



PROJECT BRIEF

THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACILITY FUND

FIJI • KIRIBATI • NAURU • PAPUA NEW GUINEA • SAMOA • SOLOMON ISLANDS • TONGA • VANUATU



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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UN Women is the UN organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment and; making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

The Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Fund is made possible through funding from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the support of UN Women's National Committees of Australia and New Zealand.



THE SITUATION: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE PACIFIC



Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a public health problem of global proportions. Pacific countries have some of the highest documented rates in the world; evidence shows that up to 68% of women living in the region experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime⁴.

A series of Family Health and Safety studies carried out in six Pacific countries found that more than 60% of women aged 15-49 in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Kiribati have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner; more than 60% of women in the same age group in Samoa and Tonga have experienced physical violence from a non-partner⁵.

Violence against girls is also a serious problem in the Pacific. In Vanuatu and Solomon Islands more than 30% of women reported they had been sexually abused before their 15th birthday. In Kiribati and Fiji the number was 20%.⁶

Gender-based violence brings with it a raft of consequences for the individuals involved, their families and communities, as well as at regional and national levels. It has a substantial economic impact through increased healthcare, social services, and policing costs.

The physical and emotional effects on those involved can be devastating. Violence against women can exacerbate reproductive health problems and lead to unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted infections and exposure to HIV/AIDS.

The impact on children is also enormous. There is now evidence that shows violence against women increases levels of child mortality as well as emotional and behavioural problems.

Despite the severity and extent of the violence, services for survivors are limited and virtually non-existent in remote areas. Civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are critical to service delivery and strengthening community protective systems, however, they have localised programming and are often located in capital cities. The lack of formal support services in rural areas is of particular concern in the Pacific as 80% of people live in rural areas or on outer islands.

Even when services exist, few access them. The traditional silence around violence against women makes it difficult for women to talk about their suffering and to seek help in breaking the cycle of violence. There is a level of shame and

stigma associated with domestic and sexual violence, so survivors often experience a sense of isolation and fear retaliation.

Many women in Pacific Island countries and territories don't have equal access to resources and opportunities, and their voices are often suppressed. In many cases, women face social norms demanding that they be obedient to their husbands. These are often linked to deeply held beliefs and attitudes that there are therefore "justifiable reasons" for husbands to use physical violence to "discipline and control" their wives, including for perceived acts of disobedience, suspicion of unfaithfulness, failure to properly complete housework and for refusing sex with their husband.

These "justifiable reasons" effectively place the blame for the abuse on the women themselves and often result in women being encouraged to return to their abusive partners.

Despite the enormity of the problem, change is occurring in the region. Violence against women takes many forms and its multi-causal and multi-dimensional nature requires that interventions need to take place on multiple levels. Strategies to reduce violence against women must involve civil society organisations, NGOs, faith-based organisations and government institutions.

Governments are beginning to advance legislation, policies and national action plans on ending violence against women. There have been significant advances in expanding women's access to healthcare, social services and justice, however, the administration of social services, the implementation of laws and the overall functioning of the judicial and police systems remain fragile.

NGOs, some of which are funded by UN Women through the Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Facility Fund (Pacific Fund), are gradually providing more support to women and families affected by violence.

There is also an appetite for more change and this makes it a historic opportunity to implement a systematic approach to prevent and respond to VAWG in the Pacific.

2 in 3

women in the Pacific region experience physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner in their lifetime.¹

"IT WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT I WAS BEING TREATED SO BADLY BY MY HUSBAND. NO ONE, INCLUDING MY RELATIVES, WAS PREPARED TO HELP ME FOR FEAR THAT THEY WOULD END UP IN A FIGHT WITH MY HUSBAND."

Female respondent, Family Health and Safety Study, Kiribati.²

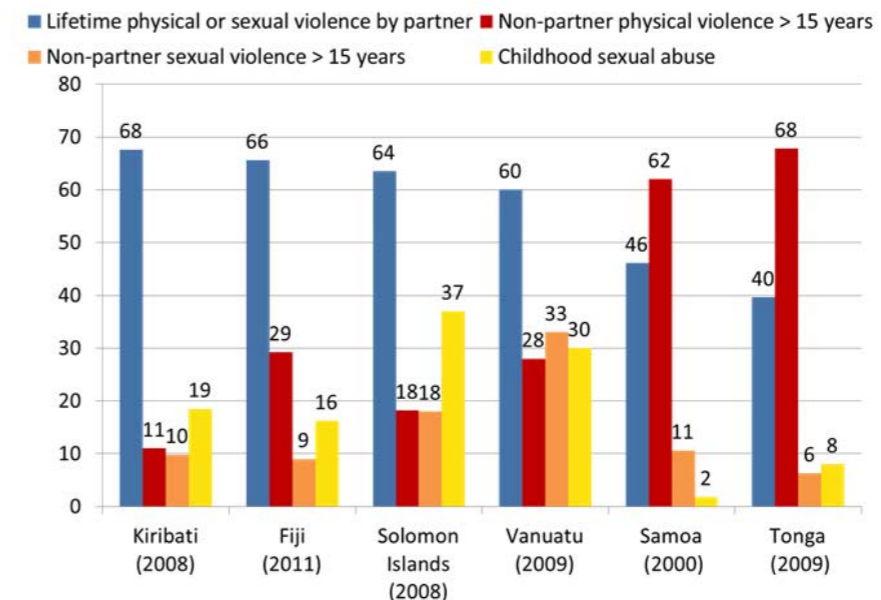
30%

of women abused by their partners in Vanuatu reported having their work disrupted.

