Monitoring Peace and Conflict in the Solomon Islands

Gendered Early Warning Report No. 2

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This report forms part of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) project 'Monitoring Peace and Conflict Using Gendered Early Warning Indicators', implemented in partnership with the National Peace Council (NPC), the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA), Vois Blong Mere Solomon, the Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace.

Conflict early warning is the systematic collection and analysis of information from areas of crisis to anticipate the escalation of violent conflict. The process involves the collection and analysis of data using specific indicators, combined with the development of appropriate response options, which are then communicated to decision-makers for the purposes of decision-making and action. This project incorporates a gender perspective into each of these processes.

Methodology

UNIFEM works with 20 trained project participants in five communities around the Solomon Islands to collect micro- as well as macro-level data. Gender-sensitive indicator data was collected from equal numbers of men and women using three main sources: a *Self-Monitoring Template* completed by project participants, a *Community Survey* among respondents across the five communities, and a *National Survey* among 'informed specialists' at the national level. Other types of data include a Structural Data Set, a Media Scan and Community Focus Groups. All indicator-based data use a 5-point measurement scale, with the results converted to low, medium and high risk levels. Male and female responses are disaggregated to highlight any differences between women's and men's perspectives of conflict and peace issues.

Overview of Key Issues

The early warning data continues to present a moderate risk level for armed conflict in the Solomon Islands, with 11 out of 46 indicators in the high risk level. There is also a general tendency towards low economic development and considerable gender inequality within the Solomon Islands. These tendencies are important because both are strongly linked to an increased likelihood of conflict – however all factors must be considered in the context of the many positive elements and opportunities currently present in the Solomon Islands.

The indicators presenting a high risk of conflict are as follows:

Governance
➢ Corruption in government
➢ Women's lack of participation in government processes
➢ Dissatisfaction with provision of government services
➢ Inability to participate in government decision-making
➢ Lack of trust between political groups

Land and Natural Resources
➢ Frequency of disputes concerning land
➢ Women's lack of involvement in community resolution of land disputes

Economics
➢ Economic inequality within the population

Public Security
➢ Incidence of crime

Social and Ethnic Relations
➢ Incidence of domestic abuse
➢ Informal negative discourse (gossip)

Among these, the following issues stand out as of particular concern: corruption, women's lack of participation in government processes, economic inequality, land disputes, the incidence of crime – especially violent crime – and the extent of negative gossip. Each of these issues is interlinked in complex ways, and relate to broader factors such as the general tendency towards low economic development, high levels of gender inequality, and the increasing youth bulge. Together, these indicate a moderate potential risk of renewed armed conflict, and their interrelated nature demands a broad and integrated approach to peaceful solutions.

There are also many positive elements to the current situation. Public security indicators generally present a low risk of conflict at present (with the exception of crime), largely due to the success of RAMSI in restoring and maintaining law and order. Findings in the category of peace building are also positive, with all indicators at a medium risk level. A key opportunity which links with these two positive elements of public security and peace building is that of the up-coming election in 2006. The election provides the potential for addressing and re-dressing some of the risk factors identified above, especially in the areas of governance and economics, as well as increasing women's participation in formal government processes.

This situation of a moderate risk of conflict combined with important opportunities for peace building calls for both men and women in government, donor agencies, NGOs and communities to work seriously towards appropriate responses in a timely manner. A starting point for such a process to prevent conflict and strengthen peace building is provided in the extensive list of community and national level response options included in this report.

1. Introduction

This early warning report monitors levels of peace and conflict in the Solomon Islands during the period of August to December 2005. The second in a series, the report aims to anticipate and act to prevent future conflict, and to strengthen peace building. The Solomon Islands has enjoyed relative peace since the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in 2003. However, this remains a critical period, as while many peace building and development processes are opening the way for greater prosperity and peace, many of the underlying causes of the conflict remain unresolved. Therefore, the Solomon Islands is standing at a point of great potential to move forward – especially in the context of the up-coming election in 2006 – but also with the potential for renewed conflict. An early warning monitoring system is critically important in this phase so that increasing conflict can be anticipated and responded to appropriately before escalation.

Readers of the first UNIFEM conflict early warning report[1] will find several important changes in this update. These include the incorporation of three new indicators, double the number of surveys used to collect data, updated data tables and graph, as well as updated analysis reflecting changes in risk levels. Unchanged data and associated analysis remain the same as in the first report.

1.1 Context of Conflict

The armed conflict in the Solomon Islands, known locally as 'the tensions', erupted in 1998 and continued until RAMSI's arrival in July 2003. The causes of the conflict were multiple and interlinked. Key issues included the cultural differences between different ethnic populations (especially between, but not limited to, Guadalcanal and Malaita) and increasing competition for limited resources around the centralized capital Honiara, particularly competition for land and for commercial and development opportunities. Conflict centered around the Guadalcanal militant group Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) and the Malaitan militant group Malaita Eagle Force (MEF), with involvement also by the Special Constables section of the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP). After the signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement (TPA) in October 2000, hostilities continued and escalated in southern Guadalcanal between the IFM and the Guadalcanal Liberation Front (GLF).[2]

The conflict resulted in 150-200 deaths, approximately 450 gun-related injuries, and more than 35,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) throughout Guadalcanal and Malaita.[3] Men and women played different roles during the tensions. Men's roles included active involvement in fighting, supporting their families, and decision-making roles in mediation and reconciliation. Women's roles often overlapped with these, and included productive roles in supporting the family while men were absent, reproductive and social welfare roles in caring for family and community members, and engaging in informal peace processes. The impacts of the tensions on both men and women included being victims of multiple types of violence – including rape, for women – economic impacts especially surrounding loss of income, break-down in domestic relationships and psychological impacts such as grief and anxiety. However, women also often experienced increased status and empowerment resulting from the traditionally male roles undertaken during the tensions.[4]

1.2 Background to the Report

This second report forms part of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) project 'Monitoring Peace and Conflict Using Gendered Early Warning Indicators', one of a global series of gendered conflict early warning pilot projects. This Solomon Islands project was launched in January 2005, and will be run by UNIFEM until June 2006.

Conflict early warning is the systematic collection and analysis of information from areas of crisis to anticipate the escalation of violent conflict, or increasing peace. The process begins

with the collection and analysis of data using specific indicators. This is combined with the development of appropriate response options (presented in Annex 1), which are then communicated 'up' to policy-makers and 'down' to communities to facilitate decision-making and action. To date, conflict early warning systems have largely ignored gender issues.

The objectives of the 'Monitoring Peace and Conflict Using Gendered Early Warning Indicators' project are to:
- Develop indicators for early warning of peace and conflict, taking into account gender issues and the experiences of women and men;
- Establish a system for the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-sensitive information on conflict and peace building;
- Create a more responsive policy and programming environment for gender-sensitive conflict prevention, and for supporting the role of women and men in peace building.

UNIFEM works closely with the following partners in the implementation of the project: the National Peace Council (NPC), the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA), Vois Blong Mere Solomon, the Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace.

1.3 Methodology

This project utilizes an approach to conflict early warning which values both micro level data from communities, as well as macro level data at the national level, based on the assumption that monitoring micro-level changes can help anticipate conflict before it spreads to higher levels. To this end, UNIFEM works in five communities in the Solomon Islands: White River and Borderline in Honiara; Avuavu on the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal Province; Malu'u in Malaita Province; and Noro in Western Province (see Annex 2). Two men and two women from each of these communities have been trained in monitoring peace and conflict using gendered early warning indicators. In this sense, the current approach differs from many other early warning approaches which are often based on event data.

