

Wonderfully Made



Project: 103399
Non-Tax-Deductible

Cook Islands

Overview

The Bible Society of the South Pacific (BSSP) is continuing work begun in 2025 with World Day of Prayer (WDP) to reach women and children in the Cook Islands, addressing gender violence against women and girls with Bible-based trauma healing programs, and bridging the gap of Scriptural understanding and spiritual growth of children with Sunday School teachers training.

The Need

Traditionally, women are considered the keepers of the Cook Islands' heritage and traditions, and children are their future. However, women and girls continue to face high levels of gender-based violence, shaped by traditional perceptions of obedience and authority, and further influenced by missionary and colonial impacts on local culture and governance. Church leaders have identified an urgent need to strengthen trauma healing, equip Sunday School teachers, and provide Scripture resources that help families address emotional, spiritual, and social challenges grounded in biblical truth.

- **39%** of women in the Cook Islands have experienced physical violence
- **13%** of these women have experienced sexual violence, and 64% of victims did not seek help from authorities (Cook Islands Family Health Safety Survey Report 2014)



Goals

Bible Society of the South Pacific (BSSP), in partnership with the Cook Islands World Day of Prayer Committee, will deliver the Cook Islands WDP National Celebration Program in March 2026, bringing together up to 3,000 women, children and young people from across the islands to strengthen prayer, unity and spiritual life within local churches.

The project will also build the capacity of the seven WDP member churches through trauma healing and Sunday School teaching workshops by August 2026, equipping at least 55 leaders, pastors, police officers and Sunday School teachers with practical skills and biblical insight.

In addition, by December 2026, the project will distribute 2,000 Scripture resources to churches, schools and community institutions across the Cook Islands, supporting deeper engagement with God's Word and ongoing outreach.

Impact

BSSP aims to reach and positively impact more than 8,000 women and children through this project. Women participating in trauma healing workshops will be supported to rediscover their God-given worth and identity in Christ, and to gain practical, biblically grounded tools for healing and reconciliation. Through this, women will be better equipped to address gender-based challenges within their families and communities, promoting dignity, equality and awareness of their rights.

Thousands of women, youth and children will also take part in the World Day of Prayer National Celebration programs, including Bible studies, the National Prayer Service and cultural celebrations. Sunday School teachers from seven church denominations will be strengthened through a national training workshop, with children benefiting directly through deeper engagement with Scripture and improved Bible literacy.

Impact in Numbers

6,000

people have been reached and impacted by this project so far.

1,020

copies of the 100 Steps Family Bible have been distributed through 40 churches in the Cook Islands in 2025.

Testimony

"I'm so glad to have attended this training because it encourages in the Word of God. It gave me hope and creativity to do things for my family."

— Tasi*, a widowed mother and participant at a trauma healing session run by BSSP

*Name changed to protect privacy.

How Your Support Helps

\$15

will help provide trauma healing materials for one woman.

\$35

will help equip a Sunday School teacher with training resources.

\$110

will help deliver Bibles and Scripture resources across the islands.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." — **Psalm 139:14, NIV**