



SOLOMON ISLANDS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

REPORT 2004

SCORING FUNDAMENTAL GOALS

Department of National Planning and Aid Coordination
United Nations Country Team for Solomon Islands
June 2005

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Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals Report 2004
Scoring Fundamental Goals

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Table of Contents

Imagine and Pledge	iii
Boxes, Figures and Tables	vi
Abbreviations and Acronyms	viii
Map of Solomon Islands	x
Acknowledgements	xi
Foreword	xii
Preface	xiii
Executive Summary	xiv

Chapter 1

Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals Report	1
The Millennium Development Goals	1
Focusing application of the process of national reporting	2

Chapter 2

Solomon Islands Development Context	4
Physical and natural resources and vulnerability	4
Increasing young population mostly rural, with increasing urbanisation	5
Decentralised democratic governance	7
Traditional governance structures	7
Progressing human development	8
Healing the wounds of ethnic conflict	10
The dual challenge for human development	13

Chapter 3

Adapting and Localising the MDGs for Solomon Islands	14
From global to national and local levels	14
Processing the MDGs, Targets and Indicators	14
Mainstreaming MDGs in national strategic planning processes	28

Chapter 4

Millennium Development Goals Progress and Challenges	30
Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	30
Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education	37
Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women	44
Goal 4 Reduce child mortality	49
Goal 5 Improve maternal health	55
Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	58
Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability	66
Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development	75

Chapter 5

The Way Forward: Spotlighting Key Policy Areas	88
Peace building, reconciliation and unity	89
Transparency, accountability and the rule of law	90
Inclusive and equitable economic growth	91
Accessibility and quality of social services	92
Decentralised governance, national and local ownership	93
Domestic and international partnerships	94
Data integrity, analysis and policy linkage	94
MDGs and national strategic planning processes	95

References 97

Appendices

Appendix I United Nations Millennium Declaration	102
Appendix II Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators	110
Appendix III MDG and MDG+ Progress Indicators for Solomon Islands	115
Appendix IV Definitions of Indicators for Monitoring the MDGs	122

Boxes, Figures and Tables

Boxes

Box 1: Solomon Islands Scorecard on MDG Targets (Goals 1-7)	xv
Box 2: Millennium Development Goals	1
Box 3: Solomon Islands Fact Sheet	4
Box 4: National Development Goal and Objectives and Key Strategic, Areas Solomon Islands NERRDP 2003-2006	29
Box 5: Living on the Other Side of Town - Silvia's Story	35
Box 6: Journey through the Education System- Where Will it End for Mary?	42
Box 7: Exploitative Child Labour – What about Solomon Islands?	53
Box 8: Health of Mothers and Their Children	57
Box 9: HIV/AIDS: The Moment of Passion – Attitudes, Knowledge and Prevention	64
Box 10: Supporting Communities, Overcoming Mountains and Rivers	86
Box 11: Key Policy Areas	88

Figures

Figure 2.1: SI Rural and Urban Populations, 1999	6
Figure 2.2: SI Provincial Populations, 1999	6
Figure 2.3: Solomon Islands Population Trends	6
Figure 2.4: SI Population Growth Rates	6
Figure 2.5a: Longevity of Life	9
Figure 2.5b: Life Expectancy of Men and Women	9
Figure 2.6: Adult Literacy and Illiteracy Rates	9
Figure 2.7a: Population and real GDP Growth Rates	10
Figure 2.7b: Real GDP per capita	10
Figure 4.1: Household Income Distribution, 1991-1993	31
Figure 4.2: Trends in Primary and Secondary School Enrolment	38
Figure 4.3: Net Enrolment Trend in Primary Schools, 1986 – 2004	38
Figure 4.4a: Female and Male Enrolment in Primary Schools	44
Figure 4.4b: Female and Male Enrolment in Secondary Schools	45

Figure 4.5: Female and Male Literacy Rates	45
Figure 4.6: Infant and Child Mortality	49
Figure 4.6b: IMR for Girls and Boys	49
Figure 4.7: National EPI Coverage, 2004	50
Figure 4.8: Prevalence of Child Malnutrition by Province, 1989	51
Figure 4.9: Maternal Mortality Rate	55
Figure 4.10: Detected HIV Positive Cases	58
Figure 4.10a: STI Case Reporting of Penile and Vaginal Discharges	59
Figure 4.10b: STI Case Reporting of Genital Ulcers	59
Figure 4.11: Malaria Incidence Trends	60
Figure 4.12: TB Notification, Cure and Treatment Success Rates	62
Figure 4.13: Diabetes New Confirmed Cases by Gender per Year	62
Figure 4.14: Log Production 1994-2004	67
Figure 4.15: Areas of Commercial Forest by Province, 2003	68
Figure 4.16: Tuna Stocks and Catches, 1990-2004	69
Figure 4.17: Potential Conservation Areas by Province, 1993	70
Figure 4.18: Selected Donors ODA as Percentage of GNI, 2000-2003 (Av)	76
Figure 4.19: SI Trade Balances with Selected Countries, 2004	79
Figure 4.20: Government External Debt and Arrears	80

Tables

Table 4.1: MDG and MDG+ Goal 1 Progress Indicators	32
Table 4.2: MDG and MDG+ Goal 2 Progress Indicators	39
Table 4.3: MDG and MDG+ Goal 3 Progress Indicators	47
Table 4.4: MDG and MDG+ Goal 4 Progress Indicators	51
Table 4.5: MDG and MDG+ Goal 5 Progress Indicators	56
Table 4.6: MDG and MDG+ Goal 6 Progress Indicators	60
Table 4.7: MDG and MDG+ Goal 7 Progress Indicators	72
Table 4.8: MDG and MDG+ Goal 8 Progress Indicators	82

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CLO	Country Liaison Office
CMR	Child (under 5) mortality rate
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFMR	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources
DNPA	Department of National Planning and Aid Coordination
DOTS	Directly observed treatment short course
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMIS	Education management information system
EPI	Expanded programme of immunization
GDP	Gross domestic product
GLF	Guadalcanal Liberation Front
GNI	Gross national income
HCC	Honiara City Council
HDI	Human development index
HIES	Household income and expenditure survey
HIPC	Heavily indebted poor countries
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
HMIS	Health management information system
IMCI	Integrated management of childhood illness
IMR	Infant mortality rate
LDCs	Least developed countries
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDGI	Millennium Development Goal Indicator
MDG+	Millennium Development Goal Plus (set of complementary development goals, targets and indicators formulated specially for Solomon Islands)
MEF	Malaita Eagle Force

MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NERRDP	National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan
NGOs	Non-government organisations
NNS	National nutrition survey
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODSs	Ozone-depleting substances
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFnet	People First Network
PPP	Purchasing power parity
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
ROC	Republic of China (Taiwan)
RTCs	Rural training centres
SICHE	Solomon Islands College of Higher Education
SIFMP	Solomon Islands Forestry Management Project
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SIMDGR	Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals Report
SINAC	Solomon Islands National AIDS Council
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
TB	Tuberculosis
TDA	Tetepari Descendants Association
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Department
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Acknowledgements

The preparation of this first Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals Report 2004 was coordinated by the Department of National Planning and Aid Coordination. The report was prepared during period of eight weeks in the fourth quarter of 2004 and finalised during the first part of 2005.

In preparing the report, consultations were carried out with officials of government departments, representatives of non-government organizations and resident donor offices in Honiara. A number of individuals, including young people, provided information about their circumstances and experiences thus providing the human face behind the statistics in the areas addressed by the MDGs.

Much appreciation is given to the people who have given their time to participate in the consultations, providing information and guidance as well as comments. This include the consultative meetings held with representatives of UN agencies and regional organisations in Suva, Fiji Islands, in particular Linda Petersen who facilitated the discussions, as well as the national workshop involving participants from national and provincial governments, development partners and non-government organisations held in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Much appreciation also goes to the individuals who have provided information about their life experiences and stories to be told and also those who compiled these stories.

There are also those who provided the photographs for this report.

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The photographs were obtained from the Solomon Star Limited and a photo by Richard Majchrzak as well as those provided by courtesy of Alistair Rofeta and Rinaldo Totoe.

Foreword

Solomon Islands Government adopted and is committed to the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Declaration covering issues of peace, security and development, endorsed by the world community of nations at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, came at an opportune time for Solomon Islands, struggling to end an internal ethnic conflict.

Fortunately, the cessation of the ethnic conflict, which started towards the end of 1998, came relatively quickly when a peace agreement was signed in October 2000. The peace agreement marked the beginning of the difficult process of rebuilding peace, re-establishing security and regenerating human development.

This first Millennium Development Goals Report for Solomon Islands provides an evaluation of the progress made, given the difficult post-conflict period, towards achieving the MDGs. It localises the MDGs in the context of Solomon Islands and provides complementary goals, targets and indicators, as MDG Plus. It identifies priority areas and critical challenges where efforts need to be substantially increased. It also seeks to raise awareness and build broad based support for action at all levels for the achievement of the goals. It discusses further integration of the MDGs in the national strategic planning process.

Achieving the MDGs will ultimately depend on the level of sustained efforts and interventions in the core human development areas and on the ability to tackle both existing and emerging challenges. It will require commitment of all, building partnerships, focusing on the areas of greatest need, and implementing effective action.

The challenge now lies in implementing our pledges – for which there is no alternative but hard work, good partnerships and close collaboration. While we fully understand and acknowledge the difficulties that need to be overcome, we are nevertheless confident that a joint effort of the Government and its development partners will result in the realization of these Goals. The commitment of our development partners is crucial.

We extend our gratitude to every individual and organization involved in this process. Your continuous support is crucial as we move forward in addressing MDG challenges and human development in Solomon Islands.

Hon. Fred Fono

Minister for National Planning and Aid Coordination

Preface

[by UNDP/UN Resident Coordinator]

Executive Summary

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration. The Millennium Declaration sets out a global agenda for the first 15 years of the 21st Century to promote human development and reduce inequalities in the world.

