

GEF-8 WORLD BANK PCN STAGE/GEF DATA SHEET

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General Project Information

Project Title

Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement Project II (CAUSE II)

Region

Asia

GEF Project ID

12055

Country(ies)

Solomon Islands

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

World Bank

GEF Agency ID

P181295

Executing Partner

Honiara City Council

Ministry of Infrastructure Development

Executing Partner Type

Government

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Climate Change

Submission Date

9/12/2025

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Gender Equality, Capacity Development, Gender results areas, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Small Island Developing States, Disaster risk management, Climate resilience

Type of Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

9,174,312.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

825,688.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

10,000,000.00

Total Co-financing

30,000,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

0.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

0.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

0.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

10,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Project Summary:

Climate-induced intense rainfall events have led to catastrophic flooding in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This is evidenced in the 2014 flooding that affected up to 80 percent of the city population. Rapid urban population growth in Solomon Islands limits the adaptive capacity of the local population, increasing the challenges of providing essential services while mitigating vulnerability to environmental hazards and climate change. Constraints to adaptation include issues with transport infrastructure, drainage, and waste management, which limit economic development and social well-being. The lack of capacity for comprehensive urban resiliency planning and coordination leads to gaps in service coverage and resourcing, leaving some areas and vulnerable groups under-served or excluded. In response to this situation, the objective of CAUSE II is to improve access to climate resilient infrastructure and services, enhance economic inclusion, and strengthen the capacity of public authorities to deliver services in targeted urban centers. This will be achieved through a combination of scaling up the Project’s successful models for climate-resilient urban services, community-based interventions, and training to include integrated approaches to flood mitigation and nature-based solutions.

The Project is a successor operation to the Rapid Employment Project (REP; 2014 - 2018) and Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement Project (CAUSE; 2018 -) implemented by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG). CAUSE II is an expansion of CAUSE I, which has proven successful and will be implemented in the fastest growing urban centers in the country – Honiara City, urban and peri-urban areas of Guadalcanal, Malaita (Auki), and Western (Gizo, Noro, and Munda). CAUSE II will consist of five Components: Component 1 - Resilient Township Development enhances economic productivity and growth by improving access to basic services and climate-resilient infrastructure. Component 2 - Safe and Inclusive Communities improves safety and resilience in informal settlements through infrastructure access, enhanced waste collection, and local capacity building. Component 3 - Enhanced Urban Productivity provides training, short-term employment, work readiness and wellbeing support services for Project participants. Component 4 - Land Administration, Urban Management and Maintenance supports capacity building for managing urbanization, informality and sustainable urban services. Component 5 - Project Management covers Project management support, safeguards oversight, M&E, audits, communications, technical assistance, training, financial management, procurement, and operating costs. CAUSE II will be implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development (MID) and Honiara City Council (HCC).

Detailed Project Context and Description:

Country Context

1. **Solomon Islands is a small, archipelagic country in the Pacific Ocean facing complex development challenges.** The country spans 1.34 million square kilometers across 992 islands with fewer than 1 million people. Classified as a least developed country, Solomon Islands ranks 155th out of 191

countries on the Human Development Index.^{[1]¹} With a GDP per capita of US\$2,205 in 2022, the country remains below most structural peers and the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) average.^{[2]²} The domestic economy is small, historically volatile, and constrained by distance to export markets, with little structural change since independence in 1978—remaining dominated by plantation agriculture, logging, and fisheries.

2. **Geographic fragmentation creates fundamental service delivery and economic integration challenges.** Around 74 percent of the population lives in rural areas, with an estimated 50 percent under the age of 20. The small and dispersed nature of the population makes it difficult and expensive to provide services. There are only five kilometers of roads per 100 square kilometers, the lowest ratio in the Pacific. Less than 20 percent of the population has access to electricity. Limited state reach, economic opportunities, and uneven development contribute to fragility.

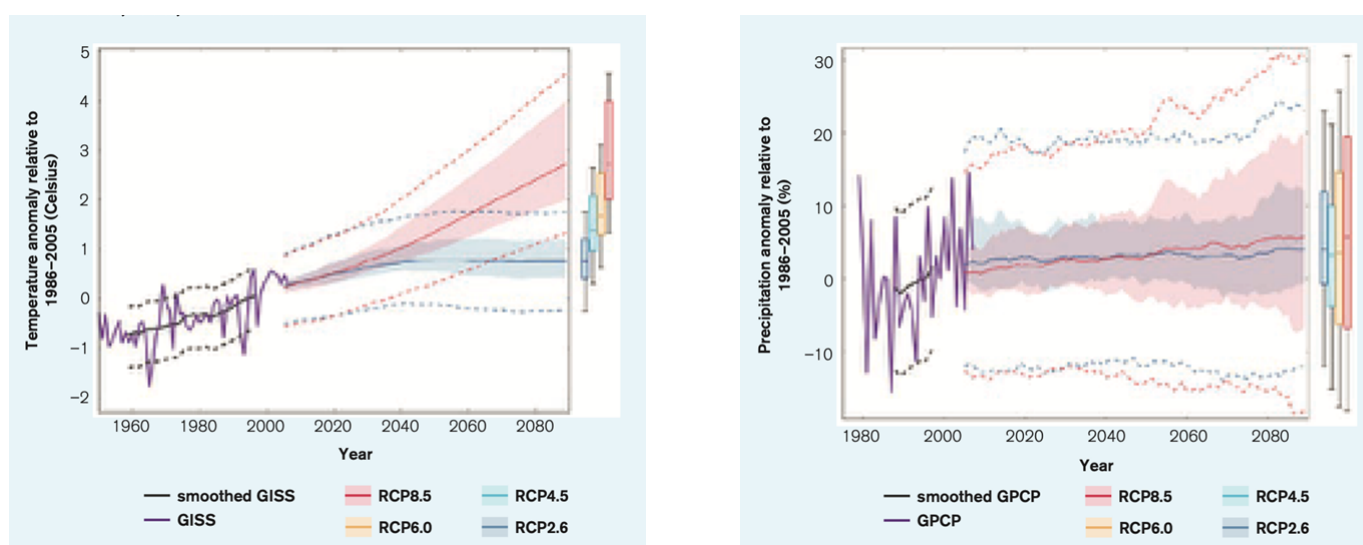
3. **Solomon Islands has made progress in restoring stability following the ‘Tensions’ Conflict (1998-2003) but still faces institutional and social fragility.** This period saw violent conflict between militant groups from Guadalcanal and Malaita. The root causes of the conflict – land disputes triggered by inter-island migration; friction between traditional and non-traditional authority; and access to resources, and economic opportunities – persist today. More recently, between 2020 and 2022 the COVID-19 pandemic, renewed civil unrest and the global economic recession along with supply chain disruptions led to an 8.3 percent economic contraction. In November 2021, widespread rioting and looting in Honiara, driven by political demonstrations, local grievances, ethnic tensions, and limited economic opportunities, caused significant violence and economic disruption. The underlying conflict drivers including contested state legitimacy, poorly managed urbanization, socio-economic disparities, high youth unemployment, and ethnic divisions in informal settlements remain potential triggers for future unrest.^{[3]³}

4. **The country is highly vulnerable to multiple natural hazards, with ‘very high’ risk and exposure to multiple hazards according to the 2024 World Risk Report.**^{[4]⁴} Solomon Islands ranks among the top 20 countries for economic exposure to multiple hazards.⁴ Over the past 30 years, six major disasters, two earthquakes (one with tsunami) and four tropical cyclones occurred, which directly impacted over 100,000 people with more than 100 deaths. It has a 50 percent chance of experiencing an event causing a loss exceeding US\$240 million and casualties larger than 1,650 people, and a 10 percent chance of incurring a catastrophic event causing a loss exceeding US\$527 million and casualties larger than 4,600 people.^{[5]⁵}

5. **Solomon Islands is already affected by climate change, and the compounding impacts with existing hydrometeorological and geophysical hazards are likely to have significant economic consequences.** Solomon Islands has a tropical climate with relatively consistent year-round temperatures and average monthly rainfall. The country regularly experiences intensive periods of short-term rainfall, with the record precipitation over a 12-hour period seen in 2009, totaling 281 mm.² The Solomon Islands are warming and are expected to continue to experience warming trends throughout the 21st century, with annual surface temperature for the western, central, and eastern regions having increased during the last 30 to 50 years. Climate projections indicate temperature increases up to 1.0°C by 2050 under moderate emissions scenarios, and up to 1.4°C by 2090 (Figure 1, left).^{[6]⁶} Changes in precipitation are highly uncertain due in part to

complexity in simulating tropical rainfall, influences of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) which affects year-to-year rainfall variability within the region. Median estimates of climate models suggest that annual precipitation may increase slightly in the Solomon Islands (Figure 1, right), and a warmer atmosphere is likely to lead to an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events. Sea levels have risen 8-10 millimeters annually between 1993-2010 - nearly triple the global average of 3.4 millimeters per year.^[7] As approximately 60 percent of the population lives within 1 km of the sea, Solomon Islanders are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise. Modelling suggests natural hazards and climate change will cause average direct losses of US\$20.5 million annually (3 percent of GDP) over the next 50 years.^[8]

Figure 1: Historical and simulated surface air temperature (left) and average annual rainfall (right)



Source: World Bank (2021). *Climate Risk Country Profile: Solomon Islands*.

6. **Women face increased risk and are disproportionately negatively affected by the impacts of climate change and disasters.** Underlying gender inequalities are a determinant of vulnerability and limit adaptive capacity to disasters and climate change, making disaster and climate impacts not gender-neutral. Existing literature reports that higher disaster mortality rates for Pacific women, with anecdotal evidence from the 2014 Honiara flash floods reporting that 90 percent of those who died were women and children.^[9] Childcare responsibilities and limited swimming abilities reduce women's escape opportunities during tsunamis and floods.^[10] Women's greater reliance on natural resources and subsistence farming means their livelihoods are severely impacted by climate change and disasters, and women-led businesses such as market stalls in flood-prone areas suffer merchandise damage and revenue losses, affecting their ability to support critical household expenditures including food, water, and healthcare. Disasters that impact access to clean water, fuel, and food disproportionately burden women and girls who are typically responsible for these activities.^[11] Climate change and disasters also increase gender-based violence (GBV),^[12] triggered by

displacement and stress from income loss and disrupted social support mechanisms. Finally, women's leadership and participation is limited in the decision-making process of urban planning and flood risk management.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Urbanization challenges

7. **Solomon Islands is experiencing rapid spatial transformation, with the capital city Honiara emerging as the dominant growth center absorbing most national population increases.** National urban population growth averaged 5.9 percent annually from 2009-2019, far exceeding Pacific Island Countries (1.7 percent) and lower-income country averages (2.7 percent).^{[13]¹³} Honiara's population grew at 7.2 percent annually, more than doubling from 50,000 to 130,176 between 2000-2019, while adjacent peri-urban areas (Tandai and Malango) averaged 8.5 percent growth. The capital now accommodates 187,274 people (26 percent of national population) and is projected to exceed one-third of total population by 2030. Other urban centers such as Auki and Gizo, Noro, and Munda are also growing rapidly, driven by natural population increases and rural to urban migration.

