

UPLIFT SOLOMONS DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Province:	Western Province
Person Responsible for Distribution:	Community Reps
Members Name:	Minnie McDonald

No of items received:

- 43 cartons bras
- 4 cartons linen
- 3 cartons children clothing
- 6 cartons ladies' undies
- 8 cartons books
- 1 carton DFG

The 25 cartons of bras and 8 cartons books were distributed by my cluster group member so are excluded from this report. She is sending me the report next week. For the reusable pads (DFG), it is still with me. There is a group consisting of expatriate ladies distributing reusable pads to the communities so I've already contacted them to distribute the pads.

Kiribertese (Gilbertese) Communities in Solomon Islands

The Gilbertese migration to Solomon Islands was between 1957 and 1963. The settlements were created in Honiara, Guadalcanal, Wagina Island in Choiseul Province, at Titiana on Gizo, and at Kamaliae in the Shortland Islands. Now they have other settlements around Noro town and in the Shortland Islands. They recreated their original lifestyles, building *maneaba* (large meeting houses) and maintaining distinct cultural ways, which were particularly obvious in singing and dancing. Coming from atolls, they were unaccustomed to forested land and found it difficult to adapt their maritime skills to Solomon-style agriculture, and this was aggravated by the poor quality of land they had been allocated. For those at Wagina, their main income is from farming seaweeds, settlements around Gizo and Noro, selling produce at the market and those in the Shortland Islands selling produce at Bougainville, PNG. The very limited income they earn is just to meet daily basic needs and school fees.

In June all the Gilbertese Catholic Women throughout the Solomon Islands held a conference in Honiara. They came from remote communities like Wagina Island in Choiseul Province, settlements around Gizo and Noro townships and the Shortland Islands. I handed over 16 cartons of bras, 4 cartons of linens, 3 cartons of children clothing and 6 cartons of ladies' undies to the women representing Noro, Gizo and Shortland Island communities.



Photos above – cartons ready for collection



Sharing information on the Uplift Australia and Solomon to the group



Presentation of items to the women reps



Presentation of items to the Women



Loading of the boxes



Boxes loaded onto the vehicle

Family Support Centre (Women Crisis Centre)

Family Support Centre (FSC) was established in 1995 to address the high incidence of domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse and rape in the Solomon Islands. FSC is committed to improving the quality of life in Solomon Islands by promoting awareness of people's rights to live in peaceful, non-violent and non-abusive families. It is dedicated to raising the status of women and children and empowering individuals in making decisions that would enable them to enjoy safety in their lives. And to raise the status of women and children through the delivery of services offered. FSC has a holistic approach to responding to and preventing violence by delivering the following:

- Facilitating access to health, legal aid and accommodation service providers and material resources;
- Providing counselling (including a 24 hour telephone response), legal aid and mediation services;
- Raising awareness of the need to end violence against women and children
- Lobbying for the development of gender sensitive policies and laws; and
- Advocacy on implementation of the Solomon Islands Government policies on gender equality and EAW.

FSC operates in Honiara and in seven (7) provinces through volunteer committees. A total of 10 volunteer committees are currently carrying out basic response services

There are victims that left their homes with only few processes and are staying at safe houses. I've donated two cartons bras to the Centre to pass onto the victims.



Handing over of 2 cartons of bras to the Counsellors