



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australian
Aid 



**First Progress
Report
2012-2015**

PACIFIC WOMEN
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT



**PACIFIC WOMEN SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT
FIRST PROGRESS REPORT 2012-2015**

Supporting the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration

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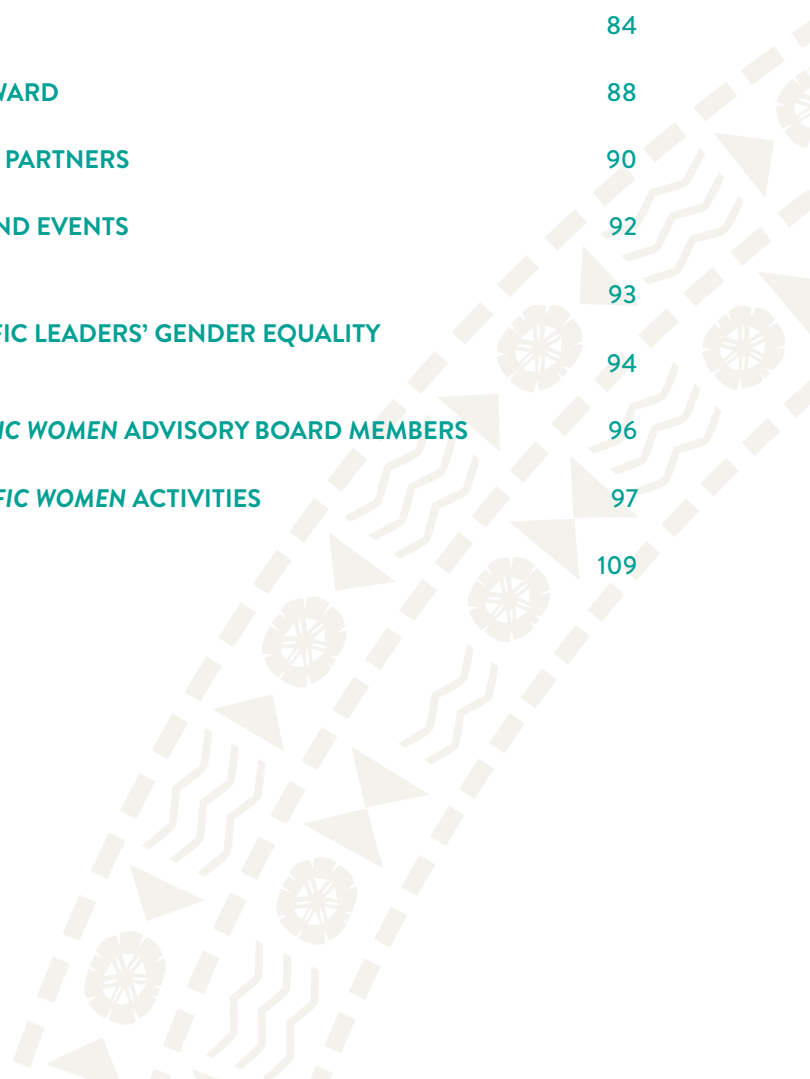
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FOREWORDS

THE HON JULIE BISHOP

Australia's Minister For Foreign Affairs



I am pleased to present the first progress report on Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*). *Pacific Women* is a significant investment by the Australian Government in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the Pacific.

When meeting with women and women's groups during visits to the Pacific, I have heard remarkable stories of bravery, determination and strength.

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), I met with women working in the coffee industry and listened to the difficulties they face managing their responsibilities at home with long hours in the fields. I was privileged to meet with the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and more than 30 members of the Bougainville Women's Federation to discuss their hopes and ambitions of playing a greater role in decision making and their aspirations for political leadership.

I have visited the women and children's crisis centres in numerous countries including PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu, where dedicated staff provide comprehensive support to survivors of violence.

One of the core principles of *Pacific Women* is that change must be shaped and led by Pacific communities. The *Pacific Women* Advisory Board comprises 12 committed Pacific women and men working to address gender inequalities. Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja, is an observer to the Board and provides a link to Australia's domestic responses to gender inequality.

The Australian Government recently announced a \$100 million package of measures to improve support services for survivors of violence, utilise innovative technologies to keep women safe, and deliver community education to help change attitudes to violence. We continue to learn from each other to improve the lives of women and girls in our region and to help them realise their potential.

This report showcases some of the early achievements of the program and highlights how *Pacific Women* works with Pacific governments, community organisations, the private sector, UN and regional organisations. It also provides an insight into what could be done better.

Pacific Women is implementing the Australian Government's commitment to delivering an effective aid program of which all Australians and our Pacific partners can be proud.

THE HON FIAME NAOMI MATA'AFU

Samoa's Minister of Justice and Courts
Administration, Censorship; and
Pacific Women Advisory Board Member



As a member of the *Pacific Women Advisory Board*, I have seen how the program is seeking to support transformational change for Pacific women, men, communities and institutions. I was pleased to attend two forums for women in parliament from the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. The first forum was held in Tonga in July 2014 and brought together women Members of Parliament (MPs) and senior bureaucrats to discuss how we can work together to achieve better development outcomes for all women. The second was held in Suva in April 2015 and had a focus on the role of parliaments in responding to family violence.

The *Pacific Women* design document identified that the values and attitudes of men and women are significant barriers to gender equality in the Pacific. Women's lack of belief in themselves limits both what they choose to do and what they expect of others. This is most starkly demonstrated in the health and family surveys now undertaken in most Pacific countries, which document that both women and men accept the high levels of violence against women. Controlling behaviours within relationships have become normalised and physical punishment is often used as a way to discipline women who are seen as moving outside of their gender roles. The practice of physically disciplining children at home and at school also means that children often learn that physical violence is the normal way of resolving problems.

Community perceptions that women have lower status than men are often reinforced by legal and policy barriers which deny women access to land and other assets; lack of provisions for employment protection for women; unequal marriage ages which put young girls at risk of early marriage and electoral systems which disadvantage women. But we have already seen major change in the Pacific. Ten new family protection laws have been passed over the last few years and two more are being drafted. Some countries are moving to put in place measures to ensure women are represented in public leadership positions.

I'm proud that the Government of Samoa amended the Constitution to ensure that women shall constitute a minimum of 10 per cent of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I know that many women in parliaments don't support quotas, but I think temporary special measures are an important step.

If something isn't happening we have to make it happen. *Pacific Women* is here to help Pacific countries achieve all that we are capable of achieving.

INTRODUCTION

This is the first progress report of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*), which provides a snapshot of the program's achievements and challenges in its first three years of operation. All 14 Pacific Islands Forum countries have received some form of support through *Pacific Women*.

While the Pacific region is vast and culturally diverse, Pacific Island countries share common challenges related to gender inequality: violence against women is widespread; women's participation in political leadership is among the lowest in the world; and there are multiple barriers to economic participation and empowerment of women. Indeed, gender inequality poses a significant development challenge for Pacific Island countries.

In response to this challenge, the Australian Government established *Pacific Women*, a 10 year \$320 million initiative that aims to support women - regardless of their income, location, disability, age or ethnic group - in 14 Pacific countries to participate fully, freely and safely in political, economic and social life. *Pacific Women* supports countries to meet the commitments made in the 2012 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration (refer Annex A). *Pacific Women* is managed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) in Canberra and Offices in the Pacific.

PACIFIC WOMEN

Goal: Women in the Pacific (regardless of income, location, disability, age or ethnic group) participate fully, freely and safely in political, economic and social life.

The outcomes sought by the program include the following:

- › Women, and women's interests, are increasingly and effectively represented and visible through leadership at all levels of decision-making.
- › Women have expanded economic opportunities to earn income and accumulate economic assets.
- › Violence against women is reduced and survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.
- › Women in the Pacific will have a stronger sense of their own agency, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need.

In 2012 a detailed delivery strategy was developed, which established the interconnected nature of women's disempowerment in the Pacific and the need for change across several areas:

- › Enhanced knowledge and evidence base to inform policy and practice;
- › Strengthened women's groups, male advocates and coalitions for change;
- › Positive social change towards gender equality and women's agency;
- › Improved women's leadership and decision-making opportunities;
- › Increased economic opportunities for women;
- › Reduced violence against women and expanded support services; and
- › Improved gender outcomes in education and health.

In 2013 the delivery strategy was developed into a program design informed by regional workshops held in Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG). These forums and other consultations with regional organisations based in Fiji revealed that actions to address women's inequality across the Pacific were not adequately responding to the need. Work was often siloed in small projects with limited opportunity to scale-up, and with poor sharing of information and learning. Few programs could provide evidence of their effectiveness. This does not mean that there are no effective responses, but that there is often inadequate monitoring, evaluation and documentation of experiences. Alongside the design process, individual *Pacific Women* country plans were developed in consultation with women, men and communities, partner governments and other key stakeholders across the 14 Pacific Island Forum countries.

The main message from the country planning processes was that the local context of women's experiences needed to be understood. *Pacific Women* is thus based on meeting the individual needs of countries, and the women, men, children and communities in those countries. The regional consultations and country planning helped to determine *Pacific Women's* intended outcomes.

An Advisory Board of prominent Pacific women and men guides the *Pacific Women* program and Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls is an observer to the Board. The Board's membership is representative of the different geographic regions in the Pacific and Board members come from a wide range of organisations which work to address gender inequalities. The Board has members who represent the interests of women living with disabilities and of young women. Details of Board membership is provided at Annex B.

To support program management and the many facets of program and activity implementation, a *Pacific Women* Support Unit is based in Fiji, with a sub-office established in PNG. It provides technical, administrative and logistical support to DFAT and to *Pacific Women's* implementing partners.

Pacific Women has a strong focus on delivering activities in partnership with others. The program works closely with a range of partners, including governments, Pacific and international nongovernmental organisations, regional organisations, United Nations agencies, research organisations, development banks and the private sector. *Pacific*

Women does not duplicate, but works with other Australian aid programs to help achieve better results for gender equality and women's empowerment across all sectors.

In response to concerns raised during the design process that information on the causes and consequences of, and the responses to, gender inequalities was not being shared, *Pacific Women* established a website to host information about activities and research that seek to address gender inequality at country and regional levels. A quarterly e-newsletter provides readers with stories highlighting individual activities, while an interactive map displays the nature and scope of *Pacific Women* activities in each country and gives users easy access to country plan summaries.

This report highlights key achievements and the principles that underpin *Pacific Women*, as well as the collaborative and consultative approach in which it is implemented. It also demonstrates the commitment to learning from experience, through the priority given to high quality monitoring and evaluation, research, partnership and coalition building across the program.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

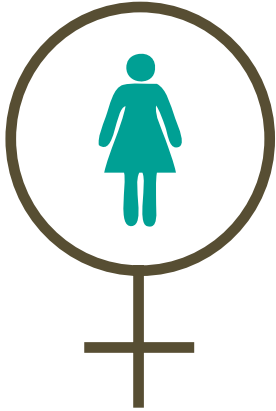
- › The program will promote evidence-informed policies and programs, drawing from current experience and ongoing attention to high quality monitoring, evaluation and research.
- › The program will support sharing of information and increased coordination and liaison between development partners working for women's empowerment in the Pacific.
- › Change for Pacific women can be supported by donors but must be shaped and led by women and men in the Pacific.

Most importantly, Pacific women and men have the opportunity to shape the program across its breadth and lifetime. In this report, case studies and stories, by outcome area and country, feature the voices and experiences of Pacific women and men, and highlights of country and regional activities and events. 'Program at a Glance' provides *Pacific Women's* main facts and figures, as well as regional and country snapshots. The report also reflects on lessons learned and considers the road ahead.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

FACTS AND FIGURES

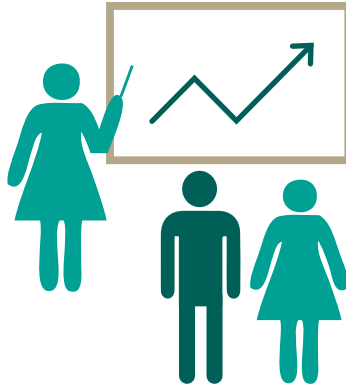
In the first three years of *Pacific Women*:



12,897

Women have increased access to crisis support services

12,897 women have accessed a variety of crisis support services, including counselling, health and legal support.



4,716

Women are participating in market decision making structures

4,716 women are a part of Market Vendor Associations and influencing market governance structures.



1,716

Women have participated in financial literacy training

1,716 women have participated in a variety of training, from accessing financial services to running small businesses, to improve their financial literacy.



563

Women have obtained formal qualifications

563 women have obtained formal qualifications in a range of sectors including tourism, fashion and carpentry.

555

Women market vendors are using banking services

555 women market vendors from PNG have opened bank accounts and accessed financial services.



484

Women have had formal opportunities to share their ideas and learn from each other

484 women have participated in regional exchanges to network, share ideas and support each other.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

COUNTRY AND REGIONAL SNAPSHOT*

1 Cook Islands

- › Total commitment: \$780,000
- › Number of activities: 2

2 Federated States of Micronesia

- › Total commitment: \$445,000
- › Two activities proposed to commence in 2016

3 Fiji

- › Total commitment: \$6,700,000
- › Number of activities: 10

14 Vanuatu

- › Total commitment: \$3,980,000
- › Number of activities: 5

13 Tuvalu

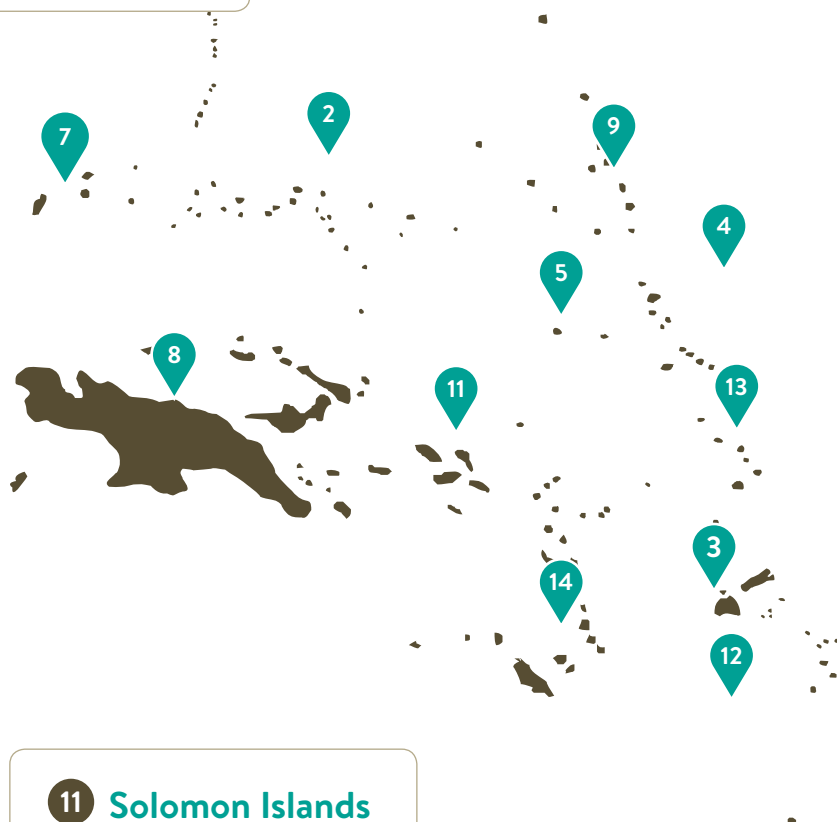
- › Total commitment: \$1,800,000
- › Three activities proposed to commence in 2016

12 Tonga

- › Total commitment: \$2,600,000
- › Number of activities: 4

11 Solomon Islands

- › Total commitment: \$8,600,000
- › Number of activities: 8



A full list and brief descriptions of these activities is available at Annex C and on Pacific Women's website, through an interactive map: <http://map.pacificwomen.org/>.



Regional

- › Total commitment: \$58,933,396
- › Number of activities: 20



4 Kiribati

- › Total commitment: \$1,800,000
- › Number of activities: 6

5 Nauru

- › Total commitment: \$640,000
- › Number of activities: 1

6 Niue

- › Niue is supported through the *Pacific Women* regional program.

7 Palau

- › Total commitment: \$450,000
- › One activity proposed to commence in 2016

8 Papua New Guinea

- › Total commitment: \$55,000,000
- › Number of activities: 25

9 Republic of the Marshall Islands

- › Total commitment: \$600,000
- › Number of activities: 2

10 Samoa

- › Total commitment: \$4,400,000
- › Number of activities: 2

* The funding commitment identified for each country is the value of activities included in country plans. It does not reflect the total commitment under Pacific Women over the 10 year program period.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

“In order for leadership to be effective, it needs to be recognized, affirmed and built on with the young people, with the next generation of the movers and shakers. It is important that their leadership is affirmed and encouraged, and that they can practise this as much as possible.”

Ms Filomena Tuivanualevu, Fiji Women's Rights Movement's former Young Women's Officer (*Pacific Women's Working Together to Improve Gender Equality in the Pacific* video series, 2014).

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

The Pacific has the lowest levels of women in parliaments in the world. The Inter-Parliamentary Union reports that as at June 2015, the world average of all elected members is 22.2 per cent women and 77.8 per cent men. However, the percentage of women in Pacific parliaments (excluding Australia and New Zealand) stands at 5.7 per cent¹ (as at May, 2015). There is also a significant under-representation of women in leadership and decision making at the sub-national level of government, as well as in leadership positions in statutory authorities, the private sector and many traditional structures. Lack of women in leadership and decision-making roles in the Pacific weakens democracy and undermines overall quality of governance.

Although progress has been slow, there are some signs of change. For example, quotas have been used successfully in the region to increase women's representation at the sub-national level in PNG, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Bougainville and Samoa. Samoa recently became the first country in the Pacific to legislate reserved seats for women (10 per cent) to promote gender balance in national legislatures. Quotas in leadership roles for women can help to ensure that women's perspectives are sufficiently represented in society. However, quotas will only work when there are safeguards to ensure that the women placed in these positions are representative of a wide cross-section of women.

"There's very few women that have managed to get into parliament. Given the few that we have, it's very important that we work together and we network."

Dr Jiko Luveni, first female Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji (Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Forum, April 2015).

Supporting women's leadership in the Pacific is essential to reducing poverty, promoting economic growth and democracy, and increasing the wellbeing of women, girls and their families. Greater gender equality, especially in leadership and decision making, improves economic circumstances at the country, community and household levels. There is evidence that increasing representation of women in decision making improves outcomes in health, education and other local services.

"The women in the villages that I visited preferred the idea that women should also become members of Parliament so women could talk for women and address their needs."

Ms Hilda Kari, three-term Member of the Solomon Islands Parliament (A. Pollard and M. Waring (2009), p. 71.).

Pacific Women is addressing these challenges by supporting interventions to increase representation of women and women's interests, including programs designed to: train women candidates, including support for temporary special measures such as reserved seats for women politicians; provide mentoring opportunities for women MPs; and increase gender sensitivity of women and men at all decision making levels.

The case studies highlight some of the important initiatives that *Pacific Women* is supporting to promote women's leadership and decision making - from helping women vendors to have a greater say on how their markets are run, to empowering more women to become parliamentarians, to supporting coalitions that are successfully advocating for and implementing temporary special measures.

CASE STUDIES

Democratising the marketplace

Project name: Markets for Change

Project partner: UN Women

Total funding: \$10,000,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2019

The Markets for Change project acknowledges the multiple layers of inequality experienced by women market vendors in the Pacific. While the project is seen predominantly as a women's economic empowerment initiative, project activities also address women's effective representation in marketplace decision making structures and women's safety and security.



Ms Janes Kalo, Treasurer of the Silae Vanua Market Vendors Association (far right) signs the founding constitution at the Port Vila Central Market on 15 May 2015. Photo: Murray Lloyd/UN Women.

Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of market vendors in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are women, they are often not part of the decision making processes that govern their workplaces. Their hours are long, the profits can be low and violence against women is widespread. To help change this, UN Women's Markets for Change project, with funding from *Pacific Women*, delivers 'Getting Started' workshops.



More than 110 market vendors from Ba, Rakiraki and Tavua markets were recognised in June 2015 for their active participation in a series of Getting Started workshops, held in December 2014 and February 2015, aimed at helping them work together towards making positive changes to their marketplaces. Hon Rosy Akbar, Fiji's Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, officiated the ceremony. Photo: Sereana Narayan/UN Women.

The workshops focus on supporting market vendors to be able to effectively raise concerns with market management, and have an influence over the processes that govern the marketplaces—from physical infrastructure, to bylaws and security. An important part of this process is to encourage the formation or reinvigoration of inclusive, representative and democratic market vendors' associations.

By the end of June 2015, the workshops had been held in 15 of the 20 market sites included in the project, with more than 649 vendors from Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participating – 88 per cent of whom were women. As a result of the workshops, several new associations have been established, with more to follow, while existing associations increased their membership, gained awareness of the benefits and started working productively with other associations to share challenges, solutions and opportunities.

Progress has been made in all countries to improve effective and timely communications between local authorities and market vendors and most councils are now having monthly meetings with the market vendor association executives to address and resolve market vendors' complaints and issues. The inclusion of representatives of the Suva Market Vendors' Association Executive Committee in the monthly meetings of the Suva City Council is an example of best practice in this regard.

Ms Ana Biusavu, a market vendor from Labasa in Fiji who attended one of the workshops, said women vendors played a vital role in the market, but were often not given an opportunity to be heard. A few months after the workshop, she was elected President of Labasa Market Vendors' Association.



Rural market vendors at an Awareness and Recruitment workshop in Guadalcanal discussing issues at Honiara Central Market, Solomon Islands. The workshop held in 2015 resulted in higher representation of rural market vendors in the Honiara Central Market Vendors' Association. Photo: Patrick Reoka/UN Women.

'I believe women should be involved in the marketplace [governance] because they contribute a lot to the income of the market, income of the family, and to meeting their social obligations. I know the task ahead won't be easy, but I am confident that my committee will work together with the town council and UN Women to bring about changes in Labasa Market.'

The Markets for Change project is principally funded through *Pacific Women*, and also receives support from UN Women's National Committees of Australia and New Zealand.



Market vendor at the Central Market in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Photo: Nicky Kuaautonga/UN Women.



Members of Pacific Parliaments met in Fiji from 29 April – 1 May 2015 to discuss ways of addressing violence against women. Photo: Fijian Government.

Parliamentarians unite to increase women politicians in the Pacific

Project name: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project

Project partner: International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

Total funding: \$2,850,037

Funding timeframe: 2013-2018

Only 5.7 per cent of parliamentarians across the Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand) are women. The Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project (PWPP) wants this to change. It aims to improve understanding of the factors that constrain women’s political participation, and to build the capacity of women MPs in the Pacific, the institutions in which they work and the staff who support them. Annual forums to bring together Pacific women MPs and Australian and New Zealand MPs are an important element of the program.

In April 2015, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, addressed 63 delegates from 15 jurisdictions at the third PWPP Forum in Fiji with the theme – legislative responses to family violence. Ten male parliamentarians participated in the 2015 Forum.

“There is absolute value in women from different backgrounds and from different parliaments coming

together to share their experiences to mentor each other, to talk honestly and openly about the difficulties in getting elected, and the difficulty of being a woman in male-dominated legislatures,” the Ambassador said.

Greater gender equality in leadership improves economic circumstances at the country and household level, and improves health, education and other local services as laws and policies are more indicative of peoples’ lived realities—for both women and men. Two women delegates who attended the forum in Fiji shared their views on women’s leadership and decision making.

During her campaign to be elected to Parliament, Hon Freda Soraicomua, Solomon Islands Minister for Women, faced tough questions from male voters, often aiming to provoke or intimidate her, but she did not give up and eventually won the seat.

“I encourage other women in Solomon Islands and other Melanesian countries to fight for their right [at] the national level by winning seats in the Parliament,” she said. At the time of the forum Minister Soraicomua was Minister for Rural Development.

Governor Julie Soso Akeke of Eastern Highlands Province in PNG, said one of the reasons she campaigned to be elected to Parliament was because she *“wanted women to get up there and participate equally in national decision making. I am the first one to break the glass ceiling, and I am expecting more women to come into Parliament in 2017.”*



L-R: Hon Maere Tekanene, Kiribati's Minister for Education and Hon Va'aiga Paotama Tukuitonga, Niue Member of Parliament, at a Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Project Forum. Photo: Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Project.

The annual PWPP forums are an important part of ensuring sustainability, because they provide Pacific women MPs with the opportunity to meet face to face, to assess the merit and effectiveness of the previous year's activities and to identify future steps to strengthen the representation of women and women's interests in parliaments across the region.