22%

of them had money taken from them by their partner.³

Prevalence (%) and Patterns of Violence against Women (15-49) in Pacific Islands Countries



Graph 1

Source: UNFPA

WHAT IS THE PACIFIC FUND?



The Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Facility Fund (Pacific Fund) provides grants and capacity-building support to innovative programmes reaching what are often isolated communities in creative and strategic ways.

Established by UN Women in March 2009, the Fund has been specifically designed to meet the needs of Pacific Island countries and organisations.

UN Women prioritises the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls as part of its work under Goal Three of the Development Results Framework – “women and girls live a life free from violence”.

In particular, the Fund focuses on supporting Pacific organisations and networks in overcoming the two main challenges they face in scaling up their efforts to end violence against women in the region:

- Limited access to financial resources and related needs for skills building in project, financial and organisational management;
- Knowledge and capacity needed to strengthen rights-based approaches for violence against women survivors.

To do this, the Pacific Fund provides grants, technical assistance and capacity development to government departments and civil society organisations in order to

support specific initiatives that improve the lives of women and girls at the local, national and regional levels.

This support is aimed at enabling the organisations to create systematic approaches to prevent and respond to violence against women, expand the availability of services for survivors, and improve the policy environment, as well as taking steps to prevent violence by working with schools, media establishments, faith-based organisations and community groups to promote community-based solutions.

The Fund is also creating learning spaces and exchanges among Pacific organisations working to end violence against women through the development of knowledge products and tools, as well as the implementation of evidence-based programmes.

The Pacific Fund is supported by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as UN Women’s National Committees of Australia and New Zealand. It is a core component of UN Women’s Ending Violence Against Women programme, which covers 14 Pacific Islands countries and territories.

UN Women provides the Fund with a strong institutional foundation and field support through its Multi-Country Office in Suva, Fiji and country offices.

KEY COMPONENTS

Grants Facility

The Pacific Fund offers grants of between US\$10,000 and US\$100,000 that involves a collaborative review process at both national and regional levels.

The low minimum grant threshold is a conscious move aimed at attracting smaller women’s and youth organisations, thereby increasing resources and capacity at grassroots levels.

Capacity Development

Grants are coupled with capacity development support to ensure grantees emerge stronger, with increased capacities, and in a better position to attract new funding from other sources.

In this way, the Pacific Fund is also helping to create robust national and regional networks of ending violence against women organisations and practitioners that are better equipped and more confident when it comes to engaging in debates on women’s human rights and in helping to support and pressure legislatures to bring about law and policy reforms.

Types of capacity development support include:

- In-country technical assistance is provided by Help Desk personnel.

- Technical training on:
 - Preventing and ending violence against women;
 - Advocacy and lobbying for legislative and policy change (with Regional Rights Resource Team);
 - Project and organisation management services and responses.
- Participation in the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre’s Regional Training Programme on gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches to ending violence against women.
- Grantees’ learning exchange events and meetings.

Developing resources for the Pacific

This includes the production of a toolkit on gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches to ending violence against women programming, the production and dissemination of good practice materials, and video documentation of regional lessons learned by grantees when it comes to ending violence against women programming.

Monitoring and Evaluation

UN Women supports grantees through site visits and mentoring, as well as through technical assistance on their implementation and reporting. In response to grantees’ challenges in results-based reporting, UN Women significantly increased support around monitoring, reporting and documentation of achievements.

SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP

Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) received a grant from the Pacific Fund in 2013 to launch a 24-hour helpline giving victims of gender-based violence access to services and to establish a community alert system in villages.

Launched in April 2013, the helpline received more than 900 calls in its first year of operations. More than 40% of these came from rural areas of Samoa, 46% were in regards to life-threatening domestic violence cases, and 34% came from informers or concerned citizens reporting child abuse.

The helpline itself is staffed by a roster of 25 trained counsellors and the organisation has a network of more than 300 village representatives in 232 villages across Samoa’s islands. Mobile phones and networks play a key role in giving people in remote villages access to the helpline and SVSG’s services, something that resulted in an unprecedented collaboration between Samoa’s two competing telecommunications companies – Digicel and Bluesky.



THE PROCESS

In the past five years, the Pacific Fund has received 273 applications for a total of more than US\$43 million in grants. The majority of these requests have come from civil society organisations. The challenge lies in closing the gap between the available funding and the very real potential for change.

There have been four calls for grant applications since the Fund was established in 2009. Organisations and government departments apply under the Fund's three priority focus areas:

- Preventing violence against women and girls;
- Expanding access to services for survivors;
- Advocacy and lobbying for legislative and policy change and implementation.



Country-based National Shortlisting Committees shortlist the proposals received from their respective countries before sending the shortlists to the Regional Projects Appraisal Committee for final selection. Both committees include representatives from six UN entities, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, governments, inter-government agencies and civil society.

PARTNERSHIPS

Through its work with grantees and in the wider ending violence against women sphere, UN Women has learned that the most effective prevention strategies are those that harness the support of a critical mass of people and organisations

that can issue a strong call for zero tolerance are therefore crucial.

Strong partnerships on the ground are essential in ensuring this environment exists here in the Pacific. They are also key in keeping the Fund relevant within regional and country contexts.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and the Regional Rights Resource Team continue to be key partners for the Pacific Fund, providing capacity development in gender and human rights-based strategies, and advocacy and lobbying for legislative change and policy development respectively. Both organisations bring valuable regional perspectives as key members of the Pacific Fund's Regional Projects Appraisal Committee and actively participate in the grant appraisal process.

Through its in-country staff, the Pacific Fund also partners with non-grantees on broader ending violence against women activities, including projects supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women in the Pacific and UN joint programmes in Solomon Islands and Kiribati. Grantees are actively encouraged to form partnerships with other grantees and non-grantee organisations, especially local women's organisations.

