



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 Solomon Islands

GOAL:

Improving accessibility and quality of services for all women and girls across Honiara and the 9 provinces

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



- The **Solomon Islands Government** Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) including the SAFENET, and



- **3 Key Civil Society Organisations** including: Family Support Centre (FSC), Malaita Christian Care Centre (MCCC), Seif Ples Gender-Based Violence and Referral Centre

TOTAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT:

\$4,185,000 USD over five years

Solomon Islands has some of the highest documented rates of violence against women and girls in the world¹



42%

More than 2 out of 5

women have reported experiencing physical and/or sexual partner violence in the last 12 months



64%

Nearly 2 in 3

of ever-partnered women, aged 15-49, reported experiencing physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner in their lifetime



73%

3 out of 4 women

in Solomon Islands believe that a man is justified in beating his wife under some circumstances (eg. for infidelity and disobedience)

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 and policies, including the 2016-2020 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Policy and the Family Protection Act (FPA) 2014, which helps to ensure that: domestic violence survivors have better access to services; the national commitments to EVAWG are strengthened; service coordination is improved; and systematic data collection systems are established.

Solomon Islands has become the first country in the Pacific to launch a Domestic Violence Counselling Guideline as part of the implementation of the FPA. This achievement will significantly contribute to ensuring women and girls, particularly in rural provinces, are able to access standardised, quality, and effective essential domestic violence services.

¹ Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study: A study on violence against women and children.



Providing women and girls, especially rural women, with improved access to quality essential services to recover from violence

A key gain in gender equality supported by the Pacific Partnership is the **expansion of SAFENET**, the largest government led programme coordinating sexual and gender-based violence response in Solomon Islands. SAFENET provides: direct services and support to survivors of violence in all 9 provinces; referrals to other service providers through coordinated formal referral pathways; prevention and advocacy programs; and governance and accountability frameworks.

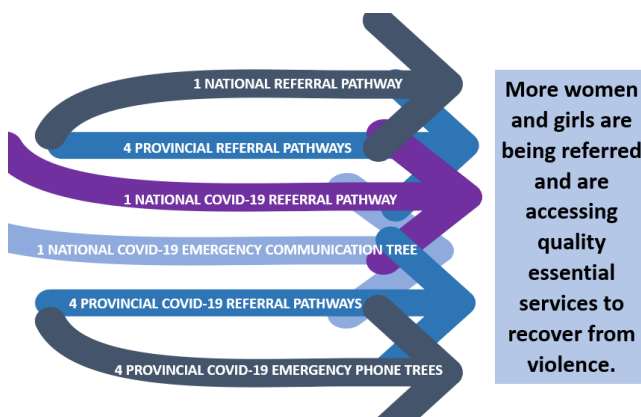
Women and girls can access **inclusive, survivor-centred, quality services** through the strengthening of SAFENET member capacity. SAFENET members have improved skills in domestic violence risk management, managing survivor safety plans, stronger confidentiality policies, and their services are now survivor-centred, disability responsive and human-rights based.

SAFENET MEMBERS include: Christian Care Centre (CCC); Family Support Centre (FSC); Ministry of Health and Medical Services; MWYCFA Women’s Development Division (WDD); Public Solicitors Office (PSO); Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF); Seif Ples Gender-Based Violence and Referral Centre; and Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association. **The work of SAFENET is conducted by 300 individuals from across these member organisations both in Honiara and the provinces.**

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.

AS PART OF THE SAFENET INITIATIVE...

Across Solomon Islands, 15 localised, multisectoral referral pathways have been developed or enhanced.



Over 2000 women and girls have accessed Family Support Centre Services to recover from violence since 2019, through the Pacific Partnership. The Family Support Center has increased capacity to provide quality essential services, including counselling, case management and legal assistance.

Technical Assistance provided has resulted in:

- Increased capacity to manage complex cases
- 16 staff trained in survivor-centred counselling
- Development of a supervision model for counsellors

Services have adapted to the COVID-19 context.

Supporting government and civil society organisations to implement best practice standards and guidelines for multisector services

Knowledge products developed or currently under development:

1. Solomon Islands Domestic Violence Counselling and Ethical Practices Guideline
2. Family Support Centre Supervision Guide
3. Solomon Islands National Domestic Violence Counselling Register Guidelines
4. 14 Solomon Islands Referral Pathways
5. Malaita Christian Care Centre Shelter Guidelines
6. SAFENET Brochure

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 Solomon Islands, 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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