in primary education though in secondary education numbers are less impressive. Civil service staff numbers are showing improvements with 30% female and 70% male to date. Other related figures are the absence of female politicians and cabinet ministers. Female employment in the informal sector is much lower than males (which is a traditional female stronghold).	
<b>MDG 4:</b> Reduce child mortality	<b>Good progress.</b> Solomon Islands is on track to meeting this goal.	

MDG	Description of progress:	MDG Score
<b>MDG 5:</b> Reduce maternal mortality	<b>Good progress.</b> Solomon Islands is on track to meeting this goal though the figures are harder to improve given the number of factors involved. One positive figure is that more than 80% of births are attended by health professionals.	
<b>MDG 6:</b> Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	<b>Mixed progress but erring on the good side.</b> Malaria cases have been decreasing considerably across the country with use of treated mosquito nets, levels of TB cure rate has increased, measles campaign has been very successful, however official estimates on levels of HIV/AIDS are likely to be under represented; WHO suggests by a factor of 10.	
<b>MDG 7:</b> Ensure environmental sustainability	<b>Mixed progress due to the Ministry's newness but offset by the amount of work achieved so far.</b> There are real dangers if environmental issues are not adequately addressed soon (i.e. deforestation and logging), risks will exacerbate from rising sea levels, climate change and other challenges in sanitation and water quality.	
<b>MDG 8:</b> Develop a global partnership for development	<b>Mixed results.</b> Goal 8 addresses ways in which partnerships between developed and developing countries can assist developing countries to achieve the other seven Millennium Development Goals through a combination of additional development assistance, improved accessibility to markets, debt relief and private sector development. This is an ongoing process and is not expected to be achieved by 2015.	

#### Probability to achieve the given Millennium Development Goals:

Low	
Medium	
High	

# CHAPTER 1

## SOLOMON ISLANDS COUNTRY PROFILE:

Figure 1.1 Map of Solomon Islands



### 1.1. Geography and Demographics

Solomon Islands is a nation of 992 islands, situated in the South Pacific, stretching over 1,300 square kilometres of ocean. The nearest neighbours are PNG to the West, the Fiji islands to the East, Australia to the South West and New Zealand due South. Its capital is Honiara, which is situated within the main province of Guadalcanal. There are eight other provinces: Malaita, Western, Rennell Bellona, Central, Makara Ulawa, Choiseul, Isabel and Temotu. Solomon Islands can be described therefore as archipelagic, with vast distances between its constituent parts. An unpublished ADB presentation on challenges for the Solomon Islands reports that on average Solomon Islanders live 200 kilometres from the capital, considerably farther than most small island states.

Table 1.1. Solomon Islands at a glance

Land Area	28,370km <sup>2</sup>
Exclusive Economic Zone	1.35 million km <sup>2</sup>
Population(2008)	510,672
Growth rate	2.8%
%Female	51%
%Male	49%
Under 15 years	41.5%
Rural	83%
Urban	17%
HDI (2009)	0.610 (2007), 135th of 177 countries
Life expectancy <sup>1</sup>	65.8 in 2007
Female	66.7 in 2007
Male	64.9 in 2007
Adult Literacy <sup>2</sup>	76.6 between 1999-2007
Unemployment	rate 10.8% <sup>3</sup>
Real GDP Growth <sup>4</sup>	7.3% in 2008 2.2% in 2009 5% (Estimate for 2010)
Real GDP per capita <sup>5</sup>	SBD 8,439 / USD 1,047
External Reserves <sup>6</sup>	SBD 1,179.2 million (2009 CBSI)
External Debt <sup>7</sup>	SBD 1,799.3 million (2009 CBSI)
Public Sector Debt <sup>8</sup>	SBD 1,057.6 million (2009 CBSI)
Private Sector Debt <sup>9</sup>	SBD 741.7 million (2009 CBSI)

Sources: 2009, UNDP Human Development Report, HIES Report, 2009 CBSI Annual Report 2009.

<sup>1</sup> 2009, UNDP Human Development Report

<sup>2</sup> % aged 15 and above, National Estimate, HDR 2009 footnote suggesting this is a national estimate

<sup>3</sup> 2009, UNDP Human Development Report

<sup>4</sup> Solomon Islands, Central Bank Solomon Islands Annual Report, (CBSI) 2009

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*

<sup>9</sup> *ibid*

The overall population is estimated to be 518,338<sup>10</sup>(2009), though the 2009 census might show a significant increase in this number when the numbers have been crunched. There is an estimated population density of only around 17 people per square kilometre<sup>11</sup>. The most densely populated areas outside of Honiara are Malaita and Temotu. Solomon Islanders rarely interact with people outside of their province.

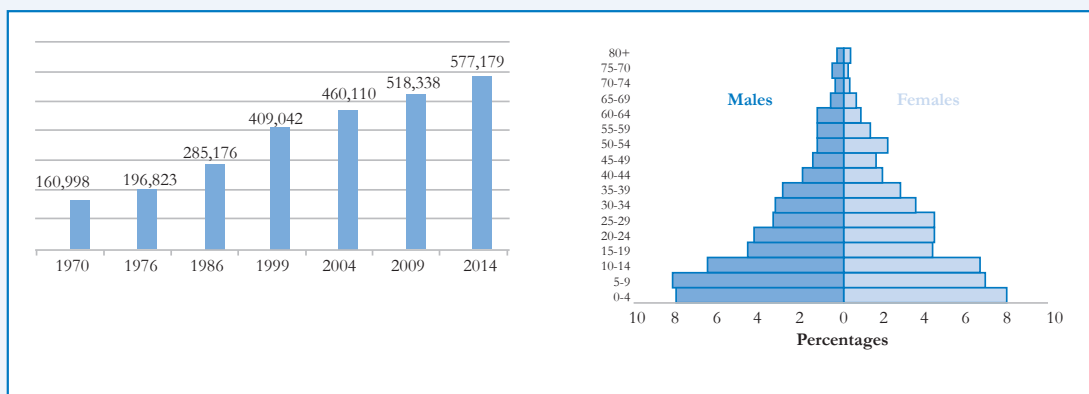
While the land area is small, just 28,370km<sup>2</sup>, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within its national boundaries of the Solomon Islands are filled with 1.35million square kilometres of ocean surrounding the islands. Paradoxically however, Solomon Islands development pattern still relies more on its land-based resources than its sea-based ones.

The population is young with 41.5 percent

below the age of 15 in 1999. The majority of the population is male with 107 males to every 100 females (1999). The population growth rate in 1999 was relatively high at 2.8 percent. This being said few development programmes target young people and few if any are preparing for a continued influx of young people wishing to join the labour market.

The rural/urban population breakdown was 14% in cities, about 2% in dense urban peripheries and the remainder, 84% rural. While it might seem clear that development priorities should be targeted at the rural poor, much of development however has benefited the smaller urban population exacerbating clear urban/rural inequalities throughout Solomon Islands.

Figure 1.2. Population of Solomon Islands



Source: National Statistics Office, Honiara (2010) and Demographic Health Survey (2007)

<sup>10</sup>National Statistics Office, Honiara (2010)

<sup>11</sup>World Bank Report (2010, not yet endorsed)

## 1.2. Human Development since Independence

Solomon Islands became an independent country exiting British colonial rule in 1978. In the same year Solomon Islands also became a sovereign member state of the United Nations. As this report is being written Solomon Islands has therefore benefited from 32 years of independent self-rule. Much of recent history for Solomon Islands has been a peaceful one, benefiting from growing democratic governance structures based on the British Parliamentary system, though a serious lapse in security took place from late 1999 until mid 2003 (see next section).

Since independence Solomon Islands has struggled to maximise its development potential but still remains a Least Developed Country (LDC). There has been no rapid development similar to island states such as Singapore or Macau but rather the country has progressed in small, measured steps. Its HDI presently is 135 out of 177 in 2009 a change from 121 out of 174 in 2000.

But progress did not benefit every citizen alike. The main reason for this is that leaders may not have taken advantage of the full array of development choices (education to improve the human capital of the country, private sector development, inclusive economic growth) available to them. A development leadership distanced from its people has meant that

democratic reforms are being implemented more slowly than might be possible and a newly emerging democratic voice only sporadically heard.

That being said the growth of the media has allowed many citizens to hear Government at first hand via the increased numbers of radio and TV sets available to them. Feedback mechanisms however, where citizens can relay opinions and comments back to the Government, are being developed more slowly like for instance independent surveys conducted by RAMSI.

Since independence, Solomon Islands has maintained its traditional belief and tribal structures, based around the tribe and the clan, which run in parallel to systems encoded in civil law. Solomon Islands can be described as having both a modern civil code system, with a Parliament and an independent Judiciary, and a customary legal system, which can lead to conflicts of interest at the level of the hierarchy of law. The latest parliamentary election in August 2010, which was carried out peacefully, elected Mr. Danny Philip as the Solomon Islands newest Prime Minister.

In the area of education Solomon Islands has something to celebrate with educational improvements being made steadily through the 1990s and beyond. Functional literacy is relatively high, whichever definition is being used. It is likely that Solomon Islands will achieve the Millennium Development Goals in

education on universal primary education and may hit its own Millennium Development Goals Plus goal relating to secondary school education.

In the area of health the figures show that mortality rates have been reduced with both men and women living longer. Other health matters such as deaths of children under five and mothers in labour paint a less promising picture, as do the high prevalence of life threatening diseases such as malaria.

Environmentally speaking Solomon Islands has not looked after its natural resources sustainably and not in a way which benefits all citizens equally. Forests are rapidly disappearing as short-term economic benefits from trees are reaped. Little thought has been put into using trees for the carbon they hold or for the biodiversity they support, or for their tourist potential. While Solomon Islands' carbon footprint is miniscule, the results of global warming and rising sea temperatures will have their effects on low lying nations like Solomon Islands. Little prevention work has been undertaken to counteract these external factors' effects.

Speaking of livelihoods, Solomon Islanders live much of their life at subsistence level. Given the amount of land and the abundance of easily grown crops and access to abundant protein through fish, overall subsistence can be maintained. But such livelihood levels cannot guard against economic shocks and debt, as a

result of health or job related problems, which can easily derail a whole family's livelihood.

At the national level Solomon Islands does not earn enough to pay for all of its needs and to service its debts. Taxes such as VAT are not levied and other direct taxes may need reform. While aid flows in the form of grants are substantial they do not cover all the necessary demands made by Solomon Islanders on their Government. Large-scale aid donors to Solomon Islands are Australia, New Zealand, the EU, UK, China and Japan. Many multilateral donors, such as UNDP, The World Bank and the IMF also contribute heavily to aid flows.

While the private sector is expanding, potential investors quote bureaucratic hassles and issues of land ownership as to why they do not make or sell more of their products in Solomon Islands, though small markets and limited turnover must also play a large role in the continued overall low (but growing) levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Solomon Islands has yet to maximise its true economic potential even though it has resources in fish, forests, gold, bauxite, phosphates, lead, zinc and nickel. It also has abundant sun and hydroelectric potential, which could add to the potential of its national revenue. Explorations for petroleum have been conducted but without success.

While Independence gave Solomon Islands freedom to rule itself, as all leaders of new



countries know, managing a country is not an easy task, with competing requests for resources, time and allocations. Some stakeholders are disappointed, feel disenfranchised and take their frustrations out on other (usually less powerful) groups. Where democratic systems are not able to cope with this (often rapid) change in relations, conflicts can occur. These conflicts can be devastating as they can stop human development in its tracks; at worst, conflict can push development back to levels seen in earlier years, a setback no country can afford. Solomon Islands has gone through such a conflict and feels the effects even today.

In summary Solomon Islands is increasing its overall human development in some areas while struggling in others. The following MDG progress report gives policymakers in Solomon Islands a chance to look at some of the sectoral changes in isolation from each other, by breaking down all the eight goals into separate sections for a more holistic approach to development. Yet studying the goals separately also undervalues some of the cross cutting issues that affect them overall. One of these is conflict/natural disasters and the other is gender.

### 1.3. Conflict and Natural Disasters

One cross cutting issue that has impacted Solomon Islands is ethnic conflict. From 1999 to 2003 an ethnic conflict contributed to an almost total breakdown of democratic law, principles and governance and showed how

fragile development gains can be. With the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) law and order was quickly restored but remnants of the causes of the conflict still appear today. Policies and programmes relating to reducing violence stemming from conflict are still in their infancy and need to be strengthened.

Disaster mitigation is a second cross cutting issue that must be addressed. The results of natural disasters such as the earthquake and tsunami in April 2007 in Solomon Islands can be, and indeed largely has been, devastating to a small island state, pushing back development progress by years.

### 1.4. Gender

As a member of the United Nations, Solomon Islands endorsed the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in the year 2000, recognizing the rights and protection of women in conflict and post conflict contexts. In the year 2002, Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

However, being a woman in post independence Solomon Islands has meant receiving different life chances than those of most men. On the positive side women generally live longer. But not only are women less likely to have advanced formal schooling, they are less likely to be fully literate, less likely to have paid employment, more likely to have earning disadvantages for

the same job and have less chance of getting a job at the level they wish. Women rarely fill jobs at the senior levels. The recent Solomon Islands cabinet sworn in August/September has no women at all, though women hold some senior offices in other Government posts.

### 1.5. Summary

In summary Solomon Islands is a small island state with a multitude of challenges still in need of attention. While as a nation it needs

to develop higher income levels to pay for the many development needs it still has, at the same time it needs to distribute both present levels of income and any future increased levels it might have, more equally geographically, ethnically and without gender bias. Plans to prevent future ethnic conflict and mitigate against natural disasters need to be constantly kept up and enforced, even when both conflict and the last natural disaster are a fading memory.

# CHAPTER 2

## MDGs IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS: ENABLING CONDITIONS, BOTTLENECKS AND CHALLENGES

### 2.1 Introduction

Since the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have received considerable attention and acclaim by both developing and developed countries, civil society institutions and international organisations. The September 2010 MDG Summit in New York, and the effort being placed to take stock of Millennium Development Goals achievements and shortfalls, is an important reminder that despite almost universal good will and considerable effort, the attainment of Millennium Development Goals targets throughout the developing world is much easier said than done.

One of the expected results from the Millennium Development Goals Summit is to determine ways in which Millennium Development Goals goal progress can be accelerated over the next five years in light of the experience of the last decade and the global economy shocks unleashed by the current financial crisis and the noticeable impact of climate change and attempts to meet carbon emission targets.

An important reason for such a new “break through” strategy on Millennium Development Goals is that measured against the yardsticks of Millennium Development Goals and targets, developing countries exhibit wide inter-country variations both in their overall attainment of Millennium Development Goals as a whole as well as individual goals and targets within the overall envelop of the 8 goals in the Millennium

Development Goals lexicon. One important reason is the different initial economic and governance constraints faced by a given country as well as its subsequent ability to weather a series of global financial, economic, environmental, soon social and political shocks. Initial conditions and stochastic shocks unleashed by global financial and economic contagion on the one hand and the ravages of climate change and natural disasters on the other can both derail progress on the Millennium Development Goals as well as reverse past achievements. Nowhere is this truer than in the case of small island economies, of which the Solomon Islands provides a compelling case study.

The aim of this chapter is to examine the enabling conditions, the bottlenecks and the future challenges facing the Solomon Islands as they attempt to reach the 2015 target for each of the 8 Millennium Development Goals to be examined at the September 2010 Summit. A review of these background conditions to the Millennium Development Goals in the Solomon Islands shows a remarkable interlacing of political, security, economic, and foreign aid variables which have resulted in the absence of more than two “normal” crisis-free years since the country signed on to the Millennium Declaration and its goals. In fact the statistical score cards for Millennium Development Goals and targets for the Solomon Islands (SI) can only be understood against a keen appreciation of the development specificities and the policy and resource constraints against which successive governments of the SI have

functioned during this first decade of the new millennium. This chapter is therefore not intended as a mere background description of the geography, economy or governance dimensions of SI but a brief window into the remarkable hurdles, at times unforeseen and at others unavoidable, which SI continues to face as it struggles to define a stable polity and a viable economy in a Globalized setting.

This does not mean that the SI is unique among least developed countries or that the many structural barriers that it continues to face on the path to sustained developed are insurmountable. However, it is at once a least developed country, a post-conflict fragile state as well as a small island economy. The specific features of small island economies which generated formidable barriers to rapid economic growth: small domestic markets, dependence on a few products and export markets, vulnerability to sudden fluctuations in international commodity prices, distance to nearest export markets and the high cost of transport and the governance problems caused by the existence of a few large international investors engaged in the exploitation of natural resource products are by now well recognised. This is reflected in a series of international agreements and bilateral treaties in which Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have entered.

Thus the Solomon Islands is a member of the MSG-FTA<sup>12</sup> and PICTA<sup>13</sup> as well as a signatory to the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER). It is also an LDC member

of the WTO. The Solomon Islands, as part of the PACP, are also negotiating a comprehensive EPA with the EU. It is also expected to enter into an agreement with Australia and New Zealand under the PACER Plus in 2011. Recognition of its small island status is reflected in the non-reciprocal preferential access to a number of industrialised countries including Australia and New Zealand under the South Pacific Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement and to the EU under the “Everything but Arms” initiative for LDCs.

These agreements illustrate attempts to solve the small country market access problem that most small island economies face. They do not by themselves solve the small domestic market problem since taking advantage of such international agreement depends on overcoming supply side and productivity constraints as the example of the Solomon Islands shows.

All these factors create severe barriers to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. Yet, as argued in this MDG Progress Report, the Solomon Islands has scored several notable successes especially in the provision of education and health, in the alleviation of hunger and in creating a strong working relationship with its development partners. One key indicator of this strong development partnership is the design of a large number of policy initiatives and action programmes which are likely to accelerate the achievements of Millennium Development Goals and targets in the next five years. These are discussed at

<sup>12</sup> The Melanesian Spearhead Group Free Trade Area signed in 1993 between Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Fiji joined in 1998.

<sup>13</sup> Pacific Island Country Trade Agreement

length in chapter 3 of this Report.

## 2.2. Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals: Enabling Conditions

Despite the limitations of being an archipelago of small islands, the Solomon Islands exhibits a number of enabling conditions which may well accelerate the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and targets towards 2015. These enabling conditions illustrate the fact that the small island developing country group is not homogenous and that individual states within the group continue to register wide variations in governance structures, social capital, economic growth and skill sets.

### 2.2.1. Enabling Condition 1: Preservation of a Democratic Polity

Following independence from British colonial rule in 1978 the Solomon Islands adopted a Westminster style democratic political system keeping the UK Monarch as their head of state but a locally elected Governor General as her representative in the Solomon Islands. This multiparty democratic system, founded on four yearly elections based on universal franchise covering all citizens over 18 years of age, has survived till today despite severe civil unrest and armed fighting between different island/ethnic groups between 1998-2003. One of the principal immediate causes of the unrest was the economic

tensions between two of the country's major islands Guadalcanal and Malaita. Guadalcanal contains the country's largest and capital city Honiara where many Malaitian workers seek employment.

Despite armed fighting between rival militia organisations<sup>14</sup> and coup attempt by the Malaita Eagle Force with the help of the police paramilitary force called the MEF Joint Operations in 2000, the breakdown of the subsequent Townsville Peace Agreement and subsequent killings of Malaitian priests by the Guadalcanal Liberation Front the country did not descend into a failed state. In 2003 it invited support from Australia and New Zealand, two other democratic countries, to help restore order. The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), supported by Australia and New Zealand, restored security, and the Solomon Islands was able to able to maintain constitutional democratic governance.

An important reason why the survival of democratic governance is an enabling condition for the attainment of Millennium Development Goals is the underlying human rights and universalist philosophy basic to the Millennium Development Goals effort. Goals such as the elimination of poverty or the provision of literacy do not distinguish beneficiaries according to gender, religion or ethnic origin. Such a humanist value system is part and part of the values scaffolding of democratic governance and one which goes hand in hand with the equality of political

<sup>14</sup> The Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army, later renamed the Isatabu Freedom Fighters, and the Malaita Eagle Force.

status which underlies democratic polities. This does not mean that every democracy fulfils such humanist conditions all the time, or that the state is the necessary instrument through which such equality is social welfare might be effected, but the equality of opportunity and the solution of disputes through non-violent discourse and by legal means is a core principle of functioning democracies. So is the legitimate existence of civil society in the political space outside the state.

The many reviews and assessments of Solomon Islands governance system continue to highlight problems of capacity, coordination, conflict in policy objectives or their absence altogether as well as fairly continuous political interference and corruption in government programmes. Many of these assertions are well founded. Yet they only serve to emphasise the difficulties of consolidating democracies in countries at very low levels of per capita incomes or in transforming segmented, patrilineal social systems into modern nation states without necessarily providing lasting solutions.

In fact the example of Solomon Islands democracy stands out just because its democracy could have easily fragmented into warring factions led by warlords, its social capital could have been dissipated through the emergence of local oligarchies bought out by international firms, and its people the subject of famines and hunger as in many parts of the developing world. Without a historical tradition of military rule, with the institution

of parliamentary democracy inherited from the British, and a strong structure of social capital which ensured household survival without extensive state support, the Solomon Islands was able to pull back from the dictatorial brink and reinvent its government.

In addition, despite the unpredictability of electoral politics or the capacity problems in the civil service, the Solomon Islands, in sharp contrast to many other developing countries has been able to maintain a credible and respected judicial structure. The appointment of magistrates and judges by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission from which holders of judicial office are barred has ensured respect for the judiciary.<sup>15</sup>

### 2.2.2. Enabling Condition 2: Improvements in Public Management and Policy

It should be emphasised that the reinstatement of democracy is not a mere window dressing or some sleight of hand. Recent joint donor-government assessments show that the quality of public financial management has begun to improve significantly during 2004-2008.<sup>16</sup> Recent parliamentary elections remained peaceful and continue to provide an indication that democracy may well continue to take root in the Solomon Islands.

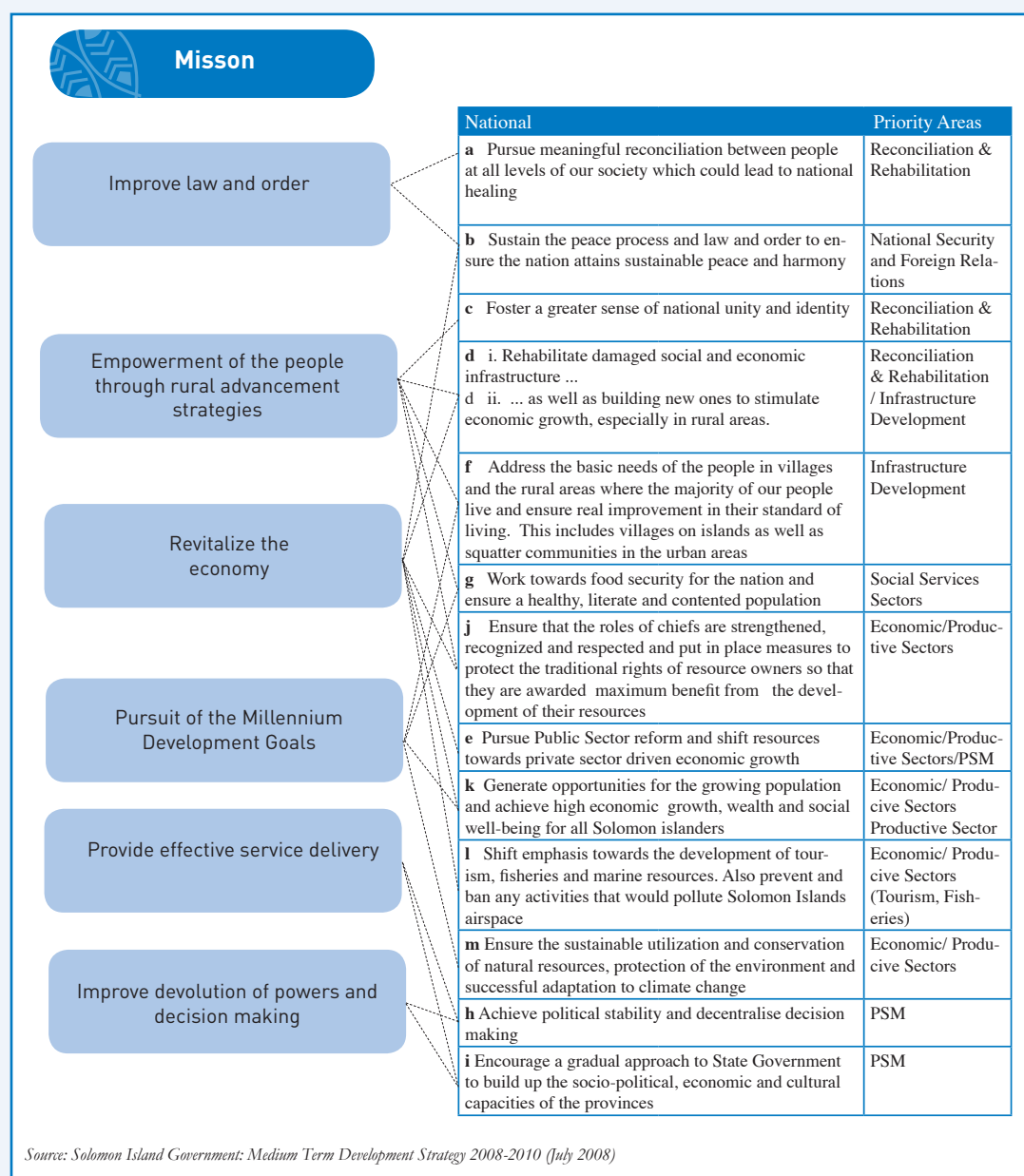
This is not all. The medium term development strategy 2008-2010 highlights the government's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals as well the determination to ensure that

<sup>15</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) notes the judicial system in the Solomons Islands "remains impartial and effective".

<sup>16</sup> See Ecorys (2008) quoted in ADB-AUS.AID (2010) Economic Report p.16 where a number of improvements in eliminating the backlog of central government financial statements, in the introduction of transparent auditing, in payment of debt arrears and in revenue collection are acknowledged. Clearly, much remains to be done especially in raising the credibility of the government budget and raising the transparency of intergovernmental fiscal relations. The point is that a process of fundamental reform is underway and on all accounts is likely to continue.

rural and poor urban communities also benefit from economic growth. There is of course much scepticism among Solomon Islanders as well as international agencies

Figure 2.1. Alignment of Priority Areas to National Objectives and Mission



about the degree to which the lofty distributional and sectoral goals incorporated in the strategic plan can be implemented. This is not surprising given the political instability in the last decade. However, the return of democracy as well as the formulation of policy documents spelling out a broad based growth and development strategy provides an important enabling condition for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the future. It also provides a platform, especially combined with a more decentralised form of government in the future, for a peaceful and progressive development effort in the future.

### 2.2.3. Enabling Condition 3: Strong Social Capital

The social structure of the Solomon Islands, wantokism on the one hand and civil society organisations such as churches on the other suggest a grass roots basis for a more egalitarian income distribution. This fits well with the universalist logic of the Millennium Development Goals and explains the absence of government led social insurance schemes in the country.

On the other hand such cohesive social structures have also, according to many observers, prevented the emergence of a modern nation state. Family and island predominate over national interests. On a worst case scenario, such local loyalties can erode democratic governance and fuel corruption since politics can become a game of procuring

the greatest gain for one's own kinship or island groups. There is clearly much evidence of this in the internal fighting between different island groups as outlined above. However, a cohesive civil society and social capital can also form the basis of mutual support and social insurance once the political system is consolidated and opportunities for a broader based development explored. Improvements in public management, efforts to promote a more decentralised system of government and stronger inter-island and inter-personal communication may well provide foundations on which a greater national identity can be built.<sup>17</sup>

### 2.2.4. Enabling condition 4: A young and growing population base

Demography in the Solomon Islands is characterised by rapid population growth (2.9% per annum) with close to half its population below the age of 25. In the short term this can be seen as more of a human development problem than a solution to the country's economic growth. This is because government revenue and hence public expenditure has been largely based on the export of a single commodity, timber logs. However, population growth is not always a disadvantage as the "population dividend" enjoyed by many developing countries is beginning to show. Given the likelihood that the Solomon Islands will achieve the Millennium Development Goal 2 (universal primary education), a young population can also be an asset as alternative sources of livelihood (e.g. tourism) are

<sup>17</sup> Communal land ownership, a hallmark of wantokism is often conceived to be a formidable barrier to the creation of a national identity as well commercial investment. It is also seen to be the source of gender bias against women in patrilineal inheritance systems. However, this is but one side of the picture. Land leases often extending to 99 years were granted in the Colonial period and provide a way out of the land acquisition problem. The issue is not so much as strong kinship or island loyalties, hardly unique to Solomon Islands, but the absence of development projects and business opportunities which benefit a majority of the local community. Indeed, the tensions between Guadalcanal and Malaita centred not only on inter-island loyalties but also on the development imbalance between these islands.



generated and as agricultural productivity is raised through technological innovation and extension services. Young populations also spell a faster integration into global information structures through the enhanced use of digital technology.

### 2.3 Millennium Development Goals in Solomon Islands: Critical Bottlenecks

#### 2.3.1. Bottleneck 1: Government Revenue and the public expenditure squeeze

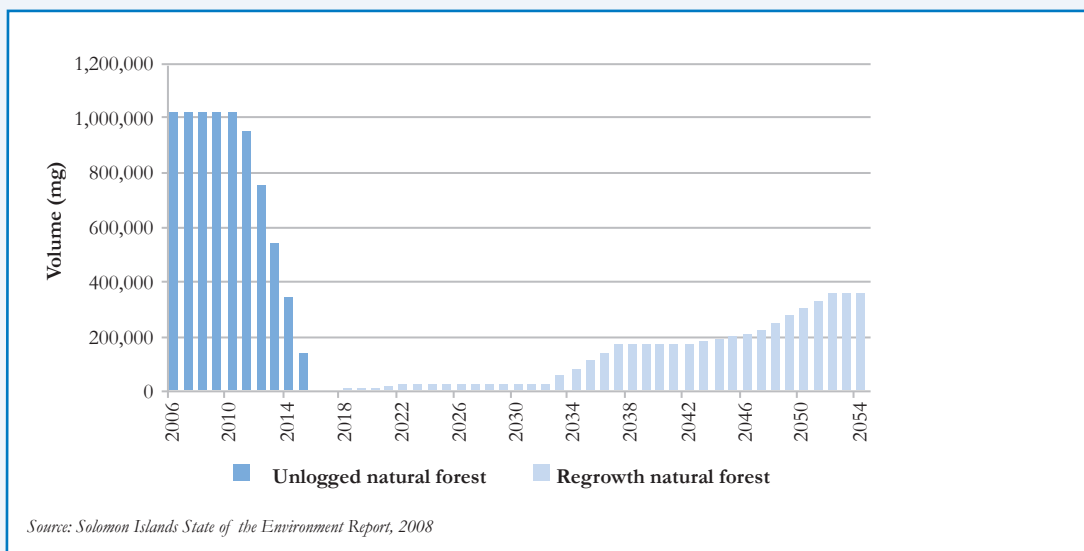
The Solomon Islands faces a peculiar macroeconomic dilemma. On the one hand it runs a relatively small budget deficit signifying a relatively conservative public expenditure policy with a budget balance at close to zero in 2009 and a small anticipated deficit of SI 180 million in 2010, while on the other running a large current account deficit. The difference is made up by external loans and grants mainly from ODA sources. Solomon Islands is therefore in the unenviable position of extraordinary dependence on foreign aid, estimates presently to be 61% of GDP by 2006 and remaining over 60% in the following five years.

The 2009 IMF Article IV consultations reveal the precarious fiscal position of the Solomon Islands. The Report argues that more rather than less external aid might be needed for the country given that a number of public finance management measures such as broadening the

tax base, reducing tax exemptions, rolling back non-essential recurrent expenditure, managing civil service wage and employment growth and improving cash management, accounting and auditing functions given the time taken for such efforts to take effect. This might be the only way to make more fiscal space for badly needed targeted export related and employment intensive development spending.

Two problems continue to beguile economic policy in the Solomon Islands in the context of Millennium Development Goals attainment. First, many public services such as health and education involve a large share of recurrent expenditure: teacher's salaries, books and papers etc or medicines and hospital equipment maintenance. Yet they do represent the pillars for a functioning society providing the basic services needed. These are essential to maintaining the quality and access to such public services. Severe limitations on government recurrent expenditure will reduce the speed of Millennium Development Goals achievement in these key areas. Second, revenue in the Solomon Islands is highly dependent on logging exports (see figure 2.2). These exports are expected to decline sharply in the coming five years without a clear replacement, possibly gold mining, in sight. Widening the tax base is an obvious but difficult alternative given that future growth projections for the country show continued decline and only modest recovery in the coming years.

Figure 2.2 Protected National Wood flow from Natural Forests: 2006-2055 (adopted from National Forest Assessment 2006)



External assistance is also highly skewed in favour of security operations as illustrated by the fact that the overwhelming share of total ODA went to RAMSI operations, around 64% in 2007 down from 74% in 2005. The EU was the next largest aid donor accounting for 12% of total ODA in 2007.<sup>18</sup>

The result of such structural concentration in both domestic revenue and external assistance is to add to the fiscal uncertainty surrounding both development programmes needed to diversify the economy away from logging and other enclave investments as well as recurrent

expenditures incurred in the critical education, health and governance programs. While improvements in revenue collection and budgetary management are ongoing the structural, size and the projected revenue base of the Solomon Islands continues to place a formidable bottleneck on meeting Millennium Development Goals targets by 2015. Feasible drivers for economic diversification have been explored in a World Bank Report in 2009, which identified clusters of growth around palm oil plantations, plantation agricultures, tourism, plantation forestry, tuna fishery but also minerals<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>18</sup>WTO (2009), *Solomon Island Diagnostic Trade Integration Study*, p. 51.

<sup>19</sup>World Bank, *Solomon Islands Sources of growth: roundtable meetings and background materials*, 2009

### 2.3.2. Bottleneck 2: Barriers to Private Investment

The revenue squeeze facing the government can be eased in the short term by better financial housekeeping and by a higher volume of external assistance. However both have their limits. While civil service numbers and recurrent expenditure grew sharply between 2003-2008, as normality returned following the tensions of 1998-2003, many long standing vacancies in key public service areas such as teachers, police, prison officers and qualified administrators remain unfilled. This is confirmed by the Public Service Commission which reports that despite the expansion of civil service numbers some 500 posts still remain vacant bringing total civil service numbers to 14000. As yet there is no convincing assessment of the size of the government, and the number of civil servants, needed to provide the critical minimum threshold of public services and functions for the Solomon Island population. Foreign aid while extraordinarily generous to date, is by its very nature a temporary and unpredictable solution. Increasing the tax base and reducing corruption in tax collection are fundamental priorities for future development and the sustained flow of public goods underlying the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Resumption of economic growth through private domestic and foreign investment as well as increasing labour productivity will remain a driving policy priority in the medium term.

Economic and trade policy reviews of the Solomon Island in recent years have focussed on several barriers to private investment. These include the excessive cost of doing business, problems with land registration and acquisition and the absence of an integrated national market due to shortage and expense of inter-island transport and communication infrastructure.

There is much evidence that the SIG both recognises the importance of promoting private investment, both domestic and foreign, as well is currently engaged in a series of reforms aimed at removing such barriers to private investment. The creation of a Land Reform Unit in the Department of Land and Surveys is a start in this direction. So is the drafting of new land reform legislation designed to identify and secure land rights for traditional owners of land. Once this is done land negotiations will be done with the tribal chief and the council of elders. Much needs to be done in terms of staffing and inter-ministerial coordination on land issues but the process of reform through which land is held by a corporation like<sup>20</sup> structure of which family and tribal members are co-owners is a significant initiative in providing certainty of investment leases.

Competitiveness indicators<sup>21</sup> for the cost of doing business are shown in tables 2.1 and 2.2. These show that while the Solomon Islands is a more expensive place to do business than other islands in the region, but it does have some advantages. Land is cheaper than in Vanuatu or Fiji although higher than PNG.

