



The Pacific Partnerships for Gender Equality Project – Solomon Islands Baseline Assessment Report

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Supporting women.
Defeating poverty.

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List of Acronyms

ANCP	Australia NGO Cooperation Program
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EOP	End of project
FGD	Focus group discussion
FFM	Family financial management
GEF	Gender equality framework
GIVE	Gender Inclusion, Voice and Empowerment (the GIVE model)
IGA	Income generating activity
LLSI	Live and Learn Solomon Islands
MELF	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PWDSI	People with Disabilities Solomon Islands
SNAP	Social Norms Analysis Plot
TTFT	<i>Tugeda Tude fo Tomoro</i>
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VSPD	Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities
WEJ	Women's Economic Justice

Executive Summary

Overview of the ANCP program: Women's economic justice is central to gender equality and sustainable development. Across the Pacific, women are fundamental to the subsistence and economies of their communities, however, women's work in the Pacific is often undervalued, low-paid and insecure. CARE Australia's Pacific Partnerships for Gender Equality program is a **five-year intervention (2022 – 2027) designed to strengthen women's economic justice and contribute to a resilient civil society in the Pacific**. The program is funded by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The ANCP program is being delivered based on **collaborative partnerships between CARE Australia, CARE International in Vanuatu and civil society partners in the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu**. The implementing partners for the ANCP project in the Solomon Islands are the Live and Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI) and People with Disabilities Solomon Islands (PWDSI). Key activities for the ANCP project in the Solomon Islands will include establishment and support for savings clubs for women with and without disabilities, and the provision of Family Financial Management workshops to women members of savings clubs and their husbands or partners and family members. The project will also engage men and boys, including opinion leaders in community-level dialogue and reflection sessions on gender equality. Training on violence against women and girls by in-country technical experts will be provided to partner project staff and also staff of organisations subcontracted to support the project and will also be offered to key leaders in the target communities.

Methodology for the baseline assessment: The program baseline assessment was designed to measure program and project outcome-level indicators referring to women's economic justice and resilience, and the current attitudes of project impact and target groups (including women and girls with and without disabilities, their spouses and male relatives and community leaders) relating to women's economic participation at the start of program implementation. The baseline followed a **mixed methods approach** involving the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data.

In the Solomon Islands, survey data was collected for **99 respondents (63 women and 36 men) from 81 households in three communities using a standardised questionnaire**. The questionnaire was structured in seven sections to collect information on respondent and household characteristics; the economic activities of the respondent including access to savings and loans; participation in household decision-making and attitudes on gender

equality and violence against women and girls (VAWG). Qualitative data exploring the enabling factors and barriers to women's economic participation, including the influence of social norms, was collected by means of sex-segregated focus group discussions held with women and men in all three communities.

Limitations of the baseline assessment included the following:

- The **timeframe for the design phase of the baseline** meant that there were limited opportunities for the lead consultant to work collaboratively with the team on the development of the survey questionnaire and FGD checklists, and it was not possible to pre-test the data collection tools. Some questions asked during the survey would have benefited from being adjusted/ adapted more specifically for the Solomon Island context.
- **Sampling challenges:** Enumerators experienced difficulties in finding respondents for the original randomly selected sample of households and were forced in some cases to substitute households by convenience sampling. The data collection team managed to interview 66% of the intended survey sample, which means that the survey dataset is statistically representative at the 95% confidence limit with a 10% margin of error for women but not for men.
- **Limited representation of people with disabilities:** The limited numbers of people with disabilities included in the survey sample (which to a large extent reflects the low numbers of people with disabilities present in the communities where the ANCP SI project is being implemented) also meant that the dataset was not suitable for any disaggregated analysis representing the particular needs of women with disabilities.
- **Challenges of qualitative data collection:** The focus group discussion checklists for the baseline assessment were designed to explore social norms relating to women's economic participation based on CARE's Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) methodology. The data collection team found it challenging at times to facilitate discussions exploring what respondents thought other people would do in the given scenario relating to women's economic participation and decision-making.

Program Outcome 1: Increased economic resilience for women and girls

Key findings of the baseline assessment relating to women's agency in terms of participation in economic activities, access to savings and reported economic capability were as follows:

- The majority of women surveyed in the ANCP Solomon Island project pilot communities (76%) are economically active in at least one paid IGA across a range of small-scale and informal sector IGAs relating to small businesses, housework, livestock husbandry, agriculture and handicrafts.

- 52% of all women surveyed reported diversification of IGAs in the sense of reporting participation in more than one paid IGA.
- Women surveyed reported average total monthly earnings of SBD 2,627 (equivalent to AUD 467) which was markedly lower than the average of SBD 3,958 (AUD 703) reported by male respondents.
- While 57% of all women surveyed reported having savings either at home or with some kind of financial institution, only 30% of women respondents were identified as active users of any financial services, as compared with 42% of male respondents, and only 10% of women surveyed reported active use of savings clubs.
- 75% of women with savings (n = 36) reported that they use their own earnings as the source of their savings.
- In terms of economic capability, 68% of all women respondents were identified as having a high level of economic capability based on their reported level of confidence across six domains of capability referring to knowledge and skills, support from husband or family, access to financial and productive resources, time needed to engage in an IGA and access to a market. Qualitative data from FGDs however highlighted household workloads for women as well as male control of women's mobility and earnings as key barriers to women's economic participation.

Program Outcome 2: Addressing barriers and building an enabling environment for women and girls' economic participation

Key findings of the baseline assessment relating to the relations that shape women's economic participation were as follows:

- 71% of women reported active participation in household decision-making across four or more of the seven domains assessed by the survey.
- For most of the decision-making domains assessed, women were most likely to report deciding jointly with their spouse or partner. However, 48% of women reported that they were able to decide for themselves regarding their access to healthcare and 21% of women respondents reported they were able to decide for themselves regarding the use of their own earnings and savings.
- That said, more men than women reported active participation in decision-making for all the domains assessed with the exception of decision-making about women's savings.
- The baseline finding that 86% of men reported active participation in decision-making regarding their wife's visits to her relatives or family as compared with 62% of women, is particularly striking and suggests that men have a marked influence over women's mobility.

- The majority of women (86%) also reported active participation in at least one civil society space for community decision-making. There is however a need for more in-depth qualitative analysis of how the impact group understand active participation in those spaces and the extent to which women are really able to influence the outcomes of community-level decision-making processes in those spaces.

Key findings of the baseline assessment relating to the relations that shape women's economic participation were as follows:

- 55% of all respondents (46% of women and 69% of men surveyed) expressed high levels of overall support for gender equitable attitudes. However, gender inequitable attitudes on some issues are relatively widespread, especially among women, and are likely to present barriers to women's economic justice.
- The survey found widespread support among women and men for girls' access to education and opportunities for economic engagement, and for women's involvement in community decision-making and politics.
- However, the majority of women expressed conservative attitudes regarding the unequal division of household chores and childcare, and only 41% of women surveyed strongly agreed with the statement that "*Women should be able to work outside the home after they have children if they want to*", while 47% of men did not agree with that statement.
- The majority of women also either strongly or partly agreed with statements indicating acceptance of men's dominance in household decision-making.
- Although responses from women and men to the GEM scale statements suggest that most respondents did not agree that domestic violence is acceptable or should be tolerated by women to keep their families together, there was widespread support for the view that domestic violence is a private matter which should not be discussed outside the couple.
- Only 24% of women and 47% of men expressed their rejection of violence in all of the five situations assessed in the survey, which finding indicates widespread acceptance among women and men survey respondents of the use of violence in situations which reflect social norms relating to women's roles and mobility. Community leaders were more likely to reject violence across all five situations than community members.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Baseline Purpose and Objectives

Women's economic justice (WEJ) is central to gender equality and sustainable development. Across the Pacific, women are fundamental to the subsistence and economies of their communities, however, women's work in the Pacific is often undervalued, low-paid and insecure¹. CARE Australia's Pacific Partnerships for Gender Equality program is a five-year intervention (2022 – 2027) funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), which is designed to strengthen women's economic justice and contribute to a resilient civil society in the Pacific.

The program has been designed to deliver four End of Program/ Project (EOP) outcomes focussing on:

- **Increasing economic resilience for women and young women with and without disabilities** (EOP Outcome 1);
- **Strengthening the enabling environment at the community level** for women's participation, decision-making and leadership in economic activities (EOP Outcome 2);
- **Strengthening the capacity, voice and influence of partner organisations**, including community networks, to contribute towards and lead change for promoting WEJ (EOP Outcome 3); and
- **Building an evidence base of emerging good practice in locally led programme approaches** for promoting WEJ and resilient civil society in the Pacific (EOP Outcome 4).

The program is being delivered by means of collaborative partnerships between CARE Australia's International Programs Department, CARE International in Vanuatu and civil society organisations across the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Civil society partners include Nasi Tuan in Vanuatu, the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability (VSPD) and Vanuatu Women's Centre, the Talitha Project in Tonga, and Live and Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI) and People with Disabilities Solomon Islands (PWDSI).

The program baseline assessment was designed **to measure program and project outcome-level indicators referring to women's economic justice and resilience**, and the current attitudes of project impact and target groups (including women and girls with and without disabilities, their spouses and male relatives and community leaders) relating to women's economic participation at the start of program implementation. As such, the

¹ CARE Australia (2022). *Pacific Partnerships for Gender Equality – ANCP Project Design for Pacific Partnership Unit*. Project design document, 69pp.

baseline assessment was intended to provide the CARE program team and implementing partners with the foundation or **starting point for project monitoring and evaluation activities** that will enable future assessments of progress against outcomes for purposes of program accountability and learning.

Community-level baseline assessments for EOP Outcomes 1 and 2 were carried out in Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu using **a common approach and methodology** to collect **quantitative and qualitative data** for outcome-level indicators identified and defined in the program Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF)². The findings of the baseline assessment have been documented in a series of context-specific baseline reports for the three countries where the program is being implemented, as well as **an over-arching program synthesis** of the key findings from the baseline. This report presents the findings of the baseline assessment of the ANCP program in the Solomon Islands.

1.2 Context for the ANCP project in the Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands, about 60.4% of the Solomon Islands' female population is in employment compared with 72.2% of men, with over three-quarters of these women participating in subsistence work (76.2%) compared with 58.1% of men.³ Women are responsible for about 90 per cent of market activity at the Honiara Central Market - as both buyers and retailers - with an annual turnover of USD10-16 million.⁴ Women in the Solomon Islands however also bear a disproportionate weight of responsibility for unpaid work spending roughly 12.5 hours per day on unpaid care and household work, compared to 3.5 hours spent by men.⁵ This burden does not necessarily reduce for women with disabilities and there is some evidence to suggest that women with disabilities in the Solomon Islands can face an even greater burden of domestic work than other household members.⁶

Other barriers faced by women in the Solomon Islands that impact on their economic participation include less access to education and lower literacy levels; access to and control over resources; limits to participation, decision-making and leadership at household and community level; and constraints on freedom of movement and access to public spaces. In the Solomon Islands, men generally control productive resources (such as gardens, cocoa and coconut plantations, canoes, generators and gardening tools) while women control

² Note: Baseline values for the indicators for EOP Outcome 3 referring to strengthened civil society through equitable partnerships with diverse women's voices, leadership, organisations and movements will be assessed internally by CARE and partner organisations as part of the capacity assessments and review of CARE's partnership approach conducted in Year 1 of program implementation.

³ UN Women, *Solomon Islands*, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/solomon-islands>

⁴ Pacific Women, *Economic Empowerment*, <https://pacificwomen.org/our-work/focus-areas/economic-empowerment/>

⁵ CARE Australia, *COVID-19 and TC Harold Rapid Gender, Disability and Inclusion Analysis*, 28 May 2021.

