



# Child and Family Welfare System

## Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan

### 2025-2030



# Acknowledgements

The development of this multi-sectoral implementation plan was led by the Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, with appreciation for the support of the Children's Development Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and the support of the Child Protection Section of UNICEF. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their generous financial contribution.

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# Foreword



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It is with great honor that I present the Child and Family Welfare System Multisectoral Implementation Plan 2025 – 2030 (Phase II). This plan marks the next phase in our ongoing efforts to strengthen the welfare system and improve health outcomes, as outlined in the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016–2035 and the National Health Strategic Plan 2022–2031. The first plan (2018–2020) led to commendable achievements and valuable lessons. Building on this foundation, the 2025–2030 Plan aims to further enhance child and family welfare services nationwide, ensuring sustained progress and meaningful impact.

This Plan represents a significant step forward in our commitment to safeguarding the well-being of children and families in the Solomon Islands. It embodies our shared vision of a robust, coordinated, and responsive welfare system—one that enables every child to grow, thrive, and contribute meaningfully to society.

The development of this Implementation Plan has been a collaborative effort, guided by evidence-based practices and the invaluable contributions of our stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, civil society and faith-based organizations, and communities. This multisectoral approach underscores our recognition that the well-being of children and families is a shared responsibility that requires coordinated action across various sectors.

Our goal is to strengthen child protection mechanisms, enhance service delivery, and promote policies that support families in providing safe and nurturing environments for children. Through this plan, we aim to build capacity, improve interagency coordination, and ensure that all children—regardless of their circumstances—receive the care, protection, and support they need in a timely manner.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this plan. Your dedication and commitment to the welfare of our children and families are commendable. As we embark on the implementation of this vital initiative, I encourage all stakeholders to remain steadfast in their efforts and collaboration. Together, we can create a future where every child in the Solomon Islands is protected, empowered, and given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Let us work in unity to make this vision a reality.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pauline'.

**Mrs. Pauline McNeil**

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Health and Medical Services  
Solomon Islands

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# Acronyms

<b>ACOM</b>	Anglican Church of Melanesia
<b>AI</b>	Administrative Instruction
<b>CDD</b>	Children's Development Division
<b>CDO</b>	Child Desk Officers
<b>CFP</b>	Child Protection Community Facilitation Package
<b>CPiE</b>	Child protection in emergencies
<b>CPT</b>	Child Protection Task Force
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organizations
<b>CSSI</b>	Correctional Services Solomon Islands
<b>DMO</b>	Disaster Management Office
<b>DPPO</b>	Director of Public Prosecutions Office
<b>ECCD</b>	Early Childhood Care and Development
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Committee
<b>ERT</b>	Emergency Response Team
<b>FBO</b>	Faith-based organization
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>IEC</b>	Information, education and communication
<b>JIMS</b>	Justice Information Management System
<b>MEHRD</b>	Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development
<b>MHMS</b>	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental health and psychosocial support
<b>MJLA</b>	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of understanding
<b>MWYCFA</b>	Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs
<b>NAACC</b>	National Advisory and Action Committee for Children
<b>NDMO</b>	National Disaster Management Office
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>ODPP</b>	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
<b>PAACC</b>	Provincial Advisory and Advocacy Coordination Committees
<b>PSO</b>	Public Solicitor's Office
<b>RSIPF</b>	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
<b>SICA</b>	Solomon Islands Christian Association
<b>SIFGA</b>	Solomon Islands Full Gospel Association
<b>SIRC</b>	Solomon Islands Red Cross
<b>SWD</b>	Social Welfare Division
<b>SWO</b>	Social welfare officer
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UNCRC</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>VAC</b>	Violence against children

# Introduction

The Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 signalled a strong commitment from the government to strengthen national efforts to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.<sup>1</sup> The Act, complemented by the Child and Family Welfare Services Policy 2012, outlined the government's commitment to improving services to strengthen family and community caring practices and to ensure a timely and appropriate response to all children in need of care and protection.

The Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 and the Child and Family Welfare Services Policy 2012 both emphasized the need for a partnership approach, with government social welfare services working in close cooperation with other government and non-government service providers, leveraging existing networks and social supports, and supporting positive social change through partnership with families, communities and community leaders. The Child and Family Welfare Services Policy called for a more specialized and structured approach to child and family welfare services in urban areas but acknowledged the challenges in ensuring access to formal services in more remote communities. The policy, therefore, emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of community leaders to resolve child welfare and protection issues in line with the best interests of the child, and to improve linkages between the formal and informal systems so that complex or serious cases receive an appropriate, specialist response.

The Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan 2018–2020 (Phase I) outlined concrete steps that were to be taken to implement the Child and Family Welfare Act, with some indicative interventions for Phase II. The Implementation Plan was due for review in 2020, and a new Phase II five-year Implementation Plan was to be developed and aligned with the strategic plans of different sectors (health, education, justice, gender, etc.). There were delays in the 2020 review of the Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan, in part due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. Many of the planned activities identified in the 2018–2020 plan did not materialize as sector programmes and staff within different sectors changed.

The Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 was formally gazetted on 14 September 2022. The review of Phase I and development of Phase II of the Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan commenced in November 2022 and continued to March 2023. The Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan 2025–2030 (Phase II) was endorsed by the National Advisory and Action Committee for Children (NAACC) in June 2025.



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<sup>1</sup> There are many cross-cutting issues within the wider child and family welfare system. Children with disabilities are recognized as being particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation, and it is intended that identification of these vulnerabilities will be covered in training materials on child protection. The absence of the specific term “children with disabilities” throughout this document does not mean that they are not considered a specific area of focus in child protection awareness, advocacy and response activities. Each sector will need to take responsibility for having processes in place to identify, assess and respond to children with disabilities to ensure they are protected.

# Vision



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**A** child and family welfare system for the Solomon Islands that supports strong and healthy families, strengthens community mechanisms for ensuring the well-being and protection of children, and ensures the care and protection of children in circumstances where their parents, families and communities are unable to do so or where additional assistance is needed, including preventative measures to safeguard children's well-being.



# Shared Responsibility for Child Protection

The Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 mandates the Social Welfare Division (SWD), Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), to lead the ongoing development of an integrated child and family welfare service system. The SWD has the responsibility to act as a driver to ensure the system is in place and functioning, strengthening the capacity for prevention, and providing response services when and where appropriate. However, the Child and Family Welfare Act also recognizes that children's well-being and protection are a **shared responsibility**, and that a well-functioning system requires a collaborative approach between all government agencies, non-government organizations, faith-based organizations (FBOs), community elders and families. Every sector has an important role to play in prevention and response, and multi-sectoral collaboration among all sectors is essential for creating a protective environment for children. See Table 1 for a classification of cases that **must** or **may** be referred to the SWO.



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**Table 1:** Classification of Cases for Referral to the Social Welfare Office (SWO)

MUST be referred to SWO	May be referred to SWO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A child who is found lost or abandoned.</li><li>• Physical abuse resulting in broken bones and/or multiple bruises.</li><li>• Repeated acts of physical abuse resulting in broken bones and/or major injuries.</li><li>• Sexual intercourse, sexual touching or any other indecent act with a child under 18 without the child's consent.</li><li>• Any sexual act with a child under 18 by someone in authority (parent, relative, teacher, etc.), even if the child agreed/consented.</li><li>• Any sexual act with a child under 15, even if the child agreed/consented.<sup>2</sup></li><li>• A child who is pregnant or presents with a sexually transmitted infection (STI), if there are concerns that it is not from a consensual boyfriend/girlfriend relationship with someone of a similar age.</li><li>• A child involved in prostitution (sexual act in exchange for money or other gifts given to the child or their family).</li><li>• A child involved in work that is dangerous, too difficult for their age, or that prevents them from attending school.</li><li>• A child who seeks help from or is brought to a safe place (does not include children with their mothers).</li><li>• A child who is being forced to get married, or whose parents are trying to arrange a marriage while the child is under 15.</li><li>• A child who has been trafficked.</li><li>• A mother who has left home due to family violence and whose children have been left with the perpetrator, raising concerns about the children's safety.</li><li>• A mother who wishes to return to an abusive partner with her children and there are concerns about the children's safety.</li></ul>	<p>Any concerns about the well-being of a child, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minor physical abuse or use of harsh discipline</li><li>• Emotional abuse</li><li>• Neglect</li><li>• Teenage pregnancy</li><li>• Teenage alcohol abuse</li><li>• Children exposed to family violence</li><li>• Child maintenance disputes</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> Under the Penal Code (as amended in 2016), the age of consent for having sex is 15 years. The age of consent is 18 years if the person is in a position of trust or authority over the child, such as a parent or guardian, relative, teacher, religious or community leader, counsellor or police officer.



## Social Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Under the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), the SWD has the primary responsibility for leading and coordinating prevention, early intervention and response services for children and their families. This includes the following key responsibilities:

### Legislative and Policy Responsibilities (Macro Level)

- Setting standards for service providers including for children with special needs, and monitoring and assessing services for quality control.
- Service planning to ensure appropriate balance and distribution of services, including through strategic partnerships and memorandum of understandings (MOUs) with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and church groups.
- Forming and maintaining partnerships with other government, non-government, civil-society, faith-based and community service providers.
- Promoting awareness of the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017, including training formal and informal service providers on the child protection referral pathway.

### Coordination and management (Meso Level)

- Strengthening child protection inter-agency referral mechanisms and procedures.
- Managing information on cases of children in need of care and protection.
- Planning and coordination of prevention and response activities, ensuring inclusion of children with special needs.
- Ensuring training for social welfare officers (SWOs) and other service providers.

### Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Ensuring a timely and appropriate response to all reported cases of children in need of care and protection.
- Conducting community outreach to build linkages with community leaders, strengthening their capacity to deal with child protection cases, and monitoring how children's cases are being handled at the community level.
- Responding to reported cases of children in need of care and protection and leading the assessment and care and protection planning process, including, where necessary, exercising emergency powers to remove a child to a safe place and/or applying for a Care and Protection Order from the Court.



## Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs

The Ministry of Women, Children, Youth and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) plays a key role in developing and promoting national laws and policies for child protection. It advocates for the integration of child protection into ministerial strategies and mobilize funds for these programmes. By collaborating with SWOs, it ensures coordinated, inter-agency planning and strengthens referral mechanisms within SAFENET. MWYCFA also focuses on research, adolescent development, and the implementation and monitoring of child protection plans and policies.

### Legislative and Policy Responsibilities (Macro Level)

- Develop and promote national laws, policies and provincial ordinances related to women, children, youth and families.
- Advocate for the integration of child protection into ministerial policies and strategies.
- Promote child protection programmes and help mobilize funding from provincial administrations.

### Coordination and Management (Meso Level)

- Facilitate coordinated, inter-agency planning for child protection through the NAACC and the Provincial Advisory and Advocacy Coordination Committees (PAACC).
- Ensure child protection is integrated into emergency preparedness, response and recovery as the chair of the Protection Committee.
- Strengthen linkages and referral mechanisms within SAFENET, including data compilation and management.
- Collaborate with SWD on awareness and preventive initiatives.
- Develop and maintain partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and FBOs to enhance child protection programmes, including parenting, positive discipline, self-worth and resilience building.

### Direct Service Provision and Research (Micro Level)

- Research and analysis on child and family welfare issues.
- Promote adolescent development and empowerment through targeted programmes and activities.
- Coordinate the implementation of child protection plans and policies, ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness.





