

## Vanuatu – two months on



*Getting down to business - selling and buying produce that is in short supply after Cyclone Pam.  
Credit: UN Women/Ellie van Baaren*

In Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila the Central Market is once again abuzz with holiday makers and locals welcoming the return of fresh flowers, fruit, vegetables, fish, and traditionally cooked dishes. In the weeks following the cyclone market vendors and their families were relocated to Marobe Market, on the outskirts of the capital. UN Women worked alongside local and provincial governments to ensure safety and negotiate rent relief for stall holders, while immediate repair work to the Port Vila Central Market was completed.

Immediately following the cyclone UN Women made a full assessment of its impact at market sites around Efate. Additionally, UN Women deployed staff and resources to work with women market vendors and formally assess their needs. The overall finding was that women expressed a desire to 'get back to normality', and after ensuring the wellbeing of their families, return to market business.

To respond to these needs, UN Women has adapted its Market for Change project and partnered with other UN agencies to develop an early recovery program.

In terms of infrastructure, UN Women is working with central, provincial and local governments on the rehabilitation of the five largest market places on the ring road around the main island of Efate. Virtually nothing

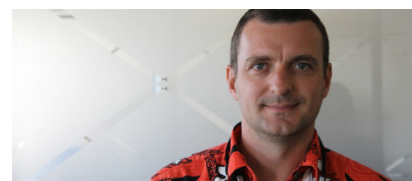
remained of these and many other village markets on Efate following the cyclone.

In addition, UN Women is focusing on supply needs by looking to ensure that women market vendors have direct access to seeds, gardening advice and supplies in the Government's distribution of crop resources. This way women will be able to replant their gardens with sufficient crops to both replenish their family needs, and build up supply for their market stalls. Moreover, in order to ensure continuity of produce and crop supplies through market places UN Women is facilitating a South-south cooperation initiative between Port Vila and Efate and the northern Vanuatu island of Santo, which was largely unaffected by the cyclone. As a result co-operative alliances are developing between market vendor associations operating in both islands.

Beyond early recovery efforts, UN Women was further able to start resuming programmatic work initiated with women market vendors prior to the cyclone. On 15 May, the Silae Vanua Vendors Association became the latest in Vanuatu to sign its founding constitution a clear sign of the resilience of Vanuatu women and their will to look forward despite the enormous hardship and devastation that they face in their own homes and gardens.

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## Diversity

Welcome to the latest issue of the "UN Women in the Pacific" newsletter for 2015. It's our way of keeping in touch; spreading the word about our programmes, our staff, our partners and more.

This issue has a specific focus on disabilities with the launch of the New Disability Inclusive toolkit on ending violence against women by the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja and an interview of Naomi Navoce, Gender & Youth Officer at the Pacific Disability Forum who was sponsored by the Fiji MCO to take part in the Commission on the Status of Women in New York last March.

You'll also find articles about our Markets for Change project including updates on the Vanuatu markets two months after Cyclone Pam, a profile of the Family Support Organisation in the Solomon Islands, as well as our social media outreach and new staff and other stories showcasing the breadth and diversity of our work in the region.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

**Nicolas Burniat**  
*Deputy Representative*  
*UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office*

## New Disability Inclusive toolkit on EAW



(From left to right) Natasha Stott Despoja, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls and Melissa Alvarado, UN Women's EAW Specialist with the Pacific Disability Forum's EAW toolkit. Photo: UN Women/Sereana Narayan.

A new toolkit launched by the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja in Suva on 30 April will help organisations in Fiji work better with women with disabilities when it comes to ending violence against women and girls.

A study carried out in 2013 showed that 64 per cent of women and girls in Fiji experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, and global data shows that women and girls with disabilities are even more vulnerable.

Developed by the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in partnership with the Fiji Disabled

Persons Federation (FDPF) and technical assistance from UN Women, the "Toolkit on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Fiji" will support EAW organisations and partners to work with disabled persons organisations to ensure women and girls with disabilities are included in their programmes and projects.

The Toolkit was developed through a grant from the Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Facility Fund, a UN Women project funded by the Australian Government.

Read more at: <http://bit.do/4QBY>

## PNG South South Exchange visit

At the beginning of May 2015, members of Papua New Guinea's Moresby South Market Board travelled to Fiji to talk with local government and market management about the running of markets in Fiji, with the hope of taking good practice and lessons learned home with them. The delegation visited four markets around the country, including Suva, Sigatoka, Lautoka and Nadi, as well as Suva City Council's and Lautoka City Council's greenwaste composting programme.

The visit to Fiji which was facilitated by the markets for change team focused on looking at the operations systems the markets have in place, as well as the facilities and infrastructure specifically aimed at women vendors.