CULTURE OF LEARNING

All grantees are expected to work closely with the Pacific Fund team to ensure efficient implementation and accountability.

New grantees are supported by the Pacific Fund team to refine their project goals, outcomes, outputs, activities and indicators in order to make their project goals specific, realistic and strategic. Ongoing support is then provided in order to increase grantees' capacity to monitor, report and disseminate results and lessons learned.

The Pacific Fund has organised two regional Knowledge and Learning Exchanges for its grantees in 2012 and 2014. The events aim to ensure consistent learning exchanges between grantees, improve their knowledge about programming and to facilitate more effective and results-based project implementation.

CHALLENGES

Geographic, capacity and communication factors all pose challenges for the Pacific Fund and its grantees.

At this stage only a small number of organisations in the Pacific have the capacity to providing fully effective services for survivors that reach beyond urban areas. For example, in 2013 only six grantees in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands were providing services to a total of 8,004 survivors of family and gender-based violence. In 2014, eight grantees in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands provided services to a total of 8,144 survivors.

Some grantees are slow in implementing projects, due to a variety of reasons, and they are also slow to report and acquit against advances provided, mostly due to issues of capacity. To support improved reporting, UN Women meets with grantees at every opportunity, including during regional training events, to clarify reporting formats, timeframes, and expectations and to answer questions.

Some grantees face significant challenges when it comes to project administration management, including a difficulty with keeping receipts and recording results. This is reflected in their reporting. Planned capacity development support on organisational management is designed to address this core need.

Finally, many grantees are in remote areas, which makes maintaining contact difficult and consumes significant resources.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

A continuous internal review process has resulted in improvements when it comes to technical assistance for grantees and capturing and reporting on results. Most importantly, however, the Fund has contributed to and supported better quality programming that reaches women, girls, men and boys, including those in marginalised communities, throughout the Pacific.

Building on the grantees' feedback in the 2012 workshops, the Fund has refined its monitoring tools and developed a Reporting Package with Guidance Notes. These knowledge products, coupled with increased mentoring, resulted in grantees showing marked improvements in responses and reporting towards the Fund's outcomes.

The Pacific Fund intensified its focus on monitoring in 2013 through a results-based management approach that saw the integration of strategy, people, resources, processes and measurements to improve decision-making, transparency, and accountability. The approach focused on achieving outcomes, implementing performance measurement, learning, adapting, as well as reporting performance.

Apart from seeing reporting as a compliance issue, grantees reported that they learned from the process of reporting to UN Women. These reports also extend the interaction between grantees and project personnel on ending violence against women programming, including the compilation of stories and gathering of data for quarterly and annual donor reporting.

"I GOT MY FIRST BEATING WHEN I HAD OUR SECOND CHILD. THE VIOLENCE CARRIED ON TILL MY SEVENTH BIRTH ... HE WOULDN'T BEAT ME IN FRONT OF ANYBODY BUT HE WOULD TAKE ME TO THE BUSH AND DO IT."

Respondent, Family Health and Safety Study, Kiribati.⁷

82%

of women in Vanuatu believe that family issues should only be discussed in the family.⁸

"THE WORKSHOPS GREATLY INFLUENCED MY DECISION TO WORK IN THE FIELD OF PEACE-BUILDING. I NOW DO A LOT OF TRAINING AND FACILITATION WORK IN PEACE-BUILDING FOR COMMUNITIES AROUND FIJI. MY MESSAGE IS ALWAYS THAT RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND BUILDING PEACE SHOULD BE AT THE CORE OF OUR COMMUNITIES."

Usaia Cirikiwai, President of Pacific Fund grantee National Council of Youth, Participant at Pacific Centre for Peace-building workshop in Fiji, 2013.

OUR GRANTEES

Total reach (2009-2013): 120,921 people
 Survivors reached: 20,000
 Total grants distributed: 38
 Total funds distributed: US\$1,272,119
 Funds for new grantees: US\$823,995
 New grantees: 13

KIRIBATI

Population: 102,400
 HDI ranking: 133/187
 Total grantees: 5
 Active grantees: 0
 New grantees: 1
 Total amount distributed: US\$49,223

SAMOA

Population: 190,400
 HDI ranking: 160/187
 Total grantees: 1
 Active grantees: 1
 New grantees: 0
 Total amount distributed: US\$98,900

NAURU

Population: 9,322
 HDI Ranking: --
 Total grantees: 0

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population: 7.321m
 HDI Ranking: 157/187
 Total grantees: 9
 Active grantees: 3
 New grantees: 2
 Total amount distributed: US\$357,690

FIJI

Population: 881,100
 HDI ranking: 88/187
 Total grantees: 20
 Active grantees: 3
 New grantees: 3
 Total amount distributed: US\$674,891

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Population: 561,200
 HDI ranking: 157/187
 Total grantees: 6
 Active grantees: 5
 New grantees: 1
 Total amount distributed: US\$232,828

VANUATU

Population: 252,800
 HDI ranking: 131/187
 Total grantees: 2
 Active grantees: 1
 New grantees: 1
 Total amount distributed: US\$145,000

TONGA

Population: 105,300
 HDI Ranking: 100/187
 Total grantees: 5
 Active grantees: 2
 New grantees: 3
 Total amount distributed: US\$417,064

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



WORKING TOGETHER

Partnerships have provided opportunities to combine the strengths of each partner to transform societies.

In the highlands of Papua New Guinea, SEEDS Theatre Group and the Literacy Volunteers of Morobe worked together to identify and carry out solutions enabling access to basic services for illiterate groups of women and girls. The two organisations have continued to support each other after their grants have closed by continuing to provide an essential first response to battered women in their communities.

