

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2017–2018



Australian  
Aid 

**PACIFIC WOMEN**  
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page. It features a white silhouette of a hand with fingers spread, positioned above a dark grey silhouette of a flower with multiple petals. The background is a light beige color.

### **Published in August 2019**

Every effort was taken to ensure information included in this publication was correct at the time of printing.

©Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development 2019.

All rights reserved.

### **Contact**

Website: [www.pacificwomen.org](http://www.pacificwomen.org)

Email: [information@pacificwomen.org.fj](mailto:information@pacificwomen.org.fj)

### **Cover**

Top row, left to right: Anamalia Falemaka and Noelani Day, Maria Donre and Kadalino Lorens.

Bottom row, left to right: Savina Nongebatu, Tearro Otinea and Matilda Pilacapio.

PACIFIC WOMEN SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

## 2017-2018

Supporting the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration



# CONTENTS

<b>01</b>	FOREWORD	<b>22</b>	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
<b>03</b>	THE BIG PICTURE	<b>28</b>	ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
<b>05</b>	TIMELINE	<b>42</b>	PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION
<b>06</b>	WHAT WE DO	<b>86</b>	FINANCIALS
<b>08</b>	WHERE WE WORK	<b>90</b>	LOOKING AHEAD
<b>10</b>	OUR APPROACH	<b>92</b>	PACIFIC WOMEN PARTNERS
<b>13</b>	OVERVIEW	<b>96</b>	KEY FORUMS AND EVENTS
<b>15</b>	SPECIAL FOCUS	<b>98</b>	ANNEX A: ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
<b>16</b>	LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING	<b>99</b>	ANNEX B: PACIFIC WOMEN PROJECTS

# FOREWORD

**REVEREND SEREIMA LOMALOMA**  
CHAIR, PACIFIC WOMEN ADVISORY BOARD



Reverend Sereima Lomaloma, Chair, Pacific Women Advisory Board.  
Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit

The design of *Pacific Women* recognises that change can only come from within Pacific communities, led by women and men from the Pacific. The role of the church in guiding Pacific societies is acknowledged and there are a number of programs working with and through different faith-based organisations across the Pacific.

I am proud that church representatives are increasingly speaking out and making a stand against violence against women and re-looking at interpretations of particular biblical texts used to justify physical abuse.

*Pacific Women* is supporting a number of faith-based initiatives that are working towards reducing violence. World Vision's Channels of Hope project in Solomon Islands motivates and builds capacity in faith leaders and communities to engage with the issue of violence against women.

Every year since 2014, the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia observes 'Break the Silence Sunday,' on which the Church is encouraged to speak out against violence. For the past two years, this has included the members of the Fiji Council of Churches.

Our journey towards a safer Church has included a re-examination of people's perceptions of modern women and men, moving away from the negative social norms that can lead to acceptance of violence in our communities.

**“ I am proud that church representatives are increasingly speaking out and making a stand against violence against women ”**

Some Churches are also demonstrating how men and women can share leadership.

Since 2013, the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia has been successfully working to achieve gender equity of representation in



the synod. This has also resulted in significant increase in youth engagement in church leadership. UnitingWorld is developing a network of Pacific Islander theologians to create resources and advocate for gender equality. It supports churches to provide opportunities for women to take on leadership roles and contribute to decision making. Effective

“  
**The Board firmly believes that this program is a core element of the Pacific's response to gender equality.**”

representation of women in church decision making bodies is not only a human rights issue, but also an affirmation of God's calling of women and men in the leadership of the Church.

In our small and vibrant communities, we are conscious of the interconnectedness of our lives, threats that face our communities and the need

for holistic responses. For example, when cyclones strike, it is reported that incidents of gender-based violence increase.

During our July 2018 meeting in Fiji, the Board had an opportunity to meet with organisations working on disaster risk reduction to discuss how the needs of women are incorporated into planning and how women are increasingly around the table in decision making.

We also met with representatives from disabled people's organisations on the challenges that they face, but also the skills and knowledge that they have and which we must draw on in developing and implementing our responses to gender equality in Pacific Island countries.

*Pacific Women* is conducting its second program evaluation to assess to what extent the program has met its six-year objective. The evaluation will identify not only the program's progress, but how it has encouraged and supported other partners in Pacific Island countries to respond to gender inequalities.

The Board firmly believes that this program is a core element of the Pacific's response to gender equality, but it is the responsibility of our governments, communities, churches, private sector and media to take the challenge and meet the commitments made in the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration.





# THE BIG PICTURE

## Reflecting on six years of women shaping development in the Pacific

The Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) program supports 14 Pacific Islands Forum countries to meet their commitments to the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration. Strong partnerships are vital to realising these commitments. The achievements of the last six years would not have been possible without the efforts of *Pacific Women's* skilled and committed Pacific partners. This Annual Progress Report reflects on these collective contributions to the program and celebrates partners' shared achievements.

## Advancing the Pacific gender 'movement'

With funding of up to \$320 million over 10 years, *Pacific Women* is one of the biggest global commitments to gender equality. Through its broad reach, diverse partners and established convening power, the program is supporting efforts to build a robust and sustainable gender equality movement in the Pacific region. The knowledge, values and priorities of Pacific people inform *Pacific Women*. They provide the national and local context to address the interconnected nature of women's disempowerment in the Pacific.

Women's crisis support centres are sharing experiences and learning across Pacific Island countries. The We Rise Coalition, comprising feminist organisations and leaders, has strengthened Pacific women's engagement and voice at international meetings such as the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. More gender-sensitive humanitarian responses were seen in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclones Pam in Vanuatu, Winston in Fiji and Gita in Tonga. Community workers in Papua New Guinea no longer feel that they are working in isolation but rather are part of a broader gender movement of support and exchange. The Women's Economic Empowerment Roundtables are engaging development and private sector partners in increasing numbers.

More platforms and opportunities for women's dialogue and decision making are being created. *Pacific Women's* national and regional partners have been supported to influence legislative change, mobilise communities and promote individual behaviour change. New multi-country programs such as Pacific Girl and Balance of Power build on learning from earlier program activities and respond to locally identified needs and gaps in communities. During their design phases, diverse groups of women, men and girls were consulted and their experiences, perspectives and ideas have set the direction of these programs.

## The legal frameworks that define the systems we live in have improved

Thirteen Pacific Island countries now have legislation protecting women and children experiencing family and domestic violence. Women in many Pacific Island countries now have greater access to the legal support services they need to be safe, heard and respected.

However, further work is needed to keep translating these legal reforms into targeted services. In the Federated States of Micronesia, which recently introduced the *Domestic Violence Act* in Pohnpei State, an assessment of violence against women services will inform the development of referral system networks. The assessment is also being used to educate key stakeholders, including police and judicial officers, about domestic violence.

## Access to services for women and girls has increased

More Pacific Islander women are accessing a greater range of services that respond to their needs. Across the region, *Pacific Women* is supporting partner countries to deliver and strengthen crisis support services, providing vital assistance for women and children experiencing violence.

Data indicates that most women accessing services have experienced more than one type of violence, most commonly a combination



of physical violence and emotional abuse. They need a range of targeted and relevant services. *Pacific Women* supported the first domestic violence support centres in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Kiribati. These offer services including confidential counselling, provision of legal information, case management and delivery of community awareness-raising activities.

In Tonga, women survivors of domestic violence can now access free legal services. The legal aid centre, the first of its kind in Tonga, provides information and advice about family law issues and offers legal representation to survivors of domestic violence.

### Understanding the issues and impacts of gender and development has improved

*Pacific Women* is building a body of evidence-based gender programming to create meaningful and lasting change in the region. The benefits of this are clear. New programs designed this year to address programming gaps specifically target adolescent girls, women's economic empowerment and women in leadership.

The Do No Harm project began in Papua New Guinea as a research study to understand the link between women's economic empowerment and women's experience of domestic violence. The study found that economic advancement can lead to an increased risk of violence for women, as well as other unintended consequences including a much heavier burden of work. To address this issue, it recommended community-based gender transformative projects, working with men as well as women. *Pacific Women* has since funded the production of a training toolkit for organisations to enable them to apply this knowledge to their designs, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This is an example of one project informing another and demonstrates the value of sharing lessons and research findings with the wider development community.

The *Pacific Women* Advisory Group on Research will continue to guide the commissioning of research that contributes to regional knowledge and informs project design.

### A joined-up approach to development

Social change takes time and sustained effort. Piecemeal approaches with inadequate resources, commitment or national ownership tend to fail. *Pacific Women* is creating opportunities and supporting governments and communities to remove barriers to social change. The program supports flexible, integrated approaches at regional, national and local levels. Projects address policy and legislation, provide services and related support, mobilise organisations and networks and encourage individual behaviour change.

The program works with women and men in the communities where they live. In a region where 95 per cent of people identify as Christian and churches play a key influencing role, *Pacific Women* engages religious leaders and delivers some activities through church networks. Global research shows that working through multiple entry points to transform social norms and challenge unequal gender power relations can prevent violence against women.

### The future

Statistics highlighting the inequities of power and opportunities for women in Pacific Island countries remain stark. There is much work to do to improve gender equality for women and girls in the Pacific and strong partnerships are vital to achieve this goal. The second half of *Pacific Women* is underway with increased activity and reach, thanks to the efforts of highly-skilled Pacific Island program partners who are guiding and managing the activities that *Pacific Women* supports.

While change is slow there are pockets of progress, with growing evidence across the region that women are making a difference. Women market vendors in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands are taking on leadership roles to help manage and improve the markets they work in. Women play an increasingly important role in Papua New Guinea's booming coffee sector. Adolescent girls are leading a regional conversation about what they need to thrive. They are all Pacific women shaping Pacific development.





# TIMELINE

The timeline below highlights some key achievements and important events in the program's history.



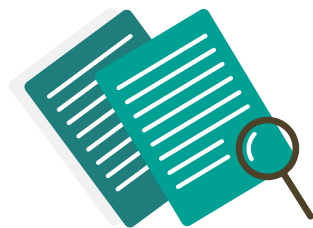
## Interim Advisory Board established

2013 – Interim *Pacific Women* Advisory Board established (April)  
 2013 – Country plans developed for: Solomon Islands (January); the Cook Islands (March); Kiribati (April); Republic of the Marshall Islands (April); Tonga (May); Fiji (draft - August)



## Pacific Women Support Unit mobilised

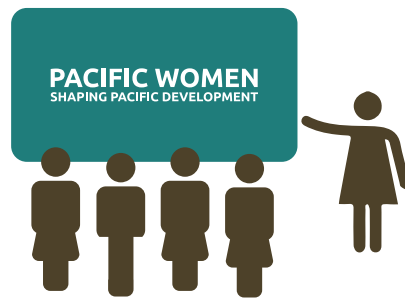
2015 – Country plans developed for: Samoa (February); Tuvalu (March); Fiji (final - March); Palau (November)  
 2015 – *Pacific Women* Support Unit mobilised (April)  
 2015 – *Pacific Women* Advisory Board established (June)  
 2015 – Tonga Country Plan mid-term review (October)  
 2015 – *Pacific Women* Advisory Board meeting (November)



## Pacific Women Three-Year Evaluation finalised

2017 – Solomon Islands Country Plan review (January)  
 2017 – Fiji Country Plan review (April)  
 2017 – First *Pacific Women* Advisory Group on Research meeting (April)  
 2017 – Papua New Guinea Country Plan review commenced (May)  
 2017 – Inaugural *Pacific Women* Monitoring and Evaluation System review (May)  
 2017 – *Pacific Women* Three-Year Evaluation finalised (July)  
 2017 – *Pacific Women* Advisory Board meeting (August)  
 2017 – Samoa Country Plan Review (November)  
 2017 – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework finalised (November)

2012  
 2013



## Program announced at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting

2012 – Program announced at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting (August)  
 2012 - *Pacific Women* Delivery Strategy finalised (August)  
 2012 - Country plan developed for Papua New Guinea (December)

2014  
 2015



## Pacific Women Design Document finalised

2014 – *Pacific Women* Design Document finalised (April)  
 2014 – Interim Advisory Board meeting (August)  
 2014 – Country plans developed for: Vanuatu (April); Nauru (July); Papua New Guinea (second country plan - August)

2015  
 2016



## Regional Pacific Women Research Symposium

2016 – Vanuatu Country Plan mid-term review (April)  
 2016 – *Pacific Women* Advisory Board meeting (April)  
 2016 – Country plan developed for Federated States of Micronesia (May)  
 2016 – Regional *Pacific Women* Research Symposium (June)  
 2016 – The Cook Islands Country Plan review (September)  
 2016 – *Pacific Women* Advisory Board meeting (November)

2016  
 2017  
 2018



2018 – Republic of the Marshall Islands Country Plan review (January)  
 2018 – Meeting of the Advisory Group on Research (January)  
 2018 – Kiribati Country Plan review (June)



# WHAT WE DO

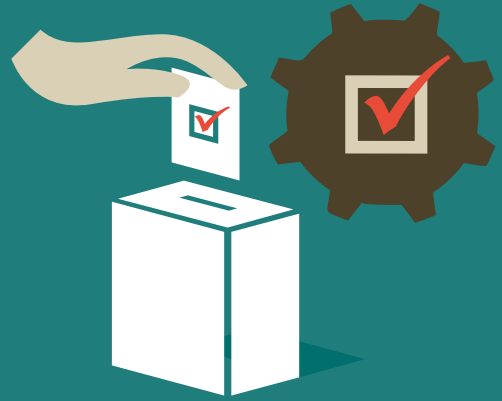
## Leadership and Decision Making

*Pacific Women* supports work that seeks to ensure women and women's interests are represented at all levels of decision making. In its first six years, the program supported:



**12,512**

women to take on leadership roles at community, sub-national and national levels, including women participating in market vendor associations (1,834 women in 2017–2018).



**43,833**

people to access gender-focused civic and voter education.

## Economic Empowerment

*Pacific Women* supports work that seeks to ensure women have expanded economic opportunities to earn an income and accumulate economic assets. In its first six years, the program supported:



**17,960**

women to access financial literacy training and financial services (3,187 women in 2017–2018).



**1,102**

women to attain formal qualifications (63 women in 2017–2018).

# Ending Violence against Women

*Pacific Women* supports work that seeks to ensure violence against women and girls is reduced and survivors of violence have access to justice and support services. In its first six years, the program supported:



women and children to access crisis support services, including counselling, health and justice services (7,940 women and children in 2017–2018).



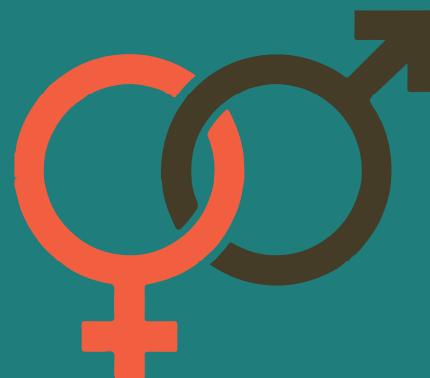
people to participate in community awareness, outreach and advocacy activities (133,207 people in 2017–2018).

# Enhancing Agency

*Pacific Women* supports work that seeks to ensure women in Pacific Island countries gain a stronger sense of their own agency, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need. In its first six years, the program supported:



women to access formal opportunities to share their ideas and learn from each other through learning forums, as well as through research and learning events organised by *Pacific Women* (1,354 women in 2017–2018).



men to undertake male advocacy training (3,466 men in 2017–2018).

# WHERE WE WORK

## COUNTRY AND REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

### 1 The Cook Islands

- > Number of projects: 4
- > (2 completed, 2 ongoing)

### 2 Federated States of Micronesia

- > Number of projects: 4
- > (2 completed, 2 ongoing)

### 3 Fiji

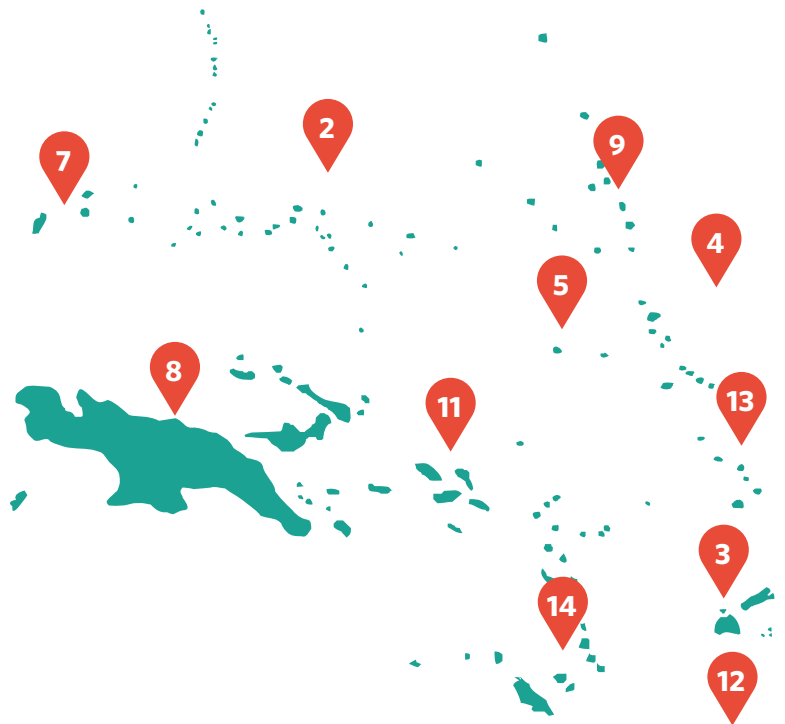
- > Number of projects: 18
- > (12 completed, 6 ongoing)

### 14 Vanuatu

- > Number of projects: 9
- > (4 completed, 5 ongoing)

### 13 Tuvalu

- > Number of projects: 4
- > (2 completed, 2 ongoing)



### 12 Tonga

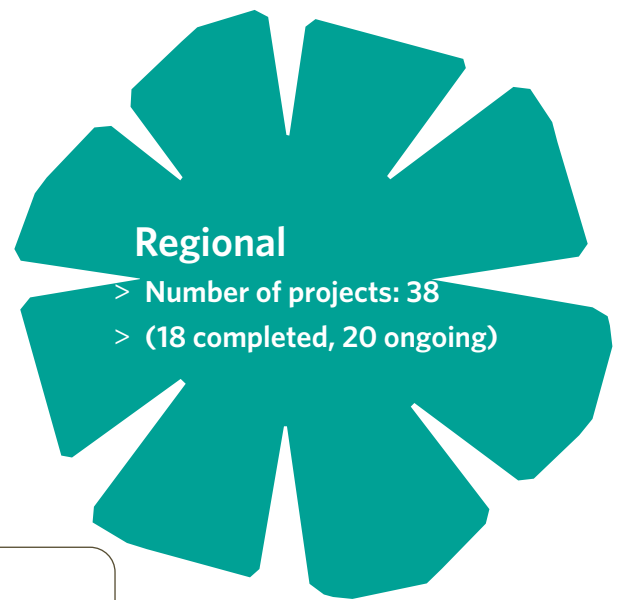
- > Number of projects: 6
- > (2 completed, 6 ongoing)\*

### 11 Solomon Islands

- > Number of projects: 18
- > (9 completed, 9 ongoing)

The number of projects are cumulative from 2012–2018. A full list and brief descriptions of these projects are available in Annex B and on *Pacific Women's* website, through an interactive map: <http://map.pacificwomen.org/>

\*This includes projects that have completed their initial funding period and have been subsequently renewed. Refer to Annex B for more information.



## Regional

- > Number of projects: 38
- > (18 completed, 20 ongoing)

### 4 Kiribati

- > Number of projects: 10
- > (5 completed, 5 ongoing)

### 5 Nauru

- > Number of projects: 5
- > (2 completed, 3 ongoing)

### 6 Niue

- > Activities in Niue are supported through the *Pacific Women* regional program.

### 7 Palau

- > Number of projects: 3
- > (2 completed, 1 ongoing)

### 8 Papua New Guinea

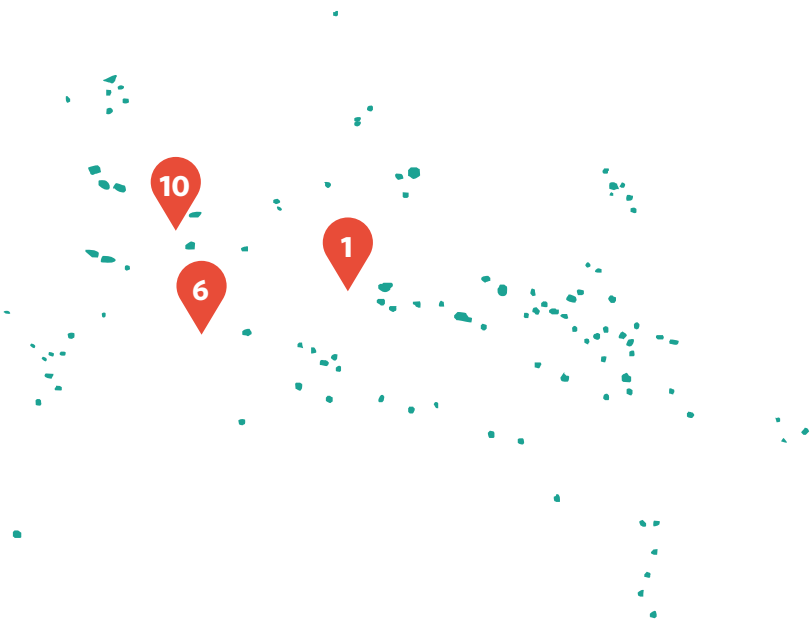
- > Number of projects: 46
- > (16 completed, 30 ongoing)

### 9 Republic of the Marshall Islands

- > Number of projects: 5
- > (5 completed, 1 ongoing)\*

### 10 Samoa

- > Number of projects: 5
- > (2 completed, 4 ongoing)\*



# OUR APPROACH

Factors contributing to gender equality in the Pacific are complex. *Pacific Women* works through multiple partnerships and coalitions to create change across four interrelated outcomes: Leadership and Decision Making, Economic Empowerment, Ending Violence against Women and Enhancing Agency.

*Pacific Women* aims to develop, support and deliver evidence-based projects that contribute to the advancement of gender equality in the region. This requires planning, evaluation and research activities that inform project design and implementation. These direction-setting activities facilitate consultation and collaboration between governments, civil society and other development partners to define the path forward for the program.

In 2017–2018, direction-setting activities included country plan reviews, program designs and formative research.

Country plans are the mechanism through which Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and partner governments plan and agree to *Pacific Women* initiatives. Country plans cover a three to four-year period and are informed by extensive national consultations. They provide detail on projects that *Pacific Women* will fund and how funding decisions are made. Country plan summaries can be downloaded from the *Pacific Women* website (<https://pacificwomen.org>).

Country plan reviews are undertaken to measure progress towards *Pacific Women's* outcomes and to identify barriers to implementing projects in individual country contexts. The reviews include recommendations for future directions. During 2017–2018, country plan reviews were undertaken in Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Kiribati.



From left to right: Helen Tavola, Technical Lead of the Kiribati Country Plan review, pictured with Corinne Tarnawsky (DFAT), Rakentai Kaiuea Kabotoa (Senior Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture), Tearro Otinea (Deputy Director of Agricultural and Livestock Department, Ministry of Agriculture) and Rusila Tekamotiata (Kiribati Post Gender Focal Point). The Country Plan review team included (not pictured) Tara Chetty (Pacific Women Support Unit). Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.





## Samoa Country Plan review

*Pacific Women* has supported women's empowerment for five years in Samoa. The 2017 review was a timely opportunity for stakeholders to consider what had worked well and what aspects of the program needed redirecting.

The review team comprised representatives from the Government of Samoa, DFAT and the *Pacific Women* Support Unit as well as a technical consultant. The team visited community projects supported by *Pacific Women* in Savaii and rural Upolu. It met with stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector and other development partners.

With the Samoan Ministry of Women, the review team held a one-day consultation with 40 Samoan stakeholders who shared their experiences and observations about the advancement of women and gender equality in their country. The consultation provided an opportunity to reflect on the priorities for future *Pacific Women* support in Samoa. These priorities include working directly with more civil society partners.

Government of Samoa representative Danielle Lio said she witnessed three key features during the review: engagement, oneness and empowerment.

'It is a beautiful thing for a community to come together as one and work together for the betterment of their own society,' Ms Lio said. 'This is helping government to achieve its goals and objectives but also helping [government staff] to develop on their own.'

Direction-setting activities also include formative research to provide an evidence base for projects. This research increases understanding of the interconnected nature of barriers to women's empowerment in the Pacific and can improve policy and program responses to addressing gender inequality. It helps test the underlying assumptions in the *Pacific Women* Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework and, through this, supports program improvement processes and informs new program investments.

The *Pacific Women* Advisory Group on Research held its inaugural meeting in January 2018. The group, comprising 10 women research academics and practitioners, is working to build a deeper understanding of program learning and a body of knowledge about gender programming options in Pacific Island countries. It also aims to increase the quality, accessibility and policy relevance of Pacific gender research and build the capacity of local gender researchers.

The group provides advice to DFAT and partners on the strategic direction of the *Pacific Women* research program. Its members recommend

research priorities for the program and appraise research activities funded by the program. The group encourages strategic collaboration and partnerships to undertake gender research that will contribute to effective gender-responsive policies and projects. It also promotes the application of gender research in informing *Pacific Women's* work.

The Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study, commissioned by *Pacific Women*, provided an overview of existing gender research in the Pacific and its use in policy development. The study led to the development of the *Pacific Women* Research Strategy (June 2017–June 2022). The Advisory Group on Research was established to guide the implementation of the Research Strategy.



Research priorities identified by the group this year included:

- adolescent pregnancy and the sexual and reproductive health needs and rights of young people in the Pacific. A mapping and consultation process included a regional workshop with experts in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- workplace sexual harassment (focusing on the public sector and the tourism industry);
- the links between bride price and violence against women;
- women's economic empowerment.

Research conducted in 2017–2018 included a women's economic empowerment feasibility study in Kiribati, a study on gender inclusive value chains in Solomon Islands, a review of the implementation of the Palau *Family Protection Act 2012* and the finalisation of a study on people with disability in Tuvalu.

Pacific Island governments and civil society have used formative research to set the direction of initiatives.



Members of the Advisory Group on Research, with staff of the Pacific Women Support Unit, during its meeting in July 2018.  
Photo Credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.

### **Assessment of eliminating violence against women services in Federated States of Micronesia**

*Pacific Women* funded an assessment of services for survivors of violence against women in the Federated States of Micronesia (with a focus on Pohnpei and Chuuk States). Findings from the assessment are informing the work of Ruby Awa, a Family Protection Adviser funded by *Pacific Women*, to work within the Department of Health and Social Affairs. Ms Awa is supporting the development of referral system networks and providing domestic violence information to key stakeholders, including police and judicial officers. 'The *Domestic Violence Act* recently passed in Pohnpei, so I am going to be working with partners and colleagues to support the implementation of the new law,' Ms Awa said. 'It is a great opportunity to provide support to a Pacific effort to eliminate family violence through both legislation and service delivery.'



# OVERVIEW

This is the fourth Annual Progress Report of *Pacific Women*. It provides evidence and an analysis of the program's challenges, achievements and success stories for the period July 2017–June 2018.

The period July 2017–June 2018 marked the end of the sixth year of implementation of Australia's 10-year \$320 million commitment to improve political, economic and social opportunities for women in Pacific Island countries. *Pacific Women* has a flexible partnership approach to support implementation of the shared goal of the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration: to lift the status of women in the Pacific and empower them to be active participants in economic, political and social life.

As of June 2018, *Pacific Women* has invested \$174.9 million to support gender equality across the region, including \$42.5 million during 2017–2018. Since 2012, *Pacific Women* has funded 154 projects and 19 direction-setting activities. Of the 173 initiatives:

- 104 are ongoing and 69 are completed
- 135 are bilateral and 38 are regional.

The program has supported projects across each of *Pacific Women's* four outcomes:

- 27 toward Leadership and Decision Making
- 30 toward Economic Empowerment
- 70 toward Ending Violence against Women
- 46 toward Enhancing Agency.

Highlights and analysis of these activities are included in this report by outcome as well as by country.

## Key achievements in 2017–2018:

### Diversified, increased support to partners

*Pacific Women* continued to support established partners and diversified its work with new partners. This support included the provision of funding, technical assistance and learning, sharing and networking opportunities.

For example, the new multi-country Pacific Girl program was informed by a number of participatory processes. Focus groups were held with 220 girls in six countries. A priority setting workshop was attended by 20 adolescent girls from Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji. The outcomes of the workshops were presented by six of the 20 girls at the Pacific Girl Regional Stakeholders' Dialogue in Suva in May 2018. Implementation of the Pacific Girl program has commenced in 2019.