8. **Between 2018 and 2024, the World Bank-financed Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement Project (CAUSE I, P161320), implemented by the Solomon Islands' Honiara City Council (HCC) and Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) in partnership with Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Provincial Governments (PGs), focused on improving basic infrastructure and services for vulnerable communities in urban and peri-urban areas.**^{[14]¹⁴} Building on the strong performance of its predecessor, the Rapid Employment Project (REP, P114987), CAUSE I demonstrated positive impacts for beneficiaries, particularly women and youth, reaching 18,100 households or 99,550 persons. The 213 infrastructure investments enhanced pedestrian safety, access to basic services, and economic activity, improved over 300 road sections and restored year-round connectivity for hard-to-reach urban communities. The project also trained and engaged more than 8,400 unemployed and out-of-school residents, providing immediate income opportunities and serving as a catalyst for sustained employment and further education and training.

9. **Additional interventions are urgently needed to respond to rapid urbanization in Honiara and key provincial towns, which exacerbates service delivery challenges, affects livelihoods, and increases vulnerability to climate and disaster risks.** Unplanned expansion of informal settlements in high-risk areas prone to flooding and landslides has led to costly, low-density sprawl. Key issues include inadequate urban infrastructure (transport, sanitation), overcrowding, and growing pressure on services (waste collection, water, and public facilities), contributing to poor sanitation and disconnection from jobs and markets. The 2020–2035 National Urban Policy (NUP) highlights urgent infrastructure needs and medium-term priorities to guide urbanization, unlock economic opportunities, and reduce climate risks. Rising air and sea-surface temperatures, coupled with more extreme heat days, are projected to intensify both the wet and dry seasons in Honiara. This is largely attributed to the strengthening of the South Pacific Convergence Zone and the western monsoon, leading to more frequent and intense rainfall events.^{[15]¹⁵} These shifts are expected to increase both the frequency and severity of stormwater and coastal flooding, particularly in vulnerable urban catchments.

10. **National and sub-national authorities need to strengthen urban management capacity.** Key tools are needed for urban planning and enforcement to curb the largely unplanned and informal urban

expansion over the past three decades. Existing plans are outdated, not risk-informed, and enforcement capacity is weak. Land administration systems require updating and digitizing, including the land registry, cadastral maps, and property registration. Local governments also face a 'service delivery trap' where limited resources constrain service delivery, and poor service coverage hampers revenue collection. Land-based revenue has significant potential and underscores the need to modernize land administration and revenue systems for broader coverage, efficiency, transparency, and improved public engagement. Institutions lack basic data needed for effective planning and urban management systems, including topographical models, asset registries, and hazard maps. The three-tier government structure creates fragmented administrative arrangements, particularly around Honiara, leading to mandatory and boundary confusion and service delivery discrepancies. Capacity constraints are endemic, with insufficient data, equipment and skilled personnel across all urban management levels. **A strengthened urban management will be required to overcome these challenges, including: (i) cross-agency coordination mechanisms for risk-informed planning and enforcement; (ii) foundational digital and integrated land information systems to enable evidence-based, risk-informed decision-making; and (iii) capacity building programs within key government agencies and communities that build skills in geospatial analysis, technical aspects including drainage and NbS, and multi-hazard planning.**

Urban risks and resilience

11. **The effects of compounding multi-hazard risks are particularly acute in and around Honiara, where challenging topography and urban expansion into marginal lands has increased exposure of communities and critical infrastructure.** The city experiences extreme vulnerability to flooding, particularly flash floods and floodplain inundation along several rivers that originate in inland hilly areas and pass through the Honiara Urban Area,^{[16]¹⁶} with settlements in the Lungga river delta facing the most significant risks (Figure 4). An estimated 19 percent of the built-up area in the city is exposed to flooding, resulting in average annual damage and loss across the Honiara Urban Area of an estimated US\$11 million – which is expected to increase under climate change scenarios. An estimated 63 percent of Honiara's building stock is vulnerable to wind damage from tropical cyclones and the city sits in a seismically active region, having experienced a magnitude 7.3 earthquake as recently as 2022. Sea level rise combined with storm surges and human-driven changes along the coastline have accelerated erosion in low-lying, densely populated areas, directly affecting livelihoods and critical infrastructure.^{[17]¹⁷} The city's low elevation and proximity to the ocean means that even a modest rise in sea level can lead to significant flooding, especially during high tides and storm surges. Several public facilities are located in low-lying areas along the coastal Kukum Highway, with many hospitals, schools and police stations situated between 0-5 meters above sea level, with some also adjacent to flood-prone rivers.^{[18]¹⁸} Heavy rainfall disrupts basic services, causing system outages at one of the two main water supply sources on 51 occasions in 2023 alone.^{[19]¹⁹}

12. **Rapid, unplanned urbanization is driving environmental degradation that amplifies disaster risk and reduces livability in the Honiara Urban Area.** With limited enforcement of development controls and a lack of serviced land, Honiara's urban expansion is occurring in hazard-prone areas including steep slopes, riverbanks, and low-lying coastal floodplains. Honiara is expanding into customary lands, particularly in coastal plains east of the Honiara City Council boundary and in ecologically sensitive upland forests. These development patterns are reflected in widespread deforestation across the Greater Honiara Area and upland watersheds, notably in the Lungga River Delta, White River catchment, and other upland perpetual estates. River corridors and wetlands are highly degraded, with unenforced encroachment, widespread solid waste

dumping, and lack of maintenance resulting in high sedimentation – combined with bottlenecks at river outlets to the sea, Honiara’s waterways are having to accommodate increased runoff from urbanization and degradation while hydraulic capacity is reduced by clogged channels and constricted outlets. Honiara’s urban core has minimal and diminishing green space, rising air pollution issues due to dust and particulate matter, and increasing hard surfaces which contribute both to flooding and urban heat, which are expected to worsen with climate change projections. During construction, tree protection zone and green infrastructure techniques such as bio-retention systems are not applied.

13. Flooding, particularly along urban river corridors, is a persistent issue with high social and economic impacts that is expected to grow in severity with urbanization trends and climate change projections if no action is taken. In April 2014, tropical cyclone Ita resulted in severe flash floods that caused 22 fatalities, displaced 10,000 people, and generated economic losses of US\$108 million (equivalent to 9.2 percent of national GDP).^{[20]²⁰} The devastating flood highlighted infrastructure vulnerability, with extensive damage from inadequate drainage systems and informal settlements in flood-prone areas. Recurring seasonal floods, including events in December 2024 and May 2025, regularly cause traffic paralysis, disrupt businesses and public services, and damage homes. Flood risk modeling carried out after the 2014 floods estimated that even a 5-year return period event would impact 37 percent of Honiara’s structures (8,720 buildings), rising to 47 percent in a 100-year event.^{[21]²¹} With an average household size of 6.1,^{[22]²²} this translates into a potential risk of widespread displacement and system-wide disruption. Honiara’s rivers are the main source of flooding and multi-hazard risk, creating high-risk hotspots along the coast near river outlets where infrastructure, services and population are concentrated (Figure 4). The White River and Vura River form two such hotspots of flooding that directly impacts 25 percent of Honiara’s population and include key economic hubs and cross the Kukum Highway, Honiara’s primary arterial coastal road. The Kukum Highway connects Honiara’s major socio-economic assets including government facilities, schools, and transportation hubs as well as linking Honiara to the rest of Guadalcanal island. Flooding at river crossings disrupts this critical transport link, causing city-wide traffic congestion and impeding access to essential services.

14. Comprehensive, integrated, area-based approaches are urgently needed for urban flooding and multi-hazard risk management. To date the response to flood events and disasters in Honiara remains ad hoc and reactive, and there is no strategic plan to guide drainage and stormwater management. Drainage tends to be constructed on a project-by-project basis following road infrastructure, resulting in a fragmented network and relying on concrete channelization. The piloting of nature-based solutions (NbS) in Honiara has been limited to small community-based projects, which have demonstrated some promising results for flood mitigation.^{[23]²³} Despite worldwide evidence in support of NbS as part of integrated flood risk management, the use of NbS in flood-prone areas in Honiara is not yet mainstreamed in stormwater management planning or used at scale.^{[24]²⁴} Flood resilience measures and risk-informed planning are not systematically integrated into Honiara’s land use planning frameworks, building codes, and development controls, and foundational topographical data used for accurate flood modeling and planning is outdated and inaccessible across government agencies. Key findings from recent World Bank-financed studies have emphasized that need for integrated approaches are needed to overcome the current fragmentation, combining drainage infrastructure,

solid waste management, NbS, coastal zone management, and community engagement to address the systemic drivers of urban flood vulnerability.

15. **Since 2010, the World Bank has supported Solomon Islands through technical assistance to assess risks and recommend adaptation measures to improve urban resilience.** In addition to the small-scale investments under REP and CAUSE I, recent analytics have assessed the institutional, capacity, and investment needs to strengthen urban resilience and flood risk mitigation in the Honiara Urban Area: (i) the Honiara Flood Risk Management Study and Plan (2021) investigated flooding and assessed a range of measures to manage and reduce flood risks in wider Honiara,^{[25]²⁵} (ii) a Municipal Investments Options Study was carried out in 2024 as part of CAUSE II (or ‘Project’) preparation, and (iii) a follow-up assessment of multi-hazard risks for the Honiara Urban Area, prepared as an in-depth case study for a regional urban resilience report, and includes recommendations for urgent flood mitigation and disaster risk management measures.^{[26]²⁶}

Project Development Objective (PDO)

16. Consistent with the original Project, the Project Development Objective (PDO) for the Additional Financing is to improve access to climate resilient infrastructure and services, enhance economic inclusion, and strengthen the capacity of public authorities to deliver services in Targeted Urban Centers.