⁶ CARE Australia, *Rapid Disability Analysis for Solomon Islands (ANCP)*, 2022

resources that support care and domestic work (such as cooking equipment and bedding) and some lower-value productive assets such as fruit trees and small livestock, and decisions over subsistence agriculture.⁷ People with disabilities may be denied access to shared resources altogether, such as knives or canoes, that they need to engage in livelihood or subsistence activities, which are freely accessible to other family members.⁸ Research on financial decision-making at the household level in the Solomons highlights that while income pooling and cooperative decision-making is common, there is a tendency for men to ultimately control decisions.⁹ The Solomon Islands also has one of the highest rates of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the Pacific region, with two out of three women aged 15-45 years having experienced intimate partner violence and over a third of young women aged 14-29 reporting that their first sexual encounter was forced.¹⁰

1.3 Overview of the ANCP project in the Solomon Islands

Live & Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI) have partnered with CARE since 2018 on a range of gender equality and humanitarian projects with a focus on trialling and integrating gender-transformative programming approaches in different contexts. LLSI is a registered local NGO and part of the Live & Learn Asia Pacific network. LLSI have adapted the Family Financial Management (FFM) workshop manual developed by CARE Vanuatu's *Leftemap Sista* project and have teams trained and piloting the FFM approach under the current AHP COVID response project which ends June 2022. The experience of LLSI to date has shown that the family-based model is highly suitable for work in the Solomon Islands context which can be used to build on the organisation's work to promote community level environmental education.

LLSI have also previously developed and implemented a saving club model under the Tugeda Tude fo Tumoro (TTFT) project which has generated evidence, consistent with the programming experience of CARE Vanuatu, for the effectiveness of an integrated implementation approach with savings clubs supported by a broader program which engages men to challenge gender inequitable behaviour and norms, and adopts a do no harm approach. LLSI see the ANCP project as the perfect opportunity to restart their saving clubs as part of this integrated approach.

⁷ CARE Gender, Disability and Inclusion Analysis for COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold, Solomon Islands, June 2020 (updated November 2020)

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Eves, R. Et.al. *Do No Harm Research: Solomon Islands*, Australian National University, IWDA, 2018.

¹⁰ Secretariat of the Pacific Community for Ministry of Women, Youth & Children's Affairs, *Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study: A study on violence against women and children*, 2009
<https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/SolomonIslandsFamilyHealthandSafetyStudy.pdf>

The ANCP project in the Solomon Islands presents an opportunity for LLSI to revisit the savings club model developed as part of the 2009 *Tugeda Tude fo Tumoro* (TTFT) project (2009-2015) which was supported under the Australian government funded Solomon Islands NGO Partnership Agreement (SINPA). The TTFT women's savings club model¹¹ was developed as a means of promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing women's participation in decision-making in order to bring about sustainable natural resource management. It was the culmination of much reflection, adaptation and learning including input from more than 750 members of the 25 Women's Savings Clubs under the TTFT program and has many similar features to CARE's VSLA model (for example the three lock cash box, self-selection of members, focus on women members, and development of a Savings Club Policy/Constitution). LLSI have a comprehensive training guide and IEC materials and have a staff member who is able to train other staff on the methodology.

The key activities of the ANCP project in the Solomon Islands are summarised in Table 1. Key activities for delivery of EOP Outcome 1 to promote increased financial resilience for women with and without disabilities will involve the review and updating of the TTFT materials for establishing and supporting savings clubs, with a focus on strengthening disability inclusion, and a Training of Trainers held for the ANCP project team. LLSI have already undertaken a mapping process to select three pilot communities, including identification of existing groups that would like to form savings clubs.¹² The ANCP project team will pilot the establishment of savings clubs with three groups of women (approximately 15 per group), and will then evaluate and apply learning to the model before rolling out the approach with 12 additional groups (to reach 15 groups with approximately 15 members each – i.e. a total of roughly 225 women). LLSI will work in partnership with People with Disabilities Solomon Islands (PWDSI) to get support in identifying women with disabilities and adapting activities to enable meaningful participation.

EOP Outcome 2 which focusses on building and enabling environment for women's economic participation will be achieved by providing Family Financial Management (FFM) workshops to further strengthen the skills of women members of savings clubs, while at the same time engaging their husbands or partners and family members. Men and boys in communities, including opinion leaders will also be engaged in dialogue and reflection sessions on gender equality. Training on VAWG by in-country technical experts will be provided to partner project staff and also staff of organisations subcontracted to support the

¹¹ Live & Learn, *Bolitei Women's Unknown Savings Club*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ho0ABL_w10

¹² Experience with the TTFT has shown that a Savings Club has a much higher chance of success if the people joining live in the same area, and already have some common activities (e.g. part of the same church group or have another project together). This is because in order to be successful, the Savings Club members need to meet together regularly.

project (e.g. for supporting IGAs) and will also be offered to key leaders in the target communities.

Table 1: Key interventions of the ANCP project in the Solomon Islands

Outcome	Key interventions
EOP 1: Promoting increased economic resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review and update materials for <i>Tugeda Tude fo Tomoro</i> (TTFT) savings club model ● Pilot the TTFT model in 3 communities (45 women participants), then roll out in 12 additional groups ● Provide technical support for IGAs for members of savings clubs
EOP 2: Building an enabling environment for women's economic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pilot Family Financial Management (FFM) workshops with participants of the savings clubs and their partners/ family members ● Develop and pilot approach for engaging men and boys (EMB), including male opinion leaders, in dialogue and reflection on gender equality ● Provide VAWG refresher training to partner project staff and community leaders
EOP 3: Strengthening the capacity, voice and influence of CARE partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop capacity strengthening plans for equitable partnerships based on mutual (CARE and partner) capacity strengthening assessments ● Support cross-country linkages and sharing of capacity strengthening knowledge, skills and experiences between ANCP countries ● Promote reflection on locally relevant advocacy messages around gender equality and opportunities and spaces for making change. ● Develop a shared definition and understanding of 'equitable partnerships'
EOP 4: Building an evidence base of emerging good practice in locally led programme approaches for WEJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review, refine and agree the programme MEAL framework with partners ● Co-creation of a broader programme learning agenda ● Support partner staff with collection and analysis of data ● Develop a series of Learning Briefs documenting programme experiences and learning

2.0 Methodology

The baseline assessment for the ANCP program followed a **mixed methods approach** involving the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data for measurement of project indicators at outcome and output levels in all three project contexts (see Table 2 for overview of indicators and focal questions for the baseline assessment).

2.1 Approach

The approach for the baseline assessment was designed to enable:

Data collection to explore levels of economic resilience of the program impact group (women and girls with and without disabilities), and structural barriers to women's economic justice. The baseline used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to measure key project outcome indicators for EOPO 1 and 2, including exploring the perspectives of women and girls with and without disabilities, their male relatives and community leaders regarding barriers to women's economic participation. Information collected by different methods from different sources was triangulated and cross-checked for consistency and validity during the analysis and write-up of the baseline assessment.

Use of existing CARE conceptual frameworks and tools to guide data collection and analysis considering gender and power relations as key elements of the baseline assessment. CARE frameworks and tools used for the design and delivery of the baseline assessment included the CARE Gender Equality Framework (GEF), guidance for the measurement of the CARE International Global Indicators of Change and CARE's Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) framework. As such the ANCP baseline assessment was designed to contribute to the evidence base for the effectiveness of programming by CARE and CARE partners for women's economic justice and resilient civil society in the Pacific.

2.2 Quantitative Data Collection

The baseline assessment involved the collection of quantitative data using a survey questionnaire administered to members of the program impact group (women with and without disabilities) and their male relatives at household level.

Survey questionnaire: The survey questionnaire was structured in seven sections to collect information on respondent and household characteristics; the economic activities of the respondent including access to savings and loans; participation in household decision-making and attitudes on gender equality and violence against women and girls (VAWG). Survey questions were designed in accordance with CARE International (CI) guidance for measurement of global indicators of change referring to the rejection of intimate partner

Table 2: ANCP outcome indicators and measurement approach

OUTCOMES/ OUTPUTS & ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS	MEASUREMENT APPROACH
<p>EOPO 1: Women and girls with and without disabilities have increased economic resilience as a result of engaging in improved income generating activities and/or increased access to savings and loans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What IGAs are the impact group involved in?</i> • <i>What income do W+G generate from those IGAs?</i> • <i>What % of W+G have access to savings and/or loans? From what sources?</i> 	<p>1.1 % of women reporting increased measures to deal with economic shocks and stresses. (Baseline & Endline survey) <i>Measures = increased savings, adapted livelihoods, increased knowledge and/or skills to deal with shocks and stresses</i></p> <p>1.2 % of participants reporting project contributed to these improvements (above) (Endline measurement only)</p>
<p>Output 1.1 Women and girls (with and without disabilities) in target communities are participating in savings and loans groups</p>	<p>N people provided with financial services (DFAT indicator for Activity monitoring)</p> <p>N of people who participated in sessions on gender issues and women’s equal rights (DFAT indicator for Activity monitoring)</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Women and girls (with and without disabilities) in savings clubs in target communities are engaging in improved IGAs</p>	<p>Number of people with increased incomes (DFAT indicator L02) (Baseline & Endline survey)</p> <p>Number of people reached with livelihoods support interventions (DFAT indicator for Activity monitoring and EL)</p>
<p>EOPO 2: Barriers to women’s participation, decision-making and leadership are addressed through building an enabling environment for women’s economic participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key barriers to women’s economic participation, decision-making and leadership?</i> • <i>How do social norms/ attitudes and beliefs influence women’s economic participation, decision-making and leadership?</i> 	<p>2.1 Number of positive shifts in informal structures (social norms, culture, beliefs, etc.) as defined and influenced by movements and/or activists. (Qualitative assessment during baseline FGDs)</p> <p>2.2 Women reported reduced barriers to economic participation. (Baseline FGDs, include survey question at endline)</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Women and girls (with and without disabilities) in savings clubs participate safely and meaningfully in decision-making and leadership at household and community level.</p>	<p>Number and % of women who have actively participated in economic decision-making in a) the household and/or b) their workplace/ community. (Baseline & Endline survey)</p>
<p>Output 2.2: Men and boys from project target groups are engaged in and support actions to promote gender equality at the household and community levels.</p>	<p>Number and % of men and boys supported through/ by CARE who report a GEM scale score of at least 24 (or an appropriate threshold value to the context). (Baseline & Endline survey)</p>
<p>Output 2.3: Community opinion leaders and members are challenging social norms that contribute to gender inequalities.</p>	<p>% of people of all genders who reject intimate partner violence. (Baseline & Endline survey)</p> <p>Indicators as for Output 2.2 but disaggregated for community and opinion leaders.</p>

violence (CI global indicator 2), gender equitable attitudes on social norms (CI global indicator 13), women's active participation in economic decision-making (CI global indicator 14), positive shifts in informal structures (social norms, culture and beliefs – CI global indicator 16), and women's increased capability to participate equitably in economic activities (CI global indicator 30)¹³. Response options for all 37 questions of the questionnaire were pre-coded although some questions were asked as open questions.

Survey data collection: The questionnaire administered by gender-balanced teams of enumerators in each context using the Kobo Collect software interface on tablets. Where possible, enumerators worked in mixed-sex pairs to ensure that female respondents were interviewed by female enumerators and male respondents were interviewed by male enumerators. Questionnaire interviews lasted 45 minutes to 1 hr on average.