The Papua New Guinea Annual Learning Workshop in Port Moresby attracted the most participants to date. Over 150 women and 50 men from 70 organisations attended the workshop in April 2018, sharing ideas and strengthening relationships. For many attendees, a key takeaway from the workshop was the knowledge that they are no longer working in isolation and can draw on each other for support. Regular Lunch and Learn sessions hosted by the Papua New Guinea sub-office have also been well attended throughout the year. These thematic sessions provide an opportunity for partners to connect around shared challenges and areas of interest.



## Strengthened monitoring, evaluation and learning systems

*Pacific Women* has developed a strong learning culture that enables deeper understanding of gender issues and the impact of different approaches in Pacific Island countries. The program has developed tools and mechanisms to support learning. These include: the *Pacific Women* Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluation Data Collection; a Value for Money Rubric; a Country Plan Review Guidance Note; a Country Plan Reflection Workshop Methodology; a *Pacific Women* Research Strategy; and an Advisory Group on Research to guide the strategy. The program's revised Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework was finalised in November 2017. Many of these tools are available on the *Pacific Women* website. The *Pacific Women* database, now fully operational, is used to collate activity-level data from all country and regional activities across the program's four outcomes. This enables effective reporting on the reach and impact of the program.

## Design, delivery of multi-country initiatives

Regional convening power remains a key strength of *Pacific Women*. In 2017–2018, *Pacific Women* brought together national and regional networks, organisations and partners to inform the design of new multi-country initiatives.

These include the Balance of Power, Pacific Girl and organic value chain programs that were developed in response to findings from the Three-Year Evaluation of the program and the *Pacific Women* Roadmap. The new initiatives focus on women's leadership, adolescent girls and women's economic empowerment.

In each program design, *Pacific Women* consulted widely with Pacific Islander stakeholders to ensure that activities address local needs and contexts. Consultations also included partner governments, gender and development organisations, technical experts, the *Pacific Women* Advisory Board, *Pacific Women's* Advisory Group on Research, DFAT and the *Pacific Women* Support Unit. (Refer to page 15 for further details).

## A strengthened, more proactive Support Unit

The *Pacific Women* Support Unit continues to strengthen its technical and administrative support to DFAT and implementing partners. It is also playing an increasing role in bringing together *Pacific Women* stakeholders. In 2017, the Support Unit convened a leadership dialogue with the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and women civil society and public sector leaders. The Women's Economic Empowerment Roundtable events also continue to gain momentum, with growing attendance from development and private sector partners.

The Support Unit also increased its engagement through grant support provided to 24 organisations. Grantees were provided with a range of capacity development opportunities, including financial management support and in-country monitoring and evaluation training.



# SPECIAL FOCUS

The design of multi-country initiatives and the sharing of best practice across partner countries supports progress towards gender equality in Pacific Island countries. The *Pacific Women Roadmap* guides the program's regional and multi-country investments. It highlights that regional and multi-country programs need to be designed to address common issues and adapted to national priorities and country contexts.

Building on findings from the Three-Year Evaluation of *Pacific Women* and the *Pacific Women Roadmap*, the program designed three multi-country programs in this reporting period through extensive stakeholder engagement. They apply lessons learned and examples of good practice from other gender equality programs and will contribute to *Pacific Women's* outcomes in leadership and decision making, enhancing agency and economic empowerment.

**Balance of Power** is a \$6 million program to support women's leadership in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga across individual, community, institutional and structural levels to address the deeply entrenched social norms that exclude women from the political sphere. Women's participation in formal political leadership in Pacific Island countries is the lowest in the world. Following recommendations from the mid-term review of Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnership project and the *Pacific Women Roadmap*, this program aims to increase women's voice and participation in political processes. It takes an innovative approach to address a complex problem that has, to date, received uncoordinated attention from a range of donors and stakeholders in Pacific Island countries. A diverse group of highly-skilled Pacific Islanders will guide and manage the program.

**Pacific Girl** is a \$4.5 million multi-country program to support a new generation of adolescent girls in Pacific Island countries achieve gender equality. Pacific Girl aims to support approaches that build the capacity of young people to effect change. While adolescent girls are the principle focus, boys, parents, carers and communities will be included to achieve better development outcomes. Pacific Girl will fund the work of selected civil society organisations in Pacific Island countries that work with young women and men. The design was informed by broad consultation with adolescent girls across the Pacific, including girls with disabilities.

**Building prosperity for women producers, processors and women owned businesses through organic value chains** is a \$4 million multi-country program to address barriers to women's engagement in agriculture and create opportunities for women to participate in the high value area of organics. It will work in Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It is led by the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), hosted by the Pacific Community. POETCom is seeking to expand its work with organic value chains to better understand the role of women in these processes and address gender inequality. The program focuses on the latest organic production technologies.



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

# LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

*'Women are powerful agents of change. And gender equality and women's empowerment have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development. They're drivers of economic growth in Palau and other small island developing states.'*

The Honourable Baklai Temengil, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs and Secretary General of the Palau National Olympic Committee, Republic of Palau – The Pacific Community's 70 Inspiring Pacific Women

*'Women can perform any task anywhere. There are many obstacles and challenges [but] I believe without [a] doubt that a woman can become a leader of a country.'*

Beau Tauheluhelu, Women and Children's Crisis Centre Tonga male advocate – 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, 2017





# Micronesian Women's Conference

10:10 AM  
8/8/2017



Pacific leaders attending the Micronesian Women's Conference in August 2017.  
Photo credit: RMI Government.

# LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

During 2017–2018, *Pacific Women* funded 10 projects that focus on women's leadership and decision making with three focusing at national level, four at sub-national level and three at community level. These projects account for approximately seven per cent of all program funding and supported 1,834 women to attend leadership training, workshops and candidate training and strengthen the capacity of rural and urban market vendors to participate in and lead market vendor associations.

Supporting women's leadership in the Pacific is key to reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, strengthening democracy and increasing the wellbeing of women, girls and their families. It requires a strategic and coordinated approach in a region with stark inequities of power in decision making and the lowest levels of women's representation in parliament in the world (7.5 per cent of national parliamentarians in the Pacific Islands are women compared to the global average of 24 per cent).

Research attributes the continuing under-representation of women in politics in the region to a number of factors, including the pervasiveness of masculine political cultures,<sup>1</sup> electoral systems that tend to favour men and women's lack of access to election campaign financing.<sup>2</sup>

To address these challenges, *Pacific Women* has supported a number of projects that promote women's political leadership. The Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Project brought together women parliamentarians from Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand for six years to ensure gender equality issues are better addressed in parliament. In the 2017

Papua New Guinea national elections, women who participated in the Women in Leadership Support project were six times more likely to finish in the top 10 per cent of candidates in their electorates.

*Pacific Women* has also provided funding for leadership projects for young women, to build their capacity and provide mentoring opportunities. One example is CARE International's Young Women's Leadership Program in Vanuatu that supports emerging young women leaders to take action for gender equality and ending violence against women and girls.

Mentoring and networking projects are supporting women working in government and the private sector. This includes the Women in Leadership Advocacy Network in Samoa and the Solomon Islands Professional Women's Network.

In 2017–2018, *Pacific Women* invested in the design of an initiative to increase the acceptance of women's right to participate in the public sphere. The Balance of Power program will seek to challenge entrenched social norms that define leadership as a masculine domain (refer to page 15 for further information).

At the end of the sixth year of *Pacific Women's* 10-year timeframe, the program has helped create opportunities to strengthen women's roles in decision making from community to national level. Partners are influencing decision making through advocacy for legislative change. The case studies that follow demonstrate how interventions at both regional and community levels contribute to increased women's leadership and decision making in Pacific Island countries.

1. A. McLeod (2002). Where are the women in Simbu politics? *Development Bulletin* 59: pp.43–46.

2. A. Pollard (2003). Women's Organisations, Voluntarism and Self Financing in Solomon Islands: A Participant Perspective. *Oceania*, Vol 74 No 1/2, pp. 44–60.



## CASE STUDIES

### Women climate change negotiators speak out about Pacific issues

**Project name:** Tracer study for climate change negotiator training

**Project partner:** Women's Environment and Development Organization

**Total funding:** \$20,040

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

**Rising oceans highlight how climate change is affecting the Pacific. The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) promotes women's climate change leadership. Pacific Women has been studying how women's voice on Pacific climate change issues has improved as a result of WEDO's work.**

International decisions on climate change are made at the annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties meetings. While gender roles, laws and customs in Pacific Island countries create an environment where women are often more vulnerable to climate change impacts, financial and cultural barriers have resulted in very low numbers of Pacific women participating in UNFCCC meetings.

To address this, WEDO held workshops for 41 women from nine Pacific Island countries to develop their skills in diplomacy, including drafting text for interventions, decisions and other written outcomes of the UNFCCC negotiating process. *Pacific Women's* tracer study on women who participated in the WEDO training found that some participants took on active roles within their delegation, attending meetings and panel discussions, drafting statements and speeches, providing legal advice and engaging with the media. Their increased capacity provided strong representation of the priorities of Pacific women and marginalised groups in the UNFCCC process.

'[The negotiation training] helped boost my confidence,' said a participant from Vanuatu. She said that being recognised as a trained negotiator helped her to 'participate with other delegates at the negotiation spaces.'

The study found that participants improved their knowledge and skills, with women reporting improved self-confidence for negotiation and leadership roles. The training also increased their understanding of UNFCCC processes and the links between gender and climate change.

Women's full and equal participation in climate change decision making will improve the success of climate change actions by ensuring they are more gender-responsive. One participant from Fiji reflected: 'To have a climate change negotiation training that is specifically designed for Pacific women, and the framing focusing on climate justice, is indeed a breakthrough moment, especially in terms of women's empowerment and the awareness around gender and human rights within the climate change dialogue.'



*Participants at the Pacific Women Climate Change Negotiators workshop in August 2017.  
Photo credit: Australian High Commission, Suva, Fiji.*





## Campaigning for change

**Project name:** Women in Leadership Support Program

**Project partner:** Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University

**Total funding:** \$1,937,590

**Funding timeframe:** December 2016–June 2021

**The Women in Leadership Support Program has been working with women intending to contest the 2017 and 2022 national general elections and the 2018 local-level government election in Papua New Guinea. The project, delivered by the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University, trained women in 10 locations in election campaigning ahead of the 2017 national elections and the 2018 local-level government elections.**

Prior to the 2017 Papua New Guinea national general election, 127 women participated in candidate training. Upon completion, 75 participants said they had been planning to contest the election but decided not to run because the training highlighted the need for more preparatory work. The 47 training participants who contested the election comprised approximately one quarter of the total number of women who ran (179 of the 3,340 candidates, or 5.4 per cent, were women).

Although no women were elected to parliament in the 2017 national election, those who undertook the training consistently placed higher and obtained a greater overall vote share than women candidates who did not participate. Training participants were six times more likely to finish in the top 10 per cent of candidates in their electorates.

Following the election, researchers at the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute identified barriers to women's success in elections as logistical support for women candidates (few women candidates are endorsed by political parties), weak campaigning laws, and candidates' dependency on personal relationships and affiliations for support. Women voters still encounter intimidation and undue influence by husbands and male relatives on how they should vote.

Ahead of Papua New Guinea's local-level government election in September 2018, the Women in Leadership Support Program provided tailored training to 145 women in seven workshops across six locations. Training facilitators noted that prospective candidates demonstrated close links to, and intimate knowledge of, their electorates which, according to research, is critical in elections in Melanesia.



*Papua New Guinea Women in Leadership Support Program training in Kundiawa in April 2018. Photo credit: Thiago Oppermann.*





PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

*'We must not underestimate the cash earnings of rural women. Even though they do not earn a fortnightly salary, they earn a little money every day or every week. Through their earnings they feed and manage family livelihoods. Savings clubs recognise rural women's earning power and help assist them to save little by little and watch their money grow.'*

Dr Alice Pollard, Advocate, Women's Financial Independence, Solomon Islands - The Pacific Community's 70 Inspiring Pacific Women

*'Women continue to experience limited job opportunities, remain under-represented in management positions and face weak employment and social protection mechanisms, particularly in the private sector [...] The Triennial conference and Pacific Ministers for Women meeting is the only regional platform that gives us the space to deliberate on challenges [...] and to explore solutions that, as a region, we can all take on board.'*

Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General of The Pacific Community – Welcome Address of the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the 6th Pacific Ministers for Women meeting, 2017.







A ni-Vanuatu woman learning engine repair through the Vanuatu Skills Partnership. The Vanuatu Skills Partnership provides training, including for women, with a focus on tourism, agribusiness and business skills. Photo credit: Vanuatu Skills Partnership.



# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

*Pacific Women* funded 17 projects in 2017–2018 with a primary focus on women's economic empowerment. These projects accounted for approximately one quarter of program funding, with 10 focusing on the formal economy and seven on the informal economy. Women and girls have benefited from these projects in a number of ways: more than 3,000 women have accessed financial literacy training and financial services; market opportunities have been created for women to sell their products; and savings clubs have been established. *Pacific Women* supported 63 women to obtain formal qualifications, enabling them to access the formal labour market, increase their marketability and benefit from expanded employment opportunities.

Women in Pacific Island countries make significant contributions to their national economies. There is growing recognition by governments and the private sector that investing in women and girls has a powerful effect on productivity, efficiency and economic growth.<sup>3</sup> Women who have higher incomes and greater control over household income spend more on food and education. This results in improved outcomes for children's education and health and nutrition, leading to greater sustained poverty reduction.<sup>4</sup>

*Pacific Women* supports a range of projects to increase women's economic empowerment, including market development programs, business associations, savings clubs and mobile banking initiatives. These projects operate at multiple levels and include community empowerment and awareness raising for women and men.

By eliminating barriers to women's full participation in certain formal sector occupations, labour productivity could increase by as much as 25 per cent in some countries.<sup>5</sup> Consequently, 10 of the projects receiving *Pacific Women* funding in 2017–2018 were targeted at the formal sector. For example,

CARE International's Coffee Industry Support Project seeks to influence private sector coffee enterprises in Papua New Guinea to employ and support women in the industry.

Women's work in Pacific Island countries is often in informal and unregulated sectors, in which they have weak or no legal and social protection, poor access to financial services and limited transport and infrastructure. To address some of these issues, six of *Pacific Women's* projects focused on the informal sector in 2017–2018. For example, funding for UN Women's Markets for Change project supports market vendor associations in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and support for Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu helps women access fair trade opportunities. These projects address some of the barriers that prevent women from improving their economic status, including a lack of social and legal protections and an absence of voice in decision making.

*Pacific Women* also invested in the design of a program (Building prosperity for women producers, processors and women owned businesses through organic value chains) to support women in the North Pacific and Kiribati. The program will address barriers to women's economic engagement in agriculture and create targeted opportunities for women to participate in the high value-added niche of organics (refer to page 15 for further information).

The 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women in October 2017 set the scene for continued action on women's economic empowerment by Pacific decision makers and advocates (see the next page).

The case studies that follow showcase how *Pacific Women* is working with governments and development partners to enhance women's economic opportunities and control of economic decision making and resources.

3. UN News Centre (2010). Women's Empowerment Vital for Economic Development and Peace, Migiro says, 17 May (citing UN Deputy Secretary General Asha Rose Migiro). Retrieved: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34718#.WVmK4pLeHo>

4. World Bank (2011). World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development. Washington D.C., USA. Retrieved <https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2012/Resources/7778105-1299699968583/7786210-1315936222006/Complete-Report.pdf>.

5. D. Cubers and M. Teignier Baqué (2011). Gender Inequality and Economic Growth (background paper for the World Development Report 2012, as cited in the World Development Report 2012), p.47.



## CASE STUDIES

### A platform of action for women's economic empowerment

**Project name:** 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

**Project partner:** The Pacific Community

**Total funding:** \$200,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017

**The theme at the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women held in Suva in October 2017 was the importance of women's economic empowerment in achieving sustainable development of Pacific Island countries. This acknowledged that when more women participate in either formal or informal economies, their families, communities and countries become wealthier.**

Hosted by the Pacific Community every three years, the Triennial Conference is a forum for Pacific women to share experiences and identify measures for advancing gender equality and women's human rights. In 2017, conference participants explored the importance of women's economic empowerment in achieving sustainable development of Pacific Island countries.

The last two decades have seen progress in: women's financial inclusion and financial literacy; maternity leave in the public sector; women contributing to superannuation schemes for long-term financial security; increased training opportunities for women; and improved gender equality in primary, secondary and tertiary education. However, this progress has not translated into equal employment opportunities or control over productive or income-generating assets. Gender pay disparities have widened or remained the same. Legal, policy and social barriers continue to hinder women's access to finance and resources.

At the Triennial Conference, all Pacific Ministers for Women endorsed the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights 2018–2030. The new Pacific Platform for Action is designed to support the implementation of gender equality commitments made in all global, regional and national instruments, including the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration and the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. This Pacific Platform for Action also provides guidance for Pacific Island countries and territories, regional agencies and development partners in prioritising strategic approaches to achieve gender equality.

Conference Chair, the Honourable Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation in Fiji, explained how Pacific governments can use the Pacific Platform for Action: 'Apart from setting a roadmap on next steps, [the Pacific Platform for Action] also allows us as a government to measure what we have been doing so far, whether that is the direction that the region, as an entity, is taking, and what it is that we can do differently and do better,' she said.



*Participants at the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. Photo credit: The Pacific Community.*



## Do No Harm toolkit

**Project name:** Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women's Economic Empowerment and Violence against Women in Melanesia

**Project partner:** Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University; International Women's Development Agency

**Total funding:** \$532,800

**Funding timeframe:** 2014–2018

**International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) has produced a toolkit that enables organisations to apply learning from the Do No Harm research to their project design, implementation and monitoring. The toolkit contains resources to help women's economic empowerment projects integrate approaches to address violence against women into their activities.**

The Do No Harm research funded by *Pacific Women* in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands explored the relationship between women's economic empowerment and domestic violence. The study was conducted by researchers from the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University.

The research highlights critical components for integrating ending violence against women approaches into women's economic empowerment programming. Recommendations include ensuring that activities to improve economic empowerment do not lead to harm

to women in other aspects of their lives and the importance of working with men and boys in community-based gender projects.

IWDA has developed these research recommendations into practical tools to support organisations working at a community level on women's economic empowerment. The tools will help to integrate approaches to addressing violence into economic empowerment projects. This is an example of an initiative supported by *Pacific Women* contributing knowledge and resources to the wider development community.

'We know that through a lot of women's economic empowerment programs, the aim is to advance women's access to resources like income and other financial resources,' said Emily Ellis, Program Manager for IWDA in Papua New Guinea. 'But we found through the [Do No Harm] research that often it also comes alongside with [an] increased risk of violence for women and other consequences like a much heavier burden of work.'

Increasing women's economic outcomes does not necessarily lead to empowerment in other aspects of their lives; nor does it mean they have increased bargaining power within the household or agency over their own lives.

'We need to be doing work with communities – with men and women – to transform gender relations, to be working with men so that they understand and value the work of women,' said Ms Ellis. According to Ms Ellis, this work can result in more shared decision making between women and men.



Emily Ellis of IWDA at the Papua New Guinea Annual Learning Workshop during a session on using toolkits. Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.





PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*'Domestic violence is about violence; whether the violence is within the home or outside the home, any violence is wrong.'*

Yoslyn Sigrah, Women's Rights Advocate, Federated States of Micronesia - The Pacific Community's 70 Inspiring Pacific Women

---

*'After listening to what we were presenting, [men] went home and started to reshape their behaviour. They started to help their wives. They started to shoulder the loads they were carrying. Those were the signs that men will change. But it's a process.'*

Alphonse Pemuko, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation's Male Advocacy Program Coordinator

---







Women human rights defenders at the Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders Forum in Siwai in November 2017. Photo credit: Harjono Djoyobisono, International Women's Development Agency.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

During 2017–2018, *Pacific Women* funded 34 projects aimed at ending violence against women, accounting for 51 per cent of program funding. Sixteen of these projects focused on primary prevention, 10 on secondary prevention, six on tertiary prevention and two on raising awareness about ending violence against women. Through these initiatives, 7,940 women and girls have been supported to access crisis support services (includes counselling, health, and justice services) and 133,207 people have participated in community awareness, outreach, and advocacy sessions.

Due to the scale of the problem in the region, ending violence against women projects and associated activities represent about half of *Pacific Women's* program funding since 2012. This is in recognition that violence has a detrimental impact on other aspects of women's empowerment.

*Pacific Women* supports local, government, faith-based, regional and multilateral organisations to prevent violence and respond in a holistic and integrated way to the needs of survivors. Projects taking a human rights and gender transformative approach are supported.

National partners are often best placed to identify risk factors and social norms that perpetuate violence, as well as structures that influence attitudes and behaviours. In 2017, the Women and Children's Crisis Centre (WCCC) in Tonga completed its third male advocacy training of male leaders in the Tongan language. In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) established *Weto in Mour*, the country's first women's refuge.

Despite progressive legislation now in place in many Pacific Island countries, there are still significant gaps. Over the past year, *Pacific Women*, through the Regional Rights Resource Team, has provided assistance that led to the passing of the Cook Islands *Family Protection Act* in July 2017 and the Pohnpei State (Federated States of Micronesia) *Family Protection Act* in November 2017.

*Pacific Women* also supports advocacy campaigns, including activities that raise awareness during the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and 20 Days of Human Rights Activism. A range of *Pacific Women* partners in Papua New Guinea developed the *Yumi Sanap Strong* campaign and are sharing their stories to promote non-violent solutions to sorcery accusation-related violence. In addition, UN Women's youth engagement through *Sanap Wantaim* in Papua New Guinea has seen young men advocating for women's right to safe public spaces.

In a region where 95 per cent of people identify as Christian, *Pacific Women* supports a number of faith-based initiatives that are working towards reducing violence. World Vision's Channels of Hope project in Solomon Islands motivates and builds capacity for faith leaders and communities to engage with the issue of violence against women. UnitingWorld has designed a second phase of its multi-country program to introduce gender equality theology in Pacific church teachings.

Global evidence shows that working through multiple entry points to change social norms and challenge unequal gender power relations is effective in preventing violence against women. The case studies that follow highlight some of the different approaches used by *Pacific Women* partners to end violence against women.



## CASE STUDIES

### Pacific models of male advocacy working to end violence against women

**Project names:** Women's Crisis Centre's programs to Eliminate Violence against Women in Fiji and the Pacific; From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing in Bougainville

**Project partners:** Fiji Women's Crisis Centre; International Women's Development Agency with the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation

**Total funding:** \$6,300,000; \$6,605,100

**Funding timeframes:** 2014–2020; 2015–2022

**Pacific Women supports a range of activities that enable male advocates to be agents of change to end violence against women in communities across Pacific Island countries.**

The Male Advocacy Program, developed by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) over 15 years ago, has been identified as an example of good practice by the Australian Government. It includes four stages of training for male advocates, starting with sessions by women's rights activists and ending with sessions led by a masculinities expert.

Coordinator of the FWCC, Shamima Ali, described the male advocacy training as promoting introspection and thinking around women, equality and the human rights of women in every sphere of the man's life including the home, community, traditional setting and workplace.

'For us, it's about the male advocate,' Ms Ali said. 'He is someone who has been trained by Pacific women's groups [and works towards] influencing change in other people and other men.'

FWCC is partnering with the Vanuatu Women's Centre and Women and Children's Crisis Centre (WCCC) in Tonga to roll out this Pacific-led methodology. Three male advocacy trainers are now regularly training men in Pacific Island countries.

Ofa-ki-Levuka Guttenbeil Likiliki, Director of the WCCC, said it is important to harness the power of men in positions of authority to promote gender equality:



From left to right: Shamima Ali (FWCC), Marilyn Tahī (Vanuatu Women's Centre) and Ofa-ki-Levuka Guttenbeil Likiliki (WCCC).  
Photo Credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.



'In Tonga, men hold that kind of power within the community and a majority of leaders within the society are men,' she said. 'Using the traditional systems in Tonga, WCCC believes that they can train these leaders to be advocates on gender equality within the community.'

Merilyn Tahī, Coordinator of the Vanuatu Women's Centre, said a key factor to success is the ongoing support that the women's groups provide to the male advocates after they have completed their training:

'If they have any problems, they can talk to us. Because they will have problems,' she said. 'Suddenly, [they] are changing [their] behaviour, so [they may need] to process that by talking to us. It's something they feel comfortable with talking to us about.'

The Men's Hub, operated by the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation in Bougainville in

Papua New Guinea, is another model of male advocacy. With *Pacific Women* support, the Nazareth Centre worked with the International Women's Development Agency to develop a toolkit that equips male advocates and women's human rights defenders to facilitate learning initiatives based on gender equality and human rights at the community level.

At the Nazareth Centre's Male Advocates Forum in December 2017, 111 men shared stories of personal change as they learned about human rights, gender equality and gender-based violence.

'Male advocacy is important because we men are the main contributors to all these types of violence that occur within the community,' said male advocate Dominic Komaru. 'Before we saw these issues of violence as [just] a family matter. After the awareness we've been doing in the community, people understand.'



Geraldine from the United Church in Solomon Islands addressing the participants at the Women's Fellowship Annual Training workshop funded by Pacific Women. Photo credit: UnitingWorld.





## Using faith-based approaches to progress human rights and gender equality

**Project name:** Partnering Women for Change

**Project partner:** UnitingWorld

**Total funding:** \$370,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2015–2018

***Pacific Women is supporting UnitingWorld's Partnering Women for Change project that uses biblical interpretations to progress human rights and gender equality. The project supports churches to ensure that women, girls and people with disabilities have increased safety and wellbeing in their homes and communities.***

In Pacific Island countries, 95 per cent of people identify as Christian and the Church has a strong influence on people's behaviour. UnitingWorld is developing a network of Pacific Islander theologians to create training resources and advocate for gender equality. A key outcome of the project to date is that seven denominations in Papua New Guinea have officially adopted gender equality as their doctrinal position.

The project also supported churches to provide opportunities for women in leadership roles and decision making and worked with women to increase their confidence to take on these roles in their churches. UnitingWorld supported a young woman from Solomon Islands to attend the Christian educators' training. Subsequently, she completed her Bachelor of Divinity, qualified for

ordination as a Minister and has been appointed as the first woman lecturer at the United Church in Solomon Islands Theological School.

In April 2018, UnitingWorld hosted a forum at the Pacific Theological College in Fiji for civil society organisations, faith-based agencies and educators to explore how biblical themes of gender can promote equality for all. The two-day forum provided an opportunity for non faith-based organisations to better understand the arguments based on biblical texts that support gender equality.

'[The learning] will be very helpful in addressing bottlenecks within the church with regards to gender and human rights,' said Matelita Seva-Cadravula, Executive Director for the Reproductive Family Health Association of Fiji. 'We will certainly utilise the approach during our community outreach.'

The day after attending a Gender Through Theology workshop, a ni-Vanuatuan man woke up early and, for the first time ever, prepared breakfast for his wife and family. The man reported that through the workshop he had come to understand women and men were equal in the eyes of God but, up until then, his wife had not been treated as equal in their home. It was his turn to make breakfast.





PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY OUTCOME

# ENHANCING AGENCY

*'We as youth may not hold all the power or money in the world but we have something more valuable in my opinion and that is passion.'*

Brianna Fruean, climate change activist, Samoa – The Pacific Community's 70 Inspiring Pacific Women

---

*'To empower women we must first remove the barriers they face.'*

The Honourable Kourabi Nenem, Vice President of Kiribati – 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women

---





Pacific Girl was conceptualised through several phases of engagement, including a two-day priority setting meeting with adolescent girls. Photo credit: *Pacific Women Support Unit*.

## ENHANCING AGENCY

During 2017–2018, *Pacific Women* funded 17 projects to enhance women's agency, accounting for approximately 18 per cent of total program funding. Five of these projects aim to mainstream gender, four target organisational strengthening through gender advisers and technical support for women's organisations and six are research projects. In addition, *Pacific Women* supported the Fiji Women's Fund that aims to build stronger coalitions to promote gender equality. The program also supported the Government of Palau to implement its gender mainstreaming policy and strategy that targets legislative and policy reform. Enhancing Agency projects enabled 1,354 women to share ideas and learn from each other through participation in research, learning and networking activities and forums supported by *Pacific Women*.

Enhancing women's agency can be challenging in Pacific Island countries, where social norms based on complex gendered hierarchies influence formal structures such as policy and legislative frameworks which discriminate against women. Legal barriers in the majority of Pacific Island countries constrain women's ability to exercise their economic, social and political rights. These include gaps in legislation and references in legislation to discriminatory customary law. Women face both legal and social discrimination relating to land ownership, marital property and inheritance.

