



urbanization & children
in the **pacific**

Urbanization and Children in the Pacific

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Acronyms

AUAA	Australian Union Aid Abroad
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
APHEDA	Australia People for Health, Education and Development Abroad
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
ECREA	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy
EFA	Education for All
FRC	Fiji Red Cross
FSPK	Foundation for the People of the South Pacific Kiribati
GEC	Global Economic Crisis
GLYN	Global Youth Nexus
HIV/ AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HCC	Honiara City Council
IEC	Information Education and Communication
ILO	International Labour Organization
IRC	Innocenti Research Centre
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
KNACC	Kiribati National Advisory Committee for Children
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NACC	National Advisory Committee on Children
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
PICs	Pacific Island Countries

PNG	Papua New Guinea
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
STP	Sustainable Town Programme
TAKSEC	Taskforce against the Sexual Abuse of Children
UN	United Nations
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
VCA	Vulnerability Capacity Assessment
VCCT	Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing
VYPP	Vanuatu Young People's Project
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
YES	Youth Empowerment Strategy

Executive Summary

This report on urbanisation and children in the Pacific and commissioned by UNICEF Pacific's Policy, Advocacy, Planning and Evaluation (PAPE) unit answers three specific questions:

1. How does urbanisation affect children in the Pacific and how will it affect them in the future?
2. Which stakeholders are already actively dealing with urbanisation issues across the Pacific region, and/or with a particular focus on Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are there any that handle the impact on children in particular?
3. In what way should UNICEF Pacific engage in this field?

The report is informed by an extensive literature review covering urbanisation and children in the Pacific and urbanisation and children per se. The report is framed under the areas of particular interest to UNICEF Pacific within UNICEF Pacific's current five year plan of action of which this research project forms a part of a mid-term review. The areas of interest are: Child survival and development, child protection, basic education and gender equality, HIV and AIDS, participation and disaster preparedness.

The report reflects the work, capacities, interests and attitudes of the informants to the research. The negative effects of urbanisation on children predominate, however the report identifies that there are also advantages to be gained from living in an urban environment.

In presenting the findings from the research, the authors have presented the findings which apply across the three countries and also identified points of difference between countries either upon urbanisation, or which result from, urbanisation. The report identifies issues for UNICEF Pacific to consider in relation to its own Field Office staff and operations.

Included in each individual country is a case study. These case studies provide examples of practical, community level work which occurs within urban communities in the Pacific which give effect to, or inform the policy and legislative environments created by stakeholders working at government level.

This research found that while UNICEF is carrying out its mandated work at a government partnership level in developing policy and strengthening legislation and its implementation, the focus of UNICEF's community level work is mostly rural. Because this research project looks at the urban situation in relation to children, the findings and the resulting recommendations relate to the urban setting.

The report, through the recommendations, suggests that UNICEF ought to engage more directly with civil society groups who are already working in urban settings. There are many NGOs already working in urban environments and UNICEF could bring the strengths of its community level work in the areas of convergence to the urban settings where the social support mechanisms for children are different to that of the rural areas.

The research also found that NGOs often lack knowledge of and understanding of the work being done by UNICEF. This situation also often applies to UNICEF in relation to the work being done by NGOs. This situation is related to a lack of coordination of and good monitoring of work being done by both NGOs and also by UNICEF at the community level. Closer links with civil society groups by UNICEF and more intentional efforts by UNICEF to build the capacity of civil society groups in areas such as monitoring are reflected in many of the recommendations made in the report.

The research also suggests that UNICEF develop a culture of inquiry through monitoring within its field office staff. By developing these skills within staff UNICEF is better placed to build capacity of both government and civil society. Such a capacity within UNICEF field offices would also help to ensure that all field office staff are better able to see how their work relates to that of other organizations.

Recommendations are arranged into Strategic Focal Areas for UNICEF to consider in its regional programming, drawn from an analysis of the data collected for this study, as well as Country Level Recommendations drawn from an analysis of findings at country specific level.

Strategic Focal Areas

Focal Area 1: Lack of Coordination among stakeholders engaged in tackling impacts of urbanization on children and youth

Focal Area 2: Need for Research, Monitoring and Evaluation to deal with urbanization issues impacting on children and youth

Focal Area 3: Lack of Awareness of urbanization issues affecting children and youth

Focal Area 4: Need for Capacity Building to deal effectively with the impacts of urbanization on children and youth

Focal Area 5: Need to place urbanization issues at the forefront of Policy, Advocacy and Planning

Country Level Recommendations

Vanuatu:

Child Survival & Development

- UNICEF could support the Ministry of Health to gather baseline information regarding the health status of children in urban Vanuatu, with a focus on informal settlements
- UNICEF could support the Ministry of Health to develop a WASH initiative in the urban setting, with a focus on the informal peri-urban settlements
- UNICEF, through the M.o.H. could support the setting up of pilot nutrition awareness raising programmes in the urban areas

Child Protection

- UNICEF, through the Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare, could develop effective awareness raising on Child Protection issues arising from urbanization within urban communities
- UNICEF could develop and support capacity building of relevant stakeholders who are engaged in dealing with Child Protection issues in the urban areas

Basic Education & Gender Equality

- UNICEF through the Child Friendly School focal point at the Ministry of Education, could play a role in promoting Child Friendly School principles in the urban setting to address issues of access to education, nutrition and quality of education
- UNICEF through the M.o.E. could support informal education providers in the urban areas, to build their resources, capacities and help them achieve recognition

HIV & AIDS

- UNICEF through the Ministry of Health could support the stakeholders involved in promoting sexual health awareness in the urban areas

Participation

- UNICEF through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development could collaborate to expand and support services to children and youth in the urban centres
- UNICEF could support the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development with the Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES) which aims at developing a coordinated network of urban and provincial youth councils

Solomon Islands:

Child Survival & Development

- UNICEF should ensure that the recently completed Baseline study for the Solomon Islands is disaggregated into urban relevant data and made available to all relevant stakeholders working in the urban areas
- UNICEF could support the Ministry of Health and the Honiara City Council Health Department (HCCHD) with an outreach pilot project in the communities surrounding selected HCCHD clinic to ensure that the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (CFHI) which will be implemented in Honiara this year attracts community participation
- UNICEF could conduct more awareness raising on the benefits of immunization within the urban communities, as well as consider a mobile unit to reach out into the peri-urban areas

Child Protection

- UNICEF, in partnership with social welfare division, could support capacity building and training of existing service providers engaged in dealing with issues of sexual and physical violence in the urban areas

- UNICEF could engage with the Safety Net Initiative (currently in its initial stages) which aims to coordinate a network of urban service providers and stakeholders dealing with domestic and sexual violence issues
- UNICEF should raise the issue of street children as a public policy priority with government.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

- UNICEF could support the Ministry of Education and the Honiara City Council Education Department (HCCED) to provide ECE mobile education units to the peri-urban settlements
- UNICEF could engage through the Honiara City Council, with the Rapid Employment Programme to help plan child friendly projects for consideration under the program.

HIV & AIDS

- UNICEF could facilitate the research into the collective effectiveness of existing HIV & AIDS work in the urban areas

Participation

- UNICEF, through the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, could facilitate greater cooperation and coordination within the civil society organizations providing activities for urban youth to engage in and have their voices heard.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- UNICEF could play a role through the Truth and Reconciliation Process, in researching into the linkages between ex-child combatants and the current level of violence in the peri-urban settlements

Kiribati:

Child Survival & Development

- UNICEF, through the Ministry of Health, could support the monitoring and evaluation of the various programmes addressing the impacts of urbanization on child survival and development in South Tarawa
- UNICEF could facilitate research into reasons for the low immunisation rates that prevail in South Tarawa.

Child Protection

- UNICEF should work closely with government, the law and justice system and civil society groups to develop support systems for children who come into contact with law and justice system whether as victims or perpetrators in South Tarawa

Basic Education & Gender Equality

- UNICEF could advocate for inclusive education (for the Ministry of Education to recognise its role in providing education for the children with disabilities in South Tarawa

- UNICEF, through the MoE, could engage with the Sustainable Towns Project which aims to alleviate the impacts of urbanization in South Tarawa, with providing advice and expertise in the area of establishing schools and children facilities on the east side of South Tarawa

HIV & AIDS

- UNICEF through its support to MISA and the MoE could advocate for changes at the policy level in relation to the discrimination towards single teenage mothers whose rising numbers are believed to be a 'hidden' urban phenomenon
- UNICEF should work with relevant government and law authorities to enforce existing penalties against captains of foreign ships who allow unauthorised persons on board while in Kiribati waters, as a strategy to curb the rising phenomenon of child prostitution in South Tarawa

Participation

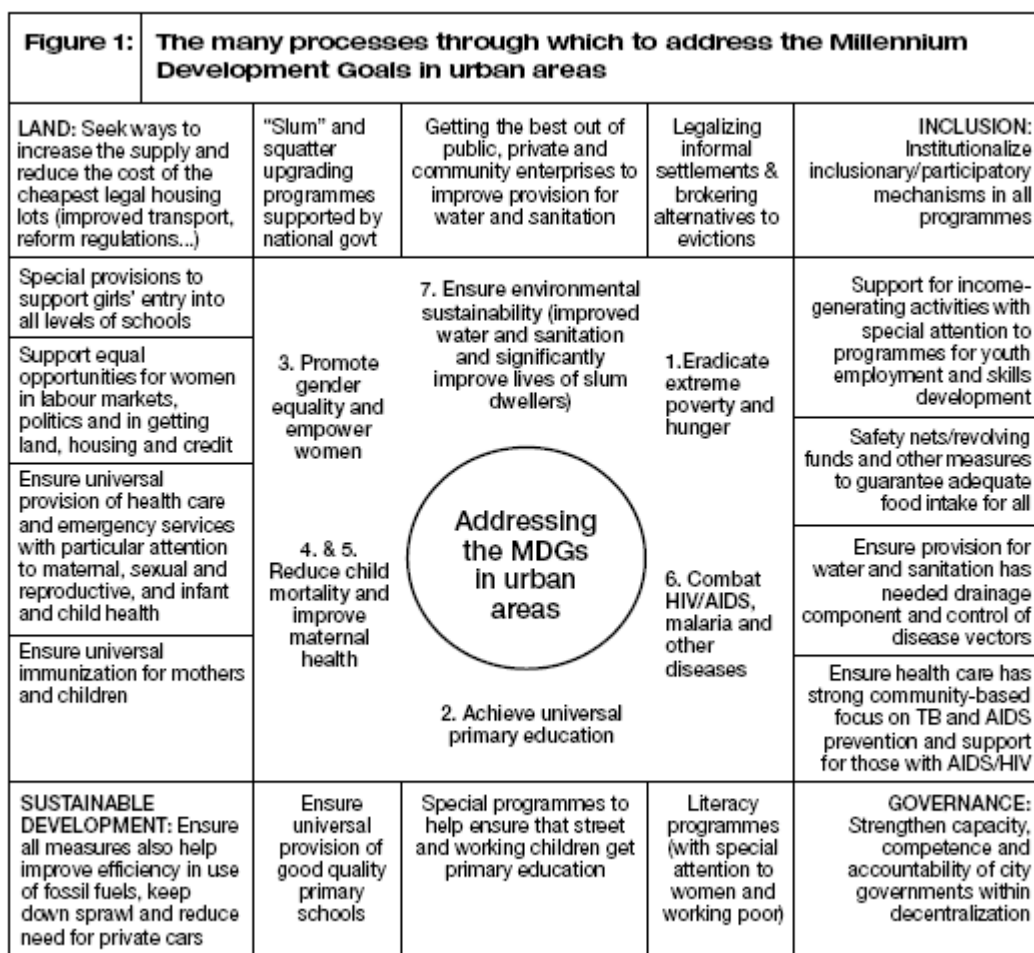
- UNICEF could support MISA to coordinate a National Youth Council Network to give a voice to urban and provincial youth.

1. Introduction

“Urbanization is a reflection of social advancement and modernization, and goes hand in hand with economic development” (UNCHS 1996a, cited in UNESCAP, 2003). As a result of urbanization, governments are able to provide services for social development such as education, health and recreation more efficiently (UNESCAP, 2003), and therefore urban children tend to be viewed as better off than their rural counterparts. UNICEF (2002)’s research however highlights that tens of millions of urban children are living in deep poverty and are marginalized, with no access to basic services such as shelter, sanitation, health and education and are most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This is of particular concern as, according to the United Nations (UN), 60% of children from developing countries will live in cities by 2025 (cited in CRIN, 2008). Furthermore, the World Bank (WB) estimates that though rural areas currently represent the most prominent sites of poverty around the world, this picture could change by 2035, with cities becoming the major sites of poverty (ibid).

What does urbanization mean to UNICEF?

Broadly speaking UNICEF is guided in its programmes by the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) and by its commitment to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Through its mandate, UNICEF supports nation states in recognizing children’s rights and the MDGs and in incorporating them into their national development strategies. Though the CRC does not focus specifically on the plight of urban children, many articles of the CRC are particularly appropriate for UNICEF to examine in the urban context (*see Annex 1*). An appreciation of urbanization and its broad implications for children and youth is necessary for UNICEF in supporting its efforts in assisting governments to achieve the MDGs. More specifically how MDGs link into the urbanization debate is explained by the following diagram:



Source: Satterthwaite (2003)

This diagram shows entry points for international organizations to consider when addressing the MDGs in urban areas. International organizations such as UNICEF have a role to play in supporting change on all these fronts, as well as in recognizing the interconnectivity between these entry points.

What urbanization could mean to UNICEF Pacific:

In most Pacific Island Countries (PICs), national populations are increasing rapidly and an increasing proportion of the national populations are now living in urban centers. According to WB estimates, over half the population of the Pacific will be living in urban areas by 2020 (cited in Storey, 2006), and a high proportion of the population is made up of youth. This rapid urbanization was mainly brought about through accelerated migration in the 1970s, and is today mostly sustained through high fertility rates.

Urbanization has improved the economic prospects and standards of living for a large portion of people in the Pacific, but has also brought along a new set of challenges for the region (Connell, 1999). The lack of enabling conditions such as availability and affordability of land, access to housing and infrastructure, adequate provision of social and economic services and too few employment opportunities has

translated into a rise of inequalities among the urban dwellers and with it, a rise in informal squatter settlements. The rapid increase of negative urban development issues is reflected in declining health and nutrition levels, an increase in school drop-outs, unemployment, and increased stress on the physical and social environments of urban dwellers, particularly for women and children (Bryant-Tokalau, 1995). Gradually, a reluctant recognition in the Pacific that poverty (often referred to as hardship) and people's vulnerability to poverty have increased, has emerged.

As a result, it is deemed important for UNICEF Pacific to understand what specific issues Pacific children are facing as a result of the rapid urbanization of their region; what it means for the fulfillment of children's rights in a city setting; and what opportunities urbanization presents for UNICEF Pacific's work in the region. Though little data is available concerning children and urbanization in the Pacific, findings from this research into urbanisation and children in the Pacific, while acknowledging that there are indeed some positive outcomes for many children, nevertheless raises serious concerns for the attainability of MDGs and CRC targets at the national level in the foreseeable future. Though small in scale, this research presents a preliminary assessment to help determine the how UNICEF might better work within its modus operandi of primarily working within a government's priorities to address issues such as child health, child protection, education, HIV&AIDS, and child participation through the lens of urbanization. Whilst taking a broader view of the urban Pacific, the research primarily focuses on three countries – Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. These countries, while exhibiting different social, political and cultural urban contexts, offer an overview of the challenges posed by urbanization for the whole region.

Based on the Terms of Reference (*see Annex 2*), the following report examines three key questions in relation to children, youth and urbanization in the Pacific, which will help inform UNICEF's mid-term review of its' current five year plan:

- 1) How does urbanization affect children in the Pacific and how will it affect them in the future?
- 2) Which stakeholders are already working on issues of urbanization in the Pacific (particularly in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)? Which ones handle the impacts on children and youth in particular?
- 3) In what way should UNICEF Pacific engage in this field?

The following *Section 2* describes the urbanization phenomenon, its broad development impacts and more specifically its impacts on children and youth in the region. *Section 3* presents the methodology adopted to pursue this research in the three selected countries (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati). *Section 4* presents the general findings from the research in two stages – what distinguishes each country's main urban centre from the others and what is common to two or more countries in the urban context; focal areas emerging from the findings of this research. *Section 5* presents Strategic Recommendations, followed by an analysis of the issues specific to the chosen countries and country level recommendations, which are presented for consideration individually at the Field Office level, and collectively for consideration at the PAPE level. A listing of stakeholders working mostly on the ground

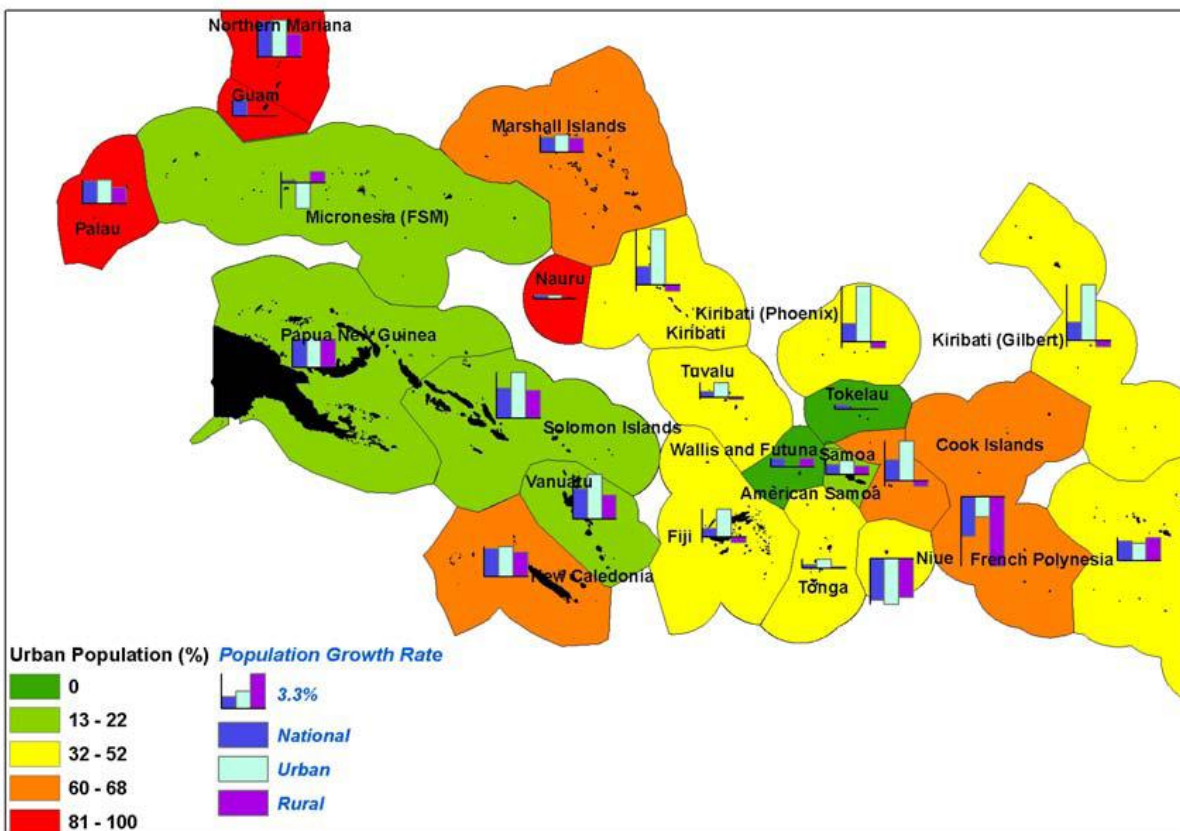
(at the community level) is also provided. Section 6, presents a concluding discussion on reaffirming the effects of urbanization as both negative and positive, and restates the need for urban focus to best support the work of all stakeholders working on urban issues.

2. Urbanization and Children in the Pacific: A Conceptual Framework

Urbanization Trends in the Pacific

While remaining predominantly rural in character, PICs have, since colonial times, had one or more urban centers which served as administrative and trading posts which have offered a concentration of educational, health and basic infrastructure facilities. Today, however, the future of human settlements in the Pacific is becoming increasingly more urban, with a noticeable flow of migration from the rural areas and outer islands to the cities (as illustrated in *Figure 1* below). Although there have been many attempts to decentralize essential basic services (such as health care, education etc.) and economic activity (Bryant-Tokalau, 1995), the population flow to urban areas continues in the Pacific as a whole (SPC, 2001 cited in UNICEF, 2005). It is estimated that around 40% of Pacific Islanders live and work in towns, a figure, which according to the WB, will rise to over half by 2020 (cited in Storey, 2006). As such, urban growth rates are outgrowing the national growth rate, a fairly recent phenomenon in the region, which is creating new and challenging issues for PICs.

Figure 1: Share of country population in urban areas and population growth rates



Source: Gibson and Nero (2007)

Urbanization in the Pacific is characterized by very high growth rates in Kiribati and peri-urban areas in Fiji, around Port Vila or Luganville, in Vanuatu and in Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Peri-urban areas

are outside formal urban boundaries and jurisdictions, which are in a process of urbanization and which therefore progressively assume many of the characteristics of an urban setting. Typically, official urban growth rates are double that of the national population growth rate and peri-urban areas are higher still (Storey, 2006; Rallu, 2007). Though Vanuatu and Solomon Islands remain predominantly rural in character (Solomon Islands - 16% urban population and Vanuatu - 21% urban population, according to the 1999 Census) (cited in Storey, 2006), their urban growth rates can be classified among the highest in the world (UN-ESCAP, 2003).

Causes of Urbanization in the Pacific

Urbanization can be partly explained by rural-urban migration and partly by natural population increases. How much of this urbanization is due to migration or high fertility rates is however, difficult to gauge, as census data in the region provide limited information (as recognized by Haberkorn, G. 2004).

Rural-urban migration: there are several factors which motivate people in the Pacific to move away from the rural and outer island areas and to migrate towards the cities. Some of the push factors described throughout the literature specify for instance, high population growth, declining agricultural commodity prices and livelihood opportunities, as well as insufficient rural land to confer social standing (World Bank, 2004).

One of the most often described pull factors to explain the rural-urban flow of migration in the Pacific is the search for work. Traditionally most Pacific Islanders could survive through a subsistence type economy (cultivating their own food, fishing, building their houses with raw materials, meeting cultural obligations in kind etc.). Today the reliance on a cash economy is putting pressure on people to find work. Overwhelmingly the literature stresses that Pacific urban areas present more cash economy employment opportunities than the rural areas. The WB (2004) states that 50% of the formal cash economy employment in Solomon Islands is in Honiara. Rallu (2007) further demonstrates that despite high cash economy unemployment rates, cash economy employment opportunities are still better in the urban areas, even for recent migrants.

Other than the search for cash economy employment and the increasing reliance on the cash economy, the main pull factors attracting rural dwellers to the cities and contributing to urbanization in the Pacific, include prospects of educational opportunities (secondary and tertiary education in particular), health care, and changing expectations as to what constitutes a desirable lifestyle. The recreational, social and freedom which a city is perceived to be offering, which has been fed by the information revolution in the Pacific, as a result of access to global television networks (Connell, 2002) and more recently, mobile telephony. Indeed, as highlighted by the WB (2004) even in rural areas many people aspire to urban non manual cash economy employment. This is supported by the Fiji Red Cross (FRC) Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) in Vunibau Village (2009), where respondents identified themselves as unemployed, despite their involvement in farming and fishing activities, unless they held a post in town – paid in cash. This is supported by Connell (2002), who claims that subsistence activities throughout the region have been losing prestige.

Natural population growth: urbanization, however, cannot only be explained by rural-urban migration alone. Though data and census information is scarce in the region, the WB (2004), and others such as Bryant-Tokalau (1995), claim that the main factor behind the urbanization of the Pacific is the natural population growth in many Pacific towns. The WB (2004) further asserts that the young age structure and high fertility rates of many Pacific towns virtually ensure a rapid urban growth rate, even as urban life conditions are worsening. Connell (2002) supports that fertility rates are high across the region, with family planning mostly a taboo issue. The latest census data in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, indicates that more than half the population is under age 20 years, and current urban growth rates are higher than national population growth rates.

The Context of Urbanization in the Pacific

In order to understand the impacts of urbanization in the Pacific, it is important to consider the context in which it is taking place. This is particularly relevant to the Pacific, given its unique topography, culture and the environmental and human security challenges that are prevalent in the region.

Availability of Land: is an essential component of the urbanization process, and a key factor in understanding urbanization impacts in the region. The increasing population in the urban centers requires new areas for housing and essential infrastructure (educational, health, social and recreational facilities, industrial estates and infrastructure essential to the provision of other basic services). In the Pacific Island countries, 80% of land is regulated by a system of 'customary rights', relying on ownership of land by families or social groupings. In Vanuatu, customary land accounts for 98% of the land (Storey, 2006). To understand the land constraints in the Pacific region, thus requires understanding that land rights form an integral part of the Pacific cultural and social systems, and hold a special traditional significance for the people, which, as suggested by UNESCAP (2003) often conflicts with the needs of modern urban development.

As highlighted throughout the literature on urbanization in the Pacific, in almost all PICs, land supply is failing to keep pace with the growing demands of urbanization. The limited amount of freehold and state land in the PICs is already largely developed, in both urban and rural areas. As a result, infrastructure provision is mostly inadequate or non-existent, and depends on agreements with customary landowners (UNESCAP, 2003). Land shortage is most serious in atoll countries, where land reclamation is underway (lagoon reclamation in Kiribati), despite well documented negative implications on the environment and population well being (nutrition and health) (WHO, 2003). Most of the literature found on urbanization in the Pacific agrees that population density in Kiribati is alarming. Indeed, according to Rallu (2007), in some areas of the capital, South Tarawa, the density reaches between 6,000 and 7,500 inhabitants per sq/km. The Government of Kiribati (2005) highlights that the population of South Tarawa is growing at a rate three times faster than the national population growth. The land in the urban centers of Kiribati is clearly stretched to its limits.

When land in the Pacific urban centers is not available or not affordable, urban dwellers have no choice but to increasingly resort to settling on illegal and informal areas of land. The broad development impacts of these informal settlements and more specifically their implications for children in the Pacific will be discussed further on in *Section 2*.

Socio-Economic Development: the socio-economic context is an essential component of urbanization, and a key factor in understanding urbanization impacts on the region. The Pacific Island Countries' geographical isolation (resulting in high transport costs to markets), their exposure to frequent natural disasters, their limited domestic markets (resulting in diseconomies of scale), limited natural resources, inadequate infrastructure and capacities, substantial trade deficits and the issue of insecurity of land tenure have imposed serious constraints upon the social and economic development of the Pacific region (UNICEF website; Connell, 1999). This is particularly the case in urban centers where these constraints are felt most heavily (UNESCAP, 2003). Overall economic growth has been limited since independence in the region, and political instability has increased (Connell, 2002). Increasing trends of poverty, often referred to as hardship, and cash economy unemployment are acknowledged throughout the literature. Though such poverty levels do not compare with that of more deprived parts of the developing world, watchers of the Pacific agree that the region faces serious socio-economic problems.

Urbanization in the context of Pacific Island economies is therefore being characterized by urban poverty (whether in terms of income level or standards of living) and unemployment (Bryant-Tokalau, 1995; etc.). Overwhelmingly, the literature on the theme of urbanization in the Pacific agrees that rapid urbanization, as a result of socio-economic developments in the region (translated by a move away from a largely subsistence based economy to a cash economy), has meant that the provision of essential basic services (water supply and sanitation, sewerage and waste management, housing and infrastructure, education and health facilities, transportation, communications, energy) is mostly inadequate and is reflected in deteriorating urban living conditions (Storey, 2006; etc.).

Unemployment rates in the formal cash sector of the economy remain high and, Rallu (2007) suggests that a transfer of poverty between rural and urban areas is occurring. Abbott & Pollard (2004) also suggest that the level of formal cash economy employment in the PICs is low compared to the portion of active population, and is a result of the limited development of the private sector and secondary industry. The lack of a well paid formal sector, means that people across the Pacific have to resort to informal sources of income (subsistence farming, housework etc.) for their survival (Storey, 2006). This is particularly true in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu (Abbott & Pollard, 2004). To illustrate this point, a study by the Ecumenical Centre for Research in Education and Advocacy (ECREA) in the mid 1990s found that 47% of full time employed people in Fiji, lived below the poverty line (cited in Storey, 2006).

Though there is yet little research on the matter, one may suggest that Pacific Island Countries face further challenges in coping with the impacts of the recent global recession. Some of the negative effects already felt are reflected in the high cost of fuel, the rise in the cost of basic food items (sugar,

rice, flour), and a decline in world trade and tourism on which the region largely depends. As price rises have not been matched by increased wages, there is a notable decline in real incomes across the region.

In the face of rising urbanization, a critical development issue throughout the Pacific is that of improving or at best maintaining, standards of living. The broad development impacts of urbanization in the socio-economic context of the Pacific, and more specifically the impacts on children, will be discussed further on in *Section 2*.

Natural disasters and environmental challenges: Environmental challenges, natural disasters and climate change all have an influence on urbanization and its impacts in the region.

PICs are located inside the 'Ring of Fire', a region of the world which is exposed to most natural disasters (tropical cyclones, floods, seismic activity, tsunamis, and storm surges). Though they themselves produce very little emissions, it is commonly acknowledged that the Pacific Islands Countries will be most severely impacted by climate change, which will in turn result in more disasters. Already, according to Mimura et al (2007), natural disaster events are occurring more frequently, and with more severity, in the region (cited in *Stories from the Pacific*, UNDP). Climate change predictions suggest that the situation will only worsen.

Rapid urbanization, such as that witnessed in the Pacific, adds further strains to the fragile ecological and environmental balance of the islands, with dramatic consequences for the people. Indeed, rapid and out of control urbanization, leading to overcrowded living conditions and lack of adequate provision of basic services, in particular in regards to managing solid waste, result in the degradation of the Islands' ecology and contribute to aggravating environmental threats (coastal erosion, depletion of the reefs and of marine sources of food etc.). Low lying atoll states, where land is narrow and rarely more than three meters above sea level, such as Kiribati, and where the density of urban population is such that the land is stretched to its limit, face additional challenges in the face of urbanization (Bryant-Tokalau, 1995). Despite the above mentioned challenges, the level of environmental awareness is low in the Pacific as a whole, and generally speaking, environmental issues are not of great political or community interest.

