

Regional Investments Brief

December 2024

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# **Pacific Women Lead overview**

Pacific Women Lead (PWL) is a portfolio of regional investments valued at AUD170 million over 5 years (2021 – 2026). PWL aims to advance gender equality and is ambitious in its intent to take a Pacific-led, intersectional and transformative approach to promoting gender equality in the region and bringing new emphasis to strengthening regional action and architecture in support of gender equality. PWL builds on the strengths and lessons learned through Australia’s 10-year gender equality investment, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development.

The goal of PWL is for: Pacific women and girls, in all their diversity, to be safe and equitably share in resources, opportunities and decision-making with men and boys.

The program works across three outcome areas with the following end-of-PWL sub-outcomes:

Table 1 Pacific Women Lead outcome and sub-outcome

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | **Sub-outcomes** |
| Women’s Leadership Promoted (WLP) | * More women and girls, in all their diversity, are respected, listened to and are influencing decision-making at all levels **(Women and girls’ voice)** * The Pacific feminist movement has grown in depth, is better connected and their expertise is drawn upon by Pacific partners **(Pacific feminist civil society)** |
| Women’s Rights Realised (WRR) | * Diverse women and adolescent girls have improved access to quality health services, especially sexual and reproductive health **(Women’s health – SRHR)** * Diverse women have more equitable access to resilient economic opportunities, including increased voice in economic decision-making **(Women’s Economic Empowerment)** * Violence against women and children is reduced, and survivors have access to quality support services, including in times of disasters **(Women’s safety)** |
| Pacific Ownership and regional effectiveness (POE) | * Pacific Governments and development partners are implementing programs and policies that support gender equality **(Gender mainstreaming)** * There is robust engagement, cooperation and mutual sharing between regional agencies and intergovernmental organisations to deliver on gender equality commitments **(Pacific ownership)** |

# **Program components**

PWL is a portfolio of 5 components; each component is a distinct implementing partner [[1]](#footnote-2)of PWL: Through these components, technical support and funding is provided to Pacific women-led civil society organisations, multilateral and regional organisations, government and other stakeholders.

The components of the portfolio include:

**The Pacific Community (SPC) as a key implementing partner of PWL. PWL** at SPC sits within SPC’s Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) division and supports the implementation of key regional commitments outlined in the Pacific Leaders’ Gender Equality Declaration, the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights, and the outcomes of the Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. Through PWL, SPC provides technical, convening and funding support to government ministries, civil society, and other partners, while also acting as Secretariat for the PWL Governance Board.

**Pacific Women Lead Governance Board** provides direct strategic oversight on SPC’s PWL related activities and decides the allocation of AUD 5 million of discretionary funds. The Board also provides strategic advisory to DFAT Canberra (Australia) in enhancing regional effectiveness by identifying gaps and opportunities across the Pacific but does not provide direct strategy advice or have a decision-making role over the DFAT Posts or the Pacific Women’s Funds component. The Board receives reporting on outcomes for all other portfolio components through the PWL Annual Progress Report, compiled by the Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services.

**Pacific Women’s Funds** are supported to expand their work with women’s rights organisations and human rights defenders in the Pacific. This includes funding their advocacy activities to draw more resources for work towards gender equality to the region and funds to support the establishment of the first Pacific Feminist Fund.

**DFAT manages bilateral and regional programs. DFAT Canberra (Australia) and Fiji Post** manages direct funding arrangements for regional gender projects, including (but not limited to) UN Women’s Markets for Change and Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, and UNFPAs Transformative Agenda program. **DFAT Posts** manage and fund country-level gender projects. Importantly, bilateral programs have autonomy in design, delivery and governance, but their gender programming aligns with the PWL goal and outcomes, and they will report results into the Pacific Women Lead Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System.

**Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services** (PWLES) managed by DT Global, provides support to SPC and DFAT to implement PWL. This includes whole-of-portfolio monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), partnership brokering and the delivery of an independent Quality and Technical Assurance Group (QTAG). It is the role of the MEL team within the PWLES to compile a yearly whole-of-portfolio progress report, which brings together all the above components of PWL.[[2]](#footnote-3)

# **Purpose of the Regional Investments Brief**

The Regional Investments Brief is designed and tailored to serve the following purposes:

* Increase PWL partners and external stakeholders’ visibility of *regional projects and implementing partners* that are being funded or come under the PWL portfolio. It is intended to contribute to greater collaboration and coordination by grantors and grantees.
* Serve as a mechanism for PWLES to collaborate with the 5 components of PWL to review project details (i.e. project information, timeframes and budget) to ensure all information captured in the PWL MEL system is correct.
* Support DFAT’s internal reporting, where investments are above AUD3 million.

Therefore, the Regional Investments Brief is designed to cover a calendar year (January to December) and will be updated six monthly. The information will be drawn from the PWL quantitative database to show:

1. Regional gender projects funded by the 5 components of PWL
2. Reach data[[3]](#footnote-4) against PWL quantitative indicators
3. Impact stories collected by partners or PWLES

This Regional Investments Brief update is focussed on January to June 2024 and provides information that are being funded by or come under the 5 components of PWL. For country-level projects, refer to country-specific briefs.

# **Pacific Women Lead at SPC Projects**

The Pacific Community (SPC) is a distinct implementing partner of PWL (known as PWL at SPC) and has a grant agreement with DFAT Canberra, valued at AUD57,600,000. From this total value, SPC provides technical support to Pacific governments, hosts and supports regional convenings (such as the Triennial) and a grants program for its government partners and women’s organisations across the Pacific. You can also watch a short explainer video here: [Pacific Women Lead at the Pacific Community (PWL at SPC) explainer video](https://youtu.be/bBOpTVKh8Hs?si=OxeE63PdSKrxVdbT).

This section provides information on regional projects funded and managed by PWL at SPC.

## **Project and implementing partner count by outcome and sub-outcome**

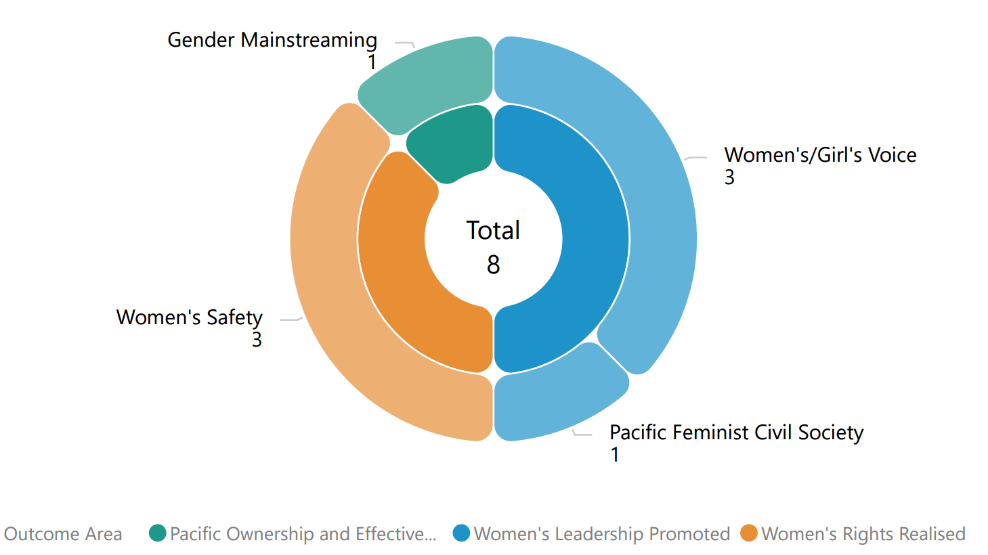
There are 8 projects implemented by 8 downstream implementing partners that are funded and managed under PWL at SPC. Table 2 provides an overview of the projects (refer to Annex 1 for detailed information).

Table 2 Overview of regional projects under PWL at SPC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project name** | **Downstream partner** | **Outcome and sub-outcome** |
| A Niu (New) Pasifika Paradigm – “Whole of Life”, Transformative Leadership for Justice – Strengthening Women’s Leadership, Gender, Ecological, Economic and Social Justice in the Pasifika Household of God | Pacific Theological College (PTC) | Women’s rights realised – women’s safety |
| Barriers to Female Leadership for Staff at Selected Pacific Island Universities, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) | University of South Pacific (USP) | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Just, Safe, Resilient and Empowered Pacific Communities | Pacific Conference of Churches | Women’s rights realised – women’s safety |
| Oceania faith communities advancing safety and equality | Uniting World | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Pacific Feminist Forum – From the Women of the Pacific to Global Feminist Engagement | International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Realising Women’s Rights and to Increase the Effectiveness of Gender Equality in the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) | Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) | Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness – gender mainstreaming |
| Strengthening Pacific Women’s Rights to Safety and Access to Health through Survivor-Centred and Evidence-Based approaches | Fiji National University (FNU) | Women’s rights realised – women’s safety |
| Shifting the Power Coalition: Power Owned, Women-Led Early Warning and Resilience (POWER) systems | ActionAid Australia | Women’s leadership promoted – feminist civil-society |

Of the 8 projects, four projects work in Women’s leadership promoted in women and girls voice (3) and Pacific feminist civil society (1), three projects work in Women’s rights realised in women’s safety (3) and one in Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness in gender mainstreaming (1).

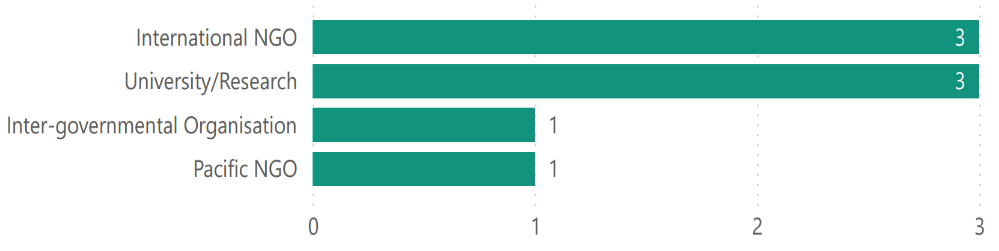
Figure 1 Projects by outcome and sub-outcome



## **Type of implementing partner**

Of the 8 downstream implementing partners, three international NGOs (3), three are university/research institutions (3), one is an inter-governmental organisation (1), and one is a Pacific NGO (1).

Figure 2 Type of implementing partner



## **Committed funding by outcome and sub-outcome**

The committed funding for each of the projects comes out of PWL at SPC AUD57,600,000 budget.

Table 3 Committed funding by outcome and sub-outcome

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome** | **Sub-outcome** | **Committed Funding (AUD)** |
| Women’s rights realised | Women’s safety | 1,499,711.64 |
| Women’s leadership promoted | Women and girls’ voice | 1,415,539.25 |
| Women’s leadership promoted | Pacific feminist civil society | 532,233.07 |
| Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness | Gender mainstreaming | 402,000 |
| **Total** |  | **3,849,483.96** |

# **Pacific Women Lead Governance Board Projects**

This section will provide information on regional projects funded by the PWL Governance Board when available and entered into the PWL quantitative database.

## **Discretionary Funds**

Five million has been set aside for activities to be funded at the discretion of the Governance Board with the aim to add value to and build on existing PWL activities. The Board’s Secretariat (SPC) developed seven criteria to guide the use of the Board funds. The seven criteria include: 1) alignment with PWL outcomes; 2) Pacific-led approaches; 3) regional or multi-country in scale; 4) promoting transformational change; 5) development effectiveness; 6) diversity and inclusion; 7) informed by research, evidence and data.

There are no projects currently being funded by the Board.

## **Board Members**

The PWL Governance Board has 13 members, 12 of whom are from the Pacific region (refer to Annex 2 for detailed list of all members). DFAT’s Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Development Branch is an ex-officio member of the Board.

# **Pacific Women’s Funds Projects**

The Pacific Women’s Funds is made up of three feminist organisations: Women’s Fund Fiji, Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific and Pacific Feminist Fund. Table 4 provides an overview of the Pacific Women’s Fund organisations.

More information about Women’s Fund Fiji and Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific can be found on their websites: [Women's Fund Fiji](https://womensfundfiji.org/) and [Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific](https://www.uafanp.org/). Pacific Feminist Fund is recently established and does not have a website.

Of the three feminist organisations, Pacific Feminist Fund and Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific provides grants to women’s organisations across the Pacific.

Table 4 Overview of Pacific Women’s Fund organisations

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Partner organisation** | **Committed Funding** | **Funding Source** | **Outcome and sub-outcome** |
| Women’s Fund Fiji | 4,841,659.75 | Bilateral – Fiji | Women leadership promoted – Pacific feminist civil society |
| Urgent Action Fund Asia and the Pacific | 4,336,500 | Regional | Women leadership promoted – Pacific feminist civil society |
| Pacific Feminist Fund | 1,170,849 | Regional | Women leadership promoted – Pacific feminist civil society |
| **Total** | **10,349,008.75** |  |  |

# **DFAT Regional Projects**

This section provides an overview of regional (multi-country) gender activities that are managed and funded by either DFAT Post in Fiji or DFAT Canberra (Australia).