*Pacific Women* supports initiatives that create opportunities for women to have a stronger sense of their own agency and that develop

a supporting environment in the public and private spheres. For example, the Pacific Community's Progressing Gender Equality in Pacific Island Countries program is helping governments in 14 countries introduce gender mainstreaming into their work and to produce and use gender statistics. During 2017–2018, the Fiji Women's Fund's first funding round supported 14 grantees to expand and enhance their work on women's empowerment and gender equality.

*Pacific Women* also supports coalitions to create and promote local solutions to gender inequality. The We Rise Coalition has made progress on policy reform, human rights and women's leadership as well as contributing to a stronger regional women's movement. In Tonga, the Regional Rights Resource Team worked with the Tongan Women's Coalition to submit a bill on temporary special measures in parliament.

In 2017–2018, *Pacific Women* designed the Pacific Girl program to support adolescent girls. The process was informed by close involvement of adolescent girls from Fiji, Tonga, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (refer page 15 for further information).

Advocacy, collation and sharing of evidence, development of technical capacity and drafting of legislation can all generate demand for policies and laws to enhance the agency of women and girls in the Pacific region. Examples of the ways the program is working towards achieving this outcome are provided in the case studies that follow.





## CASE STUDIES

### Creating safe spaces for Pacific women at international events

**Project name:** Strengthening feminist coalitions and partnerships for gender equality (We Rise Coalition)

**Project partners:** Diverse Voices and Action for Equality; FemLINKPacific; Fiji Women's Rights Movement; and International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)

**Total funding:** \$4,800,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2015–2019

**Pacific Women supports the We Rise Coalition, a group of four feminist organisations working to develop inclusive governance, equality, diversity, justice and women's human rights. Members of the Coalition participated in the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62) in March 2018, including hosting a series of feminist knowledge and skill-sharing workshops and advocating for progressive language in negotiations.**

With this year's theme of 'Rural Women', Coalition representatives accompanied five rural Pacific Island women (including four young women) at the meeting, ensuring greater regional representation in the global women's rights movement. The Coalition worked to enable a safe environment for diverse feminists and women's human rights defenders, to support their wellbeing, advocacy and sharing of knowledge.

Lilly Be'Soer attended her third annual CSW event, but it was her first time with the Coalition. Ms Be'Soer spoke on two panels, discussing the concerns of rural women and promoting the rights of rural women for sustainable development. 'I could see how the women from all different walks of life [...] were all working together to bring the voices of the women from the voiceless, whatever their custom or their tradition, wherever they were,' she said.

In contrast, Lucille Chute from FemLINKPacific and Dawson Kai from Diverse Voices and Action for Equality were attending the CSW for the first time. 'As a young woman from a rural setting [...] being able to participate at the global level is an advantage for me because, apart from learning new things from people around the world, I got to see first-hand the difference in development,' said Ms Chute. 'This has boosted my confidence and I'm able to empower other young women in terms of policy advocacy.'

It was Ms Kai's first time travelling overseas:

'After seeing all these women, I see how strong [they are as activists],' she said. 'Listening to them and seeing them talk and share their issues has made me feel like I want to be like them. I haven't reached that stage yet but I know I will someday.'

Ms Kai spoke on a side event panel on rural, remote and indigenous feminists demanding ecological and climate justice. This was the first time a rural Pacific LBT (lesbian, bisexual, transgender) woman activist has spoken publicly at a CSW event.



*Sophie Kilipi and Lilly Be'soer, of Voice for Change from Papua New Guinea during CSW 62 in New York. Photo credit: IWDA.*



## Pacific girls shaping Pacific development

**Project name:** Pacific Girl: Supporting adolescents to reach their potential (design)

**Total funding:** \$161,500

**Funding timeframe:** 2018

**A new Pacific Women program focuses attention and resources on adolescents. Pacific Girl planning activities in 2017–2018 have ensured that girls and young women will shape the final program design.**

Girls and young women in Pacific Island countries share many of the challenges faced by adolescents in other parts of the world. In the Pacific region, however, these challenges are compounded by the effects of climate change and the realities of life in small island states.

In seeking to address the under-representation of adolescent girls in decisions that affect them, *Pacific Women* ensured the participation of girls and young women in the Pacific Girl program design. The Pacific Girl Regional Stakeholders' Dialogue, held in Suva in May 2018, brought together 20 adolescent girls from across the region to discuss barriers to leadership, sexual and reproductive health and rights and gendered social norms.

'Some of the challenges that the girls are facing in our countries are teenage pregnancy, access to education, safety, custom, culture, religion and also cyberbullying,' said Rachel Lume, 17, from Vanuatu. '[The] solution is education, starting at preschool, and parents' education.'

'A change I would like to see in Tonga is girls becoming leaders,' said Anamalia Falemaka, 15. 'Not only in schools but also in the communities and also in the country, like involving them in parliament and becoming town officers.'

Other girls from Pacific Island countries contributed their experiences and aspirations through the Pacific Girls SPEAK video project, organised by Plan International Australia, to inform the design of the Pacific Girl program.

'Pacific girls should be confident, flexible and strong,' said Roselyn Sidal, 17, at the Stakeholders' Dialogue. 'We should always make sure that girls are also included when it comes to decision making in a country, because it also does affect them. Girls are authentic and unique in the way they walk, talk, laugh and smile. A goal should be set from now on that no girl should be seen as a flower but as the next Wonder Woman!'



Adolescent girls who participated in the two-day Pacific Girl priority setting meeting and their guardians and facilitators in May 2018. Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.









# PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS BY LOCATION



# THE COOK ISLANDS

The Cook Islands Government's approach to gender equality is articulated in the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2020. It aims to: 'Accelerate gender equality, empower all women and girls, and advance the rights of youth, and the elderly and disabled' (Goal Nine). This is further expressed in the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Strategic Plan of Action 2011–2016.

*Pacific Women* has provided support under the Cook Islands Country Plan 2012–2015 to increase the capacity of the Gender and Development Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to implement the Plan of Action and work with non-government organisations (including Punanga Tauturu Inc) to support progress on gender equality. This work is informed by the strategies identified in the *Pacific Women*

Cook Islands Country Plan 2012–2015. Further funding has been provided in 2017–2018 to the Gender and Development Office and Punanga Tauturu Inc through a grant to support gender empowerment.

Progress made for women during this time includes the Cook Islands Government passing the *Family Protection and Support Act 2017* and the establishment by Punanga Tauturu Inc of a free legal aid and counselling service for survivors of domestic violence.

*Pacific Women* funding in the Cook Islands has also supported women's businesses in the formal and informal sectors, helped to increase women's access to financial services and other productive assets to develop enterprises and worked to support the integration of women and girls living with disabilities into socio-economic development.

---

## Voices from across the country shape a new gender equality policy

**Project name:** Increasing capacity to deliver on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment policy

**Project partner:** Social Policy and Services Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Total funding:** \$70,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

**The Cook Islands Government's commitment to gender equality is set out in its National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Strategic Plan of Action 2011–2016. In 2018 the Social Policy and Services Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs assessed progress towards the policy's outcomes, identified future priorities and recommended implementation approaches.**

'The policy reflects government and civil society's unwavering commitment to the principles of equality and equity, respect for human rights and the exercise of citizenship, in addition to its determination to actively participate in international, regional, national and island efforts to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination,' said Ruta Pokura, Senior Adviser Gender

Development in the Social Policy and Services Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

'The policy acknowledges and recognises the fact that some women and young women face additional disadvantages due to their physical and mental conditions, their location, their age, their limited assets and other factors contributing to their marginalisation and social exclusion. It aims to reduce gender inequality to benefit all women and men, of all diversities, living in the Cook Islands.'

*Pacific Women* funded a Cook Islands Gender Equality Specialist, Miimetua Nimerota, to work in the Ministry. 'My role was to conduct an assessment of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Strategic Plan of Action 2011–2016 [and to] conduct research and national stakeholder consultations to develop the National Policy on Gender Equality and Strategic Plan of Action 2019–2023,' said Ms Nimerota.

The process included a two-day national consultation in March 2018 with 45 participants.



Staff from government ministries joined women and men from civil society organisations to discuss topics including: gender responsive government programs; equitable participation of women and men in decision making and governance systems; an enabling environment for the full participation of women in economic development; improved capacity of women to contribute to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies; and improved

capacity of women to address health issues and violence against women.

'This was a rewarding experience that highlighted the achievements, challenges and constraints in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in the Cook Islands,' Ms Nimerota said. 'Through steady collaboration with sectors we were able to identify realistic goals and targets to accelerate progress in this area.'



Participants, facilitators and organisers of the two-day Gender Policy Workshop in the Cook Islands in 2018.  
Photo credit: Nukutau Pokura

## Free legal aid for survivors of domestic violence

**Project name:** Eliminating violence against women through training, advocacy and support services

**Project partner:** Punanga Tauturu Inc

**Total funding:** \$130,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

**Punanga Tauturu Inc, a women's counselling centre in the Cook Islands, supports women and men to keep their families and communities safe. With assistance from *Pacific Women*, the organisation now includes legal aid services for women survivors of domestic violence.**

'Without the opportunity for free legal services, women in the past have been held back and have been unable, or reluctant, to seek help to move them out of the situations they are in,' said Rebeka Buchanan, Centre Coordinator of Punanga Tauturu Inc.

The legal aid service was established in January 2018 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

Punanga Tauturu Inc. Three lawyers specialising in family law have been appointed to provide legal advice and representation.

The service provides legal advice and assistance on matters concerning women and children and domestic violence, including maintenance order applications, custody and protection issues.

'Domestic violence comes in many forms. It can be physical but also psychological and emotional. We look at the cycle of bad behaviour that moves through the generations. We can provide the help to try to break that cycle,' Ms Buchanan said.

About 10–15 women visit Punanga Tauturu Inc each week for counselling. In its first three months of operation, 10 women and 12 children went on to use the new legal aid service.

'Early intervention is important here,' said Ms Buchanan. 'A woman will learn what her rights are, receive counselling, learn how to keep themselves safe and what to do in violent situations. This really gives them some options.'





Ms Buchanan noted that the legal aid service is available for all women living in the Cook Islands who have been abused by their former or current partner or husband.

'[Legal aid] is a lifeline for a vulnerable woman to safely seek justice to address issues of domestic violence in a safe and supportive environment,' she said. 'It helps her to have a legal adviser

to address these issues without being further subjected to abuse and harassment when she is alone at home, in public or at work during this time. The focus then becomes the domestic violence issue, rather than her as a person. It is her right to address these issues and seek justice for herself and children when they become victims of domestic violence.'



*From left to right: Punanga Tauturu Inc Women's Counselling Centre: patron, Kairangi Samuela; board member, Ana Metuarau; manager, Rebeka Buchanan; and board members, Vaine Arioka and Helen Greig. Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.*



# THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) consists of four semi-autonomous states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. The President of FSM endorsed a national gender policy in February 2018.

Government action on ending gender-based violence includes the introduction of family protection legislation in two states, the Kosrae State *Family Protection Act* 2014 and the Pohnpei State *Domestic Violence Act* 2017.

More recently, Vice Speaker of the FSM Congress, Senator the Honourable Esmond Moses, presented a bill to support a temporary special measure and to provide reserved seats for one woman representative from each state to the FSM Congress. This bill responds to recommendations from the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration and is particularly noteworthy in FSM, given that none of the 14 seats in the National Congress have ever been filled by a woman.

Despite this progress, challenges remain and work is necessary to ensure women and girls are safe from violence and women are supported to participate in decision making roles and access economic opportunities.

The *Pacific Women FSM Country Plan* 2015–2019 outlines initiatives that focus on increasing women's business skills and providing referral pathways for survivors of violence. This includes funding a Family Protection Adviser in the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. *Pacific Women* and the Pacific Community also jointly fund a Gender Adviser in the North Pacific who supports the delivery of gender equality projects in the sub-region.

FSM signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011. With support from *Pacific Women* through the Regional Rights Resource Team in collaboration with local partners such as the FSM Disabled Persons Organisation and the Pohnpei Consumer Organisation, all four states have now ratified the Convention.

---

## The role of a Family Protection Adviser

**Project name:** Family Protection Adviser

**Project partner:** Federated States of Micronesia Department of Health and Social Affairs

**Total funding:** \$310,500

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2019

**A Family Protection Adviser is working with the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs to support implementation of the Pohnpei *Domestic Violence Act* 2017 and the Kosrae *Family Protection Act* 2014, with a focus on strengthening services and collaboration between service providers, advocacy and policy reform.**

The Family Protection Adviser funded by *Pacific Women*, Ruby Awa, has worked in Kosrae with the Regional Rights Resource Team to provide training to the police and civil society on their responsibilities under the *Family Protection Act*.



Ruby Awa, Family Protection Adviser.  
Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.

In Pohnpei, she has supported the government to implement the new *Domestic Violence Act* by helping to establish a statutory Domestic Violence Taskforce and providing technical support for its initial meetings.



'The Pohnpei Women's Interest Officer [Lululeen Santos] is coordinating implementation and strengthening of services for family protection as part of her role to support implementation of the Act,' Ms Awa said. 'There is a lot of cooperation by the courts, the Office of the Attorney General, the Health Department and the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.'

Ms Awa supported Ms Santos to facilitate discussions on establishing a referral network of service providers for survivors of violence and the development of a memorandum of understanding for the network.

Working with government colleagues and the Regional Rights Resource Team, Ms Awa has trained police on their roles and responsibilities under Pohnpei's *Domestic Violence Act*. She has worked with the Regional Rights Resource Team to deliver training to judicial officers and court staff, and has also trained health officials in the Behavioural Health Division on gender, human rights and the new Act. This resulted in the drafting of standard operating procedures for first responders to survivors of violence at Pohnpei Hospital.



Participants of the Pacific Women Growing Business workshop in May 2018. Photo credit: Australian Embassy, Pohnpei, FSM.

## Successful businesses, successful lives

**Project name:** Pacific Women Growing Business

**Project partner:** The Pacific Community

**Total funding:** \$154,800

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2019

**Pacific Women is supporting the Pacific Community implement the Pacific Women Growing Business project in FSM to scale up women's businesses by providing training and one-on-one support for women in small and emerging businesses in Pohnpei.**

Business counsellor, Herolyn Movick, supports the project's women participants. As a business woman, Mrs Movick knows what it takes to develop a successful business and is also aware of the additional barriers that Pohnpeian business women can face.

'If we can address the issue of cultural gender-based inequalities and biases, I think we will have addressed the issue of getting the same opportunities as the opposite gender,' Mrs Movick said. 'And I think we will address the issue of women lacking self-confidence [and] self-esteem and having access to capital, networks [and] resources as well.'

The project has partnered with the College of Micronesia to provide six workshops on different business topics in 2018. 'We will provide hands-on learning that meets the practical needs of women and their business partners in Pohnpei,' said Timothy Mamangon, Executive Director of the college's Center for Entrepreneurship.

An accounting training in March 2018 was delivered to 20 women. Most of the participants were business owners with loans through



the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) in Pohnpei State. 'The SBGFC clients are mainly women who already have loans to start or grow their businesses,' said Maire Dwyer, Gender Equality Adviser in the North Pacific. 'They are exactly the group we hope will benefit from this program.'

Mrs Movick connects the project's work on economic empowerment with other aspects of gender inequality. 'This program is not only about providing an opportunity for women entrepreneurs accessing finance to upscale their businesses, increasing economic opportunity or contributing to economic growth,' she said. 'This entire exercise is about empowering women, giving them independence, a voice in

which to have their own decisions and be able to contribute to the wellbeing of their families. When we have domestic violence, I think the issues are more challenging when women are not able to provide for themselves. And I think this is an opportunity to have them stand up and say, "I am able to provide for myself and my family";' she said.

This approach reflects a growing body of research, such as the Do No Harm study undertaken by the Australian National University and International Women's Development Agency, that recognises the connections between women's economic empowerment and violence against women.





## FIJI

Fiji has one of the more developed economies in the Pacific region but ranked poorly at 125 out of 144 countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Report. The Fijian Government has demonstrated a commitment to gender equality through policies including the 2014 National Gender Policy, National Women's Plan of Action 2010–2019 and Five-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan 2017.

The first *Pacific Women* Fiji Country Plan 2013–2016 supported these government policies. Ending violence against women was identified as a key priority of the Fijian Government in response to the country's high rates of gender-based violence.

*Pacific Women's* support to end violence against women is largely through the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, the country's leading human rights organisation for crisis counselling and legal, medical and other support services. *Pacific Women* also supports organisations such as the faith-based House of Sarah, which works on ending violence against women using a human rights-based approach to theology.

*Pacific Women* conducted a review of the Fiji Country Plan in 2017. In line with recommendations from the *Pacific Women* Three-Year Evaluation, the review team noted the need to expand *Pacific Women's* work in Fiji across all four of the program's outcomes to achieve meaningful change to gender equality in Fiji.

The second country plan includes support for diverse, locally-led responses to women's empowerment through the Fiji Women's Fund. The Fund, established in 2017, commits up to \$10.5 million during 2017–2022 to support women's groups, organisations and networks in Fiji to expand their work on women's empowerment and gender equality (see details below).

Support is continuing for UN Women's Markets for Change project that has seen an increase in women in Fiji joining vendor associations and is working to advance market reform. Women vendors are economically and socially empowered by improving infrastructure, systems, relations, safety and services in the markets. This project has mobilised community and private and public sector support for women's economic empowerment.

*Pacific Women* has supported the Fiji Women's Forum and Fiji Young Women's Forum National Conventions. Both provide safe environments for women, including young women, to practice leadership and build confidence to influence national policy. *Pacific Women* also supports coalitions for change, including the We Rise Coalition, which undertakes activities to promote gender justice, ecological sustainability, peace, freedom, equality and human rights.

---

### Flexible funding for women's organisations

**Project name:** Fiji Women's Fund

**Project partners:** Fijian women's groups, networks and organisations

**Total funding:** \$10,500,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2022

**There is growing evidence that supporting women's groups, networks, organisations and the women's movement is an effective way to bring about gender equality. *Pacific Women* has established the Fiji Women's Fund (the Fund) to provide \$10.5 million of flexible funding over five years to women's groups, networks and**

**women-focused civil society organisations, with a particular focus on reaching women in remote, rural areas and other marginalised women. The aim of the Fund, the first in the Pacific region, is to become an independently funded and managed women's fund by the end of 2022.**

The Fund uses two mechanisms to reach women. The first is through partnerships with organisations that work in rural and remote areas or support networks of otherwise hard to reach women. The second is direct financial and non-financial assistance to women's groups, organisations and networks in Fiji to expand and



enhance their work on women's empowerment and gender equality.

In its first year, the Fund advertised extensively to reach a broad range of women's groups across Fiji. Information sessions were held in nine locations to complement community radio announcements, newspaper articles and social media promotions. The campaign attracted 226 expressions of interest, some submitted in local languages. A grants committee assessed applications and successful applicants were requested to submit detailed proposals using simple application forms that enabled them to use their organisations' own planning and budgeting systems. Many women's groups worked collectively on their proposals, which encouraged knowledge and skills sharing.

'We place a lot of emphasis on learning and adapting,' said Michelle Reddy, the Fiji Women's Fund Manager. 'We design our fund application and reporting procedures to be accessible both linguistically and technically and ensure that we help emerging groups access our grants.'

The Fund's Steering Committee recognised the lack of expressions of interest from organisations working in disability inclusion. In response, the Fund reached out to two disabled persons' organisations, which both now receive funding.

'We intentionally make time to listen to rural, remote women's groups, networks and organisations and marginalised groups to get their perspectives on our grant process, strategies and other elements of the Fund,' said Ms Reddy. 'We have learned to adapt as we listen so that our processes and strategies are continuously and consistently tailored to respond to the changing local contexts and the needs of diverse women and communities.'

The Fund provided grants to 18 women's groups, networks and organisations in the first round of funding in areas of sexual and reproductive health services, ending violence against women and girls, improving women's economic opportunities and enhancing leadership of women in their communities. By June 2018, the Fund had distributed \$600,949 for grants and grantee activities. These activities reached 2,857 women and girls and 1,524 men and boys.

The Fund is forming strong partnerships with its grantees by supporting their activities and providing organisational strengthening assistance. One such grantee is the Naitasiri



*A member of the Women in Dairy group with the recently purchased milk can stands. Photo credit: Fiji Women's Fund.*

Women in Dairy Group which received \$9,600 for a one-year project to support its 33 members.

The group was created by women dairy owners and managers in the Naitasiri region to help women working on farms become fully-fledged dairy farmers. The women meet every Monday to work collectively on a different member's farm. They weed paddocks, plant grass for cows and undertake other farming work.

The Fund supported the group to purchase equipment, tools and protective clothing. Milk can stands have been constructed at each member's farm. Farmers place milk cans in these small structures for collection by Fiji Dairy Limited, which produces Rewa brand products for sale in Fiji.

'Before, we would put [milk cans] by the side of the road, where the quality of the milk is affected by the heat of the sun or it can be knocked over by animals or people and our effort is wasted and money is lost,' said group member Emali Radiniyacata.

While the Naitasiri Women in Dairy Group is primarily working under the Fund's focus area of women's economic empowerment, during project implementation women have also shown improvements in other outcome areas, including leadership and decision making.

'We feel more confident to lead other women and also speak out. We are doing work that men do, running dairy farms,' said Susan Pocock, the group's President. 'I think there is about two per cent of women who are in the dairy industry throughout Fiji and we are happy that the Fiji Women's Fund has come to help our group.'



Lessons learned from Fund projects are being shared and applied in the broader community. For example, the Fund hosted a panel session on transformative financing of women's human rights in the Pacific at the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting

of the Pacific Ministers for Women in October 2017. By engaging with the broader women's movement in Fiji, as well as global women's funds, the Fund has increasing local ownership and legitimacy.

---

## The impact of intergenerational dialogue on gender equality

**Project name:** Strengthening feminist coalitions and partnerships for gender equality (We Rise Coalition)

**Project partners:** Diverse Voices and Action for Equality; FemLINKPacific; Fiji Women's Rights Movement; and International Women's Development Agency

**Total funding:** \$4,800,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2015–2019

**Four feminist organisations formed the We Rise Coalition in 2015 with the aim of growing and upholding inclusive governance, equality, diversity, justice and women's human rights. The We Rise Coalition partners are Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, FemLINKPacific, Fiji Women's Rights Movement and International Women's Development Agency.**

In the past year the We Rise Coalition helped organise the Fiji Women's Forum and Fiji Young Women's Forum. The forums, both avenues for national engagement for all Fijian women, held a joint three-day cross-generational National Convention in August 2017.

Coalition partners co-convened the National Convention and hosted a targeted intergenerational dialogue on women's political participation. The dialogue engaged with 108 women aged between 18 and 75 years from Fiji's 14 provinces. Participants increased their understanding of Fiji's Constitution and developed strategies for increasing women's political participation.

'We, as the women's movement, have very limited spaces to convene in such numbers,' said Nalini Singh, Executive Director of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. 'This is a unique opportunity for all of us to get together and discuss common issues of interest, as well as to strategise the ways forward, given that this is the pre-national elections period.'

Participants at the convention developed a formal outcomes statement to be used for advocacy and to support the cohesion of the women's rights movement in Fiji. The statement calls for ongoing initiatives for citizens of Fiji to enhance their understanding of the Constitution and commits to: 'the highest ambition in Pacific Island positions on climate change and disaster risk reduction and response, to ensure the survival of Pacific people and the planet. Women-led civil society will continue to mobilise until the commitments for gender equality, peace and human security are met.'

Bringing women of all ages together ensured that discussions and outcome statements reflected a wide range of women's experiences. 'This is an opportunity to bring women's leadership together to progress feminist values and principles,' said Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Executive Producer-Director of FemLINKPacific. 'We must ensure that when we talk about women, we are talking from a human rights and peacebuilding approach that is inclusive of women of all diversities, including rural women, women with disability, LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender], young and older women.'



Participants at the three-day National Convention. Photo credit: FemLINKPacific.





# KIRIBATI

The 2017 Kiribati Gender Statistics Abstract shows that there are more girls enrolled in primary and secondary schools than boys, and 91 per cent of young women are literate. However, progress is less encouraging on other gender equality indicators. These include low rates of women involved in the formal economy, contraceptive use and women participating in decision making positions in both the public and private spheres.

Kiribati faces distinct economic, social and environmental issues, with climate change and associated rising sea levels, soil salination and drought an increasing key concern. Since the commencement of *Pacific Women*, there has been a change of government and policy direction. The government has demonstrated a commitment to social inclusion in Kiribati 20-Year Vision 2016-2036, the country's long-term development plan, which highlights the disadvantaged position of women in Kiribati and stresses the government's commitment to human rights and equal opportunity.

The *Pacific Women Kiribati Country Plan*, initially from 2013–2016, was revised to include projects until 2020. The June 2018 review of the Kiribati Country Plan is being used to plan *Pacific Women* activities in Kiribati for the next five years to continue and consolidate work from the first phase of the program.

The majority of funding under the original Country Plan supported implementation of the National Policy and Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2011–2021. This included support for the Kiribati Family Health Association to establish the Kiribati Women's and Children's Support Centre, and training and capacity development for over 200 outer island police officers, special constables and village wardens. Other activities under the Country Plan included a study to identify viable economic opportunities for rural and urban women, and an organisational review for the national women's umbrella organisation in Kiribati, Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati.

## Publishing gender statistics to promote equality

**Project name:** Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (Regional)

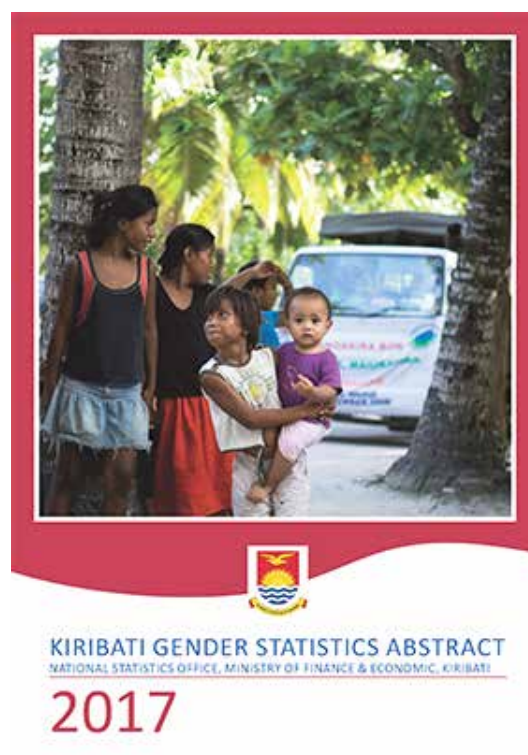
**Project partner:** The Pacific Community

**Total funding:** \$3,817,300

**Funding timeframe:** 2013–2018

**The Kiribati Gender Statistics Abstract 2017 is the first of its kind in Kiribati and provides key indicators and statistics related to education, health, human rights, public life, decision making, economic structures, participation in productive activities and access to resources.**

The Kiribati National Statistics Office collaborated with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs to produce the Abstract, with regional funding from *Pacific Women* through the Pacific Community's Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific program. It is a compendium of statistics containing age and sex-disaggregated indicators guided by the UN Minimum Framework of



Cover of the report.





Gender Statistics, the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, relevant indicators for the Pacific Community's programmes and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the foreword to the Abstract, the Honorable Dr Teuea Toatu, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, highlighted that using a gendered approach to statistics can benefit everyone:

'Gender statistics are fundamental to providing evidence of development aspirations for wealth and peace for equality among men and women,' Dr Toatu wrote. 'For example, the attendance statistics from the 2015 Census of Population and Housing show that boys are not attending primary or secondary school, are more likely than girls to die before they are 12 months old, that about half of all adult men smoke tobacco and the same proportion drink kava. These statistics highlight the need for initiatives by government, civil society and the private sector to address the gender needs of boys and men as well as women and girls.'<sup>6</sup>

Data shows that women make up 51 per cent of the population of Kiribati and have a life expectancy of nearly eight years longer than men. In secondary schools, 169 girls are enrolled for every 100 boys. However, only seven per cent of seats in parliament are held by women. Unemployment for young women stands at 73 per cent.

Statistics such as these form an evidence base for policy formulation. Representatives from the Kiribati National Statistics Office hope the Abstract will also inform quality assurance of administrative sources, and continuous data literacy and capacity building.

The Abstract aligns with international statistical standards, allowing data from Kiribati to be compared with that from other countries. Data was sourced from the Kiribati Census, administrative records, and the 2009 Demographic and Health Survey.

