

Report



EVALUATION

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Context in the Solomon Islands

Researcher and Author: Sharyn Titchener - External Consultant

Logistics Assistance and Support: Save the Children Australia, Solomon Islands

Editorial Assistance: Kristian Fromhyr, David Nye, Courtney Innes, Meaghan Barry, Leila Davies, Joseph Taungani, Tagan Paul, Sheebah Mirisa

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ACRONYMS

AHTAC	Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ECP	Emergency Contraceptive Pill
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
HOPE	Homes of Peace and Empowerment
INGO	International Non-Government Organisations
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MWCYFA	Ministry for Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAACC	National Advisory Action Committee for Children
NGO	Non-Government Organisations
PAC	Provincial Advisory Committee
REFNET	Referral Network
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Island Police Force
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SIPPA	Solomon Island Planned Parenthood Association
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
THB	Trafficking Human Beings
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a pervasive child rights violation which adversely impacts on the development, health, safety and dignity of vulnerable children and young people in the Solomon Islands. Research conducted during the past 10 years,¹ found the key factors which contribute to the sexual exploitation of children include the presence of foreign industries such as logging, fishing, and mining; a lack of awareness about the impact of CSEC on children, families, and communities; gender inequalities and stereotypes; economic factors; an absence of protective legislation; and harmful cultural practices such as arranged early marriages and bride price.²

In light of the findings from this research, Save the Children Australia - in partnership with Homes of Peace and Empowerment (HOPE) Trust, a local faith-based NGO - implemented a two-year project from 2015-2017, in 21 communities across three Provinces (Guadalcanal, Choiseul and Western Province). Financially supported by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Project (referred to as CSEC Project) was aimed at strengthening the prevention and protection of children from CSEC through empowerment and cooperation and the implementation of a multi-sectoral approach.

Objectives and Methodology of the Evaluation

This qualitative evaluation provides an understanding of the current protective 'landscape' toward 'at risk' children and identifies what is still needed to be done in the Solomon Islands to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation. The findings and recommendations will support future planning and decision-making in addressing the issue of CSEC in the Solomon Islands and will also be used to inform future project designs, policy making and strategies to protect children. The objectives of the evaluation exercise were to:

- (1) Assess what policy and practice changes in the Solomon Islands have happened in the past two years to address CSEC;
- (2) Identify what changes in the Solomon Islands still need to happen to protect children from CSEC, and provide recommendations to assist in future programme design and implementation

¹ Herbert, T. (2007) *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Solomon Islands: A report focusing on the presence of the logging industry in a remote region*. Christian Care Centre, Church of Melanesia.

Save the Children (2015) *Dynamics of Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Solomon Islands- 30 January 2015*. Save the Children Australia

UNICEF (2008) *Protect me with Love and Care: Child Protection Baseline Report for the Solomon Islands*. UNICEF Pacific, Suva, Fiji

² Save the Children (2015) *Dynamics of Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Solomon Islands: Cross Provincial Study – 30 January 2015*. Save the Children Australia.

- (3) Examine how well positioned and designed Save the Children's 2016-2017 CSEC project was addressing CSEC issues.

Key findings

The information gathered for this evaluation suggests that many of the predictive risk factors for CSEC are still present in the Solomon Islands. However, during the past two years the building of protective environments for children in the Solomon Islands has undergone the greatest transformation that has ever been seen. There is now evidence reflecting the commitment of the Solomon Islands government to Articles 19 and 34 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which explicitly state that the contracting party will undertake to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, including exploitative use of prostitution and pornography.

Changes at a national level have included the development and implementation of protective domestic legislation, and the design and development of victim-centred policies and processes. Changes also include strengthening of policies and practices for front-line staff such as health, police, and immigration, the establishment of a collaborative approach to law enforcement services (Immigration, Customs, Police) and an increase in medical and psycho-social services for children and girls affected by CSEC. At a Provincial level, there has been notable progress with the establishment of Provincial Advisory Committees (under the National Advisory Action Committee for Children) in two Provinces and the appointment of Child Desk Officers in all Provincial Governments. A Community Policing strategy has been adopted across the Provinces with the appointment of Community Police Officers who are tasked to engage with the community on crime prevention initiatives. At a community level, there is evidence that the implementation of education and awareness projects, such as Save the Children's CSEC Project, have created a heightened understanding about the risks to children when villages are exposed to contributors to CSEC, such as foreign industries. Equally promising is the implementation of 'organic' protective measures by communities, such as the establishment of by-laws by Chiefs and village leaders and the engagement of the church to educate children and families about protecting the dignity and physical integrity of all children from abuse and exploitation.

Gaps and Challenges

Although there have been significant developments in building protective environments for children, the information gathered for this evaluation identified gaps and challenges which will need to be addressed for children to be protected from CSEC;

- Failure at a government level to ratify important international instruments and amend domestic legislation;
- Lack of evidence that processes and policies are child-centred and place the rights and interests of children at the centre of all decision making;
- There was little evidence of there being a multi-sector strategic prevention approach to CSEC;
- Lack of evidence that the CSEC is understood as a serious health issue;

- The current education environment is non-protective toward CSEC. Education continues to often be unobtainable to the most 'at risk' communities due to the absence of schools in the area and the cost of 'school fees';
- The importance of the engagement of churches and faith-based organisations in addressing CSEC is often overlooked;
- Greater consideration is required in the delivery of education and awareness programmes about CSEC – programmes need to be of social and cultural relevance, they need to have a strong sustainability element beyond the life of the project and need to be safe and ethical;
- Clear and safe referral pathways need to be established prior to the delivery of education and awareness programmes;
- Due to a lack of education and knowledge about CSEC and the gendered nature of sexual exploitation, there is the potential for community initiatives, such as community by-laws, to minimise the seriousness of the issue;³
- CSEC, within a child protection framework, has yet to be included in the teaching curriculums at the Police Academy, School of Nursing and Teachers' Colleges;
- Currently there is a lack of data gathering and surveillance to build a picture of the prevalence and incidence rates of CSEC;
- There is a lack of evidence of the importance of a robust monitoring process of all intervention activities aimed at addressing CSEC.

Recommendations

1. Support the Solomon Islands Government to ratify and adopt relevant international instruments and amend domestic legislation to ensure it is aligned to UNCRC (e.g. Education Act 1978);
2. Encourage a strengthened understanding of CSEC within a Child Rights and Child Protection Systems approach to ensure that the interests and rights of children are at the centre of decision-making;
3. Adoption of a strategic prevention approach to CSEC to ensure that the issue is being responded to through a combination of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention activities and programmes;
4. Increased understanding of and strengthened response to addressing CSEC as a health issue;
5. Strengthen referral pathways and accessibility and availability of psychosocial services for CSEC survivors;
6. Strengthening the protective power of education against CSEC through making education compulsory, accessible and free for all children;
7. Purposeful engagement with churches and faith-based organisations as an element of a systems approach to strengthening the protective environments around children;

³ A finding documented in the *Solomon Islands Non-Government Organisations' Alternative Report on the Combined Second and Third Periodic Reports of Solomon Islands to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child December 2017*. Save the Children Australia.

8. Strengthen the resilience and capacity of children, families and communities through empowering community ownership and collective responsibility. This can be achieved by ensuring education and awareness programmes touch the ‘hearts and minds’ of communities through the delivery of programmes of social and cultural relevance, and ensuring that the ‘voice of the child’ is evident through their meaningful participation in program planning, design, implementation and evaluation;
9. It is critical that information on CSEC is included in the training tertiary curricula at the Police Academy, Teacher’s College and School of Nursing;
10. Data surveillance – reporting and capturing of data about CSEC needs to be strengthened across the sectors;
11. High prioritisation given to the monitoring and evaluation of interventions to measure whether prevention and intervention programs are achieving better outcomes for children.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE EVALUATION

Save the Children’s CSEC Project has now come to the end of the two-year period. This evaluation has been conducted to understand the current protective ‘landscape’ in addressing CSEC and identify what is still needed to be done in the Solomon Islands to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation.⁴ The findings will support future planning and decision-making in addressing the issue of CSEC for communities in the Solomon Islands. Recommendations from the evaluation will also be used to inform future project designs, policy making and strategies to protect children.

The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- (1) Assess what policy and practice changes in the Solomon Islands have happened in the past two years to address CSEC;
- (2) Identify what changes in the Solomon Islands still need to happen to protect children from CSEC, and provide recommendations to assist in future programme design and implementation
- (3) Examine how well positioned and designed Save the Children’s 2016-2017 CSEC project was in addressing CSEC issues.

The evaluation was carried out from 24 November 2017 to 31 January 2018, which included a 12-day country visit from 3-14 December 2017. The evaluation adopted a qualitative approach which included a desk review analysis and data collection through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGD’s) with key stakeholders. These data collection techniques were identified as appropriate for the evaluation process, as they allow participants the opportunity for ‘story-telling’, which is such a key element of Solomon Island culture.

⁴ See Appendix A for the Terms of Reference for this Evaluation

Prior to the country visit the consultant conducted a desk review of relevant documents provided by Save the Children, as well as documentation sourced by the consultant, such as recent reports on child protection in the Solomon Islands, relevant Ministries National Strategic Plans, National Action Plans and media releases.

Interviewees for the semi-structured interviews⁵ were identified through purposeful sampling by Honiara-based Save the Children staff and by the consultant. This sampling technique was used as it was important to gather 'information rich' data in order to meet the objective of the evaluation. Save the Children staff identified key interviewees who were directly involved with the CSEC Project, or who had been working collaboratively with Save the Children over the past two years. In addition to these interviewees, the consultant identified further relevant key stakeholders from her own networks and contacts within the child protection field in the Solomon Islands. Project sites were purposefully chosen by Save the Children Project Leaders in Western and Choiseul Province.

To ensure there would be engagement with an appropriate cross-section of stakeholders, the list of interviewees was analysed through the lens of a child protection systems approach. A systems approach focuses on strengthening the protective environment around children through developing synergies between key actors, as well as empowering children themselves to be actors in their own protection. It was therefore important to gather data from across the sectors, including law enforcement agencies, health services, psycho-social support services, policy-makers, and local government.⁶ In addition to these stakeholders, it was important to gather data from the communities and children who had participated in the CSEC Project and from Save the Children's local project partner, HOPE Trust.