Directly out of the Millennium Declaration emanate the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They are ambitious goals with most of the targets set for achievement by 2015. There are eight goals with 18 targets and 48 monitoring indicators. The eight Millennium Development Goals are:


- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health**
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

This is the first report by Solomon Islands Government on the Millennium Development Goals. It provides the current status and progress made by Solomon Islands towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also discusses localizing the MDGs in the context of Solomon Islands as well as integrating them in the national strategic planning process. In addition and apart from specific measures identified for each Goal, it outlines the broad key policy areas to be addressed to facilitate the achievement of the Goals.

In localising the MDGs, Solomon Islands has added complementary goals, targets and indicators, as MDG Plus (MDG+), which are specific to the aspirations of its citizens. They are in the areas of poverty, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, maternal health, major diseases and environmental sustainability.

In general Solomon Islands has made some progress in a number of the MDGs and expects to achieve some of the MDG targets. In a number of them Solomon Islands has a considerable distance still to travel before reaching the MDG targets. The summary of the progress on the MDG targets is provided in Box 1.

The major constraint in the assessment is the lack of data and inconsistency of the some of the data that is available. This is a major issue to be dealt with by the responsible authorities. Addressing this issue is important not only for the reporting of the MDGs, but essential for informed policy-making and monitoring the progress, the impacts and the outcomes of implementing government policies and programmes.

A young child with curly hair is the central figure, holding a flower in their hand. The child is wearing a light-colored dress with a white collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with rolling hills and a body of water. The overall tone is warm and serene.

Solomon Islands Millenium Development Goals Report



Solomon Islands Millennium Development Goals Report

CHAPTER 1

The Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit held in New York, 189 nations gathered and endorsed the Millennium Declaration. The United Nations Millennium Declaration covers issues of peace, security and development, including the environment, protection of vulnerable groups, human rights and governance. The Millennium Declaration produced a set of ambitious global development goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Solomon Islands is among the family of nations that have adopted the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

There are eight goals (Box 2) with 18 targets, most of which are set to be achieved by the year 2015. There are 48 indicators selected to monitor progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Goals 1 through 7 set out the agenda for action by developing countries, whilst Goal 8 sets out what developed countries need to do to assist developing countries achieve the seven goals.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators are provided in Appendix I and Appendix II respectively.

Box 2: Millennium Development Goals

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Goal 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. |
| Goal 2 | Achieve universal primary education. |
| Goal 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women. |
| Goal 4 | Reduce child mortality |
| Goal 5 | Improve maternal health. |
| Goal 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. |
| Goal 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability. |
| Goal 8 | Develop a global partnership for development. |

Compiled by John Rofeta, SIMDGR Consultant

To monitor the progress of implementing the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs globally, the United Nations Secretary General reports annually to the UN General Assembly and provides a comprehensive review of the progress towards achieving the MDGs every five years. The first comprehensive global report on the MDGs by the UN Secretary General to the UN General Assembly will be made in 2005.

At the country level, each country is encouraged to review and report on the progress of the MDGs on an appropriate periodic basis. Many of the developing countries have already produced their reports on the MDGs.

Focussing and application of national reporting

For Solomon Islands, this is its first country report on the MDGs. Solomon Islands MDG Report discusses the MDGs and their localising in the context of Solomon Islands. It provides the current status and progress toward achieving the MDGs. It is the first "Scoring Fundamental Goals" for Solomon Islands. It also specifies priority focus areas for action for each goal as well as fostering the broad policy areas that need to be addressed to facilitate the achievement of the MDGs.

In addition, Solomon Islands MDG Report facilitates the dissemination of information and raising awareness as well as national and local ownership of the MDGs. It contributes to the monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementing government's National Economic Recovery, Reform

and Development Plan (NERRDP) 2003-2006. It also contributes to national and sectoral reviews of current development strategies, targets and programmes and the formulation of future national and sectoral strategies, targets and programmes. It is also a means to mobilise support and direct focus at all levels on policy actions towards achieving the MDGs, as adapted for Solomon Islands and at the global level.

The preparation of the Solomon Islands MDG Report 2004 involved consultations with government departments, civil society organizations and development partners that have offices in Honiara, including a national workshop as well as a review meeting by UN agencies and regional organisations. It also involved individuals who gave information about their circumstances and experiences to show the human face behind the statistics.

The report begins by outlining the development context of Solomon Islands. It then discusses the MDGs in the local context, highlighting the relevance of the MDGs to Solomon Islands as well as complementary goals, targets and indicators, as MDG Plus MDGs in the national strategic localising them at the provincial and regional levels. It then assesses the status and progress towards achieving the MDGs as well as outlining the challenges and priority focus areas for action. It ends by providing the way forward in highlighting the broad key policy areas that need to be addressed in order to generate and sustain progress towards achieving the MDGs and enhancing human development in Solomon Islands.



Solomon Islands Development Context



Solomon Islands Development Context

CHAPTER 2

Physical and natural resources and vulnerability

Solomon Islands became an independent country from British rule in 1978, some 25 years ago and took its place among the family of nations as a member of the United Nations. It is a relatively young country with much diversity. It is one of the small island developing states and also one of the least developed countries in the UN family.

This small island developing country, located in the South Pacific, is an archipelago comprising of six main islands forming a compact archipelago and numerous small islands which are dispersed over the vast Pacific Ocean, stretching over 1,300 square kilometres of ocean. They include both mountainous and volcanic islands as well atolls and 'artificial' islands built by the indigenous people in the lagoons. The large islands and many of the small islands including the atolls and artificial islands are inhabited.

The land area of this archipelagic country totalled 28,370 square kilometres with an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million square kilometres (Box 3). The country is relatively well endowed with natural resources, in particular forests, fresh water, marine and fishery resources, agricultural land and minerals potential as well as scenic environment. However, the forest resources are rapidly depleting, caused by commercial logging at unsustainable rates. Moreover, logging practices cause soil erosion and land degradation, and pollute rivers, streams, lagoons and inshore marine resources

Box 3: Solomon Islands Fact Sheet

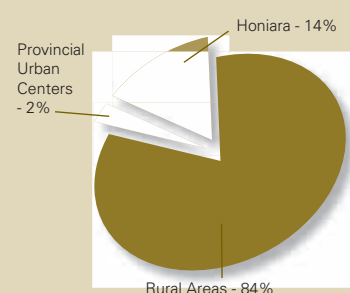
Land area:	28,370 km ²
EEZ	1.3 million km ²
Population (1999):	409,042
Growth rate:	2.8%
Female:	48.3%
Male:	51.7%
Under 15 years:	41.5%
Rural:	84.4%
Urban:	15.6%
HDI (2004):	0.624, 124th out of 177 countries
Life expectancy (1999):	61.1 years
Female:	61.6 years
Male:	60.6%
Adult literacy rate (1999):	76.7%
Female:	69.0%
Male:	83.7%
Unemployment* rate (1999):	17.1%
Female:	13.6%
Male:	20.0%
Real GDP Growth (2004):	5.5%
Real GDP per capita (2004):	SI\$621.0
External reserves (2004):	SI\$592.8 million
External debt (2004):	SI\$1.5 Billion
Public sector:	SI\$ 1.3 billion (86.7%)
Private sector:	SI\$ 0.2 billion (13.3%)

* Defined as people seeking paid work.

Compiled by John Rofeta, SIMDGR consultant

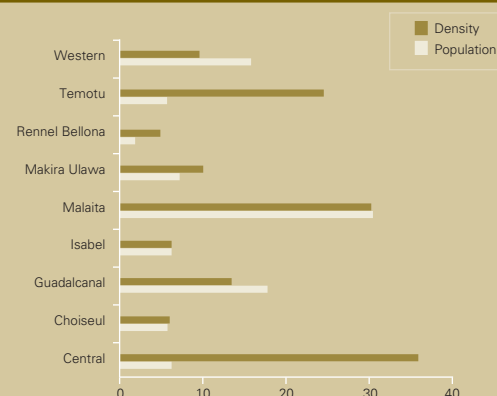
Sources: 1999 census report, HDR 2004, CBSI Annual Report 2004.

Figure 2.1: SI Rural and Urban Population, 1999



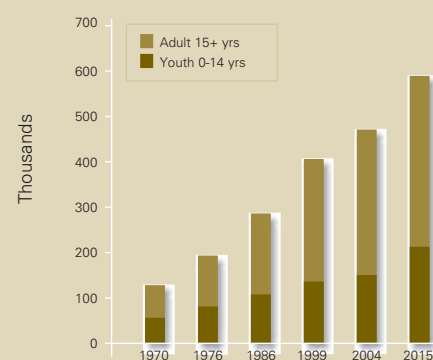
Source: 1999 census report

Figure 2.2: SI Provincial Population, 1999



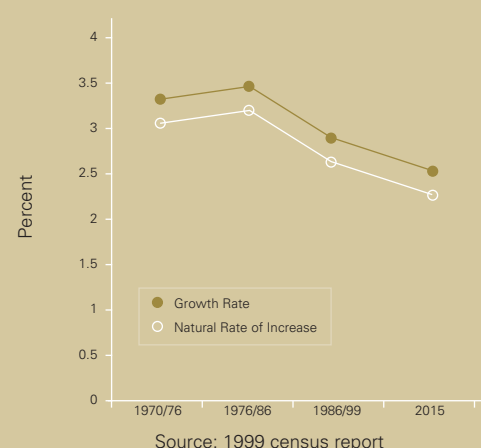
Source: 1999 census report

Figure 2.3: SI Population Trend



Source: 1999 census report

Figure 2.4: SI Population Growth Rates



Source: 1999 census report

...the urban population has been increasing rapidly due mainly to people moving from rural areas to the urban centres, especially Honiara, the capital!

which support the livelihood of the people...

Increasing young population mostly rural, with increasing urbanisation

The 1999 population census enumerated just over 409,000 people living in Solomon Islands. Most of the people live in rural areas (Figure 2.1), but the urban population has been increasing rapidly due mainly to people moving from rural areas to the urban centres, especially Honiara, the capital.

The distribution of the population among the provinces shows that Malaita province has the largest share of the population, followed by Western and Guadalcanal provinces (Figure 2.2). Rennell Bellona has the smallest share of the population, followed by Temotu and Isabel provinces.

Solomon Islands as a whole is sparsely populated, with a population density of 13 persons per km². However, there are parts of the country which are relatively densely populated. Outside of Honiara, the most densely populated province is Central, followed by Malaita and Temotu provinces. They have population densities higher than the national average. The more sparsely populated provinces are Rennell Bellona, Choiseul, Isabel and Western (Figure 2.2).