Key Results

17. The CAUSE II PDO-level core results indicators are:

- Number of residents in Project areas with increased access to climate resilient infrastructure and/or services, of which number of residents that benefit from transport infrastructure and services^{[27]²⁷} *(this indicator will report to the GEF Core Indicator 11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment and the LDCF Core Indicator 1. Total no. of direct beneficiaries);*
- Percentage increase in the number of beneficiaries that report being engaged in income generating activities after completing CAUSE II training and work placements (disaggregated by percent women and youth); and
- Improved land information and revenue collection systems deployed and operating.

18. Additional LDCF indicators that will be included as part of the Project’s Results Framework are:

- **LDCF Core Indicator 4:** Number of people trained or with awareness raised (sex disaggregated), aligned with interventions under Subcomponent 3b: Work Readiness and Skills Training and Component 4: Land Administration and Urban Management

- **LDCF Sub-Indicator 3.5:** Number of institutions with increased capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and report for climate adaptation - aligned with activities under Component 4: Land Administration and Urban Management

- Topographical data required for flood mapping updated and made available for planning, across implementing agencies. (Yes/No)

- Reduction in blockage of drainage channels due to poor waste management in target communities (periodic surveys, treatment areas compared with other communities in a control group)

- Revenue administration systems developed and piloted in HCC (Yes/No)

PROJECT CONCEPT AND DESCRIPTION

19. **The LDCF grant will be processed as Additional Financing to CAUSE II.** CAUSE II, the parent Project, is a US\$37.55 million operation financed through an IDA Credit (7641-SB for US\$13.2 million), IDA Grant (E375-SB for US\$7 million) and a Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands Umbrella Facility Grant (PPIUF Grant No. TF0C6126 for US\$17.35 million) provided by the Government of Australia. The Project was approved in October 2024 and became effective in November 2024. It will be implemented over a six-year period.

20. **CAUSE II consists of five components** – Components 1 and 2 will address the immediate urban infrastructure and service needs; Component 3 will provide the skills training and labor required for the delivery of Components 1 and 2; Component 4 will help to establish the foundations for sustainable urban management and service delivery; and Component 5 will provide the human resources and systems for project management. Annex 1 provides an overview of parent Project implementation progress per component since November 2024 effectiveness. Implementation progress and performance to date is rated *Satisfactory*.

21. **The parent Project is a scaling up of the successful CAUSE I and is implemented in the Solomon Islands' fastest growing urban centers– Honiara City, urban and peri-urban areas of Guadalcanal, Malaita (Auki), and Western (Gizo, Noro, and Munda).** The parent Project aims to reach over 118,000 individuals, almost 20,000 more than in CAUSE I. Collectively, these areas comprise 30 percent of the total Solomon Islands population and they share similar development challenges: a growing number of informal settlements particularly in climatic hazard-prone areas (e.g., flooding, landslides), inadequate infrastructure and services which face increasing pressure due to the primary and secondary impacts of climate change, and high unemployment rates. The scope for further geographic expansion will be considered at Mid-Term Review.

Rationale for Additional Financing and Approach

22. **The proposed LCDF Additional Financing will scale up and enhance CAUSE II activities to build adaptive capacity to flood and disaster risk in Honiara using an integrated approach at the catchment, community, and institutional levels.** The LDCF grant will both address immediate flood vulnerabilities and catalyze a fundamental transformation in how Solomon Islands approaches urban flood management—shifting from reactive, ad-hoc responses to proactive, evidence-based planning integrated across government agencies and planning levels. In the Honiara Urban Area, LDCF activities will strengthen the capacity of public authorities to manage multiple hazards and risks by implementing select high-impact infrastructure investments and nature-based solutions (NbS), community-based climate and flood risk mitigation, and improving data and digital infrastructure needed for evidence-based drainage and stormwater management. The Additional Financing will complement the immediate needs for integrated flood mitigation interventions while providing the foundational data, such as a high-resolution topographical model, and skills

required by Government stakeholders to engage in forward looking, evidence-based, and risk-sensitive urban development and flood risk management in the Honiara Urban Area and emerging urban centers.

23. **The LDCF activities will provide critical additionality by financing integrated climate adaptation interventions that would not be implemented under the CAUSE II project alone (Table 1).** While CAUSE II includes activities such as targeted drainage infrastructure and community-based waste removal activities that help to mitigate flooding, NbS and comprehensive area-based approaches to flood risk management were not possible under the parent Project given capacity and resource constraints. The LDCF financing will enable an integrated approach in flooding hotspots, namely the White River and Vura River-Kukum Highway corridors where recurrent flooding causes significant economic disruption (for area selection details, please see section C – Project Description and Component Changes). The proposed LDCF activities are fully aligned and complement the existing project components, implementation arrangements, and proven models for small-scale infrastructure, community-based works, and skills training. This framework will provide data foundations and capacities for spatially accurate land administration and risk-informed planning; training for communities and government officials needed to plan, implement, and maintain NbS and drainage investments; and investments that focus on comprehensive solutions for river corridors that will improve conveyance and reduce stormwater runoff from the downstream coastal areas to upstream hilly settlements. Importantly, the grant will promote a shift from the current reactive post-disaster response model to flooding to a proactive and preventive approach.

Table 1: Additionality of proposed LDCF-financed activities

	CAUSE II parent project activities	LDCF additionality to CAUSE II components
Component 1: Resilient Township Development	Improved access to basic services and climate-resilient economic infrastructure in Honiara City and selected townships, including roads, bridges, stormwater drainage, and public amenities.	Area-based approach to flood mitigation in two river corridors (White River and Vura River), including nature-based solutions
Component 2: Safe and Inclusive Communities	Community infrastructure improvements, including drainage, pedestrian walkways and lighting, and waste management services.	Piloting community-led NbS interventions along riparian areas of flood-prone rivers and scaling up waste management interventions to reduce waste in rivers and streams.
Component 3: Enhanced Urban Productivity	Skills training, support services and labor market insertion opportunities, including work placements in Component 2 community contracts	New module introduced in skills training program to train participants in NbS to build capacity for implementing NbS community contracts and maintenance; community capacity building program on flood and disaster preparedness and mitigation.
Component 4: Land Administration and Urban Management and Maintenance	Capacity, tools, policies, and resources for improved urban management focused on land administration, revenue mobilization systems and management of public assets.	Increased capacity for multi-hazard and flood mitigation planning, including updated topographical model, and capacity building program on risk-informed planning for key institutions.

24. **Additional Financing to CAUSE II through an LDCF grant offers the following benefits:** (i) enables the implementation of strategic innovative investments in high density priority locations to address recurring flood impacts in Honiara, with potential for scale-up; (ii) enhances the CAUSE II efforts to modernize land administration systems by combining digital land records with topographic data within one Integrated Land Information System that will facilitate both own source revenue and risk-informed planning objectives; (iii) leverages existing implementation arrangements to improve efficiency, reduce potential duplication, and reduce preparation and operating costs compared to a new Investment Project Financing operation; (iv) allows for an immediate start through retroactive financing and staffing from the parent

project. The additional financing also benefits from lessons learned from the implementation of the CAUSE I project, which demonstrated that localized, inclusive, and participatory approaches can be successful in delivering cost-effective infrastructure and services while also addressing the gender gap in training and employment. CAUSE I also showed that utilizing a combination of local contractors and community-based labor to build and maintain community infrastructure allowed for strategic localization, ensuring adaptability in implementation and agile responses to urgent demands and emergencies.

Project Description and Component Changes

25. The total project financing including the proposed LDCF grant is US\$46.725 million of which US\$13.20 million is IDA credit, US\$7.00 is IDA grant, US\$17.35 is Australian Government co-financing, and \$9.174 million is Additional Financing through the proposed LDGC GEF grant (Table 2).

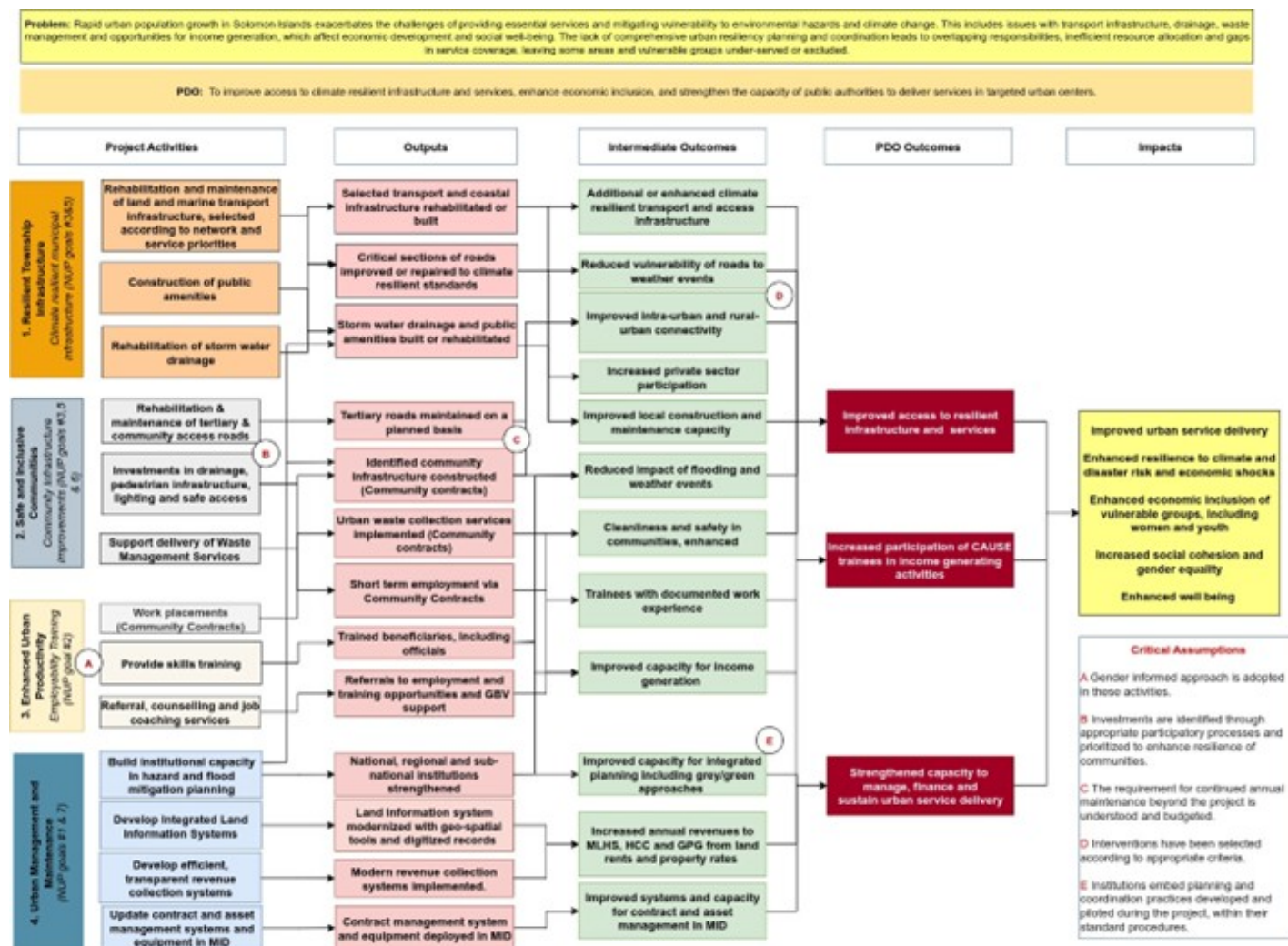
Table 2: Indicative Project Summary by Component and Source of Financing (US\$'000)