Tongan grantees, Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili (MFF) and the Talitha Project are transforming the attitudes and behaviour in Tonga through a two-pronged approach on empowering women and girls to claim their rights, along with creating a stronger media presence on ending violence against women through radio shows. Both MFF and the Talitha Project are members of Tonga's Taskforce on Sexual and Gender-based Violence chaired by the Justice Department.

In Fiji, House of Sarah holds monthly sessions with faith-based organisations for sharing resources and information on faith-based responses to ending violence against women. This exchange is contributing to a significant change in the way faith-based organisations are addressing violence

against women in their constituencies.

Under House of Sarah's leadership, these faith-based organisations started the "Breaking the Silence" Sunday programme and discussions on November 25 to mark the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism. The sermon and resource materials have been used by many in the Presbyterian, Salvation Army and Anglican churches in Fiji, Samoa and Tonga.

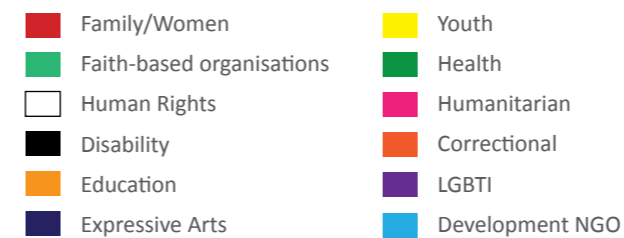
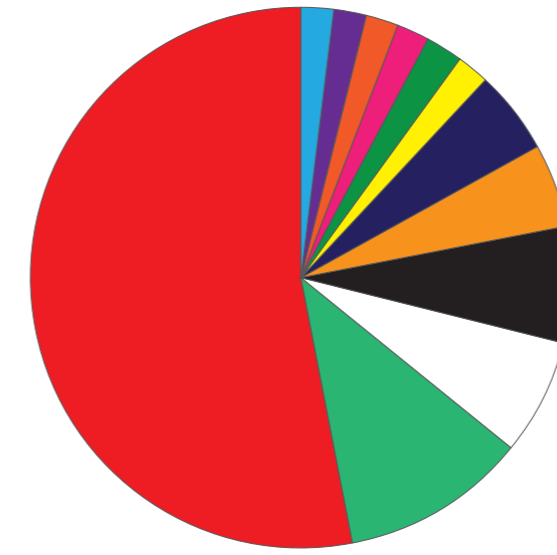
STRONGER ADVOCACY

Grantees have worked to mobilise communities and public opinion to build greater momentum for policy change locally, nationally and globally.

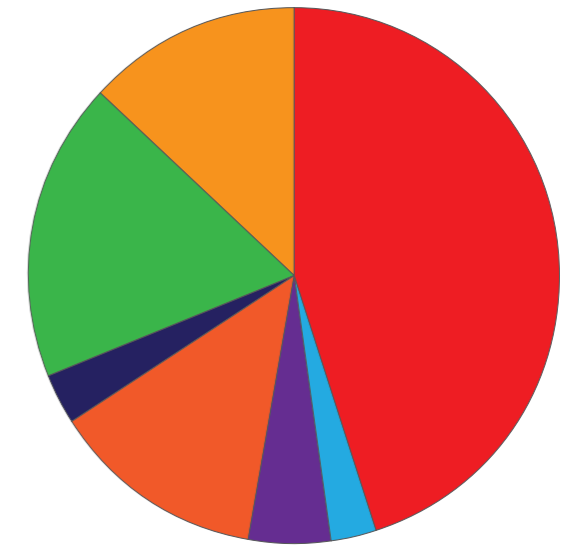
Three grantees in Papua New Guinea – Eastern Highlands Family Voice, Kafe Urban Settlers' Women's Association and Seeds Theatre Group – have successfully advocated for their government to strengthen protection of women and girls through stronger penalties for violence against women, including sorcery-related killings.

Grantees in Tonga (Talitha Project, MFF, Tonga National Centre for Women and Children) have worked with the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and donors (UN Trust Fund, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) combining their human and financial resources for

GRAPH 2: TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS, 2009-2013



GRAPH 3: PERCENTAGE OF GRANTS PER COUNTRY



KAFE URBAN SETTLERS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Established in 2001 by eight women who had experienced violence and wanted to help other survivors, Pacific Fund grantee Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association (KUSWA) has expanded to include more than 1,000 members from many different ethnic groups around Papua New Guinea.

The organisation focuses on raising awareness of women's and children's rights and court processes, providing training and referrals, and advocating with service providers on survivors' behalf.

KUSWA is often called upon to participate in community mediation in order to give women a voice in decision-making processes at community levels.

In November 2013 KUSWA hosted a mass awareness campaign in Henganofi District, including a march calling for the protection of women and girls and the elimination of violence, which attracted more than 1500 people.



their high-level legislative development work. Together they worked to promote the inclusion of ending violence against women in the Family Protection Act.

The UN Trust Fund provided the initial foundational support for RRRT to begin this work, which was then furthered by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. UN Women further engaged RRRT as an implementing partner to provide capacity development to grantees on advocacy and lobbying for legislative and policy development.

This has guaranteed increased buy-in by local women’s organisations towards national legislative work and also the sustainability of the work that began with UN Trust Fund support.

Grantees have been involved in actively lobbying for the progress of new legislation as well as educating communities on key provisions of legislation that has been passed. These include the Family Protection Bill in Solomon Islands, the Family Peace Bill in Kiribati, the Family Protection Act in Vanuatu and the Family Safety Act in Samoa.

The Ministries of Education in both Fiji and Tonga have been lobbied on behalf of women and girls, including around allowing pregnant girls to remain in school (Talitha Project) and including gender and ending violence against women in the national school curriculum (National Substance Abuse Advisory Council).