The enumerated population of the provinces and Honiara reflect the impact of the ethnic conflict in 1999 that caused major internal displacement of people from Guadalcanal and Honiara especially to Malaita.

Solomon Islands has a young population with 41.5 percent of the population are young people who are below the age of 15 years (Figure 2.3). There is high youth dependency ratio, 75.4 percent (1999). The majority of the population is male, who outnumber the female population by a ratio of 107 males to 100 females (1999).

Population growth rate is relatively high at 2.8 percent, although slower than the growth rate of 3.5 percent during



the previous census period (Figure 2.4). At this growth rate the population will double in 22 years. There is little international migration so the population growth has been generated by the natural increase in the population.

Urban population increased at a faster rate, with population of Honiara growing at 3.8 percent. However, there was a significant population displacement from Honiara in 1999 caused by the ethnic conflict. Many of the people who were displaced from Honiara have already returned.

The population in 2004 is estimated at 460,000 people. Population growth in the next ten years is expected to continue the downward trend (Figure 2.4). Population in 2015 is projected to be about 600,000 people. It is expected that the population will reach the one million mark by the middle of this century.

Decentralised democratic governance

The governance of the country is exercised through a decentralised democratic governance system that is modelled on the British Parliamentary system. The British monarchy remains as Head of State and is represented by a Governor General who is nominated and elected by the National Parliament every four years. The elected government is headed by the Prime Minister, who is nominated and elected by the members of the National Parliament from amongst themselves. The Prime Minister appoints the members of the Cabinet, which is the executive arm of the government. The members of the National Parliament are elected by citizens of the

country, aged 18 years and above, at the General Elections held every four years.

Under the decentralised governance structure the country is divided into nine provinces, each with a provincial government headed by a premier who is elected by the members of the provincial government assembly. The members of the provincial assembly are elected at the provincial elections, normally held every four years, by residents of the province of age 18 years and above. The tenth political entity in the decentralised system is Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands. The members of the Honiara City Council and the Mayor are elected in the similar elections to the provincial governments. However, the national government through the responsible Minister has the power to suspend provincial governments and appoint administering authority until new elections are held. The powers of the provincial governments are those devolved from the national government through legislation enacted by the National Parliament.

The process is now underway to transfer more powers to the second-tier of government through the establishment of a federal system of government. A draft federal constitution has been produced following nation-wide consultations. It is now under further consultation and consideration for finalisation before tabling in the National Parliament for enactment.

Traditional governance structures

Below this recently introduced governance system for the new nation, there are traditional governance structures that have evolved and existed for



thousands of years. The traditional political entities are the tribes and clans. The governance of these entities is executed through the chiefs. In some parts of Solomon Islands the chiefs are hereditary positions. In other parts they are acquired through the support of the members of the tribe or clan.

Membership ("citizenship") of the tribe or clan is either passed on through the father in a patrilineal society or through the mother in a matrilineal society. The ownership and rights to use resources are also passed along accordingly. In the traditional society the relatives and the extended family are very important. Basic principles are reciprocity and communal responsibility as well as communal ownership of natural resources. In the traditional society economic, social and political arrangements and structures are all intertwined.

The progress in human development is the outcome of the interactions between the traditional social, economic and political structures and introduced Western capitalistic value systems, now being reinforced by globalisation. The effective management of these various interactions is essential for human development that is sustainable and equitable.

Progressing human development

Solomon Islands has been making progress in the various aspects of human development over the years since independence. However, much of that progress has been disrupted, halted and rolled back by an ethnic conflict that erupted at the turn of this century (see below). The ethnic conflict and its aftermath have exacerbated the problems faced by Solomon Islands in progressing human development. However, the ethnic conflict has ceased and country, with assistance of its development partners, is taking steps to address the underlying problems.

With regards to people's lives, mortality rates have been reduced and people, both female and male, are living longer (Figures 2.5a

Notes for reading Fig. 2.5a

Units:

Life Exp'cy -	Life expectancy: Years.
IMR -	Infant mortality rate: Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
CDR -	Crude death rate: Number of deaths per 1000 population.

Figure 2.5a: Longevity of Life

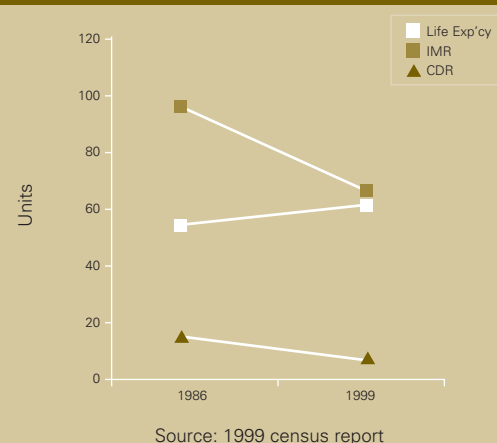


Figure 2.5b: Life Expectancy of men and women

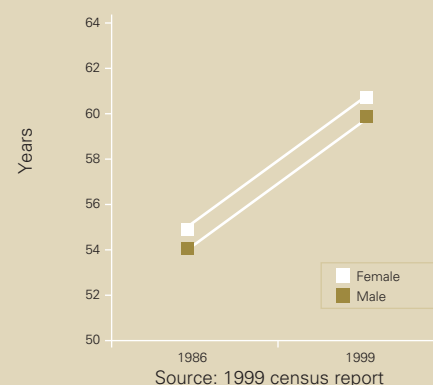


Figure 2.6: Adult Literacy and Illiteracy Rates

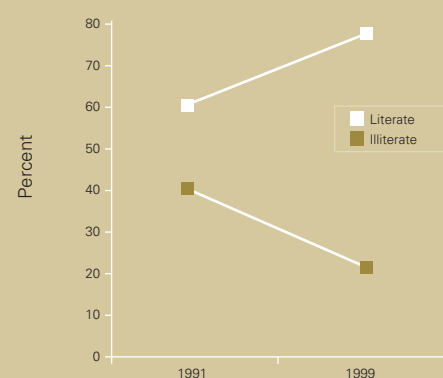
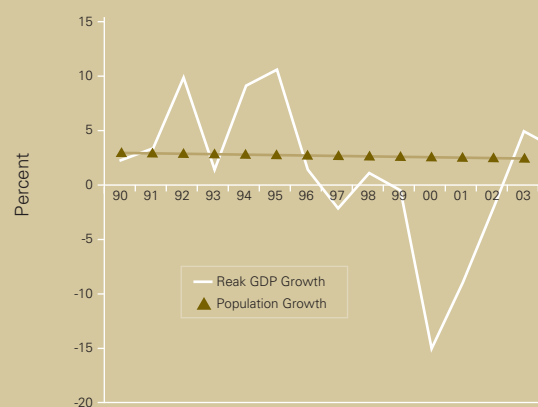
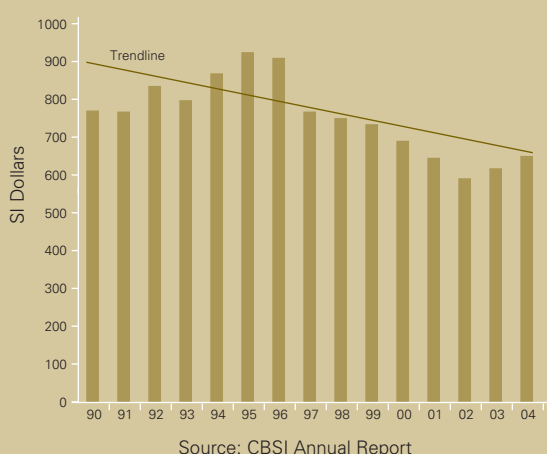


Figure 2.7a: Population and Real GDP Growth Rates



Source: CBSI Annual Report

Figure 2.7b: Real GDP per Capita



Source: CBSI Annual Report

and 2.5b). Not only that people have been living longer but they have also been living in a peaceful and secure environment until the onset of the ethnic conflict. However, peace and security have been restored with the country is returning to normalcy.

In the area of education and acquiring of knowledge, considerable progress has been made especially in the 1990s in the access to formal education provided in the school system.

The proportion of the adult population who are literate, both men and women, have increased and consequently a reduction in adult illiteracy (Figure 2.6). However, these figures are only indicative of the progress made as they are based on two different measurement methods, national literacy survey in 1991 and self-reporting of literacy in 1999 population census.

With regard to income, most people support their livelihood by subsistence production to meet their basic needs of food and housing. Given the relatively abundant land and other natural resources, at present there is a level of adequate subsistence. The subsistence sector continues to adequately support the majority of the population.

National income, comprising subsistence production and production in the monetary sector, has been fluctuating during the early 1990s but has been going down since the mid 1990s. The major plunge in national income in 1999 and 2000 as well as the continuing decline in the subsequent two years are the direct consequences of the ethnic conflict. However, in 2003 and 2004 there was positive growth in national income (Figure 2.7a). National

income growth in the late 1990s has been lower than the rate of population growth and hence the decline in income per capita since 1996. Although GDP and per capita income have increased again since 2003, the GDP per capita in 2004 is still well below that of 1990 (Figure 2.7b).

The fluctuations and decline in national income and income per capita relate to the monetary component of national income and impact adversely on the low income groups, particularly those whose income are derived mostly from monetary production and living in urban areas.

For most people living in rural areas, whilst their basic needs of food and housing have been adequately met, the decline in national income imply difficulties in meeting the needs for which cash income is required such as school fees.

The economic decline since the mid 1990s also made it difficult for government to provide adequate and quality basic social services. Sustainable income growth and its equitable distribution are necessary for improving the livelihoods of low income and disadvantaged groups. In the period of economic decline it is the people in the low income groups and the disadvantaged who are mostly affected and face greater difficulties and hardship. Although income by itself is not a sufficient measure of the quality of life but it is a necessary one.



Healing the wounds of ethnic conflict

The end of 1998 was the beginning of a new era in the brief history of Solomon Islands as a new nation. It was when peace, which had prevailed over the islands for over 50 years since the end of the Second World War, was shattered. A militant group, called the Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army (later renamed the Isatabu Freedom Fighters) emerged and began chasing out people, mainly from Malaita, from Guadalcanal. Thus began the ethnic conflict.

