



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

SOLOMON ISLANDS PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY (PGSD) PROJECT

EU Contribution Agreement FED/2022/433-879

01 August 2022- 31 July 2023

Submitted on 23 November 2023

Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
DPs	Development Partners
EU	European Union
IEDCR	Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience Project
JOC	Joint Oversight Committee
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MECDM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management
MEHRD	Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MOFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
MPGIS	Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening
MNPDC	Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination
PCDF	Provincial Capacity Development Fund
PFGCC	Provincial Fiscal Grants Coordination Committee PFGCC
PGs	Provincial Governments
PGSD	Provincial Government and Service Delivery Project
PM	Project Manager
ProDoc	Project Document
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank

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Executive summary



Figure 1: Project launch ceremony on 15 September 2022

Solomon Islands Provincial Governance and Service Delivery (PGSD) project was designed to improve service delivery, particularly the education and health service delivery to the citizens living in the remote islands across the provinces. The project aims to improve provincial governance to ensure efficient, transparent, and accountable service delivery to reach out to the communities through improved decentralization of national government services under a unified provincial administration.

Solomon Islands has a population of 720,956, of which over 80% live in rural areas, which are geographically dispersed, revealing the necessity of strengthening the capacity of sub-national level service delivery to realize the rights of the most marginalized communities. Keeping this context in mind, UNDP designed the PGSD project, and, with EU support, the project began its journey in September 2022 by organizing a launch ceremony.

The PGSD has three components that include capacity development, sector grants to provinces and policy support for improved provincial governance and service delivery through enhanced decentralization and institutional strengthening for service delivery in realizing the rights of people living at the provincial level.

UNDP, upon signing the Contribution Agreement with the EU, sped up the signing of the Project Document (ProDoc) with the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and ensured the signing of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS).

As the Sector Grant is the major component of PGSD, with 52% of the total project budget, UNDP took immediate steps to draft the Sector Grant Manual to deliver the grants to provinces, but considering the time sensitivity of the budget cycle of the provincial government and finalization of the grant manual, it was not possible to deliver the grant although the Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) meeting held in early October 2022 decided on the provincial grants allocation. UNDP took the initiative to onboard the project personnel, but it faced challenges in finding suitable professionals and had to go through several rounds of advertisements and interview processes to onboard the project team, which affected the implementation of project activities.



Figure 2: LoA signing, July 2023

The Project Manager (PM), Communications Analyst and Project Assistant were finally onboarded in May 2023, and the project got momentum but recruiting a national professional as a Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst also had to go through a round of re-advertisements and finally onboard in September 2023. The project also faced other unforeseeable challenges. The Communications Analyst passed away after one month of service on 04th July 2023. Despite all these challenges, the project team ensured the signing of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the MPGIS to smoothen the capacity development of provincial governments functionaries.

The Project, therefore, faced challenges to making progress as planned. However, after the recruitment of the PM, it got momentum and made satisfactory progress including reviewing the draft Sector Grant Manual and sharing it with the MPGIS, jointly organized induction training to the provincial government official and oriented them on PGSD and the sector grants during the reporting period. Although implementation progress is low, the project is expected to gain momentum. A brief progress will be reported in detail with its implementation challenges, and future for the way forward.

Summary and context of the action

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

- 1.1.1 Name of coordinator of the grant contract: Munkhtuya (Tuya) Altangerel
- 1.1.2 Name and title of the contact person: Munkhtuya (Tuya) Altangerel, Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific Office
- 1.1.3 Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the action:
- 1.1.4 Title of the action: Solomon Islands Provincial Governance and Service Delivery Project
- 1.1.5 Contract number: FED/2022/433-879
- 1.1.6 Start date and end date of the reporting period: 01 August 2022 to 31 July 2025
- 1.1.7 Target country(ies) or region(s): All nine (9) provinces of Solomon Islands
- 1.1.8 Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men):
The target beneficiaries of the project are provincial government functionaries of all 9 provinces, government officials of different ministries, representatives of 173 wards and ordinary people in the community living at the provincial level. By helping improve governance for service delivery, in particular by making it more inclusive and participatory, the entire population in the nine provinces will be direct beneficiaries of the Project.
- 1.1.9 Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.1.7): Not Applicable.

¹ 'Target groups' are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the project purpose level, and 'final beneficiaries' are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Brief description of the context in which the action was formulated.

Over the past 10 years, Solomon Islands' Ministry of Provincial Government, and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) has reinvigorated Solomon Islands nine provincial governments (PGs). Given the sprawling geography of the country, these sub-national institutions are an absolute necessity to enable the effective and efficient provision of essential public services to people across the country, in particular, marginalized groups who often live far from Honiara and provincial capitals where services are concentrated.