The indicators were developed to incorporate gender sensitivity, through a process which involved identifying both existing early warning indicators as well as locally developed, context-specific indicators. They are designed to monitor not only levels of conflict, but also levels of peace. For analytical purposes, the indictors are divided into the following six categories: governance and political institutions, land and natural resources, economics, public security, social and ethnic relations, and peace building.[5]

A variety of data sources are used (see Annex 3). Indicator data is collected using three different instruments, to enable triangulation of results, and to ensure each instrument is appropriate to the particular respondents:
- A *Self-Monitoring Template* completed by project participants, who are trained in monitoring peace and conflict indicators at the community level;
- A *Community Survey* carried out among respondents across the five communities: of the respondents, 50 percent were youths and 50 percent adults;
- A *National Survey* conducted among 'informed specialists' at the national level, including employees of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other national and international organizations.

All indicator data collection instruments targeted equal numbers of male and female respondents. In this second round of data collection, the number of Community Surveys and National Surveys was doubled, to create a more robust data set.

Additional forms of non-indicator-based data are also included in this analysis. A Structural Data Set is compiled using national statistics on an ongoing basis (Annex 4). In addition, a Media Scan of the Solomon Star newspaper is carried out on a daily basis.

All indicator-based data collection instruments use a 5-point measurement scale. Where necessary, the results are inverted in analysis so that a higher score indicates higher risk. The results for each indicator are averaged, and converted to a color-coded 'Risk Level', where a score of 1 to 2.79 indicates 'Low Risk' (green), 2.8 to 3.79 indicates 'Medium Risk' (yellow), and a score of 3.8 to 5 indicates 'High Risk' (red). Male and female responses are disaggregated to highlight any differences between women's and men's perspectives of conflict and peace issues.[6]

In this second report, trend data has been calculated to show increasing or decreasing levels of peace or conflict over time. Any such changes are represented through arrows, with '>' indicating an *increase* in the conflict risk level and '<' indicating a *decrease* in the conflict risk level.

Each indicator continues to be matched with corresponding response options. Conflict prevention and peace building are the concern and responsibility of people at all levels – not just of national governments. Therefore, response options are listed for the community level – initiatives and actions which communities themselves have identified and can undertake – as well as for the national level, including initiatives and policies for government, national NGOs, churches and donors (see Annex 1). These response options were generated during meetings with men and women in each of the five communities, as well as in conjunction with the project partners.

2. Analysis of Gendered Early Warning Data

This section considers in further detail the findings of the early warning analysis for August – December 2005. Each of the six categories of indicator are discussed. For each category, a table of results presents the average responses for women and for men, as well as the overall average for each indicator, with 5 as the highest possible score and 1 as the lowest. These are converted to color-coded risk scores – with arrows indicating increases or decreases since the last report – as described in the methodology section. It must be remembered that this data is based on five communities, as well as national level data, and therefore the responses are not necessarily representative of the Solomon Islands as a whole. A thorough listing of response options for each indicator can be found in Annex 1.

The early warning data continues to present a moderate risk level for conflict in the Solomon Islands, with 11 out of 46 indicators in the high risk level. The high risk indicators still largely cluster around the categories of governance and political institutions, land and natural resources, and social and ethnic relations. In addition, an overview of structural data reveals a general tendency towards low economic development and considerable gender inequality across a range of indicators (see Annex 4), both of which are strongly linked to an increased likelihood of conflict. However, these factors must be considered in the context of the many positive elements and opportunities currently present in the Solomon Islands. Figure 1 on the following page provides an overview of the results of the gendered conflict early warning research for August to December 2005.
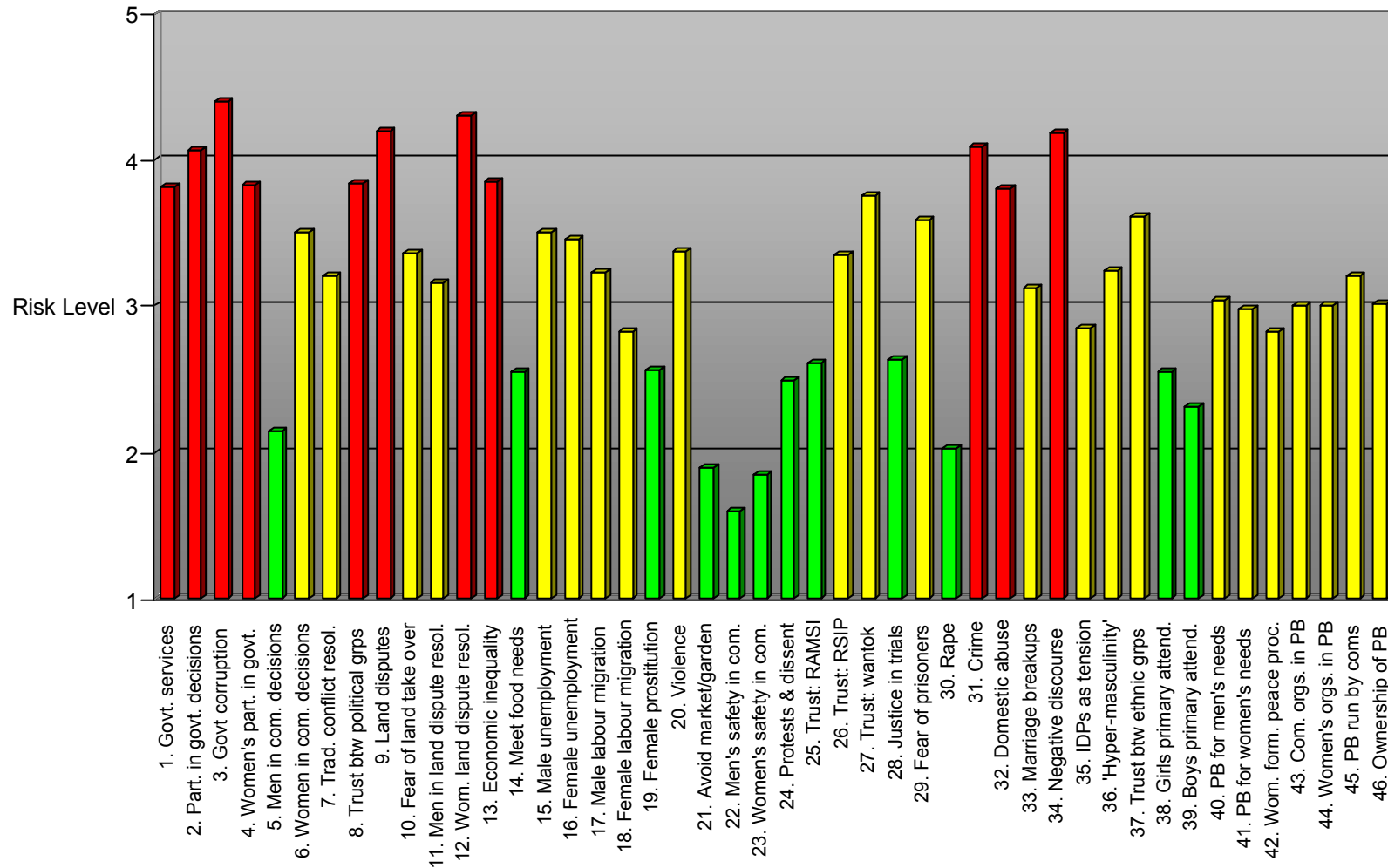
2.1 Governance and Political Institutions

Table 1. Risk Levels for Governance and Political Institutions Indicators

INDICATOR	Women's responses	Men's responses	TOTAL RISK LEVEL	
1. Satisfaction with provision of government services	3.77	3.86	3.82	HIGH
2. Ability to participate in government decision-making	4.19	3.94	4.07	HIGH
3. Corruption in government	4.49	4.30	4.40	HIGH
4. Women's participation in government processes	3.82	3.83	3.82	HIGH
5. Influence of men in making community decisions	2.10	2.20	2.15	LOW
6. Influence of women in making community decisions	3.70	3.30	3.50	MEDIUM
7. Use of traditional forms of conflict resolution	3.30	3.10	3.20	MEDIUM
8. Trust between political groups	3.84	3.83	3.83	HIGH

