Saver Plus in Solomon Islands

Impact Report



November 2026

With special thanks

We would like to thank the participants in the Saver Plus Solomon Islands pilot who contributed to this research by sharing their views and experiences before and after completing Saver Plus.

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Saver Plus participant Freda.

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For further information

More information about Saver Plus can be found at **anz.com/saverplus**

saverplus

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Executive summary

This report provides the results of the evaluation of the Saver Plus Solomon Islands pilot program 2025 – 2026.

Saver Plus is a matched savings and financial education program developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Australia in 2002. A pilot of the program was delivered in Solomon Islands in 2025–2026 in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The 10-month Saver Plus program provides participants with financial education training and personal guidance, and ANZ matches every dollar saved up to SBD 1,800.

There were 25 participants enrolled in Saver Plus in Solomon Islands in March 2025, with 22 completing the program (88% completion rate). The data was collected in country using a pre- and post-survey completed by 20 participants at the end of the program.

All participants in the Solomon Islands Saver Plus pilot program were women. All were market vendors recruited through the UNDP and Honiara City Council. Through ANZ's partnership with UNDP, participants received financial education training, including MoneyMinded. Of participants who completed the program, the average age was 46.2 years, and their median fortnightly income was SBD 1,745[1]. Most participants (n=13) were part of a couple with children and nine were single with children.

Savings outcomes

- The combined participant savings over the 10 months was SBD 48,662 and ANZ provided matched funds of SBD 38,200.[2]
- Participants saved for a range of items to help grow their businesses (market stalls) such as stoves, fridges and freezers and sewing machines.

Financial wellbeing outcomes

- The average financial wellbeing score increased from 40 out of 100 to 65 out of 100, a 25-point improvement.
- There were increases in the average scores for the three components of financial wellbeing:
  - meeting everyday commitments increased from 53 to 60 out of 100
  - financial resilience increased from 22 to 47 out of 100
  - feeling comfortable increased from 45 to 87 out of 100.

Savings behaviours

- After Saver Plus, most participants (85%) were saving money to build financial security for their future.
- After Safer Plus, most participants (85%) were developing a savings habit by saving money regularly even if was only a small amount.
- After Saver Plus, most participants (70%) were improving their financial resilience by making sure they had savings to help cope with 'bad times'.

Financial confidence

- After completing Saver Plus all participants reported that it helped them feel more confident in managing their money day to day; 90% felt confident in their ability to plan for their financial future; and 95% felt more confident in their ability to make decisions about financial products and services.

Economic participation

- Because of Saver Plus, all participants felt they were better able to provide for their family; 90% felt more confident in managing their business; 95% expected income from their business to increase; 90% were making plans to expand their business; and all felt they were securing their financial future.

Participant reported benefits

The overall benefits from participating as reported by participants reflected the following themes:

- Improved financial capability and behaviour change
- Increased economic participation
- Achieved financial goals
- Improved household and family wellbeing.

Participant suggestions for Saver Plus

Participants were overwhelmingly positive about Saver Plus, with many noting the program already makes a meaningful difference to their families. Suggestions included expanding the program's reach to more communities. Participants also valued peer connection and group support, with some calling for regular group meetings and ongoing contact through mobile or WhatsApp.

1. 1 SBD is approximately AUD 0.1738. The median fortnightly income of Saver Plus participants in AUD is approximately $296. **2.** Matched amounts applied only to participants who completed the program.

Susie's story

Susie saving for a goal with $2 a day



Susie is married with two children and runs a small market from home to help make ends meet. Her husband is employed, but his income is not enough on its own and the family also carries responsibility for extended family members' living costs and school fees.

Susie was already saving before joining Saver Plus, setting money aside to cover the weeks her husband was not paid. She joined the program hoping for more. "Maybe this will give me more money and help me invest my money," she recalls of her expectations.

Her ambitions went beyond day-to-day survival – she wanted to grow her small market and eventually, build another home. The program's focus on goal setting resonated with Susie:

"Setting a goal, and the goal was achieved through being faithful in saving."

She committed to putting aside $2 every day, on top of a separate coin box in which she saved the same amount daily throughout the ten-month program – a box she still has not opened. When she had a little extra, she added $2, $5 or $10 to a container set aside for shortfalls and kept a separate envelope for her bigger goal of finishing the family home back in the village. Susie describes her approach now as:

"Having self-discipline and keeping committed and being careful not breaking the goal by accessing the envelope."

Before the program, unexpected costs such as bus fare and the running costs of her market stall meant Susie often relied on her husband to get by. Cultural obligations added another layer of difficulty. Caring for sick visiting family members sometimes meant she had to stop trading altogether. She says since joining Saver Plus, this has not happened in the same way, her savings buffer now covers her when money is short.