The main instrument used to revive the PGs in the 2010s was a discretionary performance-based grant from the Provincial Capital Development Fund (PCDF). The grant incentivized PGs to adhere to principles of sound public financial management (PFM), including participatory planning, accountable budgeting, and transparent oversight. A major challenge remains however, to coordinate activities funded with PCDF grant money and activities funded through national government ministries. In the long term, it is vital that PGs (with elected Provincial Assemblies as their highest governance body) become the apex bodies for coordinating provincial divisions of national sectoral departments (e.g., health, education, environment, and fisheries.)

Over the past two years, MPGIS has drafted reforms of the outdated *Provincial Government Act 1997* (PGA) to establish a unified provincial administration, whereby provincial divisions of national sectoral ministries will operate under the PG umbrella. Key sectoral ministries, notably the Ministry of Education and Human Development (MEHRD) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), have also acknowledged the need to operate in closer cooperation with the provincial governments. Under this Project, the PCDF mechanism will be expanded through the addition of service delivery support (health, education and/or water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)), which will be financed by the European Union. UNDP will administer the service delivery support in collaboration with MPGIS, using existing PCDF channels. UNDP and MPGIS will also provide provincial level capacity development support to strengthen the capacity of PGs and provincial divisions of MEHRD and MHMS to implement better coordinated, more efficient and better targeted services to populations across the country. This Project is focused on laying the foundations for the MPGIS, PGs and provincial health and education divisions to operate as unified provincial service delivery units, in line with planned PGA 1997 reforms.



Figure 3: Minister of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening's speech at the Project Launch Ceremony

2.2 Implementation modality of the project

The execution modality for this project is UNDP's Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). The Implementing Partner (IP) for this project will therefore be UNDP. The Project is being implemented in accordance with the UNDP Program and Operations Policies and Principles (POPP).

2.3 Geographical coverage of the project

The Project will be headquartered in the capital of Honiara and will operate nationally with the ministries reaching out to all 9 provinces with the sector grants support to improve education, health, and WASH service delivery.

Table 1: Population of Solomon Islands by gender and province

Province/ City	Total Population	%	Male	%	Female	%
Central	30,318	4.2	15,562	2.2	14,756	2.0
Choiseul	30,775	4.3	15,863	2.2	14,912	2.1
Guadalcanal	154,022	21.4	78,972	11.0	75,050	10.4
Isabel	31,420	4.4	16,627	2.3	14,793	2.1
Makira	51,587	7.2	26,662	3.7	24,925	3.5
Malaita	172,740	23.9	86,691	12.0	86,049	11.9
Rennel & Bellona	4,100	0.5	2,222	0.3	1,878	0.2
Temotu	22,319	3.1	11,055	1.5	11,264	1.6
Western	94,106	13.1	48,933	6.8	45,173	6.3
Honiara (Town/City)	129,569	18	66,809	9.3	62,760	8.7
	720,956	100	369,396		351,560	



Figure 4: Map of Solomon Islands

3. DESCRIPTION OF OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities implemented and progress made during the reporting period.

The project began its journey by organizing a launch ceremony on the 15 September 2022. The event was attended virtually from Fiji by the European Union Ambassador in the Pacific and the Resident Representative of UNDP Multi-country Office of in the Pacific. In Honiara it counted with the participation of the Minister of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening and the Minister of National Planning and Development Coordination together with other representatives from the government, development partners, civil society organizations and UNDP and UNICEF.

Activity Result 1.1: Provincial Sector Grants Manual consultatively developed and finalized.

UNDP emphasized preparing the Sector Grant Manual through consultations with key stakeholders. The Grant Manual is developed to strengthen the capacities of provincial governments to manage the grants in a transparent and accountable manner. The Grant Manual will guide the Provincial Government to better plan and coordinate with the line ministry officials in designing and implementing projects on the ground to improve education, health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) service delivery. It is expected that the manual will guide the provincial government officials to improve public finance management, particularly in reporting on public expenditures, internal control systems, and compliance enforcement mechanisms. This will help bring PGs in line with the requirements of the Public Financial Management Act 2013.



Figure 5: Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination at the Project's Launch Ceremony

Sector Grant Manual drafted and shared with MPGIS for review.

UNDP deployed a consultant to support the drafting of the Sector Grant Manual to ensure that the Sector Grants are delivered most efficiently and in a way that best supports MPGIS, PGs and other relevant ministries. The consultant reviewed the existing Provincial Capacity Development Fund (PCDF) Manual, and relevant literature and consulted with provincial functionaries prior to preparing the draft manual. The draft manual was internally reviewed, updated and shared with the MPGIS for review. Besides, the Sector Grant Manual was discussed with the provincial government officials and received their comments. The Manual will be finalized by addressing the comments of the provincial government officials and the MPGIS.