All total risk levels in the category of governance and political institutions have remained constant, with five out of eight indicators at a high risk level. Of all indicators in this study, corruption in government has the highest risk score. Corruption often features among the issues which trigger conflict.[7] In the case of the Solomon Islands, corruption in the form of the manipulation of the customary process of compensation was a prominent feature of the tensions.[8] A Transparency International study found that most corrupt practice in the Solomon Islands pertains to operations of public service or government practice, and that national integrity systems have generally failed to enforce regulations to prevent corruption, in some cases being complicit in increasing corruption.[9] It is also critical to recognize the factors which drive corrupt practice, including the widespread 'culture of corruption' making it difficult to stand up to the system, the clash of Western and Melanesian cultures, loyalty and obligations to *wantoks* (relatives), and economic survival. This is clearly an issue which needs to be urgently addressed and raised in public discourse – not just within governance

Figure 1. Overview of Risk Levels: August – December 2005

Key: Red = High risk of conflict
Yellow = Medium risk of conflict
Green = Low risk of conflict

Abbreviations: Wom. = Women
PB = Peace building
Com. = Community

Org. = Organization
Resol. = Resolution

Govt. = Government
Proc. = Process

structures, but throughout other types of organizations and within communities themselves.

There is a pervasive sense of exclusion from government processes and decision-making, pointing to a lack of linkages and engagement between government and its citizens. At the same time, this is based upon a view of governance whereby the government serves its citizens. However, it is also critically important to recognize the role of civil society in holding government accountable, and therefore citizens need to be empowered to play that role.

Dissatisfaction with the provision of government services is high. Specific issues which are commonly mentioned include lack of water and sanitation, poor quality of roads, inadequate transportation and communications linkages, inadequately trained teachers, distance of clinics, and expense of both medicines and schooling. This dissatisfaction with government services is reflected over the 16 years of SIDT's Solomon Islands Report Card, where people's perceptions of issues such as health services, education opportunities and resource assistance have improved little since 1989, and have in some cases worsened.[10]

Women's exclusion from decision-making occurs at both the community level, often due to entrenched cultural and religious norms where women's voices are not acknowledged, as well as at the highest levels of government, where women currently hold no seats in national parliament. This is a critical risk factor, as research has found that states with a lower percentage of women in parliament are more likely to use violence to settle conflicts.[11] It may be appropriate to consider and debate the introduction of a quota system to begin to give women some equitable representation.

While there is moderate usage of traditional forms of conflict resolution, and therefore a medium risk level, this is an important issue for conflict prevention in the Solomon Islands. Continued work is needed to empower chiefs as mediators, to work on the Solomon Islands' mediation process, and to consider an holistic approach to conflict resolution which includes not only 'tradition', but also the church and other relevant sectors.

The positive news is that the up-coming elections in early 2006 present an important opportunity to address many of these governance issues. In the lead-up to the elections, there is a critical need for civic education – starting from the personal level and moving to the level of society – and other measures to promote good governance, as well as transparency and accountability.

2.2 Land and Natural Resources

Table 2. Risk Levels for Land and Natural Resources Indicators

INDICATOR	Women's responses	Men's responses	TOTAL RISK LEVEL	
9. Frequency of disputes concerning land	4.22	4.17	4.20	HIGH
10. Fear that one's land may be taken over	3.28	3.43	3.36	MEDIUM <
11. Men involved in community resolution of land disputes	3.10	3.20	3.15	MEDIUM >
12. Women involved in community resolution of land disputes	4.10	4.50	4.30	HIGH

Land issues also continue to present a high level of risk in the Solomon Islands, especially given that this was one of the root causes of the tensions which has not yet been adequately addressed. As one community member states, "land concerns are a 'scar' resulting from fear during the tensions". Increasingly, land disputes centre around economic development and commercialization issues colliding with communal land ownership systems. With increasing

population and labor migration in to Honiara certain to increase in coming years, land pressures seem sure to escalate around the capital without planning and prompt action.

The data suggests that since earlier in 2005, people are somewhat *less* fearful of their land being taken over. A possible explanation could be hope and a sense of progress due to the ongoing land recording program. One of the key contributing issues to the conflict risks associated with land is people's lack of information as to who owns which land, which means that land disputes are not able to be resolved. The implementation of an adequate system of land recording to identify ownership is crucial, although there is some debate about this. Tribal rather than state-based recording could be a compromise for those who feel flexibility and community autonomy would be lost with a national system of land recording. In addition, a Commission of Enquiry was agreed to in the Townsville Peace Agreement (TPA), and the implementation of this commission would enable the investigation of the manner in which people came to own all registered land.

Solomon Islanders still feel very close to their land, and these perspectives shape the way decisions are made. Many of the conflicts over land arise when the natural resources from tribally owned land are developed, pointing to a need for frameworks which allow for economic development to take place without creating internal disputes. This is also linked to economic issues surrounding natural resource exploitation, which is discussed in the following section.

Women's involvement in the community resolution of land disputes is limited, and is not encouraged. This is a critical issue, given that this limited decision-making power comes despite the fact that women are actually the official land custodians in matrilineal societies such as Guadalcanal and Isabel. A positive element is that some women, for example the Central Guadalcanal women around Gold Ridge, are now beginning to realize their potential roles, and are asking to be involved in discussions concerning land decisions. This calls for women to seek participation in tribal committees on land, and the government to develop polices and legislation to protect women's traditional rights as land owners.

Interestingly, it appears that men's involvement in the community resolution of land disputes has decreased since the last report. This may be linked to a sense that decision-making processes are less participatory, and that development interventions in this area are more top-down. It may also be associated with the fact that much recent conflict mediation work has focused on tension-related issues rather than specifically land.

2.3 Economics

Table 3. Risk Levels for Economics Indicators

INDICATOR	Women's responses	Men's responses	TOTAL RISK LEVEL	
13. Economic inequality within the population	3.90	3.80	3.85	HIGH >
14. Ability of families to meet their basic food needs	2.50	2.60	2.55	LOW <
15. Male unemployment	3.30	3.70	3.50	MEDIUM <
16. Female unemployment	3.50	3.40	3.45	MEDIUM <
17. Labor migration among men	3.23	3.22	3.23	MEDIUM
18. Labor migration among women	2.94	2.69	2.82	MEDIUM
19. Level of female prostitution	2.56	2.55	2.56	LOW

The economic indicators suggest a moderate risk of conflict, with the exception of economic inequality which has increased to a high risk issue. The inequality in the Solomon Islands

can be considered 'horizontal inequality' (see Box 1), and is linked to population pressures on resources and competition for limited opportunities, both of which are key underlying causes of the tensions. The last household income and expenditure surveys carried out in the early 1990s found wide income disparities between low- and high-income groups and between rural and urban areas, and it "seems likely that income disparities may have not narrowed and may have widened".[13]

Box 1. Horizontal Inequality

Horizontal inequality refers to inequality between regions and groups, as opposed to the vertical inequality between a rich elite and a poor majority. Horizontal inequalities lead to perceptions that government power advantages one group over another, and can contribute to armed conflict.

