



Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

Niue Activities Summary

Background

Through a 10-year commitment, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) connects more than 170 gender equality initiatives supported by Australia and implemented by over 160 partners across 14 Pacific Island countries.

Pacific Women is one of the largest global commitments to gender equality. It partners with governments, local and international non-government organisations (NGOs), private sector, disabled people's organisations, coalitions and others to improve the political, economic and social opportunities of Pacific women and to end violence against women and girls. Its emphasis is on partnerships and locally-driven development.

Providing technical, knowledge sharing and convening support to the portfolio of partners is *Pacific Women's* Support Unit, working to improve the long-term impact of gender equality projects in the Pacific. The Support Unit's office is in Suva, Fiji, with a sub-office in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Pacific Women was announced at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in August 2012. It commits up to AUD320 million over 10 years in 14 Pacific Islands Forum member countries.

Pacific Women initiatives respond to the commitments in the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, while also supporting Australia's Pacific Step-up and its Partnerships for Recovery approach of working together with Pacific partners to address COVID-19 impacts on women, girls and their communities.

The outcomes sought through *Pacific Women* are:

- **Ending Violence against Women:** Violence against women is reduced and survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Women have expanded economic opportunities to earn an income and accumulate economic assets.
- **Leadership and Decision Making:** Women, and women's interests, are increasingly and effectively represented and visible through leadership at all levels of decision making.
- **Enhancing Agency:** Women in the Pacific will have a stronger sense of their own agency, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need.

Since 2012, an estimated 1.22 million Pacific Island women, men and children have been able to access services and information across 14 partner countries through initiatives supported by *Pacific Women*.



Niue

Niue has one of the smallest populations in the world, with around 1,600 people living on the island. While no time-use surveys have been undertaken for Niue, anecdotal reports highlight that in the majority of families, women spend more time than men caring for children, the sick and the elderly, and that they also spend more hours cooking and cleaning than men do. This is the case whether or not both partners work outside the home and/or in unpaid agricultural work.

Women have less free time to enjoy leisure activities, engage in community and national decision-making processes and look after their own health. A stocktake of the government's gender mainstreaming capacity in 2015 found that while the government had a draft national policy on gender equality, there was a lack of awareness on gender quality challenges. In addition, there were limited resources and technical capacity to address these challenges. Less than one per cent of the national budget allocated is to the Department of Women.

There is high participation of women in the non-agricultural sector (46 per cent) and good representation of women in the National Parliament (25 per cent), giving Niue the highest percentage of women in a national parliament in the Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand). However, in the public service, women are under-represented in senior management positions. Strong gender stereotypes as to what constitutes women's and men's roles have created an inequitable participation in the labour force and food production.

Niue has updated its school curriculum to address gender stereotypes. Girls in Niue tend to be slightly ahead of boys in educational achievement. When it comes to health care, there are free reproductive health services, although accessibility remains a challenge, especially for young people. The status of maternal health is noted to be relatively good with no cases of women dying in childbirth since the early 1980s. This has been attributed to the high standard of health services provided for mothers in Niue through maternal and community awareness. Niue has a health referral system to New Zealand.

While the prevalence of domestic violence has not been surveyed, data from the police and health services indicate that both physical and psychological abuse are present in Niue. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the community response to violence tends to be managed within the village or extended family network. Progress towards addressing violence against women is underway with the drafting of the Family Law Bill that has been supported by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) through *Pacific Women*.

Rationale for activities

Niue receives support from *Pacific Women* through regional and multi-country activities that include Niue. Details of the activities are provided in the table below.



Table 1: Regional Programs with Activities in Niue

PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	ABOUT THIS PROJECT	BUDGET ¹
Intended Outcome: Leadership and Decision Making		
Supporting Pacific Women Members of Parliament (UNDP)	Supporting greater networking and mentoring between Pacific women parliamentarians. Activities included the 2nd Pacific Women in Power Forum (5–8 November 2019) that brought together women parliamentarians from across the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia to discuss common issues, build networks and relationships.	\$325,000 (2019–2020)
Pacific Women Parliamentary Partnerships (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)
Intended Outcome: Economic Empowerment		
Improving women’s employment in Fisheries (Forum Fisheries Agency)	Supporting initiatives to lessen the constraints to employment of women in the fisheries sector: Increased Women in Leadership in Fisheries; Increased Financial Literacy and Attendance of Fish Processing Staff; and a Scoping Study to Increase Women’s Employment in the Fish Harvesting Sector. Co-funded with the International Finance Corporation.	\$100,000 (2019–2020)
Intended Outcome: Ending Violence against Women		
Support to the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (The Pacific Community (SPC))	Supporting work on ending violence against women, human rights and good governance with Pacific Island governments and civil society organisations. Providing technical assistance and training. Advocating for women and girls to have increased access to justice for domestic violence and to promote and protect human rights commitments.	\$5,750,000 (2015–2020)
UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program (UNICEF)	Worked across 14 Pacific Island Countries to strengthening protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation.	\$7,000,000 (2014–2018)
Intended Outcome: Enhancing Agency		
Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (The Pacific Community (SPC))	Phase one (completed) conducted stocktakes of Pacific Island governments’ capacity to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into policies, legislation and programs and strengthened the collection and analysis of data to better track outcomes. Phase two is supporting Pacific Island countries to adopt evidence-informed policies and legislation that promote gender equality and women’s human rights.	\$3,941,712 (2013–2018) \$5,494,203 (2019–2023)

¹ This allocation is not for Niue alone but for multiple countries under *Pacific Women*.