The Sector Grant Manual has covered i) disbursement modalities of the grants to nine provinces through the Letter of Agreement (LoA); ii) the menu of eligible activities for the Sector Grants (including a list of activities that cannot be funded using the grants); iii) the way the activities will be planned for; iv) how the national sectoral ministries will be involved; v) accountability mechanisms and vi) auditing details.²

Provincial Government officials oriented on PGSD sector grants manual.

UNDP, in collaboration with the IEDCR project of MPGIS, designed the orientation and knowledge-sharing training for the provincial officials. The two-week-long orientation was designed to build capacity of the provincial officials on different project interventions in the provinces where 102 participants took part, of which 19 were women. UNDP and UNICEF jointly supported the MPGIS in designing session plans and conducting and facilitating sessions to brief about the PGSD and the Sector Grants. Hon. Rollen Seleso, Minister of MPGIS, attended the opening and closing sessions of the training. In the opening session, the minister highly appreciated the collaborative efforts of MPGIS and development partners (DPs) for such a cost-effective and time-efficient initiative, as all the partners are targeting the same provinces and functionaries to implement their interventions. He emphasized continuing such collaboration in the future.



UNDP's project manager and UNICEF's WASH specialist facilitated several sessions and responded to questions on the PGSD project. The facilitators emphasized the pivotal role of line ministry officials working at the provincial level in PGSD implementation as technical specialists. Besides, emphasis was given to the coordination among the provincial government officials with the line ministry officials in designing, monitoring, and implementing PGSD Sector Grants-supported projects to improve the service delivery on the ground. The importance of WASH service delivery at schools and health centres was discussed, and the officials were reminded to consider the national guidelines and standards on WASH services while designing and implementing WASH interventions by accessing the PGSD Sector Grants.

Figure 6: Project Manager during the orientation and knowledge sharing training.

² Note that all PCDF grants, all SIG Fixed Service Grants and any other funds that are managing through Provincial Government accounts where the PSs are signatories and appropriated by the Provincial Assemblies use the provincial procurement manual that has its legal framework from the main provincial legislation called the Financial Management Ordinance (FMO) and the Financial Instructions, which were a mandatory requirement of PGA 1997 section 34(4).

Table 2: Number of participating officials

Location of origin	Male	Female	Total
Central	8	0	8
Choiseul	6	1	7
Guadalcanal	7	2	9
Isabel	7	1	8
Malaita	10	0	10
Makira-Ulawa	6	2	8
Rennel & Bellona	6	1	7
Western	6	2	8
Temotu	7	1	8
Ministry officials	19	4	23
DPs (UN & WB)	1	5	6
TOTAL	83	19	102

Activity Result 1.2: Sector Grants efficiently provided to Provincial Administrations and monitored to ensure accountable, effective service delivery to communities.

No progress during the reporting period.

Activity Result 1.3: Internal PCDF management and oversight systems strengthened.

No specific initiative was taken during the reporting period.

Progress against Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)

Table 3: Progress against Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) for activity result 1.2 and 1.3

Objective Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Baseline	Target	Progress against OVI	Remarks
Activity Result 1. Provincial Sector Grants Manual consultatively developed and finalized				
1.1: # MGPIS and PG officials (including provincial sectoral divisions) have a good understanding of requirements for accountably expending and disbursing PCDF Sector Grants in line with the new Sector Grants Manual	0	3	No progress	New Sector Grants manual to be reviewed before informing/training of the staff.
1.2 # of provinces providing timely reporting on Sector Grants and remaining eligible for PCDF funding	0	21	No progress	Activity implementation starts late.
1.3: # MOU/LoA between MGPIS and HMMS/MEHRD	0	3	1	PGSD only signs an MOU with MGPIS. MOUs with MHMS and MEHRD are to be signed after PGSDP signs MOUs with the Provincial Government.
1.4: # Existing Sector grants manual revised (Health and/or Education) developed based on national systems and promotes coordination for effective local service delivery.	0	1	No progress	Activity implementation starts late.
1.5: %/# of PG that fully complies with the Grants Minimal conditions	5	9	No progress	To be updated after the next PCDFs disbursements in 2024
<i>Sources: PCDF assessments 2022/23</i>				

Activity Result 2.1: Capacities of PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions built and applied in relation to accountable public financial management.

No specific initiative took place during the reporting period, except the orientation on PGSD and Sector Grants (reported above).

Activity Result 2.2: Capacities of PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions built and applied in relation to cross-cutting sustainable development issues, including HRBA, climate change resilience and SDG localization.