In the Solomon Islands, this includes inequalities concerning economic opportunities, land, political participation and social issues – many of the areas examined in this report – cutting horizontally across a number of groups, such as ethnic and regional groups, as well as gender groups. A cross-cutting equitable approach to development is crucial for sustainable security and well-being in the Solomon Islands.[10]

Firstly, there is a pervasive sense of inequality among different regions throughout the country, especially between Honiara and the provinces. Development and economic activities are frequently centered in Honiara, while rural and provincial areas are overlooked. For example, the people of the Weathercoast state that "we recognize that the disparity in the distribution of development between [our] communities and Honiara is an important part of the root causes of the tension… Therefore we recognize that addressing this disparity is crucial for peacebuilding".[14] A decentralized approach to development on the part of Solomon Islands Government and the donor community is crucial to enhancing security.

Secondly, there is a strong sense of economic inequality within Honiara itself. This includes dissatisfaction by locals at the opportunities (and land) being given to those from other provinces, which is again linked to the need for decentralized development. It also includes mounting levels of resentment towards what is perceived to be preferential treatment of 'foreign traders' on the part of town planning officials. It has been suggested that this may be a future flash-point for potential conflict in the Solomon Islands.

Perceptions of levels of unemployment have dropped from high to medium risk, indicating a more positive outlook on the job market, and increased entrepreneurial and self-employment activities. Unemployment does remain a cause for concern, especially among male youth. This is illustrated by the disenchanted unemployed male youths known as 'Masta Lui', whose compensation demands had destabilizing consequences in Honiara during the tensions. Unemployment is also linked to difficulties in obtaining credit for the start-up of small businesses, which calls for financial institutions to increase access to credit, especially for women and youth. The ANZ Bank's new mobile bank initiative is a positive step.

It should also be noted that while these survey findings indicate that women and men experience similar levels of unemployment, in fact the national statistical data show that women suffer a much higher unemployment rate than men (see Annex 4); this is associated with differential access to education and opportunities for participating in all employment sectors. The issue of unemployment calls for increased vocational and technical training – including 'non-traditional' job sectors for women – and employment opportunities combined with adequate infrastructure targeting men and women in provincial areas.

The economic structural data (Annex 4) is also revealing. With a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately US$553 per capita, Solomon Islands is considered a low income country in relation to others in the Pacific region, and is included in the global list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This is significant for early warning purposes, because low

income countries are at increased risk of conflict; for example, as per capita income halves, the risk of civil war roughly doubles.[15]

In addition, the Solomon Islands is heavily dependent on primary commodity exports.[16] This constitutes a high risk of conflict for the Solomon Islands, as studies have found a strong relationship between the likelihood of conflict and a heavy dependence on natural resources, especially when combined with poor governance.[17] There are a number of reasons for this: natural resource dependency has a destabilizing effect on macroeconomic conditions, it leads to an increased prevalence of corruption due to large concentrated revenues, and it can fuel conflict through disputes over the distribution of revenues at all levels. In the Solomon Islands, these factors are combined with the critical issue of land disputes arising from economic development on communally-owned land, as discussed in section 2.2.

While levels of prostitution appear low risk overall, in Honiara there is a medium risk level. There is also an indication that prostitution is emerging in some rural areas; anecdotal data suggests this may be linked in some instances to the presence of RAMSI. Prostitution is fueled by economic need, and therefore reinforces the need for targeted employment programs and alternative forms of income generation for young urban women.

2.4 Public Security

Table 4. Risk Levels for Public Security Indicators

INDICATOR	Women's responses	Men's responses	TOTAL RISK LEVEL	
20. Incidences of violence	3.51	3.25	3.38	MEDIUM
21. Avoidance of markets / gardens due to fear	1.78	2.02	1.90	LOW
22. Safety for men to walk around the community	1.50	1.70	1.60	LOW
23. Safety for women to walk around the community	1.90	1.80	1.85	LOW
24. Protests, demonstrations, riots or other forms of dissent	2.55	2.43	2.49	LOW
25. Trust in RAMSI to ensure security	2.60	2.60	2.60	LOW
26. Trust in RSIP to ensure security	3.30	3.40	3.35	MEDIUM
27. Trust in *wantoks* (relatives) to ensure security	3.90	3.60	3.75	MEDIUM
28. Belief that justice will be done in trials over the tensions	2.60	2.67	2.63	LOW <
29. Fear of reprisal from people in prison	3.81	3.37	3.59	MEDIUM
30. Incidence of rape	2.12	1.93	2.03	LOW
31. Incidence of crime	4.15	4.02	4.09	HIGH

The risks associated with public security remain generally medium to low; the exception comes from a new indicator monitoring the incidence of crime, which presents as high risk.

The largely positive current situation is principally thanks to RAMSI and its success in restoring law and order since July 2003, and the data suggests that trust in RAMSI to ensure security continues to be high. In addition, since the last early warning report, confidence in the trials over the tensions has actually increased, presenting a low rather than medium risk level. While RAMSI remains, it is very likely that these public security indicators will continue to be generally positive. However, this situation must not be taken for granted; for example, despite various successful arms-reduction interventions, a wide range of firearms are still believed to be in circulation in Malaita and Guadalcanal, and small arms continue to be used for the purpose of intimidation.[18] In addition, for a sustainable approach beyond RAMSI, it is important to continue to build the capacity of the RSIP, as well as for organizations working

for peace to consider what they can do to sustain peace in a post-RAMSI context, including an ongoing commitment to conflict resolution and reconciliation processes.

Crime appears to be an increasing problem, and the indicator data suggests that this is a high risk issue. There is a perception that crime such as house break-ins, theft and pick-pocketing is rising in Honiara. In addition, a disturbing development is that in recent months an increasing number of such crimes have been violent in nature. The increasing level of crime in Honiara is an important signifier of broader dissatisfaction. Crime is directly linked to unemployment, especially among male youth, as well as labor migration into Honiara. It is also closely associated with the economic inequality issues discussed earlier. As such, addressing the issue of crime requires more than improved law enforcement and security from RSIP, and incorporates many other response options surrounding decentralized development and employment programs.

The data indicates a low level of rape. This is in contrast to other documented data which found that beyond the large extent of rape which women and girls suffered during the tensions, high numbers of rapes continued to be reported to police well after the tensions.[19] Data from community focus groups does however document cases of rape and attempted rape, which often go unreported. It is unclear whether the survey results indicate that cases of rape have decreased, are no longer being reported to police, or if the surveys failed to capture the real situation.

Women's fear of reprisal from individuals currently in prison continues to be a high risk indicator. This is associated with women's experiences of violence and trauma during the tensions. There is already some evidence that women are being threatened and subjected to retribution from men being released from prison over tension-related crimes. This is an issue which must be acknowledged and addressed by RSIP and RAMSI when releasing prisoners back into their communities.

2.5 Social and Ethnic Relations

Table 5. Risk Levels for Social and Ethnic Relations Indicators

INDICATOR	Women's responses	Men's responses	TOTAL RISK LEVEL	
32. Incidence of domestic abuse	3.95	3.67	3.81	HIGH
33. Frequency of marriage breakups	3.13	3.10	3.12	MEDIUM
34. Extent of informal negative discourse	4.34	4.03	4.19	HIGH
35. Presence of IDPs as a source of tension	2.72	2.98	2.85	MEDIUM >
36. Aggressive or 'hyper-masculine' behavior encouraged	3.37	3.10	3.24	MEDIUM
37. Trust between ethnic groups	3.61	3.61	3.61	MEDIUM
38. Girls' primary school attendance	2.58	2.51	2.55	LOW
39. Boys' primary school attendance	2.35	2.28	2.32	LOW

Social indicators continue to demonstrate a mixture of medium and high risk levels, and the new indicators in primary school attendance are both low risk. Of particular concern is the high level of 'informal negative discourse' – or street-level gossip – with the current state of affairs in the Solomon Islands, a phenomenon which was also significant prior to and during the tensions. This is also a gendered issue, as women are frequently regarded as being associated with gossip, especially during the tensions when women's gossip was often considered to fuel conflicts.

