



Engendering Conflict Early Warning

Lessons from UNIFEM's Solomon Islands
Gendered Conflict Early Warning Project



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The cover photo shows UNIFEM facilitating a community meeting for women in the isolated village of Avuavu.

Acronyms

AOG	Assembly of God
CFC	Christian Fellowship Church
COC	Church of Christ
CPR	Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Reconstruction (Network)
DNURP	Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Peace Council
PCGA	Peace and Conflict Gender Analysis
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
SIBC	Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation
SICA	Solomon Islands Christian Association
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SSEC	South Sea Evangelical Church
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RSIP	Royal Solomon Islands Police
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

1. Introduction

As armed conflict continues to erupt around the world, the roles of men and women in conflict prevention become increasingly important. In particular, it is crucial to consider the ways in which information *about* both men and women, as well as information *from* both men and women can be used to prevent conflict and build peace in a gender-sensitive way. In addition to strengthening women's roles in these processes, conflict early warning is a critical field in which to examine such a gendered perspective.

The Solomon Islands 'Monitoring Peace and Conflict Using Gendered Early Warning Indicators' project is one of the United Nations Development Fund for Women's (UNIFEM) global series of gendered conflict early warning pilot projects. This report provides an account of the methodology used as well as the lessons learned in the process of implementing the pilot initiative. It is anticipated that the report will be of use to practitioners interested in gender and conflict prevention at the global level.

1.1 Why gender and conflict early warning?

Conflict early warning is the systematic collection and analysis of information from areas of crisis to anticipate the escalation of armed conflict. The process involves the collection and analysis of data using indicators, as well as the development of appropriate response options, which are communicated 'up' to policy-makers and 'down' to communities for the purposes of decision-making and action.¹

To date, conflict early warning systems have largely ignored gender issues, despite both the Beijing Platform for Action and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 calling for increased roles for women in conflict prevention and peace building.² By doing so, early warning systems are missing out on gender-sensitive information and fail to hear the perspectives of women. In addition, women are excluded from playing active roles in the conflict prevention and peace building process. UNIFEM's project sought to fill this gap and examine the process and outcomes of a conflict early warning system with an explicitly gender-sensitive perspective and approach.

The objectives of the Solomon Islands early warning indicator project were:

- To develop indicators for early warning of peace and conflict, taking into account gender issues and the experiences of women and men;
- To establish a system for the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-sensitive information on conflict and peace building;
- To create a more responsive policy and programming environment for a) gender-sensitive conflict prevention and b) supporting the role of women and men in peace building.

¹ For more information on conflict early warning systems and methodologies, see: van de Goor and Verstegen (2000), Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Reconstruction (CPR) Network (2005), Kruppenacher and Schmeidl (2001) and Ampleford (2000).

² There is relatively little literature specifically concerning gender and conflict early warning. Three excellent exceptions are Hill (2003), Schmeidl (2002) and International Alert and Women Waging Peace (2004).

1.2 Context of the armed conflict in the Solomon Islands

The armed conflict in the Solomon Islands, known locally as ‘the tensions’, erupted in 1998 and continued until the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in July 2003. The causes of the conflict were multiple and interlinked. Key issues included the cultural differences between different ethnic populations (especially between, but not limited to, Guadalcanal and Malaita) and increasing competition for limited resources around the centralized capital Honiara, particularly competition for land and for commercial and development opportunities.³ The conflict resulted in 150-200 deaths, approximately 450 gun-related injuries, and more than 35,000 internally displaced persons throughout Guadalcanal and Malaita (Muggah 2004).

Men and women played different roles during the tensions. Men’s roles included active involvement in fighting, supporting their families, and decision-making roles in mediation and reconciliation. Women’s roles often overlapped with these, and included productive roles in supporting the family while men were absent, reproductive and social welfare roles in caring for family and community members, and engaging in informal peace processes. The impacts of the tensions on both men and women included being victims of multiple types of violence – including rape, for women – economic impacts especially surrounding loss of income, break-down in domestic relationships and psychological impacts such as grief and anxiety. However, women also often experienced increased status and empowerment resulting from the traditionally male roles undertaken during the tensions.⁴

³ For recent detailed accounts of the tensions and their causes, see Fraenkel (2004) and Moore (2004).