## Community Leaders<sup>3</sup> and Informal Support Networks

Community leaders and informal support networks are key in championing child protection at the community level. They can promote awareness through workshops and educational materials, encourage positive cultural practices and challenge harmful social norms. By collaborating with SWOs, they can ensure serious cases are addressed appropriately and that they have the appropriate knowledge and skills to mitigate less-recognized serious cases through regular updates and community trainings led by SWD under the CPRP with linkages to other referral pathways. They can also provide early intervention, financial support and mediation for families, and offer direct support such as psychosocial assistance and parenting advice.

### Community Leadership and Advocacy (Macro Level)

- Act as champions for child protection, promote community discussion of child protection issues, encourage positive cultural practices and challenge social norms harmful to children.
- Promote child protection awareness through workshops, seminars, and distribution of educational materials in schools and community centres.

### Coordination and Management (Meso Level)

- Intervene early to address child and family welfare issues by providing financial/in-kind support to families, positive parenting support, mediation of family conflicts, and enforcing community by laws regarding alcohol.
- Seek help from SWOs for serious and/or complex situations or where the community is unable to resolve the problem, including the service providers within the SAFENET.
- Support and promote parenting groups and programmes to enhance positive parenting skills and provide a support network for parents.
- Conduct community outreach to build linkages with community leaders and strengthen their capacity to deal with child protection cases.
- Encourage open communication where children feel safe to report concerns.

### Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Serving as the first line of support for children and families, including providing psychosocial support, parenting advice and other necessary assistance.
- Intervening to protect children who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, ensuring an appropriate and child-centred response, including reporting of serve cases to SWD as identified in the child protection referral pathway.
- For cases that have been formally reported to SWD, collaborating with the designated provincial SWO to develop, implement and monitor an appropriate care and protection plan, ensuring continuous support and monitoring for the child and family as needed.

<sup>3</sup> The Child and Family Welfare Policy takes a flexible approach to who may be considered “community leaders” in a particular community. It says that community leaders are those individuals who, by function or tradition, have a role in decision-making or influencing individual behaviours in communities. This can be the traditional leaders, such as chiefs, elders in the villages, pastors and priests and women’s leaders. They are individuals specifically identified by communities as the most relevant and important to recognize and address family problems and child protection issues, having a role not only in settling the problem but also in supporting the recovery of victims.



## Faith-Based Organizations/Church Groups

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) and church groups play a crucial role in child protection through their extensive community networks. They raise awareness of child protection issues, empower children through Sunday schools and youth programmes, and support families in adopting positive parenting practices. By collaborating with SWOs, as well as other service providers, they ensure a coordinated response to child protection concerns, offering services such as counselling, temporary shelter and family mediation.

### Community Leadership and Advocacy (Macro Level)

- Raise awareness of child protection issues through existing community networks.
- Empower children to protect themselves by integrating child protection topics into Sunday schools and youth fellowship programmes.
- Promote child protection awareness through sermons, religious teachings and the distribution of educational materials.

### Coordination and Management (Meso Level)

- Promote positive parenting practices to enhance family support network.
- Provide early intervention for child and family welfare issues through counselling/advice, mediation of family conflicts, and financial or in-kind assistance.
- Implement child protection policies within church organizations, including staff and volunteer training on child safeguarding.
- Collaborate with SWOs and other service providers to ensure a coordinated response to child protection issues.

### Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Participate in care and protection planning meetings, organized by SWOs, for children in need of protection, and provide follow-up support for children and families (e.g., supervision, counselling/advice, temporary shelter, family reunification and reconciliation).
- Provide continuous support and monitoring for children and families after cases have been reported to the SWD, in collaboration with designated provincial SWOs.
- Establish safe spaces within faith-based programmes and activities to ensure the well-being of children.
- Offer counselling and support services for children and families affected by violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation.



## Health Sector

The health sector, including the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, public and private hospitals and clinics, and healthcare personnel such as doctors, midwives, and school nurses, plays a crucial role in detecting and addressing child abuse and neglect. Health workers are often the first to identify early signs of abuse or neglect during routine check-ups and emergency visits. They have accessible reporting mechanisms to the SWD for cases that require escalation, ensuring a holistic child protection response. While health workers provide immediate medical treatment and psychosocial support, serious cases require escalation to ensure comprehensive care. By referring such cases to social welfare, as mandated by the Family Protection Act (S46) they ensure that children receive necessary interventions and ongoing support.

### Legislative/Policy Responsibilities (Macro Level)

- Integrate discussions of positive parenting practices and parent-child bonding into maternal and child health programmes.
- Provide peer education and other age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health programmes for adolescents.
- Implement or develop policies that support child-friendly services in all health settings, including for children with disabilities.
- Ensure child abuse cases are reported to the authorities, as mandated in the Family Protection Act (S46) and child protection referral pathway, and enforce reporting requirements.

### Coordination and Management (Meso Level)

- Identify children showing early signs of abuse or neglect, provide advice and guidance to parents when appropriate, and report cases requiring escalation to social welfare.
- Identify and refer serious cases of children in need of care and protection to the social welfare and participate in inter-agency case conferencing as needed.
- Integrate data on suspected child abuse and neglect cases into the health information management system.

### Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Provide medical treatment for injuries and any necessary follow-up care.
- Conduct child-sensitive forensic medical examinations and collect evidence to support criminal prosecutions when needed.
- Support children's mental health and psychosocial well-being through counselling and therapeutic services, as mandated in the Family Protection Act.





## Justice Sector

The justice sector, including the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (MJLA), public and private legal institutions, and personnel such as police officers, prosecutors and judges, plays a critical role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. Legislation such as the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 mandates collaboration between the justice sector and the SWD to ensure a coordinated and effective response to child protection issues. This collaboration ensures that children receive comprehensive care and protection, from initial detection to legal intervention and ongoing support.

### Legislative/Policy Responsibilities (Macro Level)

- Integrate child protection issues into the work of Community Crime Prevention initiatives.
- Promote community resolution of minor offences committed by children and mediate family conflicts.
- Implement policies that support child-friendly facilities and procedures in the justice system.
- Ensure crimes against children are resolved in a timely and child-sensitive manner.

### Coordination and Management (Meso Level)

- Conduct community police talks in schools, in collaboration with SWOs, on issues such as drugs and alcohol, sexual offences, cybersecurity and other issues related to children.
- Ensure police immediately notify SWOs of any case involving child victims, witnesses or offenders.
- Police to assist SWOs in removing children at immediate risk of harm.
- Police to use child-sensitive interview and investigation techniques.
- Improve access to legal aid for child victims and their families through the Public Solicitor's Office (PSO) and ensure representation of children in conflict with the law.
- Ensure child-sensitive support for child victims of crime through the Director of Public Prosecutions Office (DPPO).
- Improve handling of children-related cases by designating and training specialist police, prosecutors and magistrates, and by establishing juvenile and family courts.
- Ensure child-friendly spaces at police stations and incorporate child-friendly features into courtrooms (e.g., flexible furniture, toys, protective screens, waiting/mediation rooms).
- Improve the collection of disaggregated data on cases involving children in the justice system as offenders, victims and care and protection proceedings under the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017).

### Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Ensure magistrates' courts issue Care and Protection Orders under the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017).
- Criminal courts to implement child-sensitive procedures to help children to provide their best evidence, minimize trauma and ensure a fair trial.
- Ensure protection and security measures for child victims.



## Education Sector

The education sector, including the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD), public and private schools, and personnel such as MEHRD staff, principals, teachers, school nurses, chaplains and counsellors, plays a key role in child protection in schools. This role aligns with the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) and the child protection referral pathway to ensure comprehensive services for children.

### Legislative/Policy Responsibilities (Macro Level)

- Incorporate child protection into the curriculum, focusing on social behaviour and citizenship, positive relationships, conflict resolution, sexual and reproductive health, drug and alcohol awareness, life skills, gender roles and norms, and educating children on their rights, how to protect themselves, and to seek help.
- Implement policies that support child-friendly services in all educational settings and ensure the reporting of child abuse cases to the authorities, as mandated by the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017).
- Develop and implement the Child Protection in Schools guideline to be incorporated as an annex to the administrative instructions of the Education Act (2023).

### Coordination and Management (Meso Level)

- Provide a stable and conducive environment for children's learning.
- Ensure positive class management and child-friendly teaching techniques.
- Include discussion on child protection and parenting issues in parent-teacher meetings.
- Incorporate child protection into the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme.
- Strengthen school-based counselling and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, including forming of peer-support groups with oversight from senior management, chaplains and/or school nurses to provide comprehensive support to children.
- Establish accessible and child-friendly complaints mechanisms and clear procedures for disciplining staff who abuse children.
- Integrate data on child protection reports and referrals to SWD into the education sector's information management system.

### Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Empower children through school-based clubs and programmes, giving them more voice in decision-making.
- Provide immediate support and intervention for children identified as experiencing abuse or neglect, ensuring that serious cases are adequately reported to the SWO and participating in inter-agency case conferences as needed.
- Offer continuous support and monitoring for children after cases have been reported to the SWD, ensuring they remain in school.
- Conduct community outreach to educate families about child protection and available educational services.
- Support children's mental health and psychosocial well-being through counselling and therapeutic services.



## National Disaster Management

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in the Solomon Islands, through the Protection Committee, will collaborate with formal structures such as SWOs, women's desk officers, and SAFENET providers, as well as informal structures such as community leaders and FBOs, to strengthen service delivery and response during emergencies. This will ensure that the needs of children and families are met promptly and efficiently.

### National Coordination and Policy Development (Macro Level)

- Ensure child protection in emergencies (CPiE) coordination through the Protection Committee. Develop national guidelines for child protection risks in emergencies and integrate them into disaster preparedness planning.
- Integrate climate resilience into national disaster management policies.

### Provincial and Community Engagement (Meso Level)

- Train Provincial Disaster Management Office (DMO) officers and Provincial Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) on child protection.
- Include discussion of CPiE in community and school planning, ensuring that children are included as committee members when appropriate.
- Strengthen the role of SWOs in disaster preparedness and response, ensuring they are equipped to handle child protection issues.

### Local Implementation and Direct Service Provision (Micro Level)

- Establish safe community spaces for children and ensure that evacuation centres are child-friendly, including for children with disabilities.
- Create clear mechanisms for reporting to the SWD and relevant SAFENET service providers, ensuring access to support services for children who have experienced violence, abuse or exploitation in emergency settings.
- Identify focal points within the community and/or deploy social and health professionals to provide mental health and psychosocial support to children and families affected by disasters.

While some progress has been made since 2018 in integrating child protection into sector policies, plans and processes, more systematic efforts are needed to achieve significant results. Long-term and strategic investment from stakeholders is essential to ensure that all relevant agencies and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, fulfil their roles and responsibilities within the system.

In addition, aligning strategies across sectors within the broader child and family welfare system requires sustained momentum, as legislation, development strategies and policies may be at different stages of review, consultation, endorsement and parliamentary approval. For example, the National Development Strategy, National Children's Policy (2022–2028), Immigration Act, Juvenile Justice Bill, Islanders' Marriage Act, and MHMS National Health Strategic Plan (2022–2031) are among the many relevant components of this system framework.



# Priority Outcomes

## This Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan has 10 priority outcomes:

1. The SWD ensures timely and appropriate services for children in need of care and protection and their families.
2. Inter-agency planning, coordination and monitoring are improved, including inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial collaboration and responsibilities.
3. Children are educated about their rights and empowered to protect themselves and their peers.
4. Parents and families are better able to care for and protect children.
5. Community leaders have enhanced capacity to resolve, refer and monitor child welfare and protection issues.
6. Health workers can identify, treat and refer cases of children in need of care and protection.
7. Children have access to child-sensitive justice.
8. Education personnel can identify, refer and monitor children in need of care and protection, ensuring schools are safe and child-friendly.
9. Child protection is integrated into emergency preparedness and response plans.
10. Child protection laws and policies are strengthened through legislative reforms, ensuring they are child-friendly, comprehensive and enforceable.