No specific initiative took place during the reporting period, except the orientation on PGSD and Sector Grants (reported above).

Activity Result 2.3: PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions provided with mentoring and coaching to support more unified provincial administration.

No specific initiative took place during the reporting period, except the orientation on PGSD and Sector Grants (reported above).

Activity Result 2.4: PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions provided with mentoring and coaching to support more unified provincial administration.

No progress during this reporting period.

Activity Result 2.5: Ward Development Committees capacitated to engage in participatory development planning and produce three-year development plans, annual work plans and budgets for integration into PG budgets.

No specific action took place during this reporting period.

Output 3: Implemented by UNICEF as a parallel project under a separate Contribution Agreement and will be reported separately.

Activity Result 4.1: PGA 1997 Amendments supported through Technical and Consultation Assistance

The project drafted the ToR to hire an expert to support the MPGIS in drafting amendments, which is under the review process by the MPGIS. Once the TOR is finalized, UNDP will hire an expert to support the MPGIS and will include the progress in the next reporting period.

Table 4: Progress against Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) for activity result 4.1

Objective Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Baseline	Target	Progress against OVI	Remarks
<i>Output Result 4. Policy and legal frameworks for provincial service delivery upgraded and aligned</i>				
4.1.PGA 1997 review, and amendments produced based on recommendations of key provincial stakeholders	0	4	0	TOR is drafted and currently under the review process by the MPGIS.

4. CHALLENGES

Delays in constitution of the project team: UNDP took the initiative to onboard the project personnel, but it faced challenges in finding suitable professionals and had to go through several rounds of advertisements and interview processes to onboard the project team, which affected the implementation of project activities. The PM, Communications Analyst and Project Assistant were finally onboarded in May 2023, and the project got momentum, but recruiting a national professional as a Monitoring and Evaluation

Analyst also had to go through a round of re-advertisements and finally onboard in September 2023. The project also faced other unforeseeable challenges. The community analyst passed away after one month of service on 04th July 2023. Despite all these challenges, the project team ensured the signing of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the MPGIS to smoothen the capacity development of provincial government functionaries.

PGSD was not fully ready with the project personnel, and the Sector Grants Manual to deliver grants to the provinces, while the Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) made the grants decisions based on the Performance Assessment of provinces in early October 2022, just after the launching of the project. However, UNDP took immediate steps to draft the Sector Grants Manual but considering the time sensitivity of the budget cycle of the Provincial Government and finalization of the Grant Manual, it could not deliver the grants.

Risks and mitigation measures: The project identified risks related to sector grants management and effective coordination of different ministries as well as channeling grants from the MHMS and MEHRD along with the PGSD Sector Grants to the provinces. As the project did not release any grants during this reporting period, grant-related risks were not relevant. However, the project planned to organize its first Project Board as promptly as possible to discuss the potential related risks to ensure smooth implementation as well as the possible mitigation measures to address them. PGSD team will continuously monitor the risks and engage with the government partners to reduce the risk potentials and mitigate them through improved capacity and enabling coordination among the functionaries of provincial governments and the national government officials working in the provinces.

Gender balance: Gender imbalances in public services, including the National Government Ministries and the Provincial Governments, make it difficult to ensure equal participation of women in project activities. Keeping this in mind, the Project took deliberate initiatives to include as many women as possible in the training, workshops, and conferences. Initiatives also collected disaggregated data, sensitizing project stakeholders on gender issues so that they consider the inclusion of gender perspective in the planning and budgeting process of the provincial governments. The Project plans to organize special training and workshops to sensitize provincial government functionaries to address gender equality and deliberate actions to realize human rights by improving essential service delivery related to education and health.

As the PGSD Sector Grants are to be delivered following the PCDF mechanism, the project has to depend on the Performance Assessment outcomes and the decisions of the JOC. The Performance Assessment for the 2023-2024 fiscal year grantmaking was significantly delayed, and accordingly, the Provincial Fiscal Grants Coordination Committee (PFGCC) and JOC were also delayed. The PFGCC and the JOC held on September 13-15, and September 21-22, respectively and six provinces could not qualify for accessing grants, which will affect the PGSD allocation of grants to the provinces.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

UNDP learned that there should be an alternate plan to begin the inception phase of the project by pulling UNDP's internal experts under the Detail Assignment arrangements until onboarding the project personnel, keeping the context of the difficult workstation of Solomon Islands. Besides, the year-1 plan should be focused on the inception and preparatory work, including onboarding project personnel, and arranging offices and equipment, instead of full-fledged project implementation.

