



Solomon Islands
Australia
Partnership

SOLOMON ISLANDS
**INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRAM**

SOLOMON ISLANDS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (SIIP): The Development and Implementation of SIIP's GEDSI STRATEGY

PRIF WEEK

17th October 2025

Who we are



SIIP is an Australian Government Initiative partnering with the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) in delivering sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth through quality infrastructure that drives economic growth.



Launched in June 2021 SIIP is a ten-year program. SIIP brings together Australian, SIG, stakeholders, contractors to collaborate and advance technical issues across different infrastructure sectors across Solomon Islands



Guided by five guiding principles: Alignment, Inclusivity, Safety and Quality, Strengthening Climate Change and Disaster Resilience and Local Content

Development of the GEDSI Strategy

GEDSI Situational Analysis

- Paucity of women, youth and people with disabilities in leadership and decision-making positions in SI generally and particularly in infrastructure planning and implementation
- Under representation of women in the infrastructure sector
- Limited capacity to implement GEDSI policies within SIG and private stakeholders
- Lack of sex disaggregated data for development and infrastructure planning
- Lack of understanding when it comes to disability access
- Poor engagement of communities and civil society groups
- Few job opportunities for young people particularly those without formal education

GEDSI Strategy

- The SIIP GEDSI Strategy was developed in 2022 in response to the findings of the Situational Analysis
- The SIIP GEDSI Strategy was developed by a GEDSI specialist and aligned to SIIP's five guiding principles.
- Consultations were done with a range of stakeholders including CSOs, donor programs and SIG on their experiences on implementing GEDSI
- Opportunity was provided for the whole SIIP team to provide inputs into the GEDSI Strategy (Reflecting implementing teams voices)
- Training was implemented for internal SIIP staff as well as for key line SIG ministries such as the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs on potential entry points for collaboration

GEDSI Strategy

GOAL

Women, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups participate fully in the development and use of infrastructure, enabling active and productive lives

How?

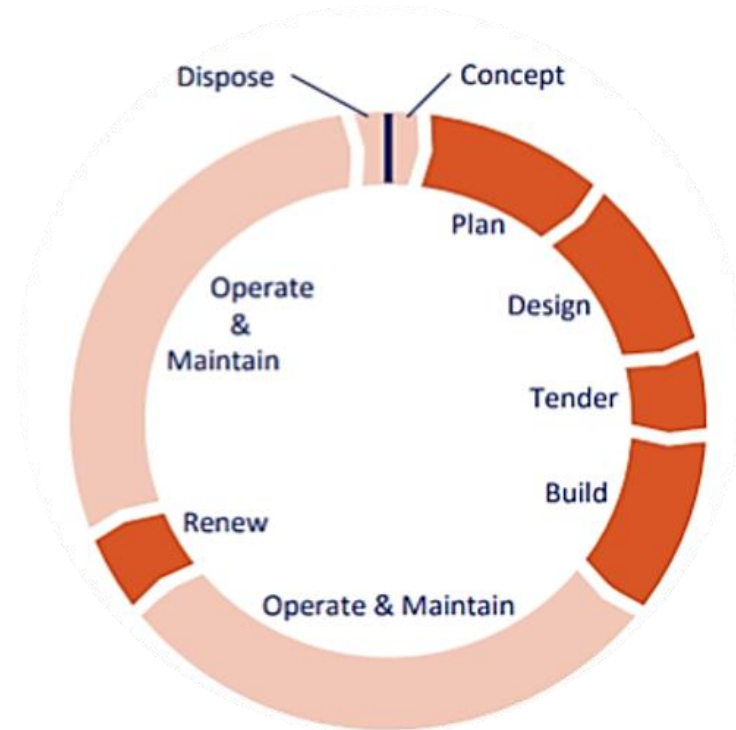
Towards this goal the Strategy works through **SIIPs five program “pillars” (4x Intermediate outcomes + SIIP Hub)**:

- SIIP Program (internal, organisational)
- Policy Support (SIIP Intermediate Outcome 1)
- Capability and Partnerships (SIIP Intermediate Outcome 2)
- Financing (SIIP Intermediate Outcome 3)
- Infrastructure Delivery (project life cycle) (SIIP Intermediate Outcome 4)

Approach: Twin Track

- I. Mainstreaming equitable inclusive approaches (i.e. GEDSI in “How” everything is done)
- II. Direct targeted activities to benefit those who are disadvantaged or marginalised

Mainstreaming



- *who is being included and who is being excluded*
- *how can we make this fairer (more equitable)*
- who is being asked for their ideas and being heard (problems and solutions)?
- who is making decisions and for whom?
- who is using and gaining skills, experience, capacity?
- who is going to benefit (and will it reduce inequality)?

Targeted



Green Construction Training Program
(GCTP)



EmployAble: Improving
Employment Opportunities for
People with Disabilities

Policy Links to SIG

- National Building Code: Accessibility and Inclusion
- Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2021-2027
- National Policy to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls
- Family Protection Act 2014
- National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2035 - range of indicators in the monitoring and evaluation framework of the NDS to ensure the gender equality goals in the NDS are met.
- The National Disability Development Policy 2022-2031 with a Rehabilitation Strategy

International Commitments

- Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Achievements of the GEDSI Strategy

GEDSI designs reflected in all SIIP infrastructure projects. For example, detailed GEDSI designs into the design of the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre

Inductions on the GEDSI strategy for all new SIIP staff became part of the onboarding process

Socialisation and building ownership of the GEDSI strategy internally and externally with stakeholders

Four focused training sessions delivered to SIIP infrastructure staff to ensure that there is GEDSI incorporated into planned infrastructure

GEDSI became part of the compliance training for all awarded contractor on projects

Implementation of project GEDSI Action Plans (GAP). GEDSI targets set by the SIIP GEDSI team with input from the infrastructure team

GEDSI being included into the procurement process for appropriate projects

Green construction Training Program

ICN07: EmployAble

Implementation Challenges

Limited engagements with key government stakeholders In implementing key GEDSI activities (Gender focal points, shifting priorities)

social and cultural barriers that affect the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in the infrastructure sector

Pressure on DPO to timely engage with program

Limited knowledge and awareness on gender and disability inclusion within infrastructure sector

Lack of sex disaggregated data for planning and implementation of activities

Lessons Learned

Integrate

Integrate GEDSI across the project cycle with a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the impact and implementation of GEDSI. This allows sustainable commitment to GEDSI in infrastructure projects

Ensure

Ensure meaningful participation and consultation

Adopt

Adopt inclusive designs to promote equitable access to infrastructure

Contribute and invest in

Contribute and invest in professional development of stakeholders especially women and vulnerable groups affected by marginalisation.

Best Practices

Nothing about us without us

- Women, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups of people can speak for themselves
- They should be represented in both consultations and decision-making groups within the context of any infrastructure project

Going beyond compliance and do no harm to fostering empowerment

- Requires addressing norms, attitudes and the lack of information that otherwise limits the empowerment of women and people with disabilities.

Tagio Tumas!