---

## A new service opens for survivors of violence

**Project name:** Support the implementation of the Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre's Strategic Plan

**Project partner:** Kiribati Family Health Association

**Total funding:** \$321,900

**Funding timeframe:** 2014–2018

**The Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre opened in Tarawa in January 2018. It is the first formal counselling and advocacy service for women in the country, filling a gap for families experiencing violence.**

Teretia Tokam, the Centre Coordinator, says Kiribati has one of the Pacific region's highest rates of domestic violence. The Kiribati Family Health and Support Survey from 2010 found that 68 per cent of ever-partnered women aged between 15 and 49 had been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime and that childhood sexual abuse stood at 19 per cent.



Left to right: Ramaua Tebau and Teretia Tokam of the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre. Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.

6. Kiribati Gender Statistics Abstract, page 5.



'The goal is to better support women and children who are affected by violence,' said Ms Tokam. 'We want to ensure the Centre provides quality services while ensuring women and children feel safe and confident to come to us and seek support.'

The Centre provides free, confidential counselling for women and children, access to legal information and case management. It also has a telephone help line and works to raise community awareness of domestic violence. *Pacific Women* is supporting the development of a three-year strategic plan, including an implementation plan and budget, to guide the Centre's activities.

As the only service provider of its kind in Kiribati, the Centre plays a vital role in supporting the government to implement the *Te Rau N Te Mwenga (Family Peace) Act 2014* that contains actions to prevent and respond to domestic violence, gives direction on how survivors can be supported and includes measures to hold offenders accountable. It also helps the government uphold its commitments under

the Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan 2011–2021 and international obligations such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The Centre is operated by the Kiribati Family Health Association, a local non-government organisation that aims to develop a network of support for women and children survivors of violence. *Pacific Women* partners UN Women and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre have also provided technical assistance and training to the Association.

At the opening of the Centre, Ms Tokam acknowledged the need for stakeholders to work together: 'Today's launch has only been made possible because of strong collaborations across many government, non-government, civil society, development and other partners, all committed to reducing gender-based violence and child abuse cases at the national, regional and global levels,' she said.



## NAURU

Nauru is a small island state in Micronesia with less than 12,000 citizens. Traditionally, Nauru is a matrilineal society where women have a strong voice at the family and community level, but patriarchal values are evident in policy and law.

Nauru's Constitution affords women formal equality before the law. The country acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2011 but has not yet ratified it. The National Women's Policy 2014 guides the government's work on gender equality.

The first *Pacific Women* Nauru Country Plan 2014–2016 included support for the Ministry of Home Affairs, United Nations Development Programme and UN Women to increase women's leadership and decision making in Nauru. This support provided women with opportunities to participate in mock parliaments, where

they were recognised by their communities as leaders. Activities also included civic education to challenge traditional notions related to women's leadership.

*Pacific Women* also focused on improving the health sector's response to domestic violence, and support for the Regional Rights Resource Team to deliver judiciary strengthening activities to complement family protection legislation. The team reported an increase in protection orders from January to June 2018.

A 2017 review of the Nauru Country Plan with UN Women led to the development of the second Country Plan that includes activities to 2022. The new Country Plan was launched in Nauru in September 2018 by Senator the Honourable Anne Ruston, Australia's Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

---

### Protecting girls and boys from violence in Nauru

**Project name:** Support to the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (Regional); UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program (Regional)

**Project partner:** Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT); UNICEF

**Total funding:** \$5,750,000; \$7,000,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2015–2020; 2014–2018

**There is ongoing commitment in Nauru to protect children from violence. The government has enacted the *Child Protection and Welfare Act 2016* and the *Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017*. Efforts are now focused on strengthening the capacity of frontline government personnel to implement the legislation.**

According to Government of Nauru statistics, 49.2 per cent of Nauruans are aged under 20. Baseline research from Pacific Island governments and UNICEF indicates that girls and boys in the Pacific region experience high levels of violence in homes and in schools. Issues of concern include neglect, abuse (physical,

psychological and sexual) and exploitation (including sexual).

Nauru is one of four Pacific Island countries (along with Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands) that has enacted national child protection laws in support of its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, with UNICEF support, three countries (Fiji, Samoa and Tuvalu) have developed child protection bills, soon to be submitted to the countries' Parliaments. Vanuatu is starting a similar process.

The introduction of targeted legislation is a first step towards protecting children. Effective measures are then required to implement the laws. The Government of Nauru established a Child Protection Services Division in 2015 and has sought UNICEF assistance to strengthen staff capacity. With *Pacific Women* regional program funding, UNICEF conducted a workshop in April 2017 on the respective roles of the relevant sectors under the *Child Protection and Welfare Act 2016* and on inter-agency coordination and referral pathways. Participants included all Child Protection Services Division



staff and personnel from other government ministries and agencies including Home Affairs, Health, Education and Police.

The Child Protection Inter-Agency Group was subsequently formed, chaired by the Director of the Child Protection Services Division. The group met three times in 2017 to discuss the referral system and specific cases and continues to work towards improving responses for children who have experienced violence. The Child Protection Services Division responded to 85 child protection cases in 2017.

## Support a woman leader, then support her again

**Project name:** Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships project (Regional)

**Project partner:** Australian International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

**Total funding:** \$2,850,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2013–2018

***Pacific Women* invests in women with leadership potential and, where possible, continues to support them as they develop in leadership roles.**

Before being elected as a Member of Parliament in Nauru, the Honourable Gabrissa Hartman was the Deputy Clerk of the Nauru Parliament. In this role, she was selected to participate in two Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships project activities to build her leadership skills.

Ms Hartman attended the 2015 Meeting for Pacific Clerks held in Wellington, New Zealand where she facilitated a session on committee training. She was also awarded a Pacific Women Parliamentary Partnerships Research Scholarship to spend one month in the Australian Parliamentary Library, mentored by senior Australian parliamentary researchers. She undertook a research project on the topic of under-representation of women in the Nauru Parliament.

Soon after returning to Nauru, Ms Hartman resigned from her job as Deputy Clerk so she could contest the next election. She was one of the candidates that *Pacific Women* funded to attend the Women's Practice Parliament conducted by UN Women before the 2016 election. Participants and members of the government role-played a debate of a mock bill and learned

Building on the UNICEF workshop, *Pacific Women* funded the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team in 2017 to provide training for Child Protection Officers from the Department of Home Affairs. The training helped participants understand their roles and procedures under the *Child Protection and Welfare Act 2016*. Post-training testing indicated that 80 per cent of the participants had achieved competency in their responsibilities and that case delegation had improved.

transformational leadership skills. Ms Hartman successfully contested the Ubenide by-election in January 2017, becoming the third woman ever elected to the Nauru Parliament.

*Pacific Women* has continued to support Ms Hartman as a Member of Parliament. She was one of five new Pacific women parliamentarians funded by *Pacific Women* to attend the second Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Australian Regional Conference in August 2017. The conference was hosted by the Victorian Parliament in Melbourne, Australia.

In her maiden speech to Parliament, Ms Hartman said: 'I come to the House still yearning and full of hope for our country. If we don't yearn and hope and aspire then there would be no need for continuous improvement. That is the essence of my yearnings and hope for our nation.'

Ms Hartman's story is one example of the way *Pacific Women* supports continuous improvement in women's leadership and decision making in the Pacific.



The Honourable Gabrissa Hartman.  
Photo credit: Government of Nauru.





# NIUE

Niue has one of the smallest populations in the world with approximately 1,600 people living on the island. A 2015 stocktake of the government's gender mainstreaming capacity found that while the government had a draft national policy on gender equality, a lack of awareness of gender equality was constraining implementation. In addition, there were limited resources and technical capacity to address gender challenges with less than one per cent of the national budget allocated to the Department of Women.

Niue receives support from *Pacific Women* through the regional program. This includes the Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships project; UNICEF's Pacific Child Protection Program; and the Regional Rights Resource Team and the Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific program of the Pacific Community.

A quarter of parliamentarians in Niue are women, the highest percentage of women in a national parliament among the 14 Pacific Island countries *Pacific Women* supports. During the first six years of *Pacific Women*, women parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Niue participated in leadership development events through the Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships project.

While the prevalence of domestic violence has not been surveyed, data from police and health services indicate that both physical and psychological abuse are present in Niue. *Pacific Women* supported the Regional Rights Resource Team's work with the Government of Niue to submit a second draft of the *Family Protection Bill* 2016 in December 2017.

---

## Big networks for women parliamentarians from small island states

**Project name:** Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships project (Regional)

**Project partner:** Australian International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives

**Total funding:** \$2,850,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2013–2018

**The Honourable Maureen Melekitama attended the second Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Australian Regional Conference hosted by the Victorian Parliament in Melbourne, Australia in August 2017. Ms Melekitama met with women parliamentarians from Australia and other Pacific Island countries and participated in professional development training for women parliamentarians.**

Just three months earlier, Ms Melekitama had won her seat in the Niue Parliament. Her name was drawn by lot following a tie in the votes between her and another candidate

in the village of Mutalau. Ms Melekitama's election increased the percentage of women in Niue's 20-seat Parliament to 25 per cent, the highest number ever in the country and among the 14 Pacific Island countries *Pacific Women* supports.

The conference program included sessions on: empowering women in leadership and political participation; violence against women parliamentarians; family friendly practices in parliaments; work/life balance; and life after politics. The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University facilitated two practical training workshops on public speech writing, media performance and using social media effectively.

The conference provided an opportunity for Ms Melekitama to build relationships with other women parliamentarians outside Niue. With Niue's small population, these broader networks are significant for Pacific women



parliamentarians who are often isolated as the minority in their parliaments.

'Many of the challenges we face are common ones, including how to balance work and family commitments and how to be a strong representative voice for women in our community,' Ms Melekitama said. 'I appreciated the practical advice on how to write and deliver an effective public speech including holding your audience's attention. I returned from the conference not only with new connections, but also an appreciation of the opportunities I already enjoy as a Niuean woman and Parliamentary representative.'

The Honourable Sonya Kilkenny, a Member of Parliament in the Victorian State Parliament, said there were many benefits to bringing women from Australia and Pacific Island countries together for the conference.

'One of the key messages is that we are not alone,' she said. 'We have a lot of women in a lot of jurisdictions now who are very focused, who are very committed to achieving that goal - that goal being increasing representation of women in parliaments to properly represent our constituents.'



*The Honourable Maureen Melekitama. Photo credit: Australian High Commission, Wellington.*



## PALAU

Palau is a matrilineal society and women have traditionally held positions of power and respect equally with men. In contemporary society, Palauan women enjoy higher levels of education and better health than men. In public service, women dominate the judiciary and are well represented on public sector boards and commissions.

However, women remain under-represented in key decision making bodies such as the national congress, the cabinet and at the top levels of the civil service. Palau has not yet ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The first Palau Country Plan outlines projects that *Pacific Women* will fund for the period 2015–2020. Palau was an early enactor of dedicated family protection legislation, passing the *Family Protection Act* in 2012. In 2017, *Pacific Women* supported a review of implementation under the Act. The review recommended ways to improve coordination between agencies, enforcement of the law against offenders of domestic violence and the provision of services to victims of domestic violence. The review team developed a draft implementation plan for the government to use to increase the effectiveness of the law.

A national Gender Analyst, supported by *Pacific Women*, is based in the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs and has helped improve gender statistics, policy and planning. Funding to the Pacific Community's Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific project has also strengthened capacity in Palau to produce and use gender statistics. These activities are helping to create an environment in which both public and private institutions are implementing policies, practices and programs that support gender equality.

Women's economic empowerment in Palau has also been supported by the Pacific Community's North Pacific Gender Equality Adviser, a position co-funded by *Pacific Women*. The adviser is working with the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs to examine the private sector policy and regulatory environment, including workplace policies, to identify gaps and recommend remedial actions. Palau will be one of the countries participating in the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community's project in 2018 that aims to build prosperity for women producers, processors and women-owned businesses through organic value chains.

---

### Analysing data through a gender perspective

**Project name:** Support for implementation of the Government of Palau's gender mainstreaming policy and strategy

**Project partner:** Gender Division, Ministry of Culture and Community Affairs, Government of Palau

**Total funding:** \$92,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2019

**Gender statistics help governments implement gender mainstreaming policies and support the promotion of gender inclusion in government activities. *Pacific Women* has invested in training**

**for gender analysts to improve the collection and analysis of gender-sensitive statistics.**

Bunker Ruloked, the Gender Analyst for the Division of Gender, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs in Palau, supports the implementation of Palau's Gender Mainstreaming Policy including the production of sex-disaggregated data to identify gender gaps to inform policy making.

'Statistics are essential for effective policy making, providing unbiased evidence and



accurately measuring the issue and its progression or regression over time,' he said.

Mr Ruloked participated in a gender statistics workshop in Pohnpei in March 2018, organised by the Pacific Community's Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific program. The workshop helped support gender analysts from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in drafting country statistical summaries and sex-disaggregated analyses. During the workshop, Mr Ruloked produced an analysis of the social security data on formal sector employment and gross earnings in Palau.

In her opening address at the workshop, Lara Studzinski, the Director of the Pacific Community's Micronesia Regional Office, acknowledged the importance of this exercise. 'This workshop sets a precedent for gender statistics on the work of women and men in the Pacific region, using administrative data from social security systems,' she said. 'This annual data tells us about the work that men and women do and their average gross earnings.'

Mr Ruloked said the workshop improved his technical skills. '*Pacific Women* has provided necessary technical and financial support to enable me to fulfil my role with the Office of Gender,' he said.

Mr Ruloked is working with the Gender Equality Adviser for the North Pacific, co-funded by *Pacific Women* and the Pacific Community, on a report on the Sustainable Development Goals and gender. The report uses statistics and indicators from Palau's Census of Population and Housing 2015.

'One of the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 5 is the amount of time spent on unpaid household duties,' he said. 'In Palau, this is a significant statistic because of the much higher proportion of adult women (75 per cent aged over 18) engaged in unpaid household activities, compared to men. This is an example of a gender issue reflecting several different influences including historical context and traditions and so forth, making it complex and sensitive.'



Participants of the gender statistics workshop. Mr Ruloked is on the far right. Photo credit: The Pacific Community.

---

## Palau's Family Protection Act, five years on

**Project name:** Review of the Implementation of the Palau *Family Protection Act* 2012

**Project partner:** Government of Palau

**Total funding:** \$21,700

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

**Five years after Palau passed the *Family Protection Act* 2012, *Pacific Women* supported the Ministry for Community and Cultural Affairs to conduct a review of progress towards implementing the law. The review examined**

**the coordination and availability of services for survivors of domestic violence and made recommendations to strengthen implementation into the future.**

In 2014, Senior Judge Honora Rudimch and Palau Government Minister Baklai Temengil-Chilton initiated a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to clarify the roles and responsibilities of key responding agencies involved in the implementation of the *Family Protection Act* 2012. The MoU sought to strengthen coordination





between direct service providers. It was signed by the Office of the Attorney General, the Bureau of Public Safety, the Palau Judiciary, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs. The 2017 review examined the improvements in coordination between services since the MoU came into effect. It also presented findings on progress made towards improving access to justice, health and social services.

Maire Dwyer, the Gender Equality Adviser for the North Pacific, said such reviews were critical to support informed decisions about priority areas for investments. She noted that discussing findings of reviews with stakeholders 'supports project ownership and can galvanise other investments as well as improved performance'.

The review highlighted significant achievements in implementing the *Family Protection Act 2012*. Overall, the MoU had improved coordination between agencies, enforcement of the law against offenders of domestic violence and the provision of services to victims of domestic violence. The review also showed that the Act is implemented more effectively when the key agency takes ownership of the Act and develops protocols to guide staff and set expectations for implementing the law.

The review included practical recommendations for each of the responsible agencies along with an implementation plan. Stakeholders will use this information and technical advice to take next steps in their implementation of the Act.



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Statistics tell the story of the challenges faced by women in Papua New Guinea. There were no women elected in the 2017 national elections. Men are almost twice as likely as women to hold a wage job in the formal sector. Studies suggest that at least two-thirds of Papua New Guinean women experience physical and/or sexual violence. While these statistics indicate there is still a long way to go to achieve women's equality, there have been shifts in laws, policies and practices, improved use of evidence and research and stronger coordination since *Pacific Women* commenced providing dedicated support six years ago.

The Government of Papua New Guinea promotes gender equality through its Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy, National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence and National Policy for Women and Gender Equality. Recent legislative responses include the passing of regulations in 2017 to support implementation of the *Family Protection Act 2013* and the *Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015* to promote child welfare. The Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusation-Related Violence National Action Plan was passed in 2015 and the National Policy on Child Protection was finalised in early 2017. *Pacific Women* partners have contributed to strengthening the legal framework and are working to improve implementation of these laws and policies as the necessary conditions for equal opportunity and protection for women, men, girls and boys.

Government, civil society, private sector and donors agree there is more coordination of gender equality activities in Papua New Guinea since *Pacific Women* began in 2012. One example is the improvement in referral pathways for survivors of violence, with government and civil society service providers working more closely together. There has been greater action in the private sector with the introduction of workplace policies and practices to recruit, retain and promote women as employees, suppliers and customers.

The second Papua New Guinea Country Plan outlines *Pacific Women's* approach in Papua New Guinea from 2014 to 2019 and aims to build on program progress and achievements. This is *Pacific Women's* largest country program with project partners working across multiple and inter-related outcomes.

The country plan mid-term review found that working across outcomes was creating strong incentives for implementing partners to share expertise. There is also evidence that *Pacific Women* partners in Papua New Guinea are designing activities that recognise the interconnectedness of three of the pillars contained in the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration which underpins *Pacific Women*: women's leadership and decision making, women's economic empowerment and reducing violence against women.

An example of a project focusing on more than one outcome is Bougainville Women's Federation project that promotes young women's leadership. Project activities include engagement with male family members to reduce violence as well as building financial management and business skills. Another example is CARE International's approach of building stronger family-based businesses while also promoting women's leadership of cooperatives.

Since 2012, the level of knowledge about gender equality in Papua New Guinea has also increased as a result of *Pacific Women's* research and learning activities. Seven targeted research projects have provided increased understanding that can influence responses on topics including sorcery accusation-related violence, gender allocation of agricultural labour, menstruation practices and the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women. Research is also being shared in new ways. The *Pacific Women* Annual Learning Workshops and regular Lunch and Learn sessions have provided stakeholders with



the opportunity to learn from each other and to share resources. *Pacific Women's* efforts to work across sectors and organisations have resulted in the development of an informal coalition of organisations and individuals who share information and work together to improve gender equality outcomes.

Patterns of change are occurring across the country, including in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville where there is evidence of partners acting together and contributing to improvements to services. Projects funded by

*Pacific Women* in Bougainville are promoting women's leadership through skills building and providing opportunities for women to act as community leaders. *Pacific Women* partners joined others in successfully advocating for the Autonomous Bougainville Government's introduction in 2017 of community governments with a woman and man representative for each ward. At least 69 women involved in *Pacific Women* projects and a number of men trained as male advocates for gender equality successfully contested community government elections in 2017.

---

## Making informed decisions as a voter

**Project name:** Voter Education Project in Bougainville

**Project partner:** Bougainville Women's Federation in partnership with International Women's Development Agency

**Total funding:** \$451,100

**Funding timeframe:** May 2016–December 2017

**Women's leadership and decision making was promoted through the 20-month Voter Education Project in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Voters were provided with information and skills to use during the 2017 Papua New Guinea National and Community Government elections and for future elections.**

Implemented by the Bougainville Women's Federation in partnership with International Women's Development Agency and working with the Office of Bougainville Electoral Commission, the project focused on disenfranchised groups who had limited education opportunities due to the Bougainville conflict between 1988–1998. While working with both women and men, particular attention was given to women. It linked with other Bougainville Women's Federation projects, including young women's leadership initiatives and referendum awareness raising efforts.

Women took on project leadership roles, comprising over half of the 43 community trainers. They provided education about voting, elections and making informed voter decisions to 43,844 people in over 740 communities.

'Unfortunately, my office is only new, I have low capacity [staff] and no funds for field operations such as [voter] awareness,' said one electoral official. 'So, when you see organisations like the Bougainville Women's Federation come along, we are happy to partner with them.' This positive relationship laid the foundation for the project's success.

Strategies to distil complex processes into accessible information included using local languages, existing materials and good governance DVDs, and holding practice elections. A young person with a low level of literacy from Bana District said: 'Now I am relieved of the fear of voting after attending the awareness. I am confident that knowing my rights I am now able to identify a good leader to vote for.'

A further outcome of the project was an increased profile for the Bougainville Women's Federation. The project enabled the Federation to educate communities about the role it plays



within community and government, particularly its work with both women and men to achieve equitable outcomes for women and girls.

Involvement with the project led to Bougainville Women's Federation staff and eight community trainers being selected to observe the 2017

National and Community Government election processes. Reports from election observers showed that women were well represented at the ballot boxes. Women testified to casting their votes confidently based on their own decisions, rather than as a result of influence from male family members.



*Bougainville Women's Federation Voter Education Project community trainer for a community in Atolls.  
Photo Credit: Bougainville Women's Federation*

## Value for money support for women in the coffee industry

**Project name:** Coffee Industry Support Project

**Project partner:** CARE International in Papua New Guinea

**Total funding:** \$4,507,100

**Funding timeframe:** July 2013–June 2019

**Coffee is a major source of farming income in Papua New Guinea. CARE's Coffee Industry Support Project is improving outcomes for women in the industry. Farmers' income has increased as a result of their products qualifying for specialty markets.**

The project works with private sector exporters and cooperatives to improve services provided to coffee farmers so that they are inclusive of women and address social constraints to coffee production. The project has increased women's access to extension services and supports families to work together with improved business and financial management skills. Private sector extension officers and model farmers have incorporated a gender empowerment and equity focus in their work with farming families. The project aims to ensure that both women and men benefit from coffee production activities.





'Before the training I used to hide money from my husband and never told him about how much I made from selling food at the market,' said a woman farmer. 'After the training, he tells me how much money he made from selling coffee and I do the same with garden food. Together we decide on how much should be spent on what.'

A mid-term review of the Coffee Industry Support Project was conducted in September 2017 using a value for money framework. It assessed the project's economy, efficiency, effectiveness and ethics. The review audited the project's systems and documents, conducted interviews and applied evaluative processes combining discussions, storytelling and mind mapping to collect qualitative information from 122 stakeholders.

The project was found to be effective, having significantly increased women farmers' access to training through targeted approaches. By working with partners, the amount of training to farming communities increased

by nearly 13 times compared to CARE providing the training alone. Stakeholders reported an added advantage in their business negotiations with international coffee buyers, due to ethical practices such as engaging with vulnerable and marginalised women in poorly serviced communities.

Industry partners such as coffee exporters also experienced positive change through an increased focus on women's empowerment and improvements in the quality of coffee produced and better yields through enhanced extension support. Farmers from three networks reported new opportunities to sell to the higher paying specialty market.

One private sector partner said CARE adds value to their work. 'We do coffee agronomy and market access and CARE does these [social] programs. In our collaboration, we got together and shaped existing programs into training modules that we can roll out now every time we are in the field. So, talk about bang for our buck!'



*The Coffee Industry Support Project aims to ensure that both women and men benefit from coffee production activities. Photo credit: Tom Greenwood, CARE.*



## Supporting government to end sorcery accusation-related violence

**Project name:** Responding to Gender Based and Sorcery Related Violence in the Highlands

**Project partner:** Oxfam International Papua New Guinea

**Total funding:** \$3,294,500

**Funding timeframe:** May 2014–June 2019

**Project name:** Developing Communication Strategies for Social Change against Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence

**Project partner:** Queensland University of Technology in partnership with the Centre for Social and Creative Media at the University of Goroka

**Total funding:** \$727,200

**Funding timeframe:** August 2016–June 2019

**Project name:** Improving the Impact of State and Non-State Interventions in Overcoming Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence in Papua New Guinea

**Project partner:** Australian National University, School of Regulation and Global Governance

**Total funding:** \$1,059,200

**Funding timeframe:** September 2016–June 2020

**The Government of Papua New Guinea has adopted a holistic multiple partner approach to ending violence that occurs in response to sorcery accusations through the 2015 Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusation Related Violence National Action Plan (National Action Plan).**

The four core areas identified in the National Action Plan and supported by development partners are services (counselling, health sector and child protection), prevention through advocacy and communications, legal protection and prosecution and research.

Local non-government organisations are responding to gender-based and sorcery accusation-related violence in the Highlands

where government services are limited. These include Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association, Kup Women for Peace, Highlands Women Human Rights Defenders Movement and Family For Change (in collaboration with Oxfam). They have established crisis support services and trialled relocation as a viable pathway out of violence. These activities are accompanied by community awareness, outreach and advocacy, including the *Inap Nau!* Campaign that encourages young people to become advocates for change and promote peaceful conflict resolution within the household and their communities.

Queensland University of Technology and the Centre for Social and Creative Media at the University of Goroka are researching and developing communication strategies to effect social change. The project uses photography, digital storytelling and film through partnerships with community-based organisations and human rights defenders to explore the causes, impacts and solutions around sorcery accusation-related violence. The project team has completed digital storytelling workshops in four provinces and helped communities produce over 40 digital stories about sorcery accusation-related violence. These creative research outputs demonstrate how sorcery accusations in Papua New Guinea need to be understood within local contexts and histories and how solutions to addressing violence can be developed from within these contexts. Partners are using the materials to strengthen representation of the issues in the media and to facilitate community discussions as part of *Yumi Sanap Strong*, a national initiative to change attitudes towards sorcery accusation-related violence.

A research partnership between the Divine Word University, the National Research Institute in Papua New Guinea and the Australian National University examines existing actions to address sorcery accusation-related violence and how responses can be improved. The researchers are identifying characteristics of victims and perpetrators and the factors that encourage or deter sorcery accusations and associated violence. Preliminary findings indicate that the most common immediate trigger for sorcery



accusations is sickness or unexpected death that can lead to violence against the individuals suspected of practicing sorcery.

Analysis suggests there is relative impunity for those who engage in this violence and a high degree of community complicity, with people unwilling or afraid to help victims in many cases. The study also indicates that violence can be averted with the joint intervention of local leaders such as human rights defenders, church leaders or police. The research team is working with the Department of Justice and Attorney General to develop and deliver training programs for police on sorcery accusation-related violence, and with the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission on its work with the churches.

The National Secretariat of the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC)

investigates the problems associated with family and sexual violence and develops responses to address them. The Department of Justice and Attorney General leads on the National Action Plan. Assisted by coordinated support from both *Pacific Women* and the Australian-funded Justice Services and Stability for Development Program, the FSVAC and Department co-chair meetings of the National Action Plan Core Committee. The committee has developed a brochure and poster on sorcery accusation-related violence that explain the laws and provide information on support services.

*Pacific Women* has strengthened these initiatives by supporting implementation of government policy and bringing partners together.



Mary Kini speaking at the Yumi Sanap Strong Exhibition. Photo credit: Jake Malpass.

## Using family-based models to enhance women's agency

**Project name:** Mamayo

**Project partner:** CARE International in Papua New Guinea

**Total funding:** \$4,120,000

**Funding timeframe:** April 2018–June 2022

**Project name:** Kisim Femili Plenin Strongim Komuniti

**Project partner:** FHI 360

**Total funding:** \$753,500

**Funding timeframe:** April 2018–March 2021





**A number of projects funded by *Pacific Women* are using innovative, family-based approaches to help communities and families make decisions about issues such as family size, financial planning and sexual, reproductive and maternal health. These projects are strengthening the enabling environment for change at individual, family and community levels to support women's agency.**

In rural Papua New Guinea, one in 25 women dies of pregnancy-related causes and 52 babies in every 1,000 die before their first birthday. Nearly 50 per cent of women give birth outside a health centre. Cultural norms generally restrict women's autonomy and lead to delays in, or sometimes prevent, women seeking health care.

CARE implemented the Highlands Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Project with remote communities between 2015–2017. The project found that health outcomes could be improved with better community understanding of sexual, reproductive and maternal health issues and availability and use of quality health services. The project developed a series of participatory, human rights-based workshops that helped communities challenge negative gender norms and behaviours related to poor health and take ownership of their own health care.

Over half of the stories shared by project participants indicated that families were discussing family planning and sharing household workloads more equitably after the workshops. A quarter of participants indicated that instances of forced sex were declining.

'This is very significant to me,' said a woman, 50, from Yamaya. 'The respect I am experiencing in the bedroom. My husband's respect for me when I refuse sex.'

