Review of UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme

Final Report

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## Contents

1. Executive Summary ........................................................................................................ 2
2. Pacific Child Protection Programme .............................................................................. 9
3. Programme Relevance .................................................................................................... 15
4. Programme Effectiveness ............................................................................................... 26
5. Programme Efficiency ..................................................................................................... 42
6. Programme Sustainability ................................................................................................. 53
7. Recommendations ............................................................................................................ 59
8. SOLOMON ISLANDS COUNTRY REPORT .................................................................... 61
9. VANUATU COUNTRY REPORT ..................................................................................... 68
10. KIRIBATI COUNTRY REPORT ....................................................................................... 76

ANNEX 1: STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED ....................................................................... 84

ANNEX 2: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED ............................................................................... 96

ANNEX 3: REVIEW TOOLS ............................................................................................... 101

ANNEX 4: PROGRAMME RESULTS FRAMEWORK ......................................................... 114
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWP</td>
<td>Annual Work Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAG</td>
<td>Brisbane Accord Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFWA</td>
<td>Child and Family Welfare Act</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CRVS</td>
<td>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organisation</td>
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<td>CYPFWA</td>
<td>Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act of Kiribati</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVAWG</td>
<td>Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWYSA</td>
<td>Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs (Kiribati)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>PICs</td>
<td>Pacific Island Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMNCAH</td>
<td>Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health</td>
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<td>TAFE</td>
<td>Technical and Further Education</td>
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<td>ToT</td>
<td>Training of Trainers</td>
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<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence against Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAW</td>
<td>Violence against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>VWC</td>
<td>Vanuatu Women’s Centre</td>
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1 Executive Summary

Background and Review of UNICEF’s Pacific Child Protection Programme

UNICEF, in partnership with Pacific Governments, conducted research that provided evidence of high levels of violence against Pacific children at home and in schools, and a Multi-Country Child Protection Programme was subsequently established to support Pacific Island Countries in strengthening their prevention and response to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, using a child protection systems approach. ¹,²

The Australian government has been the programme’s primary donor since 2005. Funding for the most recent phase of the programme (2014 to 2017) was A$7,000,000.

UNICEF commissioned a Joint Progress Review with Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Pacific Child Protection Programme, to bring together lessons and learning from the recent programme cycle and to inform potential future child protection programming.

The purpose of the Review was to provide an overall assessment of the programme, and its role in strengthening Pacific national child protection systems for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. The Review appraised programme implementation from June 2014 to March 2017 in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with some consideration of Fiji’s progress, and selected findings from other countries. The Review had five key objectives:

1. To assess the relevance of UNICEF’s Child Protection programme
2. To assess the effectiveness of approaches and progress
3. To assess the efficiency of programme processes
4. To assess the sustainability of results

¹ UNICEF Pacific, Protect me with Love and Care. 2010. Child Protection Baseline Research studies were conducted in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in collaboration with Government partners.
² Child protection systems comprise the set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors — especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice — to support prevention and response to protection-related risks.
5. To identify *lessons learned* and make recommendations

The Review was undertaken between August and October 2017. A range of data was drawn upon to address the objectives and associated questions.

**Desk review:** The team reviewed documents and programme data provided by UNICEF, DFAT, and independently sourced.

**In-depth, semi-structured interviews:** The team conducted consultations involving 109 stakeholders in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati. Face-to-face individual interviews, paired interviews and small group consultations were undertaken with national and regional stakeholders, UNICEF staff, DFAT, and communities.

**Site observations:** The team visited sites in four countries to observe programme activities and meet programme participants.

**Review Conclusions**

**Relevance**

UNICEF’s Child Protection programme is aligned with Pacific country commitments to upholding children’s rights, and its approaches largely target regional priorities, structures and gaps. Child protection system strengthening is an appropriate strategy to advance the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, and exploitation of children in the Pacific, but better data, and analysis of existing evidence, including on the intersections of violence against children and gender based violence, is needed to convey urgency to policy makers, and to underpin future programming.

There is a need to better contextualise child protection system strengthening approaches to national and local circumstances, and to sharpen messages so that the goals are explicitly communicated and the intended impact is more in focus. Investment in coordination mechanisms and improved sequencing of support is needed to ensure alignment with stakeholder readiness and political will.

Strengthening relationships and collaborating with national and regional actors working to end violence against women and improve Pacific justice systems could help to strengthen child protection systems. Better harmonization of work, pathways and
resources in the justice, health, education and gender based violence prevention and response systems, such as initiatives that build referral networks, support standard setting, and assist with service development, represents a significant benefit to the programme and its partners.

A tailored national framework to track child protection system strengthening progress, and other relevant tools, would improve child protection coordination.

**Effectiveness**

The programme made strong gains in strengthening the child protection legal framework in Pacific Island Countries, but has been less effective in leveraging opportunities arising from legislative reform to support partners in defining priorities, roles and responsibilities for strengthening child protection systems, and building the capacities needed for implementation.

There is a need for a more rigorous process to establish country-specific priorities and strategies, including support for the development of national multi-sectoral plans to strengthen child protection systems. More investment is needed to elaborate the programme theory in each country context, including how it links to broader protection efforts.

Birth registration coverage improved in three of UNICEF’s priority countries, and the programme accelerated progress in birth registration system strengthening. It also supported good work on child protection in emergencies, but it was less effective in ensuring this advanced child protection system strengthening overall.

The programme was less effective in generating evidence about approaches that work in particular circumstances to build child protection services capacity. A more strategic approach to capacity building, grounded in robust monitoring and learning systems, is needed for any future programme phases.

There is limited evidence that the programme's community mobilisation and behaviour change approaches and tools strengthened skills, knowledge and behaviours, or was effective in developing child protection systems. A specific community mobilisation and behaviour change theory is needed to inform further programme investment.
Advocacy for child protection systems building has been less influential in raising the visibility and gravity of all forms of violence against children, and in highlighting the link between child protection system building and prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children.

Collaboration on child protection work has been uneven, and increased coordination and learning with multi-stakeholder partners, including those working to end violence against women and other protection systems, is needed. There is limited evidence of an overarching strategy to ensure programme investments directly contribute to protecting children with disabilities, or the specific protection needs of girls and boys.

Data collection and analysis has been limited and of variable quality. Annual progress reports do not report on core indicators consistently, and Annual Work Plans are not fully aligned to indicator targets. Monitoring of the implementation of the community facilitation package is almost completely absent, and learning from the range of delivery modalities and approaches used within and across countries has been inadequately captured and applied.

**Efficiency**

UNICEF’s capacity to deliver the programme was over stretched due to gaps in team leadership during the period, disasters in Fiji and the region, approaches to responding to country requests, and weak capacity and coordination in countries, which impacted on the programme’s efficiency.

The limited number of national child protection policies or plans contributed to a fragmented, project-oriented programme in most countries. Mapping and assessment in each context, and identification of explicit causal pathways - beyond the Annual Work Plans – is needed to ensure changes, strategies, risks, assumptions envisioned, and measures of change, are clearly outlined and documented.

Funds and expertise could have been better used to achieve results through assessing and prioritising partners’ readiness for funding support, and by identifying more realistic technical and institutional requirements. Increased support to collaborative child protection mechanisms, including help in tracking and measuring results beyond activity updates, is also a priority.
The results of the scale-out of the community facilitation package and scale up of the community child protection pilots were not well linked to the programme logic, and should be revisited before further investment.

**Sustainability**

The child protection systems building approach is conducive to achieving sustainable outcomes, but increased attention to appropriate institutional arrangements, planning and budgeting processes is needed to help strengthen and protect programme investments.

Mainstreaming child protection in various national and community based protection system interventions and referral pathways, and deepening alliances with other networks, such as those working on eliminating violence against women and girls, has been limited, but are important strategies for sustainability in the Pacific context.

In most countries, child protection system strengthening is highly dependent on UNICEF funding. Increased advocacy, including working with leaders to take up evidence-based recommendations (i.e., the Baseline Reports), and making efforts to collaborate and draw other development partners into supporting child protection system strengthening is another important sustainability measure, but has not been a strength of the programme in this cycle.

**Recommendations**

The Review recommends that:

1. UNICEF’s Child Protection programme is continued to ensure that gains in prevention and response to Pacific children’s protection-related risks are sustained. Any future development partner funding for the programme should be based upon;

   a. A revised overall programme theory grounded in available national and regional research and an up-to-date analysis that articulates underlying assumptions and determines an appropriate level of ambition for the expected results.
b. A clearly defined programme pathway in each country that outlines intervention sequencing, realistic timeframes, robust indicators linked to outcomes, and describes UNICEF’s comparative advantage for the selected areas of intervention.

c. An agreed value for money rubric that establishes explicit, shared understanding of and accountability for UNICEF’s programme resources, including for coordination among partners, and consideration of the sustainability of results.

2. UNICEF reassesses its required mix of skills in management, administration and technical functions for new phases, and develops a strategy for drawing on quality short-term technical assistance effectively, ensuring that all roles are properly defined, resourced and supported, and contingencies built in to the programme in the event of staff turnover.

3. UNICEF advocates for and supports stronger national and regional coordination of child protection system strengthening, including through investment in child protection governance bodies and multi-sectoral coordination platforms; targeted support to the development of national child protection policy frameworks; and support to the development and monitoring of context-specific indicators to track progress. The work on national priority setting, sequencing and synchronization should draw on regional experience, including VAWG, to inform approaches and the process.

4. UNICEF leads a systematic assessment of child protection system pathways and strategies, and identifies achievements, challenges, and entry points for building child protection systems in the Pacific context. This should include an analysis of opportunities for convergence, and synergies between child protection systems and other protection systems, such as those related to law and justice and VAWG, in order to better address the multidimensionality of children’s risk and vulnerability, and gender based violence.
5. UNICEF provides technical and financial support to set up a simple and context-appropriate tool to map, assess and monitor national and local child protection systems across the region.

6. UNICEF deepens, and formalizes where appropriate, institutional and operational partnerships with stakeholders working on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and law and justice, and reinforces operational alignment across UNICEF’s new Country Programme, to strengthen child protection in key sectors, including health and education.

7. UNICEF consolidates evidence on violence against children (VAC) and considers other means, such as new studies and analysis of existing administrative data, to assess and measure VAC and its consequences, and to convey urgency among policy makers to respond.

8. UNICEF develops a strategic communications plan and user-friendly tools for national and regional stakeholders to convey messages about child protection systems strengthening as a means of preventing and responding to violence against children.
2 Pacific Child Protection Programme

3.1 Programme Context and Background

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are home to about two million people, of which over 900,000 are children under 18. Despite their relatively small populations, PICs have unique challenges arising from their scattered geography (covering over 30 million km of ocean) and differing levels of economic and social development, both within and between countries. Institutional capacity, provision of services, and outreach to outer islands and communities is often a challenge.

UNICEF’s Pacific Multi-Country Child Protection Programme was established to support 14 PICs to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children using a child protection systems approach.\(^3\)\(^4\) In partnership with Pacific Governments, UNICEF has supported baseline research that attests to the high levels of violence and abuse experienced by Pacific children, at home and in schools.\(^5\) Violence against children, including sexual violence; neglect; sexual exploitation (including commerical sexual exploitation/CSEC, and in transactional capacities, such as sex for goods, food, etc.); are high priorities in the region, as well as juvenile justice issues.

Programme Funding

Australia has been UNICEF Pacific’s primary donor for the Multi-Country Child Protection Programme since 2005. Funding for the current phase of the programme (2014 to 2017) is A$7,000,000. The total allocation to the Pacific Multi-Country Child Protection Programme between 2005 and 2017 is A$20,460,000. The table below illustrates Australia’s contribution over four programme cycles/phases:

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\(^3\) The 14 PICs in UNICEF’s Multi-Country Programme are Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

\(^4\) Child protection systems comprise the set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors — especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice — to support prevention and response to protection-related risks. (UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, UN ECOSOC E/ICEF/2008/5/Rev.1). Child protection systems are aimed at preventing violence and exploitation, and responding with coordinated action to protect against any abuse, while ensuring all decisions made are in the best interest of the child.

\(^5\) UNICEF Pacific supported Government partners in conducting Child Protection baseline research studies, *Protect me with Love and Care*, in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in 2008. Additional baseline studies were conducted in RMI and Samoa in 2013; and in FSM and Palau in 2014.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Investment (AUD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>June 2014 to December 2017</td>
<td>$7,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 2013 to June 2014</td>
<td>$2,160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 2011 to December 2012</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2005 to 2010</td>
<td>$6,300,000</td>
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The current phase of the Child Protection Programme (2014-2017) was implemented in 14 Pacific Island countries through direct financial assistance/grants (approximately $1,249,093) to governments and NGO partners, and provision of technical assistance through staff and contracted experts; travel in the region; and programme supplies and equipment. Support has been targeted to Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with some activities implemented in Fiji and Samoa, and limited assistance provided to Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, and Tuvalu.

**Programme Framework**

The overall **goal** of the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme is to:

> Prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children by improving child protection laws and regulations, and their enforcement; improving services; and addressing community practices and behaviour.

The two **outcomes** of the Multi-Country Programme of Cooperation are:

- Child Protection systems provide improved quality of and access to services for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children at all times.\(^6\)

- Parents, caregivers, and children demonstrate skills, knowledge and behaviours enabling children to grow up in caring homes and communities, including schools, that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation.

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\(^6\)Child Protection systems include justice and police, child and family social services, health and education and communities.
UNICEF commissioned a joint progress Review with Australia’s DFAT of the current phase of the Child Protection Programme, to collate learning and considerations for improvement that may inform the design of the next phase. The scope of the Review includes an appraisal of programme implementation in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with some analysis of Fiji’s progress, from June 2014 to March 2017. While some findings, lessons and recommendations related to other PICs are noted, due to the Review’s parameters and resourcing, these are not comprehensive.

The purpose of the Review is to provide an assessment of the Pacific Child Protection programme (2014-2017) and its role in strengthening Pacific national Child Protection systems for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.

The Review has five main objectives:

1. To assess the relevance of UNICEF’s Child Protection programme strategies and priorities in addressing child protection in the Pacific

2. To assess the effectiveness of UNICEF’s approaches to and progress toward strengthening child protection systems in the Pacific

3. To assess the efficiency of UNICEF’s Child Protection programme processes and approaches

4. To assess the sustainability of results of UNICEF’s Pacific Child Protection Programme

5. To identify lessons learned and make recommendations for future programme phases.

A set of detailed questions was used to inform the Review objectives and is outlined in the Review Tools (Annex 3).

Methodology for the Review
The Review was conducted between August and October 2017 with a team comprised of two independent, international consultants: a Team Leader and a Child Protection Specialist. The DFAT Programme Manager accompanied the team during field visits to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

A combination of data collection and analysis methods was used for the Review: quantitative data was mainly collated through the desk review and qualitative data was gathered through in-depth key informant interviews and field observations. Data from the interviews and site visits was captured in field notes and summarised, analysed and triangulated with findings from the desk review, and brought together as a set of results related to the Review questions. A summary of early findings from fieldwork in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati was presented and discussed with the Review Reference Group prior to report writing.

Quotes from stakeholder responses transcribed during interviews are presented in the body of the report as italicised, indented text, and serve as evidence of findings, to exemplify perceptions, and to illustrate how analytical points are grounded in the data. As assured in the consent process, efforts to ensure informants were undertaken not identifiable. Two descriptive labels are used in order to protect anonymity; regional stakeholder is used for informants from international organisations, donor partners, UNICEF, and other regionally-focused organisations, and national stakeholder is used for government staff, local and international NGOs working at country level, community members, etc.

The Review team was faithful to professional codes of ethics regarding confidentiality in social research, in line with the Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) standards. An informed consent process (written and verbal) was followed. Children were not interviewed during the course of the Review.

Data sources are described below.

Desk review

Documentation, including programme design and planning documents, evaluations, progress reports and responses, government plans, legislation, and technical documents,
were provided by UNICEF, DFAT, and independently sourced. A full list of materials reviewed is included in Annex 2.

In-depth, semi-structured interviews

In-depth, semi-structured individual and paired interviews, and small group discussions were used to elicit views and collect evidence on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programme, how changes came about, the processes that supported or constrained progress, and the lessons learned. The reviewers probed on specific areas, including how the programme incorporated human rights, gender and social inclusion considerations, and how progress was monitored and assessed.