<sup>20</sup> See WTO (2009), *Solomon Island Diagnostic Trade Integration Study* pp. 72-80 for an excellent review

<sup>21</sup> World Bank (2008) *Doing Business*. Also see WTO (2009), pp. 109-110

So is the minimum wage. The problem lies in infrastructure costs of electricity, water, diesel fuel, and telephone services as well as in getting credit. Moreover, while land is cheaper access to it is more difficult. Another area of concern is the cost of closing businesses which is higher

in the Solomon Island than in its Pacific Island competitors.

The smallness of the Solomon Island economy lends itself to business domination by a few private and public enterprises thus restricting competition and creating few jobs. In

*Table 2.1. Competitiveness indicators for selected countries:*

Average Factor cost	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu	Fiji	PNG	Australia	New Zealand
Cost of Vacant land for industrial use (USD/m <sup>2</sup> )	25	70	77	14	420	237
Construction cost for an office building (USD/m <sup>2</sup> )	428	995	336	377	721	853
Minimum Wage (USD/Month)	93	198	113	48	1597	1104
Social security contribution (%)	5	4	8	5.5	Na	Na
Employers' contribution (%)	7.5	4	8	7.7	9	na
Interest rate on short term bank loans	12-18	5.50	0.90	18.68	5.25	5.77
Cost of electricity (USD/kWh)	3.20	0.26	0.16	0.05	0.03	0.05
Cost of water USD m <sup>3</sup>	1.80	0.40	0.36	0.38	1.00	1.42
Cost of a local call (USD/3 min)	0.37	0.21	0.05	0.06	0.11	0.12
Cost of diesel fuel (USD/Litre)	1.80	0.90	0.61	0.71	0.94	0.66
Cost of air freight to Europe (USD/Kg)	8.36	16.00	13.00	12.47	12.74	16.70
Cost of marine freight to Europe (USD/TEU)	4290	4450	4150	2897	1397	1497
Cost of maritime freight from Europe (USD/TEU)	3875	4000	4150	2647	1297	1597

*Source: Solomon Islands Diagnostic study Integration Study, 2009 Report*

*Table 2.2. Doing business in 2008*

Criteria	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu	Fiji	PNG	Australia	New Zealand
Doing businesses rank	79	62	36	84	9	2
Starting businesses	85	73	69	76	1	3
Dealing with licenses	34	24	28	118	52	2
Employing workers	47	77	16	31	8	13
Registering property	162	111	77	64	27	1
Getting credit	135	135	48	115	3	3
Protecting investors	51	64	33	33	51	1
Paying taxes	26	18	52	79	41	9
Trading across borders	74	142	111	82	34	16
Enforcing contracts	104	66	62	162	11	13
Closing a business	101	49	114	97	14	16

*Source: Solomon Islands Diagnostic study Integration Study, 2009 Report*

recognition of the need to improve the business environment SIG is also in the process of reforming its state owned enterprises held by the Investment Corporation of the Solomon Islands (ICSI). Two SOEs, Home Finance and Sasape Marina have been identified for privatisation while commercialisation of the Solomon Islands Electricity Authority is under consideration.

The government is also keen to promote new

foreign investment which had fallen to close to zero during the 1998-2003 conflict but is now recovering. Box 2.1 illustrates a number of key reforms already undertaken and some remaining to improve the investment climate. All these reforms signal a proactive outward approach towards promoting private investment, something which will become critical to promoting broader based growth with the sharp decline of logging revenues in the near future.

*Box 2.1. Key Economic Reforms***Reforms already implemented:**

- Foreign investment Act has been revised and streamlined
- Comprehensive rural development programme has been developed that includes infrastructure, telecommunications, maritime services, franchise scheme to subsidize shipping on the under-served domestic routes
- Tax reform, where the government removed the 5% duty and 5% goods tax on rice imports, and reduced import duties to 10% offsetting those reductions by shortening the exemptions list from 27 to 18 products and increasing the excise tax on beer, tobacco and gaming.
- The National Transport Plan includes the rehabilitation and construction of roads and wharves and improvement of the Munda airstrip.
- International air routes have been opened as per the Pacific Islands Air Service Agreement and Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty.
- ANZ launched a rural banking service and microfinance loans, including mobile banking.
- A World Bank funded rural energy project is planned to supply hydroelectric power in Guadalcanal
- A secured transactions framework was passed in 2008, aimed at increasing the availability of credit
- A new State Owned Enterprise (SOE) Act ensures that SOEs update and audit their accounts, publish performance requirements and are held accountable to the public
- New work and residency permits arrangements that will consolidate permit applications
- Land recording and registration
- A bill on state owned enterprises, ensuring accountability and autonomy,

#### **Reforms yet to be implemented:**

- Review of company and trust legislation, i.e. simplification of business registration and enabling customary landowners to enter into legal contracts
- Review of the Insolvency Act to streamline bankruptcy proceedings
- Deregulation of the telecommunications industry
- Privatization of Home Finance Ltd (mortgage lender) and Sasape Marina: commercialization of Solomon Islands Electricity Authority
- Further tax reform. The government is looking for other revenue sources such as mining, fisheries and food processing. There will be sequenced, modular reforms to broaden the tax base and strengthen compliance and auditing.

*Source: Solomon Islands Diagnostic study Integration Study, 2009 Report*

A major bottleneck to broad based economic growth in the future and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal 1, Millennium Development Goal 8 and several others is the geography of the Solomon Islands and distance from major markets. It is important to emphasise that the Solomon Island is not only a small economy it is an archipelago of scattered islands with low population densities.<sup>22</sup> The problem is compounded by its low level of urbanisation which results not only in urban rural economic disparities but also acts as a significant barrier to the creation of an integrated national market. Internal

transport costs thus constitute a major burden for local exporters. In addition such high transport costs militate against labour mobility as well as widening the distance between local communities and the government and its major institutions in Honiara.<sup>23</sup>

The development of the transport sector in the Solomon Islands is likely to remain a major bottleneck on broad based growth<sup>24</sup> and public service delivery for some time to come. SIG has developed a National Transport Plan (2007-2026) to ensure that existing transport infrastructure such as wharfs, ports, bridges,

<sup>22</sup> *Solomon Islands Diagnostic study Integration Study, 2009 Report*

<sup>23</sup> *World Bank (2010) Solomon Islands Development Challenges*

<sup>24</sup> *For example by developing tourism and agro-industry*

roads and airfields are well maintained as well as to repair the damage caused by the 2007 earthquake. However given that the development budget of the government is almost all funded through foreign aid and given the relatively low levels of foreign investment at present, infrastructure development and inter-island trade promotion is likely to remain a persistent problem for the Solomon Islands.

### **2.3.3. Bottleneck 3: Public Management and Corruption**

Much has been written about the public management capacity of the SIG centring on two different aspects of government. First, there is the issue of the capacity and competence of the civil service in such vital areas as planning, budgeting and policy formulation. Second is the pervasive question of corruption, itself linked to two structural features of Solomon Island development: the concentration of wealth in a few centres such as Honiara and the prevalence of tribal and island practices above the tasks of progressive nation building.

Donor support for raising civil service planning and budgeting capacity, including in RAMSP's Public Governance programme, is beginning to yield results as witnessed in a large number of public management reforms and planning/policy documents generated over the last five years following the cessation of violent social conflict. Whether such extensive engagement in the government's policy-making processes is likely to undermine the credibility of

democratic government over time is a critical but as yet unanswered question. Besides fuelling resentment over rising property prices and differential income levels, such programmes can be self-perpetuating and hinder the process of nation-/capacity-building which they seek to promote. These are some obvious risks but clearly the positive response by the Solomon Island Government to such donor support and their ability to retain a democratic constitution indicate that one would expect civil service capability in budgeting, planning etc to improve over time. Effectiveness of public service delivery is a more difficult question intertwined with issues of revenue and public expenditure patterns, the contribution by households to a part of the cost of such services as well as the willingness of local civil society to actively monitor gaps in access and quality.

Corruption is an endemic concern in almost all societies including many developed countries. This is indeed a bottleneck in accelerating the achievement of Millennium Development Goals targets not only because the costs of corruptions are met inordinately by the poor but also can be the source of social conflict by widening inter-group and inter-regional inequalities.

Fortunately, the Solomon Islands has ample opportunity to root out the worst excesses of public corruption despite its political instability during this decade. First, the end of logging will force it to turn to more broadly shared growth in the future consisting of tourism, agriculture



and fishing. Second, privatisation of some of its SOEs will help to promote competition in the infrastructure sector with fewer opportunities of rent collection by political and public service agents. Third, its ability to attract consistently large volumes of external aid will depend crucially on the credibility of its budgeting and audit mechanisms. These pressures together with the fact that the country retains a respected and independent judiciary as well as the efforts at legal capacity building, partly through the RAMSI public governance program, may well be able to keep overt corruption to tolerable levels. Corruption is indeed a serious bottleneck on Millennium Development Goals attainment but one which is likely to ease with the resumption of broader based growth and a more active civil society.

#### **2.3.4. Bottleneck 4: Economic and Gender Inequalities**

An important bottleneck to Millennium Development Goals target achievement by 2015 is the degree of economic disparities within Solomon Islands itself. Gender disparities constitute a central dimension of such income and asset inequalities.

Inequality matters because it creates both geographical as well as intra-household differences in resource needs and access to public services related to MDG goals and

targets. This clearly constitutes a bottleneck when per capita incomes are both low and unequal and where local governments also face differential resource provision for the same level of service provision.

Unfortunately, there are no recent estimates of income or asset inequality in the Solomon Islands. The last household income and expenditure survey was done in 2005-06 and too close to the conflict years to be representative in terms of price and commodity availability in areas directly affected by the conflict. Table 2.3 presents a picture of inter-island differences in the poverty levels. The only firm conclusion which can be drawn from the data is the concentration of poverty (measured in terms of households in lowest 3 consumption deciles) in a few islands: Malaita (33.5%), Makira (15.3%), Guadalcanal (12.8%), and Western (11.8%). Table 2.4 provides distribution of household consumption across deciles. It shows the presence of significant disparities, even in a country with a large subsistence agriculture. While the lowest two deciles of households accounted for only 6.7% of national consumption, the highest two deciles registered 6.9 times as much (46.5%). Gini coefficients are presented in Table 2.5 and show that at 0.39 for Solomon Islands they remain above Samoa, Tonga, FSM, Kiribati, and Fiji but below the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Table 2.3. Location of rural households in Lowest Three Deciles:

Table 17: Location of Rural HH in Lowest Three Deciles				
Province	Proportion of Rural HH	Proportion of HH in Lowest 3D	Proportion of all Rural Population	Rural Population Lowest 3D
Choiseul	6.7	9.7	6.9	9.7
Western	17.3	11.8	17.3	11.9
Isabel	6.1	4.7	5.2	4.4
Central	5.4	3.5	5.2	3.5
Renbell	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.4
Guadalcanal	18.6	12.8	17.6	11.3
Malaita	29.4	33.5	30.9	34.5
Makira	9.9	15.3	10.8	16.4
Temotu	5.7	8.4	5.2	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Analysis of the 2005/6 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Solomon Islands National Statistics Office and UNDP Pacific Centre, July 2008

Table 2.4. Distribution of Household Expenditure %

Table A1: Distribution Of HH Expenditure				
Per capital HH expenditure deciles	National	Honiara	Provincial - Urban	Rural
1st Decile	2.6	4.2	3.8	3.1
2nd Decile	4.1	5.9	5.7	4.9
3rd Decile	4.7	6.2	5.8	5.8
4th Decile	6.0	5.9	7.0	6.8
5th Decile	6.6	8.1	7.6	7.9
6th Decile	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.8
7th Decile	9.8	9.2	9.7	9.9
8th Decile	11.7	12.2	11.4	13.0
9th Decile	15.6	14.6	13.8	14.4
Top Decile	30.9	25.8	26.9	25.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ratio of Q1:Q5	6.9	4.0	4.3	4.9
<b>Total Expenditure SBDm</b>	<b>2607.98</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Analysis of the 2005/6 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Solomon Islands National Statistics Office and UNDP Pacific Centre, July 2008

*Table 2.5. Gini Coefficient of income inequality for the Pacific Island countries*

Country	Gini Coefficient
Samoa	0.19
Tonga	0.26
FSM	0.34
Kiribati	0.36
Solomon Islands	0.361
Fiji	0.38
Marshall Islands	0.42
PNG	0.51
Vanuatu	0.58

Source: Solomon Islands Diagnostic study Integration Study, 2009 Report

Gender inequality in education also remains a matter of concern in Solomon Islands. While the country has made progress in ensuring that primary schooling is available relatively equally to boys and girls, significant gender disparities continue to exist in employment and wages and in political representation. Moreover, patrilineal communal land holding systems limit access of women to land a key asset in an agricultural economy. This in turn triggers social discrimination in other areas of life: in household decision making, in levels of education and in labour mobility.

Despite the anecdotal evidence on the question of gender disparities in the Solomon Islands little survey data exists on which to base firm conclusions. Maternal and infant mortality is one critical dimension but it is not apparent to what extent this is a gender discrimination or a public service access issue. The only general conclusion possible at the moment is that observers continue to report a high degree of gender inequality at present in the Solomon Islands, something which merits serious survey and policy action in the near future.

## 2.4 Solomon Islands: Overarching Challenges

### 2.4.1. Challenge 1: Raising and sustaining a high rate of broad-based economic growth

Perhaps the single most important challenge for the Solomon Islands is to move beyond the legacy of its recent history of social conflict by raising investment and growth rates in the future. Current GDP projections for the Solomon Islands, e.g. by the IMF, are pessimistic and indicate a continued fall in per capita incomes over the medium term. This is a very serious predicament since it means that government revenue and private financing of essential public services will remain dependent on external assistance for some time to come.

Figure 2.3. Solomon Islands Real Gross Domestic Product

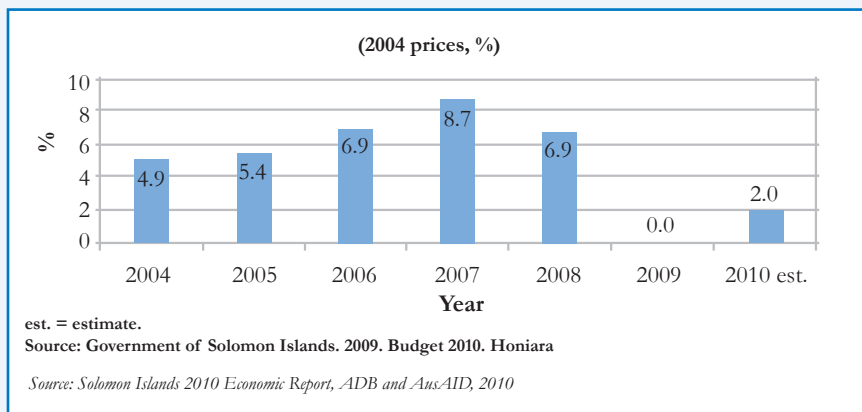
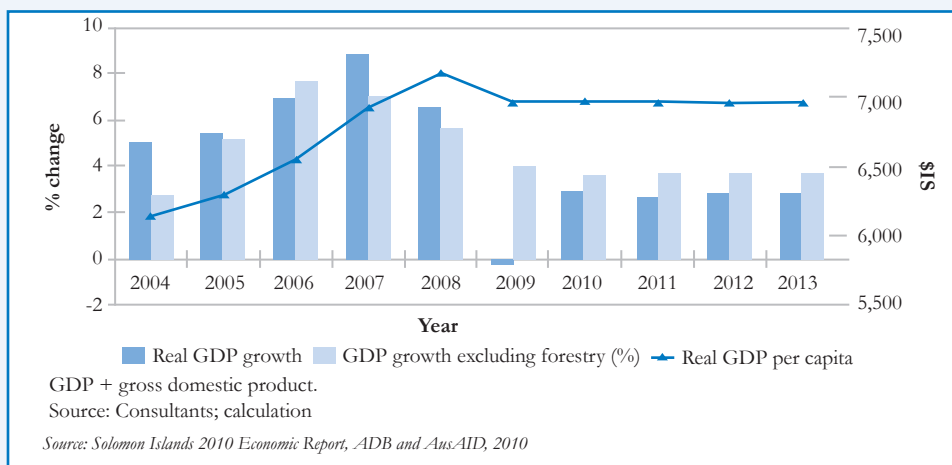


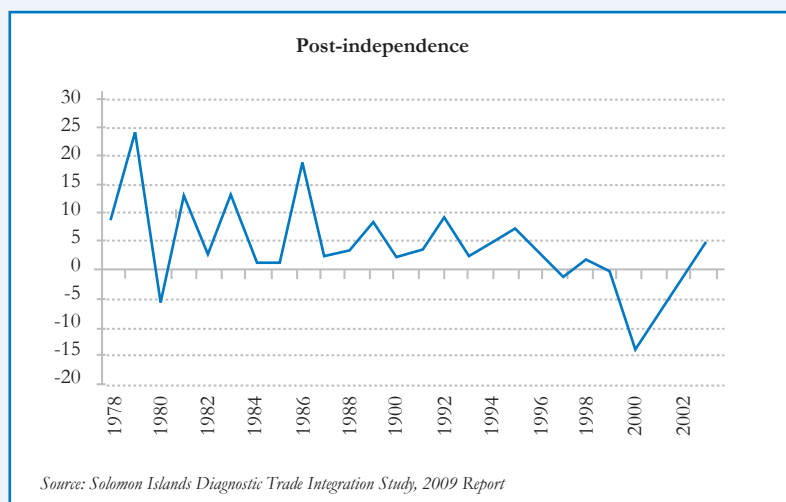
Figure 2.4. Solomon Islands Growth Projections



Being a largely subsistence driven agricultural economy, patterns of growth in Solomon Islands have always been dependent on the weather on one hand and commercial logging returns on the other. Year to year variations in growth rate have been very large over a forty year period for which data are available<sup>25</sup>. This is not very surprising in rural low technology economies, with low per capita incomes, resulting in a process of general impoverishment which both directly impacts human development as well as on the resources available to the government to provide essential public goods and complementary investments to the private sector in moving the economy to a self sustaining growth path.

<sup>25</sup> WTO (2009), *Solomon Island Diagnostic Trade Integration Study*, p. 49

Figure 2.5. GDP Growth Trends after independence (annual %)



The major growth challenge in the future is to wean the economy away from limited product, limited market exports, logging being the clearest example, towards a more diversified domestic and export economy. The sharp decline in projected logging exports means that time is not on the Solomon Islands side if it wishes to avoid the dislocation of a sudden collapse of its export revenue. Gold mining is one alternative but while meeting export revenue requirements will have almost no impact on job creation and industrial linkages in the domestic economy. Solomon Islands does have other export possibilities, principally palm oil, cocoa and copra but these still remain dwarfed by logging exports.

Virtually everyone is now agreed that newer avenues of commercial activity need to be

developed ranging from commercial agriculture and agro processing to tourism. Continued urbanisation as the World Bank argues might also create nodal growth poles along which local industries and services might develop. But this will depend on a large extent on the creation of a national integrated market and a mobile labour force.

The optimistic picture as argued above is that government policy, with assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors, is moving in this direction. This is testified by a large number of action plans and programmes outlined in the Medium Term Development Strategy (2008-2010). This in itself is a departure from previous periods which were characterised by over dependence on logging accompanied by the existence of large inefficient public

enterprises. While plans do not guarantee success, they are the beginning of the process whereby national priorities can be established and personnel and resources harnessed.

As table 2.6 illustrates that Solomon Islands faces growth challenges which are comparable to other island nations in the Pacific, many of which also faced high population growth and declining per capita incomes in recent years. The growth trajectory of the Solomon Islands has been directly affected by the 'tensions' from the late 1990s to the middle of this decade.

Once this had subsided recovery was rapid both because of the low base effect as well as the impact of exceptional volumes in foreign aid and later resumption of private investment.

*Table 2.6. Annual GDP Growth of Selected Pacific Islands (1995-2007)*

Country	LDC	1995-2002			2003-2007	
		Annual GDP growth (%)	Annual GDP/capita Growth (%)	Annual Population growth (%)	Annual GDP growth (%)	Annual GDP/capita Growth (%)
Kiribati	Y	4.60	2.90	1.60	0.98	-0.96
Samoa	Y	-0.10	-3.20	3.20	4.56	3.32
Tonga	Y	2.10	1.60	0.50	1.06	0.70
Vanuatu	Y	0.80	-1.70	2.60	5.30	3.26
Solomon Islands	Y	-2.20	-4.90	2.90	7.18	4.44
Cook Islands	N	3.00	6.30	-3.10	3.42	1.66
Fiji	N	2.40	1.30	1.10	6.06	1.26
PNG	N	-0.10	-3.20	3.20	3.42	0.94

Source: Solomon Islands Diagnostic Trade Integration Study, 2009 Report

Of course economic growth is only one component of the quality of growth and indeed of human development. Economic equality, freedom from want and sustainable development are the other dimensions of high quality growth. This on the whole cannot be guaranteed by technical parameters of investment, technology, and trade. They have to be developed within the context of a national and community wide development consensus which can define the acceptable levels of inequality, environment friendly patterns of consumption and the limits to state control and management of the economy. The importance of political democracy despite its many failings in a given country context cannot be overemphasised.

#### 2.4.2. Challenge 2: Combating Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

The impact of climate change on Pacific Island economies is by now well understood. The point is put starkly by the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 as follows:

“It is clear that there are winners and losers when it comes to climate and food security with mostly countries in the mid to higher altitudes benefiting from global warming and the small island countries of the Pacific in the warmer latitudes standing to lose the most.

“Pacific Island countries because of their unique geophysical features, socio economic and unique cultural characteristics are particularly vulnerable to the effects of global warming, including more frequent and intense natural disasters, such as cycles, floods and land droughts”

Under these conditions climate change is predicted to have a major negative impact on all segments of the Pacific Island food supply ranging from agriculture, forestry and farming to water supply.

While environmental protection and sustainable development is an urgent concern for most developing countries less able to adapt to its degradation, the impact on subsistence economies such as the Solomon Islands is

even greater. The State of the Environment Report (2008) describes in some detail the consequences of ignoring the environment in subsistence societies.<sup>26</sup>

The answer lies in both domestic preparedness in terms of mainstreaming sustainable development in overall economic policy as well as in collective action with neighbouring island economies and the global initiatives designed to promote environmental protection and combat climate change. Forest denudation through logging might have lost a valuable opportunity to the Solomon Islands for participating in the emerging global carbon markets but clearly provides an interesting avenue through which small island states might be able to recoup some of the costs of maintaining bio-diversity, reforestation etc.

Solomon Islands is participating in a large number of schemes to improve sustainable resource use. This is clearly a step in the right direction but much will depend on being able to generate a social consensus on the costs and benefits of sustainable natural resource use as well finding alternative forms of economic activity and employment.

#### 2.4.3. Challenge 3: Living with global commodity and food price fluctuations

For small open economies such as the Solomon Islands global market fluctuations

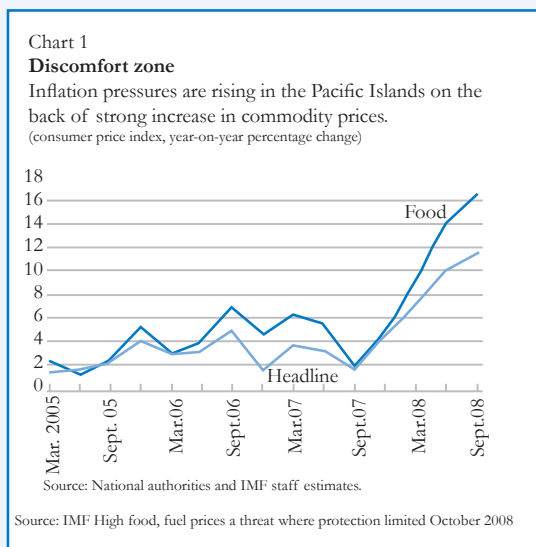
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<sup>26</sup> *State of the Environment Report, Solomon Islands, section 4.*

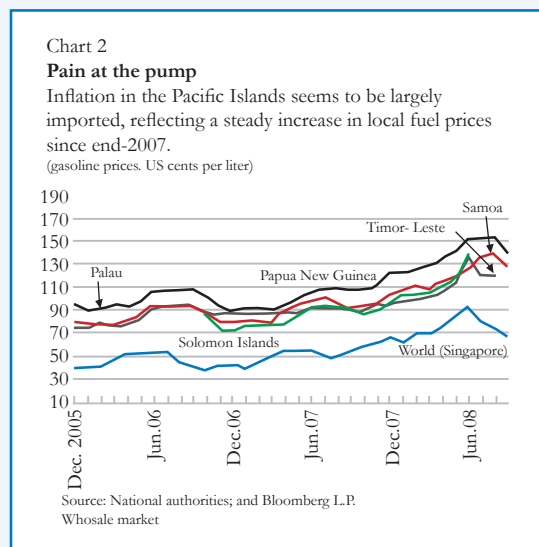
in the price of energy and food can cause considerable economic and social hardship. This is especially the case when both export and import markets are concentrated in a few products and countries. Indeed, just when the Solomon Islands was recovering from its most

prolonged post-independence social conflict and tension, the advent of the global financial crisis on the one hand and the sharp rise in the world oil and food prices on the other managed to significantly derail its economic recovery.

*Figure 2.6. Chart 1: Inflationary impact of global food price increases in the Pacific Islands*



*Figure 2.7. Chart 2: Effect of international fuel price rise in Pacific Islands*



How island economies such as the Solomon's can anticipate and react to such global price shifts and/or financial shocks remains unclear but clearly a high state of preparedness in terms of food security measures, alternative energy solutions and standby bilateral and multilateral debt arrangement are needed. This is an issue to which scant attention has been given as yet. But the rapid rise in international

food prices triggered by the growth of bio-fuel production as well as the rising demand from India and China does threaten past gains in poverty alleviation given that a large proportion of households just above the poverty line risk being pushed below it by food price inflation. Here is a clear case for arguing that MDG gains are not irreversible and need to be protected by constant public scrutiny and social assistance.



## 2.5. Putting the Jigsaw Together: Reporting and Interpreting Progress on Millennium Development Goals

The above enabling conditions, bottlenecks and challenges all contribute to the overall development of the Solomon Islands over the last decade. While they are a key part of the background to assessing the progress of MDGs in the country as well as an understanding of why progress has been faster in some areas than others as well as how the underlying conditions for accelerating such progress till the target 2015 date, they are only a part of the picture. The other key component of reporting on Millennium Development Goals progress is the way in which developments in each indicators and targets contributes to a better understanding and judgment of the overall country achievement in meeting MDG goals. One persistent challenge in charting progress towards MDG goals is therefore being able to place country data and measurement indicators in the context of internationally selected indicators such as to produce a convincing picture of Millennium Development Goals progress. This may appear to be a settled issue given the range of measurement indicators, reporting formats and others in use in the Millennium Development Goals literature. But this is far from being the case till now.

The 2000 Millennium Declaration, and the MDG Goals and associated indicators that followed from them, represent a noticeable change from the development debate of the

1980s and the 1990s. Not only do they accept that it is quality of growth and development, rather than merely the level or pace which is the critical but that the central measure of determining high from low quality of development is precisely a combination of income and non-income dimensions of human development. The debate is not altogether settled. As the World Bank (2010), prepared with an eye on the Millennium Development Goals Summit, points out— what is not clear following the Millennium Declaration was the extent to which signatory countries were expected to “adopt” or “adapt” the indicators that were used to define progress towards those goals.

This is a more important difference than might appear at first sight. Take the case of poverty indicators, used in the tracking of MDG Goal 1, for which many countries chose to use a nutrition based measure of absolute poverty rather than the \$1 or \$1.25 dollars (PPP) per day per person internationally comparable poverty line. Many developing countries in fact have used national poverty lines based on a combination of the 2100 calories WHO standard and a minimum-needs non-food basket to derive a national poverty line. These national poverty lines have then been adjusted for inter-regional or urban-rural price differences and consumption patterns to provide a more disaggregated picture of incidence of absolute poverty. For purposes of tracking the progress in reducing absolute poverty, MDG 1, between 1990 and 2015, such poverty lines are clearly

quite adequate at the country level. However, international comparisons would require some agreed international cut-off line such as the '1 dollar a day' threshold. Whatever solution is preferred nevertheless also remains arbitrary given differences in consumption habits, weather, local epidemiology etc.

MDG8 is another example. While the focus is on development partnerships, the initial concern at the time of the Millennium Declaration was that projected declines in global ODA would hinder the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A second concern was to find ways to promote access of developing country goods to developed country markets, especially in agriculture where agricultural subsidies in developed countries discouraged entry of developing country agricultural products into developed markets. Another problem was the multiplicity of aid channels and conditions administered by a very wide range of bilateral and multilateral agencies increased the management burden on recipient countries on the one hand and raised coordination issues for the donors and lenders on the other. These problems were exacerbated by the perpetual problem of poor country indebtedness, partly due to poor debt management capacity, or the impact of a series of calamities ranging from natural disasters and social conflicts.

Over the last decade, the nature of the development partnership between developed and developing countries has gained in both

scope and structure--pushed by the need to promote global security and institutional stability (e.g. the dangers of failed states), the rise of new developing country powers such as India and China with an increasing voice in global development forums, and mutual commitment towards MDGs. Despite the failure of Doha, there has been much new effort on building Global Development Partnerships.<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, the fact remains that despite several promises, the last at the Gleneagles G20 Meeting in 2008 to raise ODA by \$34 Billion each year till 2010, the goal of 0.7% of GNP aid target for developed countries has been never near realization. This has a major knock on effect on Millennium Development Goals targets since the availability of such aid resources was seen to be a major factor in MDG attainment by 2015.

The inevitable result is to introduce a distortion in the creation of a global development partnership from which two of the principal components, a sustained and substantial rise in foreign aid on the one hand and increasing access to developed country markets on the other, have received some of the lowest priorities. Yet the awareness of the need of a global partnership and of more effective aid is not lost on either the developing or the developed countries. The result in terms of MDG 8 and its constituent targets and indicators is much attention paid to regional and international agreements and conventions, to aid planning and coordination on the ground, to the addition of new indicators demonstrating

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<sup>27</sup> See *The MDG Gap Task Force Report (2009)*

the technology enhancing effects of internet and telephony, but relatively little information is provided to the principal actors in such a partnership. The consequence is not hard to decipher. Evaluation of the achievement of MDG8 in the usual “traffic light” score cards of “on track”, “mixed progress” and “off track” using indicators ranging from the volume of aid and trade, to the number of internet connections and telephones, is an exercise of great judgement.

The above examples point to some of the intractable difficulties in travelling along the unpredictable path from MDG indicators to MDG Goals. Clearly, even when the underlying data sources are good and have been consistently generated over quarter of a century spanning 1990 and 2015, the encapsulation of such a large variety of un-weighted indicators into an overall picture of the degree to which a country has achieved this goal or, to add yet another layer of complexity, is “likely to” be achieved by 2015 is a matter of overall consensus rather than statistical refinement.

This does not mean that the traffic light approach to Millennium Development Goals achievement is not useful as a guide to future policy, if only in ensuring future aid commitments to the poorest developing countries or to countries facing special limitations such as Small Island States. It does mean however, that individual indicators are only a very approximate guide to determining if a given country is on or off track in its journey

to meeting its MDGs by 2015.

There are other problems also. Take the case of the Millennium Development Goal on gender empowerment. Here is a case of a goal which is often cited as a “trigger” for a number of other indicators and targets to be achieved. Female empowerment in terms of employment and education leads to higher economic growth, lower infant and maternal mortality, greater health awareness and so on. The same, it is argued is true of foreign aid and trade partnerships. These goals therefore exhibit the characteristics of enabling or trigger variables which raises the speed which many other MDGs can be reached. While all MDGs are in some way or the other related in the sense that they are all needed to realise a happy and fulfilling life, trigger Millennium Development Goals seem to have a greater instrumental importance in the early phases of development where not all goals can be attained at the same speed or at the same time.

At the country level, this raises a new conceptual as well as a practical question. How should we interpret the probability of MDG achievement within a given time frame (e.g.2015), if the country or region scores low on gender empowerment but high on a range of other indicators? Given two countries or regions A and B, will a lower score on the gender empowerment indicators of A but higher scores for non-gender indicators imply a slowing down of future progress in overall MDG achievement? Although the question

is often sidestepped in the belief that every MDG, except 8, embodies a human right and therefore cannot be ranked relative to every other MDG, the practical importance of such questions in forecasting likely progress to 2015 and beyond cannot be overlooked.

The underlying question is quite straight forward: if Millennium Development Goals attainment can be sequenced why then do we not construct attainment schedules different for each country and goal and assign different weights to their achievement. What is the utility of adopting international and rather universal standards of definition, measurement and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals as against national or sub-national standards and strategies which provide different paths to similar if not the same set of humanistic objectives? This is what is implied in the debate surrounding the “adopt” or “adapt” debate.

In the context of the current Millennium Development Goals Report for the Solomon Islands the above considerations in the interpretation and measurement of MDG indicators provide a basis for revisiting the indicators used in measuring targets and goals in the next five years. Two considerations are pertinent here. First, clearly there has to be a more frequent monitoring and reporting of Millennium Development Goals data than has been possible so far. Any acceleration strategy for MDG achievement in the 2010-2015 period would require an initial data quality and indicator

choice assessment followed by capacity building in key government agencies to generate this data on an annual basis. Second, given the problems of weighting and association between one MDG target and another discussed above, the Solomon Islands would greatly benefit the production of an UNDP Human Development Report. The last one was done in 2002.

Given the close analytical linkage between Millennium Development Goals and Human Development, a key component of the Millennium Development Goals acceleration strategy should be the preparation of bi-annual Human Development Reports for the Solomon Islands in the next five years. Taken together the annual MDG reporting and the bi-annual Human Development Reports should form an analytical framework which can keep the human development and well being aspects of future economic growth in the public eye. They will also contribute greatly towards building a new development consensus across different communities and islands and thus help to build a solid national identity as well as to raise the “quality” of future economic growth especially if it is driven by commodity exports such as gold and timber.

## 2.6. Conclusion

Even this brief review of the development context for the Solomon Islands shows the complex policy questions which underlie the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The country faces an enormous

range of policy problems which it must solve if past gains in Millennium Development Goals are to be sustained. These range from improving its public management systems and corruption to economic diversification, reaching a development consensus on income distribution and regional development, reducing its dependence on foreign aid, and fostering closer ties and joint programmes with Pacific neighbours. It also needs to respond to long term overarching challenges of raising the quality of growth, putting in place a proactive disaster management and food security programme and mainstreaming sustainable development as a core goal of public policy.

What is surprising is that despite the range and the difficulty of issues facing policy makers in the Solomon Islands, there have been significant achievements in a number of Millennium Development Goals, such as health and education and in building development partnerships. Also continuing improvements in planning and budgeting functions as well as a wide range of new assessments and planned activities may well allow the Solomon Islands to accelerate the achievement of Millennium Development Goals by 2015. If this were to happen, given the decade long social tension only to be compounded by the global economic crisis after 2008, it would be no mean feat.

# CHAPTER 3:

## ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### 3.1 Previous reporting on the Millennium Development Goals in Solomon Islands

The present report has been written to support the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination (MDPAC) and UNDP Solomon Islands to determine progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It has been based on a variety of documents, a number of which are still not official yet, but takes its starting point as the 2004 report on the MDGs for Solomon Islands which ended with recommendations on eight key policy interventions.

These policy interventions covered the following areas:

- Peace Building Reconciliation and Unity;
- Transparency, accountability and the Rule of Law;
- Inclusive and equitable economic Growth;
- Accessibility and quality of social services;
- Decentralised Governance, National and Local Ownership;
- Domestic and International Partnerships;
- Data Integrity, analysis and policy Exchange;
- MDGs and national strategic planning processes.

