



PROJECT UPLIFT

Solomon Islands

REPORT

A special partnership developed to impact on the lives of the people of the Solomon Islands.

September, 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September, 2011 the Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) took delivery of a '40 foot' container from 'Project Uplift', (PU) Melbourne Victoria. The contents of the container had been donated and collected by Liz Baker of 'Project Uplift' in Melbourne and Rotary International in Australia, (RIA).

A 'Public, Private, Humanitarian Partnership' was developed (in country) to manage 'Project Uplift' for the Solomon Islands.

The medical equipment and bras have been distributed to the priority groups identified by SIRC and the Women's Networking Group (WNG). Towards the end of September Red Cross confirmed the arrival of the 200 cartons of bras. Items and equipment distributed to National Referral Hospital included 10 Cartons of maternity bras and 2 cartons of mastectomy bras, medical equipment, (such as cord clamps, gowns, BP machines, Intravenous lines [giving sets], disposable urinals, thermometers, baby clothes) and many more items and equipment suitable for hospital use.

The nursing staff really appreciated the donation of medical equipment because they now had the right tools to do work with. Sometimes our old equipment had parts missing or were broken

Each of the recipients has expressed great joy at receiving their goods.

..... *"The nurses were delighted to have equipment for their wards; women were so pleased to have good fitting bras; and recipients of wheel chairs and walking frames could now get around freely."*

Dulcie D

.....*To show their appreciation, an evening get together and meal was organized that same day in the night followed by an island dance for only women. (All the men and children just sat around and cheered the mothers who were dancing with great delight wearing their new bras.) You can just tell on their faces that they were so happy. (for some it was their first time to wear and own a second bra besides their very old one and only one they had.*

Ann H

.....*I have distributed to women in my village as well. They were really happy and appreciated the donation. I had meetings with the women which were very interesting, they all raised something around sanitation and so I wish to let you know and help me work on the project for toilet you send me before. I could not imagine the trust they had in us women I have talked about health issues and training their children how to live in the community with other people and respecting others.*

Alison Sio

.....*I was so excited to bring bras to the poor widows, women and girls in the village. It is like a special Christmas present to these women as they mentioned to each other.*

I could see my list of names of women going up to 100 plus women already received from the 11 boxes .

It was a pleasure for us too to actually see and hear how happy the women have been when they received these bras. Many of us often underestimate the great need that exists with our rural women. I'm really proud to have been a part of this kind gesture

Rose W

This tremendous effort by women to get the bra items to the rural areas shows that we care to make a difference for our fellow women in Solomons. It has been an exciting and achievable dream through the Uplift Project.

Nancy Jolo

It was remarkable that there was no selfishness in the distribution. Women stood back and made sure that all the women who needed the bras received them.

Luma Darcy.

....All of the women involved commented on the quality of the bras, the range of sizes and the thoughtfulness of the donors.

Helen Sinclair

All stakeholders have expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to Liz Baker, Intimo—donor of half the bras and who also paid for half the shipping, and Rotary International Australia. Nothing like this has happened before. Special thanks has to go to HKL and to the Women’s Networking Group as well.

‘Public, Private, Humanitarian Partnership’

PROJECT UPLIFT partnered by ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA	PARTNERS		
	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION
	HKL Global Services (SI) Ltd A Subsidiary of HKLogistics Pty Ltd Intimo Bras New bras Shipping costs for the container.	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Families Affairs (MWYCFAs) Ministry of Finance, SICED (Customs) Nursing Services Ministry of Health and Medical Services Women’s Networking Group (WNG)	SI Red Cross Project Uplift

	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION
	INPUTS		
	Stakeholder Committee In-country handling Logistics Communications Shipping to provinces	Stakeholder Committee Leadership SI Custom requirements SIGov procedures Distribution Networking Reporting & Feedback	Stakeholder Committee Distribution including to provinces (according to SIRC Constitution Storage Reporting & Feedback

WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

This initial 'Women's Networking Group' (WNG), under the sponsorship of SI Red Cross and the Permanent Secretary of the MWYC&FAs, met regularly with Rebecca Redding from HKL who took on the role of facilitator. Rebecca was in regular contact with Liz Baker from Project Uplift.

Project Uplift has quite a history working in the Pacific, but this would have been the first time a container was specifically packed for the Solomon Islands. PU collected donated bras for distribution to women in the Pacific. The only way women can get underwear is through the local stores, (usually made of nylon, not the right size, with elastic that perishes easily) or through the second hand shops. PU had partnered with RIA who also collected a range of medical equipment & supplies.