Comp	Description	IDA Credit	IDA Grant	PPIUF	LDCF Grant	Total
1	Resilient Township Development	13,200	1,053	1,518	5,633	21,390
2	Safe and Inclusive Communities	0	1,388	6,757	1,695	9,855
3	Enhanced Urban Productivity	0	182	2,270	100	2,552
3a	Literacy and Numeracy Skills Development	0	0	131	0	131
3b	Work Readiness and Skills Training	0	101	1,975	100	2176
3c	Support and Referral Services	0	80	164	0	244
4	Land Administration and Urban Management	0	1,854	3,287	1,141	6,271
4a	Land Administration and Urban Management	0	420	431	1,000	1851
4b	Revenue Mobilization	0	1,367	2,124	0	3491
4c	Urban Management and Maintenance	0	67	732	141	929
5	Project Management	0	2,524	3,517	605	6,655
	LDCF project management and M&E	0	0	0	430	178
	LDCF knowledge management	0	0	0	175	436
		13,200	7,001	17,350	9,174	46,725

26. **The Theory of Change (TOC) addresses the following problem:** rapid urban population growth in Solomon Islands exacerbates the challenges of providing essential services and mitigating vulnerability to environmental hazards and climate change (Figure 2). This includes issues with transport infrastructure, drainage, and waste management, which limit economic development and social well-being. The lack of capacity for comprehensive urban resiliency planning and coordination leads to gaps in service coverage and resourcing, leaving some areas and vulnerable groups under-served or excluded. Figure 2 illustrates how each of the Project components addresses these issues and highlights linkages between activities and the coordination between the various implementing agencies and entities this requires. In addition to MID and HCC, the implementing agencies, CAUSE II builds upon the approach successfully piloted in CAUSE I, which required the governments of participating provinces to enter into MOU's with HCC and MID to facilitate project implementation. Together with the Steering and Technical Committees, these arrangements have proved effective, robust and, importantly, provide a solid foundation for an integrated planning approach. Component 4 focuses specifically on establishing sustainable financing mechanisms by strengthening the systems for revenue generation in HCC. This will be critical to sustaining community level interventions including nature-based solutions. The established arrangements for coordinated planning and design leverage the technical capacity originally developed in HCC and MID by CAUSE I, and provide a pathway to apply the methods piloted in Honiara to other urban centers. The activities proposed under this additional financing are significant pilots of a design modality that takes a proactive approach to flood prevention by addressing certain issues such as keeping critical drainage channels clear of blockages, while

tools such as topographical modeling initiate a foundation for embedding these design approaches in the future.

Figure 2: Theory of Change



27. **Component 1: Resilient Township Development** will enhance economic productivity and growth, as well as climate and disaster resilience by improving access to basic services and climate-resilient economic infrastructure in Honiara City and selected townships, aligning with NUP Goals 3 and 5. Investments will focus on: (i) rehabilitating and fortifying selected municipal-level land and marine transport infrastructure, such as upgrading high-traffic secondary roads to climate-resilient standards to withstand extreme weather events and adverse effects of climate change, including flooding, heat waves, and heavy rainfall,^[28] and thereby strengthening links between urban and peri-urban areas; (ii) replacing small bridges and culverts and rehabilitating stormwater drainage to mitigate localized flooding caused by increasing rainfall intensities; and (iii) constructing and/or rehabilitating coastal protection to cope with increased risk of wave overtopping and inundation caused by climate change,^[29] and public facilities, markets, and green spaces to withstand earthquake and cyclone risks according to design parameters defined in the 2022 National Building Code.

28. Similar road rehabilitation and maintenance designs were implemented under CAUSE I. In CAUSE II, the scope of investments will be expanded to include construction or rehabilitation of a wider range of public facilities, markets and green spaces to enhance the livability and economic potential of the urban environment. These township infrastructure investments, identified through extensive stakeholder and community consultations and rigorous technical assessment,^{[30]³⁰} meet SIG's strategic goals and priorities including improved road network performance for safer, faster and more reliable urban connectivity; stimulating economic activity; providing climate co-benefits like flood mitigation and coastal protection; demonstrating cost-effectiveness through a financial analysis and cost-benefit assessment; and creating multiplier effects.^{[31]³¹} Approximately 87 percent of this component will support climate adaptation activities, including climate proofing of roads, fortifying coastline infrastructure, and rightsizing stormwater infrastructure.

29. Proposed investments will be capped at US\$2 million each to ensure the strategic localization of contracting resources, procured through Request for Quotations aligned with local market conditions. A design firm will carry out technical surveys, detailed costings, design and the preparation of bid documents and Environmental and Social (E&S) instruments. Implementation of the subprojects will be carried out by national contractors.

30. **LDCF activities under Component 1 – Scaling-up Resilient Urban Infrastructure:** The LDCF grant will specifically support area-based, integrated grey and green infrastructure solutions to mitigate flooding, protect communities, and safeguard critical infrastructure assets in two high-risk areas in the Honiara Urban Area along flood-prone rivers that were identified through a 2025 World Bank flood risk study.^{[32]³²} The study applied a composite hazard assessment that analyzed stormwater flooding, coastal inundation and erosion, sea level rise, and extreme wind exposure in relation to vulnerable building typologies (Annex 2, Figure 4). Five priority investment areas were identified in consultation with key stakeholders based on flooding severity and frequency, population and asset exposure, environmental and socio-economic risks (livelihood and business disruption). The study produced high-level conceptual designs of potential interventions per site.

31. Two high-risk flooding areas are proposed for LDCF financing based on their alignment with the CAUSE II operational and risk framework (see section F), complementarity with CAUSE II infrastructure investments for maximum impact, expected economic and social benefits, technical feasibility, and cost. An integrated approach of green and grey infrastructure will be applied in the two focus river corridors – the White River and Vura River – to improve outlets to the sea, enhance conveyance of river channels and stabilize banks, upgrade critical roads, and improve public amenities. Both rivers cross the important Kukum Highway and cause frequent flooding that contributes to economic and social disruption across Honiara. The flood mitigation and area development objectives for the two focus areas are as follows:

- The proposed **White River - Ngaliraugha Road subproject** (Annex 2, Figure 5) aims to significantly increase the stormwater drainage capacity and flood resilience through systematically addressing upstream and downstream issues within the most densely settled segments of the White River catchment. Key interventions will include widening and stabilizing the river outlet to the sea and creation of landscaped public space, as well as improving roadside drainage along Ngaliraugha Road, a key access route to the New White River Market (an important commercial hub for low-income communities and vendors' livelihoods) and upstream communities that is frequently flooded even in moderate rainfall events.

- The **Vura River-Kukum Highway subproject** (Annex 2, Figure 6) focuses on the lower reaches of the Vura River at the intersection of Vura Road and the Kukum Highway, a high-density, central, and critical node in Honiara's urban network. The area is a major commercial and residential hub, with nationally important assets including the Kukum Fish Market, government facilities, schools, and financial institutions. The junction is located in a low-lying area with inadequate drainage and a constricted outlet to the sea, which limits the Vura River's outflow capacity and contributes to backflow during intense rainfall events. This results in frequent inundation that impacts adjacent communities and the Kukum fish market, as well as major traffic paralysis along the Kukum highway and reduced access to critical public facilities.

32. The proposed LDCF-financed interventions would include (a) scoping, technical surveys, designs, preparation of procurement documents and E&S instruments for the two river corridors; (b) nature-based solutions including bioswales, functional open spaces, riverbank stabilization using native vegetation, and preserving and improving public open spaces for stormwater attenuation and recreation, (c) rehabilitation of stormwater drainage infrastructure, including upgrading undersized culverts and bridges, (d) road upgrading, including pedestrian walkways and street lighting, (d) structural and non-structural measures along the two rivers and the coastline.

33. **Component 2: Safe and Inclusive Communities** will enhance the safety and resilience of residents in informal, densely populated settlements by improving access to community infrastructure and waste collection services, and by building local capacity for essential infrastructure maintenance. CAUSE II will meet the continued demand for basic infrastructure that ensures safe passage and asset protection during natural hazards like tsunamis and floods.^{[33]³³} Aligned with NUP Goals 3, 5, and 6, Component 2 will focus on: (i) rehabilitating and maintaining last-mile roads for year-round accessibility, (ii) constructing pedestrian infrastructure for safe access and emergency routes, (iii) improving drainage systems to handle increased rainfall, (iv) providing waste management services to reduce localized flooding, and (v) providing public amenities and light emitting diodes (LED) street lighting to improve community safety and security. Climate-resilient standards will guide planning, design, and maintenance.^{[34]³⁴} For example, no new facilities will be erected in floodplains or highly exposed areas, all road upgrades will include installation of open side drainage to manage water runoff and pedestrian footpaths/stairs will be built with concrete to enhance durability. Community contracts will prioritize vulnerable groups, and community engagement will be central to assessing needs and implementing investments.

34. **LDCF activities under Component 2 – Community-based Flood Mitigation:** The LDCF grant will expand the scope of the successful community-based labor modality and complement the flood mitigation measures under Component 1. It will scale-up the community waste management activities along rivers and streams, improving efficiency with additional waste collection equipment to trap floating wastes and facilitate its collection and disposal, and pair them with community-led nature-based solutions, including planting native vegetation to stabilize riverbanks, to reduce erosion and improve stormwater infiltration. New activities will include (a) piloting NbS drainage enhancements such as stream cleaning and stormwater management, (b) afforestation and riparian buffer zones with vegetated strips along rivers or creeks to serve as natural protective barriers to help reduce surface runoff, filter out pollutants before they reach waterways, and stabilize stream banks to prevent scouring and erosion,^{[35]³⁵} (c) waste sorting micro-stations will be installed in community hubs such as markets, schools, and flooding hotspots to promote upstream waste reduction, and (d) mechanized transfer of waste from river and streams to HCC waste collection points where accessible.