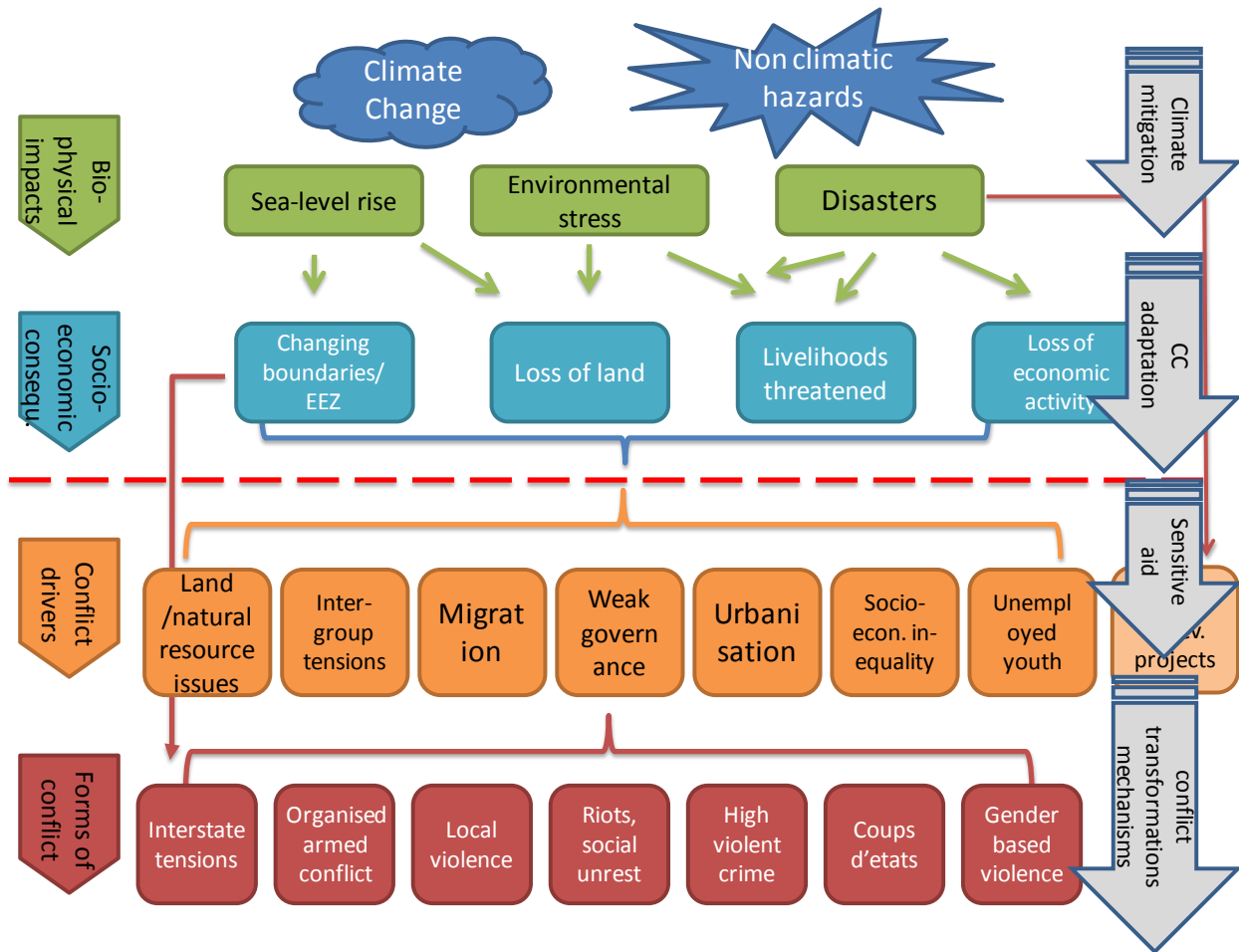
In the face of increasing natural disasters and climate change, minimizing environmental threats represent a critical development issue for PICs. Indeed, whilst natural disasters are unavoidable, mitigation plays a role in protecting populations. The broad development impacts of environmental degradation and climate change, and in particular their impacts on children will be reviewed further on in *Section 2*.

Human Security: is a component of urbanization in the Pacific, and a key to understanding the impacts of urbanization in the region. Though little research has currently been done on this topic, it is generally acknowledged that the nature of the PICs' urbanization, their high urban population density, their land rights issues and their biophysical (shortage of land, fragile ecosystem, lack of basic resources, and the risks associated with natural disasters and global warming) and social (slow or weak economies, increase

in poverty, unemployment, weak institutions, and land rights issues) vulnerabilities, affect human security (Cocklin & Keen, 2000). Key risk factors for conflict identified by Wood (2001) are the following: social, economic and political exclusion of certain groups from mainstream development; large proportion of unemployed youth; impoverishment and rapid decline of access to basic services and livelihood opportunities; distorted distributional effects of development and increasing horizontal inequalities; a rising sense of indignity, human rights violations; increased insecurity and perceived threats; migratory flows, both internal and external, for economic and political reasons. All these factors have taken place with the rise of urbanization in the Pacific Island Countries.

Direct links are drawn for instance between sea level rises in Kiribati, the subsequent need of relocation to safety and possible repercussions that increase movement of people might have on safety. Urbanization is closely linked to this process, as competition over land and resources may influence increased migration towards the cities which are generally seen to harbor more social and economic opportunities. Shortage of land, high population density and scarce employment opportunities in the urban centers may exacerbate conflict potential. Moreover, food security issues may complicate the matter, as they arise as a result of the coral bleaching – normally caused by sea temperature variations – that threatens fish stocks. The diagram below shows the linkages between climate change, disasters and environmental stress, as well as key conflict drivers such as urbanization, and human security.

Diagram 1:



Source: UNDP (2009)

Conflict was seen recently in the Solomon Islands, when long simmering tensions between the Gwale people (local to Guadalcanal, the main island) and recent migrants from the poor and heavily populated island of Malaita, exploded into armed conflict in 1998, and lasted until 2003. What started as a conflict over resources and land (rooted in illegal squatting issues, use of land customary rights, growing population, growing population and poor management of urban growth around Honiara), soon escalated into an ethnic agenda (UNDP, 2004). As a result of the conflict, about 20,000 Malaitans fled to the capital (Honiara) and the rest returned to their home islands. Gwale residents of Honiara eventually fled and the city became a Malaitan enclave. Many Malaitans remain in Guadalcanal and in particular in Honiara, as returning to their island offers no employment prospects. The lack of opportunities on Malaita suggests that a new wave of Malaitans will eventually have to return to Guadalcanal for lack of other option, and therefore potential for conflict arising still exists. The challenges of urbanization, reflected through deteriorating living conditions in overcrowded areas and the lack of employment opportunities, can yet exacerbate conflict.

According to UNDP research, risk potential for climate change conflict is seen as High in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, and Medium for Kiribati (UNDP, 2009).

The broad impacts of human insecurity (insecurity over land and resources, social tensions, potential for violence etc.), and the implications for children will be outlined further on in *Section 2*.

Broad Development Impacts of Urbanization in the Pacific

In this section three core broad development impacts of urbanization are explored. This forms a basis for understanding the specific impacts of urbanization on children and youth in the following *Section 4*.

Poverty and Worsening of Living Conditions

Bryant-Tokalau (1995) and Storey (2006) stress that poverty cannot be defined by income alone. UNESCAP (2003) also highlights that while poverty was to be found in squatter settlements of urban Pacific cities, households usually consisted of individuals earning incomes, albeit small or insecure. Nonetheless their income was insufficient to provide for the basic needs and services of their households. To get a clear image of urban poverty therefore is to examine the multi dimensional aspects in which poverty is reflected such as child mortality rates, environmental living conditions, ability to participate in decision making, difficulty in meeting basic needs (food, water, shelter, security etc.) and access to basic services (education, health, electricity etc.).

In terms of the link between urbanization and poverty, a general finding within the literature is that urbanization in the Pacific has led to an increase in urban poverty and a worsening of urban living conditions (UNESCAP, 2003; Bryant-Tokalau, 1995 etc.). One of the main explanations for this finding is that growing urbanization can be seen as favoring the growth of sub-standard housing conditions, which in turn can lead to poor health, educational attainment and employment prospects, conditions which contribute to perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

The housing needs of most urban migrants in the Pacific have traditionally been met by the extended family, resulting in oversized households. As such, households of 20 people or more are not uncommon in urban centres across the Pacific (Connell, 2002). Pressure on urban housing and the need for shelter is therefore intense in urban areas. Rapid urbanization in the Pacific, coupled with the lack of basic housing inputs such as, secure land tenure with provision of basic infrastructure and services, and affordable local construction materials has meant that most middle or low income earners are excluded from the housing market. This often leaves urban dwellers with no choice but to build their own houses outside of formal legal regulations, in overcrowded informal settlements, where they make do with mostly inadequate makeshift corrugated iron shelters.

These informal housing developments, as documented by UNESCAP (2003), with very limited or non-existent infrastructure or services (no water supplies, sporadic electricity, etc.) can be seen throughout the Pacific Island urban centers, causing serious concerns regarding the deterioration of the living environment, security and public health. Furthermore, the precarious arrangements made with the landowners for settlers to move into these settlements do not offer any long term security of tenure.

Though informal settlements have been present for quite some time in the Pacific, noticeable recent growth due to rapid urbanization, reflects a lack of options and a rise in poverty, low incomes and the relative high cost of life in the Pacific cities. This trend is evident in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and

Kiribati, as documented throughout the literature on urbanization in the region (Storey (2006); etc.) As explained by UNESCAP (2003) these settlements tend to be located on marginal lands, such as stream banks, mangroves, flood-prone areas, hill slopes and lands otherwise unsuitable for development. Central and local governments mostly are unable to provide the necessary services and basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, solid waste disposal systems) partly because these settlements go unrecognized (illegal) and partly because urban growth is so rapid that they cannot cope with the demands.

Break Down of Social Safety Nets

Urbanization in the Pacific is redefining social relationships and community cohesion. Traditionally, rural life in the Pacific Island Countries has been characterized by hierarchical leadership structures. Tight family and clan based systems are still to some extent the norm in the Pacific village context. In the urban setting however, conflicts are arising between the traditional culture and the requirements of modern urban lifestyles in the spheres of family life, land ownership, gender roles, sexuality, and observance of customs (Hezel, 2001). The social disruption caused by the breakup of families following migration to the city, or as a result of the pressures of city life, is resulting in the loss of traditional 'safety nets' (UNESCAP, village to city; Rallu, 2007). Keeping up the traditional social obligations and responsibilities of the extended family, may prove too heavy a burden for young wage earning couples in the city (UNICEF, 2005; Bryant-Tokalau, 1995). Abbott & Pollard (2004) suggest therefore that as a result of urbanization rural safety nets are threatened (as they rely on cash income from their urban relatives) and that urban safety nets are non-existent.

The rise in the number of divorces and lone, female headed households, as well as the rise in domestic violence documented in the urban centers, points to emerging new patterns of relationships and living arrangements across the Pacific, as a result of urbanization (Bryant-Tokalu, 1995). The changing nature of families, as highlighted by UNICEF (2005) is of particular concern, as the shift to a nuclear family structure in the cities means reduced support networks in raising children. It is also common for children and youth, migrating to the urban centers in search of better educational or employment opportunities, to live without their parents, and stay with extended family or acquaintances (Rallu, 2007).

Environmental Degradation

Growing urbanization can be seen as contributing to environmental stress and degradation in PICs with severe health and well being consequences for urban populations.

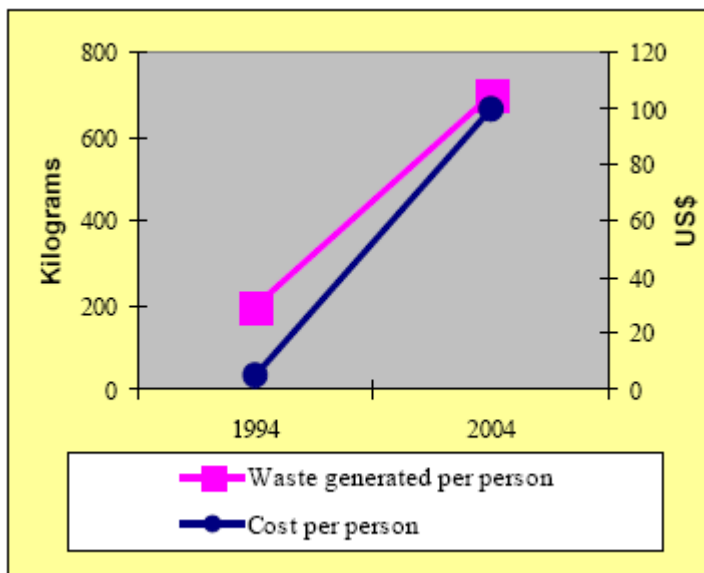
Rapid urbanization has resulted in pressure on urban infrastructure and services (particularly in managing solid waste), which local administrations are ill prepared to handle, and which have led to environmental deterioration (UN-ESCAP, 2003). Furthermore, according to Storey (2006), in all three countries, Kiribati, Fiji and Vanuatu, urban land is saturated and all new development is taking place outside of the formal city and beyond the institutional and legal scope of authorities. As a result, population growth is placing a serious stress on the land which, as a result, is being degraded. Such examples of land degradation are cited by Storey (2006) as groundwater depletion, water pollution,

foreshore erosion, deterioration of marine biodiversity through contamination by human and solid waste, and over fishing of the reefs and lagoons etc.

Some places, such as South Tarawa (Government of Kiribati, 2005) are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation. Land is scarce on the low lying atoll, and as a result of urbanization, it is being stretched to its limits (Rallu, 2007; Storey, 2006). To aggravate things further, Storey (2006) cites a recent survey which found that informal settlers in South Tarawa were dumping solid waste, using the beach as a toilet and using dirty water for drinking, as a result of lack of access to basic infrastructure and essential services. Water quality is another major issue for Kiribati in particular, with increasing levels of lagoon pollution which threaten public health. Similar trends are found in urban Vanuatu. According to the Government of Vanuatu the Port Vila Municipal Council does not collect any solid waste from informal areas, which constitute the largest and fastest growing areas around Port Vila. Informal settlements depend on shared pit toilets, sometimes very close to water ways, and are prone to flooding. A public sanitation service provider is not in place for Port Vila or Luganville. Most households depend on rain water and wells, which are increasingly exposed to pollution (cited in Storey 2006).

Disposal of waste on the foreshore of private land is becoming common, resulting in waste being washed out at sea and polluting beaches, with wider implications for water pollution and health. This is happening without any environmental safeguards (Connell, 2002). In the context of customary land ownership, the challenge lies in securing suitable sites for waste disposal, and renders the issue of adequate waste disposal delivery extremely difficult in the region, particularly as consumption patterns evolve and solid waste disposal volumes increase. See graph 2 below:

Graph 2: Solid Waste Disposal Trends in the Pacific



Source: Connell (2002)

Impacts of Urbanization on Children and Youth in the Pacific

The broad development impacts of urbanization discussed above have given rise to new challenges for Pacific Island Countries. Though poorly researched, these carry serious implications for the children and youth of PICs, and are a hindrance to the fulfillment of children's rights to meet their basic needs, and to reach their full potential (as by the CRC).

To examine what these implications might be, and to inform the role that UNICEF might play in addressing these, the implications of urbanization on children in the Pacific are grouped below according to UNICEF's areas of focus:

- Child survival and development – (also links with MDGs - 1, 4, 6, 7)
- Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse – (also links with CRC and intersects with every one of the MDGs)
- Basic education and gender equality – (also links with MDGs – 2, 3 and the commitment to achieving EFA)
- HIV/AIDS – (also links with MDG-6)
- Participation
- Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

Child Survival and Development

This section discusses children's access to health services, clean water and sanitation, exposure to diseases, food security and eating habits in the context of urbanization in the Pacific. Though health care is available in the Pacific urban centers, it may not be accessible to all urban children for a number of reasons: high transportation and medication costs, lack of faith in the health system or low ranking in terms of the parents' priorities. This can be problematic, especially as the growth of unsanitary overcrowded informal settlements, so characteristic of urbanization in the Pacific, is exposing the young to increasingly deteriorating social environments (human and solid waste, open sewerage and environmental degradation), which has been found to be a key factor in leading to poor health. Children's malnutrition is also a key feature of urbanization in the Pacific resulting from high food costs, scarcity of available land to grow home food in the urban areas coupled with unsanitary living conditions in the squatter settlements, as well as a general lack of awareness as to what constitutes healthy eating. Clearly then, the shift in lifestyles from rural to urban, and in particular the growing population living in urban overcrowded informal settlements, has brought new challenges for the health care system of the Pacific countries, and carries serious implications for urban children and youth.

As highlighted by Abbott & Pollard (2004), there are notable discrepancies between urban and rural access to quality basic health services in the Pacific Region. In principal, access to health care is facilitated by urbanization. Urban areas offer a concentration of health facilities, whereas rural areas rely on poor and mostly inadequate resources to deliver their services. The availability of health care, however, does not necessarily benefit all urban dwellers the same. As demonstrated by Bartlett (2010),

in a majority of developing countries, caregivers will delay finding health care for their children because of the expense (transport, medication), the challenges of dealing with the health care system (over strained) and the sense they will not receive quality care. This was confirmed by Save The Children (Fiji) who carry out health checks in squatter settlements and who mention that parents tend not to follow up with their children's immunizations after birth, mostly because they cannot afford the trip to the hospital or because they have no faith in the medical facilities available to them closer (private talks).

Urbanization can also aggravate health issues. As supported by Abbott & Pollard (2004), lack of access to clean water in a rural setting for instance, though problematic, may prove to be a disastrous health scenario in an overcrowded urban setting. The growth of overcrowded informal settlements, so characteristic of urbanization in the Pacific, is exposing the young to increasingly deteriorating social environments (human and solid waste, open sewerage and environmental degradation), which has been found to be a key factor in leading to poor health. This is supported by the Kiribati Government report (2005) which suggests that the overcrowded living conditions and high density of Kiribati urban centres increasingly expose children to a range of diseases, which in another context may be easily preventable.

A contributor to the spread of disease is the lack of access to sanitation and clean water. Overall data on clean water access collected by Abbott & Pollard (2004) clearly demonstrates that the urban areas are better served than the rural areas. However, in the context of informal settlements offering little or no infrastructure for the delivery of basic services, many urban dwellers have no access to clean safe water at all. In addition to this health threat, many urban settlements use ocean outfalls for sewage disposal (particularly true in Honiara, Solomon Islands and South Tarawa, Kiribati). The risks of foreshore contamination are therefore high, and negatively affect marine resources. Findings highlighted by UNESCAP (2003) also claim that the lagoons beside Fanga'uta in Tonga, Port Vila in Vanuatu, Suva in the Fiji Islands and Tarawa in Kiribati have sufficiently high fecal coliform levels to be a public health concern.

How it impacts on the children of urban centre is clearly seen through the rising incidence of gastrointestinal disease and hepatitis. In Solomon Islands in particular, TB, Dengue Fever and malaria are on the rise (Abbott & Pollard, 2004). Other urban centers across the Pacific regularly report incidences of Cholera and Typhoid. Rallu (2007) also suggests a direct link between air quality affected by the burning of trash in confined urban settings, and the increased incidence of respiratory diseases, to which the children and the elderly are most vulnerable. Given the high exposure to infections, the lack of access to adequate sanitation and clean water, it is perhaps not surprising to consider that child mortality rates for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands remain high (Abbott & Pollard, 2004; Bryant-Tokalau, 1995). Rallu (2007) also draws a link between the environmental impact of urbanization and remaining high levels of infant and child morbidity and mortality in the Pacific.

According to Van den Poel, O'Donnell and Doorslaer (2007) high rates of child malnutrition in the world's poor countries and communities are increasingly an urban problem in both relative and absolute terms (cited in Bartlett, 2010). Child malnutrition in the Pacific, according to the literature, is a strong

feature of urbanization and may stem from several factors, such as high cost of living (rising food costs, and high cost of non food items which impacts on a household's food budget allocation (supported by Cockburn, Dauphin, Razzaque M., 2009), the dependence on the cash economy (income fluctuation), and the lack of land for subsistence farming in the urban area. Nutrition levels among the urban poor are decreasing partly due to shortage of land to grow subsistence food in the urban areas (UNESCAP, 2003), and partly because consumption patterns are changing (Connell, 2002). When land is available, the unsanitary conditions of informal settlements quite often make it impossible to prevent contamination of food and water, leading to gastro intestinal problems which are reflected in children's malnutrition. Few fruits and vegetables can grow in atoll countries such as Kiribati because of the shallow depth and poor quality of the soil, and vitamin deficiency is generally high (Department of Health, Marshall Islands, cited in Connell, 2002).

The change in diet consumption patterns is identified by Abbott & Pollard (2004) as a shift from traditional rural diets of fish, taro, breadfruit, and bananas to urban diets of imported white rice, canned mutton and beef, and sugar has resulted in high intakes of fat, salt and carbohydrates and a reduced intake of fiber, and are leading to an increase in so called 'lifestyle diseases' such as diabetes, strokes, hypertension (Connell, chap.2). These newly acquired eating habits are further strengthened through advertising and a lack of understanding of what constitutes healthy eating. The general feeling is that if food is advertised it must be good for you (supported by interviews VCA, FRC 2009). Inadequate diets, it is stressed, carry serious implications for the children and youth, and for their future (Bartlett, 2010).

Child Protection

This section discusses children's exposure to family instability, violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, in the context of urbanization in the Pacific. Harsh, abusive treatment of children is not unique to urban areas, but can be intensified by the social stressors which characterize rapid urbanization in the Pacific. Such stressors which have been discussed in *Section 3* may include poverty, harsh living conditions, broken families and single parenting, fight for survival, lack of security, lack of basic services and a sense of alienation from the rest of the city. Clearly then, the shift in lifestyles from rural to urban, and in particular the breakup of traditional family patterns and support networks, as well as the rise in inequalities and unemployment, create a context of high risk and stress with serious implications, in terms of urban children's protection across the Pacific.

The Social disruption brought on by urbanization, is mainly characterized by the breakup of traditional family patterns and the absence of traditional support networks which are commonly found in the Pacific village context. It is explained how children are often separated from their families as a parent leaves the village for the city in search of work, or as parents send their children to the cities to get educated. Rallu (2007)'s research suggests that a great number of children in Kiribati, for example, live with their urban extended family, and, surprisingly, in a high number of cases with non relatives (see *Table 1* below).

Table 2: Population in relation of brother/sister/other relative and non relative to household heads, by urban/rural and for urban migrants, Kiribati, 2005

	Kiribati (Males)	S Tarawa	Migrants	Kiribati (Females)	S Tarawa	Migrants
Brother / Sister / Other relatives						
Total	16.4	22.4	27.9	16.0	22.2	28.8
Youth	23.4	30.8	39.8	22.3	30.8	40.7
Non-Relatives						
Total	8.0	9.7	12.1	9.4	11.2	14.2
Youth	11.7	12.6	17.3	13.4	14.6	18.9
Boarding School						
Total	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.6	1.1	1.6
Youth	9.9	6.2	10.4	12.6	4.6	6.4

Source: Storey, 2005

The traditional reliance system on extended family is reflected in the rise in urban household sizes, with little or no space for some children to do homework, or even sleep. Household sizes average 20 people in some cases in the urban Pacific areas. Increasingly, children are being pushed out of these

households, and can be found wandering at night, sleeping on the streets or in the market sheltered areas (interview sources). These children increasingly rely on begging for food for survival, and the Save the Children Study (2005) on children's sexual exploitation also indicates that more and more are resorting to prostitution for survival.

The social disruption brought on by urbanization is further demonstrated by a rise in domestic violence, divorce, and single-parent headed households (World Bank **). Single parenting was increasingly found to be the norm, particularly amongst the poorer family units (UNICEF, 2005). The majority of single parent led families are headed by mothers (or grand-mothers) who are likely to face considerable hardship to support the children at their charge, and who often have to resort to informal work. Though no data is available on this in the Pacific, it is possible to suggest that the stress and challenges brought on by poverty which are carried by these women, in turn carries devastating implications for children (supported by Bartlett, 2010).

Often a parent left without a partner to help support the family, may have no other choice but to off load some of their children to live with relatives. In the face of increasing hardship and family network breakdown however, other children may simply be abandoned (UNICEF, 2005; Bryant-Tokalau, 1995). Lack of supervision or care, especially during the formative teenage years, can prove a major hurdle for children and youth. This is supported with evidence from UNICEF (2005)'s case studies of children living on the streets in the Pacific. Girls in particular may be more prone to abuse and may be more vulnerable without parenting in an urban setting (Save the Children, 2005). Lack of parenting and supervision combined, in some cases, with the necessity to make ends meet in the absence of the caring family unit, may result in urban children's increasing exposure to risky behaviors (unprotected sex, crime, violence, substance and alcohol abuse etc.).

Another aspect of urbanization which may be seen to impact on children's protection is the feelings of exclusion which urbanization can generate. As discussed previously, rapid urbanization in the Pacific has meant the rise in economic and social inequalities, and generally speaking the rise in poverty (hardship). Privileged urban groups may enjoy modern consumer goods and lifestyles which are reinforced through the media. However, as Mosley (1995) suggests, for children growing up in pockets of urban poverty, these unattainable lifestyles contribute to low self-esteem and a feeling of alienation. Unemployment, a growing feature of urbanization in the Pacific, may be a contributing factor in youth's feeling of exclusion. Abbott & Pollard (2004) suggest that the youth are no longer interested in returning to the traditional village setting where they would be expected to carry out mostly unpaid activities, and prefer to remain unemployed in the city.

The breakup of traditional family patterns, increasing levels of inequality and the rise in unemployment which characterize urbanization in the Pacific, may also prove to have serious repercussions on children's commercial sexual exploitation. Participants at the Pacific Regional Workshop on Combating Poverty (2003) recognized that such abuse is increasingly becoming an issue in their countries (UNICEF, 2003). A follow-up study revealed that in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, some youth were

engaging in transactional sex (in exchange for food and other goods) and prostitution (UNICEF, 2004). This is also supported by Save the children report in Fiji (2005) which describes the situations for those most at risk of engaging in commercial sex, as similar to those at risk of child abuse, as children from economically disadvantaged families, children who live with extended family, children who live on the streets, children who suffer parental neglect and children who live in violent households. The report further claims that the underlying factors contributing to the commercial sexual exploitation of children or child sexual abuse was lack of employment opportunities, hardship and lack of cash for basic needs (such as education and food), as well as experience of abuse and neglect being features in the home.

Basic Education and Gender Equality

This section discusses children's access to good quality education (access and retention, especially for girls), in the context of urbanization in the Pacific. Though schooling and educational opportunities are available in the Pacific urban centers, high school drop-out rates across the region highlight that education may not be accessible to all urban children: poverty (cannot afford cost of schooling fees, transport to school, school uniforms, school books and even food for the school day), lack of relevance of the educational system (disillusion with the system due to high unemployment rates even among graduates, education only oriented towards 'white collar' jobs, low ranking in terms of the families' priorities of survival). In this context, girls may be at a particular disadvantage given cultural gender perceptions which make investing in education for boys more relevant (idea that a girl will not need educating if her work is confined to the home sphere). This gender gap is notable particularly in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. As such inequalities and hardships facing the Pacific urban children and youth are likely to increase without better access to educational and employment opportunities for all.

As in health, Bartlett (2010) highlights that generally speaking children in urban areas have better access to schooling and educational opportunities. They are also more likely to enroll, and finish their secondary school education. Similarly in the Pacific, Abbott & Pollard (2004) highlight the major discrepancies between urban and rural access to quality education services. According to their study, education expenditure in nearly all the Pacific Countries tends to be concentrated in the urban or peri-urban centers. They also report that access to quality education and teaching standards is weakest in the rural areas and outer islands of Fiji Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu.

This is not to say however that urbanization means that all urban children will benefit from access to education, or that the education offered will benefit children. Poor health and malnutrition (or failure to access food) which have been discussed previously as an impact of urbanization on children in the Pacific, can for instance directly impact on school attendance, and more generally on educational attainment. Furthermore, as highlighted in the EFA Global Monitoring Report (2009), children growing up in informal settlements, such as seen throughout the urban Pacific, are among the hardest to reach and face a distinctive set of challenges (add report to references). Mitchell's (1998) research in Vanuatu, for instance, highlights the reasons most often cited by the urban youth for dropping out of school and

which can be summarized as lack of money for school fees, necessity to find work, failing exams, pregnancy, running away from conflict or discipline in school (cited in UNICEF, 2005).

UNICEF (2002) also highlights the link between school drop outs and urban poverty, claiming that the main reason why children leave school is because they cannot afford the school costs or need to help support their family through menial work. Though primary school enrollment is as high as 97% in Vanuatu, secondary school enrollment drops down to 23 % according to ADB Vanuatu country report (2006), resulting in 25% of the adult population being illiterate. Girls may find themselves at a disadvantage as parents struggling to send children to school may favor investing in the education of the boys. Abbott & Pollard (2004) also suggest that the gender gap is noticeable in the Solomon Islands and in Vanuatu. Though female enrollment ratios have increased, they remain low when it comes to secondary schooling and their study shows a significant gap in adult literacy between adult males and females in these two countries. The UNDP (2004) report shows that a strong social bias towards educating males exists in the Solomon Islands, as a result of which female literacy levels is estimated to be as low as 17%.

It is also important to consider what type of education is being offered in the Pacific Island Countries. Education systems in most Pacific Island countries were established by missionaries and/or colonial powers. As such, they stress literacy and numeracy in core academic subjects such as English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History and Geography, and prepare for white-collar employment. Education is therefore not providing children for the technical and business skills required by urbanization (WB, 2004). Alternatives to formal education, according to UNICEF (2005), such as training in vocational or technical subjects, is limited and tends to be associated with failure. Children who struggle academically are therefore likely to drop out of school for lack of alternatives.

As it is, Pacific Island countries offer few domestic economic opportunities, resulting, as suggested by Abbott & Pollard (2004), in difficulty, even among the qualified, to find employment. Recent censuses in Kiribati and Vanuatu (2000) reveal high levels of youth unemployment (cited in Abbott & Pollard, 2004). Storey (2006) confirms that only a quarter of all school leavers in Kiribati will find work, and states that this figure is worse for Vanuatu (based on 2000 survey). UNICEF (2005) stresses this point and states that youth in particular are disadvantaged in the labor market by their lack of experience and often by their lack of skills for employment. Unemployment was a major issue stressed by Mitchell's (1998) study of youth in Vanuatu (cited in UNICEF, 2005). Similarly, Hassal & Associates (2003) claim that assistance in finding employment was identified as a major priority by the Solomon Islands youth (cited in UNICEF, 2005). In the face of increasing unemployment as a result of urbanization, children and youth feel disillusioned and are more inclined to drop out of school. Similarly parents may not see many incentives in investing in education when they see that unemployment is rife.