The government was not able to contain the militancy so that it escalated rapidly by the middle of 1999 leading to killing and disappearance of Malaitans and displacement of over 20,000 people to Malaita. Commercial enterprises operating in Guadalcanal were closed as well as schools and health services.

Two peace accords, negotiated by an envoy provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat, were signed between the national government and Guadalcanal provincial government on behalf of the Guadalcanal militants. However, the militancy continued as the terms of the peace accords were not observed and broken by the militants. Requests by the Solomon Islands Government for external assistance to deal with the militants were unsuccessful.

In 2000 emerged the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF), a militant group formed by the displaced Malaitans who were dissatisfied with the government for not paying compensation for their lost properties and perceived lack of protection for Malaitans. The

Malaita Eagle Force in joint operations with the Police paramilitary force (called the MEF Joint Operations), engaged the Guadalcanal militants and also took over the control of Honiara.

In June 2000 the MEF Joint Operations turned on the government and executed a coup when it placed the Prime Minister (a Malaitan) under house arrest and forced him to resign. The Parliament was called to meet to elect a new Prime Minister which it did (person elected was Member of Parliament from Choiseul province) and a new government was formed.

With the assistance of the governments of New Zealand and Australia negotiations were held

between the militant groups and the government. This culminated in a peace agreement, the Townsville Peace Agreement, signed in October 2000. However, a faction of the Guadalcanal militants, known as the Guadalcanal Liberation Front (GLF) led by one of the Guadalcanal militant group commanders (Harold Keke), did not support the peace agreement and refused to sign and be a party to the peace agreement.

The Guadalcanal Liberation Front maintained its stronghold on the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal and committing numerous atrocities, including killing of a Catholic priest who was also Member of Parliament for the area and seven brothers of the Anglican Church's Melanesian brotherhood who were attempting to get the GLF leader and his followers to lay down their arms and be part of the peace agreement and the peace process.

Special operations carried out by the Police paramilitary force jointly with the ex-militants of Guadalcanal did not succeed, including a mercenary group of seven Kwaio men from Malaita sent to the area who were all killed by the militants.

Whilst many of the ex-militants were demobilised and guns were surrendered and collected with the assistance of the International Peace Monitoring Team provided by Australia and New Zealand, substantial quantities of illegal arms remained and continued to threaten security and law and order, particularly in Honiara, Malaita and the other parts of Guadalcanal. The Police, including about 2,000 ex-militants who were recruited as special constables to the Police Force, were not capable of dealing with the situation, many of whom were part of the problem.

The problems of law and order and security remained for over two and half years after signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement until mid 2003 when there was a change of policy by the Australian government and the Australian Prime Minister offered military and police assistance to Solomon Islands to deal with the situation. This was readily accepted by Solomon Islands Government and the National Parliament enacted legislation in July 2003 to legalise the external intervention.

The military and police intervention supported by Australia and New Zealand operated as a regional effort, known as Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and included military and police personnel of some of the other Pacific island

countries. It began operations towards the end of July 2003 and quickly restored law and order, arrested the leaders of the militant groups and collected a substantial number of illegal guns. By June 2004 the military component of the regional intervention force was substantially scaled down whilst external police assistance continued.

Since the signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement, communities in Guadalcanal and Malaita have been undertaking reconciliation ceremonies as part of the peace building process. Whilst law and order and security have been re-established, it will take some time to heal the wounds inflicted on the country, the communities and its people by the ethnic conflict.

The underlying causes of the ethnic conflict are complex factors and interactions related to building of a new nation from diversity of traditional societies, the pattern of development, weakened and corrupted governance and institutions, power and politics and individual aggrandizement.

The dual challenge for human development

For the remaining part of the first decade of the 21st Century, the task is to restore human development to the pre-conflict and then to improve the quality of

development and make human equitable to benefit everyone, men and women, children and

adults in Solomon Islands. The Millennium Development Goals provide the fundamental agenda to meet and deal with this dual challenge in Solomon Islands.



Adapting and Localising the MDGs for the Solomon Islands



Adapting and Localising the MDGs for the Solomon Islands

CHAPTER 3

From global to national and local levels

The Millennium Development Goals and Targets and associated Indicators were designed and adopted at the global level as global aggregates for fostering development of the earth's inhabitants as a whole. The goals, targets and most of the associated indicators have general applicability in all developing countries. Strategies, policies and actions to achieve the Targets to meet the Goals are taken at the country level. Thus the MDGs need to be considered in the context of each developing country. At the country level these should be determined as national aggregates as well as aggregates at sub-national levels i.e. at provincial and regional levels in the case of Solomon Islands.

It is important that the adopted and adapted MDGs are internalised and mainstreamed in the national planning and policy-making processes. This enables national planning and policy making to be informed by the MDGs and reporting on the progress of development of the country encapsulates the progress reporting on the MDGs. This is particularly important for small island developing countries like Solomon Islands with limited capacity for planning and reporting on the progress of implementing policies and programmes.

Processing the MDGs, Targets and Indicators

The MDGs, Target and Indicators are reviewed in the context of Solomon Islands to determine their applicability and to identify any additional and complementary goals, targets and indicators specific

to the situation in Solomon Islands. In addition, discussion is also made about the availability and robustness of the data to assess progress. The additional and complementary goals, targets and indicators determined for Solomon Islands are categorised as MDG Plus (MDG+)

The mainstreaming of the MDGs in national strategic planning process and localising at the provincial and regional levels are also discussed.

Poverty and hunger

The goal of eradicating, and preventing poverty, extreme or otherwise, and hunger is relevant and important for Solomon Islands as well as the targets for reducing poverty and hunger.

However, no national poverty survey has been undertaken in Solomon Islands, although the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently carried out a regional assessment of poverty in its Pacific developing member countries including Solomon Islands. A national poverty survey is required to establish baseline data and determine the nature and level of poverty as well as the specific policy targets and indicators for Solomon Islands.

A national poverty line and incidence of poverty can also be determined from household income and expenditure surveys. The Government Statistics Office carried out a series of household income and expenditure surveys over the period 1991-1993. But these did not take subsistence production into account and there are also some inconsistencies and gaps in the presentation of survey results. The Government Statistics Office is preparing to carry

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**Target 1**

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
2. Poverty gap ration [incidence x depth of poverty]
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

Target 2

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age
5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

out another household income and expenditure survey in 2005.

The poverty targets and indicators based on purchasing power parity of income are necessary for the purposes of comparison of extreme poverty between countries. However, for Solomon Islands the more important thing now is to define the concept and parameters of poverty that are relevant for Solomon Islands and on the basis of which to determine and establish a national poverty line.

Once the national poverty line is determined, a relevant complementary target for Solomon Islands is reducing the number of people who live below the poverty line. The relevant indicator for this target is the poverty headcount ratio, which is the proportion of the population who live below the national poverty line. These are MDG Plus target and indicator of poverty for Solomon Islands.

Hunger is a consequence of and an integral component of poverty. No assessment or survey of food security has been carried out in Solomon Islands. This needs to be done to determine the availability and adequacy of food supplies as well as entitlement or access to them.

A national nutrition survey was carried out in 1989. Another national nutrition survey is now required so as to determine what has happened with the nutritional status of the population, especially children, over the last 15 years.

The health management information system (HMIS) of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services provides information on malnutrition among

children. This information is based on children who visit health facilities, are measured and recorded.

Education

Education is an essential factor in economic and human development. It is considered as one of the basic human rights.

Goal 1 - MDG Plus**Target**

Target 1a Reduce the proportion of people who live below the poverty line (quantity to be specified).

Indicator 1a Poverty headcount ratio

The goal of universal primary education, the target and indicators are relevant for Solomon Islands. However, with regard to Indicator 7, primary schooling in Solomon Islands ends in grade 6, not grade 5. The primary school retention or survival rate in Solomon Islands is thus measured from grade 1 to grade 6, not grade 5.

It is also Government education policy to have universal access to junior secondary education (Forms 1-3). Thus the national goal is that all children will have universal access to nine years of basic education, comprising primary and junior secondary education. This is an additional goal, **MDG Plus**, for Solomon Islands.

Goal 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education**Target 3**

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education
- 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
- 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds

Data on school enrolment is collected by the Ministry Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD). The MEHRD has not collected data for kindergarten, vocational and tertiary education. In the past primary and secondary education data collected by the MEHRD was passed on to the Government Statistics Office for analysis and publication. Since the mid 1990s the compilation, analysis and publication of education statistics have been done by the MEHRD.

In the late 1990s the quality of data on enrolment has been affected by the high level of non-return of enrolment questionnaire forms from schools. This problem has been exacerbated since 1999 by the ethnic conflict and its aftermath. However, in 2003 MEHRD has taken steps to improve the returns by visits to all schools to deliver and collect the completed forms. However, even then about 15 percent of the schools did not provide completed returns.

The school enrolment data for 2004 has already been collected by MEHRD and is being collated. The reports on school enrolment in 2003 and 2004 are expected to be published in early 2005.

In 2004 the MEHRD has also established a computerised Education Management Information System (EMIS). The EMIS, although experiencing the usual teething problems associated with new operations, will facilitate compilation and analysis of enrolment and other education statistics. This will improve education information, management and monitoring of progress towards achieving the education targets.

Goal 2 – MDG Plus

Goal 2a. Achieve universal junior secondary education

Target

Target 3a Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of junior secondary (Forms 1-3) schooling

Indicators

- 6a. Net and gross enrolment ratio in junior secondary education
- 6b. Proportion of pupils starting Form1 who reach Form 3

Goal 2*. Achieve universal basic education (primary and junior secondary education)

Target

Target 2* Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of basic education comprising primary and junior secondary (Forms 1-3) schooling

Indicators

- 6*. Net and gross enrolment ratio in primary through lower secondary education (Grade 1- Form 3)
- 7*. Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 in primary who reach Form3 in secondary school
- 8*. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds and adult literacy rate (15 years and over)

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target 4

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

9. Ratio girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old
11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector
12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

Data on literacy levels are available from two sources, a national literacy survey carried out in 1991 and the 1999 population census. The results

from these sources are not directly comparable because of the different methodologies used. National literacy surveys are preferred for assessing the progress in literacy. Another national literacy survey is required in order to determine new literacy levels and progress to date.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

Gender equality and empowerment of women are considered as basic human rights. They are also necessary for eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases, and in fact, are essential for the achievement of the other goals. Thus the goal of promoting gender equality and empowering women, the target and indicators are relevant and important to Solomon Islands.