With her matched savings, Susie bought a sewing machine and fabric to make dresses, which she now sends back to her home village to sell alongside a small canteen she also runs there. She also invested in a drum of petrol, giving her a small fuel depot to run as well. Alongside her market stall, these ventures now sit next to several parallel savings habits – the daily coin box, the shortfall container, the goal envelope, and a bank account for leftover funds. She has also begun saving alongside a friend she encouraged to take up the habit herself.

Susie left school in Year 6 because her family could not afford the fees. It is a memory that still shapes her decisions. Susie's mother told her that since she missed out on her own education, she should make sure her children did not miss out on theirs. That advice underpins much of what Susie is now working towards. Reflecting on the impact of the program, her husband has told her she looks after the family "as if I am employed" – recognition Susie feels she has earned.

"Since joining the program, I have felt less stressed, knowing that I have a number of sources for extra funds."

Her advice to others considering a similar program:

"You start small and keep faithful in what you save for and ensure you do not use the money for something else."

Saver Plus in Solomon Islands at a glance

Saver Plus delivers improved financial wellbeing for participants in the Solomon Islands...

Before Saver Plus

40 out of 100

After Saver Plus

65 out of 100

... and a change in its components

Meeting everyday commitments

53*

60*

Feeling comfortable

45*

87*

Financial resilience

22*

47*

* Score out of 100

Saver Plus creates an ongoing saving habit

88%

of participants demonstrated a savings habit upon completion*

25

participants in the Solomon Islands saved a total of

SBD 48,662

with ANZ matching

SBD 38,200

* a 'savings habit' is defined as at least 8 out of 10 months saving during the program.

Saver Plus improves participants' financial confidence ...

"Because I participated in Saver Plus I feel more confident in my ability to ..."

Manage my finances day to day	100%
Plan my financial future	90%
Make decisions about financial products and services	95%

the outlook for their businesses ...

I feel more confident in managing my business	90%
I am making plans to expand my business	90%
I expect the income from my business to increase	95%

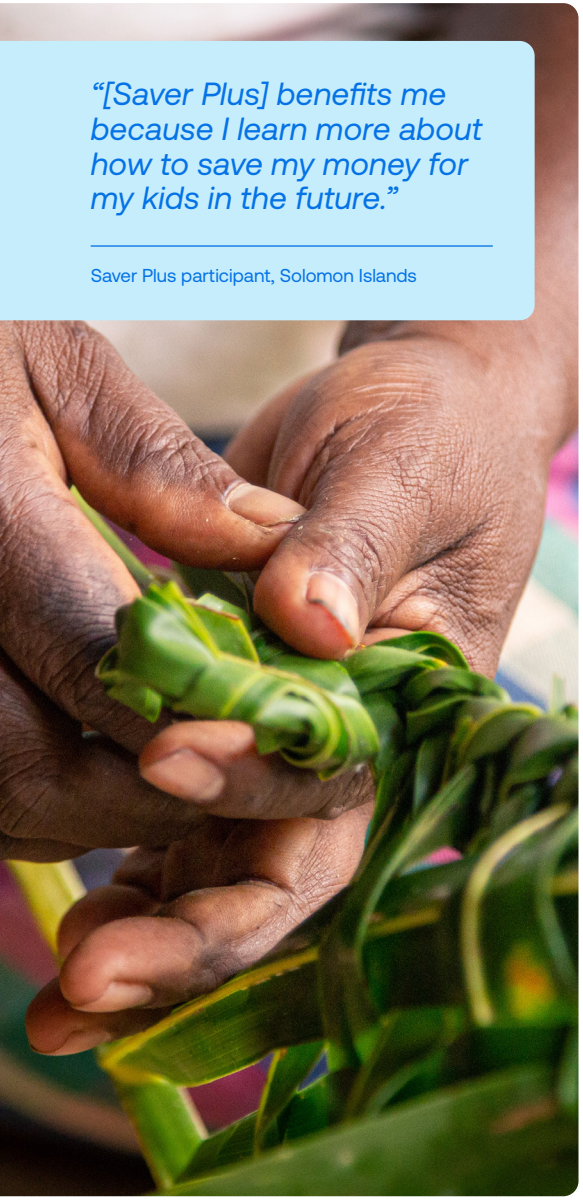
... and their families

100%

- felt better able to provide for their family
- felt they were securing their financial future

Participants saved for a range of business or education-related items

Saver Plus in Solomon Islands



"[Saver Plus] benefits me because I learn more about how to save my money for my kids in the future."