Working backwards in this list of policy interventions, in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and national strategic planning processes, undoubtedly Solomon Islands has made progress in integrating the achievement of the Millennium Development

Goals into its development priorities. Solomon Islands has done so by enhancing its Government capabilities to plan, implement, measure and report on the Millennium Development Goals, through key steps such as adopting the Millennium Development Goals as key Development Goals, the establishment of the National MDG Task Force, the nomination of influential MDG focal points in key ministries, the adaptation of some of the MDGs into national priorities, the writing of MDG Reports of 2004 (validated in 2007) and this one in 2010 as well as adding national goals that go beyond those required of the MDGs (termed MDGs Plus). It remains unclear from the information that this report was compiled whether local ownership of the Millennium Development Goals agenda has improved or not and whether overall there were any gains at the provincial and regional levels. The report writers did not visit enough sub national level stakeholders to add any further analysis, but anecdotal evidence suggests commitment is still patchy. However what is clear is that, if provinces and regions are to play an integral part in gathering data which is Millennium Development Goals friendly, more training of provincial and regional officials (like the Sub Regional Workshops on Millennium Development Goals planning) needs to happen. Furthermore, a continued need for awareness rising on the value of achieving the MDG goals for provincial and regional development also needs to be strengthened.

In relation to accessibility and quality of

social services relative to the Millennium Development Goals, much progress towards the MDGs has been made, in key areas such as education and health. While universal primary education may be achieved by 2015, ensuring girls go to school routinely as boys and that the quality of the education they receive improves will ensure the Millennium Development Goals will be met beyond 2015. In health related matters some of the statistics available are already MDG friendly and increasing primary health care delivery systems including gathering of basic statistics informs Millennium Development Goals achievement over broader health related issues. It would seem that real progress is being made in incremental steps in this regard.

Since the period of communal tensions and conflict Solomon Islands has reached stability again. But the specific methodology used, to call in international assistance though effective, is not sustainable; concrete local measures to prevent a reoccurrence of this period is key to ensuring development gains do not wither. Riots can set back whole sectors in relation to their effectiveness of achieving goals. Evidence gathered by this report team has showed overall progress, with political and ethnic alliances being strengthened. This is a continuing process that needs to be resourced adequately.

### 3.2. From Global to National applications

Achieving the 8 MDGs targets by 2015 is a crucial milestone for human development in the 21st century. While the MDGs are associated with global level targets designed to foster development and improve the quality of life across developing nations, 10 years after the Millennium Declaration and 5 years ahead of the deadline, countries are coming to terms with the need for periodic evaluations to show whether the Millennium Development Goals are indeed within reach.

Post conflict environments like Solomon Islands are difficult environments where governments have struggled to keep together international and domestic resources to tackle poverty reduction, with capabilities to implement poverty reduction strategies needed not only at national levels but also at regional and local levels. Weaknesses have been identified in the basic information available to conduct thorough assessments, especially at provincial and regional level, with issues of disaggregating by gender, age, socio economic, ethnic group, and rural/urban providing complicating factors. Existing weaknesses in the structure, reach and resources available to governments in being able to collect relevant data while impeding

policies plans and strategies for the country to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, should not mean that reports cannot be drawn up.

### 3.3 Specificity of the national level targets in Solomon Islands: MDG plus

Many countries in the Pacific have so far demonstrated that a number of Millennium Development Goals are within reach, but the region is overall struggling to meet the 2015 deadline. Also, much of the documentation available to this report was valid prior to 2008, a time when the global economic crisis started slowing down economic and social progress. Given that economic growth helps to reduce poverty, slower growth inevitably results in fewer people being able to escape poverty and more time will most likely be needed to attain the 2015 Millennium Development Goals targets. In some cases data coming out in 2009 and 2010 is showing a slightly improved picture, this growth has not brought recovery back to even its pre-conflict growth patterns. Overall Solomon Islands faces a daunting challenge in its growth prospects. GDP growth averaged only 1.3 percent between 1998 and 2008<sup>28</sup>.

Furthermore a large proportion of national resources has been coming from unsustainable sources such as logging; remaining growth products are reliant on mining and other enclave resources which are inherently unsustainable, produce regional inequalities and grab a large

proportion of existing resources to support operations.

Furthermore the 2008 crisis showed a number of nations that in a context of globalization, where countries are inter-connected to the global economy in a multitude of ways including trade, tourism, FDI, ODA, Millennium Development Goals progress will be strictly tied to an individual country's capability to cope with macroeconomic stability, institutional strength and social development, as well as the extent of a country's integration and dependency to the global economy. In a context of crisis, developing countries have tried to direct efforts to keep monitoring progress and showed their willingness to reach the 2015 goals. This will allow policy makers and development partners to be better informed on Millennium Development Goals progress and on gaps that need to be filled. Mainstreaming Millennium Development Goals into the government development strategy is ongoing in Solomon Islands and a number of indicators are currently used to measure Millennium Development Goals progress over medium term development plans; the National Millennium Development Goals Task force, chaired by the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination together with NGOs are contributing their monitoring efforts of the Millennium Development Goals in an effort to keep results on track.

As outlined in the 2004 Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals report,

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<sup>28</sup> *Solomon Islands Development Challenges: Summary of Policy Proposals, presentation given in Honiara, August–September 2010 by the World Bank (data not yet official)*



Solomon Islands-specific targets and indicators (known as MDG Plus) have been added to the regular Millennium Development Goals to further outline the country's expectations and priorities, and through a set of complementary indicators meeting specific sub goals and targets, further measure development progress. Six years after the first Solomon Island MDG report, it is important to see if progress against these sub targets and indicators have advanced and this report will follow up the 'MDG Plus'. The identification of the MDG Plus has been done as part of an effort to localize and adapt

MDGs to the country context, and indicators, further outlined below. These were added to the National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan (NERRDP) in 2003.

As a result of the need to have more effective results from MDG reporting, the NERDP was able to ensure the progress of Millennium Development Goals Plus through the Medium Term Strategic Development Plan 2008-2010. However effective implementation of planning and monitoring in the country of MDGs is still ongoing.

### 3.4 GOAL 1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Millennium Development Goal Score:

Table 3.1. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1


 <b>GOAL 1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</b>	
Target 1.a. Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day	1.1 Proportion of population below USD 1 (PPP) per day 1.2 Poverty Gap ratio 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 1.b Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed 1.5 Employment to population ratio 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below USD 1 (PPP) per day 1.7 Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment
Target 1.c Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
<b>GOAL 1. SOLOMON ISLANDS MDG PLUS</b>	
Target 1.a Reduce the proportion of people who live below the poverty line (quantity to be specified)	Indicator: 1.a Poverty head count ratio

Table 3.2. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1 PROGRESS:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger				
Target 1.a. Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day				
1.1. Proportion of population below USD 1 (PPP) per day	N/a (Value not determined in Solomon Islands)	N/a (Value not determined in Solomon Islands)	N/a (Value not determined in Solomon Islands)	People below the poverty line: 22.7% (calculated on 2100 calories + other basic needs) <sup>29</sup>
1.2. Poverty Gap ratio	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
1.3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	N/a	N/a	N/a	6.7% <sup>30</sup>
Target 1.b Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people				
1.4. Growth rate of GDP per person employed <sup>31</sup>	8.6 (1992)	-16.6	2.1	4.4 (2008)
1.5. Proportion of employed population ratio, 15+ total (%) <sup>32</sup>	67.1 (1991)	66	65.3	64.5 (2008)
1.6. Proportion of employed people living below USD 1 (PPP) per day	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
1.7. Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Target 1.c Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger				
1.8. Prevalence of children aged 5 and below underweight (%):	23% <sup>33</sup>	21% <sup>34</sup>	N/a <sup>35</sup>	11.5% <sup>36</sup>
1.9. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	25% <sup>37</sup>	12% <sup>38</sup>	9% <sup>39</sup>	10.6% <sup>40</sup> (less than 2100 calories/ day)
Goal 1. Solomon Islands MDG Plus				
Reduce the proportion of people who live below the poverty line (quantity to be specified)				
Poverty head count ratio	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a

### 3.4.1. Status and trends:

The reduction of extreme poverty and hunger is of direct relevance to all countries, not least LDC's like the Solomon Islands. According to the Secretary General, there were still 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty in 2005, down from 1.8 billion in 1990, and most of them

were concentrated in LDCs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. China has accounted for most of the decline, but overall world progress to this challenge does not look encouraging<sup>41</sup>.

The three Millennium Development Goals targets and the Solomon Islands-specific

<sup>29</sup> Solomon Islands, 'Analysis of the 2005/2006 household income and expenditure survey', Solomon Islands National Statistics office and UNDP, 2008

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed September 2010)

<sup>32</sup> Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>33</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>36</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010

<sup>37</sup> UN Stats -Millennium Indicators <http://mdgs.un.org>

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

<sup>40</sup> Solomon Islands, 'Analysis of the 2005/2006 household income and expenditure survey', Solomon Islands National Statistics office and UNDP, 2008

<sup>41</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'keeping the promise: a forward looking reviews to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.

Millennium Development Goals Plus target for this specific goal, altogether have been difficult to quantify mostly due to the fact that statistics used to measure indicators recommended by the MDG methodology are not available in the format required, and the lack of a Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) study to allow cross-country comparison has not yet been made available. In spite of this, poverty can be gauged by looking at the bigger picture of national resources available, economic activity, trade as well as how households are using their income and expenditure. The bigger picture of challenging growth patterns, reduced economic growth, continued need for debt servicing, limited domestic and foreign investment opportunities as well as a continued reliance on foreign aid provide a scenario where the national economic capability is shrinking and compared even to 2004, when the first Millennium Development Goals report was compiled, funds available for poverty reduction measures are tighter.

While Solomon Islands has not gathered all the statistics for a perfect data set, proxy indicators can be used to show results in terms of the methodology for tackling Millennium Development Goals reporting but have shown mixed results relative to the achievement of this goal.

#### **3.4.2. The international poverty line: reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day**

The Government's achievements in the first

target of Millennium Development Goal 1, reducing the number of people living below the internationally acknowledged Poverty line (either using the former US\$1 a day or the 2008 revised US\$ 1.25 in 2005 prices) is difficult to measure from statistics available, especially given a lack of an established basket of goods to determine the purchasing power parity (PPP) index. However efforts to calculate absolute poverty have included the Solomon Islands Analysis of the 2005/2006 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) which identified the basic needs poverty line as a proxy for the global internationally acknowledged poverty line. Further evidence on urban populations' ability to buy basic goods as an approximation of their poverty status can be inferred from <sup>41</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'keeping the promise: a forward looking reviews to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey, the latest available to this report was from the Solomon Islands National Statistical Office with assistance from UNDP Pacific Centre which was published in 2008 based on 2005-2006 figures.

#### **3.4.3. Achieving full and productive employment for all:**

The second target aims to achieve full and productive employment, but no deadline can be placed on meeting this target, and no one country can claim to have fully reached this

goal so far. Economic growth characterizing a number of countries in the past did not produce rapid job growth, and in places like the Solomon Islands where GDP per capita has been stagnant for the past 10 years, job creation has not benefitted from private sector development, or attraction of FDI, which is however still very limited in size and scope. Lack of economic growth in turn has resulted in few jobs created in urban areas, together with stagnant productivity in many rural areas, which are the main reasons for persistence of poverty and rise in number of working poor<sup>42</sup>. When looking at the total investment in Solomon Islands, at 10% of GDP, this is particularly clear given that it is also well below the average for small island states. The CBSI 2010 report does show some progress for 2010 but the shrinkage in 2009 was across the board with lower production of commodities, a smaller revenue, and subdued economic activities across many other sectors.

Poor countries, which concentrate much on agricultural sectors might however have the possibility to focus on bolstering agricultural productivity and output quality given that increase of agricultural productivity can accomplish several goals simultaneously, like: reduced hunger; reduced child mortality through improved nutrition; reduced maternal mortality through improved nutrition; and higher household incomes and economic growth. To boost productivity, however, small farmers must gain access to inputs, including land tenure, fertilizers, seeds, equipment, small-

scale irrigation technical extension, and harvest storage. Producing more food affects positively food security and must be complemented by interventions to address inequities of access to food and to bolster nutrition. Government efforts in this regard have included financing the Rural Development Programme which is meant to enhance rural development and increase access to finance as well as improve local Governance structures at the ward level.

#### **3.4.4. Reduce by half the population suffering from hunger:**

Despite earlier progress, hunger (third indicator for MDG1) has been rising globally since 1995, and the number of hungry people globally has risen from 842 million in 1990 to 873 million in 2004-06 to 1.02 billion during the 2009, largely a result of high food prices and of the global financial and economic crisis. Global events of this kind led to lower incomes and higher unemployment in many LDCs<sup>43</sup>. Data for indicator 1.8 on prevalence of underweight children below the age of five in Solomon Islands from the DHS report (undertaken between 2006-2007), shows that 11.8 % of children were underweight, a figure that has been decreasing considerably from 1990 values.

Indicators related to income, employment, hunger and related issues do suggest that although the level of extreme poverty -using the Basic Needs Poverty Lines methodology -is not too high (22.7%), for poor families stark daily choices between competing purchases are made,

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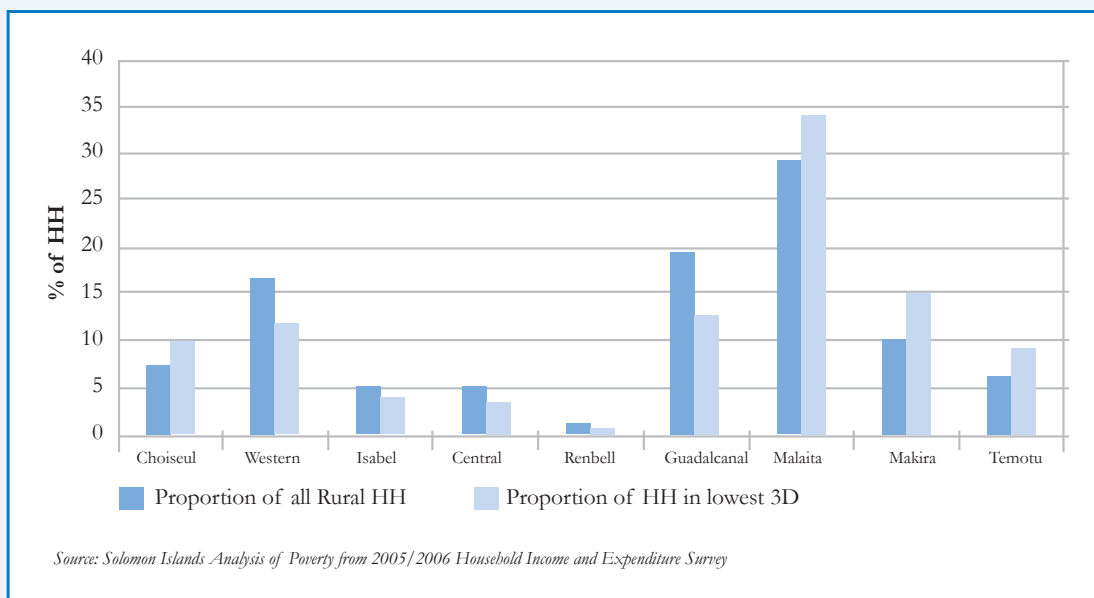
<sup>43</sup> *Ibid*

for example extra food, or bus fares, medicines or school fees, servicing personal debts or other purchases. Clear divides between rural and urban centres are noted; women headed households are over represented in the lower quintiles and children suffer disproportionately in these circumstances. Further information on nutrition values of food consumed, with data broken down by sex, by urban/rural divides may nuance some of these figures.

More accurately addressing progress in MDG 1 in the future requires that more complete data is collected and disaggregated to support the analysis of differences between male and female

populations and between provinces and regions in Solomon Islands. Given 2015 is only five years away, where Millennium Development Goals indicators are not reported, the Government may have to rely on proxy indicators to enable measurement of non-economic aspects of poverty, such as quantities used and access to particular subsistence resources such as rice and cassava. Information of this kind would allow for more accurate assessments of the extent of hunger and enable all partners, in particular Government authorities to design more effective interventions to tackle agreed upon levels of poverty and hunger.

*Figure 3.1. Distribution of Poor households in Solomon Islands*



### 3.5. GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Millennium Development Goal Score:  

Table 3.3. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2:


 <b>GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</b>	
Target 2.a. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling	Indicators 2.1. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 2.2. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary 2.3. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men
GOAL 2. MDG PLUS	
Goal 2.a. Plus: Achieve universal basic education (primary and junior secondary)	Indicator 2.1. Plus: By 2015 100% boys and girls completed a full course of basic education comprising primary (6 years) and junior secondary (3 years) schooling
	Indicators:
	2.1.1. Net and gross enrolment ratio in primary through lower secondary education (from Grade 1 to Form 3)
	2.1.2. Net and gross enrolment ratio in junior secondary education
	2.1.3. Proportion of pupils starting Form 1 who reach Form 3
	2.2.1. Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 in primary who reach Form 3 in secondary school
	2.3.1. Literacy rate of 15-24 years old and adult literacy rate (15 years and over)

Table 3.4. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2 PROGRESS:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education				
Target 2.a. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling				
2.1. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	39% (1986) <sup>44</sup>	74% <sup>45</sup>	80% <sup>46</sup>	94% <sup>47</sup>
2.2. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	84.9 <sup>48</sup>	57.4% <sup>49</sup>	59.0 % <sup>50</sup>	87% <sup>51</sup>
2.3. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men	62% (1991) <sup>52</sup>	84.5% <sup>53</sup>	N/a	89.0% <sup>54</sup>
Goal 2.a. Plus: Achieve universal basic education (primary and junior secondary)				
2.1. Plus: By 2015 100% boys and girls completed a full course of basic education comprising primary (6 years) and junior secondary (3 years) schooling				
Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 in primary who reach Form 3 in secondary school	N/a	57.4% <sup>55</sup>	67.0% <sup>56</sup>	N/a
Literacy rate of 15-24 years old and adult literacy rate (15 years and over)	76% <sup>57</sup>	71% <sup>58</sup>	83.7% <sup>59</sup>	N/a
School enrolment Primary (Gross %)	87% (1990) <sup>60</sup>	85.4% (2000) <sup>61</sup>	96.5% (2004) <sup>62</sup>	107% (2007) <sup>63</sup>
School enrolment Secondary (% Gross)	14% <sup>64</sup>	20% <sup>65</sup>	30% <sup>66</sup>	34.7% <sup>67</sup> (2007)
School enrolment Secondary (% Net)	N/a	18.4% <sup>68</sup>	27% (2003) <sup>69</sup>	30.1% (2007) <sup>70</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>45</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>46</sup> Ibid

<sup>47</sup> Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, Performance Assessment Framework (PAF 2006-2008)

<sup>48</sup> ADB Statistical Database System online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>49</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>52</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

<sup>54</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>55</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> World Bank 2010/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics

<sup>58</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>59</sup> Ibid

<sup>60</sup> World Bank 2010/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid

<sup>62</sup> Ibid

<sup>63</sup> Ibid

<sup>64</sup> Ibid

<sup>65</sup> Ibid

<sup>66</sup> Ibid

<sup>67</sup> Ibid

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

<sup>69</sup> Ibid

<sup>70</sup> Ibid

### 3.5.1. Status and trends:

In the past decade, there has been remarkable progress to achieve universal primary education in developing states. Rising enrolments however also put pressure on the capacity of school systems and teachers to deliver quality education and the question has developed on how to keep children in school, with dropout rates that remain high in many developing countries. Given this, achieving MDG2 and universal primary school completion still remains a big challenge<sup>71</sup>.

Like most LDCs, Solomon Islands and the wider Pacific states have reached high enrolments in primary education but face the challenges of continuation, completion, poor teacher motivation and standards, patchy attendance of students and less than optimal financial support for basic education. In this context inequalities also continue to pose major barriers to attaining universal primary education and children from the lowest quintiles generally account for 40% of all out of school children in many developing countries. Furthermore income based disparities affect wider inequalities, and children from rural areas, slum areas, children with disabilities still face major obstacles in accessing good quality education<sup>72</sup>. In fact, despite increased enrolment figures there is evidence from across the Pacific region there is a growing number of students who do not finish school, and a large number of youth leave school without adequate life skills and are unable to further their education or to gain

decent employment.

In the case of the Solomon Islands it is relevant to highlight that primary education ends at grade 6, and not at grade 5, and therefore the retention rate in primary education, has to be calculated on a 6-year basis. Furthermore, the government's policy with regard to education aims to achieve universal enrolment and access also to junior high school (an additional 3 years), so that all children have access to a 9-year schooling at minimum. This ambitious Government target has been used as a condition to develop the Millennium Development Goals Plus indicators for Solomon Islands. Indeed the Government has gone further than MDG 2 and added its own ambitious MDG 2a target which aims to achieve universal basic education (primary and junior secondary) with an indicator stating that by 2015, 100% boys and girls will have completed a full course of basic education comprising primary (6 years) and junior secondary (3 years) schooling. The Ministry of Education believes that it will achieve this by 2015 thus exceeding the MDG 2, though progress to date was not mentioned in their latest annual report.

Despite the improvements in rebuilding the education system in Solomon Islands, questions about the quality of teaching remain. Specific information on this has not been made available to this report, but much of the information will be disclosed once the Solomon Island National Census will be published. The National Census will provide information perceived information

<sup>71</sup>Report of the Secretary General, 'Keeping the promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid

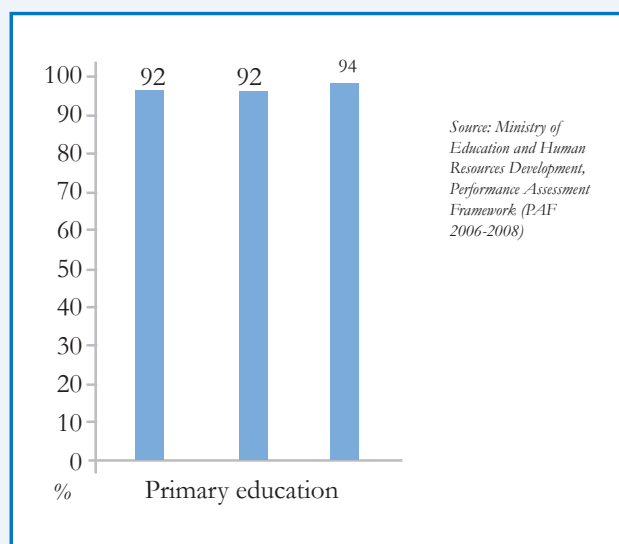


about the quality of teaching, the urban and rural divide in the schooling system as well as a mapped breakdown for each one of the provinces.

The current strategic framework for Solomon Islands to ensure basic education lies on two overarching plans, the Education Strategic Framework 2007-2015 and the National Education Plan 2010-2012.

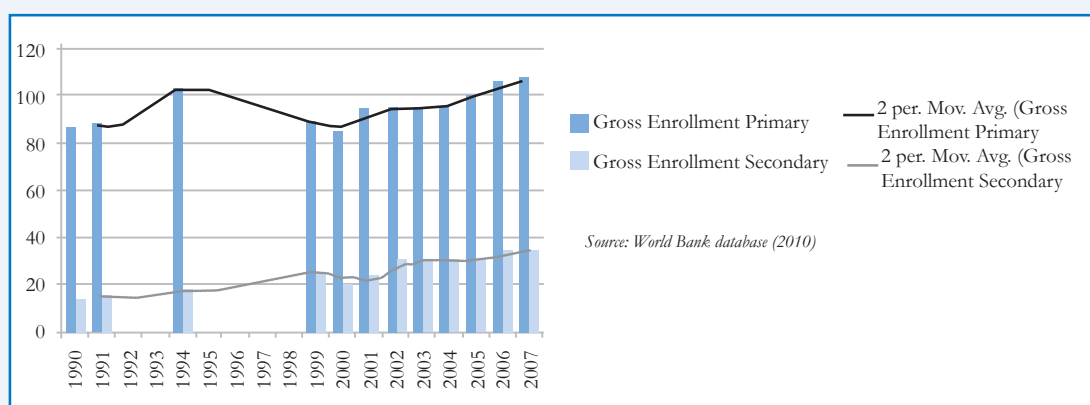
Of particular importance is the National Education Action Plan 2010-2012 which focuses on strategies to achieve equitable access to education for all in Solomon Islands, improving the quality of education and managing resources efficiently and effectively. According to UNICEF (2010) net primary rate enrolment has been increasing and has reached 94% of total, although the National Census might provide a different picture. According to the National Education Action Plan, access has increased and improvements are now being made on the quality of education, including completion rates and literacy and numeracy rates.

*Figure 3. 2. Enrolment rate of Primary Education Students in Solomon Islands (2006-2008)*



The proportion of pupils starting grade 1 and finishing with the last grade of primary has also been encouragingly increasing to 87% of total, a value which is overall close to that of the 1990 baseline (84.9%). Assessments in 2000 and in 2004 draw a picture of a relatively low retention rate, a result of the ‘tensions’ which did not allow the country to have hands on security and promotion of basic services. Secondary education still remains a challenge, with net and gross enrolments remaining considerably low.

Figure 3.3. Trend in Primary and Secondary Gross Enrolment



### 3.5.2. Data on education:

Most of the data on enrolment, drop out and transition rates is collected from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), which has been in charge of passing all the documentation to the Government National Statistics Office for compilation and publication since the mid 1990s. The National Statistics Office has noticed a consistent increase in quality and completeness in this regard over the last five years and schools and provincial authorities get better at data collection. The quality and quantity of the data has however been affected by the high level of non-return questionnaires, especially during the years of conflict where it became difficult to retrieve forms and enrolment status. Since the end of the conflict in 2003, the MEHRD has taken steps to re collect and

collate the data on enrolments. The MEHRD has in fact established a computerized system, the Education Management Information System that has helped the ministry to keep track of compilation and analysis of education statistics. It is likely to be significant that the Ministry with the best data collection systems is the one which can show clearest progress to the Millennium Development Goals.

Data on literacy is available from the National Literacy survey and the population census, however different methodologies have been used to compile the data, and the results are not always comparable. The 2009 Solomon Islands census, to be published in late 2010, will shed light on the data, and provide better understanding on the number of enrolments, disaggregated data and distribution throughout the country.

### 3.5.3. Way forward:

When scaling up education budgets inequalities across income, gender, geographical, linguistic and ethnic lines should be addressed when allocating resources. Interventions should address problems of access to schooling from the supply and demand side. On the supply side, adequate services need to be provided and made accessible based on a robust needs analysis. On the demand side, targeted measures need to be put in place to attract children from poor household, rural areas or minority ethnic groups to school. Successful examples include making primary education more available, accessible and affordable include abolishing school fees, subsidies for other

costs and innovative approaches to school. In this framework, policymakers might consider the possibility of cash transfer schemes in this sector, to boost the number of people in school. Appropriate learning environments and quality of education can be ensured through the development of child friendly schools, effective and comprehensive teacher strategies, enhanced pedagogical support and learner-relevant curriculum, educational materials and languages of instruction.

Support from donors in education in Solomon Islands is relatively high and the donors include NZAID, EU, UNESCO, and UNICEF with provincial level support from World Vision.

## 3.6. GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Millennium Development Goal Score: 

Table 2.6. Annual GDP Growth of Selected Pacific Islands (1995-2007)


 <b>GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</b>	
Target 3.a. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015	3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
<b>GOAL 3. MDG PLUS</b>	
	Indicators:
	3.2.1. Share of women in waged employment in administration and management jobs
	3.2.2. Share of women in wage employment in professional and technical jobs
	3.3.1. Proportion of provincial government assemblies including Honiara City Council in which seats are held by women and proportion of seats held by women
	3.3.2. Proportion of posts of Permanent Secretary and Provincial secretary in civil service held by women
	3.3.3. Proportion of posts of general manager and board directors of public enterprises held by women

Table 3.6. Millennium Development Goal 3 Progress:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women				
Target 3.a. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015				
3.1.a. Ratio of girls to boys in primary school (%)	0.86 <sup>73</sup>	0.93 <sup>74</sup>	0.96 <sup>75</sup>	0.97 (2007) <sup>76</sup>
3.1.b. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary school (%)	0.60 (1991) <sup>77</sup>	0.79 <sup>78</sup>	0.84 <sup>79</sup>	0.84 (2007) <sup>80</sup>
3.1.c. Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary school (%)	0.30 <sup>81</sup>	0.41 <sup>82</sup>	N/a <sup>83</sup>	0.80 <sup>84</sup>
3.2. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	23% <sup>85</sup>	30% <sup>86</sup>	N/a <sup>87</sup>	N/a <sup>88</sup>
3.3. % of seats in national Parliament held by women	0 <sup>89</sup>	2 <sup>90</sup>	0 <sup>91</sup>	0
Goal 3. MDG Plus				
Share of women in waged employment in administration and management jobs	2.6 <sup>92</sup>	16.7 <sup>93</sup>	N/a <sup>94</sup>	N/a <sup>95</sup>
Share of women in wage employment in professional and technical jobs	27.3 <sup>96</sup>	31.3 <sup>97</sup>	N/a <sup>98</sup>	25% <sup>99</sup>
Proportion of provincial government assemblies including Honiara City Council in which seats are held by women and proportion of seats held by women	10 <sup>100</sup>	0 <sup>101</sup>	10 <sup>102</sup>	N/a
Proportion of posts of Permanent Secretary and Provincial secretary in civil service held by women				
Permanent Secretary	0 <sup>103</sup>	0 <sup>104</sup>	20 <sup>105</sup>	N/a
Provincial Secretary	0 <sup>106</sup>	0 <sup>107</sup>	0 <sup>108</sup>	N/a
Proportion of posts of general manager and board directors of public enterprises held by women				
General Manager	0.0 <sup>109</sup>	0.0 <sup>110</sup>	0.0 <sup>111</sup>	N/a
Board of Directors	N/a <sup>112</sup>	N/a <sup>113</sup>	N/a <sup>114</sup>	N/a

<sup>73</sup> World Bank 2010/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid

<sup>75</sup> Ibid

<sup>76</sup> Ibid

<sup>77</sup> Ibid

<sup>78</sup> Ibid

<sup>79</sup> Ibid

<sup>80</sup> Ibid

<sup>81</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>82</sup> Ibid

<sup>83</sup> Ibid

<sup>84</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile, 2010

<sup>85</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>86</sup> Ibid

<sup>87</sup> Ibid

<sup>88</sup> Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>89</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring

fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>90</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>91</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>92</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004 and Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>93</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>94</sup> Ibid

<sup>95</sup> JICA Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>96</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>97</sup> Ibid

<sup>98</sup> Ibid

<sup>99</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile 2010/100 Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>101</sup> Ibid

<sup>102</sup> Ibid

<sup>103</sup> Ibid

<sup>104</sup> Ibid

<sup>105</sup> Ibid

<sup>106</sup> Ibid

<sup>107</sup> Ibid

<sup>108</sup> Ibid

<sup>109</sup> Ibid

<sup>110</sup> Ibid

<sup>111</sup> Ibid

<sup>112</sup> Ibid

<sup>113</sup> Ibid

<sup>114</sup> Ibid

<sup>115</sup> "Solomon Islands National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development – partners in development" and "Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs, National Policy on Eliminating Violence Against Women".

### 3.6.1. Status and trends:

Addressing the issue of gender inequality is still one of the most challenging goals almost everywhere, with root causes of gender disadvantage and oppression often lying in societal attitudes, norms and power structures.

Several achievements have been attained in the Pacific with regard to equal access to education opportunities for women, and the importance of gender issues and equality has now been recognized in Solomon Islands, and is increasingly reflected in Government service posts, policies and documents<sup>115</sup>. Despite progress, challenges still remain in both eliminating gender disparity in primary and

secondary education by 2015, where the female to male enrolment data shows room for improvement, in both primary and secondary level of education. The gap is much higher for the tertiary education levels and for gaps in employment representation.

Furthermore violence against women still remains a major challenge for many women across developing countries, not least Solomon Islands. While there have been increased initiatives to address violence against women, like the recently published report on 'Domestic violence in Solomon Islands' efforts are often not comprehensive, consistent, sustained and well coordinated.

Figure 3. 4. Justification of violence against women (age 15-49)

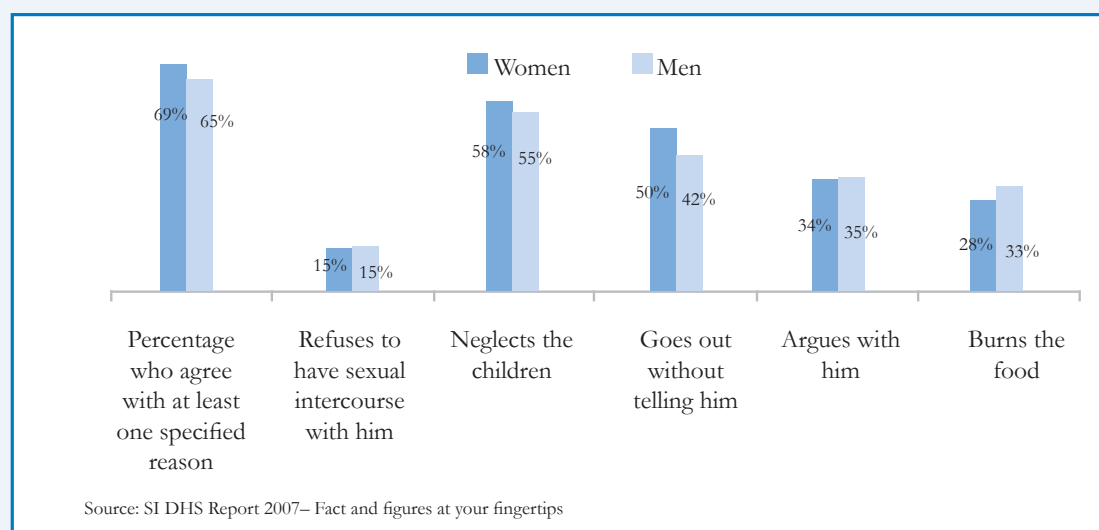
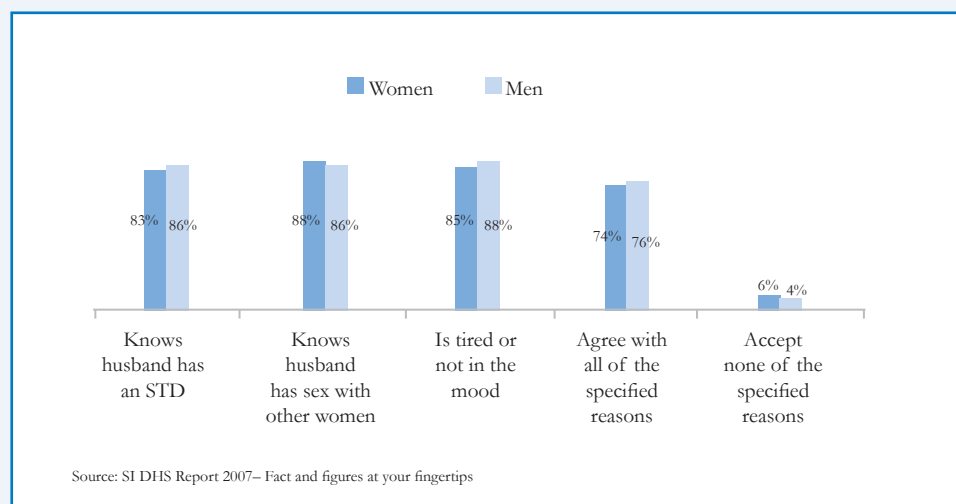


Figure 3.5. Attitude towards women's right to refuse sex with her husband (age 15-49)



### 3.6.2. Eliminating gender disparity in school:

Target 3.a. aims to Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. Gender gap in primary school enrolment in Solomon Islands has narrowed in the past decade, with an average of 95 girls in primary school for every 100 boys. Evidence from practitioners in Solomon Islands however shows that there is still a prejudice in schooling girls and should a decision need to be made between schooling for a boy sibling or a girls sibling parents often educate the boy first. In terms of indicators being used in this category data on

women's representation in the labour market show an increase in women's representation, but research shows that wage differentiations still exist, together with working conditions and opportunities. The gap between gender disparity in primary education is encouragingly closing with a current picture of 0.97 (2007), as ratio of females to male in primary schools in Solomon Islands, compared to a 0.86 in 1990s. For secondary education, one can acknowledge good progress given the proportion of 0.84 in 2007, value that has to be encouraging given the proportion of 0.60 in 1991. The proportion of 1:1 however will still require time to be achieved.