Government personnel at national and provincial levels, staff from regional organisations and INGOs, UNICEF field staff, DFAT Posts and Child Protection Focal Points, and men and women in communities were consulted. Interviews lasted between 1-2 hours and provided an opportunity to probe and evoke meaningful, culturally salient and explanatory responses. Formal and informal consultations were also held with UNICEF and DFAT staff throughout fieldwork, including through introductory and exit debrief meetings. Tools are included in the in Annex 3.

In Fiji and Kiribati, discussions were held in English; in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, a mix of English and Pijin or Bislama was used; and in Tanna (Vanuatu), all consultations were conducted in Bislama. Telephone interviews were undertaken in English with partners in Samoa and RMI.

UNICEF identified and invited stakeholders to participate in the Review. In total, 108 stakeholders were consulted across the six countries (see Appendix 7).

Programme site observations

The Review team visited programme sites in four countries to observe the context for implementation of different components, and any results. In Fiji, Vanuatu (Tanna) and Kiribati, the Review consulted with community facilitators, participants and men and women in communities where the Facilitation Package had been implemented. In Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu, the team visited hospitals and clinics to observe birth registration processes.
Limitations

In considering the findings of this Review, the following limitations are acknowledged.

- Review respondents were purposefully selected by UNICEF and DFAT to best inform the Review objectives. Due to time, resource and travel constraints, it was not possible to interview all organisations and individuals who have a stake in the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme.
- Some stakeholders were not available during the country visits and were unable to be re-scheduled. In Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, this was particularly the case with justice stakeholders, such as the Police and the Judiciary.
- Based on the Review ToR, field-based data collection (face-to-face interviews and observations) was only undertaken with stakeholders in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Kiribati. Findings related to other programme countries were limited to the document review, comments from regional stakeholders, and limited phone interviews with stakeholders in Samoa and RMI.
- The stakeholders interviewed reflected a range of different ideas, including some that were stronger than others. Therefore, the results are an indication, rather than an exhaustive reflection, of the situation.
- With the exception of Vanuatu, where a provincial visit to Tanna was undertaken, most interviews were conducted in capitals – Suva, Honiara, Port Vila and Tarawa.

With these limitations noted, the reviewers are confident the report accurately represents the views of the contributing stakeholders. The Review was independent and does not represent the views of UNICEF and DFAT.

Acknowledgements

The team acknowledges the generous time and assistance provided in undertaking the Review. UNICEF and DFAT staff in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati offered invaluable support in compiling documents, recruiting participants, guiding field visits, and contributing to context and insights. We are also grateful to the people in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, RMI and Samoa who gave their time and honest views in support of this Review.
3 Programme Relevance

This section assesses the extent to which UNICEF’s Child Protection programme as a whole, and each of its components, remains relevant to country priorities. It includes consideration of:

- The extent to which UNICEF’s approaches are aligned with national and regional child protection priorities
- How well the programme is linked to strategic focus areas and national coordination mechanisms
- The quality and degree to which programme approaches are rights-based, and gender and disability-informed.

3.1 Programme alignment with Pacific child protection priorities

UNICEF’s programming is considered largely aligned to needs in Pacific countries, although most countries do not yet have child protection system priorities articulated in national level plans or policies. Pacific governments have expressed commitment to preventing and responding to child abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect. All countries are signatories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and have taken various steps to put child protection obligations into effect, including through developing legislation, and in some places, through strengthening services.

All countries supported by UNICEF’s programme have agreed to a systems building approach to improve child protection outcomes, through partnership with and endorsement of UNICEF’s Annual Work Plans (AWP). Establishing multi-sectoral child protection systems is a relatively new approach in the region, although systems building approaches in other sectors, e.g. health, education, violence against women, etc., are common.

Of the four focus countries in the programme, only Vanuatu has a discrete Child Protection Policy and Implementation Plan that specifies its goals, principles and strategies for a national child protection system. The Policy was mainly developed
through technical and financial support provided by the Vanuatu-Australia Policing and Justice Programme and Save the Children, and UNICEF supplied background documents and reviewed the draft policy document as a participant in the Vanuatu Ministry of Justice and Community Services' (MOJCS) technical group, convened for the purpose. Solomon Islands and Fiji have drafted child protection policies with UNICEF’s assistance, but these are yet to be approved.

**Government agencies responsible for leading child protection coordination and that have the mandates to deliver frontline services are generally under-resourced and have low capacity.** In most countries, institutions accountable for child protection have inadequately trained staff, and expenditure on child protection is low. For example, Solomon Islands’ funding allocation for its Social Welfare Department (located in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services), which is responsible for implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), is less than one per cent (0.5%) of the Ministry’s total budget, including its provincial allotments. In Vanuatu, the government depends on UNICEF to fund all five of its Child Protection Officers (CPOs), two since 2013. In Kiribati, the cadre of Social Welfare Officers responsible for leading child protection response services have had their roles broadened and assigned other tasks, decreasing their ability to respond to child protection issues. Fiji is an exception, with the government allocating approximately FJD $1.2 million to the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for child protection legislation, services, and community level prevention, although there are questions about whether these allocations are fully applied to child protection work.

“Before, when (Social Welfare Officers) were solely on Social Welfare matters, they’d been doing good work like advocating and doing awareness, mostly on child

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7 Funded by DFAT’s Vanuatu bilateral program

8 UNICEF provided some support toward the development of Solomon Islands’ Child and Family Welfare System Policy Implementing Framework, Human Resources Plan and Costing in 2013, and to Fiji’s Child Protection Policy. Both processes are currently on hold.

9 According to MHMS, the SWD implementation budget is $930,000 SBD, excluding staff salaries and benefits.

10 In-depth Interview with Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Department of Social Welfare
protection. From 2013 to date, they’ve been given extra duties with youth and women and sports, and they seem to spend very little time on social welfare work.”

National Stakeholders

Pacific governments continue to be heavily reliant on UNICEF to support child protection system strengthening initiatives, and UNICEF’s programme has been pivotal in resourcing the development of child protection systems in the region. Many stakeholders reported the need for development partners and governments to continue support, and to substantially increase investments in child protection systems and their components.

“What we’re doing is a drop in the ocean. With child protection, we need to either go hard or go home.” National Stakeholder

UNICEF-supported Baseline Reports were regarded as significant triggers in instigating a child protection systems building agenda, although the Governance Indicators Framework (GIF) Assessments that followed have been less catalytic, including for making the case for building the capacity of multi-sectoral coalitions and leveraging national investments.11 The UNICEF programme and its partners have not consistently monitored systems progress against either the Baselines, or the GIF.

“The first cycle (of the programme) was so well structured, there were wide consultations with high-level key ministries, it was put together well, everyone understood it was systems building. It led to work plans (and we) had Permanent Secretaries sitting at the table and lots of ownership. The second cycle started expanding and wasn’t as robust as the beginning.” Regional stakeholder

“Pushing the idea in the first place is support - the government didn’t support it in the first place. UNICEF initiated the Baseline, and laid it out for the government. They did a lot of advocacy.” National stakeholder

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11 UNICEF developed a regional set of indicators to measure and monitor child protection systems, which resulted in the development of the Pacific Governance Indicators Framework (GIF). Four countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands) used the framework tool to analyse their child protection systems’ performance and as a key method for the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme Periodic Review in 2013-2014. See: https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/151117_UNICEF_Pacific_GIF_Report_Four_Pacific_Countries_Preview.pdf
Outside of DFAT and UNICEF, there is limited support for work on child protection system strengthening among development partners. UNICEF’s support to Governments for child protection systems with DFAT funding is unique in the Pacific. In addition to Pacific governments, actors directly supporting work on building child protection systems in the region include Save the Children and Child Fund. Other institutions are indirectly supporting child protection through their work, including organisations that provide support to survivors of violence, such as Solomon Islands Family Support Centre and the Vanuatu Women’s Centre, among others. While multiple actors are investing in aspects of child protection systems – including legislation grounded in human rights, service provider capacity building, inter-agency coordination and referral mechanisms, and mobilising communities and individuals to protect children – some stakeholders indicated that this is not consistently undertaken with a child protection systems ‘lens’.

“You would like to see implementation of laws, to see government increase allocations, service provision, homes for children, boys and girls, counsellors in place. You just don’t. If it wasn’t for DFAT, you wouldn’t see anything.” Regional Stakeholder

There is considerable evidence that many organisations have conflated implementation of DFAT’s Child Protection Policy agenda, which is focused on organisational level child safeguarding responsibilities, with investing in child protection systems strengthening.¹²

3.2 Focus on priorities, including gender and disability

Stakeholders consistently identified violence against children, including child sexual abuse, as a priority for UNICEF’s child protection programme. Child abuse rates are estimated to be high, violent discipline and punishment are widely accepted, and child sexual abuse (CSA) is understood to be extensive, with family members, friends and

¹² DFAT’s Policy applies to all funded partners and (in summary) requires each to undertake risk assessments, train staff, establish internal reporting mechanisms, and report any suspected instances of child abuse, exploitation, harm or non-compliance to the DFAT Conduct and Ethics Unit. http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/child-protection-policy.aspx
teachers the main perpetrators.1314 Child neglect, corporal punishment, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), juvenile justice issues and cyber-bullying were also cited as key concerns. Stakeholders frequently noted that rapidly changing socio-economic contexts and pressures in the region are creating new risks and vulnerabilities.

“Really clearly, the biggest issue is the normalisation of violence against the child.”
National Stakeholder

Data on violence against children (VAC) and its consequences in the region is limited in its comparability and depth, and has not been well analysed. Only two countries, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, have collected data on violence against children in recent national Demographic & Health Surveys. The Family Health and Safety Studies in eight PICs compiled data on violence against children, however, these have not been systematically analysed for child protection advocacy or programming, including utilising the data to address the specific types of risks and vulnerabilities experienced by girls and boys and children with disabilities. There is also limited analysis of national administrative data (which is low, due to under-reporting and other factors) to support child protection programming.

“Data on child protection is the biggest lost opportunity on this programme.”
National Stakeholder

“Everything we know is largely anecdotal. There are dusty files with police in dusty offices...” National Stakeholder

The child protection programme has not included a systematic analysis of gender and the intersections of VAC and VAW, including understanding of the co-occurrence of VAC with intimate partner violence (IPV) or the possible influence of IPV as a possible predictor of VAC.15 Efforts to highlight intersections and economic impact, such as the Harmful Connections report, or the 2009 Vanuatu study on the Cost of Violence against

14 UNICEF supported Baseline Reports in six Pacific Island Countries from 2008-2015
Children\textsuperscript{16}, have not been visibly integrated in UNICEF’s advocacy, technical support and coordination efforts.

For example, data from the Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study indicates that 37\% of Solomon Islands’ women aged 15-49 reported having been sexually abused before age 15, but this has not been used to shape national child protection priorities and programming, or to convey urgency to policy makers in Solomon Islands. When asked about issues during the course of the Review, stakeholders rarely mentioned key statistics on VAC in the Pacific, as is frequently cited in other sectors.\textsuperscript{17} Stakeholders reported that initiatives are currently underway to convene partners (UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, DFAT, RRRT) in some countries to assess VAW and VAC intersections and gaps, and consider pathways for programming and advocacy.

“I don’t think they take on violence as much as they should and need to. In the Pacific, the big issue is when we look at some of the bundling of child protection and family violence...UNICEF hasn’t internalised that and taken that on.” Regional Stakeholder

Gendered approaches to building and strengthening child protection systems and preventing and responding to neglect, exploitation, abuse and violence against children requires a nuanced understanding of the particular needs and vulnerabilities of boys and girls in each country context. Existing data has not been explicitly utilised to enable this, although the Review found abundant examples of the differential impact of violence, neglect and exploitation on girls and boys, and on children with disabilities. In the context of the programme’s focus on strengthening the legal and policy context, and institutional capacities of service providers and communities to prevent and respond to child protection issues, there has been limited analysis of the priority needs of particular groups of children (including children with disabilities).

“Results are more at the institutional level. I don’t see so much at the individual


\textsuperscript{17} Six national violence against women (VAW) prevalence/Family Health and Safety Studies were completed in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
Supporting traditional and non-formal justice mechanisms that protect children may be an unmet need. In most Pacific countries, formal community-based programmes for children in conflict with the law are limited or do not exist, and informal and traditional mechanisms, such as faith-based and kastom reconciliation processes, are typically used, including for serious crimes. These approaches present high risks of further harm for children, including reinforcing harmful norms of discipline and conflict resolution. A more nuanced understanding of justice pathways in each country, along with support and guidance for community approaches that address harmful norms, is needed for stronger and rights-based child justice.

3.3 Programme alignment with national coordination mechanisms

In general, stakeholders considered that child protection sub-committees at all levels should operate more strategically, as platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration and leadership on child protection system strengthening. National mechanisms for coordination of children’s issues were historically established for monitoring and implementation of States’ CRC obligations. Child protection issues have typically been addressed in sub-committees or working groups that are generally linked to specific tasks or activities, such as those included in UNICEF’s AWP’s.

In Fiji, one stakeholder noted that financial support provided by UNICEF did help make the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) function better. In Kiribati, a child protection sub-committee was active in legislative drafting and advocacy for legislative reform, but the group has not received government endorsement to undertake ongoing child protection systems coordination work. In both Vanuatu and Fiji, the child protection working groups were effectively mobilised to respond to disasters, but following this, the child protection working groups did not sustain momentum or capability to drive child protection system strengthening.

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18 Summary of Baseline Reports
“The system still needs to be capacitated. The referral is OK, but there are no agreed SOPs on how these ministries need to work together. We have worked on the SOP for police - we need something to say how all of these will work together.” National stakeholder

Stakeholders in all countries indicated that national sub-committees meetings are infrequent and have uneven attendance, unless linked to specific tasks, and often function as forums to update or engage people in specific activities, such as validating community facilitation packages or drafting inter-agency guidelines. National child protection sub-committees are often well positioned to assess strategic system gaps, agree on responses, or coordinate alignment with legislative frameworks and services, but their limited capacity and leadership were noted as barriers.

“There is no consistency; they don’t know what was discussed at the last meeting, it is quite discouraging. That should be the place for strategic thinking...This is where the policy development and strategic thinking should come, but it (the Child Protection Working Group) needs to take on more power and authority to convince government.” National Stakeholder

3.4 Extent that programme meets child protection system building needs

Some stakeholders indicated that more support is needed to support sub-national child protection coordination mechanisms. In Solomon Islands, UNICEF is helping to set up provincial child protection committees, and in Vanuatu, the UNICEF-funded Child Protection Officer supports a provincial Child Protection Working Group. While widely considered a priority, programme resources and capacity to adequately deliver support at that level have been limited.

“(They had) a huge role at (NCCC) level to raise issues, because they work within the government system...it would be good to see them work at all levels, at the divisional level, to see how they can strengthen national partners.” National Stakeholder

Building service capacity and national multi-sectoral plans to implement child protection legislation and related services were raised as priorities among
stakeholders in the Review. Most indicated that UNICEF’s Annual Work Plan (AWP) development and review processes serve as *de facto* national priority setting processes and mechanisms, and UNICEF’s expertise in facilitating and resourcing the Work Plans were valued.

“UNICEF has priorities which are broad enough for us to meet.” National Stakeholder

“We are clear on the cycle, and with each cycle, UNICEF introduces key areas and where the Ministry fits in, and we sign off on an agreement for that cycle.” National Stakeholder

Respondents noted that in the absence of formulated and resourced national plans, the UNICEF AWP s serve as an overarching national child protection framework for stakeholders. As most countries have focused on legislative reform, few have developed overarching policy structures, and UNICEF has had limited engagement in this work. The programme did not contribute significantly to the development of national child protection action plans, where they exist, such as Vanuatu’s Child Protection Policy and Implementation Plan, during the programme period.