⁴ For more information on women’s and men’s roles and experiences during and after the tensions, see Moser (2005).

2. Methodology

This section describes in detail the methodology utilized in the Solomon Islands gendered early warning project, from preparatory activities, to data collection and analysis, through to action on early warning reports.

2.1 Partner organizations, field sites and participants

The initial selection of partner organizations was of critical importance. Factors to consider included:

- Expertise in the field of peace and conflict;
- Openness to gender sensitivity;
- Women's organizations which can benefit from capacity building;
- Staff with not only the capacity but also adequate *time* available to participate;
- High level strategic or political leverage to encourage action on early warning data;
- Presence of a network of members or staff at the community level.

UNIFEM's five partners in the Solomon Islands incorporated a combination of these factors. The project partners were the National Peace Council (NPC), the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA), Vois Blong Mere – a women's media non-governmental organization (NGO) – and two governmental bodies: the Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (DNURP).

Five field sites were selected through which to monitor community-level data. The sites were selected to represent specific 'hot spots' during the tensions, and thus were not representative of the country as a whole. However, they were useful locations to monitor the potential escalation of further conflict. The communities were also selected to include a variety of ethnic groups and churches, as well as both rural and urban contexts (see Annex 1). UNIFEM worked in the following communities in the Solomon Islands: White River and Borderline in Honiara; Avuavu on the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal Province; Malu'u in Malaita Province; and Noro in Western Province.

Four people from each of these communities were trained as project participants to monitor peace and conflict using gendered early warning indicators. Here, the selection criteria were more straightforward:

- 50% women and 50% men;
- Literate, and able to communicate freely in pidgin;
- Available to travel to Honiara for training;
- Interested in working on peace building and conflict prevention for the community.

UNIFEM conducted a week-long workshop in Honiara, in which these participants were trained to act as gendered early warning field monitors in their communities. During the subsequent round of data collection, the project field monitors demonstrated their strong understanding of the workshop material through successfully completing their tasks and briefing project staff on developments within the communities. In addition, the training contributed to the empowerment of men and women to build peace at the community level, as many of these participants are using their new knowledge and confidence to initiate other conflict prevention and peace building activities.



Male and female project participants monitoring peace and conflict.

2.2 Development of gender-sensitive conflict early warning indicators

One of UNIFEM's main achievements in this project was the development of a robust set of gendered early warning indicators, with a scope which combines broad application with connection to context-specific dynamics. They are designed to monitor not only levels of conflict, but also levels of peace. These were developed in consultation with partners and representatives from other organizations in the Solomon Islands. Other standard early warning indicators, as well as gender-sensitive indicators, were then incorporated into this local set. These indicators were then pre-tested in communities to assess their relevance. After the first round of data collection, the indicators were re-assessed, with one removed, and others added. Box 1 provides examples of some of the indicators used in the Solomon Islands project, and their relevance to the local conflict.

The final set comprised 46 indicators. For analytical purposes, the indicators were divided into the following six categories: governance and political institutions, land and natural resources, economics, public security, social and ethnic relations, and peace building (see Annex 2 for the full set of indicators).⁵ The category of 'peace building' added an

⁵ Early warning indicators are generally divided into three types: *structural indicators* of background preconditions; *proximate indicators* of emerging situational trends; and *intervening factors* which decrease or increase the likelihood of conflict. Structural data in the form of statistics are generally limited and out-of-date in the Solomon Islands. Given this and the project's emphasis on community interaction, UNIFEM is best positioned to focus its analysis on proximate and intervening indicators.

important dimension by including a focus on the progress of the work of peace builders, rather than focusing wholly on conflict issues. These gendered early warning indicators have been widely recognized as appropriate issues to track in the context of the Solomon Islands.

