Standing Together Against Violence (STAV) Program

Solomon Islands

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CONTEXT IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

1. VAWG in the Solomon islands: pervasive, severe, accepted
2. 2009 Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study: 64% aged 15-49, have experienced physical or sexual violence (or both) by an intimate partner
3. 73% of women in Solomon Islands believe that a man is justified in beating his wife under some circumstances.
4. Baseline survey showed In the project locations, close to Honiara - only one in five males and fewer females think there are no circumstances under which it is acceptable for a husband to hit his wife.
5. The custom of bride price makes many women feel unable to leave abusive relationships
STAV PROGRAM THEORY OF CHANGE
Supportive Structures

• Family protection act in 2014, explicitly criminalising domestic violence.

• Royal Solomon Islands Police Force has established Sexual Assault unit and Family Violence unit

• Special unit at public solicitors office to deal family violence issues

• A referral network
STAV PROGRAM APPROACH TO ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AT COMMUNITY LEVEL
Communities undertake a series of participatory community conversations addressing gender equality and VAWG.

Oxfam facilitates community mobilisation and action planning, brokers relationships with other agencies.
Communities understand the issue of VAWG and take action to promote respect for and protection of women.

Increased community awareness of the ways in which VAWG impacts the community.

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Oxfam facilitates community mobilisation and action planning, brokers relationships with other agencies.

Community-led initiatives to address VAWG.
Progress......

- Increased awareness among men and women
- Community support mechanisms
- Increased engagement with service providers
- Communities are in a process of revising community by-laws
- Community led collective action to prevent GBV

End line survey and final evaluation in Oct/Nov 2015.....
Acknowledgment

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• Community Engagement Facilitators
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Thank You