HIV and AIDS

This section discusses children's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, in the context of urbanization in the Pacific. Current HIV & AIDS infection rates are low across the Pacific Island Countries. The literature however stresses that the rapid urbanization of the PICs presents all the necessary ingredients for a serious epidemic: poverty, illiteracy, sexual exploitation of children and the prevalence of unsafe sex practices (such as multiple partners and a reluctance to use condoms). The realities of urban life, such as the high concentration of people, the increase in people's mobility, the breakdown of traditional social norms and the resulting increase in autonomy, the greater exposure to sex workers and to opportunities for sexual exchange, may all contribute to a higher incidence of HIV & AIDS and other STDs. In the face of a possible epidemic it is important therefore to recognize that urban children and youth are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection (globally half of all new cases are among 15–24 year olds).

A further hurdle facing Pacific Island Countries lies in the fact that in traditional Pacific societies (and this remains true, though to a lesser extent in the urban setting) discussions on the topic of sex and reproductive issues is taboo (Zenner & Russell, 2005; VCA 2009 FRC). This is confirmed by UNFPA's study (2002) which found alarming levels of exposure to Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Kiribati. Although most respondents had heard about the risks, they had 'insufficient specific knowledge of reproduction, contraception and STIs to motivate and enable them to protect themselves' (cited in UNICEF, 2005). In the urban areas of Vanuatu, a large randomized Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practice (KAP) survey conducted by the NGO Vanuatu Young People's Project (VYPP), found considerable resistance to condom use, and suggested that women were accused of promiscuity if they demanded condoms. Zenner & Russell (2005)'s study further reported a high incidence of STIs following a WHO maternal survey (a quarter of pregnant women were infected).

Low levels of awareness and increasing exposure to tourism, urbanization and alcohol are all causes for concerns in the fight of the spread of HIV/ AIDS (Zenner & Russell, 2005). For children and youth who lack parental supervision or tight social guidance in the urban setting, exposure to peer pressure and risky behaviors such as unprotected sex, is a clear challenge which carries very serious implications.

Participation

This section discusses children and youth participation, in the context of urbanization in the Pacific. Traditionally children and youth have grown up in a 'culture of silence', where they would have been expected to accept the authority of elders without questioning, and would have been discouraged from sharing their views. Urbanization challenges these traditional notions, as more and more children and youth are growing up detached from their cultures of origin, and exposed to new ways of living and thinking. There is however little arena for urban youth to express themselves, share their concerns or receive support, aside youth groups which generally speaking receive little government support. Population projections across the Pacific show that young children and youth which already represent a very significant proportion of the total PIC populations, is expected to rise steadily over the next decade

or so. It is important therefore that their voices be heard and for strategies which engage children and youth at a national level, be implemented.

Jayaweera & Morioka (2008) highlight that the situation of children and youth in the Pacific is tied into cultural and societal norms, and social structures that emphasize hierarchy and authority based on age. Traditionally in Pacific Island Countries, children and youth are not expected to have a voice, but rather are expected to carry out the duties assigned to them by elders, until their time comes to have authority. Generally speaking, they are expected to accept the authority of elders without questioning, and are not encouraged to share their views and opinions. As such, children and youth are traditionally excluded from decision making processes, even when the decisions concern their lives. Furthermore, even when parents or elders are aware of children and youth's needs, they are unlikely to prioritize them (Jayaweera & Morioka, 2008). The idea of engaging with children and youth at a community level is by in large misunderstood as a 'white man' concept, as reflected throughout our field work.

Urbanization is however changing many of these traditional patterns, and introducing the new generation to new ways of living and thinking. Children growing up in urban areas are increasingly losing touch with their cultures of origin, their traditional identities and the concept of 'elders'. Urbanization has instead brought along new cultural patterns of socialization, in which children and youth have the potential to play a more dominant role. Yet generally, mentalities have not adapted to support children and youths voices. Children and youth feel disillusioned and often disengaged, as outlined in Vanuatu's Young People Project's survey (1998) which refers to urban youth's feeling of alienation as 'Killem Taem'.

Marginalization of youth as a result of boredom, lack of employment and recreational activities, and a lack of avenues for them to express their views is a reality seen across urban Pacific Centres (Jayaweera & Morioka, 2008). The VYPP's further stress urban youths loss of linkages with their traditional roots, as a result of urbanization, as a factor of youth's disengagement and feeling of alienation. A growing number of Pacific children and Youth have never been to their island of origin, and are slowly losing touch with their culture and identity (VYPP, 2008). Thus today's urban children and youth are increasingly growing up without the traditional safety nets which have always existed in Pacific Island cultures (Connell, 2002). Abbott & Pollard (2004) further suggest that this youth represents 'the social problems of today' (exposing themselves and the rest of society to risky behaviors) and 'the poor of tomorrow'. UNDP (1999) also asserts that exclusion from participation in the modern economy, creates 'poverty of opportunity' (cited in UNICEF 2005) which, in turn, encourages high-risk and self-destructive behaviors to which children are more vulnerable. Evidence of this can be found through the study undertaken by UNCHS (1993) in PNG, where unemployment affects 1 in 3 urban settlers (cited in UNESCAP, 1999). The study reveals that unemployment has escalated alcohol and drug abuse, family violence and criminal youth gangs (cited in UNESCAP, 2003).

Emergency Preparedness and Response

This section discusses children's vulnerability to disaster and climate change, in the context of urbanization in the Pacific. Urban dwellers living in poor-quality overcrowded housing without proper access to basic services and infrastructure, such as those seen across Pacific urban centers are among the groups most vulnerable in the face of a natural disaster and most exposed to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change. The implication for many urban children is that they are at large unable to manage risk and avoid the impact of extreme weather events; least equipped to cope with the illness, injury, premature death or loss of family income or assets caused by disasters. Climate change associated with the stresses of urbanization may furthermore be linked to human security issues, with at times dramatic implications for children. Clearly then, in a region prone to natural disasters and most affected by climate change, urbanization is contributing to a context of high risks with serious implications for children.

Natural disasters are a part of life in the Pacific and mostly people learn to live with the risks. It is also recognized that the region will most suffer the consequences of climate change (increased incidence and severity of natural disasters, sea level and temperature rise, all of which are already being witnessed). Natural disasters and the consequences of climate change occurring in the context of urbanization however, bring along new challenges. The broad development challenges that urbanization brings along (and which have been discussed in section 3) may be dramatically aggravated by natural disasters and the consequences of climate change, as such events can create conditions which increase sanitation related diseases and infections, opportunities for injuries, malnutrition, and poverty, fight over land and natural resources, as well as displacement of people which tend to occur towards the urban centers. This in turn carries severe implications for children who are the most at risk of being affected by health issues, and who are more vulnerable in the face of instability. Furthermore, the process of recovering from a natural disaster brings along new hardships, a worsening of poverty, loss of school equipment, new uncertainties, humiliation surrounding the recovery (need for assistance) and adaptation to sometimes dysfunctional or physically challenging housing. Recovery in those conditions may lead, as Bartlett (2010) suggests, to anger, frustrations, stress, violence, harassment and abuse, with serious implications for children and youth. As a result of a natural disaster, children may be expected to work to help the family recover faster. Some children may be taken out of school and put on the street to earn a living; others may be kept at home until the family is able to afford transportation, food or new schooling equipment.

Furthermore, climate change and its associated rising temperatures, also impact directly on children. Rising temperatures in most nations contribute to increased risk of heat stress, especially in poor urban areas where people live in over-crowded conditions with little open space. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to heat stress according to Bartlett (2010). The rise in temperatures also creates conditions for the spread of diseases which again children are at a highest risk of contracting. Finally, climate change may also be seen to aggravate human security issues, as it brings to the forefront issues of competition over land and resources. In this context, urbanization is a key driver (reflected through

poverty, deteriorating living conditions, sense of alienation, unemployment and disillusionment) for potential conflict, with severe implications for urban children. The conflict in the Solomon Islands (1998-2003) is an illustration of what tensions over land and resources can lead to. The implications of such conflict for children are severe: loss of life, injury, insecurity, displacement, exploitation of children and involvement in fighting. It is documented that hundreds of children took directly part in the Solomon Islands conflict as child soldiers, and many have become engaged in gang violence since then (Olyan, Smith, Stephen & Case, 2010).

3. Methodology

The research team consisted of two members, one female and one male, who travelled to each of the three countries which are the focus of this study. The researchers conducted informal interviews with a large number of stakeholders in each of the major urban centres of those countries (see *Annex 3* for listing of informants).

These interviews each followed the same pattern; a strength based approach through a dialogue focusing on *what is being done* rather than *what needs to be done*. What needs to be done was inevitably covered during the discussion.

The researchers also ensured that they used public transport or walked in order to conduct the field work. This allowed them to better observe the urban life of the people and at times engage in conversation with fellow passengers and pedestrians on issues relating to living in the relevant urban setting. To ensure the ethical nature of this aspect of engagement, persons engaged with in such conversations were always made aware of the purpose of the inquiry and the contribution that their comments might make to the research.

The resulting notes from these discussions are what informs the findings included in the report and these notes and findings are framed within the UNICEF areas of interest; child survival and development, child protection, basic education and gender equality, HIV and AIDS, participation and disaster preparedness.

The research is located in the context of urbanisation as an ongoing phenomenon within Pacific Island Countries and the background to the report is derived from an extensive literature review covering Pacific urbanisation and to some degree, urbanisation per se.

Limitations

There are a number of limitations to this research which although mostly unavoidable, nevertheless potentially limit the findings of the research project.

- The timeframe allowed for the field visits resulted in an average of four working days in each of the three countries although some informants were able to be engaged on weekends which gave some extra time.
- It was only possible to visit the major urban centre in each country. Both Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have other urban centres as well as the capital cities.
- The researchers were only able to meet formally with one group of young people. This was in Kiribati where a group of young people from the Youth Panel representing various church and civil youth groups made themselves available one Saturday morning.
- Some key UNICEF staff were either not in country or otherwise unavailable to be interviewed.

- In Solomon Islands some key NGO staff were unavailable for interview due to their involvement in other important activities which coincided with the field work time in Solomon Islands.
- In Kiribati, some relevant government ministry staff were unavailable due to their responsibilities in relation to the Parliamentary session which occurred for the duration of the team's visit to Kiribati.

Despite these limitations, the report is well informed by local knowledge and input from a significant number of important stakeholders.

4. General Findings and identified Strategic Focal Areas

General Findings

While the three countries visited for this research share many similarities there are a number of features in relation to the main urban centres of the capitals of these countries which distinguish one from the other. These points of difference are raised here to highlight them and alert the reader to them rather than have them remain possibly unnoticed among the individual country discussions. A particular issue as it relates to a particular urban centre is also included in the findings for the individual country to which it belongs.

Points of difference

- Vanuatu

Vanuatu has two well established urban centres in Port Vila the capital and in Luganville on Espiritu Santo Island. Lenakel on Tanna Island has recently been declared the third municipal area of Vanuatu. While Port Vila remains the largest urban growth centre in Vanuatu there is significant urban and peri-urban growth occurring in Luganville and Lenakel. These two smaller centres are growing primarily as a result of migration from the surrounding smaller islands within the provinces of which they are each respectively the largest islands. Tourism is a factor also affecting the urbanisation process by providing employment opportunities as well as business activity in the formal and informal sectors.

Port Vila has a very different appearance to both Honiara and South Tarawa. One needs to 'know' Port Vila to see the peri-urban and squatter settlement manifestations of urbanisation. The peri-urban areas of Pango and Etas, and the settlement areas of Seaside and Blacksands are not immediately visible to the visitor. Port Vila's growth is affected by both urban migration and urban growth. Many informants within government expect that the recent census will show which is the larger contributor to urban growth. Most consider it to be growth from within the existing urban population.

In areas adjacent to Port Vila (and Luganville) there has been large scale residential development aimed at the expatriate community and absentee foreign owners. This development is related directly to the flourishing tourism industry and has brought much economic activity and employment to both these urban centres. These residential developments have unfortunately had a down side as well. Many of the developments have excluded traditional landowners and users from access to land for gardening, to water sources and often to fishing areas¹. A consequence of these developments has been that many people have been forced to relocate to the peri-urban areas surrounding Port Vila and Luganville. These new, peri-urban dwellers who once lived in rural areas relatively close to these urban centres but were

¹ This has been recognised by government and steps have been taken to minimise these negative impacts in future developments

not so dependent upon the urban services, are now putting greater pressure on those services and living conditions in general.

While tourism is not the sole driver of current increasing urbanisation in Vanuatu, it is a significant factor in shaping the character of the disparity between those living within the established urban area and those living in the peri-urban and settlement areas. Vanuatu also has a large, permanent population with European origins and practices.

- Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands has two main urban centres in Honiara and Auki with smaller centres in Kirakira, Gizo and Lata. With the exception of Honiara, these centres are largely ethnically homogenous. Honiara has large populations from all areas of Solomon Islands as well as a large ethnic Chinese population who dominate all forms of business and trade. On arriving in Honiara the peri-urban and settlement nature of urban growth is immediately visible to the visitor. The majority Malaitan population within Honiara also sets Honiara apart from other centres in this study. The so called 'Tensions' of the late 1990s and early 2000s grew out of this imbalance between Malaitans and Gwale on what was traditionally Gwale land. This research in no way tries to analyse the Tensions or the reasons for them, but it has shown that a residual tension remains within Honiara and according to many informants, is kept in check only by the presence of the RAMSI² intervention.

"Urbanisation?...It's a time bomb!" (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation)

A number of informants referred to 'the gangs' in many settlement areas. These are said to be made up of disaffected 'ex-combatants' from the Tensions who were promised much by their leaders at the time of the fighting and have not had their expectations met nor promises fulfilled. They are also said to have no respect for authority, traditional or otherwise, them-selves having experienced a degree of power and are now reluctant relinquish that power as they have no education or employment related skills other than their physical presence and muscle. This large group of disaffected young people resulting from the Tensions ranges in age from mid-teens to early thirties. It is now ten years on from when these young men were 'child soldiers' and young combatants. The recently commenced Peace and Reconciliation process may provide an opportunity for some of the tension relating to this unresolved situation to be relieved.

The RAMSI intervention presence in Solomon Islands is mostly concentrated in Honiara. Apart from the presence of foreign police and army personnel, there has been an influx of civilians who work in advisory positions in government departments, RAMSI administration, short term consultancies and expatriate aid workers. This influx has had an upward effect on the cost of housing and the cost of living in general.

² The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands is an Australian led multinational (Pacific Forum) intervention in Solomon Islands at the invitation of the Solomon Island government.

Housing in more sought after areas has been taken up by expatriates and the previous occupants, often owners, have moved out to take advantage of higher rental returns. These people have in turn forced up the rental cost of lower level housing and have moved into these houses. The 'knock on' effect has forced residents in previously low rental accommodation into the settlement areas putting further pressure on conditions there. This growth in peri-urban and settlement area populations has come from within the existing urban population in some cases creating greater disadvantage for some residents than they had previously experienced.

The cost of food in the urban areas (markets and stores) has also increased according to informants. Although the world food crisis and the global economic crisis may also have contributed to food price rises, most informants claim that the rises are a direct result of the distorting effect on prices brought about as a result of the RAMSI intervention. While these symptoms of Honiara's urbanisation regarding housing and food prices are similar to those in Vanuatu, the reasons are different. In Honiara this phenomenon while lasting for some years, may also end or be mitigated with the end of RAMSI.

Solomon Islands also has many 'islands' of peri-urbanisation surrounding logging camps. Although these camps are not permanent, the communities which gather around them exhibit many of the same negative social aspects associated with the settlement areas around Honiara. Because of their remoteness these areas do not have even limited access to the services that squatters in Honiara have. The majority of the loggers are foreign workers on temporary working visas who will leave the country after a relatively short time leaving many social problems behind them.

The fishing cannery at Noro in the Western Province is another area with a settlement environment surrounding the cannery and catering to the foreign fishermen supplying the cannery.

- Kiribati

Estimates from government and diplomatic sources put the population of Kiribati at around 90,000 with around 50% of the population living on the southern islands of the Tarawa Atoll (South Tarawa). This statistic makes Kiribati the most urbanised nation in the Pacific. However more than the population distribution, it is the environmental impact of the population density and the subsequent impact of the environment on the population which most markedly differentiates Kiribati in terms of urbanisation from Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. In some areas of Betio and Bairiki squatter settlements have population densities equivalent to thousands of people per square kilometre.

"In Kiribati, urbanisation means overcrowding. Not just in the new areas but in the established areas, and not just in the house, but between the houses." (Health Promotion Officer, Ministry of Health, Kiribati).

Potable water is a serious issue in South Tarawa. Although the reticulated (piped) water supply is relatively safe, especially if boiled, many people, especially children do not have ready access to this water. Water from shallow wells is used for washing and sometimes for cooking and this water comes

from the highly contaminated ground water. Poor sanitation practices and facilities exacerbate the environmental situation by increasing pollution levels either of the ground water and the /or the lagoon where people gather shell fish and crustaceans for food. These forms of seafood are likely to contain even higher contamination levels than shallow water fish caught in the lagoon. The practice of burying the dead close to the house also adds to ground water contamination which is not contained to just one 'water lens'³.

The water situation coupled with the population density has resulted in a living environment which some informants fear is ready for a dangerous pandemic. Infant and under five survival rates are already the lowest in the Pacific (mortality rates are high) according to informants with some claiming that unofficial rates are as low as 957 and 931 (43 and 69 deaths) per thousand live births respectively.

"The Kiribati is more likely to be devastated by a pandemic of some kind before it is severely adversely affected by climate change." (New Zealand High Commissioner, Kiribati)

The extremely high density of population leading to overcrowding also creates issues of safe space for children to be at a distance from predatory behaviour when sleeping and/or attending to personal hygiene. Space to play is also an issue for the children of South Tarawa. The road, with its heavy traffic load of swerving buses and cars is often the only available space for many children to play. Traffic accidents involving pedestrian children are high according to a local mother and a local policeman⁴.

When considered in light of the three short profiles above the three countries are distinguished by their points of difference. Vanuatu shows common issues related to urbanisation as they impact upon children as discussed in section 2. However it is easy to miss this aspect of Port Vila due to the relatively prosperous appearance of its most public face.

In Solomon Islands the threat of violence as a result of residual, unresolved issues from the tensions of the late 1990s and early 2000s exacerbate what are already serious urbanisation related issues for children. The exploitation of children in logging camps also distinguishes Solomon Islands from Vanuatu and Kiribati.

In Kiribati the physical living environment, while visually may not look too different from some settlement areas in Honiara and Port Vila, presents a serious hazard to the safety and well being of the population and of children in particular. The health and safety risks posed by poor quality water and lack of safe space even beyond the settlement are issues which are peculiar to Kiribati.

³ Water lens is the term used to describe the fresh water which collects as ground water under the surface of atolls.

⁴ The relatively recent installation of speed humps has dramatically reduced the incidence of pedestrian children involved in traffic accidents according to the Ministry of Health, Health Promotion Officer.

- Strategic Focal Areas

Key Findings from this research have highlighted 5 focal areas for UNICEF to consider.

Focal Area 1: Lack of Coordination among stakeholders engaged in tackling impacts of urbanization on children and youth

There appears to be very little support by government and international donors for, and coordination of, specific urban child targeted work. The work that is being implemented is, according to a number of informants, uncoordinated and often in isolation to, and in ignorance of other often related efforts by other organisations. *“We don’t know who is doing what”* (UNICEF, Child Survival & Development Officer in Vanuatu). Better coordination and knowledge of the work of others not only aids greater efficiency of one’s own work but also adds value to it and to the work of others. A number of informants suggested that they saw a role for UNICEF as providing a level of coordination for community level implementing organisations. They felt that such a role would also bring them into closer contact with government ministries on an ongoing basis and also ensure better alignment of all activities with government priorities.

UNICEF’s recognition and recognised success in South Tarawa among the public and local community organisations contrasts with the lack of awareness of UNICEF’s presence and work by similar level stakeholders in Honiara and Port Vila. This research has highlighted a desire by many organisations, and perhaps, a need for UNICEF to engage more closely with organisations implementing practical, community level programs which people can respond to and bring about change (albeit often small) in the shorter term. Even some government ministries have expressed the desire to see institutions such as the UN and its bodies to do more practical level activities.

Focal Area 2: Need for Research, Monitoring and Evaluation to deal with urbanization issues impacting on children and youth

The research also found that among local UNICEF Field Office (FO) staff there is a lack of understanding and/or a lack of practice of monitoring for impact. *“We don’t know what is working or not”* (Programme Manager, World Vision Vanuatu; Health Unit Officer, UNICEF, VFO). With good monitoring, projects are able to be refocused, if required, to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved. If successful projects can be identified early then scaling up and replication becomes a realistic option for donors to have a real impact in the relatively short term. While UNICEF has provided training to many staff in the use of Most Significant Change methodology of monitoring and evaluation, many staff stated that their monitoring was mostly confined to periodic reporting. This reporting tends to focus more on staff activity rather than outcome resulting from the activity in terms of UNICEF’s mandate of protecting the rights of children. Many FO staff are relatively new and have not yet had an opportunity to acquire these skills while many are still coming to terms with the magnitude and complexity of the of the task and of the organisation of which they are a part (Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Kiribati).

There is also a lack of ongoing impact monitoring among other organisations such as civil society and government ministry staff. As with many UNICEF FO staff these stakeholders lack the capacity within their organisations, and often the opportunity for themselves to monitor the impact of their work. As most of this work by all stakeholders is aimed at bringing about behaviour change of one kind or another, ways to monitor behaviour change regularly need to be developed. A culture of inquiry in terms of monitoring and evaluation needs to be developed.

Focal Area 3: Lack of Awareness of urbanization issues affecting children and youth

Education and awareness are terms readily voiced by virtually all stakeholders interviewed. Education in the formal sense and education in relation to specific issues such as health (general and sexual), nutrition and parenting for urban parents; Awareness of the need for formal education for children, awareness of the need for good nutrition in early childhood growth and awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of parents and carers towards their children (child rights).

For instance, a major hurdle for health programmes, according to UNICEF's Child Survival Officer in Vanuatu, is the population's lack of education and understanding of health in general. In Port Vila for example, people still use and sometimes favour traditional medicines, despite having access to facilities and health services. Awareness raising and advocacy at the grass-root level is still very much needed, as well as programme follow-ups.

It may be necessary to consider engaging more with the traditional governance structures, which still play an active role in the urban communities and have an influence on urban mindsets. However government appears reluctant to engage at that level. Work can also be done through the mothers in urban communities, though UNICEF has up till now avoided taking a gender bias. As a result of urbanization however, more and more mothers are raising their children on their own, with implications for child protection.

Focal Area 4: Need for Capacity Building to deal effectively with the impacts of urbanization on children and youth

There is a general lack of capacity within each of the countries targeted within this research. While there are many highly educated citizens of these countries these people often form the educated elite. These people are generally found at high levels of government or in private commerce and industry and are not always available as a resource for project implementation. Those involved at the project and program level of community development need assistance to develop their capacity to match the expectations of donors and to ensure that policy developed at higher levels of government are effectively implemented and the new policy is sufficiently informed.

Effective monitoring, data collection and analysis and counselling skills are examples of the type of capacity required.

Focal Area 5: Need to place urbanization issues at the forefront of Policy, Advocacy and Planning

“The focus is only on rural at the moment, but the needs exist in urban centres too.” (UNICEF, Child Survival & Development Officer)

Another key finding in this research is the fact that urbanization is here to stay. In Port-Vila, a new urban identity is emerging as more and more youth are losing touch with their culture of origin. In Honiara, an informant talked of the fact that her husband wanted to return to the outer island to die. ‘I am not going to be buried here and look stupid’ (Joy Kere, Ministry of Peace and National Unity). However, the same informant stressed that few people have anywhere to go back to and therefore dying in Honiara is an increasing reality for urban settlers. In Kiribati, all informants while acknowledging the negative, readily spoke of the benefits of living in South Tarawa and how they preferred to live here for their own as well as their children’s futures. The views of young informants also universally described their desire to stay living on South Tarawa. *“My wife sometimes says that we should go to her island to live. I say no and we only go for a holiday. Fishing is not a hobby in the outer islands – it’s a necessary hard work. I like living in Tarawa. I have a job, I have the internet and there are schools for my children.”* (Young working family man in Tarawa, Kiribati).

Many young people have expressed their desire to know and maintain their culture and to one day live that culture in their traditional place (VYPP, 2008). By supporting rural development it may be possible to stem (to some degree) the urban drift and to reduce the effects of urban drift upon the children left behind in rural villages (WVV, ILO, and Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development). The lack of and/or the quality of services such as health and education is often a ‘pulling’ factor for people, (particularly young people in later years of education) to move to the urban centres and live with relatives or into boarding schools. After being educated to the end of secondary or perhaps, tertiary there is little monetary, resource and career incentive to return to the rural areas. Despite the recognized hardships experienced in the urban centres, people seem to believe that urban life is easier and more rewarding. As expressed by KANGO’s Deputy Director *“Fishing on the outer islands is not a hobby, it’s a must – absolutely necessary for survival. Life on the outer islands is very hard.”* There are many villages on the outer islands where there is a missing generation, and the village is populated mostly by the old or the very young. Older siblings, and often at least one (sometimes both) parents have relocated to urban centres in search of work (and ‘modern excitement’).

In rural areas the extended family and communal nature of society is still strong and helps to compensate for the changes that are nevertheless occurring within these communities. The rural areas have a social buffer which the urban areas do not have. These factors help create an operating environment that is more easily defined and discretely targeted. Working in rural areas is also part of the strategic requirement to addressing the urbanisation phenomena itself. However the immediate needs of those already adversely affected by urbanisation because they are living in the urban areas are not adequately being addressed.

The following section 5 presents Strategic Recommendations, as well as separate findings from the three countries of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati with more practical Country Level recommendations relevant to those country contexts.

5. Recommendations

Strategic Recommendations for Regional Programming

This section presents recommendations which can inform UNICEF's regional programming to address the impacts of urbanization on children and youth across the Pacific Region. These recommendations are firmly based on the analysis of needs in Section 4 above as well as a cross-country analysis of the study findings and recommendations. Five Focal Areas were identified as a result of the analysis process.

Focal Area 1: Coordination of Stakeholders

Purpose: to support and strengthen coordination between all relevant stakeholders in order to foster greater efficiency and effectiveness in addressing the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in the region.

Strategies: strengthen or create coordination networks that work directly or indirectly on urbanisation issues affecting children and youth in the region. This will involve engaging in partnerships for the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources in addressing urbanization issues and its impacts on children and youth in the region. There are two main approaches:

- **Support existing or emerging coordination mechanisms at the regional level:** this could include high level policy networks at the regional level such as the so called Coalition of the Willing (UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, CLGF, SPC) where UNICEF can contribute to strategic discussions and the development of knowledge products to guide policy discussion;
- **Support existing or emerging coordination mechanisms at the country level:** UNICEF can support more focused networks around specific thematic areas such as: the Safe Net Initiative in Solomon Islands through its expertise in the field of child protection and its well established links with government for advocacy purposes; the Sustainable Town Programme network in Kiribati where UNICEF can benefit from stakeholders' findings on environmental impact assessment and focus group results involving urban youth, and share expertise in promoting child friendly schools and recreational spaces within this new urban centre; the Youth Empowerment Strategy in Vanuatu where UNICEF can assist in sharing expertise in the area of good governance, civil education as well as children's rights and child protection issues; the Rapid Employment Programme in Honiara, where UNICEF can assist Honiara City Council to identify Child Friendly Projects and promote the establishment of ECE facilities in urban areas , as infrastructure projects suitable for this scheme.
- **Create new coordination mechanisms:** in some instances there are a number of organizations actively involved in dealing with the impacts of urbanization with a focus on children and youth. UNICEF can play a key facilitating role in the creation of new coordination mechanism. For example, UNICEF could support a coordinated network of CBOs actively engaged in enhancing

youth recreational activities in the urban centres. More specific examples are explored in the country sections below.

Focal Area 2: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Purpose: to research urban issues, impacting on children and youth in the region, in order to identify critical areas for intervention; as well as monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programmes addressing the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in the region.

Strategies: conduct targeted research and data collection, as well as develop monitoring and evaluation capacities of UNICEF FO staff and relevant stakeholders.

- **Develop a research agenda** to collect baseline data within the urban and peri-urban centres to better inform the Pacific urban realities and its impacts on children and youth, and subsequently inform advocacy and policy planning. For instance, UNICEF can support: the Ministry of Health to develop research into the reasons for prevailing low immunization rates in urban Kiribati and urban Solomon Islands; data collection to reflect the health status of urban Pacific Children and youth; research into how the economics of power experienced by children and youth during The Tensions, is now playing out in the peri-urban settlements of Honiara and affecting the new generation of children and youth.
- **Support effective monitoring and evaluation** to ensure programmes are adaptable to new and emerging needs and challenges as they arise. For instance, UNICEF can support stakeholders, including UNICEF Field Office staff, engaged in addressing the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in the urban areas, to conduct effective monitoring and evaluation of their programmes.

Focal Area 3: Awareness Raising

Purpose: to raise community awareness of urban issues affecting children and youth in the region, ensuring positive and protective attitudes and practices towards children and youth in the urban and peri-urban centres.

Strategies: support the appropriate Ministries in developing outreach programmes and dialogue processes with traditional governance systems on urbanization issues and its impacts on children and youth.

- **Develop outreach pilot projects** in selected peri-urban areas touching on a range of urbanization issues affecting children and youth. For instance, UNICEF could: support the Ministry of Education to carry out outreach pilot projects in the peri-urban centres to foster understanding of the value of education in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands; support the Ministries in charge of Children Affairs to carry out outreach to foster good parenting attitudes and better understanding of what children rights are across the regional urban centres; support the Ministry of Health in promoting Baby Friendly Hospitals in Honiara; support the Ministry of

Health to expand the WASH Initiative to Port Vila and Honiara where major health sanitation issues have been identified, particularly in the informal urban settlements; support the Ministry of Health to carry out outreach pilot projects to address concerns over nutrition habits in the urban centres);

- **Establish dialogue processes with traditional governance systems** to ensure that awareness of issues affecting children and youth as a result of urbanization is assimilated by the communities and supported within traditional governance structures that are still influential in some peri-urban settlements. For instance, UNICEF could support the Government to open up a dialogue with the Chiefly and Traditional Governance Structures to cover areas such as youth involvement in crime, the rights of the child, the value of education etc.)