Also in the high risk category is the incidence of domestic abuse. This is linked to a number of issues including alcohol consumption, economic insecurity, and the aftermath of the tensions – domestic abuse is often associated with armed conflict, and in the Solomon Islands anecdotal evidence from communities suggests that the rate climbed dramatically during the tensions.[20] Another factor is the cultural norms by which many people still believe husbands have the 'right' to abuse their wives.[21] For this reason, it is important to increase education about domestic abuse through public awareness campaigns, as well as pushing for appropriate action in implementing the law through RSIP and the courts system.

The incidence of marriage break-ups emerges as a medium risk indicator. According to discussions with community members, this is associated with alcohol abuse, 'O2s' (second wives, or mistresses), and financial problems. Another related factor is the pressures associated with large numbers of extended family inside the house, which is again linked to labor migration into Honiara. The incidence of marriage break-ups also rose significantly during the tensions. Important response options include counseling for couples, as well as national level campaigns to promote contraception use and to reduce alcohol abuse.

Trust between ethnic groups is a very important indicator, and while it presents as medium risk overall, it remains a cause for concern. This lack of trust is linked to the prevalent stereotypes about different ethnic groups, as well as to strong in-group identification, especially among men. The fragmented and regional sense of identity – as opposed to a more 'unified' national sense of identity – is a significant barrier to sustainable peace in the Solomon Islands. This needs to be tackled through civic and peace education programs in school curriculums and churches – building on existing work in this area, such as UNICEF's (the United Nations Children's Fund) peace education work, and including curricula to promote national identity and positive role models for youth. Positive national identity initiatives can also be implemented through national government programs.

The presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a source of tension has increased from low to medium risk of conflict, indicating that the issue should be carefully monitored. This is particularly problematic in Honiara, especially in areas such as Burns Creek and White River. The issue of displaced people is closely linked to labor migration, crime, unemployment and tensions between ethnic groups. A more decentralized approach to the provision of development opportunities would be an appropriate response, as would legislative change to include assistance to people displaced as a result of conflict (as opposed to those displaced by natural disasters).

New indicators assessing primary school attendance found a high level of attendance for both boys and girls, but with girls attending slightly less often. Reasons given by community members for girls not attending primary school include the expense of school fees, and the need to stay at home to care for siblings while mothers are working outside the house. In some places, cultural beliefs discourage girls' attendance; this can be because girls are considered 'less smart' than boys, or because when girls marry they will go and live with their in-laws, so parents feel there is 'no point' in paying for girls' education. The main reason given for boys' lack of attendance in primary school in truancy.

Finally, structural data indicates that the Solomon Islands has a distinct 'youth bulge', with 37% of the adult population (15 and over) in the 15-24 age cohort (Annex 4). This is an important issue, because youth bulges increase the risk of domestic armed conflict[22]; one study found that countries with a youth bulge of 40% or more were more than twice as likely to experience civil conflict.[23] The Solomon Islands' youth bulge is also linked to levels of unemployment and crime, as discussed earlier; according to the 1999 census, youth unemployment is as high as 61%.

2.6 Peace Building

Table 6. Risk Levels for Peace Building Indicators

INDICATOR	Women's responses	Men's responses	TOTAL RISK LEVEL	
40. Peace building programs address the needs of men	2.95	3.13	3.04	MEDIUM
41. Peace building programs address the needs of women	2.79	3.16	2.97	MEDIUM
42. Involvement of women in formal peace processes	2.93	2.72	2.82	MEDIUM
43. Community organizations involved in peace-building	3.10	2.90	3.00	MEDIUM
44. Women's organizations involved in peace-building	3.30	2.70	3.00	MEDIUM
45. Peace building activities initiated & run by communities	3.40	3.00	3.20	MEDIUM
46. Perception of 'ownership' of peace-building activities	2.81	3.21	3.01	MEDIUM

The peace building indicators demonstrate a medium risk of conflict, which suggests a cautiously optimistic view of peace building in the Solomon Islands. This also suggests that there remains a lot of work to be done, thus reinforcing the mandate of those working for peace such as the NPC and the Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace, as well as calling for greater coordination among these and other actors.

Peace must not be taken for granted. Solomon Islanders identify many challenges to peace building. For example, men are often caught in the 'compensation' notion of peace (the majority of claims for compensation as a result of the tensions were by men). At the community level, people may not yet understand what activities contribute to peace building, and there is a continued need to consider more closely the needs of men, women and youth. Other critiques of current peace building practice claim that efforts are still piecemeal, unsustainable and overly focused on external timeframes.

The survey data suggests that Solomon Islanders believe that women's involvement in formal peace processes falls in the moderate category, with men perceiving it as a low risk issue. This is a surprising finding, given that women's formal participation has been extremely limited. This may concern a lack of awareness of the issues, combined with misperceptions based on the presence of a few highly visible women. In fact, women need to be supported and represented at all levels in their work for peace, including in community organizations, NGOs and within national government.

Both women's and men's needs are met through peace building programs to a moderate degree. In community discussions, women were generally more positive about such programs than men, listing activities such as Women for Peace initiatives, workshops, church groups, fundraising, sports events and music as all contributing to women's needs. It was also mentioned that male and female youths benefited from peace building only when they were involved in organized groups, and that marginalized youths were therefore excluded.

2.7 Media Scan

A total of 1681 articles on peace and conflict issues were analyzed between the 15th of June and the 25th of November 2005, all from the Solomon Star newspaper. There were slightly more articles concerning peace than concerning conflict. Of the articles concerning conflict, the most common topics were unrest and political and legal issues (both 36%), followed by crime (24%). Of the items about peace, peace building activities was the most frequent topic (53%), followed by political and legal issues (39%) and community development (32%).

The media scan demonstrates a strong bias against the representation of women in the Solomon Star. Only 8% of articles about peace and / or conflict had a focus on women. Of those articles which did focus on women, 57% portrayed a positive image of the women involved, and 19% portrayed a negative image. These proportions are similar to those where the focus was on men, although men were portrayed in a negative light slightly more often.

In this sense, in the Solomon Islands media discourse around peace and conflict, women are not portrayed *differently* from men, but they are portrayed far *less* than men, reflecting the general tendency towards gender inequality described earlier. The Solomon Star provides generally good coverage of women's events and issues, even if these are a very small proportion of overall articles. This suggests a need to encourage and provide training for women's organizations to submit more press releases, to ensure that women's activities receive a higher profile in the media. This should be coupled with actions to enable those working in the media to better understand gender issues and the way they represent men and women.[24]

3. Conclusion

The early warning data reflects a number of high risk issues currently at play in the Solomon Islands. Among these, the following issues stand out as of particular concern: corruption, women's lack of participation in government processes, economic inequality, land disputes, the incidence of crime – especially violent crime – and the extent of negative gossip. Each of these issues is interlinked in complex ways, both with each other, and with broader factors such as the general tendency towards low economic development, high levels of gender inequality, and the increasing youth bulge. Together, these indicate a moderate potential risk of renewed armed conflict, and their interrelated nature demands a broad and integrated approach to peaceful solutions.

There are of course many positive elements to the current situation in the Solomon Islands. For example, public security indicators generally present a low risk of conflict at present, and indicators in the category of peace building are also positive. A key opportunity which links with these two positive elements of public security and peace building is that of the up-coming election in 2006. The election provides the potential for addressing and re-dressing some of the risk factors identified above, especially in the areas of governance and economics, as well as increasing women's participation in formal government processes.

This situation of a moderate risk of conflict combined with important opportunities for peace building calls for both men and women in government, donor agencies, NGOs and communities to work seriously towards appropriate responses in a timely manner. A starting point for such a process to prevent conflict and strengthen peace building is provided in the extensive list of response options included below.