Box 1. Examples of Gender-Sensitive Early Warning Indicators and Their Relevance to Conflict

- **Influence of women in making community decisions:** Women are culturally and religiously not seen as decision-makers; if a woman speaks out on an issue, men feel threatened even if they know her point is valid.
- **Women's involvement in community resolution of land disputes:** Women are rarely involved due to their lack of decision-making roles in the community, even in matrilineal societies where women are land custodians. Land disputes were one of the key underlying causes of the tensions.
- **Male youth unemployment:** Destabilizing factor during the tensions as unemployed male youths used compensation demands as a means of gaining cash incomes. Increased criminal activity is still associated with young male unemployed school drop-outs.
- **Avoidance of markets / gardens due to fear:** It is generally women who walk to remote gardens, or to take produce to markets. During the tensions women were too afraid to carry out this work, which in turn reduced food security and cash income.
- **Incidence of crime:** Especially linked to male youth unemployment (see above). Crime is on the increase in Honiara, and is becoming more violent.
- **Fear of reprisal from prisoners:** An issue highlighted by women, with evidence that women are being threatened and subjected to retribution from men released from prison over tension-related crimes.
- **Incidence of rape:** Beyond the large extent of rape which women and girls suffered during the tensions, high incidences continued to be reported well after the peace agreement.
- **Trust between ethnic groups:** Linked to prevalent negative stereotypes about different ethnic groups, and to strong in-group identification, especially among men. This played a significant role in fueling violent conflict.
- **Domestic abuse:** A currently high-risk indicator linked to alcohol consumption, economic insecurity, and the aftermath of the tensions – anecdotal evidence suggests the rate climbed dramatically during and after the tensions.
- **Informal negative discourse (gossip):** Significant prior to and during the tensions. Also a gendered issue, as women are frequently associated with gossip, especially during the tensions when women's gossip was often considered to fuel conflicts.
- **Marriage breakups:** Incidence of marriage break-ups rose significantly during the tensions, and is associated with alcohol abuse and with the increasing 'culture of O2s' (second wives, or mistresses). This is perceived as a high risk indicator by women, but not by men.

2.3 Peace and Conflict Gender Analysis

Background contextual analysis was required for the gendered early warning project, and as such a Peace and Conflict Gender Analysis (PCGA) was developed and conducted. UNIFEM collected data from 250 people in the five communities in which the project operates, using a framework which identifies the roles of men and women, and the impacts on men and women, in terms of both 'conflict' and 'peace' (Table 1).

Table 1. Peace and Conflict Gender Analysis Matrix

Category	CONFLICT		PEACE	
	Roles	Impacts	Roles	Impacts
Men				
Women				

It is recognized that these two phases and processes frequently overlap, and this is especially the case with mediation and reconciliation roles, which occur both during conflict as well as forming a significant element of post-conflict peace-building. Nonetheless, peace and conflict were separated in order to guide thoughts and discussions in the communities. This analytical framework proved to be a successful methodology for conducting the PCGA at the community level, and illustrated that neither men's nor women's roles in peace and conflict conform to gendered stereotypes. A brief working document was produced in an accessible format, and distributed widely (Moser 2005).

The PCGA has been very well received by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG), civil society and donors. It has been found to be very useful given the extreme lack of micro-level data available in the Solomon Islands, especially with regards to women.

2.4 Early warning data collection

The UNIFEM early warning project utilized a wide-ranging data collection methodology, both in order to 'test' a number of different methods, as well as to allow for triangulation of results. The methodology goes beyond the event data standard for most early warning systems, and combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This project also utilized an approach to conflict early warning which values both micro-level data from women and men at the community level, as well as macro-level data at the national level, based on the assumption that monitoring micro-level changes can help anticipate conflict before it spreads to higher levels. In this sense, UNIFEM's approach in the Solomon Islands differed from many other early warning approaches which are often based on event data.