<sup>116</sup> Adult literacy or Youth literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life. Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

Figure 3.6. Ratio of female to male primary and secondary enrolment is the percentage of girls to boys enrolled at secondary level in public and private schools

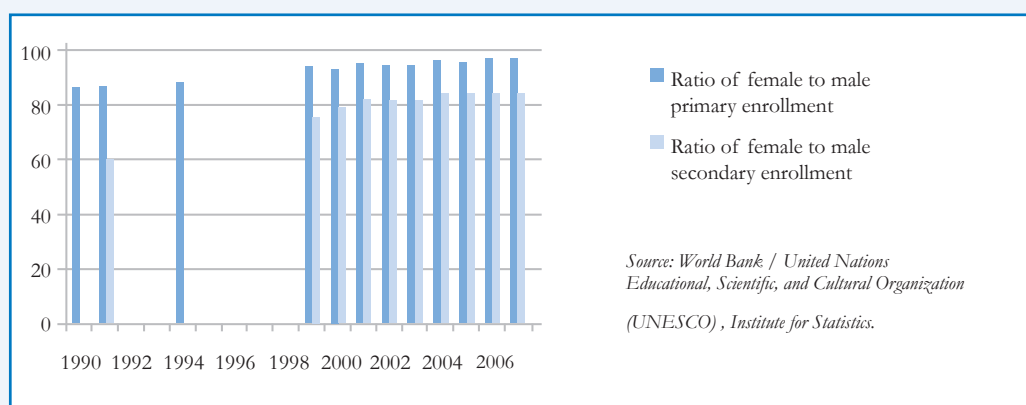
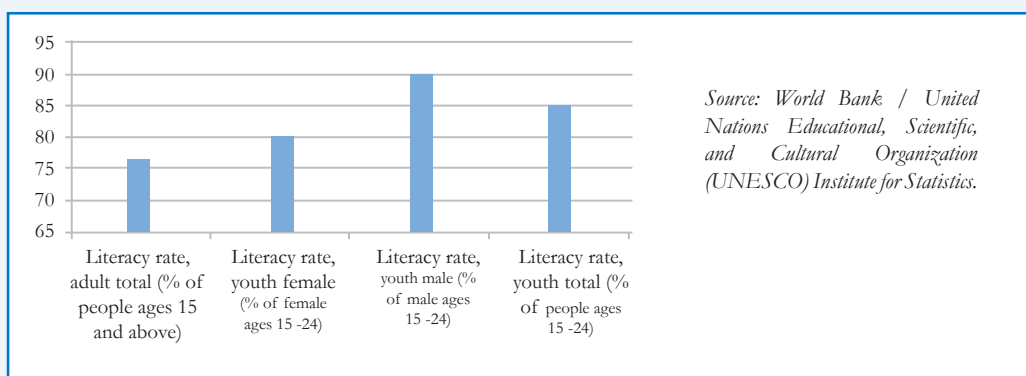


Figure 3.7. Percentage of Adult, female, male literacy rate in Solomon Islands in 1999<sup>116</sup>



### 3.6.3. Female representation in the labour market:

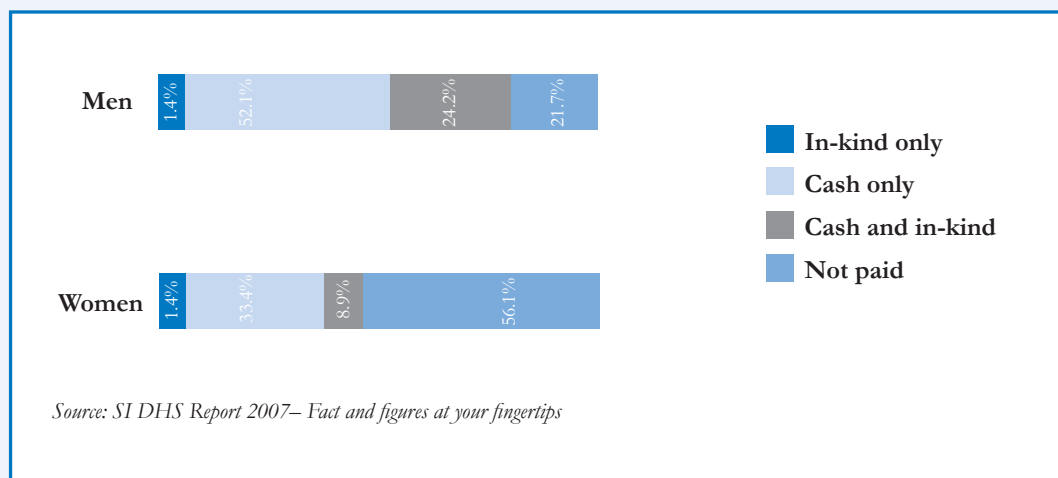
While female participation in the labour force has increased, there are still significant gender gaps in participation rates, occupational levels and wages. Paid employment for women has

expanded slowly and women continue to assume the largest share of unpaid work. Close to two-thirds of all employed women in developing countries work as contributing family workers or as own-account workers – typically forms of extremely vulnerable employment lacking security and benefits. Women's share of waged

<sup>116</sup> Adult literacy or Youth literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life. Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

non-agricultural employment has increased in the last decade, but only marginally, and women have generally failed to get decent jobs.

Figure 3.8 Employment and cash earnings of currently married respondents



Women in Solomon Islands are significantly underrepresented when measuring 3.3 Number of women in national parliaments, noticeable in the latest election held in August 2010 where no female ministers was appointed to the cabinet, although some senior Permanent Secretary (PS) positions are held by women, including (until recently) the PS position in the Ministry of National Planning and Aid Coordination. Women's share in national parliament seats has only increased slowly, but in the case of Solomon Islands, it has decreased with the most recent election where the parliament does not show even one female in the whole group of MPs.

International agencies like UNIFEM have been

working in Solomon Islands to promote and support gender equality and the empowerment of women. The current goal of UNIFEM's Strategic Plan 2008-2013 focuses on delivering better accountability of governments to better commitment in increasing gender equality. The main areas of intervention include enhancing women's economic security and rights, reducing the prevalence of violence against women and spread of HIV/AIDS, achieving gender equality and justice in democratic governance in times of peace and conflict. In the framework of the national action plan, UNIFEM has been working with partners in Solomon Islands to incorporate gender equality in all development strategies, laws, and justice at national and local levels.



Using the goals of the Millennium Development Goal 3 Plus might shed further light on the position of women in the Solomon Islands. A number of additional indicators have been added to the already existent ones, including share of women in wage employment in the non agricultural sector, relevant to show the number of women employed in other sectors of the economy, such as administration, management, professional and technical jobs. Consultations with the government have helped to identify a series of other indicators showing the participation level of women in government assemblies, in civil service and women holding positions of general managers on board of directors of public enterprises.

In terms of wage labour, women have attained a number of advances in participation and also on education participation levels. While the number of female running for national and local government seats increased, it has not declined. The perception is that more female should take part in public sphere of life / government life, the proportion of seats in the government remains low, and is growing lower in provincial and local government.

The community is divided by patriarchal as well as matriarchal societies, and yet in modern sectors of the society there are significant gender gaps in waged employment, professional jobs and in legislative representation.

Much of the information in the MDG report

however does not shed light on the divide existing between rural and urban women, an issue that will only be clarified once the National Census is published. The limited amount of reports produced on gender disparities in fact do not allow a clear understanding of the recurring and future challenges faced by women, by economic activity, levels of education age or geographical location.

#### **3.6.4. Way forward:**

Removing barriers to girls' education, including by providing scholarships, cash transfers and eliminating user fees are all key to expand support for girls especially at the secondary education level, where all too many girls are forced to leave school because of school expenses. Tracking completion and attendance rates and improving the quality of education while scaling up investments in girls' enrolment in secondary school are also important to measure improvements on gender balance and gender equity in Solomon Islands.

Introducing gender balanced policies however should include applying social protection measures and labour laws and policies that are gender responsive and introducing and enforcing legal protections for the most vulnerable women workers. Particular attention should be paid to gender gaps in school-to-work transition for youth, making education and training relevant to labour market demand, based on a lifecycle and rights-based approach.

*Box 3.1 Effect of the conflict on women and girls in Solomon Islands<sup>117</sup>*

The five years from 1998 to 2003 in Solomon Islands were marked by civil unrest, caused primarily by regional disparities in economic and social opportunity. Gender based violence against women and girls became much higher during this period and police estimated that the number of violent incidents against women during and after the conflict has been 'hugely under-reported'. In a March 2004 study, 85 per cent of Solomon Islanders reported that their families were directly affected by the conflict. Three quarters of women 'suffered direct personal trauma', including rape, death of family members, threats of violence and intimidation, and being held up at gunpoint. Those responsible, whether police personnel, armed groups, or private individuals, were rarely brought to justice. Witnesses and victims seldom filed complaints, often because there was no opportunity to do so or because they feared reprisals.

Many women also observed a link between the conflict and a range of other consequences, including increased tension in their homes, domestic violence, and family breakdowns. Studies and interviews found that domestic violence had been exacerbated by the inaction and inability of the police to address reported cases and by women's restricted freedom of movement and opportunity to seek assistance.

Violence does not necessarily reduce once a conflict has abated. Being raped during the conflict, by police or members of armed groups, often led to stigmatisation or other social consequences for victims, particularly unmarried girls. Married victims were often required to pay 'compensation' to their husbands' families because of the shame brought on. Some women also expressed fear that a girl or woman, once known to have been raped, may be left or abused by her husband or be more likely to become a target of rape again.

With a legacy of conflict and abuse and violence against women, it is crucial for Solomon Islands to address issues of gender equality – currently underestimated.

*Source: Solomon Islands Country Supplement / Amnesty International 2004*

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<sup>117</sup> *Solomon Islands 'Violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor'*

### 3.7. GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Millennium Development Goal Score: 

Table 3.7. Millennium Development Goal 4

GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY	
Target 4.a. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five	Under-five mortality rate Infant mortality rate Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles

Table 3.8. Millennium Development Goal 4 Progress:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality				
Target 4.a. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five				
4.1. Under five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1,000 live births):	121.3 <sup>118</sup>	88.1 <sup>119</sup>	75 <sup>120</sup>	70.3 (2007) <sup>121</sup>
4.2. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births):	31 <sup>122</sup>	30 <sup>123</sup>	24 <sup>124</sup>	24 <sup>125</sup>
4.3. Measles immunization coverage among 1 year olds:	N/a	55% <sup>126</sup>	72% <sup>127</sup>	90.4% <sup>128</sup>

118 World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

119 Ibid

120 Ibid

121 Ibid

122 ADB Statistical Database System Online

123 World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010

124 ADB Statistical Database System Online (accessed in September

2010)

125 ADB and Aus.AID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010)

126 Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

127 Ibid

128 Source: State of the Health Sector in Solomon Islands 2009, MoH

### 3.7.1. Status and trends:

The Solomon Islands has recently recovered from a period of major social unrest where much of the infrastructure, including that for primary and secondary child health service was disrupted, or destroyed. With the arrival of RAMSI, and major donor injections of aid for rehabilitating basic needs systems, Solomon Islands slowly began rebuilding infrastructure and services.

The status of children's health is an important component for child development and immunising children against certain diseases and ensuring they receive prompt and appropriate treatment once ill can prevent many early childhood deaths. In the past decade deaths among children under five have been largely reduced, and the number of children in low and middle income countries receiving measles immunization has also been increasing.

In the Pacific, which can be seen from the number of health programmes focusing on maternal and child health, mortality rates for children below the age of five in the Solomon Islands, though still high, are below the average of most developing countries. However difficulties still exist to eliminate the infant mortality rate which, despite decrease, remains one of the highest rates in the region. Often child death is associated and compounded by respiratory diseases and diarrhoea which are often fatal, skin diseases are prevalent, and vaccine-preventable diseases which tend to appear very regularly in early stages of life.

Figure 3.9 Under five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1,000 live births):

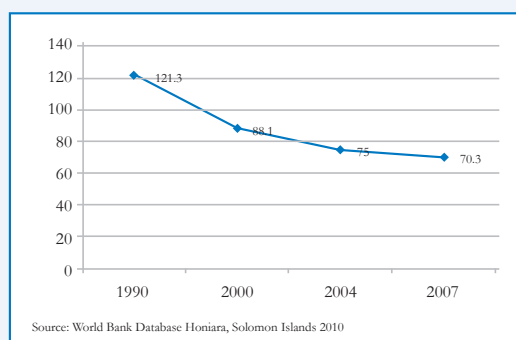
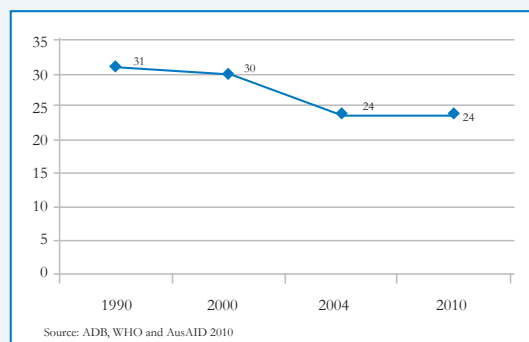


Figure 3.10. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)



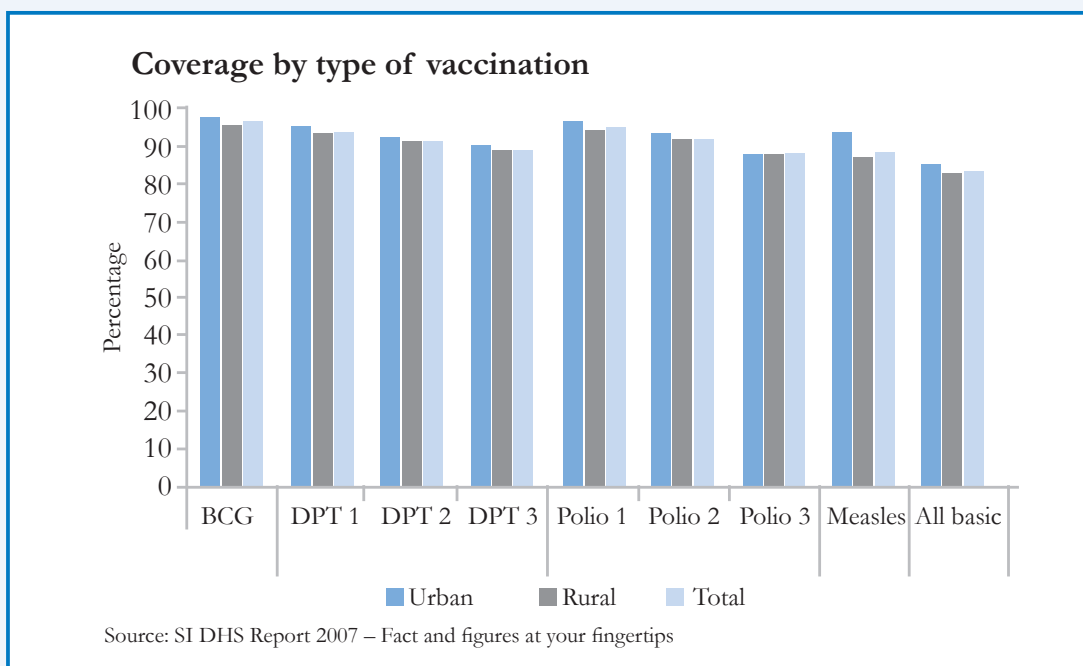
### 3.7.2. Improving child health and under five mortality rate:

While rates are smaller than in other LDCs, the available data suggests that Solomon Islands has been making progress in reducing child mortality. WHO tables showed that in 1999 there was a total of 537 deaths of children under the age of five, of a total of 79,131

children under the age of 5 in the whole country during that year, and the 1999 census showed a rate of 66 deaths per 1000 live births<sup>129</sup>. In the 2006-2007 Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey (SIDHS), using a nationally representative sample of over 4000 households, the level of under-five mortality deaths was 37 deaths per 1000 during the 5 years period before the survey. The infant mortality rate recorded was 24 deaths per 1000 live births. These

figures will work as the baseline for this target. According to the survey over three-quarters of children aged 12-23 months (82.7%) were reported having complete vaccination coverage at the time of the survey<sup>130</sup>. The 2007 DHS showed a high improvement of vaccination coverage by 12 months of age over the past five years. Among 4-5 year old children 56.7% had complete vaccination, compared to 1-2 year old children.

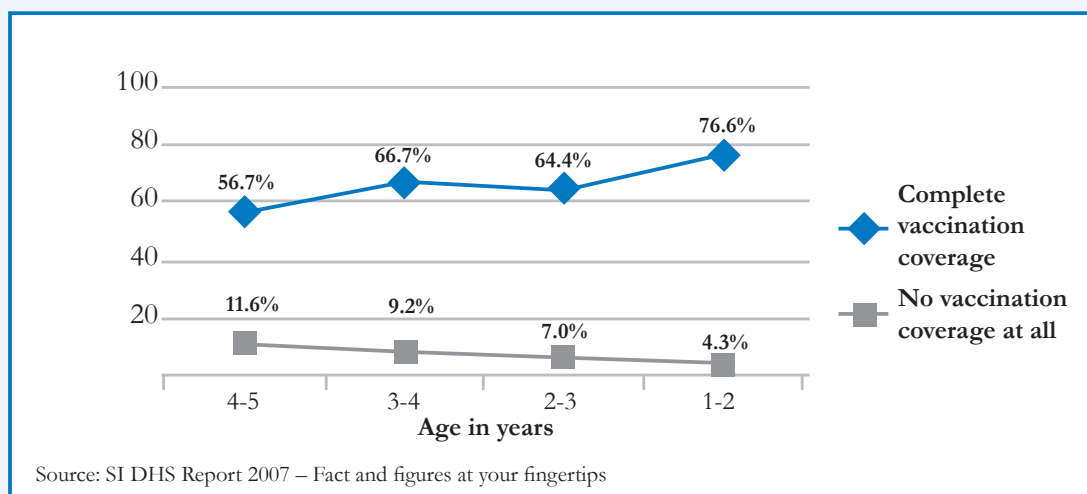
Figure 3.11. Child vaccinations in Solomon Islands (coverage by type)



<sup>129</sup> Solomon Islands National Child Health Plan 2005-2010

<sup>130</sup> Universal immunization of children against eight vaccine preventable diseases included: TB, tetanus, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza, polio and measles, all crucial to reduce infant and child mortality. WHO guidelines regard children as fully vaccinated when they have received the full set of vaccinations by the age of 12 months.

Figure 3.12. Child vaccinations in Solomon Islands (coverage by age groups, from first to second year of life)



Immunization coverage appears fairly extended in Solomon Islands, and vaccination crucial to prevent child mortality and infant mortality. With a continued compliance trend close to 100%, there is room for improvement, particularly for measles immunization in rural areas of the country. According to DHS with less than one third of children's waste disposed safely, improvements in access to sanitation facilities as well as targeted community level health in hygienic disposal of waste are crucially needed. On the other hand the number of children being taken to health facilities for diarrhoea or fever is low, and the DHS states that it is unclear if this is the result of cost quality or availability.

According to UNICEF's publication, the State of the World's children, Solomon Islands ranks 72 out of 193, with 1 being the worst performer to prevent child and infant mortality rates<sup>131</sup>. Strengthening national health systems with the active participation of civil society organizations can significantly improve both maternal and child health. Strengthening health systems involves addressing human resource constraints, building new infrastructure, upgrading and improving supply systems, improving governance and stewardship through a larger role in informal, formal and decentralized systems of health protection. Additional international development assistance is vital for health-systems scale-up in low-income countries.

<sup>131</sup> UNICEF "State of the World's children, Special Edition" 2009

### *Box 3.2 Food security and children's health in Solomon Islands*

The 2007 Solomon Island Demographic Health Survey (DHS) was carried out in 2006 throughout the country using a sample of 4,000 households. Findings showed that under 5 years old mortality rate was 3.7% for a period of 5 years prior to the survey, whereas infant mortality rate recorded 2.4% deaths. Such numbers showed that still many children were dying from unnecessary causes that could be prevented only enough measures are in place.

The DHS also showed how Solomon Islands is predominantly a rural country where 85% of the population lives in rural areas. The survey also showed that:

32.8% of children under the age of five are stunted, with 8.5% severely stunted; stunting increases with age, with a peak of 47% among children from 18-23 months, and stunting is higher in rural areas than urban areas.

4% of children are wasted, with highest levels between the age of 9-11 months, time in which a child is most vulnerable to illness.

Almost one in eight children is underweight, and 2.5% are seriously underweight, with peak levels among children aged 9-11 months.

Almost half (48.5%) children suffer from anaemia

Measures known to have impact on under nutrition and food insecurity include breastfeeding, complementary feeding and production and provision of adequate food.

*Source: Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources, Ministry of Health & Medical Services "National Food Security, Food Safety & Nutrition Policy 2010-2015", April 2010*

### 3.8. GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Millennium Development Goal Score:  

Table 3.9. Millennium Development Goal 5


 <b>GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</b>	
Target 5.a. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Target 5.b. Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate 5.4 Adolescent birth rate 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) 5.6 Unmet need for family planning
<b>GOAL 5. MDG PLUS</b>	
Target 5.a. Plus: Reduce the maternity mortality ratio from 550 in 1992 to less than 100 by 2015	Indicators:
	5.a.1. Maternal mortality ratio
	5.a.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health professionals

Table 3.10. Millennium Development Goal 5 Progress:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b>				
Target 5.a. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio				
5.1. Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births):	550 (1992) <sup>132</sup>	195 <sup>133</sup>	220 <sup>134</sup>	146 (2009) <sup>135</sup>
5.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%):	N/a <sup>136</sup>	85% <sup>137</sup>	87% <sup>138</sup>	95% <sup>139</sup>
Target 5.b. Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health				
5.3. Contraceptive prevalence rate (% women age 15-49)	N/a <sup>140</sup>	6.8% <sup>141</sup>	N/a <sup>142</sup>	27% (2007) <sup>143</sup>
5.4. Adolescent birth rate (births 1,000 women aged 15-19)	N/a <sup>144</sup>	57 <sup>145</sup>	48 <sup>146</sup>	40 (2008) <sup>147</sup>
5.5. Antenatal care coverage (%), at least 1 visit and at least 4 visits:	N/a <sup>148</sup>	N/a <sup>149</sup>	N/a <sup>150</sup>	74% <sup>151</sup>
5.6. Unmet need for family planning	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Goal 5. MDG Plus</b>				
Target 5.a. Plus: Reduce the maternity mortality ratio from 550 in 1992 to less than 100 by 2015				
Maternal mortality ratio	550	N/a	220 <sup>152</sup>	N/a

<sup>132</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>133</sup> Ibid

<sup>134</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>135</sup> National Health Report Solomon Islands 2009

<sup>136</sup> Source: Household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys by UNICEF and Source: Maternal Mortality: Estimates Developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank.

<sup>137</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010

Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>138</sup> Ibid

<sup>139</sup> Source: Household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys by UNICEF.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid

<sup>141</sup> Ibid

<sup>142</sup> Ibid

<sup>143</sup> Source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid

<sup>145</sup> Ibid

<sup>146</sup> Ibid

<sup>147</sup> Ibid

<sup>148</sup> Source: UNICEF, State of the World's Children, Childinfo, and Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid

<sup>150</sup> Ibid

<sup>151</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010

<sup>152</sup> Source: Maternal Mortality: Estimates Developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank.



### 3.8.1. Status and trends:

Global trends show how access to reproductive health services often remains poor where women's health risks are greatest. Deliveries attended by skilled health workers in developing regions have increased since 1990 levels, but the general world tendency in LDCs shows that reducing maternal deaths remains a challenge. Sexual and reproductive health also remains crucial to women's well being, empowerment, gender equality and family planning remain key to maternal and child health. Reproductive health covers women's use of antenatal, post partum and general care services.

As part of broader investments in public health programmes, adequate financing for maternal health, especially focused to ensure safe deliveries, is critical. Adolescent pregnancy rates have declined most in countries with low initial levels, while where high adolescent fertility has persisted in many others. Together with this there is evidence that unsafe abortions continued to account for one of eight maternal deaths in 2005 despite increased contraceptive use among married women<sup>153</sup>.

### 3.8.2. Maternal mortality in Solomon Islands:

The goal of improving maternal mortality rates in the Pacific region has started to show progress in recent decades. Indeed measures

of maternal health currently available, show how maternal mortality figures for the regional are below average for developing countries and all Pacific countries including Solomon Islands – which is a very encouraging sign. The Target (5a) for Goal 5 seeks to reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio. Impacts on the reducing number of deaths by women and the related indicators used to measure this include:

#### 5.1 Maternal mortality ratio

#### 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Solomon Islands has shown some improvement in these indicators, helped by a very high attendance rate of a trained professional during birth. The DHS 2007 survey reports almost full access to antenatal care, with 95% of women receiving antenatal care from skilled providers. According to DHS, almost 2 out of 3 (64.6%) made four or more visits prenatal.

With reasonably high rates for prenatal care, the number of women reporting barriers to accessing health care is disconcerting. Concerns most often are on quality of services and lack of resources mostly due to unavailability of drugs.

<sup>153</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'Keeping the promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.

Figure 3.13. Assistance and services by skilled providers in Solomon Islands by type

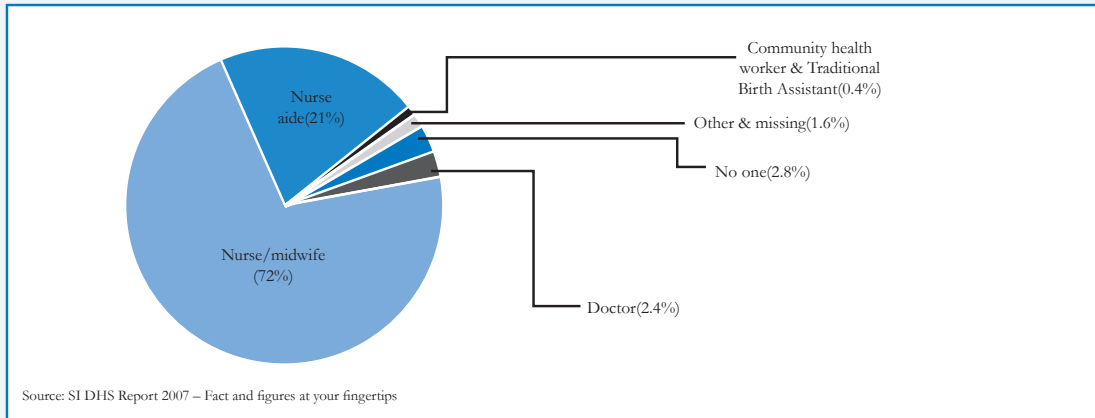
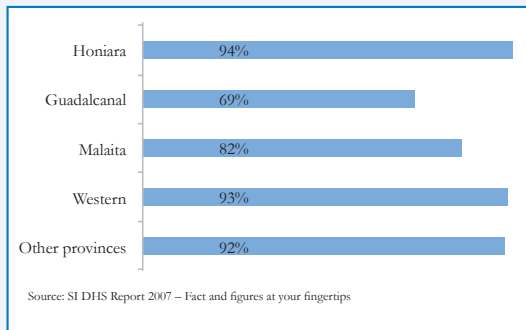


Figure 3.14. Assistance and services by skilled providers in Solomon Islands by Province



According to the DHS, the majority of births in the years 2001-2005 took place at health facilities and 14% of births place at home; of these 86% of births were attended by skilled providers. A large proportion of urban women 95% had a skilled provider assisting them during childbirth compared with rural

women. Women mortality rates have also been declining, although according to the World Health Statistics published by WHO in 2010 and the National Health Report of Solomon Islands the number of women dying because of child birth has becoming much lower in the past decade currently at 146 / 100.000.

Figure 3.15. Maternal mortality ratio (modelled estimate, per 100,000 live births)

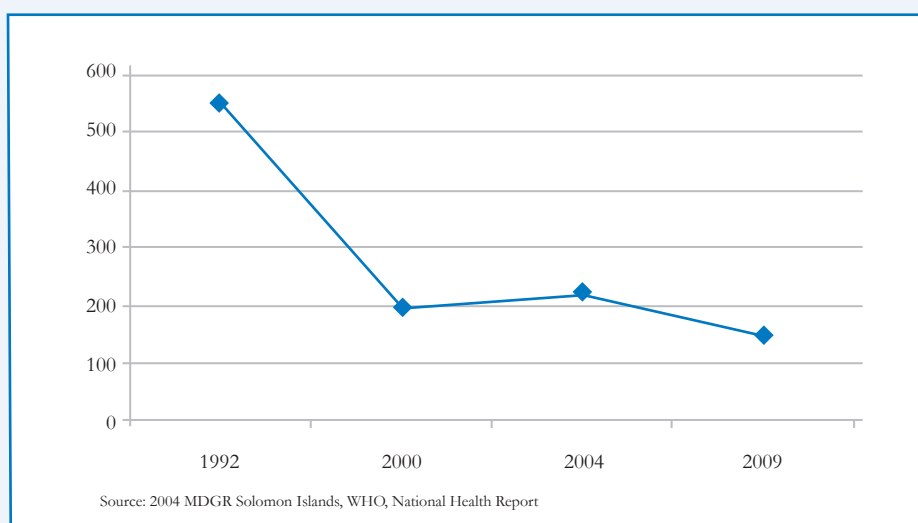


Figure 3.16. Place of Childbirth, private, public hospitals and homes

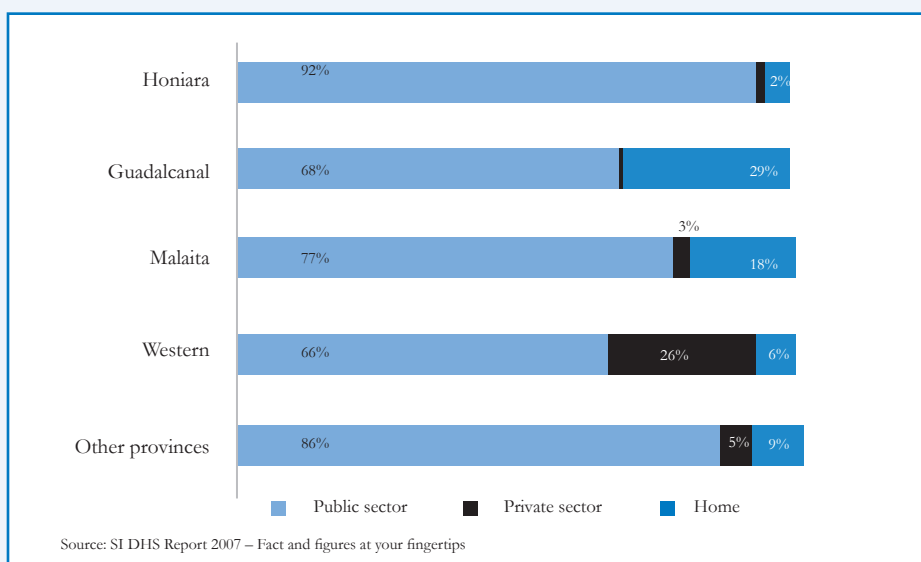
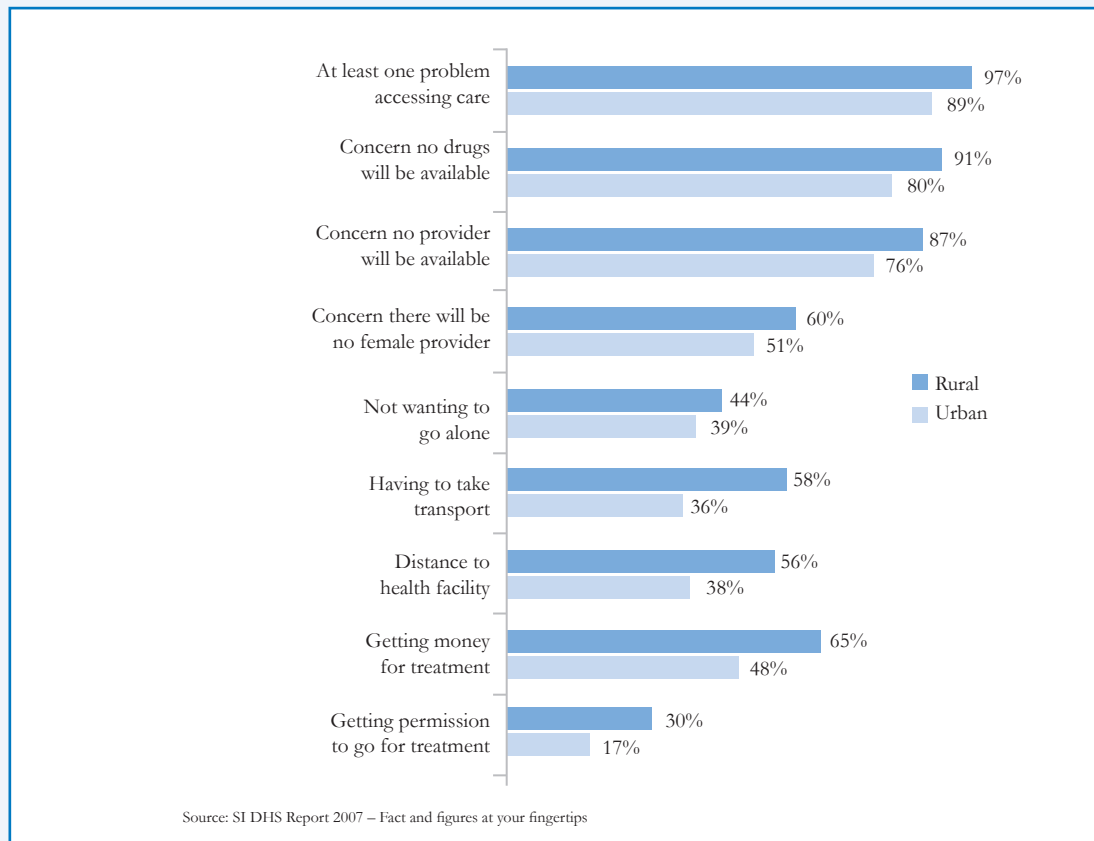


Figure 3.17. Problems reported in accessing healthcare facilities



### 3.8.3. Fertility and family planning:

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 5, Target 5 b wishes to achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health. Related indicators by assessing: 5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate, 5.4 Adolescent birth rate, 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and

at least four visits), 5.6 Unmet needs for family planning.

According to the DHS survey in 2007 there has been a slow but steady decline in fertility rates over the last 20 years, and the current total of women have 4.6 children on average. Fertility levels are lower for women living in urban

centres, than rural areas and this difference is particularly pronounced in 15-19 age group where the DHS findings show 75 births / 1000 in rural settings and 41 / 1000 in urban settings. Adolescent fertility rate and childbirth starts early among Solomon Islander women but over the last 20 years adolescent pregnancy has been decreasing.

The median age for first birth has increased from 20.8 to 21.6 years. For women aged 25-49, the median age for first sexual intercourse is 18.2, which is a lower age than that of first marriage (19.9). The DHS survey also shows that polygamy is not very common, with only 5% of women reporting their husbands having more than one wife. This was highest in the 15 to 19 group (11.3%).