Sampling for the baseline survey: In the Solomon Islands, survey data was collected and analysed for **99 respondents** (63 women and 36 men) from **81 households in the three communities** selected for the piloting of ANCP project activities in year 1. Within each community, the survey sample targeted for the collection of baseline data was originally selected by means of a random sampling approach using household lists compiled by community leaders. In each community the household of the community leader and 1 – 2 households of people with disabilities were purposively selected for inclusion in the sample. The planned sampling strategy for the quantitative data collection was that the project team would survey a total of 75 households (25 per community) and would aim to interview one female and one male respondent from each household (to give a total of 150 respondents), to reach a sample size that would be representative at the 95% confidence level and with a 10% margin of error for the total population of those communities (estimated at 180 households).

During the survey data collection however, it proved challenging for the project team to locate respondents from the randomly selected households and reach the sampling targets. Although the sample of 63 women surveyed is just enough to be representative at the 95% confidence level and with a 10% margin of error, the sample of 36 adult men is insufficient to meet those criteria. The findings of the data analysis referring to adult men cannot therefore be generalised to the wider population of the communities where the ANCP Solomon Island project is being piloted. Table 3 sets out the composition of the survey sample by community, sex of respondent and disability status.

¹³ See [CARE 2030 Global Indicators for measuring change \(careemergencytoolkit.org\)](https://careemergencytoolkit.org)

Table 3: Coverage of the ANCP baseline survey in the Solomon Islands by sex of respondent and community and disability status

Community	Women	Men	All respondents
Highway	29%* (18)	39%** (14)	32% (32)
Mosquito	38%* (24)	28%** (10)	34% (34)
Saint Michael	33%* (21)	33%** (12)	33% (33)
All communities	64% (63)	36% (36)	99
N. Persons with Disability	5%* (3)	6%** (2)	5% (5)

*% of women respondents

** % of men respondents

Training for enumerators: A team of six volunteers were hired to work alongside LLSI project staff as enumerators for the survey data collection. Training for the team of enumerators over the course of a two-day workshop was delivered in-country by the CARE Australia Programme Quality Coordinator using training materials developed by the lead consultant. The training was designed to ensure a shared understanding by the enumerators of the purpose and thematic focus of the baseline assessment; to build familiarity with the survey questionnaire; and to provide an opportunity for the team to practice using the Kobo version of the questionnaire on the tablets that would be used for the data collection. The training included a discussion of essential principles of survey data collection; an in-depth review and discussion of translation of the survey questionnaire; and a series of role play exercises.

2.3 Qualitative Data Collection

Qualitative data collection for the ANCP baseline assessment involved the use of focus group discussions (FGDs) carried out to explore enabling factors and barriers to economic participation by women and girls, including influence of social norms. In the Solomon Islands, a total of six FGDs were carried out with sex-segregated groups of women and men in the three pilot communities. The FGDs were facilitated by LLSI programme staff involved in delivery of the ANCP project and were documented using a standard reporting template. The checklists used for the FGDs included a series of questions designed to identify and explore social norms relating to women and girls' economic participation. As such the FGDs were intended to serve as formative research based on CARE's Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) methodology.

The SNAP methodology developed by CARE based on social norms theory is designed to identify if a social norm exists; how strong or influential certain norms are for specific behaviours; and if or when norms are shifting and weakening. The starting point for the methodology is the definition of a social norm as the unspoken rules within a group about what is typical or approved behaviour. A social norm is made up by one's beliefs about what others do, and by one's beliefs about what others think one should do. The SNAP methodology provides an approach for understanding and measuring social norms in terms of five key elements as follows:

The **empirical expectation** (what I think others do)

The **normative expectation** (what I think other people think is appropriate)

The **sanctions** (the opinion or reaction of others I care about to the behaviour)

The **sensitivity to sanctions** (the impact of sanctions on the behaviour)

The **exceptions** (the circumstances under which it would be acceptable to break the norm).

Source: CARE USA (2017). Applying Theory to Practice: CARE's Journey Piloting Social Norms Measures for Gender Programming.

Box 1: Overview of CARE's Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) methodology

2.4 Data Analysis

Descriptive analyses of the quantitative dataset from the baseline survey were carried out in Excel, including some bivariate statistical analysis to test for differences in patterns of response by gender. The survey data were analysed to measure the outcome indicators as defined in the program and project monitoring, evaluation and learning framework (MELF). Qualitative data from FGDs were coded in relation to key areas of thematic focus and mapped in relation to project outcome indicators, focal questions, with the aim of identifying and assessing social norms in terms of the five key elements of the SNAP framework. The findings of the qualitative analyses were triangulated in relation to the findings of the quantitative data analyses as far as possible.

2.5 Limitations of the Baseline Assessment

Timeframe for planning of data collection: The baseline assessment methodology and data collection tools were developed over a two-week period in early December at a time when the project team was very busy with initial community consultations and were also in the process of making adjustments to the project MELF. The timeframe for the early stages of the baseline meant that there were limited opportunities for the lead consultant to work collaboratively with the team on the development of the survey questionnaire and FGD checklists before the extended Christmas break. As a result, the survey questionnaire could only be reviewed with the LLSI team shortly before the arrival of the CARE Australia

Programme Quality Coordinator in-country to support the data collection process, and it was not possible to pre-test and revise the data collection tools ahead of their use for the baseline assessment. Some questions from the survey questionnaire would have benefited from being adjusted and adapted more specifically for the Solomon Island context. An iterative process of adjustments to the questions asked during FGDs with community members would also have strengthened the quality and coverage of the qualitative dataset.

Sampling challenges for the quantitative data collection: Enumerators experienced considerable challenges in finding respondents for the original randomly selected sample of households, particularly in the communities of Mosquito and St Michael, and were forced in some cases to substitute households by convenience sampling. Flooding in the communities at the time of the data collection presented a further challenge for reaching households targeted for the survey. In total the data collection team managed to interview 66% of the intended survey sample, which means that the findings of the survey data analysis cannot necessarily be generalised or considered representative of both women and men from the wider population. The limited numbers of people with disabilities included in the survey sample (which to a large extent reflects the low numbers of people with disabilities present in the communities where the ANCP SI project is being implemented) also meant that the dataset was not suitable for any disaggregated analysis representing the particular needs of women with disabilities.

Challenges of the qualitative data collection: The FGD checklists for the baseline assessment were designed to explore social norms relating to women's economic participation based on CARE's Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) methodology. The SNAP methodology uses a series of subtly nuanced questions designed to distinguish between empirical and normative expectations. As there was no opportunity for a formal training of the LLSI team in the use of the SNAP methodology ahead of the baseline assessment, the team found it challenging at times to facilitate these discussions to explore what FGD respondents thought other people would do in the given scenario relating to women's economic participation and decision-making as distinct from what other people would think appropriate behaviour in that scenario.

3.0 Composition of the ANCP baseline survey sample

3.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

Position in household: 49% of women surveyed (n = 63) and 89% of men (n = 36) reported being the head of household. The high % of women reporting as the head of household does not however mean these are all female-headed households as in the cultural context of the Solomon Islands, in some cases women and men who are married or partnered are both considered as heading the household¹⁴. A further 30% of women interviewed identified as the spouse or partner of the household head, while 6% identified as a child of the household head, 5% identified as the father or mother of the household head and 10% identified as another relation to the head of household such as a sister.

Education: There were clear differences in the levels of education reported by female and male survey respondents: more women than men reported that they had not attended school (13% women, 3% men) or had only attended some primary (16% women, 6% men) or secondary school (38% women, 22% men). By contrast more men than women reported that they had either completed primary school (31% men, 13% women) or completed secondary school (39% men, 19% women).

Marital status: The majority of all respondents (83% - 78% women, 94% men) reported that they were married or co-habiting, with just 7% of survey respondents (8% women, 6% men) reporting their marital status as single. 5% of women reported that they were partnered but with their partner staying elsewhere, while a further 6% reported that they were divorced, separated or widowed and 3% declined to answer the question.

Disability status: 5% (n = 5) of all respondents surveyed for the Solomon Islands ANCP project baseline were identified as persons with disability based on the use of the Washington Group questions, with similar proportions of people with disability reported for women and men. This prevalence of disability is notably lower than the 14% prevalence reported at the national level for the Solomon Islands¹⁵, and the limited number of survey respondents identified as persons with disability in the sample meant that it was not meaningful to disaggregate the analyses of the baseline survey data set for persons with and without a disability.

Leadership status: Across the sample as a whole, 28% of respondents (n = 28) reported that they were holders of leadership positions in their communities. A higher % of male

¹⁴ Personal communication, LLSI data collection team.

¹⁵ Solomon Islands in Focus, People with Disabilities Association, <https://www.solomonislandsinfoocus.com/people-with-disabilities-association.htm>

respondents (42%) reported they were holders of leadership positions at the community level as compared to female respondents (21%). This difference may to some extent reflect the purposive inclusion of at least one leader per community as part of the sampling strategy for the survey, but also suggests that men may be more likely than women to hold leadership positions in their communities – a pattern identified previously in CARE’s Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) analysis for the Solomon Islands¹⁶. Women who identified as community leaders were mostly holders of positions in community women’s or youth groups or church leaders. Men who identified as community leaders were holders of positions as village chiefs or elders, and/or as church leaders.

Table 4: Socio-demographic information for Solomon Islands baseline survey respondents

	Women (n = 63)	Men (n = 36)	All (n = 99)
Position in household			
HH head	49% (31)	89% (32)	64% (63)
Spouse/ partner of HH head	30% (19)	0	19% (19)
Child of HH head	6% (4)	0	4% (4)
Father/ mother of HH head	5% (3)	0	3% (3)
Other relation	10% (6)	11% (4)	10% (10)
Education			
Did not attend school	13% (8)	3% (1)	9% (9)
Attended adult literacy classes	2% (1)	0	1% (1)
Some primary school	16% (10)	6% (2)	12% (12)
Completed primary school	13% (8)	31% (11)	19% (19)
Some secondary school/ Still at secondary school (for AG)	38% (24)	22% (8)	32% (32)
Completed secondary school	19% (12)	39% (14)	16% (16)
Marital status			
Single	8% (5)	6% (2)	7% (7)
Married or co-habiting	78% (49)	94% (34)	83% (83)
Partnered but partner stays elsewhere	5% (3)	0	3% (3)
Divorced, separated or widowed	6% (4)	0	4% (4)
Prefer not to say	3% (2)	0	2% (2)
Leadership status			
No leadership position	79% (50)	58% (21)	72% (71)
Holds leadership position	21% (13)	42% (15)	28% (28)
Persons with disability			
No reported disability	95% (60)	94% (34)	95% (94)
Person with reported disability	3% (3)	6% (2)	5% (5)

¹⁶ CARE in the Pacific (undated) *Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Brief – Solomon Islands*.

4.0 Analysis for Outcome 1: Increased economic resilience for women and girls with and without disabilities.

This section of the report presents findings from the analysis of the ANCP Solomon Islands baseline dataset for the program outcome referring to increased economic resilience for women and girls with and without disabilities as a result of engaging in improved income generating activities and/or increased access to savings and loans. The discussion presents an analysis of quantitative survey data collected for the baseline, which is disaggregated for women and men.