The early warning data collection system operated on two time scales. Indicator and focus group data was collected on a cyclical basis at 6 month intervals, while a Media Scan and Structural Data Set were compiled on an ongoing basis. The full range of data collection instruments is described below and in Table 2.

Table 2. Gendered Early Warning Data Collection Methodology

Data Source	Type	Number	Frequency	Sex Distribution	Comments
Self-Monitoring Template	Survey	20	Cyclical	50% male 50% female	4 people from each community were trained as monitors of peace & conflict
Community Survey	Survey	200	Cyclical	50% male 50% female	In each community, with 50% youth & 50% adult respondents
National Survey	Survey	200	Cyclical	50% male 50% female	'Informed specialists' from NGOs & other national & international organizations
Structural Data Set	Statistics	-	Ongoing	-	Based on available national level statistics
Media Scan	Scan	1681 articles	Ongoing	-	Local newspaper scanned for articles on peace &/or conflict on a daily basis
Community Meetings	Focus Group	10	Cyclical	50% male 50% female	Separate meetings with men & women are held in each community

Indicator data was collected at six-month intervals using three different data collection instruments. This was done both to enable triangulation, and to ensure that each instrument was appropriate to the particular respondents. The three instruments were as follows:

- **Self-Monitoring Templates** were completed by the 20 male and female project participants who were trained in monitoring peace and conflict indicators at the community level;
- **Community Surveys** were carried out among respondents across the five communities where the project operated: of the respondents, 50 percent were youths and 50 percent adults;
- **National Surveys** were conducted among 'informed specialists' and 'experts' at the national level in Honiara, including employees of NGOs, churches and other national and international organizations.



Conducting Community Surveys in an urban squatter settlement.

All indicator data collection instruments targeted equal numbers of male and female respondents, and utilized the format illustrated in Box 2. In the second round of data collection, the number of surveys collected was doubled to 440 in total, to create a more robust data set.

Box 2. Example of Survey Question Format

How frequent are incidences of domestic abuse? (Please circle one answer)				
1	2	3	4	5
Very rare				Very frequent

Additional forms of non-indicator-based data were also included in the data collection process. During community visits, Focus Groups were held with separate groups of men and women, at times convenient to the community members. The Focus Groups were used to develop deeper qualitative context behind the indicator data, and generally asked participants to discuss various aspects of the indicators.

A Structural Data Set was compiled using national statistics on an ongoing basis, although this was hindered by the general lack of up-to-date data in the Solomon Islands. In addition, a Media Scan of the Solomon Star newspaper was carried out on a daily basis by a women's media NGO, to monitor coverage of peace and conflict-related articles and their gender representation. The Media Scan template used for this is provided in Annex 3.

2.5 Analysis and reporting of early warning data

There were three stages in the analysis and reporting process:

- Collation and presentation of raw data;
- Analysis discussions of raw data with all partners;
- Drafting of early warning reports based on analysis by partners and community focus groups.

All indicator-based data collection instruments used a 5-point measurement scale, as illustrated in Box 2. Where necessary, the results were inverted in analysis so that a higher score indicated higher risk. The results for each indicator were averaged, and converted to a color-coded 'Risk Level', where a score of 1 to 2.79 indicates 'Low Risk' (green), 2.8 to 3.79 indicates 'Medium Risk' (yellow), and a score of 3.8 to 5 indicates 'High Risk' (red).⁶

⁶ While some conflict early warning frameworks aggregate indicators into composite scores, this is analytically problematic. It assumes that such indicators are comparable, and relies on judgments as to their relative weight, or equally problematically assumes that all indicators are equal (see Foweraker and Krznaric 2000). For these reasons, in this report indicators scores are not aggregated.

