



Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

Samoa Country Plan 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*.



Samoa

Samoa consists of four inhabited and five uninhabited islands. The Samoan economy is dominated by subsistence agricultural farming. The government, in collaboration with private sector and development partners, is supporting programs to expand the livelihood options and other income generating opportunities for women.

Samoa ranks 104 out of 188 on the Human Development Index.¹ While there is some evidence of changing gender norms, traditional culture still plays a central role in the Samoan way of life and men are predominantly regarded as the head of the household. However, women are experiencing greater equality in some aspects of public life, such as in participation levels in formal employment.

Through *Pacific Women*, the Australian Government will spend **\$9.3 million over 10 years** (2012–2022) on initiatives supporting women’s empowerment in Samoa.

Country plans are the mechanism through which *Pacific Women* outcomes and activities are planned and agreed between DFAT and counterpart governments, following extensive national consultations. They provide detail on what will be funded and how these funding decisions are made. The Country Plan for Samoa includes activities valued at approximately \$4.4 million and will be implemented from 2015–2020.

The Samoa Country Plan was developed following a scoping mission informed by consultations with a broad range of stakeholders. These included village communities, civil society and nongovernmental organisations, private sector, media, government agencies, the judiciary, cabinet ministers, the Prime Minister, DFAT staff and other development partners. Discussions were also conducted with rural and urban women, men, young people, women with disabilities, eminent Samoan leaders and church representatives in Apia and Savaii (representing stakeholders from across rural areas). Discussions sought information about barriers and opportunities for gender equality, the drivers of change in the Samoan context, and where Australia is best positioned to provide support.

A review of the Samoa Country Plan was conducted in November 2017 to inform the development of future activities to be implemented by the program.

Rationale for the activities in Country Plan

Pacific Women is owned and led by Pacific and women’s organisations. The overarching model used by *Pacific Women* is that the program is managed by DFAT and implemented through a series of partnerships, the majority of which are with Pacific-based organisations. In Samoa *Pacific Women* is delivered through the country’s relevant government ministry and UN Women in partnership with local Samoan and women’s organisations.

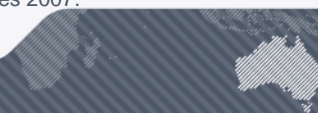
(a) Increasing women’s economic empowerment

Around 97 per cent of households engage in agricultural activities. Women account for approximately seven per cent of this agricultural activity.² There is greater parity in formal employment opportunities, as 43 per cent of the formally employed population are women and 40 per cent of businesses are headed by women.³ Samoa passed the *Labour and Employment Relations Act* 2013 that provides for non-discrimination against applicants who are pregnant, mandatory paid maternity leave and equal pay without discrimination based on gender.

¹ Human Development Index, 2017. United Nations Development Programme, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/WSM>.

² World Bank, 2015. Agriculture Survey (Samoa Agriculture & Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project).

³ Asian Development Bank, 2007. Key indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries 2007.



(b) Increasing women's leadership and decision making

In June 2013, the Samoan Parliament unanimously passed the *Constitution Amendment Act 2013* that introduced a 10 per cent quota of women representatives into the national Legislative Assembly. Consequently, following the 2016 elections, women hold five of the 50 seats in the National Parliament (four women elected outright and a fifth seat activated under the quota provisions). A threshold challenge for women becoming political leaders is that political candidates are required to hold a chiefly title of matai. In 2015, only seven per cent of matais were women.

Samoa traditional culture, fa'asamoa, including the social structure at the village level, plays a central role in the Samoan way of life. Villages are governed by matais or chiefs through the village council and hierarchy of committees. The fa'asamoa provides for the distinct and different roles of men, women and children in society, including the role of Village Women's Committees in providing advice to the Village Council. Consultations during the scoping mission stressed the need to strengthen built-in cultural practices that promote gender balance by ensuring that gender equality programs and messages are promoted in the Samoan cultural context.