Focal Area 4: Capacity Building

Purpose: to build the capacity of stakeholders engaged in dealing with the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in the region.

Strategies: knowledge sharing of expertise, and the development of training and capacity building programmes targeted at stakeholders engaged in dealing with the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in the region.

- **Develop training programmes** to increase the capacity of identified stakeholders to deliver more effective programmes to deal with child protection issues in the urban and peri-urban centres. For instance, UNICEF could: facilitate training to enhance the counseling capacities and referral mechanisms of the Family Support Centre and the Christian Care Centre in Honiara; facilitate the training of social welfare officers to deal with the rising involvement of urban youth in the judiciary (as perpetrators or victims) across the region.
- **Support relevant stakeholders to implement targeted programmes** around urbanisation issues affecting children and youth. For instance, UNICEF could: assist the Vanuatu Youth Project in establishing a suitable drop-in centre to better reach out to urban children and youth; assist Youth Challenge Vanuatu and Wan Smol Bag to attain recognition for the educational courses they currently deliver to school drop outs in urban Vanuatu; support the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education in establishing mobile health clinics and mobile educational facilities to ensure better coverage of their programmes in the peri-urban areas of Honiara; assist in developing the capacity of stakeholders engaged in addressing Sexual Health and HIV & AIDS in the urban centres, in particular those which reach out to children and youth such as Wan Smol Bag, the Vanuatu Youth Project, the Kiribati Family Health Association through its planned youth corner; ensure that emergency preparedness capacities adequately reflect vulnerabilities in urban settings.

Focal Area 5: Policy, Advocacy and Planning

Purpose: to establish and support a mechanism of advocacy highlighting the implications of urbanization on children and youth in the Pacific, and ensuring that these are fully integrated into national policy, legislation, planning, budgeting and reporting.

Strategies: bring urbanization issues to the forefront of national policy planning through targeted advocacy on issues arising from the impacts of urbanization on children and youth, as well as bring child and youth issues to the urban policy development debate, and push for the incorporation of urban issues into legislative reform processes. This approach will be complemented by the separate, but linked recommendation focusing on research, monitoring and evaluation.

- **Develop advocacy programmes** in partnership with relevant stakeholders to highlight new emerging issues arising from urbanization and its impacts on children and youth in the Pacific. For instance, UNICEF can: advocate against the discrimination facing the rising phenomenon of teenage mothers in urban centres (have to drop-out from school, have to stay hidden in Kiribati etc.); advocate for the recognition of the growing phenomenon of street children in Honiara.
- **Reinforce advocacy** on issues which are still prevalent in the urban context. For instance, UNICEF can pursue the promotion of inclusive education in Kiribati; pursue advocating for early childhood education in the urban and peri-urban settlements; expand advocacy of Child Friendly School principles at the national level rather than only in areas of convergence to deal with specific urban challenges (participation, nutrition, access to school); advocate for the implementation of the Communication for Social Change plan in Solomon Islands.
- **Assist in bringing children's issues to the forefront of urban policy development.** For instance, UNICEF can assist the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) to incorporate a child/youth focus in the development of urban policies across the region through its expertise in child friendly city concepts.
- **Incorporate urban issues into legislative reform processes.** For instance, UNICEF can ensure that existing penalties are enforced on captains of ships allowing child prostitutes on board in South Tarawa; assist in ensuring that legal action is taken against loggers recruiting child prostitutes in the Solomon Islands; assist the Ministries of Justice to enhance the law and justice systems to protect the rights and interests of children engaged in violence and crime (as victims or perpetrators) in the urban centres.

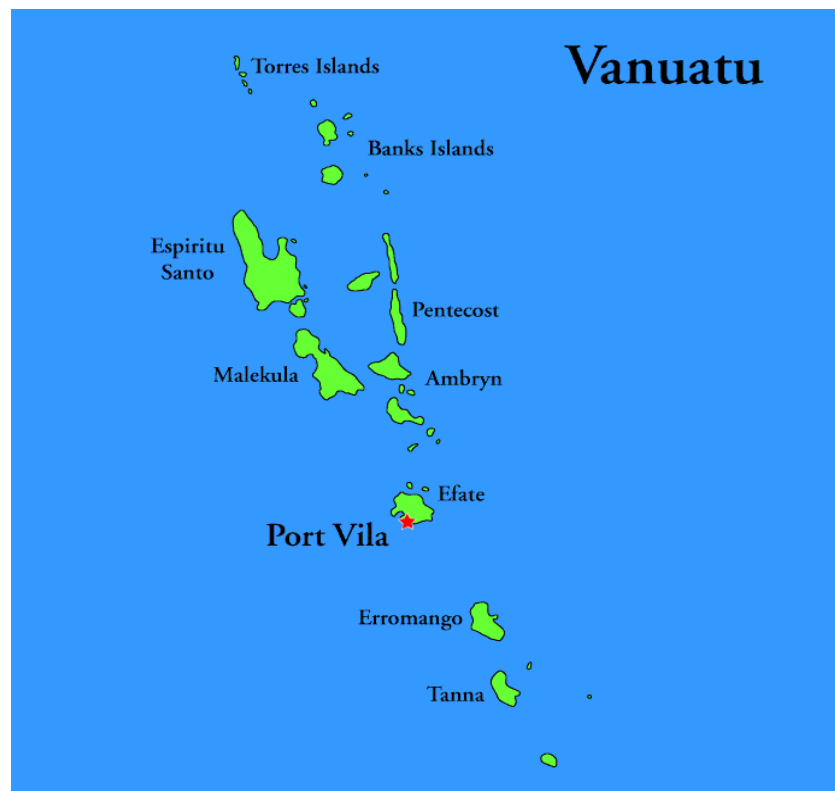
Country Specific Findings and Recommendations

Vanuatu

This section presents an overview of the key impacts of urbanization in Vanuatu, as established through the literature review and the field work. It also presents the key stakeholders engaged in dealing with

the impacts of urbanization on children in Vanuatu. Though it does not constitute an exhaustive listing, it presents an overview of the findings established at the time of our field work. *Annex 4* presents a summary of the key impacts, along with a listing of the stakeholders addressing these impacts in the urban setting.

Country Profile



The Republic of Vanuatu is an island nation comprised roughly of 80 islands located in the South of the Pacific Ocean. Vanuatu gained its independence from France in the 1980s following land disputes. Its terrain is mostly mountainous and of volcanic origin. Like most nations of the area, it is prone to earthquakes and tidal waves, but also counts 5 active volcanoes as hazards to contend with. The people of Vanuatu are called Ni-Vanuatu and are predominantly Melanesians. With over 100 different languages, Vanuatu is recognized as one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. Most of Ni-Vanuatu live in rural areas and rely on subsistence agriculture. The main sources of revenue are fisheries, agriculture and tourism. High fertility rates in Vanuatu mean that children and youth represent a high portion of the population (59% under the age of 24 and 33% under the age of 14, as of 1999 census). The country experiences high population growth, and even higher urban population growth.

Vanuatu's largest urban areas are the capital, Port Vila located on Efate Island, and Luganville located on the island of Espiritu Santo. Lenakel on the island of Tanna has recently been declared Vanuatu's third municipal area. Vanuatu's urban population makes up 21% of the total population (1999 census),

though this data does not take into account the population in the rapidly growing peri-urban areas. Though migration from smaller islands has been a key driving force to explain the rapid urbanization of Vanuatu, many urban children and youth are born in town and the rural to urban migrants are only part of the urbanization phenomenon in Vanuatu.

Key Impacts of Urbanization in Vanuatu

Child Survival & Development

As in other cities around the Pacific, urban land is limited and increasingly more densely populated. New developments are taking place outside of the formal city and municipal boundaries and beyond the institutional and legal scope of authorities in the form of informal squatter settlements. Land which used to be available to children and youth for recreational activities is now limited, and tensions over land issues are rising as urban dwellers compete to secure land. In Port Vila the issue of land availability is exacerbated by the development of tourism related facilities and exclusive residential developments which are occupied overwhelmingly by expatriates. Many of these developments have excluded from, or restricted access to, traditional sources of water (rivers, streams and wells) for local ni-Vanuatu. Access to beaches and fishing resources has in some cases also been denied or severely restricted as a result of these residential developments which are an offshoot of the tourism trade. A result of these developments is that the ni-Vanuatu who once lived on the new residential development lands are being forced into the peri-urban and settlement areas of Port Vila and Luganville. Living conditions for ni-Vanuatu in the urban centres and, especially in the peri-urban and settlement areas are deteriorating as a consequence of overcrowded housing and lack of access to basic infrastructure and services. Poverty and its consequences are seen to be rising.

As a result of deteriorating living conditions, urban Vanuatu suffers from increasing public health concerns. Evidence of rising communicable and chronic lifestyle diseases, lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation and waste disposal facilities and services are contributing to deterioration in the overall health status of urban ni-Vanuatu. The rise in Malaria, respiratory problems and influenza are cited by the UNICEF Health Officer as a particular concern, and in particular for children who are most vulnerable. Scarcity of land and the promotion of Western dietary habits in the urban centres, impacts on food security. The Vanuatu Young People's Project (VYPP) report ("Young People Speak: 2", 2008) highlights that youth in Port Vila differentiate between island food and 'white man's food', and tend to prefer the later for its convenience though it does not benefit them as much nutritionally. Food was also highlighted as a major concern by UNICEF's Education Officer when considering whether or not urban schools could attain the standards expected of a 'Child Friendly School'.

Child Protection

"The best way to describe the situation for most urban children is neglect! They are neglected" (UNICEF, Child Health and Survival Unit Officer, Vanuatu Field Office).

As elsewhere in urban Pacific centers, traditional family patterns and support networks are breaking down. An increasing number of children are left in the care of (not necessarily close) relatives or acquaintances. The VYPP report (2008) found that 35% of their respondents lived in broken families (children raised by single parents or growing up with relatives), and neglect of children was brought up as a major issue throughout the field work. *“Children and their needs are not priorities for parents”* (Ministry of Education - ECE coordinator; Ministry of Youth Development – Youth Coordinator; WVV - Country Program Manager; Youth Challenge Vanuatu - Program Coordinator). Children are left with relatives or house-girls, and sometimes also in the care of other children (MICS-3, 2007); are living in overcrowded housing and as a result are placed in danger of being abused and suffer from nutrition and other health related issues.

World Vision through its work in the peri-urban communities describes a trend of children and youth raised by their peers, wandering aimlessly at night time for lack of space to sleep in the house, and exposed to substance abuse and risk taking behaviours. This is supported by the VYPP (2008), which highlights substance abuse, mainly marijuana and alcohol as a concern for youth growing up in urban Vanuatu.

With the rise of urbanization, a new question has emerged: *who is responsible for the children?* As explained by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development, Programme Officer, *“In the village the family is responsible for the upbringing of the child. A child’s success is attributed to the family’s name.”* Life in the city, without the traditional family network, demands that parents take on this responsibility solely and, according to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Women’s Affairs, *“Urban parents’ mentalities have not adjusted to this new reality.”* Whereas traditionally the extended family is regarded as the nuclear family, this recognition is weaker in the urban context.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

Though Primary school enrollment is high, the retention rate over the first six years of primary school is as low as 15% (Education For All Global Monitoring Report, 2009). One of the main contributing factors, as to why children drop out of school, is the difficulty in meeting the school fees. As of 2010, primary school fees are paid by the Government, yet the hidden costs of education remain (transport, fundraising, uniforms etc.), and constitute obstacles to achieving education for all in Vanuatu. This is supported by interviews with Wan Smol Bag, an NGO which provides a drop-in centre and courses for out of school children in Port Vila. A youth officer at Wan Smol Bag claims that, *“The majority of children who come to the centre are out of school because they cannot afford it.”*

The research fieldwork, indicates that education and children are often not a priority for adults (parents and carers). However there are some mothers who have organised themselves into mothers groups to assist their children’s education (weave mats for the school, keep school compound clean and safe, fundraise etc.). Generally speaking though, the Ministry of Education claims that community participation in affairs of education is low, and that families tend not to prioritise education. For the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Coordinator in the Ministry of Education, the main challenge for ECE is

people's lack of interest in the benefits of education, and in particular of early childhood education and this is compounded by the fact that education is not compulsory in Vanuatu. *'Though access to schooling is available in Port Vila, but parents' mentality is an obstacle'*. (Save the Children Project Manager).

Other contributing factors include shortage of space in schools to accommodate the large youthful population and the lack of vocational training needed to meet the demands of the employment market in Vanuatu. Currently, an estimated 75% of children do not receive secondary school education (VYPP, 2008). Illiteracy levels are high around 23% and comparatively worse for women (ADB Vanuatu Country Report, 2006). Unemployment levels are high and are partly blamed on high school drop-outs rates along with the general lack of employment opportunities within the formal sector of the economy (UNICEF, 2005). The main issue highlighted throughout the field work is the lack of relevance of the educational curriculum to meet the demands of the employment market. *"The educational system puts too much emphasis on 'white collar jobs', but there are not enough opportunities in that sector."* (World Vision Vanuatu, Country Program Manager) The International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Vanuatu representative supports this claim and adds, *"Education needs to equip youth with business expertise and more practical skills and training opportunities, as the expectation that youth will graduate and find white collar employment is not realistic enough."*

Vanuatu's urban youth often have little choice but to increasingly rely on the informal sector of the economy for survival. The VYPP (2008) report suggests that wages and work conditions are often very poor and a deterrent for youth to search for work. This is confirmed by the ILO representative in Vanuatu, who asserts that generally speaking youth are exploited. This is compounded by the fact there is no legislation in place to protect youth employment.

HIV/AIDS

Urbanization, the marginalization of youth, gender inequalities and general lack of cause and effect knowledge all contribute to creating an environment for children and youth which is conducive to deteriorating wellbeing which includes the spread of sexually transmitted infection (STIs). Knowledge and access to family planning is limited and the rising incidence of teenage pregnancies (only 38% of youth use contraceptive, VYPP, 2008) is indicative of this.

Participation

Participation in Kastom (custom) is central to life in Vanuatu, through ceremonies, crafts, dress, hierarchy, reconciliation methods, traditional medicine etc. Urban life however is redefining Kastom, as opportunities to practice it and access to elders are reduced. More and more urban Ni-Vanuatu children are growing up without the opportunity to visit their islands of culture and origin. Indigenous languages which are key to accessing the Kastom are being replaced by the use of Bislama as a way of connecting Islanders to one another, in day to day urban life. The VYPP report (2008) has found Bislama to be the language most youth use to communicate. All this contributes to reinforcing an emerging urban sense of identity.

As a result of a lack of educational and employment opportunities and a lack of accessible recreational facilities, the youth is pictured as disillusioned and disengaged, and refer to '*killem taem*' (killing time) as a way of life (VYPP, 2008). Our field work however also reveals that some youth are actively engaged and productive activity within their communities. Most of the time, this engagement is translated through voluntary work and activities. Types of work youth may be engaged with may be seen through the Church groups, through work with the Chiefs, through youth work and NGO base activities. Youth are getting organized and have many interesting ideas, but lack coordination and funds to realize their projects. Youth drop-in centers, such as the ones set up by Wan Smol Bag, Youth Challenge Vanuatu offer a non judgmental space for youth to discuss issues, without the fear of being shamed, and give support to children and youth's voices to be heard.

Key Stakeholders

This section specifically looks at the key stakeholders who are actively engaged in addressing the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in Vanuatu. This may in some cases include stakeholders addressing urban drift and working with communities in the rural areas. These stakeholders have been categorised accordingly with UNICEF work areas.

Child Survival & Development

UNICEF Child Survival and Development Unit and the Ministry of Health:

UNICEF Child Survival and Development Unit runs 5 programmes in Vanuatu, namely the Extended Immunization Programme, the WASH Programme, the Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses Programme, the Safe Motherhood and Neonatal care Programme, and the nutrition Programme. All 5 Programmes have for focus the rural areas of Vanuatu, with the exception of the Extended Immunization Programme and the Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Care Programme which run at the national level, and which therefore have some impacts in Vanuatu's urban centres.

Through the extended Immunization Programme, UNICEF has been assisting the Ministry of Health through capacity building, funds for fridges and cool boxes to store the drugs etc. It is generally felt that both national initiatives are a great success, in both urban and rural areas, and according to UNICEF Health Unit Officer, the general health status of Vanuatu's population seems to be improving. However, he also stressed that there is no data to support this assumption. "*We do not know what is working or not.*" (UNICEF Child Survival Officer, Vanuatu, FO).

Through the Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Care Programme, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health with the establishment of 'Baby Friendly Hospitals'. This is done through the promotion of breastfeeding, advocacy and assistance in the form of medical staff training. An important aspect of this programme is to train the community to take ownership of these principles, through awareness raising, advocacy and the establishment of community support groups.

Wan Smol Bag:

Wan Smol Bag in Port Vila run several programmes aimed at raising awareness at the community level on issues surrounding child health. In particular, they run two nutrition classes which specifically target mothers and out-of school children (the pikinini nutrition class and the mama nutrition class) where they teach basic principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Lack of awareness and understanding of what constitutes healthy food was raised as an issue, as well as the lack of land to grow fruits and vegetables which limit accessibility to health food options for the squatter settlement communities.

Child Protection

UNICEF Child Protection Unit:

UNICEF's Child Protection Unit in Vanuatu mainly works at the national level, supporting the Ministry of Justice and Community Services through the Birth Registration Programme. The National Children's Committee (NCC) tool kit has been created in response to needs identified through baseline surveys, and addresses the need to make laws and regulations more compliant with CRC principles. The main challenge identified is the community's attitudes to the concept of CRC. CRC is still very much perceived as a 'white man's concept and communities are not always receptive to change. *"The mindset is still very much traditional and advocacy is needed."* (PAPE M & E Officer, Vanuatu, FO).

In addressing cultural issues which surround the concept of child protection, UNICEF will be partnering with World Vision Vanuatu on the Education is Empowerment Project, which will address issues of good parenting through awareness raising activities. Some issues raised through this project will be children's rights, parents' role and responsibilities, obligations etc. This project will run on the Island of Efate, in the rural areas, and will not impact on urban settings.

Department of Women's Affairs:

The department of Women's Affairs currently works with UNICEF on the National Children's Committee (NCC) toolkit which aims to put in place specific legislation in line with the CRC, and which will impact children at the national level. The Department does not directly address child protection issues in the urban centre, though it sees a need to support the creation of support services targeted at children.

From the Department of Women's Affairs' perspective, children's rights is still very much a policy issue, but it needs to be translated at the community level and outreach programmes are needed to educate urban parents as to their responsibilities. It will take time for the concept of Children's rights to be fully internalised. As such, the Department of Women's Affairs is currently interested in developing networks with the Churches and the Chiefs to find ways in which to promote CRC principles at the urban community level.

World Vision:

World Vision recently had a project (Ejukasen Istat Long Hom/Education Begins at Home) targeting the primary carers of children in the urban and peri-urban areas of Port Vila. These projects focus(ed) on parenting and children's rights and parent's obligations to their children. World Vision Vanuatu is now

introducing the Education Empowerment Project to Efate, with a strong emphasis on parenting and awareness raising on the values of education, but this will be delivered in rural areas only.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

UNICEF Education Unit:

At the national level, the UNICEF Education Unit is engaged with supporting the Ministry of Education in the development of ECE, and is contributing to the plan which will lead to the registration of preschool teaching in Vanuatu (setting standards and regulations, curriculum etc.). This should have a major impact in Port Vila where over the past few years, less than adequate preschools have sprung up to cater for parents' needs for childcare whilst they go to work. As such, private preschools are currently run in Port Vila by mostly non qualified teachers, and involve little supervision or stimulation.

UNICEF is also engaged with supporting the Ministry of Education with the 'Child Friendly School' project in parts of rural Vanuatu (Sanma and Tafea Provinces). Though schools in Port Vila may be closer than the rural schools to meeting the standards of a 'child friendly school', according to the UNICEF Education Officer some issues would remain to be addressed such as adequate nutrition of urban schooling children, the question of access to school (costs) and the low participation of the community in the urban areas.

Ministry of Education – Early Childhood Education (ECE) Unit:

The Ministry of Education ECE unit works in partnership with UNICEF to standardise ECE in Vanuatu. This requires teacher training, as well as curriculum development, and the development of standards and regulation to allow for preschools to be registered. Another area of work for the Ministry of Education is awareness raising at the community level. Good parenting and the benefits of education and especially ECE need to be emphasise. Though awareness raising is taking place, there is little monitoring of its impact on the ground and little capacity to carry it out extensively. *"There is no follow-up to awareness raising"* (Ministry of Education, ECE Coordinator).

The Ministry of Education is interested in looking into partnering with the Council of Chiefs to promote education in a way which is culturally accessible to the communities. Another aspect which the Ministry is aiming to address is the promotion of vernacular languages to address issues of quality and relevance of education. As such, Preschool education is mostly delivered in the vernacular, and materials are slowly being developed to support this move, though the Ministry of Education acknowledges funding obstacles to producing attractive vernacular resources. Primary school level introduces French and English as the main languages of instruction, though an important finding of the fieldwork is the emergence of Bislama as urban children and youth's main language (VYPP, 2008), and the Ministry is aware of the need to at the very least standardise the spelling of Bislama.

International Labour Organisation (ILO):

ILO Vanuatu runs a Youth Employment Programme targeting 12-30 year olds. The programme focuses on capacity building with government agencies and workshops to raise the profile of entrepreneurship,

as well as to provide various training. ILO provides 4 areas of recommendation within the strategic framework for youth and work – education & training; entrepreneurship; legislation (to protect youth employment rights) and coordination of the youth sector. Education (access and relevance) is a major component of this framework. A major challenge however for ILO is the fact that Labour Market Information is missing to inform curriculum planning, or to orientate technical training courses, and therefore render education more relevant to the demands of the employment market.

Technical Vocational Education Training Programme (TVET):

The TVET program is a national, accreditation program funded mostly by AusAID. TVET has links to the hospitality training college and the technical training college in Port Vila. ILO headquarters in Suva stress however that TVET Programmes have limitations due to the absence in country of reliable Labour Market Information (LMI) which is necessary to inform the curriculum of their programmes.

Vanuatu Young People's Project and Youth Challenge Vanuatu:

The VYPP runs programs designed to improve young people's (age 13 -30) life skills. These courses cover leadership, cultural identity, relationships and enhance their employment opportunities. Much of the VYPP's work in relation to youth employment is done in conjunction with Youth Challenge (YC) which has employment and leadership as a priority area of activity targeting youth aged 18 to 30 years of age.

Youth Challenge Vanuatu:

Youth Challenge Vanuatu is an NGO based in Port Vila focusing on youth issues. Their main goal is to help youth find employment, training, and to help them feel empowered to make decisions. The drop-in centre is accessible for the minimal fee of 100 Vat a year and is a great opportunity for youth to access the internet, daily updated job adverts and help in writing CVs and sending applications. School drop outs benefit from the Youth Challenge Programme which teaches life skills, education and effective communication. Though training is provided, none of the courses are certified.

Wan Smol Bag:

Wan Smol Bag runs a number of programs which assist in the education and skill development of children and youth. These programs cover literacy, computers, nutrition, and sewing and general life skills.

Save the Children:

According to Save the Children Programme Officer teachers in the urban areas are sufficiently trained to deliver ECE curriculum. However the importance of ECE and of education in general must be promoted in the urban and peri-urban areas. To this effect, Save the Children conducts awareness raising in 4 urban communities in Port Vila. Save the Children also runs programmes to help school drop-outs in the urban centre, targeting 10-14 year olds. It is also engaged with the Ministry of Education to support preschool curriculum development.

From Save the Children's perspective, urban communities need to be encouraged and supported to own their preschool projects. But for this to happen, major awareness raising and advocacy is needed to overturn the traditional mindset and ensure parents make education a priority.

HIV/AIDS

Vanuatu Young People's Project:

Vanuatu Young People's Group also conducts awareness raising on the issue of HIV and AIDS, and sexual health in general. The VYPP tends to coordinate with WSB and refers youth to visit the WSB clinic for free, confidential advice on sexual health and family planning.

World Vision:

World Vision Vanuatu conducts awareness raising, and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material developed by World Vision Solomon Islands, and approved by the Solomon Island National Aids Council, which is specifically aimed at the Melanesian context.

Wan Smol Bag:

Wan Smol Bag (WSB) has set up a free clinic in Port Vila. The clinic provides information regarding sexual health, family planning as well as a location for providing blood samples for testing which is conducted by the National Testing Laboratory. The WSB clinic provides a non judgmental and confidential environment for those wishing to avail themselves of information and support in relation to sexual health and sexuality in general. A non-judgmental and confidential service is not common in the public health service in Melanesia in general.

Wan Smol Bag also conducts a sexual health peer education programme, as well as outreach workshops in urban communities and in schools, in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

Participation

Vanuatu Young People's Project:

The VYPP is a youth oriented NGO which offers a platform to youth to voice their concerns, their dreams. It is housed at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, and does not have a space to receive youth on a drop-in basis. In 2005, VYPP conducted a survey among youth (13-25 year olds) in Port Vila to determine the challenges they face as a result of urbanization. One of the survey's findings indicated youth's desire to learn about their identities and cultures of origin. The VYPP therefore has established a Kastom school which helps young people identify with their rural roots, while at the same time helping them rationalize that culture to the contemporary urban environment (VYPP report, 2008).

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development:

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development has for mandate to look after youth aged 12-30 years old. One of its core projects for the year ahead is the Youth Empowerment Strategy which aims at establishing of a coordinated youth network comprising of the National Youth Councils with supporting provincial and national legislation, to provide a channel for the voices of the young to be heard.

Such a network would allow the Ministry of Youth to identify youth's needs and help youth implement projects. The Ministry's Youth Coordinator is hopeful that the establishment of the youth network will get the Government to prioritize children at the policy level. According to the Youth Challenge Vanuatu Youth Coordinator who heads a youth council, young people in Vila are getting organized, have lots of ideas, lots of projects but no money or support to implement. Youth Councils are currently self-funded.

Youth Challenge Vanuatu:

Youth Challenge Vanuatu offer a drop-in centre service to youth who need help finding employment. It is a forum where youth can get together to share their ideas and their concerns. In addition to this service, Youth Challenge Vanuatu engages urban youth in assistance projects in the rural outer islands of Vanuatu. These projects are identified through communities making contact with Youth Challenge for help. Though Youth Challenge is located in an urban area, they have not been approached by any urban community groups.

Wan Smol Bag:

Wan Smol Bag offer a drop-in centre for children and youth who have dropped out from school. At the centre, children and youth gain access to computers, internet and courses in a range of topics. Mothers with young kids are welcome too. The centre is currently funded by Auzaid until 2014. The drop-in centre offers a forum for kids to get together, share their daily life, and is an alternative to schooling for many who cannot afford school fees.

Through WSB's theatre group many young people are able to express themselves on many important and often sensitive issues. WSB is well known across Vanuatu and the Pacific for raising issues through drama in a way in which people can relate to. Such issues are sex and sexuality, political participation and corruption, traditional culture and how it relates to contemporary urban Vanuatu. Many young people are involved in the writing, production and presentation of these dramas.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

UNICEF Vanuatu:

UNICEF Child Protection Unit assists the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office with a safety card project and the training of police personnel.

UNICEF Education Unit assists the Ministry of Education to develop a plan for education in emergencies (natural disasters). The plan is generic, and does not specifically address the needs of urban children.

Country Level Recommendations

From the analysis of impacts of urbanization in Vanuatu, as well as from the analysis of the stakeholders engaged in dealing with urbanization issues in Vanuatu, the main points are summarised as:

- The urbanization lens seems absent from UNICEF and the Government of Vanuatu's planning and programme implementation;
- There is little coordination of efforts to deal with the impacts of urbanization on children and youth, and as a result of this, progress is achieved in isolation and most initiatives die out once funding has run out;
- Existing programmes addressing urban issues have very little monitoring and evaluation capacity to inform of their progress;
- Though some good progress is being achieved at the government/ policy level, little is taking place to ensure that the community understands the issues being raised.

The following recommendations for each of UNICEF's areas of work are made:

Child Survival & Development

In urban Vanuatu, there are major health issues arising from low living standards in the informal settlements (poor hygiene, overcrowding, lack of sanitation, non-existent infrastructure), as well as poor nutrition levels arising from lack of space to cultivate, cost of food, and poor understanding of what constitutes healthy food.

Wan Smol Bag is the only stakeholder seen to be addressing these impacts in the urban setting, through nutrition classes with mothers and children and the organising of sporting events and basic sporting facilities for youth and children in Vila.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF could support the Ministry of Health to gather baseline information regarding the health status of children in urban Vanuatu, with a focus on informal settlements**

Data is necessary in order to plan programmes efficiently, and in order to judge whether programmes are successful or not. Data is also necessary to inform the National Action Plan. Mostly estimates are based on the 1999 census, but more up to date information is necessary. Lack of baseline data represents a major challenge to the planning of health programmes, whether in the rural or urban setting. The Ministry of Health does not have the capacity to produce data at present.

- **UNICEF could support the Ministry of Health to develop a WASH initiative in the urban setting, with a focus on the informal peri-urban settlements**

Though data is largely unavailable concerning the informal settlements, there is little doubt through our fieldwork that the informal settlements of Port Vila present some serious health issues, in particular in regards to sanitation and hygiene. Though similar issues exist in the rural areas, these can be exacerbated in the overcrowded urban context of informal settlements. UNICEF in partnership with World Vision Vanuatu, is already engaged in supporting the Ministry of Health to deliver the WASH programme in the rural areas. World Vision Vanuatu believes this programme could be replicated in the urban setting. Such must be complemented with awareness raising on health, sanitation and hygiene issues in a cause and effect manner that local people can relate to. The cause and effect relationship between hygiene and diarrhea is not readily understood and past experience has shown that short workshops and lessons have little effect on behavior change.

- **UNICEF, through the M.o.H. could support the setting up of pilot nutrition awareness raising programmes in the urban areas**

Nutrition was raised as a serious concern by many informants, both in terms of health and educational outcomes. It is possible for UNICEF to support the Ministry of Education address this issue in urban schools through the UNICEF Focal Point who is also a Health Promotion Officer. The establishment of nutrition pilot programmes in the urban areas is another option for UNICEF to gain an understanding of what the issues are at the settlement community level, and to trial out solutions to address this worrying trend, particularly as food prices are rising in Port Vila due to the global issues beyond local control. Wan Smol Bag was the only actor seen to be engaging on this issue, but the scale of its work is limited to mother and children classes in the drop-in centre.

Child Protection

In urban Vanuatu, there are major concerns regarding child protection issues, and a general lack of awareness of children's rights and parental obligations.