## **Project and implementing partner count by outcome and sub-outcome**

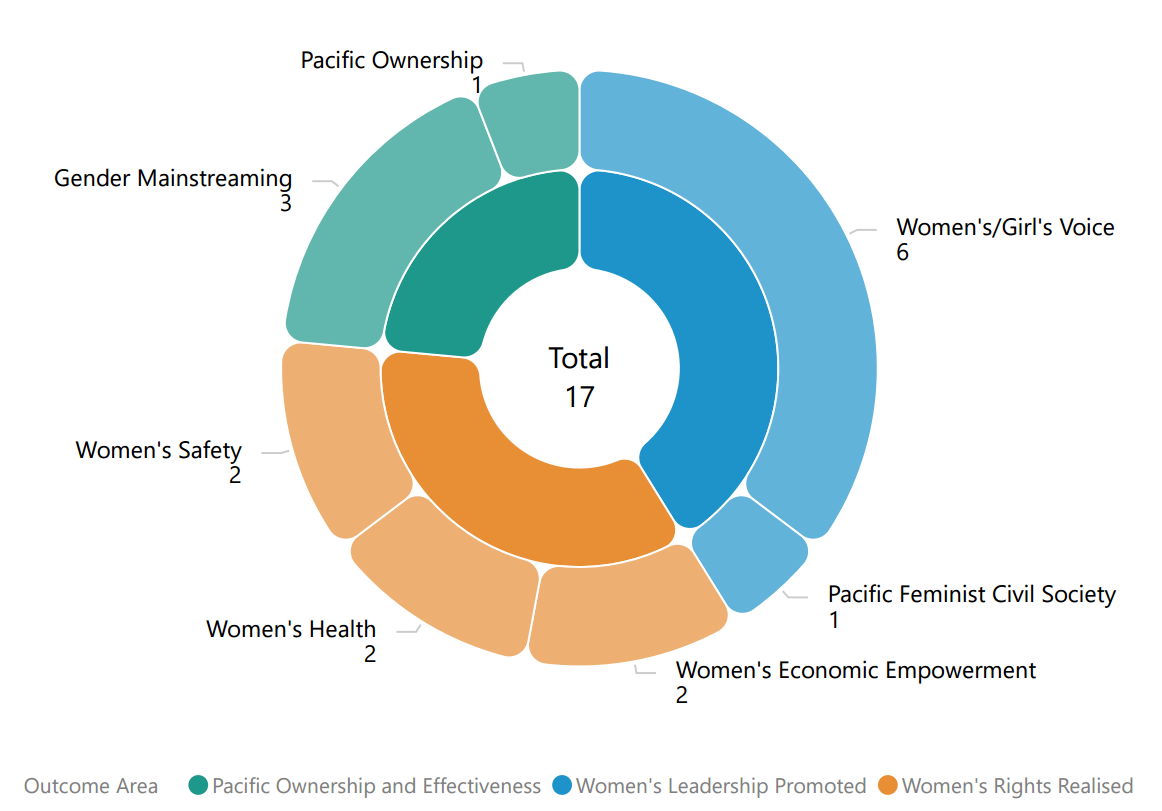
There are 17 regional projects implemented in multiple countries across the Pacific by 12 distinct implementing partners, plus 4 research projects. Table 5 provides an overview of the projects (refer to Annex 1 for detailed information).

Table 5 Overview of DFAT regional projects

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project name** | **Distinct implementing partner** | **Outcome and sub-outcome** |
| Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women-owned Businesses through Organic Value Chains | SPC LRD | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Child Protection Program in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu | UNICEF | Women’s rights realised – women’s safety |
| Core funding for the IPPF global strategic framework (22-26) and Pacific Strategy (22-26) Phase 2 | International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) | Women’s rights realised – women’s health (SRHR) |
| Emerging onto the World Stage - Tennis Australia Women and Girls Pacific Extension | Tennis Australia | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Gender responsive Climate Policy and Women’s Climate Leadership in the Pacific | Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Oceania Rise Rugby Project | Oceania Rugby | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Markets for Change Phase 2 | UN Women | Women’s rights realised – women’s economic empowerment |
| Netball Australia (Pilot Pacific Women’s Sports Administration Program) | Netball Australia | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls Phase 2 | UN Women | Women’s rights realised – women’s safety |
| Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific | SPC’s Human Rights and Social Development | Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness - gender mainstreaming |
| Progressing Pacific Islands Forum Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Priorities | Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) | Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness - gender mainstreaming |
| SPC’s Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division Support | SPC HRSD | Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness – Pacific ownership |
| RiseUp! Mobilising Young Women's Leadership and Advocacy Phase IV | World YWCA | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Transformative Agenda for Women, Adolescents and Youth in the Pacific: Towards Zero Unmet Need for Family Planning Phase 2 | UNFPA | Women’s rights realised – women’s health (SRHR) |
| UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 | UN Women | Women’s rights realised – women’s safety |
| Women’s resilience to Disasters (WRD) program | UN Women | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls’ voice |
| Women in Leadership (SPC) | SPC HRSD | Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness – gender mainstreaming |
| **Research activities** | **Distinct implementing partner** |  |
| Building back better: Promoting a gender data-driven response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific and Southeast Asia | UN Women | Research activity |
| Equality Insights | International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) | Research activity |
| Strengthening Capacities for Measuring Violence Against Women (nKOwVAWdata)  Phase 2 | UNFPA | Research activity |
| Making Every Women Count Phase 2 | UN Women | Research activity |

Of the 17 projects, seven projects work in women’s leadership promoted in women and girls’ voice (6) and Pacific feminist civil society (1), six projects work in Women’s rights realised in women’s economic empowerment (2), women’s health (2) and women’s safety (2), and four projects work in Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness: one in Pacific ownership (1) and three in gender mainstreaming (3).

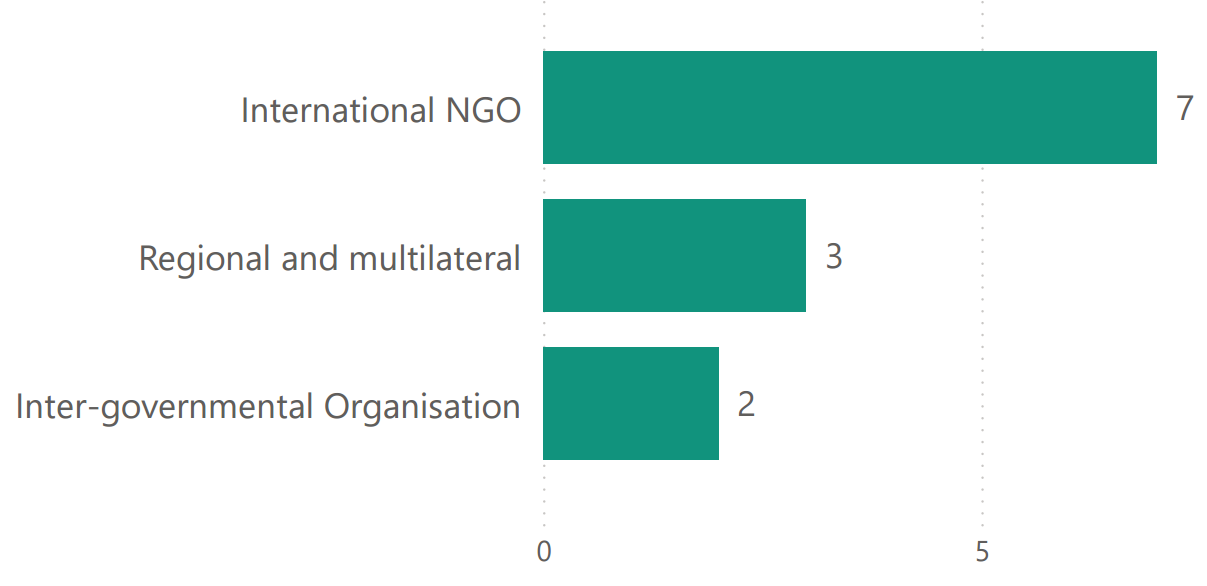
Figure 3 Projects by outcome and sub-outcome



## **Type of implementing partner**

Of the 12 distinct implementing partners, seven are international NGOs (7) and three are regional/multilateral partners (3) and two are inter-governmental organisations (2).

Figure 4 Type of implementing partner



## **Committed funding by outcome and sub-outcome**

Table 6 Committed funding for regional projects

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome** | **Sub-outcome** | **Committed Funding (AUD)** |
| Women’s right realised | Women’s safety | 20,276,973.05 |
| Women’s rights realised | Women’s health | 52,500,000 |
| Women’s rights realised | Women’s economic empowerment | 10,917,471 |
| Women’s leadership promoted | Women and girls’ Voice | 25,882,500 |
| Women’s leadership promoted | Pacific feminist civil society | 2,874,321 |
| Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness | Gender mainstreaming | 9,061,941 |
| Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness | Pacific ownership | 2,700,000 |
| **Total** |  | **124,213,206.05** |

# **Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services Activities**

This section provides information on the PWLES activities and support available for DFAT Posts and PWL at SPC. PWLES is valued at AUD32 million.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Support**

**PWL MEL System:** The PWLES manages the PWL portfolio MEL system. The MEL system has two databases:

1. A **Quantitative database** that tracks progress against PWL indicators and can be accessed through a dashboard on the PWL website: [Pacific Women Lead - Our Impact](https://pacificwomen.org/our-impact/). The dashboard is updated six monthly after each reporting cycle.
2. A **Qualitative database** that allows the PWLES MEL team to code partner narrative reports against qualitative change domains (Refer to Annex 2).

The MEL system has the capability to organise and provide data, particularly for DFAT’s reporting processes (IMR and Tier 2 reporting), and qualitative evidence or quotes that can be used for briefing documents or speeches.

**Collection of qualitative impact stories:** PWLES collaborates with distinct and downstream implementing partners in each country to collect impact stories twice a year (February and July). These stories are used to inform the PWL MEL system and can be used by the PWL components for public diplomacy. Additionally, the stories will be published on the PWL website: [Pacific Women Lead - Stories](https://pacificwomen.org/latest-updates/stories/) and annexed to this brief when available.

**Monitoring the rights of people with disabilities Framework:** PWLES developed two guidance notes to support distinct and downstream partners to enhance data collection and reporting on disability inclusion. The guidance notes can be accessed here: [Pacific Women Lead - Resources](https://pacificwomen.org/resources/). PWLES has also facilitated a webinar discussion on these guidance notes which you can watch here: [Monitoring the journey towards the realisation of rights for people with disabilities](https://youtu.be/JCeG_6OmOuE?si=WgwOnXcFATJoiKG7).

**Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop:** Each year, PWLES co-convenes an Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop in September that brings together distinct and downstream implementing partners across the PWL portfolio to collaborate and analyse data to understand the program’s progress and make recommendations for the program. A summary of this year’s Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop can be watched here: [Second Pacific Women Lead Annual Reflection and Analysis Workshop (2024)](https://youtu.be/p5gbcZHlKdg?si=7LXyyJI6AQalYxBT).

**Monthly Managing Contractor meetings:** The PWLES convenes a standing monthly meeting with PNG Women Lead (PNGWL), Tautua Partnership Program (Samoa), and TASP. These meetings are used for sharing of learnings across managing contractors.

**Clear Horizon Academy PWL MEL Platform:** PWLES developed three training modules with Clear Horizon Academy to support PWL partners: Using Data for Reporting and Learning, Collecting Impact Stories and Understanding, monitoring and reporting disability inclusion. These are online and self-paced modules and partners can seek access through the PWLES.

## **Quality Technical Assurance Group (QTAG)**

Through the QTAG, PWLES provides technical support to smaller DFAT Post in Tuvalu, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Niue, and Republic of Marshall Islands. QTAG currently offers tailored GEDSI support through consultants to smaller DFAT Posts:

**Gender Focal Point (GFP) mentoring:** QTAG continues to provide regular mentoring to GFPs in smaller DFAT Posts to support them to carry out their role with confidence through QTAG’s technical partner Co-LAB. The mentoring provides a space to support GFPs broader professional development priorities including provide advice and feedback on communication, help with problem solving and to act as a sounding board to troubleshoot issues and ideas with the GFPs without conflicting with other management and supervision support provided by the GFP’s manager/supervisor, and the GFPs existing workload.

**GEDSI Analysis and Country Plans/Design:** Through its panel of consultants, QTAG provides support to smaller DFAT Posts to carry out GEDSI Analysis and develop their Gender Country Plan/Design. PWL support to the development of country briefs/designs includes PWL whole-of-portfolio MEL briefings to ensure there is alignment to the PWL whole-of-portfolio MEL Framework. Larger DFAT Posts can draw on this support to ensure alignment to PWL whole-of-portfolio MEL.

**Technical support to larger DFAT Posts is provided through their bilateral facilities.** Larger DFAT Posts can access the panel of consultants on the QTAG but will have to cover the associated costs. If Post would like to access the QTAG, Post can reach out to the QTAG Coordinator for initial discussion.

## **Grant Management**

PWLES provides program management support to DFAT Posts in smaller countries and DFAT Canberra. Currently, PWLES provides grant management support to:

1. Two regional programs: Balance of Power and We Rise Coalition Phase 3,
2. Three projects in Tuvalu (funded through the Tuvalu DFAT Post Gender Country Plan), and
3. Management of 3 Gender Advisers in Tuvalu (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser), FSM (Family Protection Adviser) and Palau (Family Protection Act Adviser).

**Balance of Power and We Rise Coalition Phase 3**

Balance of Power and We Rise Coalition Phase 3 are implemented by 2 distinct implementing partners. Table 7 provides an overview of the projects (refer to Annex 1 for detailed information).

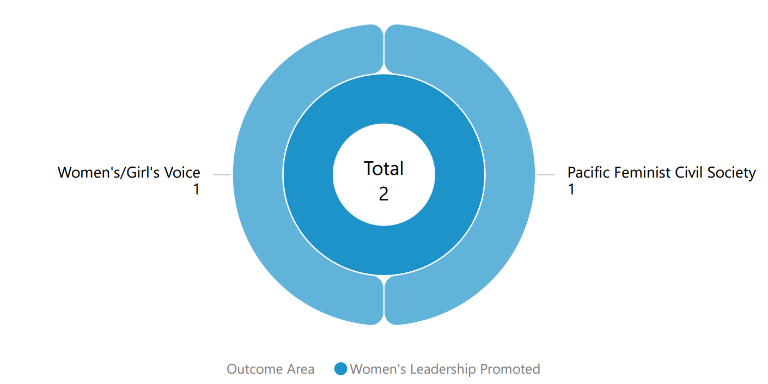
We Rise Coalition Phase 3 is transitioning into Phase 4 which will be managed by DFAT Canberra from March 2025. Table 7 only captures We Rise Phase 3.

**Table 7 Overview of projects managed by PWLES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Distinct implementing partner** | **Outcome and sub-outcome** |
| Balance of Power | Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (managed by DT Global) | Women’s leadership promoted – women and girls voice |
| Feminist movements for transformative change: We Rise Coalition Phase 3 | International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA) | Women’s leadership promoted – feminist civil society |

The two projects work in Women’s leadership promoted in women and girls voice (1) and Pacific Feminist Civil Society (1).

**Figure 5 Projects by outcomes and sub-outcomes**

****

**Type of implementing partner**

Balance of Power is implemented by DT Global, a managing contractor, and We Rise Coalition is implemented by IWDA, an international NGO.