The statistics on school enrolment and literacy were discussed earlier under Goal 2. In addition to the earlier comments, MEHRD has not compiled data on tertiary education, including student enrolment at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE). SICHE itself has not compiled or published this data. However, MEHRD has started to compile tertiary education data which will be an important part of its EMIS.

Goal 3 - MDG Plus

Indicators

- 11a.** Share of women in wage employment in administration and management jobs
- 11b.** Share of women in wage employment in professional and technical jobs
- 12a.** Proportion of provincial government assemblies, including Honiara City Council, in which seats are held by women and proportion of seats held by women
- 12b.** Proportion of posts of Permanent Secretary and Provincial Secretary in civil service held by women
- 12c.** Proportion of posts of general manager and board directors of public enterprises held by women

With regard to empowering and participation of women, apart from the indicator of participation of women in wage employment in non-agricultural

sector, the types of occupations taken up by women are also important, in particular the participation of women in managerial, technical and professional occupations. These are MDG Plus indicators for monitoring Goal 3 in Solomon Islands.

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality**Target 5**

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

13. Under-five mortality rate

14. Infant mortality rate

15. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles

In the situation of Solomon Islands, additional indicators are necessary for monitoring the participation of women at the policy and decision making levels, apart from membership of the National Parliament.

These are the participation of women in provincial governments, both political and senior administration levels, as well as women participation in the management of national government departments and public enterprise including statutory bodies. These are MDG Plus indicators for monitoring of Goal 3.

The Government Statistics Office collects data on wage employment on an annual basis. However, the latest report was for 1998. The Government Statistics Office has not produced any reports on employment since then. The ethnic conflict interrupted work in this area. The Government Statistics Office has been having problems due to its weak management as well as lack of resources for operational activities. However, there has been recent change in management staff to improve and strengthen the Government Statistics Office.

Data on women participation in political and government administration should be available from the administrative records of the National Parliament, provincial government records and Public Service Department. Whilst data on the current situation is easily ascertained, data for past years are not easily accessible.

Child health and survival

The goal of reducing child mortality includes infant mortality, a key component, and indicates not just the survival of children to adulthood but also the health of the children particularly during the critical period of early childhood development when children rapidly develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually. It also reflects the availability of health services and how well children are cared for by their parents and society.

There is no functioning system of registration of births and deaths. The infant and child mortality rates are estimated from the census data.

For child mortality rate there is no consistent and time series data. Although an estimate of under-five mortality rate was made from the 1999 census results, there has been no estimate made from the previous census of 1986 and the other years. As child mortality rate is a key indicator for monitoring child health and survival consistent estimates and time series data are required in order to monitor progress in improving child health and their survival to adulthood. The HMIS provides data on immunisation of children, latest being for 2004.

Maternal health

The goal of improving maternal health is important in order to reduce mothers dying during pregnancy and childbirth and other related complications thereon. Safe motherhood is a basic human right. The goal, target and indicators are relevant for Solomon Islands. Most of maternal deaths are preventable. Health of women during pregnancy as

Goal 5. Improve maternal health**Target 6**

Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

16. Maternal mortality ratio

17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

well as the availability, accessibility and quality of services impact on maternal deaths. Maternal health and mortality also impact on infant and child health and survival.

The Health Management Information System provides data on known maternal deaths. However, there is no consistent reporting on maternal mortality ratio, including reporting by the

Goal 5 - MDG Plus**Target**

Target 6a Reduce the maternal mortality ratio from 550 in 1992 to less than 100 by 2015

Indicator

16. Maternal Mortality ratio

17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Health Ministry. It is important that MHMS determines and specifies the official data for reporting on maternal mortality ratio so that there is consistency in the tracking the progress in improving the health of mothers.

Data reported by the MHMS showed that maternal mortality has been going down since early 1990s. The national target for maternal health, MDG Plus, is to reduce the maternal mortality ratio from 550 in 1992 to less than 100 by 2015.

Diseases, illness and death

The goal of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases is relevant and important for Solomon Islands. Malaria has been the major health problem in Solomon Islands. However, HIV/AIDS has taken its roots in the country and non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes, are also growing concerns.

HIV/AIDS

Only a small number of cases of HIV/AIDS have been detected in Solomon Islands. Most of them were detected and reported during the second half of 2004. There is insufficient data available on this terminal disease. However, MHMS is now taking steps to improve the process of detecting the disease.

Malaria and other diseases

There is up to date information and data on malaria which is compiled and reported by the Solomon Islands Malaria Training and Research Institute and in the HMIS, although reporting was affected during the ethnic conflict. The available data showed that the MDG target of halting and reducing the incidence of malaria has been achieved, although the incidence of malaria has gone up in recent years. The national target for malaria, MDG Plus, is to reduce the incidence to less than 80 by 2015.

Data on some of other diseases are reported in the HMIS.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases**Target 7**

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

18. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years

19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate

19a. Condom use at last high-risk sex

19b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

19c. Contraceptive prevalence rate

20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS

Target 8

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria

22. Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention treatment measures

23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)

Goal 6 - MDG Plus**Target**

Target 8a Reduce the incidence of malaria to less than 80 by 2015

Indicator

21 Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria

However, the most recent data from the HIMS is for 2001 and the data reporting does not have complete coverage from health sources including the National Referral Hospital in Honiara. Consistency in data reporting has been highlighted earlier. Improving the coverage and quality of data in the HMIS as well as timely reporting of the HMIS are essential and require particular and urgent attention.

Environment

Ensuring environmental sustainability is critical for a small island developing nation like Solomon Islands. Environmental quality affects human health as well as development, and vice versa.

Natural resources

Data on natural resources utilisation is limited, but available information points to a clear decline in forest resources and many commercially-valuable marine species. The issue of primary concern is the unsustainable rate and method of logging of the country's natural forests, and its environmental, social and economic consequences. There is no data available on the total quantity of logs harvested, but quantity of log exports suggest that logging is occurring at three times the sustainable level and that the rate has increased during 2003-2004.

With the rapid depletion of commercial natural forest, there is an urgent need for specific policy target to slow down the log harvesting of the natural forest. Such a national target, MDG Plus, is to cap and reduce the logging of the natural forest to a sustainable level. An additional indicator, MDG Plus, for monitoring of Target 9 and the

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**Target 9**

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

25. Proportion of land area covered by forest

26. Ration of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1GDP (PPP)

28. Carbon dioxide emissions per capita and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs

29. Proportion of population using solid fuels

Target 10

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural

Target 11

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

31. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure

Goal 7 - MDG Plus**Target**

Target 9a Cap and reduce log harvesting of the natural forest to a sustainable level

Indicator

25a Ratio of log harvesting from the natural forest to the sustainable harvesting rate

Target

Target 11a By 2020, to have regularised all temporary occupation licenses and illegal occupation of government leasehold land in Honiara squatter settlements

Indicator

32a Proportion of temporary occupation licenses and lots with fixed term estate title

specific national target is the ratio of log harvesting from the natural to the sustainable harvesting rate.

Solomon Islands currently has no formal system of protected areas for biodiversity conservation. Arrangements between individual communities and some non-government organisation partners and government have led to the establishment of a protected area in the Arnarvon Islands, but it enjoys no legal status. A national strategy for biodiversity conservation has yet to be developed.

Water supply and sanitation

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services has been implementing a major programme on rural water supplies and sanitation since the early 1990s and provides information on coverage. Recently the assistance for rural water supplies and sanitation has also been provided outside the Ministry by non-government organisations and direct community assistance by donors.

Enhanced coordination is needed between the agencies supporting rural water supplies and sanitation, particularly regarding information on service coverage. Data on safe drinking water and sanitation is also provided by the 1999 population census.

Urban slums

The target of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers is a global one, not directly relevant for Solomon Islands. The focus for Solomon Islands is the squatter settlements in the peri-urban areas, especially in Honiara, the capital. In this context the specific target, MDG Plus, is to regularise the temporary occupation licences granted for occupation of government leasehold land as well as illegal occupation in peri-urban areas to fixed term estate.

Presently the Lands Department does not know exactly how many temporary occupation licenses have been given over the years but it is addressing this data gap.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development**TARGET****Target 12**

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 13

Address the special needs of the least developed countries.

Includes: tariff and quota-free access for 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 14

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 15

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

INDICATOR**Official development assistance (ODA)**

32. Net ODA, total and to LDC's, as percentage of OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor's gross national income (GNI)

33. 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)

34. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied

35. ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their GNIs

36. ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs

Market Access

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

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

39. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP

40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Debt Sustainability

41. Total number of countries that have reached their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) decision points and number that have reached their HPC completion points (cumulative)

42. Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative

43. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services





Global partnership for development

Goal 8 dealing with partnership between developed and developing countries and its seven Targets are relevant for Solomon Islands. A Number of the Targets mentioned specifically least developed countries and small island developing States, one of which is Solomon Islands.

It is noted that the targets under Goals 1-7 for developing countries are time-bound. However, this is not the case with the targets for Goal 8 for the developed countries. This does not provide sufficient commitment on the part of the developed countries to persistently pursue developing the partnership with the developing countries.

A number of the Indicators do not directly apply to Solomon Islands. These are Indicators 33, 36, 40, 42 and 43. The other Indicators are applicable for Solomon Islands for review to highlight from the perspective of Solomon Islands the progress of the partnership with the developed countries.

Official development assistance

Apart from OECD/ODA data, government does not compile data on development assistance it receives or available from various sources. It is only at the time of preparing the government budget that data on aid allocations is compiled for the purposes of the budget estimates. While development assistance is provided through the government, a substantial amount of assistance is channelled through donor- operated mechanisms.

Presently there is no proper system of aid management by the government. The Department

of National Planning and Aid Coordination, which is responsible for aid management, continues to struggle in this area despite various short-term advisory assistance and long-term technical assistance to strengthen its aid management capacity.