Prior to interviews being conducted, an Information Sheet was provided to the interviewee.⁷ Interviewees were also advised that although a semi-structured Question Guide would be used during the interview, they had the freedom to provide any further information or comments that they felt were relevant. The interviews were conducted by the consultant, with Save the Children's Program Quality Manager accompanying the consultant to some of these interviews. Information was recorded by the consultant in writing, with a comprehensive Journal being collated each evening. Although the questions were asked in English, the consultant had a good understanding of Solomon Island Pijin, therefore interviewees were able to respond in either English or Pijin.

Participation by project sites in the evaluation, was arranged by Save the Children staff. Two sites were selected in Western Province and two sites in Choiseul Province, however due to unforeseen circumstances, only one site in the Western Province participated in the evaluation. Due to remoteness of the sites in Western Province, there was only sufficient time to conduct FGDs with adults and children, and a semi-structured interview with a Community Project Leader. The Project Leaders from Save the Children Gizo Office accompanied the consultant to Leona community; located on the island of Vella Lavella. FGDs were facilitated by Save the Children

⁵ See Appendix B for Question Guide

⁶ See Appendix C for list of interviewees

⁷ See Appendix D for Information Sheet

Project Leaders and a Community Project Leader using a FGD Guide.⁸ Participants who attended were those who had taken part in CSEC project activities. A Consent Form had been prepared, however the consultant was advised by the Project Leaders that all participants had previously signed a Consent Form which included consenting to both participation in the Project and participation in the evaluation of the project. Unfortunately, due to the proximity to Christmas and the short notice provided to the community, only women and children participated in three separate FGDs as men in the community were engaged with other activities. The FGDs consisted of:

- Girls group – 9 participants aged between 13-17 years
- Boys group – 6 participants aged between 12-16 years
- Adults group – 8 women

In addition to the FGDs, a semi-structured interview was conducted with one Community Project Leader from Leona Community. A Community Project Leader from the project site of Nukiki (Choiseul Province) also participated in an interview.

A thematic analysis of the data and information was applied at the conclusion of the country visit. This involved examining the desk review analysis and data gathered from the interviews and FGDs, to identify emerging themes of the current context of CSEC in the Solomon Islands, and the gaps and challenges which still need to be addressed to afford children greater protection from CSEC.

Limitations of the Evaluation

- It was intended that visits to four project sites would take place in the Western Province and Choiseul Province. However, due to the timing of the evaluation taking place so close to Christmas and unforeseen difficulties with air travel to Choiseul, only one of the four identified project sites participated directly in the evaluation.
- At the one project site visited (Leona), only women, girls and boys took part in the consultations. There were no men available to participate on the day due to being committed to other community activities.
- There was a sense of disharmony between Save the Children and their local partner, HOPE Trust. This made it difficult to initially secure a meeting with HOPE Trust's Project Coordinator and this only took place on the day before the consultant departed from the Solomon Islands. This did not allow time for any further follow-up interviews with stakeholders who HOPE Trust may have been able to identify as being relevant to the evaluation. Visits to HOPE Trust's project sites in Honiara did not take place due to the timing of the country visit; which had fallen outside of the closure of the project and was close to Christmas, with communities already busy with their community and church Christmas activities.

⁸ Appendix E – FGD Guide

POLICY AND PRACTICE CHANGES IN THE RESPONSE TO CSEC IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

CSEC is an issue which needs to be understood within a child rights framework and responded to from a child protection systems approach. Over the past two years, many of the predictive risk factors for CSEC have remained relatively unchanged within the Solomon Islands. For example, the Save the Children Cross Provincial Study (2015)⁹ identified an increased risk of CSEC occurring in communities located near logging and fishery sites. These industries have continued, with no evidence of any greater protection being afforded to children who live in local communities. The scale of the risk is evidenced in the logging industry by the number of Felling Licences being issued by the Solomon Island Government. During the first year of the Save the Children CSEC Project (2016), the Solomon Islands government issued 309 Felling Licences to 150 foreign logging operators.¹⁰ It is very likely, from information gathered from consultations with the Ministry of Forestry, that the 2017 year will reflect a similar number of licences being issued. The issuance of licences, whereby the government has failed to impose and monitor social and ethical guidelines and regulations on foreign industries to protect affected communities, has resulted in the continued exposure of vulnerable children to the risk of becoming victims to CSEC. Other predictive risk factors which have remained unchanged include high unemployment rates in the Solomon Islands, particularly in remote rural communities. Furthermore, the access to education for children continues to remain difficult for many families in these same communities, due to cost and accessibility to early childhood development centres and schools.

Despite the relatively unchanged environment of risk predictive factors for CSEC, there has been significant progress in policy and practice in the Solomon Islands during the past two years which will ultimately afford greater protection for children from all forms of abuse, harm and exploitation.

This progress includes:

- Development and implementation of protective domestic legislation;
- Development of protective policies and processes;
- Strengthened health response to violence against girls and children;
- Strengthened law enforcement response to CSEC and Child Trafficking;
- Strengthened Provincial Government response to CSEC;
- Strengthened resilience of children, families and communities.

Development and Implementation of Protective Domestic Legislation

At a national government level, the recent development and enactment of protective domestic legislation demonstrates that the Solomon Islands government is taking its responsibilities and commitment to UNCRC seriously. The country has taken measures to ensure that the protection of children becomes operational through the development of a national child protection system. During

⁹ Save the Children (2015) *Dynamics of Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Solomon Islands: A Cross Provincial Study – 30 January 2015*. Save the Children Australia

¹⁰ ACPEU Migration Action (2017) *Scoping Study on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Solomon Islands*

the past two years, the implementation of the Family Protection Act 2014 has been rolled out across the country through programs being implemented by both government ministries and the NGO sector.¹¹ The implementation strategy has involved a comprehensive awareness programme which has focused on delivering four key messages; protection, safety, responsibility and communication. The implementation of the Family Protection Act is extremely important in responding to CSEC due to the gendered nature of this form of abuse, and the association that research has drawn between the presence of other forms of violence in situations where CSEC is present.

Another significant legislative development has been the gazetting of the Immigration Act 2012, in August 2014. The Immigration Department has the responsibility for the administration of this Act. The Act prohibits and punishes all forms of trafficking in persons and prescribes penalties for both trafficking of adults and trafficking of children and is aligned to the requirements of the *Palermo Protocols*.¹² Although the Immigration Act came into force in 2014, it is only in 2017 that there have been the first two cases whereby trafficking charges under this Act have been laid against alleged offenders. These charges relate to two separate cases involving the sexual exploitation of children (aged under 16 years) by foreign men who are working in the logging industry. If these prosecutions are successful, these will be the first cases in the Solomon Islands where foreigners have been convicted of child trafficking and will create case-law in the protection of children.

A further change to domestic legislation has been an amendment to the Penal Code (Sexual Offence) which was passed by Cabinet in May 2016. In addition to introducing harsher penalties for those convicted of sexual offences, an important element of this amendment is the introduction of criminalizing domestic trafficking. The amendment has also introduced additional categories of sexual offences including persistent sexual abuse of a child under the age of 18 years; sexual abuse of a child over the age of 15 years but under 18 years by a person in a position of trust, authority or dependency in relation to the child; child commercial sexual exploitation; and participation, use, distribution and storing of child sexual exploitation materials (visual, audio, print and data).

A notable achievement toward the protection of children from CSEC has been the enactment of the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 in March 2017. The passing of this Bill by Cabinet was a landmark for the Government of the Solomon Islands. It is the first time that the country can look forward to a future where there is specific legislation aimed at upholding the rights of children and offering them protection from all forms of violence, harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Social Welfare Division will be mandated with the power to provide protection and care to children

¹¹ Save the Children participated in this roll-out during 2016-2017, through their 'Protectim Pikinini Project' which was implemented in communities across four Provinces.

¹² The Palermo Protocols are three protocols that were adopted by the United Nations to supplement the 2000 Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Convention); one of these being the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*.

who have had their rights violated. Article 3 of UNCRC underpins the Act, ensuring the principle of the best interest of the child is paramount in decision making.

“The law will give the social welfare officer the ability to take a step further in making parents take responsibility for their children. In the past in the Solomon Islands, it has been the responsibility of parents to protect children but this has not been working well which is why we are now experiencing things like child abuse and child trafficking”

Key stakeholder, Honiara, 2017

Development of Protective Policies and Processes

In addition to the enactment of protective domestic legislation, there has been further evidence that the Solomon Islands government is taking an active interest in the issue of CSEC, through the implementation of policies, action plans and processes. In March 2015, the *Solomon Islands National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking and People Smuggling 2015-2020* came into effect. This National Action Plan seeks a cooperative and collaborative approach from key stakeholders to respond to cases of trafficking in a manner which seeks to apprehend perpetrators of these offences and bring them to justice. It also seeks to ensure that victims of trafficking are provided with access to the services and assistance they require to meet their physical, emotional, psychological and legal needs.

In May 2016, the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee (AHTAC) was formed, replacing the former Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee which was established in 2012. AHTAC became a Cabinet-mandated body in 2016 and is endorsed by the Ministries’ of Commerce, Labour, Immigration and Industries. The AHTAC is an interagency committee which was initially chaired by Immigration, and more recently by HOPE Trust who held this position until December 2017. A new Chair has not yet been announced for 2018. The role of the Committee is to provide advice and guidance on all forms of human trafficking to the Solomon Islands Government. The Committee also fulfils an advisory role on strategic development around policy and legislation and aims to encourage and support a collaborative and coordinated approach amongst government, NGOs, civil society and faith-based organisations to prevent and address cases of adult and child trafficking. Save the Children plays a critical role on this committee to ensure that the rights and best interests of the child underpin any developments in preventing and responding to CSEC and child trafficking.