Saver Plus participant, Solomon Islands

Introduction

Solomon Islands is made up of around 700 islands in the South Pacific, with a population of approximately 740,000. While rich in culture, community, and natural resources, many Solomon Islanders face challenges accessing financial services and building financial resilience and security.

Saver Plus was developed in Australia through a partnership between ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence. In Australia, the program is co-funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Combining financial education workshops with a matched savings incentive, the program helps people on lower incomes develop savings habits and confidence in managing their money. ANZ's MoneyMinded financial education program has been a foundation for this work across the Pacific.

This report presents findings from the Saver Plus pilot in Solomon Islands, which targeted women market vendors recruited through the UNDP and Honiara City Council.

Financial wellbeing in Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands GDP per capita is around USD 1,934 with median income estimated at around USD 3 a day (World Bank, 2024). The gap between urban and rural living is significant: multidimensional poverty affects an estimated 16% of people in urban areas, rising to 43% in rural communities (World Bank, 2025).

Access to banking and financial services

Financial inclusion remains comparatively low. As of 2021, only around 23% of Solomon Islanders (aged 15+) held a formal account with a bank, a microfinance institution, or mobile money provider. Women are less financially included than men with approximately 18-19% of women having an account compared to approximately 25% of men (World Bank, 2022).

The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) in their National Financial Inclusion Strategy, 2021-2025, set a target of growing active financial account holders from 283,954 to 400,000 by 2025, with half of those accounts aiming to be held by women (CBSI, 2021).

For the estimated 80% of Solomon Islanders living outside Honiara, getting to a bank branch can take hours and cost more than the transaction is worth. Banking infrastructure is heavily concentrated in the capital, and the CBSI confirms that financial access points – ATMs, branches, EFTPOS terminals, and mobile money agents – are clustered in urban centres, leaving many outer islands and remote communities underserved (UNDP, 2025).

In 2022, UNCDF conducted a Digital and Financial Literacy Survey across seven Pacific countries, including Solomon Islands (UNCDF/UNDP, 2022–23). The results highlighted significant gaps, particularly among women, rural residents, and people running small informal businesses. The CBSI's current national strategy identifies building financial literacy and consumer protection as one of its four core priorities (CBSI, 2021), a recognition that access to banking alone is not enough if people don't feel confident using it.

Women and money

Women in Solomon Islands face additional hurdles when it comes to managing money formally. Research by the Alliance for Financial Inclusion found that 53% of women reported saving at home in a 'secret place', in part because opening a bank account requires identification documents that many women don't have (AFI, 2023). UNCDF data identified a 22% financial inclusion gap between men and women, which prompted the development of Solomon Islands' first National Women's Financial Inclusion Policy (UNCDF, 2024).

Money in Solomon Islands also has social significance. Family and community obligations – sharing resources, contributing to ceremonies, supporting relatives – are important parts of everyday life and cultural identity. For women vendors, this can make saving for personal or household goals difficult.

For women working in markets where income can vary day to day, the combination of support, skill building and incentive with the Saver Plus program has the potential to make a significant difference to their lives.

About the Saver Plus pilot

Saver Plus is a matched savings and financial education program developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Australia in 2002. It aims to assist people on lower incomes build their financial knowledge and confidence and establish a long-term savings habit.

In Solomon Islands, the Saver Plus pilot program provides participants with financial education, personal guidance, and support over a 10-month period to help them save to grow a microbusiness or for their own or their children's education. Every SBD 1 saved by a participant during the program is matched by ANZ with an additional SBD 1, up to a total of SBD 1,800.



Figure 1: Saver Plus in Solomon Islands

Step 1
Goal
Set a savings goal to grow your business or for education

Step 2
Saving
Make regular deposits into your ANZ Pacific Savings account for 10 months

Step 3
Education
Complete 10 hours of MoneyMinded or Business Basics financial education workshops

Step 4
Matching
For every SBD 1 you save you could be eligible to claim SBD 1 from ANZ (up to a total of SBD 1,800) to spend on certain items relating to your business or education

Saver Plus participants

In March 2025, 25 participants enrolled in Saver Plus Solomon Islands and 22 participants completed the 10-month program.

All participants lived in Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands. The main language spoken by participants was Pidgin.

Figure 2: Map of Solomon Islands



Source: Solomon Islands Map

Participants' financial inclusion levels

Participants were asked if they held an account with a bank or a mobile money provider, either individually or jointly with someone else. Sixty per cent (n=12) of participants said they did. Of those who held an account, one-third (n=4) said they used it less than once a month and another third (n=4) said they used their account 1-3 times a month. Only two participants used their account once a week. Of those who used their account, half (n=6) used digital banking (e.g. Internet banking or banking on a mobile phone).

Recruitment

The participants were recruited through the UNDP and Honiara City Council.