Given the importance of development assistance to Solomon Islands and the need for government to be in the driving seat in the application of this assistance, it is imperative that government through DNPAC put in place a functioning system of aid management, including a database, as well as regularly reporting on the development assistance received to Solomon Islands.

Trade and market access

Specific data on market access indicators can only be provided by developed countries, except for ODA provided for trade capacity building which in principle can be worked out if data on ODA to Solomon Islands is compiled. Given the relatively small volume of Solomon Islands global trade the cost of determining this for Solomon Islands is not justified. However, a general review of trade relations could be done using the routinely collected trade data, particularly with regard to the sources and destination of imports and exports of Solomon Islands.

However, the routinely collected external trade data, normally produced by the Government Statistics Office, has not been compiled and reported since the mid 1990s. But it has produced external trade report for 2004. Trade data is annually compiled by the Central Bank of Solomon Islands



(CBSI), for the purposes of balance of payments, from foreign exchange transactions reported by the commercial banks.

Debt sustainability

Data on external debt is available from CBSI and is up to date. Data on government debt, both external and domestic, is kept by CBSI and is up to date. The information on debt is regularly published in the national newspapers for public information.

Youth employment

Data on unemployment, including youth unemployment, is available from the 1999 population census only. Reports on formal employment produced by Government Statistics Office, discussed above, do not provide information on unemployment.

Essential medical drugs

Medical drugs are available from the government pharmacy as well as private pharmacy operating in urban areas. Essential drugs are managed by the government pharmacy and also the church-based hospital for its use in the provided as needed in hospitals and costs are met by government or hospital authority.

Information and communication technology

There is only one provider of telecommunications services in Solomon Islands which provide telephone lines and cellular phones. There is one source for data on subscribers. Data on users of personal computers and internet users are not readily available. Apart from government and business and individual internet subscribers, there are internet café in Honiara and internet services in rural areas provided by People First Network, initiated by UNDP and supported by a number of donors.

Mainstreaming MDGs in National Strategic Planning Processes

Mainstreaming the MDGs

The Government has already began the process of mainstreaming of the MDGs in the national strategic planning, policy and programming processes by incorporating the analysis of the MDGs in the National Economic Recovery and Development Plan (NERRDP) 2003-2006 and adapted a number of the MDG targets and indicators for monitoring and reporting the progress of the implementation of the plan (Box 4). The preparation of this first country report of Solomon Islands on the MDGs in 2004 is a specific target of the NERRDP.



Goal 8. Developed a global partnership for development

Target 16

In cooperation with developing countries, developed and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

44. Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total

Target 17

In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

45. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a substantial basis

Target 18

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

46. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population

47. Personal computers in use per 100 population and Internet uses per 100 population

Future reporting on the MDGs will be integrated with the reporting on the NERRDP. This will also inform the preparation of the next national strategic plan. The MDG targets and indicators will be systematically incorporated in the national strategic plan thus the MDG providing the framework for monitoring of policies and programmes.

Govern the limited capacity of DNPAC it will require assistance in integrating and mainstreaming the MDGs in the national strategic planning process and in regularly reporting of the progress of implementing actions and assessing the outcomes at the national level.

Localising the MDGs at the provincial and regional level

A process of advocacy, including workshops and MDG profiling of provinces, will be carried out about the MDGs at the provincial level. This will raise awareness and provide information on the MDGs at the provincial level. This will facilitate provincial government development strategies to encompass the MDGs framework. The DNPAC has limited capacity. It will need assistance to bring the MDGs to the provincial and community levels. This needs to be a sustained effort in order to generate and sustain ownership of the MDG process and framework.

At the provincial level assessment and progress reporting will be disaggregated by regions or islands comprising the province. This will highlight the needs of the various parts or regions of a province and thus enable policy targeting and programme focusing on areas of need.

Box 4. National Development Goal and Objectives, and Key Strategic Areas of the National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan 2003-2006

1. Overall Goal and objective of NERRDP 2003-2006

The overall national development goal and objective of the National Economic Recovery and Development Plan 2003-2005 is to enhance and improve the quality of life and the living standards of all the people in Solomon Islands, not just some people or groups but all people and all groups in Solomon Islands.

This overall goal and objective can be achieved through ensuring that there is peace and harmony and personal safety among the people, increasing incomes and their equitable distribution and increasing the availability and improving the access to social services for everyone.

This means equitable distribution of development between all provinces and people in each province, between social groups and between men and women. It means giving preferential attention to the disadvantaged and marginalised groups as well as areas in the country. It also means facilitating and providing assistance directly at the community level and encouraging and supporting community initiatives.

2. Key Strategic Areas of NERRDP 2003-2006

- A: Normalising Law and Order and Security Situation
- B: Strengthening Democracy, Human Rights and Good Governance
- C: Restoring Fiscal and Financial Stability and Reforming the Public Sector
- D: Revitalising the Productive Sector and Rebuilding Supporting Infrastructure
- E: Restoring Basic Social Services and Fostering Social Development

3. Progress Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring and assessing the progress of implementing the Plan to achieve these expected outcomes will be done by using measurable indicators including those for the **Millennium Development Goals**. This will assist in determining the extent to which real progress is made in improving the quality of life and living standards of people.

Compiled by John Rofeta, SIMDGR consultant.

Source: Solomon Islands Government, National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan 2003-2006, Strategic and Action Framework, Department of National Reform and Planning, Honiara Oct. 2003.



Millenium Development Goals Progress and Challenges



Millennium Development Goals Progress and Challenges

CHAPTER 4

POVERTY AND HUNGER

GOAL 1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Target

Target 1 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Target 2 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Scorecard

Target 1 Insufficient data

Target 2 Insufficient data

MDG Plus

Target

Target 1a Reduce the proportion of people who live below the poverty line (quantity to be specified)

Indicator

1a Poverty headcount ratio

However, the ADB, as noted earlier, has recently carried out a regional assessment of poverty among its Pacific developing member countries including Solomon Islands.

Without a national poverty assessment and/or measurement of those whose income is less than one dollar a day, based purchasing power parity, it is not possible to determine how many people are in poverty and in extreme poverty. Without data on poverty, it is not possible to discuss and assess in a quantitative manner the situation in Solomon Islands. However, some general comments can be made.

From general observation, there is no apparent abject and extreme poverty of the kind seen in Asia and Africa. However, there are people and households who face difficulties in meeting basic needs, especially in the urban areas (Box 5), and those in rural areas having difficulties in meeting needs that require outlays of cash. There are people who also experience difficulties in accessing basic social services and limited opportunities for participation in economic as well as social and community affairs. There is thus basic needs poverty and poverty of opportunity.

There is also income disparity as shown by the household income and expenditure survey (HIES) carried in the early 1990s, between rural and urban areas as well as a high degree of concentration of income at the top income group level (Figure 4.1). The Government Statistics Office is planning to carry out another HIES in 2005.

Status and Trends

Poverty and inequality existing

There has been no national poverty assessment or measurement carried out in Solomon Islands to determine the incidence and prevalence of poverty.

Figure 4.1: Household Income Distribution, 1991-1993

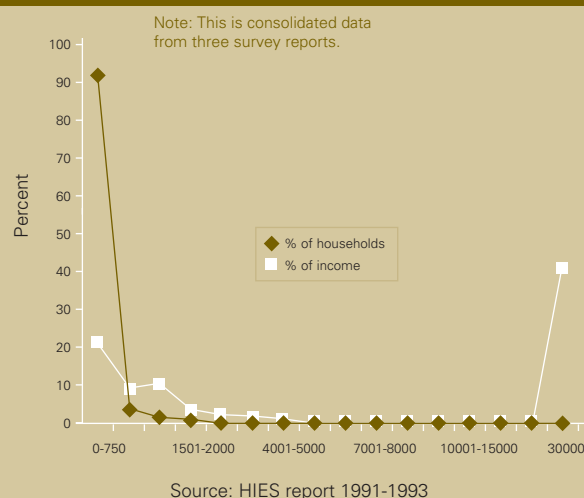


Table 4.1 MDG and MDG+ Goal 1 Progress Indicators

Goal 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty And Hunger

Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Indicators	1990	2000	2004
1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day	na	na	na
2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty]	na	na	na
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	na	na	na

4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age

23 (1989)

21 (1999)

na

5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

na

na

na

MDG Plus

TARGET 1a Reduce the proportion of people who live below the poverty line (quantity to be specified)

1a Poverty headcount ratio

na

na

na

Source: See Appendix III

This will provide the data to determine the direction of income disparities since the 1990s. It also provides the opportunity to determine a national income poverty line. However, it is necessary that discussions are carried out on the concept and parameters of poverty that are relevant for Solomon Islands.

Data on the distribution of income and data for the assessment of poverty need to be disaggregated by sex and by province so that these distributions of poverty can be determined and addressed. Women are particularly vulnerable to poverty. Gender inequality is major factor creating vulnerability of women to poverty.

Box 5: Living on the Other Side of Town - Silvia's Story

Silvia was talking with some of her wantoks (relatives) about the upcoming General Elections in 2006 and about getting good people as Members of Parliament when I met her. I asked her if she could talk to me about her experience living in peri-urban Honiara. She hesitated at first but kindly agreed. This is Silvia's story.

Silvia is a middle-aged mother of 8 children, six of whom are girls. She lives at Fulisango, one of the peri-urban areas of Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands.

She and her family have been living in Honiara since the closure of Foxwood Timber Co. in 1999 where her husband had worked. The company that had been operating in the Guadalcanal Plains doing logging and timber milling for many years had been closed down as a result of the ethnic conflict.

Food and nutritional adequacy

Food and nutrition are interconnected with poverty. No national assessment has been done on the food situation and food security in the country. However, from general observation there is no apparent extreme hunger or chronic food shortages in Solomon Islands as a whole. But there are people who have difficulties in accessing, or entitlement to, adequate food, especially in urban areas and also in having a balanced diet, as indicated by the level of malnutrition among children. There are parts of the country affected by adverse weather conditions, and parts of Guadalcanal earlier on affected by the ethnic conflict that experienced food shortages.