**Figure 6 Type of implementing partner**



**Committed funding by outcomes and sub-outcomes**

**Table 8 Committed funding by outcome and sub-outcome**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes** | **Sub-outcomes** | **Funding Committed (AUD)** |
| Women’s leadership promoted | Women and girls voice | $11,597,674 |
| Women’s leadership promoted | Pacific feminist civil society | $3,240,024 |
| **Total** |  | **$14,837,698** |

# **Annex 1: Pacific Women Lead Projects**

Annex 1 provides detailed information on each project’s name, implementing partner, project description, end of project outcomes, total funding (AUD) and timeframe of all regional projects that have been entered into the PWL quantitative database.

Table 9 provides a summary of the projects by component. Note that total funding only reflects the grants managed under these components and does not reflect the total value of the components.

Table 9 Summary of regional projects

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PWL Components | # Of Projects | Total Funding (AUD) |
| DFAT Regional Projects | 17 | 124,213,206.05 |
| PWL at SPC Projects | 8 | 3,849,483.96 |
| PWL Governance Board Projects | N/A |  |
| Pacific Women’s Fund Projects | 3 | 10,349,008.75 |
| PWLES Projects | 2 | $14,837,698 |
| **Total Combined Funding** |  | **153,249,396.76** |

#### PACIFIC WOMEN LEAD AT SPC PROJECTS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NO. | AID-WORKS NUMBER | PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | END OF PROJECT OUTCOMES | COUNTRIES | VALUE (AUD) AND TIMEFRAME |
| 1 |  | Shifting the Power Coalition: Strengthening Diverse Women's Leadership in Humanitarian Action (ActionAid Australia) | Works to ensure diverse Pacific women’s voices are included in disaster planning and response at all levels with tangible outcomes around diverse women leaders in six countries.  The Coalition includes ActionAid Vanuatu, FemLink Pacific, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Pacific Disability Forum, Talitha Project Incorporated, Transcend Oceania, Vanuatu Young Women for Change, Vois Blong Mere, YWCA PNG and YWCA Samoa. | * 200 diverse women leaders in six countries will have increased capacity to engage in local and national disaster coordination mechanisms and to organise and influence decision making * Diverse women’s needs and capacities in times of crises will be documented and contribute to evidence-based disaster planning and response at national and regional level * Platforms will be established to strengthen diverse Pacific women’s voices in regional humanitarian and disaster resilience forums and their influence on policy and decision making | Vanuatu  Papua New Guinea  Fiji  Tonga  Samoa  Solomon Islands | $532,233.07  2022 – 2024 |
| 2 |  | Pacific Girl: Young Women’s Empowerment Program | Pacific Girl grant in FSM, Chuuk Women's Council will reach 150 marginalised girls through a young women's empowerment course. The curriculum will focus on sexual and mental health, healthy relationships and developing future goals. | * Adolescent girls’ interests and priorities are increasingly visible in decision making. * Adolescent girls have increased agency (knowledge, skills, and voice). * Adolescent girls are increasingly respected and valued by communities and stakeholders. * Adolescent girl programming in the Pacific is connected, strengthened and informed by the interests and priorities of Pacific girls. * Evidence is built and shared on effective gender transformative programming for adolescent girls in the Pacific and incorporated into practice in Pacific Women’s work | Federated States of Micronesia |  |
| 3 |  | Pacific Girl: Laef Blo Mi, Vois Blo Mi | Pacific Girl grant - Care's Laef blo mi, vois blo mi program in Vanuatu will work with girls aged 12 - 19 in rural and remote areas of Tafea province. Pacific Girl will enable CARE to extend life skills and respectful relationships education to younger adolescents in schools, including around 800 adolescents girls. The program includes male peers, teachers and families to ensure girls are safe and respected. | * Adolescent girls’ interests and priorities are increasingly visible in decision making. * Adolescent girls have increased agency (knowledge, skills, and voice). * Adolescent girls are increasingly respected and valued by communities and stakeholders. * Adolescent girl programming in the Pacific is connected, strengthened and informed by the interests and priorities of Pacific girls. * Evidence is built and shared on effective gender transformative programming for adolescent girls in the Pacific and incorporated into practice in Pacific Women’s work | Vanuatu |  |
| 4 |  | Pacific Girl: My Body! My Right! | Pacific Girl grant in Tonga, the Talitha Project's My Body! My Rights! Program will reach 375 girls aged 10 - 14 in four locations around Tonga, including outer islands. The program will improve community perceptions of girls' value, amplifying girls' voices through creative media and train girls on health, sex and sexuality education and self-esteem. | * Adolescent girls’ interests and priorities are increasingly visible in decision making. * Adolescent girls have increased agency (knowledge, skills, and voice). * Adolescent girls are increasingly respected and valued by communities and stakeholders. * Adolescent girl programming in the Pacific is connected, strengthened and informed by the interests and priorities of Pacific girls. * Evidence is built and shared on effective gender transformative programming for adolescent girls in the Pacific and incorporated into practice in Pacific Women’s work | Tonga |  |
| 5 |  | Pacific Girl: Girls Arise | The Fiji Women's Rights Movement's (FWRM) Girls Arise program works with girls aged 10-12 to build their life skills and confidence.  Pacific Girl will enable FWRM to extend activities to girls outside of the capital Suva, share the organisation's approach in a toolkit and raise the profile of girls' issues with decision-makers. | * Adolescent girls’ interests and priorities are increasingly visible in decision making. * Adolescent girls have increased agency (knowledge, skills, and voice). * Adolescent girls are increasingly respected and valued by communities and stakeholders. * Adolescent girl programming in the Pacific is connected, strengthened and informed by the interests and priorities of Pacific girls. * Evidence is built and shared on effective gender transformative programming for adolescent girls in the Pacific and incorporated into practice in Pacific Women’s work | Fiji |  |
| 6 |  | Eliminating violence against women services | The EVAW services grant in Federated States of Micronesia supports Chuuk Women’s Council to establish a GBV counselling service for women survivors of violence. The grant also supports the service to conduct community awareness and advocacy on domestic violence, strengthen referral pathways and ensure women survivors apart from counselling receive legal advice and safety. |  | Federated States of Micronesia |  |
| 7 |  | Weto in Mour: Support service for women and girls that are experiencing violence | The Implementation of Weto In Mour Program- Violence Against Women and Girls Support Service Phase 3 – Program Extension in Majuro and Ebeye grant in RMI supports WUTMI to continue to provide customized, quality and effective community-based responses to women and girls who experience domestic violence in Majuro and the GBV counselling program extension in Ebeye. This includes support to have WUTMI’s organizational systems upgraded for improved operations and management so that WUITMI is fit for purpose, women accessing essential lifesaving and targeted comprehensive package of psychosocial support services in Majuro and Ebeye and communities throughout the Marshall Islands having an increased understanding of equal and respectful relationships as a result of being engaged in gender-transformative primary prevention, education and advocacy activities |  | Republic of Marshall Islands |  |
| 8 |  | Support for implementation for the Government of Palau's gender mainstreaming policy and strategy  (Ministry of Culture and Community Affairs – Gender Division) | Funded a Country Focal Point Palau (previously national Gender Analyst position). CFP supports the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy/Strategy. |  | Palau | $34,000  2022 - 2024 |

#### PACIFIC WOMEN LEAD GOVERNANCE BOARD PROJECTS

There are currently no projects funded under this component. A table will be inserted here for activities when projects are funded.

#### PACIFIC WOMEN’S FUND PROJECTS

There are currently no projects funded under this component. A table will be inserted here for activities when projects are funded.

#### DFAT REGIONAL PROJECTS

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| NO. | AID-WORKS NUMBER | PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | END OF PROJECT OUTCOMES | COUNTRIES | VALUE (AUD) AND TIMEFRAME |
| 1 | 69294/45 | Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women-owned Businesses through Organic Value Chains | The BPWP project aims to strengthen the recognition of women’s role in organic agriculture. The project uses a combination of inter-linked activities such as trainings to project partners, capacity development of national organic farmer groups, technical assistance to primary actors, and advocating for policy and regulatory standards in countries, to promote organic agriculture and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI). | * The Pacific organic sector has more gender equitable policies and practices. * Women and men benefit from viable organic value chains that meet market needs and increase food security. * Women are increasingly participating in organic value chains including decision-making processes. * Women have increased financial independence and influence in decision-making within the household | Federated States of Micronesia  Kiribati  Palau  Republic of Marshall Islands | $965,600  2021 – 2023  **Completed** |
| 2 | 72410/14 | Child Protection in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu  (UNICEF) | The programme aims to protect children in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa from neglect, abuse, and exploitation by strengthening multi-sector multi-stakeholder child protection (CP) systems. It includes three components: establishing a normative framework; strengthening services; and promoting social and behaviour change. | * Governments have strengthened child protection institutional frameworks. * Government and other service providers (non-governmental agencies) have enhanced capacities to provide child protection services which prevent and respond to violence and abuse * Caregivers, families and communities have increased knowledge and skills to eliminate harmful practices and better protect children from violence and abuse | Kiribati  Solomon Islands  Vanuatu | $3,542,280  2021 – 2024  **Completed** |
| 3 | 77862 | Core Funding for IPPF Global Strategic Framework (22-26) and Pacific Strategic Strategy (22-26) (Come Together Strategy) Phase 2 | The strategy aims to come together and break through the barriers that limit sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), thereby enabling quality SRHR to be realised for everyone in the Pacific. It is an ambitious agenda that is informed by the emerging challenges and opportunities in the region | * Centre Care on People: Expand choice and access in coordination with government partners and national civil society and explore digital options and self-care. * Move the Sexuality Agenda: Shift attitudes and norms in the Pacific through grass roots advocacy to drive gains in SRHR, ensuring the voices of young people and marginalised or excluded groups are heard. * Solidarity for Change: Create new strategic partnerships and contribute to social movements on SRHR and intersectional areas, and harness opportunities for learning and sharing * Nurture our Federation: Strengthen IPPF’s Secretariat and Member Associations through improvements in governance, financial and programmatic management, and draw on the Federation’s global expertise and knowledge base. | Cook Islands  Fiji  Kiribati  Papua New Guinea  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Tonga  Tuvalu  Vanuatu  Republic of Marshall Islands | $2,000,000  2023 – 2026  *Phase 1 completed*  *$500,000*  *2021 – 2022* |
| 4 | 77520 | Gender responsive Climate Policy and Women’s Climate Leadership in the Pacific  (WEDO) | Advance Pacific women's leadership in climate change decision-making via WEDO's Women Delegates Fund (WDF) program, as well as enhance the implementation of gender-responsive climate policy via capacity strengthening for National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points in the Pacific. | * Strengthen Pacific women’s leadership in climate change diplomacy and policymaking via travel support, training and networking * Support effective operationalization of the role of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points across Pacific Island countries | Cook Islands  Federated States of Micronesia  Fiji  Kiribati  Nauru  Niue  Palau  Papua New Guinea  Republic of Marshall Islands  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Tonga  Tuvalu  Vanuatu | $699,900  2022 – 2024 |
| 5 | 73159/28 | Markets for Change (M4C) Phase 2 UN Women | Markets for Change Phase II aims to promote gender equality and the economic empowerment of market vendors, with specific attention to the needs and aspirations of women market vendors. | * Inclusive, effective and representative marketplace groups are created and grow, further enabled and recognised. * Improved socio-economic security of women market vendors. * Local governments, market management and other decision-makers are gender-responsive, effective and accountable to women market vendors. * Physical market structures and operating systems are improved to make markets more gender-responsive, safer, more accessible, sustainable and resilient to disaster risks and climate change | Fiji  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Vanuatu | $9,951,871  2022 – 2026 |
| 6 | 76569 | Netball Australia (Pilot Pacific Women’s Sports Administration Program) | The program focuses on governance and administration support – recognizing that this enables netball associations to advance women in decision-making and leadership roles (and their effectiveness in those roles), as well as enhancing access to safe and inclusive competition for women and girls across the Pacific. | * Improved governance and administration * Increased women in leadership and decision-making roles * Increased grassroot participation rates of women and girls in safer and more accessible environments | Fiji  Papua New Guinea  Samoa  Tonga | $1,638,600  2021 – 2024 |
| 7 | 77557 | Oceania Rise Rugby Project  (Oceania Rugby) | Strengthen the participation, influence and visibility of women in all parts of the game, both on and off the field. | * 4 new high profile women’s domestic rugby competitions, completing several women’s rugby pathways * 11 Pacific women in new full-time Senior or Middle Management positions * 45 emerging Pacific women leaders trained and mentored in governance, leading to more women appointed in decision making roles and improved governance practice * Over 200 women completing Rugby Accreditations and in leadership roles within the new domestic competitions (as Coaches, Match Officials, Strength & Conditioning coaches, First Aid, Club Administrators) * Oceania Women in Rugby Network established supporting individuals, peer learning and collective advocacy * 4000< girls participating in high-quality rugby * Communities witnessing girls and women play, lead and be celebrated in a formerly ‘men’s’ sport, helping to drive positive change in attitudes and norms gender equality * Australia and DFAT celebrated as the primary supporter of these successes, opportunities and significant shifts * Australian dignitaries visible and engaged at high profile, newsworthy announcements, events and competitions * Direct engagement between Australian government representatives and both profiled and emerging Pacific Island leaders * Alignment and mutual reinforcement of other significant Oceania Rugby activities driving the participation and empowerment women in Pacific Islands and Australian diplomacy. | Fiji  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Tonga | $2,933,000  2022 – 2024 |
| 8 | 77334/8 | Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls Phase 2  (UN Women) | The Pacific Partnership seeks to promote Gender Equality, prevent VAWG, and increase access to quality VAWG response services for survivors. The programme engages with over 100 partners across the region, including national governments, CSOs, EVAWG networks, faith-based groups, and sports associations. | * To enhance Pacific youth’s formal in-school and informal education on gender equality and prevention of violence against women and girls. * To promote gender equitable social norms at individual and community levels to prevent violence against women and girls, and to ensure survivors have access to quality response services. * To empower national and regional civil society organisations (CSOs) to advocate, monitor and report on regional institutions and governments commitments to enhance gender equality and prevent violence against women and girls. | Fiji  Kiribati  Papua New Guinea  Republic of Marshall Islands  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Tonga  Tuvalu  Vanuatu | $15,934,693.05  2022 – 2027  *Phase 1 completed*  *$800,000*  *2021 – 2023* |
| 9 | 69294/46 | Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific  (HRSD SPC) | PGEP’s overall objective is to strengthen gender mainstreaming, policy design, and implementation, including strategic support to civil society organisations, while supporting country and regional gender data and statistical initiatives | * Gender Mainstreaming: Public Institutions are implementing policies, practices and programs that support gender equality * Accountability Mechanisms: Government gender mainstreaming planning budgeting, accountability, monitoring, and reporting systems enhance progress towards achieving gender equality commitments | Fiji  Tonga  Samoa  Kiribati  Cook Islands  RMI  Tuvalu  Vanuatu  Palau  FSM  Nauru  Solomon Islands | $2,156,401  2021– 2023  **Completed**  Will come under PWL at SPC in 2024 |
| 12 | 69294/67 | SPC’s Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division Support | HRSD leads SPC’s work in the areas of human rights, gender equality and social development. | HRSD Business Plan   * Objective 1 – Strengthen inclusive, transparent, and responsive governance and institutions for human rights, gender equality and social development. * Objective 2 – Mobilise, empower, and build conditions for gender equality, equity and social inclusion in society and development * Objective 3 – Promote, preserve, and protect positive expressions of culture * Objective 4 – Accelerate impact on human rights, gender equality and social development through knowledge, learning and innovative solutions. | Cook Islands  Federated States of Micronesia  Fiji  Kiribati  Nauru  Niue  Palau  Papua New Guinea  Republic of Marshall Islands  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Tonga  Tuvalu  Vanuatu | $2,700,000  2022 – 2026 |
| 13 | 78400 | Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Gender Disability and Social Inclusion  (Pacific Island Forum Secretariat) | Progressing Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion priorities | * PIFS Social Policy team to implement priorities on gender equality, disability and social inclusion including in the implementation and monitoring of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent including gender policy capability and advice * Enhanced strategic engagement and communications * Support to members and actioning outcomes * Progressing disability inclusion * Progressing implementation of social policy program | Tuvalu  Solomon Islands  Niue  Kiribati  Samoa  PNG  Vanuatu  Tonga  Palau  RMI  Fiji  Nauru  FSM  Cook Islands | $3,902,976  2023 - 2026 |
| 14 | 76453 | RiseUp! Mobilising Young Women's Leadership and Advocacy Phase IV  (World YWCA) | Leadership program developed and led by young women for young women, taking into account local contexts and priorities. RiseUp! provides training, networking and peer support to young women between the ages of 18 and 30 years. It supports young women in contexts where their rights and voices are repressed to know and claim those rights within their peer, family and community networks, and to work collectively to mobilise for change. | * Young women take up informal and formal leadership roles in their peer and family networks, communities, countries, region or globally. | Papua New Guinea  Samoa  Solomon Islands | $6,000,000  2020 – 2026 |
| 15 | 77821 | Tennis Australia Women and Girls Pacific Extension - Emerging onto the World Stage  (Tennis Australia) | Deliver programs and pathways to create sustainable benefits for women in the Pacific, either as a player, coach or paid administrator/Development Officer. Create economic efficiencies, seeing supporting partners (ITF, ONOC and TA) come together to maximise opportunities for program stakeholders. | Stream 1 – Coaching   * Increase the number of women in decision-making and leadership roles * Strengthen career and volunteer pathways and opportunities on the court * Create sustainable networks to influence and advance women * Inspire and develop women to be a public voice for tennis from grassroots to the world stage   Stream 2 – Community Leadership   * Increase the number of women in decision-making and leadership roles in Tennis organisations * Develop the governance structures to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for women and girls   Stream 3 - Talent   * Improve access to safe inclusive sporting competitions and facilities to encourage higher participation of girls and young women * Provide pathways for elite players to transition from Juniors to the Professional Tour (ITF and WTA) * Increase retention of women elite players able to transition to coaches and leaders in the sport | Fiji  Papua New Guinea  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Vanuatu | $1,111,000  2022 – 2026 |
| 17 | 77337/9 | Transformative Agenda for Women, Adolescents and Youth in the Pacific: Towards Zero Unmet Need for Planning 2018 – 2022 (Phase 2)  (UNFPA) | The Transformative Agenda outlines action that will increase the demand for, and supply of, SRH services and information (particularly family planning) and create an enabling environment for their progress.  Goal - Transformative change in the lives of women, adolescents and youth across the Pacific by 2022. | * Increased and improved supply of integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services, particularly for family planning * Increased demand for integrated SRH information and services, particularly for family planning * More conducive and supportive environment for people to access and benefit from quality SRH, especially contraceptive choice. | Fiji  Kiribati  Samoa  Solomon Islands  Tonga  Vanuatu  Republic of Marshall Islands  Federated States of Micronesia | $42,500,000  2022 – 2028  $7,500,000  2021 – 2023  **Completed** |
| 18 |  | UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025  (UN Women) | Grant-giving for CSOs/WROs focussed on improved access for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe and adequate multisectoral services, improved prevention of VAW/G through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes, and increased effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems. | * Enabling CSOs and WROs in their demand-driven efforts to end VAW/G. * Ensuring UN, national and other partner EVAW/G programming is informed by practitioner-based knowledge. * Mobilising financial and political support for the essential role of CSOs and WROs in ending VAW/G. |  | Budget not available  2021 – 2025 |
| 19 | 73159/25 | Women’s Resilience to Disasters (WRD) Program  (UN Women) | Program Goal: the lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to disasters and climate change; contributing to sustainable, secure and thriving communities.  Support women and girls to increase their adaptive capacity and build resilience in the face of myriad disasters and threats. | * Prevention, preparedness, and recovery Policy frameworks, systems, processes, and tools are gender-responsive and implemented as a result of local women's and girls' advocacy. * Women and girls have voice and agency to withstand multiple hazards, recover from disasters, and increase their resilience to future disasters and threats. | Fiji  Kiribati  Vanuatu | $13,500,000  2021 - 2026 |
| 20 | 69294/63 | Women in Leadership  (SPC) | The WIL programme will enhance SPC’s corporate direction to embed substantive equality through a change in organizational culture, strengthening of accountability mechanisms, policies and procedures. | * Component 1 - SPC and CROP Gender Equality and WIL Networks * Component 2 - SPC Gender Equality in the workplace and women's leadership staff capabilities * Component 3 - SPC safe and respectful workplace approach to prevent and respond to GBV and gender-based discrimination * Component 4 - SPC HR systems, policies and practices are strengthened * Component 5 - Accountability, evidence, impact and learning | Internal SPC | $3,002,564  2021 - 2026 |