To be eligible to participate, a person must:

- be 18 years or older
- operate a microbusiness or market stall
- have a regular income less than SBD 250 per day, and
- demonstrate a capacity to save after regular expenses are covered.

Motivation for joining Saver Plus

In the evaluation survey, participants were asked to indicate their main reason for joining Saver Plus. Most participants (65%; n=13)[3] joined Saver Plus to *learn how to save and improve saving skills*. There were 25% (n=5) who wanted to *improve their business*.

Participant characteristics

All 25 participants commencing the program were women. The average age of participants at commencement was 46.3 years. The youngest participant was aged 35 and the oldest was aged 63.

Most participants (59% n=13) who completed the program were part of a couple with children. Nine participants (41%) were single with children. The median fortnightly income at commencement was SBD 1,800 (~AUD 306). The median fortnightly income of those who completed the program was SBD 1,745 (~AUD 296).

3. 20 participants completed this question.

Freda's story

Freda's savings story

Freda sells goods from a small canteen in Honiara, balancing the needs of a household of nine with the unpredictable income from market trade. Married with seven children – two sons working as security guards alongside their father, four still at school, and one daughter married with a family of her own – Freda also helps support extended family members when they turn to her for assistance.

Before joining Saver Plus, Freda was already trying to put money aside but with mixed success. "I wanted to learn how to manage money to be able to save and have enough left for my family," she says of her reason for joining the program.

Ten months later, that goal has taken a very physical form: a small wooden box, nailed to the floor of her home so it cannot easily be moved or opened. Into it went whatever she could spare – $20 here, $50 there, sometimes $100 when there was extra. By the end of the program the box held between SBD 500 and SBD 1,000, money she then deposited into the bank account she opened through Saver Plus. Freda recalls her early experience in the program with the workshops reinforced the habit:

"I felt happy as I was able to open an account and save using bank account. Most take away was the savings. Learning from the workshop and putting into practice what was learnt."

That habit was tested partway through the program, when a death in the family and a run of illnesses meant Freda was expected to contribute financially to the extended family, as is customary. In the past this might have meant borrowing from relatives or neighbours. This time she drew on her own savings instead:

"Since I was able to save and manage my finances, I was able to put my contributions from what I have, rather than the need to seek borrowing from people."

The program also changed how Freda thinks about everyday spending. She used to spend SBD 10 a day on butane gas for cooking. Now she uses a gas cylinder and a single-burner stove for cooking rice and cabbage, boils water for tea over firewood and stores it in a thermos so she does not need to relight the fire. It is a small change but one she worked out for herself once she started paying closer attention to costs. "I see the one-off cost for the cylinder is cheaper than always buying butane gas," she says.

Freda's canteen business has grown alongside her savings. She now sends bags of rice back to her home village to sell, and receives fish in return to sell in town, reinvesting the interest she earns while using her capital to restock goods. At the same time, she and her husband have been rebuilding their family home in the village; the



walls are up, and Freda is now saving towards louvre windows to finish the job. The couple now manage their savings together, something she says "makes life easy."

The changes have rippled outward. Freda has shared what she has learned with family and friends, some of whom have taken an interest in the program themselves, and her children have each started their own coin box – money they have not touched since.

"This is a very nice program. It has really helped me to work on saving money. On the 10-months' journey I have learned new skills on how to save and manage my money to help my family."

Program outcomes

"The main benefit is to improve my small business. It helps me know more about how to save money."

Saver Plus participant, Solomon Islands

Method

A pre- and post-program survey was conducted in country with Saver Plus participants to assess changes in financial wellbeing over 10 months. Participants reported on their circumstances before and after the program within the same survey, covering the key financial wellbeing dimensions – meeting commitments, financial resilience and feeling financially comfortable – as well as measuring specific financial behaviours and confidence which contribute to financial wellbeing (ANZ, 2021). A total of 20 participants completed the pre and post survey.

Saving goals and outcomes

Participants who commenced Saver Plus (n=25) saved a combined total of SBD 48,662. ANZ matched the savings with SBD 38,200.[4]

All participants had a savings goal of SBD 180 per month.

All participants were owners of market stalls, so most were saving for items relevant to their business endeavours. These items included stoves, fridges and freezers and sewing machines.