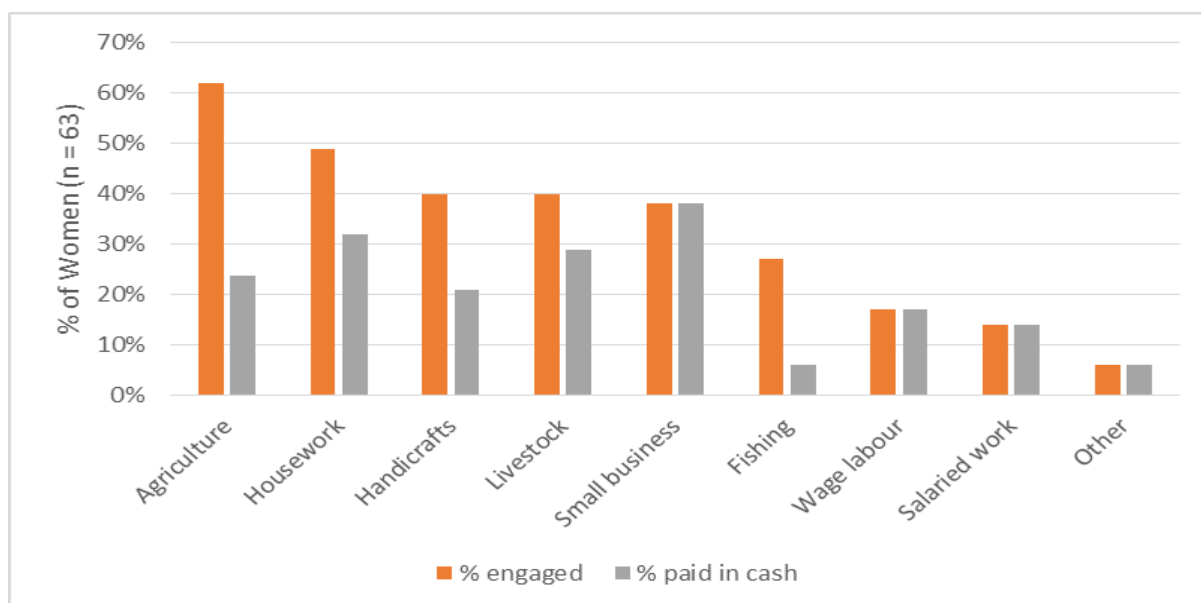
4.1 Economic participation and engagement in income generating activities

Engagement in economic activities: Patterns of economic participation and engagement in IGAs were assessed by questions asked about the respondent's main occupation, whether the respondent was engaged in a series of economic activities, whether s/he received payment in cash for those activities and what were the typical monthly earnings from any activities paid in cash. Figure 3 shows the % of women surveyed reporting engagement in a range of economic activities and the % reporting payment in cash for those activities. The data shows that **women respondents are most commonly engaging in agriculture (62%), housework (49%), livestock rearing (40%), handicrafts (40%) and small businesses (38%)**. The economic activities for which women most commonly reported being paid in cash were small businesses (38%), housework (32%), livestock rearing (29%), agriculture (24%) and handicrafts (21%). A relatively large proportion of male respondents (44%) also reported housework as a source of cash income. This finding was explained by the LLSI data collection team as reflecting men's understanding of housework as referring to tradesmen's activities such as carpentry, as compared with women's reporting of being paid domestic workers. In terms of other forms of economic activities, fewer male respondents than women reported agriculture, small business or handicrafts as IGAs, but men were more likely than women to reported salaried work or wage labour as sources of income.

Qualitative data from the FGDs held with women and men confirmed the importance of small businesses, agriculture and livestock husbandry as IGAs for women, while fishing and construction were reported as commonplace IGAs for men. Comments by women and men in some FGDs suggested a degree of undervaluing of women's economic contribution: a woman from the community of St Michael observed "*Basically most women just stay at home doing nothing – depending on our men for income*" and a participant of the men's FGD in that community similarly commented that "*Men are the founder of the home – they go out and work for money while women just look after the house*".

Across the survey sample there was no difference between women and men in the mean number of economic activities reported (2.94), but women reported fewer IGAs paid in cash than men (mean for IGAs paid in cash for women of 1.89 IGAs as compared with the mean of 2.2 IGAs paid in cash for men), although this difference was not statistically significant. Overall, **76% of women reported participation in at least one paid IGA, which proportion included 52% of women who reported participation in more than one paid IGA.** By contrast, 89% of men reported participation in one or more paid IGAs, with 58% of men reporting diversification of IGAs, i.e. participation in more than one paid IGA, but the difference between women and men in the level of engagement in IGAs paid in cash is not statistically significant.

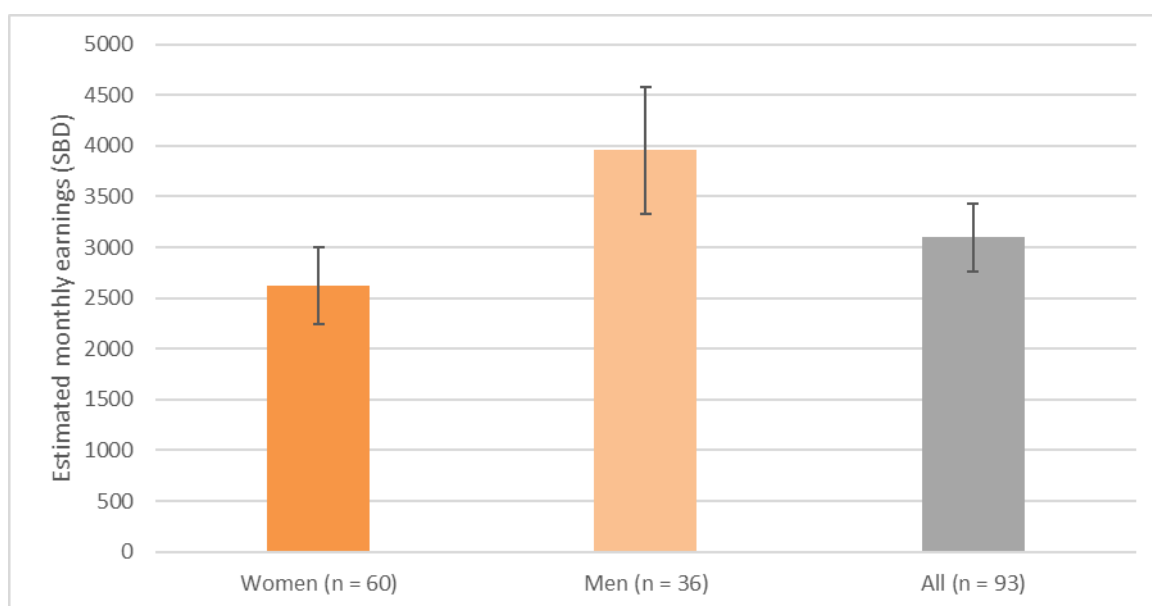
Figure 1: % of women surveyed reporting engagement in economic activities and % who report being paid in cash for those activities.



Typical monthly earnings: Analysis of the data for estimated total monthly earnings across the IGAs surveyed shows that **on average men reported higher monthly earnings than women respondents** (see Figure 4). Total monthly earnings reported by women interviewed for the survey ranged from SBD 0 to 11,000, with a mean of SBD 2,627 (equivalent to AUD 467), whereas total monthly earnings reported by men ranged from SBD 0 to 12,800 with a mean of SBD 3,958 (AUD 703). The baseline data on typical monthly earnings must however be interpreted with caution given the potential sensitivity of the question and the challenges associated with the accurate measurement of income earned across a range of different economic activities based on recall data alone. For example, earnings from activities such as

agriculture or fishing often vary markedly on a seasonal basis, and the LLSI data collection team identified several outliers where they thought it was unlikely the respondent would be able to earn the amount they had reported every month (e.g. for activities such as livestock husbandry where sales are periodic or housework for men where contracts vary in amount). The income data presented here must be seen as reflecting approximate estimates of respondent income levels, rather than accurate measurements of actual monthly earnings. The data presented here on reported typical monthly earnings also does not include money obtained through remittances, which is an important source of income for many respondents and their households in the Solomon Islands.

Figure 2: Mean value of total estimated monthly cash earnings by sex with error bars showing standard error of the mean.



Perceived changes in income: Survey respondents were also asked whether there had been any change in their income earned over the 12 months preceding the survey (see Table 5). Although 24% of women reported having experienced an increase in income (n = 15), the majority of women surveyed reported either no change (41%) or a decrease in income (30%). By contrast, only 17% of men reported an increase in income (n = 6), while 33% reported no change and almost half (47%) reported a decrease. Amongst women who reported increased income (n = 15), the most commonly reported reasons for increased income were the use of new skills/ knowledge (10% of all women surveyed), increased support from family (10% all women), starting a new IGA (8% all women) or expanded/ increased production (8% all women). Amongst respondents who reported a decrease in

income, the most commonly reported reasons for both women and men were difficulties with market access (13% all respondents), environmental factors/ the impact of natural disasters (11% all respondents), and health shocks (11% all respondents). 10% of women also identified not having enough time for IGAs and/or poor quality of product/ services as reasons for decreased income.

Table 5: Perceived changes in income earned in 12 months preceding the survey by respondent category with reasons for any reported increase or decrease.

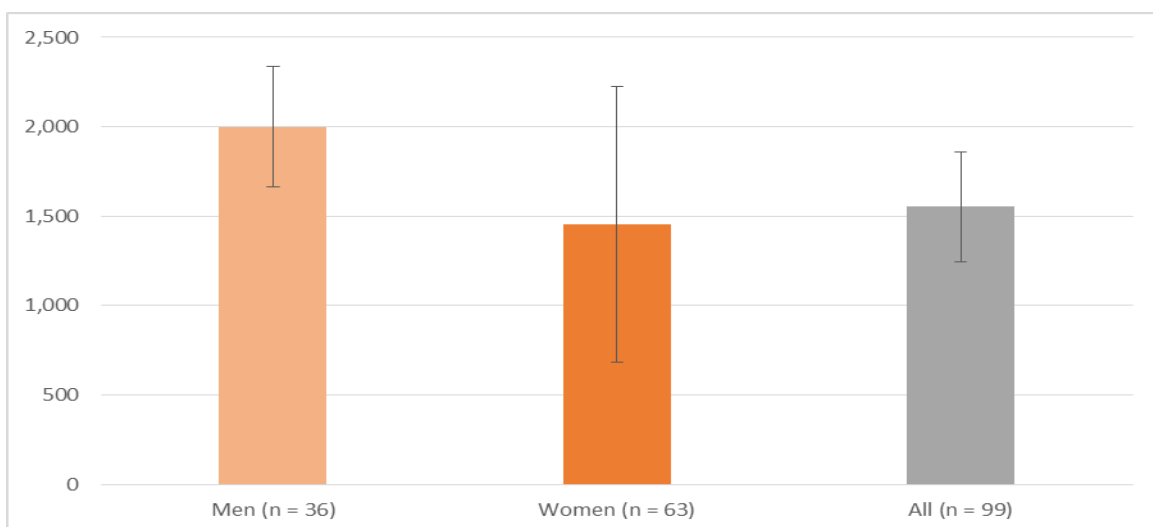
Perceived change in income earned over 12 months prior to survey	Women (n = 63)	Men (n = 36)	All (n = 99)
Increased income	24% (15)	17% (6)	21% (21)
Decreased income	30% (19)	47% (17)	36% (36)
No change in income	41% (26)	33% (12)	38% (38)
Prefer not to answer/ Not applicable	5% (3)	3% (1)	4% (4)
Reasons for increase in income	Women (n = 15)	Men (n = 6)	All (n = 21)
Using new skills/ knowledge	6	2	8
Increased support from family	6	1	7
Started new IGA	5	2	7
Expanded or increased production	5	2	7
Improved quality of product	4	1	5
Improved access to market	3	2	5
Other	2	1	3
Reasons for decrease in income	Women (n = 19)	Men (n = 17)	All (n = 36)
Difficulties with market access	7	6	13
Environmental factors/ natural disaster	5	6	11
Health shock	4	7	11
Not enough time for IGAs	6	4	10
Poor quality of product/ service	6	2	8

No savings/ capital to invest in IGA	2	4	6
Other	6	4	10
Prefer not to answer	1	1	2

4.2 Participation in savings and loans groups

Access to savings and loans: The baseline survey questionnaire included a series of questions exploring respondents' use of financial services and access to savings and loans. 57% of women surveyed reported having savings either at home or with some kind of financial institution, as compared with 31% of men, while 25% of women and 22% of men reported ever having taken a loan. As shown in Figure 1, the reported total values of savings held by women ranged from 80 to 9,000 SBD with an average or mean value of 1,456 SBD (equivalent to AUD 259), while men reported total savings which ranged from 100 to 5,000 SBD with a mean of 2,000 SBD (AUD 355). The variability between individual respondents in the amounts of savings held however means that the observed difference in average amount of savings by gender is not statistically significant. Overall, the baseline survey findings show that women surveyed in the ANCP project pilot communities are not disadvantaged by comparison with men surveyed in terms of their reported access to savings – women respondents were in fact significantly more likely than men to report have access to savings in some form (i.e. either at home or with an institution)¹⁷.