SAFENET, a multi-sector, holistic and integrated referral response to violence against women and children, was officially launched through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2013.¹³ The intent of SAFENET is to provide a coordinated and collaborative victim-centred frontline approach by both government and non-government organisations and agencies when responding to cases of violence against women and girls. Responding to child

¹³ Parties to the MOU in 2013 included Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Public Solicitors Office, Royal Solomon Island Police Force, Christian Care Centre, and Family Support Centre. The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs has become a party to the 2017 MOU.

protection cases was not included in this initial MOU or in the Terms of Reference (TOR). This has now been rectified after the MOU was reviewed and re-signed in 2017. The revised MOU now provides clarity around specific roles for the Social Welfare Division in relation to child protection, and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (Women's Desk and Children's Desk) have signed as an additional member of SAFENET. Currently SAFENET is a Honiara-based referral pathway, which is proving to be effective and has increased public and stakeholder confidence that a concerted effort is being made to establish a safe and collaborative response to violence against women, girls and children.¹⁴ The Family Support Centre, a partner of SAFENET, reported that between May-November 2017, they had received 161 new referrals for cases where women and children have been exposed to violence, abuse, harm and exploitation. These cases had all been received through the SAFENET referral network. Although SAFENET remains a Honiara-based referral pathway, a smaller model is being rolled out to Provinces in the form of a REFNET (Referral Network).

Many years after its establishment in 2003, the National Advisory and Action Committee for Children (NAACC) is now operational, with a full-time officer being employed, who has the responsibility for requesting funding and coordinating meetings. NAACC meets quarterly, and there is a functioning Child Protection Working Group chaired by Save the Children and a Child Protection Sub-Committee, which the Director of Social Welfare chairs. The Child Protection Sub-Committee is made up of a cross-section of both government and NGOs, with Save the Children being one of the standing members. A significant project that NAACC have been working on over the past year has been the development of a Facilitation Package for Positive Parenting. The subcommittee is currently preparing to assist in the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Act, through the development of material such as brochures, pamphlets and brochures.

During 2017, the Ministry for Forestry, in collaboration with UNDP, commissioned a consultant to draft 'Social Guidelines' for Logging Camps. Logging in the Solomon Islands is currently governed by the '*Solomon Island Code of Logging Practice*', however the Ministry for Forestry has recognised that this Code of Practice does not take into consideration the social impact logging has on individuals, families and communities. These guidelines were continuing to be drafted at the time this evaluation was being conducted, however this move by the Ministry for Forestry to provide greater protection to families and communities affected by the logging industry is extremely promising. This will potentially provide a platform for further dialogue and discussion between the Ministry of Forestry and child-rights organisations about specific risk factors to children, such as child marriage and CSEC.

In 2016 the Royal Solomon Island Police Force launched their Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2018. This Strategy signals a significant shift in policing in the Solomon Islands as it moves away from responding to and investigating crime, to placing greater emphasis on preventing crime before it occurs. A key element of the Strategy involves the engagement of communities and stakeholders to develop action plans to prevent crime; drawing on the strength of supportive

¹⁴ Specialist Health Service (2016) *Solomon Islands – Strengthening Gender Equality and Response to GBV through the MHMS*. Abt JTA Pty Ltd, Australia.

traditional customs and practices. The Crime Prevention Strategy, which is underpinned by a Community Policing model, has the potential to provide greater protection to children from all forms of violence, through encouraging communities to take collective responsibility to mitigate against risk factors in their communities which bring risk of harm and abuse to their children. Save the Children's CSEC Project was involved in providing child protection support and training to this emerging model of policing. In October 2017, a two-day *Preventing and Responding to the Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Solomon Islands* was co-facilitated by Save the Children staff and HOPE Trust. The workshop provided an opportunity for Police and other key service providers to engage and learn alongside each other, and provided a forum for CSEC to be raised as a challenging issue which is threatening the safety of children in the Solomon Islands.

The workshop is part of the RSIPF Crime Prevention Strategy which stipulates working together with our stakeholders to discuss and learn what is best for our children, and ensure our children are treated with the utmost care.....”

Superintendent Solomon Sisimia, Director of the National Policing Unit, RSIPF (October 2017)¹⁵

There is evidence that the Solomon Island government is placing birth registration as a priority in protecting the rights of children (Article 7 UNCRC). A study conducted in 2008 showed that birth registration in the Solomon Islands was the lowest in the Pacific region, being at 0.1%.¹⁶ The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System (CRVS) was launched in early 2014 and in 2015 an electronic registration system was implemented. By 2016, for the first time ever in the Solomon Islands, birth registration for children born in remote and rural areas was available. There are now 15 health satellite services in Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Temotu, Makira, Western Province and Honiara which assist and facilitate in birth registrations. These developments are crucial to combatting CSEC, as birth registration legally secures the recognition of every child before a Court of Law, which is essential to not only providing protection to the rights of the child, but to also ensure that justice is brought to upholding these rights when they have been violated. Research has also shown that children who are not registered at birth are more vulnerable to child protection risks and more likely to be deprived of access to education, health and social services.¹⁷

A Strengthened Health Response to Violence Against Girls and Children

Over recent years, and particularly within the past two years, there has been significant momentum within the health sector to strengthen the health response to children affected by violence, abuse and exploitation. During 2016-2017 a training programme for health workers, tailored to the social and cultural context of the Solomon Islands and aimed at strengthening the response to violence against women and children, has been rolled out across the country. This

¹⁵ Royal Solomon Island Police Force - Media Release – 5 October 2017 – RSIPF Officers Participate in Workshop on Child Rights and Violence

¹⁶ UNICEF (2008) Assessment on the Current Status of Civil Registration with focus on Birth Registration in Solomon Islands. UNICEF Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

¹⁷ UNICEF (2015) *Unequal at Birth: Disparities in Birth Registration in East Asia and Pacific*. UNICEF Pacific, Suva, Fiji

training package includes strengthening clinical case management and communication skills when responding to victims of sexual violence and exploitation. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) has also rolled out training on the Family Protection Act 2014 to health workers at a national and provincial level, particularly in reference to section 46 which mandates health workers to report cases of violence towards children to a social welfare officer or police officer (section 46 (e)).

In addition to the training package, in 2017 the MHMS in consultation with partners, endorsed the *Guidelines and a Clinical Handbook for the Minimum Standards of Care for Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence*. These Guidelines are aligned to Solomon Islands law and promote international best practice.¹⁸ They have been developed to ensure there are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) available to the Solomon Island health sector so that they can provide quality medical and psycho-social care to survivors of physical and sexual violence. The guidelines identify that the health sector needs to be able to meet four key areas of need for women and children who have been subjected to violence; (1) immediate emotional/psychological health needs; (2) immediate physical health needs including treatment; (3) on-going safety needs and referral to SAFENET and social workers, particularly in the case of children; (4) on-going support and health needs for the victim. Within these guidelines, there are two important templates to record abuse against a child. There is a *Suspected Child Abuse Report*, where 'trafficking' and 'sexual assault' are categories of types of abuse which the health worker can identify as part of completing this report. In addition to this form, there is also a template for *Body Mapping of Injuries on a Child*, including injuries sustained as a result of sexual violence. The introduction of these recording measures is important for the purpose of referring a child to an appropriate service and for strengthening the 'chain of evidence' when a prosecution is being taken for cases of sexual assault and exploitation of a child.

In 2016 the Solomon Islands was selected as one of 10 countries, to pilot test *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence: Core Elements and Quality Guidelines*.¹⁹ This package has been developed by UN Women in collaboration with partners (UNFPA, WHO, UNODC and UNDP) to improve access to a coordinated set of essential multi-sectoral quality services (health, social services, police and justice sectors) for women and girls who have been subjected to any form of violence. The pilot testing is taking place from 2016-2018 with the aim to test whether the guidelines and tools can be translated into practice and benefit women and girls affected by violence.

In 2017, the MHMS funded for the first time ever, a qualified Gynaecologist/Obstetrician to conduct Provincial visits. The two Provinces where these visits took place were Makira and Temotu as they were identified as having high rates of teenage pregnancies and STIs in the 10-

¹⁸ WHO (2013) Responding to Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Against Women: WHO Clinical and Policy Guidelines. WHO, Geneva.

WHO (2017) Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused. WHO Clinical Guidelines

¹⁹<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence#sthash.LAWRR10o.dpuf>

24 age group.²⁰ Consultations with two MHMS trainers, two nurses and a doctor, suggest that assumptions have been made that the high rates of teenage pregnancies and STIs in these two Provinces directly correlate to the presence of logging camps which are located in close proximity to many of the villages. However, there does not appear to be any research or data to support this assumption.

Seif Ples is a Gender-based Violence Crisis and Referral Centre in Honiara which offers a comprehensive first response service to adult and child victims of sexual and gender-based violence. It was established in 2012 with the assistance of partners and had an ex-patriate as a Centre Manager until June 2017. The Centre is now fully staffed by Solomon Islanders and during 2017 a scoping exercise was undertaken to identify three locations to roll-out *Seif Ples* at a Provincial level. Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki, Malaita Province), Gizo Hospital, (Gizo Town, Western Province) and the Good Samaritan Hospital (Tetere, Guadalcanal Province) are the three locations which have been identified. Planning and preparation will begin in 2018 to begin to start establishing these Centres. The availability of *Seif Ples* services in these additional locations will not only strengthen current health services already being provided, but will ensure that children and girls who have been subjected to sexual exploitation will have access to specialised and supportive medical and psycho-social care and treatment. Save the Children's CSEC Project was well aligned to strengthening the health sector as an important entry point for children who are victims of sexual exploitation. Staff members from *Seif Ples* attended the training workshop facilitated by Save the Children on *Preventing and Responding to the Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Solomon Islands* in October 2017.

A further development within the health sector which will strengthen the health response to responding to cases of child abuse and exploitation is the current up-skilling of five Medical Registrars. These Registrars are being supported by the Solomon Islands government to complete a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Paediatrics (online), through the University of Sydney. This Diploma includes information on identifying and responding to cases of child abuse. This is a very significant development for the health sector, as currently doctors who are trained at the University of South Pacific Medical Schools in Papua New Guinea and Suva do not receive any training on identifying and responding to non-accidental injuries or sexual assault on a child.