During the project initiation phase, it is crucial to conduct specific assessments to ensure that the project is appropriately planned and with suitable implementation methodologies, particularly in the challenging geographical and operational contexts and diverse needs of the different provinces in the Solomon Islands. Moving forward, a thorough understanding of the geographical context and varied needs, especially of the provinces, is essential to avoid inadequate operational approaches and ensure the project implements activities and delivers results in a timely manner.

Establishing strong partnerships and collaborative structures between the national and provincial governments is essential to ensure effective project delivery, resource optimization and management of risks. Moving forward, the project will prioritize and foster an environment that will ensure there is joint-collaboration, partnership, and joint actions among provincial and national partners to ensure success of project activities.

6. UPDATED ACTION PLAN (August 2023 to December 2024)

Table-Workplan (August 2023 to December 2024)		2023 (July-Dec)		2024 (January – December)			
Activity Result	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
2.3.1 Provincial Sector Grants Manual consultatively developed and finalized.	1.1.1 Capacity Building Workshop						
	1.1.2 Validation Workshop of Grants Manual						
	1.1.3 Training on Sector Grants and manual in all 9 Provinces						
	1.1.4 Grant manual review						
1.2. Sector Grants are efficiently provided to Provincial Administrations and monitored to ensure accountable, effective service delivery to communities	1.2.1 Allocation for province-level activities						
	1.2.2 PGSP website updated with grant information						
	1.2.3 Online publication and mapping of grant expenditures developed & maintained						
1.3 Internal PCDF management and oversight systems strengthened.	1.3.1 M&E/ Need based training for MPGIS and provincial officers including MEHRD and MHMS						
	1.3.2 Database to track PCDF infrastructures including education and health sector (incl WASH)						
	1.3.3 Training on managing the database						
	1.3.4 Documentary produced on project successes/lessons learned						
	1.3.5 Booklet produced on PGSP experience of using a Performance Grant Systems within the PACIFIC (as per JOC decision)						
	1.3.6 Creation of Annual Payment Plans (APPs) and training on software use						
2.1: Capacities of PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions built and applied in relation to accountable public financial management	2.1.1 Spot checks for PCDF activities/ grants supported by the project						
	2.1.2 Issue-based/Need-based Training. E.g., Planning and budgeting at all provincial level sectors (MEHRD/MHMS) including provinces rolling plans organized						
	2.1.2 Procure one vehicle for monitoring						
	2.1.3 Training on financial reporting (International Public Sector Accounting Standard) for all PG sectors						

Table-Workplan (August 2023 to December 2024)		2023 (July-Dec)		2024 (January – December)			
Activity Result	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
	including health and education sectors (conducted by PGSP/MPGIS)						
	2.1.4 ICT training and visibility issues to capacitate provincial officers on information technology						
2.2 Capacities of PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions built and applied in relation to cross-cutting sustainable development issues, including HRBA, climate change resilience, and SDG localization.	2.2.1 Integrated training for PGs on key issues designed with MPGIS – contextualized per province						
	2.2.2 Tailored issues-based training delivered in collaboration with other ministries and UNDP projects						
	2.2.3 Training on integrating climate change adaptation into provincial plans – delivered in collaboration with other Ministries and UNDP Projects						
	2.2.4 Training for the Provincial Engineers on ‘Building Resilience and Resilient Infrastructures’ for all provinces including MEHRD and MHMS officers to be conducted by MECDM climate engineers						
2.3 PG staff and staff of Health and Education Provincial Divisions provided with mentoring and coaching to support a more unified provincial administration	2.3.1 Field visit by PM/M&E Analyst per year per province to assess needs & provide advice/accompaniment to counterparts						
2.4 Provincial Assembly and Executive officials are capacitated to provide more effective oversight	2.4.1 Training for the provincial executive on their roles and responsibilities along with the Head of divisions/ responsible line ministry officials of health and education sectors						
	2.4.2 Special training for members of provincial public accounts committee to strengthen provincial assembly oversight and accountability of provincial funds						
	2.4.3 Induction training of the newly elected Members of Pas						
Activity 2.5: Ward Development Committees (WDCs) capacitated to produce development plans	2.5.1 Training of 172 WDCs on how to develop their plans, in consultation with communities (conducted by PGSP Capacity Development Specialists in 9 provinces/ Master Trainers Pool who will be provide TOT by UNDP & MPGIS)						
	4.1.1 Consultant to review current draft PGA 1997 reforms						