4. Matched amounts applied only to participants who completed the program.

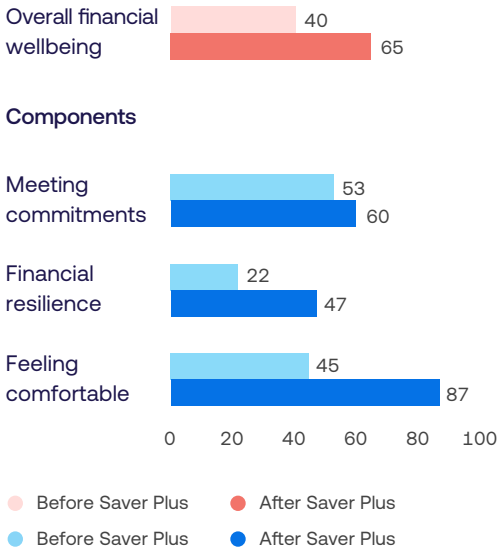
Change in financial wellbeing

The overall aim of Saver Plus is to help participants improve their financial wellbeing. It does this by showing the difference saving can make – materially and psychologically. Saving behaviour increases confidence, reduces stress, improves financial situations now and in the future.

Figure 3 shows participants' financial wellbeing scores rose from an average of 40 out of 100 before the program to 65 out of 100 afterward, a 25-point increase.

Each sub score representing the three components comprising financial wellbeing showed improvement. Participants' ability to *meet everyday commitments* increased from 53 out of 100 pre-Saver Plus to 60 out of 100 post-Saver Plus. There was a strong increase in participants' *financial resilience* with the score increasing by 25 points from 22 before Saver Plus to 47 post-Saver Plus; and the *feeling comfortable* score increased by 42 points from 45 before Saver Plus to 87 after completing Saver Plus.

Figure 3: Financial wellbeing and component scores, before and after completing Saver Plus (out of 100)



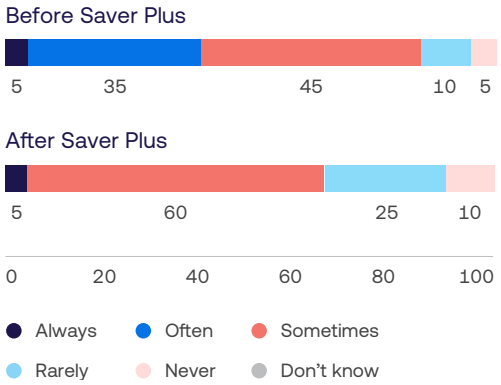


Meeting commitments

The meeting commitments dimension of financial wellbeing involves being able to meet regular expenses such as food, rent or mortgage, transport and other everyday costs as well as being able to pay recurring bills and loan commitments.

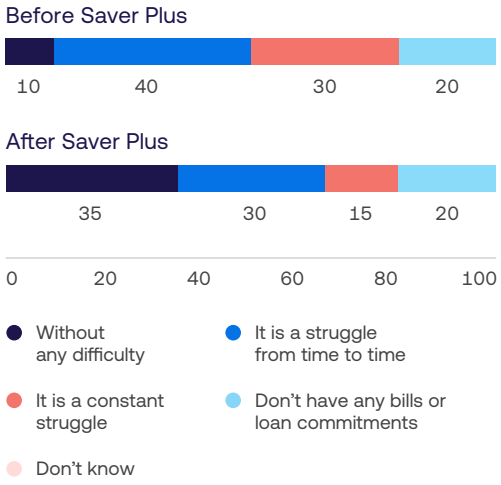
Participants were asked how often they ran short of money for food or regular expenses. Figure 4 shows that after Saver Plus, the proportion of participants who *often* ran short of money fell from 35% (n=7) to none, a decrease of 35 percentage points. There was a slight increase of 15 percentage points (n=3) in the number of participants who *sometimes* ran short of money for food or other regular expenses.

Figure 4: How often do you run short of money for food or other regular expenses? (%)



Participants were also asked whether they were able to pay bills and loans without difficulty. Figure 5 shows that before Saver Plus, only 10% (n=2) of participants could do so without difficulty; after finishing the program, 35% (n=7) were able to pay bills and loans without difficulty – an increase of 25 percentage points. The number of participants who found it a constant struggle reduced after participating – from 30% (n=6) to 15% (n=3).

Figure 5: Which of the following statement best describes how well you are meeting your bills and loan commitments? (%)

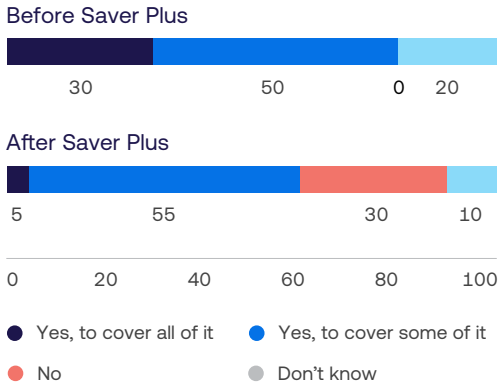


Financial resilience

Being able to meet unexpected expenses without putting the household under financial stress is critical to financial wellbeing. We all face those times when a household item needs replacing or there are unexpected medical bills. Being able to cope with unexpected expenses without having to increase debt by borrowing money or using a credit card, will prevent financial stress and contributes to peace of mind.