*For us, we are relying on the Annual Work Plan as some sort of Implementation Plan (for the Act). But it doesn’t focus on the work (of the Act) itself - we have the health issues in there, the birth registration.” National Stakeholder*

Few Review stakeholders identified as members of an established child protection system, collaborating and cooperating to deliver on a strategic child protection agenda, and some reflected that partnerships may be a risk for gaps and duplication. In the justice sector in Vanuatu, which includes a sizable Australian bilateral programme, a number of partners are taking the lead on some child protection legislation and policy initiatives, and UNICEF’s involvement is more limited. At the community level, there is some evidence of parallel approaches among some NGO partners. DFAT has recently taken an active coordination role by convening partners working to end VAW and human rights in some countries, and to explore opportunities for synergy, sharing approaches and leveraging gains.
“(There’s) not a strong feeling that there is a child protection system. People know there is a loose collection of players in the space, but the notion of a system and things like referral mechanisms…. The answer to that is ‘very, very limited’.” National Stakeholder

“There has been feedback from other organisations around partnership. Who are UNICEF’s partners? The (government), but who else? They used to work with other partners. There is still a lot to do.” National Stakeholder

3.5 Conclusions

- The programme is aligned with country commitments to children’s rights and child protection, and its approach and components largely target needs, gaps and structures in programme countries.

- Better data and utilisation of evidence on violence against children and its consequences, including analysis of existing data and studies, and intersections with violence against women, is needed to convey urgency to policy makers, and underpin future programming.

- The child protection system strengthening approach is relevant to prevention and response to the abuse and exploitation of, and violence against, children in Pacific Island countries. There is a need to better contextualise programming and sharpen communication about the goals and intended impact of systems building; to better join up efforts among multiple stakeholders; to better sequence investments to tailor programme responses to children’s needs, and to focus on specific goals to end violence, abuse and exploitation of children.

- More investment in platforms for multi-sectoral collaboration for child protection systems, and improved coordination, are needed to ensure approaches and support to child protection system strengthening are well synchronised and sequenced.

- Specific efforts are needed to ensure partners understand the child protection systems approach, and are supported and resourced to strengthen it.
• Strengthening relationships and cooperation on efforts to end violence against women and enhance justice systems are particularly relevant to child protection system building in the Pacific context. Improving coordination and better harmonizing existing systems, pathways and resourcing, such as initiatives that build capacity of referral networks, support standard setting, and assist with service development in the justice, health, and education sectors, represents a significant potential for mutual benefit.

• A tailored national framework to track child protection system strengthening progress, and other relevant tools, would assist with child protection coordination.
4 Programme Effectiveness

This section assesses the *effectiveness* of UNICEF’s Pacific Child Protection programme. It includes consideration of:

- The extent that UNICEF achieved programme outputs and made progress toward achieving its intended outcomes;
- Factors and strategies that supported progress, and challenges and constraints;
- The effectiveness of the M&E system.

4.1 Results Framework


4.2 Programme Results

**Outcome 1: Child Protection Systems**

The programme has made significant progress in strengthening child protection legal frameworks in the Pacific, but more investment is needed to ensure there is capacity to implement the laws, including through costed plans that define the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Four out of 14 Pacific Island Countries have laws specifically to protect children (Kiribati, Nauru, RMI, Solomon Islands), although not all are comprehensive, and three other countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu) have child protection legislation in draft. There are no Pacific countries that fully prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.¹⁹ Nine countries have family protection/domestic violence laws.

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¹⁹ Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, www.endcorporalpunishment.org
UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the development and implementation of the following child protection laws between 2014 and 2017:

- **Fiji**: Drafting support for the Adoption Act amendment, Community Corrections Bill, Children in Conflict with the Law Bill, and the Children in Need of Care and Protection Bill; support to implementation of the Child Welfare Decree (2010), including through support for development of Interagency Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the establishment of a child protection information management system.

- **Kiribati**: Drafting and passing the Juvenile Justice Act (2015); support to implementation of the Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act (2013).

- **Nauru**: Drafting and passing of the Child Protection and Welfare Act (2016).

- **Samoa**: Drafting of the Child Care and Protection Bill; Sex Offender Register Bill; and Adoption of Infants Act (1952) Amendment.

- **Solomon Islands**: Contribution to drafting the Family Protection Bill; support to passing the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), and support to the Penal Code Amendment on Sexual Offences.

- **Tuvalu and Vanuatu**: Advocacy for introduction of a child protection law, and support for drafting Tuvalu’s Child Protection Bill and Implementation Plan.

Many of the child protection laws provide a broad architecture for the child protection system, but alone, they are insufficient to deliver real change for children. In Solomon Islands, the absence of an implementation plan for the newly passed Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) has generated uncertainty about how the law will be financed and implemented.

“(Stakeholders are) mandated by the law to follow - as are nurses, teachers, etc. - but we fall back on the social norms, what works in the community. That has been the frustration – to implement.” Regional stakeholder

Kiribati developed an Implementation Manual for the Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act (CYPFWA) to assist its Social Welfare Officers to implement the Act, and UNICEF financed its rollout. One stakeholder considered that the law has given Social Welfare Officers more confidence in their work and in delivering their mandate. Some
stakeholders thought that the Manual also contributed to an increase in the number of reported cases, however, Kiribati does not have a multi-stakeholder plan to support development of capacities and services needed to fully implement the law.

**UNICEF has invested in strengthening the capacity of service providers to protect children, but more attention to effective approaches and sequencing, and monitoring results, is needed to ensure efforts lead to services that better protect children.**

UNICEF’s support has contributed to enhancing service providers’ responses to abuse cases through the development of *Inter-agency Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect* in Fiji; through financial support to Fiji’s Child Helpline; and through the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for police responding to children in contact with the law in various countries. Stakeholders expressed reservations, however, about the quality and effectiveness of these efforts, the extent that they are being implemented by providers, and whether they are leading to stronger social welfare systems.

> “We don’t know how (SOPs) are translating into implementation with children and police, and whether training has been rolled out.” Regional stakeholder

Police officers in Kiribati reported applying SOPs for handling children in contact with the law following training. In Vanuatu, the SOPs were recognized as important and helpful, but there was a perception that training provided had been “*overly complex and elaborate*” (national stakeholder), and its effectiveness limited due to both the scope (as a one-off workshop) and the underlying capacity within the Vanuatu police.

UNICEF regularly uses training of trainers (TOT) as an approach to capacity building, but there is typically limited follow-up after the TOT and the efficacy of the approach is not well measured. Other than the police capacity evaluation (covering Kiribati, Fiji and Vanuatu), the programme did not include systematic monitoring and assessment of changes in stakeholders’ capacity. Without performance-based monitoring, it is difficult to accurately gauge the effectiveness of the different types of training.

> “UNICEF sometimes thinks they need to build Government’s capacity, then do a one-off TOT and that’s it. It raises issue of ownership – if they don’t see it as a need, they’ll scrap it.” (Regional Stakeholder)
A small activity that provided bicycles to police stations in Tarawa (Kiribati) made a positive, if unintended, contribution to police response and investigation capacity. The bicycles were aimed at preventing youth crime through increasing the visibility of police at schools and places where youth congregate, but were considered mostly useful in facilitating police investigations and speeding up police response times through increased mobility.

**UNICEF has made limited progress in embedding child protection policies in school settings, and in strengthening child protection in health systems.** UNICEF supported Fiji’s Ministry of Education in the Policy on Child Protection in Schools. The policy is operational, and has provisions for child protection focal points in schools, but the extent that the policy is being effectively implemented is unclear. In Kiribati, the Ministry of Education drafted a policy with support provided through another partner, but is seeking UNICEF’s help to finalise the policy and train teachers. In Solomon Islands, UNICEF provided technical inputs to the development of guidelines for the Ministry of Health and Medical Services’ Minimum Standards of Care for Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, adopted in 2017. UNICEF’s Education and Health programmes, along with the UN RMNCAH Joint Programme, could be opportunities to better engage the education and health sectors in child protection systems strengthening.

**Birth registration coverage improved over the programme period in three of UNICEF’s priority countries** (see Table 1). While there are significant data gaps in many Pacific Island countries, available data indicates that most countries have achieved high rates of birth registration for children under 5 years. Several countries are already above UNICEF’s proposed global target of 66 per cent by 2021, and are at or above the East Asia and Pacific average of 80 per cent. In total, seven PIC countries have achieved over 60 percent birth registration, compared to the program’s outcome target of eight countries.

UNICEF’s contribution to birth registration was highly valued by a number of stakeholders, and was harmonised with broader support for civil registration and vital statistics through the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG). In Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and

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Kiribati, UNICEF’s investments were considered to have accelerated progress in birth registration system strengthening, and to support birth registration campaigns to extend coverage, including in the aftermath of emergencies in Fiji and Vanuatu.

“UNICEF is very much on the ground up-skilling civil registrars to be part of national conversation and (looking at) how systems are structured... They take regional work on standards and lessons learned and apply these in countries. (They’re) not necessarily leading on putting work together on standards, but are critical in translating that on the ground.” Regional stakeholder

Table 1: Birth registration coverage - children aged 0-5 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2014 baseline</th>
<th>2017 target</th>
<th>2017 endline(^{21})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>~80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>96*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>83*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>42(^{22})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>50*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60-70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data is from 2007, prior to 2014 start of programme period. Data shown is for countries where available.

UNICEF’s also provided support for strengthening the legislative and policy framework for civil registration and vital statics. In Kiribati, a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

\(^{21}\) These figures are estimates provided by program partners and UNICEF based on administrative data. They are not standardized and may not be fully comparable to baseline data. They should therefore be taken as indicative of progress only.

\(^{22}\) The 2015 Solomon Islands DHS found that 88 per cent of children had their births registered, however all stakeholders reported the current rate to be either 42 per cent specifically, or ‘around 40 per cent’. The UNICEF baseline was reported at 20 per cent, which is significantly lower than the 80 percent reported in the 2006/07 DHS. Given the significant difference between the DHS data, the UNICEF M&E baseline and targets, and the administrative data reported by stakeholders, we have not used the DHS data here, but recognise that these figures should be considered indicative only.
Strategic Plan is under development and in Vanuatu, UNICEF is providing support to review the Civil Status Registration Act.

**Outcome 2: Skills, knowledge and behaviours for violence, abuse and exploitation free homes, schools and communities**

UNICEF rolled out a ‘community facilitation package’ in four countries, but there is limited evidence that it is performing according to the aims outlined in the programme’s theory of change. Reported expectations for the facilitation package were high and grounded in assumptions that individual knowledge, attitudes and practices related to child protection would change through participation in the training programme, and that training participants would contribute to community-level child protection mechanisms, including through the creation of child protection plans:23

“The whole idea behind the package: change starts from individual and then there’s communal level change, depending on the kind of rules or values of community.” Regional stakeholder

UNICEF considered Fiji’s community facilitation package (*Our Children Are a Precious Gift from God*) successful, and used it as the model for approaches in the other programme countries. However, the Review found limited evidence that the package is delivering results consistent with expectations and objectives, or that measurement of results are part of the approach at all.

Stakeholders widely considered the package an awareness-raising programme aimed at positive parenting, and there were none that described the package (manual and training) in terms of its role in developing a community child protection system. The development of plans and community child protection mechanisms is an expected output of the training, and the proportion of communities with child protection plans a key indicator. In the absence of data on the existence of these plans, this output cannot be reliably assessed.

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23 The package is comprised of a manual and up to one-week equivalent of community training, the development of a community action plan for child protection, and typically a simple M&E tool. No formalised quality assurance or monitoring was incorporated into the program.
"It's just raising awareness of children's importance - it doesn't give anything to the parents... They talk about how were you brought up, your thinking, how were you treated. Trying to do behaviour change. But no actual skills – just nurture the child, no parenting support." National stakeholder

The package has not been implemented according to a documented or agreed structure in Fiji, Vanuatu or Kiribati. UNICEF trained facilitators and encouraged them to select and deliver some or all of the (manual’s) modules, as appropriate for their contexts. Stakeholders in Vanuatu reported that none of the trained facilitators delivered the package in its entirety, and some reported they did not have opportunity to deliver any of the modules. In Kiribati, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Women, Youth, and Social Affairs (MWYSA) to train facilitators who delivered weeklong workshops in urban communities, but stakeholders noted that the UNICEF manual is one of the many resources they drew upon to conduct the workshops, which they described as a positive parenting training.

There is evidence that the rights-based principles and components of the training package are being diluted or intentionally bypassed by some facilitators. Stakeholders cited examples of facilitators not delivering the full package (especially modules that cover challenging issues, such as harmful norms) due to limited confidence, capacity and support to facilitate such discussions, lack of status in their communities, or because they had not internalised the concepts related to harmful norms. In Vanuatu, some stakeholders considered the youth facilitators selected ill-equipped to deliver the material effectively.

"(Youth) facilitators say...they are told, ‘Who are you to talk about rights with me? I'm older than you.’ For this project, the facilitators feel they need more. We put them into the middle.” National stakeholder

It is unclear how the range of delivery modalities and approaches, within and across countries, has contributed to or posed barriers to progress toward outcomes, as monitoring and evaluation of the facilitation package implementation is almost entirely absent from the programme. The only available M&E data related to the community
facilitation package is the number of communities covered in Fiji, however these results need verification. In the Fijian community visited by the Review team, none of the interviewed community members knew about the programme or had received any awareness or training from trained facilitators. There was no evaluation of the Fiji package or the model prior to investing in its adaptation and implementation in three other countries, and there is insufficient data to assess whether UNICEF’s approaches are the most effective for this social change work at the community level.

4.3 Progress towards achievement of programme outcomes

UNICEF’s child protection policy advocacy was at times catalytic. In Fiji, UNICEF’s advocacy was considered critical in securing domestic resources for child protection. Prior to 2015, no domestic resources were allocated for child protection, but since then, the budget has increased annually and is $1.2 million for the current budget year. This contributed to the Government’s financing of some activities implemented by NGOs, formerly supported by UNICEF, such as the Child Helpline managed by Medical Services Pacific. In Solomon Islands, UNICEF staff provided formal and informal policy advocacy support for passing the child protection law, which was highly valued. Stakeholders considered that the child protection baseline reports and the CRC reports also provided opportunities for policy advocacy.

“(CRC) reporting in Geneva helped to get Helpline up and Child Welfare Decree, and out of that reporting (we) managed to get money (for child protection).”

National Stakeholder

UNICEF’s advocacy has been less influential in raising the visibility and gravity of all forms of violence against children, or in highlighting the link between child protection system building and the prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children. There was robust consensus among all stakeholders participating in the review that violence is the priority child protection issue in the Pacific, and some stakeholders considered that the programme had missed opportunities to

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24 The data was reported to exist by both UNICEF and the Fiji government, however, the Reviewers were unable to sight/source it.

25 An evaluation was planned but postponed due to Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2015, and not re-commissioned.
Champion and advocate for elevating the issue more vigorously. The 2015 Pacific Conference on Ending Violence against Children is an example of the programme directly addressing violence against children, and stakeholders considered the meeting to be an effective platform for regional exchange, learning and advocacy. The conference was also considered to contribute to government commitment for birth registration reform. Stakeholders in most countries remarked that regional sessions sharing lessons and good practices, which UNICEF previously convened annually, were an important factor in building momentum on child protection issues in the Pacific.

“The meeting served as a way of monitoring where people are, in terms of systems building.” Regional stakeholder

Weak design and approaches to delivery of some of the programme components, particularly the community pilots, impeded achievements and the likelihood of progress toward results. The Review did not find evidence that the community pilots were based on a robust programme theory, or that they included adequate provisions or wrap-around support, or a monitoring system to track progress.

In all three countries using the community facilitation package as a tool, there is no shared (or documented) understanding of what ‘success’ looks like, or how progress towards results would be made or measured. Without this, stakeholders could not clearly articulate the aim of the pilots, or pinpoint factors that supported or hindered successful outcomes.

At the community level, there were few signs that UNICEF supported community-based Committees engaged in any active awareness raising, child protection actions, community resource mobilisation, reporting and referral, or specific support to vulnerable families or children. UNICEF-funded Child Protection Officers, while tasked to strengthen provincial and community child protection systems, had no operational budget, including resources to travel to pilot communities from the provincial capitals, and limited wrap-around support from UNICEF. In the Review consultations, members of the Provincial Child Protection Committee pilot were unable to articulate the Committee’s purpose, and while there was evidence of aspiration to serve as a reporting and referral mechanism, Committee members reported that insufficient resources and capacity limited this.
Save the Children piloted community-level child protection system building prior to UNICEF’s initiative, and faced performance and sustainability challenges despite the investment in a comprehensive design. Indication that learning from Save the Children’s work meaningfully informed UNICEF’s approaches was limited.

