Solomon Islands Health Sector Support Project

Improving public expenditure management and performance monitoring in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

Background
The status of the health sector in Solomon Islands deteriorated significantly from 1998-2003 during a period of civil conflict known as the ‘tensions’. The health sector has continuing problems, with some indicators remaining among the worst in the Pacific. Solomon Islands is still experiencing challenges related to both technical quality of services and the capacity of the health system to deliver services effectively and efficiently.

About the Project
The overall objective of the Health Sector Support Project (HSSP) is to support the Solomon Islands Government in achieving priority health goals through effective, efficient, and equitable services that respond to the population’s needs.

The HSSP is working in alignment with frameworks established by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health’s National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP), which was formulated in 2006. The NHSP lays out the government’s priority areas and actions for the health sector. In order to implement this plan, the Solomon Islands Government formulated a detailed program for the improvement of the health sector from 2008-2011—the HSSP—to which the World Bank Group and AusAID are both providing technical assistance.

The first component is based around public expenditure management. This component will work to improve the Ministry of Health’s national and provincial health planning along with the Ministry’s budgeting systems. This will be achieved through the contribution of technical assistance and help towards the completion of the first Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Improvements in public health sector expenditure management include tasks—such as planning and budget execution—to help ensure the domestic and external resources available for health go to supporting strong, viable local health services of benefit to the majority of Solomon Islanders.

The second component aims to improve monitoring and evaluation of sector performance. This will enable the Ministry to track the achievements of NHSP objectives and enable a reallocation of resources towards priorities that aren’t being addressed.

Component three focuses on training and capacity building aimed at strengthening the management skills of provincial health directors and senior managers. This is being done to increase the efficiency of strategic planning and execution within the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Component three also finances a portion of the Ministry’s strategic human resource training plan.

Improving the Ministry of Health’s national and provincial health planning and budgeting systems.

Improving the Ministry of Health’s monitoring and evaluation capabilities to properly gauge progress of NHSP objectives.

Strengthen the management skills of senior managers and provincial directors within the Ministry of Health.

Location: The project will mainly take place within Honiara with affects on health services throughout Solomon Islands.

Approval Date: 20 March 2008
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Total Project Cost: US$1.5 million
Donors: World Bank (International Development Association)—US$1.5 million
Implementing Agency: Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services

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