

Changing attitudes and mindsets towards violence against women in Lilisiana Village

Solomon Islands [Ending Violence Against Women](#)

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Project Name: Let's make our Families Safe

Project partner: Oxfam Australia, National Council of Women, Vois Blong Mere Solomon, International Women's Development Agency, Pacific Leadership Program and IOD PARC

Total funding: \$5,642,461

Funding timeframe: 2014-2018

The 'Let's make our Families Safe' (Safe Families) project is implemented by Oxfam in partnership with the International Women's Development Agency, the Pacific Leadership Program, as well as local non-government organisations. It mobilises communities and builds coalitions for action in the Solomon Islands to change the social norms, values, attitudes, and beliefs that drive family and sexual violence.



Dr Sharman Stone, Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls visited Lilisiana Village, Malaita Province, where women shared their happiness at having a safer community due to the Safe Families project. Photo: DFAT

Ms Salome Gelisae is the Safe Families Community Engagement Facilitator for Lilisiana and Siwai villages in Malaita province. She says that as a result of the project,

‘attitudes and mindsets are changing in Lilisiana community’.

Safe Families is funded under the Australian aid program’s [Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development](#) initiative. Through Safe Families, the Lilisiana community has appointed policing assistants to implement village by-laws developed by the community. Safe Families partnered with the Auki Police Department to deliver training to the policing assistance to help them carry out their roles effectively, as well as to community members. The 30 participants learned about the different types of violence against women and girls, how to prevent it in their community, and the Family Protection Act 2014.

Safe Families is also working directly with families in the village. Ms Gelisae describes the change:

‘One participant had previously struggled to manage her children’s behaviour and often resorted to using violence as a form of punishment.’

Through the Safe Families training conducted by Ms Gelisae, the participant learned that hitting her children was a form of violence and child abuse.

‘The training helped her to develop a loving relationship with her children and thanked Safe Families for bringing the change into her life and that of her family.’

Safe Families is currently working in 39 communities to support change like that occurring in Lilisiana.

** This Story of Change was originally published in the [Pacific Women Annual Progress Report 2016 – 2017](#). All values are consistent with that reporting period. For the most up-to-date value of activities, visit our [interactive map](#).*