#### PACIFIC WOMEN ENABLING SERVICES PROJECTS

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| NO. | AID-WORKS NUMBER | PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | END OF PROJECT OUTCOMES | Countries | VALUE (AUD) AND TIMEFRAME |
| 1 |  | Balance of Power  (DT Global) | The Balance of Power program aims to initiate dialogue and action around social norms and women’s roles in decision making and leadership in the Pacific region. | * There is a shifting balance of power towards women and men sharing decision-making at all levels. * Women's right to participate in the public sphere, including their right to vote independently, is increasingly understood and accepted by women and men. * Traditional, church, and democratic governance institutions demonstrate action consistent with their commitments on women in leadership and role model gender sensitive practices. | Tonga  Fiji  Vanuatu | $7,488,329.00  2021 - 2024 |
| 2 |  | Feminist movements for transformative change: We Rise Coalition Phase 3 | The goal of the We Rise Coalition is to develop, demonstrate and strengthen feminist coalitions and partnerships in order to grow and uphold inclusive governance, equality, diversity, justice and women’s human rights. | * Coalition and organisational strengthening: Diverse Fiji and Pacific Women are contributing to a coordinated, feminist social movement. * Movement Building: We Rise partners and the Coalition demonstrate feminist praxis and solidarity. * Policy, structural and institutional reform: Pacific women influence local, national and regional decision-making to reflect Pacific women's human rights concerns. | Fiji  Papua New Guinea  Samoa  Vanuatu | $4,400,024  2021 - 2024 |

#### RESEARCH PROJECTS

Total funding for research projects is not included in the combined total funding for regional projects.

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| NO. | AID-WORKS NUMBER | PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER | PROJEC DESCRIPTIONS | END OF PROJECT OUTCOMES | VALUE (AUD) AND TIMEFRAME |
| 1 | 76473 | Building Back Better: Promoting gender data-driven response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific and South-east Asia  (UN Women) | The Project seeks to increase the production and use of quality timely data to ensure COVID-19 response and recovery efforts are sensitive to gender inequality considerations, provide maximum production from COVID-19 impacts, and enable women’s and girls’ fullest contributions to recovery. | * Timely gender-sensitive data on the impact and responses to crisis, most importantly COVID-19, are produced to inform decision-making. * Gender-responsive COVID-19 policies and recovery plans are in place. * COVID-19 gender data are accessible and used to inform policies, programmes, advocacy and research. | $3,522,558  2021 – 2023  **Completed** |
| 2 | 76470 | Equality Insights: Gender data supporting COVID-19 response and recovery in the Pacific  (IWDA) | Program goal is to improve the gender equality outcomes of COVID-19 recovery through use of Equality Insights Rapid data. | * Improved evidence base for implementing COVID-19 recovery that advances gender equality in selected Pacific countries. * Bilateral and other decision-makers and change agents can access and are using Equality Insights Rapid data. * Policy, programming, advocacy and/or resource allocation for COVID recovery is informed by Equality Insights Rapid data in at least two countries. * Regional actors recognize and use Equality Insights data and/or tools. | $2,516,863  2020 – 2022  **Completed** |
| 3 | 72938/47 | kNOwVAWdata Phase 2  (UNFPA) | Works to sustainably strengthen regional and national capacities to measure the prevalence of violence against women in Asia and the Pacific. kNOwVAWdata improves the availability and quality of data to inform more effective policy and programme responses to prevent and end violence against women. | * Data-driven, context-specific decision-making in VAW policy and programme design * Quality data on what works and what does not work to address VAW effectively * Effective policies and programmes to address VAW are implemented, monitored and evaluated. | $3,000,000  2021 – 2024 |
| 4 |  | Making Every Woman and Girl Count Phase 2 | Since 2016, UN Women has implemented Making Every Woman and Girl Count (hereafter referred to as Women Count), which is a multi-donor flagship program that aims to create a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, created and promoted to inform policy and advocacy on gender equality and women’s rights. Working with partner governments, international agencies and other actors including civil society organizations and academia, UN Women’s program is focused on the following three areas of work:  1. Creating an enabling environment: Promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics.  2. Increasing data production: Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics to monitor the SDGs and other national and international policy priorities.  3. Improving data accessibility and use: improving access to data to inform policies and advocacy through solutions such as open access, dissemination tools and user-producer dialogues so that data users are better able to use gender statistics to inform policy, programs and advocacy. | * Creating an enabling environment: promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production and use of gender statistics * Increasing data production: supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics to monitor the SDGs and other national and international policy priorities. * Improving data accessibility and use: improving access to data to inform policies and advocacy through solutions such as open access, dissemination tools and user-producer dialogues so that data users are better able to use gender statistics to inform policy, programs and advocacy. | $7,000,000  2022 - 2026 |