Collaboration and cooperation with other development partners has been uneven, but when this was prioritised, it has added value. UNICEF effectively built on the efforts of the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) to support gains in birth registration and is considered a valuable partner in that forum. In Solomon Islands, UNICEF and DFAT were able to generate a “fantastic relationship win” (national stakeholder) through UNICEF’s agreement to provide technical support to juvenile courts strengthening, as part of DFAT-funded justice activities.

Some stakeholders expressed concern, however, that UNICEF did not consistently communicate or collaborate well. In Vanuatu, stakeholders noted that closer and more regular dialogue with Save the Children and the DFAT Policing and Justice Programme would have improved the effectiveness of the community-based child protection system pilot, and other priorities. Stakeholders saw opportunities to deepen collaboration across the UN system, including by strengthening child protection linkages with actors working on EVAWG, justice and health programmes across the region. Many recognised excellent potential for collaboration and some noted recent examples where relationships with UNICEF had improved.

“We all feel it would be best to be working together, so to not have transparency...is a real concern for us.” National stakeholder

“UNICEF is a great organisation. They do great work. They have great people there. And there is so much more potential to improve their work and be doing more catalytic work if we can better coordinate.” Regional stakeholder

Increasing coordination, collaboration and learning with work aimed at ending violence against women is considered important. In Solomon Islands, despite recognition of the challenges in planning for and implementing the Family Protection Act, stakeholders are now similarly unprepared for the introduction of the Child and Family Welfare Act.
DFAT has invested considerably in EVAWG and has expressed commitment to better leverage its investments in EVAWG for improving child protection systems. There is little evidence that the programme has sought to coordinate with or learn from stakeholders working on implementation of family protection laws across the region, which could improve effectiveness and add considerable value for money for DFAT and others. For example, the SAFENET model in Solomon Islands and Kiribati, designed to improve case management and referral mechanisms for survivors of violence, could offer both strategic insights and practical strategies for how child protection systems might operate in Pacific Island Countries, and the operational challenges.

UNICEF has worked with Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs), but there is limited evidence of a strong overarching strategy to ensure programme investments directly contribute to protecting children with disabilities from violence, abuse and neglect. Following Tropical Cyclone Winston, UNICEF supported the Pacific Disability Forum in ensuring child-focused questions were included in an assessment of the needs of people with disabilities after the disaster, and helped with implementation of the assessment. In Vanuatu, UNICEF supported the Vanuatu Society for Persons with Disabilities on an early intervention programme to help young children with disabilities and their carers to access and benefit education and other support services. While both initiatives contributed to realizing the rights of children with disabilities, including their right to protection from violence, abuse and neglect, the Review did not find evidence that the programme has a clear strategy for ensuring prevention and response to children with disabilities’ broader risks of violence, abuse and neglect.

UNICEF’s staffing changes, along with institutional changes in partner organisations, have hindered progress towards outcomes. In Kiribati, rules and regulations for the CYPFWA were drafted with UNICEF support in 2014. However, these reportedly “were lost” following UNICEF staffing changes, combined with institutional changes in Government. UNICEF’s long recruitment processes, particularly for international positions, have left gaps in the staffing structure, limiting the extent to which all positions are performing as intended.

4.4 Strengths and weaknesses of the UNICEF Programme approaches
Disasters in the region hindered progress, but also created opportunities to enhance child protection system strengthening. UNICEF utilised the disaster response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015 to accelerate birth registration in Vanuatu as part of the replacement of lost birth certificates. However, much of the 2015 AWP was suspended to focus on disaster response efforts, which interrupted progress toward programme goals. In Samoa, a tsunami response helped to create a new opportunity to engage on child protection issues and develop a programme relationship. During Fiji’s response to TC Winston, UNICEF’s support helped to raise the visibility of certain child protection needs in Fiji, particularly the emotional and psychosocial needs of children. In total, while child protection in emergencies (CPiE) was not an explicit component of the programme results framework, it absorbed approximately five per cent of the programme budget, following agreement to reallocate some funds from DFAT.

Replication of programme strategies across multiple countries may have generated efficiencies, but undermined effectiveness. Some stakeholders considered that more work was needed to analyse and the programme theory for each country context. The theory of change was designed at the regional level, but there was limited documentation of the implementation approaches required to achieve results at country level, beyond the AWPs. The lack of national child protection plans compounds this issue.

“Now we have to go back (to the Theory of Change. You have the theory, which is fine. But we need to know for each country. There is no paper like that. There is no dosage. One size fits all.” (Regional stakeholder)

Limited uptake of programme review and evaluation recommendations hindered progress towards outcomes. There is little indication that the 2015 UNICEF commissioned evaluation of police capacity in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu, validated by Government counterparts, triggered shifts in programme approaches or modalities. Despite finalisation early in the programme, the 2015 UNICEF Mid-Term Review (MTR) recommendations were not fully incorporated in programming. For example, the MTR recommended scaling down programming in Vanuatu to a few key areas (a violence prevalence study, birth registration and child protection laws), however, there was subsequently a significant investment in the community facilitation package and community child protection systems. There are also outstanding recommendations from a
2012 Independent Completion Report (ICR) not taken up, such as stronger monitoring of training impacts on performance.

In 2017, UNICEF did begin to address a recommendation to identify solutions to workforce shortages. Discussions are underway to develop a partnership with the Pacific Technical and Further Education (Pacific TAFE) at the University of the South Pacific and Child Fund, to gradually develop and deliver in-service and pre-service social worker training across the region.

The programme has struggled to balance breadth and depth while maximising effectiveness in delivering a large multi-country programme. There is recognition that the programme is currently straining its capacity with the number of countries and components involved, which have increased in the current funding cycle. Stakeholders expressed interest in seeing UNICEF’s contributions more strategically defined to maximise effectiveness, including by linking into broader protection efforts.

“If they do want to work, do one thing well rather than a bit here and there. If their piecemeal bits were building on other things and linking in, then it would be fine - but it’s not.” (Regional Stakeholder)

UNICEF’s technical assistance is highly valued, but is not always considered fit-for-purpose. Stakeholders considered UNICEF’s short-term technical assistance for legislative support was effectively delivered. Technical assistance supporting social welfare service strengthening was more limited, likely reducing progress in this area. In some cases, UNICEF staff’s country-level relationships were highly valued. However, stakeholders did not consistently agree that UNICEF staff offered adequate expertise, technical guidance, brokering and leadership.

“They can’t give us the support we need. They’re just like us, you know? They go to training.” National stakeholder

“(The UNICEF CPO) is like part of the Ministry - comes on almost daily basis....there to be the other hand and the other brain that we need. In that sense, the relationship has worked really well for us.” National stakeholder

4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation system
Data collection and analysis has been uneven and of variable quality. Data for many indicators in the M&E framework were not routinely collected, and some indicators are unable to be measured without undertaking new research. For example, monitoring outcomes related to community behaviour change requires data on the proportion of parents, caregivers and community members, including faith-based leaders, who understand and demonstrate behaviour that protects children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and collection of this is not structured in the programming. UNICEF acknowledges that although there is considerable data collected, analysis and application to build knowledge and enhance programming has been weak.

Annual progress reports do not report on core indicators consistently, and Annual Work Plans are not fully aligned to indicator targets. While the number of country-level Annual Work Plans has increased since 2014, the M&E framework only contains country-specific indicators for Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It is unclear how some baselines measures were calculated, making consistent tracking of progress a challenge.

There are several indicators in the programme’s M&E Framework for which no data is collected to track or measure progress. For community level child protection systems strengthening work, there is a need to better define benchmarks and measures of progress and success, including to help encourage Governments to invest in child protection programmes.

“This is where evaluation (is needed). We’re doing a lot of programmes, but what is the impact? We need to know the impact of the money.” National stakeholder

4.6 Conclusions

- UNICEF has contributed to building legal frameworks for child protection during the programme period, but more investment is needed to strengthen capacities to implement laws; including through costed plans that define roles and responsibilities of multiple actors; greater attention to sequencing supportive interventions; and critically monitoring results.
- The programme has not generated, documented or utilised evidence about what works under what circumstance to build child protection services capacity. Progress in embedding child protection policies in school settings and strengthening child protection in health systems has been limited.

- Birth registration coverage improved in three of UNICEF’s priority countries, and the programme accelerated progress in birth registration system strengthening.

- Disasters in the region hindered progress towards programme results, but also created opportunities to enhance child protection system strengthening.

- There is limited evidence that the programme’s community mobilisation and behaviour change approaches and tool have strengthened skills, knowledge and behaviours to ensure violence, abuse and exploitation free homes, schools and communities. An explicit theory of change, grounded in quantitative and qualitative data on the programme’s implementation to date, is needed to inform further investment.

- The community facilitation package is considered to be raising awareness on positive parenting, but there is limited evidence that it is effective in building community child protection systems. There is also evidence that it is not being implemented fully in keeping with rights based principles.

- UNICEF’s advocacy for child protection systems building was catalytic in some situations, including advancing birth registration, but it has been less influential in raising the visibility and gravity of all forms of violence against children, or highlighting the link between child protection system building and the prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children.

- The programme’s collaboration with a range of partners on child protection work has been uneven, and increased coordination with and learning from the experiences of multi-sectoral partners, including those working to end violence against women and other protection systems, is needed.

- UNICEF’s technical assistance is highly valued, but was not always considered fit-for-purpose.
• There is limited evidence of an overarching strategy to ensure programme investments directly contribute to protecting children with disabilities, or the specific protection needs of girls and boys.

• Data collection and analysis has been uneven and of variable quality. Annual progress reports do not report on core indicators consistently, and Annual Work Plans are not fully aligned to indicator targets. Monitoring of the implementation of the community facilitation package is almost completely absent, and learning from the range of delivery modalities and approaches used within and across countries has been inadequately captured and applied. There is also limited uptake of previous review and evaluation recommendations.

• As the number of programme countries has increased, there is evidence that replicating some strategies across countries may have undermined effectiveness and more investment is needed in elaborating the programme and implementation theory for each country context, including explicit linking to broader protection efforts.
5 Programme Efficiency

This section assesses the efficiency of the Pacific Child Protection programme in delivering outputs and outcomes. It includes consideration of:

- The programme’s strategies, modalities, procedures, management and human resources, and how they have contributed to efficiency
- The programme’s use of resources, opportunities for cost-saving, and focus on results and accountability

5.1 Programme management and human resources

Staff and other personnel costs represent 40% of the programme’s total expenditure. UNICEF managed the overall administration and implementation of the programme with ten key staff positions, of which seven were funded by DFAT:

- One Chief of Child Protection Section,
- Four Child Protection Officers based in four countries (one in Fiji, one each in Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu),
- Three Child Protection Specialists (one national specialist in Fiji, one international specialist in Fiji and one international specialist shared between Solomon Islands and Vanuatu),
- One Programme Assistant based in the Fiji Multi-country Office.
- One staff serving as Child Protection Officer in Samoa (plus providing UNICEF representation and other programme support), and as Child Protection focal point for Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.

The Child Protection Section is internally structured according to thematic technical areas and focus countries. In practice, staff in the Suva office respond flexibly to countries based on need, opportunity and interest. The position of Chief was vacant for eight months of the programme period in 2016/2017, and due to Pacific geography and the scale of the 14-country programme, once in place, the new Chief spent a considerable proportion of time visiting programme countries upon. The Suva-based international Child Protection Specialist (from 2016) served as officer-in-charge (OIC) for most of the
The Child Protection Specialist (from 2016) based in Solomon Islands and covering Vanuatu (40% of time) also served as OIC of Solomon Islands’ Field Office for over six months.

The gaps in leadership during the programme period; tropical cyclones in Vanuatu and Fiji; and some shifting of functions and responsibilities across the child protection team, impacted on programme efficiency. The programme experienced a degree of ‘lag time’ following staff movements and disasters, including while new staff became acquainted with the programme and travelled to programme countries. This was compounded by a diversion of specialist staff’s time away from technical support, including while performing in OIC roles. Clarity on team roles and functions related to planning, management, monitoring, provision of technical expertise, and ensuring the quality and relevance of interventions was re-defined in mid-2017.

“I think (UNICEF) is pulling people thin. (There are) so many countries now.”

Regional Stakeholder

The capacity to deliver the programme, across the region and within countries, is uneven. Most stakeholders highly valued the support and inputs of staff, particularly in managing UNICEF systems and providing operational level support for programme activities, but some noted weaknesses in the ability to operate strategically and to consistently ensure activities were coherent, and technically focused on child protection system strengthening. The quality of the child protection programming and monitoring has suffered as a result of Child Protection staff being stretched thinly. Stakeholders noted weaker areas included engagement in high-level representation and dialogue with governments, building and brokering strategic relationships with partners, and consistently promoting a systems orientation. Some gaps in both the technical skills and management competencies in the team may have reduced the efficiency of UNICEF’s investments in efforts to build capacity.

Improved mainstreaming of child protection principles and practices, and better coordination of child protection in other UNICEF programmes and offices (Field and Suva offices), could enhance efficiency. In the health system in Solomon Islands and Kiribati, and in the education sector in Kiribati, stakeholders noted relationships with
UNICEF’s other programmes that could be better leveraged to achieve operational efficiencies and ensure consistent messaging in relation to birth registration, health provider capacity building, school child protection policies, and ending violence against children more broadly.

5.2 Operational strategies and modalities

Partners regard UNICEF as a reliable partner, particularly in provision of funds and procurement of expertise, but there is a less evidence of buy-in to a holistic child protection system agenda. Transfers and grants to counterparts represented 36% of overall programme expenditure. In the two primary outcome areas, approximately 40% of the Child Protection Systems stream was spent on direct financial support to partners, and 21% of the Social and Behaviour Change stream.26

“If UNICEF is not able to provide funds, we are always writing Cabinet submissions, and seeking support to see the activities are supported.” National Stakeholder

The programme’s approaches to engagement present barriers to time and resource efficiency, and value for money.27 Some stakeholders considered that responding to country requests overtaxed the programme without yielding measurable results for building child protection systems, and did not include a robust pathway to deepen engagement with partners.

While some child protection baseline studies were conducted in 2013 in the North Pacific countries, there are significant information gaps. Subsequently, UNICEF invested significant travel, administrative, financial and technical resources to establish AWPs with new countries in the North Pacific, but a theory or strategy for how this will contribute to outcomes (or impact) is missing. Some of the newer country partnerships were focused

26 Figures are estimates, derived from UNICEF’s financial data.

27 Value for money was not defined in the Pacific Child Protection Programme proposal with DFAT, the grant funding arrangement or other documentation between UNICEF and DFAT. Therefore, there is no “shared agreement” for what constitutes value for money in the context of the Child Protection Programme.
on one-off training workshops on Child Protection in Emergencies and with Police – without country staff, or sufficient resources for Suva staff, to ensure quality follow-up support.

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<tr>
<th>Countries with Annual work Plans</th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Countries with Annual Work Plan (AWP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>“They say, ‘Well, the Government wants it’. They’ll say that to anything, so it’s not a good enough rationale. You need to have donor coordination and line up internally. Does government have capacity to implement it?” National Stakeholder</td>
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<td>“(They) want to please all government agencies and (are) not wanting to push back on them and say no.” National Stakeholder</td>
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In the countries where UNICEF has programme staff and offices, the AWPs are more holistic and better reflect a systems building approach. Stakeholders noted that the AWP framework provided scope for their priority activities, but establishing and strengthening systems using integrated approaches were more challenging. There is some evidence that the development and review processes for the AWPs may not be sufficient to communicate and embed UNICEF’s child protection programme outcomes and a shared vision for impact on children.

“With the amount of money they have, they try to spread themselves a bit thin. It’s a bit scattered, so it doesn’t add up to much. That’s fine if you’re working with others to build up more and amplify…” Regional Stakeholder
Administrative procedures were complex for partners, even for small funding disbursements. Most partners reflected confidence in UNICEF’s provision of funding, and noted it was generally more certain than if channelled through government systems. Other stakeholders considered that the processes were time-consuming and onerous, and had an impact on their programming. Government partners reported delays when funds go through Finance Departments and Prime Ministers’ Offices.