The WNG were very keen to ensure that they understood exactly what was required of them and that they had all the boxes ticked off before the container was packed. (They needed to understand the SI Red Cross Constitution, obtain clear instructions from Customs, understand the support that HKL were willing to provide)

As the time got closer the WNG identified that they would need to bring in more support for SIRC and their focal points in the provinces to ensure effective distribution. They invited the Director of Nursing, the National Manager of Infection Control and the Assistant Director Clinical at the National Referral Hospital. Goods were to be distributed (free of charge) to priority clients.

Another group of fairly senior women from the Women's Breakfast Networking Group also stepped in to assist with the distribution. The women made every effort to take boxes of bras home to their provinces during their annual leave trips. Bras were packed into 'farmer's bags' to help alleviate freight charges. Using this group meant that the bras got the widest distribution possible. Indeed the bras went to areas that regularly missed out. Areas like the Shortland Islands, Rennel and Belona, and the Weather Coast.

This group got so involved in the project that they have surveyed their community members and they have identified another project for future work. The next project will target the older members of the community. So the women are looking at an “Aged Care’ project.

DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS

SI Red Cross, according to their Constitution took responsibility for the distribution of the goods. Other women from a mentoring group offered their support to help the SIRC focal points in the different provinces.

HKL delivered the 40’ container to the SIRC premises. Goods were unloaded into the storage container and the general SIRC enclosed area. The NRH came to take delivery of their goods as soon as invited to do so. However, it is important to note that during the November and December we experienced very heavy rains a huge number of boxes were wet as the container used for storage leaks. I tried to arrange with women then to get the boxes out but the response was poor. Anyway, my staff who were taking care of office during my absence in December, put all wet bras to dry and re-packed them. Some of the bras were also been directly distributed to Guadalcanal women.

SIRC Hygiene Packs: Every year SIRC prepare ‘hygiene packs’ (containing personal items) in readiness for distribution to communities in the event of cyclone devastation. This year it has been possible to include ‘bras’ in the packs for the first time. (In regard to sizing women will be encouraged to swap the bras in their pack with other women to ensure a good fit).

The wheel chairs were given to the Red Cross Special Development Centre, a Centre for children with Special Needs. The Head Mistress, Mrs Cathy Anilafa collected the wheel chairs. The five adult Wheel chairs were kept for the Red Cross General Welfare Services Program who often receive referrals from the Orthopaedic Surgeons but have no wheel chairs to distribute.

In December 2011, during tsunami drill exercise run by the government, National Disaster Management Office (also involving the National Referral Hospital) these were borrowed. Only one was returned as a mild stroke patient desperately need it: the remaining four chairs were still with the Hospital.

Walking Frames: Some walking frames were given to the Special Development Centre, SI Red Cross. A few are to be sent to Buala Hospital but this has not been done yet.

Provincial Focal Points

The SI Red Cross team worked extremely hard and gave up their Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th December, 2011) to open the Centre and assist the women from the ‘Women’s

Networking Breakfast Group' to pack up the cartons for them to take with them to their home islands for distribution.

This process supported the regular SI Red Cross distribution program, but ensured that the bras went out into the rural and remote areas and the provinces that are often not lucky enough to receive goods.

Our Records show that the distribution of the bras to the remote areas is almost equal to no other project. It is the first time distribution has occurred in the Shortland Islands, North New Georgia and the Weather Coast.

Network Supporter	Province	Locality	No of Recipients	No of bras distributed
Georgina Ariki Community Nurses and & School teachers	Malaita	Fauabu Village West Kwa'ae	3 boxes	
Ann Halea (Mother's Union)	Malaita		3 boxes	
Alison Sio	Malaita	Suu west Dorio West Are Are Waianora	2 boxes 2 boxes 1 box	
	South Malaita		1 box	
Kiliufi Hospital	Malaita		3 boxes	
Rose Wale	Malaita	Langa Langa Lagoon, 5 villages; Lalana, Surabuta, Rade Sifolaemae, Sitoni and Aekoa	196 women from these villages received bras	3 boxes + 363 bras
Dulcie Darcy	Western Province	Gizo Hospital Kolombangara Vela le Vela Roviana Lagoon North New Georgia	8 boxes 2 boxes 1 box 2 boxes 3 boxes	
Minnie Ora	Western Province	Shortlands	7 boxes	First time
Dulcie Darcy, Mary Wakio	Gaudalcanal	Honiara Church community workers	2 boxes	
S.I.Red Cross Health	Chimba	Weather Coast	6 boxes	
		West Gaudalcanal	4 boxes	
		Outskirts Honiara	2 boxes	