Annex 1. Indicators, Conflict Risk Levels and Response Options Matrix

INDICATOR	RISK LEVEL	RESPONSE OPTIONS	
		COMMUNITY LEVEL	*NATIONAL LEVEL*
Governance and Political Institutions			
1. Satisfaction with provision of government services	**HIGH** **3.82**	• Hold SIG accountable & provide feedback on status provision of services	• Publicize reform programs & structure of service delivery, incl. provincial govt.
2. Ability to participate in government decision-making	**HIGH** **4.07**	• Invite government to visit communities to provide awareness of their roles & to inform them of community concerns • Elect good leaders with leadership qualities • Elect women to govt decision-making positions	• Provide training in good governance • Recognize & respond to community level views & concerns • Support women to be more involved in government decision-making roles
3. Corruption in government	**HIGH** **4.40**	• Define & educate on corruption at all levels of leadership, e.g. household, community, provincial, national • Quality leadership awareness raising	• Support good governance at all levels • Clear regulations & legislation on corruption • Support anti-corruption institutions to fulfill their functions • Support a Truth & Reconciliation process
4. Women's participation in government processes	**HIGH** **3.82**	• Gender awareness raising • Awareness of CEDAW & human rights	• Build institutional capacity to mainstream gender across all sectors of SIG & civil society • SIG to implement CEDAW
5. Influence of men in making community decisions	**LOW** **2.15**	• Support good leadership training for men in community organizations	• Development of leadership training for local men
6. Influence of women in making community decisions	**MEDIUM** **3.50**	• Support community women's groups, e.g. leadership training, cohesive relationships • Elect women representatives in politics	• Funding to support women's groups at the community level • Development of leadership training for local women
7. Use of traditional forms of conflict resolution	**MEDIUM** **3.20**	• Implement structures for chiefs' roles & responsibilities • Involve whole community; church, chiefs, leaders, men, women	• SIG to recognize *kastom* & culture • Funding for awareness about *kastom* & culture
8. Trust between political groups	**HIGH** **3.83**	• Raise awareness of party politics • Civic Education	• Support political awareness raising, e.g. Voters' Rights & Civic Education
Land and Natural Resources			
9. Frequency of disputes concerning land	**HIGH** **4.20**	• Establish committees for land management, with female representatives • Ensure proper recording of land ownership • Introduce family trees	• SIG to promote legislation & implementation of on Land Registration & record land ownership • Improve local court hearings • SIG management in natural resource development

INDICATOR	RISK LEVEL	RESPONSE OPTIONS	
		COMMUNITY LEVEL	*NATIONAL LEVEL*
10. Fear that one's land may be taken over	**MEDIUM 3.36**	• Develop & implement land recording & registration procedures • Establish land committees to handle land issues	• SIG to produce clear polices & raise awareness on land issues that support community interests • Provide land survey specialists • SIG to respect traditional land ownership
11. Men involved in community resolution of land disputes	**MEDIUM 3.15**	• Involve neutral people with appropriate understanding in solving land disputes	• Radio programs for awareness about land
12. Women involved in community resolution of land disputes	**HIGH 4.30**	• Include women in tribal committees • Form 'women's resource owners' associations' in matrilineal societies	• SIG to promote policy & legislation on women's traditional rights to land ownership • Radio programs for awareness about land
Economics			
13. Economic inequality within the population	**HIGH 3.85**	• Increase & share local knowledge about how to develop local resources sustainably	• Promote greater equality of distribution of economic activities across provinces
14. Ability of families to meet their basic food needs	**LOW 2.55**	• Support subsistence farmers and *supsup* gardens • Practice family planning • Utilize alternative forms of income generation	• Support to rehabilitate communities • SIG to promote family planning • SIG to promote & fund sustainable agriculture projects & land development training
15. Male unemployment	**MEDIUM 3.50**	• Parents encourage youth to continue school • Use land & sea resources as self-employment • Appropriate skills training	• Employment programs, esp. for young men • Increase vocational training centers, especially in rural areas
16. Female unemployment	**MEDIUM 3.45**	• Parents encourage youth to continue school • Appropriate skills training	• Provide women with skills training & employment programs • SIG to consider deregulation to encourage informal sector activities
17. Labor migration among men	**MEDIUM 3.23**	• Identify community strengths & needs for local employment • Encourage self employment through farming & small businesses • Allow land & resources for development	• Provide employment opportunities, services & market outlets in provincial and rural areas • Develop additional vocational & rural training centers • Provide business courses
18. Labor migration among women	**MEDIUM 2.82**	• Encourage girls to continue in education and train in specific skills • Initiate a training center for women • Support women in small businesses	• Fund & support women's organizations • Ensure employment & training programs target women as well as men

INDICATOR	RISK LEVEL	RESPONSE OPTIONS	
		COMMUNITY LEVEL	*NATIONAL LEVEL*
19. Level of female prostitution	**LOW 2.56**	• Families educate young men & women to respect themselves, custom & traditional values • Promote youth community activities • Encourage alternate forms of income generation for girls and young women	• Provide employment programs for female sex workers • Health workers to provide sex workers with information on HIV/AIDS & other STIs • Training centers for youth & adults
Public Security			
20. Incidences of violence	**MEDIUM 3.38**	• Community Policing, involving men, women & youth • Neighborhood Watch programs • Community regulations on drugs & liquor	• Control of number of liquor licenses & outlets • Justice system – police, courts – to control violence & impose penalties
21. Avoidance of markets / gardens due to fear	**LOW 1.90**	• Enhance Community Policing • Educate people to respect each other • Reduce consumption of kwaso	• Provide support to Community Policing • Reduce number of liquor outlets • Provide regular mobile police patrols
22. Safety for men to walk around the community	**LOW 1.60**	• Community members to take precautions & respect others • Establish &/or strengthen community policing	• Increase no. of public phones & street lights • Police to work with provincial wards to establish more police posts
23. Safety for women to walk around the community	**LOW 1.85**	• Community members to take precautions & respect others • Establish &/or strengthen community policing • Community committees to counsel women on safe practices	• Increase no. of public phones & street lights • Training for police on gender issues
24. Protests, demonstrations, riots or other forms of dissent	**LOW 2.49**	• Awareness activities on rights & responsibilities	• SIG to address the grievances & concerns of civil society
25. Trust in RAMSI to ensure security	**LOW 2.60**	• Women & men to respect RAMSI • Develop better relationship between RAMSI & community	• RAMSI to post representatives in more communities • RAMSI to understand & respect local culture before operating in the community • RAMSI to ensure professional behavior
26. Trust in RSIP to ensure security	**MEDIUM 3.35**	• Encourage community policing	• Address corruption within RSIP • Balance number of police officers from each province • Avoid posting wantoks to own communities
27. Trust in wantoks (relatives) to ensure security	**MEDIUM 3.75**	• Community members trained in security procedures & issues	• Awareness programs about community-based security