“I realised the money was late because of UNICEF systems and processing.”
National Stakeholder

5.3 Delivery approaches and use of resources

Programme resources were primarily allocated to funding staff, and to providing grants and transfers to partners. About 40% of cumulative expenditure was on staff and personnel ($1,386,068) and about 36% ($1,249,093) was used for grants and transfers to Pacific governments and partners. About 11% of funds were utilised for contractual services.
The programme provided a range of relatively small allocations to both government and some NGO partners across the region, but the projects and activities are not always clearly embedded in the programme framework, or well linked to its overall theory of change. Programme data indicates there were 55 grants and transfers allocated to partners across 14 different programme output areas, representing 36% of overall cumulative expenditure. The majority of grants and transfers (76%) were under $25,000. Of these, 39% (21 grants) were under $10,000 and an additional 22% were under $20,000. The programme allocated two larger grants over $100,000 - one to the development of Minimum Standards & Guidelines in Vanuatu ($133,355) and one to support Tonga in addressing cyber-bullying ($127,937).

Complex systems and variable partner capacity resulted in the need for considerable staff time invested to support the administration. Stakeholders at all levels indicated that a significant proportion of their time was spent administering grants, which detracted from technical and more strategic programme support.
“It’s resourced fine for what it is, but perhaps (the CPO) needs support to reduce the number of activities and really focus on some key things.” Regional Stakeholder

Utilisation of resources varied for the two main programme areas (Child Protection Systems, and Social Behaviour Change). For support to Child Protection Systems, the programme allocated 40% of its funds to partners, and spent 32% on staffing. In the Social Behaviour Change area, staffing costs were 64% of overall allocation, with grants to partners 21%.
Ineffective coordination mechanisms and lack of strategic orientation in most of the Child Protection Working Groups/Sub-Committees impacted on efficiency. Country platforms for governance of child protection systems are weak. The absence of implementation plans for child protection legislation, which would guide some parts of the system, and without national policies or plans to encompass and steer a wider array of stakeholders toward a shared agenda, the programme funds and support in both outcome streams are closer to a collection of unlinked projects.

“If they do want to work, do one thing well rather than a bit here and there. If their piecemeal bits were building on other things and linking in, then it would be fine - but it’s not.” Regional Stakeholder

In some cases, weak coordination with other development partners has led to inefficiencies not only for UNICEF, but for other partners, some of whom are also funded by DFAT.

“UNICEF doesn't have strong sense of system. They've developed their plan with no consultation or reference with our program” National Stakeholder

Approaches to rolling out the community facilitation package and community child protection pilots have not been designed efficiently or effectively. UNICEF aimed to tailor and replicate the community facilitation model, Children are a Precious Gift from God, in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati after perceived success in Fiji. Rollout of the approach involved investment in a range of activities, including testing and validation. There was not, however, a clear programme logic, assumptions, implementation and programming guidance, of indicators of planned change and impact, in any of the countries. The decision to replicate the approach was not done on the basis of a rigorous evaluation of the results and impact in Fiji. Significant resources were also expended on ongoing ‘community pilots’ in Vanuatu. The Review found that stakeholders were not able to articulate a clear logic or results well linked to the programme’s overarching theory of change, and that overall, did not represent a managed approach to results.

In Vanuatu, for example, a group of community facilitators were trained in the package, but none reported having delivered it in its entirety, and most only provided varying
sessions on awareness raising, in part because they were without resources to deliver it fully, but also they reported lacking confidence in the material, not having viable community entry points, and not having wider support and referral pathways. The programme has not structured the process in a way that changes can be measured, including in participants’ knowledge, behaviors, and skills, but also changes in communities and impacts on children. In Kiribati, there is also evidence that some facilitators are using the package primarily as a reference manual (versus a sequential, cohesive package), along with other resources.

Social Behavior Change spending, including the package and related investments, represented nearly one third (27%) of overall programme expenditure over the cycle.

“Community piloting took a lot of resourcing and we knew we wouldn’t be able to carry it on for a long time. The idea was to develop clear lessons learned that we could feed into a national model. From (government) we were hearing “enough of piloting and community-based child protection testing”. It needs to be brought to a head and all the lessons brought in to be rolled out”. Regional stakeholder

“On-going piloting – I don’t think there are too many mysteries left”.

5.4 Focus on results

Funds and expertise could be better used to achieve results through assessing and prioritising partners ready for support and developing targeted strategies. A range of exercises – the Baseline Reports, the GIF Assessments, and various evaluations and reviews, identified the need for better mapping and analysis. Many partners do not have the capacity, or lack political will internally, to ensure UNICEF funds contribute to advancing wider programme and country goals, and the Review found little evidence, on both macro and micro levels, that there was adequate guidance by UNICEF on investment decisions, sequencing, needed advocacy to ensure good outcomes, etc., in each country.

“...We can't move further (on strengthening services) without having service delivery organisations in countries. With VAW, we were funding the violence against women organisations, lobbying, etc....” Regional Stakeholder
The programme delivery strategy provided direct funding to partners and their activities, frequently without associated programming, technical support, quality assurance, or a clearly defined link to outcomes. In Vanuatu, one stakeholder remarked that the programme “handed over CPOs to the province” without operational budgets or a design. In the facilitation packages, the Review found no evidence of an accompanying strategy, or deep understanding of expected outcomes, planned target groups, content and duration of the training of trainers, or any plan for monitoring. While countries are accountable for their own initiatives, and cost sharing agreements are often compromised due to low capacity and/or resourcing, there was an uneven focus on managing for the results expected, and ensuring the quality and value of each of the investments.

5.5 Conclusions

- The gaps in leadership during the programme period, disasters in Fiji and the region, approaches to responding to country requests, and weak capacity and coordination in countries overstretched capacity and had a significant impact on programme efficiency.

- There is a limited appreciation among most partners of a shared goal for a holistic, coordinated child protection system, resulting in a fragmented, project-oriented response in most countries. Identifying explicit causal pathways with each country – a mapping and assessment beyond the Annual Work Plans - that describes in more detail the changes, strategies, risks, assumptions envisioned, and measures of change, is needed, along with support to child protection coordination mechanisms.

- Funds and expertise could be better used to achieve results through assessing and prioritising partners’ readiness for funding support, identifying realistic technical and institutional requirements, and increasing support to collaborative child protection mechanisms, including help in tracking and measuring results beyond activity updates.

- Providing technical support to partners more directly, along with funds, would better ensure results and their quality. The results of the scale-out of the community facilitation package and scale up of the community child protection
pilots were not well linked to the programme logic, and should be revisited before further investment. A careful consideration of what is realistic and achievable for future phases of the programme, and the support needed to achieve it, is important in order to retain the gains to date and ensure future investments provide good value for money.
6 Programme Sustainability

This section assesses the sustainability of the Pacific Child Protection programme’s outputs and outcomes. It includes consideration of:

- The extent to which the design and implementation contributed to sustainability of national child protection systems
- The factors that constrained or enhanced sustainability
- The extent to which partners are likely to sustain the knowledge, capacity, skills, and benefits of the programme

6.1 Contribution of the design to sustainable results

The programme design is broadly structured around a child protection systems strengthening approach, which is conducive to achieving sustainable outcomes. Investments are balanced across legal and policy framework strengthening, building the capacity of service providers, and increasing the abilities of families, communities and children to protect children. Advancing three dimensions concurrently: an enabling policy environment, the supply of quality services, and demand for and capacity to access services, in theory advances to long-term sustainability, although in practice, these aspects have not been well linked in each country.

National programming has largely flowed from the findings from UNICEF’s Baseline reports, which identified child protection priorities and key system bottlenecks. In principle, this contributes to sustainability, although the recommendations for many of the Baseline reports were extensive, and not always taken up by leaders. Many of the Baseline reports are nearly ten years old and require updating.

Nauru published a Baseline report in the current programme cycle, bringing the number of Pacific Island countries with Baseline reports to ten. The Governance Indicator Frameworks for Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands did not inform programming or support monitoring progress, and there is little evidence to suggest that this cycle’s design was based on a ‘refreshed’ understanding of the status or on child protection system priorities in each country.
The programme does not define thresholds for reducing or withdrawing programme support. The theory of change is based on building strong national child protection systems and enabling community environments that protect boys and girls from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect. However there are no clear trigger points in place for a responsible reduction or withdrawal of financial and/or technical support.

6.2 Contribution of programme implementation to sustainability

Supporting the establishment of new laws is, by nature, a sustainable investment. However, UNICEF has not consistently focused on supporting governments with planning for or building capacities required to enact the new laws, including through costed implementation plans. For example, there is no implementation plan for the 2014 Child Protection law Kiribati and the Child and Family Welfare System Policy and the Implementing Framework, Human Resources Plan and Costing undertaken in Solomon Islands in 2013 is yet to be updated in line with the new law.

“I think not having an implementation plan is a big part – if we had a plan, we could see what we need, what part to play.” National stakeholder

Working in partnerships and a focus on institutionalising systems in Governments has contributed to the sustainability of results in birth registration coverage and rates. While stakeholders in Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu reported birth certificates are currently not essential to secure access to services and resources, they provide children with the fundamental right to an identity and are a priority for child protection system building. Despite uneven coverage and registration rates across the programme region, processes in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati are now fairly well embedded in Government systems and are expected to endure and improve, even if UNICEF withdraws support. Pacific countries may continue to have an ongoing need for external technical and financial assistance to progress newborn registration rates, and UNICEF’s efforts in this area should be focused on encouraging government ownership and allocation of resources to strengthen birth registration systems.

Vanuatu has a bespoke civil registration management information system (MIS) developed through the long-term support of an Australian volunteer, and subsequent contracting by UNICEF. Efforts have been made in this programme cycle to transfer the
source code for the system to Government to ensure its sustainability should the developer not be available to provide support, an important achievement.

Where further investments are needed, they do not need to fall to UNICEF. In Solomon Islands, for example, efforts to increase the proportion of children who are named at birth – the next priority for improved real-time birth registration – is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, and supported by the WHO. UNICEF, however, remains concerned that newborn registration coverage could decline without its ongoing support, which would be gradually reduced.

**Regional models for building child protection stakeholder capacity are needed to increase sustainability of outcomes.** Emergent discussions with Pacific TAFE and ChildFund on developing social worker training products for the region could help to institutionalise social worker training, accreditation and supervision into regional training institutes. SPC’s Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) review laws and provide support on compliance with human rights treaties and building the capacity of national governments on implementation, however, they are not explicitly focused on child protection laws and implementation. Strengthening partnerships and clearly defining the divisions of labour between agencies could help to embed legislative revision into national law reform systems more sustainably, while offering efficiency and effectiveness dividends.

**Sustainability has not been an explicit priority in programme implementation.** While the design of the programme has a clear systems-strengthening focus, the implementation has reverted to more of a project-based approach. Many of the training-based programme investments - including the community facilitation package – appear to have been designed and delivered without due consideration of the substantial resources required for follow-up.

**Factors that constrain and enhance sustainability**

**There are varying levels of ‘dependency’ on UNICEF’s assistance.** Since 2015, the Government of Fiji has increasingly allocated funds for child protection, a significant achievement in terms of programme sustainability. As a result of this, Fiji’s requests for funding to UNICEF have been more limited, and are considered more a matter of
convenience and to achieve buy-in for activities that may not yet be supported by Government. In constrast, in Solomon Islands, child protection is almost entirely dependent on UNICEF funding, and in Vanuatu, the community child protection pilot projects are fully contingent on UNICEF-funded staff.

“If UNICEF is not here, I don’t know (what) it would look like for those provinces – (they are) funding activities to educate people” National stakeholder

Given that child protection systems strengthening is a progressive process, drawing other development partners into supporting child protection system strengthening is an important sustainability measure, but this has not been a strength of the programme in this cycle. In Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, development and government partners have focused on EVAW, but most stakeholders agreed that interventions in this area are not designed to meet the explicit needs of children. There is a need for UNICEF to engage more strategically both at regional and national levels to influence EVAW programme interventions to ensure that the protection needs of boys and girls who are victims, witnesses or perpetrators are met, including through referral pathways into child protection services.

Ongoing discussions with ChildFund, USP and TAFE, recent coordination meetings with UN Women and RRRT, and the renewed dialogue in Vanuatu with DFAT’s Policing and Justice Programme, are positive examples where UNICEF has begun to deepen its engagement with relevant development partners. Save the Children and World Vision International are already working collaboratively on child protection in some countries, but the relationship with UNICEF is uneven, and in some countries, there is ample room for improvement. A stronger alliance with actors like Save the Children and World Vision International could help to amplify UNICEF’s advocacy for strong and sustainable Government-led child protection systems. Other UN agencies, such as UN Women, also offer potential for coordinated UN support, particularly related to ending violence against women and girls. In some countries, UNICEF has Project Cooperation Agreements in place with both Save the Children and World Vision for child protection emergency responses; this positive step could provide an entry point for further extending these relationships outside of emergency contexts.
There is limited evidence that the programme actively influenced national planning and budgeting processes for child protection systems strengthening. In Solomon Islands, the removal of the Policy, Advocacy, Planning and Evaluation position from the field office was considered by one stakeholder as having eroded UNICEF’s competencies to support this kind of work:

“They've not come in to say, ‘Here is UNICEF – we’re here to help you restructure or improve on planning,’ because they used to have a planning officer but don’t have that anymore.” National stakeholder

In Fiji, a national stakeholder considered that in addition to support for Government, UNICEF could focus more on research to bring partners together and develop evidence based plans to address child protection priorities. Several regional stakeholders agreed that child protection system strengthening in Fiji was more likely to continue without UNICEF, due to it being more mature and embedded, with a budget for continued work.

**Fostering national ownership of child protection systems requires high-level champions and advocates at country and regional levels.** One stakeholder noted how gender equality advocacy included mobilising high level champions to advance EVAW as a national priority, a useful strategy for child protection. Strong communication on the importance and effectiveness of investing in child protection systems is critical to building support, but as one regional stakeholder noted, “Right now we can’t tell the story.”

**6.3 Conclusions**

- Deepening alliances for child protection, including with key international NGOs, and fostering links between child protection and other related interventions, such as efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls and to improve law and justice, are key strategies to improving the sustainability of outcomes.

- Explicitly identifying and incorporating sustainability benchmarks and pathways is important to the programme’s design and theory of change, including clearly defining when and how UNICEF should responsibly withdraw and which areas of the programme may require ongoing investments.
• Increased attention to developing child protection institutional arrangements, including strong planning and budgeting processes, will help to strengthen the sustainability of UNICEF’s investments in child protection.
7 Recommendations

The Review recommends that:

1. UNICEF’s Child Protection programme is continued to ensure gains in prevention and response to Pacific children’s protection related risks are sustained. Any future funding for the programme should be based upon;
   
   a. A revised overall programme theory grounded in available national and regional research and an up-to-date analysis that articulates underlying assumptions and determines an appropriate level of ambition for the expected results.
   
   b. A clearly defined programme pathway in each country that outlines intervention sequencing, realistic timeframes, robust indicators linked to outcomes, and a well-defined articulation of UNICEF’s comparative advantage for the selected areas of intervention.
   
   c. An agreed value for money rubric that establishes a more explicit, shared understanding of and accountability for programme resources, including for coordination among development partners, and consideration of sustainability of results.

2. UNICEF reassess the mix of skills in management, administration and technical functions for new phases, and develops a strategy for drawing on quality short-term technical assistance effectively, ensuring that all roles are properly defined, resourced and supported, and contingencies built in to the programme in the event of staff turnover.

3. UNICEF leads on advocacy for national and regional coordination of child protection system strengthening, including through investment in child protection governance bodies and multi-sectoral coordination platforms; targeted support to the development of national child protection policy frameworks; and support to the development and monitoring of context-specific indicators to track progress. The work on national priority setting, sequencing and synchronization should draw on regional experience, including VAWG, to inform approaches and the process.
4. UNICEF leads a systematic assessment of child protection system pathways and strategies, and identifies achievements, challenges, and entry points for building child protection systems in the Pacific context. This should include an analysis of opportunities for convergence, and synergies between child protection systems and other protection systems, such as those related to VAWG, in order to better address the multidimensionality of children’s risk and vulnerability, and gender based violence.

5. Provide technical and financial support to set up a simple and context-appropriate tool to map, assess and monitor national and local child protection systems across the region.