In addition to the annual forums, activities supported through PWPP have included: the establishment of ongoing communication mechanisms for sharing information and experiences including online platforms (website and closed Facebook page) and regular PWPP newsletters; a number of Australian- Pacific women MP exchanges including with politicians from Solomon Islands (provincial level), Cook Islands, Palau and Bougainville; and research placements of Australian parliamentary staff in Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu to produce papers on gender issues, as required by women parliamentarians in host parliaments. A learning program on Gender Equality in Pacific Parliaments was piloted at the 2015 PWPP Forum. Further work on the learning program will be conducted with Pacific parliamentary clerks and educators, prior to being implemented by Pacific parliaments in early 2016.



Governor Julie Soso Akeke - the first woman to be elected into the PNG Parliament from the Highlands region. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

Reserved seats for women on councils is a step forward for Vanuatu

Project name: Women in Shared Decision Making

Project partners: The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team, Pacific Leadership Program and Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs

Total funding: \$220,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2017

Australian Government funded training on legislative lobbying in 2011 contributed to a successful campaign to reserve seats for women on municipal councils across Vanuatu just a couple of years later.

In May 2013, the Government of Vanuatu announced a temporary special measure to reserve seats for women on municipal councils. The 30–34 per cent quota for women's representation on councils will be effective for 16 years.

'The temporary measure will enhance the support of women in working with men in addressing the many challenges of the socio-economic developments of our communities today,' a statement from the Prime Minister's office said.

Ms Dorosday Kenneth Dhressen, the Director of Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs, said the announcement was well received by women throughout the country.

Ms Seman Dalesa-Saraken, Governance Officer at Vanuatu Women's Affairs, said that the legislative lobbying training, funded by the Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) and conducted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team, gave her the relevant skills and knowledge to advance the campaign.

'It was through this training that we developed a campaign plan to lobby for a temporary special measure to enhance women's participation in Parliament,' she said. *'We then worked on the policy paper that was submitted to the Director, who used it to lobby the Government.'*

In October 2013, Vanuatu Parliament amended the Municipality Act (CAP 126) which allowed for one



Participants at a national political candidacy training for women in Vanuatu, 2012. The training was supported by the Pacific Leadership Program and organised by the Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs. Photo: Pacific Leadership Program.

reserved seat per ward in each municipality. This guaranteed women candidates five seats in Port Vila and four in Luganville. Port Vila municipal elections were held in January 2014 and five women were subsequently elected onto the municipal council. A further amendment in April 2015, requiring political parties to 'fix the order in which candidates are listed, alternately between man and woman', resulted in five women being elected, one via an open seat. With funding from *Pacific Women*, PLP provided further technical assistance and support which resulted in the implementation of the Act on 21 July 2015 at the local municipal elections. This support included awareness raising and voter education on temporary special measures in Luganville Municipal Council elections; training of women candidates and the development of electoral communication materials.

Through further *Pacific Women* funding, PLP has continued to work with the Department of Women's Affairs to deliver adaptive leadership training for Port Vila women municipal councillors. *Pacific Women* is also funding action research on the work of the Department of Women's Affairs in order to inform future coalition support needs and to identify and document the critical junctures that have progressed this work.

The introduction of a temporary quota for women in the municipal council elections is the first step towards addressing under-representation of women in Vanuatu's political system.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

“My vision for Pacific women in 10 years’ time - I’d like to see women in the Pacific, including women with disabilities live in a gender equitable society where they are free to exercise their rights, are living free from discrimination and are economically empowered.”

Ms Savina Nongebatu, Immediate past female Co-Chairperson of the Pacific Disability Forum, former President of ‘People With Disability’ Solomon Islands and *Pacific Women* Advisory Board member (*Pacific Women’s Working Together to Improve Gender Equality in the Pacific* video series, 2014).

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Nations thrive when women can participate in politics, business and society as equals. Women's economic security is important for a country's economic growth as well as family and community change. When women are unable to participate in economic activity, whether it be in the formal or informal sector, their ability to control their own development and that of their family is limited as is their ability to leave abusive or inequitable relationships. While there is strong interest and support for women to access the formal economic system, the reality for most women and men in the Pacific is that they are reliant on the subsistence economy and operate in an unregulated informal sector. Support for women's improved economic participation needs to take into account changing patterns of cultural life and growing inequality across the Pacific while addressing key structural issues such as unequal rights to land ownership, access to markets and financial services, safe working conditions and better options for social security without increasing their burden of work.

'To achieve economic expansion we need to unlock a vital source of growth that will fuel our economies in the coming decades. And we all know that source is women.'

Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls
(*Pacific Women in Business Conference, November 2014*).

The 2012 Economist Intelligence Unit's Women's Economic Opportunity Index assesses a range of underlying factors affecting women's economic opportunities in the formal sector in five areas: labour policy and practice; access to finance; education and training; women's legal and social status; and general business environment. While Fiji's score of 81 is the highest overall score of the six Pacific island countries included in the 2012 index, it performs below the global average in every category and on most indicators. Samoa is ranked 99, Vanuatu is 106, while Tonga is ranked 110ⁱⁱ. Solomon Islands and PNG are placed in the bottom five countries in the world (124 and 125 respectively out of 128).

By eliminating barriers to women's full participation in certain sectors or occupations, labour productivity could be increased by as much as 25 per cent in some countries through better allocation of skills and talent (Background paper for the World Development Report 2012)ⁱⁱⁱ. Women's higher income and increased control

over money leads to increased household spending on food and schooling, resulting in improved outcomes for children's education, health and nutrition, which in turn leads to greater sustained poverty reduction. While increasing women's participation in economic opportunities is important, so is increasing women's agency.

One example of a program linking economic empowerment and women's agency is the UN Women Markets for Change project, funded by *Pacific Women*, which responds to women's needs for enhanced influence, infrastructure and security in the marketplace. The program is working towards improved economic security of women market vendors; and ensuring that local governments and market management agencies are addressing the needs of, and being accountable to, women market vendors. The project is a six year, multi country initiative to make marketplaces in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory. *Pacific Women* also supports the Safe Cities Safe Markets Project in PNG which has similar objectives.

Australia's aid program in the Pacific supports a range of initiatives addressing capacity blocks hampering economic growth, such as strengthening the private sector and the business enabling environment; increasing access to finance; promoting investment, exports and agribusiness and creating jobs through business expansion and labour mobility schemes. Given this, and the barriers to women's economic inclusion, a key focus of *Pacific Women's* work is on the informal and subsistence economies. Focus is also on ensuring the risks related to greater economic opportunities for women such as increasing work burdens and limited control over income, are addressed through links to activities supporting women's agency and prevention of violence.

Pacific Women is funding a range of activities which aim to increase women's economic empowerment through training, skills development and scholarships, as well as initiatives that enhance infrastructure, women's financial literacy, and opportunities for women to progress to leadership positions in their places of work. The case studies below demonstrate some of *Pacific Women's* contributions in this area – ranging from the skilling of women in fashion design, to the economic and social emancipation of women market vendors and customers and the empowerment of women coffee smallholders.



Employees of Ranjit Garments in Fiji enrolled in a course run by the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC). Photo: APTC.

CASE STUDIES

Helping to sew a stronger economic fabric for women in Fiji

Project name: Technical and vocational training to increase employment opportunities for women in the Pacific

Project partner: Australia-Pacific Technical College

Total funding: \$500,000¹

Funding timeframe: 2013–2014

An industry-based training partnership between Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) and the local fashion industry in Fiji developed the skills of women, and helped to build a stronger and more vibrant sector both locally and internationally.

In partnership with the Textile Clothing and Footwear Council of Fiji, the APTC delivered a Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Technology from March to October 2014 funded by *Pacific Women*.

Twenty-five women employed at eight local manufacturing companies participated in the course which was designed to help improve their performance in the workplace. The course focused on design, pattern-making, sewing and quality-assessment aspects aimed at helping the participants to understand

the processes involved in producing a garment – from the initial design to manufacturing the final product.

The fashion industry in Fiji is growing rapidly with events such as Fiji Fashion Week and the support of the Fijian Government. This support, together with Australian Government initiatives that provide fashion design and technology training through APTC, is a welcome boost for the industry and for the women and men who work in it.

The APTC program provided an opportunity to broaden technical knowledge and advance fashion locally as well as internationally. Ms Jodie Araya, APTC Fashion Trainer, said that as the students came from diverse backgrounds and had different specialised skills the program offered a great opportunity for the students to learn from each other.

Ms Prakash Kaur, a fashion production manager who participated in the APTC program, said that it helped her with both professional and personal development. She said the program was more comprehensive than other training she had received.

'It has boosted our confidence levels, and we have even learnt how to make our own garments,' Ms Kaur said. 'I think it is a good thing we are doing this fashion program in Fiji, because it will lead to the development of the fashion industry here.'

¹ This activity is part of a larger program.

Safer markets boost women's economic empowerment

Project name: Safe Cities Safe Markets Project

Project partner: UN Women

Total funding: \$9,720,000

Funding timeframe: 2014-2018

The UN Women Safe Cities Safe Markets Project seeks to address the low rates of women's engagement in market activity in Port Moresby due to the high levels of risk that women vendors and customers face travelling to and from markets, and working in the markets.

With funding from *Pacific Women*, the Safe Cities Safe Markets Project is addressing considerable challenges in Gerehu and Gordons markets in Port Moresby. Extortion is common, with women market vendors having to pay potential perpetrators of violence to avoid harassment and violence. Vendors unable to find spaces inside markets are especially prone to intimidation by male market vendors and customers, and by market authorities and local security services. Governance systems are weak, physical infrastructure is poor and market vendors have little say in market operations.

Despite these challenges, the project has contributed to a number of successful outcomes relating to increased national ownership, enhanced capacity of local government and market management agencies to better plan and manage market infrastructure, and increased

market vendors' capacity. Market vendors' associations were established in 2013. Training and regular meetings were held with association members to increase their financial literacy and governance abilities. A major facilities upgrade at Gerehu market was completed in October 2014. This resulted in a clean, safe and well-managed market that reflects strong community ownership. Revenue collection at Gerehu Market has reported a 280 per cent increase from October 2013.

Through partnership with Nationwide Microbank (NMB) and the implementation of the mobile bill-pay system in Gerehu market, women and men vendors' savings, profit and access to financial services increased. In 2015, 355 vendors at Gerehu Market have identification (ID) cards and have opened accounts with NMB and 70 per cent of the registered vendors bank with NMB on a daily basis. Research shows that if women have the same access to credit, markets and technology as men, the returns to women significantly increases.

Ms Mele Simbani, who recently opened a bank account, shared: *'I like MiCash because the bank fees are low. They also said there will be an agent located in the market which I like because I don't have to face the difficulty of getting on the bus and go do banking. Another thing was that we did not have to provide ID cards to open an account because UN Women assisted by providing our ID cards. We were also told that we will have an opportunity to obtain a loan. All these factors contributed to my decision to open my account. I withdrew some of my savings to pay for school fees and I still have some savings in my account.'*



A major facilities upgrade at Gerehu market in PNG was completed in October 2014. This resulted in a clean, safe and well-managed market that reflects strong community ownership. Photo: DFAT, PNG Post.

Nine vendor associations have been formed at Gordons Market representing fresh produce, cooked food, store goods, meri blouse, fish, sago, tobacco, and flower farmers. One thousand of the 2,500 vendors are members of associations. Women vendors make up 85 per cent of market vendors and are well represented in the vendor association groups. Market vendors in both Gerehu and Gordons Markets have taken a leading role in the cleaning and upkeep of the market. Enhanced collaboration among different groups is evident. By improving infrastructure, systems, relations and services in the markets, the Project is supporting the economic and social empowerment of women market vendors and customers.

Women's economic empowerment in the coffee industry

Project name: The Coffee Industry Support Project

Project partners: Care International in PNG, PNG Coffee Industry Corporation, Sustainable Management Services PNG and PNG Coffee Exports Limited

Total funding: \$4,505,809

Funding timeframe: 2013-2019

The Coffee Industry Support Project (CISP) in the Eastern Highlands of PNG seeks to increase women's meaningful participation in coffee farming.

Coffee is the backbone of the rural economy in the PNG Highlands; yet limited access to markets and critical services disadvantage many coffee farmers, particularly women. Women also receive significantly lower incomes, often for the same work and are rarely included in decision making. With funding from *Pacific Women*, CISP supports coffee industry stakeholders to mainstream gender equality in their policies, practices and approaches. The project, in its second phase, will increase the number of skilled women extension officers directly supporting women farmers and improve their farming techniques and aims to change gender roles and relationships at the family level, to improve business for both women and men. It will also work with the private sector companies to improve women's influence and increase jobs within the industry.

Mr Dell Kohe, the head extension trainer at Sustainable Management Services PNG, said that before he became involved in the project, he thought that simply bringing men, women and children together was enough to achieve gender equality.

'After going through the training, I realised that it is more than this – it is how actively each person participates in activities; how individuals are encouraged to contribute ideas, and their own views and opinions; and how these views and opinions are valued and considered by others.'

Mr Kohe said his behaviour towards his wife had also changed.

'I ask her opinions more often and try to help out more as I now understand her workloads better. Initially, this was difficult because it was new for me but I am gradually moving along with these changes. My wife also attended the Family Business Management training with me and I have seen some changes in her attitudes and behaviour. She has been coming more often to share her opinions and ask me about my views on certain household activities, and she is happy to become more active in decision making in the household.'

The Coffee Industry Support Project has established strong partnerships within the coffee industry to mainstream gender equality in their policies, practices and approaches. The benefits on the ground are also evident. Positive changes in employee attitudes have influenced women's participation in the coffee industry. There have also been gradual changes in household attitudes that have enabled women to more equitably participate in and benefit from the family coffee smallholding.



Participants of the Family Business Management Training for coffee farmers in PNG. Photo: CARE PNG.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

“Our cultures are changing and they are changing in favour of men and this has further marginalised women. There is this expectation from men that we still play our traditional roles while they move on.”

Ms Ume Wainetti, National Coordinator of PNG Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (*Pacific Women’s Working Together to Improve Gender Equality in the Pacific* video series, 2014).

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women in the Pacific face among the highest levels of violence in the world: over 60 per cent^{iv} of surveyed women and girls in the region have experienced violence by an intimate partner or family member. This ranges, for example, from 33 per cent of women in Tonga^v to 68 per cent of women in Kiribati^{vi}, compared to a global average of 30 per cent^{vii} of women who have been in a relationship and experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner.

Violence takes many forms and women often experience multiple types of abuse – physical, emotional, sexual and economic. The type and extent of violence experienced by women differs considerably across the region. In Solomon Islands one in four women reported that they had been abused during pregnancy^{viii}. In Fiji, 43 women are injured every day as a result of domestic violence. Of these women, one will become permanently disabled; 10 will lose consciousness due to the severity of the beating; and 16 will need health care for their injuries. In Tuvalu, 72 per cent of women who report that their husbands get drunk very often have experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence, compared with 46 per cent whose husbands drink sometimes, and 27 per cent whose husbands do not drink. In Vanuatu, 30 per cent reported being sexually abused before the age of 15 years.

“When I did this [gender and violence against women training for men, on request] in the village, it was the men who spoke up. They brought up things like physical violence, sexual violence, rape; they pointed to drinking grog [kava] as one of the contributing factors. One man stood up and said he was guilty of all these charges. He thought his role as a man meant that his wife should always do the cooking for him. When he goes out drinking grog he expects her to heat up his meal as soon as he gets home despite the fact he knows she’s sleeping, she’s tired because she’s been working the whole day. He was quite emotional about it; he was connecting those gender roles to the violence.”

Ms Marica Kepa, Fiji Red Cross Society Health and Care Coordinator (UN Women, 2015).

Studies also show that women and girls with disabilities, particularly intellectual and psychosocial impairments, experience much higher rates of violence: they are two to three times more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse than women without disabilities^{ix}. Unequal gender relations and men’s desire to control all aspects of women’s lives is both the cause and consequence of violence against women.

“Men need to respect women more and there needs to be more and better services provided throughout the country for survivors of violence.”

Ms Daisy Plana, Chief Executive Officer of Femili PNG Case Management Centre (interview with the Pacific Women Support Unit, January 2015).

Family and sexual violence also have high economic costs for societies, including lost wages and productivity, healthcare and social services costs, as well as criminal justice costs of apprehending, prosecuting and imprisoning perpetrators. In Fiji, for example, the direct (expenditure on services including medical and legal) and indirect costs (long-term physical and psychological effects) of violence have been estimated at around US\$135.8 million or about seven per cent of gross domestic product^x.

To address violence against women and children, it is necessary to ensure all interventions are grounded in a human rights and gender transformative approach. Laws and comprehensive measures that criminalise violence against women and girls must be adopted, reviewed and effectively implemented. Pacific Island countries are developing stronger legislative frameworks to protect women, but further action is needed to implement these laws.

“My vision for the Pacific, is a Pacific where women and girls enjoy their full human rights alongside the men. That there is respect for them; there is no inequality and discrimination; that we have significantly brought down levels of violence.”

Ms Shamima Ali, Coordinator of the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre (Pacific Women’s Working Together to Improve Gender Equality in the Pacific video series, 2014).

Pacific Women's work in this area seeks to support improved service delivery, strengthen the responsiveness of the law and justice system, and enhance preventive measures through advocacy and outreach.

The following case studies showcase *Pacific Women's* support for: pioneering women's crisis centres in the Pacific; sharing knowledge, experience and challenges between organisations from Pacific Island countries and Australia; strengthening collaborative service provision; and ending violence against women and girls with disabilities in Fiji.

CASE STUDIES

Australia provides vital support to pioneering crisis centres in the Pacific

Project name: Addressing violence in partnership with women's NGOs

Project details: Fiji Women's Crisis Centre: \$ 1,500,000 (2014-2015)

Vanuatu Women's Centre: \$800,000 (2013-2016)

Women and Children Crisis Centre Tonga: \$750,000 (2014-2017)

Women's crisis centres in Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga seek to address violence against women in those countries. The Australian Government, including through *Pacific Women*, provides vital support to these centres—together they represent Australia's biggest and longest investment to end violence against women (EVAW) in the Pacific.*

For nearly 30 years, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) has been providing crisis counselling and referrals to legal, medical and support services for women and children survivors of violence in Fiji. The goal of FWCC, which is based in Suva and has four branches around the country, is to eliminate violence against women in Fiji and throughout the Pacific region.

Since its establishment, FWCC has provided counselling and support services to 35,305 new clients and 43,051 repeat clients. Most recently in 2014, FWCC provided counselling services to 1,957 new clients and 3,153 repeat clients. Training and awareness was provided to 1,385 men, 5,293 women and 6,515 children through 147 training sessions in 2014. In the same year, FWCC also assisted 52 women with accommodation needs.



Ms Shamima Ali, Coordinator of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC). Photo: FWCC.

The four-week residential Regional Training Program delivered by FWCC twice per year is an important aspect of the Centre's regional services. It trains participants (FWCC network members, nongovernmental organisations and government agencies that deal with violence against women) on the causes and impacts of violence against women, gender equality, human rights law, media and advocacy, counselling, violence prevention and response services.

The Australian Government has funded FWCC since 1989, including \$8,420,000 since 2009 to support the implementation of FWCC's activities under Phase Five of the Australian-FWCC partnership. Funding support through *Pacific Women* commenced in 2014 with the provision of \$1,500,000 to expand FWCC services, including shelters for survivors, the purchase of branch buildings, the establishment of a regional training institute and the expansion of training services to organisations working to address violence across the Pacific. All future funding from the Australian government for FWCC will be provided through *Pacific Women*.

*In addition to these three centres, *Pacific Women* also supports a range of other crisis and family support centres across the Pacific, as outlined in Annex C.



Mrs Marilyn Tahi, second from left, with colleagues and supporters at the Vanuatu Women's Centre. Photo: DFAT.

FWCC, through its regional network, catalysed action and support for similar centres in Vanuatu and Tonga, which are both doing vital work to end violence against women in their respective countries. Australia is supporting these centres too.

Established in 1992, the Vanuatu Women's Centre is an independent civil society organisation, which is based in Port Vila and has three other branches. The Australian Government provides funding for safe-house costs, expansion of services and research on violence against women. Support is also provided to the Centre to work with the Division of Women's Affairs to implement and monitor the Family Protection Act.

Founded in 2009, the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) Tonga is a nongovernmental organisation established to advocate for women's and children's human rights based on the lived realities of Tongan women, girls and children who have experienced and survived all forms of violence. Both the FWCC and the VWC have provided regular mentoring and capacity building to support WCCC's development. *Pacific Women* supports the work of the WCCC, including through multi-year core funding.

Ms Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki, WCCC's Director, shared during the Centre's fifth anniversary in 2014: *'The Australian Government has supported us financially through various means and the best thing about it, is that we've always remained [in] the driver's seat.'*

The Australian Government's substantial financial commitment to all three centres enables them to provide the services that their countries critically need and at a broader level has a positive flow-on effect for the EAW movement across the Pacific.

EAW exchange forums between Pacific Island countries and Australia

Project name: Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund

Project partner: UN Women

Total funding: \$1,500,000¹

Funding timeframe: 2014-2015

UN Women holds regular Knowledge and Learning Exchange (KLEx) forums on ending violence against women. These are undertaken through UN Women's Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund. The Fund provides grants of up to USD100,000 and capacity building support to government departments and civil society organisations for projects working specifically towards ending violence against women and girls in the region. \$1,500,000 has been contributed through *Pacific Women* since 2014, with previous Australian funding totalling \$6,737,600 since 2009.

In October 2014, representatives from organisations in Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu were supported through the fund to attend a KLEx forum in Melbourne, Australia.



Raising awareness about violence against women and children in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: Jen Wiggins/DFAT.

¹ This activity is part of a larger program.



Participants from UN Women's Knowledge and Learning Exchange forum on ending violence against women in Melbourne's Federation Square in October 2014. Photo: Ellie van Baaren/UN Women.

Australia is a global leader in ending violence against women through its legislation, policies, support services and national prevention initiatives. The KLEx forum provided grantees with opportunities to learn from and share experiences with government and nongovernmental organisations from Australia. The learning and exchange opportunities also incorporated Aboriginal Australian communities and organisations working to prevent violence and engage men who use violence in men's behaviour change programs. The grantees engaged with six organisations working to address violence against women in Melbourne to establish professional peer relationships, and learn about service models and good practices. Participants from service organisations attended a three-day field trip to the Barwon Centre for Sexual Assault (Barwon CASA) in Geelong. Barwon CASA provides a range of services for survivors. Grantees found commonalities and learned from each other with regard to their efforts to end violence against women across the Pacific.

Ms Helen Bolton, Chief Executive Officer of Barwon CASA, said that they were humbled by the dedication of grantees to their work in eliminating gender-based violence. *'We learnt so much from the grantees, the adversities they face, the initiative and leadership shown, how respected they are in their communities, the importance of holistic approaches that embrace family members in solutions, the risks involved, and the personal investment freely given. The learning exchange has given*

us a greater understanding of the Pacific Islands and of each country, and we are truly committed to building upon the foundation that has been established and seek opportunities to be involved in future.'

Participants attending the forum described it as an *'enriching learning experience'* and were happy to *'learn best practices'*.

Empowering women by freeing them from violence

Project name: Support to PNG Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network and repatriation research

Project partners: Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network and Oxfam International

Total funding: \$3,733,924

Funding timeframe: 2013-2019

Violence in the PNG highlands often leads to the torture and death of women and men, but a Pacific Women-funded initiative is empowering women to speak up to be free from violence.

In collaboration with local partner organisations, Pacific Women's funding for the PNG Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network (HRDN) is



L-R: Rapid Response Team members in front of the Kup Women for Peace office including Human Rights Defenders Network representatives, the Task Force Commander, the Kerowagi District focal person, and Chairperson. Photo: Michelle Kopi/Strongim Pipol Strongim Nesen program.

supporting people at high risk of violence in the Eastern Highlands, Simbu and Jiwaka provinces. This assistance includes crisis services such as counselling, safe-house accommodation, paralegal advice, referrals to specialist service providers, relocation assistance, and also works with boys and men in addressing violence against women. HRDN's membership includes Voice for Change, Kup Women for Peace and Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association.

One of the HRDN's major challenges is changing cultural structures and norms that do not support women's agency. HRDN's Rapid Response Team includes men and women representatives from the Law and Justice Family and Sexual Violence Unit, the district Family Support Centre, the Community Development and Child Protection Office, the district and village court, the public prosecutor and church representatives. They work closely with police to increase their understanding about violence against women and its impact, and train them to support women and children. In turn, police gain job satisfaction from being able to assist in extracting women from situations of violence.