Trend data was calculated to show increasing or decreasing levels of peace or conflict over time. Any such changes were represented through arrows, with upwards-pointing arrows indicating an *increase* in the conflict risk level and downwards-pointing arrows indicating a *decrease* in the conflict risk level. Male and female responses were disaggregated to highlight any differences between women's and men's perspectives of conflict and peace issues. This was a very successful strategy for enabling gender analysis of indicators which were not explicitly gender-related.

Table 3. Example of Sex-Disaggregated and Color-Coded Indicator Data

Indicator	Women's Response	Men's Response	Total Risk Level
1. Satisfaction with provision of government services	3.92	3.71	3.82 HIGH
2. Ability to participate in government decision-making	4.02	3.72	3.87 HIGH
3. Corruption in government	4.56	4.72	4.64 HIGH
4. Women's participation in government processes	4.16	3.96	4.06 HIGH
5. Influence of men in making community decisions	2.1	1.8	1.95 LOW
6. Influence of women in making community decisions	3.9	2.9	3.4 MEDIUM
7. Use of traditional forms of conflict resolution	3.4	2.6	3.0 MEDIUM

This data was presented in color-coded tables (see Table 3), and analysis meetings were held with partners. Partners were asked to comment especially on:

- Any high-risk indicators – why they are high-risk, and the implications of this;
- Any notable differences between the perceptions of men and women – for example, in the first report it was noted that women found fear of reprisal by released prisoners to be a high-risk issue, while men did not;
- Any results which are regarded as surprising;
- Any other current risk factors which were not covered by the indicator data – for example the emergence of a militant separatist group.

It was important to maintain a degree of objectivity in the analysis process, and this was attained through the inclusion of a range of partners with different perspectives. Group discussions allowed ideas to be debated, and the more radically biased comments were generally tempered during this process. The qualitative analysis generated through these analysis meetings was then combined with the Focus Group notes, and used to draft the narrative of the Gendered Conflict Early Warning Reports (UNIFEM 2005a and UNIFEM 2005b). These combined statistical data with qualitative analysis. The focus was on the indicator data, but also incorporated a wider perspective of issues.

The reporting of the gender-sensitive conflict early warning data was a critical aspect to the success of the project. The reports were targeted towards a local audience, and aimed to use appropriate language and be as concise as possible, with all additional detailed information provided as annexes. Another key aspect of the reports was clear and engaging presentation of data. This was achieved through the color-coding described above, including color-coded graphs and tables.

2.6 Advocacy and response

The Gendered Early Warning Reports were distributed widely in the Solomon Islands, to all Permanent Secretaries in government, to NGOs, donors, and churches. Copies of the report, along with simplified summaries, were also distributed in the five project site communities.

A media and communications strategy was crucial to the project. This included regular newspaper articles in the local newspaper, as well as ongoing radio announcements on the only women's radio network and the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC). This radio communication was especially important given that the majority of the population do not have access to newspapers or other communication media. Similarly, at the regional and international levels, information was disseminated via regional radio stations (for example, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation) and via the internet. Finally, UNIFEM's early warning project also produced a color brochure and a color poster featuring photos of project participants in the communities.

One of the most critical elements of any conflict early warning system is the link from warning to response. In the case of UNIFEM's Solomon Islands project, for each of the 46 indicators a set of corresponding response options was developed by male and female community members and partners, taking into account a gender perspective. Conflict prevention and peace building are the concern and responsibility of people at all levels – not just of national governments. Therefore, response options were developed for the community level – initiatives and actions which communities themselves identified and could undertake – as well as for the national level, including initiatives and policies for government, national NGOs, churches and donors. These were included in matrix form in the early warning reports.



Senior staff of the Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace discuss the Gendered Early Warning Report.

Much of the advocacy around the early warning reports centered around facilitating various organizations' use of the response options in their planning and operational work, with particular regard for gender and women's issues. This was one of the major successes of the project. The most important example of this is the government Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace, which used the gendered

Response Options matrix, with UNIFEM's assistance, as a key element of their strategic planning for their peace building mandate.