**Annex 2: Pacific Women Lead Governance Board Members**

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| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Dr Audrey Aumua is a co-chair of the PWL Governance Board. Dr Aumua oversees the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, which has a mission to end avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific. It achieves this by raising funding to support and partner with Pacific governments and ministries to train local eye care workers and provide the facilities and technology they need to improve access to quality eye care. Previously, Dr Aumua served as Deputy Director General at The Pacific Community’s (SPC) Suva office, where she managed the operations of staff, divisional work and Fiji-based activities, including SPC’s education, maritime, geosciences, land resources, social development and human rights programmes. Dr Aumua has extensive experience in research, policy development and management in the health and education sectors in New Zealand and Australia and has held sustainable development leadership roles across the Pacific. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Reverend James Bhagwan is the second co-chair of the PWL Governance Board.   Rev. Bhagwan is married to Maelin (Fiji/Kiribati/Samoa) and has two children. He is an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in Fiji and licensed to preach and celebrate the sacraments in the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia. A descendant of indentured labourers from India, James has roots in the vanua of Noco (Notho) in the province of Rewa and maternal links to the Vanua of Macuata (Mathuata). He holds a Bachelor of Divinity in Ecumenical Studies (Hons.) from the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji and a Master of Theology in Christian Social Ethics from the Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea. He was elected General Secretary of Pacific Council of Churches at its 11th General Assembly in Auckland in 2018. He is a passionate advocate for ecological stewardship and climate justice, with particular focus on care for the ocean and self-determination issues and is also an active gender justice advocate. He is a keen Stand-Up-Paddler and long-time volunteer chaplain and crew member and trustee of the Fijian traditional voyaging society, the Uto Ni Yalo Trust and mentors several ocean health collectives. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Mereseini Rakuita is the Pacific Community (SPC) representative on the PWL Governance Board. Ms Rakuita is a visionary champion of gender equality and women’s rights in Fiji and the Asia-Pacific region. She is the Pacific Community (SPC) Principal Strategic Lead – Pacific Women and Girls, driving gender equality and empowerment of women across the Pacific region as part of SPC’s executive team. Dedicated to gender equality, she serves as the chairperson for the FP2030 global movement dedicated to advancing the rights of people everywhere to access family planning services. Mereseini Rakuita is a qualified lawyer and the youngest female politician to be elected to Fiji’s parliament, in 2014, and she was the first female Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources. She has also served as Acting Permanent Secretary for Justice and Anti-corruption with oversight of operations in the Elections Office (2012–2013). Prior to politics, as State Solicitor (2009–2013), she was the highest ranking female legal advisor to the government, and Chairperson of the Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (2008) – the first and youngest Fijian woman in all of these roles during tenure. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Honourable Nadine Jalabert is the New Caledonia representative on the PWL Governance Board. Born in New Caledonia in 1965, Hon. Nadine Jalabert studied midwifery in France (1984–1987), served as a midwife in New Caledonia in bush dispensaries (1987–1997), and has worked in a hospital setting in Noumea (since 1998). Since 2014, Hon. Nadine Jalabert has served as Councillor in Mont-Dore city where she helped establish a shelter for female victims of domestic violence and has actively promoted equality between girls and boys, women and men. Since 2019, Hon. Nadine Jalabert has served as the President of the Women’s and Family Rights Committee in the New Caledonia Congress. Hon. Nadine Jalabert is married and has two sons. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Ethel Sigimanu is the Solomon Islands representative on the PWL Governance Board. Ms Sigimanu has been instrumental in advancing gender equality and women’s human rights in the Solomon Islands. She is one of the longest-serving permanent secretaries in the Solomon Islands government, having spent 17 years as permanent secretary in various government ministries 10 of which were as Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. During this time, she took leadership and was greatly influential in the work towards the passage of the Family Protection Act 2014, which is the first domestic violence legislation in Solomon Islands, as well as the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017. She also developed and reviewed National Gender Equality and Women’s Development policies and conducted a study on Family Health and Safety. In recognition of her courage, strength and leadership in the areas of human rights, social justice, women’s equality and advancement, Ms Sigimanu received the Women of Courage Award in 2019 by the US Secretary of State. Ms Sigimanu also serves on a number of national and regional boards, particularly in the areas of gender and human rights and other areas of the social services sector. Ms Sigimanu is now serving as a freelance consultant, focusing on areas that she is passionate about, particularly the advancement of gender equality and recognition of human rights. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Teretia Tokam is the Kiribati representative on the PWL Governance Board. Ms Tokam is the Executive Director of the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre or KWCSC. Previously, Teretia worked at the Office of the Attorney General in Kiribati, as the country focal officer of the SPC Regional Rights Resource Team, and as the National Coordinator of the Eliminating Sexual and Gender-based Violence project of the Women’s Ministry in Kiribati. Teretia is a feminist and women’s human rights activist, and she is currently a member of the regional network to combat violence against women. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | ‘Ana Malia Falemaka is one of the Tonga representatives on the Governance Board. Ms Falemaka is a young and passionate advocate from Tonga. At just 19 years old, she currently serves as a board member, mentor and youth ambassador of Talitha Project, Tonga, an NGO that focuses on empowering young women and girls. Ana Malia first became involved with the Talitha Project in 2018, while attending an empowerment camp. Since then, the belief that she can help change our community, society and world has motivated her to continue this journey. She has worked across various Talitha projects, including the Pacific Girl programme. She is also an advisor in the “With and For Girls Fund Advisory Group”, facilitated by Purposeful, as well as a member of the “Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change”, a youth-led organisation comprised of students across the Pacific. ‘Ana Malia is also a student at the University of the South Pacific – Tonga, pursuing a Bachelor of Law. She is humbled and greatly appreciates the various platforms and opportunities that she has been fortunate to have to highlight the issues that girls in Tonga and across the Pacific face and to represent the voices of young Pasifika women and girls in lobbying for change. Her advice to girls in Tonga, as well as in the Pacific, is: If you believe very strongly in something, stand up and fight for it. We cannot always rely on our leaders to continue dictating and shaping the World which we will eventually lead. We are the future generation and so, as future leaders, our opinions must be included, heard and valued. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Rhema Misser is the second Tonga representative on the Governance Board. Mr Misser has been a leader in the disability movement for 19 years. He is the President and Founder of the Lavamea Taeiloa Disabled People Association, Inc. and, for four years, served as a board member of the Pacific Disability Forum in Fiji. Rhema looks forward to collaborating with other participants in Pacific Women Lead for the benefit of everyone throughout the Pacific. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Alex Su’a is the Samoa representative on the PWL Governance Board. Mr. Su’a is a lawyer who has been practising law since 2004 in Apia, Samoa. He is registered as a barrister, solicitor and notary public of the Supreme Court of Samoa. Since 2018, he has been a partner of a small law firm, Stowers & Su’a Lawyers, in Apia and, currently, serves as the President of the Samoa Law Society. Alex is a very proud fa’afafine and is a steadfast advocate in favour of the human rights of the fa’afafine and fa’atama community in Samoa. Since 2005, he has been a founding member of the Samoa Fa’afafine Association, Inc., the only SOGIESC organisation in Samoa, and, since 2018, has served as its President. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Tahina Booth is one of the Papua New Guinea representatives on the PWL Governance Board. Ms. Booth is an accomplished tri-international athlete representing Australia in Olympic weightlifting and powerlifting and in the Rugby League for the Papua New Guinea Orchids. Elite sport has instilled in Tahina discipline and leadership, and the many other skills learnt through sport have transferred into Tahina’s professional life. Tahina founded the Grass Skirt Project (GSP), a Papua New Guinea NGO and social enterprise using sport to prevent gender-based violence through collaborative partnerships and innovative health and wellness events for grassroots communities. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Susil Nelson-Kongoi is the second Papua New Guinea representative on the PWL Governance Board. Susil is a senior executive with ExxonMobil PNG with over 15 years’ experience in the development and professional services sector. In addition to her role as ExxonMobil PNG Media and Communications Manager, Ms Nelson-Kongoi is the Chair of Incentive Fund, Vice President (International) of the Business Council of PNG, Chair of the PNG Business Advocacy Network, and Honorary Treasurer on the Board of Coalition for Change. She is actively involved in other non-profit organisations, such as the Business and Professional Women’s Association, advocating for the promotion of women’s participation in the economy, respecting women’s rights and ending violence against women and children. Susil has a Bachelor of Commerce from Canterbury University, New Zealand, and also holds a Master of Business Administration from Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea. |
| A photo of PWL Governance Board member. | Wynetta Dewis has family connections from Boigu island and Horn Island in the Torres Strait. She has over 20 years’ experience in leadership and project management roles. Ms Dewis is Chief Executive Officer for the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service, the Chair of the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Forum and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Group. Ms Dewis is also a member of the Queensland Legal Assistance Forum Committee, the Coalition of Peaks Committee and the Community Legal Centre Australia Board. |
| No photo available | Virginia Dawson is the Director Policy at the Pacific Islands Forum. She has championed gender equity through policy and programme development during her international career. Her prior roles include Counsellor at the New Zealand High Commission to Fiji (2020-2024) and First Secretary at the New Zealand Embassy in Myanmar (2017-2019). As a development practitioner, Ms Dawson has worked for United Nations Agencies, non-governmental and civil society organisations across the Pacific, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.  Ms Dawson holds a master’s degree in development studies and Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. |
| No photo available | Clemency Oliphant is the Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Development Branch in DFAT Canberra (Australia). Full bio will be included in the next update. |

# **Annex 3: Whole-of-portfolio PWL Indicators**

| **Program Logic key outcome area** | **Quantitative indicators** | **Qualitative indicators** | **Domains of inquiry to track change in social norms** |
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| Women’s leadership promoted: **women and girls’ voice** | * # diverse women and girls supported to assume a leadership role * # of sectoral policies or initiatives clearly addressing diverse women’s leadership needs | * Evidence of more women and girls, in all their diversity, that are respected, listened to and influencing decision-making as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of change in social norms that limit diverse women and girls leadership opportunities as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of women and girls taking on and practice leadership (at all levels) as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of how linking and learning between PWL grantees and collaborative MEL has led to better program outcomes in women and girls leadership | **Attitudes, beliefs and behaviours** that leadership (both formal and informal) is better suited to men and boys |
| Women’s leadership promoted: **Pacific feminist civil society** | * # diverse women and girls participating in civil society and intergovernmental forums (e.g., Pacific Feminist Forum and Triennial) * Number of women’s organisations, groups or coalitions actively engaged in the project * Number of Pacific organisations of people with disability actively engaged in the project | * Evidence that long-term and flexible funding from Pacific Women’s Funds is contributing to increased recognition and amplification of feminist civil society leadership * Evidence that the Pacific feminist movement has grown in depth, is better connected and their expertise is drawn upon as a result of PWL funding * Evidence of how linking and learning and collective action amongst women’s organisations and the feminist movement has supported better gender equality outcomes |  |
| Women’s Rights Realised – **women’s health** (SRHR) | * # diverse women and girls who received a modern method of contraception * Number of unintended pregnancies averted * Total couple-years protection for contraceptives distributed by countries to lower levels including service delivery points (SDPs) (disaggregated by method including emergency contraception and long-acting reversible contraception) | * Evidence of diverse women and girls’ improved access to comprehensive SRHR services as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of change in social norms that limit diverse women and girls access to SRHR services as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of the health sector providing comprehensive SRHR services as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of how linking and learning and collaborative MEL between PWL grantees has led to better program outcome in SRHR | **Taboos and stigma**: cultural taboos surrounding discussion about sex, sexuality and reproductive health  **Gender norms and inequality:** traditional norms that restricts women’s autonomy to make decisions about their bodies  **Religious and moral beliefs**: that influence who should be able to access SRHR services |
| Women’s Rights Realised – **women’s economic empowerment (WEE)** | * # diverse women entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services * # diverse women who have attained formal qualifications | * Evidence that diverse women have increased access to resilient economic opportunities, including increased voice in decision making as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of change in social norms that prevent diverse women’s entry into the workforce as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence women in all their diversity have increased access to sustainable formal and informal economic opportunities as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of how linking and learning and collaborative MEL between PWL grantees has led to better program outcome in WEE | **Attitudes and beliefs** that place the main responsibility for the home and care of children, the sick and the elderly on women and girls. |
| Women’s Rights Realised – **women’s safety** | * # of counsellors graduating from recognised counselling institutions * # of services provided to diverse women and children (girls and boys) and other survivors of violence, such as counselling * # people who participated in sessions on gender issues and women’s equal rights * # men who have undertaken male advocacy training * # police, law, and justice officials trained to respond to incidents of violence against women and girls according to an established protocol | * Evidence that violence against women and children has reduced as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence that women and children have improved access to comprehensive support services, including in times of disasters, as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of increased access to comprehensive support and crisis services for diverse women and children as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of changed social norms that contribute to diverse women and girls’ experience of violence as a result of PWL grant making * Evidence of how linking and learning and collaborative MEL between PWL grantees has led to better program outcome in safety | **Attitudes, beliefs and behaviours[[4]](#footnote-5)** that condone violence against women  (Refer to footnote 17 for full list of attitudes, beliefs and behaviours. Partners are asked to focus impact story collection on any one (or more) of these attitudes, beliefs and/or behaviours) |
| Partners supportedto increase Pacific ownership and effectiveness of regional gender equality efforts – **gender mainstreaming** | * # of government staff and development practitioners applying gender mainstreaming tools * # of mechanisms in place to support gender mainstreaming processes in the government | * Evidence of how Pacific governments have utilised support to build capacity in gender analysis and mainstreaming * Evidence of how Pacific governments and development partners are mainstreaming gender as a result of PWL grant making, technical support, coaching or mentoring * Evidence of how Pacific government are implementing programs and policies that support national and/or regional gender equality commitments as a result of PWL grant making, technical support, coaching or mentoring |  |
| Partners supportedto increase Pacific ownership and effectiveness of gender and equality efforts – **Pacific ownership and regional effectiveness** |  | * Evidence of effective collaboration between SPC, PIFS and DFAT on regional gender equality commitments * Evidence of how collective action has supported implementation of government commitments to gender equality |  |
| Program Logic strategies   * Grant making in the thematic areas of leadership, health (SRHR), women’s economic empowerment and safety * Linking and learning that supports understanding of change in PWL’s outcome areas * Collective action that supports implementation of government commitment and movement building amongst Pacific feminist and/or women’s organisations * Technical support for gender mainstreaming activities * Collaborative portfolio level monitoring, evaluation and learning sense-making spaces to inform PWL decision-making | * Number of projects funded (by outcome and sub-outcome area) * Number of diverse women and girls reached through activities * Funds committed per outcome and sub-outcome area * Satisfaction with linking and learning events * Satisfaction with technical support for gender mainstreaming | * Evidence of how program logic strategies supported (or undermined) outcomes |  |

# **Annex 4: Impact stories**

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| **Project:** Balance of Power  **Tittle:** Fiji’s Great Council of Chiefs paving the path for women’s participation in traditional leadership |
| Fiji’s Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) was first established in the 1970s and is traditionally dominated by men. While there were a few women serving in the GCC, women’s participation was not institutionalized.  When the Sitiveni Rabuka led Government came into power in late 2022, one of its 100 days policy priorities was the re-establishment of the GCC. Soon after, in early 2023, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs issued a call for Expressions of Interest to conduct a review of the GCC. When Mereani Rokotuibau, Executive Director of Balance of Power was approached by a predominantly male team to join their bid, she saw this as an opportunity for Balance of Power to influence the traditional leadership space. Interestingly, before Mereani joined, the team of five men and one woman were all aged over sixty but still recognized the need to include women and younger people in their team.  Concurrent to this bidding process, the first meeting of the GCC in over ten years was convened in May of 2023, with only two women representatives amongst the 50+ male representatives. The lack of women’s representation reinforced public concerns, also shared by Mereani, about broader societal challenges on recognizing and validating women’s agency and voice, and in this case the exclusion of women from of traditional decision-making processes.  As one of two Executive Directors for Balance of Power, Mereani works with her colleague Jennnifer Kalpokas Doan to set and implement the strategic direction of a three-country program focused on supporting women exercising leadership as well as women’s pathways into political leadership. She grew up in her village – Nausori, province of Tailevu and is heavily involved in the development of her village and is a part of the Tailevu Provincial Development Think Tank. Over the years, Mereani built her social and political network through the various roles she had, starting out at the Ministry of Agriculture, Pacific Leadership Program, including a role as Monitoring and Evaluation Manager with a development program in the Solomon Islands.  *“Two of the members of the GCC review team are part of the Tailevu Think Tank (the strategic group guiding development in her province). They recognized my involvement in the development of my province’s strategic plan in the height of COVID-19. They know I work for Balance of Power. The relationships and the trust were there, more so because of the Think Tank and our context knowledge of working in a male dominated space.”*  When the team formed the GCC Review Team after winning the bid, they wanted to ensure that the consultations included diverse voices, and not just of the iTaukei people. The Review Team undertook approaches to increase participation and integrate diverse voices. They designed a standard questionnaire available online, which included seven questions addressing people’s understanding of the GCC and its relevance to the community. This allowed for broader community input beyond the usual privileged circles. The Review Team actively reached out to women of all ages, youth, and various ethnic groups to ensure diverse perspectives were included.  Recognizing that usual consultation approaches will not be enough, the Review Team engaged with provincial councils, district advisory counselors, and even attended church services to reach indigenous communities that were otherwise hard to engage with during the workweek. This approach was crucial in areas where traditional communication channels were not effective. The Review Team alsoconnected with secondary schools to involve young people, the business sector and the Fiji National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). The Fiji National Council for Persons with Disabilities brought in all their affiliates, including representatives that reflect a variety of impairments: hearing, sight and physical mobility. When the Review Team were traveling to provinces the NCPD supported their members to be included in the consultation. All of these strategies helped build awareness and support for the changes they were advocating for, as well as seek feedback and input from a wide range of stakeholders.  As a result, the recommendations were endorsed by the GCC. The eight recommendations were accepted, which included the introduction of a mandated female representative among the provincial selections. This was a groundbreaking shift, as it institutionalized women's participation in the GCC in a way that had not been achieved before.  *“The GCC is now on a path to becoming a standalone institution with its own office and staff within the Ministry of iTaukei. This structural change will enable the GCC to better implement its recommendations and ensure ongoing support for women and youth. For the first time, women will have a guaranteed presence in the GCC, setting a precedent for future representation.”* |