6. Deepen, and formalize where appropriate, institutional and operational partnerships with stakeholders working on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and law and justice, and reinforce operational alignment across UNICEF’s new Country Programme, to strengthen child protection in key sectors, including health and education.

7. Consolidate evidence on violence against children (VAC) and consider other means, such as new studies and analysis of administrative data, to assess and measure VAC and its consequences, and to convey urgency among policy makers to respond.

8. Develop a strategic communications plan and user-friendly tools for national and regional stakeholders to convey messages about child protection systems strengthening as a means of preventing and responding to violence against children.
8 SOLOMON ISLANDS COUNTRY REPORT

This Annex presents findings on UNICEF’s Child Protection Programme in Solomon Islands, based on field work and site visits undertaken from 4 - 7 September, 2017 in Honiara. The Review Team conducted 17 interviews with 23 of UNICEF’s programme partners and stakeholders. All data sources are outlined in Annexes of this report.

1. Country Context

Solomon Islands is comprised of six main islands and more than 900 smaller islands in the South Pacific. It has an estimated population of 653,248 and ranks 156th out of 188 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index.  

More than 80% of people live in rural communities, and over half of the population is under 20 years old. Most people depend on subsistence activities (agriculture and fishing) for some part of their livelihood. Migration from rural areas is growing.

Over 70 languages are spoken throughout the country with English as the official language; however, Solomon Islands Pijin is the lingua franca and is widely used for communication. Education is not compulsory or free.

An internal armed conflict lasting from 1998 to 2003 resulted in deaths, internal displacement, and nearly collapsed the economy, infrastructure and public institutions, with a high toll on social services. An international response, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), operated from 2003-2017, and was aimed at restoring law and order and rebuilding the machinery of government, particularly in the law and justice sector.

2. Overview of Child Protection Issues in Solomon Islands


After 8 years in development, the Children and Family Welfare Act was passed in Parliament in February 2017. It has not yet been gazetted and resources have not been allocated to support implementation, including strengthening institutional and enforcement mechanisms.

**Institutions and services** - The Social Welfare Department (SWD) of the Ministry of Health and Human Services is the primary government agency responsible for child welfare and protection services. It has considerable resource and capacity limitations, delivering services with only two Child Protection Officers (CPO) in Honiara, and five based in nine provinces, most without formal social work qualifications. There is debate about the current positioning of the SWD in the Ministry of Health, with some suggestions that it may be transitioned to Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs.

The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) Child Development Division (CDD) is responsible for research, planning, implementing and monitoring child related policies. MWYCFA has 7 staff positions and serves as the Secretariat to a multi-sectoral National Advisory Action Committee to Children (NAACC) that oversees, advises on and monitors children’s issues.

The NAACC is the central coordinating body for implementation and monitoring of CRC. The NACCC facilitated the development of the National Children’s Policy and the Plan of Action was done in consultation with NGOs, CSOs and government agencies. NAACC evaluates the impact of activities by business corporations such as logging and mining industries likely to affect children’s rights.

The SWD leads the *Working Group and Task Force on Child Protection*. MWYCFA allocates regular budget to support the functions of the NAACC, including a designated coordinator focused mainly on CRC monitoring and reporting.
Some local organisations, such as the Family Support Centre and the Christian Care Centre, deliver social welfare services, including counselling, community education and legal services on domestic violence.

**Violence against women** - There are extremely high rates of gender-based violence in Solomon Islands. Almost two thirds (64%) of women aged 15 to 49 having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in an intimate relationship. Violence against women is largely normalized – in a recent nationally representative survey, 57% of men and 77% women reported they believed violence against women is justified in some circumstances.

Women who report they are victims of intimate partner violence are significantly more likely to report that a current or previous partner had abused their children emotionally, physically and/or sexually (35% versus 11%). Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are 4.5 times more likely to have children who were also abused than those who had not experienced partner violence.

Some customary practices in Solomon Islands, including payment of bride price, can result in situations not in the best interest of the child, including early marriage.

**Violence against children** - Violent discipline is a widely accepted social norm in Solomon Islands and child abuse rates are among the highest in the Pacific. Most children endure forms of violent discipline (86%), and nearly a quarter (22%) experience severe physical punishment.

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32 Ibid.

33 Ibid.


Child sexual abuse is considered prevalent and perpetrators are mainly family members, friends and teachers. In a nationally representative study, 37% of women aged 15-49 reported having been sexually abused before they were 15. Of women who experienced intimate partner violence, almost half (49 percent) also experienced child sexual abuse.

*Traditional Practices* - Informal, *kastom* systems of adoption are common in Solomon Islands. Traditional forms of redress (compensation) for grievances, including settlements based on shell money, food, and cash, are common. The frequency of child protection cases decided outside the formal justice system likely contributes to low levels of reporting.

*Children in conflict with the law* - There are no formal diversion options for children who commit crimes. Children are often informally diverted back to the community where kastom/traditional processes may be applied, including for sexual assault cases.

*Birth registration* - About 88% of births of children under age 5 years are registered in Solomon Islands, although only 26% of those registered have a birth certificate. There is some discrepancy in data however, due to administration backlogs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background Characteristic</th>
<th>Children whose births are registered</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Number of children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Percentage who had a birth certificate</td>
<td>Percentage who did not have birth certificate</td>
<td>Percentage registered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


38 Ibid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Under 2</th>
<th>2-4</th>
<th>5-9</th>
<th>10-14</th>
<th>15-24</th>
<th>25+</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;2</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>1642</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>2490</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>2133</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. UNICEF Child Protection Programme

UNICEF’s child protection programme in Solomon Islands aims to build a protective environment for children free from violence, abuse and exploitation. Solomon Islands is one of the three priority countries in the current programme cycle, and UNICEF’s presence is strong, including a full-time Child Protection Officer and an international Child Protection Specialist for 60% of the time, shared with Vanuatu.

The 2008 Baseline report established a blueprint for framing UNICEF’s subsequent programming, including the 2014-2017 cycle.

UNICEF invested approximately 1,145,143.87 USD in Solomon Islands during this cycle (excluding field support and other costs).

4. Achievements, Supportive Factors and Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Supportive Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Child and Family Welfare Act passed 2017</td>
<td>- Strong multi-stakeholder model for birth registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Major contributors to advocacy and dissemination of the Child and Family Welfare Protection Act (CFWP)</td>
<td>- Advocacy group mobilised for passing the CFWP Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Review of the CRVS</td>
<td>- Child Protection Officer a strong and experienced rights-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Birth registration systems improved and coverage increased</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Some increased awareness of and momentum on child protection</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Community Facilitation Manual (the FacPac) finalised and field tested</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

65
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>advocate, adept at operating at multiple levels (community, government, leadership)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional human resource</strong> - Child Protection Specialist for 60% of the time from 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical support to the passing of the Family Protection Act enabled strong working relationship with rights based coalitions, understanding of technical and political dynamics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strong relationships and commitment with the MYWFCA leadership</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work on EVAW, including SAFENET and its newer governance structure, CARCOM, paving the way for a systems approach to responding to violence</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Challenges

- Staff overstretched – CP Specialist operated as OIC, CP Officer providing wide and deep coverage and support to stakeholders. Risk of burnout.
- Heavy time investment on activities related to birth registration
- Weak country institutional capacity, very low investment in the Department of Social Welfare
- Limited funding for child protection beyond UNICEF programme, no bilateral programme or specialist staff, NGOs not working on systems
- Limited political leadership for Violence against Children
- Child Protection Working Group not operating strategically
- Risk of slowed momentum after Act endorsed, strategy, sequencing, support to implementation weak
- FACPAC strategy not evidence based, provincial piloting model risky

### Future Considerations

- Strong need for engaging political champions, developing an evidence base, and forming a strategy and crisp message for ending violence against children and developing strong child protection
- A refreshed mapping and assessment leading to a costed multi-sectoral plan that includes baseline values, targets and indicators for the wider child protection system is critical.
- The child protection coordination mechanism needs resourcing and strengthening.
- Work on EVAW is highly visible in Solomon Islands. There is a need for clearer analysis of VAW and VAC intersections and the connections in practice.
- Child protection links to SAFENET are not clear. The same institutions and people – need for better understanding of gaps, overlaps and areas for synergy.
- The child protection aspects of the FPA need elevation and a greater child protection perspective mainstreamed in EVAW more generally, including through ensuring child protection standards, protocols and services are aligned and ensure appropriate responses to child victims, witnesses and perpetrators.
- Data on VAC is limited in scope and depth, but what exists not being fully leveraged. Data on the nature of VAC prevalence, contributing factors of VAC could be helpful in SI as a way to drive urgency and subsequent advocacy.
9 VANUATU COUNTRY REPORT

4.1 Country Background

Vanuatu is a lower middle-income archipelago in Melanesia. The country is made up of 83 islands spanning 1,750 kilometres. The 2015 Mini-Census found a total population of 272,459, of which 43 per cent (117,896) are children. Vanuatu was ranked first in the 2016 World Risk Index, highlighting its extreme vulnerability to disasters, including due to climate change. During this programme cycle, for example, 2015’s Tropical Cyclone Pam devastated much of the country.

4.2 Overview of Child Protection in Vanuatu

While there is limited up-to-date data on the prevalence, trends and drivers of violence against children in Vanuatu, existing data highlights that many children are at risk of all forms of violence. According to the 2013 DHS, 83.3 per cent of parents reported using violent discipline on children aged 2-14 year, with 37.7 reporting severe physical punishment, 72.4 per cent reporting any physical punishment, and 77.8 per cent reporting psychological aggression. Bullying and violence in schools affects many students: 50.5 per cent of students aged 13-15 (59.9 per cent of males and 41.8 per cent of females) report having been in physical fights within the previous 12 months, while 67.3 per cent of students (68 per cent of males and 66.5 per cent of females) reported bullying in the past 12 months.

Gender-based violence, including sexual violence, is a significant issue. 60 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-49 years report having experienced intimate-
partner violence. A majority of adolescents show accepting attitudes towards domestic violence: 62.5 per cent of boys aged 15-19 and 59.5 per cent of girls aged 15-19 report that a husband can be justified in beating his wife. Of concern, 30 per cent of girls experience sexual abuse by the age of 15 years. Claims have been made that incest rates in Vanuatu against girls aged 15 years are among the highest in the region. Although child marriage is prohibited by law, 21 per cent of girls are married by age 18.

According to the 2013 DHS, 23.8 per cent of children are living in foster arrangements away from both parents. There is limited data on the protection risks for particularly vulnerable groups of children, including those living with disabilities.

Vanuatu’s 2014 child protection system governance indicators framework found that: there was good open collaboration, particularly for civil registration and vital statistics; Government is flexible and open to innovation; and strong public financial management and personnel accounting and transparent and inclusive legislative reform processes. On the other hand, there was a lack of mechanisms to incorporate learning from previous adverse experiences; a lack of mechanisms to ensure oversight and quality of services; weak coordination mechanisms to foster collaborative responses to child protection priorities; and limited platforms to support evidence-informed policy development and resource allocation.

### 4.3 UNICEF Child Protection in Vanuatu

UNICEF’s child protection programme in Vanuatu seeks to strengthen the national child protection system while also building demand for a strong protective

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46 Harmful Connections
49 Governance Indicator Framework
environment for children. Vanuatu is one of three priority countries in the current programme cycle. UNICEF has a strong in-country presence in Vanuatu, with a Field Office in Port Vila that has a full-time Child Protection Officer in place. In addition, an international child protection specialist based in Honiara and travelling periodically to Vanuatu allocates 40 per cent of their time to supporting the programme.

The 2008 Baseline report, conducted by UNICEF and the Government of Vanuatu, provided the blueprint for UNICEF’s future child protection investments in Vanuatu. This baseline is now almost 10 years old, and therefore the findings require some updating and re-testing.

4.4 Programme Components and Partners

The Vanuatu Work Plan is implemented by the following partners:

- Ministry of Justice and Community Services
- Vanuatu Judiciary
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Vanuatu Police Force
- Wan Smol Bag
- Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
- Ministry of Education and Training
- Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities (through small grant support)

UNICEF invested approximately USD 713,000 in Vanuatu-specific activities during this programme cycle (excluding field support and other costs): approximately 21 per cent of the total funding available. Indeed, Vanuatu had the largest funding share of any single country during the programme cycle.

UNICEF’s child protection investments in Vanuatu during this programme cycle have included support for: advocacy to develop a child protection law; amendment of the Civil Status Registration Act; developing Practice Directives for the Judiciary; training of police on the Police Guidelines for young people in contact with the law; training of stakeholders on child protection in emergencies; strengthen birth registration systems
and coverage; piloting child / family protection service network; giving children, parents and community leaders access to messages on positive parenting and child protection.

TC Pam in 2015 interrupted, and indeed significantly undermined, UNICEF’s planned activities in Vanuatu.

4.5 Key Issues in the Programme Context

There are excellent opportunities to strengthen stakeholder collaboration, and a risk of undermining progress without strong partnerships. The DFAT-funded Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Programme (VAPJP) have been investing almost as much money annually in child protection as UNICEF is - their annual budget has averaged around AU$ 250,000. Some of this investment was channelled through Save the Children to support community child-protection systems strengthening as well as to support the development of the National Child Protection Policy. There is a perception among some stakeholders that the DFAT and UNICEF investments have been operating in parallel and missing opportunities to consolidate and coordinate approaches. The fact that UNICEF has also been piloting community mechanisms while supporting the Children’s Policy offers some support for this perspective. The recently renewed dialogue with the VAPJP offers an excellent entry point to strengthen programme cohesion. The recent arrival of ChildFund, who are offering technical child protection training, has created another opportunity for collaboration if the linkages and complementarities between programmes can be defined.

Child protection is potentially a more palatable and non-controversial priority than the elimination of violence against women. There does not appear to have been much alignment between implementation of the Family Protection Act and child protection efforts, but there is a feeling that the sensitivities of family violence, a focus on violence against children as an entry point for protection systems might be tactical and acceptable.

The “Our Children are Our Future: A Community Workshop to Nurture and Support Children” facilitation package does not appear to be performing the way that UNICEF and the Government expect it to. There is currently limited design, strategy, structure for
delivery, and the theory of change is not well defined, and is not strongly grounded in evidence. The learning from the Save the Children pilot in Vanuatu was that some important but sensitive child protection issues such as sexual violence may not be getting addressed. It is unclear whether this is also an issue in UNICEF pilot areas. The manual took account of some previous work undertaken at community level, including the Save the Children model, but there is a perception among stakeholders that there was missed learning, and that the programme did not build on or complement existing investments well.

As yet, there are limited indications that the pilot child protection provinces are operating effectively. The Provincial Child Protection Committee was not able to articulate its purpose well. Most members sat on multiple committees, and some were experienced in the social sector. There was evidence of the committee’s aspiration to serve as a reporting and referral mechanism, but limited resources or capacity to deliver. In TAFEA, the Community Protection Officer, funded by UNICEF, has limited operational budget and limited support from UNICEF, but is well connected and respected.

At the community level, there was limited evidence of active awareness raising, child protection actions, community resource mobilisation, reporting/referral, or support to vulnerable families or children. Not all key stakeholders – such as the health officer, chiefs, and teachers – were members of the Committee, or engaged in developing solutions such as Child Protection Plans. The community child protection committee visited comprised mainly women and a pastor, and it was unclear how the membership had been designed. At the community level, the Community Protection Officer had limited engagement due to inadequate resources to travel to the village.

UNICEF’s child protection investments in Vanuatu are less directly focused on the specific threats of violence facing girls and boys. Sexual violence is a priority concern, and there are cultural barriers to reporting various forms of violence against children. As one stakeholder noted: "It’s this cultural thing – relatives know there is abuse, but they don’t want to report to the centre or the police". However, there is no evidence that UNICEF’s systems strengthening work and community capacity work is making good inroads into addressing these issues.
There is a lack of consensus as to what UNICEF’s comparative advantage is, raising the need for UNICEF to think through how best to position itself. Often UNICEF adds considerable value at the policy level, but it was Save the Children (through the Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program) that led on the National Child Protection Policy and implementation plan. At the same time, UNICEF moved directly into district and community-level implementation, a space that in many countries would be a better fit for NGOs like Save the Children (and a space in which they were already operating). The Implementation Plan for the Child Protection Policy can help to share UNICEF’s role moving forward.