Similar enthusiastic support for and use of the response options for planning came from several other actors, including the NPC which has utilized the Response Options matrix to highlight in which areas the NPC has the capacity to work, and to then inform a strategic planning process. Oxfam Australia and Save the Children in the Solomon Islands also used the early warning reports in their strategic planning. RAMSI viewed the early warning reports as one of the only 'diagnostic tools' available in the Solomon Islands. Others such as AusAID and World Vision distributed the report to staff so as to use it as a dialogue tool with others working on peace building in the country. In addition, women candidates for the 2006 election used the data and response options in their campaign manifestos. In these cases, the organizations were – by using gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated data and response options – implicitly utilizing a gender perspective in their work.

A final point of interest is that many of the participants from the training felt that the response option exercise was inspiring because it enabled them to realize that they do know the answers, and that their communities are in their hands.

3. Lessons Learned

As the Gendered Early Warning Project in the Solomon Islands was a pilot project, learning was a key element of all aspects of the work. Beyond the methodological issues examined above, the project also noted two important overarching outcomes for women, peace and security:

- **Building the capacity of women’s organizations working for peace**
Implementing the conflict early warning project with an emphasis on gender simultaneously built the capacity of national women’s organizations, and individual women, with whom the project worked in partnership. Working with the conflict early warning project raised the profile of these women’s organizations, provided them with skills and knowledge about early warning as a means of conflict prevention, strengthened their research skills, and strengthened their analytical skills.
- **Raising the profile and deepening analysis of gender issues among ‘non-gender-oriented’ conflict prevention organizations**
For government, donors and NGOs who bought in to the ‘new’ concept of conflict early warning, having an engendered project enables a means of getting these national-level individuals and organizations to simultaneously engage with gender issues. For example, the National Peace Council is strongly committed to its partnership role in the project, and was therefore promoting a gendered conflict prevention project, despite relatively little previous gender work.

In addition, having gender-disaggregated early warning data (in the form of highlighting women’s responses versus men’s responses to the indicators, as well as overall results) enabled in-depth gender analysis of the issues on the part of male (as well as female) partners. For example, noticing that women were more dissatisfied than men with the provision of government services elicited analysis about women feeling the impacts more keenly than men due to their interests in providing food, education and health care for their families.

3.1 Successful strategies

The experiences of the project suggested that three cornerstones of gendered early warning practice contributed to positive gender and peace building outcomes, as illustrated in Figure 1. The cornerstones of the gendered conflict early warning framework in the Solomon Islands were:

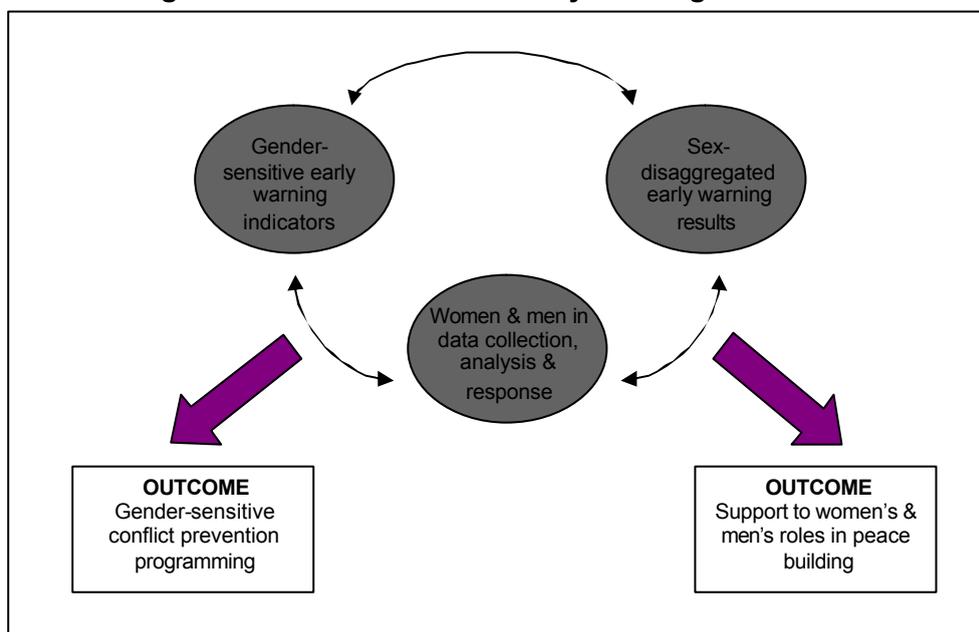
- **Gender-sensitive early warning indicators**, which ensure data is collected on topics relevant to gender issues in conflict and peace building;
- **Sex-disaggregated early warning data**, such that men’s responses and women’s to the gender-sensitive indicators are highlighted; this strategy prompted in-depth analysis of gender issues where there were differences in men’s and women’s responses;
- **Women and men involved in data collection, analysis and development of response options**, such that they play active roles in conflict prevention and

