

# SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION IWDA, FSC AND CCC VIOLENCE RESPONSE SERVICES PROJECTS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

September 2021

This document provides high-level findings of the evaluation to be shared with FSC, CCC and evaluation participants in Solomon Islands.

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## EVALUATION PURPOSE

1. To understand and document the achievements of the programs against the intended outcomes
2. To learn about the enabling factors and challenges to effective and efficient implementation of the programs, including how the two programs have interacted.
3. To assess the sustainability of the approaches and organisations.

## DATA WAS COLLECTED FROM:

- 53 evaluation participants (47 women, six men)
- 19 of interviews with FSC and CCC clients
- 34 stakeholders (28 women, six men), including
- 3 people with disabilities (1 female client and two male stakeholders)
- 7 focus group workshops attended by 103 people (72 women and 31 men) in five provincial locations and with CCC and FSC staff in Honiara

## PROGRAM SUCCESSES

- As a result of the projects, more women have accessed VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) services.
- Both projects increased the number of women that accessed counselling, shelter and legal services.
- The most significant increase in access was for rural women due to establishing the Provincial Committees model.
- The quality of services was also improved through training for FSC counsellors and Sisters at CCC.

## THESE FACTORS SUPPORTED THE SUCCESS

- **Policy Environment:** The EVAWG policy environment in the Solomon Islands has focused attention on the services provided by the CCC and FSC. Similarly, the Solomon Islands legislative environment, including the Family Protection Act, 2014 and the Child and Family Welfare Act, 2018, has further enabled CCC and FSC.
- **SAFENET:** SAFENET was established in 2013 to improve the coordination of services for women and girls experiencing violence. SAFENET has raised the profile of both partners and enabled access to training.
- **Provincial Committee Model:** The FSC Provincial Committee model was crucial to increasing rural women's access to services and increased awareness of VAWG and the FPA.
- **Partnership:** The partnership with IWDA enabled the programs, and the collaboration between the three organisations (IWDA, FSC and CCC), was found to be based on equality and trust.

## CHALLENGES

- **Data:** Data collection and reporting have improved for both FSC and CCC, with support from IWDA. However, support is still required to continue improving data to understand how clients use services and plan for staff and resources.
- **Provincial Committee Risks:** Although the Provincial Committees are crucial to increasing services for women in rural areas, there are two primary issues. First, they have been required to provide short term accommodation (1-3 nights) for clients due to the long distances that clients travel to access services. Second,

they are volunteers, and their remuneration needs to be reviewed.

- **Women with disabilities** Very few women with disabilities accessed services, although it was a key outcome focus. In the future, a recently developed partnership between FSC, CCC and People with Disabilities Solomon Islands may improve inclusion and access to services for women with disabilities.

## THESE FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO PROJECT AND ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- **Core Funding:** VAWG services need long-term core funding to ensure that clients' needs are met.
- **Organisational Capacity Development:** IWDA worked with CCC and FSC to determine their training and support needs. As a result, both organisations have stronger governance and financial management systems that support their ability to serve clients.
- **Technical training:** Technical training for topics such as counselling mainly by Pacific crisis centres.
- **Formal qualifications** Five counselling staff were supported to gain formal qualifications in alignment with the National Counselling Standards. In addition, in-country consultants and formal training were effective and valued by both partners.
- **The FSC National Training Program** will continue to provide counselling training in Solomon Islands for SAFENET partners.

## TO IMPROVE SERVICES, THE EVALUATION TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT:

### Urgently Ensure Client and Staff Safety

- FSC and IWDA urgently review safety processes and protocols for their PCs and clients in rural areas. FSC should provide training to staff and PCs on updated protocols, and IWDA should provide the additional funding required for new safety measures.
- FCC and CCC should ensure reviewed safety protocols address transport and accompaniment risks and IWDA and donors provide transportation needs are adequately funded.

### Prioritise Disability inclusion

- CCC and FSC should implement the planned disability audit to understand how both partners can improve services.
- CCC and FSC should ensure that training provided by People With Disabilities Solomon Islands to FSC and CCC addresses staff attitudes towards women with disabilities.

### Update VAWG and gender equality training for CCC Sisters

- IWDA should review CCC's existing training to ensure that common attitudes that reinforce gender inequality and excuse men's violence against women are addressed

### IWDA should increase capacity development support to CCC and FSC for quantitative data collection, consistent and aligned with the SAFENET template.

- IWDA should support CCC to collect data related to client length of stay and FSC developing forms that support capturing unique client numbers upon intake.

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