Under Component 2, the proposed LDCF grant will finance waste collection and afforestation materials, tools, community contracting and trainings for ongoing community maintenance.

35. **Component 3: Enhanced Urban Productivity** will provide skills training, support services and labor market insertion opportunities. It will improve and extend the quality of training supported under CAUSE I and provide work readiness training, short-term employment in Components 1 and 2, and wellbeing support services to unemployed and out-of-school urban residents. This Component supports NUP Goal 2 and will be implemented by HCC in partnership with the PGs. The scope of activities consists of the following three sub-components:

36. Sub-Component 3A: Literacy and Numeracy Skills Development aims to enhance basic literacy and numeracy competencies among eligible Project participants, facilitating access to work readiness training and placements. Literacy and numeracy deficits pose significant barriers to identifying and pursuing income-generating opportunities, particularly among women and those with learning disabilities.^{[36]³⁶} Findings from CAUSE I indicate the training improved the confidence, readiness and marketability for participants with limited or no primary education.^{[37]³⁷} In CAUSE II, basic competency training and certification in reading, writing and numeracy skills will be provided to participants by a qualified training provider prior to joining the work readiness training. The training will be provided to 705 participants.

37. Sub-Component 3B: Work Readiness and Skills Training will enhance basic life and job skills, preparing participants for work placements within Components 1 and 2 of the Project and other employment opportunities. Two types of trainings will be offered:

- i. Work Readiness Training (“Redi4Waka”), As a pre-requisite for work placements, the seven-day work readiness training aims to train 4,700 participants. This sub-component will refine the Infrastructure and Service Delivery Training (ISDT) curriculum from CAUSE I^{[38]³⁸} and introduce new learning topics based on participant feedback. The private sector reported prioritizing job applicants with CAUSE training certificates over those without any credentials. Building on this success,^{[39]³⁹} the *Redi4Waka* curriculum focuses on job readiness and life skills, adding a module on climate change and environmental risks, waste management, and disaster preparedness. It devotes extra time to job search strategies for formal employment and entrepreneurship and introduces a module tailored to the Project’s needs, linking participants to employment and educational opportunities.
- ii. Income Generation and Money Management Skills Training: This two-day training builds on a successful CAUSE I pilot, enhancing practical skills for income generation. It aims to boost confidence, earning potential, and help participants transition from unpaid work to informal self-employment and explore higher-value opportunities.

38. Sub-Component 3C: Support and Referral Services will focus on three areas:

- i. Employment and Referral Services offer support for job/income generation coaching, Curriculum Vitae development, job search assistance, interview and application support, and referrals to further work and training opportunities. In CAUSE I, reference letters only documented the type and duration of work. In CAUSE II,

detailed Work Placement Reference Letters will be issued, documenting job specifics, dates, and acquired skills to increase further training and employment prospects;^[40]⁴⁰

- ii. *Counselling and GBV Referral Services* provide counselling and referrals to GBV support services in response to generally high rates of GBV and potential increased risk of GBV resulting from climate-induced disasters and emergencies; and
- iii. *Information Sessions* provided by external agencies increase participant awareness of work, training, financial and social services and opportunities.^[41]⁴¹ Under CAUSE I, these services were oversubscribed, particularly among women.^[42]⁴²

39. **LDCF activities under Component 3B – Skills for Community-Based Flood Mitigation:** The LDCF grant will scale-up the R4W work readiness training and introduce training for communities aligned with building awareness and skills to implement and maintain the flood mitigation-focused interventions under Components 1 and 2. These trainings and capacity building activities will use the well-established training and support services under CAUSE II, and prioritize R4W graduates as beneficiaries thereby deepening their existing skills and transforming them into local practitioners capable of maintaining and managing NbS investments. This approach ensures continuity and reinforces community ownership of interventions.

40. Specific activities include (a) community training on ecosystem restoration and river stewardship, building skills for green infrastructure community contracts, maintenance, composting and plastic waste reduction, and long-term environmental management; and (b) capacity building for flood-vulnerable communities through targeted training and awareness on locally appropriate mitigation measures—such as early warning actions, household water diversion, and safe evacuation practices. NbS training will be delivered through short, modular sessions facilitated by a specialized service provider, using a combination of classroom lectures and learning-by-doing approaches at real project sites (e.g., drainage corridors, riparian buffers, slope stabilization areas). This modality ensures that participants acquire both the theoretical understanding and the practical skills necessary for effective drainage maintenance, afforestation, erosion control, and other related climate-resilient activities.

41. **Component 4: Land Administration and Urban Management and Maintenance** will develop the capacity, tools, policies, and resources for improved urban management focused on land administration, revenue mobilization systems and management of public assets.^[43]⁴³ This includes three sub-components:

42. *Sub-Component 4A: Land Administration* will improve the regulatory environment for land administration through technical review and capacity and institutional development. It will support Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey (MLHS), HCC, and Guadalcanal Provincial Government (GPG) to modernize land administration systems, including digitization and security of land records; improving data sharing and interoperability of land administration systems; strengthening geo-spatial capacity and data management, and developing an Integrated Land Information System (ILIS). This activity is a key enabler of SIG's longer-term agenda to improve tenure security, risk-informed planning to guide urban expansion away from floodplains and areas prone to landslides due to intensified rainfall caused by climate change, and informality, and increase revenue for service delivery.

43. *Sub-Component 4B: Revenue Mobilization* will modernize revenue systems for MLHS, HCC, and GPG by conducting diagnostics, reviewing revenue performance, and updating land policies. The project will design and operationalize an *Integrated Revenue Collection System*, improving transparency, efficiency, and public convenience with features like automated billing, e-payment options, and kiosks. The system will integrate with ILIS, update land valuations, expand base maps, and digitize records. Citizen engagement will support the process, aiming for a 30 percent increase in revenue.
44. *Sub-Component 4C: Urban Management and Maintenance* will improve the operations and maintenance of public assets by providing: (i) testing equipment for MID's Materials Laboratory for quality control of civil works; (ii) machinery and tools for the Public Works Department to conduct emergency maintenance works in provinces affected by climate risks, such as increased rainfall intensities causing road flooding; and (iii) operationalizing the CAUSE contract management system in MID.
45. **LDCF activities under Component 4 – Data and Capacity for Multi-Hazard Planning.** Lack of accurate, accessible, and up-to-date foundational data is a key barrier to evidence-based, and risk-informed spatial planning, infrastructure maintenance and flood-risk modelling in Honiara.^[44]⁴⁴ LDCF funding would be used to close this gap to strengthen the data resources and capacity of government agencies for asset management, flood mitigation and disaster risk management. This would include an updated, high-resolution topographical model that would be available and accessible across agencies including MECDM and MLHS's ILIS to be developed under CAUSE II. Complementing the ILIS with topographic data will significantly enhance the system's spatial accuracy, enabling more precise land parcel delineation. Moreover, having a readily available topographical model is critical for flood modeling, required for infrastructure planning and design, and hazard overlays for development controls and enforcement. To institutionalize integrated, data-driven approaches that will fundamentally transform urban flood risk management in Solomon Islands, the LDCF grant will complement the investments in data and digital infrastructure with a comprehensive multi-hazard/flood mitigation planning capacity building program for staff in key Government agencies, including but not limited to: (i) training on topographical data processing, utilization and maintenance as part of wider ILIS application; (ii) training on use of NbS for flood risk management, coastal management and disaster risk management (DRM); (iii) establishment of a technical working group to guide the integration of new data and tools into Government agency work streams, and (iv) strengthening long-term multi-hazard risk management planning.
46. **Component 5: Project Management** will support joint Project management, environmental and social (E&S) oversight, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), audits, communications, media support, knowledge management, technical assistance, training, financial management, procurement, and provision of goods and operating costs. Similar arrangements from CAUSE I will continue, with the Project Management Unit (PMU) situated in a shared office in Honiara. The PMU, attached to HCC and MID as Implementing Agencies (IAs), will assist in procurement, financial management, E&S management, communications, reporting, M&E, provide technical assistance on investment designs, and oversight to provincial-level Project Implementing Units (PIUs). The structure under CAUSE II has been adjusted to: (i) reflect incorporation of MID's provincial Public Works Departments (PWDs, approved by Cabinet in February 2023), augmenting its technical and engineering capacity to support effective implementation at the provincial level; (ii) formalize arrangements with the PGs; and (iii) facilitate coordination and the engagement of key sectoral ministries. The LDCF grant will support project management costs for the proposed 9-month extension required to carry out the Additional Financing activities.

Beneficiaries

47. **An estimated 153,285 residents are expected to directly benefit from improved access to climate-resilient infrastructure and services under the overall Project, out of which 35,000 are direct beneficiaries of the LDCF activities (21 percent of Honiara’s total population).** Overall Project beneficiaries include communities selected based on transparent criteria of climate and socioeconomic vulnerability that guides prioritization and implementation of community infrastructure subprojects and promotes training and work opportunities. Approximately 48.5% female beneficiaries are targeted, based on official 2019 Census data for Honiara. Direct beneficiaries of LDCF-financed activities include people who live or work within the immediate project areas around the White River and Vura River-Kukum Highway areas, and will experience a direct reduction in flood risk and an improvement in daily life. The breakdown of direct beneficiaries for the two areas is estimated at 14,000 in the White River area and 21,000 in the Vura River-Kukum Highway area, including the Kukum fish market. When indirect beneficiaries of the LDCF-financed activities under Components 1 and 2 are factored in, this is expected to include the entire population of Honiara Urban Area (170,000 people), as the flood mitigation measures will improve resilience of the Kukum Highway at two key river crossings along the city's primary transportation and economic network. In addition to physical investments, approximately 700 individuals will directly benefit from training to build skills for community-based flood mitigation and NbS under the R4W program, which targets 4,700 direct trainees in total under CAUSE II Component 3.

48. **Public officials in HCC, MLHS, MECDM and GPG will enhance their skills in geospatial information management and OSR generation, while MID staff will improve contract management and infrastructure maintenance.** Under Component 4 the Project will introduce new technologies and improve officials' skills in urban management, including geospatial data management, mapping, surveys, community consultations, and data processing. LDCF-financed activities will directly benefit 50 staff with foundational data and capacity building for using geographic data and topographical models for risk-informed planning and resilient designs.