'The response is good; in the past 12 months we have been saving many lives, rescuing them from situations of violence and we will continue to do that,' said Mr Peter Larry Kerowagi, Task Force Commander. 'As a police officer, it is my job to save people's lives. And being a part of the Rapid Response Unit has helped me to do my job better, so I am satisfied. Once the victims are safe and receiving assistance from other members of the [Rapid Response] Team, my job continues—trying to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators.'

Demand for assistance from HRDN's Rapid Response Team has tripled as word spreads that help is available in a region where extreme violence against women—including rape, kidnapping, domestic violence and sorcery-related attacks—frequently occurs.

With support from *Pacific Women*, HRDN continues to advocate for women's rights to seek justice, for them to be able to live peacefully in their home province.

Toolkit helps to end violence against women and girls with disabilities

Project name: Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund

Project partners: UN Women and Pacific Disability Forum

Total funding: \$70,000

Funding timeframe: 2012-2015

A toolkit was launched in Suva in April 2015 to assist organisations in Fiji to end violence against women and girls with disabilities. The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), in partnership with UN Women and the Fiji Disabled Persons Federation, developed the toolkit.

'In all our efforts to eliminate violence against women, we must include measures to assist those with particular vulnerabilities, to encourage the participation and active involvement of those with a disability, and to ensure their access to justice and support services.'

Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, made this important statement as she launched the 'Toolkit on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Fiji'.

The Toolkit will support ERAW organisations and partners to work with disabled persons' organisations to ensure women and girls with disabilities are included in their activities and projects. It has been designed to be practical and accessible for people from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The Toolkit focuses primarily on group exercises, role plays, activities and case studies, and action planning for the inclusion of women and girls.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's 2013 national research, *Somebody's Life, Everybody's Business*, showed that 64 per cent of women and girls in Fiji had experienced physical

and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime; and global data shows that women and girls with disabilities are even more vulnerable. Such evidence demonstrates the strong need for the Toolkit in Fiji.

Mr Setareki Macanawai, PDF's Chief Executive Officer, said: *'We hope that this publication will assist ERAW organisations to better address violence against women and girls with disabilities, and make prevention of violence against women a high priority. We must take a stand on this issue, and speak up when inappropriate behaviour towards women and girls with disabilities occurs in the workplace, among families or in the immediate community.'*

The Toolkit was developed with support from the Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund, which is principally funded by *Pacific Women*.



Toolkit on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Fiji was launched in Suva in April 2015. Photo: UN Women.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

ENHANCING AGENCY

“Pacific women have a proven political agency. We see it whether it’s building schools or bringing about wells to their communities or engaging around community health delivery. But we need to catalyse the coalitions both at the local, national and regional level to really make that shift, to make that transformation, particularly within political structures. If we want women to be elected to local government, elected to national parliament, as eminent persons, without bringing the women together, without supporting them through communications, through resources, even sometimes just to meet, we are not going to get that traction.”

Ms Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, FemLINKPACIFIC Coordinator
(*Pacific Women’s Working Together to Improve Gender
Equality in the Pacific* video series, 2014).

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

ENHANCING AGENCY

Words such as confidence, empowerment, self-esteem and self-worth are often used to describe the different dimensions of agency. It's often thought that having agency leads to positive action. Agency determines a woman's ability to make decisions that are best for her. This could range from decisions related to health, relationships, education, economic opportunities, accessing justice and information, and taking up leadership roles.

"So many of the ladies, they think this type of violence from their husbands is normal. I see in the workshop when they realise it is not. It can be hard for them to learn this but also makes them happy to know. And then they want to know more and how to stop it. Pacific women have been quiet about this for so long. They couldn't speak about it. I just want to make sure there is a place where they can tell their story and get support to feel safe."

- Ms Lilly Samson, Women United Together Marshall Island's Domestic Violence Counselling Service Project Coordinator (interview with the Pacific Women Support Unit, October 2015).

Supporting women's agency is critical to achieving change. Women will be limited and continue to be disempowered if they do not believe that they are both able and entitled to benefit equally with men from development. If change does not begin in the attitudes of women and men, and girls and boys, any outcomes achieved through *Pacific Women*, even over a 10-year period, will not be sustained.

"I was reluctant [to become Speaker of the House] at first because it's to do with politics, but I think if you're serious about making a difference in your country then you accept the opportunities that come."

- Ms Nikki Rattle, Immediate Past Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament (Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Project, 2014).

There is evidence that mass media and entertainment programs can influence attitudes and values about women, especially when these processes are participatory and build from research about the current experiences of women. To be effective, this work needs to be tailored for particular audiences. But messages about change for women need to be part of a package that enables change, including services or resources, legislation that protects their rights and government and social commitment to those changes. Without this comprehensive approach there is a real risk that messages encouraging women to change and exercise their agency can do considerable harm.

In a deeply religious Pacific, where church leaders have immense influence over communities, religious texts and positions of power are in some instances used to justify gender inequalities. This may be due to the leadership within churches being dominated by men, who bring their own cultural beliefs to the interpretation of religion and their engagement with congregations.

"Our aim is to significantly change the culture, behavior and perceptions of church leaders so that churches are safe and more responsive to victims and survivors of violence as well as advocates for ending violence against women."

- Reverend Sereima Lomaloma, Anglican Church House of Sarah (UN Women 2015).

Pacific Women's work to enhance women's agency focuses on supporting positive changes in social norms and attitudes towards women in the Pacific. As the case studies below attest, this support is enabling women to have a stronger sense of agency, and to have more opportunities to participate fully, freely and safely in political, economic and social life. Whether it is by having a voice on radio to give the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) community more visibility, or learning a trade and business skills to attain financial independence, these women's stories can inspire others.

CASE STUDIES

Fiji, PNG and Samoa learn about adaptive leadership

Project name: Support for Women's Groups and Coalitions

Project partner: Pacific Leadership Program

Total funding: \$200,000

Funding timeframe: 2015-2016

The objective of the pilot Adaptive Leadership Training held in Fiji in July 2015 was to strengthen the voices and views of Pacific women to better represent their gender equality agendas at national, regional and global levels.

The training was part of a *Pacific Women* and Pacific Leadership Program (PLP)-led pilot program. While PLP has been using adaptive leadership concepts in its support of Pacific leaders since 2012, this was the first time the training brought together advocates working to address regional gender challenges. The 21 participants were women leaders and gender advocates from governments and civil societies from Fiji, PNG and Samoa, and key regional organisations.

Adaptive leadership equips change makers with the skills to make positive change on important issues, often in challenging and uncertain environments. Part of the methodology of the training utilised a 'case in point' approach where participants become part of a live case study. Participants used the process to demonstrate learning, and to practice concepts and elements of the adaptive leadership framework.

Ms Suzanne Bent, First Secretary, Gender Equality, at the Australian High Commission in Fiji said the participation of diverse advocates was essential for this training.

'Representation from minority groups was a priority, and we had ensured the inclusion of advocates from young women's, sexual minority and disability rights groups. We're pleased to receive positive feedback on the training, with 78 per cent of the participants indicating the training was useful, having learnt new concepts and skills and a willingness to adapt it in their work.'

Some of the participants reflected on the three-day training and how it would support their advocacy work.

Ms Cherelle Fruean, Samoa, Member of the Young Women's Christian Association and FRIDA: The Young Feminist Fund's Advisory Committee: *'[The training] has provoked us to think deeply. As advocates we get many opportunities to get together and speak. At this training we are doing a lot of thinking and I feel that there is more freedom to delve into the issues because there is no restriction on time.'*

Ms Luisa Miracle Tinai, Fiji Disabled People's Federation's Women's Group President and a member of the Fiji Young Women's Forum: *'I am a young woman with an acquired disability and new to disability work, having started in 2012. I hadn't heard about it [adaptive leadership] before but I was excited to be part of the training. I saw it as an opportunity to enhance my capacity. My expectation is to know where I can apply the skills that I will gain, in the work that I do. I want to know if adaptive*



Women's rights advocates getting ready for the annual Reclaim the Night march in Suva on International Women's Day in 2015. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

leadership is what we need to sustain the work that we do for the longer run.'

Ms Florence Naina, Project Officer, Bougainville Women's Federation: *'What I learn here is not only for myself, it is for the Federation and all the women we work with. I learnt how we can change existing structures and attitudes. I also learnt that projects that have not done well can be used as examples of how to do something better next time round.'*

My Body! My Rights!

Project name: My Body! My Rights!

Project partner: Talitha Project Inc.

Total funding: \$122,600

Funding timeframe: 2013-2015

Established in 2009 with a mission to address and prevent the cycle of violence against women and girls, Talitha Project Inc., commonly known as Talitha, runs a 'drop-in centre' for young women and girls in Tonga, providing security, counselling, training, income generation skills and support. It does this with support from Pacific Women through the UN Women Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund. Talitha's partners include the government, nongovernmental and faith-based organisations.

Through programs such as My Body! My Rights!, Talitha aims to empower young women and girls to make sound decisions about living a life free of violence and enjoying their fundamental human rights.

Around one thousand young women and girls from the main islands of Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua have participated in Talitha programs and have learned ways to identify violence and gain a better understanding of their bodily integrity and rights. Prior to their involvement with Talitha, most of the participants identified with one form of violence – the physical aspect – which they share, is usually used for 'disciplining' and is considered 'part of our culture'. It was only during the trainings, through discussions, they understood that no one should be subjected to violence.

When Talitha first started running the My Body! My Rights! program, it met with challenges. They received numerous calls condemning the program's purpose. According to Talitha, program topics related to the body are generally considered taboo and hardly ever discussed, even at home. Despite the resistance, Talitha continued its work and has since seen significant progress, demonstrated through the surge of confidence the Project has inspired in young women and girls.

Talitha shared the story of Ms Siutaisa Fakahua, a journalism student, who has been volunteering with the



Women in Port Vila, Vanuatu, march in support of ending violence against women. Photo: DFAT.

Talitha Project for two years as a Youth Educator and runs a young girls camp on the island of Tongatapu. *'After joining the training, it empowered me to do something about myself. I wanted to show my loudness by being vocal in an issue that concerns myself. I became more interested that I can raise awareness to prevent violence against girls. Talitha provided me the platform to voice my own opinions which at first I thought I would be rejected. Once they agreed that I can be a volunteer, I saw my entry point and here I am standing up for something I am passionate about and informing my young people about violence which is something hardly talked about at home,'* she said.

Ms Fakahua is also a co-host on Talitha Project's radio show which airs every Friday from 4-5pm. The show targets young people. She was apprehensive at first to talk about violence against young women and girls but the response from the public, especially young people and men, was encouraging. The show's largest listenership are men, who often call or text message and show genuine concern about violence against women and girls. More people have started talking about violence as a result of listening to the radio show.

'My involvement with Talitha has boosted my self-esteem and I consider myself worthy to inspire other young people. I witness every day the little changes that I make in myself. I feel that all the skills I get benefits in giving me more confidence to approach different levels of society, build relationship and trust in others and being able to have the courage to share and help young people. I want to encourage young girls to be brave enough to be vocal about issues that concerns them.'

Giving women ‘a voice’ on the airwaves

Project name: Enhancing women’s participation in decision-making through strengthened community radio transmission (FemLINKPACIFIC)

Project partner: FemLINKPACIFIC: Media Initiatives for Women

Total funding: \$186,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2016

FemLINKPACIFIC: Media Initiatives for Women is a Fiji-based feminist community media organisation founded in 2000. In the last 15 years, FemLINKPACIFIC has provided safe spaces for hundreds of women to be able to articulate their peace and security issues.

On 5 May 2004, FemLINKPACIFIC launched Fiji’s and the Pacific’s first women-led community radio station—now known as FemTALK 89FM. Since then, the radio station has expanded its transmission range to reach communities in some of the most densely populated areas between Navua and Nausori. *Pacific Women* provided funding to FemLINKPACIFIC for this technical expansion, which further enabled Fijian women, especially rural women, to have a voice in national decision making and further the agenda of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

Following their weekend marathon broadcast to mark World Radio Day in February 2015, young women staff and volunteers reflected on their journey so far towards giving Fijian women ‘a voice’.

Ms Miki Wali, a transgender rights activist who hosts the radio program Miki on Mondays: *‘If you’re part*



Ms Miki Wali - Host, Producer and Broadcaster at FemLINKPACIFIC. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.



Ms Frances Tawake, FemLINKPACIFIC’s Network Coordinator – Rural and Regional. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

of a group that is often marginalised, you have to push your way through. For me, it’s really about that—pushing myself to the forefront and getting out there. You cannot just wait. The Post-2015 Development Agenda is very important for LBT [lesbian, bisexual and trans] women and we need to be part of the discussions. With the expansion of FemLINKPACIFIC’s transmission range, we have a lot of listeners and we have received good feedback on our programs.’

Ms Frances Tawake, FemLINKPACIFIC’s Network Coordinator – Rural and Regional: *‘I am very happy when women use media as a tool to communicate their issues. Radio is an information tool. When women script and produce programs, they don’t just produce any random content, these issues are real to them. This is their life.’*

Ms Sulueti Waqa, Community Media Officer – Radio: *‘I have been working in community media for the last seven years, and I really enjoy it because it allows me to be creative, and to hear women’s voices and concerns. Sometimes, rural women do not know the power of their voice, and this is where community radio comes in to be the link between the women and the policymakers.’*

Ms Alisia Evans, Host, Producer and Broadcaster: *‘[Since joining FemLINKPACIFIC] I interviewed a couple of women in Government and Parliament right now. At first, it was daunting because these women are heads of departments in the Government or the Speaker of the House, for example, but at the same time, during those interviews, I was also able to relate to them as women and not just as public figures. It was good to overcome those barriers and relate to them as just people.’*

Ms Mere Moto, Community Media Officer—Features: *‘Programs on community radio are very different compared to mainstream. On mainstream we know more about Kim Kardashian than Kini from down the road.’*

The background features a teal vertical bar on the left and a light green area on the right. Both areas contain a repeating geometric pattern of triangles, circles, and zig-zag lines. The teal bar has a darker shade of the pattern, while the light green area has a lighter shade.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

COOK ISLANDS

“The nation is like a child that needs both parents to nurture it. And then we go into the House of Parliament and we completely go out of balance! I think we need to make it happen. Enough thinking!”

Ms Nikki Rattle, Immediate Past Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament (Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project 2014).

Women MPs engage in mentorship program

Project name: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project

Outcome area: Leadership and decision making

Project partner: International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

Total funding: \$2,850,037³

Funding timeframe: 2013–2018

The Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project (PWPP) and its mentoring exchange program aim to establish strategic partnerships between Australian, New Zealand and Pacific parliamentarians.

Since the first PWPP Forum in 2013, an exchange between a former Australian Speaker and the Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament has occurred. While attending the second PWPP Forum in Tonga from 19 to 21 July 2014, former Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, Ms Anna Burke, and Cook Islands Past Immediate Speaker, Ms Nikki Rattle, spoke about the PWPP mentoring exchange program they were jointly engaged in.

Ms Burke and Ms Rattle have much in common. Neither thought that they would one day become members of parliament, but both women said they were passionate about enhancing women’s representation in parliament.



L-R: Palau’s Senator Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior; Ms Nikki Rattle, Past Immediate Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament and Ms Anna Burke, former Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives. Photo: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships

When Ms Rattle was appointed as Speaker of the House in 2012, she was mentored by the Speaker of Parliament in Perth. This involved observing sessions controlled by the Speaker of the House. She also had a similar opportunity in New Zealand.

Ms Burke visited the Cook Islands to provide support to Ms Rattle when the latter faced challenges as part of her Speaker duties.

‘After she left, some of these things [that we discussed] popped up during the Sitting, and so you have the confidence to be able to deal with it correctly instead of fumbling your way through,’ Ms Rattle shared.

³ This activity is part of a larger program.

Throughout the region, women hold senior positions in government and private sector. Despite this, the parliament is still viewed as a man's place. In almost 50 years of self-governing, only nine women have been part of the Cook Islands Parliament.

'You want parliament to reflect society. Most of our societies are half female,' Ms Burke said. 'You can't say parliament is reflecting society if you don't have women in there.'

Both Ms Burke and Ms Rattle see the value of the PWPP project, and are committed to continuing the dialogue.

Stamping out STIs in the Cook Islands

Project name: Partnerships For Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all in the Pacific

Outcome area: Enhancing agency

Project partner: International Planned Parenthood Federation

Total funding: \$1,500,000⁴

Funding timeframe: 2015-2018

A safe-sex program supported by Pacific Women is helping to dramatically reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections in the Cook Islands.

There are high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the Cook Islands, particularly among young people aged between 15 and 29 years old. One of the main contributing factors to the high incidence of STIs

among young people is high alcohol consumption while socialising. In response to this problem, the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA), in partnership with the Cook Islands Ministry of Health, installed condom distribution services at rugby club houses, where youth regularly drink alcohol and socialise, and advertised the scheme through posters and leaflets.

To support the condom distribution project, CIFWA delivers comprehensive sexual education to youth groups, schools and communities of the Cook Islands.

In November 2014, CIFWA organised activities to raise awareness of World AIDS Day (WAD). CIFWA engaged its youth group, CIFWA Youth Peers, to coordinate four sessions in which 120 youth peers contributed to the design of three new condom packets. The Ministry of Health funded and facilitated the development and printing of the new condom packets.

To raise awareness of WAD, CIFWA also held an event in partnership with a widely known transgender rights organisation, Te Tiare Association. CIFWA youth peers and staff used the event to launch the new condom packets and promote the new packs and t-shirts. The event proved to be a creative platform for the advocacy of condom usage.

This scheme has contributed to a marked increase in condom distribution in the Cook Islands, from 2,858 in 2010 to 20,993 in 2014^{xi}. It has benefitted young people and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. With ongoing education and advocacy for safe-sex practices, CIFWA is helping to ensure a marked decrease in STI prevalence in the Cook Islands.

⁴ This activity is part of a larger program.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

“We need to work together to make sure that our daughters and sons and grandchildren can fulfil their aspirations; be protected from all forms of violence and discrimination; can actively take part in decisions that shape the society they live in; can work and generate incomes to fulfil their family’s needs; and be happy to live on their island as Micronesian.”

Mr Arthy Nena, Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

A caring approach to politics

Project name: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project

Outcome area: Leadership and decision making

Project partner: International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

Total funding: \$2,850,037⁵

Funding timeframe: 2013–2018

The Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project (PWPP), supported by Pacific Women, seeks to increase the number of women in parliaments across the Pacific. It aims to improve understanding of the factors that constrain women’s political participation, and to build the capacity of women MPs in the Pacific, the institutions in which they work and the staff who support them.

During the third PWPP Forum in 2015, Senator Magdalena Walter, a member of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) legislature for the last 12 years, said that politicians used to deny that there was poverty in the islands, but such a denial was now impossible because poverty was ‘so apparent’. ‘And I know it’s only going to get worse, if we don’t do anything about it.’

With many of her fellow citizens migrating overseas, Senator Walter worried about her country’s young people.



Senator Magdalena Walter has been a member of the FSM Legislature for the last 12 years. Photo: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project.

‘To me this migration is sad because our young educated people are leaving. Some of them come back, but not all. Back home, we have foreign people working for us. The hospital has a lot of doctors and nurses from the Philippines. The construction companies are mostly foreign-owned. This is the kind of work we should train our young people to do, but it’s not happening.’

Despite FSM’s significant challenges, Senator Walter remained optimistic about women’s role in shaping her country’s development. She said the PWPP forums provided ‘a chance for us to come together, share, listen and learn’.

⁵ This activity is part of a larger program.

'I find the discussions here enriching, and it saddens me that we don't have many women in the law-making body back home. Our societies are male dominated and even we as females think it's the men's role to be in public service. But being part of these regional and international forums, and discussing similar issues is reaffirming to us who believe that more women should be part of national decision making. I have been doing this for 12 years now, and I really do believe more women should be encouraged to become leaders.'

'Before joining politics, I was a nurse. I used to think that politics was very different from nursing, but I soon realised that my health background helped me be a better politician because I was trained to care for people. I think that's the problem with some of us politicians who don't really think of those people struggling to survive.'

Pacific people advocating change

Project name: Pacific People Advancing Change

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team

Total funding: \$58,563 (*Pacific Women's* investment in FSM and Kiribati)

Funding timeframe: 2015-2016

Lobbying training and mentoring sessions in all four states of FSM helped to establish campaign groups advocating on issues such as teenage pregnancy, youth violence and climate change.

With funding from *Pacific Women*, SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) conducted the Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) training program in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae from June to September 2015. More than 60 per cent of the 76 participants were women.

The PPAC program aims to strengthen participants' skills in Pacific-style advocacy that contributes to improved governance, leadership development and human rights in the region. There is a particular emphasis on equipping potential leaders in the Pacific, at both community and national levels, with basic knowledge and skills in designing, implementing, monitoring and documenting lobbying campaigns that advance gender equality and human rights.

The three-day training in FSM focused on skills and processes required to lobby for transformative change in legislation, including: adaptive leadership; problem analysis and issue identification; research; strategic planning, using a gender and rights based framework; communications for development; campaign planning; and monitoring effectiveness.

Immediately after the training, RRRT trainers spent two days with the emerging campaign groups to provide mentoring and technical assistance. Following the mentoring sessions, the campaign groups were able to develop a draft campaign concept note and proposals. Feedback on all of the training sessions were positive, with participants noting that the facilitators were knowledgeable and engaging, and that the exercises were 'excellent'.

'I think I can share what I learned to other women's groups so together we can be strong in advocating, lobbying and [can] prepare [a] plan for our own problem,' said a participant from Kosrae.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

FIJI

“There is such great stigma in our Fijian culture in talking about sexual violence, particularly when it concerns children and youth, and so we must respond to those survivors and their families with tenderness, respect and confidentiality.”

Ms Jiokapeci Waqairadovu, a counsellor with the Phoenix Survivors Network (interview with the *Pacific Women* Support Unit, March 2015).

Fiji’s Phoenix program—a One Stop Shop Clinic for survivors of violence

Project name: Support for sexual reproductive health services for women and youth

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Medical Services Pacific

Total funding: \$305,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2015

The Phoenix Survivors Network supports survivors of sexual violence and their families.

For the 2014 International Women’s Day, the President of the Republic of Fiji, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau joined members of the Phoenix Survivors Network (PSN), Medical Services Pacific (MSP) and Aspire Network volunteers to launch Candles for Survivors, a new small business created by women, children and youth survivors of sexual violence, with their parents and siblings. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau is the Patron of Medical Services Pacific.

Initiated and supported by MSP, the Network brings together survivors of sexual violence and their families for counselling, mutual support and recreational and therapeutic activities. The members chose the name

‘Phoenix Survivors’ to signal that they ‘are rising from the ashes’, with inspiration to heal and move forward. With support from *Pacific Women* since June 2014, the Network offers additional counselling services, a peer-support group for women and children and a micro business to help families earn an income.

PSN provides a full spectrum of free services to survivors of sexual violence and their families, including medical care and social and legal services—available at the One Stop Shop Clinic or through an outreach program that visits rural communities each week.

In their discussions, PSN members recognised the challenges they faced in funding their children’s needs, particularly for school supplies, clothing and recreational activities. An exciting new component of the PSN is the support of a micro business. It is starting with making and selling candles, creating the opportunity for women to learn new skills that are transferable and which support their growing confidence, independence and future. PSN also provides workshops and training sessions on marketing and business skills to support the women’s new enterprise.

Jiokapeci Waqairadovu, a counsellor with the PSN, said a service such as this was essential to support survivors of violence and their families.



Coconut and ginger scented candles made by Phoenix Survivors Network to generate income for themselves and their families.
Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

New way to measure poverty

Project name: Surveying Poverty in Fiji using the Individual Deprivation Measure

Outcome area: Enhancing agency

Project partners: International Women's Development Agency, the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics and State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (Australian National University)

Total funding: \$250,000

Funding timeframe: 2014-2016

Fiji is the only country in the Pacific – and one of the first countries in the world – to use a new approach with the potential to transform how poverty is measured.

Dominant approaches to poverty measurement, including the International Poverty Line, assess the poverty of households; therefore they cannot accurately tell us about the circumstances of individuals within households. Furthermore, focusing on whether someone earns more or less than a '\$1.25 a day' implies that poverty is mainly about a lack of money. However, poor women and men consider that there are other important factors that should be measured to determine if someone is poor or not.

