



PACIFIC REGIONAL ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACILITY FUND



Building and supporting Pacific organisations and networks to end violence women

The UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office, in consultation with partners, identified two main challenges facing Pacific organisations and networks to scale up efforts to end violence against women in the Pacific region. These were:

- (i) Limited access to financial resources, and related needs for skills building in project, financial and organisational management, and
- (ii) Knowledge and capacity needed to strengthen rights based approaches for VAW survivors.



UN Women created the Pacific Regional Facility Fund in Support of Organisations and Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (Pacific Regional EAW Facility Fund) in 2009 to provide grants and capacity building to support EAW initiatives led by governments and civil society organisations in Pacific Region. The project provides regional and country-based technical

assistance for grant recipients, and a forum for regional south-south exchanges to share experiences, challenges and solutions.

Project at a Glance

Start date: 2009

Eligible countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

Total number of grants awarded to date: 40

Number of people reached by grantee projects in 2012: 30,610

Total grants approved to date: USD1,235,737

Number of people supported through training: 293

Key donor partners: Australian aid program, UN Women National Committees of Australia and New Zealand

Grant call range: USD10,000-100,000

Selection levels: Two tiers: National Shortlisting Committees in countries where funding is available; Regional Projects Appraisal Committee

Programme Overview

The four major components of the Pacific Regional EAW Facility are:

1. **Grants Facility:** A funding window from USD 10,000–100,000 with a collaborative review processes at national and regional levels.
2. **Capacity Development:** In-Country Technical Assistance/Help Desk Personnel
 - Technical training on Ending VAW
 - Advocacy and lobbying for legislative and policy change (with RRRRT)
 - Project and Organisation Management Services / Response
 - Preventing violence
 - Participation at the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre’s Regional Training Programme on Rights-Based Approaches to Ending VAW
 - Grantees’ Learning Exchange events/meetings
3. **Developing resources for the Pacific:** Examples include the production of a toolkit on rights based approaches to EAW programming, production and dissemination of good practice materials, and video documentation of regional lessons learned on EAW programming by grantees.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** UN Women supports grantees through site visits, mentoring and technical assistance on their implementation and reporting. In response to challenges in results-based reporting from grantees, UN Women has significantly increased support on monitoring, reporting and documentation



of achievements. Monitoring tools seek to document actions and *what happens as a result of those actions*.

Results

To date, 40 grants for civil society organisations and Pacific Governments working to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls have been supported. Initiatives include:

- **Building life skills and knowledge on human rights and gender equality amongst girls and young women aged 10-19 years** through interactive exercises, community dialogue and empowerment tools. The Talitha Project in Tonga is nurturing and transforming young women to enable them to make informed decisions about their lives and living free of violence.
- **Establishing community-based responses in villages,** the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) is enabling improved access of women survivors of violence in rural and remote areas to quality services such as overnight shelter assistance, immediate evacuation for women survivors and their dependents and referral to the Police Domestic Unit. Through extended support from two mobile phone companies, SVSG established a 24-hour Helpline which in its 3 first months received 1,000 calls, 50 of which were serious emergencies, mostly related to family violence.



- **Promoting attitude and behaviour change.** The Foundation of the People of the South Pacific International (FSPI) is working with **street dwellers, predominantly men and boys**, to promote gender equality and build positive, non-violent attitudes towards girls and women. Partnering with FSPI, Suva City’s Community Police Unit has trained street dwellers, many who work in the streets and markets of Suva, to carry out citizen’s arrests of men who violate or abuse women and girls on the streets. As a result of the training, the Street Dwellers Association has implemented a Zero-Tolerance policy for violence in the market, and they have acted on violence when they have seen it, by taking perpetrators to the police. These men and boys can be seen wearing t-shirts with messages on gender equality and Ending VAW in the markets and public spaces.
- Attending to survivors of family violence by providing **critical medical and psychological care**, the Angau Memorial Hospital in Lae, Morobe Province, PNG provides necessary services to enable healing and recovery. Support from the Pacific Fund is enabling the upgrading of an existing database system for recording cases of gender based violence, improving analysis of patterns of violence.
- **Working with marginalised groups**, such as sex workers and members of the lesbian, bi-sexual, and gay community, the Rainbow Women’s Network in Fiji provides support to its members by advocating, referring, coordinating and monitoring services for survivors of VAW. Services that members often request include referrals for health, housing, education, legal assistance, employment and finance. Staff provide basic psycho-social support to transgender members and those who live with violence. Support is also extended to family members. The support from RWN has enabled several members to make positive, transformative changes in their lives—some have returned to university education and obtained steady employment.
- In efforts to **influence and shape non-violent attitudes and behaviour early**, the Fiji National Council of Youth work with young male rugby players in and around

Suva City to rethink “macho” norms and build a positive attitude towards women and girls.