As 85 per cent of market vendors in Papua New Guinea are women, the board is working to create a safe, enjoyable and lucrative atmosphere for them. The Board is partnering with UN Women in PNG through UN Women's Safe Cities programme which operates in a number of markets in the Port Moresby area



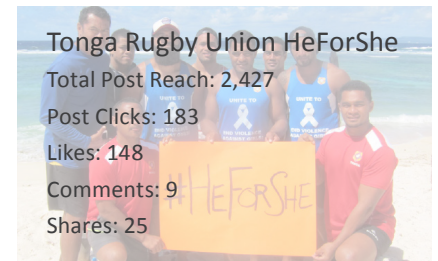
The PNG market delegation and Suva City Council staff talk to market vendors at Suva Market. Photo: UN Women Pacific/Olivia Owen

and is principally funded by the New Zealand government and the Australian government. The Board is looking to replicating the Safe Cities programme and its results throughout additional markets in Port Moresby and is currently working with ministers and UN Women PNG office to see how this can be best implemented.

The visit was also an opportunity to strengthen the relationships between the two countries and their local authorities and a useful reminder of the important potential of south-south cooperation in the Pacific.

facebook

### Top posts April



Tonga Rugby Union HeForShe

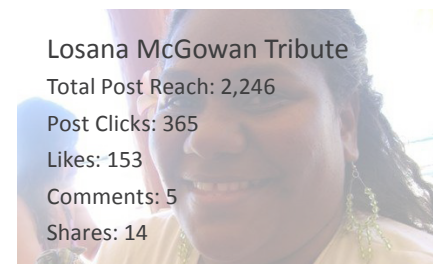
Total Post Reach: 2,427

Post Clicks: 183

Likes: 148

Comments: 9

Shares: 25



Losana McGowan Tribute

Total Post Reach: 2,246

Post Clicks: 365

Likes: 153

Comments: 5

Shares: 14



FSO – Tastre Ataria

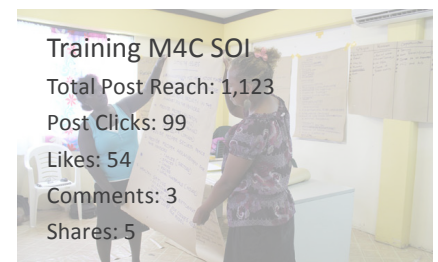
Total Post Reach: 1,500

Post Clicks: 145

Likes: 99

Comments: 12

Shares: 6



Training M4C SOI

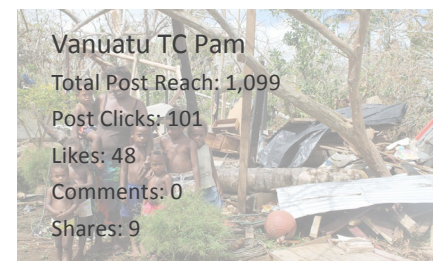
Total Post Reach: 1,123

Post Clicks: 99

Likes: 54

Comments: 3

Shares: 5



Vanuatu TC Pam

Total Post Reach: 1,099

Post Clicks: 101

Likes: 48

Comments: 0

Shares: 9

# 13,049

The number of likes on the UN Women Pacific Facebook page as at May 15, 2015.

## Pacific representation at CWS 59

## Naomi Navoce

*Gender & Youth Officer – Pacific Disability Forum, Suva, Fiji.*

Naomi was one of the four representatives of civil society sponsored by UN Women Fiji Office to participate in the 59th Commission of the Status of Women in New York last March.

#### Why are you involved in CSW?

The inclusion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities must have a prominent place as we look to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. We cannot continue to ignore women and girls with disabilities.

#### What do you think youths can add to the Beijing and Post-2015 development processes?

Youth with disabilities are left out in all aspect of development. Therefore it is important to include youth with disabilities and ensure that their voices are heard in the Beijing and Post 2015 development processes. We must recognise that the voices of DPOs are essential and need to be incorporated in the development of any laws, policies, programs or projects that may affect youth with disabilities.

#### What do you see as the biggest issues facing women in the Pacific/your home country?

Disability is a cross-cutting issues and women and girls with disabilities in the Pacific continue to experience multiple forms of discrimination including in the following sectors:

- **Access to Justice** – including physical access to the courts, police stations, and



*Photo credit: UN Women/Sereana Narayan*

prosecutor's office, provision of sign language interpreters or information accessible to visually impaired women.

- **Access to Government Programmes** – including social welfare and anti-poverty programs.
- **Access to Education, including technical vocational and tertiary education as well as access to the build environment and education facilities.**
- **Access to the Health Care, including sexual and reproductive health services.**

## staff spotlight

## Olivia Owen

*Inter-Agency Initiatives Coordinator, Fiji Multi Country Office.*

#### What is the most satisfying part of your job?

When I can see a project or initiative being completed successfully and seeing a tangible outcome. A lot of my work involves sitting behind a desk and working on a computer and some days it seems never ending, so it is really satisfying when you can talk to someone or hold something in your hand, or reach a milestone, and be able to say "I was part of making that happen".

#### Was there a moment where you felt your work directly impacted women?

Last year I worked to get a number of young women leaders to Bangkok to take part in a transformational leadership training ahead of a regional conference that they were taking part in. To see these young women come together,



*Picture Supplied*

to share their stories and to support each other was inspirational.