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# Key Strategies and Actions

**This section outlines key strategies and actions to achieve each outcome.**

## **Outcome 1:** Social Welfare Division ensures appropriate response services for children in need of care and protection

The Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) mandates the SWD to ensure timely and appropriate responses to all children in need of care and protection. This includes establishing inter-agency referral mechanisms, improving information sharing and coordinating service providers. The SWD is also responsible for monitoring, oversight and quality control of child and family welfare services.

The Child and Family Welfare Policy highlights the need to strengthen SWD's capacity, including increasing the number and qualifications of SWOs. In the short term, UNICEF has funded additional SWOs in select provinces (one in headquarters, and one each in Isabel, Guadalcanal and Malaita) with the expectation that the government will absorb these costs. As of December 2024, the government has funded three of four positions, with plans to recruit two temporary positions for the remaining provinces in 2025.

To enhance service quality, an intensive five-week training programme (2018–2020) and specialized supervision and management training (2023) were conducted. Standard case management guidelines, tools and forms were introduced so that SWOs are better equipped to manage cases, and to ensure greater oversight and accountability for their work. Supervision of case management was introduced in 2023 to support the quality and timeliness of response services. However, documented evidence is still needed to advocate for increased government funding to the SWD to fulfil its responsibilities under the Child and Family Welfare Act and the Child Protection Referral Pathway.

A key challenge in ensuring a timely and appropriate SWO response to reported child protection cases is the lack of resources for communication, travel and logistics, as well as delays in fund disbursement. UNICEF established an emergency fund for urgent cases, but NGOs have at times provided logistical support. A sustainable funding solution for communication, travel and logistics is required so that serious cases can be responded to within the timeframes set out in the endorsed Child Protection Referral Pathway (i.e., 1–3 days for an initial assessment and 1–2 weeks for a comprehensive assessment). SWD will continue advocating for additional government resources.

The Child and Family Welfare Policy also underscores the need for improved planning, coordination and partnerships with other service providers, particularly with NGOs and FBOs. SWD will continue at the national and provincial levels to enhance coordination, consistency in service provision, develop standards for service providers, and implement the child protection referral pathway.

## **Key Strategies and Actions**

### **1. Improving planning and coordination of child and family welfare services**

- Collaboration with MHMS Health Promotion Department on Healthy Settings Program.
- Establish national MOUs with key NGO service providers.
- Develop strategic partnerships with SICA, SIFGA and ACOM at the national level.
- Compile and distribute child protection service directories (starting in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Isabel, and Western provinces).

### **2. Strengthening social welfare officers' capacity**

- The SWD currently has 18 staff members, including the Social Welfare Director. Ten officers are based in the provinces, one is awaiting deployment, and two positions are yet to be filled. All officers are trained in case management and regularly use standard case forms for response and assessment.
- Child protection case management supervision practices are in place within SWD providing 1-1 support for SWOs and senior staff are trained in case management supervision.
- A Child Protection Specialist is permanently appointed within SWD and has oversight of all child protection cases within SWD.
- Review and update SWO job descriptions to clarify roles and required qualifications.
- Issue guidance on SWO authority, reporting and accountability under the Child and Family Welfare Act.
- Increased budget allocation for communication, travel and logistics.
- Conduct regular review and planning meetings at national and provincial levels.
- Implement monitoring visits to provincial SWOs.

### **3. Strengthening record and data management systems**

- Maintain national and provincial child protection case records.
- Publish annual reports analysing case trends.
- Review the MHMS Human Resources Strategic Plan – Child and Family Welfare System Policy 2013 to support government budget requests for staffing.

### **4. Ensuring timely and effective responses to child protection cases**

- Secure adequate funding for urgent cases within the timeframes outlined in the endorsed Child Protection Referral Pathway.
- Maintain an emergency fund until a sustainable government budget is secured.
- Continue community training on the Child Protection Referral Pathway.
- Develop legal expertise by appointing a dedicated legal officer within SWD or PSO.
- Create and approve forms to implement the Child and Family Welfare Act.
- Train SWOs on applications for care and protection orders.
- Conduct a feasibility study on Child Help-Line, considering SWO capacity.



## 5. Establishing minimum standards and accreditation for child and family welfare service providers

- Develop service and alternative care standards in collaboration with service providers, requiring all providers to have child safeguarding policies and staff codes of conduct.
- Consult MWYCFA on developing minimum standards, accreditation and approval processes for counsellors working within the gender-based violence (GBV)/SAFENET referral mechanism.
- Approve and implement standards, forms, and accreditation procedures.
- Ensure all service providers are inspected and accredited by 2027.

### Outcome 2: Improved inter-agency planning, coordination and monitoring, including inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial collaboration and responsibilities

This plan will be implemented through a multi-stakeholder approach, with an emphasis on mainstreaming child protection into the plans and budgets of all relevant government agencies and maximising the use of existing programmes and resources.

At the national level, inter-agency planning, coordination and monitoring of child protection activities will be improved by strengthening the capacity of the NAACC's Child Protection Task Force. The Child Protection Task Force (CPT), chaired by the Social Welfare Division of MHMS, will coordinate inter-agency planning and ensure that sectoral commitments under this Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan are integrated into the annual plans and budgets of the health, education and justice sectors.

At the provincial level, the PAACC will ensure child protection activities are integrated into their multi-sectoral plans for children and provincial budgets.

Improved monitoring and accountability will be achieved by strengthening existing mechanisms for recording and analysing information on child protection cases. In Phase III (2027 and beyond), technological advancements in the Solomon Islands will be explored for a more comprehensive child protection information management system.

## Key Strategies and Actions

### 1. Review of child protection systems, legislation and policies, including maintenance, child justice and adoption

- Legislation, policies, guidelines, standard operating procedures are reviewed and amended to ensure they are fit for purpose and align with national and international legislation and agreements such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

### 2. Integration of child protection into national and provincial government plans and budgets

- Sectoral commitments under this Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan are incorporated into the annual plans and budgets of the health, education and justice sector agencies.
- Child protection activities are integrated into the PAACC multi-sectoral plans for children and provincial administration's plans and budgets.

- Child protection is incorporated into the National Development Strategy and sectoral strategies for health, education, early childhood development, gender and justice.

### **3. Cross-sector workforce development to support inter-agency planning, coordination and monitoring**

- Baseline training for all stakeholders working directly with children and families within the broader child protection system will enhance workforce connectivity and coordination.
- Identified baseline knowledge and skills include basic counselling techniques, child development principles, the impact of abuse and neglect, and the intersection of child protection and child rights. Essential encompass effective communication with children, child interviews, positive parenting without violence, trauma-informed approaches, and online safety (an emerging issue in the Solomon Islands). Additionally, understanding referral pathways and their role in case management processes is crucial.

### **4. Strengthening the National Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC), Child Protection Task Force (CPT) and Provincial Advisory and Action Committees on Children (PACCs)**

- Terms of Reference (ToR) for NAACC is reviewed, finalized and disseminated to the CPT and PAACs.
- PAACs are formally established in all provinces.
- CPT membership is reviewed to ensure all sectors are represented.
- CPT members receive training on the roles and functions of NAACC, the Child and Family Welfare Act, the Child Protection Referral Pathway and the Child Protection Community Facilitation Package.
- ToRs are developed for the CPT and PAACCs to ensure alignment with NAACC functions.
- Orientation is provided for CPT and PAACC members on child protection and their roles and responsibilities as members of the taskforce/committees.
- The CPT to hold regular quarterly meetings to plan, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan, with regular reporting to NAACC.
- The PAACCs hold regular quarterly meetings to plan, coordinate and monitor child protection activities at the provincial level.

### **5. Consistent child protection messaging and information, education and communication (IEC) materials across government and non-government sectors**

- The Child Protection Community Facilitation Package (CFP) serves as the primary resource for all child protection messaging and IEC materials.
- Government and non-government organizations collaborate on awareness and advocacy initiatives to optimize resource utilization.
- A mapping exercise is conducted to identify child protection awareness and advocacy programmes across the Solomon Islands, ensuring coordinated efforts and minimizing duplication.
- Public financing mechanisms are identified and strengthened to support child protection programmes, ensuring sustainable funding for awareness, advocacy and service delivery initiatives.

### **Outcome 3: Educating and empowering children to protect themselves and their peers**

A key focus of child and family welfare initiatives is to empower children to protect themselves rather than treating them as passive and powerless. Through school and community-based initiatives, children will be educated about their rights, given a stronger voice in their communities, and empowered to participate in decision-making. They will learn how to protect themselves, support their peers and where to seek help. Additionally, children's role as agents of long-term social change will also be promoted through discussions on gender roles, positive behaviours, respectful relationships and non-violent conflict resolution.

This outcome builds on existing initiatives targeting children and adolescents, with a focus on strengthening their impact through the development of improved messaging, age-appropriate materials, a standardized approach and greater focus on the social norms underlying child protection risks (e.g., gender, masculinity and violence). This will be achieved primarily through programmes led by MHMS, MWYCFA and MEHRD on sexual and reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support, social and behaviour change, the integration of child protection school curriculum and working with existing mechanisms within faith-based and youth organizations. It is also essential to develop formal services that help children recover from abuse, neglect and exploitation, empowering them to prevent further harm.

Online safety and cyberbullying, as an emerging child protection issue in Solomon Islands, require national research to better understand their scope and inform the development of preventative strategies to empower children against online harm.

## **Key Strategies and Actions**

### **1. Integration of child protection into the school curriculum**

- Age-appropriate discussions on child protection issues (including gender roles and norms, respectful relationships, non-violent conflict resolution, reproductive health, alcohol awareness and online safety) as incorporated as part of ongoing school curriculum reforms.

### **2. Inclusion of child protection discussions in Sunday Schools and Youth Programmes**

- Sunday School teachers and youth leaders receive training on child protection issues using the CFP.

### **3. Use of radio and other media to promote consistent child protection messages tailored for children**

- A series of messages are developed for radio, television and other media based on the CFP to ensure accessibility for children.

### **4. Education on sexual and reproductive health and mental health and psychosocial support**

- Existing programmes on sexual and reproductive health and mental health and psychosocial support are reviewed and strengthened to enhance child protection components, including social and gender norms, positive behaviours, respectful relationships, consent and healing.
- School and community structures are leveraged to deliver peer education programmes, ensuring consistent and comprehensive child protection support in both environments.

## **5. Strengthening children's voices through youth councils and child clubs in schools and the community**

- Train youth affairs officers and youth council members on child protection so that child protection is integrated into their work effectively.
- NGOs to support schools in establishing children's clubs in schools.

## **6. Expanding formal services to help children recover from abuse, neglect and exploitation**

- Investments are made in the NGO sector to ensure the availability of para-social workers and counsellors trained in trauma-informed care for children (boys and girls) who have experienced abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Prioritize the development of specialized formal services for children who have experienced sexual abuse.

## **7. Addressing online safety and cyberbullying as an emerging issue**

- A nationwide study is conducted to understand online safety and cyberbullying issues.
- Use research findings to develop legislation, policies and guidelines.
- Develop training materials to educate children on protecting themselves in online environments.



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## **Outcome 4: Parents, families and communities are better able to care for and protect children**

The Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) mandates the Director of the SWD to coordinate prevention programmes that: promote community discussion and awareness of issues relating to the wellbeing and protection of children; reinforce positive cultural values, traditions and practices that encourage caring attitudes and behaviours towards children; and build the capacity of parents to fulfil their responsibilities and safeguard the well-being and best interests of their children.