peace building at the grassroots and national levels, and such that these processes are shaped by adequate attention to gender issues.

Combined, these three factors contributed to the following outcomes:

- **Gender-sensitive conflict prevention programming**, through the application of the lessons from early warning data and gender-sensitive response options into the program planning of conflict prevention and peace building actors;
- **Supporting women’s and men’s roles in peace building**, both through training and empowering project participants at the grassroots, as well as strengthening those in key organizations at the national level.

Figure 1. Gendered Conflict Early Warning Framework



Particular elements which contributed to the success of the gender-sensitive conflict early warning system included the following:

- **Broad methodological approach** going beyond event data to community perceptions and expert opinion, combining statistical data with qualitative analysis;
- **Strong network in communities** of women and men successfully trained in gender and early warning;
- **Close partnerships at high levels** with key women and men working in peace building, to enable substantive analysis of data, and to facilitate high-level buy-in for response options;
- **Gender-sensitive indicator set which is appropriate to the specific context** and which is considered representative of key conflict issues by local people;

- **Gendered conflict early warning reports** which are clearly presented with color-coded data, in appropriate language for a local target audience, and which include realistic response options;
- **Strong communication and advocacy strategy** such that all national actors involved in conflict prevention and peace building are on board with the gender-sensitive approach and can use the reports as a planning and dialogue tool.

3.2 Challenges

The project has also faced several challenges which are common to many conflict early warning systems. Therefore, UNIFEM's attempts and strategies to overcome them could be of interest more widely. Challenges included the following:

- **Achieving action on early warning reports:** The overall challenge for the project was to facilitate real conflict prevention *action* in response to the early warning reports, a challenge common to most conflict early warning systems. UNIFEM worked towards this through collaboratively developing appropriate and realistic response options, effective advocacy with key actors over the legitimacy of early warning data and systems, and assisting them to integrate findings from the report into their planning and programming.
- **Communication and transport:** The biggest day-to-day challenge related to the remote and isolated nature of many communities in the Solomon Islands, as well as the lack of communications technologies, and the unreliable nature of air and boat travel in the country. For communities outside of Honiara, communication relied on radio contact, and these were not always reliable; in Honiara, very few people had phones, so messages were passed from person to person. Boat, plane and road transport is also often cancelled or delayed. These factors made planning a difficult process, and also hindered the possibility of collecting more frequent and timely early warning data.
- **Logistics of working in areas of unrest:** Known 'hotspots' were selected as communities for the project, as this is where tensions often first arise. In one community, the recent emergence of a new militant group and a firearms incident led to a travel ban in the area for UN staff. UNIFEM staff were therefore unable to visit the community to collect data. This challenge was eventually overcome through the local project field monitors conducting the surveys, but due to the communication and transport factors outlined above, this caused a significant delay in the project.
- **Ensuring security for project participants:** This was a critical issue, and was addressed by approaching the communities through locally respected organizations (SICA and the NPC), holding a session on risk during the training workshop so that participants could raise their own concerns and risk-mitigating strategies, providing identification tags to participants, and establishing an emergency response mechanism via the NPC's VHF radio.