A Strengthened Law Enforcement Response to CSEC and Child Trafficking

There is significant evidence that the Ministry for Forestry and Research, Immigration Division, Customs Division and RSIPF have developed a collaborative and coordinated model of response to CSEC, within a law enforcement framework. In 2017, these key agencies were involved in two Joint Operations which saw Patrols travelling by sea to Provincial areas where issues had been identified, such as illegal migrants and CSEC. As a direct result of these patrols, a case is now before the Court whereby a foreign logger has been charged with child trafficking.

²⁰ Ministry of Health 2016 Data which showed that 50% of all individuals who had contracted an STI was aged less than 24 years of age.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has increased its presence in the Solomon Islands as a result of the country being identified as both a source and destination for domestic and international trafficking.²¹ In partnership with the Solomon Islands Immigration Division, IOM implemented a Counter-Trafficking Programme during the period October 2014-September 2016. Key activities included building the capacity of key law enforcement agencies and key stakeholders at both a national and provincial level through the delivery of a training workshop. The training programme included the identification of victims, the investigation of cases, referral processes, and the provision of psychosocial support and assistance to victims. These workshops were attended by a wide range of participants across the Provinces including Police, Customs, Forestry, Social Welfare Division, Save the Children and faith-based organisations.

In 2017, the Government of the Solomon Islands (Immigration Division) requested technical assistance from ACPEU Migration Action to conduct a '*Scoping Study on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Solomon Islands*'.²² The purpose of the study was to determine if Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) was occurring into and within the Solomon Islands. This study was important in identifying that the main form of human trafficking in the Solomon Islands involves the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Strengthened Provincial Government Response to CSEC

At a Provincial level, there has also been progress in acknowledging the importance of protecting children from abuse, harm, neglect and exploitation. The establishment of Provincial Advisory Councils (PACs), which are positioned under NAACC, have been rolled out in two provinces; Western and Isabel. In all of the Provinces Child Desk Officers have been appointed in Provincial Governments and a Community Policing strategy has been adopted across the provinces, with the appointment of Community Police Officers who are tasked to engage with the community on crime prevention initiatives. Save the Children's CSEC project provided support to the provincial response by conducting training for Community Police Officers in October 2017, which was aimed at strengthening the understanding and building capacity around responding to child rights violations.

Safe Accommodation and Psycho-Social Support Services

The availability and accessibility of support services for children who are victims of sexual exploitation continues to be an enormous challenge across the Solomon Islands. Support services in the Provinces, such as counselling and Safe Houses, are virtually non-existent, and even in Honiara these services remain limited to specialised health interventions through *Seif Ples*, Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association (SIPPA) and counselling services via the Family Support Centre and Empower Pacific.

Providing a safe place for children and young girls who have been removed from an exploitative situation has been extremely challenging for law enforcement government officials such as police

²¹ US Department of State: Diplomacy in Action (2017) *2017 Trafficking in Persons Report*. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

²² ACPEU Migration Action (2017) *Scoping Study on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Solomon Islands*

and immigration officers. As a result of a lack of short-term accommodation options, anecdotal data gathered during this evaluation has suggested that in at least two cases the child victims have been removed by law enforcement officers, from the foreign logger who has been exploiting them, only to be placed back with their parents who sold them to the logger through an arranged marriage. However, for the very first time in the Solomon Islands, a building at the Christian Care Centre (CCC) has recently been completed with the assistance of World Vision, to specifically provide shelter facilities for unaccompanied children and girls who are in need to a safe place, whilst their case is the subject of an investigation or court proceedings. Although the CCC is located on the outskirts of Honiara, the Centre will accept children and girls from any Province who are in need of short-term safe placement.

During 2017, Sisters from the CCC attended various training programmes to strengthen their response to supporting women and child-victims of abuse and exploitation. Training that they attended included Child Resilience, Child Protection Case Management (ChildFund), SAFENET referral pathways, Preventing and Responding to the Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Solomon Islands (Save the Children CSEC Project), Family Protection Act (Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA)) and Child Protection (UNICEF). The CCC has recently been engaged in a Needs Analysis Study, which is intended to identify the gaps where further development is required to ensure that responses to women and children are aligned to international best practices.



Girls Shelter at Christian Care Centre, Honiara

Although the availability of psycho-social support services remains limited in the Solomon Islands, counselling services for children who have suffered abuse and trauma has increased over the past two years. This is primarily due to the strengthening of the Family Support Centre through technical assistance provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO). A qualified psychologist has worked closely with staff at the Centre during 2015-2016 and provided training on therapeutic counselling skills for working with children who have suffered trauma. In 2016, the Family Support Centre Training Team (made up of a Community Educator, Finance, Counsellor and Legal Advisor) delivered training in seven Provinces to local community volunteers. Training was provided to 4-10 women in each targeted community, with men also involved in five of the seven Provinces. The training was aimed at empowering local communities to be able to respond and provide counselling support to women and children affected by violence. Although it has been based on a community-volunteer model, two of the Provincial governments have now embedded this role into their own administrative structures. It is unclear how this community model is working

and whether monitoring and evaluation measures are in place to determine whether these counsellors are being accessed by those affected by violence and exploitation.

In addition to counselling services being available from the Family Support Centre, *Empower Pacific* (a Fijian based NGO counselling service) has been based in Honiara for the past two years, supported by DFAT. Empower Pacific provides counselling services for children affected by abuse, violence and exploitation. They also offer training programs for communities and groups which are aimed at addressing social issues and provide awareness and tools to encourage behaviour change. *Empower Pacific* recognise that the health sector is a key entry point for women and girls affected by abuse, so provide significant support to the National Referral Hospital and the Honiara City Council Health Clinics.

Strengthened Resilience of Children, Families and Communities

Information gathered from the key stakeholder consultations indicate that in recent years there has been the implementation of child protection programmes and interventions by government, local NGOs and INGOs in target areas throughout the Solomon Islands, which have been aimed at strengthening the resilience of children, families and communities. 'Resilience' in general terms, is the ability to 'bounce back' in the face of adversity. Within a child protection systems framework, programmes and interventions underpinned by a resilience-led approach are aimed at providing children and their families with the, skills, strength and capacity to adapt and recover from difficult circumstances and stressful life events.²³ The objective of building resilience is to increase the likelihood of better outcomes, through a process whereby children, families and communities are able to seek the resources required to maintain their own safety and holistic well-being and also be in a position to negotiate for the provision of these resources.

Key government child protection duty bearers such as RSIPF, Immigration Division, MHMS (Social Welfare Division), Ministry of Education, MWYFCA and Ministry for Justice and Legal Affairs, have all delivered awareness and education programmes in the past two years which have been aimed at building greater protection for children against abuse and exploitation. There have also been a number of programmes and interventions by local and international NGO's which have been child-centred, with the aim to improve outcomes for children affected by violence and abuse.

It is critical that programmes and initiatives aimed at enhancing the resilience of children, families and communities against the adversities of CSEC recognise that there are two generations of children affected by this human rights violation; the children who are the victims of the exploitation and the children who are born as a result of the exploitation. One of the most concerning long-term impacts which was identified in this evaluation is that the child-marriages and teenage pregnancies, which are a direct consequence of CSEC, will potentially have a significant economic and social impact on future development in the Solomon Islands. The children who are subjected to arranged marriages to foreigners and who then become pregnant, will most likely end up raising their children as single parents, as loggers have no right to remain indefinitely in the Solomon Islands

²³ Gilligan, R (2001) *Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children in Need* in J. Horwath (Ed.), *The Child's World: Assessing Children in Need*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers

and affected girls have no immigration status in the logger's country of origin. Information gathered also suggests that children born from CSEC are likely to be discriminated against due to their mixed ethnic heritage and it is extremely likely these children will be denied additional rights due to the circumstances around their birth. It is important that programmes and initiatives aimed at building and strengthening the resilience of children, families and communities take into consideration the vulnerability of this next generation of children, and the inter-generational impact of CSEC.

POSITIONING OF SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CSEC PROJECT TO ADDRESS CSEC ISSUES

In addition to identifying the policy and practice changes that have taken place in the Solomon Islands during the past two years, this evaluation was to also identify how well positioned and designed the Save the Children CSEC project was in addressing CSEC issues.

During the past two years, the Save the Children CSEC project was extremely well positioned in relation to feeding into, and at times being instrumental, in supporting the progress that has been made in relation to addressing and responding to CSEC in the Solomon Islands. The strength of the Save the Children CSEC project was that, although it was primarily a secondary prevention intervention, it also crossed the prevention continuum. This was through the provision of training to strengthen those working and responding to children within a tertiary prevention response (eg Police and CCC), as well as supporting primary prevention activities such as the development of IEC and training materials by the NAACC Sub-committee. Within a child protection framework, the aim of any prevention and response intervention must be to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to protect and care for vulnerable children. An integral component of the Save the Children Project was aimed to *'empower children, parents and communities in identifying, preventing and responding to CSEC'*. Information gathered at one project site indicated that across boys, girls and adults who participated in the FGDs, there was increased knowledge about the potential harmful social impacts that logging camps may have on the harmony of a community. Research has shown that an increase in knowledge and understanding empowers community members to advocate for the rights and safety of children, and will encourage the implementation of community initiatives which prevent harm occurring in the first place.

Through identifying the changing landscape of protection for children in the Solomon Islands, the gaps and challenges were also identified which have assisted with informing the recommendations in this report. A key finding from the evaluation was that a greater emphasis will need to be given to positioning the rights of children within all interventions, including law enforcement processes. Save the Children is well positioned to lead and support this focus in the future due to their involvement, through the CSEC Project, in submitting the first Alternative Report on the Conventions on the Rights of the Child for the Solomon Islands.²⁴ This is the first time that an Alternative Report for the Solomon Islands has been submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which highlights the

²⁴ Save the Children (2017) *Solomon Islands Non-Government Organisations' Alternative Report on the Combined Second and Third Periodic Reports of Solomon Islands to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child December 2017*. Save the Children Australia

opportunities and challenges children in the Solomon Islands face, from the perspective of NGOs, communities, and children themselves.