#### In your opinion what is the biggest challenges facing women in the Pacific?

I think the biggest challenge for women in the region is trying to reconcile traditional beliefs and culture and keep this alive, with the concepts of gender equality, all the while trying to shake off gender-based discrimination and seeking ways to empower themselves.

## comings and goings

## Introducing ...

Over the past few months UN Women has welcomed three new staff members in the Pacific. Here's your chance to meet them.



#### Anna Parini

*Fiji Markets for Change Project Manager, Fiji Multi-Country Office*

Anna is a development professional with 15 years of experience with UN agencies, NGOs and the Italian Development Cooperation Agency. Anna has a Masters degree in the analysis and management of development projects, and a degree in Philosophy – both from the University of Milan.



#### Dominique Maidment

*Prevention of Violence against Women (VAW) Specialist, (UN Volunteer) Fiji Multi Country Office.*

In over 10 years in Thailand working with refugees from Myanmar, Dominique gained expertise in gender based violence (GBV) programming. She holds a Bachelors degree in Philosophy and Politics from the University of Warwick.



#### Michelle Kenny

*Programme Associate (M4C & EVAW) (Peace Corps Volunteer Programme), Port Vila Office, Vanuatu.*

After earning a degree in Political Science from Fort Lewis College, Michelle volunteered with Peace Corps Vanuatu for 2 years on the small, remote Lamien Island. A love for Vanuatu and a passion for equal rights has enticed her to pursue further endeavors with UN Women in Vanuatu.

## Radio dialogues

"I planned for 10 to 15 years before I came here," Jocelyn explains. "I know my people voted for me because of who I am, what I have been doing and the relationship I have with the people in my community."

Hon. Joycelyn Wesley Ipei, is a Member for Temotu Provincial Government and is one of four women in provincial or national government in Solomon Islands. She shared her experiences in a radio dialogue broadcast on Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) in early May.

The dialogue was the first of a series organised through UN Women's Strongim Mere project in partnership with Vois Blong Mere, with support from the European Union.



Photo: Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation/ Rickson Bau

The dialogues give the women politicians an opportunity to reach their constituents, especially those in rural areas, something that is an obstacle for many women standing for election.

## Translation of CEDAW in Samoan

UN Women and the Samoan Law Reform Commission are working together with the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to promote the implementation of CEDAW in Samoa. This partnership led to the first ever translation of CEDAW in Samoan vernacular.

The CEDAW translation was launched on International Women's Day 2015 and shared with over 100 female leaders and entrepreneurs at a MWCS event sponsored by UN Women.

The translation makes CEDAW accessible to all Samoan, members of the public, civil society institutions as well as legislators, policy makers and government institutions such as the Human Rights Institute of Samoa which will be producing the first national report on human rights this coming June. It is an important addition to the ongoing work on CEDAW compliance and implementation supported by UN Women.

Find out more: <http://bit.do/4QnR>

## Solomon Islands M4C documentary

Economic Empowerment enables women to make positive changes in their own lives and communities with positive ripple effects nationally and regionally. Marketplaces are central to the economic livelihoods of many women in the Pacific.

UN Women's Markets for Change project is working to ensure marketplaces in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji are safe, inclusive environments where women are supported to play active roles in advancing their economic empowerment and achieving gender equality.

The 'Getting Started' documentary captures the experiences of Auki and Honiara women market vendors through the initial stages of

the Markets for Change project, especially the getting started workshop which aim to give them the tools to support the establishment of Market Vendors' Associations and increase their voice and participation in how markets are run.

The Markets for Change (M4C) project is a key component of the Women's Economic Empowerment programme of UN Women in the Pacific. The six year multi-country project is principally funded by the Australian Government through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Initiative.

To view documentary: <http://bit.do/4XfR>

### partner profile

## Family Support Organisation

"I am here today for my children's sake, and because I care for others and I always want to help people especially women who face violence. I started being involved in this work with FSO since last year but before that I was always helping and having a heart."



Photo credit: UN Women/Atenasi Wasuka

Leanne is an *i-Kiribati* woman living in Gizo Western Province, and is adamant that within her community, alcohol plays a large part in violence in the homes.

"Alcohol abuse makes violence easy to come out in physical form. When people drink, they lose ability to think straight and swear, and fight and commit violent acts. Jealousy comes out too. I see people who are very good people in community who joke and all that but are very different in the house. I want to help to change that."

She agrees that it is important to keep working with perpetrators.

"With perpetrators I sometimes sit down with them and their family and provide a listening ear and give practical advice when asked. And I am happy when I see some changes even small changes."

"FSO as an organisation that works in the community provides important information. I used to think that organisations like these were waste of time. With little impact. But with FSO I see that it has been good. I am happy to see changes with people who attend FSO activities. I want them to continue to do this kind of good work. FSO as an organisation can help in providing information to enlighten people."

### UN WOMEN FIJI MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE

Level 3, Kadavu House, Victoria Parade, Suva, Fiji

[asiapacific.unwomen.org](http://asiapacific.unwomen.org)

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