Lessons from that project are informing CARE's new project, Mamayo, which applies lessons learned and focuses on improving family decision making about sexual and maternal health and

improving women's economic empowerment. The project uses tested family business management tools to improve gender relations, especially in decision making and distribution of workloads within the family. These are accompanied by proven community leadership methodologies that have reduced the social and cultural barriers to women's access to health services.

FHI 360 is also trialling community interventions using interpersonal communication to strengthen family planning in its Kisim Femili Plenin Strongim Komuniti project. It leverages existing community knowledge and project infrastructure of FHI 360's Komuniti Lukautim Ol Meri project that has operated since 2015.

Community mobilisers educate the community, family and individuals in family planning services and use of modern contraceptives in a culturally-acceptable manner. The project focuses on adolescent girls, unmarried women and newly-married couples. It uses behaviour change communication strategies to inform project activities including advocacy, interpersonal communication, community mobilisation, mass communications and the strategic use of data.



*Highlands Sexual Reproductive Maternal Health/Mamayo.  
Photo Credit: Patrick McCloskey, CARE.*





## REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a matrilineal society where the primary rights to land parcels are held collectively by members of the *bwij*, the mother's clan, who have permanent authority on the land. However, men are usually delegated the authority to exercise and control these rights.

In 2016, Dr Hilda Heine became President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the first woman leader of any Pacific Island country. However, the participation of women in national decision making remains limited and women are under-represented in the legislative and executive branches of government.

Projects funded by *Pacific Women* in RMI were outlined in the first RMI Country Plan 2014–2016. Following a February 2018 review, the Country

Plan has been updated to outline *Pacific Women's* investment in the next phase of the program.

Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) is the key women's non-government organisation in RMI with strong community outreach through chapters on all the atolls and outer islands. *Pacific Women* has provided capacity building for WUTMI in key areas such as financial management and community development. It has also provided funding for opening the country's first support centre for survivors of violence, *Weto in Mour* (meaning 'a place for life'), in 2016.

Seeking to support women's voice in decision making processes, *Pacific Women* funded women, government and civil society leaders from the sub-region to attend the Micronesian Women's Conference in RMI in 2017.

---

### Navigating change for women in Micronesia

**Project name:** Support to the Micronesian Women's Conference, August 2017

**Total funding:** \$40,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017

**The inaugural Micronesian Women's Conference was held in August 2017 in RMI with the theme 'Navigating Change'. Participants identified opportunities and challenges in progressing gender equality and the empowerment of women in Micronesia in the areas of economic empowerment, eliminating violence, health, climate change and leadership.**

Initiated by Her Excellency Dr Hilda Heine, President of RMI, the conference was organised by the RMI Government in partnership with local non-government organisation WUTMI, with funding from *Pacific Women* and other development partners.

In her opening speech, Dr Heine addressed women leaders and representatives from RMI, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and Guam. 'Navigating change is about steering our canoe, our *walap* and our *vakas*, towards gender equality across all sectors,' Dr Heine said. 'It calls for political will and commitment at the highest level.'

'Our theme calls for enhanced coordination and collaboration at national and regional levels and across all sectors,' she said. 'It requires the creation of innovative partnerships for sustainable development that respond to the needs at the country level while leveraging regional support. It is about strengthening the voice of civil society in the women's movement and engaging the private sector and the business community to enhance outcomes for women and girls. And finally, it requires strengthened partnerships between men



and women at all levels as navigating change begins with ourselves and with our families and communities.'

In Marshallese custom, the expression *jined kiped* refers to the mother being the rudder of a family. The conference's agreed Jined Kiped Declaration includes recommendations for accelerating progress towards gender equality, with an emphasis on climate change and women and girls with disabilities. 'The conference

declarations provide a roadmap for Micronesian governments to progress gender equality and empower women,' said Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Director of the Pacific Community's Social Development Program.

Conference delegates committed to use the recommendations in the Declaration to advocate for change in their home countries, encouraged by Dr Heine's words: 'There has been a lot of talk, but now is the time for substantive action.'



Participants of the Micronesian Women's Conference in August 2017. Photo credit: RMI Government.

---

## Locally driven change from Marshallese women

**Project name:** *Iden Mwekun* Program

**Project partner:** Women United Together Marshall Islands

**Total funding:** \$515,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2015–2018

***Pacific Women* partners with WUTMI to support and strengthen Marshallese women and families. WUTMI is an established women's non-government organisation that works across domestic violence, legislative change, women's economic empowerment and women's leadership.**

The 2018 review of the RMI Country Plan found that the program's support to WUTMI had helped to fill a gap in services to women and girls in RMI. This included support to establish *Weto in Mour*

(meaning 'a place for life') in 2016, the county's first centre to support women and children survivors of violence. *Weto in Mour* provides psychosocial support for survivors of violence and works to improve referral systems between service providers.

Throughout 2017, 31 women used *Weto in Mour's* services. While this number is not high given the incidence of domestic violence in the country, the 2014 RMI Family Health and Safety Survey found that more than 90 per cent of women affected by violence do not report their experiences to anyone. It is envisaged that the centre will see more women accessing its services.

As well as supporting women in the capital Majuro, WUTMI staff delivered 22 community



education workshops for 550 people in the atolls of Arno, Ebeye and Jaluit. They also facilitated a session on the impact of violence against women for 15 community judges. WUTMI hosted two events during the 16 Days of Activism in 2017, including an opening ceremony on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls and a candlelit vigil on International Women Human Rights Defenders Day.

*Pacific Women* has also invested in organisational strengthening for WUTMI. This included assisting WUTMI staff to review and

assess their strategic plan in September 2017 and financial training for the Finance Officer and the *Weto in Mour* Coordinator. This training helped the staff to draft WUTMI's finance manual now endorsed by WUTMI's Executive Committee.

RMI's Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs, the Honourable Amenta Matthew, said WUTMI is making a large contribution to the development of information on the prevalence of domestic violence, creating community awareness about domestic violence and providing support to women affected by violence.



*Kathryn Relang, former Executive Director of WUTMI, in front of a 'gender equality timeline' mapped out participants of the country reflection workshop in RMI. Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.*



## SAMOA

While there is evidence of changing gender norms in Samoa, traditional culture still plays a central role in the Samoan way of life, with men regarded as the head of the household. However, women are slowly gaining access to formal leadership opportunities. In 2013, Samoa was the first Pacific Island country to introduce reserved seats for women in parliament. At the 2016 elections, four women candidates were elected, with a fifth seat activated under the 10 per cent quota provisions. There are now five women in the 50-member parliament.

In line with the first Samoa Country Plan 2015–2020, *Pacific Women's* projects in Samoa have been predominantly delivered through the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. Activities have focused on increasing institutional and technical capacity in gender analysis in Samoa and implementing the gender components of the governments' Community Development Sector Implementation Framework.

There is evidence that women are experiencing greater equality in some aspects of public life, including participation in formal employment. The government, in collaboration with communities, the private sector and development partners, is supporting programs to expand livelihood options and other income generating opportunities for women. It has also provided entrepreneurial and business management training and small grants to women in poor households to encourage their children to remain in school.

The provision of the majority of *Pacific Women* funding directly through government processes reflected broader agreements between the Samoan and Australian governments and ensured that the program's contributions to gender equality in Samoa align with national policies and programs. The 2017 review of the Samoa Country Plan recommended a diversification of partners and both government and civil society will receive funds directly in the future.

---

### Drawing on evidence to design effective support for women's leadership

**Project name:** Women in Leadership in Samoa

**Project partners:** UNDP and UN Women

**Total funding:** \$3,000,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2018–2022

**The pathway for women to political leadership in Samoa is through a unique governance system that incorporates modern democratic principles and the *fa'amatai* system of community organisation. The Women in Leadership in Samoa (WILS) project is building on lessons learned in a previous project phase to progress women's leadership in the Samoan context.**

Supported by *Pacific Women* and coordinated by UNDP and UN Women, WILS is the second phase

of the Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa (IPPWS) project that *Pacific Women* funded during 2015–2016. The IPPWS project contributed to a record 24 women standing in the 2016 general election, three times as many as the previous poll. Four women were elected in open seats, with a fifth woman appointed under the special measure introduced to ensure a minimum of 10 per cent women's representation in parliament.

A key lesson from the project's first phase was that increasing women's representation in leadership roles requires sustained and long-term investment and support. The WILS project aims to support a long-term process to address women's representation issues in Samoa.





The first phase also demonstrated the impact of providing formal training for women in campaigning, electoral laws and the workings of parliament. However, women candidates in the 2016 election reported that women voters did not support them automatically. The project found the key to increasing the number of women in leadership roles across all levels is through strengthening women's civic engagement so that they have the ongoing support of their *aiga* (extended family), villages, churches and districts.

This learning has been incorporated into the WILS design. 'It is fundamental that we take a long-term view to strengthening women leadership in Samoa or anywhere else,' said Muliagatele Dr Potoae Roberts Aiafi, WILS Project Manager. 'Because of the blending of our *fa'a Samoa* and national government system, the advancement of women's roles in political decision making levels requires building women's pathways through

their civic engagement. This thinking is behind the whole approach of the WILS project.'

Mr Nicolas Burniat, UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office Acting Representative, said strong partnerships play an important role in strengthening women's leadership. 'By continuing to build on the established partnerships and networks with community groups, civil society organisations, media and other organisations, we can help ensure women have the tools and opportunities needed to take on leadership roles in their communities and at the national level.'

Challenges for women's leadership in Samoa include limited pathways into political leadership, community perceptions about women's roles, financial constraints, gaps in civic education and the need for broader support. WILS seeks to address these barriers to support increased women's representation at all levels.



*Papalii Mele Mauala, of UNWomen, Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator, Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mataafa, the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Honourable Dr Sharman Stone, and Her Excellency Australian High Commissioner, Sara Moriarty, at the launch of the project. Photo credit: C. Fruean, UNDP.*



## The many ways programs can be inclusive of women and girls with disability

**Project name:** Advancing disability inclusive services for survivors of gender-based violence

**Project partner:** UN Women with the Pacific Disability Forum

**Total funding:** \$200,000<sup>7</sup>

**Funding timeframe:** 2016–2018

**With global data showing that people with disabilities are at a greater risk of experiencing violence, it is important for initiatives aimed at ending violence against women to incorporate strategies to support women and girls with disabilities. In Samoa, a toolkit is helping organisations address this issue.**

With support from *Pacific Women*, UN Women and the Pacific Disability Forum worked with the Samoan disabled persons' organisation Nuanua O Le Alofa (NOLA) to develop a Toolkit on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities. The toolkit uses group exercises, role play, activities and case studies to help organisations include disability in projects aimed at ending violence against women.

The toolkit, which is being translated into Samoan, is practical and accessible for people from a range of backgrounds. It is adapted from a model developed in 2015 in Fiji. To ensure relevance, ownership and usability by NOLA and Samoan service providers, the toolkit was informed by consultations with 17 people with

disabilities from NOLA, the Samoa Victims Support Group, representatives from the police and health services, UN Women, UNFPA and UNESCO. This process of stakeholder engagement ensured the Samoan context was reflected in the toolkit, and encouraged a process of local ownership of the document.

NOLA staff shared their experiences of developing the toolkit through social media:

'Our workshop to contextualise the toolkit on ending violence against women with disabilities in Samoa was an eye-opening experience for us as an advocacy organisation on the rights of persons with disabilities. Our advocacy work should aim at raising more awareness in the services about how to make it more accessible for persons with disabilities. What we mean by that is making not only the physical environment accessible, but also [providing] access to information in alternative formats, like sign language interpreters for deaf women, braille for women who are blind, and easy to read text and visual aid support for women with mental or intellectual disabilities. We're hoping that this toolkit will go a long way towards strengthening partnerships with service providers to ensure that our women with disabilities who experience violence and abuse are in safe hands when they seek refuge with their expert organisations.'



*Samoa disability rights advocates involved in the development of the NOLA toolkit. Photo credit: Pacific Disability Forum.*

7. Allocated funding also covers Kiribati.



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomon Islands is the third largest Pacific Island country and currently ranks 152 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index.<sup>8</sup> The Solomon Islands Government has made significant progress to address gender inequality across the country, however there is still much work to be done.

The *Family Protection Act 2014* and the *Penal Code Amendment (Sexual Offences) Act 2016* are key milestones in protecting women and girls from sexual and family violence. The Acts specify that rape in marriage is illegal and ensures that survivors have access to services. In 2017, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs launched two revised policies, the Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy (2016–2020) and the Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls Policy (2016–2020). In 2017, the Solomon Islands Government also launched the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2017–2021), the first of its type for a Pacific Island country. In 2018, three of nine provinces launched their own women’s development and equality-focused policies.

Progress has also been made by the public and private sector, non-government organisations, civil society organisations and development partners to implement these policies and legislation to empower women and reduce inequality.

*Pacific Women’s* first Solomon Islands Country Plan 2013–2017 identified a portfolio of projects in the areas of economic empowerment and ending violence against women. It also provided

resources for institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and worked to improve gender equality outcomes in the design and monitoring of other Australian Government-funded programs in Solomon Islands.

An independent review of the Solomon Islands Country Plan in March 2017 found evidence of achievements in all outcome areas. Particularly noteworthy was progress in mainstreaming gender equality across the economic, justice, health and political sectors and in reducing violence against women through work at the community, provincial and national levels. Projects such as Safe Families implemented by Oxfam and World Vision’s Channels of Hope are using innovative approaches to effect positive attitude change to end violence against women.

The second Country Plan is under development and will guide *Pacific Women’s* work in Solomon Islands until 2022. *Pacific Women* will continue to fund projects that expand opportunities for women in the formal and informal sectors to increase their earning potential and economic assets, through partners such as the Solomon Islands Women in Business Association. Institutional support for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and activities to strengthen services for survivors of violence will continue. Through partnerships with organisations such as the Australia-Pacific Training Coalition (previously the Australia-Pacific Technical College), *Pacific Women* will also seek to increase opportunities for women to influence and lead in decision making at all levels.

## Formal qualifications for women leaders

**Project name:** Leadership Skills for Women

**Project partner:** Australia-Pacific Training Coalition

**Total funding:** \$245,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

***Pacific Women* has supported 44 women in Solomon Islands to complete internationally-**

**recognised Certificate IV training in leadership and management through the Australia-Pacific Training Coalition. The course was offered in a women-only classroom and aimed to increase the pool of trained mid-level women leaders who are able to have a positive impact in their workplaces.**

The course was conducted in the capital, Honiara, and regional centres Auki and Gizo. Using

8. UNDP (2018). Human Development Index. Retrieved <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/SLB>



industry-developed competency-based training principles, the course provided participants with leadership and management knowledge, skills and expertise.

Betty Maesua Ramolelea from the National Referral Hospital was one of the students who completed the course. 'I wanted to take the leadership and management course because it helps me and other new leaders in our organisation to improve our leadership styles,' she said. 'I feel that a lot of women need this training because I see gender equity and equality can make a lot of difference in managing our organisations in Solomon Islands.'

Ms Ramolelea is now applying her knowledge from the course to her work in the health system. '[I] am liaising with other managers and leaders in our departments, working as a team in planning projects to work on with timeframes,' she said.

The course facilitator supported students to be more confident in leading a team, to

confront issues, speak in front of a group, and collectively find solutions to complex problems. Ms Ramolelea said this approach affirmed 'the importance of empowering me as being a female leader in a male dominated country'.

While the qualification is designed to Australian standards, the course is delivered with an emphasis on Solomon Islands leadership and management challenges.

Nancy Manu leads the Catering Unit at Correctional Services of Solomon Islands. She says the training provided a good mixture of theory and practice which she can apply to her own workplace. 'This course I attended makes me feel proud of myself because of the knowledge and skills I have acquired,' she said. 'I have confidence to advise, make reports and any other related matters on administration and also I have a knowledge on innovation or inventing new things at place of work to make improvement or changes.'



Betty Ramolelea (right) and fellow participant Sharon (centre) with Jemma Malcolm, Second Secretary Gender at the Australian High Commission, Honiara, Solomon Islands (left) on the first day of the course. Photo credit: Australia-Pacific Training Coalition.





## Inspiring, developing and empowering women in business

**Project name:** Support to Solomon Islands Women in Business Association

**Project partner:** Solomon Islands Women in Business Association

**Total funding:** \$719,600

**Funding timeframe:** 2014–2018

**Members of the Solomon Islands Women in Business Association (SIWIBA) have worked together since 2004 to develop opportunities and support networks for women in business. With a focus on locally-led action, *Pacific Women* has partnered with SIWIBA since 2014, providing core funding for staffing and office rental costs, as well as targeted activities.**

'Since I joined SIWIBA in 2015, they have become like a family to me,' said Association member Rachel Rahii. 'A family of women working with one vision: economic empowerment for each other and other women like them.'

In 2017, *Pacific Women* funded an adviser to assist the SIWIBA Board and staff to develop a strategic plan for 2018–2020. The plan includes four strategic goals to progress SIWIBA's multi-faceted approach to support women's economic empowerment.

The plan incorporates activities that SIWIBA had implemented well for years, including organising training opportunities, participating in legislative reform task forces, operating a savings club, providing information via a radio broadcast and celebrating success through an annual Women in Business awards night.

The plan also introduces some new activities including a business coach (through the Australian Volunteers Program) to work with members to help their businesses flourish. It also includes support for members to participate in international conferences and



Winners at the 2017 SIWIBA Business Women of the Year Awards. Photo credit: SIWIBA.

forums. In April 2018, seven SIWIBA members flew to Brisbane, Australia for the Women of World festival, which brought together women from 20 Commonwealth nations. Most of these members had never travelled out of the country before. The festival provided an opportunity to sell products, showcase Solomon Islands handicrafts and network with and learn from the international gathering.

*Pacific Women* has also provided funding to SIWIBA to develop a child protection policy and operate a Business Development Centre. 'The Business Development Centre is very important to us, especially those of us who do not have an office in town, but use our homes as our base,' said member Nerolyn Silas. 'I didn't realise the importance of having a Business Development Centre until I started using the facilities.'

SIWIBA has over 185 active members from both the formal and informal sectors in Honiara and approximately 700 affiliate members from women's business associations in three provincial locations. Member Delight Niva highlighted the benefits of membership:

'By being part of SIWIBA, I have more customers and increase a bit of my income and it really helps to finance my kids' school fees and meet basic family needs,' she said. 'I am helping to grow the economy and I share my knowledge with other women.'



# TONGA

Tonga is one of six countries in the world that has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. However, through its national Gender and Development Policy, adopted in 2001 and reviewed in 2014, Tonga has pursued national planning measures in support of women's empowerment.

Projects funded by *Pacific Women* in Tonga are outlined in the Tonga Country Plan, which originally ran from 2013–2016. A 2015 review of the Country Plan assessed progress and made recommendations on the future direction of the program, with the Country Plan updated and extended to June 2019.

Support for a national Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Policy and Legislation Officer and *Family Protection Act* Coordinator aims to strengthen the work of the Women's Affairs Division. A Gender Equality Adviser funded by *Pacific Women* also provides dedicated technical support to Australian Government-supported sector programs in Tonga to ensure gender sensitive program design and monitoring and evaluation that captures positive change.

The Country Plan prioritises women's economic empowerment in a holistic manner by supporting the Tonga National Centre for Women and Children. Through this initiative,

women and girls, including survivors of violence, have expanded economic opportunities that enable them to make strategic life choices. It is envisioned that through taking a partnership and multi-sectoral approach, this will increase the sustainability of programs to empower women to be economically independent.

*Pacific Women* funding for the Women and Children Crisis Centre and Tonga National Centre for Women and Children has enabled the provision of vital services to survivors of violence and the trialling of prevention approaches in communities.

Tonga is the Pacific's only constitutional monarchy. The Legislative Assembly is comprised of 17 elected members, nine members elected by the Nobles of Tonga and up to four members appointed by the King. *Pacific Women* funded media training for women election candidates to improve their communication and media presentation skills in the lead up to the 2017 national election, in which two women were elected to Parliament.

*Pacific Women* supported the Regional Rights Resource Team to work with the Tongan Women's Coalition to submit a private bill to parliament in August 2017 proposing temporary special measures to guarantee women's political representation in the country.

---

## The Pacific's first free legal centre for survivors of domestic violence

**Project name:** Support to the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (Regional)

**Project partner:** Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team

**Total funding:** \$5,750,000<sup>9</sup>

**Funding timeframe:** 2015–2020

**Tonga is the first country in the region to have a dedicated legal centre providing free assistance for survivors of domestic violence. In its first three months of operation, the Family Protection Legal Aid Centre in Nuku'alofa served 139 clients.**

The Tongan *Family Protection Act* 2014 provides the legal framework for the protection of survivors of domestic violence. Challenges implementing the Act have been the lack of accessible legal advice for survivors of domestic violence and limited awareness of women's legal protections under the Act. The new legal centre, opened in March 2018, seeks to address these barriers to accessing justice.

*Pacific Women* funded the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team to work with the Tongan Ministry of Justice to design and

9. This funding is from the regional program and complements support from the Governments of Tonga and Sweden.



operationalise the legal centre. 'The purpose of this project is to complement and work with agencies already providing services to survivors of domestic violence,' said Nicol Cave, former Interim Director of the Regional Rights Resource Team. '[The Regional Rights Resource Team] recognises the important work being done by other partners and will work collaboratively to ensure that the work is not duplicated, but rather integrated to assist the government in meeting all its obligations under the *Family Protection Act*.' The Regional Rights Resource Team trained and mentored staff, developed data collection and monitoring systems, supported the Steering Committee and assisted to develop centre procedures.

The legal centre is now staffed by a team of one lawyer and four legal advocates who provide information and representation for cases of domestic violence and related family law issues. This has included support for 53 women to apply for protection orders between March–June 2018.

To date, 34 of these applications have been granted and eight have been declined.<sup>10</sup> Legal centre staff also provide telephone assistance to women who live outside the capital, Nuku'alofa. Plans are underway for staff to travel to the outer islands (Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua) with the regular court circuit to provide assistance in person.

Plans for a free legal centre arose from broad consultations about the *Family Protection Act* 2014 conducted during 2016. The plan gained broad support, with advocates including the late Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice and the Women and Children Crisis Centre.

At the Steering Committee in May 2018, the Ministry of Justice indicated a willingness to support the centre beyond its one-year pilot.



Legal aid centre staff in front of the new centre. Photo credit: Australian High Commission, Tonga.

10. Statistics are correct on 26 June 2018. As of that date, of the remaining 11 applications, five were pending, three had been withdrawn and three were classified as 'other'.





## Stories of rural women's resilience after Tropical Cyclone Gita

**Project name:** Raising Rural Women's Voices in Tonga Post Cyclone Gita multimedia campaign

**Project partner:** Women and Children Crisis Centre (UN Women Support)

**Total funding:** \$35,200

**Funding timeframe:** March–May 2018

**When Tropical Cyclone Gita hit Tonga in February 2018, the Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) harnessed the power of the media to share stories of rural Tongan women's resilience with a global audience.**

In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Gita, the most severe cyclone to hit Tonga in more than 60 years, *Pacific Women* supported the WCCC to provide psychosocial support services in affected areas. The staff of the WCCC also focused on sharing stories of women's resilience through its Raising Rural Women's Voices in Tonga Post Cyclone Gita multimedia campaign.

The campaign ran from 19 March, aligning with the themes for the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which was taking place in New York. The priority theme of the meeting was 'Challenge and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.'

'We thought the theme of this year's Commission on the Status of Women made

it the perfect opportunity to highlight the experiences of women and girls across rural areas of Tongatapu, including 'Eua,' said Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Director of the WCCC. 'Most often, stories of women and girls living in rural areas are never told, and we want to change this and give them various media platforms to raise their voices.'

The stories illustrated Pacific women's resilience and were released on the WCCC's Facebook page, Twitter account and website.

The campaign received praise both within Tonga and abroad. As a result, some viewers of the stories provided financial assistance, through WCCC, to women featured in the project.

The month-long activity was part of the wider 'This is My Story of Resilience: Women of Tonga' multimedia campaign organised by the WCCC.

Ms Guttenbeil-Likiliki described the rationale behind using this participatory media model to profile rural women's resilience: 'It is a way of connecting the dots between high-level discussions of women's lives with the reality on the ground, especially in grassroots communities.'

She hopes the activity will empower and motivate other women encountering similar issues and challenges.



Lolohea Tafisi was featured in one of the 19 multimedia stories produced by WCCC. Photo credit: WCCC





# TUVALU

Tuvalu is a group of nine small islands and atolls with a population of about 10,000 people. The majority of the population resides on the island of Funafuti. The Government of Tuvalu has committed to several declarations that support the advancement of gender equality and is working to translate these commitments to change at the community level.

The 2018 review of the Tuvalu Country Plan 2013–2015 defined *Pacific Women's* investments for the second half of the 10-year program.

*Pacific Women* has supported a full-time Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser based within the Gender Affairs Department since 2016. The adviser works with relevant organisations that coordinate and promote gender equality and social inclusion in Tuvalu and provides gender mainstreaming support and advice on inclusive development. The adviser has also worked with the Government of Tuvalu to explore ways to increase women's political representation at national and island council level, including the use of temporary special measures for the 2019 elections.

*Pacific Women* also provided support to enable women's voices to be heard through representation of the Gender Affairs Department during the Tuvalu Universal Periodic Review of Tuvalu's human rights record before the United Nations.

Tuvalu enacted the *Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act* in 2014. To support implementation of the Act, *Pacific Women* is funding a Psychosocial Counsellor Adviser within the Department of Community Affairs in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development. The adviser is working to build the capacity of a network of local counsellors to provide counselling services to the community.

*Pacific Women* funded the first Tuvalu National Disability Study in 2017. The results of the study are being used to inform policy decisions and increase public understanding of the needs and rights of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities.

---

## Stronger counselling services in Tuvalu

**Project name:** Psychosocial Counsellor Adviser

**Project partner:** Department of Community Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development

**Total funding:** \$420,600

**Funding timeframe:** 2018–2019

**The Tuvalu *Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014* includes a provision for certified counsellors to provide services to survivors of violence. As Tuvalu did not have any certified or trained counsellors, *Pacific Women* and the World Bank are co-funding training to establish a pool of counsellors in Tuvalu who are equipped to provide counselling services to victims of violence.**

Two trainers from the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre facilitated two weeks' training on principles of counselling, gender equality and violence against women and girls in November 2017. Participants included government and non-government organisation staff working on gender-based violence issues, police, religious leaders, community workers, teachers and *Kaupule* members.<sup>11</sup>

'Because of this training I have learned a lot about gender, domestic violence and the importance of counselling,' said Mesitta Faasiu, Social Development Officer from the island of Nanumea. 'I have also learned about how to support those who face violence.'

11. The *Kaupule* is the executive arm of the traditional assembly of elders on each of Tuvalu's islands.



From this pool of gender-sensitised counsellors, the training facilitators and staff from the Gender Affairs Department selected 20 participants for the next level of training. These counsellors have now completed three of 18 accredited modules of the Australia-Pacific Technical Coalition Diploma of Counselling.

These training initiatives respond to findings in the 2017 *Pacific Women* review of counselling services in Pacific Island countries. The review identified a need to improve the qualifications of counsellors across the region, with only 40 per cent of organisations that provide counselling

services employing counsellors with a relevant diploma or degree.

To further improve counselling services in Tuvalu, *Pacific Women* is funding a dedicated Psychosocial Counsellor Adviser in the Community Affairs Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 18 months. The adviser is working to improve services by supporting the pool of local counsellors and creating policies, guidelines and an overall framework in which counsellors can operate. The work prioritises counselling services for women, children and people with disabilities in Tuvalu who have experienced violence.



Participants at the counselling training. Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.

## Gender Affairs Department representation at the Universal Periodic Review

**Project name:** Support for presentation at Universal Periodic Review

**Project partner:** Government of Tuvalu

**Total funding:** \$25,800

**Funding timeframe:** 2018

**The United Nations Universal Periodic Review is a mechanism to examine the human rights performance of its member states. Tuvalu was examined during the 30th session of the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva in May 2018. With *Pacific Women's* support, the Acting Director of Tuvalu's Gender Affairs Department, Lanuola Fasi'ai, and Efren Jogia of the Office of the Attorney-General were able to join the Tuvalu Delegation.**

Ms Fasi'ai said it was an important opportunity to represent the Gender Affairs Department in this global forum. 'Attending the Universal Periodic Review really gave myself a strong commitment to work and support women's right in Tuvalu,' she said. 'I have learned and noticed how several countries worldwide support and voice their concern about women's issues like gender equality [and] stop violence against women.'