Outputs and Outcomes 2014-2017

Laws and policies

- Support to draft Children’s Policy (in progress)
- Advocacy to begin development of a child protection bill

Services

- Limited financial support for training of Police
- Development of Police SOP
- Birth registration systems development
- Support to ongoing development of judicial practice directives

Community capacity

- Provincial and community child protection approach piloted in three districts across Tafea and Pentecost provinces, primarily through financing of Community Services Officers and funding for training
- “Our Children are Our Future: a Community Workshop to Nurture and Support Children” developed and partially rolled out in three areas across Tanna, Erromango and Pentecost islands
- Learning workshop on community-based child protection mechanisms completed

4.6 Key Achievements, Success Factors, Challenges, Future Considerations
Birth registration coverage among children under 5 increased from 40 per cent in 2014 to around 60-70 per cent in 2017. A key driver of this increase in coverage was the strategic decision to invest heavily in an outreach campaign to replace birth certificates and encourage registration in the aftermath of TC Pam. UNICEF funding for five officer positions –handed over to Government in 2015 – has also contributed to this success. UNICEF has helped to strengthen and institutionalise the birth registration system, making it more sustainable under the Government’s leadership. Drafting is underway for a civil registration and vital statistics law, although the key drivers of this law for Government are adult citizenship challenges, not children’s birth registration.

A police capacity evaluation was completed, but there is little evidence that the findings were catalytic in shifting approach of UNICEF, despite several important recommendations. The ‘no drop’ policy is reported to be working better now, though this may not be based on UNICEF’s contribution. The Police SOPs, developed with UNICEF support in the last funding cycle, provide a good basis for further work.

Going forward, UNICEF’s added value in strengthening police capacity for child justice is unclear. During this cycle, UNICEF has mostly provided minimal financial support, rather than more intensive technical assistance for child justice. Furthermore, the VAPJP look to be well-placed to support the upcoming revision and roll out of the SOP training at the Commissioner’s request. However UNICEF has an important role to play in ensuring a strong child rights lens is applied to future work.

The wrap-around support for community child protection interventions, grounded in evidence and financed appropriately, are critical. For example, the Ministry of Youth and Sports facilitators are young and are perceived to lack the status necessary to lead community discussions on child protection behaviour – there is no specific guidance to help them thrive in their role. The lack of an operational budget for to support the pilot districts, and the limited support for the Community Services Officers, have constrained progress in pilot areas.

Some activities make less clear contributions to the results framework than others. UNICEF’s policy focus has been on a broader Children’s Policy rather than the Child Protection Policy. While there will no doubt value be in a Children’s Policy once finalised, its specific relevance for improving children’s protection, particularly given there
is a Child Protection Policy in place, is less clear. Similarly, while birth registration is a right for all children, there was no compelling evidence that the investment in birth registration was contributing to children’s safety. In particular, the law that is currently being supported does not appear to be designed to address bottlenecks in birth registration.
10 KIRIBATI COUNTRY REPORT

Country Background

Kiribati is a lower middle-income country\(^{50}\) comprised of a series of 33 coral atolls and one volcanic island spread out over 810 square kilometres. Twenty-three of the islands are inhabited, but most of the population is concentrated in the capital of Tarawa.\(^{51}\) Preliminary results from the 2015 Census put the total population at 109,693\(^{52}\), with 42 per cent of population being under 18 years of age according to the previous 2010 Census\(^{53}\). Kiribati is profoundly vulnerable to the harmful impacts of climate change, including coastal erosion.

Overview of Child Protection in Kiribati

While there is limited up-to-date data on the prevalence, trends and drivers of violence against children in Kiribati, existing data highlights that many children are at risk of all forms of violence. According to a 2008 child protection baseline report\(^{54}\), 81 per cent of parents reported using physical discipline on children aged 2-14 year in the past 12 months. 35.3 per cent of students aged 13-15 (43.3 per cent of males and 28.5 per cent of females) report having been in physical fights within the previous 12 months. 36 per cent of these students (42.1 per cent of males and 32.2 per cent of females) reported bullying in the past 12 months.\(^{55}\)

Gender-based violence, including sexual violence, is a priority concern. Sixty-eight per cent of ever-married women aged 15-49 years report having experienced intimate-partner violence. A staggering 65 per cent of boys and 77 per cent of girls hold attitudes that justify wife-beating\(^{56}\). It bears noting that the acceptance rate among girls is the

\(^{50}\) https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups
\(^{51}\) https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/Child_Poverty_Hardship_in_Kiribati...pdf
\(^{52}\) http://prism.spc.int/regional-data-and-tools/population-statistics
\(^{53}\) http://prism.spc.int/reports/census
\(^{54}\) Baseline report
\(^{55}\) http://www.who.int/chp/gshs/2010_Kiribati_GSHS_Questionnaire.pdf?ua=1
highest of 60 countries studied in a 2014 UNICEF Report ‘Hidden in Plain Sight’. Nineteen per cent of girls experience sexual abuse by the age of 15 years. During our consultations, it was recognised that schools may not always provide a safe space for children, particularly girls – sexual harassment and abuse is considered a concern, including by teachers. Although child marriage is prohibited by law, 20 per cent of girls are married by age 18.

According to the 2009 DHS, around one in five children (22.4 per cent) do not live with a biological parent. For most of these children, both parents are still alive. As children age, the likelihood of living away from their parents increases. Indeed, 29.1 per cent of 15-17 year olds have two living parents but live away from them. This data supports the finding from the baseline report that many children move away from home for schooling. The potential protection risks associated with these children is not well researched – when consulted for this Review, the Ministry of Education reported an interest in better understanding the risks for children living out of their parent’s care, whether with relatives or in boarding facilities. There is limited data on the protection risks for particularly vulnerable groups of children, including those living with disabilities.

Kiribati’s 2014 governance indicators framework noted that the passing of the Children, Young Person and Family Welfare Act in 2012 signalled a new opportunity to strengthen the national child protection system, supported by: an openness to collaboration among stakeholders; space and platforms to encourage adaptation and innovation in the child protection system; and agility in evolving and strengthening child protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence. Conversely, the framework highlighted weaknesses measuring, understanding and responding to areas of poor performance; limited consensus among leaders of the status of the child protection system, including tracking the system’s performance delivering outcomes for children; and limitations in formulating actionable, relevant and realistic priorities for child protection systems strengthening.

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57 Coram. Situation Analysis.
58 Harmful Connections
60 http://sdd.spc.int/en/resources/document-library?view=preview&format=raw&fileId=145
61 Baseline report
62 Governance Indicator Framework
UNICEF Child Protection in Kiribati

UNICEF’s child protection programme in Kiribati seeks to strengthen the national child protection system while also building demand for a strong protective environment for children. Kiribati is one of three priority countries in the current programme cycle. UNICEF has a strong in-country presence in Kiribati, with a Field Office in Tarawa that also has a full-time Child Protection Officer in place.

The 2008 Baseline report, conducted by UNICEF and the Government of Kiribati, provided the blueprint for UNICEF’s future child protection investments in Kiribati. This baseline is now almost 10 years old, and therefore the findings require some updating and re-testing.

UNICEF invested approximately USD 281,000 of DFAT funds into Kiribati-specific activities during this programme cycle (excluding field support and other costs): approximately 8 per cent of the total funding available.

UNICEF’s child protection investments in Kiribati during this programme cycle have included support for: enacting and implementing the Juvenile Justice Act; implementing the Child, Young Person and Family Welfare Act; developing referral and reporting protocols for child protection; strengthening the capacity of child protection actors in responding to violence, including in emergencies; improving child justice approaches by the Police; strengthening birth registration systems; and developing and piloting a community facilitation package to promote child protection in family and community environments.

Programme Components and Partners

Consistent with the Multi-Country Programme results framework, the Kiribati Programme focused on child protection system strengthening and building the capacity of parents, caregivers and children to ensure a protective environment for children.

The Kiribati programme was implemented by the following partners:

- Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs
- High Court
Key Issues in the Programme Context

There is not consensus on the mandates, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. Government partners are not yet clear and in agreement on who has the lead role in implementing the Juvenile Justice Act. Well defined Implementation Plans for the Child, Young Person and Family Welfare Act and the Juvenile Justice Act are needed to clarify roles and responsibilities, which in turn would support clearer accountability between stakeholders.

Legislative reform has provided an excellent entry point for bringing together key stakeholders in the child protection system as a Working Group. This group appears to have been active and operating effectively. The challenge moving forward will be to secure an ongoing mandate for this group and to build a common understanding of how this group can coordinate child protection systems strengthening.

Staff turnover in UNICEF and in Government has hindered progress. Regulations for the Child, Young Person and Family Welfare Act were drafted in 2014-15 with UNICEF support, but “got lost” in a Ministerial restructure and have subsequently stalled. Similarly, there is some confusion as to the status of some investments made earlier in the programme cycle, which may have slipped due to staff changes.

The pilot Child Protection Facilitation programme (Fac Pac) may not be delivering the level of results that UNICEF envisages. While it is in its early implementation period, and consultations were limited, stakeholders understood it primarily as a parenting manual rather than a platform to support community-level child protection systems strengthening. There were some limited signs that the package influenced individual thinking and behaviour in terms of positive parenting – for example, one participant said they learned “speaking nicely to children and (to) not use a stick”. However, the package appears less effective at conveying protective messages for children: only one of the six
parents of girls interviewed had talked to their daughter about “bad touch” following the training.

**DFAT’s child safeguarding focus represents both an opportunity and a risk for child protection systems strengthening in Kiribati.** DFAT has a strong institutional focus on child safeguarding, which at times seems to be conflated with child protection systems strengthening. It will be important for UNICEF to define the value of a strong national child protection system in the context of DFAT’s Child Protection Policy while resisting the ‘pull’ into organisational child safeguarding policy work.

**UNICEF’s child protection investments in Kiribati are less directly focused on the specific threats of violence facing girls and boys.** Sexual violence is a priority concern. As one stakeholder acknowledged: you “can’t leave girls with uncles or in house with father alone”. However, UNICEF’s systems strengthening work and community capacity work is not directly addressing sexual violence prevention or response. Some stakeholders reported that children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to violence, however, work to understand or reduce risk is not a current programme focus.

**There are opportunities to enhance programme effectiveness through greater partnerships, particularly with investments focusing on ending violence against women and on justice.** Gender investments such as DFAT training for nurses can be better leveraged to secure gains for children. There is also interest by MWYSA to develop an MOU between GBV and child protection providers for better coordination. The DFAT bilateral programme helps to raise awareness of the two child protection laws in addition to the Family Peace Act, but there is no indication that UNICEF is actively influencing and leveraging this work. The absence of justice development partner coordination mechanism is perhaps compounding this missed opportunity. The RMNCAH is another useful entry point but again there is no clear UNICEF strategy for how to leverage this.

**The Police respond to clear instructions and protocols, but there is a need to increase policy dialogue with senior decision-makers.** Police acknowledged that the child justice SOPs have led to changes in behaviour even if attitudes towards children have remained unchanged. While most cases diverted, police acknowledged that children are kept with adults when cells are full, usually on weekends, so alternative solutions are
still needed. There seems to be a lack of dialogue with senior Police decision-makers about the importance of protecting children in contact with the law.

**Key Achievements, Success Factors, Challenges, Future Considerations**

**The Juvenile Justice Act was finalised and passed.** The priority moving forward is to ensure its full implementation, including through a costed implementation plan.

**UNICEF support to implementation of the Child, Young Person and Family Welfare Act was limited during the programme cycle.** While an implementation manual was developed and all social welfare assistants trained in its use early in the programme cycle, there has been limited progress since then, and an Implementation Plan to guide its roll-out has not been developed.

**Training of social welfare assistants appears to have contributed to an increased caseload.** While there is no hard data to support this claim, anecdotally the Ministry reports that cases in Tarawa have increased from around 1-3 per month to around 10 per month in Tarawa, and that in outer islands there are now 2-3 cases per month, whereas before there were almost no cases.

**The provision of 12 bicycles for four police stations in Tarawa appear to have been a cost-effective but valuable intervention.** The bikes are being used not only for regular patrols to increase police visibility – which was the intention of the bikes – but they’re also being used to help police to move quickly to respond to calls and to investigate cases, including VAW.
Under-5 birth registration increased from 82% at start of 2014 to 91% in mid-2017. While this is a relatively modest gain, given the high coverage levels any gain at this point in time is likely to be difficult to secure. Furthermore, birth registration systems, including hospital registration for newborns, seem to be operational and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistic Strategic Plan is almost complete. In moving forward, it is important to reconsider the importance of investing in birth registration – while the gains made to date need to be protected, other child protection priorities have a far greater potential to positively impact on children’s protection in the future.

An evaluation of police capacity to protect children offered a useful moment of strategic reflection, but the findings have not led to programme adjustments. There is awareness of the police evaluation findings and no demonstrable effort to address these findings.

UNICEF support has not been overly focused on supporting or strengthening frontline response services. While some work in training police and social welfare assistants has been completed, there is little sign of engagement in other response
services, including emergency shelter and support for victims. The role of UNICEF in Safenet remains unclear, but this is undoubtedly a potential opportunity.

Upcoming work with the Ministry of Education to refine and finalise their Child Protection Policy will be important, and indeed there appears to have been a missed opportunity to engage more strategically in this work during the programme cycle. There seem to be some critical protection issues facing children in school settings, including: sexual abuse by teachers (including some in primary school level); limited reporting options for children and teachers; increased risks for children living away from family for secondary school; and the need to strengthen SRHR and life skills for students. It is unclear how well UNICEF’s Education programme has been taking account of protection issues in school settings and incorporating into ongoing education support. However Ministry of Education is interested to better research child protection in education settings.

UNICEF support is valued by stakeholders but processes are perceived to be restrictive. The need to ensure accuracy of quarterly release requests have led to some activities being restricted or delayed, which in turn is perceived to have undermined programme delivery.

Stakeholders appear to have drawn more on UNICEF’s financial contributions than its technical expertise. Many stakeholders highlighted the financial support from UNICEF as being the primary, and valuable, contribution.
## ANNEX 1: STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Interview/Small group</th>
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<td>Brigitte Sonnois</td>
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<td>Helen Corrigan</td>
<td>Senior Programme Officer – Law and Justice</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
<td>Elison Bovu</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities</td>
<td>Paired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td>Judith Iakavai</td>
<td>Programme Manager</td>
<td>Vanuatu Society for People with</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Christina Lulu</td>
<td>OIC Field Office</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
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<td>Bare-Karae</td>
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<td>77</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Morris Kalornu</td>
<td>Project Officer – Markets for Change</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Vola</td>
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<td>Vanuatu Women's Centre</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
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<td>OIC Field Office</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Courtesy call</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Riwata Obetaia</td>
<td>Child Protection Officer</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Bruce Cowled</td>
<td>High Commissioner</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>Paired</td>
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<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Kakiateiti Erikate</td>
<td>Sr. Programme Manager, Health, Gender &amp; Disability</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>Paired</td>
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<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tongaua Kabunare</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
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<td>Small group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Mareina Aukitino</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Teitoiningaina, Catholic Women’s Association</td>
<td>Small group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Rikiaua Takeke</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
<td>KILGA</td>
<td>Small group</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td></td>
<td>Community Worker</td>
<td>Tetarabure Tiaon</td>
<td>Small group</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Sr. Rosarin Tataua</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>OLSH Crisis Centre</td>
<td>Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Kateti Toto</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary and OIC</td>
<td>Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs</td>
<td>Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tabotabo Auatabu</td>
<td>Principal Social Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs</td>
<td>Paired and Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tannako Temone</td>
<td>Senior Social Welfare Officer</td>
<td>Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs</td>
<td>Paired and Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Anne Ka</td>
<td>Senior Women’s Development Officer</td>
<td>Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tiensi Kaua</td>
<td>Registrar General</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>94</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Teriao Koria</td>
<td>Inspector, Community Policing</td>
<td>Kiribati Police Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Rutia Tewera</td>
<td>Assistant Coordinator, Community Policing</td>
<td>Kiribati Police Service</td>
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<td>96</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tumai Timeon</td>
<td>Senior State Attorney</td>
<td>Office of the Attorney General</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Reetina Katokita</td>
<td>Director, Policy, Planning and Development</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Missihoppin</td>
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<td>National Hospital</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Tiroia Teikake</td>
<td>Public Health Specialist</td>
<td>RMNCAH Program</td>
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<td>101</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Silina Fusimalohi / Motofaga</td>
<td>Coordinator, RMNCAH Program</td>
<td>UNFPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Katarina Tofinga</td>
<td>Country Programme Coordinator</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>Paired</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Eren Ietawa</td>
<td>Facilitation Package Participant</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Aroita Metita</td>
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<td>Tarome Tongabiri</td>
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<td>Tabwena Betero</td>
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<td>107</td>
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<td>Small group</td>
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<td>108</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
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<td>Small group</td>
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<td>109</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Ioanna Bwarata</td>
<td>Facilitation Package Participant</td>
<td>Betio</td>
<td>Small group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 2: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