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| **Project:** Pacific Girl  **Organisation:** SPC  **Tittle:** Passing the torch – Nurturing young women leaders through intergenerational solidarity |
| Melissa Bule, a young *Ni-Van* leader from Vanuatu, has always been inspired by the legacy of leadership that runs deep in her family. Growing up in a household steeped in tradition and community service, Melissa was surrounded by role models who demonstrated a strong sense of duty and purpose. As the oldest grandchild, she often accompanied her grandparents to church and traditional leaders’ meetings, where she witnessed firsthand the power of influence and the importance of community engagement. This early exposure planted the seeds of leadership in her, leading her to take on youth leadership roles in her community and church including joining the Vanuatu National Youth Council, all while balancing her responsibilities at school, church, home, and alter, university. Her commitment to leadership and gender equality drew her to CARE Vanuatu. It was through this connection that Melissa’s leadership journey intersected with Pacific Women Lead (PWL) and its independent Governance Board’s Youth Working Group, which worked close with the Pacific Girl programme that is managed by PWL at the Pacific Community (PWL at SPC) programme. There she found her calling and like-minded peers who shared her same passion to further amplify the voices of adolescent girls and young women.  The PWL Youth Working Group is one of the working groups attached to the PWL Governance Board. Made up of young leaders from the Pacific who, in their individual capacities, together bring a wide range of expertise and experience to guide the PWL Governance Board’s decisions, ensuring they are informed by the perspectives and interests of Pacific youths.  Through this platform, Melissa not only broadened her regional involvement but also significantly boosted her confidence, enabling her to engage in high-level forums and contribute to regional frameworks on issues affecting adolescent girls and young women.  *“I can confidently say that the Pacific Girl engagements opened doors to a lot of different opportunities for me, where I could really grow and nurture my leadership skills.”* (Melissa Bule)  Reflecting on her journey, Melissa credits the Pacific Girl programme for reinforcing her confidence, which she identifies as the most significant change in her life. This was the most significant change for Melissa as she herself has observed her personal growth in her ability to clearly articulate her thoughts and effectively contribute to dialogue at various levels. This newfound confidence and articulation have empowered her to face challenges head-on, and to access and participate in learning opportunities from and with her peers. This has enabled Melissa to gain diverse perspectives, context and insights into the regional and global development landscapes; these learnings and experiences she imparts with her younger peers, recognizing that she too was once in their position.  *“My goal is to really make use of the hats that I'm wearing and ensure that adolescent girls voices are being heard and mentor the younger generations coming behind me....”* (Melissa Bule)  Her leadership prowess was recently recognized as she was nominated Vice Chair of the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) during its Annual General Meeting in April 2024, a role she holds with pride and attributes to her journey with Pacific Girl. Her passion and commitment were evident in her contributions to the draft regional Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF), which is set to be presented at the 2024 Pacific Ministers for Youth Meeting in Nadi in September.  *“I want to ensure that we're talking about issues and solutions faced by adolescent girls and the youths.”* (Melissa Bule)  As Melissa continues to explore regional leadership spaces, she remains committed to sharing her experiences and knowledge with her peers and other emerging women leaders. One such young leader is Matilda Homu, an aspiring Ni-Van adolescent girl leader of the Pacific Girl Reference Group. For Matilda, the most significant change in her life has been finding a mentor in Melissa.  *“I think a mentor is a good start for every adolescent girl to have so that they can become a better person and learn to be a leader.”* (Matilda Homu)  Melissa’s mentorship has provided Matilda with the guidance and support she needed to navigate the challenges of leadership and adulthood. Matilda feels empowered to advocate for the rights, health, and safety of adolescent girls, knowing that Melissa is just around the corner.  *“Through mentorship, I am where I am – at the right place. I want to see myself succeed, and no matter the challenges, my mentor will be there, pushing me forward to achieve my goals and become better than where I am standing right now.”* (Matilda Homu)  The impact of the Pacific Girl Project is profoundly evident in the lives of adolescent girls and young women like Melissa Bule and Matilda Homu. By creating a supportive and empowering environment, the project has not only strengthened Melissa’s confidence and leadership skills but also enabled her to mentor and inspire the next generation of female leaders. Matilda’s journey, shaped by Melissa’s guidance, reflects the powerful ripple effect of intergenerational solidarity. Together, they are a testament to the transformative change that the Pacific Girl programme brings to adolescent girls and young women across the region, fostering a new wave of leaders who are equipped, confident, and ready to advocate for their communities and beyond. |

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| **Project:** We Rise Coalition  **Organisation:** femLINKpacific  **Tittle:** femLink rural women’s network creates spaces for gender-diverse dialogues |
| These stories were collected during the femLINK’ district convenings in Fiji.  **Member of the Cataliah Trans Group – member of Rainbow Pride Foundation**  “I was introduced to femLINK by a friend. I did not know anything about femLINK but I have always shared my concerns with this friend of mine who then encouraged me to join the femLINK network. She then invited me to attend one of the district convenings. I was reluctant at first, but she kept telling me that this is the best place to raise my issues and voice my concerns. I tagged along not knowing that it was going to be the best thing that has ever happened to me. I had a lot of secrets and hidden stories locked away inside me and often weigh me down when I think about the past and its happenings.  In that first meeting, I struggled to gain the confidence to contribute. But the urge in me was too strong to compress. I started unpacking my past and relate my story to the theme of the discussion. That day, I went home feeling lighter and whole lot happier. The best part was knowing that I was in a safe space. A space where I could be myself and have some people in the room who have gone through the same experiences that I had gone through and knowing that others in the room will not judge me for who I am but accept me just as I am. I felt like a new being.  From that single event, I learnt so many things. I learnt I was not alone and that help is always available. I learnt that I do matter in society and that my story needed to be told to motivate others to also share theirs. I learnt to connect with like-minded people and voice our concerns collectively. I also learnt that I do not need to be ashamed of myself or the choices I have made. Instead, to rise up and advocate on issues that I believe are important for humanity.  After that first femLINK attendance, I formed the Cataliah Trans group, so that I could have the opportunity to create awareness amongst people like me. I am thankful to femLINK for the opportunity to be part if this great network. I have always and continue to look forward to all of femLINK’s organised events. I only wish femLINK could expand their reach quickly and hold these convening sessions in every community”  **We Love and acceptance begins at home**  A pastor's wife was struggling with accepting her gender-diverse child. She believed that throwing out their belongings was an appropriate response to the child’s behaviour. This act of rejection and discrimination against her own child was rooted in the misunderstanding of her Christian values and a lack of awareness about human rights.  A femLINK convener, who lived nearby, observed this repeated rejection. Each time the child’s belongings were discarded, the convener would collect the child’s belongings and take them back home. This happened multiple times, demonstrating the convener's patience and quiet support. Eventually, the convener reached out to the pastor’s wife, inviting her to attend a femLINK rural convening. The pastor's wife accepted the invitation, marking the beginning of a significant transformation.  At the convening, the pastor’s wife shared her story amidst tears. She expressed immense gratitude towards the convener and femLINK for helping her understand the true essence of Christianity— that it begins at home, with love and acceptance. She realized that her actions were discriminatory and harmful to her child.  With newfound awareness, the pastor’s wife ceased her discriminatory behaviour. She embraced her child, who in turn started showing more respect for his father’s position. This change fostered a more harmonious family environment.  Moreover, the pastor's wife became an active participant in femLINK’s initiatives. She even secured funding for a seawall project under the UN Women’s Disaster Resilience Program, demonstrating her commitment to community development and resilience. |

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| **Project**: We Rise Coalition  **Organisation:** Voice for Change  **Tittle:** Voice for Change sowing seeds of change |
| In a close-knit community, Ana and Esita experienced extreme personal and social challenges. Ana, married as a second wife while still in grade 8, was abandoned by her husband, who moved on to marry another woman. Left without support, Ana returned to her community and was allocated a piece of land by a local leader.  Amidst these struggles, Ana attended a gender training session organized by We Rise through Voice for Change. Inspired by the training, she recognized that the abuse she faced was a broader issue affecting her family. She brought her entire family to the We Rise office, insisting that they all needed to undergo the training. Ana’s courage and vocal advocacy made her a change agent in her community, leading efforts to combat violence and promoting the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) localization process. Her dedication, driven by a vision for a better community, earned her respect and admiration.  Esita, on the other hand, had two children at a young age and later remarried, having a third child. Her husband often belittled her, reminding her of her past. When an invitation for gender training came, Esita, who had primary-level education, encouraged her husband to attend. His participation in the We Rise gender training marked a turning point. The training profoundly changed his behaviour; he stopped making derogatory remarks about Esita’s past.  Further change came when he attended a Women, Peace and Security, peace-building session. Moved by the session, he decided to take a stand against the practice of carrying guns in public. He declared his commitment to no longer carry his gun and urged other young men in the community to do the same. This leadership led to their community being the first to register bylaws with the district courts, a milestone to be recognized by the state ambassador. |

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| **Project:** International Planned Parenthood Federation  **Organisation:** Cook Islands Family Welfare Association  **Tittle:** The Cook Islands Movement for Social Change advocates for the human rights of the LGBTIQA+ |
| The Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) played a crucial role in advocating for the rights for LGBT and the law reform. After many hurdles since the movement kicked off in 2017, in 2023 the Cook Islands government removed a law that criminalized homosexuality, which is a significant victory for the local LGBTIQA+ community.  Despite the challenges faced by CIFWA, its staff and volunteers strengthened collaborations with Pride Cook Islands and the Te Tiare Association (TTA), two of the biggest LGBTIQA+ advocacy organizations in the country in pushing for the decriminalization of homosexuality and presenting a submission to parliamentarians.  Dean Tatanga, the Humanitarian Focal Point at CIFWA and a registered nurse was instrumental in the presentation of the submissions to decriminalize homosexuality in her country to the country’s parliamentarians. Tatanga says that everyone came together, including TTA, Pride Cook Islands, and CIFWA, to rally for their common interest - to have their voices heard and to shift the analysis around a marginalized group.  *“Everyone started to rally together, including TTA, Pride Cook Islands, and CIFWA. We had a huge meeting, and our office was full… people were everywhere, and we had one common interest and that was to have our voices heard and to shift the analysis around a marginalized group and to support our movement in decriminalizing homosexuality in our country…We had to work in collaboration with other marginalized groups and even national health officials that work in the field of SRHR”.*  Tatanga also sits on the Board of Pride Cook Islands and is a committee member. In addition to her role in the LGBTIQA+ movement in her country, she continues to administer and deliver SRHR services to the people of the Cook Islands. The team also worked in collaboration with other marginalized groups and national health officials who work in the field of SRHR, successfully managed to achieve the aim of this collaboration that is to decriminalize homosexuality in the Cook Islands. According to Tatanga, the support from the public was tremendous, and CIFWA was proud to have influenced this law reform. |

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| **Project:** Pacific Girl  **Organisation:** Talitha Project  **Tittle:** Making girls’ health a family matter and national priority: destigamatising sexual and reproductive health and rights for young girls in Tonga |
| *“Barriers surround us such as taboos for topics including reproductive health, that are not commonly discussed at home and in communities,”* said Ana Malia Falemaka, former Youth Mentor with the Talitha Project and now PWL Governance Board member.  The Talitha Project’s *My Body! My Rights!* (MBMR) initiative supported by the Pacific Girl programme, is successfully striking a balance between adolescent girls asking for information about menstrual hygiene and reproductive health versus Tonga’s taboo approach towards the topic, as community and national leaders shift to support their girls. In one MBMR project, an astounding nine in 10 parents participating had not previously talked with their adolescent daughter about menstrual hygiene or related topics. Meanwhile adolescent girls are citing increased agency and improved decision making as result of their improved knowledge.  Tonga’s Minister for Internal Affairs, Lord Vaea, was impressed by *MBMR*’s positive impact and requested Talitha Project to extend the program to remote areas including for youth and adolescent girls in Houma (a rural area on Tongatapu, Tonga). This highlights the interest from the national level to implement Talitha’s programmes in further remote areas, and to counter the nation’s high levels of teenage pregnancy. It also follows research being socialised about adolescent unplanned pregnancy in Tonga indicating *“neither parents, teachers or anyone has taught them [girls] about puberty, menstruation cycle, contraception and just the absolute basic information about their bodies”* according to Talitha’s Director, Vanessa Heleta. *“Girls have a right to know what is happening in their bodies – you can’t make good decisions on false or absent information,”* she explained.  *My Body! My Rights!* (MBMR) reaches out to girls aged 9 to 14 years in four locations around Tonga, including outer islands, to empower girls to make informed decisions in life. This includes decisions about finances, child protection, how to report abuse, safe spaces for girls, menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). MBMR is supported by Pacific Girl, which is managed by the Pacific Women Lead at the Pacific Community (PWL at SPC) programme. PWL’s former iteration, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, worked with the Talitha Project and Tonga Family Health Association to release the ‘Adolescent Unplanned Pregnancy in the Pacific – Tonga’ research report in 2021, developed by the University of NSW (UNSW).  The programme has been instrumental in the dissemination of the Adolescent Unplanned Pregnancy findings, creating ownership in the community about the need to talk about such a taboo topic in a conservative community, to protect young women and girls.   There have been a number of changes from the work of MBMR since it began in 2019. For adolescent girls as part of the program, more now understand that incest and sexual abuse is illegal and can be reported by police who can assist girls to access support and counselling services.  *“By being a part of the Program, it really helps them to be able to speak up. They [girls] share about the bad things like sexual violence in families and in the community, in which they have never been able to speak about it because they are afraid,”* (Key Informant, Pacific Girl Mid-Term Review)   The Talitha Project and the *MBMR* program has also been able to positively influence those at the community and national level about this work.  Another example is that all 13 parents ‘Apifo’ou (Tongatapu, Tonga), who were requested for their children to participate in the program’s activities granted permission for Talitha Project to work with their young girls. Of these participants, 92% provided feedback saying it was the first time for them to openly discuss SRHR, menstrual hygiene and healthy relationships, with an adult.    These examples demonstrate the work that Talitha Project has done to destigmatise SRHR conversations in Tonga, through socialising culturally appropriate messages for participation of young girls.  In the future, the Talitha Project hopes its work continues, and to become sustainable with the original participants evolving their relationship with the program and becoming mentors to the young generation who are now participating in the program.  *“…some of the girls that started in our programme, they were 12 or 13 years old. Now they're 18, they're 19. You can see the growth because it's everything takes time. You can't just plant a seed and you expect it to grow the tree to grow. Now you have to nurture it. You make sure that it's has enough sunlight, that it's got, you know, water and you might put a little fertiliser, you know, and that's how you, that's how our programme is with my Body, My Rights programme. It's a lot of investment, time, commitment and passion.”* (Vanessa Heleta, Talitha Project) |