Delegates from other UN member states recognised the positive steps Tuvalu has taken to advance human rights since its first periodic review in 2008. With respect to women's human rights, these included the passing of the *Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act 2014* and the submission of Tuvalu's Convention on the



Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Report. Several countries also recommended that Tuvalu work more on accelerating of the rights of women, as stipulated under the CEDAW convention. The Review recommended that Tuvalu adopt other human rights treaties such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Tuvalu delegation also organised a side event on how climate change affects human rights. Ms Fasiai made a presentation highlighting the impact of climate change and disasters on women's economic development and vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly and children.

Tuvalu welcomed all of the recommendations from other countries. The Tuvaluan delegates will consult with national stakeholders on the recommendations and then present the relevant recommendations to Tuvalu's CEDAW review committee.

'Promoting women's rights in Tuvalu is a priority area that the Gender Affairs Department is working on to fulfil Tuvalu's global obligations,' Ms Fasiai said.



*Members of Tuvalu's delegation to the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva. Photo credit: Gender Affairs Department, Office of the Prime Minister, Tuvalu.*



# VANUATU

The influence of traditional *kastom* prevails in Vanuatu. While *kastom* can be used to support gender equality by holding men responsible for ensuring the safety of women, it also can be used to justify ongoing discrimination against women and to reinforce men's power.

An achievement of the Government of Vanuatu over the past five years has been the adoption of the National Gender Equality Policy 2015–2019. This is one of many government commitments to achieving gender equality at global, regional and national levels.

Women's representation at the municipal council level has also improved over the past five years, due to the introduction of a temporary quota of 30–35 per cent reserved seats for women in 2013. This has resulted in the election of 10 women councillors in Port Vila and Luganville, one of whom was elected in an open seat.

*Pacific Women's* first Vanuatu Country Plan 2013–2016 was reviewed in 2016, with five projects identified for implementation between 2016–2019. These represent a mix of funding and technical support through bilateral and regional initiatives to benefit ni-Vanuatu women across the political, economic and social spheres.

Vanuatu led the Pacific in introducing stand-alone legislation on family violence in 2008. *Pacific Women* continues to collaborate with the Vanuatu Women's Centre to support the Ministry of Justice and Community Services implement the law and provide legal and counselling services for women survivors of violence across Vanuatu.

Research from Pacific Island countries has identified local level leadership as a stepping stone to women's leadership roles at provincial and national levels.<sup>12</sup> *Pacific Women* supported the Pacific Leadership Program to implement alternative approaches to increase women's participation in politics, including through adaptive leadership training for women councillors to increase skills in advocacy and policy reform. *Pacific Women* also supported CARE Vanuatu's photo campaign to illustrate and celebrate women in leadership across sectors.

As women are increasingly participating in the formal economy in Vanuatu, *Pacific Women* is supporting Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu to promote accessibility to local and international markets. Progress has also been made on women's economic empowerment through the Vanuatu Skills Partnership Program and UN Women's Markets for Change.

---

## Big opportunities for small-scale producers

**Project name:** Support to the Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu

**Project partner:** Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu

**Total funding:** \$150,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

***Pacific Women* supports women's economic empowerment in Vanuatu through a range of partners. One locally-led initiative is the Alternative Communities Trade in**

**Vanuatu (ACTIV) project to strengthen trade opportunities for community-produced products.**

ACTIV supports the social, economic and environmental empowerment of small producers. It also provides targeted assistance to marginalised ni-Vanuatu communities through fair trade initiatives. The association works with economically disadvantaged or marginalised individuals, family businesses and cooperatives. ACTIV's activities promote access

12. See, for example, N. Haley and K. Zubrinich (2016). Women's political and administrative leadership in the Pacific. State, Society and Governance in Melanesia at the Australian National University.





to both local and international markets for small-scale producers who have not historically had such opportunities.

With *Pacific Women* support, ACTIV has delivered training to women's groups on developing small-scale agriculture production. The women learn agricultural techniques to produce spices, nuts and fruit to diversify their income. The training also instructs women on related processing techniques, such as turning fruit into jam.

Two women from Efate have taken a strong interest in the cocoa plant grafting techniques that they learned through the ACTIV training. They continue to visit the ACTIV Centre on a weekly basis to improve their grafting practices and plan to build a commercial nursery to use these new skills.

The devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2016 included the destruction of most vanilla and pepper plantations and many small-scale farms in Vanuatu. In response, ACTIV is partnering with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research to build resilience against future total plant destruction by developing a network of nurseries.

ACTIV has recognised that the local market in Vanuatu is narrow and the tourist market can be volatile. It is, therefore, exploring ways to support the export of agricultural products. It launched a new logo and branding for its 'AELAN Made in Vanuatu' products and, since March 2018, the products have been stocked in Oxfam's shops in Australia.

Recipes for crystallised ginger, crystallised turmeric and coconut flakes were developed with assistance from an Australian volunteer chocolate maker. The techniques were then taught to a woman from Etas who is producing them for the AELAN label. The project has taught other women to produce coconut jam, desiccated coconut, coconut milk and coconut flour.

A new range of eight flavours of chocolate using the spices and fruits grown by ACTIV's farmers has also been developed. Chocolate from Epi, Malo, Malekula and AELAN's chilli pepper chocolate received two gold medals, five silver medals and one bronze medal in the 2018 International Chocolate Salon Artisan Chocolate Awards.



*The new packaging for ACTIV's 'AELAN Made in Vanuatu' products. Photo credit: ACTIV.*



## Young women pursuing their leadership goals

**Project name:** Gender Equality Together: Strengthening Women's Rights in Vanuatu Project

**Project partner:** CARE Vanuatu

**Total funding:** \$1,000,000

**Funding timeframe:** 2017–2018

**After finishing Year 8, Jessica Philimon, 16, was forced to drop out of school when hard times fell on her family. Even so, she continued to look for opportunities to grow. With the support of CARE Vanuatu's Young Women's Leadership Program, she has developed leadership goals and had the opportunity to speak about the needs of Pacific girls in an international forum.**

Ms Philimon is one of 24 adolescents and young women participating in CARE Vanuatu's pilot project, which is taking a new approach to developing the skills and confidence of young women leaders in Vanuatu. Participants attend workshops to build knowledge about gender equality and gender-based violence. They also develop skills such as public speaking, negotiation and team work, proposal and report writing and using social media for mobilising community action. As part of the project, each young woman is paired with a mentor who has experience in a leadership role and is keen to help the next generation of young women to become leaders.

The Young Women's Leadership Program was launched on 30 November 2017 at the closing of the Post-13th Triennial Conference Gender Equality Forum. This timing helped to raise the profile of the project and capitalise on the momentum generated during the Triennial Conference.

As part of the project, Ms Philimon was one of five young ni-Vanuatu women who travelled to Fiji to contribute to the Pacific Girl Regional Stakeholders' Dialogue in May 2018.

'It was my first time to ever travel abroad and I know the outcome of the meeting will help meet the needs of adolescent girls like myself and other young girls in my community,' said Ms Philimon. 'I was able to give presentations at the regional meeting because of the workshop on facilitation skills that I attended earlier this year with the Young Women's Leadership Program.'

The Young Women's Leadership Program is one component of CARE Vanuatu's two-year Gender Equality Together project. Gender Equality Together seeks to strengthen the collective leadership, capacity and coordination of civil society and government partners in Vanuatu, to more effectively promote gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls.



Guilaine Naudi (left) with two other participants during a facilitation workshop in the Young Women's Leadership Program. Photo credit: CARE Vanuatu.



# FINANCIALS

The Australian Government has committed an investment of \$320 million over 10 years for *Pacific Women* program implementation. A total of \$174.91 million has been expensed between 2012–2018.<sup>13</sup> This comprised:

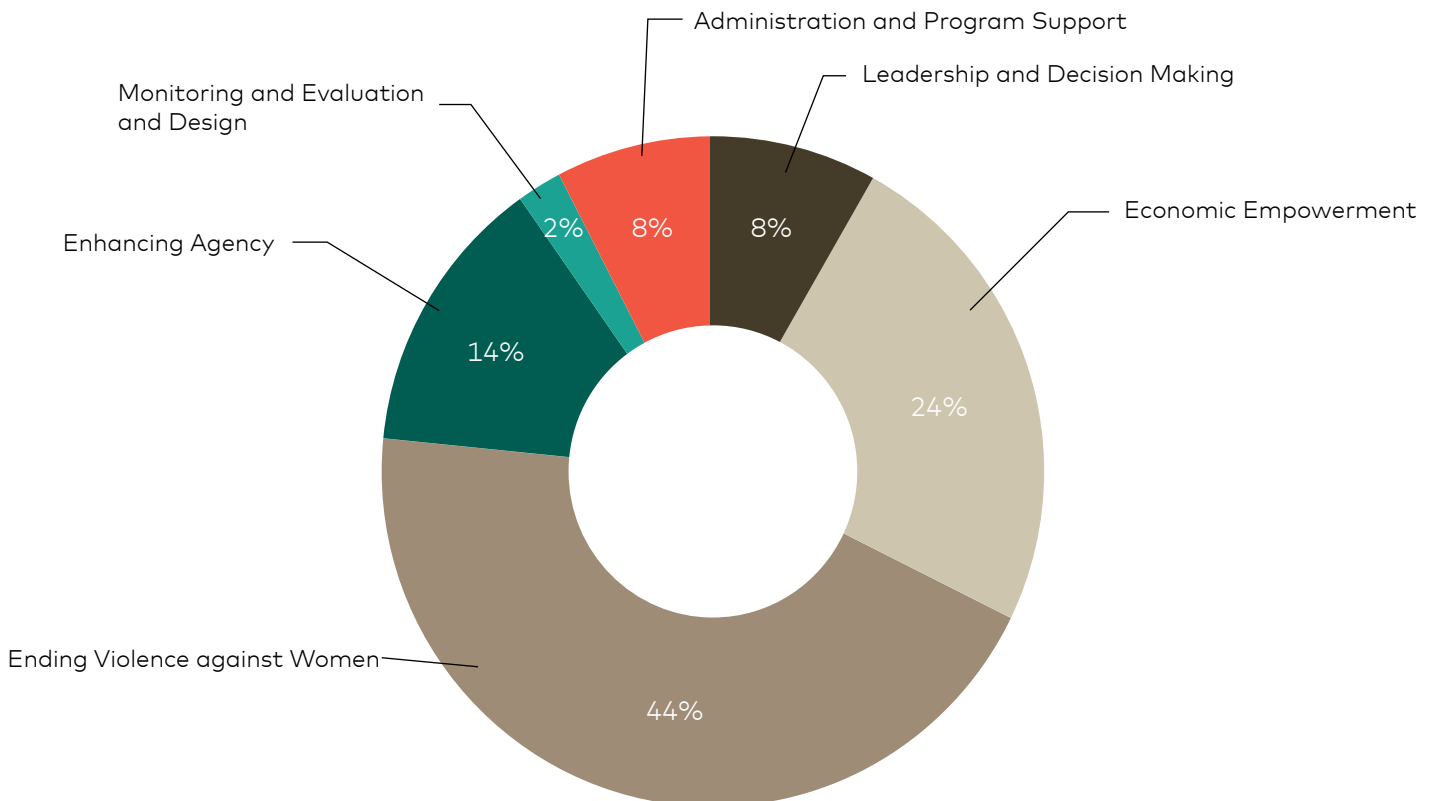
- \$14,358,442 (8 per cent) to support leadership and decision making
- \$42,205,267 (24 per cent) on women’s economic empowerment
- \$77,246,307 (44 per cent) to end violence against women
- \$24,107,085 (14 per cent) on enhancing agency
- \$13,560,378 (8 per cent) on administration and program support
- \$3,432,563 (2 per cent) on monitoring and evaluation and design.

Many projects work across more than one of *Pacific Women's* four outcomes. For financial reporting purposes, the project is categorised according to the outcome of primary focus. The Enhancing Agency outcome includes activities that contribute to: enhanced knowledge and an evidence base to inform policy and practice; strengthened women’s groups; male advocates and coalitions for change; positive social change towards gender equality and women’s agency; improved gender outcomes in education and health; and research and learning.

Figure 1 below illustrates distribution of total program expenditure by: *Pacific Women's* four outcomes; monitoring and evaluation and design; and administration and program support for the period from 2012–2013 to 2017–2018.

**Figure 1**

*Distribution of total program expenditure by Pacific Women’s four outcomes; monitoring and evaluation and design; and administration and program support for the period from 2012–2013 to 2017–2018.*



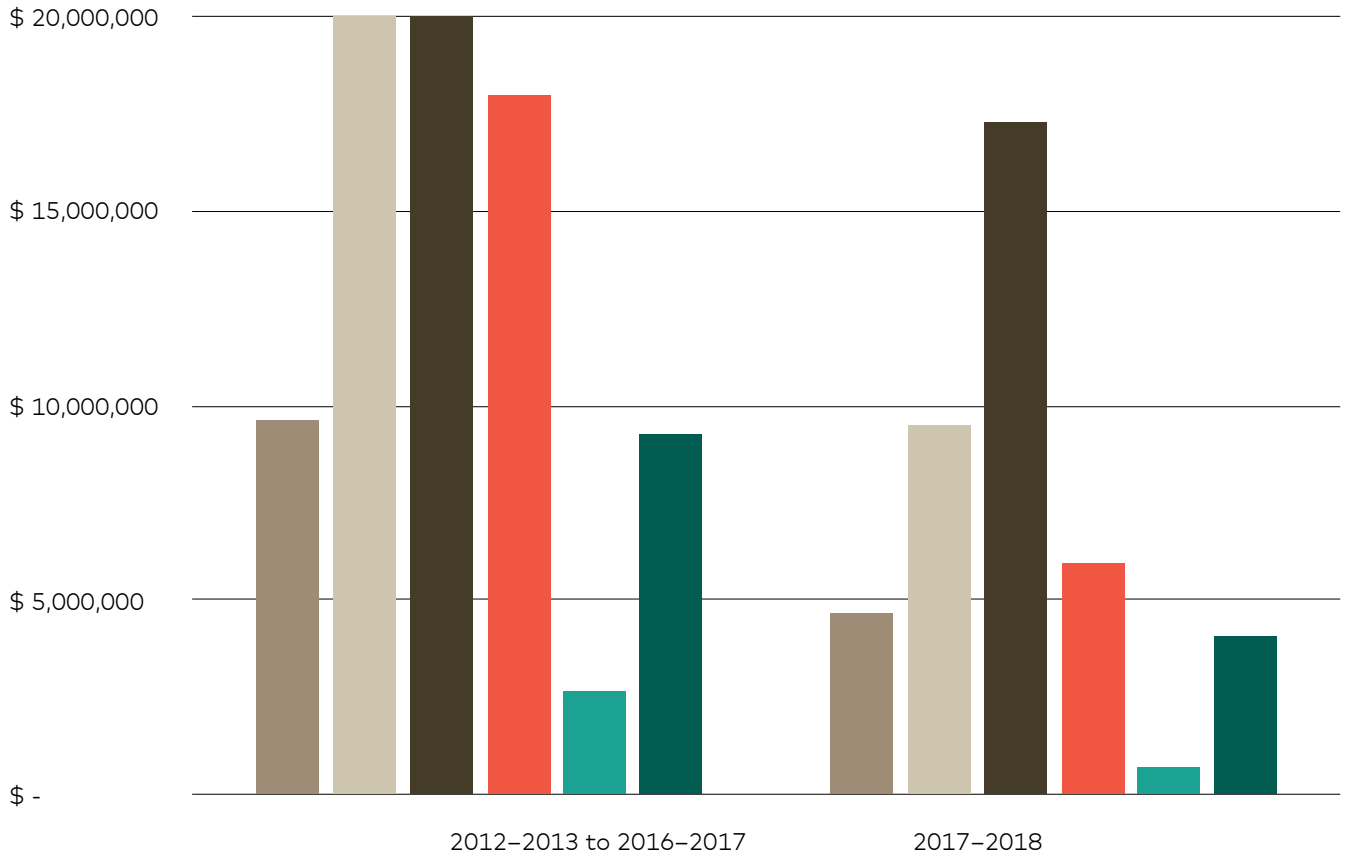
13. Expenditure is expressed in Australian financial years that cover from July to June each year.



Figure 2 below illustrates distribution of total program expenditure by: *Pacific Women's* four outcomes; monitoring and evaluation and design; and administration and program support for the period from 2012–2013 to 2016–2017 and 2017–2018.

### Figure 2

*Distribution of program expenditure by outcomes; monitoring and evaluation and design; and administration and program support from 2012–2013 to 2016–2017 and 2017–2018.*



	2012–2013 to 2016–2017	2017–2018
Leadership and Decision Making	\$9,677,180	\$4,681,262
Economic Empowerment	\$32,673,872	\$9,531,394
Ending Violence against Women	\$59,916,156	\$17,330,151
Enhancing Agency	\$18,071,441	\$6,035,644
Monitoring and Evaluation and Design	\$2,716,692	\$715,871
Administration and Program Support	\$9,357,370	\$4,203,008





Table 1 below summarises total program expenditure for each country by: *Pacific Women's* four outcomes; monitoring and evaluation and design; and administration and program support for the period from 2012–2013 to 2017–2018.

**Table 1**

*Total program expenditure for each country by: outcomes; monitoring and evaluation and design; and administration and program support from 2012–2013 to 2017–2018.*

	Leadership and Decision Making	Economic Empowerment	Ending Violence against Women	Enhancing Agency	Monitoring and Evaluation and Design	Administration and Program Support	Total
Regional	4,975,600	18,668,212	19,576,112	12,134,747.5	1,100,210	12,756,387	69,211,269
The Cook Islands	0	260,000	150,000	0	0	0	410,000
Fiji	884,043	2,689,263	3,113,850	4,528,414	162,443	3,688	11,381,701
Kiribati	0	57,488	1,575,109	204,385	0	0	1,836,982
Palau				29,567		4,305	53,872
Papua New Guinea	5,244,887	14,648,314	31,407,893	4,670,204	1,438,434	518,543	57,928,275
Republic of the Marshall Islands			1,033,326	52,048		6,133	1,091,507
Federated States of Micronesia		111,600	192,768			7,286	311,654
Nauru	150,000		494,130	544,802			1,188,932
Niue							0
Samoa	2,000,000	1,063,294	604,150	731,713	12,584	12,444	4,424,185
Solomon Islands	803,912	3,179,308	12,940,482	546,550	660,139	131,349	18,261,740
Tonga		81,897	2,597,457	242,738	58,753	3,401	2,984,247
Tuvalu			71,030	401,917			472,947
Vanuatu	300,000	1,445,890	3,490,000	0	0	116,842	5,252,732
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,358,442</b>	<b>42,205,267</b>	<b>77,246,307</b>	<b>24,107,085</b>	<b>3,432,563</b>	<b>13,560,378</b>	<b>174,910,043</b>

\* No bilateral program spending in Niue for the period from 2012–2013 to 2017–2018 as projects and activities in this country have been supported through regional program funding.

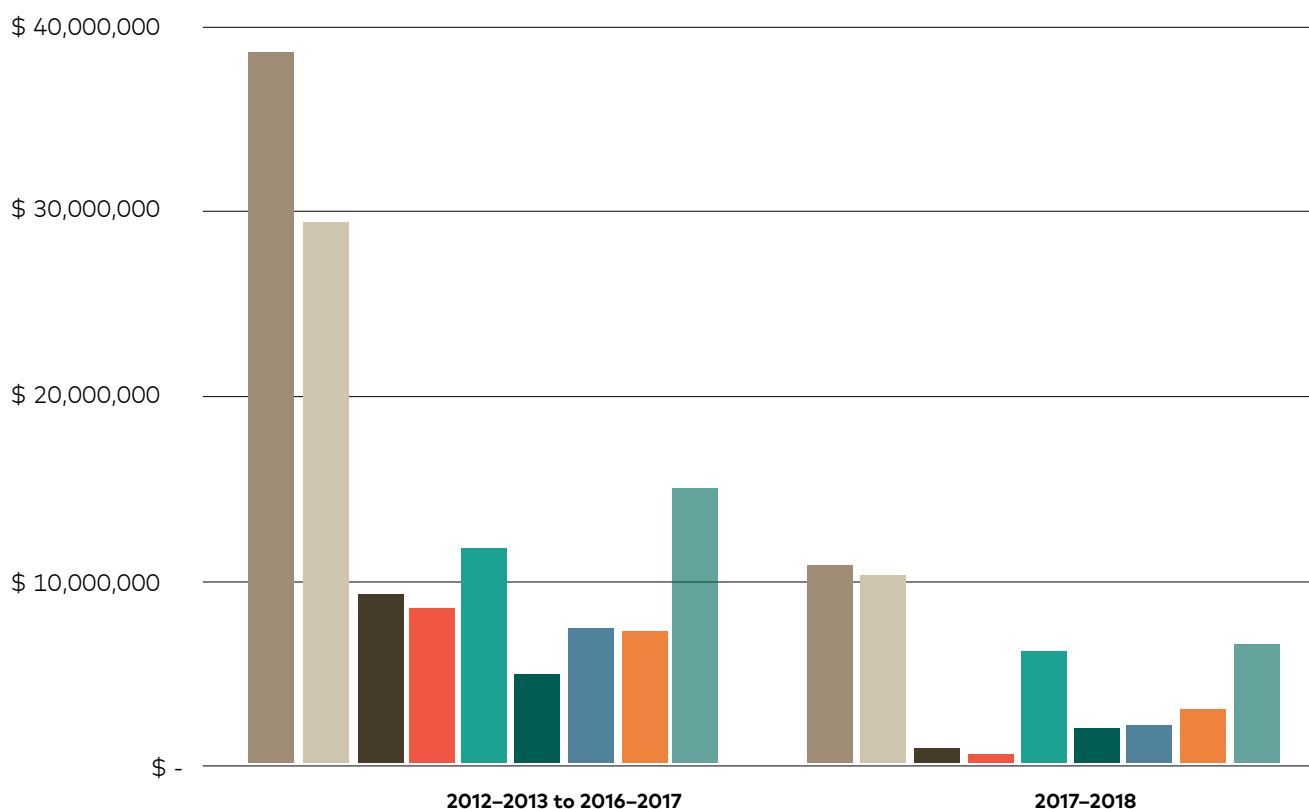


*Pacific Women* has a strong focus on working with a range of partners. The program has channelled funding through government partners, regional agencies, Pacific and international non-government organisations, United Nations agencies and funds, international financial institutions, as well as research and private sector organisations.

Figure 3 below illustrates the breakdown of funding provided to respective partner categories from 2012–2013 to 2016–2017 and 2017–2018.

### Figure 3

*Distribution of program expenditure by Pacific Women partners from 2012–2013 to 2016–2017 and 2017–2018.*



	2012–2013 to 2016–2017	2017–2018
UN	\$38,521,397	\$10,745,448
International NGOs*	\$29,332,541	\$10,376,723
Government	\$9,209,745	\$902,077
IFIs**	\$8,715,474	\$606,037
Pacific NGOs*	\$11,793,615	\$6,192,460
Academic	\$4,954,799	\$1,955,201
Regional Organisations	\$7,519,542	\$2,153,808
Private Sector Organisations	\$7,341,064	\$3,010,944
Other***	\$15,024,534	\$6,554,633

\*non-government organisations

\*\* International Financial Institutions

\*\*\* Other is comprised of individual company or consultant partners who provided small-scale, one-off services such as design, advisory communications and program support



# LOOKING AHEAD

The second half of *Pacific Women's* 10-year timeframe is underway with increased activity and reach thanks to the efforts of the program's many partners.

*Pacific Women* is implementing the recommendations from the Three-Year Evaluation and Roadmap. This includes the development of new regional projects to accelerate work in the areas of leadership and decision making, adolescent girls and women's economic empowerment.

The *Pacific Women* Research Strategy is now being implemented, led by an Advisory Group on Research. There are increased opportunities for reflection, learning and networking.

## **Efforts to support women's economic empowerment will increase.**

The *Pacific Women* Support Unit will focus on economic empowerment during 2018–2019. Regular Women's Economic Empowerment Roundtables will gain momentum with *Pacific Women* coordinating discussions and supporting relationships between partners in the region. Implementation of a multi-country project to support women producers in organics and ethical value chains will begin in the North Pacific (Building prosperity for women producers, processors and women owned businesses through organic value chains).

Economic empowerment will also be the theme of *Pacific Women's* regional annual learning event, emphasising knowledge and learning sharing as a key principle for program delivery.

## **Innovative approaches will be trialled to increase women's leadership and decision making opportunities.**

The Balance of Power project, which brings together diverse and highly-skilled Pacific Islands partners, will commence implementation. This \$6 million multi-country

investment aims to shift the balance of power towards shared decision making between women and men at all levels.

## **New ideas to end violence against women will be investigated.**

The *Pacific Women* Roadmap emphasised the need to fill gaps in services and provide targeted support to different groups of survivors of violence against women. Representatives from women's crisis services in the region will participate in a workshop to assess the feasibility and design principles of a cash transfer pilot project for survivors of violence.

## **Special attention will be paid to adolescent girls.**

In response to the adolescent programming gap identified in the *Pacific Women* Three-Year Evaluation, *Pacific Women* will commence a \$4.5 million program of support for adolescent girls and young women in three countries.

## **Evaluations crucial to the program's learning and improvement will take place.**

Further investment in monitoring, evaluation and learning, with a growing emphasis on demonstrating impact, will include the Six-Year Evaluation of *Pacific Women* in 2019. Project and partner evaluations will use a new framework to incorporate value for money into their analysis and reports.

Additional value for money assessments and evaluations will also be conducted for several partner organisations. *Pacific Women* Country Plans for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu will be finalised and Country Plans for Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga will be reviewed. Country reflection workshops will be held in Fiji and Tonga and monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be developed for those country programs.



### **Research will be commissioned in line with the Pacific Women Research Strategy.**

Guided by the *Pacific Women* Advisory Group on Research, the Support Unit will identify and action gender research priorities. The findings and recommendations from research conducted under the *Pacific Women* Research Strategy will inform programming.

For example, the viability of a gender research portal design will be assessed, based on the results of a scoping study conducted during 2017–2018. This online portal would enable audiences to access Pacific gender research, good practice ethics and quality assurance guidelines.

### **The Support Unit will develop the 2019–2022 Communications Strategy.**

The revised strategy will focus on engaging new audiences, using more compelling impact storytelling, improving *Pacific Women* branding and supporting the use of communications as an advocacy tool.

### **There will be opportunities for reflection and learning in the coming year.**

Country reflection workshops will be held in conjunction with Country Plan reviews. The annual regional learning workshop will give *Pacific Women* stakeholders the opportunity to discuss women's economic empowerment.

The *Pacific Women* database will be made more accessible and migrated to a better management platform. This will improve access to country and regional information from the program and across the region.





# PACIFIC WOMEN PARTNERS

*Pacific Women* has a strong focus on delivering activities in partnerships. The program works closely with national governments, Pacific and international non-government organisations, regional organisations, United Nations agencies, development banks and the private sector. These partners, together with Pacific Island women, men, girls and boys help to shape the program. Below is a cumulative, but not definitive, list of partners the program has worked with since its commencement.

