

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development: Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

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.

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 Australian Government, through *Pacific Women*, has committed approximately \$3.9 million over 10 years (2012–2022) on initiatives to support women's empowerment in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

Figures¹

Community awareness and outreach

- 2,400 people reached including those on remote outer islands through community education campaigns on ending violence against women by Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI).
- 40 police officers trained in survivor-centred, rights-based responses to best support survivors of violence against women and girls, by Weto in Mour.
- 20 teachers trained on basic elements of child safeguarding.

Crisis support services

- 60 women have accessed crisis services through Weto in Mour since 2016.
- Weto in Mour has supported 42 per cent of its clients to apply for Protection Orders and 38 per cent of its clients obtained Protection Orders.

Achievements

Leadership and Decision Making

- Co-funding support for the inaugural Micronesian Women's Conference in August 2017, along with the European Union and other partners, assisted to bring together women leaders and representatives from RMI, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and Guam. Ministers, elected representatives and senior government officials in Micronesia signed the Jined Kiped Declaration committing to recommendations to accelerate progress toward gender equality, with an emphasis on climate change and disability.

Ending Violence against Women

- Pacific Women* has supported the feasibility study, pilot project and establishment of RMI's first domestic violence crisis support services in 2016, called Weto in Mour and managed by WUTMI. Weto in Mour provides emotional, psychosocial and financial support survivors of violence and works to improve referral systems between service providers.
- 40 police officers from Kwajalein and Majuro Atoll can better respond to survivors of violence against women and girls following training in survivor-centred, rights-based frontline responses including use of the network of referral services coordinated by Weto in Mour.

Enhancing Agency

- Funding for organisational strengthening support for governance and operations is provided to WUTMI, as the leading women's organisation in RMI.

¹ Information collated from *Pacific Women* implementing partner reports cumulative to June 2019 unless otherwise stated.



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- The RMI government is increasing its capacity to generate sex disaggregated data, and to use those gender statistics to guide national policy and decision-making, evaluation and learning, and human rights reporting. This is resulting from support to the Pacific Community (SPC) Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (PGEP) project.

Pacific Women Partners

Government of RMI: Ministry of Cultural and Internal Affairs; Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce.

RMI civil society partners: Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI); Marshall Islands Service Corporation (MISCo), the Chamber of Commerce and the Handicraft Association

Other partners: Australian International and Community Relations Office; Department of the House of Representatives; Fiji Women's Crisis Centre; Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism (PACTAM); the Pacific Community (SPC) and its POETCom, Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific and Regional Rights Resource Team; UNICEF and *Pacific Women's* regional partners.

