

PACIFIC WOMEN
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT



Promoting Gender Equality in Papua New Guinea Highlights

2012–2022

10
Years

1.62
Million People

56
Projects

59
Partners



About *Pacific Women* in Papua New Guinea

Since the program's launch in August 2012, an estimated 1,624,858 Papua New Guinean women, men and children have been able to access services and information across 20 of 22 provinces of Papua New Guinea through initiatives supported by Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*). *Pacific Women* is supported by the Australian Government through the Papua New Guinea–Australia Partnership.

Over the past 10 years, *Pacific Women* has developed a wide array of partnerships to advance gender equality actions. Through *Pacific Women*, Australia partners with governments, local and international non-government organisations, the private sector, disabled people's organisations, coalitions and others to improve the political, economic and social opportunities of Pacific women and to end violence against women and girls.

Pacific Women is one of the largest global commitments to gender equality. Initiatives supported by *Pacific Women* respond to the commitments made by leaders in the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration and Papua New Guinea development strategies, including the Medium Term Development Plans. The program has supported 56 projects with 59 partners in Papua New Guinea with an AUD116.7 million total projected commitment from August 2012 to June 2022.



'There are no shortcuts. Achieving gender equality is about finding transformational ways of working that respect customs and culture; empower communities; embrace diversity and long-term commitment; find common ground; counter power; and build meaningful community conversations.'

Elsie Mongoru, Program Manager (former) CARE PNG.

Building productive partnerships with government

Pacific Women has strengthened partnerships with government and helped support government responses at national, provincial, district and local levels. *Pacific Women* has funded 37 projects working with national department agencies; 34 projects working with provincial administration or health authorities and 21 activities working with district authorities to strengthen referral pathways and coordination arrangements. Partners have successfully advocated for key legislative and policy reforms to protect women and children and continue to support government and businesses to implement laws and policies. Government is recognising and supporting the work of *Pacific Women's* local partners through partnership agreements and funding.

Supporting gender-inclusive COVID-19 responses

Pacific Women partners informed national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensured that women's and girls' needs were considered and reflected in government responses. *Pacific Women* partners continued to operate and provide services throughout the lockdown periods. The program provided financial resources, training and protective equipment so that partners and other crisis service providers continued to operate safely. Focused research by *Pacific Women* partners contributed to the national, regional and international understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls.

Police and Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association are close and effective partners working to prevent and respond to violence in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province. Credit: Oxfam PNG.



Violence Prevention and Response



In Papua New Guinea, 59 per cent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence. This is close to twice the global average.

Pacific Women supports work that is reducing violence against women and girls and ensuring survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.

Since 2012, *Pacific Women* in Papua New Guinea has supported:

- 24,675 women and girls to access crisis support services (including: case management; counselling; health and justice services; safe accommodation and emergency relocation).
- 3,353 men and boys to access counselling, safe accommodation, and emergency relocation services.
- 1,157,530 people to participate in community awareness, outreach and advocacy about ending violence against women and children.

Women's Economic Empowerment



The National Financial Inclusion Strategy recognises that women are significantly less financially empowered than men with very high levels of financial exclusion, even where financial services are available.

Pacific Women supports work that ensures women have expanded opportunities to make financial decisions, earn and control an income and accumulate economic assets.

Since 2012, *Pacific Women* in Papua New Guinea has supported:

- 16,648 women (and 8,586 men) to access financial literacy training and financial services.
- 233 women to expand their businesses by accessing finance, increasing their income and/or increasing the number of employees as a result of engagement with the Women's Business Resource Centre.

Women's Leadership and Influence



At June 2022, there are currently no women representatives in Papua New Guinea's national parliament, and it is estimated that women hold only 1.4 per cent of the local level government and ward positions.

Pacific Women supports work to build women's skills and confidence to take up leadership positions, influence decision-making, contest elections and to improve women's collective voice to advocate for change.

Since 2012, *Pacific Women* in Papua New Guinea has supported:

- 3,684 women to take on leadership roles at community, provincial and national levels.
- 253 women to graduate with a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.
- 20 market vendor associations to register, representing 4,500 vendors.
- 9 Young Women's Associations to form in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Enhanced Knowledge and Understanding



Pacific Women supports research and shares learning to improve policy, programming and practice to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Since 2012, *Pacific Women* in Papua New Guinea has supported:

- 9,303 women to access formal opportunities to share their ideas and learn from each other (including learning forums, research and program learning events).
- 100 research papers published, increasing understanding of gender inequality, discrimination, the causes of violence and drivers of change in Papua New Guinea.

Pacific Women investment has established new services, expanded existing services, and improved the quality and coordination of support services for survivors of family and sexual violence.

Two new case management centres have opened in Lae and Port Moresby. Four Family Support Centres have been built or refurbished and partners have supported Provincial Health Authorities to establish two additional Family Support Centres and improve management and reporting systems staff to deliver more effective services in nine provinces. *Pacific Women* has supported the building and refurbishment of new safe houses in Port Moresby, Lae and Bougainville and developed safe house guidelines and provided skills training to improve the standards of care, including in the context of COVID-19, for safe house clients.

Pacific Women projects have strengthened referrals between service providers to support survivors of violence access the help they need.

Pacific Women is ensuring partners' initiatives are based on evidence of what works in the Pacific context to meaningfully empower women economically. This means ensuring partners create opportunities for women not just to increase earnings, but also work with men to promote shared decision making, household goal setting, and increased control over income and assets. Families participating in *Pacific Women's* family-based approaches to improve gender-equality in agricultural communities reported a 22 per cent increase in income and a 12 per cent increase in women making decisions about how to spend the money they earn on their own.