- **Using drama as a tool for communication**, the Seeds Theatre Group in Lae, targets **unemployed and illiterate groups and individuals in urban settlements** to promote gender equality and bring about an awareness of VAW, the law as well as available services for survivors.
- **Using drama to communicate sensitive issues**, such as the often hidden violence and abuse faced by women and girls with a disability. Te Toa Matoa advocates and lobbies on behalf of persons living with disabilities in Kiribati, to create a consistent awareness in the wider community of the need for equality in all aspects of life and for women and girls with disabilities to live lives free of violence.
- The Fiji Red Cross Society is providing human rights and gender equality training to its first responders and volunteers, with the focus on **prevention of VAW and response during times of emergency and disasters**. This project touches on an issue with particular relevance to the Pacific: considering the different needs of women, men, girls and boys during disasters to prepare for and respond to those needs before, during and after crises.

Stories of Change

Fiji: House of Sarah Counselling Centre

The House of Sarah Counselling Centre, an organisation under the auspices of the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia, has been providing counselling to women survivors as well as carrying out community education on gender inequality and gender-based violence. The Centre provides information and referrals to women on available services, access to basic services as well as legal rights. Through its advocacy and lobbying work within the church hierarchy, the House of Sarah, along with the Simeon Ministry¹ has been influential in the decision of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Polynesia to declare in early 2013

¹ The Simeon Ministry is the church ministry of male advocates to ending VAW

“that within the Diocese of Polynesia there be zero-tolerance of violence within our homes, our schools, settlements and the church.” The House of Sarah is working with groups of women leaders from other churches in Fiji to develop resources on religion and domestic violence that can be used by all churches.

“ Being an obedient wife, I thought that being slapped or pushed and kicked is just normal in a relationship, but I now know that I have the right to report this and it can stop the cycle of the continual abuse in my life and my home.” (Community education participant, Ba, Fiji)

Fiji: The National Substance Abuse Advisory Council (NSAAC)

As a unit within Fiji’s Ministry of Education, NSAAC is a strategic grantee in leveraging the education sector to transform negative social norms, attitudes and knowledge related to gender and violence. NSAAC received funding in 2011 to run a Peer Education programme in school settings, providing students with ‘safe spaces’ to freely express ideas, feelings and experiences, in addition to seeking advice from trained professionals.

In September 2012, NSAAC conducted Peer Education training with 54 students from nine schools in the Western Division of Fiji. The peer educators distribute information in their respective schools and refer students in need to support teachers and counsellors. As part of the programme, peer educators gain valuable experience in

facilitating programs within their schools, developing multimedia projects, gaining knowledge/ experience around social equality, violence prevention, presentation/performance skills, gender and sexuality issues and helping other students to understand the dynamic that underlies violence in Fiji society. Outside of school, the Peer Educators are involved in information dissemination at town festivals and other events. The Peer Educators collectively reached a total of 7,304 students in 2012.

“... I have gained knowledge on the many social issues that teens face and I have also gained skills in sharing information. In addition, there have been a number of changes in my attitudes and behaviours, I have experienced more self-confidence and the ability to stand and speak to peers concerning violence against women and girls.” (Wini Bainivanua, Female, 17, Peer Educator).

Papua New Guinea: Simbu Family & Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC)

Through a grant from the Pacific Fund, FSVAC in Simbu Province carries out community awareness on gender and VAW. In 2012 it reported reaching over 700 people. FSVAC also provides training to key service providers. In 2012 they trained 32 police personnel and 25 health care workers. Police personnel trained by FSVAC have in turn carried out training to other police officers and community awareness in six council wards that were reported to be the most violent areas in one district of Simbu.



Kaba Primary School Students celebrate Orange Day

Photo Credit: Ministry of Education, National Substance Abuse Advisory Council

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