



Bridging the Gap Project Evaluation



Compiled By Ms. Senoveva Mauli
HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

1.0 Executive Summary

This Evaluation Report provides a detailed and comprehensive analysis on the implementation of the Bridging the Gap Project (BtGP) for the last two financial years, 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 21. A mixed methodology approach was used, and sources of information and data collection used were the key informant interviews (KII), the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and an Evaluation Workshop. One field trip was carried out at Izi Community, North West Guadalcanal, an Evaluation Workshop was conducted for representatives of two communities at the Central Island Province and FGDs were carried out for community representatives of Ward 17, 18 & 19 of the East Makira Constituency.

This Evaluation was assessed during the OECD Evaluation Criteria and Evaluation Outcomes were presented under the five sub headings; Relevance, Impact, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Sustainability, and results are as follows;

Relevance

In general, BtGP has addressed specific problems and needs of the project communities and villages, and it was evident that the BtG Project is relevant for all project beneficiaries. Though locations, governance structures and access to social services vary for the different communities that participated in the BtGP implementation, the trainings provided and livelihood support provided to the beneficiaries were relevant. The highlights under the criteria relevancy show that for coordination capacity with only one position utilized during project implementation, tasks were allocated to that one officer and its was overwhelming and more so during project implementation M&E could not be completed.

Impact

BtGP has produced a number of positive and negative primary and secondary long terms at the three project locations. Community capacity at all three project locations have improved having participated in a series of village-led trainings delivered by SIDT. Ghairavu community, Izi community and villages of Ward 17, 18 & 19 at East Makira have received trainings ranging from effective meetings, governance and community saving and lending. Saving Groups were established at all three project locations.

Apart from SIDT, there was no other Organization that assisted SIDT in delivering the trainings. The lack of relevant stakeholders shows to have limited opportunities for the three project sites.

Sustainability

Common across all project sites was the establishment of the Saving Groups, and the rating of all activities are *partially sustainable*. Since participating at the SIDT led trainings, communities have at least one Saving Group being established and women are leading these initiatives. The challenges of COVID 19 has slowed the running of livelihood activities that generate the income to save, but almost all communities are adamant that they should have their activities up and running with the reserve they have.

Effectiveness

BtGP has *partially achieved* its purpose which was to strengthen the linkages between the rural villages and the Provincial Government. In terms of program purpose, BtGP has provided capacity building through the village led training, and findings of this Evaluation show that the project has resulted in significant changes with respect to increasing community's capacity and the implementation of sustainable livelihoods. Participants at the Evaluation Workshop confirmed that they have been changes with respect to strengthening the capacities of the communities. As per project implementation more than 50% of the participants stated that they are *satisfied* with the project.

Efficiency – Sound Management and Value of Money

Having conducted a comprehensive analysis of the logical framework that comprises of Outcomes and outputs, the project performance was deemed as *satisfied*. Of the five outcome areas, outcomes 1, 3, 4 & 5 were delivered and completed. Outcome 2 showed to deliver low outputs and Outcome 5 was carried out to a satisfying extent.

In summary, BtGP has made reference to addressing the challenges of local communities but the goal that could not achieved was linking the communities to the respective Provincial Government offices. The inclusive participation of all gender groups were achieved by BtGP in the last two years and the overall rating of the project is *satisfactory*. Recommendations are to as follows; i) there is need for adequate design considerations and that all important stakeholders are involved at all stages of the project, so M&E can be conducted more effectively.

Bridging the Gap may still be an ambitious goal, but should all position named in the project is fully utilized there is a lot of guarantee that the project will be delivered fully and the proposed linkage is achieved. Future project opportunities should continue the efforts of the Saving Groups, and more on institutional capacity needs should be addressed prior to any future projects coming through SIDT. SIDT is a long standing NGO, and has a broad network across the country. There is opportunity to utilize these links and an opportunity to continue this next phase with realistic and tangible activities for the near future.