Financial literacy skills training has led to new attitudes towards budgeting, with a significant proportion of participants reporting increased savings that are enabling longer-term productive investments and increased income. Women are establishing micro-businesses and savings clubs, plus securing formal qualifications and employment opportunities.

Working through existing institutions and community structures, such as market vendor and women's associations, *Pacific Women* partners are building women's leadership, negotiation and mobilisation skills and increasing women's knowledge of election processes. Partners are improving women's decision making over their own bodies by increasing access to sexual health and reproductive rights and services.

Pacific Women is working to change deeply entrenched social norms about the roles of women and men when it comes to public and political leadership. This includes providing training and opportunities for women to lead the delivery of community development projects, conducting civic awareness campaigns discussing the characteristics of good leadership and profiling the wide range of existing women leaders across the country.

Pacific Women's research and evaluation has contributed to increasing understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based and sorcery accusation-related violence, and drivers of gender transformative change in Papua New Guinea. They have improved gender equality programming and policy.

Innovative approaches to empowering women, particularly through family-based approaches and engaging with men, have been tested and taken up by other investments and, in some cases, in other Pacific countries.

Pacific Women partners have developed, tested and widely disseminated toolkits, training manuals and communication resources to promote behaviour change and a more gender-equal Papua New Guinea.

Pacific Women's Key Achievements in Papua New Guinea 2012–2022

***Pacific Women* investments have built the skills and confidence of women to take up leadership roles and to effectively contest political leadership.** The Political Leadership Academy launched by UN Women's Women Make the Change project in partnership with the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance is developing a pipeline of future women leaders. The first cohort of 19 women from 11 provinces began the program in 2021. In the 2020 Bougainville national elections, 21 of the 46 women candidates took part in political leadership training by *Pacific Women* partners, including three of the four winning women candidates.

As a result of *Pacific Women's* long-term commitment to partners' efforts, positive gender transformative change is happening in the communities in which they work in Papua New Guinea. Multiple project evaluations have found women and men in these communities are changing the way they behave to reduce the harms to women and girls and to strengthen their families, communities and workplaces. *Pacific Women* partners identified eight elements that have been key to achieving gender transformation in these communities and sites in Papua New Guinea. These are documented in 'What Works for Gender Transformative Approaches in Papua New Guinea' and in a Practice Note both downloadable from: www.pacificdata.org.

***Pacific Women* research is informing public debates and influencing government and private sector decisions.** The Interventions in Overcoming Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence research has collated the most extensive database on sorcery accusation-related violence ever collected in Papua New Guinea. It has increased empirically-based understanding of the causes of violence resulting from sorcery accusations and what interventions work to reduce the impacts of violence. The Special Parliamentary Committee into Gender Based Violence reflected these findings in its recommendations.



Women leaders at the New Guinea Islands Regional Advocacy and Coalition Building workshop, July 2021 Kokopo, East New Britain Province. Credit: UN Women

New research examining not only the cost of family and sexual violence to businesses, but also the benefits to employers and employees when there are workplace responses in place was published in June 2021. The research findings are being used by the Business Coalition for Women to advocate with existing and new businesses to address gender-based violence in their workplaces.

Across the program, **partners are working to educate communities and advocate for an end to violence against children.** Parents participating in UNICEF's Parenting for Child Development program significantly reduced harsh parenting practices by learning parenting skills and building their knowledge of children's intellectual, emotional and physical development needs. Equal Playing Field's Safe Schools and the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation's school-based programs foster healthy and respectful relationships between girls and boys and support teachers and schools to promote a safe and supportive school environment for all children.

Pacific Women partners' approaches have been adopted by the Government of Papua New Guinea and integrated into new projects. The family-based farming approaches are a foundation activity in the government's Markets for Village Farmers project. They have been adapted for use by Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in projects working with churches and young people in Papua New Guinea and with women farmers in rural Solomon Islands. The National Capital District Commission has adopted the UN Women 'new normal' campaign as the city's campaign and the *Sanap Wantaim* youth advocates as a central part of the city's Gender Based Violence Strategy. The Safe City project market vendor association and multi-stakeholder market management committee model has been adopted by the Department for Community Development and Religion as the 'voice strategy' in the draft Informal Economy Strategy and revised legislation.

Young Women's Leadership Forum, Autonomous Region of Bougainville 2018. Credit: International Women's Development Agency, Harjono Djoyobisono



Looking ahead: from *Pacific Women* to PNG Women Lead

The Australian Government's commitment to improving gender equality in Papua New Guinea will continue through the new PNG Women Lead program. It will be funded from June 2022 to June 2027. The new program will align with and complement the new regional Pacific Women Lead program.

PNG Women Lead will build upon the evidence and successes of *Pacific Women*. This new investment will continue a focus on promoting Papua New Guinean women, as well as women's groups and coalitions as leaders in the program. It will continue to include a comprehensive approach including women's leadership, economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls as outcomes. PNG Women Lead will continue to support local organisations providing holistic care for survivors of violence and on violence prevention and increase its focus on addressing disability issues.

The program will further develop the convening role with national government, donors, civil society organisations and donor programs. It will ensure that core program lessons are integrated into Australian Government programs and are positioned to influence the work of other donors in-country.

Photo Credits: Cover Page: Agnus Titus, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation leading the Women Human Rights Defenders Forum in Siwai, Autonomous Region of Bougainville 2017. Credit: International Women's Development Agency, Harjono Djoyobisono. Back Page: Angeline Angwin, for International Women's Day 2019. Credit: Oxfam PNG.

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