It was evident from the information gathered that there is an increased interest by both government and NGOs about CSEC and how it threatens the safety of Solomon Island children. As a direct result of the implementation of Save the Children CSEC Project, the knowledge and capacity of Save the Children's staff about CSEC as a human rights issue has been enhanced. Building this knowledge base amongst local professionals is essential to ensure that future research studies are well supported and that interventions are culturally and socially relevant. For example, in 2017 ACPEU Migration Action conducted a *'Scoping Study on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Solomon Islands'*.²⁵ Save the Children staff who were involved in the CSEC Project, were identified by the writer of this scoping study as being an excellent source of assistance to the ACPEU and enabled data to be gathered from high risk communities as a result of the CSEC Project having a presence in these communities. Given that the environment for responding specifically to CSEC is still relatively new, the knowledge and understanding that Save the Children CSEC Project staff have developed was acknowledged as an important contribution to the ability to conduct this comprehensive scoping study.

Information gathered for this evaluation suggest that there were three key elements which provide a community with the resources to actively promote the protection of children and girls from CSEC and other forms of abuse and exploitation; (1) exposure to education and awareness about the impact that CSEC has on the lives of children, families and communities; (2) from a sustainability perspective, engagement of the church in the community as an important actor in the protection of children; (3) the potential positive effect of bylaws implemented at a community level and within a child-protection framework. The Save the Children CSEC Project was aligned extremely well to these elements with the project containing a strong education and awareness component, the local partner was a faith-based organisation (HOPE Trust) and engagement of the church in the project sites occurred as the result of existing community systems. For example, the two Community Project Leaders who were interviewed were also Sunday School teachers.

"Since Save the Children project came into our community, I have seen changes. People have started to understand the rights of children and we now make meetings together and do our own awareness in our community with our people"

Project Leader – Choiseul

"The other project leader and I have talked and we have said we will continue to raise awareness through our Church Fellowship – there is Men, Women, Youth and Children (Sunday School) Fellowship groups so this means we can continue the work that Save the Children has taught us"

²⁵ ACPEU Migration Action (2017) *Scoping Study on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Solomon Islands*

A key activity of the CSEC project was to ‘*advocate for the adoption of traditional laws that reflect national legislation on CSEC*’.²⁶ This activity was well aligned to the current existence of community by-laws and the rapidly changing legislative landscape in the Solomon Islands, whereby it will become increasingly important that traditional justice processes are supportive and in harmony with the national child protection legislation and system. Although by-laws were identified in this evaluation as a potential positive community mechanism affording children greater protection from CSEC, research studies have found that there is also the potential for such by-laws to minimise the impact of CSEC by imposing low penalties for offences against children.²⁷

CONCLUSION

CSEC and child trafficking are preventable child protection issues challenging the safety and well-being of Solomon Island children. Despite the predictive risk environment for CSEC still being of significant concern, in the past two years there has been a notable government, NGO and a civil society response to the increasing evidence that child abuse, including CSEC and human trafficking, is threatening the development of Solomon Island children, families and communities. Actions such as the enactment of protective legislation, the development of policies, processes and action plans, communities implementing by-laws, delivery of awareness and education programs, and training and strengthening of front-line staff across key sectors, are evidence of these responses. However further steps are needed to monitor and evaluate this progress to ensure that these measures lead to improved and sustainable outcomes for children.

Although there has been significant progress in building protective environments for children in the Solomon Islands over the past two years, there continues to be minimal institutional knowledge about the catastrophic impact that CSEC has on children, families and communities. There is an increased awareness about the criminal aspect of CSEC, and the need to ensure that a collaborative law enforcement response is in place to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, there is a very superficial understanding about the long-term impact that CSEC will have on the development and well-being of children and the communities which they are a part of. The complexities and impact of CSEC are far-reaching and go beyond the psychological and physical impact on the child-victim.

“We are vulnerable in the Solomons to this issue (of CSEC) and we truly do not understand the impact of CSEC on the lives of our children”

Key stakeholder - Honiara

²⁶ Concept Note 9 February 2015 – ‘Protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through empowerment and cooperation’

²⁷ Save the Children (2017) *Solomon Islands Non-Government Organisations’ Alternative Report on the Combined Second and Third Periodic Reports of Solomon Islands to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child December 2017*. Save the Children Australia

Save the Children (2015) *Dynamics of Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Solomon Islands: A Cross Provincial Study – 30 January 2015*. Save the Children Australia

It is important that future interventions and activities aimed at addressing and responding to CSEC consider the changing child protection environment in the Solomon Islands. A strategic approach will be needed to ensure that programmes not only assist in strengthening the new and fledging national child protection system, but are also in harmony with national legislation and policies and build on existing measures which are most likely to create sustainable and inter-generational changes to beliefs, attitudes and practices. It is also crucial that understanding is enhanced about the need for all prevention and intervention activities addressing CSEC, to be child-centred and of cultural and social relevance.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM CSEC IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

It is important that the future design, development and delivery of programmes implemented by Save the Children, and other organisations is responsive to CSEC within a child protection systems approach. Key elements of a child protection systems' approach to CSEC include:

1. Empowering and strengthening children's resilience to protect themselves;
2. Improving the capacity of families to protect their children;
3. Increasing the capacity of communities to protect children;
4. Increasing the capacity of other sectors to respond to protecting children;
5. Supporting the Solomon Islands government in enhancing their national child protection system.

The following recommendations have been made in light of the findings from the evaluation. Consideration has been made regarding the positioning of the Save the Children CSEC Project 2016-2017, and the contributions made to the progress that has been seen across the child protection landscape.

1. Ratification and adoption of international instruments and amendment to domestic legislation

In 2009 the Solomon Islands Government signed the *Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, however has not yet ratified this Protocol. Primarily, the Optional Protocol is a judicial tool aimed at defining and prohibiting children's involvement in commercial sex, prostitution and pornography. It is essential that relevant government Ministries, INGOs and local NGOs continue to work collaboratively together to ensure that the Solomon Islands government move forward to ratify this important Protocol as soon as possible.

Lobbying the Solomon Islands government needs to occur to encourage the adoption of the *Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action*, and the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* (including the *2003 Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*). The *Stockholm Agenda for Action* provides a global framework for concerned organisations and individuals to call on

governments and international NGOs to ensure that the technical and material resources are available to combat CSEC as a serious child rights issue. Ratifying the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime would represent the Solomon Islands government's acknowledgement to Member States of the vulnerability of the Solomon Islands to such crime, and the need to seek international cooperation to prevent this criminal activity across and within the Solomon Islands borders.

Research conducted in the Solomon Islands has shown a close association between child marriage and CSEC. Currently the Islanders Marriage Act 1996 does not afford children adequate protection of their rights. Under current legislation, the minimum age for legal marriage is 15 years and for marriage as per customary law, there is no minimum age defined. An estimated 3% of Solomon Island children are married by the legal age of 15 years and 22% by the age of 18 years.²⁸ Alarming anecdotal evidence gathered as part of this evaluation suggested that children as young as 10-11 years are being subjected to arranged customary child marriages to foreigners. Civil society and INGO's need to collectively lobby the government to seek an urgent amendment to this legislation to ensure it is aligned to UNCRC and domestic protective legislation such as Child and Family Welfare Act 2017.

2. Strengthened understanding of CSEC within a Child Rights and Child Protection Framework

It is essential that a multi-sector response to CSEC has the interests and rights of children at the centre of decision-making. It is important that the principle of recognising that children are rights holders is transparent in all interventions addressing CSEC.

Findings from the qualitative data gathered for this evaluation suggest that currently a key driver to responding to CSEC at a government level is within a law enforcement framework. This has resulted in initiatives and interventions which have not been child-centred, and have potentially placed children at further risk of harm and abuse. For example, a law enforcement patrol to the Shortland Islands during 2017 conducted by Immigration, Police, Customs and Forestry resulted in the arrest of two foreign offenders on child trafficking charges. This patrol of first-responders did not include personnel on-board who had expertise in responding to the needs of the child-victims. Therefore, the children who were removed by the patrol from the exploitative situation, did not receive access to health services or psychosocial support. There are also reports that the children have been returned to the family members who were responsible for arranging their marriages to the foreign loggers.

Save the Children is well positioned to continue to advocate for recognition of addressing CSEC within a child rights framework, and ensuring that there is an enhanced understanding that children born from CSEC and child marriage arrangements are also at risk of a number of their rights not being upheld.

3. Adopting a systems approach to CSEC as a child protection issue

²⁸ Inter Press Service (2013) *Saving Children from Loggers* – www.ipsnews.net/2013/3/12saving-children-loggers/

A systems approach to child protection focuses on strengthening the protective environment around children, as well as empowering children themselves to be actors in their own protection. This involves working in partnership with the formal (government) and informal (community approach) systems to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect of children, so that children are better protected in any situation.²⁹ Research has shown that individual stand-alone projects that address specific issues relating to child protection may be inadequate in providing sustainable and adequate changes to beliefs, attitudes and behaviours. A **systems approach** to child protection interventions recognises the role and collective responsibility and accountability of families, communities, faith-based groups, NGOs and the government, as being the duty bearers for delivering and upholding the rights of children to be protected from abuse and exploitation. It is important that interventions and programs link into strengthening provincial and national government structures and are aligned to national child protection legislation and policies. This is particularly important given the recent enactment of the Child and Family Welfare Act which will result in building a national child protection system, from the ground up, for the Solomon Islands.

4. An increased emphasis on primary and secondary prevention activities

CSEC is preventable, therefore a strategic approach to addressing CSEC must include a combination of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention activities. Preventing abuse and exploitation of children before it occurs must be an integral element of a multi-sector and integrated systems approach to building protective environments for children. A prevention framework³⁰ provides a continuum which consists of three levels of interventions and activities; **primary prevention** programs are directed at the general population (universal) in an effort to prevent abuse and exploitation before it occurs; **secondary prevention** programs are targeted to vulnerable individuals/families/communities in which abuse and exploitation are more likely to occur and **tertiary prevention** programs are targeted toward children and families where abuse has already occurred, with interventions aimed at preventing this abuse occurring again. Although these levels are flexible and can be mutually reinforcing, it is important to understand the conceptual differences of each level and the different knowledge, skills and resources required for program implementation at a primary, secondary and tertiary prevention level.