This outcome aims to enhance prevention programmes and promote behaviour change by integrating discussion on parenting, childcare and protection issues into existing community outreach activities. The CFP has been developed and endorsed within the Solomon Islands context. This package provides key child protection messages and IEC materials approved by CPT (chaired by the Director of SWD), which partners use flexibly with partners in different settings.

Now that the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) has been formally gazetted, and prevention and early intervention (e.g., advocacy and awareness activities) are recognized as core functions of the legislation, it is anticipated that over time, the cost of printing materials will be incorporated into government agency budgets (including MWCYFA, MHMS Health Promotion Unit, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force [RSIPF] community policing and MEHRD).

This strategy assumes that delivering consistent messages through respected community figures – such as community police, health workers, teachers, church leaders and traditional leaders – will positively influence families' and communities' care and protection practices. Leveraging all existing networks will help expand reach and coverage. To maximize the community engagement, the CPT under the NAACC and PAACC, will coordinate planning and monitor community outreach activities.

A key initiative involves strengthening church networks by organizing a conference with church leadership (SICA and SIFGA) to discuss how churches can integrate components of the CFP into their existing programmes, activities and pastoral care. All partners conducting parenting skills activities will be encouraged to use the CFP to ensure message consistency and avoid conflicting approaches. Facilitators of the – particularly influential community figures such as church leaders – will play a crucial role, as parents are more likely to trust and respect messages from them. Since delivering the CFP effectively requires intensive community interaction, its implementation will follow a gradual, systematic roll-out guided by an implementation plan developed by MWCYFA with UNICEF support.

The CFP and related IEC materials may face resistance from some communities. As its messaging aligns with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), some may perceive it as an external imposition on private family matters or view child protection messages – especially those opposing corporal punishment – as conflicting with religious values. Facilitators must be prepared to respond to these issues and can refer to the responsibilities of parents and families under the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) and biblical teachings on children's well-being.



## Key Strategies and Actions

### 1. National awareness campaign based on the approved and endorsed Child Protection Community Facilitation Package (CFP)

- MWCYFA and SWD will collaborate to implement the CFP, ensuring community facilitators are empowered, consistent in using the manual, tracking change, and making necessary referrals to social welfare.
- IEC materials developed from the CFP will deliver consistent messages across the Solomon Islands through radio, SMS, social media, national events (such as World Children's Day) and ministry communication channels.

### 2. Integration of child protection messages into existing community outreach activities

- Integrate child protection messages into the work of Community Police and Crime Prevention Committees in collaboration with SWD.
- Embed child protection messages into outreach work led by labour and immigration officers.
- Include discussions of child protection and parenting at PTA meetings and in ECCD programmes.

### 3. Faith-based organization (FBO) engagement

- Support church leaders (SICA/SIFGA/ACOM) in integrating key child protection messages into their church networks and activities (e.g., pastors/priests, women's leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders).
- Promote positive messaging around child protection, particularly positive parenting.
- Encourage FBOs to provide basic services for children and families in need and to refer serious child protection issues to social welfare.

### 4. Capacity building in the NGO sector for formal services focused on healing, recovery and positive/non-violent parenting education

- Develop trauma-informed services for parents and families, including specialized counsellors who can support positive parenting and non-violent discipline.

### 5. Collaboration between correctional services and NGOs to integrate child protection messages into rehabilitation strategies

- Positive parenting education to adults in correctional facilities.
- Integrate child protection awareness into the Yellow Ribbon Project in targeted communities.

### 6. Promotion of child protection messaging within the context of World Children's Day

- Host annual World Children's Day events.
- Use the events to raise awareness of the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) and the justice sector services supporting child protection.

## Outcome 5:

### Community leaders have improved capacity to resolve, refer and monitor child welfare and protection issues

The Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) recognizes community leaders as the first line of support and response for children and families. The Child and Family Welfare Policy acknowledges that the government cannot create a new system to fully replace existing community mechanisms, nor can the SWD reach all communities consistently and effectively. Instead, the system focuses on strengthening community leaders' capacity to identify and address child welfare and protection issues while improving referral linkages between formal and informal systems for serious cases.

Community outreach by SWOs will enhance community leaders' ability to mitigate childcare and protection concerns. SWOs will conduct outreach activities (ideally every six months) to build trust, provide guidance, assist in resolving unresolved cases, and monitor how communities handle child welfare issues. Community leaders will also be encouraged to seek help from SWOs in serious cases or those beyond community resolution. This approach is in line with the feedback from the community consultations undertaken as part of drafting the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017). Participants emphasized that communities would welcome advice and assistance from welfare officers on how to better handle children's issues and would like welfare officers to step in to help with complex and serious cases.

This strategy is based on the assumption that community leaders are "safe" individuals to work with children and families and that they will be effectively mobilized through sustained outreach activities and regular communication with SWOs. Improved capacity enables community leaders to be more proactive in dealing with child protection concerns, ensuring that their primary focus is on the child's safety and well-being rather than solely on compensation and reconciliation through customary practices. Well-trained SWOs are best placed to influence community leaders and overcome resistance, as they are respected government officers. Change will also be reinforced by key messages from other well-respected figures (police, immigration officers, etc.) as part of their community outreach work and existing activities (see Outcome 3).

Moreover, emphasis will be placed on identifying and mobilizing a range of community leaders – not just chiefs, but also church leaders, women's leaders and other natural helpers within the community – and encouraging them to collaborate in responding to childcare and protection concerns. However, it is acknowledged that some entrenched cultural practices may take time to change.

A risk that community leaders may demand payment can be mitigated by setting clear expectations and reinforcing a sense of community ownership and responsibility for its children. Community leaders can also be encouraged to liaise with Child Desk Officers (CDOs) to access existing local development funds to support child protection activities.

Another potential risk is that increased community awareness and outreach will lead to an increase in requests for support from SWOs. Failure to respond to these requests in a timely manner could undermine the trust that was built. This highlights the importance of careful planning and gradual roll out to ensure that the demand for support and response services does not exceed the SWD's capacity.

## **Key Strategies and Actions**

### **1. Strengthening community leaders' understanding and response to child welfare and protection issues**

- The planned roll-out of the CFP will support community leaders in addressing child welfare issues.
- Training on the Child and Family Welfare Act and the Child Protection Referral Pathway will include discussions on conflict resolution, mediation to ensure child safety, and clarity on which cases must be referred to the SWD.
- Community policing discussions on mediation and conflict resolution will incorporate guidance on resolving and reporting child protection cases.
- SWOs will conduct regular community outreach visits and gather information on how communities are managing child protection cases.

### **2. Enhancing churches' capacity to address child protection and child welfare concerns**

- Church leaders will have access to and/or receive training in the CFP.
- Child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures will be established with clear guidance on reporting cases to the SWD.
- Religious orders will incorporate basic training in child protection into their curriculum.

### **3. Strengthening linkages between the formal and informal systems and monitoring child protection cases**

- A mapping process will be undertaken to better understand formal and informal child protection and child justice systems, ensuring relevant support for communities aligns with the needs of Solomon Islands.
- Community and traditional leaders will be trained to support vulnerable children, such as children in conflict with the law, while clear structures will ensure that serious cases, such as sexual assault, are referred to the formal child protection and justice systems.
- Consideration will be given to the relevance and feasibility of establishing a mediation framework and providing formal mediation training for community leaders.



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## Outcome 6:

## Health workers can identify, treat and refer cases of children in need of care and protection

Health workers engage regularly with children and their parents, particularly in the crucial first 12 months, through antenatal care, infant bonding and breastfeeding, and immunization programmes. As such, they are well-placed to identify early signs of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and to provide appropriate treatment and referral. The health sector also plays a role in addressing sexual violence and teen pregnancy through quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services.

The MHMS has made significant progress in strengthening the capacity of health workers to address child and family welfare issues, including introducing a Standard Treatment Protocol for Children, GBV Clinical Guidelines, Youth-friendly Health Services Guidelines, a Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Form (for referrals to SWD or Police), and a GBV training programme for nurses. Commencing in 2018, the ministry also began collecting data on reported cases of suspected child abuse, which is integrated into the health information management system.

### Key Strategies and Actions

#### 1. Improved capacity of health workers to identify and respond to children in need of protection

- Ongoing training for health workers on signs of abuse and how to respond to cases of children in need of care and protection, including use of the Suspected Child Abuse Report Form, as part of GBV and violence against children (VAC) training.
- Review and revision of clinical guidelines and training to strengthen the focus on child protection.
- Strengthening the child protection training module for nursing training.
- Integrating child protection training into post-graduate paediatric nursing courses.

#### 2. Improved data collection and strategic planning to enhance specialist roles to support prosecution of child abuse cases

- Data on reported cases of sexual and physical abuse of children is collected and analysed.
- A proposal is made to the MHMS executive committee to enhance the DHIS system to include a category for neglect.
- A plan and budget are prepared to support the establishment of specialized roles, child-friendly spaces and specialized equipment to meet evidentiary requirements for criminal prosecutions.
- Establish and operationalize child-friendly service points in hospital settings by developing protocols, training staff to provide specialized services for child survivors of serious abuse, and establishing referral mechanisms for multi-sectoral support, including health, mental health, social welfare and justice services.

#### 3. Adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services

- The recently updated Youth-Friendly Health Services Guidelines, including mental health components, are rolled out at the national and provincial levels by implementing the training of trainers work plan.
- Clinics will develop mechanisms for feedback and review of services, incorporating adolescent mental health needs to support evaluation and future service provision.

## Outcome 7: Children have access to child-sensitive justice

The justice sector has an important role in the child protection system by ensuring access to justice for child victims of crime and sending a clear message that violence, abuse and exploitation of children will not be tolerated. Under the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017, magistrates and authorized justices also have the authority to issue care and protection orders.

Children face many challenges in accessing formal justice agencies, particularly in remote areas. At this stage, the priority is to ensure that cases involving child victims that are formally reported are handled effectively and efficiently while minimizing further trauma. Measures must be taken to improve the prosecution of crimes against children by promoting greater specialization in handling children's cases, ensuring that justice officials (police, prosecutors, prosecutors, magistrates, authorized justice and lawyers) have the necessary knowledge and skills, and improving child-friendly facilities. These measures also apply to children involved in the juvenile justice system, which may become a greater focus in later planning phases (post-2027) once the Juvenile Justice Bill is finalized and approved.

## Key Strategies and Actions

### 1. Greater specialization in handling children's cases and increased capacity to respond to child protection and juvenile cases

- Magistrates, authorized justices and relevant judicial officers/court clerks receive training on the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017.
- Designate and train specialist police, police prosecutors, prosecutors, magistrates, public solicitors, court clerks and correctional services staff to efficiently and effectively handle child victim and juvenile cases.
- Relevant guidelines and standard operating procedures are reviewed and/or developed to support child-sensitive practices.
- The RSIPF develops guidelines and training, with Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) support, on the management and specialist interviewing of child victims.
- There number of specialized lawyers within the PSO increases.
- Specialized case support workers/counsellors are placed in the PSO and Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSSI).
- CSSI integrates child protection and trauma-informed training for its staff.

### 2. Improved facilities for child victims, witnesses and children in conflict with the law

- Family and juvenile courts incorporate child-friendly features in their design (e.g., suitable furniture, waiting/mediation rooms, screens, CCTV technology).
- Family and juvenile courts are established.
- Child-friendly interview rooms at police stations, ODPP, PSO and court rooms.
- Juvenile facilities are commissioned and built with designated admission rooms.
- Technology and transportation resources are increased to support services for children.



### 3. Improved access to legal aid for children and their families

- The PSO will support access to legal aid for children, their families, and children in conflict with the law.

### 4. Enhanced data collection to inform justice for children

- The Justice Information Management System (JIMS) is updated, ensuring disaggregated data is available for all cases involving children.