The main issue is that of entitlement, or access to food supply, particularly for low income people living in urban areas and climatically affected rural areas, as well as nutritionally balanced food consumption. This is an issue also of knowledge and awareness, especially for low income groups, and that of the ability to access available food supply.

With regard to the nutritional status of the population, a national nutrition survey (NNS) was carried in 1989. It found that there was low level of severe malnutrition among children under 5 years, about one percent, but there was a high prevalence of moderate malnutrition. It also found over-nutrition and obesity among the adult population.

At the national level the NNS found that 23 percent of the children under five years were underweight (weight for age). It also found that 12 percent were stunted (height for age) and 21 percent wasting (weight for height) among children (Figure 4.8).

The prevalence of stunting is an indicator of persistent undernutrition whilst that of wasting is an indicator of more acute undernutrition. Another national nutrition survey is needed in order to determine the direction which nutritional status of the population has taken during the last 15 years.

Data from the nutrition surveillance system of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services showed that of the children weighed in clinics and hospitals only a very small proportion are underweight.

Challenge

Eradicating poverty and hunger, whether extreme or otherwise, is a major challenge. Achieving the other goals will contribute to meeting this challenge. The improvement in poverty situation will also facilitate the achievement of the other goals as the goals are all interconnected. The agenda to meet this challenge is, by necessity, comprehensive.

The following measures are highlighted as priority areas of focus. They involve both broad policy areas as well as specific actions to be taken to generate a common understanding and consensus on a relevant concept of poverty for Solomon Islands as well as the baseline data and information for its measurement.

Box 5: Living on the Other Side of Town - Silvia's Story (cont'd)

Her household consists of 10 people including her husband, two daughters and the son with wife and 9-month old baby as well as two other grand children and a relative. Her other daughters are married and living away. Her youngest child, a son, is attending primary school this year at her village in her home province.

Silvia is the only income earner for the family. Her husband used to work occasionally as a bus driver but had stopped. She works as cleaner in one of the offices in town, working half day for six days a week, earning a pay packet of \$150.00 a fortnight. To supplement this income, she has food gardens, growing potatoes, cassava, cabbage, corn and peanuts. The gardens are located in the outskirts of Honiara at a considerable distance away from where she lives. She works in her food gardens in the afternoons after office cleaning in the mornings. The gardens provide food for the family and she sells the surplus at Honiara Central Market. She says on a good market day she gets \$300-\$400 from the sale of garden produce. She sells the produce at the market once a week, depending on the harvest.

Her family lives in a house they built last year on a vacant piece of government-owned land. She does not have title to the land, nor a temporary occupation license i.e. no secure tenure. The house was built using local materials. Before this the family rented a house at the adjacent area, called "Border". She had arranged her house to be connected to the urban water supply system and metered. However, her household does not have access to electricity and they use kerosene lamp for lighting. They use fuel wood for cooking.

She goes to work by bus, a fare of \$2.00 for one-stop anywhere in Honiara. She sometimes uses a taxi especially when she takes her produce to the market. One-way taxi fare to the Honiara Central Market from her home cost about \$30-\$40.

She spends her earnings from the cleaning to meet basic needs-food such as rice, fish, sugar, tea, Taiyo (locally canned Tuna), clothes, soap, and kerosene and transport while her food gardens provide the vegetables for food and additional cash.

She says it is easier to have access to earn cash in Honiara as she can easily sell her garden produce at the Honiara Central Market compared to rural area faraway from Honiara and also easy access to health facilities and other services. But she also finds things difficult as she is the only income earner from her part-time cleaning job as well as working in her food gardens which provide for food needs and also additional source of cash earning.

When she is short of cash, especially when her produce is not providing the additional cash, she says she finds things very difficult. She can't get kerosene for lighting, or soap and basic items. She cannot get things for her daughters and grandchildren.

Next year she says she will bring back her son from the rural school to go to one of the Honiara schools. School fee this year is \$30.00 for the rural schools. Fees for Honiara Town Council schools are about \$200 - \$400. However, Government has announced abolishing school fees from all primary school in Honiara as schooling at the rural school is not very good, especially as teachers often do not turn up to teach their classes. Her other children had a go at schooling but have fallen on the wayside, as do many children in Solomon Islands.

That Silvia story. It is a story that is typical of the many households and families that live in peri-urban Honiara.

Will the MDGs help Silvia and families like hers? Soon she'll know. She and the families in the peri-urban areas in Honiara will directly come face-to-face with the MDG Goal 7 Target 11 MDG Plus when the government addresses tenure in the squatter settlements next year. How will they end up? Better, worse of the same? Only time will tell.

Compiled by John Rofeta, SIMDGR consultant



- **Making economic growth inclusive and equitable**

Ensure economic growth that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable. This requires a broad range of policies and associated strategies and programmes.

- **Defining concept and dimensions of poverty**

Define the concept and dimensions of poverty that are relevant and meaningful to Solomon Islands and provide profile of the dimensions nationally and on a province-by-province basis as well as enhance the capacity for poverty assessment and application of analytical tools.

- **Policy and programme targeting**

Focus and target policies and programmes on the disadvantaged groups and areas and ensure equitable geographical distribution of development activities taking into account the potential and opportunities of the geographical areas.

- **Data and information for poverty assessment**

Establish and update information for assessing poverty, including a new household income and expenditure survey and incorporating poverty assessment, national nutrition survey, updating data on national income and estimates of subsistence production.

...target policies and programmes on the disadvantaged groups and areas and ensure equitable geographical distribution of development activities taking into account the potential and opportunities of the geographical areas

- **Ensuring food security**

Carry out a national food security assessment and formulate a national policy on food security and multi-sectoral strategy and ensure their implementation; conduct national agricultural surveys on a regular basis.

- **Improving nutrition**

Conduct a new national nutrition survey and strengthen the surveillance system as well as develop policy and plan of action on a multi-sectoral basis, and address emerging nutrition concerns.



EDUCATION

GOAL 2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Target

Target 3 Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Scorecard

Target 3 Likely

MDG Plus

GOAL 2A. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

Target

Target 3a Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of junior secondary (Forms 1-3) schooling

Indicators

6a. Net and gross enrolment ratio in lower secondary education

6b. Proportion of pupils starting Form 1 who reach Form 3

GOAL 2*. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION (PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION)

Target

Target 2* Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of basic education comprising primary and junior secondary schooling

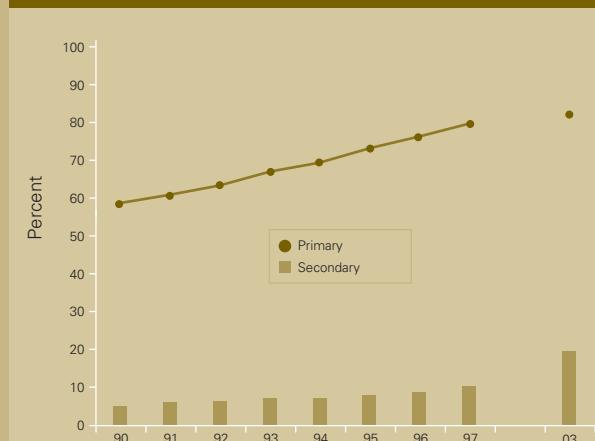
Indicators

6*. Net and gross enrolment ratio in primary through lower secondary education (Grade 1- Form 3)

7*. Proportion of pupils starting primary Grade 1 who reach secondary Form 3

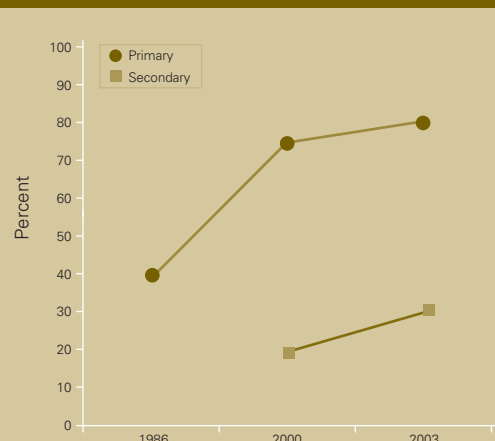
8*. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds and adult literacy rate (15+ years)

Figure 4.2: Trends in Primary and Secondary School Gross Enrollment



Source: Education Statistics reports and MEHRD data for 2003

Figure 4.3: Net Enrolment Trends in Primary and Secondary Schools, 1986-2003



Source: 1986 census report and MEHRD data for 2000 & 2003

Status and Trends

Basic education

The commitment of Solomon Islands to the goal of achieving universal primary education is enshrined in government education policy. National education policy goes further to include having universal access to three years of junior secondary education also. Thus all children will have universal access to nine years of basic education, comprising six years of primary education and three years of secondary education at the junior secondary schools level.

Enrolment increasing

Since the early 1990s, enrolment in primary schools has been increasing as result of the increase in primary school establishments built under World Bank primary education projects (Figure 4.2). The enrolment in secondary education has also increased significantly since the mid-1990s with the introduction of community high schools (Figure 4.2).

With the increasing population however, a large number of children are not able to enter primary school each year. And a large proportion of children who enter primary school are “pushed out” from the education system.

As discussed earlier, education statistics since the late 1990s have been deficient and the problem was exacerbated during the years of ethnic conflict and its aftermath. During 1990-1997 primary school gross enrolment increased at annual average of five percent whilst the gross enrolment in secondary school increased at 13 percent annually.

During the period the enrolment of girls increased at faster rate than boys in both primary and secondary schools. Although the enrolment of girls increased faster than boys, the proportion of girls to boys in primary and secondary schools is still low and changed only marginally during the period (see Goal 3 below).

With the increasing enrolment over the years and with population growth, the net enrolment ratio in primary education has increased from 39 percent in mid 1980s to nearly 79 percent in 2003 i.e. doubled during the last 17 years (Figure 4.3). However, in secondary education, net enrolment is still very low, with just over 31 percent in 2003. Given the enrolment trends the goal of universal primary education will likely to be achieved.

Retaining children in primary and secondary education

The school system can only keep a small proportion of children in the schools. In primary education less than 6 out of the 10 children who started Grade 1 reached Grade 6 in 2003. This is basically the same for both male and female pupils. In junior secondary school about two-thirds who started Form 1 get to Form 3 and over six years of secondary education just about 14 percent who started Form 1 reached Form 6 in 2003.