Figure 3: Mean total value of savings for women and men surveyed in ANCP pilot communities with error bars showing standard error of the mean.

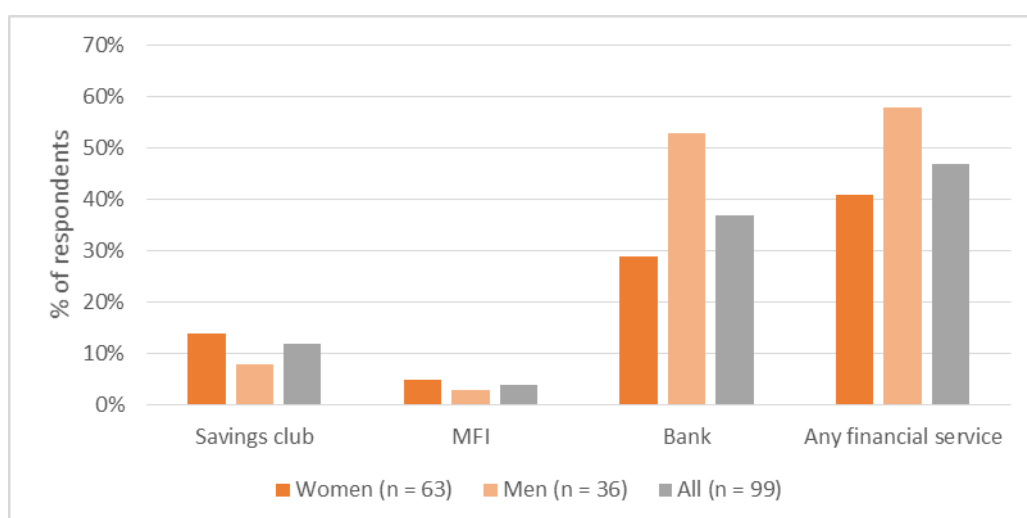


¹⁷ Chi-squared test shows this finding is significant at $p < 0.05$.

Use of financial services: The reported use and active use of financial services varied for women and men. 41% of women reported ever having used any financial service as compared 58% of men, while 30% of women and 42% of men reported being active users of some kind of financial service (either savings club, Microfinance institution or MFI or bank) in the three months prior to the survey. Banks were reported by both women and men as the most widely used type of financial service, a notably higher proportion of men (42%, n = 15) reported active use of a bank than women (22%, n = 19). 14% of women (n = 9) reported ever having used a savings club (as compared with 8% of men) while just 10% of women (n = 6) and 8% of men (n = 3) reported being active users of a savings club at the time of the baseline survey. Less than 5% of women and men reported ever having used an MFI.

The overall pattern of response suggests that current levels of financial inclusion for women and men in the communities where the ANCP Solomon Islands project is being implemented are moderate, although women report lower levels of use of financial services than men.

Figure 4: % of respondents reporting active use of different financial service types.



Source of savings: Among women who reported having savings (n = 36), 75% (27) reported that the source of money for their savings was from their own earnings, as compared with 100% of men with savings (n = 11), while 36% of women with savings (13) reported getting money for savings from another family member as compared with 27% of men (3), and 19% of women with savings (7) and 18% of men with savings (2) reported getting money for savings from another family member or another source. The key finding here is that while most women with savings are saving from their own earnings, over a third of women who save are dependent on their husbands or partners to fund their savings.

Across the survey sample as a whole, 43% of women and 31% of men reported their own earnings as a source of savings.

4.3 Perceptions of economic capability among women and girls and barriers to women and girls' economic participation

The baseline survey questionnaire included a question designed to measure economic capability, which CARE defines as “*the removal of barriers to performing economic activities*” and which can include women’s self-efficacy, knowledge and access to and control over financial resources and assets¹⁸. In line with CARE guidance on the measurement of economic capability, the question was designed to assess the extent to which respondents felt confident (or not) that they have:

- **Knowledge and skills** needed to plan and profitably engage in an IGA.
- **Time** needed to profitably engage in an IGA.
- **Access to financial resources** needed to profitably engage in an IGA.
- **Access to and control over the productive resources** (e.g. land, tools, materials and inputs) needed to profitably engage in an IGA.
- **Access to a market or markets** to get a fair price for their products or services.
- **Support from their father/ family or husband/ partner** to engage in an IGA.

These six aspects or components of economic capability reflect what are commonly experienced as key barriers to women and girls' engagement in economic activities.

In the Solomon Islands, patterns of response to the question on economic capability were overall very positive for both women and men. The majority of women said they were confident or very confident for each of the six domains assessed with over 80% expressing confidence in their access to markets and approximately three-quarters of women surveyed expressing confidence in access to financial resources, time and knowledge and skills. 71% of women were confident or very confident in having support of husband/ family and 70% of women were confident or very confident in having access to/control over productive resources. Even higher percentages of men expressed confidence in their knowledge and skills, time, access to productive resources and access to financial resources.

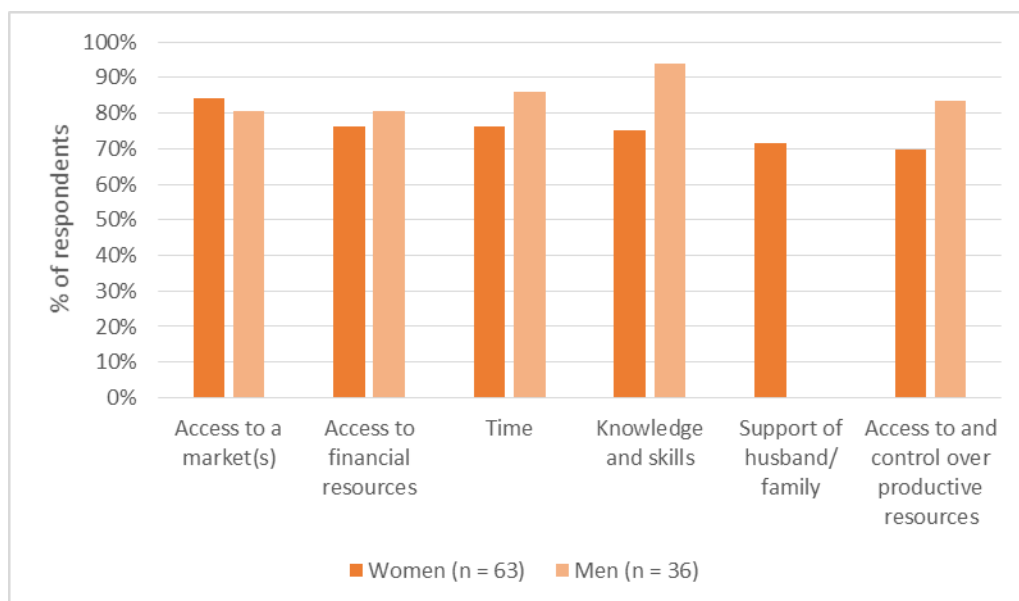
A composite score for economic capability was calculated as the % of all applicable statements that each respondent answered positively (i.e. self-identifying as either confident or very confident). Respondents scoring in the lower tercile (i.e. bottom 33%) of the distribution was categorised as having a low level of economic capability, respondents scoring in the middle tercile were categorised as having a moderate level of economic

¹⁸ See CARE International guidance for indicator 30 – Women’s capability to participate equitably in economic activities.

capability, while respondents scoring in the upper tercile were categorised as having a high level of economic capability. According to this categorisation, 68% of women and 81% of men expressed high levels of economic capability, 11% of women and 14% of men expressed moderate levels of economic capability and 21% of women and 6% of men expressed low levels of economic capability.

It is however worth noting that the questions exploring economic capability were worded broadly – for example the question on knowledge and skills did not attempt to unpack any specific areas of knowledge and skills that could help young women engage effectively in economic activities. It could be useful for the future monitoring and evaluation of the economic capability indicator to create a more tailored version of this (and other) sub-question(s) to assess the development of specific financial or business management skills by the project impact group (e.g. knowing how to prepare a business plan, keeping accounts, understanding how interest on savings and loans work etc) as a result of their participation in project activities.

Figure 5: % of women and men respondents reporting confidence in terms of domains of economic capability.



Women and men participants of FGDs in the ANCP target communities highlighted the importance of family support, strong couple relationships and shared communication and decision-making as enabling factors for women’s economic participation. **Women’s heavy domestic workloads were widely identified by women and men as a key barrier to women’s economic participation**, with women FGD participants highlighting the unequal

burden of household responsibilities and resultant time constraints as challenges that are particular to women (see Box 2). Family and community obligations also impose demands on women's time and women are expected to meet those obligations even if they are working and many face community censure if they are unable to do so. **Tendencies for male jealousy and increased risks of intra-household conflict and violence** for women working outside the home were highlighted by both sexes, as well as tendencies for male control of women's mobility and earnings. In addition to these barriers associated with social norms, practical constraints on women's economic participation relating to transport and difficulties of access to markets, lack of demand for produce as well as natural hazards impacting on production were also identified, albeit less frequently during FGDs with women and men.

The disjunction between the quantitative data on economic capability and qualitative data on barriers to women's economic participation suggests that the very positive pattern of response to survey question on economic capability does not completely reflect the reality experienced by women and young women who are engaging in or want to engage in economic activities, and that the design of the question exploring economic capability may need to be adapted/ revised for future project and program monitoring and evaluation activities.

Box 2: Perspectives from women and men regarding the potential problems that a woman who is successful in her business/ IGA might face.

"Women and men face different challenges when it comes to working for money. As a mother, I must make sure house chores are completed before I go out to sell my products. On the other hand, men just go to work in the morning and upon returning from work, they eat and relax and just sleep". **Woman FGD participant, Mosquito community.**

"If a woman is too busy with her business, it could lead to some issues – like no one being around to keep (look after) the children, which could lead to insecurity for them and violence between the couple". **Male FGD participant, St Michael community.**

"Trust is one of the issues that affects women from going to work outside the community. Some husbands have no trust in their spouses and when their wives go out to work, they become jealous which may end up in domestic violence instead of the couple being happy together". **Male FGD participant, Mosquito community.**

"One problem would be coming home late from my marketing. This can raise curiosity for my husband as to why I came home late and can cause arguments". **Female FGD participant, St Michael community.**

"In community settings people have to work together to achieve certain community goals and objectives. So if a woman continues to absent herself from home and does not participate in the community work, people will talk negatively about her and this could lead to conflict in the community". **Male FGD participant, St Michael community.**

5.0 Analysis and Findings: Addressing barriers and building an enabling environment for women and girls' economic participation.

This section of the report presents findings from the analysis of the ANCP Solomon Islands baseline assessment for the project outcome that barriers to women's participation, decision-making and leadership are addressed through building an enabling environment for women's economic participation. Survey data on women and young women's participation in household economic decision-making and their participation in civil society spaces for decision-making at the community level are analysed to measure project indicators at goal and outcome level. Data from FGDs are analysed to identify the barriers to economic participation and decision-making that women and adolescent girls perceive and experience.