(c) Reducing the incidence of violence against women

Violence against women is a serious issue in Samoa, with 46.4 per cent of all women who have been in a relationship having experienced one or more forms of violence⁴ and 60 per cent of women aged between 20–49 who have ever been in a relationship having experienced some form of partner abuse in their lifetime.⁵ Data from the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration shows that 625 women applied for protection orders between 2015 and 2016, while numbers from the Ministry of Police show domestic violence cases increasing to 767 in 2015.

A Family Violence Court and a Drugs and Alcohol Court has been established to oversee cases regarding all forms of violence in Samoan families related to drugs and alcohol. The *Domestic Violence Act 2013* establishes the legal framework for responding to domestic violence.

(d) Enhancing agency

Samoa is a signatory to a range of international and regional commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. These commitments are premised on the belief and understanding that gender equality goes hand-in-hand with sustainable national development.

On 2 December 2016, the Government of Samoa ratified the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which emphasises the need for a gender perspective in efforts to support women living with a disability.

⁴ Pacific Community, 2006. *Samoa Family Health and Safety Study*.

⁵ Samoa Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, 2017. *Samoa Family Safety Study*.



Table 1: Bilateral Activities

PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET
Outcome: Leadership and Decision Making		
Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa (UNDP partner-led agreement)	Supported the implementation of the 2013 Constitutional Amendment to introduce a 10 per cent quota of women representatives in Parliament.	\$500,000 (2015–2016)
Women in Leadership Samoa Project (WILS) (UN Women, UNDP)	Strengthening women's leadership and gender equality in Samoa by building on the Increasing Political Participation of Women project. Supporting leadership pathways, promoting political inclusivity, increasing public awareness on political participation and sharing knowledge of Samoa's experience.	\$3,000,000 (2018–2022)
Outcome: Ending Violence against Women		
Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (UN Women and Samoan partners)	Funding for key projects under the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women includes supporting the development of Standard Operating Procedures.	\$7,627,948 ⁶ (2018–2022)
Outcome: Enhancing Agency		
Technical Adviser (Local consultant)	Providing contextualised expertise and technical support to DFAT Post in the review of the Country Plan (2015–2018).	\$30,000 (2019–2020)
Samoan 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: increasing women's economic empowerment; advancing gender equality in decision making and political governance; and reducing violence against women. Enabling the Ministry to fund activities with non-governmental and women's organisations.	\$1,900,000 (2015–2018) \$197,529.50 (2019–2020)
Civil Society Support Program – Gender (Civil Society Support Program (CSSP))	Supporting gender-focused civil society organisations. Delivered through DFAT's grant management facility to support civil society development and administered through the Samoan Ministry of Finance.	\$400,000 (2018–2020)
Gender Adviser (Consultant)	Mentoring, coaching and training to support capacity strengthening within DFAT Post and key partners to enable gender mainstreaming of DFAT sector programs.	\$331,283 (2015–2017) \$90,227.28 (2018–2020)

⁶ This project is supported by the regional program and this allocation is not for Samoa alone but for multiple countries under the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls project.



Table 2: Regional Programs with Activities in Samoa

PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	ABOUT THIS PROJECT	BUDGET ⁷
Outcome: Leadership and Decision Making		
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)
Strengthening Diverse Women's Leadership in Humanitarian Action (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, ActionAid Vanuatu)	Ensuring diverse Pacific women's voices provide leadership in disaster planning and response through a coalition approach. Supporting diverse women leaders to engage in disaster coordination mechanisms and influence decision making. Documenting needs and capacities in crises. Establishing platforms to strengthen diverse Pacific women's voices to influence policy and decision making.	\$895,000 (2018–2021)
Outcome: Ending Violence against Women		
Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (UN Women)	Promoting gender equality and reducing violence against women and girls across communities and nations in the Pacific, while producing promising practices. 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. Refer to Table 1 for more information.	\$7,627,948 (2018–2022)
UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program (UNICEF)	Worked across 14 Pacific Island Countries to strengthening protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation	\$7,000,000.00 (2014–2018)
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)

⁷ This allocation is not for Samoa alone but for multiple countries under *Pacific Women*.



PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	ABOUT THIS PROJECT	BUDGET ⁷
Outcome: Enhancing Agency		
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 Vanuatu and, from phase two, Papua New Guinea.	\$3,000,000 (2015–2022)
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)

