

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



TUVALU COUNTRY SUMMARY

Updated November 2020

Tuvalu is a focus country of the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) programme.

Violence against women and girls is recognised worldwide as a social, political, and public health problem as well as a fundamental violation of human rights. In Tuvalu, the prevalence of physical or sexual intimate partner violence is higher than the global average, with **40 percent of women experiencing physical violence by their current husband or partner.**ⁱ

The Pacific Partnership programme 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.

Pacific Partnership Priorities in Tuvalu

There are two key outcomes prioritised for Tuvalu under the programme:

1. Integrating human rights, gender equality and ending violence against women and girls in formal education (led by SPC HRSD Division)

The Pacific Community (SPC) Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division is implementing its Social Citizenship Education (SCE) programme, through Pacific Partnership. SCE emphasises those social rights and obligations necessary to be part of, and enjoy equal opportunities, benefits and status in, a community.

It refers to active, informed and responsible citizens who know their human rights and responsibilities, practice gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion, prevent violence, are concerned about the welfare of others, and are willing to contribute to the development of the country.

SPC HRSD is partnering with Tuvalu's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to progress the integration of SCE concepts into the school curricula for Grades 5-12.

ABOUT PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

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 Tuvalu, two of the three coordinating agencies have Pacific Partnership activities: SPC HRSD and PIFS.

In addition to Tuvalu, other countries and territories in the Pacific region benefiting from the five-year programme include, but are not limited to Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The programme operates to the end of 2022.





2020-2021 initiatives supported by SPC HRSD include:

Supporting development of learning resources and training roll-out

- Supporting the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in the development and production of teaching and learning resources on SCE.
- Supporting the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport in the development and rollout of pre-service and in-service training to teachers, teacher trainers, education officials and school leaders that aims to:
 - » Relate customary rights, traditional rights, responsibilities and internationally recognised human rights, including the rights of the child, teacher and student expectations and behaviour in the classroom;
 - » Assist schools to apply knowledge of social inclusion to address bullying, stereotypes and disruptive behaviour in order to adapt curriculum and develop learning and teaching strategies; and
 - » Assist teachers to teach in a way that promotes equitable outcomes for all students.

Supporting review and development of inclusive policies

- Supporting the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to review and further develop school-specific policies, and implementation plans:
 - » on social inclusion, school governance, anti-discrimination, sexual harassment, VAWG and positive discipline;
 - » to guide the roll-out of the work in the informal education sector through platforms such as school clubs, parents' clubs and youth clubs.

This approach aims to ensure synergy between changes to the curricula and teaching-learning resources, and the broader policies and programmes of the Ministry.

Strengthening evidence to prevent violence against women and girls

- Supporting community facilitators on Vaitupu and Funafuti with training and resources to conduct outreach sessions in communities to raise awareness of human rights, gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.
- Baseline information was collected from 294 school leaders, teachers, students and community members from two schools across Funafuti. Through this exercise SPC has a better understanding of people's knowledge, attitudes and practices in relation to human rights, gender equality and gender-based violence. This information shows SPC where to focus its training and curriculum content. An evaluation at the end of the project will show change that can be attributed to the project.

2. Monitoring and reporting government commitments to gender equality and EVAWG (led by PIFS)

2020-21 initiatives targeting non-state actors supported by PIFS include:

Tuvalu non-state actors (NSAs), including civil society organisations and women's groups, also benefit from Pacific Partnership through **strategic engagement, capacity development for monitoring the implementation of national commitments on gender equality, and projects support through small grants.** The PIFS' NSA component of the Pacific Partnership programme works in close concert with the overall approaches supported by UN Women. In 2020, the NSA programme supported the **active engagement of CSOs** like the Tuvalu Red Cross to engage in PIFS consultative mechanisms including the Annual Regional CSO Forum, 2020 Virtual Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM), CROP Heads and NSA Executive Meetings. NSAs also participated in other activities including the Regional Non-State Actor Capacity Building Workshop, the development and validation of a **Policy Monitoring Toolkit on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, strategic planning toward a Leaders and Mentors Initiative for 'Gender Equality Agents for Change'** and providing technical input toward training modules for NSAs and governments on gender responsive budgeting.





BACKGROUND

In Tuvalu, the national domestic violence prevalence study¹ or the Tuvalu Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) shows that approximately 4 in 10 women have been subjected to some type of physical violence by an intimate partner. Violence against women and girls in Tuvalu is a significant issue and one that remains mostly underreported. It is still an alarming threat to the rights of women and girls and has a significant cost to society.

The prevalence study highlights the pervasiveness of this issue, with most cases of violence being perpetrated by a person known to the survivor. It states that “more than seven in ten men agree that wife beating is justified for at least one of the specified reasons”. The study also reveals that rates of domestic violence against women are not linked to place or residence, employment status, marital status or educational level. It is estimated that approximately half of all reported acts of physical violence were reported by women aged 25-29.

To address this issue, the Government of Tuvalu has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), passed the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014 (FPDV Act) in 2014, and is now in the process of implementing conventions and the Act to assist with the further empowerment women and girls and ending gender-based violence.

¹SPC Tuvalu Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) (2007)

ⁱⁱibid

For more information about Pacific Partnership, email: comms.pac@unwomen.org

Imagery inspired by empowering female-specific tattoo motifs used in the Pacific region.