From the information gathered for the Save the Children evaluation, many of the initiatives and programs that are responding to and addressing CSEC are secondary and tertiary interventions. This has resulted in projects being delivered within areas where logging camps are already active and the adverse social impact of these camps on children's safety and well-being has already been realised; for example, child marriage, teenage pregnancies and the prevalence of STIs. The environments where programs are currently being delivered is where exploitation has already occurred and where there is the potential for harmful attitudes, beliefs and practices becoming embedded and normalised within these communities.

²⁹ UNICEF, UNHCR, and Save the Children (2010) *Adapting a Systems Approach to Child Protection: Conceptual Clarity Paper*

³⁰ See Appendix E for Prevention Framework

Consideration needs to be given equally to targeting communities where logging camps are intended to be established, with primary and secondary prevention programmes being the focus of these interventions. The Ministry of Forestry has indicated an interest to work in collaboration with Save the Children and other key partners to implement primary and secondary prevention interventions in communities which will be in proximity to logging camps (based on information about submissions being made for logging licences). This collaborative and preventative approach would be in line with the RSIPF Crime Prevention Strategy, and the Solomon Islands National Action Plan against Human Trafficking and People Smuggling 2015-2020 which identifies Priority 1 as 'Prevention and Deterrence'. The focus of a primary and secondary prevention initiative would be on preparing a community for the arrival and establishment of a camp, through increasing the community's knowledge and understanding about CSEC and strengthen their capacity and resilience to build their own protective measures to keep children and women safe from exploitation.

5. Increased and strengthened response to addressing CSEC as a health issue

Exposure to CSEC is likely to cause a child significant physical, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual harm.³¹ The findings from the evaluation suggest that there is little understanding of CSEC as a health issue, beyond a very basic understanding that STIs and teenage pregnancies are common health consequences for children who have been sexually exploited.

As a result of this lack of attention to the significant impact that CSEC has on the psychological and physical short and long-term health of a child, responses to ensure a child's safe and successful healing, recovery and reintegration back into the community after being removed from an exploitative situation are almost non-existent. Despite significant advancements in strengthening the health system response to violence against women and children, there remains an absence of training for health workers specifically targeting CSEC as a health issue. Responding to cases of CSEC is not included in the Nursing Curriculum or Midwifery Curriculum at SINU, nor in the training at the Medical Schools in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. In order for health workers to respond to children who have been affected by CSEC, they will require tailored training which will enhance their capacity to provide psychological first aid, conduct medical examinations, assist in safety planning and referral to other services, and provide documentation of findings which are aligned to the recently launched SOPs and international best practice guidelines.³² Currently there are only two doctors and one nurse in the Solomon Islands who have attended training in New Zealand on how to conduct a forensic examination of a child who has been sexually assaulted. The absence of forensic training needs to be urgently addressed. Comprehensive and skilful examinations, including the documentation of medical evidence of children who have suffered sexual exploitation, is not only important to ensure the child receives the necessary medical treatment and care they require, but also for the successful prosecution of offenders within the criminal justice system. CSEC is most likely to occur in some of the most remote and rural locations in the Solomon Islands. Consultations with key health workers suggest that health clinics in these areas are lacking in access to the most basic supplies to be able to

³¹ ECPAT (Journal Series No. 7) *Examining Neglected Elements in Combatting Sexual Exploitation of Children*.

³² WHO (2017) *Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused*. WHO Clinical Guidelines

respond to the health and medical care needs of child victims of CSEC. None of the health clinics have access to pregnancy testing kits and many do not have ECP medication. The case study below highlights the devastating life-long effects on a child if they do not receive the necessary medical treatment and care they require.

“A few years ago I remember one little girl aged about 10-11 years who was raped by one of the men working at the logging camp. She came to see me at the hospital and I referred the girl to see the doctor. The doctor was a man and he came and examined this little girl. She was bleeding and had bruising and abrasions. I was there when the doctor examined her. He then said that she could go home and did not give her any STI pack or ECP. At that time I did not know how to manage a rape case and I trusted the doctor to do his best and I did not know what to do. Two months later she came back and she was pregnant. I cannot forget this case as I feel very sad for the girl. She went on to have the baby and her family forced her to marry the man who raped her once they knew she was pregnant. The man was in his 40’s. The last time I saw her she now has three children and no husband as he has left her.”

Health worker, Honiara

6. Strengthened referral pathways and increased availability and accessibility to psycho-social support services for CSEC survivors

In addition to responding to CSEC as a public health issue, it is critical that there are clear referral pathways which lead from entry points of reporting and crisis intervention (for example, health and police), to services which meet the long-term psycho-social needs of CSEC survivors. Programs which are aimed at addressing CSEC must be implemented within an ethically and socially responsible framework; which means that they must be underpinned by the understanding that raising awareness about CSEC will result in an increase in the reporting of cases. Therefore, an integral element of a CSEC program design needs to include referral pathways for survivors of CSEC to ensure that not only their immediate needs are met (safety, health, legal, justice), but where they will also have access to services to assist them in their healing, recovery and re-integration back into their communities. In locations where there are existing referral pathways and support services available, strengthening the access and availability to these resources needs to be included as part of the implementation of new programs aimed at addressing CSEC. In remote and rural locations, where psycho-social services and referral pathways are lacking, program implementation will need to be carefully managed to ensure that there are mechanisms within the program which have the capacity to provide a safe and ethical response to meeting the holistic needs of CSEC survivors.

7. Strengthening the protective power of education

Currently education is not compulsory or free in the Solomon Islands. Although the Government has implemented the *Fee Free Basic Education Policy*, the reality is that schools still request monetary contributions from families and there are costs for uniforms and school stationary. These costs when coupled with non-compulsory education, have created barriers which has

resulted in many children still not attending school in the Solomon Islands. Research into predictive risk factors for CSEC have established a significant association between children who are not attending school to being more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking. It is essential for the Solomon Island Government to move toward developing legislation and policy which will provide for compulsory free education. The introduction of such legislation and policy will promote increased school attendance, providing children with a protective environment where they are less likely to be exposed to the risk of CSEC.

In addition to free and compulsory education, the current review of the Education Act 1978 needs to be urgently passed and enacted. Currently the Act is discriminatory toward pregnant female students who are banned from attending school during their pregnancy and after giving birth. These regulations are in breach of Article 28 UNCRC. A recommendation in the current review of the Act is that that girls who become pregnant, are provided with the opportunity to return to mainstream education, enhancing their ability to build a future for both themselves and their child.

8. Engaging with the Church and faith-based organisations

The Church has a long history in the Solomon Islands and has formed many partnerships over the years to deliver programs aimed at strengthening individuals, families and communities. The trusted history, resilience, and service of the church in the Solomon Islands provides a platform for sustainability beyond the life of any funded or supported project. Faith based communities are an important element of a systems approach to strengthening the protective environments around children, through influencing change in harmful attitudes, behaviours and practices toward children and using social teachings of the church as a source for advocating for the protection of the dignity and physical integrity of children. Save the Children project communities where interviews were conducted with two Community Project Leaders, highlighted the importance of engagement with the Church in addressing CSEC. Despite being located closely to logging camps, neither community reported safety issues for their children, such as child marriages, CSEC, or teenage pregnancies. They were very clear in identifying that the strength and the resilience of the community to protect their children was directly connected to the Church (United Church). The fellowship of the church also provides an on-going platform to use the knowledge gained from involvement in projects such as the Save the Children CSEC project, to educate and raise awareness beyond the life of the project. This sustainable element is critical and the consultations that took place with many people over the course of the country visit, consistently highlighted the importance of engaging the church in intervention activities addressing and responding to CSEC.

“We need to engage the church - in every church there is a Children’s Ministry – this is a biblical approach but this could be a great way to bring the church on board in helping to address CSEC in their communities. Usually the Children’s Ministry are responsible for children affairs and will organise quarterly programmes etc – we could make awareness of children and CSEC as being important in these Ministries”

Key stakeholder – Honiara

9. Strengthening the resilience of and capacity of children, families and communities

Community ownership:

- Projects and programmes being delivered at a community level to strengthen capacity and resilience must be built on the principle of building a sense of community ownership and a collective responsibility for preventing CSEC and other forms of exploitation. It is through this sense of collective responsibility, sustainable change will be achieved; particularly changes in harmful beliefs, attitudes, practices and behaviours toward women and children.

“I know of a case where a little girl aged 12-13 years was taken to a camp by her aunties who were in their 30’s-40’s. The next time I was out in the Province, I went to this village and delivered a small awareness session and used a video to talk about STI’s etc. One of the aunties was in the audience and she became very sad about what she had done. She told me that she was told by the loggers that unless she brought a young girl to the camp for them, she would not receive her wages (she was a cook in the camp)”

Health worker, Honiara

- It is essential that in the delivery of programmes combatting CSEC, there is an understanding that mobilisation of communities needs to be gradual and over a sustained period of time to allow communities to build ownership of child protection issues, such as CSEC. One-off events or short-term mobilisation activities have been found to be less effective in creating sustainable change in the protection of children.
- Creative delivery of projects is needed to ensure that communities take ownership from the outset – the use of language is very important. For example, to ensure that communities do not refer to the ‘Save the Children CSEC Project’, which ultimately has a finish date, communities should be encouraged to name the project themselves so that the name is not time-framed by funding, and that awareness and education activities become embedded into community and church activities, beyond the life of the project.

Empowerment

- Knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, health and spiritual impact that CSEC has on children and their families, will empower communities to develop and strengthen protective mechanisms.
- It is important that there is no model which provides a ‘one size fits all’ for the empowerment of communities. Care needs to be taken when developing and supporting community interventions, as different approaches will need to be tailored to the specific needs of the community. For example, empowering communities in Makira Province which has been exposed to logging since 1982, should have a different approach to empowering communities in Choiseul which has a more recent history of logging activity in their area.

Education, Advocacy and Awareness

- It is essential that education material used to raise awareness in communities about CSEC must be culturally and socially relevant, and must provide information on appropriate

responses and services which are obtainable and available. Awareness raising needs to capture the 'hearts and minds' of communities to generate changes in beliefs, attitudes and behaviour and the most effective way of achieving this is to base the material on Solomon Island data, research and case studies. This will bring a cultural richness to the education material which is more likely to generate collective ownership and responsibility to address CSEC, than material and information that is delivered from within a western framework.