4. Conclusion

This report illustrates the rationale behind utilizing a gender perspective and supporting the roles of women as well as men in conflict early warning processes. In outlining the methodology and highlighting the lessons and positive outcomes from the Solomon Islands 'Monitoring Peace and Conflict Using Gendered Early Project', the value of a gender perspective in such a project is clear.

One of the aims of this report is to assist others in learning from UNIFEM's experiences, and applying lessons to future early warning initiatives. The lessons are in some ways specific to one particular project in the Solomon Islands, however they should be more widely applicable, especially when combined with lessons from UNIFEM's other pilot early warning projects. This report constitutes a reconfirmation of the fact that ultimately, conflict prevention and peace building processes will not reach their potential without the full participation of women at every stage, and without adequate concern for a gender-sensitive approach.

Annex 1. Community Profiles

Characteristic	Borderline	White River	Malu'u	Avuavu	Noro
Rural / Urban	Urban capital squatter settlement	Urban capital squatter settlement	Rural village	Rural village	Urban provincial town
Ethnic Profile	Mixed; majority Malaitan	Mixed; majority Tikopean, Renell/Bellona, Malaitan, Gilbertese	Malaitan	Guadalcanal	Mixed; majority Western
Church	Anglican & SSEC; also Pentecostal, AOG, COC, SDA	Anglican, SSEC, New Apostolic, SDA	SSEC; also Baptist, Jehovah's Witness	Catholic; also SSEC	United Church; also SSEC, SDA, Catholic, COC, CFC, Anglican
Population*	3,973	8,025	3,804	1,781	2,502
Province	Honiara	Honiara	Malaita	Guadalcanal	Western

*Borderline and White River figures calculated by Statistics Office using data from the 1999 Population and Housing Census; Malu'u, Avuavu and Noro figures from Population and Housing Census (Solomon Islands Government 1999).

Annex 2. Gendered Early Warning Indicators, by Category

Governance and Political Institutions

1. Satisfaction with provision of government services
2. Ability to participate in government decision-making
3. Corruption in government
4. Women's participation in government processes
5. Influence of men in making community decisions
6. Influence of women in making community decisions
7. Use of traditional forms of conflict resolution
8. Trust between political groups

Land and Natural Resources

9. Frequency of disputes concerning land
10. Fear that one's land may be taken over
11. Men involved in community resolution of land disputes
12. Women involved in community resolution of land disputes

Economics

13. Economic inequality within the population
14. Ability of families to meet their basic food needs
15. Male unemployment
16. Female unemployment
17. Labor migration among men
18. Labor migration among women
19. Level of female prostitution

Public Security

20. Incidences of violence
21. Avoidance of markets / gardens due to fear
22. Safety for men to walk around the community
23. Safety for women to walk around the community
24. Protests, demonstrations, riots or other forms of dissent
25. Trust in RAMSI to ensure security
26. Trust in Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP) to ensure security
27. Trust in relatives to ensure security
28. Belief that justice will be done in trials over the tensions
29. Fear of reprisal from people in prison
30. Incidence of rape
31. Incidence of crime

Social and Ethnic Relations

32. Incidence of domestic abuse
33. Frequency of marriage breakups
34. Extent of informal negative discourse
35. Presence of internally displaced people (IDPs) as a source of tension
36. Aggressive or 'hyper-masculine' behavior encouraged
37. Trust between ethnic groups
38. Girls' primary school attendance
39. Boys' primary school attendance

Peace Building

40. Peace building programs address the needs of men
41. Peace building programs address the needs of women
42. Involvement of women in formal peace processes
43. Community organizations involved in peacebuilding
44. Women's organizations involved in peace-building
45. Peace building activities initiated & run by communities themselves
46. Perception of 'ownership' of peace-building activities

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