



# Fiji



## Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership)

The Pacific Partnership brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

This document highlights key accomplishments supported by the Pacific Partnership.

2018 - 2022

## Snapshot: Pacific Partnership Programme in Fiji

### GOAL:

Transform harmful social norms to prevent violence against women and girls and improve access to quality, essential services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)

### WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



• The **Fiji Government**; Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA); and



• **Five Key Civil Society Organisations** including: Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA for Equality), Fiji Women's Crisis Center, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, House of Sarah, and Oceania Rugby.

### TOTAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT:

**\$3,500,000 USD** over five years

Fiji has some of the highest documented rates of violence against women and girls in the world<sup>1</sup>



**64%**  
2 in 3 women

women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime



**31%**  
1 in 3 women

have experienced physical and/or sexual assault since the age of 15 by someone other than an intimate partner



**28%**  
More than 1 in 4

ever-partnered women have had their partner either take their savings or refuse to give them money

## Progress towards Ending Violence Against Women and Girls through the Pacific Partnership



### Strengthening and implementing national legislation and policies

The Pacific Partnership is focused on strengthening and implementing national legislation, policies and systems. The Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding To Cases of GBV is the foundation for the national coordination structure and service delivery.

**Fiji National Action Plan (NAP) to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls (2022-2027):** The Pacific Partnership is supporting the Government of Fiji's MWCPA to develop the NAP (projected to be launched mid-2022). Fiji is the first Pacific Island Country, and one of only two countries globally, to have a whole-of-government and whole-of-community, evidence-based, measurable, inclusive plan that emphasises stopping violence before it starts.

**Gender Responsive Budgeting – Progressing Regional Capacity Building of Non-State Actors (NSA's):** The Pacific Partnership is building a coalition of Gender Equality Agents for Change, involving introductory capacity building sessions including adaptive leadership and undertaking a political analysis. The activity involves regional capacity building programmes aimed to strengthen gender analysis, adaptive leadership, political analysis and audits of regional and national policies, budget oversight and shadow reporting.

<sup>1</sup> Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (2013). *Somebody's Life, Everybody's Business! National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010/2011)*



## Preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG) through faith, sports, schools, and community transformation

### FIJI'S FAITH COMMUNITIES

To prevent VAWG across three Anglican communities in Newtown (Nasinu), Matata (Lami) and Wailoku (Suva), Pacific Partnership is partnering with the House of Sarah (HOS) to adapt, develop and pilot an innovative, Fiji-specific, faith-based community programme through SASA! Faith. Evidence shows that the **participating communities have demonstrated positive changes in behaviour and attitudes about men's power over women** and increased understanding of gender inequality as a root cause of VAWG. Religious leaders are also preventing and responding to VAWG by preaching about VAWG and values of inclusion at church and in village and community meetings.

### PREVENTING VIOLENCE THROUGH SPORTS

With Oceania Rugby, Pacific Partnership is designing and implementing the 'Get into Rugby PLUS' programme, which addresses VAWG, **using sport as a tool to promote positive gender equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours**. As of 2021, 540 players, 19 schools and 32 coaches have been engaged with the programme. There has been a 42% increase in school-aged boys participating in the programme encouraging girls to play rugby (44% from baseline to 86% to endline), reflecting some of the positive shifts towards women and girls' participation in rugby.



## Women and girls, especially rural women, have improved access to quality essential services to recover from violence

**Strengthening National Coordination Mechanisms and Development of Minimum Standards that flex and adapt in Emergencies.** The Pacific Partnership is progressing the National Services Delivery Protocol (SDP) for Responding to Cases of GBV, including the SDP roll-out, targeted training of over 200 frontline service providers, including police, health and justice services, as well as developing the second phase.

In partnership with the MWCPA, Pacific Partnership supported the development of the **Fiji National Shelter Guidelines on Responding To Cases Of Gender-Based Violence** (awaiting Cabinet endorsement as at March 2022) which adapted for COVID-19 and includes women with disabilities and women with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities.

*The Pacific Partnership works with government and CSO's to develop multisector GBV response systems, including referral pathways, that adapt during emergencies and public health pandemics, such as COVID-19.*



## Strengthening national response systems for coordinated, multisector response to gender-based violence

**Key research, knowledge products and policy achievements include:**

1. Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender-Based Violence: Standard Operating Procedures for Interagency Response among Social Services, Police, Health and Legal/Justice
2. Fiji National Shelter Guidelines on Responding To Cases Of Gender-Based Violence (awaiting Cabinet endorsement as at March 2022)
3. Gender-Based Violence Guide for Referrals and Case Response in Emergencies
4. Stay Informed IEC Pocket Guide – Service Provider Information for Easy Referrals
5. The Warwick Principles: Best Practices for Engaging Men and Boys in Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
6. GBV and Child Protection COVID-19 Guide for Community Workers and Frontline workers
7. National Child and Domestic Violence Helpline Infographics (in English, i-Taukei, and Fiji-Hindi).
8. National GBV Prevention Communications Campaign
9. EVAWG Policy Monitoring Toolkit

The Pacific Partnership is funded primarily by the European Union, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and UN Women, and is led by the Pacific Community (SPC), UN Women and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. In Fiji, two of the three coordinating agencies have Pacific Partnership activities: UN Women and PIFS. Imagery inspired by empowering female-specific tattoo motifs used in the Pacific region.

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