- The ethics of awareness raising on child protection issues such as CSEC needs to be adhered to when programs are being delivered to communities and other groups (eg, teachers, children). Raising awareness will almost certainly increase reporting rates of cases of children at risk, therefore the 'best practice' principle of ensuring that there are services available to respond to an increase in reporting, needs to be applied when these programs are implemented.

I went to a community where I had heard there were many children who were being sold to loggers by their parents. I spoke strongly to this community and raised their awareness about the damage they were doing to their children by selling them to loggers. Men and women were crying in the audience and at the end of my session, they came to me and said 'we confess that we have done these things to our children'. They were so sad as they now had an understanding of what harm they had done to their children. I do not know what happened after I left but they were all very sad.

Key stakeholder - Honiara

Sustainability

- Child protection initiatives aimed at protecting children from abuse, harm, neglect and exploitation take time to develop, foster and implement, as crucially they are aimed at challenging beliefs, values and practices which are harmful toward children.
- To embed protective beliefs and practices which will lead to generational change, requires a strong sustainability strategy to be woven into all programs that are being delivered to address issues such as CSEC, at a community level.
- The protection of children is a process, not a one-off event.

The Voice of the Child

- Partner programs and interventions need to provide children with opportunities for meaningful and ethical participation in program planning and design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Currently there is little evidence that the views, opinions and beliefs of child victims are being used to inform future protective interventions and prevention strategies.
- Children who are involved in participating in matters that affect them, will gain confidence to make positive decisions to protect themselves, avoid risky behaviours and influence their environment to be more protective.
- Child participation will lead to increased resilience of children and empowers them to become agents of change.

- For community initiatives which include the establishment of Committees aimed at preventing crime and protecting communities, inclusive representation from children and youth on these committees is extremely important.

10. Strengthening training curriculums – Police, Health, Teachers

Currently the focus on increasing the capacity of key-stakeholders to address and respond to CSEC is aimed at operational staff. It is critical that information on CSEC as a human rights issue is included in the curriculums at the Police Academy, Teachers' College and School of Nursing so that key stakeholders in the Solomon Islands are being strengthened through having access to training within their own systems.

11. Data surveillance – reporting and capturing of data

The cooperation and coordination between relevant government departments and NGOs, through mechanisms such as the AHTAC and NAACC, needs to extend to developing an understanding of the importance of the collection and sharing of data. This is an important element of strengthening a national child protection system. The collection and sharing of data is critical to understand the scale and magnitude of CSEC as an issue and provides the ability to build primary, tertiary and secondary prevention responses targeting specific populations cohorts, geographical locations and high-risk communities. Importantly, it will also build a picture of the social and economic impact that CSEC has on the development of the Solomon Islands which will be helpful with informing future government decisions.

12. Monitoring and evaluation must be a high priority

Increased understanding from the Solomon Island government and relevant NGOs about CSEC will lead to an increased number of interventions and activities being implemented to prevent and respond to this serious child-rights issue. It is imperative that there are robust mechanisms in place to monitor and measure whether prevention and intervention programs and activities are achieving better outcomes for children. Baseline information needs to be gathered and systematic monitoring and reflective learning must take place to understand if these interventions are positively influencing children's protection and achieving outcomes such as enhancing and building protective environments for children. 'Do no harm' must be a transparent key ethical principle that underpins all prevention and intervention activities to address and respond to CSEC.

13. Consistent messaging across the sectors

The issue of CSEC in the Solomon Islands is a relatively new and emerging issue in a country which has traditionally relied on *kustom* and tradition to respond to threats to community harmony. There is already evidence at both a government and NGO level this issue needs to be addressed from a cooperative and collaborative approach, and to mitigate against risks through prevention and intervention activities. This approach would be further strengthened by ensuring that there is consistent messaging across the sectors to ensure greatest impact of delivery of programmes and interventions across the sector. This 'consistent messaging' would include using the correct terminology across the sectors (CSEC, child trafficking, child smuggling) and ensuring there is a risk assessment and safety planning framework in responding to cases of CSEC. A collaborative approach across sectors and organisations would be further assisted by the development and design of a comprehensive training programme/manual of cultural and social relevance to the

CSEC situation in the Solomon Islands. This programme could also be used to inform the development of curriculum material for tertiary programmes such as within nursing, teaching and the police.

SCHEDULE 2**Terms of Reference****Evaluation of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) context in the Solomon Islands****BACKGROUND**

Since 1986 Save the Children has been working in Solomon Islands with children, communities, government and local organisations. Save the Children's work has focussed on a range of issues affecting children in Solomon Islands including Child Rights, Child Protection, Education, Emergency, DRR, WASH, and Livelihoods.

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) project seeks to strengthen the prevention and protection of children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The project uses a multi-sectoral approach, working with vulnerable children and their parents, advocating for child protection focused policy, empowering service providers and police to handle CSEC cases and improving the accountability of logging/fishing companies to prevent CSEC. The project is funded by the European Union and is a two-year project (2016 – 2017), covering 21 communities in three provinces (Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Western).

PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The purpose of the evaluation is to support planning and decision-making in addressing the issue of CSEC for communities in Solomon Islands. The evaluation will be used to inform future project designs, policy making and strategies to protect children. It will be used by project implementers and regional and national policy makers.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY STUDY QUESTIONS

The objective of the evaluation is to describe recent improvements in protecting children and communities at risk of CSEC, what still needs to be done and an evaluation of the suitability of the Save the Children's CSEC project to address CSEC.

The key study questions are:

1. What policy and practice changes in Solomon Islands have happened in the past two years to improve/address CSEC?
2. What changes in Solomon Islands still need to happen to protect children from CSEC?
3. How well positioned/designed was Save the Children's CSEC project in addressing CSEC issues?

SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation is limited to Solomon Islands with a focus on the provinces where Save the Children's CSEC project is delivered (Guadalcanal, Choiseul and Western provinces). The evaluation will consider national, provincial and community issues and include input from stakeholder groups affected by CSEC. The evaluation will not include assessment of the delivery or effectiveness of Save the

Children’s CSEC project, but will include references to where the project may have influenced areas in key study question 1.

EVALUATION DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Applicants should detail their methodological approach, but it is expected the evaluation will be qualitative and comprised of document analyses and stakeholder consultations. Child participation is important and needs to be conducted in a safe and meaningful way.

SAVE THE CHILDREN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The consultant will report to the Senior Program Manager
- Provide access to project documents and data
- Facilitate access to project sites and beneficiaries
- Travel and logistics for field visiting project sites
- Suggestions for stakeholder interviews
- Approval of final report

CONSULTANT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Performing data collection
- Data entry/analysis
- All travel costs
- Visas
- Developing processes and tools
- Delivery of drafts and final report

DELIVERABLES

- Inception report to include details of methodology, tools and timeline/ work plan for the evaluation. This will be approved by Save the Children
- Draft and final evaluation report(s). Page limit is approx. 20 pages (excluding annexes). The report to be provided in Save the Children’s template and include, Executive Summary, Background, Evaluation Objectives, Methodology, Findings, Conclusions and Key Recommendations.

TIMELINE

Step	Deadline
Submission of applications	27 October
Selection of candidate	3 November
Literature/document review	Mid-November
In-country research/data collection	20 November – 1 December
First draft of evaluation report	8 December
Feedback and report revisions	11 December – 15 December
Final evaluation report	21 December

BUDGET/RESOURCES

The indicative budget for the evaluation is \$12,500AUD

CONFIDENTIALITY

All data collected during this exercise will become the property of Save the Children and will not be shared with third parties without the express permission of Save the Children.

INSURANCE

Consultants must have their own insurance.

OTHER

Save the Children is committed to ensuring a safe environment and culture for all children with whom we come in contact during the course of our work. All external consultants involved in this exercise will be required to comply with Save the Children's Child Safeguarding Policy and sign the Code of Conduct. Strict confidentiality and anonymity of data should be ensured throughout the process of this evaluation. Data cannot be used in any way that could be construed as harmful to any individual respondent. All activities must comply with the European Convention on Human Rights and European Convention on Rights of the Child.

CONSULTANT REQUIREMENTS

- Living/based in the Solomon Islands or with experience working in Solomon Islands
- University degree in social studies, international development or similar
- Proven experience in conducting research, writing advocacy reports and/or studies, and developing accurate reports (including recommendations)
- Excellent knowledge of English and ability to communicate in pijin is desirable
- Willingness to travel to Western, Choiseul and Guadalcanal communities as part of the evaluation requirement.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Applications are requested from suitably qualified candidates and addressing the following:

- An outline of the proposed methodology to complete the evaluation.
- Response to the criteria as set out in the 'consultant requirements'
- Consultant daily rate and total cost for the evaluation
- Examples of at least two similar reports or studies produced in English, and for which the consultant is sole or lead author
- Details of three professional referees
- Consultant qualifications

Applications that do not cover these requirements will not be considered.

Deadline for applications is **27 October 2017**

Submissions should be sent to Joachim Suhusia, HR Coordinator,
Joachim.suhusia@savethechildren.org.sb



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS – SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

Introduction

Save the Children initiated a CSEC project – 2016-2017. Coming to the end of this period, we are now wanting to understand what the landscape looks like with regard to responding to CSEC directly or indirectly at a National, Provincial and community level (eg any changes in policy and practice in the Solomon Islands), and identify what is still needing to happen to better protect children from CSEC. We are also wanting to how understand well aligned the Save the Children Project has been to addressing the CSEC issue.

What is your position/role/responsibilities?

How long have you been working here?

CSEC Project

1. Can you tell us what you know about the Save the Children CSEC Project?
2. How have you been directly or indirectly involved with the Project?
3. What have you heard about the project?