Pacific Women is funding a survey of poverty in Fiji that overcomes these definition problems by using the

Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM). A new approach to measuring poverty, the IDM assesses 15 aspects of life that go beyond survival needs, including violence, family planning, voice, environment, time-use and respect.

By measuring the poverty of individuals instead of households and using a wider range of factors that matter to both women and men, the IDM can show how gender and poverty are related and how the poverty of women and men varies with age, disability and ethnicity, including within households. Any differences between adult women and men in each area of life included in the IDM can also be added up to generate a new gender equity measure that is relevant to poor people.

The study will provide for the first time: accurate information about how many women and men in Fiji are poor, in what ways, how this varies across their lifetime and how outcomes are linked to other factors such as disability. These results will inform the work of the Fiji Government and their development partners and enable them to focus more sharply on the realities of poverty in Fiji, and provide a baseline against which to assess the extent to which these policies and programs are changing lives, in particular for those who are most disadvantaged. The study will also contribute to the collection of crucial comparative data to inform and influence the further development of this new, innovative approach to poverty measurement.

Technical work to prepare for the survey including finalising the sampling strategy, contextualising the IDM questionnaires, refining training tools for Fiji and training data collectors was completed by the end of June 2015.

The International Women's Development Agency, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, and State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program are jointly undertaking the study.

The Academy that helps women to shape their future

Project name: Support for women's economic empowerment

Outcome areas: Economic empowerment and enhancing agency

Project partner: South Pacific Academy of Beauty Therapy

Total funding: \$246,336

Funding timeframe: 2014-2015

'A dream come true' is how students enrolled at the South Pacific Academy of Beauty Therapy describe their selection for the Academy's scholarship program.

Supported by *Pacific Women*, the Nadi-based Academy is providing 25 students (24 women and one man) from rural areas around Fiji between the ages of 18 and 40, a chance to attain a Certificate in Beauty and Spa Therapy Level IV.

The program is the brainchild of award winning business woman Ms Debra Sadranu, who is the Principal of the Academy and Managing Director of Essence of Fiji: Rejuvenation Centre and the chain of Senikai Spas around Fiji. The Centre is where the students do their theoretical and practical sessions along with practical attachments throughout the Senikai chain.

The Academy is recognised by the Fiji Higher Education Commission and is a member of the Advanced Association of Beauty Therapists Australia which

provides quality assurance on the curriculum to maintain international standards.

Pacific Women funding covers the tuition cost of 25 of the students and also provides them with text books, uniforms and living allowance – a much needed relief for all the students, who come from low income earning families.

'All of them also earn trainee wages for the days they are rostered on to do sessions with clients, which is part of their practical work,' Ms Sadranu said. 'The best part is that demand for their skills is quite high, so they will have no difficulty securing jobs in the spa industry once they graduate.'

Head Trainer Ms Anjaleen Kumar has been working with Senikai Spas for the last 10 years and is now training the students. She says she can see the difference in the student confidence as days go by.

'They're more confident, asking questions, helping each other and are just as eager for the theory sessions, as they are for the practical ones,' she said.

Two of the students reflected on how this opportunity has improved their lives.

Ms Sonam Narayan, 27:

"I am really glad that I got this opportunity. Before I was always getting help from my mum and my younger sister, and being the eldest child in the family, I didn't really feel good about always asking for help. After doing this course, I will not only be able to support my seven-year-old son and myself but them as well. After my divorce when I wasn't working, people had tried to get me married off again but after I have done my course, I can tell them that I can support myself and don't need a man to support me. I can do it myself."

Ms Lusiana Cawai, 18:

"I was so happy when I got the scholarship! After I finish my studies, I would love to work in other Pacific Islands, such as the Cook Islands. I want to earn money and hopefully save up to do a diploma. It would also be nice to become a trainer one day."



Ms Sonam Narayan, Ms Mereseini Kuruivadra and Ms Nandini Raman are part of the 25 scholarship recipients working towards a Certificate in Beauty and Spa Therapy and a more secure future. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

KIRIBATI

“Domestic violence issues and concerns of women are not that highly voiced. For me, it’s important to have women in that decision making circle.”

Hon Maere Tekanene, Kiribati’s Minister for Education and Pacific Women Advisory Board member (Pacific Women’s Working Together to Improve Gender Equality in the Pacific video series, 2014).

Kiribati says ‘no’ to domestic violence and sexual assault

Project name: Supporting survivors of violence to access justice

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Kiribati Police Service – Domestic Violence and Sexual Offence Unit in Betio

Total funding: \$99,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2015

Pacific Women is working with the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offence (DVSO) Unit of the Kiribati Police Service to improve police handling of domestic violence cases, strengthen community awareness on domestic violence laws, human rights and access to support services, and support establishment of a temporary safe space for survivors of violence and sexual assault.

Following passage of the Te Rau N Te Mwenga (Family Peace) Act in Kiribati in 2014, the DVSO Unit identified the need to train police to understand their roles and responsibilities under the Act. This included the issuing and management of protection orders, essential case recording and investigation techniques as well as how to respond to survivors when they come to report their cases.

Training has been provided to police officers, special constables and village wardens to assist them to effectively respond to cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. From October 2014 to August 2015, a total of 182 people participated in training sessions on

eight islands. Before the training, special constables on the outer islands were particularly ill-equipped to address these challenges as they had never had formal training on their roles and powers prior to joining the police.

Representatives from the Office of the Attorney-General, the People’s Lawyer, Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs and the DVSO Unit jointly delivered the training. This collaborative approach also extended to community awareness activities, with 24 public forums and four week-long radio programs held to share messages on the domestic violence legislation; the role of the police in response to violence; the DVSO Unit’s services and hotline number which people can call; human rights and gender equality. Feedback from some of the women participants included that *‘it was important to them to know their rights and that they can report assault perpetrated on them by their husbands to the police’*. Some people were not happy with the messages as they said *‘it was against culture’*, while others said they would stop mistreating their partners and assist in reporting violence in their community to the police.

The DVSO Unit’s office at the Police Headquarters in Betio was also extended to include a ‘comfort lounge’. This two room safe space provides survivors of violence with temporary shelter while waiting further referral to relevant services, such as medical, legal, counselling or accommodation at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart refuge. It can also be used as a space where survivors are briefed on the court process or wait before their court hearing. Since May 2015, the centre has been available to survivors and their children.

Kiribati 'rises' for the second time

Project name: One Billion Rising Campaign

Outcome area: Enhancing agency

Project partner: Kiribati Family Health Association

Total funding: \$6,800

Funding timeframe: 2015



Women dance to the One Billion Rising global anthem 'Break the Chain' in Nawerewere, Kiribati during the week long awareness campaign in February 2015.

For the second year in a row, Kiribati joined in the global campaign to end all forms of violence against women and young girls.

With support from *Pacific Women*, the Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA) joined the world in the One Billion Rising (OBR) campaign in 2015.

The 2015 theme, Rise for Revolution, was translated into the Kiribati language, Teirake Waaki Ibukin Te Bitaki, and printed on banners and displayed during drama campaigns and marches. KFHA's campaign focused on the active participation of youth to instill and inspire change for the future.

Key stakeholders and members of the community were invited to participate. The one-week program was promoted over the radio, encouraging youth to join.

The campaign officially opened on 19 February in Bairiki attended by senior government officials from key ministries, the Australian High Commissioner George Fraser and other representatives of the diplomatic corps, church leaders, Council Mayors, community leaders and representatives from nongovernmental organisations

and other groups. The program began with a march led by the Kiribati United Church Youth Brass Band.

Mr Teakamatang Eritai, KFHA President, delivered the opening address in which he highlighted the importance of the occasion, challenging all I-Kiribati to support the OBR campaign.

In a closing address, Hon Maere Tekanene, the Minister of Education and member of *Pacific Women's* Advisory Board, spoke on the theme of empowerment of women and girls and reminded everyone of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring a safe and happy environment for women and girls in Kiribati.

During the official opening, the global OBR anthem Break the Chain was performed live on stage in the Kiribati language.

Throughout the week-long campaign, KFHA Youth volunteers performed the drama, *Tai Ira Te Moan Ang* (Do Not Give in to the First Wave of Anger), at four different sites on Betio and Tarawa Teinainano.

The audiences at the various events exceeded expectations, with about 1,860 people taking part in activities. Sixty per cent were young people.

The Kiribati Government has developed a national policy and strategic action plan to eliminate sexual and gender based violence (2011-2021). *Pacific Women* is providing funding to support implementation of the action plan, including help to establish a Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre.



Women and men march in Betio, Kiribati in support of ending violence against women, during the One Billion Rising campaign in February 2015. Photo: Kiribati Family Health Association.

Catholic Church supports sexual health program

Project name: Partnerships For Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all in the Pacific

Outcome area: Enhancing agency

Project partner: International Planned Parenthood Federation

Total funding: \$1,500,000⁶

Funding timeframe: 2015-2018

The Catholic Church has traditionally been a staunch critic of the use of contraceptives in Kiribati, but a Pacific Women-supported program is helping to change the Church's attitudes on this issue.

Kiribati has a high prevalence of adolescent unplanned pregnancies – in 2013 there were 16 births for every 1,000 people aged 15–19 years^{xii}. Maternal and infant mortality are extremely high, with 130 out of every 100,000 women dying as a result of childbirth and 4.5 per cent of babies dying within the first year of their lives. Levels of sexual and domestic violence are also high and 68 per cent of women in Kiribati have suffered violence from their intimate partners.

The country faces an overpopulation crisis, with an estimated population of 105,000 people and a growth rate of 2.1 per cent. There is also deep concern about the effects of climate change involving shrinking land mass.

KFHA, a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people of Kiribati. About 56 per cent of the population of Kiribati belong to the Roman Catholic faith.

KFHA is now effectively engaging with the Catholic Church to deliver training for local catechists and their wives on sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning methods, following approval from the Bishop of Tarawa and Nauru, the Most Reverend Paul Eusebius Mea Kaiuea.

In 2014, more than 60 catechists participated in the KFHA training in the parishes of Bikenibeu and Teorareke, which the coordinator of the National Catholic Women's Organisation also attended.

With the help of the catechists, KFHA can offer its sexual and reproductive health services to an additional 58,800 people.

⁶ This activity is part of a larger program.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

NAURU

“My male colleagues are very supportive and they understand the importance of human rights and importance of development for everyone. They know what the women of Nauru are capable of and that it is important to invest in them.”

Hon Charmaine Scotty, Nauru’s Minister for Home Affairs, Education and Land Management (Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project Forum 2015).

Minister Scotty: It’s important to invest in women

Project name: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project

Outcome area: Leadership and decision making

Project partner: International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

Total funding: \$2,850,037⁷

Funding timeframe: 2013–2018

Hon Charmaine Scotty, Nauru’s Minister for Home Affairs, Education and Land Management, spoke about her experience of advancing gender equality in Nauru and the importance of gender budgeting.

Minister Charmaine Scotty had positive things to say about the men in Nauru’s ‘corridors of power’ during the third Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships (PWPP) Forum in 2015.

The PWPP project aims to improve understanding of the factors that constrain women’s political participation, and to build the capacity of women MPs in the Pacific, the institutions in which they work and the staff who support them.

One of Nauru’s biggest priorities is passing separate legislation on family violence, according to Minister Scotty.

‘We’re also working with our new Gender Based Violence Specialist, Marja Elizabeth, to assist us in identifying our needs regarding a safe house, counselling services and so on.’



Hon Charmaine Scotty, Nauru’s Minister for Home Affairs, Education and Land Management is one of the strongest advocates of gender equality in the country. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

Minister Scotty said that while Nauru had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ‘we haven’t done anything after that’.

‘Right now, we’re organising national awareness workshops for women in Nauru to see what sort of issues they are facing in their daily lives,’ Minister Scotty continued. ‘We are trying to get them to fully understand what CEDAW is, how it can be of use to them and how it can protect their rights.’

She said that the forum was the first PWPP Forum that she had attended.

‘I am very pleased to be part of this forum, because it is an opportunity to connect with other women Members of Parliament in the region, including our colleagues from Australia and New Zealand. It was important for me to

⁷ This activity is part of a larger program.

meet and network with others to fill in the gaps for what I am trying to achieve for the women of Nauru.'

Minister Scotty wants to see Nauruan women become economically empowered 'so they are financially independent and don't need to depend on others, especially abusive partners'.

A 'day in the life' of Nauru's Gender-Based Violence counsellor

Project name: Improve the health sector response and services to reduce domestic violence

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Ministry of Health

Total funding: \$440,000

Funding timeframe: 2014-2016

Ms Marja Elizabeth, a gender-based violence specialist, is working within the Government of Nauru to support the implementation of two activities supported by Pacific Women.

As with most countries around the world, domestic violence is a significant issue in Nauru. The Nauru Family Health and Safety Study 2014 estimated that 48.1 per cent of women who had had an intimate relationship experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner at least once in their lifetime. In 2011, Nauru became a signatory to CEDAW and is also a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Using her vast international experience supporting survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence and

sexual assault, Ms Elizabeth has been working across the Government of Nauru since November 2014 to: improve the health sector response and services to reduce domestic violence across all 14 districts; and increase women's access to justice through an improved legislative and policy environment for reducing and responding to domestic violence.

Ms Elizabeth said that the best part of her role was working collaboratively with dedicated staff from a range of departments, including Home Affairs, Education, Police, Health and Justice, to address gender-based violence. Establishing relationships across all of these areas has led to numerous positive changes.

'With the support of the Ministers, particularly the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Charmaine Scotty, there have been many success stories in the year I have been here. We've established a new Division of Children's Services to deal with child protection issues. We're setting up a roster of victim-support workers to respond in crisis cases of family violence and sexual assault, or child abuse and neglect issues, alongside police and the medical response. We're improving the infrastructure and safety of the Safe House. We are commencing the consultation for the implementation of separate family violence legislation.

We are implementing a 'no drop' policy and mandatory reporting policy for family violence and child protection. And we've established an integrated case coordination committee structure to deal with complex cases, using a whole-of-government approach.'

Ms Elizabeth has been engaged under the Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism to serve in the role for two years.



Collaborative action on GBV in Nauru. Back L-R: Mr Frances Deireragea (Family and Community Services), Ms Marja Elizabeth (GBV Counsellor/Specialist), Ms Cynthia Dekarube (Ministry of Home Affairs, Safe House section), Mr Manfred Depaune (Child Protection, FCS), Ms Fraulein Itaia (FCS), Ms Mokisha Taleka (FCS), Ms Isabella Dageago (Public Health), Ms Lynn Detabene (Education Department, Chief Liaison Officer) and Ms Bernadette Aliklik (Director of FCS). Photo: Gay Uera, DFAT, Nauru Post.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

NIUE

“With empowerment comes creating one’s own professional and personal destiny and that is what we wish for all women in the Pacific and globally.”

Ms Ida Talagi-Hekesi, Niue Chamber of Commerce Executive Member
(Interview with the *Pacific Women Support Unit*, October 2014).

Conference was ‘inspirational’ for Niue women

Project name: Building Women Entrepreneurs – Building Nations

Outcome areas: Economic empowerment and enhancing agency

Project partner: Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation

Total funding: \$142,203

Funding timeframe: 2014

Two business women and one Government MP from Niue attended the *Pacific Women supported – Pacific Women in Business Conference – in November 2014.*

The conference, which was held in Fiji, enabled 187 women business leaders from 13 Pacific Island countries to share success stories, exchange ideas and best practices, cultivate networks and discuss solutions to challenges facing women entrepreneurs. Organised by the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), the three-day conference, with the theme ‘Building Women Entrepreneurs – Building Nations’, followed the success of the inaugural conference held in 2012.

In her opening address to participants, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, said: ‘We’re here to advance the rights of women, to bring justice and equality, but today our aspirations extend even further. As the title of the conference suggests and underlines, we’re looking to build nations, by building women entrepreneurs.’



Ms Malamapeta Lavini from the Niue Council of Women; Ms Ida Talagi-Hekesi from the Niue Chamber of Commerce; and the Hon Joan Viliamu from the Government of Niue were part of the 2014 Pacific Women in Business Conference organised by the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

Ms Mereia Volavola, PIPSO’s Chief Executive Officer, shared the importance of supporting women in business.

‘In the Pacific region the majority of businesses are micro, small to medium enterprises and a large portion of this exists in the informal sector which involves many women. With limited job opportunities we are seeing more women in business in the informal and formal sector. These women are contributing to the economic growth of the country. It is also exciting to see a new trend of business women setting up businesses to assist other women in villages and communities.’

Ms Malamapeta Lavini from the Niue Council of Women; Ms Ida Talagi-Hekesi from the Niue Chamber of Commerce; and the Hon Joan Viliamu from the

Government of Niue attended the conference. All of them continue to advocate for better programs and policies within the private sector towards improving women's financial independence and empowerment.

Ms Lavini is now the owner of new tourist accommodation named Vinnies Guesthouse, as well as Peta Paints which is a hardware store. Ms Viliamu continues to help run her family owned Clayton's Bar and is also part of the Niue Government's cabinet. Ms Talagi-Hekesi is still managing tourist accommodation, Stone Villas, and she is also the co-owner of Stone Solutions, an architectural and building/construction business.

Ms Talagi-Hekesi said. *'It was inspirational attending the Pacific Women in Business Conference in 2014 in Fiji, and networking with the many women in business from across the Pacific. There were many stories and experiences from the conference that were shared with other businesses upon returning home to Niue.'*

Niuean women are increasing in numbers as entrepreneurs in the private sector. Women own 60 per cent of the 227 registered businesses in Niue^{xiii}.

Gauging gender awareness in Niue

Project name: Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific

Outcome areas: Enhancing agency, economic empowerment, leadership and decision making, and ending violence against women

Project partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Total funding: \$3,817,332⁸

Funding timeframe: 2013-2018

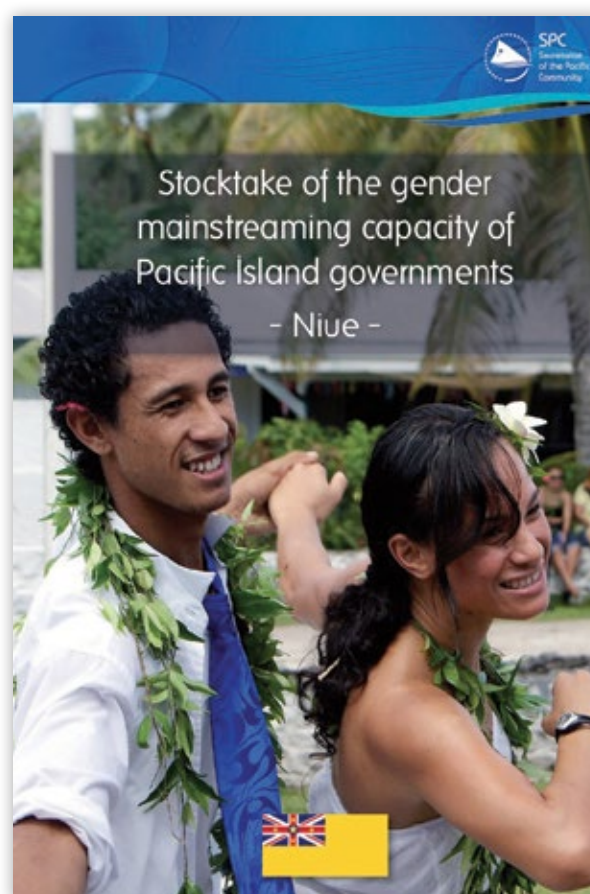
Niue is amongst Pacific Island countries participating in the Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific project supported by *Pacific Women* that aims to help national governments and civil society to develop specific strategies for increasing capacity to mainstream gender.

The project involves a stocktake of the Government of Niue's gender mainstreaming capacity, undertaken by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), to identify areas of improvement.

The stocktake report, published in 2015, found that while the Government had a draft national policy on gender equality, there was a lack of awareness of gender equality challenges. Furthermore, the Government had

limited resources and technical capacity to address these challenges. Consequently, there was limited action to mainstream gender across Government.

The report provided recommendations on how to integrate gender issues into the work of the whole of government. Strategic approaches to strengthen political will and enhance organisational culture included: providing support for senior officials and ministers to officially launch the Niue gender equality policy and action plan; and raising their awareness about the links between gender mainstreaming and improved development results. The report also recommended ways to build technical capacity to support gender mainstreaming.



With Support from Pacific Women, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community undertook a stocktake of the Government of Niue's gender mainstreaming capacity. The report was published in 2015. Photo: Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

⁸ This activity is part of a larger program.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

PALAU

“Every time I come to the [PWPP] Forums, I am so inspired. Following the Forum in 2013 in Sydney, I went back and we established a non-profit NGO called Centre for Women’s Empowerment Palau. My hope is for this organisation to grow, because it’s really meant to support women in leadership positions and uplift the status of women in Palau.”

Senator Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior, Palau
(Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project Forum 2015)

Palauan senator encourages women’s economic independence

Project name: Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Project

Outcome area: Leadership and decision making

Project partner: International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

Total funding: \$2,850,037⁹

Funding timeframe: 2013–2018

Politics is typically considered ‘men’s business’ in Palau but Senator Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior, begs to differ.

While Palau has had very few women in parliament, Senator Senior said she had a very strong desire to encourage more women to run.

After attending the 2014 Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships (PWPP) Forum in Tonga, Senator Senior helped to establish a network with state legislators working at the sub-national level in the 16 states.

‘We meet every other month and offer support and advice to each other. I am very happy to report that this month [April 2015] we visited the community of one of the state legislators to create awareness and answer questions on the Family Protection Act.’



Following her participation at the Pacific Women’s Parliamentary Partnerships Forum in 2014, Palau’s Senator Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior, helped establish a network with state legislators working at the sub-national level in the 16 states in Palau to create awareness on the country’s Family Protection Act. Photo: Shazia Usman/Pacific Women Support Unit.

In addition to attending the PWPP Forum, Senator Senior shared experiences with Australian Senator Anne Urquhart who visited Palau in 2013 as part of the PWPP’s MP Exchange – an initiative that she described as ‘very useful’.

‘Senator Urquhart gave a most inspiring speech at a luncheon with several woman candidates who were running for state elections in November. Senator Urquhart’s visit also validates this new women’s political organisation, Women Empowered Belau that Senator [Ruki] Inabo and I are trying to start in Palau.’

⁹ This activity is part of a larger program.



L-R: PWPP exchange participants, Senator Rukebai Kikuo Skey Inabo and Senator Jerrlyn Uduch Sengebau Senior. Photo: Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Project.

PWPP aims to improve understanding of the factors that constrain women's representation in parliaments, and to build the capacity of women MPs in the Pacific, the institutions in which they work and the staff who support them.

Palau aims to meet the diverse needs of its women and men

Project name: Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific

Outcome areas: Enhancing agency, economic empowerment, leadership and decision making and ending violence against women

Project partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Total funding: \$3,817,332⁹

Funding timeframe: 2013-2018

The Government of Palau takes seriously the need to mainstream gender to take into account the different needs of women and men. After conducting a stocktake of its capacity to mainstream gender, Palau is partnering with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to develop its first national Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

To demonstrate the Government of Palau's commitment to strengthen its institutions to address the diverse needs of women and men, and grapple with gender

challenges, Palau entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SPC. SPC assists Pacific Island countries to develop gender mainstreaming policies and practices as part of a strategy to ensure sustainable development for all people.

The MoU is based on outcomes from a stocktake of the capacity of the Government of Palau in mainstreaming gender. The Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs commissioned the stocktake.

Hon Baklai Temengil, Palau's first woman Cabinet Minister and Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, signed the MoU on behalf of the Government in November 2014. She acknowledged that addressing gender inequality in Palau would be a considerable undertaking.

'This MOU with SPC will support the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs to raise awareness and build capacity on gender mainstreaming and gender issues in Palau,' Minister Temengil said. 'We are also in the midst of developing our first Gender Mainstreaming Policy for Government, so I think the timing is perfect.'

Activities under the MoU will be aligned to and funded by the Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (PGEP) initiative, which *Pacific Women* funds. SPC and Pacific Island governments are working together to implement PGEP over five years.

⁹ This activity is part of a larger program.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

“Holding back women holds back everyone in PNG. Together, the Business Coalition for Women has a sound collective voice to shape policy and public debates and drive change in and through the private sector, which is where most people are employed.”

Lady Winifred Kamit, Patron of PNG Business Coalition for Women (Business Coalition for Women’s newsletter).