Grassroots women’s organisations Kafe Urban Settlers’ Women’s Association in Papua New Guinea and Family

Support Organisation in Solomon Islands have been working to motivate and mobilise their communities by building on local capacity to identify and address community needs regarding the ending of violence against women and enabling access to services.

The National Substance Abuse Advisory Council (Fiji) has mobilised students to form a peer education network throughout Fiji to raise awareness in school on the issues around violence against women and girls.

KNOWLEDGE BASE

Knowledge and expertise form the basis of solid programming for women’s rights. Partnerships have allowed for a greater exchange and transfer of knowledge across organisations in different fields of expertise.

In Fiji, the Pacific Disability Forum has held regular consultations with other Fiji grantees (House of Sarah, Fiji Red Cross Society, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women) in the development of a toolkit designed to address violence against women with disabilities.

These consultations and editing workshops involved more than 20 civil society organisations and government agencies.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY

Funding and technical support from the Pacific Fund enabled SEEDS Theatre Group of Papua New Guinea to increase their visibility remarkably.

MA’A FAFINE MOE E FAMILI

“My neighbour has been abused for a long time by her husband and he uses different sharp objects to hurt her. I consistently spoke to her about the things I learned at the training on violence against women and how it affects the family, her rights and how she can get help.

“At first she was really scared and she told me how she has accepted her violent situation. I kept encouraging her to stand up for herself and protect her children. She was finally able to call the police one day. Her husband has been referred to the psychology ward for treatment. She is much happier now.”

Fituela Tupouto’a, 24, was one of the participants in Pacific Fund grantee Ma’a Fafine mo e Famili’s (MFF) workshops in Tonga. The workshops take a transformational leadership approach to empowering women and have so far provided training to 186 women leaders. MFF regularly meets with them to provide mentoring and coaching sessions to enable them to address negative opinions and attitudes in their communities and organisations.



COUNTRY	GRANTEE ORGANISATION	STATUS	
FIJI	Fiji Girl Guides	NEW	
	House of Sarah*	NEW	
	Medical Services Pacific	NEW	
	Fiji Women’s Rights Movement*	CLOSED	
	Homes of Hope Fiji	CLOSED	
	Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women	CLOSED	
	Women’s Action for Change*	CLOSED	
	Rainbow Women’s Network	CLOSED	
	National Council for Women	CLOSED	
	Ministry of Education	CLOSED	
	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation	OPEN	
	Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International	CLOSED	
	Hope Fiji	CLOSED	
	National Youth Council	CLOSED	
	Fiji Red Cross Society	OPEN	
Pacific Disability Forum	OPEN		
Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons	CLOSED		
KIRIBATI	Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Crisis Centre	CLOSED	
	Alcohol Anonymous and Family Recover	CLOSED	
	Ueen Kirabun Eutan Tarawa Ieta	CLOSED	
	Te Toa Matoa	CLOSED	
	Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati	CLOSED	
	Kiribati Family Health	NEW	
	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Literacy Volunteers of Morobe	CLOSED
		Simbu Family and Sexual Violence Action Group	CLOSED
		SEEDS Performing Arts	CLOSED
Tapiok Women’s Group		CLOSED	
Angau Hospital		OPEN	
EHP Family Voice		OPEN	
Kafe Settlers’ Women’s Association		OPEN	
Buka General Hospital		NEW	
Living Light Four Square Gospel Church		NEW	
SAMOA		Samoa Victim Support Group	OPEN
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Hunanawa Women’s Group	OPEN	
	Solomon Islands Christian Association	OPEN	
	Family Support Organisation - Gizo	OPEN	
	Family Support Centre	OPEN	
	Correctional Services Solomon Islands	OPEN	
	Vois Blong Mere	NEW	
TONGA	Ministry of Internal Affairs	NEW	
	National Centre for Women and Children	NEW	
	Women and Children Crisis Centre	NEW	
	Talitha Project	OPEN	
	Ma’a Fafine mo e Famili	OPEN	
VANUATU	Department of Women’s Affairs	OPEN	
	Vanuatu Council of Churches	NEW	

* Organisations that have received grants through more than one funding call.

“COMING TO THE WORKSHOP I LEARNED A LOT FROM THE STORIES – THEY WERE LIKE MINE. I REALLY LIKED THE FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY AND FELT VERY EMOTIONAL WHEN I SAW THE AUDIENCE RESPOND TO THE STORIES.”

Pasepa, 25, Participant in Pacific Fund grantee Women’s Action for Change workshop, Fiji, 2013.

27%

of ever-partnered women aged 25-29 in Tonga reported experiencing sexual partner violence.⁹

“NO ONE HAS EVER TOLD ME I CAN REPORT MY HUSBAND FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR RAPE. I HAD BEEN A SLAVE ALL THESE YEARS. I FEEL THAT I DON’T HAVE ANY RIGHTS ANY MORE TO MY OWN BODY. NOW I KNOW ABOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND I KNOW THAT I CAN DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING TO ME AND MY CHILDREN.”

Participant in House of Sarah workshop, Fiji, 2013.

SEEDS Theatre Group is a 14-member troupe using drama to carry out community education on human rights and ending violence against women in Lae City. Since becoming a successful grantee in 2010, the group has reached close to 5,000 people, many of whom were hearing the information for the first time.

Consistent advice, mentoring and support from Pacific Fund staff enabled SEEDS to tailor its project strategies and also improve its monitoring capacities, revisiting 18 communities for follow-up and monitoring activities. This strengthened its ties with these communities and cemented partnerships with several communal institutions.