Figure 3.18. Fertility rates in Solomon Islands

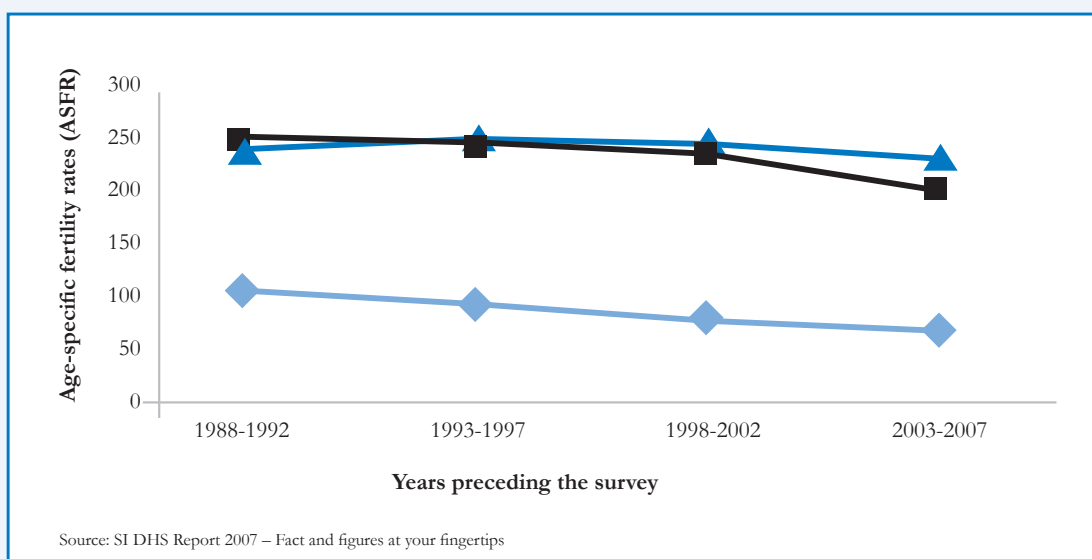
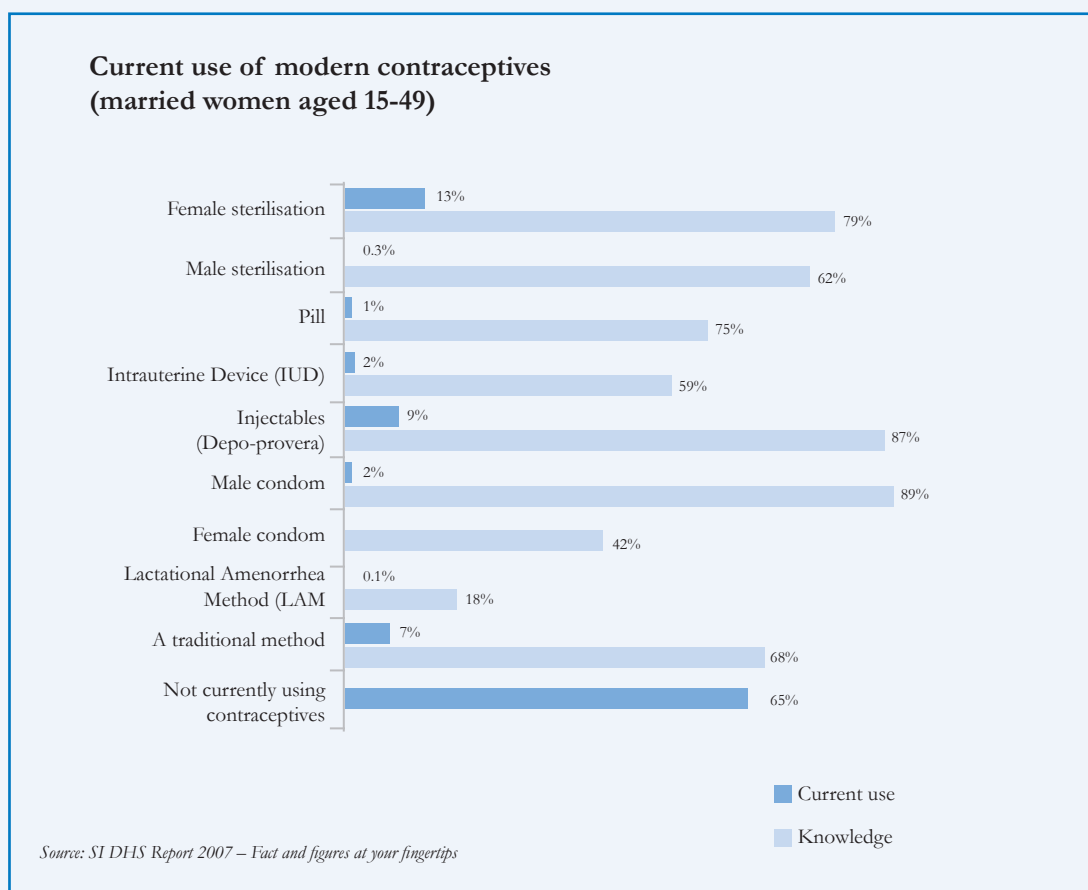


Figure 3.19. Contraception use in Solomon Islands



Family planning and knowledge of modern methods of contraception is almost universal among women and men in Solomon Islands. Despite this, only 27.3% of current married women are using some form of modern contraceptive at the time of the survey. Of those women using contraceptives the proportion of sexually active unmarried

women using contraceptives (16.2%) is less than for current married women (27.3%). The main reason women reported for not using contraceptives was that they feared side effects (37%), are infecund (15%) or were opposed to use of contraceptives (15%).

Further to these targets Solomon Islands has

developed the ad hoc Millennium Development Goals Plus target and indicator to verify the extent to which it can really meet MDG 5 in country. The Millennium Development Goals Plus target is to reduce the maternity mortality ratio from 550 in 1992 to less than 100 by 2015. The related indicators are, once again the maternal mortality ratio and secondly the proportion of births attended by skilled health professionals. As previously described this number has a medium probability to be met, given the current number of women dying for childbirth at 146.

#### **3.8.4. Way forward:**

With system improvements, a number of women in Solomon Islands have reported to have access to health care, and this is crucial given that attention is needed for timing and quality of ante natal care. Most women have reported no post partum service coverage, the DHS states it is still unclear if this is due to the access or lack of service uptake.

Solomon Islands, like most of the Pacific countries, experiences high fertility levels which are the main source of the country's high population growth. High populations are however associated with socio economic problems, including high unemployment, urban growth with unplanned settlement practices and poor sanitation (DHS 2007).

In spite of this, with regard to service access for safe motherhood, numbers are encouraging where 95% of women who had a live birth in the five years preceding the survey received antenatal care from a skilled healthcare professional for their last birth. Over three in five women (65%) make four or more antenatal care visits during their entire pregnancy. Major concerns have appeared on the availability of drugs, no female care provider was available and getting money for treatment were the most commonly cited problems in accessing health care in Solomon Islands.

### 3.9. GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Millennium Development Goal Score: 

Table 3.11. Millennium Development Goal 6


 <b>GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</b>	
<b>Target 6.a.</b> Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years
<b>Target 6.b.</b> Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	6.5. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
<b>Target 6.c.</b> Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed-nets 6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course
<b>GOAL 6. MDG PLUS</b>	
<b>Target 6.a</b> Reduce the incidence of malaria to less than 80 by 2015	<b>Indicators:</b> 6.6.1. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria



Table 3.12. Millennium Development Goal 6 Progress:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b>				
<b>Target 6.a. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</b>				
6.1. Prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15-49 years (%):	N/a	N/a	N/a	0.002% <sup>154</sup>
6.2. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate:	N/a <sup>155</sup>	2.1% <sup>156</sup>	N/a <sup>157</sup>	N/a <sup>158</sup>
6.3. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS:	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
6.4. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 6.b. Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</b>				
6.5. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 6.c. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</b>				
6.6.a. Malaria incidence notified cases	450 <sup>160</sup>	123 <sup>161</sup>	198 <sup>162</sup>	137 <sup>163</sup>
6.6.b. Malaria: death associated with, per 100,000 population, ages 0-4	N/a	8 <sup>164</sup>	15.5 (2003) <sup>165</sup>	6.6 (2008) <sup>166</sup>
6.6.c. Malaria: death associated with, per 100,000 population all ages	10.8 (1992) <sup>167</sup>	N/a	13.6 (2002) <sup>168</sup>	19.3 (2008) <sup>169</sup>
6.7. Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed-nets	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
6.8. Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs	N/a	N/a	N/a	19 (2007) <sup>170</sup>
6.9.a. Tuberculosis incidence rate (per 100,000 population)	310	180 <sup>171</sup>	140	120 (2008) <sup>172</sup>

<sup>154</sup> Ungass, country progress Report 2010, Solomon Islands, Submitted by the Solomon Islands National AIDS Committee

<sup>155</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>156</sup> Ibid

<sup>157</sup> Ibid

<sup>158</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010 and Source: State of the Health Sector in Solomon Islands 2009, MoH

<sup>159</sup> Not relevant for Solomon Islands (Consultation with Ministry of Health, September 2010)

<sup>160</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>161</sup> Ibid

<sup>162</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (accessed in September 2010)

<sup>163</sup> Ibid

<sup>164</sup> Ibid

<sup>165</sup> Ibid

<sup>166</sup> Ibid

<sup>167</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>168</sup> Ibid

<sup>169</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (accessed in September 2010)

<sup>170</sup> Ibid

<sup>171</sup> Ibid

<sup>172</sup> Ibid

MDGs	1990 Baseline	1990 Baseline	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2004
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b>				
<b>Target 6.a. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</b>				
6.9.b. Tuberculosis prevalence rate (per 100,000 population)	630 <sup>173</sup>	360 <sup>174</sup>	210 <sup>175</sup>	150 (2008) <sup>176</sup>
6.9.c. Tuberculosis death rate (per 100,000 population)	73 <sup>177</sup>	43 <sup>178</sup>	26 <sup>179</sup>	19 (2008) <sup>180</sup>
6.10.a. Tuberculosis cases detected under DOTS, per cent	N/a	29% <sup>181</sup>	51% <sup>182</sup>	70% <sup>183</sup>
6.10.b. Tuberculosis, DOTS treatment success, per cent	N/a	81% <sup>184</sup>	85% <sup>185</sup>	85% <sup>186</sup>
<b>Goal 6. MDG Plus</b>				
<b>Target 6.a Reduce the incidence of malaria to less than 80 by 2015</b>				
Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	N/a	N/a	N/a	Death: 13 (2009) <sup>187</sup>

### 3.9.1. Status and trends:

One of the major issues characterizing several large, scarcely populated and remote island states is the delivery of health services, difficulty and cost of transport in regard to increasing demand, and stable or declining supply. Poverty and gender issues are also considered to be important factors affecting access to health services; while the increasing vulnerability to infectious diseases, sexually transmitted infections (STIs, including HIV and AIDS), and lifestyle diseases may place increased pressure on the health budget of households and governments beyond sustainability.

Health in Solomon Islands is characterized by a medium to a high level of infectious diseases and an increasing burden of non-communicable

diseases (NCDs). Malaria is one of the leading causes of mortality in children and infants and in 2007, and clinical malaria and fever were responsible for 28% of acute care attendances. Countries in the Pacific all share a number of challenges through the impact of infectious diseases. Some like HIV/AIDS have the potential to affect broader social and economic development on the long run and although the incidence of HIV/AIDS remains currently low when compared to global terms, any level of HIV infection is of significant concern, and there is always a substantive risk of rapid expansion if containment is not achieved. In Solomon Islands, where a very small number of confirmed cases of HIV infection have been detected, the limited number of people being tested, early sexual promiscuity and high levels of Sexually Transmitted diseases (STDs)

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>180</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>181</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>182</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>186</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>187</sup> *Source: State of the Health Sector in Solomon Islands 2009, MoH*

mean numbers are likely to be underreported. Indeed, WHO thinks that numbers are likely to be under reported by a factor of 10. The number of HIV infections globally was 2.7 million in 2008 a decline of 30%, however this progress has not yet been enough to reverse trajectory of the epidemic, as interventions on prevention and treatment often fall short of coverage and prevention has often not received sufficient priority<sup>188</sup>.

### 3.9.2. Infectious diseases: HIV/AIDS

Looking at the target and indicators in relation to HIV/AIDS, Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS the following indicators are used:

- 6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
- 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex
- 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14

years A second target (6b) and indicators for HIV/AIDS have also been adopted which relates to prevention. These are as follows: 6b. Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it with an indicator of change being the proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs.

According to the SG, globally only 21% of pregnant women received HIV testing and counselling, while one third of those identified as HIV+ during antenatal care were assessed for eligibility to receive antiretroviral therapy for their own health. Furthermore, voluntary family planning needs people living with HIV and their access to services to be constantly monitored. Epidemics are however concentrated among key populations at greater risk, including injecting drug users, sex workers, and men who have sex with men. While no exact data exists for Solomon Islands, the 2007 DHS survey outlined a number of important issues for prevention. Solomon Islands HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is estimated at 0.002%, however the country has experienced considerable under reporting of new or suspected cases as high levels of stigma still exist.

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<sup>188</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'Keeping the promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.

*Table 3.13. People living with HIV/ AIDS in Solomon Islands*

Sex	Age	Total number diagnosed with HIV	Total number living with HIV	Total AIDS deaths
Female	Adult	8	7	1
	Children under the age of 15	0	0	0
Male	Adult	5	1	4
	Children under 15 years	0	0	0
	Total	13	8	5

Source: 2010 UNGASS Report

Knowledge of the HIV/AIDS virus is widespread however not universal among Solomon Islanders, with values of 94% for women and 98% of men aged 15-49. General knowledge might be widespread but comprehensive knowledge on the virus is low, with only 29% of women and 38.6% of men. This on its own is a challenge for Solomon Islands.

*Table 3.14. How much do Solomon Islanders know about HIV/AIDS? HIV/AIDS Knowledge*

HIV/AIDS knowledge and sexual behaviours among young man and women (15-24 years)		
	Women	Men
Comprehensive knowledge of AIDS	29.3%	35.1%
Knows consistent condom use can reduce risks of HIV transmission	61.4%	67.9%
Knowledge of a condom source	46.0%	81.0%
Used a condom during first sex??	14.1%	14.8%
Had high risk sex in the past 12 months	43.4%	78.9%
Used condom during high risk sex??	16.5%	25.6%
Had sex before 18 y.o.	51.1%	54.8%

Source: Solomon Islands 1007 Demographic and Health Survey – Facts and figures at your fingertip

Figure 3.20. Understanding of HIV/AIDS in Solomon Islands (Prevention)

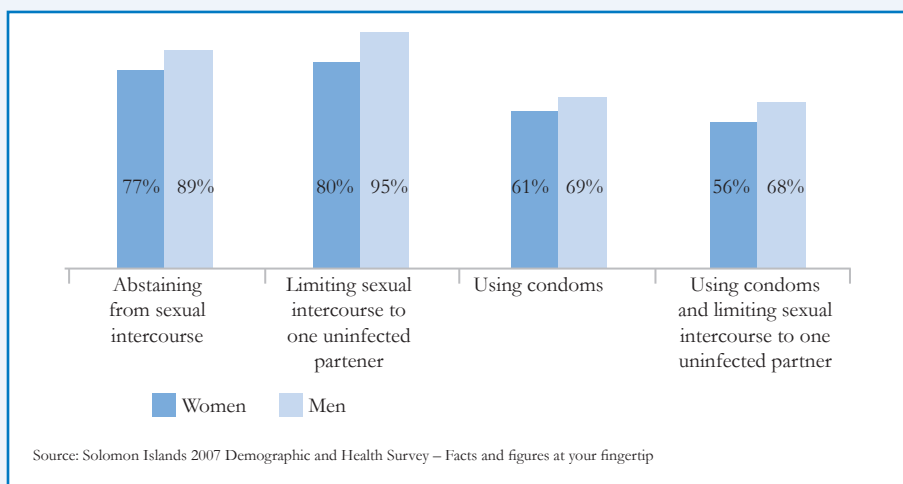
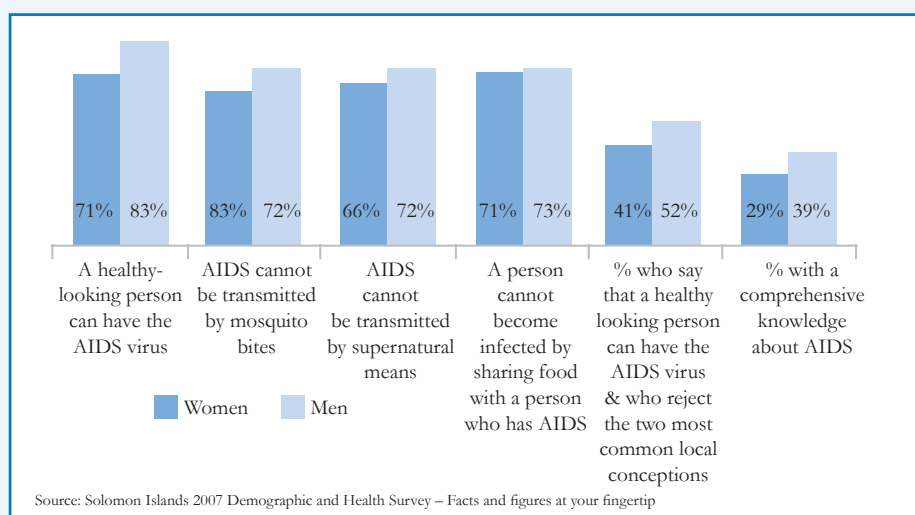


Figure 3.21. Understanding of HIV/AIDS in Solomon Islands (Knowledge)



Stigma of the virus in the country is high, and few show accepting attitudes then living with an HIV/AIDS infected person, even if this person is a family member. According to the DHS survey 56% of man and 36% of women claimed they would be willing to care for a family member infected by the virus.

The DHS report notes that there appears to be a knowledge gap in use of condoms and reduction to HIV. While 80% know what a condom is and how to use it, fewer knew that it could be used to prevent HIV from spreading. In addition, few Solomon Islanders know where they can get a HIV test done (26% of women and 39% of man). This could lead to understand why the number of cases so far detected is relatively low. While most people surveyed in the DHS expressed being faithful, only one in five reported that people they know did this.

### 3.9.3. Malaria and other diseases:

The Target(6c) wishes to halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. Indicators in this regard are as follows:

6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria

6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed-nets  
6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who

are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs.

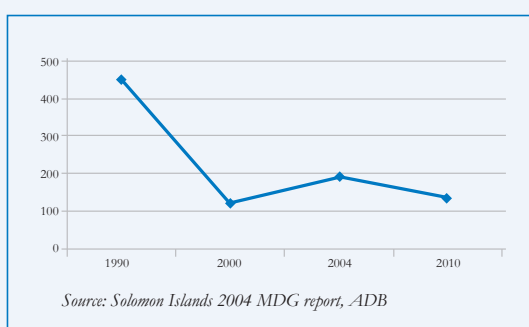
The DHS shows how malaria and other diseases are a major public concern among people in Solomon Islands, especially among pregnant women and children under the age of 5. Malaria is a leading cause of death in the country, and most parts of the country report malaria transmission throughout the whole year, although it normally increases during the rainy season. Malaria still poses a high burden in economic and social terms in the country, with low productivity at work and absenteeism in schools.

With the Government having already strongly committed to fighting this disease, major progress in scaling up key malaria control interventions with a proven impact on the number of cases and deaths has been documented in Solomon Islands. Mosquito nets were delivered in many parts of the country, and insecticide treated nets used by children, one of the most vulnerable groups, rose considerably as a result of an extensive campaign conducted over the last 10 years.

Insecticide treated nets are a primary way to reduce malaria transmission. The DHS surveyed the number of households in the country with mosquito nets. According to the survey the highest quintile of wealth in the country were more likely to have a mosquito net, compared to the lowest wealth quintile. Three quarters of all households possess at least one mosquito

net (75.4%), and for children under the age of 5, 66% reported having slept under the mosquito net at the time of the survey in 2006.

*Figure 3.22. Incidence of Malaria in Solomon Islands*



#### 3.9.4. Tuberculosis:

The global incidence of tuberculosis appears to have peaked in 2004, and is now falling slowly in most parts of the world. However the burden of TB remains high, and the epidemic of multi drug resistant TB is a major concern with growing evidence of extensively drug resistant TBs. Tuberculosis is also a serious health problem, in the Solomon Islands and numbers of cured cases are increasing, though numbers of new infections are not available to the report.

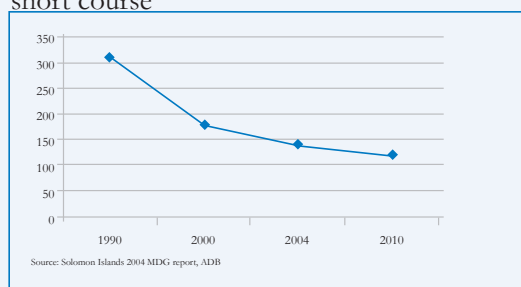
TB is a major killer and the DHS 2007 looked at the level of knowledge of the disease to

understand how people deal with the disease, and the survey showed that 94% of women and 98% of man knew what the disease was and what the effects were.

The target for this disease is the same as above (6c) but the indicators are as follows:

6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course



*Figure 3.23. Incidence of Tuberculosis in Solomon Islands*

#### 3.9.5. Way forward:


Interventions which have the greatest impact on health related Millennium Development Goals targets, such as universal access to sexual and reproductive health, immunization and key child survival interventions, HIV prevention, mitigation and treatment, prevention and treatment of Neglected Tropical Diseases

(NTDs), prevention and treatment services for Malaria and TB and low cost access to safe water and sanitation, should be urgently scaled-up and made universal to accelerate progress on the health Millennium Development Goals. Prioritizing regions, vulnerable and marginalized groups (with special attention to the poor, rural and populations, women and youth) with a view to extending health protection to those in need and the excluded<sup>189</sup>.

### 3.10. GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Millennium Development Goal Score: 

Table 3.15. Millennium Development Goal 7:

 <b>GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>	
<b>Target 7.a.</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP) 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
<b>Target 7b:</b> Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.5 Proportion of total water resources used 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction
<b>Target 7c:</b> Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
<b>Target 7d:</b> Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020	7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums
<b>GOAL 7. MDG PLUS</b>	
<b>Target 7.e.</b> Plus: Cap and reduce log harvesting of the natural forest to a sustainable level	<b>Indicators:</b>
<b>Target 7.f.</b> Plus: By 2020 to have regularized all temporary occupation licenses and illegal occupation of government leasehold land in Honiara squatter settlement	7.1.1. Ratio of log harvesting from the natural forest to the sustainable harvesting rate
	7.10.1. Proportion of temporary occupation licenses and lots with fixed term estimate title

<sup>189</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'Keeping the promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.



Table 3.16. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7 PROGRESS:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b>				
<b>Target 7.a. Integrate the principles of sustainable into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources</b>				
7.1. Land Area covered by Forest (% of total land area)	98.8% <sup>190</sup>	84.7% <sup>191</sup>	78% <sup>192</sup>	74.7% (2007) <sup>193</sup>
7.1.1. Sq Km <sup>194</sup>	27,680	23,710	22,118	20,924 (2007)
7.2.a. CO2 emissions, (thousand metric tons) (per capita metric tons)	161	165	180	N/a
7.2.b. CO2 emissions (per capita metric tons) (per capita metric tons) <sup>195</sup>	0.51 <sup>196</sup>	0.4 <sup>197</sup>	0.38 <sup>198</sup>	0.36 <sup>199</sup>
7.2.c. CO2 emissions (per \$ 1 GDP PPP) (Kilogram per \$1 GDP (PPP)) <sup>200</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/a
7.3. Ozone-depleting substances CFCs consumption (ODP Tons) (ODP Metric tons) <sup>201</sup>	2.1	0.8	1.1	N/a
<b>Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss</b>				
7.4. Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
7.5. Proportion of total water resources used: renewable internal freshwater resources per capita (cubic meters)	N/a	N/a	101,981 (2002) <sup>202</sup>	87,541 (2008) <sup>203</sup>
7.5.a. Proportion of total water resources used: renewable internal freshwater resources, total (billion cubic meters)	N/a	44.7 (2002) <sup>204</sup>	N/a	44.7 <sup>205</sup>
7.6.a. Nationally protected areas (% of total land area)	N/a <sup>206</sup>	0 <sup>207</sup>	0.3 <sup>208</sup>	0.76 (2008) <sup>209</sup>
7.6.b. Proportion of and marine areas protected (% of total land area)	N/a <sup>210</sup>	Na <sup>211</sup>	0.28 <sup>212</sup>	0.04 <sup>213</sup> (2008)

<sup>190</sup>World Bank/Food and Agriculture Organization, electronic files and web site 2010

<sup>191</sup>Ibid

<sup>192</sup>ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>193</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, electronic files and web site

<sup>194</sup>Ibid

<sup>195</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>196</sup> World Bank/Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States 2010

<sup>197</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring

fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004 and World Bank/Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States 2010

<sup>199</sup> Ibid

<sup>200</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>201</sup> Ibid

<sup>202</sup> World Bank / Food and Agriculture Organization, AQUASTAT data 2010

<sup>203</sup> Ibid

<sup>204</sup> Ibid

<sup>205</sup> Ibid

<sup>206</sup> World Bank / United Nations Environmental Program and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as compiled by the World Resources Institute, based on data from national authorities, national legislation and international agreements 2010

<sup>207</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>208</sup> Ibid

<sup>209</sup> World Bank / United Nations Environmental Program and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as compiled by the World

<sup>210</sup> Ibid

<sup>211</sup> Ibid

<sup>212</sup> Ibid

<sup>213</sup> Ibid

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
7.7. Proportion of species threatened with extinction	N/a	N/a	N/a	7 <sup>214</sup>
<b>Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</b>				
7.8.a Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, total %	69% <sup>215</sup>	70% <sup>216</sup>	70% <sup>217</sup>	N/a <sup>218</sup>
7.8.b. Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, urban %	94% <sup>219</sup>	94% <sup>220</sup>	94% <sup>221</sup>	94% <sup>222</sup>
7.8.c. Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, rural %	65% <sup>223</sup>	65% <sup>224</sup>	65% <sup>225</sup>	82.6% <sup>226</sup>
7.9.a. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, total %	29% <sup>227</sup>	31% <sup>228</sup>	32% <sup>229</sup>	15% (2007) <sup>230</sup>
7.9.b. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, urban % <sup>231</sup>	98%	98%	98%	76.8% <sup>232</sup>
7.9.c. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, rural % <sup>233</sup>	18%	18%	18%	7.8% <sup>234</sup>
<b>Target 7d: Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020</b>				
7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums (percent) <sup>235</sup>	8%	8%	N/a	N/a
<b>Goal 7. MDG Plus</b>				
<b>Target 7.e. Plus: Cap and reduce log harvesting of the natural forest to a sustainable level</b>				
Ratio of log harvesting from the natural forest to the sustainable harvesting rate	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 7.f. Plus: By 2020 to have regularized all temporary occupation licenses and illegal occupation of government leasehold land in Honiara squatter settlement</b>				
Proportion of temporary occupation licenses and lots with fixed term estimate title	Na	Na	Na	Na

<sup>214</sup> [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)

<sup>215</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>216</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and WHO& UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, accessed on 10 September 2010<sup>217</sup> Ibid

<sup>218</sup> WHO& UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, accessed on 10 September 2010

<sup>219</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>220</sup> Ibid

<sup>221</sup> Ibid

<sup>222</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>223</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>224</sup> Ibid

<sup>225</sup> Ibid

<sup>226</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>227</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>228</sup> WHO& UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, accessed on 10 September 2010

<sup>229</sup> Ibid

<sup>230</sup> Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey 2006-2007, by the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, Secretariat of the Pacific Communities, and Macro International Inc

<sup>231</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>232</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>233</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>234</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>235</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

### 3.10.1. Status and trends:

Millennium Development Goal 7 is a critical goal, which has far reaching impacts beyond the goal itself. Although reviews of the Pacific region's constituent country's environments have been conducted, little systematic effort has been made to update the ability to effectively monitor environmental changes occurring in the region; this despite forest depletion, loss of biodiversity, soil stress and degradation are crucial issues for most Pacific countries, not least Solomon Islands. Some progress has been achieved towards halving the proportion of people with no access to clean water, and sanitation has also improved between 1990 and 2006. However the global goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers has proven ambitious and there is a small probability it will be met.

The urban population of Solomon Islands is relatively small (comprising about 85,000 people in total) with most living in the capital Honiara while the majority (about 85% of the population) lives in rural areas. Rapid population growth (2.8%/year) has been putting increasing pressure on both natural resources and government basic services such as health and education. These pressures are likely to be further compounded by the threat of climate change on ecosystem services and natural resources which directly support both the subsistence and the formal economies in the country. Despite a series of initiatives to put forward a policy framework for environment

and development planning, The National Environment Management Strategy of 1993 remains the only relevant policy document to promote sustainable development in the country. The Environment Act of 1998<sup>236</sup>, made in 2003, became the next positive move, but legislative contradictions, and lack to implement the act became soon evident. ADB has in fact noticed that there is a lack of capacity to implement the Environment Act, as there are shortcomings in the instituted decision making and enforcement mechanisms<sup>237</sup>.

### 3.10.2. Ensuring environmental sustainability:

Areas of environmental protection and management in Solomon Islands is already leading the way in many areas since the establishment of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology in 2008. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology (MECM) through the Climate Change Division is responsible for coordinating responses to climate change issues in the country. Whilst it is a new Division, its location with the Meteorology Division and Environment and Conservation Division has been very strategic in addressing climate change and other environmental issues. The MECM Corporate Plan 2008-2011 outlines the vision, mission and function of the division as closely derived from national UNFCCC obligations. The MECM Annual report 2008 summarizes the overarching vision of the Division as being to ensure that the people of Solomon Islands are properly equipped with necessary tools to

<sup>236</sup> The text of the Environment Act 1998 states it is "An Act to make provision for the protection and Conservation of the environment; the establishment of the Environment and Conservation Division and the Environment Advisory Committee and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." The Act provides for an integrated system of development control, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and pollution control, including:

- Prevention, control and monitoring of pollution, including regulating discharge of pollutants to air, water or land and reducing risks to

human health, and prevention of degradation of the environment;

- Regulating the transport, collection, treatment, storage and disposal of waste and promoting recycling, re-use and recovery of materials in an economically viable manner; and

- Complying with, and giving effect to, regional and international conventions and obligations relating to the environment.

<sup>237</sup> Ministry of Environment Conservation and Meteorology, State of the Environment Report 2008

effectively mitigate and adapt to climate changes undesirable impacts. However the environment of Solomon Islands is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts. The country is part of the Pacific Rim of Fire, lies within the Pacific cyclone belt and is extremely vulnerable to extreme events and natural disasters. Solomon Islands is part of the sub Melanesian region that is likely to be affected by rising sea levels to increased temperatures. This will also be the result of a big loss in marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Associated impacts include contamination of fresh water resources, for coastal communities, low lying atolls and expected increase in cases of malaria and dengue<sup>238</sup>.

Since this Ministry was formed it has been a big advocate for conservation of existing forests and of the need for reforestation. A mangrove reforestation project is already underway.

Initiatives on ensuring biodiversity have also commenced. The enactment of the Protected Areas law in June 2010 gives the legal basis for establishing protected areas. The Coral Triangle Initiative on coral reef, fisheries and food security, of which Solomon Islands is a signatory, has as its common goal to sustainably manage marine and coastal resources and among other things to manage biodiversity conservation. On the negative side the Ministry has not made reference to the Millennium Development Goals in its strategic plans, though their plans do cover much of the topics of the targets referred to in the Millennium

Development Goals. Not referring to specific Millennium Development Goals has also meant that reference to the specific targets has also not been made and so the Ministry is not gathering data in a consistent format with the indicators of the environment related Millennium Development Goals. That being said there are still some things that can be said in relation to the MDG 7, its targets and indicators.

### 3.10.3. Sustainable development:

Target 7a, which requests Governments to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse loss of environmental resources, is a case in point where the Ministry has shown some progress in some areas but in others less so. If the first two years experience is anything to go by however, the Ministry is really taking the principle of sustainable development seriously, encouraging use of renewable energy sources for instance, and though it may not be achieved by 2015, the Ministry shares the MDG targets as a common goal. As for reversing loss of environmental resources, the willingness is there but it is too early to tell if this will be achievable by 2015, though the enormity of reforesting alone seems very unlikely. Certainly the reforesting and replanting of mangroves already started will contribute to this target but it is easy to forget it takes five minutes to cut down a tree and 50 years to grow it back. The indicators used for measuring progress towards this target relating to this target include the proportion of

<sup>238</sup> Solomon Islands "National Circumstances Report 2009, Climate change Division, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology", 2009

land area covered by forest, which has certainly seen a huge tumble from the base line year of 2000 through 2004. All indications in relation to this target imply that Solomon Islands is in serious danger of losing all its forests if logging is not managed sustainably, so perhaps a new scheme to introduce sustainable logging practices could help despite the fact that some reforestation activities the state of the forests still paint a stark picture.

#### 3.10.4. Forestry:

Solomon Islands economy is overly dependent on the logging industry. The volume of logs exported in 2008 hit a record level of 1.5 million cubic meters compared to 1.4 million cubic meters in 2007 (CBSI 2008). This is about 5 times the sustainable harvesting rate. The logging sector accounted for 16 percent of GDP and 13 percent of the government revenue in 2008 (CBSI, 2008). The SIG-URS study (2006) predicted that merchantable natural forests wellbeing to decline by 2011 and be exhausted by around 2015. In their 2003 estimate, only about six hundred thousand hectares of commercial forest area remain. In the informal sector, about the 85 percent of the population live in rural areas and are heavily dependent on forest for food, fibre, firewood, and medicine and other services such as shelter, shade, habitat for wildlife, and amelioration of soil fertility. The country however has opportunities to manage its forest resource in

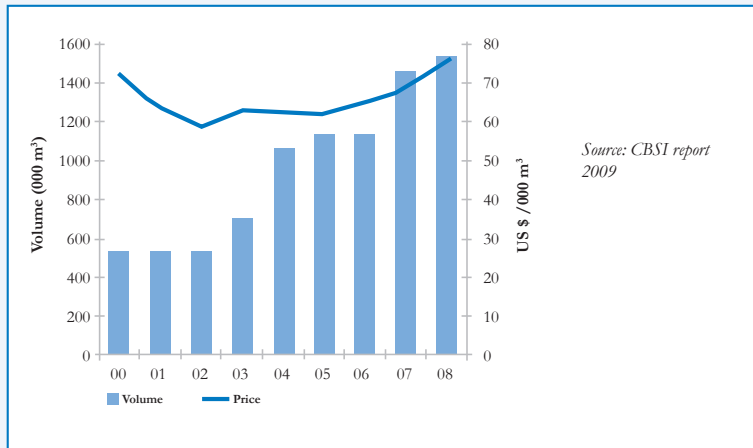
sustainable manner through forest plantation and timber milling. The climate is suitable for growing high value tropical hardwoods to replace the depleting natural forest resource. There are a number of small holder woodlots in the country covering about 6000 hectares in total initiated by the Solomon Islands Forestry Management Project funded by AusAID. Ongoing activities in sustainable forest management include the AusAID funded Forest Management Project and the EU funded Sustainable Forest Management Project<sup>239</sup>.

The forest resource is currently under pressure from deforestation through large scale commercial logging and shifting cultivation. Other forest clearing activities include mangrove forest clearance, beach front or coastal forest clearance for coconut plantations or settlement expansion, gardening, and real estate development activities such as tourism and associated infrastructure. Such activities impact on the forest as a sink for Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and result in increased water runoff enhancing probability of flash flood vulnerability. There are related and consequent issues then around water and sanitation problems for coastal and lowland settlements, and overall susceptibility to soil erosion and land degradation. Such processes exacerbate the vulnerability of coastline to weathering and erosion, floods, currents and sea level rise and to winds from storms<sup>240</sup>.

<sup>239</sup> Solomon Islands "National Circumstances Report 2009, Climate change Division, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology", 2009

<sup>240</sup> Solomon Islands "National Circumstances Report 2009, Climate change Division, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology", 2009

Figure 3.24. Log volume and Export Prices Solomon Islands



The forest policy's four objectives provide strong support for the protection of the environment ecological sustainability. It recognises that the long term sustainability of Solomon Islands society, and its standard of living, depends heavily on the protection of the Solomon Island environment against irreparable damage. Today 75% of the nation's population depend significantly on the ecological benefits the forests provide, and the loss of these benefits could be catastrophic. There is also strong justification for banning high impact forest uses such as logging in ecologically and biologically important reserve areas.