Survey data on the attitudes of women, young women and men across a range of gender equality issues are then analysed to measure levels of support for gender equality and the informal structures (social norms) that shape women's economic participation and decision-making. The analysis of attitudinal data as measured by the GEM scale is disaggregated for the project target group of community leaders, which is a key reference group for the enforcement of social norms.

5.1 Women and girls' participation in household economic decision-making

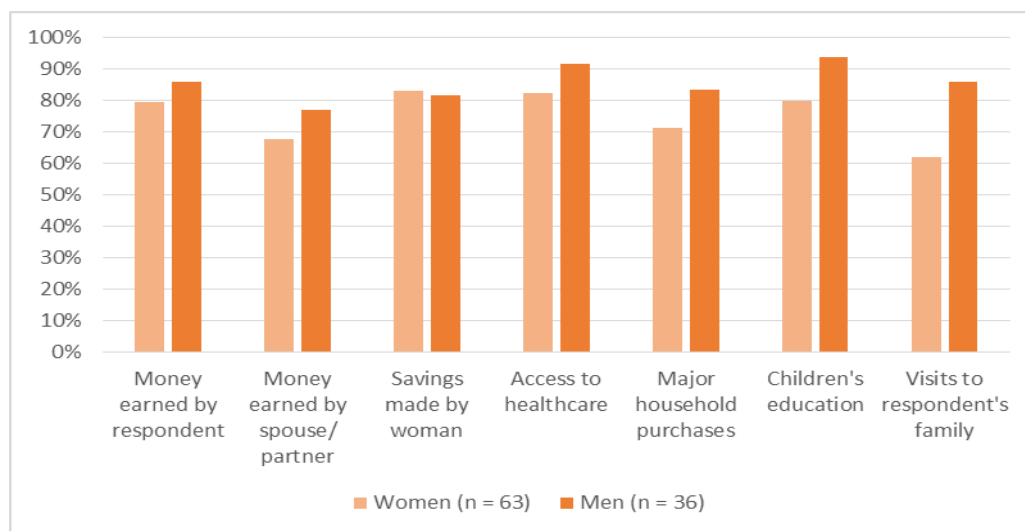
The project indicator for women and girls' active participation in economic decision-making at the household level was assessed by a survey question designed to measure the respondent's level of participation across five domains for adolescent girls and seven domains for adult women and adult men referring to decision-making on:

- a) Spending money earned by the respondent her/himself.
- b) Spending money earned by the respondent's spouse/ partner.
- c) Spending savings made by the respondent.
- d) Access to healthcare for the woman of the household.
- e) Spending on major household purchase such as land, livestock, tools or agricultural inputs.
- f) Spending on children's education.
- g) Visit to the respondent's family or relatives.

Pre-coded response options for the question reflecting different levels of participation were: "I can decide by/ for myself"; "I decide jointly with my husband/ partner"; or "My husband/ partner or parents decide for me." Respondents were categorised as being active participants in household decision-making if they reported being either jointly or solely responsible for decision-making on at least four out of seven domains assessed.

Patterns of response from women and men to the questions on participation in household economic decision-making are shown in Figure 6. The data suggest that **many women in the ANCP Solomon Island pilot communities are actively involved in household decision-making**: over 60% of women reported active participation in decision-making for each of the domains assessed, and over 80% of women reporting active participation in decisions relating savings they had made and access to healthcare. These findings are somewhat lower than the levels of women’s participation in decision-making recorded in the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey for the Solomon Islands, which found that 87% women surveyed at the national level reported some degree of participation in decisions around their own health care; 76% of women reporting some degree of participation in decisions around major household purchases and 80% reported some degree of participation around visits to their own families¹⁹. For most of the domains of decision-making assessed in the ANCP baseline survey, women were more likely to report deciding jointly with their spouse or partner or family, which finding was also consistent with the findings of the 2015 DHS. However, 48% of women surveyed for the ANCP baseline reported that they were able to decide for themselves regarding access to healthcare.

Figure 6: % of women and men respondents who report active participation in household decision-making by domain of decision-making.



In the case of the ANCP baseline survey, more men than women reported active participation in decision-making for all of the domains assessed with the exception of the domain for decision-making about women’s savings. The finding that 86% of men reported active

¹⁹ Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (2015). *Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey 2015*. Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Pacific Community.

participation in decision-making regarding their wife's visits to her relatives or family as compared with 62% of women, is particularly striking and suggests that men have a marked influence over women's mobility. In terms of the project indicators referring to women's participation in decision-making, **71% of women reported active participation in household decision-making across five or more of the seven domains assessed as compared with 89% of men, and 21% of women reported they were able to decide for themselves regarding the use of their own earnings and savings.**

The survey data on decision-making do not however give a sense as to what extent being jointly involved with their husbands or partners in decisions means that women are able to meaningfully influence the outcomes of household decision-making. Patterns of response to GEM scale statements referring to women's participation in decision-making (see discussion in section 5.3) suggest that many women interviewed in the pilot communities targeted by the ANCP Solomon Island project still consider household decision-making as a male-dominated domain. Previous research in the Solomon Islands has also found that even within households identified as having cooperative models of decision-making, the male head of the household sometimes ultimately controlled decisions²⁰.

Qualitative data from FGDs with women and men for the baseline assessment also suggest that male control of women's financial resources is not unusual, although this is changing to some extent as more women are working outside the home. Comments from women and men in response to the scenario of a woman refusing to give her husband money she had earned indicated the widespread expectation that this would lead to conflict and in some cases violence and community censure, but also that the woman's position would be acceptable if she was planning to use the money to meet her family's needs. These findings suggest that social norms around women's participation in household economic decision-making may be changing and that women's economic participation is likely to be a factor contributing to that change process.

Box 2: Perspectives from women and men regarding the situation of a woman refusing to give her husband money she has earned.

"When it comes to culture in Malaita province the culture is that men are superior in decision-making. It has slightly changed now as there is high demand and cost of living. This means women are tolerated in making decisions as men and women depend on each other to make decisions for their household"

Female FGD participant, Mosquito community.

"In the past men or husbands were the overall boss when it comes to decision-making but this has changed over the years. In some families, the husband decides on how the money women earn is spent,

²⁰ Eves, R. and Lusby, S. with Thomson Araia, Mary-Fay Maeni and Rose Martin (2018) *Do No Harm Research: Solomon Islands*. Research paper for Australian National University, Department of Pacific Affairs, IWDA and Australian Aid.

and for some it depends on the family – some husbands will accept it (the woman’s refusal to give him money) while some will be angry”. **Woman FGD participant, Mosquito community.**

“If my husband needed money to spend on unnecessary things, I would refuse to give him the money and sometimes I would notice people gossiping about me. When we refuse to let our husband use the money we earn, people in the community would think we are selfish”. **Woman FGD participant, St Michael community.**

“People in the community think that such an action can only cause violence between families or couples and at times require us community members to step in and try to calm the issue down”. **Male FGD participant, Mosquito community.**

“If a woman refuses to give her husband money she has earned or saved for a good reason (when her husband wants the money not for their household benefit) then people would agree with her. But if the woman refuses the money when her husband wants it for a good reason, people would say this particular woman is not a good woman”. **Male FGD participant, Highway community.**

5.2 Participation in civil society spaces for community-level decision-making

The baseline survey included a question asked as a Likert scale to assess to what extent the respondent agreed or did not agree with the statement that “I attend and regularly speak up in [a/ b or c meeting type] in my community”. The question was asked for five types of civil society space for community-level decision-making which were: Women’s, Men’s or Youth group meetings, Church meetings, Village Assembly meetings, Savings Club meetings or Other meetings.

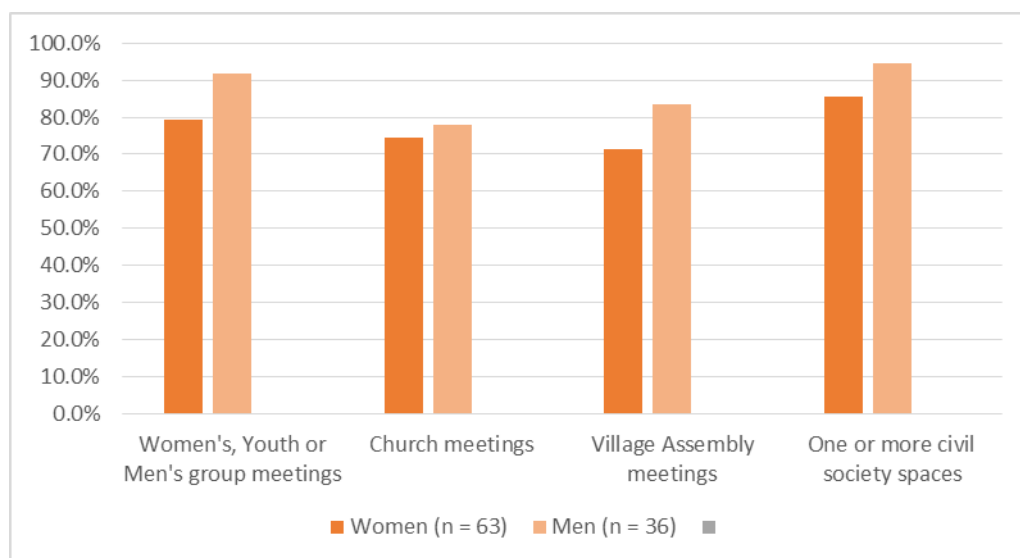
Figure 7 presents the % of women and men reporting active participation for Women’s, Men’s or Youth group meetings, Church meetings and Village Assembly meetings, which were the civil society spaces for which data were collected for all survey respondents. The data show that **the majority of women (86%) and men (94%) reported active participation in one or more of those community-level civil society spaces.** Women were slightly less likely to report active participation in Women’s or Youth groups (79%) than men were to report active participation in Men’s groups (92%), and fewer women (71%) than men (83%) reported that they were able to regularly attend and speak up in Village Assembly meetings. Similar proportions of female and male respondents however reported being active participants of church meetings.

The finding that such a high proportion of women in the ANCP Solomon Islands project communities report active participation in spaces for community-level decision-making is surprising, given that the Solomon Islands is recognised as a patriarchal society in which men hold the majority of leadership positions in state, customary and faith-based institutions²¹. Much of the existing secondary data on women’s participation however focuses

²¹ CARE Australia (undated). *Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Brief – Solomon Islands.*

on participation in formal political institutions²² and there appears to be little by way of comparative data for women’s participation in community-level spaces. It is possible that the patterns of response recorded in the baseline assessment reflect a tendency for positive response bias, or perhaps a focus by respondents on *attendance* in civil society spaces rather than *attendance and speaking up*. It is recommended that as part of the program learning agenda, the ANCP project should consider carrying out additional more in-depth qualitative research to explore how and to what extent women are able to meaningfully participate in civil society spaces and public life at the community level, including analysis of the extent to which they are able to influence the outcomes of decision-making processes at that level.

Figure 7: % Women and men reporting active participation in civil society spaces for community-level decision-making.



5.3 Support for gender equitable social norms

Social norms are the informal structures comprising the attitudes and expectations that people have of each other, which influence collective behaviour and as a result shape gender and power relations²³. The baseline survey used a set of 14 statements from the Gender-Equitable Men (GEM) scale to measure attitudes on gender norms for intimate relationships and social expectations for women and men. The set of statements included twelve gender inequitable statements and two gender equitable statements. Respondents

²² See for example Wiltshire, C. Et.al, 'Attitudes towards women's political participation in Solomon Islands' in DevPolicy Blog, September 21, 2020, <https://devpolicy.org/attitudes-towards-womens-political-participation-in-solomon-islands-20200921/>

²³ See CARE International guidance for indicator 13 – % of people supported through/by CARE who report gender equitable attitudes towards social norms (GEM Scale).

were asked to say whether they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed or did not agree to statements exploring attitudes to gender based violence, women’s roles, household decision-making and the rights of girls to education and engaging in IGAs. Responses to each statement were scored in accordance with CARE International guidance on the measurement of the indicator and a composite score was calculated as the basis for categorising respondents as reporting low, moderate or high levels of support for gender equality.