In recognition of its strong partnerships with communities, project management capacity and knowledge on gender and women’s human rights, in 2012 SEEDS was given funding by two government agencies – the Morobe Provincial AIDS Council and the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission.

REACHING MEN AND BOYS

Engaging men and boys in ending violence against women responses, especially when it comes to behaviour and attitudinal change, is essential in ensuring efforts are effective and sustainable.

The Fiji National Youth Council initiative ‘Boys in Rugby Against Violence Everywhere’, (BRAVE) looked to influence and change violent attitudes and behaviours early. Its workshops educated men, boys and rugby players in Suva to refrain from violence not just on the rugby pitch but also in their social and familial circles.

Close to 100 participants were reached with topics such as gender awareness and gender equality, masculinity and domestic violence. The workshops were videotaped and have been shared by facilitators with other young male rugby players. Participants reached through the BRAVE project are now part of an informal network supporting other ending violence against women projects in Suva.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO SERVICES

A number of Pacific Fund grantees are actively working to ensure more violence against women survivors have access to services, especially in remote and rural areas.

Samoa Victim Support Group in Apia operates a hotline that offers survivors online counselling from trained counsellors, 24 hours a day. This is complemented in rural areas by a community alert system that allows women in need of immediate protection to be removed from crisis situations. Women in need of an emergency safe haven can also be housed in the homes of community leaders, faith-based leaders and volunteers.

In the city, women have access to immediate short-term care and safety through shelter services, providing a temporary home in which they can think about and plan their health and safety options for themselves and their dependents. A shelter provides room and board for children whose parents or caregivers have been subjected to violence, giving them child-friendly, structured activities while their mothers are attending group or individual counselling services.

Both Samoa Victim Support Group and Solomon Islands’ Family Support Centre provide specialised legal assistance to survivors, in addition to ensuring they have access to public prosecutors. A large majority of the protection orders processed by Samoa’s newly established Family Violence Court have been lodged by Samoa Victim Support Group.

Counselling from trained professional counsellors is also provided by Family Support Centre, House of Sarah (Fiji), Eastern Highlands Family Voice (PNG), and Angau Memorial Hospital Family Support Centre (PNG), which also provides post-rape care including emergency contraception and pose-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV infection.



FOUNDATION OF THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Rusiate, 22, can be seen most mornings on the streets of Suva shining the shoes of passersby for a dollar or two. He’s one of the many young “street dwellers” living and working on the streets of Fiji’s capital city.

“Violence is an issue that we frequently encounter on the streets but it’s never discussed amongst us street dwellers,” Rusiate says. “No one was really thinking of the solutions. Life on the streets is hard, and sometimes we have to be violent just to survive.”

With support from the Pacific Fund, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI) created the Streetwise project, which actively engaged Rusiate and close to 100 others in this male-dominated group in violence prevention efforts through a behaviour change programme.

A total of 22 men were identified as “behaviour change champions” in the Suva marketplace and given further support and training.

“We saw a great potential in developing the group as agents for change in the protection of women and girls on the streets of Suva and the promotion of gender equality,” explains Streetwise Project coordinator, Jiuta Korovulavula.

Partnering with FSPI, Suva City’s Market Police Post and Community Police Unit trained the group

to carry out citizen’s arrests of men who abuse women and girls on the streets. Police have since received citizens’ arrests of men who harass women market vendors, shoppers and those who would use violence against their wives and girlfriends in public.

The informal Wheelbarrow Association has also instituted a deterrent for their own members by stripping the licenses of members found guilty of committing any form of violence against women.

Tevita, 20, is also a street dweller, earning money carting goods and produce to and from the Suva Market as a “wheelbarrow boy”.

“Most of the market vendors are women and before the programme started, we were not really respectful to them,” Tevita says. “We would harass them just for fun and pester them to give us money. I know we scared them. The programme has definitely improved my attitudes and opinions about women. Some of the women vendors have said they now feel much safer knowing that most of our boys have undergone the training.”

The programme also enabled the street dwellers to develop behaviour change communications materials that not only focus on raising awareness of violence against women, but also on getting rid of the stereotypical view of street dwellers as having violent dispositions.

FORMATIVE EVALUATION: PACIFIC FUND UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



In recognition of the expansion of available resources and the evolving nature of implementation, in 2014 the Pacific Fund undertook a formative evaluation. The main objective was to take an independent look at the Fund's current direction in the hope of informing the way forward.

As such it looked at where the Pacific Fund started, what it has accomplished, lessons learned and what this means for strengthening the Fund's future implementation. To determine whether the Fund is moving in the right direction, the evaluation considered what was learned from the first phase of implementation (2009-2011) and after strategic revisions were implemented in 2012.

The evaluation appraised the Pacific Fund on issues of:

- Relevance
- Effectiveness
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Inclusiveness

The formative evaluation was conducted from February to May 2014, shaped by:

- Desk review of international and project materials, and operational documents;
- Consultations with Pacific Fund and UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office team members;

- Discussions with target groups reached by the interviewed grant recipients/organisation;
- Interviews with key stakeholders and grant recipients;
- Consultation with Pacific Fund team members regarding evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

The evaluation was unique in its collaborative approach. The Pacific Fund targets eight countries and the formative evaluation considered implementation in the seven countries where grants were received and activities carried out. Four countries – Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tonga – were visited and the Pacific Fund officer from the UN Women office in Papua New Guinea supported in-country activities. Skype interviews were held with the UN Women country programme coordinators in Samoa and Vanuatu who worked with each country's single grantee.

After the evaluation UN Women and Pacific Fund staff, grantees, and evaluators worked together to validate the results and identify lessons on how to improve and enhance the Pacific Fund during its remaining years of implementation (2014-2017). The value of a collaborative learning process is also an important outcome of the Pacific Fund.