UNICEF Documents

General Programme Documents
Proposal to DFAT
Programme Theory of Change
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2014-2017
Child Protection Work Plans
Annual Donor Reports
UNICEF Child Protection Strategy
Evaluation of Police Capacity Development on Child Protection in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu 2016
UNICEF Pacific Independent Completion Review 2008-2017
Activity Completion report 2013-2017
UNICEF Internal Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 2013 – 2017 Pacific Islands Multi-Country Programme in 2015
Draft UNICEF Situation Analysis 2017

Emergencies
Child Protection in Emergencies: A toolkit for practitioners in the Pacific Island Countries

Justice /Police
Kiribati Police SOP for Handling Young People in Contact with the Law
Fiji Police Pocket Guide; Kiribati Police Aide Memoire
Fiji Police SOP on Diversion
Fiji SOP on Handling Sexual Offences
Fiji SOP Police Register for Children

**Legislative Reform**
Kiribati Children Young Persons and Family Welfare Act 2013
Kiribati Juvenile Justice Act 2015
Nauru's Child Protection and Welfare Act 2016
Samoa's Child Care and Protection Bill
Solomon Island's Child and Family Welfare Bill
Vanuatu Juvenile Justice Practice Direction
Fiji: Children in Need of Protection; Children in Conflict with the Law; Community Based Corrections; Adoption Bill

**Case Studies**
Case Study on Narrowing the Gaps in Birth Registration: Born Identity Project Solomon Islands (short and long versions available)
Child Protection Case Study: Partnerships Promoting Birth Registration in Kiribati
Child Protection Case Study: How Ground-Breaking Legislation is Promoting Child Protection in Kiribati
Child Protection Case Study: Partnerships Lifting Birth Registration Numbers in Vanuatu
Child Protection Case Study: Children are a Precious Gift from God Community Facilitation Manual

**Governance Indicator Frameworks**
Child Protection System Governance Indicators Framework: Assessment Summary

Fiji

Child Protection System Governance Indicators Framework: Assessment Summary

Kiribati

Child Protection System Governance Indicators Framework: Assessment Summary

Solomon Islands

Child Protection System Governance Indicators Framework: Four Pacific Countries

Regional Overview

Violence against Children

Report on the Pacific Conference on Ending Violence against Children

Harmful Connections: Examining the relationship between violence against women and violence against children in the South Pacific

Baseline Reports

Protect me with Love and Care: A Baseline Report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Fiji (+ Fact Sheet also available)

Protect me with Love and Care: A Baseline Report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Kiribati (+ Fact Sheet also available)

Protect me with Love and Care: A Baseline Report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Solomon Islands (+ Fact Sheet also available)

Protect me with Love and Care: A Baseline Report for creating a future free from violence, abuse and exploitation of girls and boys in Vanuatu (+ Fact Sheet also available)

Review of the Child Protection System in Nauru (2016)
Child Protection Baseline Report for Samoa (2013)

The Republic of Palau Child Protection Baseline Report: Value and Protect Our Precious Resources: Our Children (+ Fact Sheet also available)

Child Protection Baseline Report Republic of the Marshall Islands: Value and Protect Our Precious Resources: Our Children (+ Fact Sheet also available)

Child Protection Baseline Report for the Federated States of Micronesia: Protect Me with Love and Care (+ Fact Sheet also available)

**Additional Country-Specific Documents**

Vanuatu Facilitation Package Manual

Kiribati Draft Facilitation Package Manual

Fiji Facilitation Package Manual

Kiribati National Youth Policy

Kiribati Women and Child Support Centre Child Protection Policy

Solomon Islands NAACC Meeting Minutes 2017-08-30

**Videos**

Vanuatu Civil Registration

Birth registration Solomon Islands

Birth registration Kiribati

**DFAT documents**

**Guidelines and templates**

DFAT (2013) DFAT Monitoring and Evaluation Standards – DFAT, Canberra, Australia


Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Women Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

http://www.pacificwomen.org/resources/pacific-women-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework/

**Reference documents**

Australian Aid: Promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability, 2014

DFAT Aid Quality Checks and Partner Performance assessments
### ANNEX 3: REVIEW TOOLS

**Information Sheet**

Thank you for your interest in the Child Protection Programme Review. Please read this information before deciding whether or not you wish to take part in the Review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the Review?</td>
<td>UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child. Together with its partners, UNICEF works to translate this commitment into practical action, especially for the most vulnerable children. UNICEF has commissioned Margot Szamier and Juliet Attenborough to conduct a review of its Pacific Child Protection programme. The findings will be used to inform decisions about refining the programme, and shaping future engagement with its funder, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why have I been asked to participate?</td>
<td>You/your organisation has been identified by UNICEF, DFAT, or another person/organisation as having a relationship or association with the Child Protection programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happens to the Review findings?</td>
<td>Your interview will be analysed, and combined with the findings from other stakeholders. A report will be provided to UNICEF, DFAT, and other partners. You may receive a copy of the Review report (subject to internal approval processes to the release of the report).</td>
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<tr>
<td>What’s involved?</td>
<td>We would like about one hour of your time to discuss your experiences with the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What questions will you ask me?</td>
<td>We will ask you questions about the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the Child Protection programme. You do not have to answer any questions that you feel uncomfortable with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I have to take part?</td>
<td>No - your participation is completely voluntary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will my information be kept confidential?</td>
<td>The reviewers will keep your information confidential. We will not share the information you provide in a way that you can be identified, without your permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can I change my mind?</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you can decide not to be involved at any time. You do not need to give a reason to withdraw and there will be no disadvantage to you/your organisation.</td>
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</table>
| **What if I have questions?** | Please email a member of the Review team, if you have questions about the Review:  
  - Margot Szamier – margot.szamier@gmail.com  
  - Juliet Attenborough – juliet@developmentpathways.co.uk |
In-depth Interview Guide

The following questions guided in-depth, semi-structured interviews with Review participants at regional and national levels. The questions were tailored to specific audiences, i.e., regional stakeholders were asked to comment from a regional perspective and national stakeholders were asked to comment from a national/local perspective, and not all question areas were used with all participants.

Introductions

- Introduce the Review and the Review team
- Explain informed consent
- Ask participant to give an overview of their role and involvement/relationship with the UNICEF Child Protection programme

1. Background/Context

- Describe the legislative and policy framework for Child Protection here?
  ⇒ Are there gaps? If so, what are these? (Please be specific)
  ⇒ How well does the legislation and policy framework cover the needs of boys and girls, of children with disabilities?
  ⇒ To what extent are the Child Protection laws aligned to the CRC?

- Describe the child protection system in the country.
  ⇒ Who are the key partners?
  ⇒ Who is responsible for monitoring child protection issues?
  ⇒ How is child protection work financed (donors, national budgets)?

  PROBE: data on birth registration coverage

- What protocols / procedures are in place to respond to child protection issues?
  PROBE: Response to child abuse reports, children in the justice system

- What interagency protocols and procedures are there for responding to cases?
What is working well? What is not working well?

- Is UNICEF providing support to any activities you are implementing?
  
  PROBE: funds, human resources, technical support, materials

2. Relevance

- Thinking over the last 3 years, what are the main Child Protection issues (risks/threats) for girls and boys in this country, and in the region?

- How has your organisation's work/partnership with UNICEF contributed to addressing these? Please give examples.

- To what extent is UNICEF’s Child Protection programme suited to your country's priorities?

- What are the other organisations, mechanisms or approaches in this country/the region working on Child Protection? What are their relative strengths and weaknesses?

- How is the UNICEF programme unique in supporting Child Protection needs/priorities, compared to other agencies/organisations? Are there gaps or duplication?

- Are there opportunities to improve coordination and strategic focus on current and/or emerging Child Protection issues? Please give examples.

3. Effectiveness

- What have been the main outcomes achieved by UNICEF to protect children and adolescents in this country? Please give examples
⇒ Did the programme achieve or contribute to changes in Child Protection systems (i.e., policy, legislation, budgeting for CP, structures, networks, capacity, procedures, etc.)?

⇒ Did the project achieve or bring about any changes in the protective role of parents or communities (i.e., establishment of referral systems, community based mechanisms, etc.)

PROBE: gender and age specific results

- What were UNICEF’s main challenges in making progress toward outcomes and outputs? Are there still gaps, and if so, where?

- Have you observed changes in governments’ and/or civil society’s capacity and/or willingness to address Child Protection issues? If so, how?

- Which components of the programme were most effective in improving Child Protection, and why? Which areas of the programme are weaker? Please give examples.

- Does the program offer the right mix of activities to achieve the intended outcomes? Which activities, if any, should be refined or discontinued?

- Which kinds of partnerships were most effective in delivering outputs and outcomes in protecting children, and why?

⇒ What aspects of the Child Protection programme do partners consider most valuable?

Probe: Justice, police, civil servants, gov’t leaders, service providing agencies, health, teachers, civil society organisations, churches/faith leaders, community leaders, parents, children)
4. Efficiency

- How does UNICEF’s programme model contribute to or constrain progress toward outcomes?
  
  Probe: Partnering with government, partnering with civil society, UNICEF CP Officers, the UN system, etc.

- What parts of programme management and operations are working well and why? What parts of programme management and operations are not working well and why?
  
  ⇒ PROBE: human resources, technical support, training, community facilitation, delivery modality

- Have the programme’s resources been sufficient/appropriate to achieve its outputs and outcomes?

  PROBE: funds, expertise, time, procedures, regulations, administrative costs, etc.

- Are there models or alternative approaches/modes of delivering the programme that could work as well in achieving the same outputs?

  PROBE: activities, design, approaches, etc., for each of the areas of focus

- (If known) Could the same outcomes have been achieved with less money?

5. Sustainability

- To what extent will countries and partners be likely to sustain the knowledge, capacity, networks, and other benefits of UNICEF’s support?

  ⇒ What will contribute to this? What factors will constrain it?
• What else is required to enhance the sustainability of improved Child Protection systems in your country?

• How could UNICEF and DFAT work together in relevant sectors, i.e., law & justice, disability, gender, etc., to enhance the sustainability of improved Child Protection systems?

6. Lessons Learned

• Are there any lessons you/your organisation have learned through your engagement with the UNICEF Child Protection programme that you want to share?

• What improvements could be made in the next phase of the programme?

• Are there any other comments you would like to make that we didn’t cover in this interview?

THANK AND CLOSE
Field Visit and Programme Site Guide

*In addition to the In-depth Interview Guide (above), the following questions were used to guide consultations and inquiry at programme site visits.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilitation Package and Community Child Protection Systems Site Visits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Describe how the community facilitation program was implemented in your community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Who participated? Probe: Police, Education, Local Government, Community Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Were children involved?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> How was the program implemented?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• What were the steps taken?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• What was UNICEF’s role in the program?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• What was the Government’s role in the program?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> What did the community think about the program?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Did different people have different reactions to it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What did people like? What didn’t they like?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4.</strong> Does this community have a Child Protection Plan? If yes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describe how this plan is implemented (including financing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Who is responsible for the plan?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• How is it monitored?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Can we see the Plan?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.</strong> Have there been any changes in the community as a result of the programme?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Examples of changes in behavior (parents / caregivers; communities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Describe any resistance by community members or unintended consequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.</strong> How well did the programme address issues related to violence against children?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.</strong> How do you think the program could be improved in future?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Birth Registration Related Site Visits

8. What proportion of children in your community do you think have their births registered?
   - Are certain children more likely than others to be registered? If so, which ones are more likely to miss out?
   - What are the main barriers to birth registration?
   - What could be done to improve birth registration?

9. Describe any programs or support available in schools or the community that keep children safe?
   - Who supports these programs?
   - How safe do you think schools are for children?
   - What could be done to improve children’s protection in school settings?

### Child protection committee related Site Visit

10. Please describe any protocols / procedures / SOPs that you use to respond to child protection cases
    - Probe: responding to child abuse reports; processing children through the justice system
    - Which agencies are covered by these – single agency or inter-agency?
    - What do you think is the purpose of these protocols / procedures / SOPs?
    - What do you think is working well – or not working well – in terms of working together to respond to cases?
    - Have you been trained in their use?
    - Have they been printed / published? If so, can we see them?

### Facilitation Package and Community Child Protection Systems Site Visits
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
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<td>- Were children involved?</td>
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<td>4.8</td>
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<td>What did the community think about the program?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>How do you think the programme could be improved in future?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birth Registration Related Site Visits
### 4.14
What proportion of children in your community do you think have their births registered?
- Are certain children more likely than others to be registered? If so, which ones are more likely to miss out?
- What are the main barriers to birth registration?
- What could be done to improve birth registration?

### 4.15
Describe any programs or support available in schools or the community that keep children safe?
- Who supports these programs?
- How safe do you think schools are for children?
- What could be done to improve children’s protection in school settings?

**Child protection committee related Site Visit**

### 4.16
Please describe any protocols / procedures / SOPs that you use to respond to child protection cases
- Probe: responding to child abuse reports; processing children through the justice system
- Which agencies are covered by these – single agency or inter-agency?
- What do you think is the purpose of these protocols / procedures / SOPs?
- What do you think is working well – or not working well – in terms of working together to respond to cases?
- Have you been trained in their use?
- Have they been printed / published? If so, can we see them?
Informed Consent

The following informed consent was obtained from participants before the collection of interview data. In some cases, the form was read and verbal consent was offered.

I agree to participate in this interview for the Review of the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program, as outlined in the information provided to me by the reviewers, Margot Szamier and Juliet Attenbororough.

I understand that:

My participation is voluntary and I can withdraw from the Review at any time.

I can determine who may be present during the interview.

Whether or not I participate in the Review will not affect any current or future relationships with UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme or the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The reviewers will seek to keep my information strictly confidential. No information in the report will be attributed to individuals.

I can request any information collected from me to be withdrawn at any time up until the analysis stage.

If I withdraw, I can request that any information collected from me to be returned or destroyed.

The interview, with my permission may be taped, and may be transcribed.

Digital recordings, notes, and summaries will be stored securely with the reviewers and will not identify me.

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I give my consent to participate in this interview.

Name: __________________________
Signature: ______________________

Date: _________________________
ANNEX 4: PROGRAMME RESULTS

FRAMEWORK

The overall goal of the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme is to:

Prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children by improving Child Protection laws and regulations, and their enforcement; improve services; and address community practices and behaviour.

The Programme aims to achieve the following outcomes and outputs:

Outcome 1:

Child Protection systems provide improved quality of and access to services for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children at all times.

Outputs under Outcome 1:

4.1 Child protection national policies to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children (VAC) are developed and established in at least four countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji).

4.2 Laws are reviewed and harmonized with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in at least eight countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)).

4.3 Training/capacity building of service providers/professionals (police, social welfare, health workers, education) is carried out in at least four countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji).

4.4 Protocols, procedures, standard operating practices, referral networks are developed and rolled out in at least four countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji).
4.5 Legislative and policy frameworks for birth registration are revised in three countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu).

4.6 Birth registration services are decentralized with partnerships with health and other service providers are strengthened in three target countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu).

Outcome 2:

Parents, caregivers, and children demonstrate skills, knowledge and behaviours enabling children to grow up in caring homes and communities, including schools, that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Outputs under Outcome 2:

4.1 Media and social mobilization packages for community facilitators on prevention and response to violence against children in families are developed and rolled out.

4.2 Guidelines and tools on cyber safety/anti-bullying are developed and modelled.

4.3 Guideline protocols are designed and rolled out for teachers and students to prevent, detect and report violence against children in at least 3 countries (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu).
Figure 1 Adapted UNICEF Programme Results Framework for Review