## Government Partners

### Australia

- » Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
- » Australian Federal Police
- » International and Community Relations Office, Australian Department of the House of Representatives

### The Cook Islands

- » Cook Islands Police Service
- » Ministry of Internal Affairs, Social Policy and Services Division

### Fiji

- » Fiji Bureau of Statistics
- » Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

### Kiribati

- » Magistrate Court
- » Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- » Ministry of Internal Affairs
- » Ministry of Justice
- » Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs, Women's Development Division
- » Police Service Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Unit

### Nauru

- » Ministry of Health
- » Ministry of Home Affairs

### Palau

- » Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

### Papua New Guinea

- » Department for Community Development and Religion
- » Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority
- » Health and Education Procurement Facility
- » Integrity Political Parties and Candidates Commission
- » Koki Market
- » Office for the Development of Women
- » Port Moresby Hospital
- » US Embassy, Port Moresby

### Republic of the Marshall Islands

- » Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Samoa

- » Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development

### Solomon Islands

- » Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

### Tonga

- » Ministry of Internal Affairs, Women's Affairs Division

### Tuvalu

- » Office of the Prime Minister, Gender Affairs Department
- » Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development, Department of Community Affairs



## **Vanuatu**

- » Ministry of Education and Training
- » Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Department of Women's Affairs

## **International NGOs**

- » ActionAid Australia
- » CARE Australia
- » Center for International Private Enterprise
- » ChildFund
- » FHI 360
- » GriffinWorx (formerly known as StartUP Cup)
- » International Centre for Research on Women
- » International Committee of the Red Cross
- » IOD PARC
- » International Planned Parenthood Federation
- » International Women's Development Agency
- » Oxfam Australia
- » Population Services International
- » Save the Children
- » UnitingWorld
- » WaterAid
- » World Vision

## **Pacific NGOs**

### **Cook Islands**

- » National Council of Women
- » Punanga Tauturu Inc

### **Fiji**

- » Diverse Voices and Action for Equality
- » Empower Pacific
- » FemLINKPacific
- » Fiji Muslim Women's League
- » Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

- » Fiji Women's Rights Movement
- » House of Sarah
- » Medical Services Pacific
- » Pacific Conference of Churches
- » Ra Naari Parishad
- » Transcend Oceania
- » Women in Fisheries Network

### **Kiribati**

- » Kiribati Family Health Association
- » Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre

### **Papua New Guinea**

- » Bougainville Women's Federation
- » Community Development Workers Association Inc.
- » Catholic Archdiocese
- » Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, Institute of National Affairs
- » Family for Change
- » Femili PNG
- » Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation
- » Highlands Human Rights Defenders Networks
- » Kafe Urban Settlers Association
- » Kup Women for Peace
- » Lifeline
- » Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation
- » Oxfam International Papua New Guinea
- » Young Women's Christian Association Papua New Guinea

### **Republic of the Marshall Islands**

- » Women United Together Marshall Islands

### **Samoa**

- » Young Women's Christian Association Samoa



## Solomon Islands

- » Christian Care Centre
- » Live and Learn Solomon Islands
- » Oxfam Solomon Islands
- » Solomon Islands National Council of Women
- » Solomon Islands Women in Business Association
- » Vois Blong Mere Solomon
- » World Vision Solomon Islands

## Tonga

- » Tonga National Centre for Women and Children
- » Women and Children Crisis Center Tonga
- » Talitha Project

## Vanuatu

- » ActionAid Vanuatu
- » Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu
- » CARE Vanuatu
- » Vanuatu Women's Centre
- » Wan Smolbag Theatre
- » Vanuatu Young Women for Change

## Private Sector Organisations

### Cook Islands

- » Business Trade and Investment Board

### Fiji

- » South Pacific Academy of Beauty and Therapy

### Papua New Guinea

- » Business Coalition for Women
- » Frieda River Limited
- » Oil Search Foundation

## Regional and Multilateral Partners

- » Asian Development Bank
- » Australian Pacific Training Coalition (formerly Australian Pacific Technical College)
- » International Finance Corporation
- » Pacific Disability Forum
- » Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- » Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
- » Pacific Leadership Program
- » Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community
- » Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative
- » Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism, Phase 2
- » Pacific Theological College
- » Protection and Pacific Network
- » South Pacific Association of Theological Schools
- » The Pacific Community, Regional Rights Resource Team
- » The Pacific Community, Social Development Programme
- » UN Women
- » United Nations Population Fund
- » United Nations Children's Fund
- » United Nations Development Programme
- » Vanuatu Skills Partnership (formerly Vanuatu Skills for Economic Growth Program and prior as the Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector Strengthening Program)
- » World Bank Group



## Research and University Partners

- » Australian National University
- » Burnet Institute
- » Divine Word University
- » International Centre for Research on Women
- » La Trobe University
- » Menzies School of Health
- » Pacific Adventist University
- » Papua New Guinea Institute of National Affairs
- » Papua New Guinea National Agricultural Research Institute
- » Papua New Guinea National Research Institute
- » Queensland University of Technology
- » University of Auckland
- » University of Canberra
- » University of Goroka
- » University of New England
- » University of Papua New Guinea
- » University of Queensland
- » University of the South Pacific

## Funding Facilities

### Fiji

- » Fiji Women's Fund

## Program Management Facilities

### Papua New Guinea

- » Justice Services and Stability for Development Program

### Samoa

- » Civil Society Support Program

### Solomon Islands

- » Solomon Islands Resource Facility

### Vanuatu

- » Policy and Justice Support Program





# KEY FORUMS AND EVENTS

## 2017

### August

---

#### **Pacific Women Leadership Dialogue**

*Pacific Women* convened a dialogue between women civil society and civil service leaders and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor. The event included a high-level closed session and a public question and answer session that was live-streamed. The dialogue was held from 3–4 August 2017 in Suva, Fiji.

#### **Micronesian Women's Conference**

The Micronesian Women's Conference included delegates from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and the US Territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. It provided a platform for delegates to collectively identify opportunities and challenges related to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the thematic areas of economic empowerment, eliminating violence, health, climate change and leadership. The conference was held from 8–10 August 2017 in Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (Refer to page 69 for more information).

### September

---

#### **Women's Economic Empowerment Thematic Discussion Group (Roundtable)**

These quarterly roundtable events bring together stakeholders to contribute to the body of knowledge about what women's economic empowerment looks like in the Pacific and how women's economic empowerment can be supported in the region. This event was held on 4 September 2017 at the *Pacific Women Support Unit* in Suva, Fiji.

#### **Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships 5th Annual Forum**

The Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Annual Forum is a networking and professional development opportunity for Pacific women parliamentarians. Sixty women from 17 Pacific Island parliaments attended the forum which provides a supportive environment where women parliamentarians and candidates can share their diverse experiences and stories, find common ground and friendship, develop mentoring opportunities and encourage and inspire each other to continue their work. The forum was held from 25–28 September 2017 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

### October

---

#### **13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the 6th Meeting of Ministers for Women**

The 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Ministers for Women brought together decision makers from Pacific governments, development partners, research institutions and civil society organisations. The conference allowed participants to share experiences, reflect on the progress and challenges to date, identify strategic and practical measures and make recommendations to accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and a full realisation of women's human rights in the Pacific region. The conference and meeting took place from 2–5 October 2017 in Suva, Fiji. (Refer to page 25 for more information).

#### **Safer Cities in the Pacific Conference**

The Safer Cities in the Pacific Conference brought together a range of stakeholders to promote safe cities in the region. The themes discussed over the two-day conference included social innovation, gender and urban planning, unemployment, law enforcement, technology, media - including social media - and the role of private enterprise. The conference was held from 19–20 October 2017 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.



## November

---

### **Women's Economic Empowerment Thematic Discussion Group (Roundtable)**

These quarterly roundtable events bring together stakeholders to contribute to the body of knowledge about what women's economic empowerment looks like in the Pacific and how women's economic empowerment can be supported in the region. This event was held on 20 November 2017 at the *Pacific Women* Support Unit in Suva, Fiji.

## 2018

### February

---

#### **Australasian Aid Conference**

The Australasian Aid Conference, held in partnership with The Asia Foundation, brought together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and beyond working on aid and international development policy to share insights and promote collaboration. The conference was held from 12–14 February 2018 in Canberra, Australia.

### March

---

#### **Women's Economic Empowerment Thematic Discussion Group (Roundtable)**

These quarterly roundtable events bring together stakeholders to contribute to the body of knowledge about what women's economic empowerment looks like in the Pacific and how women's economic empowerment can best be supported in the region. A focus of the discussion was gender and value chain analysis. This event was held on 22 March 2018 at the *Pacific Women* Support Unit in Suva, Fiji.

### April

---

#### ***Pacific Women* Papua New Guinea Annual Learning Workshop**

The fourth Annual Learning Workshop of the *Pacific Women* program in Papua New Guinea provided an opportunity for a range of partners to discuss their work and research and share lessons about project successes, challenges, and the opportunities for promoting gender equality in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. The event was held from 30 April–2 May 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

### May

---

#### **Pacific Girl Priority Setting Meeting and Pacific Girl Regional Stakeholders' Dialogue**

The priority setting meeting for adolescent girls and stakeholders' dialogue informed the design of Pacific Girl, a new *Pacific Women* program that focuses on adolescent girls. The program seeks to amplify the voice of girls, work with groups that specialise in adolescent needs and ensure girls' inclusion in adolescent-focused programming. The meeting and dialogue were held from 12–16 May 2018 in Suva, Fiji. (Refer to page 15 and page 38 for more information).

### June

---

#### **Women's Economic Empowerment Thematic Discussion Group (Roundtable)**

These quarterly roundtable events bring together stakeholders to contribute to the body of knowledge about what women's economic empowerment looks like in the Pacific and how women's economic empowerment can be supported in the region. This meeting continued discussions at the March roundtable meeting about gender and value chain analysis. It was hosted by the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) on 28 June 2018 in Narere, Fiji.



## ANNEX A

# ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



The July 2018 Pacific Women Advisory Board meeting with Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls. Back row, left to right: Ms Yoshiko Capelle, Ms Lesieli Taviri, Ms Maere Tekanene, Reverend Sereima Lomaloma, Ms Jane Kesno, Mrs Marilyn Tahī. Front row, left to right: Ms Natalia Palu Latu, The Honourable Dr. Sharman Stone, The Honourable Niki Rattle.  
Photo credit: Pacific Women Support Unit.

### **Dr Lawrence Kalinoe**

Secretary, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

*Papua New Guinea*

### **Ms Jane Kesno**

Founder and Chairperson, PNG Women and Children's Rights Centre

Co-founder, Coalition of Public Sector Women in Leadership

*Papua New Guinea*

### **Ms Natalia Palu Latu**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Policy and Reform Division of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning

*Tonga*

### **Reverend Sereima Lomaloma**

Ministry Officer, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia

Chairperson, House of Sarah

*Fiji*

### **Ms Savina Nongebatu**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum

*Solomon Islands*

### **The Honourable Ms Niki Rattle**

Speaker of Parliament

*The Cook Islands*

### **Mr Paki Ormsby**

Director of Policy, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

*New Zealand/Regional*

### **Mrs Marilyn Tahī**

Coordinator, Vanuatu Women's Centre

*Vanuatu*

### **Ms Lesieli Taviri**

Chairperson, the Business Coalition for Women

Chief Executive Officer, Origin Energy

*Papua New Guinea*

### **Ms Maere Tekanene**

Former Minister of Education

*Kiribati*

### **Dr Colin Tukuitonga**

Director-General, The Pacific Community

*Niue/Regional*

### **Ms Yoshiko Capelle**

Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance

*Republic of the Marshall Islands*

### **The Honourable Dr Sharman Stone (Observer)**

Ambassador for Women and Girls

*Australia*



# PACIFIC WOMEN PROJECTS

## The Cook Islands

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
An enabling environment for the full participation of women in economic development	Gender and Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs	Strengthened the capacity of the Cook Islands Government to identify new economic opportunities for women, promote and support women's businesses in the formal and informal sectors and support women's access to financial services.	\$590,000	2013–2017 (Completed)
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Eliminating violence against women through training, advocacy and support services	Punanga Tauturu Inc	Providing support to Punanga Tauturu Inc women's counselling centre to provide counselling and legal aid and conduct advocacy focused on eliminating violence against women.	\$130,000	2017–2018
Strengthening capacity towards the elimination of violence against women	Gender and Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs; Punanga Tauturu Inc; and Cook Islands Police	Strengthening the capacity of the Cook Islands Government to improve legal frameworks, law enforcement, justice systems and services to prevent and respond to violence against women.	\$190,000	2017–2018
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Increasing capacity to deliver on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) policy	Gender and Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs	Increasing the capacity of the Cook Islands Government to implement its GEWE policy, and provide secretariat support to the National Steering Committee through a national consultant and project funds.	\$70,000	2017–2018





## Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
Pacific Women Growing Business	The Pacific Community	Enabling women to start and scale up their businesses by providing business skills and development opportunities. The Pacific Community has partnered with the College of Micronesia to increase the quantity and range of entrepreneurship and business development training available. A Business Development Counsellor is supporting the coordination and mentoring support provided through the project.	\$154,800	2017–2019
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Family Protection Adviser	Government of FSM, Department of Health and Social Affairs	The Family Protection Adviser is based within the Department of Health and Social Affairs and works closely with FSM government and key stakeholders, including statutory agencies, non-government organisations, the Pacific Community to strengthen referral pathways and services for victims of violence.	\$468,028	2017–2019
Eliminating Violence against Women (EVAW) in Pohnpei and Chuuk FSM	Consultant	Assessed EVAW services and gaps in services at national level and in Pohnpei State and Chuuk State. The reports include an in-depth description of the context and situation of EVAW in FSM and a series of recommendations to government, civil society organisations and development partners.	\$88,044	2017–2018 (Completed)
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Supporting CEDAW shadow reporting	FSM non-government organisations	Assisted NGOs to present their shadow report to the 66th session of the CEDAW Convention in February 2017.	\$3,677	2017 (Completed)



## Fiji

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Support for Women's Weather Watch Preparedness, Participation and Protection campaign	FemLINKPacific	Ensuring disaster preparedness plans, media and information communication systems are gender inclusive. Activities build on FemLINKPacific's collaboration with the Fiji National Disaster Management Office which includes development of content for the National Tsunami Preparedness Plan.	\$823,131	2013–2018
Enhancing women's participation in decision making through strengthened community radio transmission	FemLINKPacific	Upgraded community radio infrastructure to increase transmission and reach of FemTALK 89FM's radio transmission. Additional funding was provided to FemLINKPacific to enable repairs to radio infrastructure as a result of Tropical Cyclone Winston. The funding supported community and national consultations with rural women to increase their awareness and participation in national disaster management response and recovery. Women-led community-based protection mechanisms were piloted in six locations around Fiji.	\$362,131	2013–2017 (Completed)
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
Support for women's economic empowerment	South Pacific Academy of Beauty Therapy	Improving economic opportunities for women from low socio-economic backgrounds and from rural and remote areas where access to employment is low through education and training. Since 2014, 61 scholarships have been awarded to women who graduate with a Certificate IV in beauty and spa therapy.	\$916,672	2014–2020
Markets for Change	UN Women	Improving market governance, management, infrastructure and access to financial services to increase women's economic empowerment and ensure markets are more sustainable, accessible and safe for women vendors. Additional funds were provided to enable recovery and response after Tropical Cyclone Winston.	\$10,677,715	2014–2019
Women's Vocational Training Centre	Fiji Muslim Women's League	Supported targeted training programs for women to enhance economic opportunities. Additional funding was provided to the Fiji Muslim Women's League to enable the distribution of hygiene and household kits to women in rural and remote areas of Ba and Ra affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston.	\$251,796	2015–2016 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Support to community-based women's organisations	Ra Naari Parishad	Supported the establishment of the Ra Naari Centre to enable the organisation to deliver economic livelihood activities.	\$20,000	2015–2016 (Completed)
Support for women's civil society organisations	Women in Fisheries Network	Supported the re-establishment of the Women in Fisheries Network-Fiji for knowledge sharing, collaboration and the exchange of information to strengthen the involvement of and improve the conditions of women in the Fiji fisheries sector.	\$85,000	2015–2016 (Completed)
Feasibility study on increasing women's economic opportunities in Fiji	Consultant	Completed a participatory scoping study on options for expanding women's economic opportunities across urban and rural areas in Fiji.	\$47,638	2014–2015 (Completed)

### Ending Violence against Women

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre programs to Eliminate Violence against Women in Fiji and the Pacific	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	Supporting the continuation of funding to FWCC, the leading crisis and support service for women and girls in Fiji and the region. This includes funding for multiple shelters for survivors of violence in Fiji.	\$7,050,000	2016–2020
WEAVERS project	Pacific Conference of Churches	Provided communities with rights-based ecumenical messages to support the prevention of violence against women and link women to crisis services in Fiji.	\$83,000	2016 (Completed)
Support for women's empowerment through holistic and sustainable service delivery	Empower Pacific	Provided support to build skills, enhance knowledge and awareness of community members and other local service providers in addressing social issues that impact women's empowerment, well-being and safety.	\$270,000	2015–2016 (Completed)
Support for sexual and reproductive health services for women and youth	Medical Services Pacific	Supported targeted programs to increase access to clinical health care for women and girls, justice and child protection services for vulnerable children and youth. Additional funding was provided to enable Medical Services Pacific to deliver sexual and reproductive health services to rural and remote women in Tropical Cyclone Winston affected communities.	\$988,423	2014–2017 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Support for gender equality through ecumenical-based approaches	House of Sarah	Supported increased collaboration between church leaders and clergy on advocacy for ending violence against women.	\$131,000	2014–2017 (Completed)
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
The Fiji Women's Fund	The Fiji Women's Fund	Supporting local women's groups, organisations and networks in Fiji to expand and enhance their work on women's empowerment and gender equality. A key objective of the Fund is to reach women living in rural and remote locations and those who are marginalised. The Fund is implemented by a team led by a Fund Manager and support staff and has a Steering Committee to provide strategic guidance and advice.	\$10,500,000	2016–2022
Strengthening feminist coalitions and partnerships for gender equality (We Rise Coalition)	Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, FemLINKPacific and the International Women's Development Agency	Supporting a coalition of four women's rights organisations committed to gender justice, ecological sustainability, peace, freedom, equality and human rights.	\$2,800,000	2015–2019
Support to Ministry of Women	Ministry of Women	Supported the Ministry of Women's implementation of the National Gender Policy and strengthened monitoring and evaluation capacity.	\$434,334	2015–2017 (Completed)
Feasibility study on establishing a women's fund to support women focused organisations in Fiji	Consultant	Completed a study that built on recommendations of a DFAT commissioned civil society analysis that included a focus on the situation of women CSOs in Fiji and how DFAT could best support their work in line with its commitment under <i>Pacific Women</i> .	\$60,612	2015–2016 (Completed)
Developing a multi-dimensional and gender-sensitive measure of poverty through the Individual Deprivation Measure	International Women's Development Agency, Australian National University, and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics	Applied the Individual Deprivation Measure tool to measure the gendered aspects of poverty in communities. The provision of gender sensitive data aims to inform national policy and decision makers on programs and services for women and vulnerable groups.	\$346,659	2013–2017 (Completed)





## Kiribati

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
Feasibility study to determine viable economic opportunities for women in Kiribati	Consultant	Conducted a feasibility study on women's economic opportunities across three islands in Kiribati (Kiritimati, South Tarawa and Butaritari), including consideration of microcredit access options for women on outer islands.	\$40,000	2017–2018 (Completed)
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Strengthening Peaceful Villages in Kiribati	UN Women	Providing support to transform community and individual behaviours to prevent violence.	\$1,647,984	2017–2020
Respectful Relationships program	Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs, Women's Development Division	Implementing a school-based program incorporating a respectful relationships program into the school curriculum.	\$41,455	2016–2018
Support the implementation of the Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre's (KWCS) Strategic Plan	Kiribati Family Health Association	Supporting the first formal support centre in Kiribati for women and children survivors of violence, including funding for recruitment and training of staff. Technical assistance was also provided to the Kiribati Family Health Association to facilitate the finalisation of a three-year strategic plan for the KWCS. Establishment of the KWCS commenced in 2017.	\$321,880	2014–2018
Support for the Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs to undertake work to support Ending Violence against Women	Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs, Women's Development Division	Providing funding to employ project staff to support the Government of Kiribati's implementation and monitoring of gender equality activities, including the Shared Implementation Plan on EAW, the UN Joint Program on EAW and the Respectful Relationships initiative.	\$483,996	2013–2019
Extension of Kiribati Police Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences office based in Betio to provide a safe place and referral centre for survivors of violence	Kiribati Police Domestic Violence Unit	Provided survivors of violence with temporary shelter and comfort while awaiting referral to relevant services. Funding also enabled the training and capacity development of over 200 outer island police officers, special constables and village wardens.	\$143,725	2014–2017 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Judiciary enabling rights outreach to the vulnerable	Magistrate Court	Supported consultations on the <i>Family Peace Act</i> and training on human rights and sexual and gender-based violence for lay magistrates on Tarawa and outer islands to improve services provided by lay magistrates and court clerks. The project also supported communities to improve understanding of the court system and services in relation to ending violence against women.	\$125,398	2014–2017 (Completed)
Improved infrastructure and training for Ministry of Health staff	Ministry of Health	Funded the extension of the gynaecology room in the main hospital in South Tarawa to improve access to treatment, care and referral services for survivors of violence. Also supported training of frontline officers working with survivors of sexual violence.	\$150,000	2014–2016 (Completed)

### Enhancing Agency

Supporting women's organisations	Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs, Women's Development Division	Supporting restoration of Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati (AMAK), Kiribati's national women's umbrella organisation, through recruitment of technical assistance to assess the current status of AMAK and provide recommendations on the way forward.	\$26,200	2017–2018
2015 One Billion Rising Campaign	Kiribati Family Health Association	Supported Kiribati to be part of a global ending violence against women movement where the Kiribati Family Health Association worked with young people to lead the campaign using creative arts such as stage performances, dancing, singing and marches.	\$6,800	2015 (Completed)



## Nauru

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Increasing women's political participation	UN Women	Leadership training for potential women candidates, male allies and community representatives. Training was carried out on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and human rights for members of parliament.	\$200,000	2016–2017 (Completed)
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Improve the response and services to reduce domestic violence	Ministry of Home Affairs, Health and Education	Assisting the Government of Nauru and other stakeholders to prevent and manage cases of domestic violence through the provision of a Psychosocial Counsellor. The outcome of the project is that women survivors of violence have access to improved response and support services.	\$510,000	2018–2021
Gender Equality Adviser	Short-term adviser	Providing technical assistance through a Gender Advisor to support partners in Nauru and DFAT improve gender mainstreaming and capacity in relation to gender equality activities.	\$179,802	2017–2021
Improve the health sector response and services to reduce domestic violence	PACTAM, Ministry of Health	Strengthening the role of the health sector to identify and support survivors of violence by training health workers, improving access to counselling services and raising awareness of domestic violence.	\$530,000	2014–2019
Pacific Community Health and Wellbeing Education Project	University of New England	Funded six staff from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Health and Education to undertake the Diploma in Community Welfare and Wellbeing to improve access to qualified counselling in Nauru.	\$594,734	2015–2017 (Completed)



## Palau

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Review of the Implementation of the Palau Family Protection Act 2012	Consultant and Government of Palau	Reviewed and developed a draft implementation plan for the Palau <i>Family Protection Act</i> 2012.	\$21,749	2017–2018 (Completed)
Regional support on male advocacy	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Government of Palau	Supported Palau participants to attend the Regional Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Training Program.	\$18,018	2016 (Completed)
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Support for implementation of the Government of Palau's gender mainstreaming policy and strategy	Gender Division, Ministry of Culture and Community Affairs, Government of Palau	Providing funding for a national Gender Analyst position in the Ministry of Culture and Community Affairs to support the development and implementation of a gender mainstreaming policy.	\$91,956	2017–2019



## Papua New Guinea

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Papua New Guinea Women in Mining	<i>Pacific Women Support Unit</i>	Improving the representation and participation of women in negotiating mining development agreements through a public-private partnership with Frieda River Limited. The project aims to achieve better economic and broader empowerment outcomes for women.	\$1,000,000	2017–2019
Women in Leadership Support Program	Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University	Improving women's leadership and political participation by enhancing the competitiveness of women candidates contesting Papua New Guinea's 2017 and 2022 national elections and the 2018 local level government elections.	\$1,937,592	2016–2021
Young Women's Leadership Project	International Women's Development Agency in partnership with Bougainville Women's Federation	Increasing young women's leadership effectiveness and providing a safe space in which they can engage and support each other.	\$1,402,906	2016–2018
Inclusive Development in post-Conflict Bougainville	World Bank Group	Increasing women's decision making and influence at community level and improving social development through community-driven approaches.	\$2,500,000	2015–2018
Women's Forum	United States Embassy in Papua New Guinea with the Department for Community Development and Religion	Supported the Women's Forum, an annual event that brings together women in leadership roles in government, the public service, the private sector, community and churches, together with men supportive of gender equality.	\$99,921	2016–2017 (Completed)
Voter Education in Bougainville	International Women's Development Agency in partnership with Bougainville Women's Federation	Provided education on voting rights and responsibilities and governance and leadership to women and men across Bougainville.	\$451,121	2016–2017 (Completed)
Women in political leadership design	UN and consultant team	Provided recommendations for effective ways to support women's political leadership from local level upwards.	\$184,157	2015–2016 (Completed)
Strengthening Women's Advocacy in Community Mining Agreements	Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, Women in Mining Program, University of Queensland	Provided recommendations to pilot an approach to strengthen women's participation in negotiation and agreement processes for major extractive industry projects in Papua New Guinea.	\$136,000	2015–2016 (Completed)





Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Increased women's representation in local government	Centre for Democratic Institutions	Provided support to increase women's representation at the 2013 local government elections. Support included training for prospective candidates, development of a media information and talk-back radio campaign and compilation of a register of candidates.	\$350,000	2012–2013 (Completed)

## Economic Empowerment

Safe and Prosperous Districts – Sepik	UN Women	Extending the Safe City work in Port Moresby to four districts in East and West Sepik. The project will work in partnership with district authorities to strengthen safe transport to markets and within the markets to improve women's economic empowerment, while benefiting the whole community.	\$1,000,000	2018–2019
Kirapim Kaikai na Maket, Tsak Valley	Community Development Workers Association Inc	Enabling Tsak Valley women to increase food production resilience so they can reliably produce a surplus, which they can market through a network of women's associations and increase their income.	\$40,000	2016–2018
Creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem for women in Papua New Guinea to enable women's economic empowerment	Center for International Private Enterprise	Supporting establishment of a Women's Business Resource Centre in Port Moresby to help women start and successfully manage their own businesses. The project is also working with three local universities to incorporate 'entrepreneurship' into curricula and develop stronger policy engagement in lobbying for women's economic empowerment.	\$1,934,887	2015–2020
Increasing economic opportunities for women smallholders and their families ('Family Teams')	ACIAR/University of Canberra	Adopting an action research and development approach to enhance the economic development of women farmers by building their agricultural and business skills and knowledge. The project aims to increase income through better farm business practices in which women have a significant role as decision makers.	\$3,049,569	2015–2018



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Strengthening business coalitions for women and economic empowerment partnership with the private sector	International Finance Corporation	Establishing the Business Coalition for Women to help the private sector in Papua New Guinea recruit, retain and promote women as employees, leaders, customers and business partners.	\$3,400,000	2014–2018
Coffee Industry Support Project	CARE Australia	Supporting coffee industry stakeholders to mainstream gender equity in their policies, practices and approaches. The project aims to increase women's access to extension services and improve farming families' business management, with women and men benefiting from coffee production and income.	\$4,507,131	2013–2019
Financial literacy training for women and men in Yagoru-Saussia District	Asian Development Bank managed Microfinance Expansion Project	Delivered financial literacy training on budgeting and savings to the district, to almost 8,000 women and over 7,000 men in Yagoru-Saussia District.	\$316,500	2017 (Completed)
Women's Needs Analysis -Tsak Valley, Enga Province	Consultant	Provided recommendations on ways to support women's economic empowerment in the Tsak Valley area of Enga.	\$40,355	2015 (Completed)
Ginigoada Project Design	Consultant	Provided recommendations to extend Ginigoada's training programs to benefit more poor women.	\$48,470	2015 (Completed)

### Ending Violence against Women

Bel Isi: Improving services and inspiring leadership to address family and sexual violence in Port Moresby	Oil Search Foundation	The project aims to galvanise the private sector in partnership with government and civil society to play a transformational leadership role in changing attitudes towards family and sexual violence and improving services for survivors.	\$4,500,000	2018–2023
Mamayo	CARE Australia	This project draws on experiences and lessons from health and economic empowerment projects in Papua New Guinea to enhance family and community support for women's access to reproductive and maternal health and greater participation in economic opportunities and benefits.	\$4,120,000	2018–2021
Kisim Femili Plenin Strongim Komuniti	FHI 360	Increasing knowledge, acceptance and supply of family planning services, especially for adolescent girls and unmarried women in Aitape-Lumi District, West Sepik and Maprik District, East Sepik Provinces	\$753,534	2018–2021