INDICATOR	RISK LEVEL	RESPONSE OPTIONS	
		COMMUNITY LEVEL	*NATIONAL LEVEL*
28. Belief that justice will be done in trials over the tensions	**LOW 2.63**	• Cooperate with PPF/RAMSI/RSIP • Recognize the positive changes since July 2003	• RAMSI & RSIP to highlight achievements • Ensure transparency in justice process
29. Fear of reprisal from people in prison	**MEDIUM 3.59**	• Accept and help ex-prisoners, including reconciliation, counseling, inclusion in community activities • Enhance Community Policing	• Provide information about prisoners & the continuation of law and order • Security assistance (RAMSI & RSIP) • Support small income generation projects for prisoners
30. Incidence of rape	**LOW 2.03**	• Awareness-raising to overcome taboos on discussing rape	• Ensure laws are implemented & perpetrators are charged & prosecuted appropriately
31. Incidence of crime	**HIGH 4.09**	• Establish community committees to control crime • Chiefs, church leaders & parents to teach community about respect, values & integrity	• Consider introduction of neighborhood watch • Improve policing procedures • SIG to decentralize development opportunities outside of Honiara
Social and Ethnic Relations			
32. Incidence of domestic abuse	**HIGH 3.81**	• Awareness-raising to overcome taboos on discussing domestic abuse • Provide counseling	• Push for Domestic Violence Policy to be adopted & implemented (DHA) • Support to service providers working on domestic abuse (NGOs, Churches, etc.)
33. Frequency of marriage breakups	**MEDIUM 3.12**	• Pre-marriage counseling for couples • Discourage early marriages of very young or immature couples • Discourage drug & alcohol consumption	• Reduce number of liquor outlets • Churches to provide spiritual training & counseling on marriage • Awareness & availability of contraception
34. Extent of informal negative discourse (gossip)	**HIGH 4.19**	• Implement Civic Education, e.g. rights & responsibilities of MPs, SIG & civil society	• SIG to implement policies & provide services fairly to all people • Ensure honest & accountable people in strategic positions in SIG
35. Presence of IDPs as a source of tension	**MEDIUM 2.85**	• Register IDPs, identify needs & place of origin • Establish community committee to work on IDP issues & orient new arrivals about the community & how it operates	• Provide income generating projects targeting IDPs • SIG to decentralize development opportunities to encourage IDPs' return
36. Aggressive or 'hyper-masculine' behavior encouraged	**MEDIUM 3.24**	• Encourage positive & respectful models of masculinity & femininity within family /community	• Media to be sensitive to gender issues • Support to 'men's programs'
37. Trust between ethnic groups	**MEDIUM 3.61**	• Promote respect for inter-marriage • Promote unity programs in schools, churches, youth groups, e.g. flag raising & national anthem	• SIG to support programs on ethnic harmony • All school intakes to allow all ethnic groups, & to include civic education in the curriculum

INDICATOR	RISK LEVEL	RESPONSE OPTIONS	
		COMMUNITY LEVEL	*NATIONAL LEVEL*
38. Girls' primary school attendance	**LOW 2.55**	• Parents to value education and send all girls and boys to primary school • Awareness in communities concerning girls' right and need to attend school	• Provide incentives and refresher training for teachers • Make primary education compulsory
39. Boys' primary school attendance	**LOW 2.32**	• Parents to value education and send all girls and boys to primary school	• Provide incentives and refresher training for teachers • Make primary education compulsory
Peace Building			
40. Peace building programs address the needs of men	**MEDIUM 3.04**	• Identify & communicate needs for peace building • Promote community-driven peace programs involving men, women & youth	• Establish linkages between peace building programs & economic empowerment progs • Conduct gender-sensitive needs analyses
41. Peace building programs address the needs of women	**MEDIUM 2.97**	• Identify & communicate women's needs for peace building • Promote community-driven peace programs involving men, women & youth • Support strengths of women as peace-builders	• Establish linkages between peace building programs & economic empowerment programs • Conduct gender-sensitive needs assessments & analyses
42. Involvement of women in formal peace processes	**MEDIUM 2.82**	• Encourage inclusive peace programs • Support & promote women working for peace at the family & community level	• Identify a pool of women peace workers for representation in SIG, NGOs, etc • SIG to uphold international agreements, e.g. UNSC Resolution 1325
43. Community organizations involved in peace-building	**MEDIUM 3.00**	• Create database on groups working for peace • Groups to coordinate with each & plan together • Counseling & drop-in centers for youths	• Provide funding & capacity building for community-based peace organizations • Distribute projects through provinces
44. Women's organizations involved in peace-building	**MEDIUM 3.00**	• Include more women in community committees • End discrimination against women groups	• Provide capacity building for women groups • Financial support to women's groups
45. Peace building activities initiated & run by communities	**MEDIUM 3.20**	• Communities develop own goals for peace • Church leaders & chiefs to promote peace activities in the community • Women's organizations to encourage & include the participation of men	• SIG distribute Solomon Islands flags to all schools • Peace education curriculum in schools
46. Perception of 'ownership' of peace-building activities	**MEDIUM 3.01**	• Form a committee to encourage community groups to organize peace building activities • Encourage women, youth, chiefs and community leaders to plan & implement peace building activities	• Train community leaders on how to plan and implement peace building activities • SIG, NGOs & donors to consult with communities & act on their needs when planning peace-building programs

Annex 2. Community Profiles

Characteristic	Borderline	White River	Malu'u	Avuavu	Noro
Rural / Urban	Urban capital squatter settlement	Urban capital squatter settlement	Rural village	Rural village	Urban provincial town
Ethnic Profile	Mixed; majority Malaitan	Mixed; majority Tikopean, Renell/Bellona, Malaitan, Gilbertese	Malaitan	Guadalcanal	Mixed; majority Western
Church	Anglican & SSEC; also Pentecostal, AOG, COC, SDA	Anglican, SSEC, New Apostolic, SDA	SSEC; also Baptist, Jehovah's Witness	Catholic; also SSEC	United Church; also SSEC, SDA, Catholic, COC, CFC, Anglican
Population*	3,973	8,025	3,804	1,781	2,502
Province	Honiara	Honiara	Malaita	Guadalcanal	Western

*Borderline and White River figures calculated by Statistics Office using data from the 1999 Population and Housing Census; Malu'u, Avuavu and Noro figures from Population and Housing Census (1999).

Annex 3. Data Sources

Round One : April – July 2005

Data Source	Type	Number	Sex Distribution	Comments
Self-Monitoring Template	Survey	20	50% male 50% female	4 people from each community were trained as monitors of peace and conflict
Community Survey	Survey	100	50% male 50% female	Conducted in each of the communities, with 50% youth and 50% adult respondents
National Survey	Survey	100	50% male 50% female	'Informed specialists' from NGOs & other national & international organizations
Structural Data Set	Statistics	-	-	Based on available national level statistics
Media Scan	Scan	697 articles	-	Solomon Star newspaper is scanned for articles on peace and/or conflict on a daily basis
Community Meetings	Focus Group	8	50% male 50% female	Separate meetings with men and women are held in each community

Round Two : August – December 2005

Data Source	Type	Number	Sex Distribution	Comments
Self-Monitoring Template	Survey	20	50% male 50% female	4 people from each community were trained as monitors of peace and conflict
Community Survey	Survey	200	50% male 50% female	Conducted in each of the communities, with 50% youth and 50% adult respondents
National Survey	Survey	200	50% male 50% female	'Informed specialists' from NGOs & other national & international organizations
Structural Data Set	Statistics	-	-	Based on available national level statistics
Media Scan	Scan	1681 articles	-	Solomon Star newspaper is scanned for articles on peace and/or conflict on a daily basis
Community Meetings	Focus Group	9	50% male 50% female	Separate meetings with men and women are held in each community