### 5. Key legislation reflects child-sensitive practices

- The Youth Justice Bill progresses through the parliamentary process.
- A submission is made to the Solomon Islands Law Reform Committee to review the Evidence Act 2009.

## Outcome 8:

### Education personnel can identify, refer and monitor children in need of care and protection, ensuring schools are safe and child-friendly

Schools have an important role to play in creating a safe, inclusive and violence-free environment for all children; ensuring that incidents of violence or abuse on school grounds are handled appropriately; and identifying and responding to children experiencing violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation at home or in the community. In urban centres, schools will be encouraged to refer concerns about children in need of care and protection to the SWD. In more remote communities, teachers, as respected community leaders, will be targeted as part of SWO's outreach efforts to ensure that child care and protection concerns are appropriately addressed.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) has recognized the importance of child protection within its Education Legal Framework. The Education Act 2023 includes a specific clause emphasizing the protection, safety and welfare of children, as well as the management of teachers who engage in inappropriate conduct towards students.

As part of the framework, six Administrative Instructions (AIs) have been developed. These instructions outline how child protection will be integrated into school settings and define measures for risk mitigation and prevention.

The development of the Child Protection in Schools manual/guideline is part of MEHRD's annual operational plan 2025. Implementing and training education personnel on this manual/guideline will require significant time and resources during this period.

## Key Strategies and Actions

### 1. Comprehensive child protection policy and procedures introduced and implemented by MEHRD

- The Child Protection in Schools Policy and associated guidelines are finalized and approved, including a Code of Conduct for the education sector.
- An implementation plan is developed to outline how and when the policy, manual and guidelines will be introduced and embedded within the education sector.

## **2. Improved capacity of teachers and schools to identify and respond to child protection concerns**

- Clear reporting and response procedures, including a flowchart, are incorporated into MEHRD's child protection policy to show how child protection concerns are reported by schools to the SWD.
- Incorporate child protection into pre-service and in-service training for teachers.
- Teachers are engaged as part of SWO's community outreach.

## **3. Improved counselling services in schools**

- Selected teachers are designated and trained as school counsellors.
- School chaplains, form masters, dorm teachers, matrons and school nurses receive training so that students can turn to them for support.

## **4. NGO support to enhance safety and protection in schools**

- NGOs partner with selected schools to support self-protection programmes, children's clubs, and child protection and child safeguarding initiatives.

## **5. Ensuring education access for children in the juvenile justice system and support for their community reintegration**

- Accredited formal education programmes are developed and delivered for juveniles in correctional facilities to support their reintegration into the community.

### **Outcome 9: Child protection is integrated into emergency preparedness and response plans**

Significant progress has been made in integrating child protection into emergency preparedness and response plans. The Protection Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA), is responsible for ensuring that child protection is integrated into emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans. Standard tools have been developed for child protection risk assessments, and child protection considerations have been incorporated into emergency response guidelines and the design of evacuation centres. These efforts will continue to be reinforced and strengthened in the coming years, ensuring that all those involved in emergency preparedness and response have a solid understanding of child protection.

## **Key Strategies and Actions**

### **1. Child protection is fully integrated into disaster risk management planning at the national and sub-national levels**

- Establish Protection Committees in all provinces.
- Training on CPIE for Protection Committee members (National and Provincial), DMOs and Emergency Response Teams.
- A Code of Conduct, ToR and standard operating procedures are established.
- Provincial DMO officers and Emergency Operations Committees (EOCs) receive training on CPIE.
- Mainstream child protection into other sectoral plans.

## 2. Improved capacity for child protection in emergency response

- Refresher training for sub-committee members on CPIE, and quarterly meetings are held.
- Standby agreements with World Vision and Save the Children, and the Children's Development Division (CDD) (within MWYCFA) are reviewed, and child-friendly spaces are included.
- Capacity is built for individuals trained to provide psychosocial support during emergencies and disasters.
- CPIE training for National Youth Congress members and other volunteers at national and provincial levels, including Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC).
- Critical incident debriefing is provided in schools, along with one-on-one counselling for children involved in CPIE situations.
- The PSO develops standard operating procedures for providing legal services during emergencies and disasters.

### Outcome 10: Child protection laws and policies are strengthened through legislative reforms, ensuring they are child-friendly, comprehensive and enforceable

The Solomon Islands has made significant strides in child protection policies, particularly with the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) and the National Children's Policy 2023–2028. However, gaps remain, especially concerning the age definitions across various laws. For instance, the minimum age for marriage under the Islanders' Marriage Act is 15 years with parental consent, which is below the international standard of 18 years. Similarly, the minimum age for employment is set at 12 years, which does not align with the international standard of 14 years. Additionally, the age of criminal responsibility is set at 8 years, with conditional responsibility up to 12 years. These discrepancies highlight the need for comprehensive legislative reforms to ensure all child protection laws are consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Laws and policies need to be child-friendly and inclusive of all children, including those with disabilities, to ensure their rights and needs are fully addressed.

### Key strategies and actions:

- 1. Birth and Death Registration:** Passage of the Birth and Death Registration Bill. Strengthen the implementation of the Births and Deaths (Registration) Law to ensure all children are registered at birth, providing them with a legal identity and access to essential services.
- 2. Islanders' Marriage Act:** Amend the Islanders' Marriage Act to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, ensuring it aligns with international standards and protects children from early and forced marriages.
- 3. Child Labour Laws:** Revise child labour laws to set the minimum age for employment at 14 years and establish clear regulations for hazardous work, ensuring protection from exploitation and dangerous conditions.
- 4. Criminal Responsibility:** Increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 years, with full criminal responsibility starting at 18 years, to align with international norms and ensure that children are treated appropriately within the justice system.
- 5. Comprehensive Legislative Review and Development:** Conduct a thorough review of all child-related laws and policies to identify and address inconsistencies. Develop new policies to ensure legislation is child-friendly, comprehensive and enforceable, such as the Cybercrime Bill, the Anti-Trafficking Act and others.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

The NAACC Child Protection Task Force will be responsible for coordinating multi-sectoral implementation of activities under this plan and for monitoring and evaluating progress. As the lead agency for child and family welfare services, the SWD will document key activities and provide progress reports to the Child Protection Task Force. The task force will meet at least quarterly to monitor the progress and agree on any revisions.

In 2030, the SWD, in collaboration with the Child Protection Task Force, will conduct a full review of the progress made under the 2025-2030 Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan and develop a new five-year implementation plan (Phase III).



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# Annex

Activity Tracker: Multi-Sectoral Child and Family Welfare System Implementation Plan 2025–2030				
Outcome	Actions	Target/Indicators	Responsible Agency	
Outcome 1: Social Welfare Division ensures appropriate response services for children in need of care and protection and their families				
1.1 Improved planning and coordination of child and family welfare services	1.1.1	<b>Collaboration with Health Promotion Department (HPD) within MHMS:</b> SWD will partner with HPD to leverage the Healthy Settings programme, including initiatives such as Healthy Villages and Health Promoting Schools, as platforms for SWD outreach activities.	Conduct at least one joint community visit annually with health promoters and SWOs in provinces where both are present.	MHMS
	1.1.2	<b>Establishment of National Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key NGO service providers:</b> Develop and formalize MoUs with significant NGO service providers such as the Family Support Centre (FSC), Christian Care Centre (CCC), and HOPE Trust, to ensure coordinated service delivery.	Establish MoUs established with FSC, CCC and HOPE Trust by the end of 2025.	SWD-MHMS, NGOs
	1.1.3	<b>Formation of strategic partnerships with churches at the national level:</b> Engage with church leaders and associations through SICA, SIFGA, and relevant NGOs by organizing conferences. These conferences will focus on educating and raising awareness about the Child and Family Welfare Act, the Child Protection Referral Pathway, and the Child Protection Community Facilitation Package (CFP).	Hold at least one conferences annually with church leaders and associations.	SWD-MHMS, FBOs
	1.1.4	<b>Compilation and distribution of child protection service directories:</b> Compile comprehensive child protection service directories and distribute them to key stakeholders in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Isabel and Western provinces. Ensure these directories are actively used by the stakeholders.	Compile and distribute directories to key stakeholders by mid-2025.	SWD-MHMS
	1.2.1	<b>Implementation of case management guidelines, procedures, and tools within SWD:</b> Train SWOs on the use of standard case management forms and processes for child protection cases.	Train SWOs and ensure they use standard forms.	SWD-MHMS
	1.2.2	<b>Completion of supervision training for senior staff and implementation of regular one-on-one case management supervision for SWOs:</b> Provide supervision training for senior staff and ensure SWOs receive regular one-on-one case management supervision.	Train senior staff and establish regular supervision.	SWD-MHMS



1.2 Strengthened capacity of social welfare officers	1.2.3 <b>Child Protection Specialist within SWD National Headquarters:</b> Ensure a permanently appointed Child Protection Specialist within SWD oversees all child protection cases.	Appoint a Child Protection Specialist to oversee cases.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.2.4 <b>Advertising and recruitment of vacant SWO positions in Malaita (x1), Makira (x1), and Renbell (x1):</b> Advertise and complete the recruitment process for these positions. Ensure newly appointed SWOs receive induction training and are deployed in Malaita and Makira provinces.	Advertise and fill SWO positions, ensuring new hires receive induction training.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.2.5 <b>Deployment of SWOs in Choiseul and Malaita provinces:</b> Ensure SWOs are based in Choiseul and Malaita, providing child protection services in these provinces.	SWOs deployed to their posts and providing services.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.2.6 <b>Review and update job descriptions for SWOs to ensure child protection roles and responsibilities are clear:</b> Revise job descriptions to clearly define child protection roles and responsibilities. Ensure these descriptions are used in recruitment processes.	Update and implement revised job descriptions.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.2.7 <b>Regular review and planning meetings for national and provincial SWOs:</b> Conduct at least one annual review and planning meeting involving both national and provincial SWOs.	Conduct annual review and planning meetings.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.2.8 <b>Regular supervisory and monitoring visits to provincial SWOs:</b> Conduct four supervisory and monitoring visits annually to selected provinces.	Carry out four supervisory visits annually.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.3.1 <b>Document any increase in national referrals to SWD for child protection cases following the formal gazettement of the Child &amp; Family Welfare Act 2017:</b> SWD will maintain an information management system (database) for child protection cases.	Increase in national referrals to SWD for child protection cases.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.3.2 <b>Produce annual reports on national data</b> regarding the number and nature of child protection referrals to identify trends and themes.	Annual reports produced and distributed.	SWD-MHIMS
1.3 Record and data management systems are in place to support workforce planning	1.3.3 <b>Update CPIMS forms and protocols and digitize case management systems</b>	Updated CPIMS forms and protocols in place; systems digitized.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.3.4 <b>Develop a strategic human resources plan for SWD:</b> This includes reviewing the Social Welfare Division, MHMS Human Resources Strategic Plan – Child & Family Welfare System Policy 2013 and recalculating human resource projections based on the current and future needs of the Solomon Islands.	Strategic Human Resources plan developed and implemented.	SWD-MHIMS
	1.3.5 <b>Based on recommendations from the new Human Resources Strategic Plan,</b> request an increase in staffing within budget and planning frameworks	Increased human resources included in budget and plans.	SWD-MHIMS