Cross-Cutting Themes

49. **Gender equality and women’s empowerment:** Two main gender gaps were identified (Table 3): (i) uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services and (ii) unbalanced participation and decision-making opportunities (Table 2). Building on CAUSE I’s successes, the Project will address these gaps through: (i) literacy and numeracy training; (ii) at least 50 percent female participation in work-readiness training and paid work placements;^{[45]⁴⁵} (iii) improved financial inclusion with access to banking and mobile money^{[46]⁴⁶} and (iv) gender-informed and referral services. The Redi4Waka program includes sub-modules on “Understanding Gender” and “Healthy Relationships” to address harmful gender norms.^{[47]⁴⁷} CAUSE II introduces new income generation training that will benefit women in the informal sector, strengthen GBV services by engaging dedicated personnel^{[48]⁴⁸} and promote female leadership through role models.^{[49]⁴⁹} Training sessions will be scheduled during the day, with provisions for safe transport, food, and childcare. Success will be measured by the percentage increase in income-generating opportunities post-training, targeting at least 50 percent female participation.^{[50]⁵⁰}

Table 3: Gender Gap Analysis

Gender Gap	Actions	Indicators
Uneven Access to Socio-Economic Benefits and Services: Women's constrained access to socio economic benefits and services such as education, employment, information, training, income generation and financing opportunities.	• Provision of Literacy and Numeracy Training • Provision of Income Generation and Money Management Training • Provision of work-readiness training • Provision of paid work placements in delivery of urban services • Improved financial inclusion with access to banking and mobile money • Gender-informed support and referral services (including GBV Referrals)	Gender disaggregated intermediate indicators with 50 percent female participation targets for the following: (i) Increased access to climate resilient infrastructure and transportation and services in Project areas; (ii) Residents reporting environmental improvements due to CAUSE II activities; (iii) Completion of Literacy and Numeracy training; (iv) Completion of Work Readiness training and placement of trainees in community works contracts (work placements); (v) Labor days worked by trainees; (vi) Access to employment, referral and well-being support services; (vii) Participants reporting that project interventions addressed their needs.
Unbalanced Participation and Decision-Making Opportunities: Women's low levels of participation, leadership and representation in decision-making process, especially in the delivery of urban services	• Provision of women's leadership opportunities as team leaders in work assignments • Promote women's leadership through highlighting role models • Enhance women's access to participate in meetings, trainings and work placement by ensuring sessions are scheduled during the day, with provisions for safe transport, food, and childcare	

50. **Citizen Engagement (CE):** The Project builds on CAUSE I to enhance citizen engagement in urban centers. Component 1 involved extensive consultations to develop infrastructure investments. Component 2 uses a participatory process for investment prioritization, where communities submit and rank subproject proposals based on factors including cost, population, service access, and climate risk. Consultations and agreements will be signed with community representatives before work begins, and community groups will oversee construction and waste collection. Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) will facilitate mobilization and handle grievances through the grievance mechanism (GM). A robust engagement strategy will update communities on Project progress, conduct consultations on policy reform, and gather feedback through user surveys and communication campaigns tailored to vulnerable groups. Under Component 4, stakeholder consultations will address land and revenue policy reform using citizen-centric approaches, such as user surveys to gauge interest for e-payment services, and feedback mechanisms for diverse input. Communications campaigns will improve awareness of the objectives of the land and revenue work, linking bill payments to improved services and tailored to vulnerable groups with low literacy and access to

the internet.[51]⁵¹ Information on the GM will be integrated into these channels. Regular external surveys will collect independent feedback to refine the Project as needed. The results framework will track participant feedback to ensure the Project meets their needs.

51. **Stakeholder consultation.** Preparation of the CAUSE II parent Project included a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process, including national, provincial and local government agencies, CLO's, and community organizations. CAUSE II has processes in place to ensure meaningful stakeholder consultation and participation during implementation, including a methodology for site-specific designs that will also be applied to the LDCF activities. Preparation of training programs under Component 2, of which all beneficiaries are considered vulnerable, was carried out in close consultation with organizations that represent communities and vulnerable groups. This includes consultations with People with Disabilities Solomon Islands (PWDSI), SafeNet Service Providers (this includes a range of government and community organizations providing support to families facing domestic violence), the Literacy Association of Solomon Islands, and community representatives from both HCC Youth and Women's division as well as the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and the Malatia Youth Council. To date stakeholder consultations for the LDCF grant have focused on the public sector institutions including MID, MECDM, HCC and MLHS. As preparation of the Additional Financing progresses, the team will be re-engaging with local communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The CAUSE II Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is aligned with the LDCF activities and will be followed for all stakeholder engagement. During implementation, the CAUSE II framework for community engagement will be applied to LDCF activities to assess needs and implement investments through community contracts. A list of stakeholder discussions held to date for the LDCF concept stage is included as Annex 3.

52. **Knowledge Management.** The Project includes Knowledge Management as part of Component 5, which will be strengthened with GEF LDCF resources. The PMU will be tasked with knowledge management and sharing, which will be done through external and internal communications, capacity building, and formal publications. Specific activities will focus on capturing processes and lessons learned with an aim to replicate and scale up successful models, and are expected to include: (i) preparing case studies of LDCF activities to share lessons learned in integrated planning, use of NbS for flood management, and institutional strengthening activities, (ii) documentation of the process of expanded community-level activities along flood-prone creeks, including waste management and NbS, which can include written reports and documentary-style videos highlight before, during, and after interventions, and (iii) disseminating lessons learned and dialogue through participation in regional platforms such as the Pacific Urban Forum and other knowledge events. All information and knowledge will be owned by MID and HCC, who are responsible for its sustainability and continuing to share with other stakeholders, including emerging urban centers in Solomon Islands and other countries in the region.

[1] United Nations Development Programme (2021) Human Development Index Ranking.

[2] World Bank Open Data: Solomon Islands (2024).

[3] World Bank (2022) Solomon Islands: Risk and Resilience Assessment Update.

[4] Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft / IFHV (2024): World Risk Report 2024. Berlin: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft.

[5] Probabilistic risk analysis based on simulated potential losses to buildings, infrastructure and crops from earthquakes, tsunami and tropical cyclones, carried out as part of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI), September 2011, <http://pacrisk.sopac.org>.

[6] World Bank (2021). Climate Risk Country Profile: Solomon Islands.

[7] Solomon Islands Government (2017). Second National Communication to UNFCCC; World Bank (2021). Climate Risk Country Profile: Solomon Islands.

[8] World Bank (2022) Solomon Islands: Risk and Resilience Assessment Update.

[9] UN Women (2016). Time to Act on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEAsia/Docs/Publications/2016/11/unw-time-to-act-r2-h.pdf.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Red Cross. (2015). Weaving a Culture of Resilience: A Gender Sensitive Approach to Disaster Risk reduction in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

[12] Desai. B. H. and M. Mandal (2021). Role of Climate Change in Exacerbating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Women: A New Challenge for International Law

[13] Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (2023). Population Projections 2020-2064.

[14] CAUSE is being implemented in Honiara City, and provincial towns of Malaita and Western Province — Auki, Gizo, Noro and Munda, and surrounding peri-urban areas.

[15] World Bank and GFDRR (2025). The Island Advantage: Strategies for Resilient Urbanization in the Pacific Islands – Flood Risk Management in Honiara (forthcoming).

[16] Honiara Urban Area, originating from the 2019 census, refers to the administrative boundary of Honiara City Council and adjacent urban wards in Guadalcanal Province (Figure 3).

[17] World Bank and GFDRR (2025). The Island Advantage: Strategies for Resilient Urbanization in the Pacific Islands – Flood Risk Management in Honiara (forthcoming).

[18] World Bank (2021). Honiara Flood Risk Management Study and Plan.

[19] World Bank (2025). Draft Solomon Islands Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for FY26–31 (P505113, under preparation).

[20] World Bank (2021). Honiara Flood Risk Management Study and Plan.

[21] World Bank (2021). Honiara Flood Risk Management Study and Plan.

[22] Solomon Islands National Statistics Office - Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Housing and Population Census - 2019. 2023.

[23] See, for example, the [UN-HABITAT finance project Nature-based solutions \(NBS\) for enhanced climate resilience of informal settlements: Honiara, Solomon Islands](#) (2023).

[24] Recent evidence can be found in World Bank, 2021. A Catalogue of Nature-based Solutions for Urban Resilience. Washington, D.C. World Bank Group; <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2025/07/10/mobilizing-nature-based-solutions-nbs-for-disaster-and->

[climate-resilience](#); and World Bank, 2023. Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience: A Guideline for Project Developers. Washington, D.C. World Bank Group.

[25] World Bank (2021). Honiara Flood Risk Management Study and Plan.

[26] World Bank (2025). Livable Pacific Cities and Town: Urbanization Strategies for Resilience, Sustainability and Inclusion (forthcoming)

[27] This indicator will report to the GEF Core Indicator 11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment and the LDCF Core Indicator 1. Total no. of direct beneficiaries.

[28] This implies using designs, materials and techniques appropriate to increased precipitation, flooding and heatwaves, such as sealing roads against water ingress by either applying double bituminous surface treatment or concrete surfacing, adding/upgrading adequately sized side drains, etc.

[29] Seawalls that experience regular overtopping may be fortified with large boulders, filled with gabion stones and overlaid with concrete footpaths to provide protection against wave overtopping, inundation and erosion. Site-appropriate solutions, designs and materials will follow the climate change-informed ‘Guidance for coastal protection work in Pacific Island countries’ (Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, 2023).

[30] Fraser & Thomas (2024). The Municipal Investment Study for CAUSE II.

[31] Multipliers applicable to Component 1 investments include: (i) access to economic opportunity (households served); (ii) access to essential services (household served); (iii) cash employment opportunity for local population (in construction and maintenance); improved productivity/reduced supply and delivery costs for business (number of businesses served); time savings (traffic data/estimates); reduced incidence of accidents (traffic data/estimates); vehicle operating costs savings; agency savings (impact on surface/facility improvements on cost of routine and maintenance).

[32] World Bank (2025). Livable Pacific Cities and Town: Urbanization Strategies for Resilience, Sustainability and Inclusion (forthcoming).

[33] In CAUSE I, 95 percent of respondents noted positive impacts on pedestrian safety. 94 percent of respondents indicated an ongoing need for community infrastructure improvements, particularly footpaths and walkways (Follow-up Survey [FUS]2, May 2023). Ward councilors confirm a widespread lack of basic services and safe pedestrian access to main transport networks.

[34] Cost-effective maintenance of infrastructure assets will be facilitated through sustained routine maintenance of tertiary roads, provision of tools (i.e., contract management system improvements) and capacity building support for emergency maintenance under Public Works Departments.