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| **Project:** International Planned Parenthood Federation  **Organisation:** Tuvalu Family Health Association  **Tittle:** Innovative approach using digital health to expand cervical cancer screening in Tuvalu |
| Tuvalu is one of the smallest countries in the world, with a population of just over 11,000 people living across nine small islands. Despite facing unique challenges due to its size and location, Tuvalu has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Pacific Island country to meet the World Health Organization's global screening goal for cervical cancer screening of 70% of the population.  The achievement was made possible with the help of Family Planning Australia, which supported the training of local nurses to conduct cervical cancer screening across the islands. Fenuatapu Mesako, the Program Officer with the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA), explained that administering healthcare services in their community is a challenge due to their remote location. However, with the support of relevant stakeholders, TuFHA was able to provide SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) services to their community through digital health interventions and advanced technologies. Self-testing swabs were used for cervical cancer screening, which made the process more accessible and comfortable for the residents.  Taotao Homasi a clinic Nurse for 14 years with TuFHA says that it is important to administer SRHR Services to remote and marginalized communities, to address the high unmet need for SRHR in those communities.  *“Because they are the most vulnerable populations in our community. They have less opportunity to access SRHR Services compared to everybody else. We need to continue to advocate for SRHR to our people, so they understand its importance. Many of our vulnerable populations need SRHR services but are denied and this inspires me to continue the work that I do i.e. administering SRHR services to the marginalized communities.”*  Further, Program Officer, Fenuatapu adds that the option for Cervical Cancer Screening Self-Testing is more acceptable for their populations as they do not need a health worker, and due to perceived and experienced stigma and taboos surrounding SRH interventions, they’re more comfortable doing it themselves.  *“The residents accept the new system better than the previous one because you don’t need anyone else to do your swab, you do it yourself, and you’re comfortable because no one has to see you down there.”*  Tuvalu's cervical screening program was successful thanks to the support of the Tuvalu Ministry of Health, Family Planning Australia, the Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer, and relevant service providers. The success of this program is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the healthcare professionals who are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of Tuvalu's residents |

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| **Project:** Transformative Agenda Programme for Women, Adolescents and Youth, Phase 2  **Organisation:** UNFPA, Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services & Family Planning Australia  **Tittle:** Empowering youth through accessible and inclusive family planning in Micronesia |
| The Transformative Agenda for Women, Adolescents and Youth in the Pacific (TA) programme implemented by UNFPA and its partners and funded by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, focuses on improving sexual and reproductive and rights and reducing unmet need for family planning particularly for youth, persons with disabilities and other key populations across nine countries in the Pacific. Some key interventions of the programme are to strengthen youth-friendly and disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, provide in-service training for health providers, optimize task-sharing, and expand clinic hours to increase access.  In the Federated States of Micronesia, close to half (49%) of the population is 24 years of age or younger and findings from a recent cross-sectional study in Pohnpei State suggest that young, unmarried and never pregnant women face higher unmet need for family planning.  In 2023 and 2024, 34 health-care workers from 13 public health facilities across Pohnpei and Yap, two states of Micronesia, were trained to deliver youth-friendly and disability-inclusive family planning services that are client centred and rights based (20% of all service delivery points), a significant step towards the programme’s target of 100% coverage. The training, co-facilitated by a master trainer from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in Fiji and Family Planning Australia, also highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation in health systems strengthening and building local capacity.  Among those trained was Joicelynn Peter, known as Joice, who has worked in public health since 2007 and currently serves as a Family Planning coordinator in Pohnpei State. Joice provides direct clinical support to community clinics. Reflecting on the training, Joice shared, *“After the [Youth Friendly SRH] training, health workers changed their approach towards the adolescents who request family planning services. Before, health workers would often feel uncomfortable talking about family planning to youth and did not provide different choices of contraceptive options. So, youth did not return to the clinic for follow-up and didn’t recommend services to their friends. After the training, health workers became more comfortable discussing family planning and offered a wider range of contraceptive options, as well as providing a friendly and safe space for youth to voice their concerns about their sexual and reproductive health.”*  Building on the gains of a UNFPA supported youth SRH initiative funded by the Government of New Zealand between 2020 and 2023, the TA Phase II family planning trainings continue to strengthen the delivery of youth friendly rights based SRH services and support the implementation of the National Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Service Guidelines.  Additionally, the introduction of youth-friendly services, particularly in school-based clinics, has transformed how students engage with their health. Joice noted, *“[The youth-friendly services] opened doors for students, made them more interested, and encouraged them to come and learn more about health and family planning.”* She recounted an experience where a young girl, initially afraid to discuss family planning with her mother, was able to access services after Joice and her team used the skills learned during the training to facilitate a positive conversation with the mother. |

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| **Project:** Markets for Change Phase 2  **Organisation:** UN Women  **Tittle:** Buala Market’s organized through establishment of a new Market Vendors Association |
| Annie Vavaha is a market vendor in Buala Town, the capital of Isabel Province. Formerly a Purchasing Logistics Officer for Kastom Garden Association (KGA), a role she held for 8 years, and a single mother of two children and 5 grandchildren, Annie now sells her produce at Buala Market. Being a market vendor was challenging at first. Annie had to overcome her embarrassment of selling at the market. But that quickly changed when she remembered that she was once an officer at KGA. Annie sells vegetables such as Chinese cabbage, beans, seeds as well as cakes, drinks etc.  In her first year as a market vendor, she observed that vendors, especially women, need training on presentation of their produce. She needed to do something and had a vision to raise the market standards, particularly food hygiene and safety, presentation of products, cleanliness and waste management. Annie approached the Premier, Hon. Rhoda Sikilabu and shared her vision for the market. The Premier supported her idea, but Annie felt she needed to make a stronger case. She called two women vendors – a retired nurse and a retired secondary school teacher to meet the Premier and the Provincial Women’s Desk Officer. They also met the Mother Union’s Executive, and Isabel Women’s Resource Centre. They requested training but were told there was no available funding.  Six months later, the Premier approached Annie and reassured her that she would help look for support and funding to support their training needs. The Premier went on to speak with UN Women, who then came to Buala. Annie was at the market when the Market Master relayed the news of the UN Women team’s arrival and that they want to meet with Annie and the women. By February 2023, the Isabel Provincial Government (IPG) approached the women to select 10 women and 10 men vendors to participate in the consultation for the new market building led by the Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP) and were given the opportunity to choose the design. UN Women were also part of the team and used the opportunity to consult with market vendors. An interim executive for the Buala Market Vendors Association (BMVA) was elected with Annie as the interim chairlady. Following the election, Markets for Change Project conducted the ‘Getting started” workshop to draft the constitution. The Executive reviewed and endorsed the final constitution in April and BMVA was formally registered in May 2024.  Since the BMVA’s establishment, the membership has grown and after a year, there are now 115 members and 8 executive committee members - 4 office bearers and 4 ordinary members (all women) and sector leaders (3 women and 3 men). This is also a result of Annie’s advocacy, encouraging the vendors to join. Annie says, *“I always mentioned in our meetings that this association is for our women mainly because there are lots of women market vendors and men market vendors are very supportive of this and worked closely with us.”*  The establishment of the BMVA also resulted in linking the women with the IPG including the Women’s Desk Officer. For example, BMVA’s has been recognized by the IPG were invited to be part of consultations relating to gender-based violence, waste management and clean-up Campaign in Buala. *“Before the M4C project, this was not the case. And now, I am very proud of the connections we’ve established and the recognition that the BMVA has gotten from IPG and other partners at the provincial level. We’ve been invited to workshops and meetings.”* The BMVA and the IPG are now part of the UN Women’s M4C’s working committee. As for the women, their confidence has grown, and this is demonstrated in the way they speak up and communicate.  Food hygiene and safety and waste management has improved. For example, vendors put green coconut husks properly in bags for rubbish collections. Products, especially cooked foods, are covered with clean food covers. Market vendors are encouraged to make themselves presentable. Annie also provides basic training on planting vegetables and gives seeds to the vendors. Now, there is a variety of vegetables sold at the market.  The market is organized into sectors and vendors are more organized and work closely together. Food is cooked in one location of the market. Same goes for coconut, vegetables, root crops, firewood and clothing. Now, Saturdays are a good market day – there is an increase in sales of produce. |

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| **Project:** Markets for Change Phase 2  **Organisation:** UN Women  **Tittle:** Building Resilience: Iata’s Journey as a Market Vendor |
| Iata, a resilient female vendor from Rantapao village sells her banana chips, manioc chips, and kumala chips, at the bustling Port Vila central market. Her specialisation in chip-making makes Iata rely heavily on local produce.  Iata’s first job was in the tourism sector as a chips maker after completing year 10 in Ambae. She sold chips for her employer around the Chinese shops including in a minivan around town. Iata loved her job as a chip maker and was inspired by her employer. *‘I loved the smell of chips being cooked in oil’*. But she had to quit her job and stay at home to take care of her children after her second child was born. During the hiatus, her previous employer was deported from Vanuatu.  Iata grew up in a business-oriented home where her father started the business of roadside stalls in Port Vila selling cooked food. She grew up with a passion to start her own business. For the love of chip-making, she decided to get into the chip-making business. *‘I had a discussion with my partner about it, he was interested and supported my idea. That’s how it all began’.*  She started her business and was encouraged by her father to start selling at least 10 packets of chips each day. Iata managed to sell 7 packets in two days when she started and then for the third sale, she was selling 20 packets and then 75 packets of chips per day. But just when her business seemed stable, she was evicted from the land she was selling from and had to move to a new place further away from town. Despite this challenge Iata’s family continued to support her. Their support included building up her resilience to disasters and coping mechanisms to be strong and continue to keep her business flourishing during cyclone season and COVID.  2023 proved to be a challenging year for Iata and her fellow vendors, as three tropical cyclones wreaked havoc on farms and market activities. Her business had to stop operating for a few weeks as her selling space was damaged, including the local produce that she bought from other vendors in the market to make her chips. Iata found solace in the support provided by the Market for Change project, which equipped her with invaluable training on resilience-building during disasters. Armed with newfound knowledge and skills, particularly in financial management and savings, Iata understood the importance of setting aside funds for unforeseen circumstances. This foresight proved invaluable when the cyclones ravaged local crops and vegetables, as Iata could rely on her savings to sustain her market activities.  Empowered by the support she received, she paid it forward by sharing her expertise with four single mothers in her community, enabling them to embark on similar entrepreneurial journey. Witnessing their success at the market brought Iata immense joy, knowing that she had made a positive impact on their lives and their families' well-being. Iata acknowledges the pivotal role played by the comprehensive training programs by Markets for Change. Not only did they impart practical skills but also instilled a sense of responsibility and adherence to market rules among vendors. ‘I increased my business knowledge during the M4C training on the importance of keeping my business space separated from my family home, how to keep the chips in a safe and secure environment, and the importance of using utensils, packaging, and keeping to the health and safety food requirements. Quality is always my business priority hence my passion for sharing with other women in my community so that we are all progressing with our business ideas’. |