Policy and Practice changes in the Solomon Islands to improve and address CSEC

1. Can you tell us about any changes that you are aware of in law, policy and practice in the Solomon Islands which have taken place of the past two years in direct response to CSEC?
2. Can you tell us about any changes that you are aware of that may not be directly in response to CSEC but to protecting children in general (Child Protection)?
3. Can you explain the strengths of these changes?
4. Can you please explain what weaknesses in these changes that you have identified?
5. Are you aware of your ministry//organisation has been involved in these changes (introducing, implementing etc)
6. believe that there has been effective collaboration and cooperation on addressing CSEC
7. If no, why do you think this has not happened? If Yes, what is some evidence of this collaboration

Changes needed to better protect children from CSEC

1. What changes have you identified within law, policy and practice which are still needed if children in the Solomon Islands will be protected from CSEC
2. What are the key issues within the field of CSEC do you think are important?
3. What are the key barriers and challenges to addressing and responding to CSEC in the Solomon Islands?
4. Within a cultural context, what steps are needed to be taken for Solomon Island communities to understand the negative impact CSEC has on individuals, families and communities?
5. What role do you think the government should have on responding to CSEC (eg service delivery)?
6. What do you think are the most important factors for helping victims of commercial sexual exploitation?
7. Are you aware of any future changes that are currently in the design stage that may make a difference at a national, provincial or local level?

8. Are there any further thoughts or opinions that you would like to provide

APPENDIX C

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS – Honiara – 2-14 December 2017

Organisation	Position Title
HOPE	Director
Ministry of Health and	Director of Social Welfare
Ministry of Health	GBV Program Officer
Ministry of Health	Assistance GBV Program Officer
Ministry of Health	Adolescent Reproductive Health Coordinator
Ministry of Health (National Referral Hospital)	Gynaecologist/Obstetrician,
Ministry of Health (National Referral Hospital)	Emergency Department Doctor
Ministry of Health (Seif Ples)	Registered Nurse
Ministry of Health (Seif Ples)	Administration Support
Family Support Centre	Centre Manager
Christian Care Centre	Trained Nurse
Honiara City Council	Women's Desk and Child Focal Point
Honiara City Council	Women's Desk and Child Focal Point
Ministry for Commerce (Immigration)	Immigration Officer – Temoutu
Ministry for Commerce (Immigration)	Chief Immigration Officer
Ministry for Women, Youth, children and Families	Director – Children's Desk
Ministry for Forestry	Permanent Secretary
Royal Solomon Island Police Force	Community Policing
UNICEF	Child Protection Specialist
FFA	Fisheries Management Advisor
Oceanz Watch	Managing Director
Nukiki Community – Choisuel	Teacher/Sunday School Teacher
Save the Children – Gizo Office	CSEC Project Officers
Leona Community	Teacher/CSEC Facilitator

Gizo Police Station	Family Violence Coordinator
Western Provincial Council for Women	President
Western Provincial Council for Women	Coordinator
Gizo Hospital Health Promotion Unit	Health Promotion Officer
Gizo Hospital Health Promotion Unit	Assistant Health Promotion Officer



Information Sheet

Project Evaluation: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us today.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a pervasive child rights violation which impacts on the health, safety and dignity of children and young people in the Solomon Islands. Research studies conducted in the Solomon Islands have provided important information about the groups of children who are most vulnerable to being exploited, which include children living in villages in close proximity to foreign industries such as logging and fishing.

During 2016-2017, in response to this serious child rights issue, Save the Children implemented a project in 21 communities across three Provinces (Guadalcanal, Choiseul and Western Province), which has been funded by the EU. The project was aimed at strengthening the prevention and protection of children from CSEC through the implementation of a multi-sectoral approach. Working with vulnerable children and their families, advocating for child protection focused policy, empowering service providers and improving the accountability of logging/fishing companies to prevent CSEC, were the key elements of the Project.

The objective of this evaluation process is to understand what recent improvements toward protecting children and communities at risk of CSEC, have taken place in the Solomon Islands (at a national, provincial and community level), during the past two years. We are also seeking to understand what still needs to be done to provide children and their families with greater protection from CSEC. Finally, it is important for us to understand how well positioned our CSEC project has been in addressing CSEC issues.

Thank you for your valuable contribution and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or information you would like to provide.

Sharyn Titchener – titch.ted@xtra.co.nz – Phone 7141253
Consultant for Save the Children 'Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Project

APPENDIX E



Children Focus Group Discussions – Activity

Objective of FGD: Provide an opportunity for children and young people in Save the Children Project areas to identify their understanding and knowledge about the impact of logging camps on villages living in close proximity.

Introduction

1. Explain what the evaluation of the CSEC Project is about. Seek consent from parents for their children to participate.
2. Explain to the children and young people that they can ask any questions or withdraw from the activity at any time.
3. Explain that their names will not be used in any part of the final report.

Activity

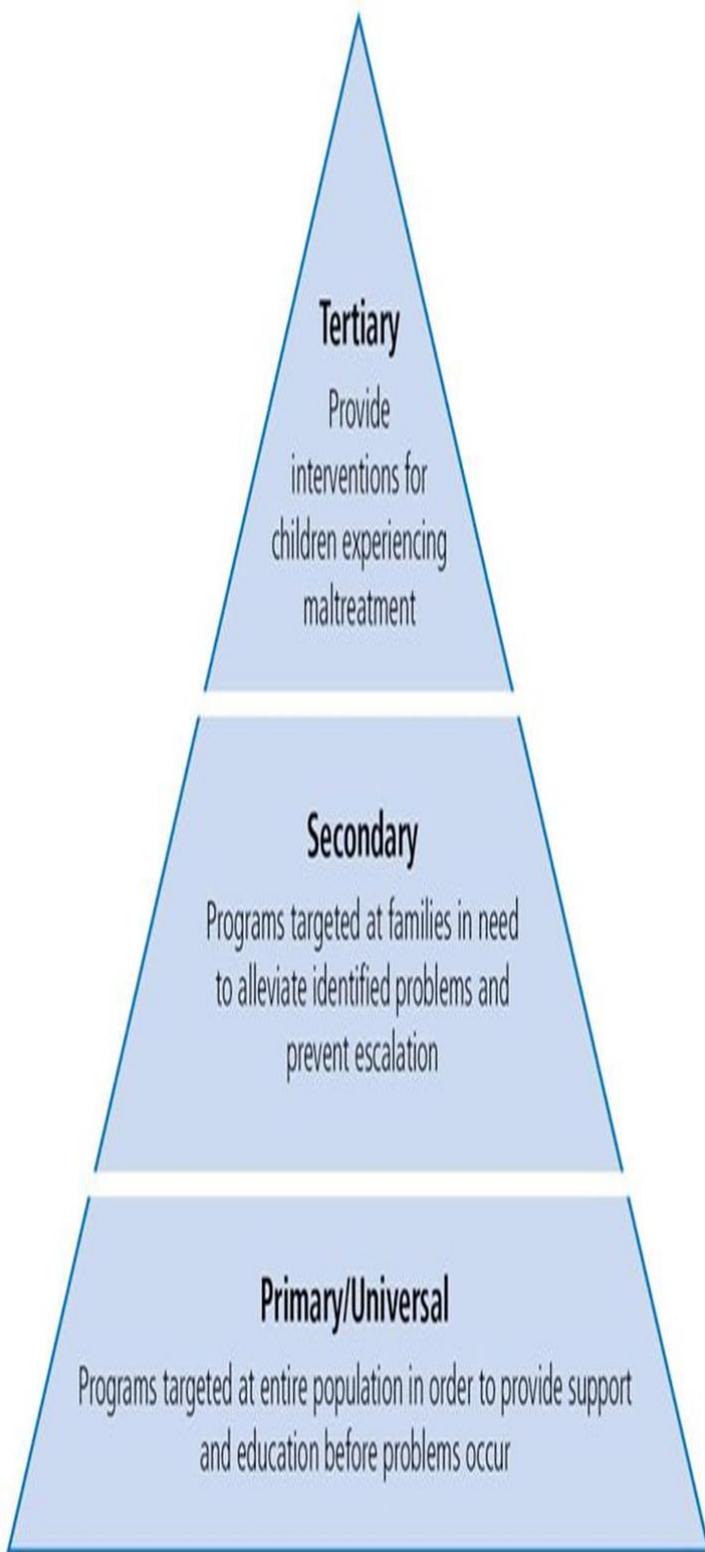
Imagine you are a group of children and young people who have been asked to travel to a village as part of a Save the Children Education and Awareness programme. The village you are visiting has just heard that a logging camp will be established next month within 500 metres of their village.

1. What are the key issues that you will be bringing to the attention of the children and young people in the village about the impact that the logging camp may have on their lives?
2. What programmes and activities will you run for the children and young people to raise awareness about these issues?
3. What will be your key messages to the children and young people in the village?
4. As a group of children and young people you are now asked to provide some posters that the parents and caregivers of the village can put up in the school, health clinic, police station and church. What would these posters say?

Open Discussion: At the end of this activity discuss with the group about where they got their ideas from about the key issues, activities, key messages and ideas for the posters. How confident do they think they would be to go and do this if this was an actual scenario? In their own village, how have they come to know about the effects that logging camps can have on villages and are they able to identify what measures their village has taken to protect children from CSEC and other forms of exploitation?

APPENDIX F

Prevention Intervention Framework



Tertiary interventions respond to circumstances where a child is at serious risk of or is being abused, exploited, neglected, or harmed in any way. This requires a continuum of interventions, including both voluntary or community-initiated interventions in less serious cases as well as mandatory State interventions where children have experienced or are at risk of serious harm. Example of a tertiary intervention is the provision of a safe house or shelter for girls and children – eg CCC Girls House.

Secondary prevention or early intervention services are directed at children and families who have been identified as vulnerable or at risk of being non-protective of children. (eg villages located near logging camps). Early intervention services target families that are already at risk of engaging in non-protective behaviours in order to change those circumstances before they create actual harm to a child. For example, parent education programs located within specific populations where logging camps will be established in the near future. A variety of stakeholders are required to provide services at the secondary level – both government and civil society organizations.

Primary prevention initiatives are directed at the community as a whole to strengthen the overall capacity of society in caring for children and keeping them safe. This includes activities directed at changing attitudes and social behaviours through advocacy and awareness campaigns, media releases, strengthening parenting skills, sensitization on the impact of CSEC on the lives of children, families and communities and promoting collective responsibility.

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