Figure 3.25. Potential harvesting of forest volumes by type, under current deforestation rates

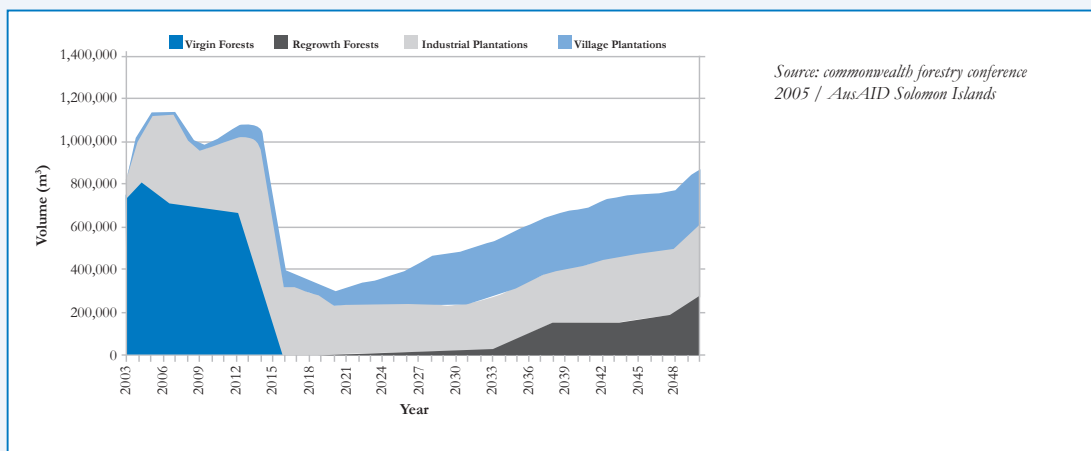


Figure 3.26. Future revenues to Government and the rural sector from the natural forest (unlogged and re-growth)

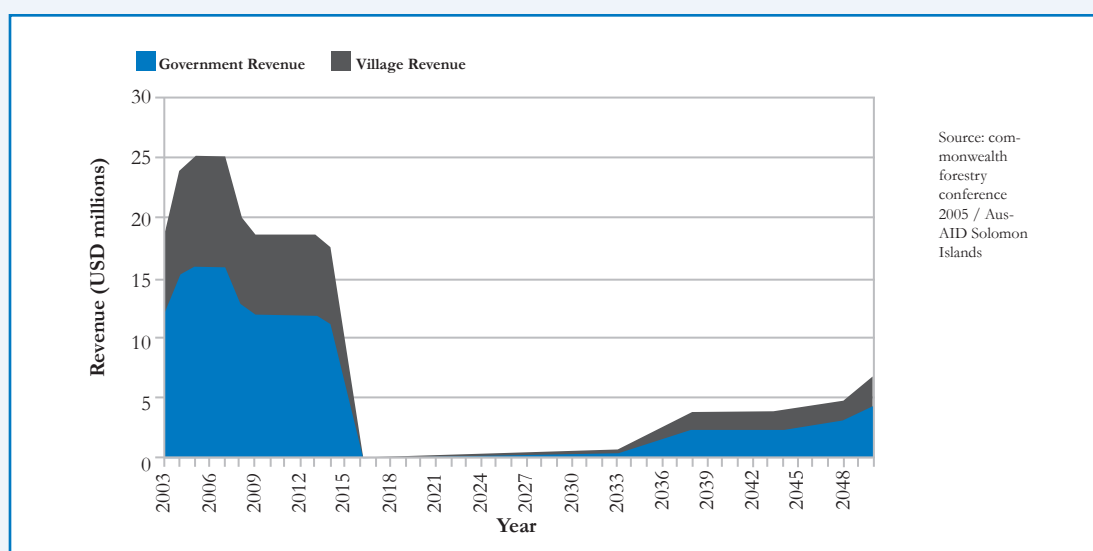


Table 3.17. Natural forests round log exports from 1995 to 2005 (m3)

Year	Central	Choi-seul	Guadalca-nal	Isabel	Makira	Malaita	Western	Total
1995	19,900	88,400	55,100	102,700	40,300	38,400	392,200	737,000
1996	34,000	87,500	76,500	81,200	31,000	37,900	457,800	805,900
1997	16,700	83,000	75,200	126,100	11,500	12,300	284,800	609,600
1998	17,000	89,100	99,900	130,200	11,600	4,500	234,500	586,800
1999	41,900	35,700	21,800	82,600	23,100	13,100	397,700	615,900
2000	5,100	44,100	14,100	101,300	16,100	17,700	322,900	521,300
2001	15,900	8,200	0	167,400	1,500	34,100	282,300	509,400
2002	9,500	21,000	0	171,800	7,200	17,400	357,300	584,200
2003	14,100	46,000	0	188,500	19,300	0	471,000	735,900
2004	30,600	113,200	0	144,300	35,200	20,000	625,500	986,800
2005	34,300	76,400	9,800	93,600	77,500	50,200	725,500	1,067,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>239,000</b>	<b>692,600</b>	<b>352,400</b>	<b>1,389,700</b>	<b>274,300</b>	<b>245,600</b>	<b>4,551,500</b>	<b>7,745,700</b>
Average								
04/05	32,450	94,800	9,800	118,950	56,350	35,100	675,500	1,018,100

Source: FAO 2009

### 3.10.5. Carbon dioxide:

The second indicator related to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP). This report does not have access to these figures but the population total, the numbers of vehicles etc must mean these are absolutely negligible.

The Montreal Protocol has successfully phased out the production and use of most 98% of all controlled ozone depleting substances, however the growth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has been much higher during 1995-2005 than during the previous two decades and this trend has not changed so far. The net deforestation rate has come down, and in some countries deforestation has been coupled by re forestation. Worldwide there are around 7 million hectares of forests cover lost each year<sup>241</sup>.

The third indicator, figures for consumption of ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs etc must also be minimal. Overall these are likely to remain negligible even by 2015 given the small contribution of Solomon Islands in this area.

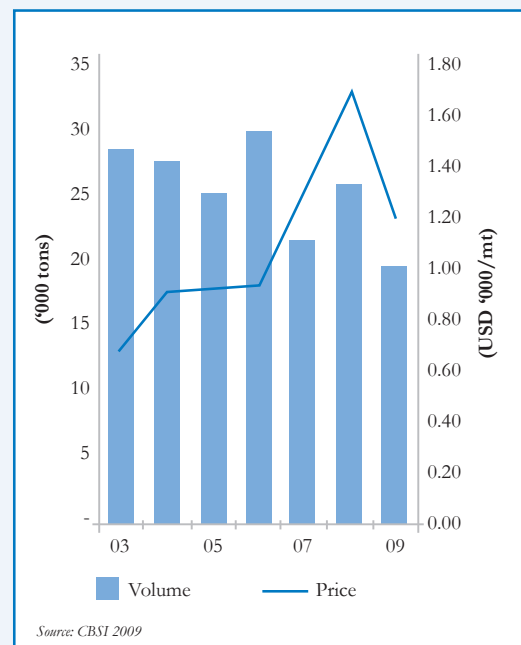
### 3.10.6. Fish stock:

Figures for target four, on the proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits have not been made available to this report though much concern is voiced worldwide on the rapidly reducing stocks of important species such as Yellow Fin Tuna and other marine species.

Given that tuna is a major export for Solomon Islands, and that the recent CBSI report for 2009 show decreased revenue from decreasing stocks, this report suggests that Solomon Islands catches are decreasing because stocks are being depleted at an unsustainable rate.

According to CBSI 2009, the total amount of fish catch plunged 24% in 2009 compared to 2008, a result of one of the major fishing companies ceased fishing operations as a restructuring strategy, by high rainfalls during the peak season which made fishing not possible and declining international process also contributed to the decline.

Figure 3. 27. Fish production and average prices in Solomon Islands



<sup>241</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'Keeping the promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.



No data was made available on proportion of total water resources used. This is likely to need a special study covering inputs from a variety of Ministries.

### 3.10.7. Reducing biodiversity loss:

As for Target 7b Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss, clearly the 2010 mark has been missed. But as mentioned before since 2008 real attempts to measure and protect biodiversity and its loss have been made. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is a vital document that will guide the Government's policy in relation to the country's Biodiversity and Environment.

The delay in developing the document has resulted in a lot of ad hoc and un-coordinated approach to the protection of the country's biodiversity. The NBSAP was being developed in 114 the context of impending threats to Solomon Islands Biodiversity from logging, inappropriate land use practices and over exploitation of natural resources compounded by: natural disasters, population increase, invasive species, pollution and climate change.

Solomon Islands shows rich biodiversity and assistance to preserve it came from the EU, WWF and the Rufford organisation. It is a well known path trodden by many countries that severe forest degradations leads to further biodiversity loss and therefore the first step to halting biodiversity loss is to halt unsustainable

logging and ideally logging altogether. Given forestry's central role in recent economic growth this will call for innovative solutions, which could include selling the carbon locked up in the remaining trees on the carbon trading market, or using remaining forests for eco-tourism.

The ecological assessment of the Solomon Islands marine environment undertaken in 2004 by TNC highlighted not only the abundance but also the diversity of the country marine resources. The report stated that marine diversity is exceptionally high, marine habitats are in good condition, and current threats are low. The diversity of marine life, condition of marine habitats, is associated with areas of undisturbed terrestrial habitat on rainforest-dominated islands. Fisheries resources are an essential source of protein and key element in household food security. The increasing demand for fisheries and marine resources is a result of increasing population and commercialization of reef fish and other marine resources all contributing to ecosystem decline for inshore fisheries. This pattern of overuse limits the productivity of inshore fisheries to provide much needed protein in the population's diet, as well as preventing ongoing, reliable income generation from marine product exports. Marine and terrestrial biodiversity in Solomon Islands is of global significance, due to high species diversity and high levels of endemism, with the country's rainforest eco-region being ranked as "globally outstanding" in a 1998 global analysis of biodiversity. Not only do the

Solomon Islands boast more restricted range and endemic bird species by area than any other place on earth but it is also home to the world's largest skink, the world's largest insect eating bat and hosts some of the world's largest rats.

The indicators used to measure this target are proportion of marine and terrestrial areas protected and proportion of species threatened with extinction. Certainly the former indicator is easy to calculate though this figure was not available to the report, but even without a figure the absolute proportion remains very small. As to the proportion of species that are threatened with extinction, data on existing species is still not complete so this figure might be more difficult to estimate and to date the report has no figures on this.

The fisheries sector over the years has been an important source of revenue for the country and also contributes significantly as a source of household income in the rural areas. The fisheries sector in 2008 record an increase by 20 percent in catch due to high prices and better fishing conditions.

#### **3.10.8. Sustainable access to drinking water and sanitation facilities:**

Target 7c which calls for a reduction by half of the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation does not lie normally within the remit of one ministry and work is more likely being done on this by the Ministry of Health and the

Ministry of Rural Development rather than the Ministry of Environment. Figures derived from household surveys suggests that more than 76% of the country does have access to safe water sources with figures slightly higher in urban households and rural households slightly less, because Solomon Islands is blessed with abundant sources of fresh water, though access varies depending on how far these sources are from living areas. That being said in the Pacific Region pressure on water sources is affected by drought, population growth, increasing water demand for tourism, agriculture and industry, and ageing water systems and there is no reason to suggest that Solomon Islands will be any different as it develops, so sustainability will remain an issue.

The two indicators being used for this target, the proportion of population using an improved drinking water source, and the proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility can be retrieved from the DHS. According to the DHS, people surveyed 15% are using improved and not shared facilities, compared to a high 65% claiming that they are using no facility/ bush/ field or beach as toilet facility.

A number of programs are currently being implemented in the country, which include hydrological investigation of Honiara water sources for subsequent development. This is supported through technical assistance from JICA, EU and GEF. JICA is supporting planning for water supply and wastewater in Honiara through studies of rehabilitation

of both supply and wastewater systems and evaluation of wells for possible development as new sources. There is also GEF support an Integrated Water Resources Management programme (including wastewater) in 14 Pacific countries to promote planning processes for crosssectoral resource management. The implementation is supported through SOPAC and the EU regional Water Facility. The programme is scheduled to operate from 2008 to 2010 focused on urban water supplies and wastewater.

### 3.10.9. Slum dwellers:

Target 7d which wishes to achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020 can only be contributed to by the Solomon Islands rather than achieved. Urban slums in Solomon Islands do exist usually housing the rising number of people moving from the outer provinces to the capital in search of better economic possibilities. Honiara's population is growing sharply, as overall population numbers grow, so this is likely to increase, though given Solomon Islands total population is not much than half a million in total, Solomon Islands cannot expect to contribute much to this goal. That being said improving its own slum dwellers livelihoods is a goal in itself. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey (MLHS) is beginning the process of granting land tenure to illegal settlements in Honiara, setting the dwellers on the right path towards establishing themselves officially as residents. With that new

status should come some improved access to Government support, though the regularisation of their status might also mean they may have to start paying rent to the relevant Government authorities for their new space.

The Millennium Development Goals Plus targets relative to MDG 7 include 7e which looks to cap and reduce log harvesting of the natural forest to a sustainable level. The need for halting or reducing log harvesting has been referred earlier in the chapter and while no definition of sustainable is mentioned in this context the Millennium Development Goals Plus, progress in this field remains critical. The indicator selected in this case, the ratio of log harvesting from the natural forest to the sustainable harvesting rate, might be difficult to calculate accurately given incidences of illegal logging which inevitably occur.

The second Millennium Development Goals Plus target, 7f, which states that the Honiara authorities should, by 2020 have regularized all temporary occupation licenses and illegal occupation of government leasehold land in Honiara squatter settlement is a more localised goal which could be achievable by 2020. The report writing team heard that this process has begun by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey as mentioned above. The indicator being used in this incidence, the proportion of temporary occupation licenses and lots with fixed term estimate title, should be relatively easy to gather data on as the process is new and a baseline can be established.

### 3.10.10. Climate change impacts:

The most severe impacts of climate change are being experienced by vulnerable populations who have contributed least to the problem. But addressing the climate change challenge provides opportunities for broader improvements in economies, governance, institutions and intergenerational relations and responsibilities. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals should also contribute to the capacities needed to tackle climate change.

Moving to low GHG emissions, high growth pathways to meet the development and climate challenges are necessary and feasible. Combating global warming cannot be achieved without eventual emission reductions by both developed and developing countries. Technological options for a shift towards such pathways exist. Such a switch would entail unprecedented and costly socio-economic adjustments in developing countries. For this to happen, the shift will require much greater international support and solidarity. Achieving such a transformation hinges on a global new deal capable of raising investment levels and channelling resources towards massive investments in renewable energy and building resilience with respect to unavoidable climate changes. Most developing countries currently do not have the financial resources, technological know-how and institutional capacity to deploy such strategies at a speed commensurate with the urgency of the climate challenge. Failure to honour long-standing commitments of international support in these three areas remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the challenge<sup>242</sup>.

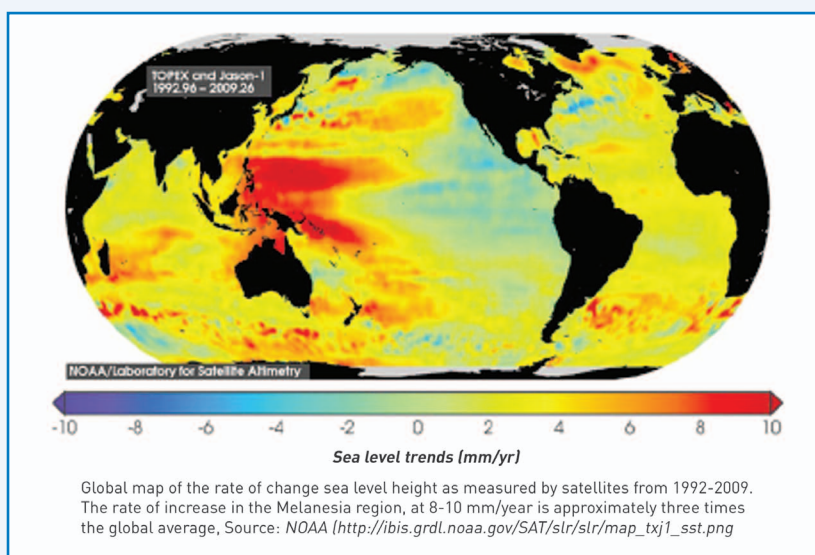
One of the major initiatives in Solomon Islands is the PACC Project a UNDP/SPREP project in the Pacific islands region drawing on resources from the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), managed by the GEF. It is an adaptation regional project that will be implemented in 11 Pacific Island countries and coordinated by SPREP.

The project will be coordinated at the national level by the Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Meteorology (MECM) through the PACC Project Management Unit (PMU) with representations from various government ministries/agencies and non-government organizations. The Agriculture Research & Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development (MALD) will implement the project and will receive support from relevant stakeholders.

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<sup>242</sup> Report of the Secretary General, 'Keeping the promise: a forward looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015'.

Figure 3. 28. The direct impact of rising sea levels and climate change on Solomon Islands



Source: National Circumstances Report, Solomon Islands 2009

### 3.10.11. Way forward:

Efforts to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals must take account of the rapidly changing development landscape transformed by ecosystem decline including the challenges posed by climate change. Pro-poor development centred on natural resources can be pursued at a local, community-level or at a national scale. Both approaches are necessary for maximum poverty reduction. Comprehensive and coherent development planning frameworks, including national sustainable development strategies, are a useful means of integrating all of the aspects related to environmental sustainability that are relevant to any given country in a balanced manner.

Greater efforts are needed in both developed and developing countries to promote alternative renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies. Policy reforms to substantially reduce perverse subsidies for carbon-intensive development, and to create positive incentives.

### 3.11. GOAL 8: A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Millennium Development Goal Score:

Table 3.18. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8


 <b>GOAL 8: A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Target 8a: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system	Official development assistance (ODA) 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors; gross national income
Target 8b: Address the special needs of the least developed countries	8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national income 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes Market access
Target 8c: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty
Target 8d: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries	8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity Debt sustainability 8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
Target 8e: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 8f: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population 8.16 Internet users per 100 population

Table 3.19. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 PROGRESS:

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development</b>				
<b>Target 8a: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</b>				
<b>Target 8b: Address the special needs of the least developed countries</b>				
<b>Target 8c: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States</b>				
<b>Target 8d: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries</b>				
8.1.a. Official development assistance (ODA): Net official development assistance and official aid (current US\$)	45,660,000 <sup>243</sup>	68,250,000 <sup>244</sup>	121,320,000 <sup>245</sup>	224,320,000 <sup>246</sup> (4)
8.1. b. Net ODA received (% of	0.14 <sup>247</sup>	0.15 <sup>248</sup>	0.32 <sup>249</sup>	0.49 <sup>250</sup>
8.1.c. Net ODA received per capita (current US\$)	132.5 <sup>251</sup>	149.4 <sup>252</sup>	238.9 <sup>253</sup>	454.2 <sup>254</sup>
8.2. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.3. Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	0.5 <sup>255</sup>	0.4 <sup>256</sup>	0.4 (2003) <sup>257</sup>	N/a
8.4. ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national income	Na <sup>258</sup>	Na <sup>259</sup>	Na <sup>260</sup>	N/a
8.5. ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes	22.1 <sup>261</sup>	23.9 <sup>262</sup>	11.0 <sup>263</sup>	N/a
<b>Market access</b>				
8.6.a. Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	27.9 <sup>264</sup>	38.6 <sup>265</sup>	76.3 <sup>266</sup>	78.2 <sup>267</sup>

<sup>243</sup> Source: Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing Countries, Development Co-operation Report, and International Development Statistics* database. Data are available online at: [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline)

<sup>244</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>245</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>246</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>247</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>248</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>249</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>253</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>254</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>255</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>257</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>258</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>259</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>260</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>261</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>262</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>263</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>264</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>265</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>266</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>267</sup> *Ibid*

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
8.6.b. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.7. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.8. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.9. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	N/a <sup>268</sup>	N/a <sup>269</sup>	N/a <sup>270</sup>	N/a
<b>Debt Sustainability</b>				
8.10. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.11. Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.12. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services (External debt stocks, % of exports of goods, services and income)	123.2 <sup>271</sup>	120.6 <sup>272</sup>	137.1 <sup>273</sup>	82.7 <sup>274</sup>
<b>Target 8e:</b> In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries				
8.13. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	N/a <sup>275</sup>	N/a <sup>276</sup>	N/a <sup>277</sup>	N/a
<b>Target 8f:</b> In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications				

<sup>268</sup> *Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004*

<sup>269</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>270</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>271</sup> *World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010*

<sup>272</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>273</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>274</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>275</sup> *Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004*

<sup>276</sup> *Ibid*



MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
8.14.a. Fixed lines and mobile phones (per 1,000)	14 <sup>278</sup>	21 <sup>279</sup>	21 <sup>280</sup>	30 <sup>281</sup>
8.14.b. Telephone lines per 100 population <sup>282</sup>	15	18	16	16
8.15.a. Cellular subscribers per 100 population	0 <sup>283</sup>	0.2 <sup>284</sup>	0.6 <sup>285</sup>	5.8 <sup>286</sup>
8.15.b. Personal computers (per 1,000)	N/a <sup>287</sup>	38 <sup>288</sup>	43 <sup>289</sup>	46 (2005) <sup>290</sup>
8.16. Internet users per 100 population	0 <sup>291</sup>	0.48 <sup>292</sup>	0.64 <sup>293</sup>	1.65 <sup>294</sup>

### 3.11.1. Development Aid in Solomon Islands and partnerships for development:

Goal 8 addresses ways in which partnerships between developed and developing countries can assist developing countries to achieve the other 7 Millennium Development Goals through a combination of additional development assistance, improved accessibility to markets, debt relief and private sector development. This is an ongoing process and is not expected to be achieved by 2015.

### Targets 8a to 8d which are as follows:

**8a:** develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

**8b:** address the special needs of the least developed countries

**8c:** address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states

And, **8d** deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries are measured using a variety of indicators grouped under

<sup>278</sup> Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates. Note: Please cite the International Telecommunication Union for third-party use of these data 2010

<sup>279</sup> Ibid

<sup>280</sup> Ibid

<sup>281</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>282</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>283</sup> Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates. Note: Please cite the International Telecommunication Union for

third-party use of these data 2010

<sup>284</sup> Ibid

<sup>285</sup> Ibid

<sup>286</sup> Ibid

<sup>287</sup> Ibid

<sup>288</sup> Ibid

<sup>289</sup> Ibid

<sup>290</sup> Ibid

<sup>291</sup> Ibid

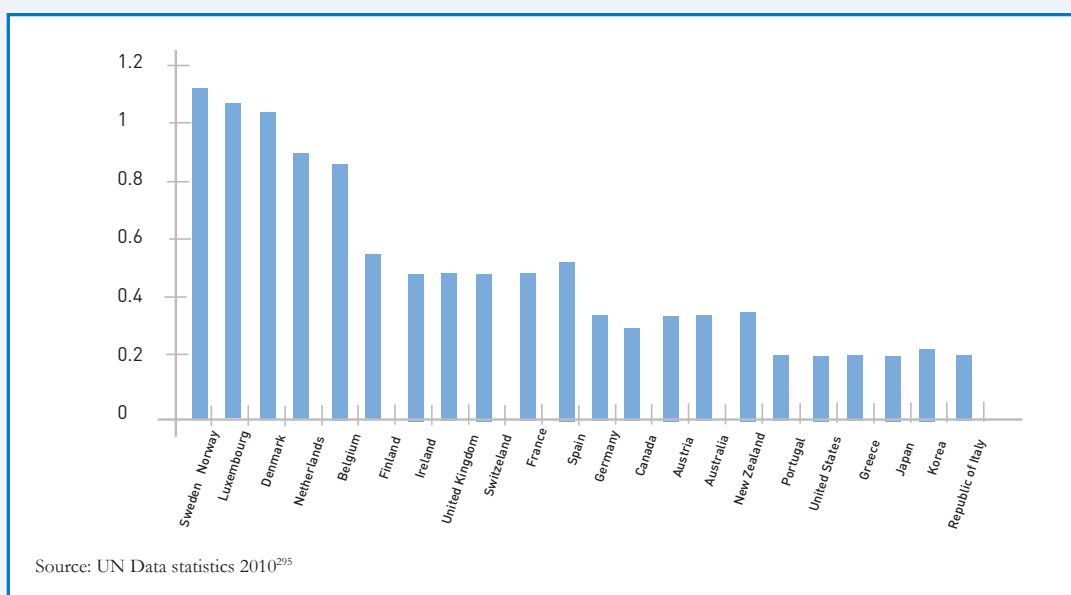
<sup>292</sup> Ibid

<sup>293</sup> Ibid

<sup>294</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

several connected sector responses.

Figure 3.29. Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors GNI (2009)



The first of these sector responses is through effective and appropriate Official Development Assistance. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Commitments and the Cairns Compact, have contributed to setting a more focused roadmap for development partners to better coordinate efforts when providing bilateral and multilateral assistance in developing countries. The OECD DAC requested countries to commit a 0.7% GNI by 2015. Currently many of the major donor countries are far behind meeting the 0.7% target, with only Sweden, Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands in line to meeting this target. Principles highlighted the importance that donors play in agreeing with governments on priorities and alignment. Poorly coordinated ODA can be an added burden rather than the assistance it is meant to be. Countries in the Pacific are particularly dependent on official development assistance (ODA), with foreign direct investment and gains from trade coming only second as sources of revenue. Progress to implement these agreements is crucial to improve aid expenditure and meet obligations from both SIG and the donor community.

<sup>295</sup> <http://data.un.org>

Issues relating to being a small Island developing state, such as being geographically far from key markets, being an LDC and not being able to generate enough GDP to cover even delivery of basic services to all citizens, have meant that Solomon Islands is typical of the rest of the Pacific and relies heavily on ODA for budgetary support.

Aid is therefore an important component for Solomon Islands and its economy. Since the tensions international development assistance has supported the Solomon Islands in a process of recovery, where justice and security was re-established and created the necessary conditions to stabilize service delivery, economic growth and investment. Donor funding has been supporting social services, and has helped to

stimulate private sector development.

To date 40% of Solomon Islands' budget allocations are met through budget assistance from a variety of donor aid assistance packages. Fortunately, while there is some donor fragmentation, overall Government and donor programme alignment is high. Regular monthly meetings, held by sector, ensure key stakeholders keep track of developments in the sector and their programme responses.

Solomon Islands main donors are Australia (AusAID and RAMSI), the European Union (EU), New Zealand, Taiwan, China, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

*Box 3.3. RAMSI: a partnership for security in Solomon Islands*

In 2003 the Australia led a Regional Assistance Mission to support the restoration of law and order in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was established. The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) has been working in Solomon Islands at the invitation of the Solomon Islands Government since the post ‘tensions’ period. The Facilitation of International Assistance Act 2003 has been providing the necessary authority for the activities of RAMSI under Solomon Islands domestic law and RAMSI’s mandate is determined by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, and is contained in the RAMSI Treaty and “The Framework for Strengthened Assistance to Solomon Islands: Proposed Scope and requirements” of 2003. A peaceful Solomon Islands where key national institutions, law and justice, public administration and economic management are effective and affordable have been RAMSI’s objectives for ongoing and further assistance. RAMSI is currently working on three pillars:

**Law and Justice Aspiration**

To achieve a secure, safe, ordered and just Solomon Islands society where laws are administered fairly regardless of position or status, giving due recognition to traditional values and customs.

**Economic Governance and Growth Aspiration**

To achieve a Solomon Islands achieving broad-based economic growth and a more prosperous society (including for those living in rural areas) supported by a fiscally responsible government which promotes sound economic policies.

**Machinery of Government Aspiration**

To achieve a public administration that is strategic, professional, transparent and accountable in the delivery of services and priority programs of the government of the day.

To date RAMSI under AusAID has been the biggest aid donor programme to Solomon Islands, with a proportion of aid equal to 73% of total (NZAid 8%, ROC 5%, Japan 5%, ADB 2% and the EC 2%)

Total ODA commitments from the main donors to the Solomon Islands has been increasing since the tensions, with flows increasing from USD 21 million in 2002 to USD 224 million in 2008. Most aid, as this report goes to print, continues to be concentrated in basic services delivery relating to poverty reduction, education, health, rural development, infrastructure, and the environment/ climate change.

Aid has been increasing in the past decade, but donors have often felt it is important to improve the effectiveness of Aid in Solomon Islands. According to the World Bank (2009) aid in Solomon Islands is very fragmented, with 120 different projects operating across 24 different government agencies, which makes it difficult to coordinate, manage and align programmes with Government priorities.

In spite of this, aid enabled Solomon Islands to overcome conflict and stabilized the environment for the ongoing recovery process. Goal 8, aiming to create international partnerships for development, had contributed to assist security and justice, providing the right conditions for law and order. Public infrastructure and public services have benefited from donor funding, in health (40% of total) and education (30% of total expenditure) through support provided by donors.

**Indicators under these four targets are as follows:**

8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors; gross national income

8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied

8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national income

8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

8.4 is not relevant to Solomon Islands, but figures from the others confirm that ODA commitments are allowing Solomon Islands to better serve its citizens. These figures are : How ODA assistance targets the special needs of small island developing countries, in the Pacific or elsewhere, is to give disproportionate levels of assistance to them relative to their populations, using low levels of per capita income, LDC status where applicable, potential

for generating new growth and others. Small Island developing states might be eligible for special low tariffs and quotas, loans might be especially soft, and there might be enhanced programmes of debt relief and periodic cancellation of bilateral debt. It is possible, though rarer that barriers to trade are lifted or eased for Small Island developing states.

### 3.11.2. Market access and debt sustainability:

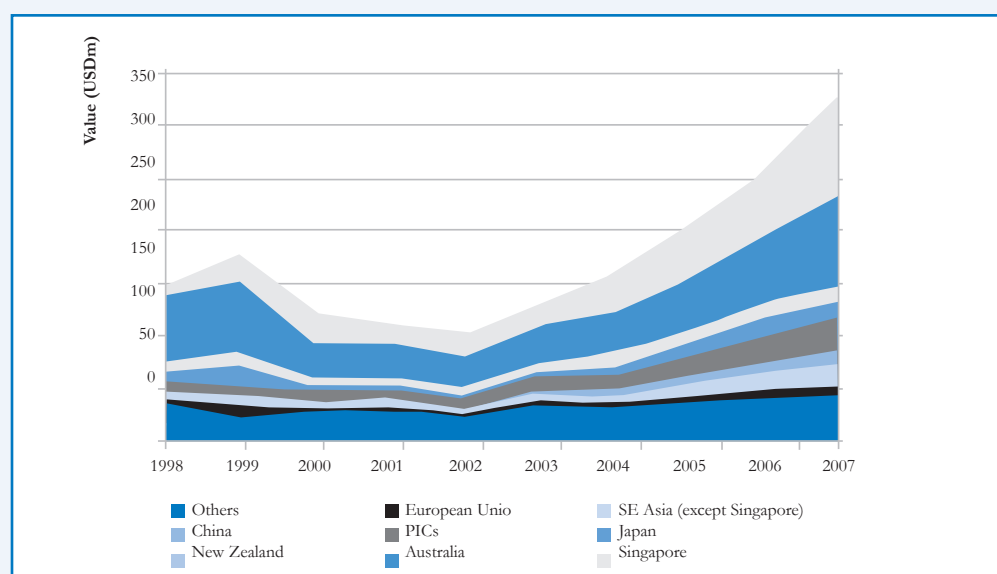
Limited capacity for exports and reliance on high imports are some of the characteristics of Small Island developing states economies but few if any countries give SIDS benefits in this regard. Overall, the future looks bright for future ODA as all donors interviewed foresaw continuing Aid levels, with some actually increasing totals over their current and next funding cycles.

The second sector response is in the area of trade and market access. While somewhat

touched on in the section above in relation to the benefits of SIDS status, trade and market access is a sector in its self in the MDG Goal 8. No real comprehensive regional or country data is available to assess trade balances as percentages of GDP, however trade data shows that all Pacific Islands import into neighbouring New Zealand and Australia, for example, are admitted under special duty rates but overall export trade with these two countries is very small, though imports into all Pacific countries, including the Solomon Islands from Australia and NZ vastly exceed exports.

Solomon Islands' biggest markets are China, the European Union and Thailand. While EU is likely to give special duty rates under the ACP countries grouping, China and Thailand are unlikely to give such benefits and so exports to these countries are not treated in any special way.

Figure 3.30. Imports by country and region Solomon Islands



Source: Solomon Islands diagnostic trade integration study 2009 (IMF direction of Trade)

Figure 3.31. Imports by country and region Solomon Islands

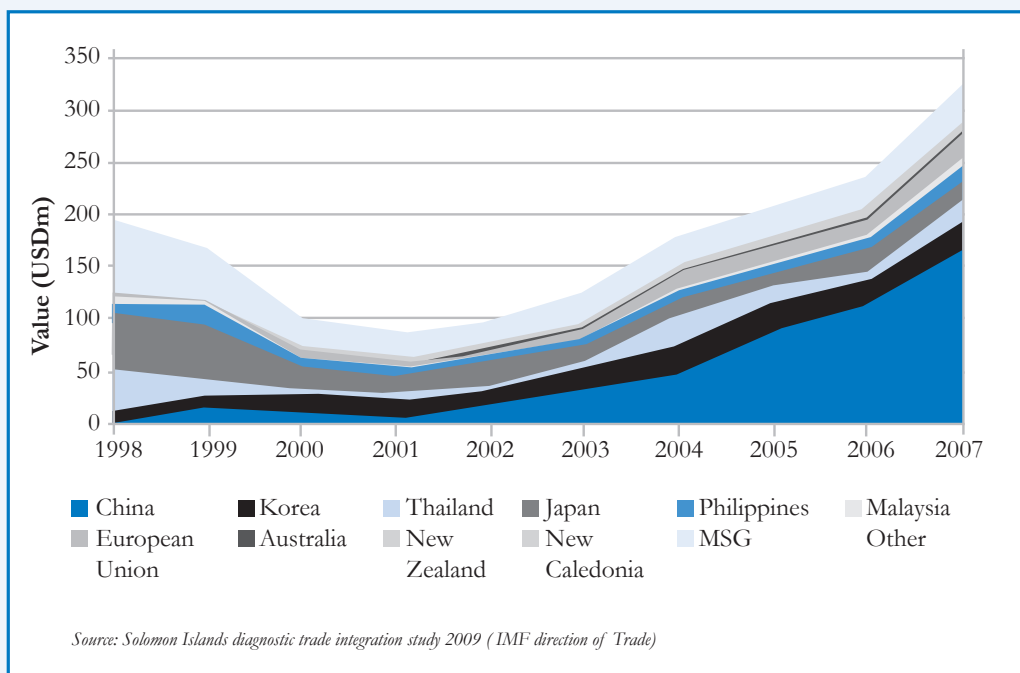


Table 3.20. Top Exports by country and region for Solomon Islands

Export Market	Share
1. China	50.73%
2. Korea	8.61%
3. Thailand	6.52%
4. Japan	5.74%
5. Philippines	3.80%

Source: Solomon Islands diagnostic trade integration study 2009 (IMF direction of Trade)

Table 3.21. Exports composition Solomon Islands by commodity

Commodity	1999-2002	2003-2006	2007
Timber	57.40%	67.10%	65.24%
Fish	19.80%	15.41%	11.78
Palm Oil	5.01%	3.17%	8.19%
Cocoa	4.00%	6.39%	5.51%
Copra	5.20%	2.15%	2.86%
Fish, smoked	0.20%	-	-
Fish, canned	1.37%	-	-
Others	7.02%	5.78%	6.42%

Source: Solomon Islands diagnostic trade integration study 2009 (IMF direction of Trade)

Progress in developing exports from the Solomon Islands has been slow, and exports are still confined to a few marketable goods in agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining. Products such as Gold, Tuna, palm oil, plantation forestry outputs (copra and cocoa), wood etc are still income earners for Solomon Islands but many of these products are finite, not sustainably produced, and are highly vulnerable to international prices, leaving the Solomon Islands economy vulnerable to a variety of economic shocks.

Table 3.22. Current Solomon Islands income estimates, in relation to agriculture and extractive industries

Subsistency activity	Agriculture	Extractive industries
2008 estimates	2007 exports	2007 exports
Forest uses - \$2.6 billion	Copra cocoa, palm oil	Logs, tuna, gold-
Root crops - \$1.1 billion	\$212 million	\$996 million

Source: State of the Environment report 2008



The indicators relating to Target 8a are as follows:

8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty

8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries

8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product

8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity The third sector response is (conquering) debt sustainability. The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) annual report for 2009 shows that Solomon Islands debt management has managed successfully to bring debt down. Indicators for this target are as follows:

8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives

8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

Looking now at Target 8e, 'in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries' no exact estimate is available with respect to the proportion of the population with access to minimum generic drugs. In

spite of this, when looking at data provided by the DHS 2007, numbers suggest that the population in the Solomon Islands' is able to access most essential drugs. Shortages might occur from time to time, but accessibility is overall adequate.