1.4 Timely and effective responses to reported cases of children in need of care and protection	1.4.1 Ensure SWOs have sufficient budget allocations for travel and logistics to provide response services for child protection cases: Ensure these budget allocations are sufficient to meet the timeframes outlined in the Child Protection Referral Pathway.	SWOs have adequate budget and available funds.	SWD-MHMS
	1.4.2 Ensure emergency funding is accessible to support SWOs in responding to urgent cases	Emergency funding is accessible.	SWD-MHMS
	1.4.3 Conduct two training sessions per province for selected communities on the Child Protection Referral Pathway	Two training sessions completed in each province.	SWD-MHMS
	1.4.4 Strengthen legal capacity to apply relevant sections of the Child & Family Welfare Act 2017 when SWD is required to seek care and protection orders: This includes appointing a legal officer within SWD or PSO to manage child care and protection matters under the Act.	Legal officer appointed.	SWD-MHMS, PSO
	1.4.5 Develop and endorse schedule forms to support SWD with implementing the Child & Family Welfare Act 2017, as outlined on pages 37-44 of the Act	Schedule forms developed and endorsed.	SWD-MHMS
	1.4.6 Provide training to all SWOs on completing applications for court orders related to child care and protection	SWOs trained in application completion.	SWD-MHMS
	1.4.7 Consider streamlining the child help-line: Conduct a feasibility study of the suitability on establishing a child helpline.	Feasibility study completed.	SWD-MHMS
1.5 Develop minimum standards and accreditation process for child and family welfare service providers	1.5.1 A process is developed in accordance with Sections 59, 60, and 64 of the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017: Develop service standards and alternative care guidelines in collaboration with service providers (consult with MWYCFA regarding the process used for developing minimum standards and registering counsellors within the SAFENET framework).	Process developed and standards established.	SWD-MHMS, CDD-MWYCFA
	1.5.2 Standards, forms and procedures for accreditation are approved	Standards, forms and procedures approved.	SWD-MHMS, CDD-MWYCFA
	1.5.3 All service providers offering child and family welfare services undergo inspection and accreditation	Service providers inspected and accredited.	SWD-MHMS, CDD-MWYCFA

Outcome 2: Improved inter-agency planning, coordination and monitoring, including inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial collaboration and responsibilities.			
2.1 Effective functioning of National Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC), Child Protection Taskforce (CPT) and Provincial Advisory and Action Committees on Children (PAACCs)	2.1.1 The Terms of Reference (ToR) for NAACC are reviewed and, finalized and disseminated with the CPT. Regular NAACC meetings are held.	ToR for NAACC is reviewed, finalized, and disseminated with CPT members.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.1.2 NAACC holds quarterly meetings	Quarterly meetings conducted.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.1.3 PAACCs are formally established in two to four provinces, and Terms of Reference (ToRs) are developed. Quarterly meetings (at a minimum) are held for planning, coordination, and monitoring of provincial child protection committees	PAACCs established, ToRs developed, and quarterly meetings conducted.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.1.4 PAACC quarterly meetings are held	Quarterly meetings conducted.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.1.5 PAACC members receive orientation on child protection roles and responsibilities	Orientation sessions completed.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.1.6 A ToR is developed for CPT and endorsed by NAACC. CPT membership is reviewed to ensure representation from all relevant SIG Ministries, NGOs, faith-based organizations and communities, including stakeholders involved in the development of the Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan 2023-2027	ToR developed, endorsed, and membership reviewed.	MHMS, MYWCFA
	2.1.7 CPT membership is reviewed and a list of members is attached to the ToR	Membership reviewed and documented.	SWD-MHMS
	2.1.8 CPT members receive baseline training on the following: The roles and functions of NAACC; the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017; the Child Protection Referral Pathway; and the Child Protection Community Facilitation Package. Regular refresher training is provided as needed, particularly when there is a change in CPT membership: Evidence of the following training will be recorded in the minutes of CPT meetings: 1. Roles/functions of NAACC; 2. Child & Family Welfare Act 2017; 3. Child Protection Referral Pathway; and 4. Community Facilitation Package.	Training completed and recorded in CPT meeting minutes.	MHMS, MYWCFA
	2.1.9 CPT meetings are held at least quarterly, focusing on implementation, monitoring, and reporting to NAACC on the 2023-2027 Multi-Sectoral Child and Family Welfare System Implementation Plan: A schedule of meetings is provided to CPT members at the beginning of each year.	Meeting schedule provided, and four meetings per year held with documented minutes.	SWD-MHMS

2.2 There are consistent child protection messages and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials used across government and non-government sectors	2.2.1 The Child Protection Community Facilitation Package (CFP) is well disseminated, and IEC materials for government and NGO sectors are aligned with its messaging (see Section 3): Members of the CPT receive training on the contents of the Child Protection Facilitation Package (CFP) (as identified above).	CPT members trained on CFP content.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.2.2 MWYCFA grants approval for IEC materials to be developed based on the CFP	IEC materials developed and approved.	MWYCFA, MHMS
	2.2.3 Government and NGOs/INGOs coordinate awareness and advocacy activities to enhance collaboration, ensure consistent messaging, minimize duplication and optimize resources: A mapping exercise is conducted to document child protection awareness and advocacy programs across the Solomon Islands.	Mapping exercise completed.	All sectors
	2.2.4 Government and NGOs share resources, clarify target areas/communities annually (2022-2027), and identify opportunities for collaboration	Resources shared, target areas clarified, and collaboration opportunities identified.	All sectors
2.3 Cross-sector workforce development for interagency planning, coordination and monitoring	2.3.1 The following training areas are identified as essential for stakeholders working directly with children and families in the wider child protection system: Basic counselling skills; child development and the impact of abuse and neglect; distinction between child protection and child rights; specific skills for engaging and interviewing children; positive parenting and non-violent parenting strategies; trauma-informed approaches; and online safety (emerging issue).	Stakeholders trained in identified areas.	All sectors
2.4 Review child protection systems, legislation and policies, including maintenance, child justice and adoption	2.4.1 Legislation, policies, and guidelines/SOPs are reviewed and amended to align with national and international legal frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Legislation, policies, and guidelines/SOPs reviewed and amended.	CDD-MWYCFA
2.5 Integration of child protection into national and provincial government plans and budgets	2.5.1 Sectoral commitments from this plan are incorporated into the annual plans and budgets of the health, education, police, CSSI, and justice sectors: Child protection activities are included in each sector's annual plan and budget.	Child Protection activities included in sectoral annual plans and budgets.	All sectors
	2.5.2 Child protection activities are integrated into PAACC multi-sectoral plans and provincial administration budgets	Multi-sectoral plans developed, including child protection.	CDD-MWYCFA
	2.5.3 Child protection is incorporated into the National Development Strategy and sectoral strategies for health, education, early childhood development, gender, and justice, starting in 2027	Child protection strategies integrated into sectoral strategies.	MHMS, MWYCFA

Outcome 3: Children are educated on their rights and are empowered to protect themselves and their peers				
3.1 Child protection is incorporated into the school curriculum	3.1.1 Correct information on child protection is integrated into the National Curriculum: A working group is established to develop curriculum content.		The National Curriculum includes approved information on child protection, endorsed by NAACC.	MEHRD, MWYCFA, MHMS
	3.2.1 Training for Sunday School teachers and youth leaders on relevant components of the Community Facilitation Package (CFP)		Target for number of teachers/leaders trained.	MWYCFA, FBOs
3.2 Discussion of child protection issues included in Sunday Schools and Youth Programmes	3.2.1 Continued roll-out of the MHMS peer education programme on sexual and reproductive health		Programme rolled out.	MHMS
	3.3.1 The peer education package is reviewed to strengthen components on child protection		Peer education package reviewed and strengthened.	MHMS
3.3 Peer education on sexual and reproductive health	3.3.2 Youth Affairs Officers and Youth Council Members receive training on child protection to ensure its integration into their work		A number of Youth Affairs Officers and Youth Council Members trained.	MWYCFA
	3.4.1 NGOs receive trauma-informed training, and children have access to formal services for healing and recovery		Trauma-informed services are available for children, including specialized counsellors for sexual abuse.	NGOs
3.4 Strengthen children's voice through Youth Councils	3.5.1 A nationwide survey is conducted to better understand cyberbullying and online abuse, enabling preventative measures to be implemented across sectors		Nationwide research and survey is conducted.	MWYCFA
	3.6.1 Findings and recommendations from the survey inform the development of legislation, policies and guidelines to protect children		Legislation, policies, and guidelines developed.	MWYCFA
3.5 Development of specific services within the NGO sector to support children's healing and recovery from abuse, neglect, and exploitation	3.6.2 Appropriate training materials are developed and distributed to educate children on cyberbullying prevention and online safety		Training material developed and distributed.	MWYCFA
	3.6 Online safety and cyberbullying as an emerging child protection issue is better understood and preventative measures are developed so children can protect themselves			



Outcome 4: Parents, families and communities are better equipped to care for and protect children			
4.1 The Child Protection Community Facilitation Package (CFP) will be the central advocacy/awareness tool aligned with the Child & Family Welfare Act 2017, to deliver consistent child protection messages across Solomon Islands	4.1.1 MWYCFA and SWD collaborate on the CFP implementation plan. The CFP is finalized and approved and disseminated across all sectors involved in child protection. An implementation plan is developed and joint activities are planned between SWD and MWYCFA.	CFP finalized, approved and disseminated. Implementation plan developed and joint activities planned.	MWYCFA, MHMS
	4.1.2 Sectors share IEC materials to ensure consistent messages for parents and families: MWYCFA to agree to the CFP being shared with members of CPT so that all materials can align with the key messages on Child Protection. A 1-2 day workshop is held to review existing materials, aligning them with the CFP. Key child protection messages are promoted using radio, social media, SMS, national events (such as World Children's Day) and via the MHMS communications.	IEC materials aligned with CFP messages. Workshop held and key messages promoted.	MWYCFA, MHMS
4.2 Promote child protection messaging within the context of World Children's Day	4.2.1 World Children's Day hosts annual activities raising awareness about the Child & Family Welfare Act and justice sector services supporting child protection	Annual events held on World Children's Day (November) each year.	CPT
4.3 Integration of child protection messages into existing community outreach activities	4.3.1 Consistent messages are included in existing activities with parents and families: Number of Community Police and Crime Prevention Committees will collaborate on one event each year with targeted communities.	Events held annually with targeted communities.	RSIPF, MHMS
	4.3.2 Labour and Immigration officers will integrate key child protection messages into outreach work	Key messages integrated into outreach work.	MCIL
	4.3.3 All Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and ECCD programmes incorporate key messages (taken from the CFP) into discussions of child protection	Key messages incorporated into PTA and ECCD programmes.	MEHRD, MHMS
	4.3.4 Churches integrate child protection messages (taken from the CFP) into their activities	Key messages incorporated into church activities.	MWYCFA, FBOs
4.4 Strengthening NGO capacity to provide healing, recovery and educational services for parents and families	4.4.1 NGOs receive appropriate trauma-informed training and children have access to formal services when they require interventions focused on healing and recovery: Trauma-informed services are available for parents/families, including specialized counsellors who can educate parents and families on positive parenting and non-violent parenting strategies.	Trauma-informed services available.	NGOs
4.5 Integration of child protection messages into CSSI rehabilitation strategies	4.5.1 Information specifically on positive parenting and parenting without violence and more generally on child protection awareness will be integrated into CSSI Rehabilitation Framework and the Yellow Ribbon Project awareness Roadmap: Information on positive parenting is delivered to adults held in correctional services, and they are able to implement these parenting strategies when residing back in their communities.	Positive parenting information delivered and implemented.	CSSI, MHMS, NGOs, FBOs
	4.5.2 Child protection awareness is conducted as part of the Yellow Ribbon Project in communities	Child protection awareness activities conducted.	CSSI, MHMS, NGOs, FBOs