The Formative Evaluation was carried out by David Cownie from SIAPAC

KEY CONCLUSIONS

The formative evaluation came to several important conclusions, foremost among them being that the changes made to the Pacific Fund since 2012 have generally moved the Fund in the right direction.

This is important because it reveals that the Pacific Fund has succeeded in putting in place systems that ensure it functions in an efficient and effective manner, while continuing to strengthen gender equality and human rights-based approaches at the stakeholder and grantee levels, as well as participation rights of target groups.

Relevance

Since 2012 there has been a focus on strengthening the coherence of the regional responses to violence against women and approaches to eliminate it. Considerable efforts have also been made to enhance the focus on results and linkages within and across programme areas, for example, ending violence against women and women's economic empowerment.

Efficiency

Significant strengthening of the grant award process has improved cost-effectiveness but also means that there can be a considerable amount of time between proposal solicitation and the awarding of grants. This is due to the complexities of the proposal review process and the need to confirm organisational capacity, as well as factors outside the Fund's control.

Results from the monitoring system suggest that there has been a greater focus on measuring both project activities and results.

Effectiveness

Size constraints mean that civil society organisations in the Pacific rarely secure financing through international funding calls. As such, by supporting viable organisations and government departments in these smaller countries the Pacific Fund is filling a niche that many other calls for proposals cannot do. This also appears to offer a particular advantage when it comes to cost-effectiveness.

Inclusiveness

The Pacific Fund has a competitive edge in terms of inclusiveness and mainstreaming ending violence against women. Its grants have supported services for survivors, including some that target marginalised populations that have been abused, such as sex workers. A number of grantees have been careful to consider the particular needs of these populations, and have dealt with issues of discrimination as part of project implementation. Respect for their target groups is common among all grantees.

The Pacific Fund has yielded important results in terms of inclusiveness and has been reasonably successful in terms of meaningful stakeholder engagement. It has been careful to involve partners in the implementation process as well as in creating links with broader ending violence against women responses.

Sustainability

Evaluation findings suggest that changes made in 2012 have substantially improved the likelihood that the Fund's impacts can be sustained. These changes included expanding the Help Desk support activities for grantees and building their human rights-based and gender-responsive capacities, as well as strengthening links between the Pacific Fund and policy and advocacy activities.

The evaluation suggested that it is important not to limit transition planning to the development of an exit strategy, instead also considering the possibility of extending and expanding the Pacific Fund. Demand for the services it provides are very high and will most likely continue to grow.

76%

of women in Kiribati believe that under certain circumstances a man is justified in beating his wife.¹⁰

"I THOUGHT TACKLING OTHER MEN ON THE FIELD AND BEATING UP OTHER PEOPLE MADE ME A MAN. I THOUGHT MEN WHO BEAT WOMEN WERE JUST BEING MEN. I SAW SOME OF MY PEERS USE VIOLENCE TO CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE THEIR WIVES AND GIRLFRIENDS. I THOUGHT THAT WAS NORMAL. AFTER THE WORKSHOPS I REALISED HOW DISTORTED MY VIEW WAS OF BEING A MAN."

Male rugby player, 20, Workshop participant with Fiji National Youth Council, Fiji, 2014.

70%

of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 in Solomon Islands who reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence never sought help.¹¹

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: THE WAY FORWARD



It is essential, both for the effective delivery on its goals and for the women its grantees serve, that the Pacific Fund represents best possible practice when it comes to ending violence against women in the region. This means identifying what its optimal operational level is and what is required to reach it.

The changes that have already been made are showing results and have improved operations, however, the Pacific Fund team continues to consider how to effectively respond to the growing demand for support services, financing, and capacity building throughout the Pacific region.

In this vein, the processes that led to the various innovative changes in 2012 will continue as will the focus on capacity building for grant recipients in order to strengthen the monitoring systems. This will require sufficient and stable financing, especially if further calls for applications are made or if the Fund is expanded or extended beyond its 2017 end date, as suggested in the formative evaluation.

Improved knowledge management and communications remains a focus, whether it is with the Fund's partners, internally or between the Pacific Fund and other projects and agencies involved in the ending violence against women response.

LESSONS LEARNED

Through its experience with grantees and in the wider ending violence against women sphere, the Pacific Fund has seen what works and where things can be improved. It's critical that these lessons are taken forward in planning for the final three years of operation.

Packaging grants with capacity development is essential. Ending violence against women actors and groups have limited access to training and technical assistance and as a result there is a resounding call for such support. The Fund has already made a significant investment in this area, and the Fund is seeing the benefits in the grantees' feedback and reports.

Funded projects are directly benefiting from the skills and knowledge gained by their staff at training events and consequently, they are able to implement their projects more effectively.

Investing in supporting a rights-based and gender-responsive approach to programming in ending violence against women remains critical. Pacific organisations working on ending violence against women need capacity building in the areas of project design, gender and human rights.

This is why the Pacific Fund supports grantees in attending one of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's biannual regional trainings. The month-long programmes focus on a rights-based and gender-responsive approach to ending violence against women.

The Pacific Fund has also developed knowledge products including a toolkit and a set of guidance notes to assist grantees in implementing and reporting on rights-based and gender-responsive actions.

In-country technical assistance and mentoring are key elements of support both for grantees and training beneficiaries. These activities help increase organisations' capacity to develop strategies, design projects and enabling partnerships.

UN Women has established Help Desk Officers or Project Coordinators positions in Solomon Islands (January 2011), Fiji (September 2011), PNG (July 2012), Kiribati (April 2013), and Tonga (October 2014). This has proven to be most effective for providing context-specific support and is highly appreciated by grantees and training participants who regularly turn to these officers for technical assistance and support in project implementation.