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Gutpela Sindaun bilong ol Meri na Pikinini	UN Women in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA	Providing women and children with access to support and protection during the disaster response to the humanitarian crisis in Hela and the Southern Highlands as a result of earthquakes in February and March 2018. The project promotes women's voices and leadership during the relief period, to ensure relief efforts meet the immediate needs of women and children.	\$900,000	2018
Establishment of Family Support Centres in Arawa Hospital, Bougainville and Daru Hospital, Western Province	Health and Education Procurement Facility; Health and HIV Implementing Services Provider	Expanding the number of Family Support Centres to include Arawa, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Daru in Western Province. Support of the National Department of Health's commitment to improve the response to family and sexual violence, the project complements infrastructure upgrades funded under the Papua New Guinea-Australia partnership at each of these hospitals.	\$1,200,000	2016–2018
From Gender Based Violence to Gender Justice and Healing in Bougainville	International Women's Development Agency in partnership with the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation	Helping to reduce family and sexual violence in Bougainville by addressing the root causes of gender inequality. The project supports Bougainville women human rights defenders to lead responses to, and prevention of, family and sexual violence with government and communities. It enables men and women to address family and sexual violence at community level by promoting shared power and decision making between women and men.	\$6,605,124	2015–2022
Creating a movement to end violence against women in Papua New Guinea: The SASA! Pilot and Family Support Centre Assistance Project	Population Services International	Supporting the internal and community referrals to the Port Moresby General Hospital's Family Support Centre, and piloting SASA!, a community-led approach to transform harmful norms and behaviours that perpetuate gender inequality, violence, and increased HIV vulnerability for women.	\$6,871,191	2015–2022
Komuniti Lukautim Ol Meri	FHI 360	Strengthening community systems and service delivery in West Sepik, East Sepik and Western Highlands Provinces to reduce the level of violence against women and girls and support survivors of violence in selected communities.	\$5,100,000	2015–2021
Safe Public Transport for Women, Girls and Children	UN Women with Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation	Supporting the provision of safe, reliable and affordable public transport for women, girls and children to move freely and safely around Port Moresby.	\$3,000,000	2015–2018
Parenting for Child Development	UNICEF and Menzies School of Health Research in partnership with Catholic Archdioceses	Supporting parents to better understand their children's development needs. The project is also enhancing improved family relationships, parenting competencies and reducing the risk of exposure of girls, boys, and women to family violence in targeted communities.	\$2,129,336	2015–2018



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
End Violence against Children Campaign	UNICEF	Increasing awareness and commitments by families, communities and children to take individual and collective action to respond to and prevent violence against children.	\$1,995,000	2015–2018
Family and Sexual Violence Case Management: Building on Success for National Impact	Femili PNG, originally through Oxfam International Papua New Guinea	Supporting Femili PNG, a local non-government organisation to establish and manage a Case Management Centre in Lae, Morobe to help survivors access emergency medical care and emergency shelter of an adequate duration and standard. The project provides counselling support and obtains police, legal and social services if requested.	\$5,820,153	2014–2020
Responding to Gender-Based and Sorcery-Related Violence in the Highlands	Oxfam International Papua New Guinea	Ensuring that women, men and children live free from violence in a society where everybody is considered equal and their rights are respected.	\$3,294,517	2014–2019
Support for strengthening national coordination, implementation and monitoring mechanism to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence	United Nations Development Program	Supports the Government of Papua New Guinea to lead a coordinated, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder response to improve the identification, delivery and monitoring of family and sexual violence or gender-based violence prevention interventions and services in Papua New Guinea.	\$4,000,000	2014–2018
Building the capacity of Papua New Guinea's Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee	Institute of National Affairs	Strengthening the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee to deliver its mandate of developing policy, influencing and monitoring government decision making related to the problems associated with family and sexual violence and to develop concrete ways of addressing those problems.	\$920,588	2014–2018
Construction of Koki market transit centre	Koki Market	Supported construction of a transit centre and other market upgrades to increase the safety of market vendors who stay overnight to sell their produce.	\$492,508	2016–2017 (Completed)
Support to Family Support Centres and Health clinics in Southern Highlands	International Committee of the Red Cross	Provided medical equipment to eight health centres to assist women survivors of violence.	\$38,714	2016–2017 (Completed)
Refurbishment of Lifeline office	Lifeline	Refurbished the Lifeline office to improve the provision of counselling support to survivors of violence.	\$88,261	2016–2017 (Completed)
Increase in Family Support Centre	Port Moresby General Hospital	Enabled the rebuilding of the Family Support Centre at Port Moresby General Hospital, in accordance with the Family Support Centre guidelines, and provided transport for survivors.	\$350,000	2015–2017 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Highlands Sexual Reproductive and Maternal Health	CARE Australia	Piloted women's empowerment approaches to create community-wide demand for sexual, reproductive and maternal health support and to increase the availability and accessibility of these services, including family and sexual violence support.	\$1,000,000	2015–2017 (Completed)
Port Moresby: A Safe City for Women and Girls Program	UN Women	Developed model approaches to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces that are tested, evaluated and disseminated for adaptation and scale-up in similar cities.	\$5,700,000	2013–2018 (Completed)
Family Support Centre at Eastern Highlands Hospital	Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority	Supported strengthening of the governance and operations of the Eastern Highlands Family Support Centre to provide high quality crisis services to survivors of violence.	\$283,028	2013–2015 (Completed)

### Enhancing Agency

Research Training Program	Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University	Building the research skills of organisations and practitioners who are researching approaches to address gender inequality in Papua New Guinea.	\$695,458	2017–2019
Improving the impact of state and non-state interventions in overcoming sorcery accusation related violence in Papua New Guinea	School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), Australian National University	Identifying what is currently being done to address the problem of sorcery accusation-related violence and how responses can be improved.	\$1,059,239	2016–2020
Developing communication strategies for social change against sorcery related violence	Queensland University of Technology	Integrating communication for social change and audio-visual media approaches into context-relevant communication strategies to support attitudinal and behavioural change.	\$727,246	2016–2019
Gender-differentiated Labour Allocation in Agriculture in Papua New Guinea: Time-Use Survey	World Bank Group	Generating insights to improve the value households derive from coffee and cocoa, which will in turn maximise the overall value to the industry and the country.	\$210,100	2016–2018





Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women's Economic Empowerment and Violence against Women in Melanesia	Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University and International Women's Development Agency	Enhancing the knowledge and evidence base to inform policy and practice in addressing women's economic disadvantage and facilitating greater economic inclusion in contexts where violence against women is high.	\$532,814	2014–2018
Gender Stocktake of Australian Government Aid Program in Papua New Guinea	Consultant	Stocktake of gender and women's empowerment work occurring across all work of the Australian Government in Papua New Guinea, including diplomatic engagement, whole of government partners, defence and aid.	\$89,584	2015 (Completed)



## Republic of the Marshall Islands

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Ending Violence Against Women</b>				
<i>Iden Mwekun</i> (Place of Life) Program	Women United Together Marshall Islands	Providing core funding and organisational strengthening support to Women United Together Marshall Islands to improve governance and operations. This project also provides funding to Women United Together Marshall Islands' ending violence against women program, which included establishing the first domestic violence support centre in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.	\$100,300 \$414,649	2018 2015–2017 (Completed)
Support to the Micronesian Women's Conference, August 2017	n/a	Provided funding to ensure appropriate representation from all Micronesian member countries to attend the Micronesian Women's Conference in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.	\$40,000	2017 (Completed)
Technical assistance to Women United Together Marshall Islands	PACTAM, Women United Together Marshall Islands	Provided technical assistance to support the design of a domestic violence support service for women and girls in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and delivered capacity building for Women United Together Marshall Islands staff to enable them to provide rights-based support to women and girl survivors of violence.	\$200,558	2015–2017 (Completed)
Establish a domestic violence support service	Women United Together Marshall Islands	Enabled wide community consultation on the design of a culturally appropriate domestic violence support service for women and girls in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.	\$80,000	2014–2016 (Completed)
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Organisational capacity development and strategic planning	<i>Pacific Women</i> Support Unit	Undertook a capacity assessment of Women United Together Marshall Islands to identify organisational capacity development needs and explore future opportunities for partnership.	\$7,970	2015–2016 (Completed)



## Samoa

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Women in Leadership in Samoa	UN Women, UNDP and Government of Samoa	Strengthening women's leadership and gender equality in Samoa by building on the progress of past work through the Increasing Political Participation of Women project in Samoa. The project will apply lessons learned to support leadership pathways, promote political inclusivity, increase public awareness on political participation and share knowledge of Samoa's experience.	\$3,000,000	2018–2022
Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa	UNDP	Provided support to the implementation of the 2013 Constitutional Amendment to introduce a 10 per cent quota of women representatives in Parliament.	\$500,000	2015–2016 (Completed)
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Civil Society Support Program	CSSP	Supporting gender focused non-government organisations delivered through CSSP and administered through the Samoa Ministry of Finance.	\$400,000	2018–2019
Samoa Women Shaping Development Program	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	Supporting the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to implement the gender components of the Community Development Sector Implementation Framework in the key outcomes areas of: increasing women's economic empowerment; advancing gender equality in decision making and political governance; and reducing violence against women. The project enables the Ministry to fund multiple activities with national non-government organisations and women's organisations in Samoa.	\$3,800,000	2015–2020
Samoa Gender Adviser	Consultant	Providing technical assistance to support the implementation of Samoan Women Shaping Development program. The Adviser provides mentoring, coaching and training within the Ministry and provides support to enable gender mainstreaming of DFAT sector programs in Samoa.	\$100,000 \$331,283	2018–2019 2015–2017 (Completed)



## Solomon Islands

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Emerging Leaders Training for Women	Australia Pacific Training Coalition	Providing training to develop the competency of individuals working as emerging leaders in a range of contexts. The project has a particular emphasis on developing effective relationships in the workplace and managing operational plans.	\$159,303	2018
Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in Solomon Islands (SECSIP) Phase II	United Nations Development Program	Implementing dedicated activities to support female candidates in the 2019 national elections (part of a \$3,000,000 SECSIP II program).	\$460,000	2018
Leadership Skills for Women	Australia Pacific Training Coalition	Provided leadership and management training to female mid-level Solomon Islands managers to enhance their leadership, decision making and management skills. Participants included women working in civil society organisations in Malaita Province, Western Province and Honiara.	\$245,000	2017–2018 (Completed)
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
Empowering Women in Smart Business	International Finance Corporation	Addressing gender inequalities in the labour market through engagement with the private sector to improve business performance and employment outcomes for women in Solomon Islands. The project is part of the \$50 million Pacific Partnership (2015–2019).	\$2,445,074	2016–2019
Markets for Change	UN Women	Improving market governance, management, infrastructure and access to financial services to increase women's economic empowerment and ensure markets are more sustainable, accessible and safe for women vendors.	\$1,280,946	2014–2019
Support to Solomon Islands Women in Business Association	Solomon Islands Women in Business Association	Supporting Solomon Islands Women in Business Association as the key organisation for women in business in Solomon Islands to promote, develop and empower women's participation in the private sector.	\$719,552	2014–2018
Innovative Approaches to Increasing Women's Access to Markets	World Bank Group	Assessed the constraints to, and effective measures for, increasing women's participation and productivity in agricultural value chains in Solomon Islands.	\$200,100	2016–2018 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women's Economic Empowerment and Violence against Women in Melanesia	Australian National University and International Women's Development Agency	Improved understanding of the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women in Melanesia.	\$170,532	2016–2018 (Completed)
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Community Channels of Hope Phase 3	World Vision Solomon Islands	Working with churches and community leaders to positively transform people's beliefs, attitudes and behaviours regarding gender relations to reduce violence against women.	\$3,106,000	2018–2022
Responding to violence against women and girls in Solomon Islands	International Women's Development Agency	Providing core funding, technical support and capacity building to Christian Care Centre and Family Support Centre, two key organisations providing emergency shelter, first aid, counselling and legal advice services to survivors of violence in Solomon Islands.	\$2,950,000	2017–2020
Let's Make our Families Safe	Solomon Islands National Council of Women, Vois Blong Mere Solomon, International Women's Development Agency, Pacific Leadership Program, Oxfam Australia and IOD PARC	Providing support to existing and new community level actions to prevent violence in the home. The project helps to establish coalitions between the civil society groups, services providers, churches and government agencies that are working to prevent family violence. Phase 2 (2018–2022) is currently being designed.	\$5,536,137	2014–2018
Red Cardim Vaelens	Live & Learn Solomon Islands	Worked with selected sports clubs in Honiara and Auki to address gender-based violence through sports.	\$557,810	2015–2017 (Completed)
Youth alcohol and violence reduction against women and children	Save the Children	Worked with young people to address causes of gender-based violence.	\$800,000	2015–2017 (Completed)
Channels of Hope for Gender	World Vision Solomon Islands	Worked with churches and community leaders to positively transform people's beliefs, attitudes and behaviours regarding gender relations to reduce violence against women in 30 communities across two provinces. Phase 2 (2018–2022) is currently being designed.	\$2,880,000	2013–2018 (Completed)
Christian Care Centre	Christian Care Centre	Provided funding to host a strategic workshop.	\$8,575	2013 (Completed)





Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Gender Equality Program Support	Solomon Islands Resource Facility	Supporting the Women's Development Division at the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs to progress outcomes in accordance with its key policies - the Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy, Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls Policy and the National Action Plan in Women, Peace and Security.	\$946,327	2016–2019
Social Development Adviser	Consultant	Improved gender considerations in planning, programming, monitoring and learning of all Australian-funded aid programs.	\$200,000	2014 (Completed)
Recognising shared interests of Australia and Solomon Islands in the advancement of gender equality	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	Strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs to progress priority outcomes in accordance with its Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy.	\$450,827	2013–2016 (Completed)



## Tonga

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
Provision of economic empowerment services for women survivors of violence alongside their counselling and support services	Tonga National Women and Children's Centre	Providing support to women and girls, including survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG), to have access to and control over expanded economic opportunities, and to be able to make strategic life choices.	\$143,277	2017–2019
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Support to Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC) Tonga	WCCC and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	Supporting violence against women service providers to increase the quality, coverage and awareness of services. Additional funds were provided for Tropical Cyclone Gita support.	\$1,700,000	2014–2019
Families Free of Violence Tonga (Famili Fiefia 'Oua Vatamaki)	Australian Federal Police	Strengthening the response to family violence in Tonga, working closely with the Women's Affairs Division and Tonga Police.	\$1,800,000	2017–2019
Funding to the Government of Tonga Women's Affairs Division for key ending violence against women events	Women's Affairs Division	Supporting the Women's Affairs Division to coordinate media and events for key celebration days (International Women's Day, White Ribbon Day etc.), and providing core funding to the Tonga National Centre for Women and Children. Current support to the Women's Affairs Division is for institutional strengthening and gender mainstreaming.	\$154,460 \$205,000	2017–2019 2014–2017 (Completed)
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Adviser	Consultant	Providing support to country-level M&E processes, including finalising the Tonga <i>Pacific Women</i> M&E Framework, building evaluation capacity to <i>Pacific Women</i> implementing partners, and compiling an annual progress report for <i>Pacific Women</i> in Tonga.	\$113,109	2017–2018
Gender Adviser	Consultant	Providing technical assistance through a Gender Adviser for the Government of Tonga and sectoral program managers to improve outcomes for women, as well as for DFAT staff to improve gender considerations in planning, programming, monitoring and learning of all Australian-funded aid programs.	\$142,387 \$312,000	2017–2019 2014–2017 (Completed)



## Tuvalu

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Psychosocial Counsellor Adviser	Department of Community Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development and Consultant	Supporting the Community Affairs Department to: establish referral and follow-up protocols in line with legislative requirements; improve counselling services by developing policies and guidelines and an overall framework for counsellors to operate; and develop a pool of local counsellors.	\$420,554	2018–2019
<b>Enhancing Agency</b>				
Tuvalu Study on People with Disability	Community Affairs Department, Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development and Consultant	Conducting the first national study on people with disability, with data from the nine islands that make up Tuvalu. The study aims to better understand the situation of people with disabilities and identify strategies to improve support provided to them.	\$103,680	2016–2018
Support for presentation at Universal Periodic Review	Government of Tuvalu	Supported two delegates to present the Tuvalu Universal Periodic Review to the Human Rights Council in Geneva.	\$25,750	2018 (Completed)
Gender and Social Inclusion Adviser	Gender Affairs Department, Office of the Prime Minister and Consultant	Supported the Gender Affairs Department to provide mentoring and training to support capacity strengthening within the department. The adviser also supported gender mainstreaming initiatives, temporary special measures for women's political participation and the implementation of the <i>Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act</i> .	\$289,145	2016–2018 (Completed)



## Vanuatu

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Gender Equality Together: Strengthening Women's Rights in Vanuatu Project	CARE Vanuatu	Strengthening the collective leadership, capacity and coordination of civil society and government to more effectively work towards the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls.	\$1,000,000	2017–2018
Support the introduction of reserved seats for women at Provincial Council level	Pacific Leadership Program and the Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Community Services	Supported the development of alternative approaches to increase women's participation in politics. This project provided adaptive leadership training to women councillors to increase skills in advocacy and policy reform.	\$220,000	2014–2017 (Completed)
<b>Economic Empowerment</b>				
Markets for Change	UN Women	Improving market governance, management, infrastructure and access to financial services to increase women's economic empowerment and ensure markets are more sustainable, accessible and safe for women vendors.	\$3,429,077	2014–2019
Improving training and employment outcomes for women and girls	Vanuatu Skills Partnership (previously Vanuatu Skills for Economic Growth Program, previously known as the Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Strengthening Program)	Providing training for women with a focus on tourism and agribusiness. Training includes individual coaching to women to improve business skills and increase their opportunities for paid employment.	\$1,486,397	2013–2019
Support to the Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu (ACTIV)	ACTIV	Improved packaging of products, promoted access to local and international markets and enhanced women's access to skills-sharing sessions on the development of small scale agriculture production.	\$150,000	2017–2018 (Completed)
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Filming on domestic violence	Wan Smolbag Theatre	Producing a film series on women's empowerment and domestic violence.	\$260,000	2016–2019



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Prevention of violence against women	Vanuatu Women's Centre	Exploring other ways to prevent gender violence that build on Vanuatu Women's Centre's work including: supporting the Department of Women's Affairs to deliver and monitor the implementation of the Family Protection Act; conducting research on the crisis service needs of rural women; and providing financial and technical support as recommended by the crisis service provider research.	\$6,800,000	2014–2021
Response to Tropical Cyclone Pam	Vanuatu Women's Centre	Provided funding to the Vanuatu Women's Centre to ensure that women's needs are adequately addressed in recovery planning in Vanuatu.	\$500,000	2015–2016 (Completed)
Research on improved access to justice for women and children	Policing and Justice Support Program	Developed the 'conflict management web', a tool on how conflicts involving women and violence against women are managed and resolved in order to identify areas of innovation and strength, as well as areas of weakness.	\$200,000	2015–2016 (Completed)





## Regional

Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Leadership and Decision Making</b>				
Shifting the Power Coalition	ActionAid Australia, FemLINKPacific, Pacific Disability Forum, Nazareth Centre, Transcend Oceania, Talitha Project, YWCA PNG, YWCA Samoa, Vanuatu Young Women for Change, Vois Blong Mere Solomons, ActionAid Vanuatu	Working to ensure diverse Pacific women's voices provide leadership in disaster planning and response at all levels with tangible outcomes around diverse women leaders in six countries having increased capacity to engage in disaster coordination mechanisms and influence decision making. The project includes documentation of women's needs and capacities in crises to contribute to evidence-based disaster planning, and establishment of platforms to strengthen diverse Pacific women's voices in regional fora to influence policy and decision making.	\$895,000	2018–2021
Women's Leadership Initiative	Other DFAT programs	Supporting selected Australia Awards scholars to fulfil their leadership potential and drive reforms in their communities. <i>Pacific Women</i> is co-funding this \$5.4 million project with other DFAT programs.	\$1,980,000	2017–2022
Program Design: Balance of Power – Increasing Women's Participation and Voice in Political Processes	Consultant team and <i>Pacific Women</i> Support Unit	Designing a project to increase women's participation and voice in political processes in Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, all of which have particularly low representation of women in Parliament.	\$250,000	2017–2018
Tracer study of climate change negotiator training participants	Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)	Assessed the benefits derived by the participants of the Pacific Women Climate Change Negotiators capacity building package. Results from this study will be used by DFAT and WEDO to inform future support and implementation of the package.	\$20,040	2017–2018 (Completed)
Support for Women's Groups and Coalitions	Pacific Leadership Program	Delivered adaptive leadership training for women leaders and coalition members to support them to develop new skills and perspectives to progress initiatives, build a support base and overcome barriers to change. The funding also contributed to research on the Simbo for Change program in Solomon Islands and the CEDAW campaign in Tonga.	\$433,962	2015–2017 (Completed)
Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnership (PWPP) project	Australian International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives	Supported building the capacity of Pacific women parliamentarians and their staff to ensure gender equality issues are better addressed in parliament.	\$2,850,037	2013–2018 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Gender Equality in Political Governance	UN Women	Contributed to the improvement of governance mechanisms through increased women's transformative political participation in informal and formal systems.	\$200,000	2013 (Completed)

## Economic Empowerment

Building prosperity for women producers, processors and women owned businesses through organic value chains	SPC POETCom	Identifying and supporting organic value chains that benefit women as producers, suppliers, processors and entrepreneurs, while also enhancing their capacity for inter-regional organic trade within the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Kiribati.	\$3,884,100	2018–2022
Program Design: Building prosperity for women producers, processors and women owned businesses through organic value chains	Consultant team and <i>Pacific Women Support Unit</i>	Designing a project to identify and support organic value chains that benefit women as producers, suppliers, processors and entrepreneurs, while also enhancing their capacity for inter-regional organic trade.	\$117,618	2017–2018
Gender Review of Pacific Regional Economic Growth Programs	n/a	Assessed the degree to which gender has been effectively mainstreamed and how women's economic empowerment has been enhanced, through 11 DFAT-funded regional economic growth programs in the Pacific.	\$52,609	2017 (Completed)
Building Women Entrepreneurs	Pacific Island Private Sector Organisation	Promoted women's economic empowerment in the Pacific Islands through a Women in Business Conference.	\$142,203	2014 (Completed)
Private Sector Development Initiative	Asian Development Bank	Supported four pilot programs, including training for women to close the gender gap on boards and in corporate management.	\$500,000	2013–2015 (Completed)
Technical and vocational training opportunities for women in the Pacific	Australia Pacific Technical College	Funding for 25 women from Fiji to complete the Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Technology and for 25 women from across the region to undertake training to Certificate III level in non-traditional trades.	\$500,000	2013–2014 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
<b>Ending Violence against Women</b>				
Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls	UN Women	Focusing on three essential intervention areas: formal and informal education; contextualised, community-based prevention approaches; and civil society organisations' capacity to engage with national and regional institutions and authorities. These complementary approaches aim to promote gender equality and reduce violence against women and girls across communities and nations, while producing promising practices on the prevention of violence against women and girls in the Pacific.	\$7,627,948	2018–2022
Gender Equality Theology – Institutional Transformation	UnitingWorld	Supporting institutional transformation within churches and participating organisations by challenging and shifting traditional gender theologies, and then reviewing church policies to align them with new gender equality theologies. The project aims to establish procedures including codes of conduct for leaders and members and response mechanisms for situations of violence that respect the rights of women and that promote and act in accordance with the protection laws within each country.	\$1,895,451	2018–2021
Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence	UN Women	Providing technical guidance to develop multi-sectoral services and responses and support service coordination through the Joint Global Program for Essential Services in the Asia-Pacific region that works in Solomon Islands and Kiribati.	\$242,000	2018–2019
Women's Crisis Centre Programs to Eliminate Violence against Women in Fiji and the Pacific	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	Funding for the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's regional activities, including its Regional Training Program, the Male Advocates Program and the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women.	\$2,250,000	2016–2020
Support to Pacific Community (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)	RRRT	Supporting work on ending violence against women, human rights and good governance. RRRT is working with Pacific Island governments and civil society organisations to provide technical assistance, training and advocacy for women and girls to have increased access to justice for domestic violence, and promote and protect human rights commitments.	\$5,750,000	2015–2020



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Partnering Women for Change	UnitingWorld	Supporting work with churches to ensure that women, girls and people with disabilities have increased safety and wellbeing in their homes, communities and churches.	\$370,000	2015–2018
UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program	UNICEF	Supporting governments in 14 Pacific Island countries to strengthen the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation.	\$7,000,000	2014–2018
Pacific Fund to End Violence against Women	UN Women	Supported civil society organisations and governments to prevent violence and provide services for survivors of violence, including for counselling, paralegal aid, shelter and referral services. The Fund also strengthened the capacity of organisations working to end violence against women through training in advocacy, law reform, women's human rights, community education and counselling services.	\$1,500,000	2014–2017 (Completed)

### Enhancing Agency

Program Design: Pacific Girl: Supporting adolescents to reach their potential	n/a	Developing a plan to guide <i>Pacific Women's</i> investments that focus on adolescent girls – Pacific Girl. The plan will include proposed funding for country-specific activities to support the empowerment of adolescent girls as well as a program for regional learning.	\$161,458	2018
Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights research phase one - mapping and consultation	International Women's Development Agency	Mapping of existing knowledge, evidence, and current programming on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in the region.	\$14,057	2018
Social Inclusion Adviser	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)	Supporting PIFS to guide national responses to the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, as well as strengthen gender mainstreaming within the Secretariat.	\$625,000	2017–2019
<i>Pacific Women</i> Support Unit	n/a	Funding the Support Unit to provide technical and administrative services to assist in the management of the <i>Pacific Women</i> program - including planning, delivery and monitoring of activities at the country and regional level, as well as research and communications.	\$25,000,000	2015–2022



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
We Rise Coalition	Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, FemLINKPacific and the International Women's Development Agency	Supporting a coalition of four women's rights organisations committed to gender justice, ecological sustainability, peace, freedom, equality and human rights.	\$2,000,000	2015–2019
Gender Adviser for the North Pacific	Pacific Community (SPC)	Supporting the work of SPC's Gender, Culture and Youth Programme, and through DFAT's Post in Pohnpei, supports the implementation and monitoring of <i>Pacific Women</i> activities in the North Pacific.	\$391,740	2015–2018
Partnerships For Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all in the Pacific	International Planned Parenthood Federation	Supporting the expansion of access to sexual and reproductive health services in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Tonga.	\$1,500,000	2015–2018
Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific	Pacific Community (SPC)	Conducting stocktakes and support for the strengthening of government capacity to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into policies, legislation and programs and improve the collection and analysis of data to better track outcomes.	\$3,330,924	2013–2018
13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women.	Pacific Community (SPC)	Supported the Pacific Community to hold the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women. This regional gathering provided an opportunity for Government representatives from Pacific Island countries and territories, civil society, international development partners, academics and the private sector to discuss, share experiences and learn from each other, while reviewing progress on gender equality and the status of women in the Pacific against the thematic areas of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action.	\$200,000	2017 (Completed)
Right to Decide: economic and social equality through children by choice	UNFPA	Designed the pilot for a social marketing approach to accelerate the update of modern contraceptives in a selected country in the Pacific (excluding Papua New Guinea), targeting 15–24 year olds.	\$500,000	2016–2017 (Completed)





Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Last Taboo Research	WaterAid, Burnet Institute and the International Women's Development Agency	Undertook formative research in three Pacific countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands) on barriers to women and girls' effective menstrual management, and potential impacts on their participation in education and income generation.	\$500,000	2016–2017 (Completed)
Gender Equality and Climate Change in the Pacific	Protection and Pacific (ProPa) Network	Supported the Protection and Pacific (ProPa) Network, established by government officials from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The Network's mandate includes raising awareness of the nexus between gender equality and climate change, and generating more informed decision making in this space to ensure women's voices influence decision making, and that climate agreements are implemented in a gender-responsive way in the Pacific.	\$500,000	2016–2017 (Completed)
Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study	University of the South Pacific, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, UN Women, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Community, DFAT, and the University of Auckland	Carried out a mapping and gap analysis to assess gender-responsive evidence-based research that has been undertaken on and by Pacific Island countries. This project brought together research practitioners and academics from across the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand and resulted in recommendations to improve the quality of gender research carried out in the Pacific.	\$133,564	2015–2016 (Completed)
Improving women's leadership, political participation and decision-making in the Pacific	Australian National University, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program	Funded the Australian National University, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program to research and develop networks on improving women's leadership, political participation and decision making in the Pacific.	\$313,000	2014–2017 (Completed)
Women's Leadership Research	Developmental Leadership Program, La Trobe University	Funded the Developmental Leadership Program to undertake research on women's leadership programs at a community level in the Pacific, and to assess how working politically and through coalitions can contribute to program outcomes.	\$250,000	2014–2017 (Completed)
Pacific Multi-Country and Regional Assessment on Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion in Health	Consultant	Conducted an assessment which provided a gender, equity and social inclusion analysis of DFAT's approach to health sector development to contribute to more effective partner dialogue and better health-programming outcomes.	\$110,000	2014–2015 (Completed)



Project Name	Partner	Description	Total Funding	Timeframe
Review of programs aimed at ending violence against women in the Pacific	International Centre for Research on Women	Reviewed six Australian-funded initiatives in the Pacific that represent different approaches to addressing violence against women.	\$408,000	2013–2014 (Completed)
12th Triennial Conference of <i>Pacific Women</i>	Government of the Cook Islands	Supported the Cook Islands' Government to host the 12th Triennial Conference and enabled women's groups to showcase and sell products.	\$30,000	2013 (Completed)







**Australian  
Aid** 

**PACIFIC WOMEN**  
SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

[www.pacificwomen.org](http://www.pacificwomen.org)