[35] In the context of Honiara, riparian buffers can be strategically extended along the White River, Burns Creek, and Mataniko River corridors, offering an effective, nature-based solution to enhance water quality and protect adjacent communities from flood and erosion risks.

[36] 20 percent of CAUSE workers had no education or less than primary education, while another 31 percent of workers had only completed primary education (FUS2, May 2023).

[37] Under CAUSE I, 81 percent of 840 participants who completed Literacy and Numeracy Level 1 were women.

[38] ISDT modules: social and environmental Issues (health, hygiene, nutrition, gender, environment); seeking economic opportunities (job search, Curriculum Vitae preparation, budgeting/savings, banking); and Project works and procedures (workplace health and safety, grievance management).

[39] Under CAUSE I, 93 percent of trainees expressed satisfaction with the knowledge and skills received from the ISDT and reported that the training improved their ability to earn an income (FUS2, May 2023). The Project will continue to provide stipends for bus fare and lunch during the seven-day training and childcare is accommodated as needed, as it removes many attendance barriers for vulnerable populations.

[40] This helps bridge prevalent documentation gaps in verifying work experience found in Solomon Islands.

[41] Results show impressive increases in employment and further education/training outcomes for Project beneficiaries including:

(i) decrease in unpaid work (25 percent at FUS2 versus 47 percent at baseline); (ii) large increase in proportion of women that feel adequately skilled for formal work (71 percent versus 56 percent at baseline); (iii) and approximately one fifth of participants moved on to further training or education after Project participation (amongst whom 44 percent of the additionally trained adult women found out about the training opportunities directly via the project). (FUS2, May 2023).

[42] In CAUSE I, 2.4 times more attendees accessed post-training support services than the targeted 2,500 (total of 6,074). Women represented 54 percent of the 4,136 job coaching sessions, 63 percent of the 2,352 information and skills training session participants, and 76 percent of the 520 participants who received counselling.

[43] The component will not engage in potentially higher-risk sector activities such as customary land tenure, large-scale formalization, or developing master plans. Given available resources and recognizing this is the Bank's first operational engagement in the land and revenue sector, the Project is not implementing at a national scale, and targeting activities to Honiara and the neighboring urban centers in GPG.

[44] World Bank (2025). Livable Pacific Cities and Town: Urbanization Strategies for Resilience, Sustainability and Inclusion (forthcoming).

[45] Of the 8,362 community members engaged in work activities under CAUSE I, 51 percent were women (Quarterly Progress Report, June 2024).

[46] CAUSE I facilitated opening 1,571 bank accounts, of which 43 percent are owned by women (Quarterly Progress Report, June 2024).

[47] The focus on understanding the difference between gender and biological sex; identifying gender roles and expectations; understand how gender roles affect choices in life, health and well-being; GBV prevalence and support; understanding behaviors of healthy vs unhealthy relationships; and tools and strategies to foster healthy relationships.

[48] Under CAUSE I, GBV referrals to service providers were made in 13 percent of the counselling cases. (Quarterly Progress Report, June 2024)

[49] CAUSE I addressed traditional occupational gender norms barriers through women's leadership in work assignments; more than half (57 percent) of Team Leaders in Waste Collection and Community Infrastructure Project being women, who received increased hours and levels of responsibility and reporting on worksites. (Quarterly Progress Report, June 2024).

[50] Gender disaggregated intermediate indicators with 50 percent female participation targets : (i) Increased access to climate resilient infrastructure and transportation and services in Project areas; (ii) Residents reporting environmental improvements due to CAUSE activities; (iii) Completion of Literacy and Numeracy training; (iv) Completion of Work Readiness training and placement of trainees in community works contracts (work placements); (v) Labor days worked by trainees; (vi) Access to employment, referral and well-being support services; and (vii) Participants reporting that project interventions addressed their needs.

[51] This will include: a website; regular media releases; printed brochures; radio segments; videos; in person media and stakeholder briefings; a Project Facebook page (CAUSE I had 9.2 thousand followers with daily queries and comments at the height of implementation); a weekly Project newsletter; Project signage and information factsheets; and periodic community outreach events and information booths to increase Project awareness.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To improve access to climate resilient infrastructure and services, enhance economic inclusion, and strengthen the capacity of public authorities to deliver services in Targeted Urban Centers.

Project Components

Component 1 Resilient Township Development

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
5,633,312.00	10,000,000.00

Outcome:

Improved access to resilient infrastructure services

Output:

1. Selected transport and coastal infrastructure rehabilitated or built
2. Critical sections of roads improved or repaired to climate resilient standards
3. Stormwater drainage and public amenities built or rehabilitated

Component 2 Safe and Inclusive Communities

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,695,000.00	7,000,000.00

Outcome:

Improved access to resilient infrastructure and services

Output:

1. Tertiary roads maintained on a planned basis
2. Identified community infrastructure constructed (community contracts)
3. Urban waste collection services implemented (community contracts)
4. Urban waste collection services implemented (community contracts)
5. Training and placement for employment to project beneficiaries (50% Women)

Component 3 Enhanced Urban Productivity

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
100,000.00	2,000,000.00

Outcome:

Increased participation of CAUSE trainees in income generating activities

Output:

1. Beneficiaries trained in literacy and work readiness skills (50 percent female)
2. Referrals to training and employment opportunities and GBV support

Component 4 Land Administration and Urban Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,141,000.00	5,000,000.00

Outcome:

Strengthened capacity to manage and finance urban service delivery

Output:

1. Land information system modernized with geospatial tools and digitized records
2. Modern, transparent, citizen-centric revenue collection systems implemented
3. Contract management system rolled out, equipment deployed in MID

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
175,000.00	1,000,000.00

Outcome:

Robust project M&E system

Output:

Project reporting: Annual reporting, MTRs, and TEs.

Reporting on gender specific results and on implementation of the project Gender Action Plan

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1 Resilient Township Development	5,633,312.00	10,000,000.00
Component 2 Safe and Inclusive Communities	1,695,000.00	7,000,000.00
Component 3 Enhanced Urban Productivity	100,000.00	2,000,000.00

Component 4 Land Administration and Urban Management	1,141,000.00	5,000,000.00
M&E	175,000.00	1,000,000.00
Subtotal	8,744,312.00	25,000,000.00
Project Management Cost	430,000.00	5,000,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	9,174,312.00	30,000,000.00

Please provide justification

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

CAUSE I established a cooperation with the Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience (IEDCR) project,^{[1]⁵²}

 implemented by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) with respect to Monitoring and Information Systems (MIS). Specifically, IEDCR is deploying and adapting the Contract Management System (CMS) developed by the CAUSE I project to oversee contract progress in remote locations. The CMS software implementation was guided and supported by CAUSE II staff. The IEDCR project has recently engaged an Implementation Support Officer to support MECDM with mainstreaming of climate and disaster resilience into ward development plans, including the roll-out of a new curriculum for risk-informed planning (under development). The officer can serve as a MEDCM resource staff for the CAUSE II capacity building program on risk-informed planning, ensuring relevant knowledge and experience gained by MECDM is transferred to the CAUSE II project.

The World Bank's expertise on urban settings in fragile states as well as second chance education programs enhances its appeal as a co-financing partner for other donors, such as Australia and New Zealand and multi-donor trust funds. Australia co-financed CAUSE I through the Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands Umbrella Facility (PPIUF) and will continue to support CAUSE II through the same facility. UN-HABITAT in collaboration with CAUSE II is finalizing a 2-year partnership with HCC to advance climate resilience and inclusive urban development, ensuring continuity and scale-up of ongoing efforts. UN-HABITAT plays a central role in supporting urban planning, informal settlement upgrading, and climate change adaptation, including through development of the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan. Its work prioritizes strengthening the capacity of local authorities and community stakeholders to design and implement resilience strategies, with a particular focus on informal settlements that are highly vulnerable to climate impacts.

Additionally, CAUSE II will proactively coordinate, share information and knowledge with the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (UWSSSP),^{[2]⁵³} currently under implementation in Honiara and other towns. Amongst other activities, UWSSSP supports integrated water catchment management co-designed with communities, ecosystem restoration, stabilization of river banks and erosion protection. One of Solomon Islands Water Authority water intake sources - Kongulai dam -- is located several kilometers upstream from a CAUSE II AF focus area, the Whiter River corridor. This shared catchment context presents an opportunity for collaboration and information sharing, particularly on nature-based interventions such as riparian buffer zones and watershed management, which can strengthen ecosystem resilience while supporting water security and climate-resilient urban development.

^[1] IEDCR is financed through an IDA credit of US\$6million, IDA grant of US\$13million, and GEF grant of US\$4.57million from the Least Developed Countries Fund.

^[2] UWSSSP is financed through IDA, Asian Development Bank, European Union and GEF.

Core Indicators

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF true	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer false	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation false
Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? false		
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). true		
This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state. true		
This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector. false		
This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). false		
This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below		
Green Climate Fund false	Adaptation Fund false	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) false
This Project has an urban focus. true		

This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation

false

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange

false

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *

Agriculture	0.00%
Nature-based management	30.00%
Climate information services	0.00%
Coastal zone management	0.00%
Water resources management	0.00%
Disaster risk management	20.00%
Other infrastructure	20.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	
Urban	30.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges: *

Sea level rise true	Change in mean temperature false	Increased climatic variability true	Natural hazards false
Land degradation false	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation false	Groundwater quality/quantity false	