Before Saver Plus, 30%, (n=6) of participants said they would need to borrow or use a credit card to cover all of an unexpected expense equivalent to a month's income. This figure fell to 5% (n=1) after Saver Plus – a decrease of 25 percentage points (Figure 6). However, there was also a slight increase of one participant (5 percentage points) who reported sometimes needing to borrow or use a credit card for expenses equal to a month's income after Saver Plus.

Figure 6: Would you need to borrow or use a credit card to meet an unexpected expense equivalent to a month's income? (%)



After Saver Plus, there was a marked increase in the number of participants who succeeded in establishing a protective financial buffer to safeguard against income loss. Before Saver Plus, 60% (n=12) had *no savings* to meet their expenses if their income fell by a third and after Saver Plus there weren't any participants who had *no savings* to cover expenses if they had a loss of income. There was an increase of 20 percentage points in the number of participants who, after Saver Plus had savings of *between 7-12 months* to cover expenses if their income fell by a third.

Table 1 shows that before Saver Plus 55% (n=11) of participants had *no savings*. After completing Saver Plus only 5% (n=1) reported having no savings, a decrease of 50 percentage points. There was a 20-percentage point increase in the number of participants who had savings of *between 7-12 months' income* and a 15-percentage point increase in those who had savings of *between 1-2 months' income*.

Table 1: Thinking about the total income of your household, approximately how many months' income do you have in savings? (%)

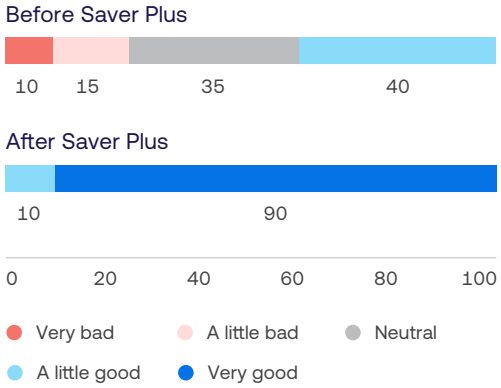
	Before Saver Plus		After Saver Plus		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	pp
More than 12 months	1	5	2	10	↑ 5
Between 7-12 months	0	0	4	20	↑ 20
Between 3-6 months	2	10	2	10	0
Between 1-2 months	2	10	5	25	↑ 15
Less than 1 month	4	20	6	30	↑ 10
I don't have any savings	11	55	1	5	↓ 50
Total	20	100	20	100	

Feeling financially comfortable

Feeling financially comfortable is a key component of financial wellbeing along with meeting commitments and having financial resilience (ANZ, 2021). It means not feeling stressed and having some money allocated to spend on activities that bring pleasure.

Before Saver Plus there were no participants who rated their financial situation to be *very good*, and following Saver Plus 90% (n=18) of participants reported that their current financial situation was *very good* (Figure 7).

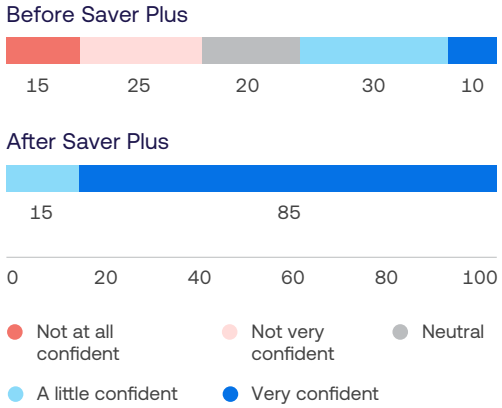
Figure 7: How would you rate your current financial situation? (%)



There is a strong connection between how we feel about our current financial situation and what we expect our financial future to hold. If we feel happy with our current financial situation, we are more likely to feel secure about our future finances (Netemeyer et al., 2018). The adoption of financial behaviours such as planning and saving along with having a future orientation will help to foster a secure financial future (Kempson & Poppe, 2018).

After Saver Plus there was a 75-percentage point increase in the proportion of participants who reported feeling *very confident* about their financial situation over the next 12 months. Before Saver Plus 10% (n=2) of participants felt *very confident* about their future and after completing Saver Plus, 85% (n=17) felt *very confident* (Figure 8).

Figure 8: How confident are you about your financial situation in the next 12 months? (%)



Having money left over after paying necessary bills and covering expenses reduces stress knowing there is a buffer but also allows the opportunity to make financial choices. Participants were asked to indicate how often they had money left over after paying for food and regular expenses, before they participated in Saver Plus, and at completion of the program.