NEXT STEPS

The key now is to put these lessons learned into action on the ground in order to deal with the challenges presented by the Pacific environment.

The Pacific Fund will be looking to improve its overall communication through ensuring there is more face-to-face dialogue with grantees on programming, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, and stories for media purposes.

Strengthening grantees' financial management capacity, as well as their monitoring and narrative reporting skills, remains a focus for the UN Women and the Pacific Fund team. The Fund will also continue to support grantees through capacity development support in the areas of prevention, response and services, advocacy and engagement.

The Fund will be looking to establish country-based Communities of Practice to provide space for grantees to attend trainings to share experiences, resources, lessons learned, and new country and regional developments in ending violence against women. It will also be useful in initiating collaborative work on advocacy, prevention and services for survivors.

There will be a stronger focus on providing dedicated in-country personnel to support grantees' work and providing technical assistance. By the end of 2014 every Help Desk Officer or Project Coordinator's position will be filled.

Further collaborative efforts are ongoing when it comes to cross-thematic linkages, for example between ending violence against women and climate change and disaster risk management.

Looking ahead, UN Women will consider expanding the Fund to other Pacific countries where there is demand.

HOUSE OF SARAH

Run by the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia, the House of Sarah has been providing counselling to women survivors and community education throughout Fiji since it was established in 2011.

Supported by the Pacific Fund, in 2012 and 2013 House of Sarah staff held 12 workshops in parish communities around Fiji, reaching 432 women. They covered topics including gender, domestic violence, child abuse, rape, sexual harassment and Fiji's laws governing family issues.

House of Sarah aims to empower women with basic knowledge and skills, as well as being available at the parish level to help and support people in their communities when these issues arise.

The project has established nine referral committees and trained members to respond to survivor needs. The House of Sarah also advocates on behalf of its clients and follows up on matters that are before the court or lodged with different agencies.



FOOTNOTES

¹ http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/ldc/ldc_list.pdf

² http://www.spc.int/hdp/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=211&Itemid=44

³ <http://www.usaid.gov.au/countries/pacific/vanuatu/Documents/womens-centre-survey-womens-lives.pdf>

⁴ http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/pacific/2013/07/31/7502/violence_against_women_vaw_in_the_pacific/

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ http://www.spc.int/hdp/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=211&Itemid=44

⁸ <http://www.usaid.gov.au/countries/pacific/vanuatu/Documents/womens-centre-survey-womens-lives.pdf>

⁹ <http://mfftonga.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/tonga-vaw-report-final-2012.pdf>

¹⁰ http://www.spc.int/hdp/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=211&Itemid=44

¹¹ http://www.spc.int/hdp/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=49&Itemid=44

Graph 1: Henriette Jansen, UNFPA, 2013, http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/pacific/2013/07/31/7502/violence_against_women_vaw_in_the_pacific/ Based on: Fiji: <http://webmediafast.com/itaukeitrustfund/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/1.pdf>; Kiribati: http://www.spc.int/hdp/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=211&Itemid=44; Samoa: http://www.spc.int/hdp/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=41&Itemid=44 and http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/; Solomon Islands: http://www.spc.int/hdp/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=49&Itemid=44; Tonga: <http://mfftonga.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/tonga-vaw-report-final-2012.pdf>; Vanuatu: <http://www.usaid.gov.au/countries/pacific/vanuatu/Documents/womens-centre-survey-womens-lives.pdf>

IMAGES

Cover: Pop star Stan Walker with the children of the House of Hope, run by Pacific Fund grantee Samoa Victim Support Group, Samoa, 2014. Credit: UN Women/Ellie van Baaren.

Page 4: Participants of UN Women Solomon Islands UNITE awareness programme say “Strong hands stop violence against women and girls”, 2013. Credit: Marni Gilbert, UN Women.

Page 6: Participants at a “Breaking the Silence” event in Suva, 2013. Credit: UN Women/Ayako Ioroi.

Page 7: Classroom at Samoa Victim Support Group’s House of Hope, Samoa, 2014. Credit: UN Women/Ellie van Baaren.

Page 8: Page 10: Former UN Women Fiji MCO representative Elzira Sagynbaeva is shown around Pacific Fund grantee House of Sarah, Fiji, 2014. Credit: UN Women/Saleshni Chaudhary.

Page 12: Samoa Victim Support Group staff, Samoa, 2014. Credit: UN Women/Ellie van Baaren.

Page 13: Members of KUSWA assembling to march as part of a call for ending violence against women. Credit: KUSWA

Page 14: Participants in a MFF workshop, Tonga. Credit: MFF.

Page 17: Wheelbarrow boys at Suva Market take part in 16 Days of Activism, Fiji, 2013. Credit: UN Women/Saleshni Chaudhary.

Page 18: Men and women taking part in the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Solomon Islands, 2013. Credit: UN Women/Marni Gilbert.

Page 20: Awareness ribbons at a “Breaking the Silence” event in Suva, Fiji, 2013. Credit: UN Women/Ayako Ioroi.

Page 21: Reverend Sereima Lomaloma from Pacific Fund grantee House of Sarah, Fiji, 2014. Credit: UN Women/Saleshni Chaudhary.

UN Women’s Fiji Multi-Country Office covers 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs): Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

It works with four key programmes: Women’s Economic Empowerment; Ending Violence Against Women; Advancing Gender Justice in the Pacific; and Increasing Community Resilience through Empowerment of Women to Address Climate Change and Natural Hazards Programme to progress with gender equality and women’s empowerment in the Pacific.

Published in October 2014. Every effort was taken to ensure information included in this publication was correct at time of printing. © UN Women 2014. All rights reserved.

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