Annex 4. Structural Data Set

Category	Indicator	Score
Economics		
	GDP per capita (US$)[a]	553 (2005)
	External debt (gross, SI$ millions)[b]	851.7 (2000)
	Human Development Index (rank) (HDI)[a]	128 of 177 (2005)
	Primary export industries (% of GDP)[b]	70% (up to 1996)
	Unemployment rate: male [c]	7.1% (1999)
	Unemployment rate: female [c]	12.5% (1999)
	Males in paid employment (% working age males)[c]	31%(1999)
	Females in paid employment (% working age females)[c]	15% (1999)
	Estimated earned income (PPP US$): male [a]	2,107 (2005)
	Estimated earned income (PPP US$): female [a]	1,391 (2005)
Health & Demographics		
	Fertility rate (births per woman)[a]	4.3 (2005)
	Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)[d]	184 (2004)
	Infant mortality: male (per 1,000 live births)[c]	67 (1999)
	Infant mortality: female (per 1,000 live births)[c]	65 (1999)
	Life expectancy at birth: male [a]	60.6 years (2005)
	Life expectancy at birth: female [a]	61.6 years (2005)
	Youth (14-24 year olds as % of adult population) [e]	37% (2005)
Education		
	Adult literacy rate: male [c]	83.7% (1999)
	Adult literacy rate: female [c]	69% (1999)
	Primary enrolment ratio: male [c]	78.2% (1999)
	Primary enrolment ratio: female [c]	74.6% (1999)
	Secondary enrollment ratio: male [c]	33.6% (1999)
	Secondary enrollment ratio: female [c]	24.8% (1999)
Gender Empowerment		
	Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)[b]	0.593 (1999)
	Women with seats in national parliament	0% (2005)
	Female suffrage (year)	1974
	Signatory to CEDAW	Yes
Civil & Political Rights		
	Freedom rating [f]	Partly free (2005)
	Political rights rating [f]	3/7 (2005)
	Civil rights rating [f]	3/7 (2005)

a) UNDP Human Development Report;[25] b) Solomon Islands Human Development Report, using 1999 data;[26] c) Population and Housing Census;[27] d) Ministry of Health;[28] e) Population Division, United Nations;[29] f) Freedom House.[30]

Acronyms

AOG	Assembly of God
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFC	Christian Fellowship Church
COC	Church of Christ
DHA	Department for Home Affairs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLF	Guadalcanal Liberation Front
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFM	Isatabu Freedom Movement
LDC	Least Developed Country
MEF	Malaita Eagle Force
MOL	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
MP	Member of Parliament
MSM	Malaita Separatist Movement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Peace Council
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
SICA	Solomon Islands Christian Association
SIDT	Solomon Islands Development Trust
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SSEC	South Sea Evangelical Church
PPF	Participating Police Force
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RSIP	Royal Solomon Islands Police
TPA	Townsville Peace Agreement
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

Notes

[1] UNIFEM (2005) *Monitoring Peace and Conflict in the Solomon Islands: Gendered Early Warning Report No.1*, UNIFEM Report, Honiara. Available from UNIFEM Honiara office, or at: www.womenwarpeace.org/solomon_islands/docs/Gendered_Early_Warning_Report__1.pdf

[2] For detailed accounts of the tensions and their causes, see two recent publications: Fraenkel, J. (2004) *The Manipulation of Custom: From Uprising to Intervention in the Solomon Islands*, Wellington: Victoria University Press; Moore, C. (2004) *Happy Isles in Crisis: The Historical Causes for a Failing State in Solomon Islands, 1998-2004*, Canberra: Asia Pacific Press.

[3] R. Muggah (2004) 'Diagnosing Demand: Assessing the Motivations and Means for Firearms Acquisition in the Solomon Islands and PNG', Discussion Paper 2004/7, Canberra: The Australian National University. 'Internally displaced persons' is the standard international terminology, although in the Solomon Islands the term 'displaced people' is also often used.

[4] For more information on women's and men's roles and experiences during and after the tensions, see A. Moser (2005) 'Peace and Conflict Gender Analysis: Community Level Data from the Solomon Islands', UNIFEM report, Honiara. Available from UNIFEM Honiara office, or at: www.womenwarpeace.org/solomon_islands/docs/PCGA_Solomons.pdf

[5] Early warning indicators are generally divided into three types: *structural indicators* of background preconditions; *proximate indicators* of emerging situational trends; and *intervening factors* which decrease or increase the likelihood of conflict. Structural data in the form of statistics are generally limited and out-of-date in the Solomon Islands. Given this and the project's emphasis on community interaction, UNIFEM is best positioned to focus its analysis on proximate and intervening indicators.

[6] While some conflict early warning frameworks aggregate their indicators into composite scores, this is analytically problematic. It assumes that such indicators are comparable, and relies on judgments as to their relative weight (for example, 'economic inequality is twice as important as political corruption'), or equally problematically assumes that all indicators are equal (see Foweraker, J. and R. Krznaric (2000) 'Measuring Liberal Democratic Performance: an Empirical and Conceptual Critique', *Political Studies* 48: 759-787). For these reasons, in this report indicators scores are not aggregated.

[7] Le Billion, P. (2003) 'Overcoming Corruption in the Wake of Conflict', in Transparency International, *Global Corruption Report 2005*, London: Pluto Press.

[8] Fraenkel, J. (2004) *The Manipulation of Custom: From Uprising to Intervention in the Solomon Islands*, Wellington: Victoria University Press.

[9] P. Roughan (2004) *National Integrity Systems. Transparency International Country Study Report: Solomon Islands 2004*. Blackburn: Transparency International Australia and Asia Pacific School of Economics and Governance.

[10] Solomon Islands Development Trust (2005) 'Solomon Islands Report Card No. 7', Solomon Islands Development Trust, Solomon Islands, July 2005.

[11] For example, a 5% decrease in the proportion of women in parliament renders a state nearly five times more likely to resolve international disputes using military violence. The same study found that states with high fertility rates, which indicate a low social status for women, are also more likely to use force in international disputes, as are states with a low percentage of women in the labor force. Caprioli, M. (2000) 'Gendered Conflict', *Journal of Peace Research* 37(1): 52-68.

[12] UNDP (2005) *Human Development Report 2005: International Cooperation at a Crossroads – Aid, Trade and Security in and Unequal World,* New York: UNDP; World Bank (2005) *World Development Report 2006: Equity and Development,* New York: Oxford University Press and the World Bank; Stewart, F. (2002) 'Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development', CRISE Working Paper No. 1, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

[13] Solomon Islands Government (2005) 'National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan: Implementation Report', Department of National Planning and Aid Coordination, October 2005.

[14] National Peace Council (2005) 'Weathercoast (Tasi Mauri) Tok Stori Statement', Kuma, Solomon Islands, September 2005.

[15] Collier, P. (2003) 'Development and Peace', *Global Future,* First Quarter 2003.

[16] Up until to 1996, approximately 70 percent of GDP was provided by primary exporting industries, a trend that continues to the present.

[17] Bannon, I. and P. Collier (2003) *Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: Options and Actions*, Washington, DC: World Bank. For example, when the ratio of primary commodity exports to GDP is used as a proxy for natural resources, it has been found that a high dependence on primary commodity exports substantially increases the risk of conflict, with the risk of conflict peaking when they constitute 32% of GDP. In Collier, P. and A. Hoeffler (2001) 'Greed and Grievance in Civil War', World Bank Paper 28126, October 2001.

[18] Wale, R. and A. Baeanisia (2005) 'Case Study 3: Perceptions of Security after the TPA and RAMSI in the Solomon Islands', in E. Le Brun and R. Muggag (eds.) *Silencing Guns: Local Perspectives on Small Arms and Armed Violence in Rural South Pacific Island Communities*, Geneva: Small Arms Survey.

[19] Amnesty International (2004) *Solomon Islands: Women Confronting Violence*, New York: Amnesty International.

[20] Moser, C. and A. Moser (2003) 'Gender-Based Violence: A Serious Development Constraint', Background Paper for the World Bank Gender Unit, Washington, DC: World Bank.

[21] Despite this common perception, under Solomon Islands law domestic violence is considered as assault.

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[24] Women and media training is already being provided in the Solomon Islands. For example, in October 2005 Vois Blong Mere Solomon, the Women's Development Division and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community together facilitated a successful workshop called 'Section J: Understanding Women and Media Workshop'.

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