

Pacific Girl – October 2019 networking opportunity

Federated States Of Micronesia | Fiji | Papua New Guinea | Regional
Solomon Islands | Tonga | Vanuatu

SHARE

October 17, 2019

Pacific Girl, a new initiative under Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*), focuses on adolescent girls' needs, rights and opportunities. It works with civil society organisations in six Pacific Island countries and supports adolescent girls to make informed decisions about issues that matter most to them. It also engages with boys, parents, carers and communities to build more supportive environments for girls and young women.



Adolescent girls in Pacific Island countries share the challenges faced by adolescents in other parts of the world. But in the Pacific those challenges are compounded by the specific realities of life in small island states. Challenges adolescent girls face include:

- teen pregnancy, early or arranged marriage and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health information;
- violence and abuse in the home and community, including sexual violence;
- bullying, including cyber bullying, negative peer pressure and body shaming;
- lack of access to education and employment; family expectations of unpaid care and domestic work;
- lack of voice and influence in their community and at national policy making levels; and
- culture, custom and beliefs that restrict the rights and abilities of girls.