No specific data was made available for this report so it would be difficult to assess access using the indicator 8.13 the proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.

### **3.11.3. Making available the benefits of new technologies:**

In relation to Target 8f: in cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications, Solomon Islands has developed 'telephony fever', with the September 2010 opening of a second telephone provider with large queues forming to take opening service day discounts on phones and accounts. Solomon Islands monopoly being broken, both companies tried to outdo each other with discounts and promotions. This event is too new to see if there are changes in the values recorded by the related indicators of telephone lines per 100 population, Cellular subscribers per 100 population.

In the countdown to 2015, amidst a global economic crisis, the need to accelerate delivery on MDG 8 commitments has now reached emergency proportions, rather than simply

being a matter of urgency.

There is an urgent need to improve the quality, predictability and durability of aid, in addition to the quantity. Developing countries and their partners will have to reduce the fragmentation of assistance, and ensure that ODA supports national development strategies. Pooling of donor resources into multi-donor funds has proved time and again to be a fruitful approach, with great successes, for example, in the control of several infectious diseases. The 2005 Paris Declaration and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action set out a number of principles and practices to enhance aid effectiveness which needs to be implemented urgently.

#### **3.11.4. Way forward:**

Solomon Islands has several options to keep increasing the positive impact of aid, including maintaining current levels of dialogue with donors, to work towards improving the effectiveness of aid. This can be strengthened through prioritization of intervention areas across donors on how to best support government in achieving the desired policy objectives. Negotiating an assessment of the nature and duration of international assistance, with relevant milestones is crucial to sustain the government to attain the necessary capacity to start developing and diversifying its sources of income. Working with donors in this area is crucial to improve the potential of the private sector, and enhance policy actions in areas where the sources of growth lie.

### **3.12. Other findings**

One finding this report wishes to note is that there is a need to acknowledge the role that Ministries who do not have particular leadership roles in the Millennium Development Goals achievement can still play a key role in achievement rates.

The Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMAC), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET) can use their position to promote the value of achieving these goals and show leadership in relation to policies and practices that support equity, transparency etc including taking the lead on quotas for female/male staff hiring etc. MFAET already claims to have achieved male/female parity among its Honiara based staff and should be commended for this.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) makes a crucial contribution through its work on natural disasters and risk management assistance which is a key cross cutting issue. Natural disasters can wipe out development gains over night. The Government needed SB\$873 million just to bring back development levels post the 2007 earthquake and tsunami in Solomon Islands to pre-disaster levels. Its work on local good governance systems through support to the elections process, in particular reaching out to the electorate and voter education, its work on civil registration system and development of the capacity of local councils are also supportive to enhancing democratic reach of

the Government but also increasing local Government accountability and transparency. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) has primary responsibility for transport systems that would underpin increased investment in Solomon Islands, they also enforce building codes which are crucial in times of disaster.

The National Statistical Office is the key repository for all development statistics and census data, which is key to good reporting on Millennium Development Goals and Millennium Development Goals Plus goals.

# CHAPTER 4:

## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The first Millennium Development Goal Report for Solomon Islands was a timely contribution to policy making and direction for the country in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, and this second MDG progress report has shown the areas where the Solomon Islands has closed the gap between the actual situation and the desired one; as well as where a significant journey still remains.

Behind each specific goal is a myriad of factors, which have been detailed in earlier chapters, and which have allowed the report team to conclude the Millennium Development Goals scores thoroughly discussed throughout this report.

Overall there are three goals that have been given a high achievability status, showing these goals are attainable by 2015, three that have medium achievability status show mixed results and only two that were classified as unattainable by 2015.

The fact that there are some goals that seem to be within reach indicate that Solomon Islands may achieve these goals is remarkable in itself, especially as Solomon Islands has rarely had an incident-free year since the Millennium Development Goals were signed up to, what with five years of conflict, incidences of natural disasters, and having to cope with two international financial crises. Solomon Islands pledged to support the Millennium Declaration, and by incorporating many of the MDG indicators into its medium term development

strategies, NERRDP, it has attempted to focus its commitments towards the attainment of the goals themselves.

Two of the three yellow statuses are for the more 'complex' Millennium Development Goals that cover large swathes of the development process, such as MDG1 which measures overall incidences of poverty, and MDG8 which measures levels of global development partnership. Methodology issues did cloud the MDG status selection for MDG1. MDG8 covers an array of tools to achieve development. Donors give generously to Solomon Islands presently, but this may change as development priorities change. Though some benefits to the economy may come through debt relief, increased access to markets will be hard to come by given how small the overall market is. The third yellow status was awarded to MDG6 on achievement of combating incidences of HIV, TB and Malaria. While the figures for Malaria and TB showed promise, the lack of figures for HIV and the likelihood of chronic inaccuracy meant that there is still some way to go before a change to green could be made.

Overall the combined achievements of six of the eight Millennium Development Goals falling under green or yellow status should be cause for a minor celebration.

The two incidences of red status for Solomon Islands are more sobering, however. MDG3, promoting gender equity and MDG7 are two cross-cutting issues that if tackled properly can

have clear positive knock-on effects for achievement of other Millennium Development Goals. Also eliminating the problem of cash poor and unemployment, MDG1, remains a critical challenge for Solomon Islands, particularly given its post conflict legacy. It is particularly unfortunate that one of the indicators for MDG3 is the number of female parliamentarians. Solomon Islands has only ever had one and now has none.

Issues surrounding MDG7 are equally troubling. Forest cover is rapidly depleting, water quality is an issue, climate change will likely affect some low lying areas in the Solomon Islands dramatically. The newly formed Ministry in charge of the environment will surely improve a dramatic situation but it is unlikely that this will be done before 2015.

In putting together this report the writers tried to outline and analyze constraints, bottlenecks and enabling conditions that could shape an accelerated strategy for progress against specific indicators.

Furthermore, the publication of this second report, following six years of post conflict renewed stability, will provide a significant platform for understanding and improvement of the Solomon Islands' advancement towards its development vision.

Solomon Islands has shown remarkable achievements, particularly in the health and education sectors, through a combination of

judicious use of its own resources and ongoing support from development partners aligned closely to government priorities. It is therefore not surprising that the Millennium Development Goals within reach lie within these sectors. But this report shows that there are whole sectors, in particular the economy, climate change and related environmental issues, not to mention issues surrounding gender equality, that are still relatively weak.

Much of these realities are a direct consequence of being a Least Developed Country (LDC), an island state and geographically isolated from key markets. But while these issues have cast a shadow over the development process in Solomon Islands, they cannot be taken for granted.

Future gains for Solomon Islands will need to be planned and implemented with care. Much work must be done by all Solomon Islanders, their Government representatives and all friends of Solomon Islanders, in particular the donor community.

No economy can be fully isolated from global economic shocks, just as no small island can be fully isolated from the effects of global warming on its own. Furthermore, natural disasters can strike anywhere, at any time and without any warning. Targeted mitigation can be undertaken to lessen the blow.

But in the end it is Solomon Islands youth who will inherit the future and the sixteen year

olds who leave school today will be the 21 year olds in 2015. By then, the burden of an ever more developed Solomon Islands will firmly be on their shoulders.

Much more work still needs to be done about the shape of Solomon Islands development in the near future, and a Solomon-Islands-specific Human Development Report will go some way to fulfilling this lacuna.

#### **4.1. Millennium Development Goals in Solomon Islands and Key Policy Interventions:**

The current report, by drawing on the previous Millennium Development Goals Report, outlines a set of possible policy interventions for Solomon Islands for the next 5 years of MDG implementation. The policy recommendations for Solomon Islands to meet the Millennium Development Goals include:

**4.1.1. Increasing the national ownership of development strategies and priorities** is fundamental, as one size fits all policies and programmes are bound to fail due to wide variations among countries in terms of their capacity (resources, institutions, administration, etc) and historical as well as geographical circumstances. Solomon Islands is not only a small island developing state and an LDC; it is also a small islands archipelago, holding its own structural conditions and characteristics for the implementation of development programmes in a highly decentralized geographical

context. Ownership is therefore vital for national commitment to development goals. Global partnerships should consequently support national development strategies and domestic capacity building efforts, in peace and security building and in sustaining a reconciliation process crucial for the unity of the country.

**4.1.2. Strengthen social cohesion and sustain the peace process**, given that peace and security are the preconditions for development to occur. Despite the fact that many of the conditions for stability and peace are starting to prevail in Solomon Islands, peace in post conflict environments is often fragile. A number of years will in fact be required to fully bridge communities and ethnic groups, forgiveness and reconciliation, while people concentrate efforts on better living standards and economic prosperity. Strengthening the process of reconciliation and trust between communities and ethnic groups in the country is an essential component to foster a sense of national unity and of state building, which can be bridged through policies of inclusion, upgrading the human capital of the country and focus on economic policies and job creation.

**4.1.3. Promote good governance, accountability and transparency between the government and citizens of Solomon Islands.** To strengthen this relationship, public access to information on past and present decisions of the government, as well as establishment of channels for the population to express

concerns is essential. Filling this gap is possible, and can be addressed by making better use of the country's media and information channels which in turn could present a more transparent image of the policies advanced by the government. Conducting surveys on policy debates (i.e. RAMSI's surveys), covering policy priorities and reforms, can provide channels for the population to express concerns and push for perceived priority reforms.

**4.1.4. Sustained and equitable economic growth**, based on dynamic structural economic policies, can induce faster progress towards the achievement of other MDGs. Economic growth is essential, but might not be a sufficient condition for developmental progress; adopting short and long term vision economic policies for the country to self sustain growth is however crucial to improve the average living standards of the poor, and will lead to improvements in the majority of the populations' living standards. Sustained economic policies will also enable faster progress by increasing agricultural productivity followed by dynamic growth of modern industry and services sectors, helping to eradicate hunger and malnutrition among of the most vulnerable groups. Effective industrial policies and high growth can facilitate job creation and income growth for workers. Income growth in fact points to a need for policymakers to make greater use of the country's resource for better coverage and quality of social services.

**4.1.5. Forward-looking macroeconomic policies** are needed to safeguard the sustainability of public investment strategies in support of broad-based growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Macroeconomic policies should not focus only on debt stabilization and curbing inflation, but should ultimately be supportive of growth of real output and employment. Therefore, it is often necessary to relax unnecessarily stringent fiscal and monetary restrictions and to use countercyclical fiscal and monetary policies to boost employment and incomes and to minimize the impact of external and other shocks on poverty. This requires Solomon Islands to strengthen domestic resource mobilization and adopt mechanisms for counter-cyclical policy responsiveness. Enhanced international cooperation to strengthen tax revenue collection and increase sovereign debt sustainability can greatly buttress the fiscal capacities of the government. This will also require to government to effectively manage its resource.

**4.1.6. Ensuring universal access to social services and providing a social protection** with a wide outreach and coverage in order to consolidate and enjoy MDG attainment gains. In the post conflict years Solomon Islands has been improving and upgrading the quality and outreach of its social services at an incredible speed, particularly in health and education. The government bears the responsibility to keep track of social service development, and

with the aid of international donors, Solomon Islands has been able to sustain this process. Social services and social protection are particularly crucial in LDC as universal social protection supports the maintenance and regeneration of livelihoods needed to protect the most disadvantaged and vulnerable layers of society.

**4.1.7. Addressing inequality and social exclusion,** currently limiting the growth contribution to the Millennium Development Goals, is crucial. Inequalities of access, social protection and opportunities need to be greatly reduced. While most Millennium Development Goals interventions primarily seek to address inequalities in access and services, other interventions put great emphasis on inequality in social protection and economic opportunities.

**4.1.8. Targeted intervention in programmes,** based on complementary public and private investments which have proven successful and have been crucial for progress towards most MDGs. These include investments in agriculture, in schools and teachers, in public health, in water and sanitation, which are all vital for sustaining the achievability of the Millennium Development Goals. The rationale suggests that whenever public investments are targeted and sufficient, MDG progress will be more likely to happen rapidly.

**4.1.9. Adequate financial support** as well as coherent and predictable policy environments, both at national and international levels, is crucial for achievement of the MDGs. This includes agendas for accelerated interventions to speed up progress in areas where current trends make achievement of the MDGs unlikely. Targeted interventions in fact can help improving people's lives by providing access to essential goods and services. Often lack of adequate international financing has been a big constraint for development, and there is therefore a need to strengthen partnerships to ensure supportive international frameworks for trade, technology and sustained long term human development.

**4.1.10. Improving governance and institutional implementation capacities** at the country level, which are both development outcomes and desirable ends in themselves, can contribute to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Countries can accelerate progress towards the MDGs by adhering to the fundamental norms of human rights, gender equality, democratic governance, integrity and accountability. All these components are essential for human development, yet the decentralized system of Solomon Islands does not enable this condition to be fulfilled. The MDG report gives the possibility to the government to fill the gaps and improve national and local ownership of the MDG implementation process.



#### **4.1.11. Better monitoring and data collection**

is vital to improve the design of timely policy intervention of programmes. This process is also crucial for ensuring accountability of the government, of development partners and of all stakeholders involved in MDG accomplishment. Although slowly improving, the availability of reliable statistics for monitoring development remains inadequate in many LDCs like Solomon Islands, even though statistics remain the main mean for measuring

progress in development programmes. The present report found difficulties in retrieving accurate gender disaggregated and provincial data, despite good improvements made in data compilation since the previous MDG report in 2004. Another possible way to sustain this process of data collection and focus of development programmes is the regular preparation of MDG reports, possibly on a yearly basis before 2015.

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# APPENDIX I

## United Nations Millennium Declaration

The General Assembly Adopts the following Declaration:

## United Nations Millennium Declaration

### I. Values and principles

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.
5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and



economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.

6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:
  - Freedom. Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
  - Equality. No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
  - Solidarity. Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
  - Tolerance. Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
  - Respect for nature. Prudence must

be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.

- Shared responsibility. Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.
7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

## II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.
9. We resolve therefore:
  - To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance

- by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations<sup>1</sup> and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
  - To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
  - To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>2</sup>
  - To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.
  - To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
  - To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
  - To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
  - To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
  - To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
  - To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.
10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport

and the Olympic Ideal.

### III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.
12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.
13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.
14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.
15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:
  - To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty-and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
  - To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
  - To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.
16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low-and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term. Amended protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices.
17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small-island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action<sup>5</sup> and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small-island developing States are taken into account.
18. We recognize the special needs and problems

of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.

19. We resolve further:

- To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
- To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
- By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
- To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
- To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.

20. We also resolve:

- To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
- To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
- To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
- To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication. Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.

#### IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.
22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development.

23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:

- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.
- To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and manmade disasters.
- To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

#### **V. Human rights, democracy and good governance**

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

25. We resolve therefore:

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

## VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible. We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.
- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>12</sup> and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

## VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the

mainstream of the world economy. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

## VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

28. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

29. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative,

policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.

- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.
- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.
- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton

Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.

- To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
  - To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.
30. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.
31. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

*8th plenary meeting, 8 September 2000*

# APPENDIX II

## Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators



### Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

#### Targets

**Target 1a:** Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

- 1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
- 1.2 Poverty gap ratio
- 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

**Target 1b:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

- 1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed
- 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio
- 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day
- 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

**Target 1c:** Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

- 1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age
- 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy

consumption



### Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

#### Targets

**Target 2a:** Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

- 2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education
- 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary
- 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men

While UNDP is not a specialised expert agency in education, we use our role as coordinator of the UN development system to support the mandates of other agencies.



### Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

#### Targets

**Target 3a:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

- 3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- 3.2 Share of women in wage



employment in the non-agricultural sector

- 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament



### Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

#### Targets

**Target 4a:** Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

- 4.1 Under-five mortality rate
- 4.2 Infant mortality rate
- 4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles While UNDP is not a specialised expert agency in health, we use our role as coordinator of the UN development system to support the mandates of other agencies.



### Goal 5: Improve maternal health Indicators

**Target 5a:** Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

- 5.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

- Target 5b: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health
- 5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate
- 5.4 Adolescent birth rate
- 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
- 5.6 Unmet need for family planning

While UNDP is not a specialised expert agency in health, we use our role as coordinator of the UN development system to support the mandates of other agencies.



### Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

#### Targets

**Target 6a:** Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

- 6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
- 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex
- 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years
- Target 6b: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

- 6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
- Target 6c: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Target 6c: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
- 6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria
- 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets
- 6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs
- 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
- 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course



## Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

### Targets

**Target 7a:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

**Target 7b:** Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

### Target 7a and 7b Indicators:

- 7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest
- 7.2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)
- 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
- 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
- 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
- 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
- 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction
- Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- 7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
- 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

**Target 7d:** Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

- 7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums



## Goal 8: A global partnership for development

### Targets

**Target 8a:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction; both nationally and internationally

**Target 8b:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Includes tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

**Target 8c:** Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly

**Target 8d:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures

in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

Indicators for Targets 8a, 8b, 8c and 8d:

*Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.*

Official development assistance (ODA)

- 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors; gross national income
- 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied
- 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national income
- 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes
- 8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed

countries, admitted free of duty

- 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
- 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product
- 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity Debt sustainability
- 8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)
- 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives
- 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
- Target 8e: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- 8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

**Target 8f:** In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

- 8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population
- 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population
- 8.16 Internet users per 100 population

# APPENDIX III

## Millennium Development Goals and MDGs+ progress Indicators for Solomon Islands

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</b>				
<b>Target 1.a. Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day</b>				
1.1. Proportion of population below USD 1 (PPP) per day	N/a (Value not determined in Solomon Islands)	N/a (Value not determined in Solomon Islands)	N/a (Value not determined in Solomon Islands)	People below the poverty line: 22.7% (calculated on 2100 calories + other basic needs) <sup>296</sup>
1.2. Poverty Gap ratio	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
1.3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	N/a	N/a	N/a	6.7% <sup>297</sup>
<b>Target 1.b Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people</b>				
1.4. Growth rate of GDP per person employed <sup>298</sup>	8.6 (1992)	-16.6	2.1	4.4 (2008)
1.5. Proportion of employed population ratio, 15+ total (%) <sup>299</sup>	67.1 (1991)	66	65.3	64.5 (2008)
1.6. Proportion of employed people living below USD 1 (PPP) per day	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
1.7. Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 1.c Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</b>				
1.8. Prevalence of children aged 5 and below underweight (%):	23% <sup>300</sup>	21% <sup>301</sup>	N/a <sup>302</sup>	11.5% <sup>303</sup>
1.9. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	25% <sup>304</sup>	12% <sup>305</sup>	9% <sup>306</sup>	10.6% <sup>307</sup> (less than 2100 calories/day)
<b>Goal 1. Solomon Islands MDG Plus</b>				
<b>Reduce the proportion of people who live below the poverty line (quantity to be specified)</b>				
Poverty head count ratio	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
MDGS	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010

<sup>296</sup> Solomon Islands, 'Analysis of the 2005/2006 household income and expenditure survey', Solomon Islands National Statistics office and UNDP, 2008

<sup>297</sup> Ibid

<sup>298</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed September 2010)

<sup>299</sup> Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>300</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>301</sup> Ibid

<sup>302</sup> Ibid

<sup>303</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010

<sup>304</sup> UN Stats -Millennium Indicators <http://mdgs.un.org>

<sup>305</sup> Ibid

<sup>306</sup> Ibid

<sup>307</sup> Solomon Islands, 'Analysis of the 2005/2006 household income and expenditure survey', Solomon Islands National Statistics office and UNDP, 2008

GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION				
Target 2.a. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling				
2.1. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	39% (1986) <sup>308</sup>	74% <sup>309</sup>	80% <sup>310</sup>	94% <sup>311</sup>
2.2. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	84.9 <sup>312</sup>	57.4% <sup>313</sup>	59.0 % <sup>314</sup>	87% <sup>315</sup>
2.3. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men	62% (1991) <sup>316</sup>	84.5% <sup>317</sup>	N/a	89.0% <sup>318</sup>
Goal 2.a. Plus: Achieve universal basic education (primary and junior secondary)				
2.1. Plus: By 2015 100% boys and girls completed a full course of basic education comprising primary (6 years) and junior secondary (3 years) schooling				
Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 in primary who reach Form 3 in secondary school	N/a	57.4% <sup>319</sup>	67.0% <sup>320</sup>	N/a
Literacy rate of 15-24 years old and adult literacy rate (15 years and over)	76% <sup>321</sup>	71% <sup>322</sup>	83.7% <sup>323</sup>	N/a
School enrolment Primary (Gross %)	87% (1990) <sup>324</sup>	85.4% (2000) <sup>325</sup>	96.5% (2004) <sup>326</sup>	107% (2007) <sup>327</sup>
School enrolment Secondary (% Gross)	14% <sup>328</sup>	20% <sup>329</sup>	30% <sup>330</sup>	34.7% <sup>331</sup> (2007)
School enrolment Secondary (% Net)	N/a	18.4% <sup>332</sup>	27% (2003) <sup>333</sup>	30.1% <sup>334</sup> (2007)

<sup>308</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>309</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004<sup>310</sup> Ibid

<sup>311</sup> Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, Performance Assessment Framework (PAF 2006-2008)

<sup>312</sup> ADB Statistical Database System online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>313</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>314</sup> Ibid

<sup>315</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>316</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>317</sup> Ibid

<sup>318</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>319</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>320</sup> Ibid

<sup>321</sup> World Bank 2010/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics

<sup>322</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>323</sup> Ibid

<sup>324</sup> World Bank 2010/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

<sup>325</sup> World Bank 2010/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

<sup>326</sup> Ibid

<sup>327</sup> Ibid

<sup>328</sup> Ibid

<sup>329</sup> Ibid

<sup>330</sup> Ibid

<sup>331</sup> Ibid

<sup>332</sup> Ibid

<sup>333</sup> Ibid

<sup>334</sup> Ibid

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b>				
Target 3.a. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015				
3.1.a. Ratio of girls to boys in primary school (%)	0.86 <sup>335</sup>	0.93 <sup>336</sup>	0.96 <sup>337</sup>	0.97 (2007) <sup>338</sup>
3.1.b. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary school (%)	0.60 (1991) <sup>339</sup>	0.79 <sup>340</sup>	0.84 <sup>341</sup>	0.84 (2007) <sup>342</sup>
3.1.c. Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary school (%)	0.30 <sup>343</sup>	0.41 <sup>344</sup>	N/a <sup>345</sup>	0.80 <sup>346</sup>
3.2. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	23% <sup>347</sup>	30% <sup>348</sup>	N/a <sup>349</sup>	N/a <sup>350</sup>
3.3. % of seats in national Parliament held by women	0 <sup>351</sup>	2 <sup>352</sup>	0 <sup>353</sup>	0
<b>Goal 3. MDG Plus</b>				
Share of women in waged employment in administration and management jobs	2.6 <sup>354</sup>	16.7 <sup>355</sup>	N/a <sup>356</sup>	N/a <sup>357</sup>
Share of women in wage employment in professional and technical jobs	27.3 <sup>358</sup>	31.3 <sup>359</sup>	N/a <sup>360</sup>	25% <sup>361</sup>
Proportion of provincial government assemblies including Honiara City Council in which seats are held by women and proportion of seats held by women	10 <sup>362</sup>	0 <sup>363</sup>	10 <sup>364</sup>	N/a
<b>Proportion of posts of Permanent Secretary and Provincial secretary in civil service held by women</b>				
Permanent Secretary	0 <sup>365</sup>	0 <sup>366</sup>	20 <sup>367</sup>	N/a
Provincial Secretary	0 <sup>368</sup>	0 <sup>369</sup>	0 <sup>370</sup>	N/a
<b>Proportion of posts of general manager and board directors of public enterprises held by women</b>				
General Manager	0.0 <sup>371</sup>	0.0 <sup>372</sup>	0.0 <sup>373</sup>	N/a
Board of Directors	N/a <sup>374</sup>	N/a <sup>375</sup>	N/a <sup>376</sup>	N/a

<sup>335</sup> World Bank 2010/ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics.

<sup>336</sup> Ibid

<sup>337</sup> Ibid

<sup>338</sup> Ibid

<sup>339</sup> Ibid

<sup>340</sup> Ibid

<sup>341</sup> Ibid

<sup>342</sup> Ibid

<sup>343</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>344</sup> Ibid

<sup>345</sup> Ibid

<sup>346</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile, 2010

<sup>347</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>348</sup> Ibid

<sup>349</sup> Ibid

<sup>350</sup> Source: International Labour Organization,

Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>351</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>352</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>353</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>354</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004 and Source: International Labour Organization, Key

Indicators of the Labour Market database.

<sup>355</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>356</sup> Ibid

<sup>357</sup> JICA Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>358</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring

fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>359</sup> Ibid

<sup>360</sup> Ibid

<sup>361</sup> JICA, Country Gender Profile 2010

<sup>362</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>363</sup> Ibid

<sup>364</sup> Ibid

<sup>365</sup> Ibid

<sup>366</sup> Ibid

<sup>367</sup> Ibid

<sup>368</sup> Ibid

<sup>369</sup> Ibid

<sup>370</sup> Ibid

<sup>371</sup> Ibid

<sup>372</sup> Ibid

<sup>373</sup> Ibid

<sup>374</sup> Ibid

<sup>375</sup> Ibid

<sup>376</sup> Ibid

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality</b>				
Target 4.a. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five				
4.1. Under five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1,000 live births):	121.3 <sup>377</sup>	88.1 <sup>378</sup>	75 <sup>379</sup>	70.3 (2007) <sup>380</sup>
4.2. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births):	31 <sup>381</sup>	30 <sup>382</sup>	24 <sup>383</sup>	24 <sup>384</sup>
4.3. Measles immunization coverage among 1 year olds:	N/a	55% <sup>385</sup>	72% <sup>386</sup>	90.4% <sup>387</sup>

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b>				
Target 5.a. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio				
5.1. Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births):	550 (1992) <sup>388</sup>	195 <sup>389</sup>	220 <sup>390</sup>	146 (2009) <sup>391</sup>
5.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%):	N/a <sup>392</sup>	85% <sup>393</sup>	87% <sup>394</sup>	95% <sup>395</sup>
Target 5.b. Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health				
5.3. Contraceptive prevalence rate (% women age 15-49)	N/a <sup>396</sup>	6.8% <sup>397</sup>	N/a <sup>398</sup>	27% (2007) <sup>399</sup>
5.4. Adolescent birth rate (births 1,000 women aged 15-19)	N/a <sup>400</sup>	57 <sup>401</sup>	48 <sup>402</sup>	40 (2008) <sup>403</sup>
5.5. Antenatal care coverage (%), at least 1 visit and at least 4 visits:	N/a <sup>404</sup>	N/a <sup>405</sup>	N/a <sup>406</sup>	74% <sup>407</sup>
5.6. Unmet need for family planning	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Goal 5. MDG Plus</b>				
Target 5.a. Plus: Reduce the maternity mortality ratio from 550 in 1992 to less than 100 by 2015				
Maternal mortality ratio	550	N/a	220 <sup>408</sup>	N/a

<sup>377</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>378</sup> Ibid

<sup>379</sup> Ibid

<sup>380</sup> Ibid

<sup>381</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online

<sup>382</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010

<sup>383</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (accessed in September 2010)

<sup>384</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010)

<sup>385</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>386</sup> Ibid

<sup>387</sup> Source: State of the Health Sector in Solomon Islands 2009, MoH

<sup>388</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP,

2004

<sup>389</sup> Ibid

<sup>390</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>391</sup> National Health Report Solomon Islands 2009

<sup>392</sup> Source: Household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

by UNICEF and Source: Maternal Mortality: Estimates Developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank.

<sup>393</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>394</sup> Ibid

<sup>395</sup> Source: Household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International and Multiple Indicator Cluster

Surveys by UNICEF.

<sup>396</sup> Ibid

<sup>397</sup> Ibid

<sup>398</sup> Ibid

<sup>399</sup> Source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects.

<sup>400</sup> Ibid

<sup>401</sup> Ibid

<sup>402</sup> Ibid

<sup>403</sup> Ibid

<sup>404</sup> Source: UNICEF, State of the World's Children, Childinfo, and Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International.

<sup>405</sup> Ibid

<sup>406</sup> Ibid

<sup>407</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010

<sup>408</sup> Source: Maternal Mortality: Estimates Developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank.



MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b>				
<b>Target 6.a. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</b>				
6.1. Prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15-49 years (%):	N/a	N/a	N/a	0.002% <sup>409</sup>
6.2. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate:	N/a <sup>410</sup>	2.1% <sup>411</sup>	N/a <sup>412</sup>	N/a <sup>413</sup>
6.3. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS:	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
6.4. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years <sup>414</sup>	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 6.b. Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</b>				
6.5. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 6.c. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</b>				
6.6.a. Malaria incidence notified cases	450 <sup>415</sup>	123 <sup>416</sup>	198 <sup>417</sup>	137 <sup>418</sup>
6.6.b. Malaria: death associated with, per 100,000 population, ages 0-4	N/a	8 <sup>419</sup>	15.5 (2003) <sup>420</sup>	6.6 (2008) <sup>421</sup>
6.6.c. Malaria: death associated with, per 100,000 population all ages	10.8 (1992) <sup>422</sup>	N/a	13.6 (2002) <sup>423</sup>	19.3 (2008) <sup>424</sup>
6.7. Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed-nets	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
6.8. Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs	N/a	N/a	N/a	19 (2007) <sup>425</sup>
6.9.a. Tuberculosis incidence rate (per 100,000 population)	310	180 <sup>426</sup>	140	120 (2008) <sup>427</sup>

<sup>409</sup> Ungass, country progress Report 2010, Solomon Islands, Submitted by the Solomon Islands National AIDS Committee

<sup>410</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>411</sup> Ibid

<sup>412</sup> Ibid

<sup>413</sup> World Health Statistics, World Health Organization, 2010 and Source: State of the Health Sector in Solomon Islands 2009, MoH

<sup>414</sup> Not relevant for Solomon Islands (Consultation with Ministry of Health, September 2010)

<sup>415</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>416</sup> Ibid

<sup>417</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (accessed in September 2010)

<sup>418</sup> Ibid

<sup>419</sup> Ibid

<sup>420</sup> Ibid

<sup>421</sup> Ibid

<sup>422</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>423</sup> Ibid

<sup>424</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (accessed in September 2010)

<sup>425</sup> Ibid

<sup>426</sup> Ibid

<sup>427</sup> Ibid

MDGs	1990 Baseline	1990 Baseline	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2004
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b>				
<b>Target 6.a. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</b>				
6.9.b. Tuberculosis prevalence rate (per 100,000 population)	630 <sup>428</sup>	360 <sup>429</sup>	210 <sup>430</sup>	150 (2008) <sup>431</sup>
6.9.c. Tuberculosis death rate (per 100,000 population)	73 <sup>432</sup>	43 <sup>433</sup>	26 <sup>434</sup>	19 (2008) <sup>435</sup>
6.10.a. Tuberculosis cases detected under DOTS, per cent	N/a	29% <sup>436</sup>	51% <sup>437</sup>	70% <sup>438</sup>
6.10.b. Tuberculosis, DOTS treatment success, per cent	N/a	81% <sup>439</sup>	85% <sup>440</sup>	85% <sup>441</sup>
<b>Goal 6. MDG Plus</b>				
<b>Target 6.a Reduce the incidence of malaria to less than 80 by 2015</b>				
Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	N/a	N/a	N/a	Death: 13 (2009) <sup>442</sup>

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b>				
<b>Target 7.a. Integrate the principles of sustainable into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources</b>				
7.1. Land Area covered by Forest (% of total land area)	98.8% <sup>443</sup>	84.7% <sup>444</sup>	78% <sup>445</sup>	74.7% (2007) <sup>446</sup>
7.1.1. Sq Km <sup>447</sup>	27,680	23,710	22,118	20,924 (2007)

<sup>428</sup> *Ibid*<sup>429</sup> *Ibid*<sup>430</sup> *Ibid*<sup>431</sup> *Ibid*<sup>432</sup> *Ibid*<sup>433</sup> *Ibid*<sup>434</sup> *Ibid*<sup>435</sup> *Ibid*<sup>436</sup> *Ibid*<sup>437</sup> *Ibid*<sup>438</sup> *Ibid*<sup>439</sup> *Ibid*<sup>440</sup> *Ibid*<sup>441</sup> *Ibid*<sup>442</sup> Source: *State of the Health Sector in Solomon Islands 2009*, MoH<sup>443</sup> World Bank/*Food and Agriculture Organization, electronic files and web site 2010*<sup>444</sup> *Ibid*<sup>445</sup> ADB and AusAID, "*Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report*", *Pacific Studies Series*, (2010).<sup>446</sup> *Food and Agriculture Organization, electronic files and web site*<sup>447</sup> *Ibid*

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
7.2.a. CO2 emissions, (thousand metric tons) (per capita metric tons) <sup>448</sup>	161	165	180	N/a
7.2.b. CO2 emissions (per capita metric tons) (per capita metric tons)	0.51 <sup>449</sup>	0.4 <sup>450</sup>	0.38 <sup>451</sup>	0.36 <sup>452</sup>
7.2.c. CO2 emissions (per \$ 1 GDP PPP) (Kilogram per \$1 GDP (PPP) <sup>453</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/a
7.3. Ozone-depleting substances CFCs consumption (ODP Tons) (ODP Metric tons) <sup>454</sup>	2.1	0.8	1.1	N/a
<b>Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss</b>				
7.4. Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
7.5. Proportion of total water resources used: renewable internal freshwater resources per capita (cubic meters)	N/a	N/a	101,981 (2002) <sup>455</sup>	87,541 (2008) <sup>456</sup>
7.5.a. Proportion of total water resources used: renewable internal freshwater resources, total (billion cubic meters)	N/a	44.7 (2002) <sup>457</sup>	N/a	44.7 <sup>458</sup>
7.6.a. Nationally protected areas (%of total land area)	N/a <sup>459</sup>	0 <sup>460</sup>	0.3 <sup>461</sup>	0.76 (2008) <sup>462</sup>
7.6.b. Proportion of and marine areas protected (% of total land area)	N/a <sup>463</sup>	Na <sup>464</sup>	0.28 <sup>465</sup>	0.04 (2008) <sup>466</sup>
7.7. Proportion of species threatened with extinction	N/a	N/a	N/a	7 <sup>467</sup>
<b>Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</b>				

<sup>448</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>449</sup> World Bank/Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States 2010

<sup>450</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004 and World Bank/Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States 2010

<sup>451</sup> World Bank/Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States 2010

<sup>452</sup> Ibid

<sup>453</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>454</sup> Ibid

<sup>455</sup> World Bank / Food and Agriculture Organization, AQUASTAT data 2010

<sup>456</sup> Ibid

<sup>457</sup> Ibid

<sup>458</sup> Ibid

<sup>459</sup> World Bank / United Nations Environmental Program and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as compiled by the World Resources Institute, based on data from national authorities, national legislation and international agreements 2010460 ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010).