Table-Workplan (August 2023 to December 2024)		2023 (July-Dec)		2024 (January – December)			
Activity Result	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
Activity 4.1: Provincial government law reforms supported through technical and consultation assistance	4.1.2 Legislative drafting consultant to assist with drafting final reforms						
	4.1.3 Premiers conference (incl national MPs) on the finalization of the revised draft PGA 1997						
5.1 Project reporting and evaluation systems to provide accurate and timely financial and narrative reports	5.1.1 Mid-term evaluation						
5.3. General expenses	5.3.1 Office installation and support						
	*IT equipment 5 computers, 5 phones, 1 video camera						
5.4. Visibility	5.4.1 Design and launch campaign on WASH to generate knowledge and good practices on RWASH						
	5.4.2 Develop 3 videos with best practices and project results						
	5.4.3 Other communication and visibility materials (banners, brochures, stickers etc.,)						
	5.4.4 Marking key dates (Europe Day, Democracy Day) – workshops, conference facilities						

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

Communications and visibility activities started with the launch ceremony of the project on the 15 September 2022. A press release covering the event was edited and disseminated between the national and regional media with publications on several national outlets. A Facebook post and a tweet were also published on Facebook and Twitter’s UNDP Solomon Islands Accounts and a blog’s entry on the UNDP Pacific website. Since then, there were no communications activities registered until almost the end of the reporting period.

After an unexpectedly long recruiting process, in May, the Project had managed to recruit the Communications Specialist, who suddenly passed away only one month after being on board. Since then, the position has been supported by another UNDP communications specialist.

In July 2023, another initiative that entailed public communication took place – the signing of the MoU between the MPGIS and UNDP to kickstart project implementation. A press release was drafted and disseminated between the media with the first publication of the Project on the press (See Table Below). It was also published as a blog entry on UNDP Pacific website and social media updates were drafted and published on UNDP Facebook and former Twitter, now X, accounts with feedback of 44 likes and 9 shares on Facebook and 10 likes and 197 views on X.



Figure 7: Facebook post on the Launch Ceremony

Table 5: Media Monitoring Summary

Activity	Date	Project	Link	Type	Impact				
					Vie ws	Qu ote s	Likes	Com ments	Share s
Project Launch Ceremony	15 Sept 22	PGSDP	https://www.facebook.com/UNDPsolomonislands/posts/pfbid02hTxRL7nBw5akSw6TfthyAZESUgC4p2DrVgMDF8T8hc28CRwvweopftq7pgVArpRjl	Facebook Post			50		4
			https://x.com/EUPasifika/status/1570291185251491842?s=20	Tweet			20		10
			https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/strengthening-local-governance-better-service-delivery-solomon-islands	UNDP Pacific Website Update					

Activity	Date	Project	Link	Type	Impact				
					Views	Quotes	Likes	Comments	Shares
			https://solomons.gov.sb/govt-commits-to-smooth-delivery-of-eu-provincial-governance-service-delivery-project/	SOI Website Update					
			https://sbm.sb/eu-undp-unicef-launch-a-new-78m-project-in-si/	Online News					
Letter of Agreement (LoA) signing.	July 18	PGSDP	https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSolomonIslands/posts/pfbid02siExZipPZ2pewJFb26DNPezfBBwipPqpARdNa1cUDVTKdyV4VVAu4TuWL7kRsGWf1	Facebook Post			44	1	9
			https://twitter.com/UNDP_Solomons/status/1681147891321290752	Tweet	197		10		
Forging a Path of Progress: Amplifying Collaboration for Enhanced Provincial Governance and Service Delivery in Solomon Islands	July 23		https://www.undp.org/pacific/press-releases/forging-path-progress-amplifying-collaboration-enhanced-provincial-governance-and-service-delivery-solomon-islands	UNDP Pacific Website Update					

By the end of the reporting period, a communications and visibility strategy were being developed together with an annual work plan (See annexes- 4). Both documents await to be approved soon to start implementation.

8. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES – Gender, Human Rights

Gender imbalances in public services, including the National Government Ministries and the Provincial Governments, make it difficult to ensure equal participation of women in project activities. Keeping this in mind, the Project took deliberate initiatives to include as many women as possible in the training, workshops, and conferences. Initiatives also collected disaggregated data, sensitizing project stakeholders on gender issues so that they consider the inclusion of gender perspective in the planning and budgeting process of the provincial governments. The Project plans to organize special training and workshops to sensitize provincial government functionaries to address gender equality and deliberate actions to realize human rights by improving essential service delivery related to education and health.

9. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

9.1 Project management structure

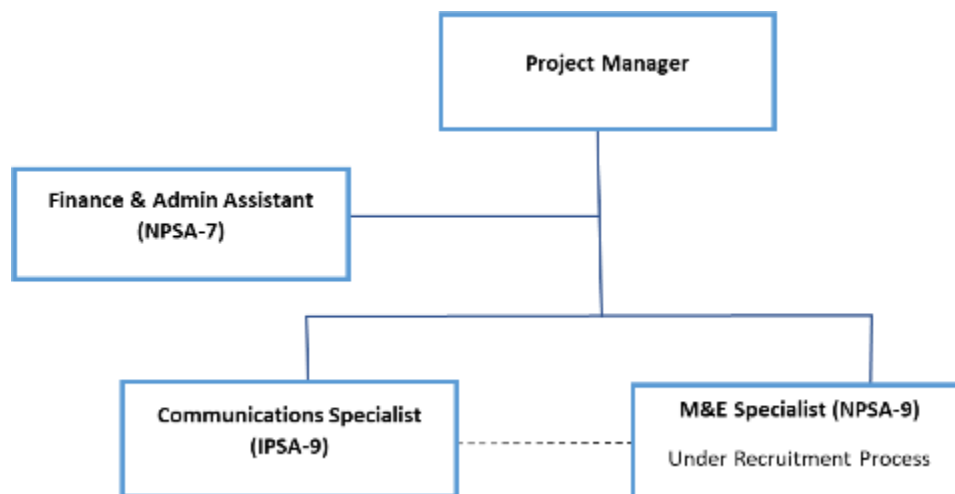


Figure 8: Project management structure

9.2 Monitoring and evaluation

During the reporting period, the project could not make any progress under M&E activities due to the vacancy of the M&E professional. However, the project onboarded the Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst in September 2023 and started preparation of the detailed M&E Plan. An outline of the M&E Plan for next year is under preparation process.

10. WAY FORWARD

UNDP and PGSD team, in collaboration with UNICEF, will focus more on strengthening partnerships with the MPGIS, MEHRD, MHMS, MOFT, MNPDC and MECDM to enable smooth implementation on the ground and influencing the policy landscape at the national level to improve service delivery.

Immediate steps will be taken to facilitate the signing of the LoA with provincial governments and deliver grants. The simulation calculation of the PGSD grant shared by the MPGIS following the PCDF allocation formula is beyond the sector grant threshold of USD 150,000 for three provinces, which needs to be settled before the signing of the LoA.

The PGSD team will develop next year's plan considering the national events, e.g., the national and provincial elections and work closely with the MPGIS to speed up the delivery of sector grants and the timely conduction of performance assessment of provinces.

The PGSD team will update the M&E, Communications and Visibility plans and regularly track implementation progress. The project team will explore secondary sources of data to confirm the baseline and targets that are mentioned to be confirmed in the Results Framework. Initiatives will be taken to discuss with the ministry and provincial government officials to collect information and evidence to update the Results Framework.

The project team will support the MPGIS in amending the Provincial Government Act (PGA)-1997 and identify the reform areas, e.g., review the performance assessment and Provincial Capacity Development Fund (PCDF) grant allocation criteria that require policy support from the National Government to enhance service delivery and strengthen the Provincial Administration.

Finally, considering the insignificant progress of the first year, the project will require a time extension to cover the gap, delivering grants to the provinces. The PGSD team will facilitate a discussion between UNDP and the EU to decide the best way forward. A decision must be made immediately, considering the time extension, revision of the multi-year plan and evaluation calendar.

Table 6: Summary Progress against Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)

Objective Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Baseline	Target	Progress against OVI	Remarks
Activity Overall Results. Sound, inclusive, transparent, and accountable, institutionally embedded governance systems for sub-national service delivery in place and promoting rights realization				
System of sector grants for service delivery established and articulated within national structures.	0	3	0	Not yet initiated
Number of grants disbursed by Provincial governments according to their mandate on local service delivery	2	3	0	Not yet initiated
Number of projects that directly benefit women, children, and vulnerable group	90	150	No progress	To be updated after consultation with the Provincial Government
<i>Activity Outcome Results 1. Improved Service delivery in education and health by the Provincial Governments through the provision of sector grants</i>				
1.1 Sector grants shown in the National Budget	0	3	No progress	There is no initiation target activities to date
1.2 Percentage (%) of increase of PG budgets for investment in education Education-2022: 3,045,895 Health: SBD\$ 2,559,335 Total: SBD\$5,605,230	MEHRD=54% MHMS=45%	10%	No progress	Yet to initiate
1.3 Number or percentage of grants promoting gender equality.	5%	15%	No progress	Need to verify in the field
1.4 Enhanced socioeconomic indicators related to access and/or quality of Education and Health at the provincial level				
1.4.1. Education Overall grants increase education infrastructure/services.	Education SBD\$60,400,000.00	SBD\$65,500,000	No progress	Project just started with the M&E framework
1.4.2 Health Overall grants increase on Health infrastructure/services.	Health SBD\$40,000,00	SBD\$45,350,000	No progress	Project just started with the M&E framework
1.4.3. Wash facilities				
Drinking water: Basic 31% Limited 41% No service 28%	Drinking water: Basic 31% Limited 41% No service 28%	Wash Facilities Drinking water: Basic 35% Limited 45% No service 20 %	No progress	The is no initiation of the activity.
Sanitation: Basic .1% Limited 38% No services 62%	Sanitation: Basic .1% Limited 38% No services 62%	Sanitation: Basic 15% Limited 30% No services 55%	No progress	The is no initiation of the activity.
Hygiene: Basic 81%	Hygiene: Basic 81%	Hygiene: Basic 89%	No progress	The is no initiation of the activity.