Addressing family and sexual violence

Project name: Strengthen Family Sexual Violence Coordination

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partners: Department for Community Development and Religion, Office for the Development of Women, Department for Justice and Attorney General, Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council—Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, United Nations Development Programme

Total funding: \$4,500,000

Funding timeframe: 2014-2016

Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) is not only violence or sexual assault between intimate partners or husbands and wives; it can also be between brothers and sisters, parents and children or between older and younger relatives.

With support from *Pacific Women*, the Strengthen FSV Coordination project aims to strengthen national coordination, implementation and monitoring mechanisms to address the increasing prevalence of family and sexual violence in PNG.

Ms Ume Wainetti, National Coordinator of PNG Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, shared during a presentation at the Development Policy Centre^{xiv}:
‘There are many myths about this violence. When a woman



Police officers looking after the cases at the Family and Sexual Violence Unit at Waigani Police Station, Port Moresby. Photo: Ness Kerton/DFAT.

goes long-long [mad], people say its sorcery, it’s never the husband’s fault. And sometimes we Papua New Guinea women believe that when a husband hits us, it means that he loves us or is jealous. Often you will see even our highly educated women continue to live their lives through their husbands, with everything being about him. But tomorrow, if he walks out, he will leave her with nothing. Many times we make excuses for the violence that we see, blaming it on

culture or alcohol and drugs. So our own understanding of domestic violence is confused, and we continue to accept living like this.'

The four project partners are researching and developing a framework for gender-based violence (GBV) interventions for improved planning, budgeting and monitoring at national and provincial levels. They will develop a national GBV strategy, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to implement and pilot in government departments. FSV Action Committees in four provinces are being strengthened to effectively refer and manage cases, and ensure the availability and quality of GBV interventions. FSV advocates and human rights defenders in eight provinces are also receiving support to raise awareness and prevent GBV.

Despite some challenges, including changes to the project scope in 2014 and delays in implementation, the project has had a number of successes. Provincial governments are committed to the project, and they will develop provincial plans and allocate budgets to support the project.

Do No Harm to women coffee producers

Project name: Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women's Economic Empowerment and Violence Against Women in Melanesia

Outcome areas: Economic empowerment and enhancing agency

Project partners: State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, Australian National University, the International Women's Development Agency and CARE International

Total funding: \$362,618

Funding timeframe: 2014-2016

The Do No Harm research project seeks answers to the problem of how to support women to improve their livelihoods without compromising their safety. It will be used to inform Australian-funded financial inclusion and private sector programs, and ending violence against women initiatives.

Coffee is one of the most important cash crops in PNG, particularly in the Eastern Highlands. Women in PNG make a large contribution to this important industry. An element of the Do No Harm project seeks to understand women's role in decision making about the expenditure of coffee income, the nature of household relationships and their impact on women's economic empowerment.



Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls met with coffee farmers in Goroka in 2014. Ambassador Despoja was in Goroka to reinforce Australia's support for Papua New Guinean initiatives to end violence against women and children. Photo: DFAT, PNG Post.

During July and August 2015, researchers Associate Professor Richard Eves and PhD student Asha Titus, from the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, collaborated with CARE International to research women's economic empowerment among smallholder coffee producers in three districts: Goroka District, Unggai-Bena District and the more remote Okapa District. The researchers trained 12 Papua New Guinean women and men working for CARE International in research methods and assisted them to develop tailored research instruments. The team completed 130 surveys and 67 qualitative interviews with selected women and men coffee farmers and key informant interviews with community members, such as village leaders and women's group leaders.

At one extreme, a woman in Okapa District said that she did all of the work in the coffee garden and sold the coffee, but her husband took most of the income. At the other extreme, a man living in Goroka District said that he shared the coffee production workload and income equally with his wife.

'This man [from Goroka District] had heard of 'gender equality' and remarked that some men today recognise that women have the same rights as men, and that men are starting to respect women and women are respecting men,' Dr Eves said. 'This suggests that change in gender relations and norms and the empowerment of women is possible—the challenge is to achieve this without causing harm to women in the process.'

While empowerment for women coffee smallholders is a long way off, there is a readiness by some men to see coffee as a business that can be shared equally with women.

A program extension officer working on CARE PNG's Coffee Industry Support Project shared the positive changes in attitudes: *'I have realized that I must be a role model and not just a coffee extension trainer. I have decided with my wife that all money received from our coffee belongs to my wife and children to be used for the family, and my wages as a field officer will be used for emergencies.'*

Strengthening business coalitions for women

Project name: Economic Empowerment Partnership with Private Sector

Outcome area: Leadership and decision making

Project Partner: International Finance Corporation

Total Funding: \$3,400,000

Funding timeframe: 2014-2018

Pacific Women is supporting the Business Coalition for Women to help PNG's private sector to recruit, retain and promote women as employees, leaders, customers and business partners.

Higher levels of women's participation in business correlates closely with improved bottom lines. For instance, among the mining sector's top 100 companies worldwide, enterprise value is 106 per cent^{xv} higher in companies with two or more women board members.

Therefore, it makes sense that *Pacific Women* is supporting the Business Coalition for Women (BCFW) in PNG. BCFW was established in March 2014 with 17

founding members and the election of its Board. Just over a year later, in May 2015, the membership had grown to 55.

Ms Amy Luinstra is the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) East Asia Pacific Gender Specialist and program manager for IFC's support to the PNG BCFW. She was part of the opening panel at a regional conference in Singapore on Women in Management and cited the PNG BCFW as an example of enlightened businesses coming together to develop practical solutions that help accelerate positive change for women and the businesses in which they work: *'It is a triple win: employed and empowered women contribute more to development outcomes such as family health and education, more to their households, and more to their employers,'* she said.

The Coalition seeks to promote opportunities for women's economic empowerment and career development. It does so by providing relevant and practical tools, model policies, good practices, case studies and other resources to help members make the most of their talents.

Four working groups have been established to achieve each of the following objectives:

1. Ensure that all workplaces are free from violence and that PNG businesses are supporting female staff who are survivors of GBV.
2. Innovate and promote gender-smart workplace policies and practices within all of BCFW's member businesses to create more opportunities for women



Four of the Addressing Violence Working Group members who supported the development of resources to assist the business community address family and sexual violence. L-R: Ms Lynette Baratai-Pokas (ExxonMobil PNG); Ms Linda Van Leeuwen (Anitua Group); Ms Violet Aopi (National Catering Services Holdings Limited); and Esther Usurup-Harou (Origin Energy). Also part of the Working Group are: Ms Jean Martin (Oil Search) and Ms Diane Mirio (New Britain Palm Oil). Photo: PNG Business Coalition for Women.

to have better jobs, and to catalyse business growth through better access to talent.

3. Promote career development of women to become leaders within member businesses through mentoring and other talent development initiatives.
4. Increase opportunities for women-owned businesses in members' supply and distribution networks.

Since its inception, BCFW has been busy getting the message out about the importance of achieving each of these objectives. They have established their website and Twitter account to connect with members, PNG and overseas media and other important stakeholders, and to engage in global social media debate on gender issues.

In 2015, BCFW launched its flagship Business Leadership Course. Speaking at the opening, Ms Lesieli Taviri, BCFW's Chairperson and General Manager of Origin Energy PNG, said: *'[The course] aims to provide the necessary soft skills required to effectively manage and provide leadership. The program has been developed over months of consultation with business houses which makes it unique – it is very targeted to meet industry and private sector needs.'*

Coalition members know that gender equality is good business. They also know that overcoming the challenges that women face in the PNG workforce goes beyond individual firms.

Help for family and sexual violence victims in PNG

Project name: Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partners: Femili PNG, Australian National University and Oxfam Australia

Total funding: \$3,096,186

Funding timeframe: 2014–2017

Pacific Women is helping survivors of family and sexual violence in PNG's second largest city, Lae.

Research suggests that about two out of three women in PNG have experienced domestic violence, which affects their health, human rights, freedom of movement and ability to work. These women are vulnerable to many forms of abuse that are exacerbated by some cultural practices, including bride-price and male ownership of assets such as land.



Case Management Centre stakeholders in Lae. Photo: Femili PNG.

Pacific Women is funding Femili PNG, a Papua New Guinean nongovernmental organisation (NGO), to run a new Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre (CMC) in Lae for three years, from 2014 until 2017. Oxfam PNG is the implementation partner, and the Australian National University provides support, including monitoring and evaluation and related research.

Through the CMC's work, the 12-member team helps women, men and children survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and/or child abuse. It works with clients to develop an intervention plan based on the client's situation, their available options and the client's goals.

The Centre began accepting clients in July 2014; a year later, it had 183 open cases and 69 closed cases. It has supported hundreds of women and children in high-risk situations to receive help. This has included assisting women and children to access services, helping them through the court system, and supporting them to return to their home villages, away from violent perpetrators.

'CMC has had a lot of triumphs, and it is has been very satisfying and rewarding for me personally. Some of these include: having survivors access all the services they need; supporting survivors to end violence in their lives by relocating and reintegrating them to where they are safer; collaborating with the service providers in building a stronger network, and so on,' said Ms Denga, a caseworker with the CMC.

The Centre works collaboratively with other service providers in Lae that play a role in protecting survivors—the Family Support Centre, the two Lae safe houses, the police, the prosecutors' office, the orphanage, government social workers and other NGOs. By acting together, the CMC and these other services can achieve more to end violence against women and their families.

The Centre shared Louisa's story: Louisa's¹⁰ husband had been severely beating her since their marriage began. She decided that the violence needed to stop, so she sought help and was referred to the CMC. The case worker supported Louisa to report the abuse to the police. The client's husband was later arrested; he is now awaiting formal charges. The Centre provided Louisa with safe accommodation for two weeks while she gave her statement to police and received all of the medical treatment that she needed. She wanted to move back to her home village, so the CMC traced her family and established a network in her home province to provide ongoing support. After the Centre relocated Louisa with her two children, she was also provided with a business start-up kit so that she could be economically independent and able to support her children's needs.

Bougainville Women's Federation

Project name: Election awareness training for women in Bougainville

Outcome areas: Enhancing agency and leadership and decision making

Project partner: Bougainville Women's Federation

Total funding: \$460,000

Funding timeframe: 2015–2016

For Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF), a nongovernmental organisation supported by Pacific Women, addressing the leadership gap of young women between the ages of 18 and 30 is vital and one of its many challenges in the aftermath of the 10-year Bougainville Crisis (1988–1998).

BWF is an umbrella organisation and representative body for the women of Bougainville that comprises 13 district women's federations. Under each district, BWF also has representatives from the Council of Elders and Area Assembly. The Federation works with different programs to achieve and endorse representation of women in decision making roles in government, NGOs and the private sector.

Ms Florence Naina is a Project Officer with BWF and was one of the 21 participants at the pilot Adaptive Leadership Training, which Pacific Women and the Pacific Leadership Program coordinated in July 2015.

At the training, Ms Naina shared about the work of the Federation.

'We carried out a pilot survey on young women's leadership, and discovered that illiteracy and lack of mentoring by mature women leaders were major contributing factors to the issue,' Ms Naina said.

Since then, BWF has conducted leadership training for 30 young women.

'We started it in Northern Bougainville, and we get queries from women who want to be part of the training. Unfortunately, we have very limited resources and were unable to conduct training elsewhere.'

Recently, BWF ran training on effective campaigning for women who wanted to run for local-level government elections. Twelve of the women contested the 2015 elections. While just one of them was successful, the other women are ready to contest the 2016 elections.

Ms Naina said she would share all she learnt at the three-day Adaptive Leadership Training for women leaders and gender advocates from governments and civil societies from Fiji, PNG and Samoa, with her colleagues at the BWF. Adaptive leadership equips change makers with the skills needed to make positive change on important issues, often in challenging and uncertain environments.



Ms Florence Naina is a Project Officer with the Bougainville Women's Federation. She represented the Federation at the Adaptive Leadership Training held in Fiji. Photo: Amelia Makutu/Pacific Leadership Program.

¹⁰ Louisa's name has been changed for safety and security reasons.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

“During the five weeks of training [facilitated by the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre], I learned so much about women’s human rights, gender and gender awareness, definitions of VAWG [Violence Against Women and Girls] and its impact, and the international policy framework related to VAWG such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. I felt very strongly that this learning was going to be useful to me in my role at WUTMI.”

Ms Lilly Samson, VAWG Support Service Project Coordinator, Women United Together Marshall Islands WUTMI (interview with the *Pacific Women* Support Unit, October 2015).

Pacific Women partners with WUTMI

Project name: Violence Against Women and Girls Support Service Project

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Women United Together Marshall Islands

Total funding: \$430,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2016

Pacific Women is partnering with Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) to help establish the first ever support service for women survivors of violence in the Marshall Islands.

WUTMI, established in 1987, is the leading voice addressing violence against women and girls in the Marshall Islands. The organisation’s structure, with membership from 22 of the 24 outer islands, gives WUTMI an ability to reach remote and vulnerable communities.

In 2014, in recognition of their efforts, *Pacific Women* supported WUTMI to engage a Domestic Violence Counselling Service Adviser to work with them to develop a support service for women and their children who have experienced domestic violence. Working alongside Ms Kathryn Relang, WUTMI’s Director, and the rest of the WUTMI team, the Adviser is also assisting to strengthen the knowledge and skills of

WUTMI staff to provide crisis and case management support to women and children experiencing domestic violence.

In 2015 WUTMI, with additional support from *Pacific Women*, implemented a comprehensive community engagement program to help inform the design of the proposed service, involving 19 participatory workshops with more than 188 women and men from six outer island atolls. Early results show that women want a range of support services including: safe accommodation for women who are experiencing violence; a focus on prevention of violence against women through community education and awareness raising regarding both women’s rights and the laws related to violence against women; intervention programs with men who choose to commit violence; and assistance in accessing justice, especially through the police.

A number of issues emerged from the consultations, including that the majority of the women were unaware of the notion of ‘violence against women’. Many believed that violence against women was a normal or natural way of life. Participants in the consultations included representatives from women’s groups who also identified the lack of awareness of domestic violence as a crime, as one of the main reasons why violence against women is an underreported experience and have questioned the reliability of the official statistics of the number of women and girls experiencing domestic violence in the Marshall Islands.

Interview with WUTMI's Domestic Violence Counselling Service Project Coordinator

Ms Lilly Samson joined WUTMI as its VAWG Support Service Project Coordinator in February 2015 to help design and develop the first-ever support service for VAWG survivors in the Marshall Islands.

As part of Ms Lilly Samson's professional development, Pacific Women supported her to attend a five-week Regional Training Program (RTP) and attachment facilitated by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC). She said that the training program provided valuable lessons for her role at WUTMI.

Following the training program, Ms Samson was able to adapt one of the activities, which involved visualising a world without violence against women and girls, for WUTMI's participatory community consultation workshops. The activity has since become one of the most powerful activities that WUTMI uses, 'as it has a big emotional impact on the participants every time'.

The training helped to develop three skills critical to her role: counselling, case management and debriefing.

'Since attending the training on counselling, I have thought more about my tone of voice, use of eye contact and body language during the workshops we have been doing, especially when women are sharing their personal stories of surviving abuse. I understand better now how counselling skills are important to gaining women's trust.'

During the attachment, Ms Samson was impressed by FWCC's debriefing processes and the value they gave to staff self-care. She also found the opportunity to learn about case management tools 'very interesting and informative'.

'I can see now how to develop and implement similar processes in our service in the Marshall Islands and have used some of the knowledge I gained during the RTP to contribute to developing a referral form.'

Ms Samson was thankful to all those who supported her participation in the program.

'I can recommend the training to anyone in the Pacific region who wants to learn more about how to support survivors of VAWG.'



Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) staff. WUTMI is one of the strongest advocates addressing violence against women in the country. Photo: Emily Miller/Pacific Women Support Unit.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

SAMOA

“There is a tremendous amount of leadership potential among Samoa’s women and they have a right to a voice in Parliament. These [Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa Programme] activities provide opportunities to share information and resources, answer questions, provoke discussion and encourage change.”

Ms Gatoloai Tili Afamasaga, Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa Programme Coordinator (UN Women, 2015).

Samoan Women Shaping Samoan Development

Project: Samoan Women Shaping Development Program

Outcome areas: Economic empowerment, leadership and decision making and ending violence against women

Project partner: Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development

Total funding: \$3,800,000

Funding timeframe: 2015-2020

Through Pacific Women, Australia is contributing \$3.8 million over five years to support the Samoan Women Shaping Development Program.

On 31 March 2015, the Governments of Australia and Samoa signed an agreement to cooperate on increasing women’s economic empowerment, participation in public life and decision making, and to reduce gender-based violence.

Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, the Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua and the Australian High Commissioner, Ms Sue Langford, led a signing ceremony. Through this partnership, Australia and Samoa will work together to create a positive impact on the lives of all women in Samoa.



Front: Ms Sue Langford, Australian High Commissioner and Hon Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatua, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, flanked by officials present at the signing of the Gender Agreement. L-R: Mr Auimatagi Bob Ale, Australian High Commission Governance Program Manager; Ms Louisa Apelu, MWCSO ACEO; Ms Sala Georgina Bonin, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative; Mr Filifilia Iosefa, UN Coordination Specialist; and Ms Tifitifi, Uitime Fetu MWCSO Acting CEO. Photo: DFAT, Apia Post.

Increasing women's representation in the Samoan Parliament

Project: Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa

Outcome area: Leadership and decision making

Project partners: Government of Samoa, UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme

Total funding: \$500,000

Funding timeframe: 2015 - 2016

In the lead up to the March 2016 general election in Samoa, the United Nations and Government of Samoa are working together to support more Samoan women to become parliamentarians.

A constitutional amendment in 2013 will increase the number of women politicians in Samoa from three to at least five, by ensuring that 10 per cent of the 49 seats are held by women.

The March 2016 election is the first since the constitutional amendment introduced the reserved seats quota. Samoa is the first country in the Pacific, outside of French Polynesia, to put in place measures to ensure women's representation at the national level. If five women are not elected, extra seats will be added; however, if five women are elected then the measure is not activated.



A women's committee on Manono Island, Samoa. Australia is empowering local women's committees in Samoa to help address poverty needs in their villages. Photo: Sally Sitou/DFAT.

With funding from *Pacific Women* and the United Nations, the Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa (IPPWS) Programme supports activities that: raise awareness of gender equality challenges; build women's capacity to participate in the parliamentary process; and provide information and training to

political parties ahead of the election. The IPPWS Programme also provides post-election mentoring for all members of parliament on subjects such as gender-responsive budgeting and gender-sensitive legislation.

'The 10 per cent mark should not be seen as a target, but a minimum,' explains Ms Suisala Mele Maualaivao, UN Women's Country Programme Coordinator for Samoa. *'Ideally, we'd like to see a much higher representation of women in Samoa's Government, and the IPPWS Programme is designed to support candidates, voters and parliamentarians in making that happen.'*

Increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making has proven to be good for overall economic and social development. Studies have shown that it has a particularly marked effect on women's overall participation in the labour force, their share of public employment opportunities, and access to public goods such as roads and health services.

Ms Gatoloai Tili Afamasaga, IPPWS Programme Coordinator, said that increasing women's participation in the Samoan Parliament relied on a shift in attitudes around the roles that women can and should play in politics.

Domestic violence services reach rural Samoa

Project: Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Facility Fund

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: UN Women

Total funding: \$70,000

Funding timeframe: 2012-2015

In 2005, the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) was established to provide assistance to survivors of violence against women who did not have support from family members. Ten years later, the organisation offers a variety of services to survivors and their families, including a 24-hour hotline, a community alert system in rural areas, short-term shelter services, and legal assistance.

In the capital city of Apia, where the SVSG started, women have access to immediate short-term care and safety through shelter services, and another shelter provides room and board for children whose parents or caregivers have been subjected to violence. SVSG has lodged most of the protection orders processed by Samoa's Family Violence Court.

Ms Lina Chang, SVSG founder, said rape and sex were taboo subjects in Samoan communities and part of their



Samoa Victim Support Group staff outside their Apia headquarters. The Group is one of UN Women's Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund grantees, which is principally funded by Pacific Women. Photo: Ellie van Baaren/UN Women.

success had been breaking through that silence. This was the inspiration behind the country's first public campaign against rape in 2010. The campaign was also the beginning of the Strong Communities, Strong Families program that saw SVSG go out into the villages for the first time.

'We had to learn as much as we could before we went out there; we had to know the village system well, and how the law could cover us,' Ms Chang said. 'Then we had to speak to the elders, because if you don't have their support you can't do anything.'

These early activities led to the establishment of a community alert system that now involves more than 400 village representatives in 166 villages across the

country. Mobile phones and networks play an important role in giving people in these villages access to SVSG's services. Many village representatives use their own phones and buy their own credit.

SVSG's 24-hour helpline was launched in 2013. Staffed by a roster of 25 trained counsellors, the helpline attracts calls from across the community—from parents wanting help with their children, to children who feel they can't talk to their parents, to informers concerned about violence or child abuse, and even perpetrators asking for help.

SVSG is a grant recipient of UN Women's Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Facility Fund, which is principally funded by *Pacific Women*.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

SOLOMON ISLANDS

“Church leaders should take up the role to say violence against women is just not right.”

Sister Doreen Awaiasi, Christian Care Centre, Solomon Islands
(Channels of Hope for Gender Solomon Islands Fact Sheet).

Channels of Hope uses religion as catalyst for change

Project: Channels of Hope for Gender

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: World Vision Solomon Islands

Total funding: \$2,000,000

Funding timeframe: 2013-2017

About 97 per cent of Solomon Islanders are Christian, so the Bible is a potentially powerful tool to help show Solomon Islander men how to respect women. A Pacific Women funded project harnesses this approach to reduce gender-based violence in 30 communities across two provinces in the Solomon Islands.

A large number of Solomon Islander women, a total of 64 per cent, have suffered sexual or physical violence, or both, from an intimate partner. Implemented by World Vision, the Channels of Hope for Gender (CoHG) program explores what the Bible says about gender relations and challenges church and community leaders' understanding of family violence.

‘Faith plays a really big part in Solomon culture; especially faith leaders are seen as influential people in most communities,’ said Ms Koisau Sade, World Vision Gender Coordinator. ‘CoHG is challenging the traditional norms of gender that faith leaders have, and [it demonstrates] how we should value male and female equally.’

Equipped with a fresh perspective on their faith and domestic violence, religious leaders have begun to run their own training programs for their congregations.

One man explained how, in 2012, he attended a CoHG workshop that changed his thinking, attitude and view



Channels of Hope program: community discussions with young men on the Weather Coast, Guadalcanal. Photo: DFAT, Honiara Post.

of life. *‘I was a violent person to my wife, my children, my neighbourhood and my community,’ he said. ‘Now I treat my wife equally and appreciate her as an individual, a wife, and there is mutual trust and love in our marriage. My children do not have fear and distrust in me anymore and we now have an open relationship and love for each other. The environment in our home is more loving and friendly, with positive words spoken to each other. After 23 years of marriage, now my wife and my children are experiencing a truly happy life.’*

A 2015 evaluation of the project documented the changes in community members' and church leaders' attitudes. For instance, the percentage of women who believed that 'women should not make decisions' fell from 34 per cent to 4 per cent. Overall, CoHG has played an important part in working towards reducing violence against women in Solomon Island communities involved in the project.

Women discuss gender equality

Project name: Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific

Outcome areas: Enhancing agency, economic empowerment, leadership and decision making and ending violence against women

Project partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Total funding: \$3,817,332¹¹

Funding timeframe: 2013-2018

***Pacific Women* supports a range of activities undertaken by the Government of Solomon Islands, to end family violence. Recently, support was provided through DFAT's Justice Program to the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs in the drafting and implementation of the Family Protection Act 2014.**

Through DFAT's Justice and Health Programs, assistance is also given to the SAFENET Referral Network and the Family Support Unit, to support people affected by violence.

In August 2015, *Pacific Women* supported the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to review the Solomon Islands' national gender equality and women's development policy. This involved extensive consultations in Honiara with more than thirty stakeholders from government agencies, development partners and civil society organisations.

The consultations focused on discussion of the challenges and achievements of the Government's national gender equality and women's development

policy. The policy was endorsed in 2010 and expires at the end of 2015.

'We recognise the Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs has technical and capacity constraints, and we recognise that we cannot fully and effectively implement our gender equality commitments without the support of all our stakeholders,' said Mr Hugo Hebala, the Ministry's Acting Permanent Secretary.

'We value your honest and frank feedback, as we need to know what we as a Government are doing well, what we need to strengthen, what we need to change, and what can be done by our key partners on the ground, our civil society organisations,' Mr Hebala added.

Despite challenges, stakeholders recognised the Ministry's achievements, particularly the enactment of the Family Protection Act after many years of lobbying, advocacy and programming by the Ministry and other stakeholders.