The high rate of attrition in primary and junior secondary schools means that only a small proportion of children receive a full course of primary and secondary education.

Table 4.2 MDG and MDG+ Goal 2 Progress Indicators**Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education**

Target 3 Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicators	1990	2000	2004
6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	39 (1986)	74.0	78.8 (2003)
Gross enrolment ratio in primary education	93.3 (1991)	94.2	101.7 (2003)
7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 6	na	57.4	59.0 (2003)
8. Literacy rate of 15-24 years olds	62 (1991)	84.5 (1999)	na

MDG Plus**Goal 2A. Achieve universal junior secondary education (Forms 1-3)**

Target 3a Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of junior secondary schooling

Indicators	1990	2000	2004
6a. Net enrolment ratio in secondary education			
Form 1-3	na	32.8	49.6 (2003)
Form 1-6	na	23.0	31.5 (2003)
6ab. Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education			
Form 1-3	na	33.5	50.3 (2003)
Form 1-6	na	23.3	35.6 (2003)
7a. Proportion of pupils starting Form 1 who reach Form 3	na	61.0	66.2 (2003)
7ab. Proportion of pupils starting Form 1 who reach Form 6	na	9.0	13.5 (2003)

Goal 2*. Achieve universal basic education (primary and junior secondary education)

Target 3* Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of basic education comprising primary and junior secondary schooling

Indicators	1990	2000	2004
6*. Net enrolment ratio in primary through secondary education			
Primary Grade 1 - Secondary Form 3	na	57.4	67.0 (2003)
6a*. Gross enrolment in primary through junior secondary education			
Primary Grade 1 - Secondary Form 3	76.0 (1991)	71.5	83.7 (2003)
7*. Proportion of pupils starting primary Grade 1 who reach secondary Form 3	na	25.0	40.0 (2003)
8*. Literacy rate of 15-24 years-olds (youth) and adult literacy rate (15 years and over)			
Youth literacy	na	84.5 (1999)	na
Adult literacy	62.0 (1991)	75.9 (1999)	na

Source: See Appendix III

Solomon Islands primary school ends with grade 6. This is used instead of grade 5.

Source: Education Statistics reports and MEHRD data for 2003

*Ratio F/M: Ratio of female to male pupils.

The percent of male students who continued travelling through the education system is higher than for girls. The journey through the education system is an uncertain and hazardous one for children, especially for girls (Box 6).

Quality and relevance of education

The government has been endeavouring to increase the quality and relevance of education in Solomon Islands. However, the education quality and relevance are continuing issues that need to be addressed.

The main factors affecting the quality of education are the high proportion of untrained teachers especially in primary schools and community high schools, the availability of instructional materials and equipment, the conditions of school facilities, the delivery of teaching by the teachers and education management at the school level and nationally by the education authorities and Ministry of Education. In addition there is the concentration on passing of examinations particularly at primary Grade 6 and secondary Form 3 and throughout the rest of senior secondary education, the nature of the curriculum as well as the dedication of some of the teachers, particularly in rural areas.

With regard to the relevance of the education, not only that the system needs to enable pupils with academic knowledge but also skills that can be used. The education system needs to equip children with the knowledge and skills required for the village, local and national level as well as the global situation.

Challenge

The main challenge for Solomon Islands is not just to have universal primary education and universal junior secondary education, but also to provide quality education that is relevant for Solomon Islands in this globalised world. The priority areas of focus in meeting the challenge are:

- **Increase the access to education** at both primary and secondary levels by increasing the facilities to enable school-age children to attend school, also reduce the cost of education to parents especially those in low income groups, as well as changing the societal and parental attitudes towards education, particularly with regards to the education of girls.
- **Improving quality and relevance of education.** Ensuring that all those who teach in schools are trained as teachers as well as of sufficient education and meeting the minimum required teaching, adequate instructional materials and facilities and equipping children with life skills.
- **Improving management and monitoring capacity.** Improve education management at the school level, improving the monitoring and inspection of schools by education authorities and Ministry of Education, improving coverage of education statistics and advocacy for the education of girls.

Box 6: Journey through the Education System - Where Will It End for Mary?

November, every year, is a month of great educational anxiety among Primary Grade 6 students and their parents, guardians and relatives. It is the month when they find out whether their journeys through the school system will continue through to secondary school or terminated and they are “pushed out” from the education system. There was something else about November 2004. The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development had announced that the Grade 6 exam results would not be given out until January 2005. People were wondering and rumours were going around as to the reasons for the delay in releasing the Grade 6 exam results in November.

When I talked to Mary in mid November 2004 she was one of thousands of Grade 6 students waiting to hear their exam results. Will she be one of the lucky ones to continue in secondary education or among the many students whose education journey will end after just 6 years of primary schooling, being “pushed out” because of the lack of sufficient places in the first year of secondary schooling? She told me that she was hopeful about continuing her journey in the school system. She is already one of the fortunate girls to enter the education system and to have taken the journey now at least to the end of primary school. Many have not even entered primary school and many also who have started the journey, have not reached the end of the 6 year journey through the primary school.

Mary started her primary school at Faurere School in the Lau Mbaelelea constituency in North Malaita. She attended kindergarten and preparatory year there and then started Grade 1 in primary school in 1998. She was one of the lucky children and a girl as well. Many children did not make it even that far. In 2004 when she went to Grade 6 at Mbua Valley School in Honiara, she was among the lucky ones who started Grade 1 and reached Grade 6. Many girls and boys across the country have fallen along the way. In 2003 less than 6 out of 10 children who entered primary school reached Grade 6.

Her journey through primary school wasn't all that smooth. Because of instability in North Malaita following the return of ex-militants from the ethnic conflict, Faurere school, as many other school, was on the verge of collapsing. Mary went to live with a relative in West Malaita and attended Fote School in West Kwara'ae for a year in 2000. She returned to Faurere School in North Malaita in 2001 but schooling in Grade 4 and 5 continued to be interrupted by the instability and presence of guns in the area.

Mary moved with her parents to Honiara in 2003. But she was not able to continue her primary schooling in Honiara. Her parents could not afford to pay her school fees as they were paying the school fees of her eldest brother who was then in senior secondary school in Honiara. Her brother began his secondary education at Tangarere Community High School on the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal, but was forced out from the school by Guadalcanal militants during the ethnic conflict.

Mary was keen to continue her primary schooling. Her school journey continued in 2004 when she was accepted to Grade 6 at Mbua Valley School and one of her uncles paid her school fees.

Mary's anxiety, when I talked to her, was about getting her exam results and whether she jumped over the exam result barrier at Grade 6 to enter secondary school. But she was hopeful about getting into secondary school. She was also anxious whether her uncle would continue to pay her school fees for secondary school. Her parents had already told her that they would not be able to pay her school fees. Hopefully, Mary's education journey continues, at least to the next hurdle at Form 3 when many students will also be pushed out.

That is Mary's story of still unfinished journey through the education system. Where will it end for Mary?

Her story is not at all unique. Many children throughout Solomon Islands have had, and will have, similar journeys as Mary and her sisters and brothers have done.

Mary has four sisters and two brother. Her two brothers' education journeys ended at Form 5 and Form 1, the latter because of school fees. Her two older sisters have never started the journey and are now married and having children. One of her younger sisters ended her education journey at just Grade 2 of primary school as she was not interested in schooling.

Her youngest sister is not yet of primary school age. What will her journey be? Will the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 2 (universal primary education) and Goal 3 (Gender equity and empowerment of women), facilitate her journey?

I hope so. That is the purpose of the MDGs, to support all children, especially girls, who are and will be embarking on their education journeys. Education is your right as a child.

Compiled by John Rofeta, SIMDGR consultant.

GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

GOAL 3. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Target

Target 4 Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Scorecard

Target 4 Unlikely

MDG Plus

Indicators

11a. Share of women in wage employment in administration and management jobs

11b. Share of women in wage employment in professional and technical jobs

12a. Proportion of provincial government assemblies, including Honiara City Council, in which seats are held by women and proportion of seats held by women

12b. Proportion of posts of Permanent Secretary and Provincial Secretary in civil service held by women

12c. Proportion of posts of general manager and board director of public enterprises held by women

Status and Trends

Gender and education

Although female enrolment in primary schools was increased during the 1990s girls made up a smaller proportion of total primary school enrolment. This changed only marginally during the 1990s. In 1990 girls comprised 44.7 percent of primary school enrolment. This increased by just one percentage point to 45.8 percent by 1997 and then to 46.7 percent in 2003 (Figure 4.4a).

In secondary schools girls also make up a smaller proportion of total enrolment and even a smaller proportion compared with primary school enrolment. Again this changed only marginally during the 1990s. In 1990 girls made up 36.7 percent of secondary school enrolment. This increased just to 39.2 percent in 1997 and to 43.2 percent in 2003 (Figure 4.4b).

Gender inequality in education increases as a girl travels through the education system from primary to secondary school, and gets worse from junior to senior secondary schools.

Education data for 2003 showed net enrolment ratio of girls in primary school to be 77.3 percent compared with 80.3 percent for boys. In secondary education, net enrolment for girls in 2003 was 29.3 percent compared with 33.5 percent for boys.

The Ministry of Education has not collected tertiary education data either of the national tertiary institution, SICHE, nor those attending overseas tertiary education. However, the Ministry is beginning to compile information on tertiary

education. Given the gender inequality in senior secondary school it is reasonable to expect that this will continue into tertiary education. Data from the 1999 census showed that just 29 percent of the tertiary students were women.

An avenue for the continuation of education for those who are “pushed out” from the primary and junior secondary schools is the rural training centres (RTCs). The RTCs are run mostly by the churches but there are some community-based rural training centres. Data on enrolment in RTCs is not readily available. However, it would seem reasonable to surmise that given the gender inequalities in primary and secondary schools gender inequality of similar proportions also exists in rural training centres.

Literacy

Source: 1991 national literacy survey and 1999 census report

As discussed under Goal 2, a higher proportion of adult women are illiterate compared with adult men (Figure 4.5). From the 1991 literacy survey, 44 percent of women were illiterate and 56 percent were literate and semi-literate. For men there were 31 percent illiterate and 69 percent