Before Saver Plus, 25% (n=5) of participants *always* had money left over after paying for food and regular expenses and no participants said they *often* had money left over. After Saver Plus 40% (n=8) said they *always* had money left over and 25% (n=5) *often* had money left over – an increase of 15 and 25 percentage points respectively.

Having freedom to make choices in life is important to financial and general wellbeing. Being able to enjoy life and do things that bring enjoyment contributes to social connection and a happy family life. Going on holidays, participating in sporting or hobby activities reduces stress and improves mental health which also contributes to financial wellbeing (Riitsalu et al., 2025).

Before Saver Plus there were no participants who felt that the statement *'my finances allow me to do the things I want and enjoy life'* described them very well. After Saver Plus this proportion increased to 60% (n=12).

What does financial wellbeing mean to participants?

The survey asked participants to give an open response to the question *'what does financial wellbeing mean to you?'* Most participants said it meant being able to manage money well, particularly through saving, budgeting, and using income carefully. For many participants, financial wellbeing was closely linked to practical day-to-day skills – knowing how to save, how to spend wisely, and how to manage household finances.

Financial wellbeing was also strongly connected to supporting family needs. Participants described being able to take care of food, school fees, family obligations, and unexpected expenses as central to feeling financially well. Several participants emphasised that using money properly allows families to feel more secure and reduces stress at home.



Many participants highlighted the importance of gaining knowledge and understanding about money. Financial wellbeing meant learning new skills, broadening their knowledge, and feeling more confident applying what they had learned in daily life or in running a small business. For some, this included learning how to increase their income, manage a business, or even start a saving group for children and grandchildren.

Some participants described financial wellbeing as feeling secure and in control, with savings helping them plan ahead and work towards longer-term goals such as building a house or growing their savings over time. Overall, participants viewed financial wellbeing as something practical, family-focused, and closely tied to everyday life rather than an abstract idea.

Figure 9: Meaning of financial wellbeing to participants

What does financial wellbeing mean to you?

Supporting family and household needs

"Financial wellbeing means how I use my money in my daily spending for food, obligations and the unexpected demands in my family."

Ability to manage money and save well

"Financial wellbeing means that I now know how to save money and have the capacity to meet all my family expense because of the saving skills that I have learned."

Earning income and running a business

"Understanding how to manage and run business."

Feeling secure and planning for the future

"Financial wellbeing means feeling secure and being in control of my money. Being able to make money grow and reach your goal – building a house, putting good use of the money you make."

Having finacial knowledge, skills and confidence

"Financial wellbeing means to me I know how to generate income, how to spend and how I understand how to use money and how the money help us."

Saving behaviour

Participants were asked before commencing and when they completed Saver Plus to indicate the extent to which a series of statements might describe them *very well, fairly well, neutral, only a little or not at all.*[5]

- ***'I try to save money to have something to fall back on in the future.'***

  Before Saver Plus, only 8% of participants said the statement *described them very well* and 36% *fairly well*. 12% said it *didn't describe them at all*. At completion of the program, almost twice as many were positive, reporting the statement *described them very well* (65%) or *fairly well* (20%). No participants said that it *did not describe them at all* after Saver Plus.

- ***'I try to save money regularly even if it is only a small amount.'***

  Before Saver Plus, 60% said the statement *described them very* (44%) or *fairly* (16%) *well*; 24% were *neutral* in their response; 12% said it *described them only a little*; and 4% said it *did not describe them at all*. After Saver Plus, 85% said it described them *very* (55%) or *fairly* (30%) *well*. No participants said it *did not describe them at all* after Saver Plus.

- ***'I always make sure I have money saved for bad times.'***

  Before Saver Plus, 24% of participants reported the statement *described them very well* and 40% *fairly well*. 20% said the statement *described them only a little* and 4% that it *did not describe them at all*. After Saver Plus, 65% said the statement *described them very well*, 5% said that it *described them fairly well*, and 30% who said that the statement *described them only a little*.

Financial confidence

At the completion of the program, participants were asked to consider a series of statements about the impact of Saver Plus on their financial confidence:

- ***'I feel more confident in my ability to manage my money day to day.'***

  100% of participants strongly agreed/agreed that they felt more confident in managing their money day to day because of Saver Plus.

- ***'I feel more confident in my ability to plan for my financial future.'***

  90% strongly agreed / agreed that they felt more confident in planning for their financial future because of Saver Plus.

- ***'I feel more confident in my ability to make decisions about financial products and services.'***

  95% strongly agreed/agreed that they felt more confident in their ability to make decisions about financial products and services.

5. There were different sample sizes answering the Before and the After questions. The Before question was answered by 25 participants and the After question was answered by 20 participants.