<sup>461</sup> Ibid

<sup>462</sup> World Bank / United Nations Environmental Program and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as compiled by the World Resources Institute, based on data from national authorities, national legislation and international agreements 2010463 Ibid

<sup>464</sup> Ibid

<sup>465</sup> Ibid

<sup>466</sup> Ibid

<sup>467</sup> www.fishbase.org

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
7.8.a Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, total %	69% <sup>468</sup>	70% <sup>469</sup>	70% <sup>470</sup>	N/a <sup>471</sup>
7.8.b. Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, urban %	94% <sup>472</sup>	94% <sup>473</sup>	94% <sup>474</sup>	94% <sup>475</sup>
7.8.c. Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, rural %	65% <sup>476</sup>	65% <sup>477</sup>	65% <sup>478</sup>	82.6% <sup>479</sup>
7.9.a. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, total %	29% <sup>480</sup>	31% <sup>481</sup>	32% <sup>482</sup>	15% (2007) <sup>483</sup>
7.9.b. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, urban % <sup>484</sup>	98%	98%	98%	76.8% <sup>485</sup>
7.9.c. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, rural % <sup>486</sup>	18%	18%	18%	7.8% <sup>487</sup>
Target 7d: Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020				
7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums (percent) <sup>488</sup>	8%	8%	N/a	N/a
<b>Goal 7. MDG Plus</b>				
<b>Target 7.e. Plus: Cap and reduce log harvesting of the natural forest to a sustainable level</b>				
Ratio of log harvesting from the natural forest to the sustainable harvesting rate	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
<b>Target 7.f. Plus: By 2020 to have regularized all temporary occupation licenses and illegal occupation of government leasehold land in Honiara squatter settlement</b>				
Proportion of temporary occupation licenses and lots with fixed term estimate title	Na	Na	Na	Na

<sup>468</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>469</sup> ADB and AusAID, "Solomon Islands 2010 Economic Report", Pacific Studies Series, (2010) and WHO& UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, accessed on 10 September 2010<sup>470</sup> Ibid

<sup>471</sup> WHO& UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, accessed on 10 September 2010

<sup>472</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>473</sup> Ibid

<sup>474</sup> Ibid

<sup>475</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>476</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>477</sup> Ibid

<sup>478</sup> Ibid

<sup>479</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>480</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>481</sup> WHO& UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, accessed on 10 September 2010

<sup>482</sup> Ibid

<sup>483</sup> Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey 2006-2007, by the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, Secretariat of the Pacific Communities, and Macro International Inc

<sup>484</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>485</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>486</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>487</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>488</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development</b>				
<b>Target 8a: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</b>				
<b>Target 8b: Address the special needs of the least developed countries</b>				
<b>Target 8c: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States</b>				
<b>Target 8d: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries</b>				
8.1.a. Official development assistance (ODA): Net official development assistance and official aid (current US\$)	45,660,000 <sup>489</sup>	68,250,000 <sup>490</sup>	121,320,000 <sup>491</sup>	224,320,000 <sup>492</sup> [4]
8.1. b. Net ODA received (% of	0.14 <sup>493</sup>	0.15 <sup>494</sup>	0.32 <sup>495</sup>	0.49 <sup>496</sup>
8.1.c. Net ODA received per capita (current US\$)	132.5 <sup>497</sup>	149.4 <sup>498</sup>	238.9 <sup>499</sup>	454.2 <sup>500</sup>
8.2. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.3. Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	0.5 <sup>501</sup>	0.4 <sup>502</sup>	0.4 (2003) <sup>503</sup>	N/a
8.4. ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national income	Na <sup>504</sup>	Na <sup>505</sup>	Na <sup>506</sup>	N/a
8.5. ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes	22.1 <sup>507</sup>	23.9 <sup>508</sup>	11.0 <sup>509</sup>	N/a

<sup>489</sup> Source: Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing Countries, Development Co-operation Report, and International Development Statistics database*. Data are available online at: [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline)<sup>490</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>491</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>492</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>493</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>494</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>495</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>496</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>497</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>498</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>499</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>500</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>501</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>502</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>503</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>504</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>505</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>506</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>507</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>508</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>509</sup> *Ibid*

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
<b>Market access</b>				
8.6.a. Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	27.9 <sup>510</sup>	38.6 <sup>511</sup>	76.3 <sup>512</sup>	78.2 <sup>513</sup>
8.6.b. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.7. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.8. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.9. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	N/a <sup>514</sup>	N/a <sup>515</sup>	N/a <sup>516</sup>	N/a
<b>Debt Sustainability</b>				
8.10. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.11. Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
8.12. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services (External debt stocks, % of exports of goods, services and income)	123.2 <sup>517</sup>	120.6 <sup>518</sup>	137.1 <sup>519</sup>	82.7 <sup>520</sup>

<sup>510</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>511</sup> Ibid

<sup>512</sup> Ibid

<sup>513</sup> Ibid

<sup>514</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>515</sup> Ibid

<sup>516</sup> Ibid

<sup>517</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

<sup>518</sup> Ibid

<sup>519</sup> Ibid

<sup>520</sup> Ibid

MDGs	1990 Baseline	State in 2000	Assessment 2004	Assessment 2010
Target 8e: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries				
8.13. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	N/a <sup>521</sup>	N/a <sup>522</sup>	N/a <sup>523</sup>	N/a
Target 8f: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications				
8.14.a. Fixed lines and mobile phones (per 1,000)	14 <sup>524</sup>	21 <sup>525</sup>	21 <sup>526</sup>	30 <sup>527</sup>
8.14.b. Telephone lines per 100 population <sup>528</sup>	15	18	16	16
8.15.a. Cellular subscribers per 100 population	0 <sup>529</sup>	0.2 <sup>530</sup>	0.6 <sup>531</sup>	5.8 <sup>532</sup>
8.15.b. Personal computers (per 1,000)	N/a <sup>533</sup>	38 <sup>534</sup>	43 <sup>535</sup>	46 (2005) <sup>536</sup>
8.16. Internet users per 100 population	0 <sup>537</sup>	0.48 <sup>538</sup>	0.64 <sup>539</sup>	1.65 <sup>540</sup>

<sup>521</sup> Solomon Islands, 'MDGR Scoring fundamental goals', MDPAC and UNDP, 2004

<sup>522</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>523</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>524</sup> Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates. Note: Please cite the International Telecommunication Union for third-party use of these data 2010

<sup>525</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>526</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>527</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010<sup>528</sup> ADB Statistical Database System Online (Accessed in September 2010)

<sup>529</sup> Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates. Note: Please cite the International Telecommunication Union for third-party use of these data 2010<sup>530</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>531</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>532</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>533</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>534</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>535</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>536</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>537</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>538</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>539</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>540</sup> World Bank Database Honiara, Solomon Islands 2010

# APPENDIX IV

## ADDITIONAL FIGURES, BOXES AND TABLES:

Figure 1: Price of fuel in Pacific Island states (2008)

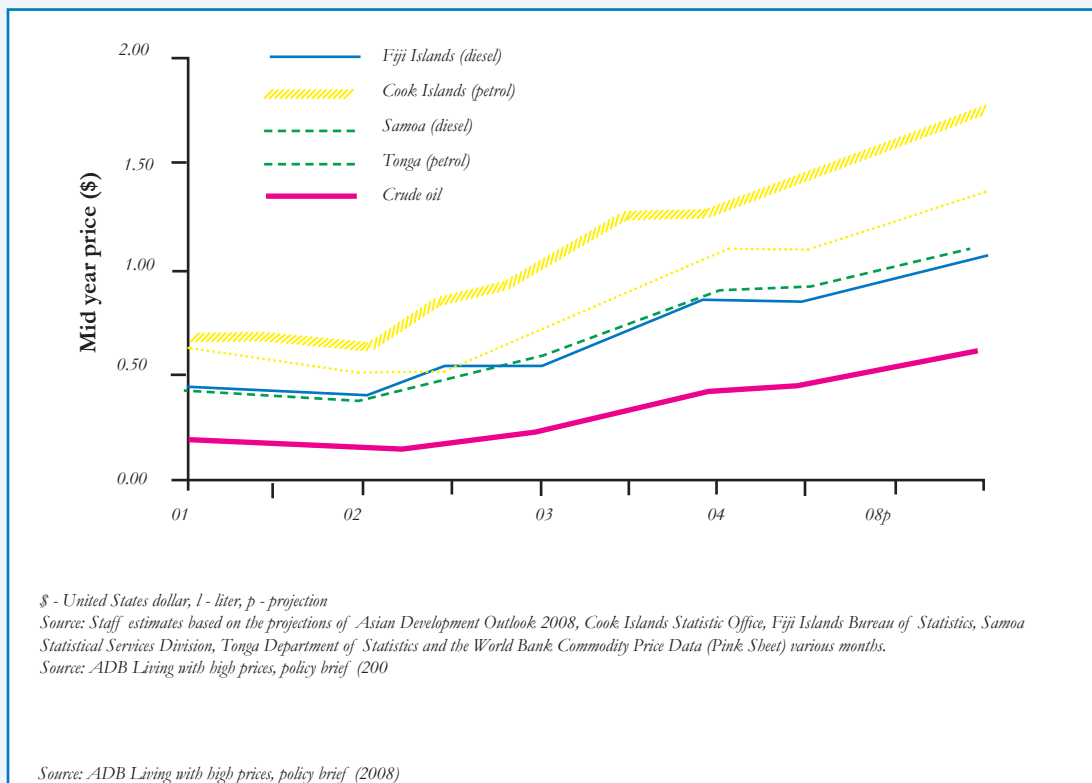




Figure 2: Direct Impact of prices increases since 2006

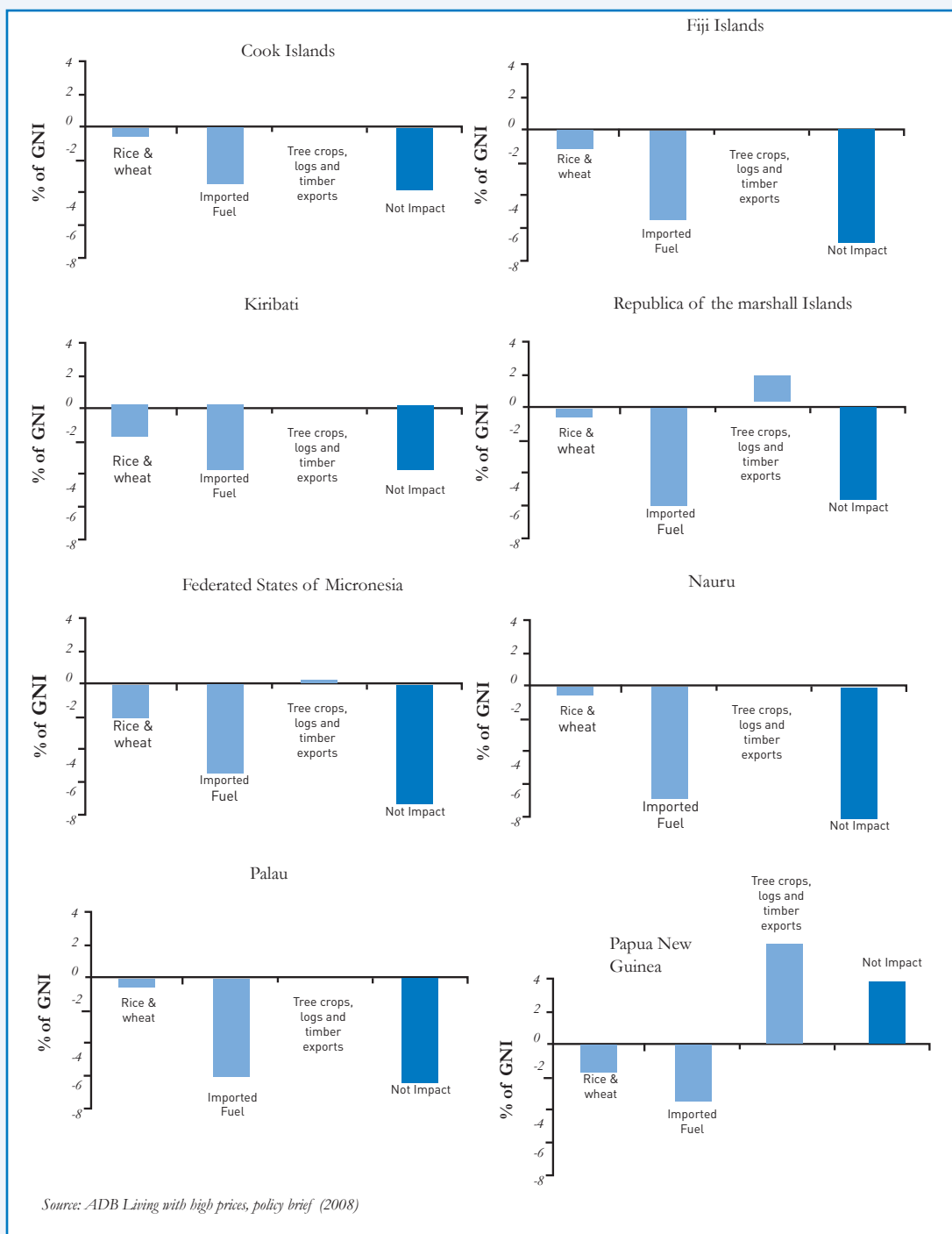


Figure 2: Direct Impact of prices increases since 2006

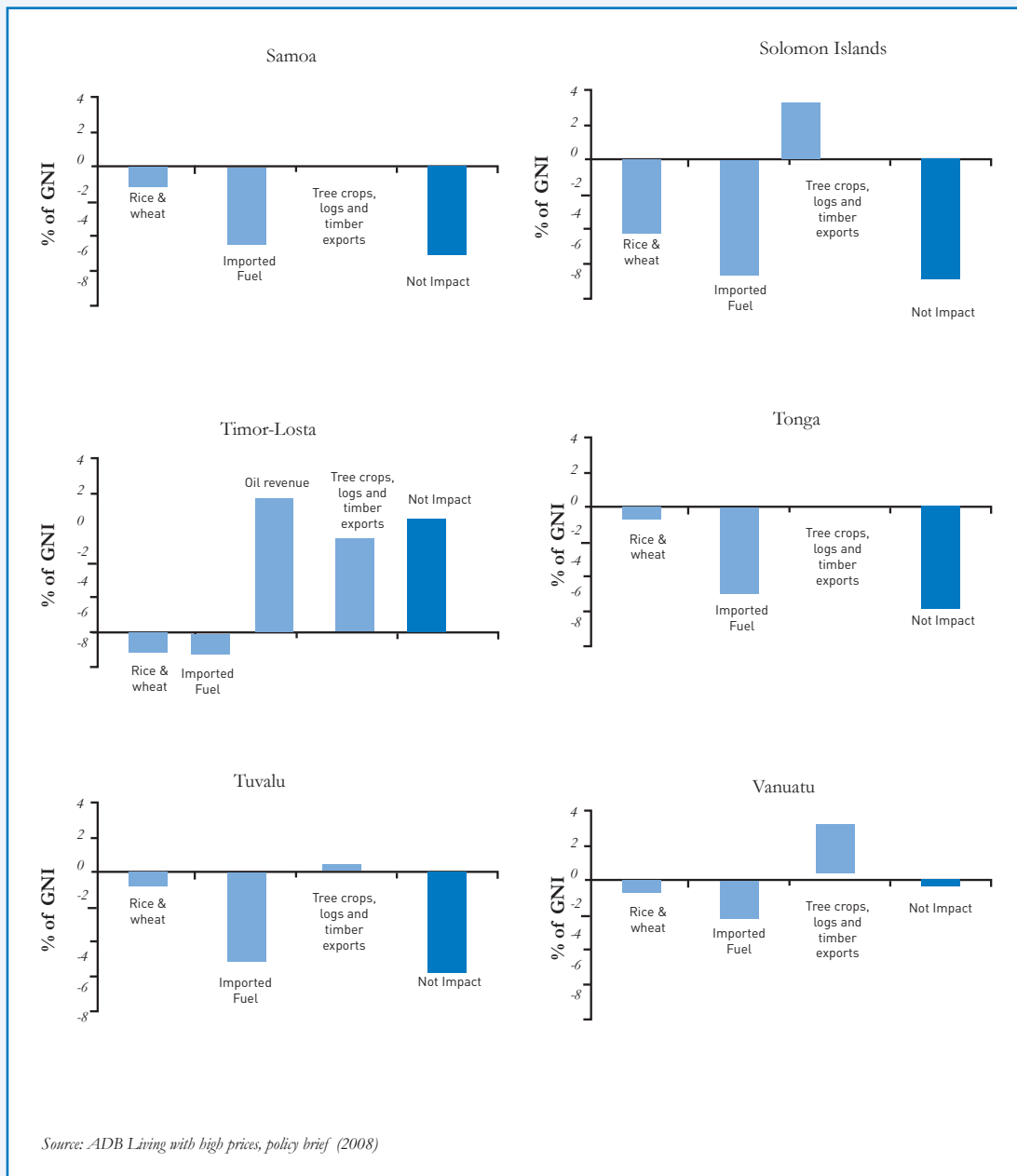


Figure 3: Effect of rising commodity prices on households in the Pacific Islands

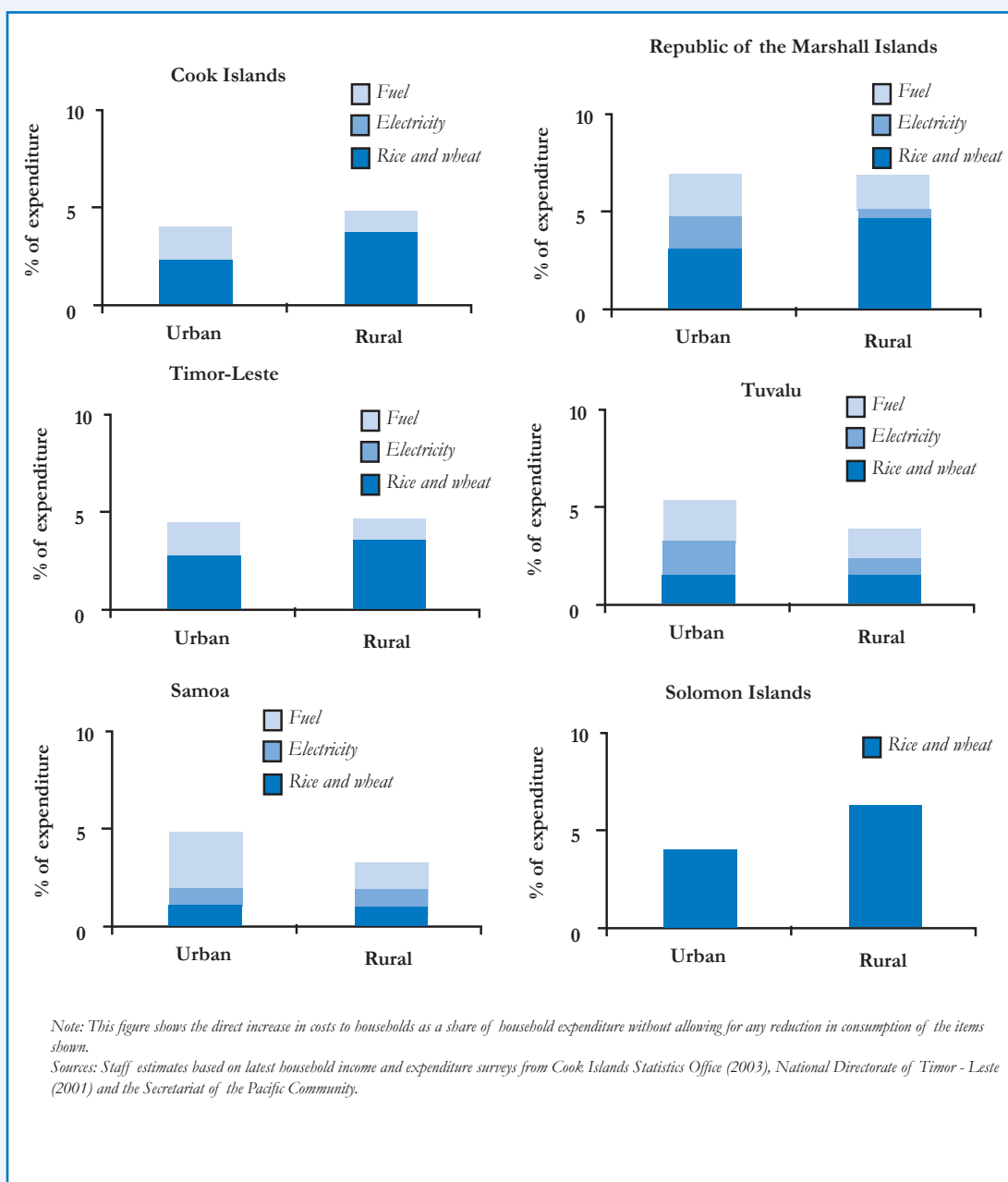


Figure 2: Direct Impact of prices increases since 2006

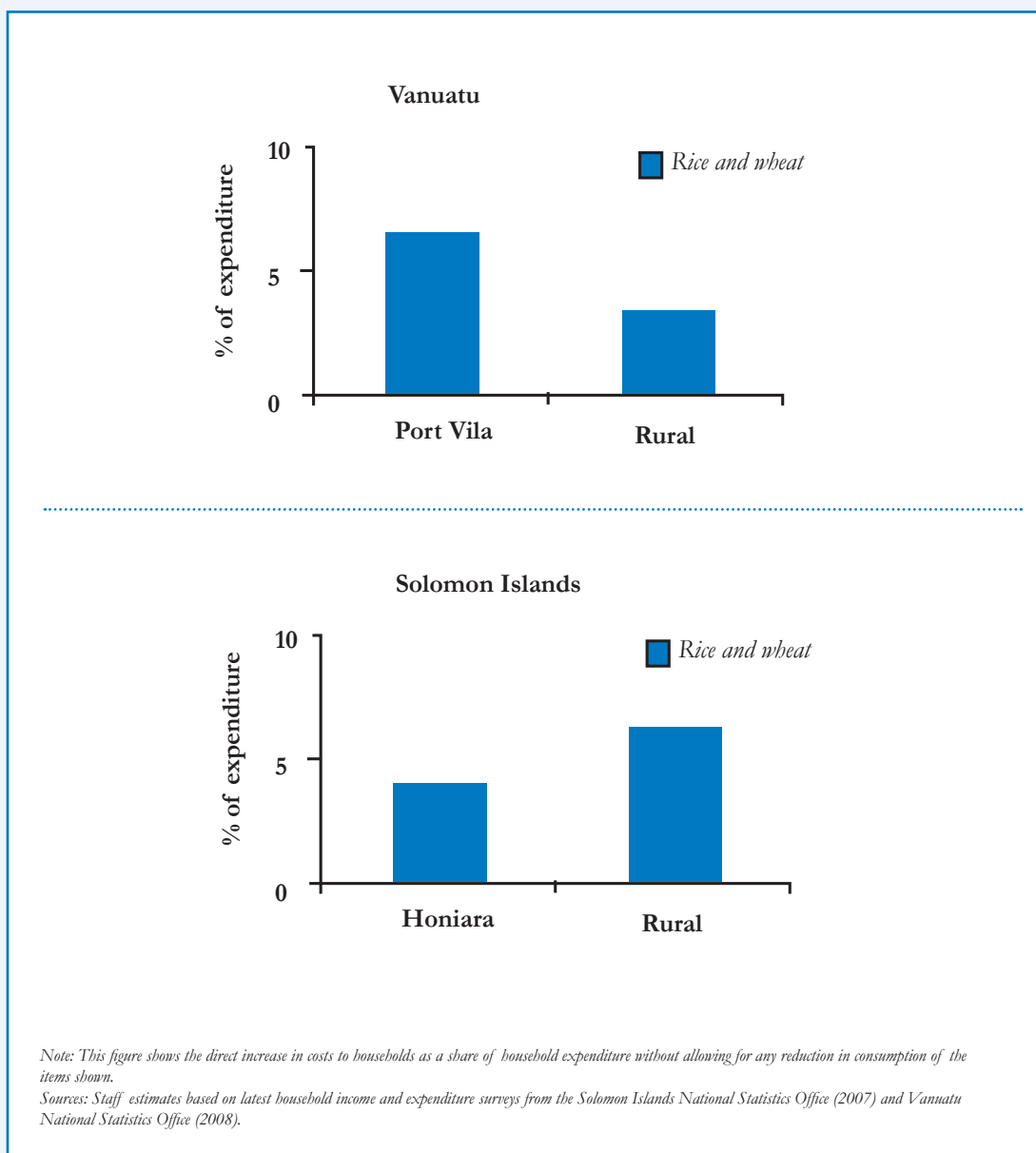


Figure 4: Impact of fuel and food price rises across household consumption groups

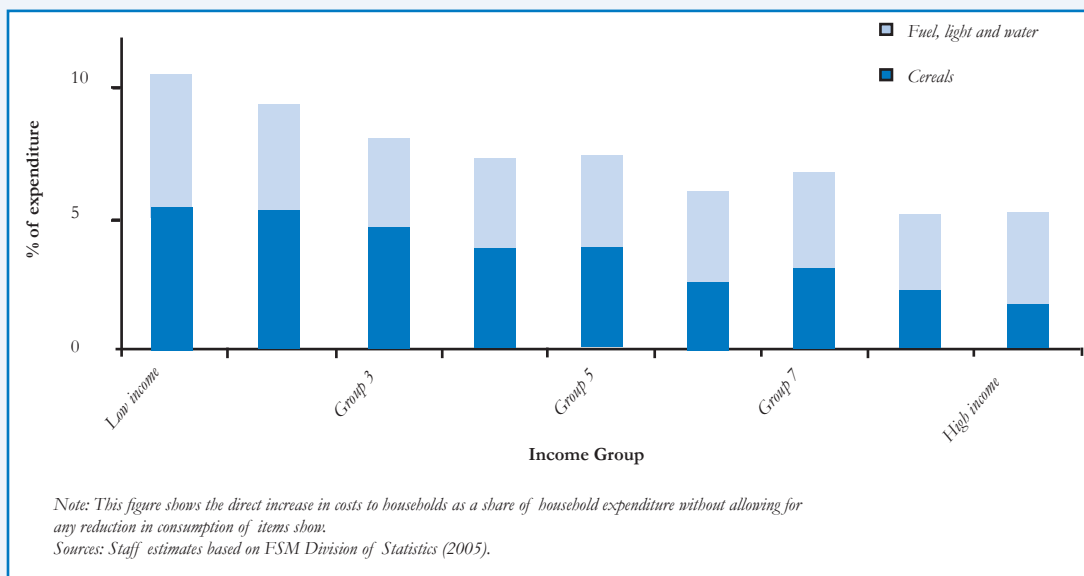
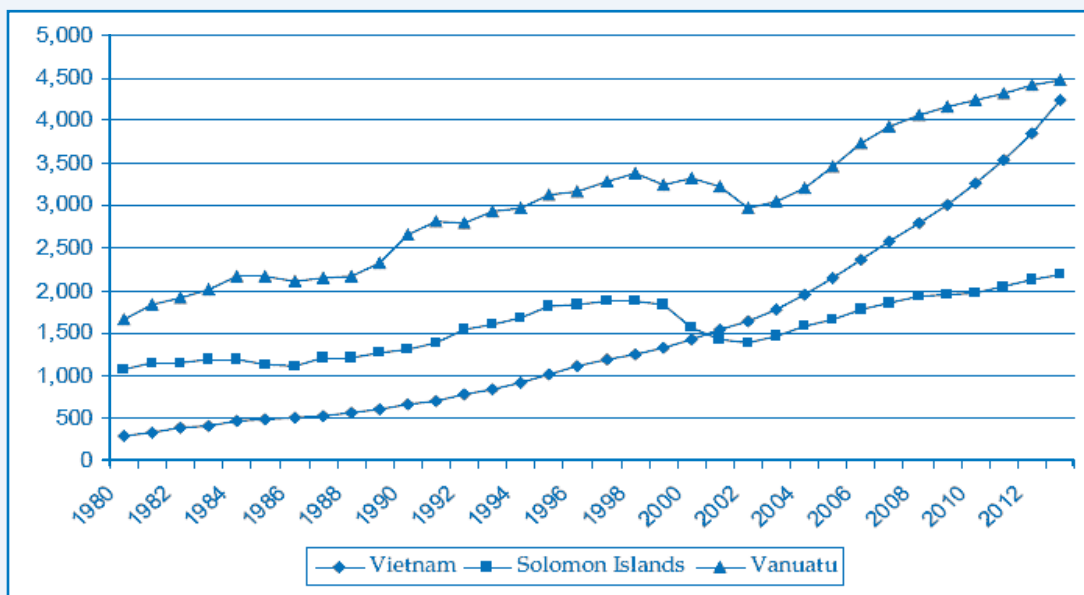


Figure 5: Forecast GDP on PPP prices Solomon Islands, Vietnam and Vanuatu



Source: ADB Living with high prices, policy brief (2008)

*Box 1: Benefits of liberalizing air travel*

**New entrant to the market.** In September 2004, Pacific Blue, a low cost airline, launched services to Nadi, Fiji Islands three times a week from each of Brisbane and Melbourne. In the first year of Pacific Blue operations, the Australia-Fiji Islands market expanded by 21.6%, compared with the previous corresponding 12 months. This market growth reflected the capacity growth. Indeed, Air Pacific's traffic levels did not diminish markedly. The increase in air passenger capacity and travel has revealed weaknesses in the Fiji Islands tourism market, including a shortage of accommodation during peak season, a weak domestic air sector (both in terms of quality of airports and air service availability) and the story of civil instability. These weaknesses influenced the market growth of only a further 6.6% in the first six months of the second year of Pacific Blue's operations. Nonetheless, both airlines maintained viable average loads for 18 month period from September 2004 to February 2006, Air Pacific at 69% as compared to Pacific Blue's 60%. Over this period, Pacific Blue averaged market share of 17.6%, two points below its capacity share.

**Reduced government ownership of airlines.** Samoa's national carrier, Polynesian Airlines, had experienced ongoing losses totaling to over US\$30 million between 2001 and 2004. Restructuring and partial privatization of Polynesian Airlines using a tender process created Polynesian Blue which began operations in October 2005. Polynesian Blue, while still 51% held by the Government of Samoa and other local interests, is controlled by a foreign entity, Australia's Virgin Blue. This majority Samoan ownership allowed for existing bilateral rights to be maintained. Commercial and operational control of Polynesian Blue has been vested in Virgin Blue under a separate management agreement, though the government retains limited input at the management level. Pacific Blue effectively runs the venture, with Samoans included in management and in cabin crews. The formation of Polynesian Blue also acted as a catalyst for the restructuring of Polynesian Airlines, including a downsizing of its 393-strong workforce. The scaled-down Polynesian Airlines continues to operate domestic services. Benefits to the Samoan government have included the provision of a profitable commercial international air service, removed the previously required subsidies and receipt of a reliable annual dividend payment. Further, during 2005/06, Samoan earnings from tourism climbed 14% since commencement of Polynesian Blue's operations passenger traffic has increased 18% and airfares between Australia or New Zealand and Samoa have fallen by around 50%.

**An Open Air Services Agreement.** At a theoretical level the 2005 study, Impact Assess-

ment of the Pacific Island Air Services Agreement (PIASA), found liberalization of all 14 Forum island country air transport markets would yield annual aggregate net benefits of \$64 million, with airline profits actually increasing by \$3.2 million. While benefits would be unevenly distributed between the island airline operators, the study concluded that none would lose money. Further, the report found that some \$41 million of the gains would come from additional spending by inbound tourists (\$27 million of that from tourists switching from French territory destinations to take advantage of cheaper fares to Forum island countries). Pacific Island Air Services Agreement came into force on 13 October 2007 after being endorsed at a Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting in 2003. Ten Pacific island countries have signed Pacific Island Air Services Agreement and six (Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu) have ratified the agreement. The abstention of Fiji Islands from participation can be expected to reduce the benefits received - however, this may also act to promote the development of an alternate regional hub.

Source: McGregor and Company (2005) and Asian Development Bank (2007a)

Table 1: Use of national procedures Aid agencies, Solomon Islands (2008)

	RAMSI <sup>36</sup>	AusAID <sup>37</sup> (health)	NZAID (ed'n)	AusAID (bilateral)	NZAID (bilateral)	RoC	EU	Japan	World Bank	ADB	UNDP
2008 estimates SBD Millions	1,127	80	45	45	68 <sup>38</sup>	94	213	34	38	32	13
Procurement	Ltd	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	PGSP <sup>39</sup>
Payment/Accounting	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	PGSP
Audit	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	PGSP
Reporting	No	Partial	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	PGSP
Pro rata proportions	10(a)	50	34			94					10(b)
a)	This is an estimated figure to include e.g. purchase of payroll system;										
b)	This is an estimated figure to represent proportion of PGSP that is provided as grants.										

Source: Solomon Islands Public Financial Management 2008 (Ecorse, Netherlands)

Table 2: Selected Macroeconomic indicators:

Indicator	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Real accounts					
Real GDP (annual growth rate)	6.50	8.00	5.00	6.10	10.30
Prices					
Retail price index (Honiara)	10.1	6.9	7.3	11.2	7.7
Change in money supply (% per year)	25.8	13.3	39.8	28.2	28.6
3 month bill rate	5.8	6	3.5	3.5	3.5
External sector					
Current account balance (Sodom)	204	502.5	-88.5	10.7	63.7
BOP overall (Sodom)	140	324.8	120.1	73.5	127.6
Exchange rate (Versus AUD)	5	5.45	5.75	5.73	6.41
Growth rate of merchandize exports (% per year)	43%	31%	7%	18%	40%
Growth rate of merchandize imports (% per year)	64%	3%	69%	23%	31%
International reserves (months of imports)	2.8	3.2	3.5	4	4
Fiscal policy					
Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	0.2	5.1	2.5	1.5	-1.2
External debt/GDP ratio	69.5	60.6	54.2	60	46.5

Source: Solomon Islands Diagnostic study Integration Study, 2009 Report



*Table 3: Stock Taking, Emerging issues on Solomon Islands MDGs*

Solomon Islands (from ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Pacific MDG workshop: Taking Stock, Emerging Issues, and the Way Forwards – March 2009, Nadir, Fij)		
MDG Focus	Government Commitment	Donor support required
MDG 1	Support for productive sectors but not appropriately distributed or utilised	Continuous support from donors
MDG 2	Recently introduced free basic education policy, but must be prepared to allocate more resources	Continuous support from donors
MDG 3	Minimal government support	Continuous support from donors
MDG 4	Minimal commitment: most project in this field are heavily supported by donors	Continuous support from donors – perhaps as priority 1
MDG 5	Commitment exists but government must upscale funding to maintain progress	Continuous support from donors
MDG 6	Programme exists but heavily donor supported	Continuous support from donors
MDG 7	Adequate assistance by government	Continuous support from donors
MDG 8	Minimal	Require more assistance

*Table 4: The World Bank Sources of growth in Solomon Islands (2009)*

Sector studies	
Minerals	In this sector, gold, and in particular therehabilitation of the Gold Ridge mine, is the most promising medium-term prospect. Gold Ridge could potentially offset a large share of the export losses from logging, but over a limited period.
Tuna fishery	Despite constraints over revamping management and production at the Soltai plant, this sector continues to make a significant contribution to exports. Its value is around 25 percent of log exports, and ranks as the second major export.
Plantation forestry	Plantation forestry, both large scale commercial and village scale, offers a long term, sustainable but partial, restoration of earnings and jobs from depleted forest resources. But even under favourable conditions these activities might replace less than 10 percent of recent annual export earnings from extractive logging by 2013.
Tourism	Recreational tourism remains disappointingly low. Personnel associated with donor assistance currently drive visitor spending and room occupancy. Without resolution of the airline access problem to outer islands, resort tourism and related regional incomes may grow only slowly.
Plantation Agricultures	Limited value adding capacity for copra 190 along with the RIPEL dispute, and marketing and quality deficiencies for cocoa, are holding back growth.
Palm oil plantations	Output has the potential to increase substantially from the existing GPPOL plantation, out growing and the development of a new plantation on Malaita, providing land issues can be resolved and world oil prices recover somewhat from their recent decreases

Table 5: Economic indicators

Recent economic indicators	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
GDP (US\$m) (current prices):	414	457	586	646	657	673
GDP PPP (US\$m) (c):	1,111	1,226	1,396	1,530	1,514	1,576
GDP per capital (US\$)	860	923	1,153	1,236	1,223	1,219
GDP per capital PPP (US\$) (c):	2,309	2,480	2,747	2,926	2,819	2,854
Real GDP growth (%change yoy):	5.4	6.9	10.7	7.3	-2.2	3.4
Current account balance (US\$m)	-29	-7	-48	-106	-139	-210
Current account balance (%GDP):	-7.0	-1.6	-8.2	15.4	-21.1	-31.2
Goods & services exports (% GDP):	46.5	51.7	55.6	61.9	na	na
Inflation (% change yoy):	7.0	11.1	7.7	17.4	7.1	4.8

a) All recent data subject to revision; b) IMF/EIU forecast c) PPP is Purchasing Power Parity

Data compiled by the Market information and research Section, DFAT, using the latest data from the ABS, the IMF and various international sources

