



# Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

## Most Significant Change

### The GEF Pacific IW R2R Project - Solomons



<b>Name of Person recording story</b>	NPM/ Staff member
<b>Name of storyteller</b>	Moses Berry, Vara Creek Community Chairman
<b>Date of recording</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> of June 2019

## Transformation



Moses Berry

My involvement with the Ridge to Reef programme just a year ago in 2018, this was after our late community chairman have passed away in 2017. My position as community chairman that involved in ridge to reef activities have enable me to visualise better way forward for my community. Over the past years, there was no activities been organized for our community, apart from Christmas games where people mingle together. Disintegration of Christian, social and cultural norms and values as a result, increasing youth involvement in crime and anti-social behaviours.

Attending community engagement meetings and workshops organised by ridge to reef project, I decided to have a meeting with several elderly people in my community and revive our community committee. We have several meetings in our community and focus our vision on “clean environment, healthy family”. Despite not having support from political groups and other organizations, we try as much as possible to advocate to our people to keep our community clean and safe.

To be more constructive, as a leader and chairman of Vara Creek community committee with educational background, I started to ink down our community plans and submit proposal to the ridge to reef project for support. As a result, the ridge to reef project has supported our community with tools as well as providing educational awareness in waste management that help us a lot in transforming people’s mindset to look after our environment.

This project is not only supporting us but it also brings a lot of changes to our community. Community clean-up was done two times in a month on fortnight basis, and that community able to respect community norms and values, while maintain peace, trust, and friendship within our community.



National Project Manager of GEF/SPC IW Ridge to Reef Solomon Islands Project handing over hardware tools to Vara Creek Chairman during Mataniko River Catchment Educational Awareness program for their community clean-up program.

On the other hand, youth involvement in criminal activities and other social behaviours has been maintained at minimum.

I see this project as timely, and its support have transformed our community today. People have passion for the environment, people are aware on how to manage their waste and were able to utilize the 3R’s concept of Reduce, Reuse & Recycle in our community today.