Outcome 5: Community leaders have improved capacity to resolve, refer and monitor child welfare and protection issues			
5.1 Community leaders have a better understanding of child welfare and protection issues and are mobilized to intervene appropriately	5.1.1 Discussion on mediation, conflict resolution, and reporting to SWD will be included in community policing discussions with community leaders. Training on the Child and Family Welfare Act and the Child Protection Referral Pathway will be delivered to Community Policing Teams. Community Policing Teams will be clear about which cases must be reported to SWD.	Community Policing Teams trained and clear on reporting cases to SWD.	RSIPF, SWD-MHMS
	5.1.2 The Child Protection Community Facilitation Package (CFP) will support community leaders in resolving child welfare issues. The CFP, implementation plan, and Training of Trainers schedule will be finalized. MWCYFA and SWD will collaborate to deliver the CFP in identified provinces.	CFP finalised, approved, and disseminated. Implementation plan developed and joint activities planned.	MWCYFA/MHMS and other agencies trained to deliver this package
	5.1.3 Clear guidance will be provided to community leaders on which child protection cases must be referred to SWD. SWOs will run training workshops in identified communities to ensure a clear understanding of referral criteria and procedures (as per the Child Protection Referral Pathway training schedule). During outreach visits, SWOs will gather information on how communities have been managing child protection cases. SWD will collate this information and provide an annual report to CPT on community-level strategies.	Increased referral of child protection cases by community leaders. Data captured by SWD will identify any increase in referrals and any trends noted across provinces.	SWD-MHMS, UNICEF
5.2 Churches have increased capacity to respond to child protection and broader child welfare concerns	5.2.1 Church leaders will have access to or receive training in the Child Protection Community Facilitation Package and implement child protection/safeguarding measures. Policies and procedures for child protection and safeguarding will be in place. Selected church leaders will be trained in the CFP, and religious orders will include basic child protection training in their curriculum.	Child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures in place. Church leaders trained.	SWD-MHMS, CDD-MWYCFA, FBOs
5.3 Improved linkages between the formal and informal system	5.3.1 A mapping process will be conducted to understand formal and informal child protection and justice systems and identify relevant community support strategies for the Solomon Islands. The process will be completed, and recommendations will be made.	Mapping process completed and recommendations made.	SWD-MHMS, CDD-MWYCFA, UNICEF
	5.3.2 Community and traditional leaders will be supported and trained to provide services to vulnerable children, including those in conflict with the law. Clear structures will be established to ensure serious cases, such as those involving sexual assault victims, are referred to formal child protection and justice systems	Community and traditional leaders trained and supported, with clear structures in place for referring serious cases.	SWD-MHMS, CDD-MWYCFA, UNICEF

Outcome 6: Health workers can identify, treat and refer cases of children in need of care and protection.			
6.1 Improved capacity of health professionals to identify and respond to children in need of care and protection	6.1.1 Review and revise clinical guidelines for health workers (GBV Clinical Guidelines and Treatment Protocol for Children) to strengthen child protection components	Clinical guidelines developed/ updated with a strengthened focus on child protection.	SWD-MHMS
	6.1.2 Review and revise health worker GBV training programme to enhance the focus on child protection	GBV training programme reviewed and revised with a strengthened focus on child protection.	SWD-MHMS
	6.1.3 Nurses will receive basic training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect and responding appropriately (including use of the Suspected Child Abuse Reporting forms)	Training delivered by a senior SWD staff member alongside the GBV coordinator, and 100% of nurses receive this training as part of their induction to MHMS.	SWD-MHMS
	6.1.4 A comprehensive two-day training module will be developed and delivered to student nurses by an SWD Child Protection Specialist	Training developed in consultation with teaching staff at SINU and delivered to trainee nurses by the SWD Child Protection Specialist.	SWD-MHMS
	6.1.5 Child protection content will be integrated into general nursing training and postgraduate paediatric nursing curricula at SINU to ensure nurses understand signs/symptoms of child abuse, neglect, and reporting protocols	Child protection, signs/symptoms of child abuse and neglect, and reporting protocols included in the general nursing training curriculum and post-graduate paediatric nursing courses at SINU.	SWD-MHMS
6.2 Commence improved data collection and strategic planning to enhance specialist roles to support prosecution of child abuse cases	6.2.1 Data on suspected cases of child physical and sexual abuse is compiled and submitted by all health facilities as part of their monthly reports and integrated into Digital Health Information System (DHIS)	Data on reported cases of sexual and physical abuse of children is collected and analysed.	SWD-MHMS
	6.2.2 The DHIS will be improved to enhance child abuse and neglect data collection	Proposal made to the MHMS Executive Committee by SWD to suggest enhancements to the DHIS and to include neglect in the recording system.	SWD-MHMS
	6.2.3 Planning will begin for specialized health roles, spaces, and equipment to support criminal prosecution of child abuse cases so the health sector can support evidential requirements for criminal prosecutions	Plan and costing prepared to support the establishment of specialized roles, spaces and specialised equipment.	MHMS, MHMS, MJLA

6.3 Improved access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services	6.3.1 The recently reviewed/updated Youth Friendly Health Services Guidelines will be rolled out at the national and provincial level	Workplan developed and Training of Trainers completed at the national and provincial levels.	RMNCAH-MHMS
	6.3.2 Clinics will develop mechanisms for feedback and review of services	Supportive supervision and clinic self-assessment process developed and implemented.	RMNCAH-MHMS
	6.3.3 Young people will provide feedback on the services they receive	Feedback from young people collated and used to inform future evaluation and review of guidelines and service provision.	RMNCAH-MHMS
6.4 Child-friendly service points established in hospitals	6.4.1 Protocols will be developed for hospital-based child-friendly service points: Staff will be trained to provide specialized services for child survivors of serious abuse, such as sexual assault. Referral mechanisms will be established to ensure survivors receive multi-sectoral support, including health, social welfare, and justice services.	Plan for the evaluation of Youth Friendly Services developed.	RMNCAH-MHMS
6.5 Improved mental health services for children and adolescents	6.5.1 Mental health programs specifically for children and adolescents will be developed and implemented: Health professionals will be trained in child and adolescent mental health, and mental health support services will be established in schools and communities.	Mental health programmes developed and implemented. Health professionals trained. Mental health support services established.	MHMS and all sectors
Outcome 7: Children have access to child-sensitive justice			
71 Greater specialization in the handling of children's cases and an increased capacity to respond to child protection and juvenile cases	71.1 Magistrates, authorized justices and relevant judicial officers/court clerks receive training on the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017: Develop and deliver training sessions for selected staff in Honiara.	100% of selected staff trained and able to confidently apply the legislation in practice.	Courts, Magistrates, SWD, UNICEF
	71.2 Designate and train specialist police, police prosecutors, prosecutors, magistrates, public solicitors, court clerks, and correctional services staff to deal with child victim cases and juvenile cases: Identify relevant staff in Malaita (Auki) and Western Province (Gizo) and develop and deliver training sessions.	100% of identified staff trained and able to confidently apply the legislation in practice.	RSIPF, ODPF, CSSI, Courts, PSO
	71.3 Guidelines and SOPs are reviewed, developed, and published to support child-sensitive practices: Develop a training schedule and implementation plan to minimize trauma for children involved in the justice system. Train designated personnel in each sector.	Guidelines/SOPs developed and implemented. Designated personnel trained and practising in their respective sectors.	RSIPF, ODPF, Courts, PSO - MJLS
	71.4 RSIP will develop guidelines with ODPF support: Develop and publish guidelines/SOPs to support child-sensitive interview techniques and minimize ongoing trauma for child victims and juvenile offenders.	Guidelines/SOPs developed and published.	RSIPF, ODPF, Courts
	71.5 A counsellor/case support person position is established within PSO: Recruit, train, and place a counsellor/case support person in Honiara. Develop guidelines for the role in line with those for the witness support officer in ODPF.	Counsellor/case support person recruited, trained and in place. Guidelines developed and implemented.	RSIPF, ODPF, CSSI, Courts, PSO

	<p><b>71.6 Increase the number of lawyers within PSO and designate lawyers to manage child protection matters (FPU) and juvenile matters (CRU):</b> Recruit, train and place specialist lawyers in PSO in Honiara, Auki and Gizo.</p> <p><b>71.7 CSSI integrates Child Protection awareness and understanding within the wider service and develops specific knowledge and skills for staff working directly with juveniles:</b> Finalize, endorse and formally launch the Child Protection Policy. Develop and integrate child protection training into the CSSI curriculum. Provide specific training to CSSI frontline officers around trauma-informed care (TIC). Recruit a specialized counsellor for juveniles.</p>	<p>Increased number of lawyers within PSO. Specialist lawyers recruited, trained and in place.</p> <p>Child Protection Policy finalized, endorsed and launched. CSSI frontline officers trained in TIC. Specialized counsellor for juveniles recruited.</p>	<p>PSO, ODPP - MJLA</p> <p>CSSI, MWCYFA, SWD, NGO, CSO</p>
7.2 Improved facilities for child victims, witnesses and children in conflict with the law and/or juveniles	<p><b>72.1 The Family Court and Juvenile Court are extended to relevant provinces:</b> Incorporate child-friendly features into the design concepts of new Family and Juvenile Court Houses. Establish Family and Juvenile Courts in relevant provinces.</p>	<p>Family and Juvenile Courts established with child-friendly features.</p>	<p>MJLA</p>
	<p><b>72.2 Development of a juvenile facility:</b> Develop child-friendly interview spaces in police stations, ODPP, PSO offices, and court rooms. Commission and open the juvenile facility.</p>	<p>Juvenile facility commissioned and opened.</p>	<p>RSIP, ODPP, PSO, Courts</p>
	<p><b>72.3 Develop a friendly admission room for juveniles/children in conflict with the law:</b> Commission and open the building or space.</p>	<p>Friendly admission room commissioned and opened.</p>	<p>CSSI</p>
	<p><b>72.4 Increase transport and technology to support communication and timely responses for children's cases:</b> Conduct an audit to assess the current status of communication equipment, identifying gaps and recommendations. Install virtual equipment in centres with 4G telecommunications access. Provide a vehicle for the Honiara PSO Family Protection Unit (FPU) for service of orders and client accompaniment.</p>	<p>Communication equipment audit completed. Virtual equipment installed. Vehicle provided for Honiara PSO FPU.</p>	<p>CSSI, SWD, PSO</p>
7.3 Improved access to legal aid for children and their families	<p><b>73.1 Public solicitors will support access to legal aid:</b> Develop and implement a plan to support access to legal aid for children and their families.</p>	<p>Access to legal aid supported.</p>	<p>PSO</p>
7.4 Information systems collect information to inform ongoing development for justice for children	<p><b>74.1 Update Justice Information Management System (JIMS) with clear indicators (e.g., colour tabs) for child abuse (victims and witnesses) and children in conflict with the law cases (juvenile matters):</b> Update JIMS and train relevant staff on its use for recording children's cases.</p>	<p>JIMS updated and disaggregated data available for all cases involving children. Relevant staff trained on JIMS.</p>	<p>MJLA</p>
7.5 Key legislation reflects child-sensitive justice practices	<p><b>75.1 Progress the Juvenile Justice Bill through the Parliamentary process:</b> Formally Gazette the Juvenile Justice Bill and provide training to relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice Bill formally Gazetted and stakeholders trained.</p>	<p>MJLA, MPNSCS</p>
	<p><b>75.2 Review and update the Evidence Act 2009 to integrate child-sensitive practices within the justice context:</b> Submit a proposal to the Solomon Islands Law Reform Committee to review the Evidence Act 2009.</p>	<p>Evidence Act 2009 reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>MJLA</p>