Much work in the area of child protection for urban children and youth is contained within the policy and advocacy work being done at the national level in relation to relevant legislation.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF, through the Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare, could develop effective awareness raising on Child Protection issues arising from urbanization within urban communities**

Awareness raising needs good programmes which draw on the cultural (kastom) strengths of ni-Vanuatu society to follow up and make sure messages are implemented. Such strengths are the traditional governance and supports which relied upon strong obligation relationships. It is important that messages are seen as coming from a ni-Vanuatu context and not a 'western' context. For example terms such as child rights could be replaced by familial obligations and responsibilities. Appropriate alternatives to unacceptable disciplinary measures need to be provided modeled for

parents and carers. For example, if beating a child is unacceptable what is an appropriate alternative which maintains a parents/carers authority in the eyes of both the child and the parent/carer?

Melanesian culture has traditionally always been protective of its women and children, yet physical violence against children is often passed off as 'cultural'. *'A lot of things are being swept under the cultural carpet'* (Ministry of Youth and Development, Youth Coordinator). By involving elders and chiefs, and possibly too those family members (often the mothers eldest brother/cousin) with obligation relationships towards children, directly in awareness raising and relevant education programs, the 'cultural carpet' may become a 'protective covering'.

- **UNICEF could develop and support capacity building of relevant stakeholders who are engaged in dealing with Child Protection issues in the urban areas**

UNICEF needs to work directly with victim support organisations and the police to assist them to develop their counseling capacity and to develop a standard approach to how victims are dealt with when seeking assistance. The Family Protection Act recognises child abuse as a crime, but there is no follow-up, nor implementation or prevention work to look into the causes of child abuse. The service providers (counselors, social workers etc.) that do exist are extremely limited in their capacity to follow up and help the victims of abuse and violence. Sensitization of law enforcement personnel and judiciary on issues relating to child abuse and violence was mentioned by a number of informants as an area where UNICEF could assist.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

In the urban areas, there are major concerns regarding children's school attendance, as well as the quality and relevance of education.

The Ministry of Education and UNICEF are seen to be promoting ECE, and a few NGOs are actively engaged in delivering technical and vocational training.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF through the Child Friendly School focal point at the Ministry of Education, could play a role in promoting Child Friendly School principles in the urban setting to address issues of access to education, nutrition and quality of education**

Urban schools by and large meet most of the infrastructure standards required to qualify as a child friendly school. However there are specific issues to the urban context which warrant UNICEF to look into expanding its program. For instance, the field work has identified the issues of malnutrition and lack of community participation to be of importance in the urban context. UNICEF could draw on its extensive resources from within its world-wide program to develop and/or trial urban models of community involvement with schools. This work could also be conducted in close association with the local, relevant church(s).

Child Friendly schools are also about improving the quality of education. In the case of urban Vanuatu the report suggests that Bislama is increasingly the lingua franca. Vernacular language is encouraged at the ECE level but in urban areas there are likely to be a number of vernacular languages required in any one ECE facility making it impractical to conduct classes in these languages. UNICEF could support the development of Bislama ECE resources for use in urban ECE facilities. This would have a positive impact upon the subsequent literacy achievements of children during their early primary school years. This work could also assist with the expressed need for Bislama to become more standardised.

- **UNICEF through the M.o.E. could support informal education providers in the urban areas, to build their resources, capacities and help them achieve recognition**

Finding employment is urban youth's most pressing issue in Vanuatu (VYPP, 2008). There is generally an acknowledgement that school does not prepare adequately for the demands of the employment market in Vanuatu. More and more NGOs are engaging youth with vocational courses in the field of sewing, business skills and more general life skills. According to WSB and Youth Challenge Vanuatu, these courses are successful and regularly lead to employment. Besides the necessity to find work, these courses engage youth and promote their sense of self-worth, along with giving them something productive to focus on. These courses however are limited in their range and they are not certified. UNICEF through its work with the Ministry of Education could support these NGOs to diversify their courses and to attain recognition.

HIV & AIDS

In urban Vanuatu, the incidence of HIV/AIDS is reportedly low. However, concerns arise concerning the high incidence of STDs, the demand for sex from transient workers in the Fisheries industry, as well as the loosening of social control in the urban centre.

A few NGOs are tackling the issue of prevention through awareness raising, and the production of IEC materials. Wan Smol Bag has set up a free sexual health clinic, to address testing and counseling.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF through the Ministry of Health could support the stakeholders involved in promoting sexual health awareness in the urban areas**

Apart from the Ministry of Health, there are a few initiatives which work extensively on HIV and AIDS prevention. Wan Smol Bag and the VYPP run peer training education programmes, that target youth as their audience. In addition, Wan Smol Bag runs a free sexual health clinic where youth can get advice and treatment. The need for support to continually update the IEC and related resources is an area that UNICEF could potentially assist with.

Participation

Youth and children are largely excluded from decision making and from participation in community affairs. Exposure to outside influences as a consequence of urbanization is bringing along social changes, and in particular the rise of the teenager.

A few NGOs are active in involving youth and children in meaningful activities and in providing them a space to voice their issues. These NGOs however are limited in their scope, and cannot reach out to all urban children and youth. A youth council network is soon to be established, enabling better coordination between the existing youth councils around Solomon Islands.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development could collaborate to expand and support services to children and youth in the urban centres**

Drop in centres represent a space for youth to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns, as well as giving them a sense of belonging. However not all areas of Port Vila have such facilities and as a result not all relevant and potential users have access to them. This is an area where UNICEF could possibly actively assist at the grassroots level by engaging with these service providers to plan how and to where to expand their services.

Vanuatu Young People's project is located at the cultural centre and while this is a convenient central location it is not easily accessible to the outlying settlement areas and peri-urban areas of Port Vila. YC is located near VYPP and WSB is also restricted to one venue.

NGOs such as Wan Smol Bag (WSB) are trying to develop sporting activities and events (disco nights) specifically aimed at children and youth, most of whom are out of school and have little to do. WSB would be an ideal partner to engage closely with to expand youth and young people services in Port Vila and also in Luganville where WSB already has a small presence.

- **UNICEF could support the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Development with the Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES) which aims at developing a coordinated network of urban and provincial youth councils**

There are many youth councils in the urban areas of Vanuatu who are active within their communities. However, they still operate independently from each other, and lack support to fully engage in their activities. The idea behind the youth network is to coordinate all these groups in order to identify their aspirations, and support implementation of their projects. It is expected that by June 2010, Port Vila City Council will have registered all the youth groups in the capital. UNICEF can engage in this project through its expertise in the spheres of governance, civil education, and

child's rights. YES is not about developing new projects, but about coordinating expertise and increasing children and youth's participation.

The case study below is an example of practical, community level work which occurs within urban communities in the Pacific which give effect to, or inform the policy and legislative environments created by stakeholders working at government level.

Case Study: Ejukesian hemi samting blong everiwan (Education is for everyone)

This project was an urban based project targeting older urban dwelling people, young school age people who were not attending school (school drop-outs) and young pre-school age children who are living in the urban areas of Port Vila.

The older people are those who have come to spend their 'twilight years' with their daughters in the urban areas. Their daughters are generally looking for work or are involved in the informal economy and so the elderly person spends long hours alone. In the village that person would have had the company of their grandchildren (bubus) and others.

The young school 'dropouts' with very few skills including literacy skills are at risk of becoming disaffected and potentially leading adversely disadvantaged urban lives. The pre-school aged children are those left in the care of siblings (out of school) distant relatives and 'house-girls'. These children often receive no stimulus with their carers engaged in video games/DVDs and the child is mostly unattended. In the village the child would be constantly in close contact with others, enjoying movement, talk, song and active play.

The aim of the project was to bring these three groups of people together. The older people would tell the young the stories of their people and their history, including songs, drawings and carvings. Through this medium the young would improve their literacy and other skills by writing the stories and developing a contextual understanding of the relationship between learning (education) and culture and modern written recording methods. The young people (and the old) would then tell/and read the stories to the pre-school aged children; play with the artefacts; paint the pictures.

This project ran for three years and the anecdotal evidence is that it brought much joy to the lives of the isolated elderly; many young people improved their literacy skills and some returned to school; young people also developed a sense of identity which they previously lacked; the cognitive development of many pre-school aged children was enhanced.

The project has since ended due to lack of funding. However there are a number of community based children's groups which include young and elderly people which still operate in the Fresh Wota area of Port Vila as a direct result of this project

Solomon Islands

This section presents an overview of the key impacts of urbanization in Solomon Islands, as established through the literature review and the field work. It also presents the key stakeholders engaged in dealing with the impacts of urbanization on children in Solomon Islands. Though it does not constitute an exhaustive listing, it presents an overview of the findings established at the time of our field work. *Annex 5* presents a summary of the key impacts, along with a list of the stakeholders addressing these impacts in the urban setting.

Solomon Islands Country Profile



The Solomon Islands form an archipelago of nearly 1,000 islands located in the Southwest of the Pacific Ocean. These islands are characterized by several large volcanic islands to the south-east of Papua New Guinea, as well as outlying islands and atolls. The Solomon Islands are vulnerable to natural disasters (seismic activity, tropical cyclones, tsunamis, etc.). The terrain is mountainous and heavily forested, and most of the population lives in the coastal regions. The people of the Solomon Islands are called Solomon Islanders and are predominantly a group of Melanesian people. The ethnic groups of the Solomon Islands reflect the natural division of the islands. However, within the islands ethnic associations follow the different languages in use. The Solomon Islands present more than seventy languages, reflected in more than seventy ethnic groups. It is estimated that 90% of land is customary (UNDP, 2004) and land ownership lies with the tribal groups. The majority of the population is involved in subsistence/cash crop agriculture with less than a quarter of the population involved in any paid work. Exports remain commodities based and include timber, fish, cocoa and copra. The country remains essentially rural in character (around 75% rural). High fertility rates in Solomon Islands mean that children and youth represent a high portion of the population. 41.5% of the population is under age

14 (UNDP, 2004). The country experiences high population growth, and even higher urban population growth.

The capital Honiara is the main urban centre for the Solomon Islands and is located on the largest island, Guadalcanal. Guadalcanal's natural resources (mineral and agricultural) have attracted many migrants from the outer islands, especially from Malaita. The bulk of the migration has been towards the capital city Honiara, which is characterized by very high growth rates and overcrowding. According to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Peace, Unity and Reconciliation the town boundaries have not expanded since 1980s, and squatters in informal settlements now account for more than the town population. The nation experienced a major conflict (1998-2003), referred to as the Tensions, which resulted from disputes over access to land and resources in Guadalcanal, between Gwale and Malaitans. An Australian-brokered peace deal was signed in October 2000, but lawlessness largely continued until the arrival of an Australian-led peacekeeping force (the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands – RAMSI) in July 2003. RAMSI is a long-term commitment aimed at helping create the conditions necessary for a return to stability, peace and a growing economy. The root causes of the conflict however have not been solved, and potential for conflict re-emerging is high. The 2006 post elections riots in Honiara which mainly targeted the Chinese migrants are a reminder of the challenges that Solomon Islands still face. As a result of the Tensions, a large portion of the population was displaced. A few years on, and Honiara is experiencing a major influx of population (20,000 to 30,000 people according to informant within the Ministry of Peace, Unity and Recovery). Census figures published in the coming year will give a clearer picture of the situation.

“Urbanization? It’s a timebomb!” (Permanent secretary, Ministry of National Unity, Peace and Recovery).

Key Impacts of Urbanization in Solomon Islands

Child Survival & Development

As in other cities around the Pacific, urban land is fully occupied and all new developments are taking place outside of the formal city and beyond the institutional and legal scope of authorities (informal squatter settlements). According to Connell (1999), there was a 19% population growth in the informal settlements around Honiara in the 1980s. By 1989, there were 30 established informal settlements in the peri-urban areas. APHEDA Union Aid (AUAA) claims that there are 52 such settlements today. Some of these are relatively close to the centre of Honiara, but many are located to the south of the urban centre and fill the areas between the steep ridges that define that area. The more distant settlement areas have poor service provision in terms of water supply (which is already rationed in urban Honiara), sanitation, and access to medical services, education and transport.

The RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands) intervention presence in Solomon Islands is mostly concentrated in Honiara. Apart from the presence of foreign police and army personnel, there has been a influx of civilians who work in advisory positions in government departments, RAMSI administration, short term consultancies and expatriate aid workers. This influx has had a dramatic effect on the cost of housing and the cost of living in general. Housing in more sought after areas has been taken up by expatriates and the previous occupants, often owners, have moved out to take advantage of higher rental returns. The 'knock on' effect has forced residents in previously low rental accommodation into the settlement areas putting further pressure on conditions there. As a result of deteriorating living conditions, urban Honiara is affected by some major public health concerns, based on evidence of rising communicable and non communicable diseases, lack of access to safe water (water is rationed in most parts of Honiara) and basic sanitation and solid waste disposal facilities and services. The rise in Malaria, TB and Dengue are of particular concern.

Child Protection

"Children's issues will remain a low priority until an organization, a champion, comes along" Aaron Olafea (Social Welfare Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs).

As elsewhere in urban pacific centers, traditional family patterns and support networks are breaking up, and the wantok system, fundamental to Solomon Islands traditional culture, has become largely unsustainable in the urban context. Whereas under such a system, the housing needs of migrants were originally catered for by the extended family, more and more noticeably, children left in the care of the extended family are being left to fend for themselves due to lack of space or capacity to be looked after. The increase in street children and child beggars in Honiara partly reflect this. The shift in lifestyles and values from traditional rural to modern urban is seen to cause further social problems such as a rise in crime, physical and sexual violence, alcohol (kwaso⁵) and other substance abuse, and the rising

⁵ Kwaso is an illegal, home distilled alcohol. It is relatively cheap to make and to buy and is potentially dangerous due to lack of any quality control in its making.

incidence of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STI).

Childhood sexual abuse is found to be common, with 37% of women reporting being abused before the age of 15 (SPC, 2009), and overall rates of abuse were found to be higher in the urban centre of Honiara. Corporal punishment of children is seen as acceptable and in the often volatile environment of the settlements areas, such 'punishment' sometimes becomes uncontrolled violence (family support Centre, UNIFEM). Physical punishment is mostly supported by culture and children's rights referred to as a '*white man's concept*' (Family Support Centre, Counselor). There are currently very few support services for the young victims of abuse. The prevalence of *kwaso* (illicit alcohol) within the settlement areas creates an alcohol fuelled level of violence and (often) destruction that some informants report as being out of control. The link between alcohol consumption and domestic violence is explicitly drawn in SPC's research on Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Report (2009). The impact upon children who witness such violence is as serious as that of those who directly experience violence.

The requirement for income is a recurring comment from Solomon Island informants to this research. For those people living in the settlement areas of Honiara the imperative for an income based livelihood often relegates the responsibility for the care and development of children to a very low level in terms of priorities. Many children as a result are left to fend for themselves to a large degree. The incidence of children begging in Honiara is also reported as a growing phenomenon by a number of informants. Because the market is fenced and at the night the gates are locked, this may well provide a safe haven for vulnerable homeless children, though Social Welfare stress that this situation is illegal.

Many young girls are involved in transactional sex for money and also for food and shelter. Informants also report that the foreign ships which frequent the port in Honiara and the fishing trawlers which visit the fish cannery at Noro in the Western Province are frequented by girls as young as 9-10, providing sexual services to the seamen. There is limited legal protection for these children, and prostitution remains illegal in Solomon Islands. Economic gravitation is occurring around logging camps around the country and forming what may be recognized as new forms of urbanization. Along with the economic opportunities offered by these camps, is the more recent recognition of the social impacts the logging camps have on women and children such as the maintenance of children born from short-term relationships between the local girls and the transient workers at the camps; and the commercial and sexual exploitation of children (The Christian Care Centre of the Church of Melanesia, 2004). Some young girls, between the ages of 9-18, have been sold by their families to foreign loggers as 'house-girls' and temporary wives. Some girls are trafficked and sold by older male siblings and the remote location of the camps means that this exploitation of children generally goes unreported and beyond the reach of any law which may be otherwise enforced against the perpetrators. There are concerns raised that the reopening of the gold mines on Guadalcanal Island will result in another site for the sexual exploitation of children. (Live & Learn informant).

The traditional rural life rarely saw children involved with the modern law and justice system. Young people were disciplined for misdemeanors by the village systems. Urbanisation has changed this in that

traditional systems often no longer apply and there is a greater police presence in the urban areas. The presence of RAMSI has also increased the level of law enforcement and so more young people find themselves in contact with the law and justice system either as victims or perpetrators. There is no consistency in the way in which young people are processed when they enter the law and justice system whether as victims or perpetrators. This can mean that some children may be dealt with in a considerate manner while others are treated as adults. There is no detention facility where children can be separated from adults if they are detained within the legal and justice system

Basic Education & Gender Equality

Education in Solomon Islands is not compulsory and while the government has recently implemented a policy of free primary education, schools are forced to raise funds through fees and levies on parents to ensure schools have resources and facilities to cater for students. Primary school enrollment rates are low (62% for the period covering 2003-2008), and drop dramatically at secondary school level (30% over same period). There are no data regarding school retention/attendance. Although Honiara has a number of primary and secondary schools within the established urban area, many of these schools are not readily accessible to children in the more distant settlement areas, nor are there enough schools to cater for the large numbers of school age children attending or wishing to attend. Lack of cash for transport and other costs associated with education are barriers to many children especially young girls who generally suffer as a result of boys being given higher priority when funds are scarce. Illiteracy levels are high and comparatively worse for women.

There are very few early childhood education (ECE) facilities in Honiara and according to the Chief Education Officer of the Honiara City Council (HCC), ECE in informal settlements is taking place randomly through churches or private donations. The main difficulty in setting up ECE facilities is the lack of available land to build on. ECE policy requires that facilities for ECE, such as land and buildings which meet set minimum standards, be provided by communities before the ECE facility can be registered by the education authority. In the settlement areas of Honiara where land is not owned by the resident squatters this presents an often un-resolvable barrier to the provision of quality ECE.

“Education, then what?” (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Peace, Unity & Reconciliation).

Unemployment levels are high and blamed on high school drop-outs and a lack of employment opportunities (UNICEF, 2005). Informants raise the issue that education does not prepare adequately for the demands of the employment market. More vocational and technical training is needed. Wages in the formal sector of the economy are low, meaning that Solomon Islanders increasingly rely on the informal sector of the economy for survival. When unemployed and out of school, there is very little for children and youth to do around Honiara.

HIV&AIDS

The recorded incidence of HIV is low in Solomon Islands; however the high rates of teenage pregnancy and the high incidence of sexually transmitted infection (STI) point to a possible higher HIV infection rate than what is recorded. The loosening of social control in urban Honiara and the breakdown of families

suggest that urban children and youth are exposed and take part in high risk behavior. The demand for sexual services from transient workers from within the logging camps and the fisheries raises additional concerns.

Participation

“Youth represent 75% of the population, yet they have the least voice” Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Peace, Unity and Reconciliation.

The participation of young people in decision making within traditional Melanesian societies is very rare (Donnelly, 2006). Recently national and supporting provincial legislation has resulted in the establishment of a youth council structure which has provincial youth councils (including Honiara) with representatives from these provincial youth councils forming a national Youth Congress. Last year the Youth Congress organized a Youth Parliament event which was held in Honiara to raise awareness of the issues facing young people in modern Solomon Islands. The youth council structure and the Youth Congress is the only formal conduit for young people’s voices to reach higher levels of government.

There are a number of NGOs which provide support to and opportunities for young people to gather and discuss, raise awareness of, and advocate for youth issues but these are not well coordinated and are ignored by politicians and high level government officials according to project workers of the relevant NGOs. It is at the NGO/civil society level where the relatively recently recognized phenomenon of the ‘teenager’ has been addressed. The modern teenager is a product of urbanization and many adults and those in authority are dismissive of them (UNIFEM).

The urban teenager is a new phenomenon (UNIFEM consultant), whose life is far removed from the lives of their parents at the same age and also from that of their rural peers. The Global Youth Nexus (GLYN) and international organization, is one of the very few bodies to recognize this phenomenon as a reality which is not going away.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

“During the tensions I remember seeing young Gwale boys, very small and very young, marching single file, dressed in the traditional kavilato (loincloth) and carrying old (probably WWII and non functional) guns. They may not have actually fought in the conflict, but they were involved.” (UNIFEM, Consultant)

Within many of the settlement areas there is an increasing lawlessness and a gang culture centred around mostly, young men who were involved in the ‘Tensions’ of the late 1990s and early 2000s. These young men were child soldiers and young combatants at that time. These children were recruited under threat and families were told to give their children to fight for their motherland” (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Peace, Unity and Reconciliation). *“Many children participated in the tensions. Some were involved in terrorizing women and other children. Some were used as human shields, and placed in the front line of fire.”* (Family Support Centre, Counselor) Following the tensions, very little was done in relation to helping the ex-child combatants.

Ten years on, they are uneducated, unemployed and angry. These young people have little respect for authority (traditional or otherwise) and have experienced 'power' during the Tensions and now continue to exert power through intimidation and extortion (Family Support Centre, UNIFEM). The role model provided by these gang members referred to as 'raskals', to the younger generation, many of whom do not attend school, is a serious concern for Solomon Islands. The permanent secretary of the Ministry for Peace and reconciliation describes the situation in Honiara as a "*time bomb*"! With parents and carers absent for long periods during each day involved in seeking income opportunities, Children in the settlements are very much at risk in such a volatile environment.

The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a significant presence in Solomon Islands, especially in Honiara. RAMSI's biggest impact has been upon the level of public, criminal violence in Honiara and on the economic and political stability of the country more generally. RAMSI has been responsible for the prosecution and jailing of many corrupt and violent criminals who previously were able to act with impunity. RAMSI has also confiscated and destroyed many guns and other modern weapons which were previously plentiful within settlement areas in particular. This has brought a time of peace and relative calm to Solomon Islands but with many of those jailed nearing the end of their jail terms and with pressure from within some sections of the political system for RAMSI to be wound-up, there is a fear that violence such as that seen in the 2006 Honiara riots, could easily return to Honiara.

Key Stakeholders

This section specifically looks at the key stakeholders who are actively engaged in addressing the impacts of urbanization on children and youth in Solomon Islands. This may in some cases include stakeholders addressing urban drift and working with communities in the rural areas. These stakeholders have been categorised accordingly with UNICEF work areas.

Child Survival & Development

UNICEF Child Survival and Development Unit and the Ministry of Health:

UNICEF Child Survival and Development Unit runs 5 programmes in Solomon Islands, namely the Extended Immunization Programme, the WASH Programme, the Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses Programme, the Safe Motherhood and Neonatal care Programme, and the nutrition Programme. All 5 Programmes have for focus the rural areas of Solomon Islands, with the exception of the Extended Immunization Programme which has a national focus, and which therefore has some impacts in Honiara. UNICEF Child Survival Officer however highlights the difficulties experienced in running this programme in the urban centre, as most urban dwellers are difficult to reach. As a result, coverage in Honiara is worse than in the rural areas.

The Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Care Programme which currently runs in Choiseul and Western provinces is expected to be implemented in Honiara by the end of the year. To qualify as a Baby

Friendly Hospital, the community needs to be seen as actively participating. This is easier achieved in the rural areas, and lots of advocacy will be needed to support the initiative.

UNICEF is also conducting a study in three areas of Honiara to establish the impacts of the Global Economic Crisis (GEC). The study is still very much in progress.

APHEDA Union Aid Abroad (AUAA)

AUAA work in the settlement areas of Honiara providing training and workshops aimed at promoting viable livelihoods for settlement dwellers. This work is supported by financial literacy training to help people, especially women, better use the money/income they acquire. The work that AUAA does in the settlement areas is informed by their research into livelihoods (*Stayin' Alive*, 2008) and promotes healthy lifestyles. The production and sale of kwaso as a livelihood option is discouraged through cost-benefit awareness and education based on people's own experiences.

Though there has been no formal monitoring and evaluation of these projects, impacts observed are: better livelihoods, reduction of domestic violence, increase in children going to school.

Save the Children

Save the Children have projects in a number of Honiara settlements which target youth and offer life skills and livelihood training for young people to promote healthy lives within the urban context.

Child Protection

UNICEF Child Protection Unit:

UNICEF has been instrumental in establishing TAKSEC – Task force against sexual abuse of children (child protection sub-committee of the National Advisory Committee on Children - NACC). As part of the TAKSEC, awareness raising programmes have been established to raise awareness within the communities identified as most at risk of trafficking issues (around the logging camps). A limitation to the TAKSEC is that there is no follow-up to the awareness raising.

In 2009 UNICEF and the Social Welfare developed the Communication for Social Change Plan (UNICEF and Social Welfare) which according to the SPC country manager, has not yet been enacted. UNICEF Officer also recognises that the plan needs to be pushed forward for the policies to be implemented, and that more work is needed to address the child protection issues raised by the logging camps and the Fisheries.

The Church of Melanesia

The Church of Melanesia has an AusAID funded project which is targeted at families. The project recognises that the modern Solomon Island family, particularly the urban based family, has changed from that of the tradition extended, supporting network of people to that of smaller groups spending greater proportions of their time earning, or endeavouring to earn income. The strain placed on relationships between spouses and parents and children are a relatively new occurrence and there is

little support for or knowledge of what to do for the victims of this dramatic social change. This project works with these families to find ways to heal the fractures occurring in these families with particular attention to children and women.

Department of Women youth and children's Affairs:

The National Advisory Committee on Children (NACC) is a UNDP supported program within the Ministry. This committee engages with relevant stakeholders who form sub-committees to review and to promote relevant policy advice for the Ministry. The NACC has a permanent membership of representatives from relevant government ministries and meets quarterly. The NACC provided a process for stakeholders to have input into the national Action Plan on Gender and Violence.

Family Support Centre:

The Family Support Centre is the sole counselling service provider for children, youth and parents in Honiara. Through their one counsellor, the centre assists families dealing with emotional, physical and sexual abuse. The centre refers cases to the police or social welfare, and is able to give legal advice. The centre used to carry out awareness raising within the urban and peri-urban centres, however does not have the capacity to do so anymore. The centre tries to engage with community leaders to deal with the problems within the community. Sometimes solutions are reached through compensation – but there is no emphasis on helping the child victim to heal.

The centre is working with the police and magistrates to establish a standardised system for dealing with children victim of abuse, called the 'Safety Net Initiative'.

SPC:

In 2009, the SPC conducted research into Family Health and Safety, raising alarm bells and demonstrating higher incidence of abuse happening in Honiara, in comparison with the rural areas. SPC is currently developing a coordinated network of service providers to follow up cases of abuse (police, ministry of health, family support centre, World Vision etc.), called the Safety Net Initiative. SPC is also supporting the National Action Plan with Gender Policy and Violence Policy. It has not been implemented yet.

Oxfam

Oxfam has an AusAID funded project which is aimed at addressing issues relating to violence against women and children. This is a 5 year project but further details were not available due to the absence of staff during the time that the researchers were in Honiara.

World Vision

World Vision has Honiara based project on domestic violence and substance abuse. The focus of this programme is on awareness raising, training, gender roles, parenting and healthy diets. This project is part of World Vision's Honiara Program which is an integrated program which in addition to this project also focuses on health including HIV & AIDS and youth livelihoods in two settlement areas in Honiara.

World Vision is part of the 'Safety Net Initiative' which aims to coordinate all child protection service providers in Honiara, to combine their efforts into a coordinated standardised approach for dealing with child abuse case.

Save the Children

Save the children run a child's rights advocacy campaign in the peri-urban areas of Honiara involving the teaching of leadership skills to children, parenting workshops on gender and rights of the child issues. Save the Children is also involved in lobbying the government for law reform on child protection issues.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

UNICEF Education Unit:

UNICEF has worked with the ministry in developing policy in relation to ECE in Solomon Islands. The Child Friendly Schools program is not being applied in Honiara.

Ministry of Education and Honiara City Council Division of Education

The Ministry and the HCC both claim to have budget to employ teachers who live in Honiara but do not wish to work in the provinces and so remain as non-employed teachers in Honiara. The problem for educational authorities is the lack of infrastructure - in particular ECE.

APHEDA Union Aid Abroad (AUAA)

AUAA is involved in informal education in areas of life skills (including hygiene, nutrition), financial literacy and livelihoods related skills. As with the work of World Vision and Save the Children (see below) the informal education provided is livelihood based to enable the settlement dwellers to live productively and healthily within a living environment very different to the traditional rural village. Even those who have attended school in the past have not had an education which has prepared them for this urban life. While the curriculum is changing to take account of the changing nature of life for Solomon Islanders by focusing on more local and relevant skill development for school leavers. However for those who have already left school or have never been, it is left to NGOs and other civil society organisations to work to address the lack of appropriate life and work related skills through informal education programs.

World Vision:

World Vision provides life skills education and livelihoods training for youth in 2 settlement areas of Honiara.

Save the Children:

Save the Children provide Life Skills and livelihoods training targeted at youth in 4 settlement areas of Honiara.

ECE Consultancy

John Kerry is a trained primary teacher and is the principal of this company which provides literacy training to students as a private out of school provider. This company also runs one of the very few free of charge ECE centres in Honiara. The centre is on land provided for free by a community and caters for children from the surrounding urban and settlement areas.

The centre employs trained ECE teachers and funds its operation through fundraising conducted by the parents of the children who attend. The intention is to gain registration from the HCC, so that the Ministry of Education funds the teachers' salaries. The company intends to open another centre on the eastern outskirts of Honiara, where there are numerous peri-urban areas where people find work in the palm oil plantations and processing plant.

Higher Education & Technical Vocational Education Training Programme:

The Solomon Island College of Higher Education and a campus of the University of the South Pacific are located in Honiara. There are no other higher education institutions or campuses in Solomon Islands so students attending these institutions must reside in Honiara.

World Bank:

The World Bank is funding a major urbanization and youth programme named the 'Rapid Employment Programme'. This programme will be implemented through the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development and Honiara City Council. It is designed for wage transfer. Recruits do not need to meet any educational criteria, and will be offered on-going compulsory training in skills required to do their work efficiently. AusAID is getting involved with the training component of the programme.

Solo Environment Committee

This organisation involves young people from Honiara being engaged in environmental project within the urban area of Honiara. The group functions as a business type operation and works under contract to various organisations to complete work such as landscaping in front of the High Court and the hospital. The planter pots along Mendana Avenue are painted by this group under contract to commercial interests in Honiara who sponsor the pots. This project provides on job training for many young people as well as income from the work they complete. The group's also improves the physical amenity of Honiara.