Mr Hebala said the success of the policy depended on *'freedom from violence'*.

'No amount of equality and empowerment can be realised, if we don't end violence and fear of violence,' he said.

The review of this policy was timely. The national government had just reported on extensive gender commitments such as the recent tabling of the first, second and third periodic report to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee and the regional and national reviews of the Beijing Platform for Action.



Royal Solomon Islands Police Force female officers march down the main street of Honiara on International Women's Day. Photo: RAMSI.

¹¹ This activity is part of a larger program.

'These two processes allowed government to stock take from a much broader gender platform some of the progress and challenges, and to critically look at some emerging gender issues—emerging in the sense [that] these gender issues are not reflected in our Government strategies,' Mr Hebala said.

'Some of these issues include depletion of our natural resources through logging and its social and gender impact on communities.'

Civil society organisations welcomed the review and the consultation process, but highlighted the need for the Government to strengthen its reporting mechanisms and its capacity to report accurately and substantially on gender issues in Solomon Islands.

The Ministry will conduct three provincial consultations before finalising the new policy at the end of 2015.

Governance training to promote women in business

Project name: Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative

Outcome area: Economic empowerment

Project partners: Asian Development Bank and Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Total funding: \$500,000¹²

Funding timeframe: 2013-2015

A recent Pacific Women supported pilot training program in the Solomon Islands equipped women with the skills and confidence to take on senior management roles on private and state owned enterprise boards.

'I came here to learn. This has been very good for me both professionally and personally. I didn't realise I had so much responsibility as a director.'

Ms Lynette daWheya, Director of Safe Guard Security Ltd., was not the only participant to praise the joint training initiative of the Asian Development Bank's Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) and Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI). In fact, all 17 participants (12 women and five men) said the training increased their skills, and that both the content and training approach were either 'excellent' or 'good'.

The PSDI-SICCI training was developed to increase opportunities for women to participate effectively in

management of businesses and improve governance practices in Solomon Islands. The training was conducted in three sessions between July 2014 and February 2015. Sixty per cent of the participants were women, targeted to address the low levels of women's participation on both private and state owned enterprise boards. Topics included duties of directors of companies and state-owned enterprises, financial audit, and insolvent trading. All participants role-played as directors, company secretaries and managers in mock meetings to gain hands-on experience.

PSDI selected a number of participants who had the potential to become future trainers and could provide governance training on an on-going basis. Three participants were selected and agreed to provide such training in the future. Training materials were prepared, however, only two participants (one woman and one man) committed to go ahead with the training. These two people are now providing training to the next group of participants in a governance training program run by SICCI.



Participants of the Governance Training workshop held in Solomon Islands in October 2014. Photo: Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative.

The pilot program is having positive flow on effects both in Solomon Islands and the region, demonstrating the success and sustainability of the initiative. SICCI, with input from PSDI, will be replicating this program in November 2015. PSDI is integrating the training and materials into the implementation program for business law reform in Vanuatu in 2016. PNG Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat and PNG Focus on APEC Women's Economic Empowerment have approached PSDI to collaborate in designing and delivering a similar program in PNG.

Pacific Women funded 60 per cent of the training program (reflecting the percentage of women who participated). This was one of the four PSDI pilots aimed at enhancing women's economic empowerment.

¹² This activity is part of a larger program.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

TONGA

“We believe that in collaborating with each other, putting our resources, efforts and strengths together, we can achieve much with regard to women, because after all, we are working towards the same goal.”

Ms Tupou’ahau Fakakovikaetau,
Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Affairs Division, Tonga
(interview with the *Pacific Women* Support Unit, October 2015).

Tonga targets 2025 for gender equality

Project name: Technical assistance to strengthen design and monitoring and evaluation

Outcome area: Enhancing agency

Project partner: Women’s Affairs Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Total funding: \$312,000

Funding timeframe: 2014–2016

***Pacific Women* is providing vital funding and technical support to the Women’s Affairs Division within Tonga’s Ministry of Internal Affairs to respond to gender inequality challenges.**

The Tongan Government aims to achieve gender equality across the country by 2025 through implementing a new Gender and Development Policy. Among other priorities, the policy aims to address violence against women, improve women’s economic opportunities and achieve a better gender balance in leadership and decision making roles.

Pacific Women is supporting a range of three-year initiatives—all of which started in 2014—to assist the Government to address these gender challenges. A gender adviser is working with the Women’s Affairs Division to raise awareness of gender issues and mainstream gender across the Government. *Pacific Women* is also providing support for the Government to develop an integrated plan to end violence against women, which includes a comprehensive consultation across Government and with the community on the implementation of the Family Protection Act (2013).



Ms Tupou’ahau Fakakovikaetau, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Affairs Division said *Pacific Women’s* support has been vital.
Photo: Lisa Williams-Lahari.

Ms Tupou’ahau Fakakovikaetau, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Affairs Division, said this assistance has been vital.

‘Pacific Women’s grant has been very, very helpful in the sense that it has helped us with our awareness work,’ she said. ‘It has come at a time when we very much needed it because our budget from Government is very minimal.’

With the funding, the Division has been able to hold consultations in 73 villages across Tonga in 2015 alone to discuss the Government’s gender policy and the Family Protection Act.

Ms Fakakovikaetau said that there was political will behind the Division’s work, with strong support from the Minister of Internal Affairs and more broadly across



Ms 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Director of the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) Tonga said the Centre's work is informed by the lived realities of women and children survivors of violence. Photo: Pacific Women Support Unit.

Government. The Division is also working well with NGOs and other stakeholders to achieve its goal to raise awareness of gender challenges throughout the country.

'I think one of our strengths in Tonga is that we work very closely with our NGOs and also our stakeholders. NGOs are represented on the majority of the committees that are created by the Women's Affairs Division in Tonga.'

Ultimately, Ms Fakakovikaetau was hopeful that the Division's efforts, with Pacific Women's assistance and in partnership with NGOs and other stakeholders, would help to achieve gender equality in Tonga.

Women and Children Crisis Centre Tonga

Project name: Supporting services for survivors of violence

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) Tonga

Total funding: \$750,000

Funding timeframe: 2015-2017

Ms 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki may have one of the toughest jobs in Tonga. The Director of the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) Tonga, and her staff, deal with cases of domestic violence, rape, incest and other forms of sexual and physical abuse involving women and children, on a daily basis. As the Centre

turns six in 2015, Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki reflects on some of the challenges and triumphs of half a decade's work.

In Tonga, 3 out of 4 women have experienced physical or sexual violence over their lifetime^{xvii} and despite this statistic, there are many who would prefer not to acknowledge the existence of such crimes in the island nation. The staff at the Centre however, are adamant that they will continue operating for as long as women and children need assistance.

For Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki, it is about being true to the woman or child who has chosen to share their story and seek help.

'I'm very aware there are people who absolutely hate it when I open my mouth; and there are people who are very thankful because they learn from our advocacy - it's like a complete breakthrough,' shared Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

The Centre was founded in 2009 to advocate for women's and children's human rights based on the lived realities of Tongan women, girls and children who have experienced and survived all forms of violence. Over the years, important relationships have been forged and strengthened with key agencies such as the police, Ministries of Education, Health and court staff with the understanding that the Centre was part of the national effort to eliminate violence against women and children.

Since its inception, Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki cannot remember a single woman or child ever reporting a case of violence or abuse immediately after it happened.

'The fact that she has chosen to walk through our doors or has contacted us whether by telephone or social media means she is at a crisis point. Most of the time, we are the very last people or organisation she would come to because she's reached that crisis point. Women can be victims of violence from the first day of the relationship and put up with it for up to 30 years. It is typically those who have been abused over and over again who finally make the decision to seek help.'

When the Centre started, one of the biggest challenges it faced was to gain the confidence and trust of the wider community as many were sceptical of its motives and even the need for its existence.

While discussion around domestic violence has become relatively accepted in the country in the last six years, sex crimes, especially those involving children, remain a taboo topic.

'We're telling communities that these issues are current and real in Tonga; that it has been happening for quite a long time and that we have to start talking about it. We are also raising an understanding for communities to accept that women and men, girls and boys are equal and that violence against women is a crime,' said Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

According to Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki, through a recent Stay Safe program held at local schools, students

received My Ten Rules of Safety pamphlets, discussing the difference between a good touch and a bad touch. While this move initially received criticism from parents, it later proved to be successful as it provided parents the language needed to discuss such issues with children.

'Most feel uncomfortable telling the children about it. They just never contemplated that it was happening in Tonga,' she added. *'Confidentiality is a huge issue in Tonga, so we provide our services and advocacy support using a human rights framework and a whole lot of ethical and professional standard policies.'*

Pacific Women supports the work of the WCCC and contributes to multi-year core funding. 'The Australian Government has supported us financially through various means and the best thing about it is that we've always remained [in] the driver's seat. This has been part and parcel of the Centre's success – being able to roll out programs that are relevant to Tonga and developed specifically from the stories of the victims and survivors and not just a cut and paste job,' she said.

The Centre also works closely with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and the Vanuatu Women's Centre which often mentor the younger organisation.



Participants of a Primary Prevention Workshop organised in Tonga by UN Women for grantees of the Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund (Pacific Fund) in October 2015. L-R: Ms Ofa Tulikaki (Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili); Ms 'Anamalia 'Aho (Tonga Police); Ms Paea Takau (WCCC); Ms Lute Takau (Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili Inc.); and Mr Penisimani Sili (Tonga Police). The Pacific Fund is principally funded by Pacific Women. Photo: UN Women.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

TUVALU

“Empowering women and girls within our society is fundamental to the realisation of human rights for everyone, and key to effective and sustainable development.”

Hon Enele Sopoanga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu (National Gender Policy statement, 2014).

Tuvalu Country Plan

Project name: *Pacific Women* Tuvalu Country Plan

Outcome areas: Enhancing agency, economic empowerment, leadership and decision making, and ending violence against women

Project partner: Government of Tuvalu

Total funding: \$1,800,000

Funding timeframe: 2015-2018

In October 2015 the Government of Tuvalu endorsed its first *Pacific Women* Tuvalu Country Plan. The Plan will be implemented over a three-year period, from 2015 to 2018, with estimated funding of up to \$1.8 million

The Plan aligns with the Government’s gender equality and social inclusion priorities, national policy and planning frameworks, including the National Gender Policy, and reflects the concerns, needs and priorities of women, girls and people with disabilities in Tuvalu.

It also builds on existing efforts by Australia and other donors to support work in six key areas including: (1) Addressing issues of domestic violence; (2) Increasing women’s participation in leadership and decision making positions; (3) Increased women’s access to employment opportunities; (4) A focus on the welfare of youth; (5) Support for people with disabilities; and (6) Technical support to strengthen the capacity of gender and social inclusion organisations and institutional mechanisms.

The plan was developed through a comprehensive literature review; in-country consultations in November 2014 with a wide range of stakeholders representing

government, local leaders, nongovernmental organisations, churches and the private sector; as well as through direct discussion with women, youth and people with disabilities.

Gender statistics and informed policy in Tuvalu

Project name: Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific

Outcome areas: Enhancing agency, economic empowerment, leadership and decision making and ending violence against women

Project partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Total funding: \$3,817,332¹³

Funding timeframe: 2013-2018

For the past two years, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), with funding from *Pacific Women*, has been working with the Government of Tuvalu to mainstream gender through implementing strategic measures to effectively advance gender equality.

Tuvalu has had a long commitment to gender equality, captured in the 2005, National Development Strategic Plan, ‘Te Kakeega II’ and the government has ratified regional and international conventions guaranteeing women’s rights and human rights. However, many laws still discriminate against women in Tuvalu, including laws relating to inheritance of land, adoption and custody of children, marriage and domestic violence.

In 2015 the Gender Affairs Department (GAD) began working closely with the Central Statistics Division (CSD) to develop a national framework for the regular

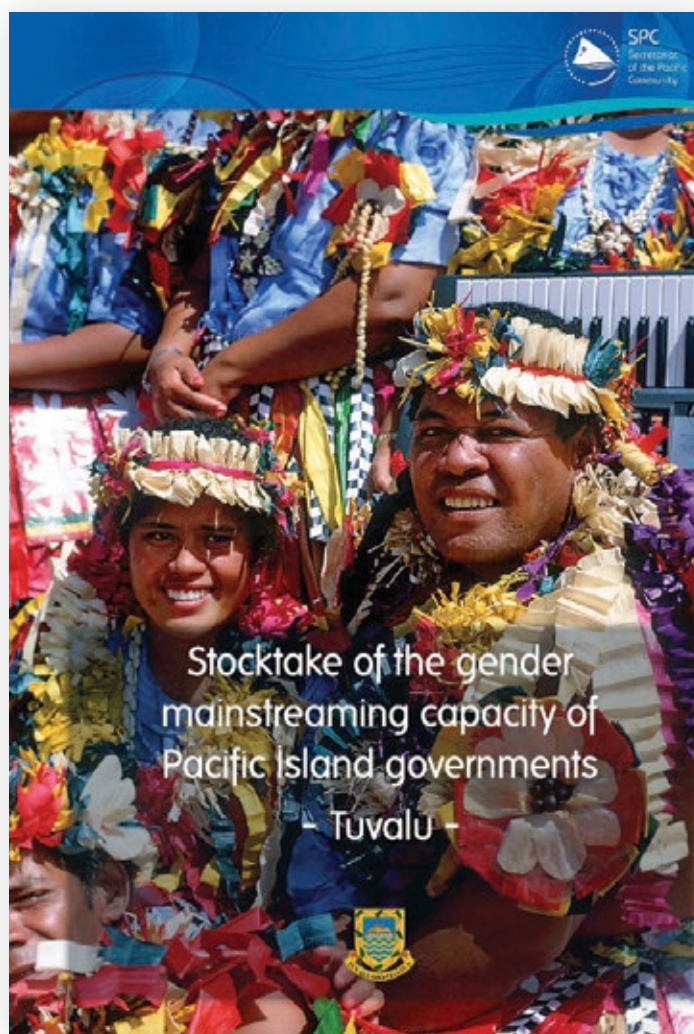
¹³ This activity is part of a larger program.

collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics with the aim of producing a gender profile every two years and to support four yearly reporting on the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women.

'This is a very ambitious plan because we are working on two levels,' said Ms Grace Alapati, Statistical Officer with CSD. 'Firstly, we need to make better use of the gender statistics we already have from our ongoing surveys and administrative data; while at the same time we need to address the data gaps through setting up new collection systems. We think two years is a realistic time frame for CSD and GAD to produce Tuvalu's first gender profile, recognising that we have to set up the system and governance arrangements for Tuvalu's gender statistics framework. We will be working closely with SPC, to develop robust accountability measures to ensure that gender mainstreaming 'commitments and words' turn into actions that would benefit women and men in Tuvalu.'

Ms Lupe Tavita, GAD's Information and Research Officer, is very positive about GAD moving forward using gender statistics, learning valuable lessons and gaining skills from their experience with participatory community research into the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Pam which devastated parts of Tuvalu in March 2015.

'I now appreciate how hard it is to collect gender statistics, in terms of designing questionnaires and conducting interviews. SPC gave us much needed help with the analysis, presentation and interpretation of the results of our research, and we were able to present convincing arguments to our Government that women need to be more involved in island disaster risk management committees as well as preparation, response and recovery activities,' she said.



With support from Pacific Women since 2013, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community has been working in partnership with the Government of Tuvalu to advance gender equality in the country. Photo: Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION

VANUATU

"I have learned how to plan and deliver training that will make sense for women living in the provinces. Before, I delivered trainings in town but I did not know very much about customisation or different ways of assessment. I am so glad that, as well as running my own business, I will now also be recognised as a trainer with the TVET Program [and] can help other women in the islands to improve their incomes and small businesses."

Ms Eslyn Turner, business woman and graduate of the Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Strengthening Program (TVET, 2014).



A young woman who is part of a Small Engine Maintenance Training course in Big Bay, Santo Island. Photo: TVET Sector Strengthening Program.

Supporting Ni-Vanuatu Women Trainers

Project name: Improving training and employment outcomes for women and girls

Outcome area: Economic empowerment

Project partner: Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector Strengthening Program

Total funding: \$686,397

Funding timeframe: 2013–2016

With support from *Pacific Women*, the Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Strengthening Program has been assisting women to expand their income earning capacity through technical skills training and business development coaching.

TVET Centres have been established in four of the six provinces in Vanuatu, enabling rural women who were previously unable to access skills training to participate in nationally accredited TVET courses and receive follow-up mentoring. Additional funding through *Pacific Women* has enabled the TVET Centres to increase the



A young woman enrolled in a Solar and Wiring Training course on Malekula Island. Photo: TVET Sector Strengthening Program.

number of women accessing these courses, particularly those based in remote locations.

Robust TVET monitoring and evaluation systems have found that 91 per cent of self-employed women who participated in TVET courses reported an increase in profits in the twelve month period post-training, and 70 per cent had introduced new services and expanded their businesses.

The TVET Centres focus on supporting women to grow their businesses in the tourism industry. Ms Assunda Roy had finished school in Grade 6 to work as a cleaner on the minimum wage. She recently received tourism-related training and ongoing business management coaching through the Malampa TVET Centre. Assunda

is now managing the most successful bungalow business in the province, Lakatoro Palms Lodge.

The TVET Centres also aim to break down gender stereotypes and encourage women's participation in non-traditional trades such as construction, electrics and small engine maintenance.

Other women who have participated in the TVET program have had similar positive experiences. According to the program's 2014 Annual Report, 88 per cent of self-employed women reported increased business income and 91 per cent of women who are part of the subsistence economy reported improved livelihoods as a result of TVET Centre support.

Vanuatu Women's Centre works in partnership with the police to eliminate VAW

Project name: Prevention of violence against women

Outcome area: Ending violence against women

Project partner: Vanuatu Women's Centre

Total funding: \$800,000

Funding timeframe: 2014 – 2015

Violence against women and children is common and widespread in Vanuatu with 60 per cent^{xviii} of women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their life time. Pacific Women is a supporter of the Vanuatu Women's Centre's (VWC) work and provides funding for safe-house costs, expansion of services and research on violence against women. Support is also provided to the Centre to work with the Division of Women's Affairs to implement and monitor the Family Protection Act. Prior to 2014, the Australian Government funded VWC's work under its bilateral aid program.

VWC was established in 1992 to eliminate violence against women and children throughout Vanuatu and is a founding member of the *Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women*. The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre has been a mentor for VWC for many years.

According to Mrs Marilyn Tahi, VWC's Coordinator, the organisation has dealt with over ten thousand cases of domestic and sexual violence against women since its establishment. Mrs Tahi has been instrumental in leading the Centre since 1994. Her efforts were recognised in 2009 when she was awarded the 'Women of Courage' award by the United States Government for her work on violence against women and children in Vanuatu. Mrs Tahi is also a member of *Pacific Women's Advisory Board*.

In addition to the national centre in Port Vila, VWC has three branches: the Sanma Counselling Centre in Luganville, the Tafea Counselling Centre at Isangel on Tanna Island and the Torba Counselling Centre at Sola on Vanualava Island. VWC's national network includes 37 active island-based committees against violence against women (CAVAWs) throughout each of Vanuatu's six provinces. CAVAWs undertake community awareness activities and assist women and children living with violence in remote communities.

VWC's network also includes trained male advocates who work with VWC, the branches and CAVAWs to advance women's human rights and eliminate violence against women. Male advocates include chiefs, police,

health workers and church, youth and other community leaders.

In 2014, the Centre undertook an important change in its work with the police when the Vanuatu Police Force agreed to a series of five-day trainings. The training included a number of senior officers. The VWC documented changed attitudes and practices among individual police, including officers from rural areas who attended the trainings. One of the key changes was the increase in the number of referrals from police officers to the VWC. In the past, many officers would suggest roundtable meetings as a way of reconciling women with violent husbands and partners. Following the training, officers were able to better recognise that action needed to be taken to prevent further violence and for justice to be served. Most importantly, many of the officers recognised that violence against women is a crime and that mediation is not appropriate and not part of their job.

Case studies have been documented by VWC, branch counsellors and CAVAWs of changes that women have made to their lives due to the effective advocacy, counselling and support provided by VWC network members.

Lavinia's¹⁴ story: Thirty-six-year-old Lavinia was married with three children and had been facing physical violence for about 18 months before she made the decision to go the Torba Counselling Centre. She was encouraged to do this by a family member. Through counselling, Lavinia learned more about her rights and decided to leave the violent relationship. It took her some months to make this courageous step because she didn't have financial independence. She applied for a Family Protection Order (FPO)^{xx}, and was supported in this decision by her family who were able to give her financial assistance. When she felt strong after counselling and had the FPO, she began to earn an income from selling kava. She is now financially independent and living a life free from violence.^{xxi}



Mrs Marilyn Tahi, Coordinator of Vanuatu Women's Centre.
Photo: Peter Davis/DFAT.

¹⁴ Lavinia's name has been changed for safety and security reasons.

LESSONS LEARNED

1 *Pacific Women* has proven to be an effective model for a regional program, with its focus on individual country planning supported by regional and multi-country activities and a regional Support Unit able to provide technical, logistical and administrative support. It is clear that a comprehensive response to gender inequality in the Pacific by Australia will require integrated efforts through all elements of DFAT's work: foreign and strategic policy; economic diplomacy and trade; and aid, in order to address the structural barriers that women face. It will be important for *Pacific Women* to support Posts with the information and resources to advance a collaborative approach to address gender inequality across DFAT's work in the region.

2 *Pacific Women* is an ambitious program, delivering activities across 14 Pacific Island Forum countries, and generating action in four key outcome areas. In this respect, it needs to be realistic about what it is able to achieve given the breadth of its coverage and the long term, entrenched nature of the issues it is attempting to address. Achievements will be incremental. One outcome area where this is evident is the need to support the involvement of women in leadership experiences within their communities in parallel to their participation in provincial or national level election processes.

3 There is a need to better understand and identify effective strategies for addressing the significant barriers to, and challenges in, improving community attitudes toward women. The long-term, transformational nature of the intended change needs to be acknowledged, with an emphasis placed on identifying short-term achievements that over time will collectively contribute to longer term change. The monitoring and evaluation approach of *Pacific Women* should support this, including knowledge generated through research.

4 Implementing partners are at varying stages of establishing their operations and building their internal capacities and capabilities. Many partners and activities funded through *Pacific Women* are experiencing a range of operational challenges. These include the need for adequate resourcing and capacity building of personnel in order to meet the extent of the demand and the need for further development of internal organizational systems. *Pacific Women* is positioned to help draw out lessons and share successful development strategies, but will also need to support tailored approaches to respond to the different challenges and opportunities of our partners across the Pacific.

5 There are significant limitations in the Pacific in the provision of consistent quality services for women and girls in key areas such as education and health care, particularly reproductive and sexual health and services for survivors of violence. These limitations highlight the need to support coalitions to effectively advocate with governments to prioritise resource allocation to core service areas.

6 Limitations in the availability of quality services are compounded by, in some instances, a lack of collaboration amongst implementing partners and competition between them over available resources. These challenges support the need for ongoing and sustainable capacity building of partner organisations to work together to deliver joined-up, quality activities and services.

7 There is a need for effective strategies that can support the development of an integrated service system for survivors of violence against women, particularly in ensuring streamlined access from primary prevention initiatives to secondary services in areas such as counselling, health services and law and justice. Gaps in the service system required to support the communities that *Pacific Women* works with are even more pronounced in remote contexts. In the interim, whilst the service system is being strengthened, there is a need to respond to ensure women's safety. In many situations, this has meant partners implementing interim response measures, such as emergency repatriation.

8 There is the need for ongoing strategic relationship building between national governments, Pacific regional organisations, United Nations organisations and research institutions in order to leverage from allied initiatives and ensure mainstreamed responses are instigated by national governments.

9 Gaps remain in our understanding of what works to support change for women in the Pacific. There is value in providing an opportunity for programs in the Pacific to share and learn from each other and to collaborate, both within countries, regionally and across outcome areas. Cross-learning will potentially identify successes and learnings, provide support and guidance, and ensure that *Pacific Women* remains relevant and is informed by regional developments and initiatives.

10 There is the need for effective information dissemination and communication processes as one means of ensuring sharing and learning takes place across the Pacific, and more broadly. This will involve continual development and expansion of the *Pacific Women* website to ensure it remains relevant and useful to partners across the region.

