

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

The Markets for Change Project - Solomon Islands

The Markets for Change project is a six-year, multi-country initiative that aims to ensure marketplaces in rural and urban areas of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Market vendors are predominantly women, and marketplaces offer important venues to effect women's social and economic change.

This Markets for Change (M4C) is a UN Women project, implemented in partnership with UNDP and supported by the Australian Government.

Improving the socio-economic security and rights of market vendors especially women market vendors (Outcome 2)

Through this project under the framework of outcome 2, UNDP aims to:

- Improve lives of women market vendors through better financial and business competencies.
- Increase access by women market vendors to financial services such as credit, micro-insurance and livelihood protection
- Improve market vendors business and leadership skills
- Increase production and incomes for producers, market vendors and the vulnerable
- Improve knowledge management and production of knowledge products.



CMBE training session in Solomon Islands

Markets for Change (M4C project)

- Goal: Markets that are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Countries: Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
- Duration: Six years started in April 2014
- Financial support: Primarily Government of Australia; other financial support includes UN Women
- Executing Agency: UN Women
- Responsible Party (to support outcome 2): UNDP
- Implementing partners for Continuing Market Business Education (CMBE): Provincial and municipal governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and regional banking corporations.

Continuing Market Business Education (CMBE)

Municipal markets in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu provide an important urban space for thousands of small business people from both urban and rural communities to trade as market vendors (MVs). Women make up the majority, from 75-90 percent of these vendors. MVs have traded for many years and learn business skills by trial and error. Majority of MVs have limited opportunities to strengthen their business through better financial education, progressive business skills and practices, timely information and access to financial services.

In addition, the livelihoods of MVs are unprotected - their income and livelihoods suffer heavy losses in the face of any natural disasters, illness or unexpected expenses. The CMBE will deliver appropriate training, space and conversations to improve and strengthen the financial literacy and business practice of MVs especially women market vendors.

CMBE activities – Solomon Islands

- UNDP, in partnership with Bank South Pacific (BSP), delivers training to market vendors in the area of financial literacy, improved business practices, record keeping, customer service and building the confidence of women vendors to perceive themselves as women in business. Continuous training will be delivered in the two project markets over the project duration – Honiara Central Market and Auki Market.

- One cycle of CMBE will be offered in a year. Round 1 will be compulsory for MVs to take before training under Round 2. All MVs can freely participate in Round 3 activities. CMBE will offer training sessions over two months for different groups of MVs.
- UNDP promotes women market vendors' access to financial services by connecting market vendors and financial service providers such as savings, micro-credit, micro-insurance, livelihood insurance to make their services known, understood and used by market vendors.
- In addition, UNDP will partner with health education providers, local government and market vendors to promote health and wellbeing, within the market for healthier and happy market vendors. A special focus will address the reproductive health and rights of women market vendors.

Round 1: Basic Financial Literacy

- 1.1. *Moni Tok* (2 hours)
- 1.2. *Savim Moni* (1 hour)

Round 2: Improve Your Market Business

- 2.1. Produce presentation & customer relations (1 hour)
- 2.2. Keeping your records (2 hours)
- 2.3. Pricing your produce (2 hours)
- 2.4. Introduction to Basic Business (3 hours)

Round 3: Market Business Seminars (can be organized any time of the year)

- 3.1. Introduction to Microfinance (2 hours)
- 3.2. Social protection for you and your family (2 hours)
- 3.3. Mobile Skills: use you mobile phones for financial services (2 hours)
- 3.4. Financial Services Fair @ the Market (1 day)

Continuing Market Business Education (CMBE) in Solomon Islands

- Market vendors at two markets in Solomon Islands: Honiara Central Market and Auki Market will participate.
- Expected number of participants: 728 women market vendors
- Implementing Partners: Honiara City Council, the Malaita Provincial Government and the Bank South Pacific (BSP) of the Solomon Islands.



CMBE training session in Solomon Islands



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For more information, visit: www.fj.undp.org

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Signing of the probono agreement between BSP and UNDP in Solomon Islands