

How to improve women's economic agency without compromising their safety

Autonomous Region Of Bougainville Papua New Guinea Regional Solomon Islands

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October 2, 2018

The Pacific Women funded Do No Harm research explored the relationship between women's economic advancement and empowerment, and women's experience of domestic violence. The research was carried out between 2014 and 2018 in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville). The report found that an increase in women's economic empowerment did not necessarily lead to a stronger negotiating position within a marital relationship or a decrease in violence against women.

In July 2018, lead researcher Richard Eves from the Australian National University shared some of his analysis from the research in a DevPolicy Blog: <http://www.devpolicy.org/do-no-harm-womens-economic-empowerment-and-domestic-violence-melanesia-20180706/>.

As part of the Do No Harm Research project, a quantitative survey was conducted to document priorities and experiences of women working in full or part-time formal employment in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Download the report here: <https://iwda.org.au/assets/files/Do-No-Harm-Professional-Womens-Finding-Report.pdf>

The findings of the research have also been developed into guidance material kits by International Women's Development Agency. The kits are designed to help implementers of women's economic empowerment and savings clubs projects to incorporate strategies to guard against violence against women in their project designs. The kits are published on the International Women's Development Agency website: <https://iwda.org.au/resource/do-no-harm-toolkit/>

For more information, the full Do No Harm reports can be found on the Pacific Women website:

<https://pacificwomen.org/research/no-harm-research-report-solomon-islands/>

<https://pacificwomen.org/research/no-harm-research-report-papua-new-guinea-bougainville/>