FINANCIALS

DFAT has committed to an investment of \$320 million over 10 years for *Pacific Women* program implementation. A total of \$54.39 million has been committed to funding activities for the period from FY 2012-13 to FY 2014-15. This comprised:

- › \$28,169,203 (51.8%) to end violence against women
- › \$12,228,991 (22.5%) focused on women’s economic empowerment
- › \$5,341,056 (9.7%) on enhancing agency
- › \$5,205,425 (9.6%) to support women in leadership and decision making
- › \$1,933,644 (3.6%) on administration and program support
- › \$1,510,389 (2.8%) on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) / design.

Note, many activities work across more than one outcome area. For financial reporting purposes, the activity is categorised according to which outcome is the primary focus. The Enhancing agency outcome area includes activities which contribute to: enhanced knowledge and evidence base to inform policy and practice; strengthened women’s groups, male advocates and coalitions for change; positive social change towards gender equality and women’s agency; and improved gender outcomes in education and health.

Figure 1 below illustrates distribution of total program expenditure by *Pacific Women’s* four Outcome Areas, M&E/Design and Administration/Program Support.

FIGURE 1

Distribution of Total Program Expenditure by Outcome Areas, M&E/Design and Administration/Program Support.

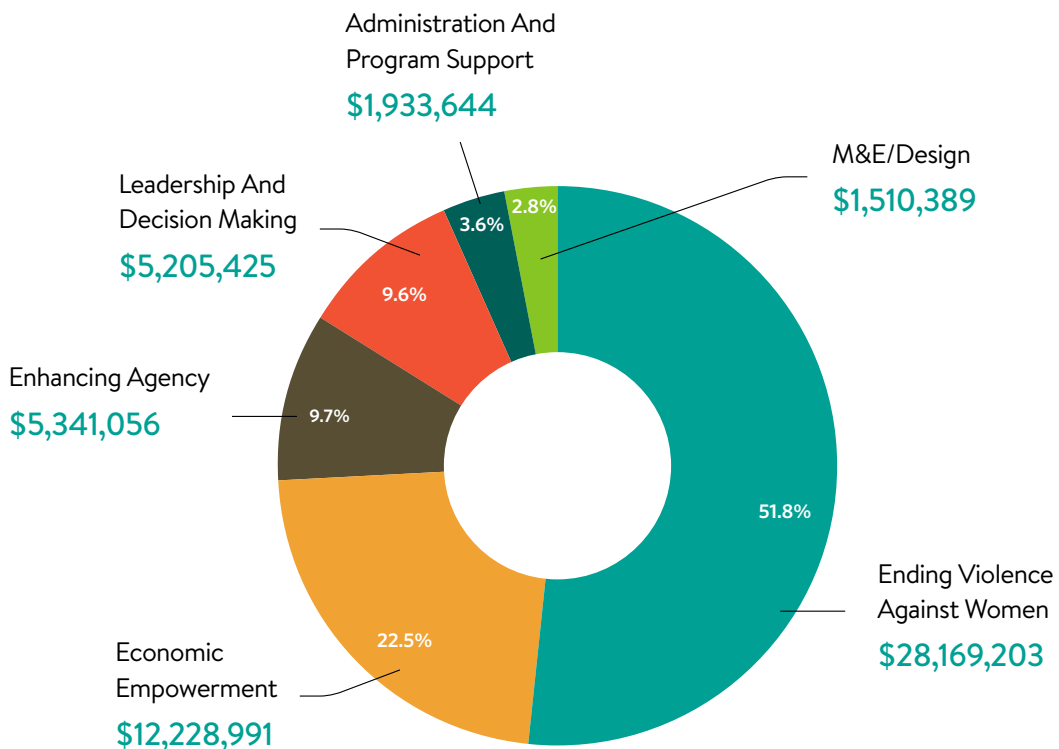


Figure 2 below illustrates distribution of expenditure by *Pacific Women's* four outcome areas, as well as M&E/Design and Administration/Program Support for the period from FY 2012-13 to FY 2014-15.

FIGURE 2
 Distribution of Program Expenditure by Outcome Areas, M&E/Design and Administration/Program Support from FY 2012-13 to FY 2014-15

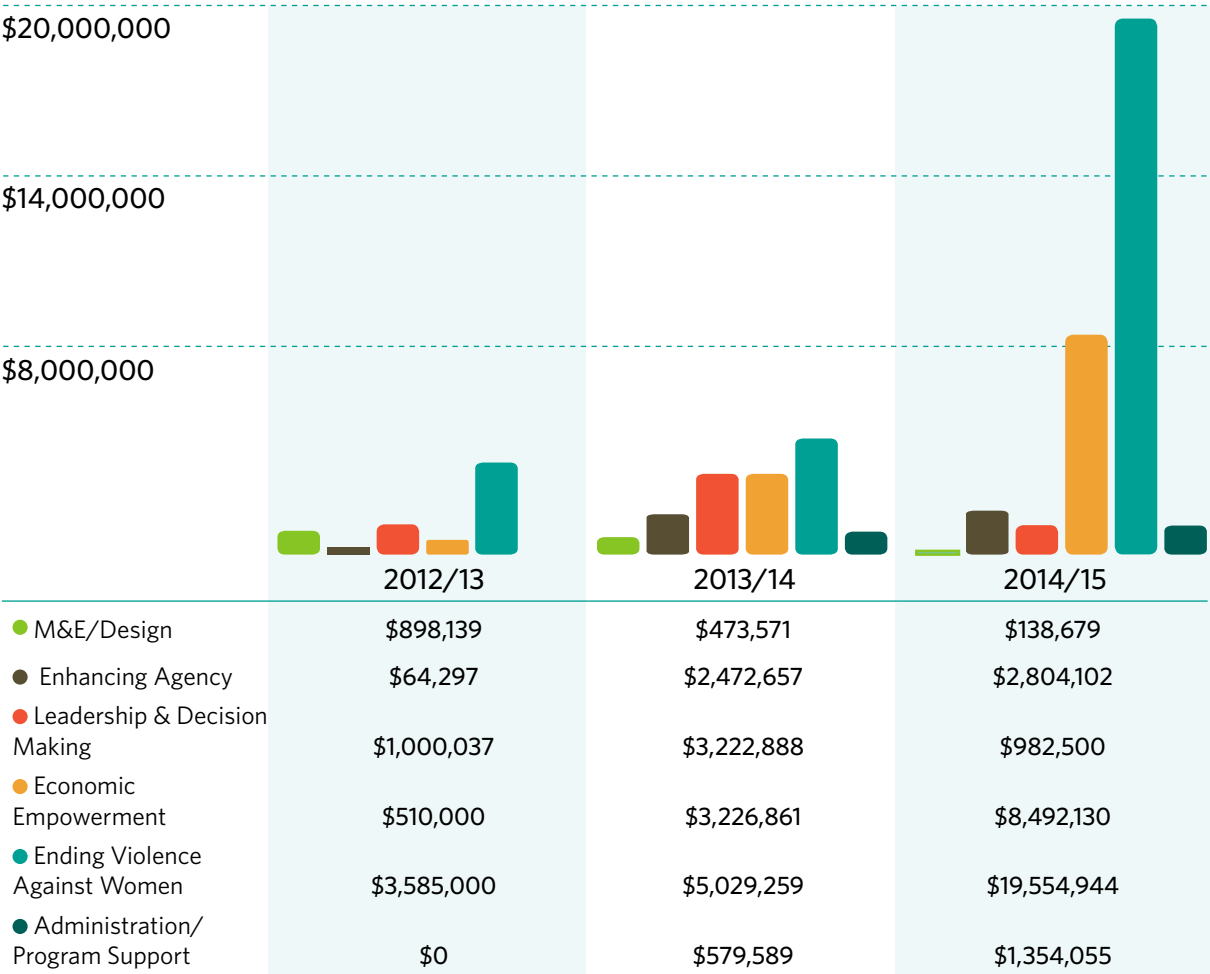


Table 1 below summarises total program expenditure for each country by *Pacific Women's* four Outcome Areas, M&E/Design and Administration/Program Support.

TABLE 1

Total Program Expenditure for Each Country by Outcome Areas, M&E/Design and Administration/Program Support

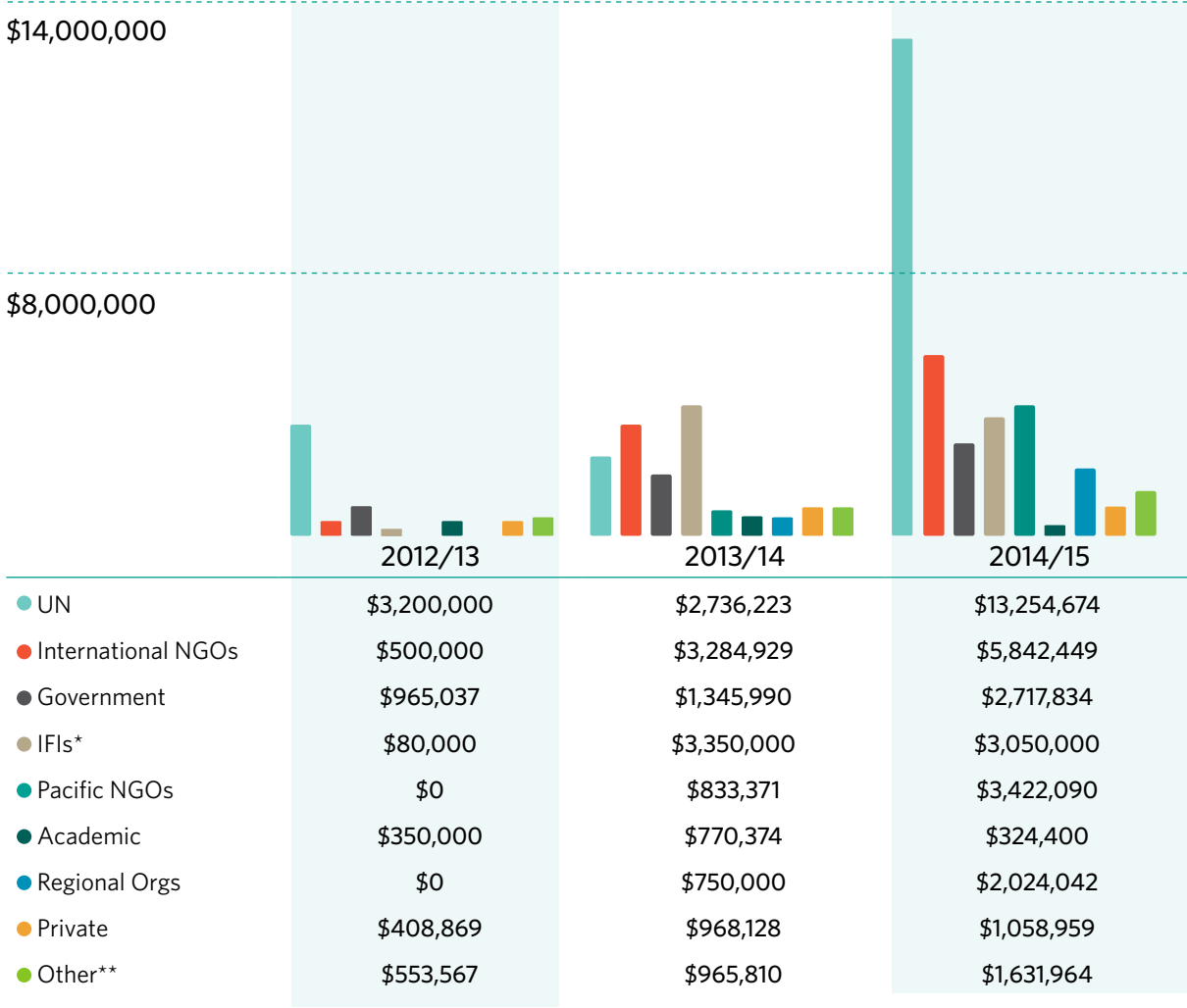
	M&E/ Design	Enhancing Agency	Leadership and Decision Making	Economic Empowerment	Ending Violence Against Women	Administration /Program Support	Total
Regional	\$1,221,411	\$3,323,972	\$1,804,425	\$1,141,202	\$3,500,000	\$1,794,305	\$14,285,315
Cook Islands	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$340,000	\$235,000	\$0	\$575,000
Fiji	\$0	\$939,968	\$186,000	\$2,062,144	\$1,500,000	\$3,688	\$3,191,800
Kiribati	\$13,600	\$243,467	\$0	\$0	\$439,000	\$0	\$696,067
Palau*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PNG	\$35,634	\$362,618	\$2,500,000	\$6,033,267	\$17,279,113	\$114,747	\$26,325,379
Marshall Islands	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$217,540	\$0	\$217,540
Federated States of Micronesia*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nauru	\$16,261	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$173,656	\$0	\$189,917
Niue*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Samoa	\$40,102	\$49,500	\$500,000	\$94,096	\$194,000	\$10,904	\$888,602
Solomon Islands	\$165,299	\$353,631	\$0	\$1,154,368	\$2,866,054	\$0	\$4,539,352
Tonga	\$0	\$67,900	\$0	\$0	\$764,840	\$0	\$832,740
Tuvalu	\$18,082	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,082
Vanuatu	\$0	\$0	\$215,000	\$1,403,914	\$1,000,000	\$10,000	\$2,628,914
TOTAL	\$1,510,389	\$5,341,056	\$5,205,425	\$12,228,991	\$28,169,203	\$1,933,644	\$54,388,708

* No bilateral program spending in Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Niue as yet. Activities in these countries have been supported through regional funding.

Pacific Women has a strong focus on working with a range of partners and our funding has been channelled through UN partnerships, international and Pacific NGOs, government partners, as well as research, regional and private sector organisations.

Figure 3 illustrates the breakdown of funding provided to respective partner categories from FY 2012-13 to FY 2014-15.

FIGURE 3
Distribution of Program expenditure by *Pacific Women* Partners from FY 2012-13 to 2014-15



* IFIs: International Financial Institutions
 ** Other is comprised of individual company or consultant partners who provided small-scale, one-off services such as design, advisory, communications and program support.

LOOKING FORWARD

A clear message from the *Pacific Women* design consultations was that both women and men in the Pacific want to see significant change when it comes to better opportunities for, and attitudes towards, women in the region to enable them to contribute equally to family, community and national development.

By the end of August 2015, which represents the end of the first three years of program implementation, it was expected that support would have been mobilized for a range of activities across all target countries, particularly activities directed at immediate and critical areas of need for women. Alongside these activities, the theory of change for the program suggested that there must also be a focus on building capacity, mobilising resources and 'joining up' people and change strategies to support sustained action if the long term objectives of *Pacific Women* are to be achieved.

The First Progress Report 2012-2015 demonstrates well that *Pacific Women* is supporting a broad range of activities with an emphasis on improving services and strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the advancement of women. All 14 countries supported through *Pacific Women* have received some form of support, with approximately \$55 million spent on over 90 activities.

Other notable achievements have been: the wide range of partnerships developed with governments, civil society and faith-based organisations, the private sector and regional and multi-lateral organisations; communication innovations such as the *Pacific Women* website, interactive map and advocacy messages and materials; strong ownership of *Pacific Women* by DFAT bilateral programs; and the establishment of the *Pacific Women* Support Unit in Fiji.

Building on these achievements, the next year of the program (mid 2015-mid 2016) will focus on: developing a more strategic and targeted approach to addressing the core outcome areas of the program; strengthening systems and processes for monitoring, evaluating and learning; increasing technical support and resources delivered through the Support Unit; and working with all DFAT bilateral and regional programs to ensure a more coherent program response at country and regional level. Importantly, the first three year evaluation of *Pacific Women* is scheduled for 2016.

Key activities to be undertaken by *Pacific Women* in the next year will include:

- › Designing a series of roadmaps in three outcome areas: women and leadership, economic empowerment and ending violence against women, to guide ongoing and future investments in these areas.
- › Undertaking a review of counselling services available to survivors of violence in the region to assess their relevance and quality, in order to inform efforts to increase the effectiveness of these services at country level and regionally.
- › Convening a stakeholder dialogue on women's leadership and participation in decision making with a focus on strengthening women's groups and coalitions.
- › Undertaking a scoping study of research on gender issues in the Pacific to inform both regional research priorities and the *Pacific Women* research strategy.
- › Conducting reviews of country plans in Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, ensuring that regional activities are integrated and adding value at country level.
- › Delivering a range of customised organisational strengthening strategies to build the capacity of key implementing partners to support change at country level.
- › Implementing the *Pacific Women* monitoring and evaluation framework, through developing a knowledge management system and supporting country reflection workshops.
- › Increasing technical support and resources to PNG through a fully resourced PNG *Pacific Women* Support Unit sub-office.
- › Undertaking an evaluation of *Pacific Women* to establish progress against the end of Year 3 mid-term objectives across regional and bilateral program activities, and to identify lessons learned for program improvement.

PACIFIC WOMEN PARTNERS

Government Partners

AUSTRALIA

- › International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives, Australia

COOK ISLANDS

- › Cook Islands Ministry of Internal Affairs, Gender and Development Division,
- › Cook Islands Ministry of Police

FIJI

- › Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

KIRIBATI

- › Ministry of Health
- › Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs
- › Ministry of Justice
- › Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs

NAURU

- › Ministry of Health, Nauru

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- › Department of Community Development
- › Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

- › Ministry of Foreign Affairs

SAMOA

- › Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- › Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

TONGA

- › Ministry of Internal Affairs, Women's Affairs Division

TUVALU

- › Office of the Prime Minister, Gender Affairs Department

International Nongovernmental Organisations

- › Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
- › CARE Australia
- › FHI 360
- › International Centre for Research on Women
- › International Planned Parenthood Federation
- › International Women's Development Agency
- › Mennonite Economic Development Associates
- › Oxfam Australia
- › Population Services International
- › World Vision

Pacific Nongovernmental and Private Sector Organisations

COOK ISLANDS

- › Punanga Tauturu

FIJI

- › Empower Pacific
- › FemLINKPACIFIC
- › Fiji Muslim Women's League
- › House of Sarah, Fiji
- › Medical Services Pacific
- › South Pacific Academy of Beauty and Therapy

KIRIBATI

- › Kiribati Family Health Association

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- › Bougainville Women's Federation
- › Family Sexual Violence Action Committee
- › Femili, PNG
- › Ginigoada
- › Nazareth Centre
- › PNG Coffee Exports Limited
- › PNG Coffee Industry Corporation
- › Sustainable Management Services PNG
- › Women's Human Rights Defenders Network

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

- › Women United Together Marshall Islands

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- › Christian Care Centre
- › Solomon Islands Women in Business Association

TONGA

- › Tonga National Centre for Women and Children
- › Women and Children's Crisis Centre Tonga

VANUATU

- › Vanuatu Women's Centre

- › Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Culture, Gender and Youth Program
- › Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Regional Rights Resource Team
- › UN Women
- › United Nations Children's Fund
- › United Nations Development Programme
- › World Bank

University Partners

- › Australian National University, Centre for Democratic Institutions
- › Australian National University, State Society and Governance in Melanesia
- › LaTrobe University
- › University of Auckland, New Zealand
- › University of Goroka
- › University of Queensland
- › University of the South Pacific

Regional Partners

- › Asian Development Bank
- › Australian Pacific Technical College
- › Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
- › International Finance Corporation
- › Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- › Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisations
- › Pacific Leadership Program

KEY FORUMS AND EVENTS

2012

Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, endorsed by Pacific Leaders at the Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands (August)

Australia announces 10 year \$320m commitment to expand women's leadership and economic and social opportunities in the Pacific region. (August)

Pacific Women Delivery Strategy developed (November)

Pacific Women Design process commences (December)

2013

1st *Pacific Women's* Parliamentary Partnerships Forum, Sydney, Australia (February)

1st *Pacific Women* Advisory Board meeting, Canberra (April)

Pacific Women Design consultation workshops held in Fiji and Papua New Guinea (May)

Launch of the *Pacific Women* website (May)

Establishment of the *Pacific Women* Inception Hub in Suva, Fiji (June)

Pacific Women Design approved (August)

2014

Launch of *Pacific Women's* first e-newsletter (April)

1st *Pacific Women* Leadership Dialogue, Nuku' alofa, Tonga (May)

2nd *Pacific Women* Parliamentary Partnerships Forum, Nuku' alofa, Tonga (May)

2nd *Pacific Women* Advisory Board Meeting, Canberra (August)

Launch of *Pacific Women's* interactive map (November)

2nd *Pacific Women* Leadership Dialogue, Nadi, Fiji (November)

2015

Pacific Women Support Unit established in Suva, Fiji (April)

3rd *Pacific Women* Parliamentary Partnerships Forum, Suva, Fiji (April)

3rd *Pacific Women* Advisory Board Meeting, Honiara, Solomon Islands (November)

1st *Pacific Women* Program Management Committee Meeting (December)

ACRONYMS

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	IPPWS	Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa Programme
APTC	Australia-Pacific Technical College	KFHA	Kiribati Family Health Association
Barwon CASA	Barwon Centre for Sexual Assault	KLEx	Knowledge and Learning Exchange
BCFW	Business Coalition for Women (PNG)	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BWF	Bougainville Women's Federation	MP	Member of Parliament
CAVAW	Committees against Violence against Women	MSP	Medical Services Pacific
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women	NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
CIFWA	Cook Islands Family Welfare Association	NMB	Nationwide Microbank
CINCW	Cook Islands National Council of Women	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
CISO	Cook Islands Statistics Office	PDF	Pacific Disability Forum
CISP	Coffee Industry Support Project	PGEP	Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific
CMC	Femili PNG's Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre in Lae	PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
CoHG	Channels of Hope for Gender	PLP	Pacific Leadership Program
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	PNG	Papua New Guinea
CSD	Tuvalu's Central Statistics Division	PPAC	Pacific People Advocating Change
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	PSN	Phoenix Survivors Network
DVSO	Kiribati Police Service - Domestic Violence and Sexual Offence Unit	PWPP	<i>Pacific Women's</i> Parliamentary Partnerships Project
FPO	Family Protection Order, issued under the Vanuatu's Family Protection Act	RTP	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's Regional Training Program
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	SPC RRRT	Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team
FSVAC	Family Sexual Violence Advisory Committee	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
FWCC	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
GAD	Gender Affairs Department	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
GADD	Gender and Development Division	SVSG	Samoa Victim Support Group
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	TSM	Temporary Special Measure
GDO	Federated State of Micronesia's Gender Development Office	TVET Program	Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector Strengthening Program
GoT	Governments of Tuvalu	UN	United Nations
HRDN	Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IDM	Individual Deprivation Measure	VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
IFC	International Finance Corporation	VWC	Vanuatu Women's Centre
IFIs	International Financing Institutions	WAD	World AIDS Day
		WCCC	Women and Children Crisis Centre Tonga
		WUTMI	Women United Together Marshall Islands

ANNEX A

PACIFIC LEADERS' GENDER EQUALITY DECLARATION

30 August 2012, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

The Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum met from 27 to 30 August 2012 in Rarotonga and brought new determination and invigorated commitment to efforts to lift the status of women in the Pacific and empower them to be active participants in economic, political and social life.

Leaders expressed their deep concern that despite gains in girls' education and some positive initiatives to address violence against women, overall progress in the region towards gender equality is slow. In particular Leaders are concerned that women's representation in Pacific legislature remains the lowest in the world; violence against women is unacceptably high; and that women's economic opportunities remain limited.

Leaders understand that gender inequality is imposing a high personal, social and economic cost on Pacific people and nations, and that improved gender equality will make a significant contribution to creating a prosperous, stable and secure Pacific for all current and future generations.

To realize this goal, Leaders commit with renewed energy to implement the gender equality actions of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2005 to 2015); the Pacific Plan; the 42nd Pacific Island Forum commitment to increase the representation of women in legislatures and decision making; and the 40th Pacific Island Forum commitment to eradicate sexual and gender based violence.

To progress these commitments, Leaders commit to implement specific national policy actions to progress gender equality in the areas of gender responsive government programs and policies, decision making, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, and health and education:

Gender Responsive Government Programs and Policies

- › Incorporate articles from the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) into legislative and statutory reforms and policy initiatives across government;
- › Support the production and use of sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform government policies and programs;
- › Strengthen consultative mechanisms with civil society groups, including women's advocacy groups, on key budget and policy issues of national and sub-national governments.

Decision Making

- › Adopt measures, including temporary special measures (such as legislation to establish reserved seats for women and political party reforms), to accelerate women's full and equal participation in governance reform at all levels and women's leadership in all decision making.
- › Advocate for increased representation of women in private sector and local level governance boards and committees (e.g. school boards and produce market committees).