Objective Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Baseline	Target	Progress against OVI	Remarks
Limited 18% No services 1%	Limited 18% No services 1%	Limited 10% No services 0%		
Activity Outcome Result 2. More effective provincial governance system through a more integrated and unified Provincial Government administration				
2.1 Sector grant manual approved and applied by PGs and line ministries	0	1	No progress	The is no initiation of the activity.
2.2 Integrated planning coordination meetings at the provincial level (PGA and deconcentrated administrations)	0	3	No progress	There has not been any initiative yet so far
2.3 Provincial sector plans (health/WASH and or Education discussed in Assembly and adopted.	0	3	No progress	There is not initiative on this stage
2.4 Number/percentage of provincial sector service delivery projects/activities funded through the sector grants under PGSP under the Provincial Sector Annual Plan(AOP)	0	27	No progress	There is no initiation of the activities yet to date.
2.5 Percentage or number of sector/subsector actors utilizing the tool	0	11	No progress	After the tool is develop
Output Result 1: Sector Grants for Health and Education (incl WASH) accountably, transparently, and effectively expended and reported on				
1.1: MGPIS and PG officials (including provincial sectoral divisions) have a good understanding of requirements for accountably expending and disbursing PCDF Sector Grants in line with the new Sector Grants Manual	0	3	No progress	New Sector Grants manual to be reviewed before informing/training of the staff.
1.2: Number (#) of provinces providing timely reporting on Sector Grants and remaining eligible for PCDF funding.	0	21	No progress	Activity implementation starts late.
1.3 MOU/LoA between MGPIS and HMMS/MEHRD	0	3	1	PGSD only signs an MOU with MGPIS.
1.4 Existing Sector grants manual revised (Health and/or Education) developed based on national systems and promotes coordination for effective local service delivery.	0	1	No progress	Activity implementation starts late.
1.5 %/# of PG that fully complies with the Grants Minimal conditions. Sources: PCDF assessments 2022/23	5	9	No progress	To be updated after the next PCDFs disbursements in 2024
Output Result 2. PGs and Provincial Health and Education Divisions capacitated to effectively manage sector grants through joint action and collaboration				

Objective Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Baseline	Target	Progress against OVI	Remarks
2.1: PFM capacities of Provincial officials strengthened to ensure accountable expenditures and reporting	0	6	No progress	No progress during the reporting period.
2.2: PG Officials' capacities improved to integrate cross-cutting issues into provincial planning and budgets, including climate change resilience, disaster preparedness, human rights, gender equality & localized SDG priorities	0	6	No progress	No progress during the reporting period.
2.3: Provincial Assemblies and Executives have better capacities to provide oversight over PA expenditures and overall effectiveness.	0	6	No progress	No specific initiative was taken except the orientation on PGSD and Sector Grants (reported above) during the reporting period.
2.4. # of Ward Development Committees whose capacities have been developed in relation to inclusive development planning and how to integrate key cross-cutting issues (172 WDCs in total)	0	172	No progress	No specific action was taken during this reporting period.
2.5: SOPs established to clarify functional assignments and division of labor between PG/PS and deconcentrated administrations in charge of health and education	0	2	No progress	Same as above
2.6 SOPs established to promote coordination and effective use of public resources for health and education at the provincial level	0	2	No progress	Same as above
2.7 Capacities (PFM) of PGs to plan, implement, monitor and report utilization of grants enhanced	0	10	No progress	Same as above
<i>Output Result 3. BY UNICIEF</i>				
<i>Output Result 4. Policy and legal frameworks for provincial service delivery upgraded and aligned</i>				
4.1.PGA 1997 review, and amendments produced based on recommendations of key provincial stakeholders	0	4	No progress	TOR is drafted and currently under the review process by the MPGIS.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: REVISED LOG-FRAME

ANNEX II: FINANCIAL REPORT

ANNEX III: ANNUAL WORKING PLAN

ANNEX VI: COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY PLAN

ANNEX VII: MANAGEMENT DECLARATION