HIV/AIDS

Save the Children:

Save the Children work with two HCC health clinics to promote the awareness of HIV & AIDS and Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT). The project is funded by AusAID and also helps to training staff in the counselling of those who present for testing. Save the Children also work in partnership with sex workers whom they train as peer educators to spread awareness raising within the profession.

World Vision

World Vision has developed Information Education and Communication (IEC) material specifically for Solomon Islands, which has been approved by the National Aids council for use within the Solomon Islands. This IEC material is used nationally by all relevant stakeholders. World Vision also promotes awareness and education in relation to HIV & AIDS and targets high risk groups through work with taxi drivers, hotels and nightclubs to promote condom distribution. It has also designed and placed condom vending facilities in appropriate areas.

Participation

World Vision and Save the Children

These NGOs provide support to urban youth through organising sporting facilities and events within the settlements which provide spaces for youth to gather and organise.

World Vision run pilot projects within 2 settlement areas of Honiara which target youth. These projects focus on providing young people with opportunities to express themselves using sport as a vehicle to achieve this. The project has already seen some positive impacts – some of the youth have stopped drinking, are adopting healthier lifestyle habits and there has been a decline in crime in the community. Life skills and livelihoods training is also an important part of these projects which are part of an integrated Honiara based program which has informal education and health (HIV & AIDS) as other components.

Global Youth Nexus (GLYN)

GLYN is an NGO focusing on doing urban community work with young people, and providing outlets for the modern ‘teenager’ to express themselves. GLYN regularly supports public events to showcase modern youth through rap and break dancing competitions and modern hairstyling competitions.

GLYN also was behind the recent successful Solomon Idol competition.

Ministry of Women, Youth and Children’s Affairs:

The Ministry supports programmes for youth and children in Honiara and in the provinces, such as youth day and children’s day. The Ministry provides funds for youth projects, such as the funding of a music recording studio, though its budget is very limited and cannot cater appropriately for the demand.

This Ministry is also responsible for the establishment and facilitation of the Youth Council and Youth Congress structures. This program within the Ministry is supported by the UNDP and the program is overseen by one local officer with support from a UN volunteer. The Youth Congress is made up of provincial youth councils (including Honiara Youth Council). It represents the only channel for young voices from the community to be heard at the government level. In 2009 the Youth Congress conducted a Youth Parliament. While this raised the profile of youth among the political establishment, there is little to point to as direct outcomes from this event. The Youth officer in charge chairs quarterly youth stakeholder forums.

The National Advisory Committee on Children (NACC)'s role is to review policies which affect children. The NACC is made up of representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders who serve on subcommittees involved with specific areas such as child survival, child development and child protection. The NACC has no direct input from children.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

RAMSI

The RAMSI intervention is the ongoing support to government which most Informants hope will bring lasting peace and stability to Solomon Islands. It works closely with government to strengthen the law and justice systems, the financial and revenue regulatory and operational institutions of government. It was the lack of government strength in many of these areas which allowed for the creation the environment in which the Tensions erupted.

The Ministry of Peace, Unity & Reconciliation

The Ministry of Peace, Unity & Reconciliation is engaged in peace advocacy work with a focus on children and youth. Through its partnership with UNDP it is reaching out to schools in Honiara with initiatives such as International Day for Peace etc. It is also engaging with former combatants through the reconciliation process.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The recently commenced Truth and Reconciliation Commission may present an opportunity for many of the young ex-combatants and child soldiers who were involved in the Tensions and are now causing social disruption in many of the settlements, to come to some peaceful reconciled position in relation to their feelings of anger and alienation. There is a degree of cynicism within the broader community that the Commission will provide an opportunity for perpetrators of the violence of the Tensions to escape justice for their crimes.

Save The Children

Save the Children have been active in Honiara with a programme called Children in Conflict with the Law. The programme aims to set up crime prevention committees in the peri-urban areas of Honiara. These committees bring the community together to address issues of crime and the rehabilitation of young offenders. A successful outcome noted is that in most cases young offenders are offered a second chance, so long as these youth make an effort to reintegrate and get involved in community activity (church etc.).

Country Level Recommendations for Solomon Islands

From the analysis of impacts of urbanization in Solomon Islands, and from the discussion above the following summary points are made:

- Much of the work of government in recent years has been aimed at addressing the specific issues resulting from the Tensions – such as police presence and training, law and justice strengthening, revenue collection – to strengthen government.
- Existing programmes addressing urban issues and its impacts on children are very limited in their capacity; and also have very little monitoring and evaluation capacity to inform of their progress;
- Though progress is being achieved at the government/ policy level (such as curriculum changes for education, ECE policy, TASKEC), little is being implemented on the ground
- Lawlessness in the peri-urban settlements, linked to ex-children combatants, is an outstanding issue which given all the possible implications for urban children growing up around these role models, would need looking into

The following recommendations for each of UNICEF’s work areas are made:

Child Survival & Development

In urban Honiara, there are major health issues arising from low living standards in the informal settlements (poor hygiene, overcrowding, lack of sanitation, non-existent infrastructure), as well as poor nutrition levels arising from lack of space to cultivate, cost of food, and poor understanding of what constitutes healthy food.

A few NGOs are engaged in addressing the issue of healthy lifestyle through awareness raising workshops. UNICEF’s immunization programme is promoted through Honiara but is not covering the whole urban population. UNICEF will soon embark on establishing baby friendly hospitals in Honiara, but major issues arise concerning community participation in this project.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF should ensure that the recently completed Baseline study for the Solomon Islands is disaggregated into urban relevant data and made available to all relevant stakeholders working in the urban areas**

UNICEF should ensure that the baseline study for the Solomon Islands is made available in a form that is explicitly applicable to the stakeholders involved with working on behalf of children and young people in the settlement areas of Honiara. Information disaggregated into urban relevant information can form the basis upon which these stakeholders can begin to build their monitoring capacities within their staff and the communities with which they work. UNICEF has the expertise to provide a useable version of the data to these civil and government bodies which UNICEF can then support with monitoring support.

- **UNICEF could support the Ministry of Health and the Honiara City Council Health Department HCCHD) with an outreach pilot project in the communities surrounding selected HCCHD clinic to ensure that the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (CFHI) which will be implemented in Honiara this year attracts community participation**

Community participation is a key standard to address to become a baby friendly hospital. A number of NGOs have shown that it is possible to actively involve urban community groups in community action. INICEF could support partnerships between MoH and Honiara City Council's Health Department HCCHD) and relevant NGOs, in pilot areas to apply CFHI programs to HCCHD clinics. Clinics are the most often used health and medical facility and are more locally located. From success gained in these pilot clinics, the General referral Hospital (Number 9) in Honiara could then be targeted for the CFHI.

- **UNICEF could conduct more awareness raising on the benefits of immunization within the urban communities, as well as consider a mobile unit to reach out into the peri-urban areas**

People from the peri-urban areas are not being reached by the Immunization Programme. UNICEF could support the HCCHD and the MoH to develop a scheme whereby the Immunization programme is brought into the peri-urban settlements, through mobile clinics. Awareness raising would be needed to supplement this work.

The following recommendations are made:

Child Protection

In urban Honiara, child sexual and physical violence has escalated over the years. This phenomenon is also observed through new economically motivated migratory patterns around logging camps and linked to the Fisheries Industry in Solomon Islands. Neglect of children and the breakdown of family structures has resulted in more and more children being pushed onto the streets of Honiara, and brings along concerns regarding these children participating in risk-taking behaviours. There appears to be little capacity for support for children who have been abused or violated. Coordination of efforts amongst some stakeholders is in its initial stages through the Safety Net initiative, from which UNICEF is currently absent. Though policy has come a long way in accommodating for children's rights, implementation on the ground is lacking.

- **UNICEF, in partnership with social welfare division, could support capacity building and training of existing service providers engaged in dealing with issues of sexual and physical violence in the urban areas**

The family Support Centre is currently the only counseling support service in Honiara and its capacity to cater for the increasing demand in support services and counseling is minimal. Recruitment (and possibly inclusion of a male staff) and training of staff would be necessary, to

increase the centre's capacity. The Women's Crisis Centre is in the same predicament. A need for training has also been identified with relevant sections of the police force.

- **UNICEF could engage with the Safe Net Initiative (currently in its initial stages) which aims to coordinate a network of urban service providers and stakeholders dealing with domestic and sexual violence issues**

Various stakeholders engaged in dealing with issues of physical and sexual violence are partnering through the Safety Net Initiative (instigated by SPC). This initiative aims at coordinating together the various stakeholders to engage with cases of child abuse through a standardised approach and mechanism. UNICEF has a role to play in this initiative, and could engage with the stakeholders to support the setting up of specific programmes for children and advocacy.

- **UNICEF should raise the issue of street children as a public policy priority with government.**

In the 1980s, Save the Children ran a programme for street children, providing them a safe space for free play. The programme ended for lack of funds. Street children are an increasing phenomenon raised throughout the fieldwork. Currently no stakeholders are engaged in addressing the many child protection issues arising from such a phenomenon. UNICEF has by raising this at government level can help to bring a greater awareness to all levels of government and the public. The response by one informant that sleeping in the market, "*is illegal*", is indicative of the lack of understanding of the reasons for this practice, who are the children sleeping there and where do they come from.

UNICEF could also facilitate research into this issue to inform policy development.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

In urban Honiara, major concerns arising from lack of access to schooling. Though there are schools, infrastructure is too limited to cater for the youth bulge and does not extend to the informal settlements. Literacy rates are poor, and Early Childhood Education is by in large absent. The MoE has increased teachers' capacity to provide for ECE, but implementation is difficult in Honiara because of land and infrastructure constraints. One individual was found to have established an ECE facility in partnership with the landowners in a peri-urban settlement. Though successful, his initiative is taking place in isolation.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF could support the Ministry of Education and the Honiara City Council Education Department (HCCED) to provide ECE mobile education units to the peri-urban settlements**

The lack of access to education of many children and youth growing up in the peri-urban settlements is of great concern to the Ministry of Education. The ECE Coordinator of the MoE has

expressed a wish to bring education to the peri-urban settlements of Honiara through a mobile education unit modelled on the Save the Children experiment in Fiji. The MoE has plenty trained teachers who want to remain and teach in Honiara and could be deployed to these mobile units. The MoE also has access to an ECE consultant, who has set up his own free preschool on the outskirts of Honiara, with the support of landowners and through engaging with the community (through fundraising). He has direct experience of working within the community, conducting awareness raising on the importance of education.

- **UNICEF could engage through the Honiara City Council, with the Rapid Employment Programme to help plan child friendly projects for consideration under the program.**

The World Bank funds for the Rapid Employment Program provide an opportunity for the HCC to build infrastructure and create a child friendly city. The HCC will use around USD3.5m to build infrastructure throughout the city and settlement areas. UNICEF should become involved in identifying opportunities for child friendly infrastructure projects such as ECE facilities in settlement areas, and in providing advice based on its expertise of child friendly environments.

HIV & AIDS

In urban Honiara, the incidence of HIV/AIDS is reportedly low. However, concerns arise concerning the high incidence of STDs, the increasing evidence of children living on the streets and resorting to prostitution to survive, the demand for sex from the Fisheries and logging camps, as well as the loosening of social control in the urban centre.

A few NGOs are tackling the issue of prevention through awareness raising, and the production of IEC materials. The lack of implementation of policies to penalise child prostitution, and address trafficking around the logging camps and the fisheries for instance represents a hindrance to progress.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF could facilitate the research into the collective effectiveness of existing HIV & AIDS work in the urban areas**

There are a number of NGOs working in this field as well as the Ministry of Health and the HCC Health Department. Like many aspects of service delivery in Honiara the activity requires better coordination and awareness between the stakeholders. UNICEF could help these stakeholders to better coordinate their work by working with them through the National AIDS Council to build monitoring and evaluation capacity that focuses on behaviour change as distinct from activity records.

Participation

Youth and children are largely excluded from decision making and from participation in community affairs. Exposure to outside influences as a consequence of urbanization, is bringing along social changes, and in particular the rise of the teenager.

There are very few outlets for children and youth in Honiara. Though there is a youth council network, there exists little support from government and society in general to support youth voices and activities.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF, through the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children’s Affairs, could facilitate greater cooperation and coordination within the civil society organizations providing activities for urban youth to engage in and have their voices heard.**

There are a number of youth groups active in Honiara and there are a number of organisations such as NGOs and churches working with them. The Youth Congress project within the Ministry could be assisted to better engage with these groups to develop their capacity to raise relevant issues with the relevant authorities. The youth congress is supported by UNDP funding so UNICEF could work closely with the UNDP to ensure that such capacity building occurs.

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

Lawlessness in the peri-urban settlements and the potential for renewed violence in Honiara is of great concern.

Though RAMSI and the Government are engaged in keeping the situation under control and in the reconciliation process, very little attention is being directed to the peri-urban settlements where ex-children combatants are terrorising their communities and acting out violent role models for the next generation of urban children.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF could play a role through the Truth and Reconciliation Process, in researching into the linkages between ex-child combatants and the current level of violence in the peri-urban settlements**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has recently commenced hearing from perpetrators and victims from the Tensions. There is a need for research into the stories of children who grew up and had to engage in fighting and violence. This TRC presents an opportunity to find out what has happened to the former child soldiers and young combatants. Many are believed to have turned to crime in the peri-urban settlements of Honiara. UNICEF could facilitate research into the stories of

the ex combatants and ex child soldiers to provide an historical record and to provide a useful body of evidence upon which future decisions (if necessary) can be based when dealing with disaffected youth.

The case study below is presented as an example of practical, community level work which occurs within urban communities in the settlement areas of Honiara. These projects give effect to, or inform, the policy and legislative environments created by stakeholders working at government level.

Case Study: Stayin' Alive

In 2008, a study (Stayin' Alive) into the livelihoods of people living in the settlements of Honiara was carried out by APHEDA UAA with funding from AusAID. The study looked at the types of livelihood engaged in by males and females, the reasons behind the choices made regarding livelihood choice and the cost benefit outcome of the livelihood. In particular the study looked into the cost benefit analysis of the production and sale of kwaso, the illicit and often dangerous home distilled spirit so common in Honiara and becoming more and more common in rural areas.

The study found that women were often the most likely producers of kwaso. Their reasons for this was that it returned the most money for effort and time put in so that they still had time to do all their other work such as caring, cleaning and gardening (in some cases). Kwaso costs very little to produce and sells (April, 2010) for around SBD10 for 300ml.

AUAA conducted a number of workshops in the settlements where they focused on the cost-benefit relationship to producer, user and the family and community more broadly. This analysis used dollar figures relevant to the community i.e. cost of ingredients, return at sale, cost of purchase. AUAA also encouraged people to put their own cost on the damage caused by drunken men e.g. destroyed houses, broken bones, transport to hospital, inability to work, pain and suffering. The general consensus at these workshops was that the cost to people, individuals (young and old), family and community, far outweighed the return to individual, family and communities from making and selling kwaso.

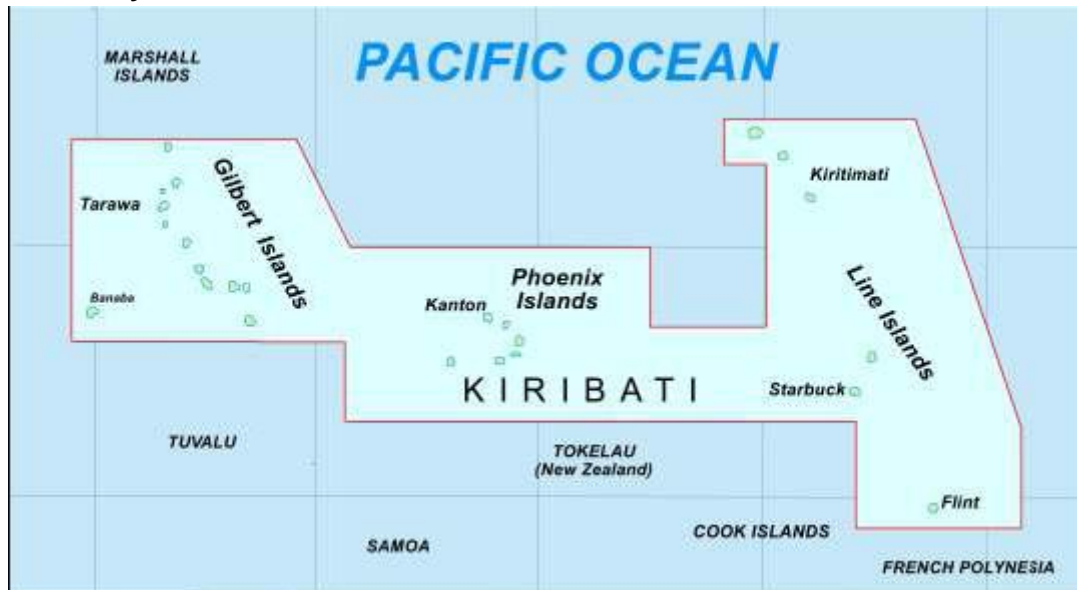
This exercise has not stopped the production and use of kwaso but it is the type of awareness program that needs to be conducted more often and more broadly. The cause and effect approach to awareness raising puts messages into a context that people can understand and respond to positively. The messages which reinforce the wrong doing, illegality and poor health do little to change people's behaviour.

There are many women who formerly produced and sold kwaso who have discontinued the practice as a result of the workshops. AUAA has provided skills training in other livelihood areas and has supported this with financial literacy to help people, especially mothers, to survive with dignity in the settlement.

Kiribati

This section presents an overview of the key impacts of urbanization in Kiribati, as established through the literature review and the field work. It also presents the key stakeholders engaged in dealing with the impacts of urbanization on children in Kiribati. Though it does not constitute an exhaustive listing, it presents an overview of the findings established at the time of our field work. *Annex 6* presents a summary of the key impacts, along with a list of the stakeholders addressing these impacts in the urban setting.

Kiribati Country Profile



The Republic of Kiribati is made up of a group of 33 low lying coral atolls scattered in the Central Pacific Ocean. These atolls are characterized by a narrow stretch of land, rarely more than 3 meters above sea level. Kiribati is affected by natural disasters (mainly strong winds, droughts and storm surges), and has been labeled by the World Bank as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. In some places in Kiribati the relocation of population due to sea level rising is already occurring. However, Tarawa, the capital island, is so overpopulated that families living on the water's edge cannot move more inland, as depicted in the movie: *The Rising Tide*.

The people of Kiribati are called the I-Kiribati, and are predominantly a group of Melanesian people. Kiribati has few natural resources and is classified amongst the least developed Pacific Islands. The modern economy is very limited in Kiribati, with tourism seen as the only sector with potential to grow. The National economy largely depends on remittances from I-Kiribati living abroad, fishing licenses and foreign aid (UNICEF, 2005). Kiribati's outer islands are characterized by a subsistence lifestyle relying on fishing and agriculture. High fertility rates in Kiribati mean that children and youth represent a strong portion of the total population (37% under the age of 15).

Tarawa, the capital island, is home to half of Kiribati's population (50,000 people). Of these 50,000 people, 4,000 live in the rural north of Tarawa, and the rest in the south, in the capital city (South Tarawa). The capital South Tarawa is the main urban centre of Kiribati. It is characterized by very high growth rates, and alarmingly high urban population density (in some places as high as 8,000 people / sq. m.)

Key Impacts of Urbanization in Kiribati

Child Survival and Development

As in other cities around the Pacific, all new urban developments are taking place outside of the formal city and beyond the institutional and legal scope of authorities (informal squatter settlements). Urban and peri-urban land is stretched out to its limit, and to accommodate the rapid and out of control urbanization, the lagoon reclamation is underway, despite well documented negative implications for public health and the environment. Living conditions are deteriorating rapidly (overcrowded housing, lack of access to basic infrastructure and services) and poverty (hardship) is seen to be rising. As a result of deteriorating living conditions, urban Kiribati is plagued with some major health concerns, based on evidence of rising communicable and non communicable diseases. The crowded living conditions within and between houses on South Tarawa results in the ready spread of infectious diseases with acute respiratory infections being a significant problem for children (UNICEF, 2005).

Sanitation is a major issue with UNICEF's WASH officer identifying most schools on South Tarawa as having non-functional latrines. Many urban settlements have been found to use ocean outfalls for sewage disposal. The risks of foreshore contamination are therefore high, and negatively affect marine resources. Findings highlighted by UNESCAP (2003) also claim that the lagoon has sufficiently high fecal coliform levels to be a public health concern. In 2009, in South Tarawa, 11,000 cases (roughly 1 in 5 inhabitants) of diarrhea necessitated hospitalization (according to informant on the Sustainable Town Programme). Lack of access to safe water and basic sanitation and waste disposal facilities and services is a major concern raised by all informants. Squatter settlement dwellers in the Bairiki and Betio areas of South Tarawa rely on shallow wells for water which they use for washing, cooking as well as other household chores. Water from these wells is, according to health informants, not safe even after boiling.

Non-communicable diseases (hypertension, diabetes, heart problems) account for 8% of hospitalizations (UNICEF, 2005), and highlights the shift from traditional food sources to low quality packaged imported food, as well as the rise in smoking, and alcohol consumption in South Tarawa. These diseases are typically affecting the young, with reported cases of youth suffering from strokes said to be fairly common (Family Health Association manager). A major challenge in this respect is addressing the community's lack of awareness and understanding of what constitutes healthy nutrition.

Lack of awareness and need for major behavioral change was identified by UNICEF WASH officer and others, as a key challenge for Kiribati at the community and government level. These factors are significant contributors to Kiribati having the lowest survival rates for children under five amongst the

Pacific Forum countries (UNICEF, Multi-Country Program (draft), 2007). Statistics from the 2000 census indicate that infant mortality is 20% higher on South Tarawa than it is in the rest of Kiribati (cited in UNICEF, 2005). Significantly, given the population concentration in one easily accessible location, Kiribati also has the second lowest immunization rates for one year old children (ibid). The lack of open space for play and land for gardening exacerbates an already difficult living environment and impacts negatively on nutrition and developmental aspects of children's lives.

Child Protection

As elsewhere in the urban Pacific centers, traditional family patterns and support networks are breaking up. An increasing number of children are left in the care of relatives or acquaintances. Indications of the breaking down of the traditional family support systems on South Tarawa are seen in the incidence of children who find themselves hungry and sometimes begging for food. Space pressures, income pressures and single parent situations in crowded living arrangements do not provide a secure living environment for many children. Physical and sexual abuse of children by adult male relatives is said by a number of informants to be a common occurrence on South Tarawa. Though culture supports domestic violence and physical punishment of children, UNICEF (2005) establishes that the level of physical violence against women and children is highest in South Tarawa, and exacerbated by the impacts of urbanization (overcrowding, economic hardship, breakdown of traditional safety nets and loosening of social control which has led to a rise in alcohol consumption).

The fieldwork and the literature both suggest that young children are engaged in prostitution, with girls as young as 12 taking part in transactional sexual activity with seamen from visiting ships. Informants believe that this activity is spreading (Family Health Association, FSPK). Legislation imposes penalties on the captains of ships who allow unauthorized persons on board while in Kiribati waters, but there seems to be no implementation. Fishing licenses are Kiribati's main source of foreign earnings and the proposed penalties might jeopardize this. As stressed by the Family Health Association Centre Manager, in South Tarawa people need cash to survive. 70% of South Tarawa inhabitants do not own the land they live on according to FSPK Acting Director, and there are very few fresh food sources. In this context, survival relies on cash, and children and youth who are neglected or abandoned have little other options than engaging in risk taking activities such as prostitution.

Informants to the research from within the Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs indicate that the law and justice system in Kiribati and in South Tarawa in particular has become more sensitive to the needs and the rights of children. However a lack of support services and facilities can make it difficult for police to always act in the interests of the child within the current, local context. *"It is difficult to do a lot for the child because here in Kiribati we do not have services like they do in other countries"* (Police Officer, Betio Police Station). As highlighted by the Acting Director of FSPK, communities try and do the policing on their own, as relying on the police is impractical given the poor communication networks and the fact that police do not have transport. Culture is also an issue which makes dealing with sexual activity difficult. According to the fieldwork findings there are no safe environment for children to go to, once they become victims of violence and abuse.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

Kiribati has among the highest primary and secondary school enrolment rates among Pacific Forum member countries (88% for the period 2003-2008), but enrolments levels drop at secondary school level (68% over same period of time) (UNICEF website). There are no data available on school attendance and retention across the primary school years, but UNICEF (2005) suggests that most 15 year olds are out of school. Teachers in Kiribati receive limited training according to the acting director of education (in the Ministry of Education) although this is improving. South Tarawa has at least 12 primary schools and most children live within easy walking distance of a government primary school.

Generally the educational opportunities on South Tarawa are much better than in the rural areas and accessible to all despite the fact that fees and charges imposed by individual schools have to be met. Because of this recognized fact, most I-Kiribati strive to send their children to South Tarawa for schooling, resulting in schools being crowded.

There is also a limited number of places within the government system and sometimes children are forced out at higher levels if they do not achieve to a pre-determined standard. Despite positive outcomes based on the 'child friendly school initiative' (UNICEF), the school environment, and in particular the sanitation aspect remain of concern with UNICEF WASH officer affirming that most schools do not have functional latrines. As a result children use the sea or the nearby bushes as their toilet. South Tarawa also has Kiribati's only vocational training centre as well as a maritime training institution. These vocationally oriented training centres provide opportunities for many young people to take up positions outside of Kiribati and earn money which is often remitted to family in South Tarawa, however domestic opportunities are few. As a result, UN (2001) indicates that 70% of youth are unemployment or underemployed in South Tarawa. Though unemployed youth would be very busy with subsistence work on the outer islands, boredom is common among youth in urban Tarawa as there is little for them to do. Church plays an important role in engaging youth in productive activities.

HIV&AIDS

HIV infection rate is low in Kiribati with less than 1% cases reported (UNICEF, 2007). However the rates of teenage pregnancy and the unprotected sexual activity of young people would indicate that the real rate of infection could well be higher. There is, according to a number of informants, a thriving sex trade with seamen from foreign trading and fishing vessels. Most of this activity is concentrated in the Betio area, but with easy access to other areas of South Tarawa, this trade is spreading. *"I have heard of a group of young girl prostitutes who have gone to Butaritrai Island to encourage other young girls to join them."* (Manager, Kiribati Family Health Association).

Strong cultural taboos regarding premarital chastity are maintained for women, though men are expected to gain sexual experience with the Nikiranrora – sexually available women (UNICEF, 2005). The combination of cultural taboos and exposure to the impacts of urbanization in South Tarawa (loosening of social control, neglect of children, rise in alcohol consumption and exposure to new ideas) creates an environment of high risk for the spread of STDs. Furthermore, because of the cultural shame associated

with sex outside of marriage, girls find themselves penalized through the schooling system (which rejects pregnant students) and within their own families. According to UNICEF (2005) report, the incidence of births to teenage mothers is relatively low, however cultural taboo and shame associated with such pregnancies would mean that most of these births would occur outside the health system. *"We don't want to see our teenagers' pregnancies. It is most common for the pregnant teenagers to be ignored, neglected. Most of the time, the kids born are looked after, but sometimes, the young mothers resort to prostitution to care for their babies."*(Manager Kiribati Family Health Association)

Participation

Young people traditionally do not have much say in decision making in Kiribati society.

Within the household children are still a silent majority and the customary 'respect' for elders means that young people generally are 'seen but not heard'. In Kiribati the 'unimane' tradition which excludes young people from public discussion and decision making and leaves authority vested entirely with the older males is still predominant. Despite the many differences between rural and urban social constructions, the 'unimane' remains.

Urbanization however has brought some changes to the traditional structure of society. As young people become more educated and have access to television and the internet in South Tarawa, they are becoming more vocal and expectations and attitudes of youth are changing. In 2002-2006, the National Youth Policy was endorsed by Government, but with little support and budget allocation, very little has been implemented. The MISA employs three youth workers who work across all of the Kiribati islands with most of their work on the Tarawa atoll. Young people's voices are being heard more often albeit sometimes via intermediary advocates such as MISA youth workers. There are youth groups in Kiribati, such as BANTONGA (funded by ILO), though they are not coordinated through a National Council of Youths and have no representation on the Pacific Youth Council. One of the reasons expressed by the Pacific Youth Council Coordinator is the lack of Government support for youth participation in Kiribati, and possibly a lack of emphasis on the part of the Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs in Kiribati in promoting youth participation within the community.

KANGO Deputy Director adds that culture is changing slowly to encourage children and youth participation, but only to a small extent, and that to date KANGO has not been approached by the communities of South Tarawa for any child focus programme.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

"People need to be taught ecological awareness because they are killing their atoll." STP design team leader

There appears to be little effort at higher levels to encourage environmental awareness at the community level. The Ministry of Health's preference for the use of water-seal toilets within the urban areas of South Tarawa is an indication of a lack of awareness and understanding of the growing

environmental impact the population is having on the South of Tarawa atoll. Hard litter is a large problem for South Tarawa and there appears to be little awareness among the local people of the need to concentrate such litter in relatively safe locations.

Key Stakeholders

Child Survival & Development

UNICEF Child Survival and Development Unit and the Ministry of Health:

UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Health to promote both immunization and breast feeding of infants and is also active in the supply and distribution of vitamin A supplements. It also supports a dietary diversification programme to raise awareness of nutritional values. In addition, UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the growing of traditional food trees such as breadfruit, pandanas and coconut.

UNICEF also promotes a WASH initiative through the Ministry of Health. It supports communities who are not connected to the sewerage system, and promotes awareness raising in the areas of sanitation and hygiene.

UNICEF also supports government with the creation of partnerships between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of the Environment, to agree on standardized approaches to Sanitation issues in South Tarawa. UNICEF WASH officer has tried to promote the idea of compost latrines in Kiribati, but it has been rejected by the Ministry of Health because of cultural dimensions. The Ministry of Health's preference for water sealed toilets poses a great threat in terms of ground water contamination, and UNICEF has recommended the inclusion of ventilated pit latrines instead, for use on South Tarawa. This has been included in a new, but as yet, un-adopted policy.

Foundation for people of the South Pacific Kiribati

The Foundation for the People of the South Pacific, Kiribati (FSPK) has a program which raises awareness of nutritional issues in relation to a predominantly fish and rice diet supplemented with noodles and biscuits. This program is supported by a vegetable gardening project which trains and supports people to make compost and grow vegetables. This project is also a livelihoods project focusing on economic empowerment of women and children.

Taiwan Technical Mission

The Taiwan Technical Mission Home Garden Project is very prominent in South Tarawa. Many houses have home gardens growing a range of leaf vegetables as well as pumpkin and melons. The project promotes gardening for consumption and for income generation. UNICEF's nutritional awareness campaign through the Ministry of Health to promote dietary variety based on food colors is supported by the work done by the Taiwanese and the FSPK projects.