Economic empowerment

- › Remove barriers to women's employment and participation in the formal and informal sectors, including in relation to legislation that directly or indirectly limits women's access to employment opportunities or contributes to discriminatory pay and conditions for women.
- › Implement equal employment opportunity and gender equality measures in public sector employment, including State Owned Enterprises and statutory boards, to increase the proportion of women employed, including in senior positions, and advocate for a similar approach in private sector agencies;
- › Improve the facilities and governance of local produce markets, including fair and transparent local regulation and taxation policies, so that market operations increase profitability and efficiency and encourage women's safe, fair and equal participation in local economies.
- › Target support to women entrepreneurs in the formal and informal sectors, for example financial services, information and training, and review legislation that limits women's access to finance, assets, land and productive resources.

Ending violence against women

- › Implement progressively a package of essential services (protection, health, counselling, legal) for women and girls who are survivors of violence.
- › Enact and implement legislation regarding sexual and gender based violence to protect women from violence and impose appropriate penalties for perpetrators of violence.

Health and Education

- › Ensure reproductive health (including family planning) education, awareness and service programs receive adequate funding support;
- › Encourage gender parity in informal, primary, secondary and tertiary education and training opportunities.

Leaders called on Development Partners to work in a coordinated, consultative and harmonised way to support national led efforts to address gender inequality across the region in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific. Leaders also requested Development Partners to increase financial and technical support to gender equality and women's empowerment programs, and to adopt strategies within their programs to provide employment and consultation opportunities for women in the planning and delivery of development assistance to the region.

Leaders agreed that progress on the economic, political and social positions of women should be reported on at each Forum Leaders meeting. They directed the Forum Secretariat, with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Development Partners, to develop, as part of the Pacific Plan performance monitoring framework an annual report to Leaders on country progress in implementing the above commitments and moving towards achieving greater gender equality.

ANNEX B

PACIFIC WOMEN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Country	Profile
Ms Andie Fong Toy	Fiji/Regional	Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat's Economic Governance and Security programme
Dr Lawrence Kalinoe	Papua New Guinea	Secretary, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Ms Jane Kesno	Papua New Guinea	Former Head of the Women's Division and Director of the Office of Home Affairs (now the Department of Community Development)
Ms Natalia Palu Latu	Tonga	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Policy and Reform Division, Ministry of Finance and National Planning
Reverend Sereima Lomaloma	Fiji	Ministry Officer, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia & Chairperson of House of Sarah
Hon Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa	Samoa	Minister of Justice and Courts Administration, Censorship
Ms Savina Nongebatu	Solomon Islands	Immediate past female Co-Chairperson of the Pacific Disability Forum, former President of 'People With Disability' Solomon Islands
Mrs Marilyn Tahī	Vanuatu	Coordinator of the Vanuatu Women's Centre
Ms Lesieli Taviri	Papua New Guinea	Chairperson of the PNG Business Coalition for Women and Country Manager of Origin LPG
Hon Maere Tekanene	Kiribati	Minister for Education
Dr Colin Tukuitonga	Regional/Niue	Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Ms Yoshiko Yamaguchi	Republic of Marshall Islands	Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance
Ms Natasha Stott Despoja (Observer)	Australia	Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls

ANNEX C

PACIFIC WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Bilateral

Cook Islands

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Economic Empowerment			
An enabling environment for the full participation of women in economic development (Ministry of Internal Affairs - Gender and Development Division)	Strengthening the capacity of the Cook Islands Government to identify new economic opportunities for women, promote and support women's businesses in the formal and informal sectors and support women's access to financial services.	\$590,000	2013-2016
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Strengthening capacity towards the elimination of violence against women (Ministry of Police - Gender and Development Division, Punanga Tauturu Inc.)	Strengthening the capacity of the Cook Islands Government to improve legal frameworks, law enforcement, justice systems and services to prevent and respond to violence against women.	\$190,000	2013-2016

Fiji

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Leadership and Decision Making			
Enhancing women's participation in decision-making through strengthened community radio transmission (FemLINKPACIFIC)	Up-grading community radio infrastructure to increase transmission and reach of femTALK's 98FM radio transmission.	\$186,000	2014-2016
Outcome Area: Economic Empowerment			
Markets for Change (UN Women)	Improving market governance, management, infrastructure and access to financial services to increase women's economic empowerment and ensure markets are more sustainable, accessible and safe for women vendors.	\$4,674,843	2014-2019

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Support for women's economic empowerment (South Pacific Academy of Beauty Therapy)	This project aims to improve economic opportunities for rural women through education and training. Twenty-five scholarships will be awarded to train and graduate with a certificate beauty and spa therapy.	\$246,336	2014-2015
Women's Vocational Training Centre (Fiji Muslim Women's League)	Supporting targeted training programs for women to enhance economic opportunities.	\$163,355	2015-2016
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Support for sexual reproductive health services for women and youth (Medical Services Pacific)	Supporting the increased access to justice, clinic health care for women and girls and increased child protection for vulnerable children and youth through targeted programs.	\$305,000	2014-2015
Support for gender equality through ecumenical based approaches (House of Sarah)	Supporting increased collaboration between church leaders and clergy on advocacy for ending violence against women.	\$86,000	2015-2016
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
Feasibility study on increasing women's economic opportunities in Fiji	A participatory scoping study on options for expanding women's economic opportunities across urban and rural areas in Fiji.	\$47,638	2014-2015 (Complete)
Developing a multi-dimensional and gender-sensitive measure of poverty (International Women's Development Agency)	Developing a tool to measure the gendered aspects of poverty in communities. The results will inform the delivery of subsequent activities under the Fiji Country Plan.	\$250,000	2014-2016
Support for women's empowerment through holistic and sustainable service delivery (Empower Pacific)	This program will build skills, enhance knowledge and awareness of community members and other local service providers in addressing social issues that impact women's empowerment, well-being and safety.	\$270,000	2015-2016
Support to Ministry of Women (Ministry of Women)	Support the Ministry of Women's implementation of the National Gender Policy and M&E capacity.	\$434,334	2015-2016
Feasibility study on establishing a women's fund to support women focused organisations in Fiji	The study builds on recommendations of a recent DFAT commissioned civil society analysis that included a specific focus on the situation of women focused CSOs in Fiji and how DFAT could best support their work in line with its commitment under <i>Pacific Women</i> .	\$50,000	2015-2016

Kiribati

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Support for three Ending Violence Against Women project officers to work for Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs (Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs (MWYSA), Women's Development Division)	Provide policy and technical advice to the Government of Kiribati on the implementation and monitoring of the Shared Implementation Plan and the UN Joint Program; manage and progress existing implementation project activities for MWYSA across prevention, response, counselling, advocacy and policy development under the National Action Plan.	\$296,668	2013-2016
Support to Magistrate Court (Magistrate Court)	Supporting consultations on the Family Peace Act and training on issues related to human rights and sexual and gender-based violence for lay magistrates on Tarawa and outer islands.	\$40,000	2014 (Complete)
Extension of Kiribati Police Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences (DVSO) office based in Betio to provide safe place and referral centre for victims of violence (Kiribati Police Domestic Violence Unit)	Provide survivors of violence temporary shelter and comfort while awaiting further referral to relevant services. This funding will also support the training and capacity development of over 200 outer island police officers, special constables and village wardens on the Family Peace Act, Police Act, role of DVSO unit, standard DV operating procedures and gender-based violence and human rights issues.	\$99,000	2014-2015
Support the implementation of the National Plan to Eliminate Sexual and Gender Based Violence (Kiribati Family Health Association)	Provide a start-up funding package to establish the first formal crisis centre in Kiribati and support training for crisis centre staff. Technical assistance will also be provided to the Women's Development Division of the Government of Kiribati.	\$150,000	2014-2015
Improved infrastructure and training for Ministry of Health staff (Ministry of Health)	Supporting the extension of an existing gynaecology room in the main hospital in South Tarawa to enable improved access to treatment, care and referral services for survivors of violence.	\$150,000	2014-2015
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
2015 One Billion Rising Campaign (Kiribati Family Health Association)	Enabling Kiribati to be part of a revolutionary global EAW movement. The Kiribati Family Health Association to work with young people to lead the campaign using creative arts such as stage performances, dancing, singing and marches.	\$6,800	2015 (Complete)

Nauru

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Improve the health sector response and services to reduce domestic violence (PACTAM, Ministry of Health)	Strengthening the role of the health sector to identify and support victims of violence by training health workers, improving access to counselling services and raising awareness of domestic violence.	\$440,000	2014-2016

Papua New Guinea

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Leadership and Decision Making			
Increased women's representation in local government (Centre for Democratic Institutions, United Nations, Government of PNG's Office for Development of Women and the National Council of Women)	Increased women's representation at the 2013 local government elections. Support included intending candidates, developing a media information and talk-back radio campaign and compiling a register of candidates.	\$350,000	2012-2013 (Complete)
Enhancing inclusion in community driven development projects in PNG (World Bank)	Developing a gender sensitive approach to planning that ensures community projects contribute to changing gender norms and demonstrate a commitment to women's involvement in decision making.	\$3,305,350	2013-2016
Supporting women to improve their leadership skills and to change attitudes about women's capabilities (Bougainville Women's Federation)	Supporting women through electoral education and candidate training.	\$460,000	2015-2016
Outcome Area: Economic Empowerment			
Women's empowerment in the coffee industry (Care International in PNG, PNG Coffee Industry Corporation, Sustainable Management Services PNG and PNG Coffee Exports Limited)	Supporting women's advocacy in the coffee industry to increase opportunities for women farmers in remote areas of PNG's Eastern Highlands.	\$4,505,809	2013 - 2019
Economic Empowerment Partnership with Private Sector (International Finance Corporation)	Supporting a Business Coalition for Women to improve the status and safety of women in workplaces and to empower women economically.	\$3,400,000	2014-2018

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Provision of microfinance and banking services to women in Yangoru Saussia District East Sepik (District Development Authority)	Supporting financial literacy training for women and men to better access financial services and operate small businesses.	\$300,000	2015-2018
Increasing economic opportunities for women smallholder and their families (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)	Supporting economic opportunities for women in agriculture and informal markets.	\$3,000,000	2015-2019
Creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem for women in PNG to enable women's economic empowerment (US State Department)	Supporting the establishment of a Women's Business Centre in partnership with other development partners, to provide business training and mentoring to women in business. The Centre will also work with the private sector to adopt policies that promote gender equality in the workplace.	\$800,000	2015-2019
Employment, financial literacy and business education women (Ginigoada)	Provision of educational and informal training opportunities for women to contribute to their economic and personal empowerment to improve their standard of living and status in their communities.	\$2,045,955	2015-2020
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Family Support Centre at Eastern Highlands hospital (Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority)	Strengthening the governance and operations of the Eastern Highlands Family Support Centre to provide high quality crisis services to survivors of violence.	\$301,716	2013-2015 (Complete)
Support to Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network and repatriation research (Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders' Network and Oxfam International)	Preventing violence against women by challenging traditional community attitudes to sorcery, implementing behavioural change activities for men and boys and conducting research on the effectiveness of repatriation of survivors.	\$3,733,924.90	2013-2019
Strengthening national coordination, implementation and monitoring mechanisms for Family and Sexual Violence (Department for Community Development and Religion, Office for the Development of Women, Department for Justice and Attorney General, Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council—Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, United Nations Development Programme)	Supporting GoPNG to lead a coordinated response to support survivors of violence, including a national database on the prevalence of violence against women and mobilising community champions	\$4,500,000	2014-2016

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Building the capacity of PNG's Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC)	Strengthening the capacity of 10 hospital based Family Support Centres to provide better quality support services for survivors of violence and developing a national advocacy network advocate for changes in government policies and legislation.	\$405,614	2014-2016
Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre (Femili PNG, Australian National University and Oxfam Australia)	Establish a Case Management Centre to handle individual cases; collaborate, lobby and deliver training across sectors; and evaluate and advocate programs addressing violence against women.	\$3,096,186	2014-2017
Safe Cities (UN Women and Ginigoda)	Improving women's income and safety at markets in Port Moresby and supporting women market vendors to advocate local government to meet their ongoing needs.	\$9,720,000	2014-2019
Improving Health Services in Southern Highlands Province (International Committee of the Red Cross)	Provision of medical equipment to eight health centres to assist women survivors of violence.	\$30,000	2015
Ending Violence Against Women and Children (UNICEF)	Increasing public awareness and understanding of the impact of violence against children and improving access to support services whilst campaigning against violence.	\$1,995,000	2015-2017
Kommuniti Lukautim ol Meri (Family Health International (FHI) 360)	Addressing violence against women and girls in selected sites in Western Highlands and Sundaun provinces.	\$2,500,000	2015-2017
Supporting Gender Justice and Healing in Bougainville (International Women's Development Agency and Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation)	This project is working with ex-combatants in post-conflict Bougainville in advocating for peace, justice and reduction of violence against women.	\$1,693,366	2015-2017
Improving Response to Family and Sexual Violence: Safe Village Pilot (Population Services International PNG)	This program will work with rural communities in the Central Province to end gender based violence and ensure provision of services to survivors' of violence. It also supports the work of the Port Moresby General Hospital's Family Support Centre.	\$979,000	2015-2017
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
Research on the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women in Melanesia (State, Society and Governance in Melanesia and the International Women's Development Agency)	Research to explore the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Results will be used to inform a wide range of activities within the Australian Aid program.	\$362,618	2014-2016

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Strengthening Women's Advocacy in Community Mining Agreements (Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, Women in Mining Program)	Assessing effective ways to support the interests of women advocates during community mining agreement negotiations.	\$140,000	2015
Women's Needs Analysis - Tsak Valley, Enga Province (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Supporting a needs analysis to determine ways to support women's empowerment in the Tsak Valley area of Enga.	\$40,000	2015
Increase in Family Support Centres (Port Moresby General Hospital)	Increasing access to services for women survivors of violence through the provision of free and safe transportation; and the refurbishment of the Family Support Centre at the Port Moresby General Hospital.	\$500,000	2015-2016
Women in Political Leadership Design (UNDP)	Supporting a design mission that will recommend effective ways to support women's political leadership at the local and national level.	\$230,000	2015-2016
Partnership for Positive Parenting (UNICEF)	The program aims to improve parenting competencies and reduce violence against children and women through the parenting programs run by the Catholic Church.	\$1,787,760	2015-2017
Highlands Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Project (CARE)	Improved health and wellbeing of women, their families and communities in targeted rural, disadvantaged areas.	\$1,000,000	2015-2017
PNG Women's Forum (US State Department, Department of Religion, Youth and Community Development)	Provision of secretariat support to the working group coordinating the PNG Women's Forum.	\$50,000	2016

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Establish a domestic violence counselling service (Women United Together Marshall Islands)	Providing technical assistance to develop a detailed plan and budget to establish, manage, and monitor a context-appropriate domestic violence counselling service.	\$400,000	2014-2016
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
Organisational capacity development and strategic planning (Women United Together Marshall Islands)	Undertake a capacity assessment of Women United Together Marshall Islands to identify organisational capacity development needs and explore future opportunities for partnership.	\$30,000	2015-2016

Samoa

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Leadership and Decision Making			
Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa (UNDP)	Providing support in the implementation of the 2013 Constitutional Amendment to introduce a 10 per cent quota of women representatives in parliament.	\$500,000	2015-2016
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
Samoan Women Shaping Samoan Development Program (Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD))	Support to the MWCSD to implement the gender components of the Community Development Sector Implementation Framework in the key outcomes areas of: increasing women's economic empowerment; advancing gender equality in decision-making and political governance; and reducing violence against women	\$3,800,000	2015-2020

Solomon Islands

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Economic Empowerment			
Markets for Change (UN Women)	Improving market governance, management, infrastructure and services to increase women's economic empowerment and reduce violence against women.	\$2,461,470	2014-2019
Support to Solomon Islands Women in Business Association (SIWIBA)	Supporting SIWIBA to establish a business development centre with facilities and training for members to gain skills to establish and run profitable businesses in the formal and informal sectors.	\$485,000	2014-2017
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Channels of Hope for Gender (World Vision Solomon Islands)	Reducing violence against women in the Solomon Islands by working with religious and community leaders to challenge gender inequitable attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of men and women.	\$2,000,000	2013-2017
Support to the Christian Care Centre (Christian Care Centre)	Supporting the Christian Care Centre refuge in Solomon Islands to provide crisis services for women and children escaping violence.	\$70,000	2013-2016
Let's Make our Families Safe (Solomon Island National Council of Women, Vois Blong Mere Solomon, International Women's Development Agency, Pacific Leadership Program, Oxfam Australia and IOD PARC)	This project will support community level action to address violence against women and help to establish coalitions between civil society groups, services providers, churches and government agencies that are working to prevent family violence.	\$4,800,000	2014-2017

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
Research on the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women in Melanesia (State, Society and Governance in Melanesia and the International Women's Development Agency)	Research to explore the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Results will be used to inform a wide range of activities within the Australian Aid program.	\$170,532	2013-2015
Recognising shared interests of Australia and Solomon Islands in the advancement of gender equality (Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA))	Strengthening the capacity of MWYCFA to progress priority outcomes in accordance with its Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy.	\$410,696	2013-2016

Tonga

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Support to Women and Children Crisis Centre Tonga (WCCC and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre)	Supporting the Women's Affairs Division to coordinate media and events for key celebration days (International Women's Day, White Ribbon Day etc.). Provision of core funding to the Tonga National Centre for Women and Children.	\$750,000	2014-2017
Funding to government for key violence against women events (Government of Tonga - Women's Affairs Division)	Supporting the Women's Affairs Division to coordinate media and events for key celebration days (International Women's Day, White Ribbon Day etc.). Provision of core funding to the Tonga National Centre for Women and Children.	\$590,000	2014-2017
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
Research on impacts of seasonal migrant worker scheme on women and men (World Bank)	Research to investigate the social and economic impacts of the seasonal migrant worker scheme and develop recommendations to enhance benefits of the scheme for women and men in Tonga.	\$100,000	2014-2016
Gender Adviser	The Gender Adviser works with DFAT staff to improve gender considerations in planning, programming, monitoring and learning of all Australian funded aid programs. The Gender Adviser will also work with the Government of Tonga and sectoral program managers to improve outcomes for women.	\$312,000	2014-2017

Vanuatu

Project Name and Partner	About the Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Leadership and Decision Making			
Support the introduction of reserved seats for women at Provincial Council level (Pacific Leadership Program)	This project aims to develop alternative approaches to enhancing women's participation in politics.	\$250,000	2014-2017
Outcome Area: Economic Empowerment			
Improving training and employment outcomes for women and girls (Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Strengthening Program)	This project will include a package of support that will provide training for women with a focus on tourism and agribusiness, individual coaching to women to improve business skills and increase women's opportunities for paid employment.	\$686,397	2013-2016
Markets for Change (UN Women)	Improving market governance, management, infrastructure and access to financial services to increase women's economic empowerment and ensure markets are more sustainable, accessible and safe for women vendors.	\$2,863,687	2014-2019
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Preventing violence against women (Vanuatu Women's Centre)	This project will collaborate with Vanuatu Women's Centre; the Department of Women's Affairs; and the Ministry of Justice and Community Services to explore ways to prevent gender based violence, support the implementation of the Family Protection Act and conduct research on the crisis service needs of rural women.	\$800,000	2014-2016
Research on improved access to justice for women and children (Policing and Justice Support Program)	Research will inform improvements in women's access to justice in situations of family violence.	\$200,000	2015

Regional

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Outcome Area: Leadership and Decision Making			
Gender Equality in Political Governance (UN Women)	Contributing to improve governance mechanisms, through increased women's transformative political participation in informal and formal systems.	\$200,000	2013 (Complete)
Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Project (International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives)	Building the capacity of Pacific women parliamentarians and their staff to ensure gender equality issues are better addressed in parliament.	\$2,850,037	2013-2018
Support for Women's Groups and Coalitions (Pacific Leadership Program)	This research will contribute to improved knowledge of entry points for women's leadership and structural empowerment to inform future programming. It will also provide support for practical training on legislative change processes.	\$200,000	2015-2016
Outcome Area: Economic Empowerment			
Technical and vocational training opportunities for women in the Pacific (Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC))	Building the existing partnership with the APTC to provide technical and vocational training to women in the Pacific to improve their skills and increase employment opportunities.	\$500,000	2013-2014 (Complete)
Private Sector Development Initiative (Asian Development Bank)	Reducing barriers to women's economic empowerment, with a focus on formal market places.	\$500,000	2013-2015
Building Women Entrepreneurs - Building Nations (Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation)	Promoting women's economic empowerment in the Pacific Islands through a Women in Business Conference.	\$142,203	2014 (Complete)
Outcome Area: Ending Violence Against Women			
Pacific Fund to End Violence Against Women (UN Women)	Contributing to support civil society organisations to prevent violence and provide services for survivors of violence, including for counselling, paralegal aid, shelter and referral services.	\$1,500,000	2014-2015
Safe Accommodation for Women (Fiji Women's Crisis Centre)	Provision of multiple shelters for survivors of violence in Fiji and establishment of a training institute and expansion of trainings services with an aim to reduce individual and institutional tolerance of violence against women.	\$1,500,000	2014-2015
UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program (UNICEF)	Support to governments of 14 Pacific Island countries in strengthening protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation.	\$7,000,000	2014-2018

Project Name and Partner	About this Project	Total Funding	Timeframe
Support to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC RRRT)	Support for policy advice, technical support and training on human rights, governance, democracy and the rule of law. Partners include governments, regional and civil society organisations.	3,000,000	2015-2016
Outcome Area: Enhancing Agency			
12th Triennial Conference of Pacific women (Government of Cook Islands)	Support to the Government of Cook Islands in hosting the Triennial and enabling women's groups to showcase and sell products.	\$30,000	2013 (Complete)
Review of programs aimed at ending violence against women in the Pacific (International Center for Research on Women)	This initiative will conduct an independent review of six Australian funded initiatives in the Pacific that represent different approaches to addressing violence against women conducted in the first half of 2013.	\$408,000	2013-2014 (Complete)
Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (Secretariat of the Pacific Community)	Conducting stocktakes of government capacity to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into policies, legislation and programs and strengthen the collection and analysis of data to better track outcomes.	\$3,817,332	2013-2018
Women's Leadership Research (Development Leadership Program (DLP))	DLP will undertake research on women's leadership programs at a community level in the Pacific to assess how working politically and through coalitions can contribute to program outcomes.	\$250,000	2014-2015
Pacific Multi-Country and Regional Assessment on Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion in Health	This assessment will provide a gender, equity and social inclusion analysis of DFAT's approach to health sector development to contribute to more effective partner dialogue in this area and better health-programming outcomes.	\$110,000	2014-2015
Improving women's leadership, political participation and decision making in the Pacific (State, Society and Governance in Melanesia)	This research will identify the success factors and pathways to women's leadership and decision-making at political and community levels across the Pacific	\$313,000	2014-2017
<i>Pacific Women</i> Support Unit	The Support Unit will provide technical and administrative services to assist in the management of the <i>Pacific Women</i> program, including planning, delivery and monitoring of activities at the country and regional level, including research and communications.	\$25,000,000	2015-2022
Gender Adviser for the North Pacific (Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC))	The Advisor will support the work of SPC's Gender, Culture and Youth Programme, and through DFAT's Post in Pohnpei, support the implementation and monitoring of <i>Pacific Women's</i> activities in the North Pacific.	\$373,140	2015-2018
Partnerships For Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all in the Pacific (International Planned Parenthood Federation)	Support the expansion of access to sexual and reproductive health services in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Tonga.	\$1,500,000	2015-2018

ENDNOTES

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- iv. This statistic and the ones in the subsequent paragraphs, are only inclusive of countries that have undertaken national violence against women prevalence research in the Pacific: Fiji (2013), Kiribati (2010), Samoa (2006), Solomon Islands (2009), Tonga (2009) and Vanuatu (2011). Access research here: http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/pacific/2013/07/31/7502/violence_against_women_vaw_in_the_pacific/.
- v. National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Tonga (2009), p. xxiv. Accessed here: <http://www.pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/National-Study-on-Domestic-Violence-on-Women-in-Tonga-2009.pdf>.
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- viii. This statistic and the ones in the subsequent paragraphs, are only inclusive of countries that have undertaken national violence against women prevalence research in the Pacific: Fiji (2013), Kiribati (2010), Samoa (2006), Solomon Islands (2009), Tonga (2009) and Vanuatu (2011). Access research here: http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/pacific/2013/07/31/7502/violence_against_women_vaw_in_the_pacific/.
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- xviii. Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships (2011).
- xix. Radio Australia interview (2013), *Vanuatu women's group gets financial from Australia*: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/210239/vanuatu-women's-group-gets-financial-from-australia>.
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