Attitudes on VAWG: Table 6 presents the data on responses to the GEM scale statements exploring the acceptability of domestic violence. Responses to the statements that *“There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten”* and *“A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together”* were consistently gender equitable with the majority of both women and men disagreeing with those statements, although fewer women and men rejected (i.e. did not agree with) the latter statement. By contrast, only 22% of women and 17% of men disagreed with the statement that *“A man using violence against his wife is a private matter that shouldn’t be discussed outside the couple”*. Half of all respondents (48% of women and 56% of men) strongly agreed with the view that domestic violence is a private matter (i.e. expressed gender inequitable views). Overall therefore, patterns of response to these GEM scale statements suggest that attitudes on VAWG are mixed: responses indicate that the acceptability of violence is limited among men and women, but also suggest limited support for the open discussion of VAWG. The belief that violence is a private matter potentially presents a barrier to reporting and access to support and justice for women experiencing intimate partner violence.

Table 6: Gender Equitable Men (GEM) scale statements on VAWG disaggregated by sex of respondent.

How far do you agree with the statement:	Women (n = 63)	Men (n = 36)	Response pattern
There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.			
Do not agree	87% (55)	83% (30)	Gender equitable (both)
Somewhat/partly agree	10% (6)	14% (5)	
Strongly agree	3% (2)	3% (1)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.			
Do not agree	60% (38)	81% (29)	Gender equitable (both)
Somewhat/partly agree	16% (10)	17% (6)	
Strongly agree	22% (14)	3% (1)	

Prefer not to answer	2% (1)	0	
A man using violence against his wife is a private matter that shouldn't be discussed outside the couple.			
Do not agree	22% (14)	17% (6)	Gender inequitable (men)
Somewhat/partly agree	30% (19)	28% (10)	
Strongly agree	48% (30)	56% (20)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	

Attitudes on the role and responsibilities of women: Table 7 presents the data on responses to the GEM scale statements exploring the role of women in terms of responsibilities for housework and childcare, having children and working outside the home. The majority of women respondents (54%) strongly agreed with the gender inequitable statements that “*Changing diapers, giving children a bath and feeding children is a mother’s responsibility*”, and more women strongly agreed (44%) than disagreed (27%) with the statement “*A woman’s role is taking care of her home and family*”. By contrast the majority of men (42% and 61%) did not agree (i.e. expressed gender equitable attitudes) on these statements regarding women’s responsibilities for household work and childcare. The majority of both women and men however expressed gender equitable attitudes (i.e. disagreed) with the statement that “*Only when a woman has a child is she a real woman*”.

Patterns of response to the statement that “*Women should be able to work outside the home after they have children if they want to*” were mixed with 41% of women strongly agreeing with the statement, while 47% of men did not agree. These findings suggests that despite general recognition that a woman’s role is not just about having children, conservative attitudes underlying and maintaining the unequal division of household chores and childcare responsibilities that are held by women and men are likely to present a key barrier to women’s participation in economic activities outside the household. These survey findings are consistent with the qualitative data from FGDs which highlighted the risk of husbands being jealous of their wives going out to work, which brings with it the potential for misunderstanding and conflict, and the possible sanction of community gossip about women who work. At the same time, both women and men recognised exceptions to these negative attitudes when there is mutual agreement and trust within the couple and for women going to work at “suitable times” and/or to use their professional knowledge. The finding from the FGDs that the value of women’s economic contribution is increasingly recognised as bringing improvements in family living standards also suggests that social norms relating to women’s engagement in economic activities outside the home may be changing.

Table 7: Gender Equitable Men (GEM) scale statements on the role of women disaggregated by sex of respondent.

How far do you agree with the statement:	Women (n = 63)	Men (n = 36)	Response pattern
Changing diapers, giving children a bath and feeding children is a mother's responsibility.			
Do not agree	30% (19)	42% (15)	Mixed: Gender inequitable (Women); Gender equitable (Men)
Somewhat/partly agree	16% (10)	22% (8)	
Strongly agree	54% (34)	33% (12)	
Prefer not to answer	0	3% (1)	
A woman's role is taking care of her home and family.			
Do not agree	27% (17)	61% (22)	Mixed: Gender inequitable (Women); Gender equitable (Men)
Somewhat/partly agree	29% (18)	19% (7)	
Strongly agree	44% (28)	19% (7)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
Only when a woman has a child is she a real woman.			
Do not agree	57% (36)	75% (27)	Gender Equitable: Both
Somewhat/partly agree	19% (12)	8% (3)	
Strongly agree	21% (13)	14% (5)	
Prefer not to answer	3% (2)	3% (1)	
Women should be able to work outside the home after they have children if they want to.			
Do not agree	30% (19)	47% (17)	Mixed: Weakly gender equitable (women); Weakly gender inequitable (men).
Somewhat/partly agree	27% (17)	22% (8)	
Strongly agree	41% (26)	31% (11)	
Prefer not to answer	2% (1)	0	

Attitudes regarding women's participation in decision-making: Table 8 presents the data on responses to the GEM scale statements exploring women's participation in decision-making at the household and community levels. Patterns of response on these statements again suggest that women are more likely than men to hold conservative attitudes on issues relating to women's participation in decision-making at household level. Less than half (46%) of female respondents rejected the statement that "*The husband decide to buy the major household items*" and less than a third of female respondents rejected the statements that "*A woman should obey her husband in all things*" and "*A man should have the final say about decisions in his home*", indicating widespread acceptance among women of men taking the dominant role in household-level decision-making. By contrast, the majority

of men expressed gender equitable views in response to those questions. The majority of respondents of both sexes (75% of women and 86% of men) however rejected the statement that “*Women should leave community decision-making and politics to men*” – a finding which suggests widespread support for women’s participation in decision-making at community level.

Table 8: Gender Equitable Men (GEM) scale statements on women’s participation in decision-making.

How far do you agree with the statement:	Women (n = 63)	Men (n = 36)	Response pattern
The husband should decide to buy the major household items.			
Do not agree	46% (29)	58% (21)	Mixed: Gender inequitable (women); Gender equitable (men)
Somewhat/partly agree	27% (17)	36% (13)	
Strongly agree	27% (17)	6% (2)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
A woman should obey her husband in all things.			
Do not agree	33% (21)	56% (20)	Mixed: Gender inequitable (women); Gender equitable (men)
Somewhat/partly agree	30% (19)	31% (11)	
Strongly agree	37% (23)	14% (5)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
A man should have the final say about decisions in his home.			
Do not agree	32% (20)	53% (19)	Mixed: Gender inequitable (women); Gender equitable (men)
Somewhat/partly agree	32% (20)	33% (12)	
Strongly agree	37% (23)	14% (5)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
Women should leave community decision-making and politics to men.			
Do not agree	75% (47)	89% (32)	Gender equitable: Both
Somewhat/partly agree	16% (10)	6% (2)	
Strongly agree	10% (6)	6% (2)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	

Attitudes on rights of girls to education and economic participation: Table 9 presents the data on responses to the GEM scale statements exploring attitudes relating to girls’ education and engagement in economic activities. The majority of women and men disagreed with the statements that “*It is important that boys have more education than girls*” and that “*Girls should be sent to school only if they are not needed to help at home*” and agreed that girls should be able to work outside the home. These consistent patterns of

response from respondents of both sexes suggest there is widespread acceptance that girls have a right to education and economic participation. These gender equitable attitudes relating to the rights and opportunities open to girls could potentially provide a foundation for challenging the more conservative attitudes and social norms relating to adult women's roles and responsibilities expressed by respondents in response to GEM scale statements around domestic chores, women's participation in decision-making and VAWG.

Table 9: Gender Equitable Men (GEM) scale statements on girls' rights to education and economic participation.

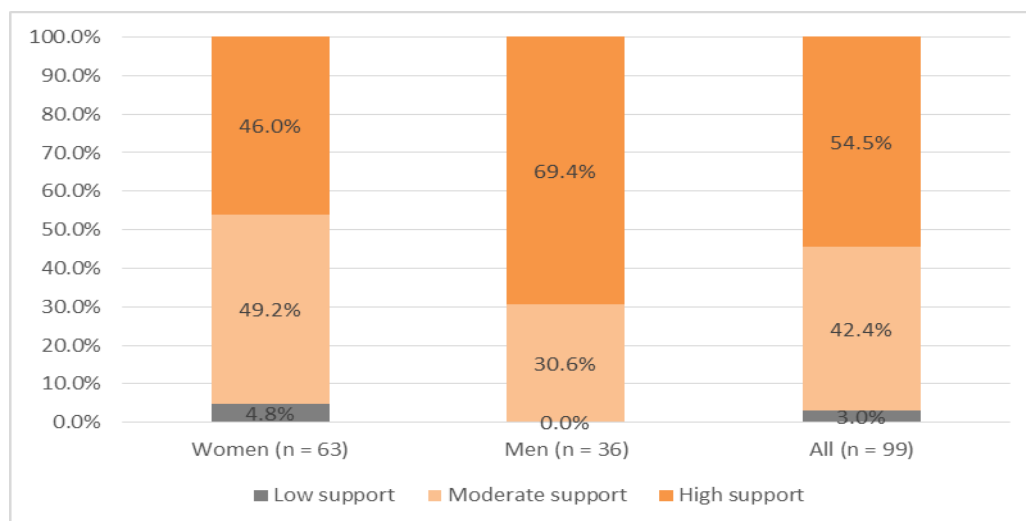
How far do you agree with the statement:	Women (n = 63)	Men (n = 36)	Response pattern
It is important that boys have more education than girls.			
Do not agree	89% (56)	100% (36)	Gender equitable: Both
Somewhat/partly agree	6% (4)	0	
Strongly agree	5% (3)	0	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
Girls should be sent to school only if they are not needed to help at home.			
Do not agree	70% (44)	72% (26)	Gender equitable: Both
Somewhat/partly agree	16% (10)	17% (6)	
Strongly agree	14% (9)	11% (4)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	
I would like my daughter to be able to work outside the home so that she can support herself if necessary.			
Do not agree	8% (5)	17% (6)	Gender equitable: Both
Somewhat/partly agree	10% (6)	17% (6)	
Strongly agree	83% (52)	67% (24)	
Prefer not to answer	0	0	

Overall levels of support for gender equitable social norms: Analysis of the composite scores for responses across the set of 14 GEM scale statements shows that **55% of all respondents surveyed expressed high levels of support**, 42% of all respondents expressed moderate levels of support, and 3% of all respondents expressed low levels of support for gender equitable attitudes. There were clear differences between women and men in the % of respondents expressing support for gender equitable attitudes. **Men were more likely to express high levels of support for gender equitable attitudes**, while **women were more likely to express moderate or low levels of support for gender equitable attitudes**.

Analysis of the composite scores for responses on the GEM scale statements for community leaders found that **54% of community leaders expressed high levels of support for gender equitable attitudes** as compared with 55% of community members who do hold a leadership position. 46% of community leaders expressed moderate levels of support (as compared with 41% of community members) while no community leaders expressed low levels of support (as compared with 4% of community members). There was no significant pattern of association between leadership status and support for gender equitable attitudes.

These findings highlight the need to facilitate reflection and dialogue with project participants, community leaders and the wider community on issues of gender equality as a key element of gender-transformative programming, and in particular highlight the importance of challenging women’s attitudes relating to women and girls’ roles and status which define and maintain the unequal division of household work and decision-making, and encouraging men to adopt and demonstrate gender equitable behaviours that are aligned with the supportive attitudes they express.