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	153,285	76,642.00	76,643.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	0.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	750	375.00	375.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience	6.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	The Project has moderate to high overall exposure, largely due to the prevalence of various natural disaster risks in the country (cyclones, flooding, drought, landslide, earthquake, tsunami) and exposure to climate change risks (sea level rise, increased flooding, and storm surge). Residual risk is assessed as Moderate as investments will adhere to climate standards and use proven designs. CAUSE II will also improve resilience by expanding evacuation routes and clearing creeks and drains.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Project activities are expected to generate primarily positive impacts and outcomes for local communities and residual risks are not likely to be significant. Key environmental risks include: (i) civil works: habitat disruption, soil erosion from land clearing and excavation, pollution of nearby water bodies, topsoil loss, and sedimentation; (ii) contaminants: runoff contaminants such as sediment, construction materials, fuels, oils, and chemicals potentially harming aquatic life and impacting water quality; and (iii) other concerns: air pollution, noise, vibration, potential traffic safety, and workers' health and safety. These impacts are temporary, site-specific, predictable, and reversible with appropriate mitigation measures. The Project's climate-resilient design aims to benefit both community and environment. Social risks include unequal employment, gender violence, and workers' health and safety. Component 3 will address GBV through awareness and counseling services. Gender Equality, Citizen Engagement, Disability, and Social Inclusion analyses were conducted, and corresponding risk management mechanisms are detailed in the Project document.
Political and Governance	Moderate	The Project may be influenced by Council, Provincial and central Government policies and governance fluctuations. This risk is mitigated through the establishment of clear, consulted, and published decisions on Project design; and the establishment of a Project Steering Committee with participation from different levels of government.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Institutional capacity assessments have determined reasonable expertise and human resources, although gaps exist in the implementing agencies. However, this risk is mitigated by their previous experiences implementing two consecutive Projects. A Moderate residual risk is established.
Technological	Moderate	Limited access to information, data, technology, and technical equipment is evidenced and poses a risk to Project implementation. Difficulties procuring these in the Pacific further pose a challenge. As mitigation measures, the task team is offering extensive Technical Assistance and tapping into international experts and partners to fill in data gaps. Other technological gaps are mitigated

		by frontloading critical equipment or technology investments to ensure these are available for the Project.
Financial and Business Model	Low	The Project is resolving a priority issue for Honiara with a high ROI in all socioeconomic metrics, including flooding resilience. However, maintenance costs will have to be financed following project closure. As a mitigation measure, the Project will assess the maintenance costs and help develop a financial plan for its maintenance, with particular considerations for green-grey and Nature Based Solutions. In addition, strong commitment from the Honiara Council and the Solomon Islands government to these investments contributes to reducing financial sustainability risks. The residual risk rating is Low
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	A capacity assessment and previous experiences in Solomon Islands evidence limited access to human resources. However, this risk is mitigated by maintaining some of the staff participating in previous Projects and the joint Project Management Unit already set up. The residual risk is Moderate.
Fiduciary	Moderate	CAUSE II financial management arrangements meet World Bank Investment Project Financing (IPF) requirements, with HCC and MID having the required capacity. Main risks include delays in financial reporting, fund disbursements, potential misuse of funds, and poor account maintenance, and mitigation measures are included under the Project. Procurement activities for the Project will follow the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (dated September 2023) and the provisions in the Financing Agreement and Procurement Plans. MID and HCC have prior experience with Bank-financed Projects, and CAUSE I received a satisfactory procurement performance rating. The residual risk is Moderate.
Stakeholder	Moderate	The Project is implemented in an urban area and will distribute benefits across a series of communities and private sector stakeholders. The mandates are linked to a diversity of government agencies. To mitigate this risk, the Project will establish a Project Steering Committee among relevant institutions and a Technical Working Group, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Additional information on Stakeholder risks: The stakeholder risk rating is assessed as Moderate, with key risks including unequal employment opportunities, challenges engaging with vulnerable groups and potentially disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups, lack of ownership of Project activities by communities, and unsatisfactory resolution of project-related grievances. These risks will be mitigated through measures outlined in the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including (i) a full-time Environmental and Social Officer in the PMU that will facilitate community meetings and provide regular updates on project activities and performance, (ii) developing inclusive information and communications strategies to support the downward reporting to communities, (iii) use communication tools that can be understood by populations with low literacy levels, (iv) establishing a Grievance Redress System and Grievance Mechanism with multiple access

		points to express concerns and resolve complaints, and (v) maintaining gender equality targets of 50% female participation across project activities. The Project also addresses fragility and conflict drivers by providing access to income, social support and referral services to vulnerable urban populations, and by mitigating damages to property and loss of livelihoods during extreme weather events and climate change in flood prone areas. During CAUSE I, these measures served as a safety nets, helping communities cope with the impacts of COVID-19 and the 2022 civil unrest in Honiara.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk is rated as moderate since most risks are moderate and no High nor Substantial risk was identified.

A. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The Project is aligned with the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 2022 to June 2026. In particular, it will contribute to Priority Area 1: Scaling Up Finance by strengthening the capacity to finance urban flood risk management; and to Priority Area 3: Fostering Partnership for Inclusion and Whole-of-Society Approach through Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building at different government and community levels, and building flood risk management systems and governance that will benefit vulnerable populations the most and foster inclusion.

The Project is also aligned with the draft GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 2026 to June 2030. In particular, it will directly contribute to the Infrastructure Theme by bridging persistent infrastructure gaps that increase vulnerability to urban flooding, which is intensified by rapid urbanization and fragility, including by promoting Nature Based Solutions; and to the Solutions and Approaches Theme by leveraging IDA resources for climate resilient investments.

The Project is further aligned with the Government's National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2035 and its 2024 Policy Statement. It will complement the priorities and actions specified in the country's National Unity and Transformation's Policy Statement; specifically pillars three (infrastructure development) and four (human capital development). The Project will contribute to NDS Objective 1— sustained and inclusive economic growth – by delivering climate-resilient economic infrastructure, and to Objective 2 – alleviating poverty across Solomon Islands, addressing basic needs, improving food security; distributing development benefits more equitably – by providing work readiness training, job placements and Gender-based Violence support for vulnerable urban groups. Additionally, the Project will contribute to NDS Objective 4 – resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response and

recovery – by enhancing the capacity of public authorities for climate resilient infrastructure planning and implementation. It will also operationalize key aspects of the NUP objectives 1-3 and 5-7.

The Project is consistent with Solomon Islands’ 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and related national policies and strategies. On mitigation, the Project does not hinder the achievement of Solomon Island’s mitigation efforts/goals in the NDC. Through climate-proofing of roads, the Project will contribute to improved land transport efficiency as one of the key transition steps identified in the 2023 Solomon Islands’ Low Emissions Development Strategy. On climate change adaptation, the Project will support Priority Adaptation Interventions identified in the NDC, and reflected in the National Climate Change Policy (2023–2032), including: (i) risk reduction and vulnerability assessments in urban settlements; (ii) strengthening capacity to integrate climate change into Environmental Impact Assessments; (iii) conducting gender analysis and integrating gender considerations into vulnerability assessments as well as adaptation actions; and (iv) ensuring inclusive participation of women and youth in selecting priority community infrastructure to enhance resilience among vulnerable groups.

B. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Please see attached Stakeholder Engagement plan for additional details

Date	Location	Event	Participants
18 – 28 March 2025	Honiara	CAUSE II Implementation Support Mission, including discussion with MECDM on request to WB to prepare GEF LDCF proposal	MECDM; CAUSE II Project Management Unit (PMU); World Bank (WB)

26 – 29 May 2025	Honiara	Technical mission meetings: Honiara Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment & Investment Options Study	MECDM, including National Disaster Management Office (NDMO); MLHS; Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification (MMERE); HCC; Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS); CAUSE II PMU; WB
28 May 2025	Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara	Stakeholder workshop to discuss findings of the multi- hazard risk assessment and collect feedback on proposed flood and disaster mitigation interventions	MECDM; MLHS; Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification; National Disaster Management Office; Honiara City Council; SIMS; CAUSE II PMU; WB

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

C. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
World Bank	LDCF	Solomon Islands	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	9,174,312.00	825,688.00	10,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						9,174,312.00	825,688.00	10,000,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

false

PPG Amount (\$)

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
Total PPG Amount (\$)					0.00	0.00	0.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
Total GEF Resources					0.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCA-1-1	LDCF	9,174,312.00	30,000,000.00
Total Project Cost		9,174,312.00	30,000,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	18,000,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,000,000.00
Total Co-financing				30,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The GEF project will be fully blended with the World Bank Project, CAUSE II. The project resources and IDA grant of US\$ 18 million and a grant from PNG and Pacific Islands Umbrella Facility (PPIUF) of US\$12 million.

Co-financing letters will be provided at CEO Endorsement as per GEF requirements.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

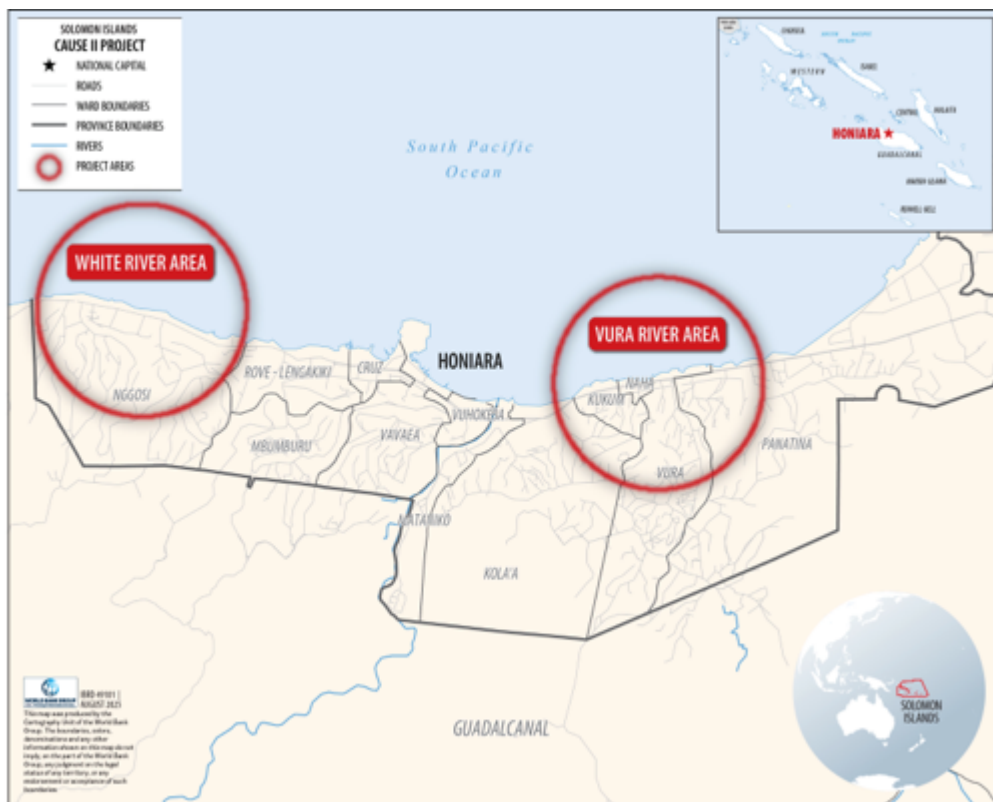
GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Elif Kiratli	9/10/2025	Sonya Woo		swoo1@worldbank.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Thaddeus Siota	Director Climate Change Division	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, and Meteorology	9/12/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

ESRS

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Please see the taxonomy selection