Network Supporter	Province	Locality	No of Recipients	No of bras distributed
Needy Toupe	Renbel	Rennel	2boxes	
		Belona	2 boxes	
		White River	2 boxes	
Dulcie Darcy	Central	Savo Island	1 box	
SIRC/NDMO	Central Province	Tulagi Hospital	5boxes	
Hexly Ona/Guale Red Cross Branch Volunteer	Guadalcanal	Tambea and surrounding communities	4 boxes	
SIRC	Guadalcanal	Paru areas	5boxes	
Freda Apa	Guadalcanal	Betikama School Area	2boxes	
Freda Taha	Guadalcanal	Tamboko community Badly hit by floods in 2012	5 boxes	
Red Cross	Hygiene Packs & Health Committees			
				200 cartons

OTHER DETAILS ABOUT WHAT WAS DISTRIBUTED

National Referral Hospital

Medical Equipment: The medical equipment and materials allocated to the NRH were allocated to different wards. In a lot of cases this meant that the staff had the right equipment, for the jobs they have to do.

Bras: Maternity bras were equally distributed to the Obstetric and Gynaecological Departments, including to birthing mothers; others to women who had delivered before coming to hospital. Each woman was allocated three bras. Some bras were distributed to guardians accompanying minors from the provinces. Mastectomy bras were distributed to women in the Oncology ward. Other bras were given to the Nurse Manager in charge of the Pap Smear Clinic.

PU has agreed that it is possible to provide some bras to the nurses in the hospital.

LESSONS LEARNT

The WNG is keen to learn about how the process went and what they would have to do differently next time.

- It was a bit difficult with Rebecca changing jobs and Helen and Ethel not in the country when the container arrived—however it was delivered directly to SIRC for them to facilitate the unpacking and storage
- The container arrived the same week as the disaster relief supplies so that meant we had to get more volunteers on board to help the Red Cross volunteers.
- Although we expected the donation it was a lot bigger when we saw it all in the container.
- The Women’s Networking Breakfast Group came in to help with the distribution of the bras.
- Having prepared well meant that HKL could oversee a smooth arrival of the container
- The container where the goods were off loaded too had a leak and a lot of the boxes were wet
- Distribution accelerated over the holiday period with many of the women travelling to their home villages. This provided the opportunity for the women to actually talk about the project and oversight the distribution to appropriate groups
- Women called on clinic nurses, teachers and the Mother’s Union to help facilitate fair and equitable distribution.
- The women involved with the distribution willingly spent their own money to make sure that the bras arrived at the appropriate place to be used as the distribution centre.
- A real need for secure, safe, dry storage has been identified where good practice controls can be implemented.
- The Women’s Networking Breakfast Group has done some awareness raising with the SIRC to give feedback on the processes they were involved in

IN SUMMARY

- It is very important to prepare carefully for all future Project Uplift
- We will monitor the lessons we have learnt
- The Women’s Breakfast Network (WBN) is willing to take careful responsibility for next project
- WBN will prepare and identify a safer storage space which is dry and offers good security
- Who to consult when next import arrive in the country in this case(Women’s network)
- Importance of proper recording and monitoring of goods
- Importance of accountability, transparency and best practices.
- Better awareness raising training for employees at Red Cross.
- Importance of maintaining the organizations status, a charitable organization who always have trust from Customs/Government.

GETTING PREPARED IN CASE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES ARE OFFERED

The WNG has been so impressed with the support that has been given and the joy that all the donations have been received with. Just in case a similar opportunity occurs again they are determined to be prepared.

The WNG is networking more extensively with their contacts in the provinces to explore distribution possibilities.

SIRC	NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL	PROVINCES
Identifying areas of need Keeping lists of equipment required Identifying target groups	Taking stock of all Units Making lists of pieces of missing equipment Identifying equipment that would be useful and putting them on a 'wish list'	Women's Networking Breakfast Group identified areas of concern in provinces in addition to the bras: e.g Elder Care Kits

ROTARY TALKS

The Women for the Breakfast Networking Group have been so delighted with the whole project and the response from the women in need in the community that they have offered to be guest speakers and two upcoming Rotary Meetings. The first meeting will be for the women from the hospital and the second meeting will be women who distributed the bras in the hospital.

The women want to tell Rotary about their appreciation for Project Uplift and Rotary International.

Signed:



Nancy Jolo,
 Solomon Islands Red Cross
 General Secretary

Dated: 22/05/2012

Copies of the Report to:

- Liz Baker Project Uplift, Melbourne
- Comptroller of Customs
- Ms Ethel Sigamanu, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. esigimanu@mwycfa.gov.sb
- Rotary Club of Honiara: Mr Wayne Morris wayne@msca.com.sb
- HKL care of cluffy29@hotmail.com
- Women in the Breakfast Networking Group
- Donor company Intimo –new bras and shipping