New Zealand Aid (NZAID)

NZAID is funding a Sustainable Town Programme which engages the MISA, the Ministry of Environment, Land and Culture. Plans have been developed for the establishment of a new urban centre on the east side of South Tarawa (Temaiku). The development will be made up of 150 plots for housing and surrounding land to provide for schools, cemetery, sports field, small industries and road. This development would allow for the relocation of low to middle income earners (approximately 1,000) currently residing in the overcrowded Betio or Bairiki (ocean side) and would give them lease with tenure.

The plans follow an extensive consultation process with community elders, women and children. The STP will rely on coral concrete and locally made synthetics and materials and will use imported steel for construction reinforcement. Interestingly, the project will also rely on locally produced septic tanks with a pump system to extract waste into the deep sea. Once this project is completed, there is still more state land to expand housing development around that same area.

Child Protection

UNICEF Child Protection Unit:

UNICEF's child Protection Officers are mostly involved in advocacy with a focus on the three UNICEF child protection sectors of legal and regulatory systems; social welfare system; social behaviour change. There have been many outreach programs within these areas as well as advocacy work. Police and magistrates have received awareness and training support from UNICEF in relation to the CRC and the way in which children are dealt with within the justice system. UNICEF also assists the Kiribati National Advisory Committee for Children (KNACC) to report on the implementation of the CRC.

Department of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA):

The Department of Internal & Social Affairs (MISA) has partnered with UNICEF to promote the rights of women and children. Some of the programmes that they have run together are awareness raising in Butaritaru Island, in response to concerns about young girls being recruited by prostitutes from South Tarawa to join the sex trade.

MISA also supports a half hour children's radio program each week which promotes and discusses good parenting and other child and youth related issues.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

UNICEF Education Unit:

UNICEF supports the Ministry of Education (MoE) with the Child Friendly Schools Program in South Tarawa. This program has been embraced by most government and some private schools too. School self assessment audits indicate that change within the school environment has been significant.

UNICEF is also advocating for inclusive education and for the education of children with disabilities to be addressed by the Ministry of Education. At the moment, there is a dispute between MISA and the MoE as to who is responsible for the education of children with disabilities.

UNICEF supports the MoE and the Kiribati Early Childhood Education Association (KECEA) to promote the concept of ECE and to develop policy and standards to apply to the privately run ECE facilities that do exist in South Tarawa.

Ministry of Education

The MoE along with a number of church run schools and the vocational training centres are the suppliers of education in South Tarawa. With enrolments 94% in primary and 82% reaching at least grade five level (UNICEF draft Country Program Document, Pacific Island countries, 2007, p2) basic education is well catered for in South Tarawa.

The Kiribati Early Childhood Education Association (KECEA)

The Kiribati Early Childhood Education Association (KECEA) has worked with UNICEF through the MoE to promote the concept of ECE in Kiribati, and develop a suitable curriculum for preschools. This curriculum, as well as policy and standards to regulate the rise of privately run preschools in South Tarawa still need to be implementing.

HIV&AIDS

The Ministry of Health (MoH)

The MoH and its Health Promotion Unit are actively engaged in the area of awareness raising and education with regard to sexual health and safe sex practices.

KANGO

In South Tarawa – KANGO is engaging with the young prostitutes and training them as peer educators to promote safe sex.

Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA)

The Kiribati Family Health Association offers services in the area of family planning and sexual health, and has adopted a youth focus in his work, creating a ‘friendly youth centre’ funded through SPC’s response fund. The KFHA has trained youth peer educators (15-25year olds) who volunteer at the centre. These youth are engaged in awareness raising at the community level, and also use drama as an outreach medium.

KFHA also offers Pap smear tests and voluntary, confidential, counseling and testing (VCCT) service at its clinic.

Participation

Ministry of Internal & Social Affairs (MISA)

The MISA youth workers with assistance from UNICEF have established a Youth Panel with representatives from all the youth groups from the community and the churches, in South Tarawa. This Youth Panel has been able to make presentations on issues affecting youth to high level ministry officials, in relation to policy relating to young people.

There is also a half hour weekly radio program which is dedicated to young people where they can raise issues, express opinions and promote further youth participation in the broader Kiribati society.

Key Recommendations

From the analysis of impacts of urbanization in Vanuatu, as well as from the analysis of the stakeholders engaged in dealing with urbanization issues in Vanuatu, the main points are summarised as:

- UNICEF's focus in Kiribati is inevitably urban
- Overcrowding and its impact on health is a pressing issue resulting from urbanization in South Tarawa
- There is little coordination of efforts to deal with the impacts of urbanization on children and youth, and as a result of this, progress is achieved in isolation and most initiatives die out once funding has run out;
- UNICEF is a highly visible entity in Kiribati

Country Level Recommendations

The following recommendations for each of UNICEF's work areas are made:

Child Survival & Development

"I-Kiribati are now mostly an urban people, and by choice.....Kiribati does not need to worry about climate change. What it needs to worry about is a pandemic. Conditions here are ripe for one." (New Zealand High Commissioner).

In urban South Tarawa, there are major health issues arising from low living standards in the informal settlements (poor hygiene, overcrowding, lack of sanitation, non-existent infrastructure), as well as poor nutrition levels arising from lack of space to cultivate, cost of food, and poor understanding of what constitutes healthy food.

Many stakeholders are engaged in dealing with these issues; however lack of monitoring of these projects means that little is known as to the extent of behavioural change. Lack of awareness seems a major obstacle to translation into behaviour change.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF, through the Ministry of Health, could support the monitoring and evaluation of the various programmes addressing the impacts of urbanization on child survival and development in South Tarawa**

For instance, there is significant local involvement in a Taiwanese funded home gardening project in South Tarawa. UNICEF also works with the Ministry of Agriculture to promote traditional plantings of traditional foodstuffs and FSPK also has a livelihood project which involves vegetable growing. There is much activity in this area, but little is known of the impact on people's diets as a result or on the nutritional status of those involved.

In debriefing discussions with the UNICEF FO Chief prior to departure, the issue of staff capacity was raised, particularly that of newly recruited staff. To effectively play a more strategic and facilitating role within the government partnership role that UNICEF works, staff would need to have more than sector specific skills. There is a need for skill development of staff in the areas of monitoring and facilitation.

The establishment of focus groups (notwithstanding the sensitivities relating to Taiwanese involvement) among the people engaged in these projects could provide useful monitoring data as well as providing relevant training for staff.

Subsequent findings from the monitoring and evaluation process could inform potential needs and solutions for awareness raising in the community.

- **UNICEF could facilitate research into reasons for the low immunisation rates that prevail in South Tarawa.**

Given the relative proximity of more than half of the total population to medical facilities it could reasonably be expected that immunisation rates would be much higher.

Child Protection

"The problem with working at the policy level in Kiribati is that implementation on the ground is zero."
FSPK Acting Director (referring to the implementation of child protection legislation)

In urban Kiribati, there are major concerns regarding child protection issues, and a general lack of coordinated effort to address these. Much work in the area of child protection for urban children and youth in Kiribati is contained within the policy and advocacy work being done at the national level by the KNACC, but it would need support in terms of its implementation.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF should work closely with government, the law and justice system and civil society groups to develop support systems for children who come into contact with law and justice system whether as victims or perpetrators in South Tarawa**

It is acknowledged that UNICEF has done much good work with police and magistrates in South Tarawa. This could be the basis for developing greater support mechanisms and/or facilities for young people in the justice system.

The lack of dedicated services and or facilities for young people within the law and justice system makes it difficult for those involved with law enforcement, such as police and magistrates to act on the gains in child rights awareness through training received previously.

Basic Education & Gender Equality

“Living in South Tarawa we have access tobetter schools and other opportunities.” (Youth Panel member)

Education is generally better catered for in urban South Tarawa than it is in the outer islands, and explains why most I-Kiribati children migrate to South Tarawa at some stage. Major concerns result from the overcrowding of schools, the lack of school sanitation and the lack of employment opportunities for youth to engage in once they graduate. UNICEF is actively and successfully engaged in improving the school environment through its child friendly school initiative, and the STP presents an opportunity for more schools and preschool facilities to be established, respectfully of these concerns.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF could advocate for inclusive education (for the Ministry of Education to recognise its role in providing education for the children with disabilities in South Tarawa**

The single educational facility for children with disabilities could become a focus for UNICEF in relation to inclusive education. UNICEF has already been closely involved with inclusive education policy which still is not being implemented at the Ministry level. The CFS program could be applied to the facility for children with disabilities to give support to the parents and to raise awareness of the inclusive education issue among the broader public.

- **UNICEF, through the MoE, could engage with the Sustainable Towns Project which aims to alleviate the impacts of urbanization in South Tarawa, with providing advice and expertise in the area of establishing schools and children facilities on the east side of South Tarawa**

The establishment of the STP in Kiribati presents a great opportunity for knowledge sharing. The STP could benefit from UNICEF’s expertise in terms of supporting child friendly schools’, and the

establishment of safe spaces where children can do their homework. UNICEF in turn could benefit from the Environmental Impact Assessments carried out by the STP, and their ideas concerning the disposal of waste through locally made septic tanks and the construction of pumps that will extract waste into the deep ocean. This information sharing could be instrumental in UNICEF's advocacy work through the Ministry of Health, as well as through the MISA and MoH.

HIV & AIDS

In urban South Tarawa, the incidence of HIV/AIDS is reportedly low. However, concerns arise from the strong cultural taboos prevalent in I-Kiribati society, and the exposure to changing lifestyles and associated risks. Many stakeholders are actively seen to be addressing this issue on the ground, however lack of implementation of policies to penalise child prostitution for instance represents a hindrance to progress, and culture penalises girls in particular.

The following recommendations are made:

- **UNICEF through its support to MISA and the MoE could advocate for changes at the policy level in relation to the discrimination towards single teenage mothers whose rising numbers are believed to be a 'hidden' urban phenomenon**

The apparent lack of support within the family and community for single teenage mothers needs to be researched and strategies developed to assist single mothers and their children. Single teenage mothers are precluded from completing their schooling and as a result their child is doubly disadvantaged.

- **UNICEF should work with relevant government and law authorities to enforce existing penalties against captains of foreign ships who allow unauthorised persons on board while in Kiribati waters, as a strategy to curb the rising phenomenon of child prostitution in South Tarawa**

According to the AusAID development specialist and the Kiribati Family Health Association, severe penalties are in place for the captains of foreign ships who allow unauthorised persons on board their ships while in Kiribati waters. These penalties include the loss of valuable fishing licenses. However, according to informants these penalties are not being applied. Application of such penalties could reduce the incidence of the sexual exploitation of underage girls on these ships.

Participation

Traditionally children and youth have been absent from participation in Kiribati society. As a result of the impacts of urbanization (exposure to better education, television, internet etc.) youth are developing a voice and adopting new aspirations. They however receive very little support from Government and the rest of the community.

The following recommendation is made:

- **UNICEF could support MISA to coordinate a National Youth Council Network to give a voice to urban and provincial youth.**

This process would formalise the Youth Panel and can be supported by the Pacific Youth Council (Fiji) which oversees the Regional Youth Platform through SPC funding. A national Youth Council serves to ensure that youth voices are heard at the government level and that Youth Policy is rightly advised and implemented. It also serves to strengthen the youth council network, ensuring that youth council projects and activities are given a chance to be implemented. Though ideally, the national youth council operates independently, the support of government, through its budgetary allocation, is crucial to this process.

The case study below is presented as an example of practical, community level work which occurs within urban communities in the settlement areas of Honiara. These projects give effect to, or inform, the policy and legislative environments created by stakeholders working at government level.

Case Study: Addressing the impacts of urbanization through the Sustainable Town Project
(based on talks with the STP design team leader)

Natural population growth alone in Kiribati (around 4%) suggests that 100 new houses would need to be built on South Tarawa every year to accommodate the growing population (this does not take migration from outer islands into account). Overcrowding is quite visibly the most pressing issue resulting from urbanization in Kiribati.

In 2006-2007, a relocation effort took place, assisting volunteers to migrate from South Tarawa and settle on Christmas Island. Though there was an initial positive response, the project carried a number of constraints: no land tenure could be secured, the lack of infrastructure and services meant readapting to the challenges of subsistence existence on an atoll island and there was no follow-up to ensure success of the project.

The STP is a new relocation project funded by NZAid, targeting low and middle income earners from the overcrowded settlements of Betio and Bairiki (ocean side) to state owned land on the East Side of South Tarawa. The STP will start off as a pilot project, offering lease with tenure to roughly 1,000 people (150 plots), as well as accompanying infrastructure and services (schools, cemetery, sports field etc).

As part of the planning of the STP, focus groups have taken place engaging with the local community to ensure that the project responds to the needs at the community level. Results from the focus groups give an interesting insight into the way urbanization is shaping I-Kiribati demands.

All focus groups wished for: civic and community amenities as part of the STP development (function hall, police post, school, government satellite agencies to avoid having to travel all the way to Bairiki were prioritized).

Women wished for a pre-school (essentially as a child caring facility so they could go and sell their produce to the markets); a special needs school; and a market to sell their products.

Finally, children wished for a library, a study area and an internet café (stressing that they had difficulty doing homework or bible study at home because of lack of space). They just want a space to 'own and control' - a little corner of their own.

6. Concluding Discussion

The findings from this research show that there are many organisations and people working to address the negative impacts of urbanisation on children. This work is happening at various levels of operation, from high level legislative and policy of government to the many projects and programs operating at civil society level with much being done by way of partnerships of one kind or another as outlined in the sections above. It is also important that the positive work being done does not get lost in reiterating the negative impact of the issues discussed in the background. While these negative impacts still exist there are many indications that the situation is improving at all levels while not necessarily for all individuals. For example the availability of education and health services in urban areas generally means that more children have potential access to better quality education and health services than might be the case if they lived in a rural environment. However, access to these services and facilities may still be denied to some children living in urban areas due to lack of money, transport and/or the priorities of parents/carers. The effects of urbanization on children have been shown to be both positive and negative. The loss of familial support systems in the urban environment are to some degree balanced by the increased availability of education and health services and other modern facilities in urban areas. The loss of culture and tradition which often results from urbanisation may be balanced by increased connectivity with the wider world via modern communication and internet. For those born in the urban environment, be it peri-urban, squatter settlement or the long established urban township, the urban environment is the only known experience and it is this environment which will sustain these urban-born people into the future.

While policy work is an important strategic component in development work, direct intervention is also a necessary component. Experience shows that direct intervention is a very effective modus operandi to which ordinary people can relate and respond to in a positive way. Policy generally has a long lag time in coming into effect and then often lacks the resources required for effective implementation. The need to 'engage' and to work within the environment that exists which includes government (at all levels) and civil society is highlighted in UN-Habitat's Youth Forum "Youth in Urban Development: Bringing Ideas into Action" (2006). In this paper the authors use a simple example to show what ought to be obvious to those involved in development but is too often lost in the processes of doing one's own best efforts. The example they give is, "..... a municipal council cannot make good decisions in isolation from public interests; NGOs cannot implement effective programmes without understanding the urgent needs of people and places; intergovernmental agencies cannot work together successfully without understanding locally based policies; a community-based group cannot implement change without acknowledging the efforts of other groups in the same area. In other words, the behavior of the system doesn't depend on what each part is doing but on how each part is interacting with the other" (UN-Habitat, 2006, p4). To effectively address the negative impacts of urbanisation on children and youth, a greater urban focus is required. However at present UNICEF's preference for rural areas under the convergence strategy appears to be a barrier to a greater urban focus.

UNICEF Field Office staff are located in the major urban centres in all three countries and local staff generally have good networks within the relevant government departments with which they work closely. Ensuring staff roles include engaging with urban civil society stakeholders working in the same areas of interest UNICEF could add much value to the work of the civil society players as well as UNICEF's own work and in turn that of government. While much community level work is presently done in the 'convergence areas', the fact that staff spend much time in the major urban centres perhaps, provides the opportunity to engage more with civil society organizations in the urban areas.

Because of its close links to government and the presence in the Field Offices of local staff with local knowledge and connections, UNICEF is in a good position to add value to the urban development work which is being done by a range of stakeholders and which potentially will bring benefit to urban children. There are a number of ways in which UNICEF can support the work done at the community level which will support its work with government. By supporting the development of monitoring capacity with both civil society organizations and with government ministries, community level work can inform policy development rather than just respond to existing policy or occur in isolation to, or in ignorance of policy.

UNICEF's present convergence strategy means that most of its community level engagement occurs in rural areas. In Port Vila and Honiara some Field Office staff indicated that to work in urban areas and to apply programs such as child friendly schools and hospitals in urban areas is too difficult. The main reason given, that communities are not homogenous enough and do not relate closely to central hospitals and schools. There are numerous civil society organizations which are working successfully in urban areas with communities that are identified by their common need in their urban location (World Vision staff, Honiara). Many urban areas demonstrate the relevant criteria for convergence (with the possible exception of current programmatic activities) and the experience in South Tarawa, Kiribati would indicate that UNICEF's own achievements show that an urban focus is more beneficial to relatively more people.

UNICEF's experience in South Tarawa is a good indication of the different, (perhaps perceived), performance of UNICEF in the urban areas as perceived by civil society and even by many ministry level informants and indeed some UNICEF Field Office staff. For example despite the fact that UNICEF states that, "... at present most of the current work is done in Honiara...", in the Solomon Islands (Taking Convergence Forward, Solomon Islands – concept paper), this is not reflected in the responses from both government and civil society informants. In both Honiara and Port Vila UNICEF's work at the national/government level and in rural areas is what is recognised. This is no doubt a result of the policy of convergence where multiple UN agencies combine to bring about a multiplier type of effect to their combined work. While the policy of convergence may present more challenges to implement within an urban, peri-urban and settlement setting, there are numerous potential partners for UNICEF and indeed the other UN agencies involved, to engage with and benefit from their experiences.

There is also a significant amount of anecdotal evidence to suggest that UNICEF is achieving significant results in bringing about changes at the institutional level to improve the lives of children. This work is generally acknowledged at the government ministry level but it is not always realised or recognised by local stakeholders such as implementing NGOs, community based service providers and the general public. However in Kiribati more informants outside of government were more aware of the existence of UNICEF and could often refer to some association with a UNICEF activity or a UNICEF achievement.

For example a police officer at the Betio police station was able to recount training that UNICEF had facilitated for police on the rights of children. The officer was also aware that magistrates had also received training in this issue.

“UNICEF has done a lot of work on child protection. After working with UNICEF MISA (Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs) has changed the language it uses when talking about women’s and children’s rights. We now use terms such as the protection of women and children. This is much more acceptable to the older people especially the men.” (Youth worker, MISA, Kiribati).

It is perhaps because of the smaller size of the population and the fact that the population is so concentrated that there is a greater public awareness of UNICEF’s work and a closer association between UNICEF and the public in the urban area of South Tarawa. However this experience supports the suggestion that UNICEF work more intentionally with urban based/active civil society organizations in other urban centres.

Further, the case studies in the findings section for each country highlight the type of practical work being done at a community level. These case studies show how changes can be made to the lives of people in a way in which they can respond to. By engaging with civil society groups in a ways suggested in this report UNICEF is not taking on the role of these organisations but supporting them to do their work within the environment created through the policy and legislative work of government. UNICEF has facilitated many community level activities in the past. What is being suggested here is that UNICEF develops intentional partnerships with groups of civil society players and where possible includes government as well. This means that UNICEF works at the civil society level and government level to build their community engagement and monitoring capacities, but to do this UNICEF staff must themselves have the knowledge and skills required and the ‘culture’ to recognize the value that monitoring and coordination add to work done at all levels.

7. Conclusion

While this research has been limited in its scope, and is completely qualitative and largely anecdotal, it has shown that in the view of all stakeholders who were informants to this research urbanisation is a continuing, unstoppable phenomenon across the three countries visited. In all three countries, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati urbanisation is seen more and more as a lifestyle of choice rather than one of necessity. While many informants readily concede that life in rural areas might in some ways be easier in terms of food availability, traditional family support and can be less stressful, the opportunities in the urban centres outweigh the positive aspects of rural life.

“It’s a myth that people will go back to their islands. Only old people go back to their islands and only those people who have retired with a pension.” (Permanent secretary, Ministry of Women, youth and children’s Affairs, Solomon Islands).

While increasing urbanisation is common to these three countries as are most of the effects of urbanisation, positive and negative, there are a number of points of difference which both result from the urbanisation process and also impact upon it in the way urban life is affected by these differences in the respective urban settings. It needs to be stated that the research team only visited the respective capitals of each country i.e. Port Vila, Honiara and South Tarawa. There are other areas of urbanization within these three countries without the resources and infrastructure of the country capitals. These other urban centres also face many challenges.

It also needs to be remembered that in the case of Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, more so than Kiribati, there have been significant urban populations for many generations. Many of these ‘true’ urban dwellers form the nucleus of key national institutions and are seen by many as the ‘elites’ of their countries. The strengths and the skills that have enabled these urban dwellers to adapt to the urban lifestyle need to be harnessed to enable the new wave of urban dwellers to enjoy the same success.

The effects of urbanization on children have been shown to be both positive and negative. The loss of familial support systems in the urban environment are, to some degree, balanced by the increased availability of education and health services and facilities in urban areas. The loss of culture and tradition which often results from urbanisation may be balanced by increased connectivity with the wider world via modern communication and internet. For those born in the urban environment, be it peri-urban, squatter settlement or the long established urban township, the urban environment is the only known experience and it is this environment which will sustain these urban-born people into the future.

There are many organizations along with government which are working in areas of social support and livelihood development to assist people living in the urban centres. While in many countries of the Pacific the majority of the population is still rurally based the situation is changing. The present status quo however means that many, and often most, government members represent rural constituencies which can mean a resultant focus on rural issues with little attention given to urban specific issues. Rural

development strategies developed by governments and supported by donor agencies and implementing agencies reflect this. It is often easier for NGOs to obtain funds for rural projects than for urban ones. UNICEF is in a position to influence this rural bias in a positive way towards a greater attention on urban development. By engaging more closely with urban civil society UNICEF can help to build the capacity of these organizations along with that of government and as a result help to ensure that the issues affecting urban children are addressed as directly as those affecting rural children. While much of UNICEF's work is such that all children will benefit as a result, the reality is often that due to greater family and community support systems in the rural areas, the benefits of child focused work may be less critical in a rural village than in an urban settlement.

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Annex 1: Articles from the Convention on the Rights of Children

The following articles are particularly meaningful in the context of urbanization.

Article 16: *No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home and correspondence...*

Article 18: *States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities... shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children... shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.*

Article 24: *States Parties recognise the right of child to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived from his or her right of access to such health care services... shall take enough measures to (a) diminish infant and child mortality, (b) ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care, (c) to combat disease and malnutrition ... through the provision of adequate nutritious food and safe water, taking into account the dangers of environmental pollution*

Article 27: *State Parties recognise the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development... state parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition , clothing and housing.*

Article 28: *State Parties recognise the right of the child to education, and they shall, in particular: (a) make primary education compulsory and available free to all; (e) take measures to encourage regular school attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.*

Article 31: *State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.*

Article 32: *State Parties recognise the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.*

These articles are extracted from UNICEF (2002), Poverty and Exclusion among Urban Children, Innocenti Research Centre – Innocenti Digest Number 10

Annex 2: Terms of Reference

**UNICEF PACIFIC
POLICY, ADVOCACY, PLANNING AND EVALUATION
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANT AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

Requesting Section: PAPE

Date: January 2010

Programme Area / Project Involved: Urbanization and children in the Pacific: Identifying how to support and complement existing urbanization work (current focus in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu).

LINKED TO UNDAF OUTCOME 1: Pacific island countries develop and implement evidence-based, regional, pro-poor and National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) to address population, poverty and economic exclusion issues, stimulate equitable growth, create economic opportunities and quality employment, and promote sustainable livelihoods.

LINKED TO UNDAF OUTCOME 1.1: Pacific island countries prepare and implement regional, sectoral and national plans and sustainable development strategies aligned with MDG goals, targets and indicators linked to national budget.

LINKED TO UNICEF CPAP PAPE OUTCOME 1: The rights of children, youth and women are promoted through evidence-based social and economic policies that provide inclusive mechanisms.

LINKED TO UNDAF OUTCOME 3: Strengthened equitable social and protection services through support to the development of evidence-based policies and enabling environments; and improving capacity to deliver affordable, quality, basic social services with strengthened safety nets and an emphasis on equality, inclusiveness and access.

LINKED TO UNDAF UN PROGRAMME OUTCOME

3.1: Regional strategies, national policies and plans for equitable social and protection services are evidence-based and inclusive.

LINKED TO UN PROGRAMME OUTPUT 3.1.2: Institutional frameworks support, strengthen and enforce high quality and up-to-date social and protection services, focusing on those most vulnerable and at risk.

3.2: National systems enhance accessibility, affordability and the well-managed delivery of equitable, gender-sensitive quality social and protection services.

LINKED TO UN PROGRAMME OUTPUTS 3.2.4: Increased capacity of civil society improves advocacy, management and delivery of quality social protection services, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

LINKED TO UNDAF OUTCOME 4: The mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and sustainable energy into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes; and Pacific communities sustainably using their environment, natural resources and cultural heritage.

LINKED TO UN PROGRAMME OUTCOMES 4.2: Pacific communities effectively manage and sustainably use their environment, as well as natural and cultural resources.

LINKED TO UN PROGRAMME OUTPUT 4.2.2: Improved capacity of communities enhances their preparation and response to long term environmental threats.

1. Purpose of Assignment:

Consult with a variety of regional stakeholders and those in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to find out in what way UNICEF Pacific should engage in the area of “Urbanization and Children in the Pacific” given that other organizations and governments are already tackling urbanization issues in the region.

2. Background/Rationale

Pacific island nations are experiencing increasing levels of urban poverty, resulting in part from the continuous immigration from rural settings into urban areas. By 2025, over half the population of most Pacific island countries will be living in urban areas. This urbanization has noticeably increased poverty and people’s vulnerability to poverty in the past decade and is evident not only in declining cash incomes but also through declining health and nutrition levels, overcrowded housing, increased school dropout rates and increased stress upon the physical and social environments of low-income urban dwellers, particularly women and children. Relatively recent poverty data from Solomon Islands (2006), Vanuatu (2006), Cook Islands (2006) and FSM (2005) show that the level of poverty in urban centres is considerably higher than in rural areas where the subsistence economy and food security is still strong. This difference is particularly marked for Vanuatu where the proportion of people living in basic needs poverty in urban centres is three times higher than in rural areas.

Informal urban settlements have become evidence of the urban poverty resultant of increasing urbanization in the Pacific island countries (PICs). Informal settlements begin and grow in an unplanned, sporadic manner, making it extremely difficult to provide infrastructure and services – water supply, electricity, sanitation, drainage, etc. The settlements are comprised predominantly of low cost, temporary housing, often on unclaimed or government land, making it impossible to invest in infrastructure and services for the longer term. They are causing high levels of infectious disease resulting from a lack of proper sewage and garbage disposal system, susceptibility to crime and gangs and a high percentage of single-headed households – all of which are problematic for children and youth.

Migration from a rural setting to an urban area also breaks family residential patterns when men, women and children do not migrate together causing broken families and lone mothers often raising children. Children in such situations are more likely to engage in risky behavior given that a loosening of family control often accompanies familial breakdowns. They may also be lacking money and rely on illegal activities to get cash. It is evident that youths in urban poor areas are also more unlikely to attend school regularly or complete their secondary education and/or find suitable employment and are therefore vulnerable to engaging in activities such as consuming drugs and alcohol, unsafe sex, or crime and are therefore unable to meet their full potential.

Children on the edge, like families on the edge, have fewer assets to draw on and are more likely to be adversely affected by the various challenges imposed by urbanization. Children are especially vulnerable and most at risk; events that might have little or no effect on children in high-income countries and communities can have critical implications for children in urban poverty. The likelihood of poor

developmental outcomes is considered to increase cumulatively with the number of risks that they face, whether physiological or psychological. The fact that children in the Pacific also tend to make up a very large part of the population only serves to heighten the concern.

To be able to initiate programs aimed at protecting children from the deleterious effects of increasing urban poverty it is necessary to have country-specific knowledge of the main issues faced by the children and youth. Information on the relationship between urbanization and its effects on children specific to the Pacific islands, particularly Kiribati, Vanuatu and Fiji, is severely lacking. While there is extensive literature on the effects of urbanization, most literature that is currently available is: a) focused solely upon the effects urbanization has on communities and families or in terms of human security, and b) general to regions without country-specific information, especially to PICs.

While mention to some effects urbanization can have on children have been made, it is still an area of literature that is largely untouched. Current literature dwells on urban poverty and the associated problems with infrastructure, the environment, crime, health and sanitation, all of which affect children both directly and indirectly, however, there is no specific child focus. It is vital to gain a thorough understanding of the direct impact urbanization and its proliferation has on children for the next step to be taken to protect them.

There is yet another gap in the research of urbanization that does not take into account the unique topography and demography that create problems that are particular to PICs and therefore, cannot be accurately reflected in global reports on the effects of urbanization. Yet, while there is a small amount of literature on urban informal settlements, population growth and urban poverty in the PICs none show direct causal links between urbanization and children in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Fiji. A crucial aspect that has also been overlooked and will be increasingly important in the coming years is the effect of the global financial crisis on urbanization in the Pacific and the consequent augmentation of urban poverty and the effect this will have on children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, together with 'A World Fit for Children' (WFFC) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) protect and preserve the right of every child to a safe and healthy environment in which to develop and grow. Protecting the urban environment and providing for the health, education and development of children in urban areas are mutually inclusive goals of these international commitments and the foundation for UNICEF's work with and for children.

UNICEF Pacific acknowledges the valuable work and strategies that governments in the Pacific and various organizations have already embarked on. Nevertheless, the wide-reaching complexity of the issue is too large for any one contributor to handle alone. A coherent, cooperative partnership between UNICEF, governments, NGOs, other UN organizations, civil society, donors, the private sector and every individual is needed to reduce and mitigate risks at all levels. UNICEF Pacific is determined to share the collective responsibility by exploring avenues of child-centered actions first and then act upon them to alleviate the effects of urbanization for children in the Pacific. In this process, UNICEF will take into account that children should not only be seen as victims of urbanization. If educated, involved and empowered, they are potentially dynamic and powerful agents of change.

In response to the described situation in the Pacific, the Policy, Advocacy, Planning and Evaluation Programme (PAPE) of UNICEF Pacific is looking for **one consultant and one research assistant** to undertake

a children-focused urbanization study in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu due to their particular vulnerabilities. The study is seeking to establish if and how urbanization impacts on every aspect of children's lives in the Pacific, will identify the stakeholders that are already working in the context of urbanization in the region and investigate through consultations with them and children in particular what role UNICEF Pacific should play in the future.