Participant benefits and outcomes

At the conclusion of the program, participants were asked an open-ended question about which benefits or outcomes they valued most (Table 2). Participants consistently described the program as delivering meaningful and practical benefits in their daily lives, particularly in relation to saving behaviour, livelihoods, and family wellbeing.

Participants reported not only improved financial skills, but also greater confidence and agency in planning for the future, managing their businesses and providing for their families. When asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about economic outcomes, the results showed that because of Saver Plus:

100%	of participants indicated they were better able to provide for their families
90%	felt more confident in managing their business
95%	expected the income from their business to increase
90%	were making plans to expand their business
100%	indicated they were securing their financial future.

Table 2: Participant benefits and outcomes

Themes	Illustrative responses
Improved financial capability and behaviour change *Includes:* Saving skills, budgeting, planning, confidence, banking access	"My benefit in the program is that 1. I have a bank account, 2. Have more knowledge on saving techniques, 3. Learn to save money."
	"There are things I don't know about so when I joined, I heard good things about how to manage my finances and what more I can do with the money I make. Saving money and controlled decision making in need and wants."
	"Has changed the way I do things. Have something to think ahead for future."
Increased economic participation *Includes:* Business development, income generation, building assets	"My main benefit is that I have my own small canteen."
	"The main benefit is to improve my small business. It helps me know more about how to save money."
	"Main benefit to me is to have sewing machine to sew a food cover and to sell it so that I gain more income or to do more sewing."
Achieved financial goals *Includes:* Able to purchase items saved for – business equipment, housing materials	"I was able to meet cost of building materials for my incomplete house. All materials paid for and are at the hardware ready for delivery. Once weather clears off then will deliver at location and will start working on building."
	"Now that I will have what I wanted for so long – Dining Set (Vision)"
	"Saver Plus help me to pay my goal."
Improved household and family wellbeing *Includes:* Children's education, family support, household financial security	"To expand my business so that to support my children in terms of school fees and other basic needs in the house."
	"My benefit is for my children's future in their education. Meeting their school fees."
	"Program is nice. Makes me and family happy. It lifts me up."
	"It benefits me because I learn more about how to save my money for my kids in the future."

Note: Themes are not mutually exclusive, many responses contribute to more than one benefit or outcome.

Suggestions for Saver Plus in the future

Overall, participants were very positive about Saver Plus and many said they were happy with how the program is currently run. Several participants commented that the program already helps them and their families a lot, and that the most important improvement is for themselves to stay committed to saving regularly.

At the same time, some participants suggested ways the program could grow and reach more people. A common suggestion was to extend Saver Plus to more women and more communities. Others felt that more training or workshops would help participants continue to build their skills over time.

A few participants also highlighted the value of working together, suggesting regular group meetings, communication through mobile phones or WhatsApp, and continued close support from the ANZ savings team.

Overall, the feedback suggests that Saver Plus is well received, and that future improvements could focus on expanding access and maintaining strong group support.

Examples of participant comments:

"Happy with the way the program is run and how program is delivered."

"Saver Plus should introduce in more communities. Do more training on saver plus in schools."

"Resilience in Honiara. Teamwork – assist each other. Meeting of their own – Fortnightly."

"Allow saving to be used for wider range of essential goals such as school fees or emergency expenses."

Conclusion

The Saver Plus pilot in Solomon Islands demonstrates the potential of matched savings and financial education to improve financial wellbeing among women market vendors operating in challenging economic conditions. Despite low initial levels of saving, irregular incomes, and exposure to social and environmental pressures, participants were able to build savings, strengthen financial capability, and increase confidence in managing money and planning for the future.

Significant improvements were observed across key dimensions of financial wellbeing, including the ability to meet everyday expenses, build financial resilience, and feel more financially comfortable. Many participants moved from having no savings at all to establishing a financial buffer, increasing their capacity to manage emergencies and income shocks. These outcomes are particularly important in a context where formal financial inclusion is limited and economic vulnerability is high.

The program also supported broader economic participation. Participants commonly used their savings to invest in income-generating activities, business assets, and household priorities such as education. For women working in the informal economy, these gains translated directly into improved household security and greater confidence in future financial prospects. The combination of structured goal setting, financial education, and matched savings proved effective in supporting sustained behaviour change.

Feedback from participants suggests that Saver Plus was well received and relevant to their needs, with strong appreciation for its practical focus and supportive delivery. While the pilot was small and limited to urban market vendors in Honiara, results are consistent with evidence from Saver Plus programs in other settings.

Overall, the pilot indicates that Saver Plus can deliver meaningful improvements in financial wellbeing for women in Solomon Islands.

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