

**Child Protection (01)**  
**Funding required**  
**USD 1,200,000**

## Programme area

Laws, regulation and policies for the protection of children

## Target beneficiaries

All children in contact with the law (e.g. victims of abuse, witnesses of crimes and young offenders). Legal and judiciary personnel (e.g. police, prosecutors, magistrates)

## Expected Outcome

Children are increasingly protected by legislation and are better served by justice systems that protect them as victims, offenders and witnesses

## Duration

5 years (2008-2012)

## Partner countries

Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

## FINANCES

Legislative review and reform	400,000
Establish community-based programmes for young offenders	300,000
Training and capacity-building, system building	420,000
Programme support, including monitoring and evaluation	80,000
<b>Funding required</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>

## Issues:

- In the Pacific, the legal framework regulating issues related to justice for children are often patchy and where good laws exist, lack of training and understanding of the principles of justice for children often leads to a gap between the latter and the practice of the law.
- Many children are detained with adults in jails for long periods with out timely and proper hearings and some have been sentenced to long imprisonments, indicating that the rights of the child are still not properly understood. In many countries, children are not accompanied by social workers in court.
- There are a lack of viable alternatives to prosecution and incarceration.
- Diversion options available for the police are not well understood and utilized.
- The rights of child victims of abuse and exploitation are often violated and the privacy of the child and his/her family is often not protected in court.

## Actions

- The Child Protection Programme will support efforts to consistently address the systemic shortcomings in the present legal framework and build the capacity of key stakeholders (police, justice, social services, and health professionals) to collectively apply and enforce existing and forthcoming laws, policies and procedures for the protection of children.
- Support will be provided to establish community-based diversion programmes and alternatives to detention and imprisonment for young offenders, promoting vocational training and life-skills education for their social reintegration.
- Collaboration with Police will be strengthened to equip relevant police officers with skills, motivation and resources to deal with children's cases in line with international best practices and in line with the CRC. Police will also play a role in implementing crime prevention strategies in communities, preventing young people from getting into conflict with the law.

## Impact

- Child Protection legislations will be enacted as required in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu providing increased protection to children against violence, abuse and exploitation.
- Children will be better served by justice systems that protect them as victims, offenders and witnesses as more members of the judiciary and the police will apply principles of child rights when dealing with cases involving children.
- Young offenders will benefit from community-based programmes for social reintegration and diversion.
- The traditional justice system will increasingly reflect principles of national laws and international child rights principles.

## Child Protection (02) Funding required

USD 1,100,000

### Programme area

Social services, care and protection of children

### Target beneficiaries

Child victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. Social workers and other relevant stakeholders (police, judiciary, civil society)

### Expected Outcome

Children to be better served by well informed and coordinated child protection social services to ensure greater protection against and response to violence, abuse and exploitation.

### Duration

5 years (2008-2012)

### Partner countries

Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

## FINANCES

Case management, case referral and improved coordination	360,000
Capacity-building and tertiary education for social work	320,000
Birth Registration	350,000
Programme support, including monitoring and evaluation	70,000
<b>Funding required</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>

### Issues:

- An effective social welfare system encompasses the full range of community support mechanisms and government services needed to protect the most marginalized or otherwise at-risk children. The social service system in many countries in the Pacific is in its infancy, chronically under-resourced, ill-equipped and under-staffed. In some countries, a social service/welfare department only exists on paper.
- There is a dearth of qualified social workers and lack of understanding of proper case management procedures for assisting victims of child abuse and exploitation. There are very few options available for tertiary education in social work.
- A functioning civil registration system, including birth registration, is critical for the protection of children as it provides the child with an identity and proof of his/her age and civil status. In the Pacific, birth registration rates are very low.

### Actions

- Greater collaboration between police, social workers, judiciary and community organizations will be promoted to prevent child abuse and to respond to children in need. UNICEF will continue to build professional capacity including in the field of social work, and develop simple yet effective systems for improved case management, case referrals and better monitoring and recording of child abuse cases.
- Support will be provided to extend opportunities for pre-service and in-service training in social work.
- Civil Registration Departments will be strengthened for the promotion of birth registration and partnerships between civil registry and other stakeholders (Ministry of Health, Church and local administration) will be sought as a way to decentralize the service and make birth registration more accessible to children. Mobile birth registration will also be supported where appropriate.

### Impact

- Children in Kiribati, Solomon Island, Vanuatu, Samoa and Fiji will be better served by well informed and coordinated child protection social services. Social workers, police officers, health care workers and the judiciary will follow operational procedures ensuring immediate and professional handling of child abuse cases.
- Children in select areas will have increased knowledge of child protection and skills and understand situations that may render them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.



## Child Protection (03) Funding required

USD 950,000

### Programme area

Community-based intervention addressing violence, abuse and exploitation of children.

### Target beneficiaries

Children and their families in selected communities. Teachers, community leaders and religious representatives.

### Expected Outcome

Children in selected geographical areas grow up in home and community environments that are increasingly free from violence, abuse and exploitation

### Duration

5 years (2008-2012)

### Partner countries

Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

## FINANCES

Social mobilization and advocacy against violence, abuse and exploitation of children	300,000
Community-based child protection networks/volunteers	300,000
Collaboration with other sectors	300,000
Programme support, including monitoring and evaluation	50,000
<b>Funding required</b>	<b>950,000</b>

### Issues:

- Studies in the Pacific have shown that most children experience some form of physical or verbal violence from parents, adults, or peers. While the degree of violence, its frequency, and impact vary, most studies reveal that child abuse (physical, emotional, sexual) is a widespread problem, often exacerbated by gender-based violence, alcohol consumption and some traditional practices.
- Violence and abuse of children, including sexual abuse, is most often perpetrated by someone close to the child in the family or community.
- The Pacific is currently facing rapid demographic and economic changes that contribute to the preconditions and context for child abuse and exploitation to occur.
- Tradition often impacts on the protection of children in a negative way as some practices oppress the status of women and children in society and perpetuate violence and abuse.
- While most parents and care-givers are naturally inclined to protect children, the awareness of children’s rights and child development is generally poor in many remote communities. In particular, the impact of violence and abuse on children is not often recognized.

### Actions

- Community-level initiatives will raise awareness on child protection through social mobilization and advocacy and assist families to recognize and build on positive traditional practices to keep children in safe home environments, including in times of emergency.
- Models for establishing community-based networks/volunteers for preventing child protection abuses, linked to the Social Welfare/Service sector will be introduced in selected districts/provinces.
- Collaboration with Ministries of Education will be sought to promote positive, non-violent forms of discipline in schools.

### Impact

- Children in selected geographical areas of Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu grow up in home and community environments that are increasingly free from violence, abuse and exploitation.
- Community welfare volunteers/child protection networks will be working effectively for the prevention of child protection abuses and notify relevant authorities as required for professional handling of cases of child abuse, violence and exploitation.
- More parents and care-givers in selected areas will demonstrate positive child-rearing practices preventing abuse, violence and exploitation of children.