Outcome 8: Education personnel can identify, refer and monitor children in need of care and protection, ensuring schools are safe and child-friendly			
8.1 Comprehensive child protection policy and procedures	8.1.1	<b>Develop a comprehensive Child Protection in Schools Policy and associated guidelines and procedures for implementation:</b> Develop and approve the Child Protection Policy, Manual, and Guidelines. The Manual and Guidelines will include basic information about Child Protection, school focal points, a code of conduct, and guidance on child-friendly classroom management and teaching techniques. Develop an implementation plan showing how the policy, manual and guidelines will be embedded within the school sector.	Child Protection Policy, Manual and Guidelines developed and approved. Implementation plan developed.
	8.2.1	<b>The Child Protection in Schools Policy outlines the referral pathway from schools to the Social Welfare Division (SWD):</b> Include a clear referral pathway/flow chart in the manual and guidelines to show how child protection concerns are reported by schools to SWD. Ensure MEHRD understands which cases must be referred to SWD.	Referral pathway/flow chart included in the manual and guidelines. MEHRD clear about referral cases.
	8.2.2	<b>Incorporate child protection into pre-service training for teachers:</b> Develop training material for integration into teacher training. Ensure all teachers receive child protection training in pre-service courses.	Training material developed. All teachers receive child protection training.
	8.2.3	<b>Social Welfare Officers include visits to schools as part of their community outreach visits:</b> Coordinate with MEHRD to visit 2 schools each year as part of community outreach visits in Guadalcanal, Isabel, and Western Provinces.	Social Welfare Officers visit 2 schools each year in the specified provinces.
8.3 Improved counselling and support services in schools	8.3.1	<b>Designate and train selected teachers as school counsellors/support personnel:</b> Develop training materials suitable for teachers. Select and train a designated number of teachers.	Training materials developed. Designated teachers trained.
	8.3.2	<b>Upskill school chaplains, form masters, dorm teachers, matrons and school nurses so students can turn to them for support and staff know how to respond:</b> Develop training materials suitable for these school staff. Select and train a designated number of school staff in these identified roles.	Training materials developed. Designated school staff trained.
8.4 NGO support to enhance safety and protection in school settings	8.4.1	<b>HOPE Trust to provide support to schools in Guadalcanal and Choiseul provinces:</b> In consultation with Guadalcanal Provincial Government, support selected schools/school boards within the province with child protection and child safeguarding policies and procedures. Formalize MoUs with selected schools in Guadalcanal and Choiseul provinces to clarify service arrangements. Provide training to selected schools on THUMBS UP (children's self-protection programme/resilience) activities and support Child Club programs and other identified strategies to support children within school settings.	MoUs formalized. Training provided. Child Club programmes supported.

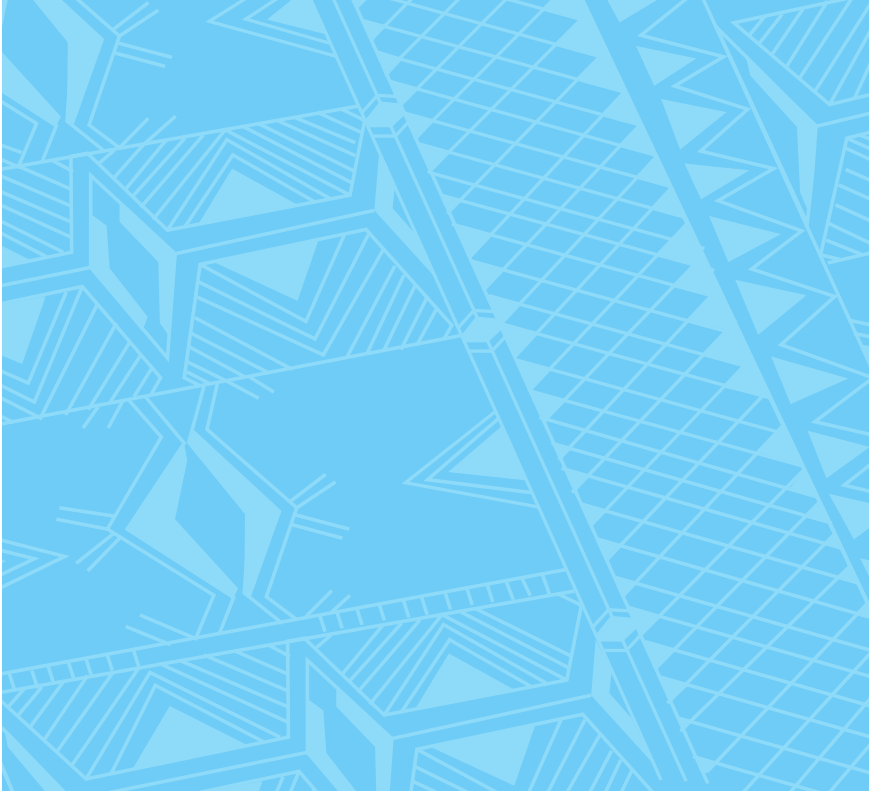
	<b>8.4.2 Save the Children, World Vision, and Family Support Center will support child protection messages and school safety as part of their existing programmes:</b> Provide support to selected schools on child protection messages and school safety.	Child protection messages and school safety supported.	Save the Children, World Vision, Family Support Center
<b>8.5 Children involved in the juvenile justice system are safely enabled to continue their education to support reintegration into communities</b>	<b>8.5.1 Develop and deliver accredited formal education for juveniles in correctional facilities:</b> Develop and accredit educational material. Prepare an implementation plan. Ensure children in correctional facilities are safely receiving formal education, documented and certificates issued.	Educational material developed and accredited. Implementation plan prepared. Children in correctional facilities receiving formal education.	CSSI, MWYCFA, MEHRD
<b>Outcome 9: Child protection is integrated into emergency preparedness and response plans</b>			
<b>9.1 Child protection is fully integrated into disaster risk management planning at the national and sub-national levels</b>	<b>9.1.1 Guidance is provided on expected standards of behaviour for those involved in CPIE and key messaging developed:</b> Complete and disseminate a CPIE Code of Conduct. Develop and disseminate CPIE key messages.	CPIE Code of Conduct and key messages completed and disseminated.	NPC-MWYCFA
	<b>9.1.2 Establish Protection Committees at the provincial level:</b> Establish and ensure functioning Protection Committees in all provinces by 2027. Develop ToR and SOPs for all Committees.	Protection Committees established and functioning in all provinces. ToR and SOPs in place.	NPC-MWYCFA
	<b>9.1.3 Training on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) for Protection Committee members (National and Provincial):</b> Train all national and provincial Protection Committee members in CPIE by 2027.	All national and provincial Protection Committee members trained in CPIE.	NPC-MWYCFA
	<b>9.1.4 Training on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) for Provincial DMO officers and Emergency Response Team (PERT):</b> Train all Provincial DMO Officers and PERT on CPIE by 2027.	All Provincial DMO Officers and PERT trained in CPIE.	NPC-MWYCFA
	<b>9.1.5 Mainstream child protection into other sectoral plans:</b> Integrate CPIE into all sectoral plans by 2027. Review and revise existing resources if necessary for effective mainstreaming of CPIE in other NDOC and PDOC sector committees plans.	CPIE integrated into all sectoral plans.	NPC-MWYCFA
<b>9.2 Improved capacity for child protection in emergency response</b>	<b>9.2.1 Refresher training for CPIE sub-committee members and quarterly meetings will be held:</b> Provide regular refresher training workshops on CPIE for all CPIE sub-committee members at national and provincial levels. Hold quarterly sub-committee meetings.	All CPIE sub-committee members receive regular refresher training. Quarterly sub-committee meetings held.	NPC-MWYCFA
	<b>9.2.2 Stand-by agreements with World Vision and Save the Children and ensure there are established child-friendly spaces identified:</b> Review agreements and include CDD (MWYCFA) as a signatory. Ensure child-friendly spaces are identified in these agreements.	Agreements reviewed and CDD included as a signatory. Child-friendly spaces identified.	NPC-MWYCFA
	<b>9.2.3 Build a pool of trained people to provide psychosocial support (PSS) for children during emergencies/disasters:</b> Develop and deliver psychosocial support training to identified staff from within SWQ, CDD, Empower Pacific and other relevant stakeholders.	Psychosocial support training developed and delivered.	NPC-MWYCFA

	9.2.4 Training on CPIE for National Youth Congress and other volunteers (at national and provincial levels) including Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC): Train designated number of National Youth Congress and other volunteers on CPIE.	Designated number of National Youth Congress and other volunteers trained on CPIE.	NPC-MWYCFA
	9.2.5 Provision of critical incident debriefing in schools and one-on-one counselling for children involved in CPIE situations: Provide critical incident debriefing and/or one-on-one counselling services as required in CPIE situations.	Critical incident debriefing and/or one-on-one counselling services provided as required.	NPC-MWYCFA
	9.2.6 Public Solicitors Office (PSO) to engage with the Protection Committee and NDMO-NEOC and attend relevant training sessions as well as provide legal services during emergency situations: Attend relevant meetings and trainings. Develop SOPs for providing legal services during emergencies/disasters.	Attend relevant meetings and training sessions. SOPs developed for providing legal services during emergencies/disasters.	NPC-MWYCFA
Outcome 10: Child protection laws and policies are strengthened through legislative reforms, ensuring they are child-friendly, comprehensive and enforceable			
10.1 Strengthen the implementation of the Births and Deaths (Registration) Act	10.1.1 Passage of the Births and Deaths Registration Law	Revised Births and Deaths (Registration) Law submitted to the cabinet.	CRD - MHA
	10.1.2 Review the CRVS Implementation Plan and Human Resource Plan; Dissemination of the Birth and Death Registration Law; Development of supporting IEC materials	Implementation Plan reviewed and updated; IEC materials reviewed.	CRD - MHA
	10.1.3 Capacity building for health workers and other service providers including FBOs and community-based actors; information awareness session in communities	A number of training sessions completed; a number of workers/actors oriented/trained; a number of communities reached.	CRD - MHA
	10.1.4 Monitoring and evaluation of BR activities in decentralized locations; CRVS planning meetings, including regular taskforce meetings	Monitoring completed.	CRD - MHA
	10.1.5 CRVS personnel and supplies; BR System upgrade	Decentralization completed; supplies procured; system upgraded	CRD - MHA
10.2 Amend the Islanders' Marriage Act to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years	10.2.1 Organize and conduct consultations in all provinces to gather input and feedback on raising the minimum age of marriage. Ensure participation from diverse stakeholders, including community leaders, NGOs and government representatives	Consultations completed in all provinces.	LRC-MJLA
	10.2.2 Compile the findings from the provincial consultations into a comprehensive consultation paper. Draft the necessary amendments to the Islanders' Marriage Act. Submit the consultation paper and proposed amendments to the cabinet for approval	Report completed and submitted to the cabinet.	LRC-MJLA
10.3 Revise child labour laws to set the minimum age for employment at 14 years	10.3.1 Review and amend child labour laws: Conduct a legislative review and propose necessary amendments	Labour Law amended	MCIL, MJLA

10.4 Increase the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years	10.4.1 Review and amend the age of criminal responsibility: Conduct a legislative review and propose necessary amendments	Comprehensive review conducted. Report with recommendations developed.	MJLA
10.5 Conduct a comprehensive legislative review and develop new policies	10.5.1 Review all child-related laws and policies to identify and address inconsistencies: Form a review committee and conduct a thorough review	Comprehensive review conducted. Report with recommendations developed.	MJLA
	10.5.2 Develop new policies to ensure legislation is child-friendly, comprehensive and enforceable: Draft new policies such as the Cybercrime Bill and Anti-Trafficking Act	New policies developed	MJLA, MCA, MCIL









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