3. Scope of Work/ Work Assignments

The study must provide definitive answers to the following three questions through the steps outlined below and provide a comprehensive final report:

1. How does urbanization affect children (e.g., social impacts such as child poverty, abuse, exploitation and violence, those at most risk and especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS , as well as impacts on provision of basic social services such as health, education, water and sanitation, child protection, welfare services) in the Pacific and how will it affect them in the future?

- Outline how urbanization affects children – now and in the future – by reviewing current literature focusing on the impact of urbanization specific to children and the Pacific. With the current lack of child specific literature and literature focusing on Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu it will be necessary to extract specific facts and information from more general reports (some are listed below).

2. Which stakeholders are already actively dealing with urbanization issues across the Pacific region, and/or with a particular focus on Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu and are there any that handle the impact on children in particular?

- Desk study to map which stakeholders are already dealing with urbanization issues in the region and in particular the three relevant countries, determine which ones are specifically tackling the issue of children facing the impacts of urbanization in the Pacific (for example governments/ministries, UN organizations, NGOs, civil society organizations, donors).
- Develop clear methodology for consultations with stakeholders – who to consult, how to consult others, including parents and children.

3. In what way should UNICEF Pacific engage in this field?

- Consult with relevant regional stakeholders and those involved in urbanization issues in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu and get their views and opinions on how UNICEF Pacific should engage in the field of urbanization and children in the Pacific.
- Conduct field research in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with children and parents (for example interviews and focus groups) to collect their ideas, find out about their needs and concerns on urbanization issues and urban poverty. Find out how those living in urban poverty feel UNICEF could engage in this area and which issues they deem most important. In consultations refer to the issues found in the literature – health and sanitation, education, infant and maternal nutrition, illegal activities, etc. Discuss the right of children to be heard and integrated at all levels and how they should be involved and empowered. Raise the issue that children are not a homogenous group, collect ideas on how to consider their age, gender and ethnicity.

4. Report of findings and recommendations.

- Write a report (25,000 words) providing comprehensive responses to the three questions above; ensure that the responses to question three are clearly grouped into responses from adults and children;
- Based on the results, develop recommendations at the end of the report explaining what specific activities UNICEF Pacific's should be carrying out in regards to the protection of children in areas affected by urbanization in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and the wider region as appropriate.

The consultants should refer to at least the following documents and should seek others in preparing the literature review and methodology of consultations (other materials will be made available to the consultant and research assistant):

- i. Bryant-Tokalau, J. (1995) The myth exploded: urban poverty in the Pacific. *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 7, No. 2, October 1995, 109-129.
<http://eau.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/7/2/109>
- ii. Abbott, D. and Pollard, S. (2004) *Hardship and Poverty in the Pacific. Strengthening Poverty Analysis and Strategies in the Pacific*. Manila: ADB.
<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Hardship-Poverty-Pacific/hardship-poverty.pdf>
- iii. Chung, M. and Hill, D. (2002) Urban informal settlements in Vanuatu: challenge for equitable development. Report prepared for Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Pacific Operation Centre.
http://www.forumsec.org/UserFiles/File/Vanuatu_Squatter_02.pdf
- iv. UNICEF Pacific. (2005) State of Pacific Youth Report 2005
http://www.unicef.org/eapro/State_of_Pacific_youth_2005_FINAL.pdf
- v. Rallu, J. L. (2007) Urban drift, urban growth, urban youth. UNFPA Suva.
http://www.unescap.org/EPOC/documents/R3.13_Study_3.pdf
- vi. Storey, D. (2005) State Society and Governance in Melanesia Project: Urban Governance in the Pacific Island Countries: Advancing an Overdue Agenda. Research School Of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University: Canberra.
http://www.unescap.org/EPOC/documents/R3.12_Study_2.pdf
- vii. Commonwealth Local Government Forum Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Second Pacific Regional Workshop on Urban Management. 23-25 April 2007, Nadi, Fiji Islands.
<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/article/files/2007%20PUA%20Workshop%20Outcomes%20Report5.pdf>
- viii. UNESCAP. Eight Session Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, 20-21 April 2004, Shanghai, China. "Experiences and Challenges in Urban Management Issues in Pacific Island Countries – Review of Pacific Sustainable Urban Management and Poverty Issues and Introduction of the Pacific Urban Agenda Framework."
http://www.unescap.org/60/E/PIDC8_1E.pdf

4. Work Schedule:

The total duration of the assignment is 7 weeks over an 10-week duration allowing time for UNICEF and all parties involved to review and comment.

5. Deliverables:

Task	Deliverables and timeframe	Timeline
1. Review literature, identify relevant stakeholders and develop methodology	Detailed methodology to be developed and submitted to UNICEF for discussion (2 weeks).	1 Mar – 14 Mar 2010
2. Application of methodology	Consultations and field work undertaken (3 weeks) and commence report writing.	15 Mar – 4 Apr 2010
3. Draft report	Draft report to be prepared and submitted to UNICEF Pacific and shared with all parties involved in the consultations, as well as appointed representatives of the field work respondents (1 week 2 days); 2.5 weeks for comments to be returned (not paid).	5 Apr – 13 Apr 2010 14 Apr – 30 Apr 2010
4. Finalize report	Final report to be prepared and submitted to UNICEF Pacific (3 days).	3 May – 5 May 2010

6. Payment Schedule:

Payment	Conditions
20% of fee	On delivery of methodology (14 Mar)
20% of fee	On delivery of draft report (13 Apr)
60% of fee	On delivery of final report (5 May)

7. Type of Supervision that will be Provided:

Supervision will be provided by the UNICEF Pacific Chief of PAPE. Local support in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu will be provided by the respective UNICEF Field Office in each country.

8. Consultant's Workplace and Official Travel involved:

The consultant and research assistant will be required to use their own laptops. UNICEF will cover traveling costs and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) to and from the consultants' home country to Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A return economy fare on the most economical and convenient routing will be arranged by UNICEF. The consultant and research assistant will complete their assignments from their home countries.

Assignment briefing will be provided to the consultant and research assistant by telephone and email. Both will start the literature review and planning from their home country. They will brief and be briefed by the UNICEF Pacific team in Fiji by phone (as necessary). Their country travel will then start in whichever of the three countries the travel itinerary makes most sense and from there travel to the two other countries to consult with key stakeholders and conduct field visits to gather information to complete the report and make recommendations. They will be able to work in the Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Field Offices where wireless internet connection is also available.

9. Education Qualification:

Consultant:

- i. Advanced degree in Social Sciences, International Relations or a related field.
- ii. At least 10 years professional experience in social urban development and areas related to the field of research.
- iii. Sound knowledge of the situation in the Pacific Island Countries, especially Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.
- iv. Superior analytical and writing skills.
- v. Excellent communication and highly developed self-management skills.
- vi. Proven ability to negotiate and work with Government and non-Government machinery and dynamics.
- vii. Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships, both within and outside the organization.
- viii. Excellent knowledge of children's rights and child development issues in general.
- ix. Proven ability to keep to deadlines.

Research Assistant:

- Advanced degree in Social Sciences, International Relations or a related field.
- At least 5 years professional experience in social urban development and areas related to the field of research.
- Sound knowledge of the situation in the Pacific Island Countries, especially Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.
- Experience of conducting research and consulting a variety of people for data collection
- Excellent communication and highly developed self-management skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships, both within and outside the organization.
- Excellent knowledge of children's rights and child development issues in general.
- Proven ability to keep to deadlines.

10. Standard Terms and Conditions

1. LEGAL STATUS

The contractor shall be considered as having the legal status of an independent contractor. Agents or employees of the contractor shall not be considered in any respect as being officials or staff members of the United Nations.

1. OBLIGATIONS

The contractor shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority external to the United Nations in connection with the performance of its services under this contract. The contractor shall refrain from any action which may adversely affect the United Nations and shall fulfill its commitments with fullest regard for the interest of the United Nations. The contractor shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that it is a contractor with the United Nations. Also the contractor shall, in no other manner whatsoever use the name, emblem or official seal of the United Nations or any abbreviation of the name of the United Nations in connection with its business or otherwise. Contractors may not communicate at any time to any other person, Government or authority external to the United Nations or any information known to them by reason of their association with the United Nations which has not been made public, except in the course of their duties or by authorization of the Secretary-General or his designate; nor shall contractors at any time use such information to private advantage. These obligations do not lapse upon termination of their agreement with the United Nations.

3. TITLE RIGHTS

(a) The United Nations shall be entitled to all property rights including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to material which bears a direct relation to or is made in consequence of, the services provided by the Organization in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law. At the request of the United Nations, the contractor shall take all necessary steps, execute all the necessary documents and generally assist in securing such property rights and transferring them to the Organization in compliance with the requirements of the applicable law.

(b) Title to any equipment and supplies which may be furnished by the United Nations shall rest with the United Nations and any such equipment shall be returned to the United Nations at the conclusion of the Contract or when no longer needed by the contractor. Such equipment when returned to the United Nations, shall be in the same condition as when delivered to the contractor, subject to normal wear and tear.

4. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

This Contract may be terminated by either party before the expiry date of the agreement by giving notice in writing to the other party. The period of notice shall be five days in the case of

agreements for a total period of less than two months and fourteen days in the case of contracts for a longer period.

In the event of the Contract being terminated prior to its due expiry date in this way, the consultant shall be compensated on a pro rata basis for no more than the actual amount of work performed to the satisfaction of the United Nations. Additional costs incurred by the United Nations resulting from the termination of the Contract by the contractor may be withheld from any amount otherwise due to the contractor from the United Nations.

5. ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL

The contractor shall not assign any persons other than those accepted by the United Nations for work performed under this Contract.

6. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

The contractor shall indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend, as its own expenses, the UN, its officers, agents, servants and employees from and against all suits, claims, demands and liability of any nature or kind, including costs and expenses arising out of acts or omissions of the contractor or his employees or sub-contractors in the performance of this Contract. This clause shall extend to claims and liability in the nature of workmen's compensation claims or liability or those arising out of the use of patented inventories or devices. In compliance with this clause, the contractor shall obtain and maintain adequate liability and property damage insurance in respect of any tort action or tort claim arising out of contractor's acts or omissions related to this Contract. The contractor shall, upon request, provide proof of such insurance. The contractor shall not permit any lien, attachment or other encumbrance by any person to remain on file in any public office or on file with the UN against any monies due or to become due for any work done or materials furnished under this Contract, or by reason of any other claim or demand against the contractor.

7. UNITED NATIONS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in or relating to this Contract shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

8. ARBITRATION

Any controversy or claim arising out of, or in accordance with this Contract or any breach thereof, shall, unless it is settled by direct negotiation, be settled in accordance with the UNICITRAL Arbitration Rules as at present in force. The parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy or claim.

9. AMENDMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

No change in or modification of this Contract shall be made except by prior written agreement between the Chief, Commercial, Purchase and Transportation Service, Office of General Services, United Nations, and the contractor. The Contractor shall not assign, transfer, pledge, sub-contract or make other disposition of this Contract or any part thereof, or of any of the contractor's rights, claims or obligations under this Contract except with the prior written consent of the United Nations.

10. OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

The contractor represents and warrants that no official of the United Nations has been, or shall be, admitted by the contractor to any direct or indirect benefit arising from this Contract or the award thereof. The contractor agrees that breach of this provision of an essential term of this Contract.

11. OTHER PROVISIONS

ETHICS FOR SAFEGARDING THE INTERESTS/RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN RESEARCH

NON-DISCRIMINATION

When consultants conduct interview/focused group research/survey that involves third party, consultants shall ensure that selection of participants and the processes and methods used serve to correct, not reinforce, patterns of exclusion. This requires attention to socio-economic barriers including gender and age discrimination as well as the different ways and capacities in which children and women express themselves.

PARTICIPATION

Consultants shall ensure that the purposes and processes of the research are fully explained, using alternative forms of communication where necessary and making reference to any implications for participants of time, cost and the possible influence of the outcomes. The way information is conveyed must be appropriate to the context and to the child capabilities when child is involved.

INFORMED CONSENT

Consultant shall ensure that the participants know their right to refuse or to withdraw from the research at any time and obtaining verbal or written consent without coercion. Parental consent is not an adequate standard in light of the rights of the child and consent should be ongoing negotiation process with child.

IDENTIFICATION OF RISKS

Consultant should be mindful of the risks involving children and women in the research. Consultant should withhold information where that information may place them at risk and take necessary measures to protect them from placing themselves at risk.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Consultants shall offer conditional anonymity and confidentiality to all participants and explain to participants the limitation of confidentiality and possible intervention based on what is in their best interests. Consultant is fully responsible for identifying the follow-up action and referrals to be made in case confidentiality is broken.

MISUSE OF INFORMATION

Consultants are fully responsible for considering the short and long term consequences of the research from the different perspectives of participants, policy-makers, researchers and UNICEF.

Reviewed by Section Chief:

Will Parks

Chief of Policy, Advocacy, Planning & Evaluation

Date:

Approved by Deputy Representative

Tim Sutton

Date:

Annex 3: Key Informants

Vanuatu

Name	Position	Organization
Patrick Shing	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	UNICEF
Dr Hensley Garaeliu	Health & Nutrition Officer	UNICEF
Brenda Nabirye	Child Protection	UNICEF
Christina Lulu-Karae	Education Officer	UNICEF
Jenny James	Head of Early Childhood Education Unit	Ministry of Education
Paul Nalau	Senior Youth Officer	Ministry of Youth, Sports & Development
Doresday Kenneth	Permanent Secretary	Department of Women's Affairs
Simon Bage	Programme Manager	Youth Challenge Vanuatu
Sembu George	Project manager; Head of a preschool in Vila; President of Early Childhood Education Association	Save the Children Vanuatu
Simon Boe	Programme Manager	World Vision Vanuatu
Ross; Rita and Edward	Youth Officers	Wan Smol Bag
Shaun Kennedy	National Programme Officer	ILO
Simon Toka	Project Manager	Vanwoods Microfinance
Anita Samana	Youth Coordinator	Young People's Project

Solomon Islands

Name of Interviewee	Position	Organization
Winston	Health Officer	UNICEF
Laura	Child Protection	UNICEF
Benedine	Early Childhood Education Coordinator	Ministry of Education
Joy Kere		Ministry of National Unity, Peace and Reconciliation
Aaron Olofea; Lester	Officer	Social Welfare Department
Lovelyn	Counsellor	Family Support Centre
John Kenny	Pre-school manager and consultant	Early Childhood Education consultancy
Ella		Live & Learn
Alex & Graham		APHEDA
Annette Leith	Country Officer	World Bank
Mia Rimon	Officer in Charge	SPC
John, Cailef and Florence	Coordinators	World Vision Solomon Islands
Luisa ; Roney	Consultant; Project Manager	Save the Children

Kiribati

Name of Interviewee	Position	Organization
Yun Jong Kang	Chief of Field Office	UNICEF
	Water & Sanitation Officer	UNICEF
Debbie	Manager	Kiribati Family Health Association
David Teabo	Deputy Director and NGO development Officer	KANGO
Kumon Tarawa	Acting Director	FSPK
John Tocker	Design Consultant - architect	Sustainable Town Project
Bwenaata Aranuka	Education Officer	UNICEF
Joao Mendes	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF
Tinai luta-Metai	Health and Nutrition Officer	UNICEF
Ross Craven	Country Projects Coordinator	UNIFEM
Kibron Woldai Teweldemed	UNV For Water Sanitation	UNICEF
	Health Promotion Officer	Ministry of Health
Youth	Youth Panel Members	
	Senior Youth Workers	Ministry of internal and Social Affairs
Paul Kaiwai	New Zealand High Commissioner	NZ Government
Duncan McCulloch	Development Specialist	AusAID
Ms. Mimitong Kirata; Mayor	Urban Town Clerk; Mayor	Teaoraereke Urban council
Ms. Amina uriam	Director Local Government	Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs
Mereta Kaiteie	Project manager	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Coops.
	Police Officer	Betio Police
Mother on the bus		
	Acting Director	Ministry of Education
Timi Kaeikieki	Acting Director of Plaanning	Ministry of Finance

Informants Regional Level

Name of Informants	Position	Organization
Sarah Mc Cartney	Pacific Programme Manager	UN-Habitat
Ofelia Eugenio	Chief Technical Advisor	International Labour Organization
Doris Susau	Country Manager	Live & Learn
Megan + Karibaiti	Project Officers	CLGF
Tarusila Bradburgh	Youth Coordinator	Pacific Youth Council

Annex 4: Vanuatu Summary Table

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Vanuatu?
Child Survival & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in living conditions (overcrowded housing, lack of sanitation and other basic services and infrastructure) • High incidence of communicable diseases (malaria, respiratory problems and influenza a particular concern) • Malnutrition (‘white man’s food favored over Island food) • Exposure to substance abuse and risk taking behavior • Child mortality rates remain high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Child Survival & Development Unit: runs 5 Programmes, namely the Extended Immunization Programme (supporting the Ministry of Health at a national level; the WASH programme (in partnership with World Vision in the rural areas), the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses programme (supporting the Ministry of Health in rural areas), the Safe Motherhood and neonatal care Programme (supporting the Ministry of Health in developing ‘baby friendly hospitals’ at a national level), and the nutrition programme (in rural areas). • Save The Children: <i>Youth Outreach Project:</i> Awareness raising on substance abuse (<i>rural & urban areas</i>) • Wan Smol Bag (NGO): <i>Wan Smol Bag Community Group:</i> Youth drop in centre delivering education & awareness raising on issues such as the environment, health, reproductive health, social and human rights, nutrition classes for children and mothers (<i>urban Vila</i>)
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break down of families and social support networks • Domestic violence towards women and children exacerbated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Child Protection Unit: Birth registration Programme (assisting the Government at National Level); working with NGOs or government to develop children specific services, support children’s rights in the legislation though the NCC toolkit.

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Vanuatu?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General neglect of children • Evidence of child sexual abuse and child commercial sexual exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Children’s Committee (under the department of Women’s Affairs): Focal point on all Child Rights issues - National Children’s policy; National Plan of Action for children; working on the legislation to recognize and protect children’s rights (partners with UNICEF, and looking at the role of Churches)
Basic Education & Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of privately run, yet to be registered, ECE facilities • High school drop-out rate (inequality of access & low retention) • Lack of vocational and technical training • High unemployment rates • Low community participation in schools • Development of Bislama as a main language for youth in urban areas and loss of indigenous languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Education Unit: child friendly school programme (<i>rural areas</i>); assists the Ministry of Education with curriculum development for ECE (<i>national level</i>), development of standards for preschools • Ministry of Education: Early Childhood Education Unit – revising curriculum, developing materials in Bislama, working on the registration of all preschools to meet set standards (in partnership with UNICEF) • Wan Smol Bag (NGO): Education courses for school drop outs (literacy classes, nutrition classes, and vocational training – sewing, business skills (not certified). • Save The Children: Child Protection Project: Addresses local attitudes, customs & beliefs which impact on child protection (emphasis on parenting and discipline at school and community level (national level) • Technical Vocational Education Training Programme: Vocational training courses funded by Ausaid for

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Vanuatu?
		<p><i>(national level)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO: Youth Employment Programme (for 12 - 30 year olds): to help create greater opportunities for youth to secure decent employment and income (through employment policies, job creating programmes for both the formal and informal economies, capacity building etc) • Youth Challenge Vanuatu: Provides workshops and training in lifeskills and vocational skills courses – not certified (<i>urban areas</i>); grassroot development projects around the country involving urban youth (all development projects are in rural areas though) • Vanuatu’s Young People’s Project: advocacy for free education at secondary school level; provides vocational/ technical training workshops (not certified) in Vila.
HIV/AIDS and sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low incidence of HIV/AIDS but high exposure to risks • Loosening of social control and taboos around sexuality • High prevalence of STDs • High rates of teenage pregnancies • Rise in child prostitution and exposure to demand for sex from transient workers (fisheries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save The Children: <i>HIV Community Prevention Project:</i> Awareness raising in urban and rural areas & support to those infected and affected (including children) –(<i>urban and rural areas</i>) • Vanuatu Young People’s Project: HIV/ AID workshops and referral to free sexual health clinics (such as that run by Wan Smol Bag) – (<i>urban area</i>) • Wan Smol Bag: Peer education health programmes on HIV/AIDS and sexual health; free health / family planning clinic (<i>urban area</i>)

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Vanuatu?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Vision: awareness raising, production of IEC materials (national)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginalization of youth - 'killem taem' • Redefining childhood and youth in the urban context (loss of traditional culture and adoption of urban identity) • Lack of access to opportunities (educational and recreational) • Rise in drop-in centres (forum to youth's voices) 	<p>Vanuatu Young People's Project: addresses issues of kastom and identity (through the Kastom School Project), as well as provides courses in life skills to young people (<i>urban areas</i>)</p> <p>Ministry of Youth, Sports & Development: in the process of presenting the 'Vanuatu Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES)' to the government to develop a youth network which will coordinate all youth groups and help them implement projects (<i>national level</i>)</p> <p>Youth Challenge Vanuatu: Leadership Programme to teach lifeskills (national); youth drop-in centre (<i>urban areas</i>)</p> <p>Wan Smol Bag: rubbish collection activities, disco nights, sports activities to cater for children and youth's interests; youth drop-in centre (a safe place for children to spend time when they have dropped out of school); disco nights (still in trial period)- (<i>urban areas</i>)</p>
Emergency Preparedness & Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbated vulnerability to natural disasters (cyclones, tsunamis and seismic activity) and exposure to environmental degradation 	<p>UNICEF child Protection Unit: works with NDMO on safety card project; police awareness raising on issues related to DRM (<i>national level</i>)</p> <p>UNICEF Education Unit: works with the Government on</p>

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Vanuatu?
		<p>education in emergency early childhood education materials for use in post disaster settings (<i>national level</i>)</p> <p>Wan Smol Bag: Environmental awareness raising; rubbish collection activities; 'clean up your community day' (<i>in Port Vila</i>)</p>

Annex 5: Solomon Islands Summary Table

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Solomon Islands
Child Survival & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in living conditions (overcrowded housing, lack of sanitation and other basic services and infrastructure) • High incidence of non communicable and communicable diseases (malaria, respiratory problems and dengue a particular concern) • Malnutrition • Exposure to substance abuse and risk taking behavior • Child mortality rates remain high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Child Survival & Development Unit: runs 5 Programmes, namely the Extended Immunization Programme (supporting the Ministry of Health at a national level; the WASH programme (in partnership with the Ministry of Health and World Vision in the rural areas), the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses programme (supporting the Ministry of Health in rural areas), the Safe Motherhood and neonatal care Programme (supporting the Ministry of Health in developing ‘baby friendly hospitals’, currently only in rural areas), and the nutrition programme (in rural areas). • World Vision: workshops on health & diet (urban areas) • APHEDA: works in the peri-urban settlements of Honiara to promote livelihoods (through workshops with a view of improving standards of living) and healthy living (through awareness raising) • Save the Children: promotion of healthy lifestyles through awareness raising in urban areas

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Solomon Islands
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break down of families and social support networks • Exacerbated incidence of domestic violence against women and children (linked to the increase in kwaso consumption) • Evidence of child sexual abuse and child commercial sexual exploitation (particular concerns regarding the logging industry and the reopening of the mines) • Increasing evidence of street children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Child Protection Unit: has set up TAKSEC (through the NACC) – and conducted awareness raising on issues of child protection; sexual abuse and exploitation of children; has developed a communication for social change plan in partnership with social welfare • Department of Women’s, Youth and Children’s Affairs: national action plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Development (yet to be implemented) which specifically looks into abuse and violence towards girls and women; advocacy • Save The Children: Youth Outreach Project: Protection from harm (includes home violence, sexual abuse & exploitation) • The Church of Melanesia: Refuge for women and children victim of abuse and violence (counseling, shelter, healthcare, advocacy, life skill workshops)(Honiara) • Family Support Centre: provide support, assistance and counseling for victim of abuse and violence (Honiara) • World Vision S.I: Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse Project’- awareness raising, workshops on gender roles, parenting (urban areas) • SPC: supporting the ‘Safe Net’ initiative which the purpose of creating a network if service providers for children and women victim of violence and abuse

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Solomon Islands
		(partnership with Honiara City Council, Family Support Centre, Police, health providers and the Government); has conducted research into Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety
Basic Education & Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low access to school (lack of infrastructure and cost) • High rate of school drop-outs • Lack of vocational and technical training • High rate of illiteracy • High unemployment rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Education Unit: works with the Government on education in emergency early childhood education materials for use in post disaster settings (<i>national level</i>) • Ministry of Education: promoting ECE, awareness raising (rural areas); Teacher training in ECE • World Vision: livelihood & income generation programme (urban areas) • Early Childhood Education Consultancy: set up of one free preschool facility in Honiara (working with the community); awareness raising on ECE, community participation in education; parenting; literacy classes for young children (Honiara) • World Bank: ‘Rapid Employment Programme’ which is set to start this year and will provide employment and training opportunities to youth in Honiara (no minimum qualifications required to gain employment under this scheme) • APHEDA: working on 2 projects in 2 communities around Honiara teaching financial literacy and livelihood skills; also conducting workshops in sewing, flower arranging, management of nurseries and composting.

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Solomon Islands
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Environment Commission: involving youth around environmental projects, landscaping, town beautification projects etc. (Honiara)
HIV/AIDs and sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low incidence of HIV/AIDS but high exposure to risks • Loosening of social control and taboos around sexuality • High prevalence of STDs • Rise in child prostitution and exposure to demand for sex from transient workers (logging camps; fisheries; and potentially the mines) • High rates of teenage pregnancies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children: Youth Outreach Project: HIV/AIDS & STDs awareness raising • World Vision: HIV and AIDs Prevention through awareness raising campaign targeting high risk groups and youth (urban areas), project funded by the Pacific Regional HIV Project (PRHP) and World Vision Australia).
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginalization of youth • Redefining childhood and youth in the urban context (loss of traditional culture and adoption of urban identity) • Lack of access to opportunities (educational and recreational) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World vision & Save the Children (independently from one another): pilot Youth Projects offering training in sports (indoors and outdoors) within peri-urban communities of Honiara • Global Youth Nexus (GLYN): urban community work engaging with young people. Also organizes events centering on youth and enabling their voices to be heard. • Ministry of Women, Youth & Children’s Affairs: supports and funds small projects and events for children and youth; facilitates the youth congress structure giving

Areas of Focus	Impacts of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban Solomon Islands
		a voice to youth councils to influence policy
Emergency Preparedness & Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbated vulnerability to natural disasters (cyclones, tsunamis and seismic activity) and exposure to environmental degradation • Exposure to lawlessness in the peri-urban settlements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ex child soldiers out of control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAMSI: supporting government with keeping peace and stability in Solomon islands (presence concentrated in Honiara) • Ministry of Peace, Unity & Reconciliation: engaged in peace advocacy work, with a focus on children and youth • Save the Children: Piloting crime prevention units within selected peri-urban communities as part of their children in conflict with the law programme

Annex 6: Kiribati Summary Table

Areas of Focus	Impact of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban South Tarawa
Child Survival & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in living conditions (alarmingly overcrowded housing, lack of sanitation and other basic services and infrastructure) • High incidence of communicable diseases (respiratory infections a particular concern) • Lack of sanitation and access to clean water is a major issue (high incidence of diarrhea cases necessitating hospitalization) • High incidence of non-communicable diseases affecting children and youth (hypertension, diabetes and heart problems) • Malnutrition • Exposure to substance abuse and risk taking behavior • Child mortality rates remain high • Lack of recreational space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF: UNICEF works through the MoH to support the immunization programme; also supports government through the WASH initiative (aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene, as well as the disposal of waste) • Foundation for the South Pacific in Kiribati (FSPK): community based environmental projects addressing growing food, household waste recycling, the promotion of compost toilets, the protection and sustainable management of the coral reef, Conservation and biodiversity initiatives; awareness raising on non communicable diseases and promotion of lifeskills. • Taiwanese Technical Mission: awareness raising on nutritional issues; vegetable gardening project to raise capacity among the community • NZAid: NZAid are funding a relocation project called the Sustainable Town Programme, to alleviate overcrowding of Betio and Bairiki Ocean side and relocate low to middle income earners from that part of the island to the north east side of Tarawa; as part of the project, will be developing infrastructure and addressing sanitation issues through extractor pumps to dispose of waste into the deep ocean

Areas of Focus	Impact of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban South Tarawa
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break down of families and social support networks • General neglect of children • Exacerbated domestic violence towards women and children exacerbated • Evidence of child sexual abuse and child commercial sexual exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Child Protection Unit: advocacy and support to the KNACC to see to the implementation of CRC principles; advocacy on CRC and women’s rights through the MISA • Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs: Awareness raising on CRC issues (partnering with UNICEF)
Basic Education & Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to schooling • Lack of appropriate sanitary conditions in schools • Suggestion of high school dropouts in the secondary level of education (no data) • Lack of relevance of curriculum • High youth unemployment (¾ of school leavers do not find employment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Education Unit: support to the MoE for the establishment of child friendly schools on south Tarawa; advocacy for inclusive education; support to the MoE and KECEA on ECE curriculum development, as well as standards and regulations development for ECE. • Kiribati Early Childhood Education Association: promoting the concept of ECE; developing ECE materials and curriculum, developing standards and regulations for ECE teaching (partners with UNICEF)
HIV/AIDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low incidence of HIV/AID, but high exposure to risks • Loosening of social control and taboos around sexuality • High prevalence of STDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health: awareness raising on safe sex practices • KANGO: working with young prostitutes to develop peer education and awareness raising on safe sex practices

Areas of Focus	Impact of urbanization on children (Key Points)	Stakeholders addressing these issues in urban South Tarawa
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested high rates of teenage pregnancies (though hidden as culturally taboo) • Rise in child prostitution and exposure to demand for sex from transient workers (fisheries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiribati Family Health Association: free sexual health clinic , counseling and testing; developing a friendly youth corner; awareness raising through youth volunteers (through workshops, drama)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of alienation & disillusionment • Redefining childhood and youth in the urban context (loss of traditional culture and adoption of urban identity) • Lack of access to opportunities (educational and recreational) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Internal & Social Affairs: have established a youth panel (supported by UNICEF) to give youth a voice
Emergency Preparedness & Response (cross cutting area of focus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbated vulnerability to climate change (sea level rise in particular) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSPK: Environmental initiatives to combat climate change and the rise of sea level; VCA to identify risks to posed by natural disasters