Figure 8: Levels of support for gender equitable social norms based on GEM scale composite scores.



5.4 Rejection of Intimate Partner Violence

Violence against women and girls is recognised as a significant barrier to women’s economic participation, decision-making and leadership. Societal attitudes regarding VAWG reflect social norms relating to women’s status and the extent to which they are able to claim their economic, social and political rights in their households and communities. The ANCP Solomon Island project’s baseline assessment included measurement of the CARE International global indicator of change regarding the acceptability of intimate partner

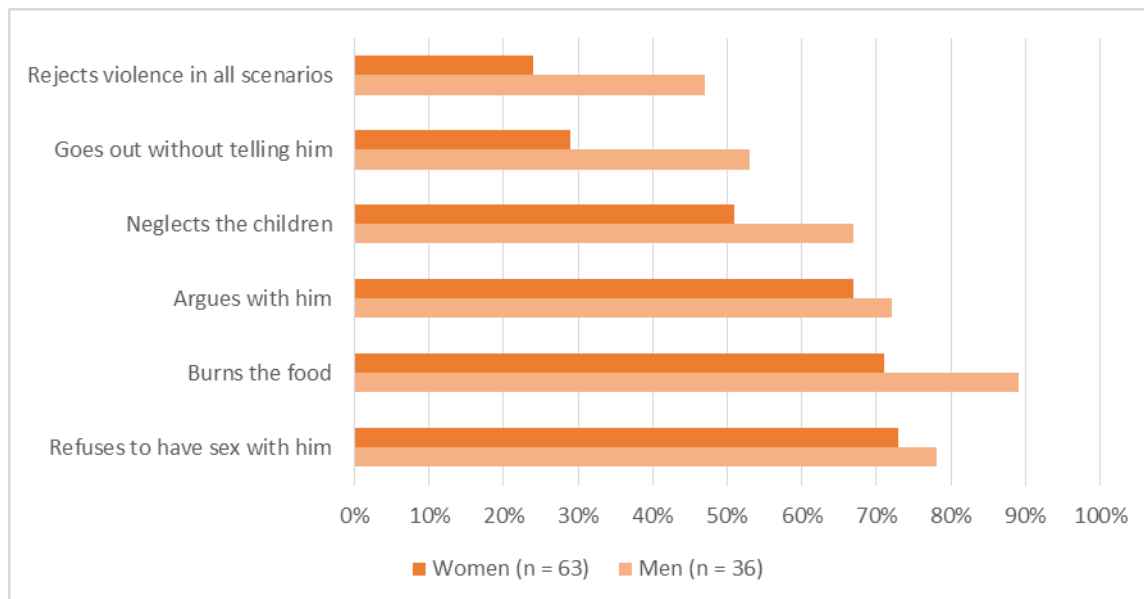
violence – the % of people of all genders who reject intimate partner violence²⁴. Measurement of this indicator is based on the standard DHS question: “In your opinion, is a husband justified in hitting or beating his wife in the following situations:

- a) If she goes out without telling him?
- b) If she refuses to have sex with him?
- c) If she argues with him?
- d) If she neglects the children?
- e) If she burns the food?”

Figure 9 presents the % of women and men answering no (i.e. rejecting IPV) in each of those situations as well as the % of each respondent category rejecting violence in all five situations. The survey data show that rates of rejection of intimate partner violence by women are lower than rates of rejection of IPV by men in each of five situations assessed and across all five situations. The majority of women thought that a husband would not be justified in using violence if a woman refused to have sex with her partner/ husband (73%), if she burned the food (71%) or if she argued with her husband (67%). Rates of rejection of IPV for both sexes were lower for the situations of a woman going out without telling her husband or neglecting children. Just over half of women respondents (51%) thought that a husband would not be justified in beating his wife if she neglected the children as compared with 67% of men and only 29% of women thought a husband would not be justified in beating his wife if she went out without telling him, as compared with 53% of men.

²⁴ See CARE International guidance for indicator 2 – % of people of all genders who reject intimate partner violence.

Figure 9: % of women and men rejecting IPV for different situations and across all situations.



In overall terms of the compositive indicator for the rejection of intimate partner violence, **24% of women and 47% of men said that a husband would not be justified in beating his wife under any of the five situations.** This pattern of response indicates widespread acceptance among women and men survey respondents of the use of violence by men as a mechanism for the control of women’s behaviours and the maintenance of social norms relating to women’s roles and mobility. This finding is in striking contrast with the patterns of response found for men and women in response to the GEM scale statements referring to VAWG discussed in section 5.3. The PP4GE baseline survey data on rates of rejection of violence is however more or less consistent with national statistics which show that in the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey 57% of men and 77% of women agreed with at least one specific justification for wife beating²⁵. Overall, the baseline findings highlight the importance of the ANCP Solomon Islands project’s proposed focus on incorporating approaches for healthy relationships free from violence in their work with both women and men.

Analysis of the data for rejection of IPV by leadership status found that **46% of community leaders (n = 13 or 28) rejected violence across all five situations** as compared with 27% of community members who do not hold leadership positions (n = 71). This difference is

²⁵ Solomon Islands National Statistics Office ((2017) *Demographic and Health Survey 2015*.

statistically significant at a level of less than 10% probability, i.e. **community leaders were more likely than non-leaders to reject intimate partner violence.**

6.0 Conclusions

Table 10 presents the baseline values for the ANCP Solomon Island project indicators at outcome and output levels measured by the baseline assessment, including identification of those output level indicators that will need be measured through the ongoing monitoring of project activities.

Key findings of the baseline assessment in terms of the domain of **agency** are as follows:

- The majority of women surveyed in the ANCP Solomon Island project pilot communities (76%) are economically active in at least one paid IGA across a range of small-scale and informal sector IGAs relating to small businesses, housework, livestock husbandry, agriculture and handicrafts.
- 52% of all women surveyed reported diversification of IGAs in the sense of reporting participation in more than one paid IGA.
- Women surveyed reported average total monthly earnings of SBD 2,627 which was markedly lower than the average reported by male respondents.
- While 57% of all women surveyed reported having savings either at home or with some kind of financial institution, only 30% of women respondents were identified as active users of any financial services, as compared with 42% of male respondents, and only 14% of women surveyed reported active use of savings clubs.
- 75% of women with savings reported that they use their own earnings as the source of their savings.
- In terms of economic capability, 68% of all women respondents were identified as having a high level of economic capability based on their reported level of confidence across six domains of capability referring to knowledge and skills, support from husband or family, access to financial and productive resources, time needed to engage in an IGA and access to a market. Qualitative data from FGDs however highlighted household workloads for women as well as male control of women's mobility and earnings as key barriers to women's economic participation.

Key findings of the baseline assessment regarding the domain of **relations** suggest that the majority of the women surveyed from the ANCP Solomon Island pilot communities are already involved in household decision-making to some extent.

- 71% of women reported active participation in household decision-making across five or more of the seven domains assessed by the survey.
- For most of the decision-making domains assessed, women were most likely to report deciding jointly with their spouse or partner. However, 48% of women reported that they were able to decide for themselves regarding their access to healthcare and 21% of women respondents reported they were able to decide for themselves regarding the use of their own earnings and savings.
- That said, more men than women reported active participation in decision-making for all of the domains assessed with the exception of the domain for decision-making about women's savings.
- The finding that 86% of men reported active participation in decision-making regarding their wife's visits to her relatives or family as compared with 62% of women, is particularly striking and suggests that men have a marked influence over women's mobility.
- The majority of women (86%) also reported active participation in at least one civil society space for community decision-making. There is however a need for more in-depth qualitative analysis of how the impact group understand active participation in those spaces and the extent to which they are really able to influence the outcomes of community-level decision-making processes in those spaces.

Key findings of the baseline assessment regarding the **structures** that shape women's economic participation show that 55% of all respondents (46% of women and 69% of men surveyed) expressed high levels of support overall for gender equitable attitudes, but that gender inequitable attitudes on some issues are widespread, especially among women and are likely to present barriers to women's economic justice.

- The survey found widespread support among women and men for girls' access to education and opportunities for economic engagement, and for women's involvement in community decision-making and politics.
- Despite widespread rejection by women and men of the statement that "*Only when a woman has a child is she a real woman*", the majority of women expressed conservative attitudes regarding the unequal division of household chores and childcare. Furthermore, only 41% of women surveyed strongly agreed with the statement that "*Women should be able to work outside the home after they have children if they want to*", while 47% of men did not agree with that statement.
- The majority of women also either strongly or partly agreed with statements indicating acceptance of men's dominance in household decision-making.

- Although responses from women and men to the GEM scale statements suggest that most respondents did not agree that domestic violence is acceptable or should be tolerated by women to keep their families together, there was widespread support for the view that domestic violence is a private matter which should not be discussed outside the couple.
- Overall, only 24% of women and 47% of men expressed their rejection of violence in all of the five situations assessed in the survey, which finding indicates widespread acceptance among women and men survey respondents of the use of violence in situations which reflect social norms relating to women's roles and mobility. Community leaders were more likely to reject violence across all five situations than community members.

Table 10: Baseline assessment of outcome and output indicators for ANCP project in the Solomon Islands

ANCP Goal	Solomon Island Project Indicator	Baseline Value
To strengthen women's economic justice and contribute to a resilient civil society in the Pacific.	# and % of women who have actively participated in economic decision-making in the household.	71% (45) women
	% of women and girls with increased income.	24% (15) women
	Attitudes and behaviours of community members towards advancing income equality and women's participation in economic decision-making and activities.	55% (54) all respondents (46% women, 69% men)
	<i>Measure: % respondents reporting high level of support for gender equitable attitudes</i>	
Result	Solomon Project Indicator	Baseline Value
EOP Outcome 1: Women and girls with and without disabilities have increased economic resilience as a result of engaging in improved income generating activities and/or increased access to savings and loans.	% of women and girls with increased capability to participate equitably in economic activities.	68% (43) women report high economic capability
Output 1.1 Women and girls (with and without disabilities) in target communities are participating in savings and loans groups.	# of women and girls with and without disabilities in target communities participating in savings and loans groups.	6 of 63 (10%)
Output 1.2 Women and girls (with and without disabilities) in savings clubs in target communities are engaging in improved income generating activities.	# of women and girls (with and without disabilities) in savings clubs in target communities are engaging in improved IGAs.	0
Result	Indicator	Baseline value
EOP Outcome 2: Barriers to women's participation, decision-making and leadership are addressed through building an	% of people of all genders who have actively participated in informal (civil society) decision-making spaces.	89% (88) all respondents (86% women, 94% men)
	% of people supported through/by CARE who report gender equitable	55% (54) all respondents (46%

enabling environment for women's economic participation.	attitudes towards social norms (GEM scale). (Changes of attitude in men and boys that build an enabling environment for women's economic participation).	women, 69% men)
Output 2.1: Women and girls (with and without disabilities) in savings clubs participate safely and meaningfully in decision-making and leadership at household and community level.	# and % of women taking part in important decision-making at household level (trend analysis).	71% (45) women
Output 2.2: Men and boys from project target groups are engaged in and support actions to promote gender equality at the household and community levels.	# of men and boys engaged in and supporting actions to promote gender equality in the HH and community level. Observed changes in attitudes and behaviour of men and boys in supporting action to promote gender equality. <i>Measure: % of men and boys reporting high support for gender equitable attitudes (GEM scale)</i>	To be measured by activity monitoring/ action research. 69% (25)
Output 2.3: Community opinion leaders and members are challenging social norms that contribute to gender inequalities.	Observed changes in attitudes and behaviour of community leaders in supporting action to promote gender equality. <i>Measure: % of community leaders reporting high support for gender equitable attitudes (GEM scale)</i>	54% (15)

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