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| **Project:** Markets for Change Phase 2  **Organisation:** UN Women  **Tittle:** **Diversifying market business and big dreams** |
| My name is Dorothy Ngaru and I am a coconut oil and crafts vendor at the Honiara Central Market. I started my marketing at Honiara Central Market in 2016. I started with 20 litres of oil and as I continued, my supply increased to 40 litres and then 60, 100, 200 and now I can get 500 litres of oil. My coconut oil products are now being distributed to almost all the retail shops in town with the label ‘JD Coconut Oil.” This is in addition to our sales on the market.  Before becoming a market vendor, I was a housewife and stayed at home to take care of my children. I made local donuts known in Solomon Islands as ‘ring cake’ and sell them at home. At home, we live together with my sister in-laws, and they are market vendors who sell coconut oils at the market. My interest in being a market vendor was a result of them being in this space. I watched them and told them that once my children are older, I will join them at the market. And that was how I started being a market vendor. As I started, I began to enjoy it, and my interest grew seeing the income earned. I decided to keep doing this and become a fulltime market vendor. In addition to selling coconut oils at the market.  I first heard of the Honiara Market Vendors Association (HCMVA)1 after two years of being in the market. That was in 2018. At that time there was a membership recruitment drive for HCMVA. I heard that if I joined the association, I would have free access to trainings conducted by UN Women through the Markets for Change (M4C) project. These trainings would cost me $500 if I am to attend them on my own through other organizations. So, I was interested in joining and joined the association that time. I joined as a member of the association and two years after, I was elected as the Sector Leader for Coconut Oil sector, a role I currently hold for the past three years. We were supposed to elect new executive members but due to COVID19, we couldn’t convene the Annual General Meeting to elect new executive members.  The training courses I’ve attended as part of the Markets for Change have opened my mind on how I can manage, record and save my earnings from my sale of coconut oil. These training courses were financial literacy and Money Matters, and I found them very useful. I am not well educated so this training helped me to look after my finances. This was not the case before. From all my sales, I will ensure that I have recovered the money that I spent to purchase the coconut oils, crafts. Then I will calculate my expenses and then whatever I have left is my profit. That is how I am keeping track of my earnings.  Through the training I was able to save and build a new home for my family. I also bought a car which I use to distribute my coconut oil to various outlets in Honiara. I plan to build a small warehouse to increase production of my coconut oil business and buy a bus to do oil deliveries. I have also engaged women in my community to do marketing and deliveries for me. The demand for coconut oil is high but my current production is low.  I also decided to diversify my products and decided to sell crafts. I sit at the market with craft vendors and most of them are Seventh Day of Adventist (SDA) women. They only sell their crafts from Mondays to Fridays and usually rest on Saturday. Because of this, during Saturday markets, there are no crafts at the market because it’s the rest day for the craft vendors. We usually get visitors from other countries at the market on Saturdays and most of them would ask for Solomon-made fans and other handicrafts. I would then tell them that we don’t have them on Saturdays because the vendors don’t work on Saturdays. Hence, I decided to use this opportunity to diversify my products and sell crafts. I started by buying crafts from these women market vendors on Fridays to resell them on Saturdays. But now I display and sell crafts throughout the week. This will be my second year as both coconut oil and craft market vendor.  I’ve noticed that by diversifying my products to include crafts, my income also increases. This helps me to be able to save and support my children’s school expenses and needs. Without being a market vendor and the training opportunities I was part of, I don’t think I will be able to financially support my family’s needs and well-being as I am doing now. My husband used to work as a security guard and his earnings alone cannot support all of us. So, by being a market vendor, I can support my family financially. Now, my husband has left his fulltime job and supports me in my business by cooking coconut oils and doing delivery of oils to our clients who are mainly retail shops in town. My elder son also supports my business.  Being part of the association also helped us to voice out market vendors issues with the Market Master and Honiara City Council (HCC). I have attended two meetings where we were able to share our need to refurbish and add tiles to the tables. Before, the tables were just slabs and were not clean to display our products. That was our complaint. We wanted HCC to refurbish the tables. And because of our collective voice, HCC, actioned this and now we have tiled tables which makes the market look cleaner and better for us to display our products.  Additionally, we raised the issue of the need to have security personnel in the market as we don’t feel safe. Now, HCC hires securities for the market, and it made it easier for us to call on them when there is disturbance in the market due to stealing or nuisance under liquor influence in the market space or arguments between vendors over spaces. While having securities makes us feel much safer in the market, it is not 100 percent safe. This is because some of the securities would tend to take sides with people they know and instead of solving issues and remaining neutral, it’s not always the case. I see that the security personnel still need to do more and make market environment safe for all vendors especially us women vendors. Regardless of this, the market environment now is much better than before, when there were no security officers in the market. At least, now the market environment is orderly.  As my business grows, I also want extra support, so currently I have hired three salespersons to help me at the market – two looks after our coconut oils and another one looks after crafts. Also, being part of the association and the executive committee helped me personally to improve in the way I do my marketing and my family’s standard of living. So, I encouraged other market vendors in my sector on how they should do their marketing. I am proud to be part of the market vendor’s association because the training I went through has opened my eyes to learn new business thinking and hence changed the way I run my business now. |

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| **Project:** Technical Adviser – funded by FSM DFAT Post  **Organisation:** Division of Social Affairs, FSM National Government  **Tittle:** Advocacy for Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Federated States of Micronesia |
| The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is made up of four states of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae with a population of approximately 113, 815 people. Every two years, the National Women’s Council in partnership with the FSM National Government’s Division convenes a National Women’s Conference of Social Affairs.  The States host the Conference on a rotation. The role of the Division of Social Affairs is to coordinate the organization of the conference.  The Conference is a platform for the FSM National Government, State Governments, Women’s Councils and Associations, CSOs and gender and social development stakeholders to discuss strategies, successes, challenges, lessons and opportunities to advance gender equality. Key discussions from the Conference are captured in an Outcomes Document which also sets out recommendations for priority actions to address current gender issues. The 9th FSM National Women’s Conference was in Kosrae State from November 23 to December 2.  The Pacific Women Lead-funded Family Protection Adviser provided technical support for the drafting of the Outcomes Document alongside a team of representatives from all the FSM states, including the Attorney Generals of Chuuk and Pohnpei. After the team worked on the initial draft, the Adviser worked to finalize the document. The Outcomes Document provides up-to-date information on GBV, health (including school health), climate change, and women's economic empowerment and it informs interventions and reports by the Social Affairs Division.  A key theme in the Outcomes Document is gender-based violence (GBV). It sets out recommendations for family protection, strengthening referral pathways, enhancing counselling services, partnering with community institutions, establishing safe houses, and coordinating prevention efforts. These recommendations ensure informed and targeted interventions on family protection for the FSM National Government and States, through the work of the Family Protection Adviser, and for policy frameworks including the Gender Equality Policy, EVAWG Policy, and the FSM Strategic Development Plan.    Following the circulation of the Outcomes Document, there has been an ongoing discussion between women’s groups and the Department of Health and Social Affairs on key women’s priorities. The President of the Pohnpei Women’s Council lobbied the FSM Government to recognize and pursue an investigation for the leaking of the dome in the Republic of Marshall Islands that stores nuclear wastes, to find out if it is linked to high rates of cancer. This issue was raised by FSM to be included in the Triennial Conference and the PIFS WLM Outcomes Documents.  Furthermore, the content of the Outcomes was used by the FSM government to showcase the National Women’s Conference as a platform for engagement, inclusive discussions and identification of current gender priority issues for FSM in several regional and international meetings and engagements.  The Secretary for the Department of Health and Social Affairs has actively pursued the endorsement and publication of the Outcomes Document, demonstrating political recognition and prioritization of gender issues identified at the Conference. The Family Protection Adviser continues to support negotiations with the states to ensure the document's recommendations are implemented. |

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| **Project:** Pacific Women at SPC  **Organisation:** SPC  **Tittle:** Creating transformative grant processes within SPC’s ways of working |
| To best serve its member countries to progress gender equality, the Pacific Women Lead at SPC (PWL at SPC) programme has instilled a more inclusive approach to granting for SPC.  As the key implementing partner of the Pacific Women Lead portfolio, a decision was made for Pacific Women Lead at SPC to disperse grants not only to member governments (Stream A grants) but also to non-government organisations (NGOs). This includes civil society organisations (CSOs), international NGOs and other organisations who were working on progressing gender equality efforts in the region under the ‘Stream B’ grant modality.  Providing multi-year, large-sum funding for gender equality to governments and civil society organisations in parallel was new for SPC. SPC’s procurement and granting policies are designed to ensure accountability and transparency, and to align with international best practices and development partner funding requirements. As part of these commitments, the PWL at SPC team was guided to implement an ‘open call’ for grants, which involved publicly advertising opportunities to ensure equal access for all eligible organisations. This competitive process’ began with a call for expressions of interest (EOIs), followed by a rigorous and transparent assessment process to determine the final grantees.  More than 300 applications were received of which 186 fully completed EOIs met the application requirements and were assessed, resulting in 81 meeting the full eligibility criteria to proceed to the next stage. A final batch of 64 proposals were submitted to the SPC Grant Technical Evaluation Subcommittee who assessed and recommended the 21 successful proposals for grant awards.  Throughout this collaborative process, the SPC teams, including the PWL at SPC team and Operations and Management Directorate (OMD), worked closely together to strengthen relationships and align their efforts. This collaboration fostered a shared understanding of our collective mission and the ‘why’ behind our work. Together, the teams deepened their appreciation for the gender equality sector in the region and the importance of a feminist approach to granting. This shared perspective led to a more adaptive and innovative approach to procurement, grants, and financial decisions, setting ourselves up to support transformative projects effectively.  The ongoing relationship building and shared knowledge among SPC teams have been instrumental in evolving and enhancing our grant processes. Through collaborative efforts, significant improvements were introduced, such as streamlining processes and developing a ‘tiered’ granting system. The tiered system is tailored to different levels of financial capability and ensures that smaller grant partners with limited resources are fairly and appropriately assessed and managed alongside larger organisations. As a result of these improvements, the granting process effectively narrowed down 186 EOIs to 81, progressing to 64 full proposals, and ultimately recommending 21 proposals for SPC Awards.  The tiered granting system was the most significant change noted by PWL at SPC’s Programme Coordinator, Sala Tupou. The tiered granting system allows grant partners who fall under the ‘Stream B’ to be clustered under different ‘tiers’, depending on the organisation’s level of experience in receiving and managing grants, and the resources available to assist in implementing and managing the grant. This was established through *profiles* the PWL at SPC team created based on the capacity assessments undertaken in collaboration between the grant partner and SPC. The profiles were able to distinguish what a ‘smaller, limited capacity’ organisation might look like versus a ‘well established, highly resourced’ organisation, along with the potential requirements needed in managing and implementing their grant (such as technical assistance, funding and reporting requirements).  This allowed for smaller grant partners who had fewer resources and unsophisticated financial management systems not to ‘compete’ and have the same requirements of organisations who had many resources, robust financial systems and many years of experience in implementing similar grants.  *“As you get comfortable and confident in the advice you bring to the table in translating grant management procedures to practise, and when you gain trust of colleagues that have oversight of grant management in SPC, the possibilities are unlimited as a team and as an organisation. [The grants] are lensed in a Pacific, people-centred approach, where we use traditional ways of connecting, discussing, unpacking and demystifying the expectations of grant management compliance with local expertise and capabilities. The relationship that one invests in is key to impact and learnings.”* (Sala Tupou)  SPC’s OMD teams have continued to flourish beyond the grant selection process, extending into the current contract negotiations. This ongoing collaboration has enabled both teams to work together in negotiating grant agreements and sharing insights, contributing to the development of a more efficient and tailored grant management process within SPC. Sala has also actively shared her learnings with other SPC divisions' grant management teams, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Moving forward, the PWL at SPC and OMD teams will continue to collaborate on establishing tools such as orientation and induction processes, benefiting not only PWL at SPC grants but also other SPC grants.  Sala has also shared her learnings with other SPC divisions’ grant management teams. In the future, both PWL at SPC and OMD teams will work together to establish tools such as orientation and induction processes not just for PWL at SPC grants, but other SPC grants.  *“I think [the relationships] is the most significant change and advancement for me because it’s given credibility and value of the totality of the project management skills the PWL at SPC team has brought in coupled in with reinforcing SPC’s values of Gida Gaituvwa (Unity), Aroha (Care), Kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and Enginkehlap (generosity). We have worked as One-SPC across teams to develop more transformative approaches to SPC granting and, in doing so, built respect for one another regardless of whether you’re from OMD, HRSD or another division in SPC. It’s good to be growing capability of project management through intentional weaving and embedding of gender equality mainstreaming through the lens of positive expressions of culture and gender. It has allowed us to disrupt current policy limitations, and I now have agency as I can sit at the table and share my views and not just take policy as a given, or as something that is unchangeable, but instead with the context and knowledge of SPC and its ability to be transformative to meet the needs of the partners we are working with.”* (Sala Tupou) |

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| **Project:** Women in Leadership  **Organisation:** SPC  **Tittle:** Transforming ways of working through the SPC Gender Community of Practice |
| The establishment of the SPC Gender Equality Community of Practice (Gender COP) in August 2022 has marked a pivotal shift within the Pacific Community (SPC). Initiated in response to the *Leadership Audit*, the Gender COP has significantly advanced gender mainstreaming across SPC’s diverse divisions by fostering coordination and strategic collaboration. This initiative has reshaped SPC's approach to gender equality, creating a more cohesive and impactful organisational effort.  The Gender COP is chaired by the SPC Principal Strategic Lead for Pacific Women and Girls, with support from SPC’s PWL investments, notably the WIL Programme. The COP brings together gender advisers and advocates across SPC, enabling effective collaboration and the amplification of gender equality initiatives.  One of the most notable impacts of the Gender COP has been its success in breaking down silos that previously fragmented gender equality work within SPC. Before the COP’s establishment, divisions and projects often operated independently, limiting the sharing of best practices, technical guidance, and resources. The Gender COP has addressed this issue, creating a unified platform where over 70 members—including both leadership and technical staff—exchange ideas, align efforts, and drive gender equality forward.  *“The most significant change is the creation of a platform to connect and support our work on gender equality. Before the Gender COP, we were working in silos, which limited our impact. Now, we have a common approach and a unified way of progressing gender work. This is important for a large technical and scientific organisation like SPC.”* Julie Bukikun, SPC’s Women in Leadership Programme Coordinator,  Key achievements of the Gender COP include:   * Networking and Collaboration: The COP has facilitated crucial networking among gender advisers and focal points, fostering a unified approach to gender equality across SPC. * Strategic Coordination: By aligning divisional efforts and resource-sharing, the COP has enhanced gender mainstreaming throughout SPC, strengthening organisational commitment. * Enhanced Visibility and Understanding: The COP compiled the first documented portfolio of SPC’s gender programmes, significantly raising staff awareness and understanding of gender equality initiatives. * Institutional Strengthening: The COP has strengthened SPC’s institutional framework for gender equality by fostering a shared sense of purpose and responsibility among gender champions and advocates.   *“The Gender COP is a space for everyone—a place where we can connect, share, and learn together,”* Julie Bukikun emphasised*. “It has created opportunities for work that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise. The COP’s impact goes beyond individual projects; it’s about creating a culture of gender equality across SPC.”*  The Gender COP has been recognised at the highest levels of SPC leadership, with SPC’s Director General, Stuart Minchin, attending a Gender COP meeting in February 2024. His participation underscores the critical role the COP plays in shaping and advancing SPC’s gender equality strategy.  Looking ahead, the Gender COP will be integral to SPC’s Gender Equality Flagship, deepening connections within the organisation and with external partners. Plans for 2024 include developing an SPC sector-wide gender strategy, conducting training on gender awareness, and contributing to research on gender-related issues.  The Gender COP serves as a model of best practice, shared with other CROP agencies and sub-regional efforts to progress gender equality (such as with the Micronesian Islands Forum in the leadup to the development of the Micronesian Gender Equality Framework). It demonstrates how coordinated and strategic efforts can drive meaningful progress in gender equality. Through the COP, SPC has not only strengthened its commitment to gender equality but has also positioned itself as a leader in promoting gender equality across the Pacific region. |

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| **Project:** Transformative Agenda program for Women, Adolescents, and Youth, Phase 2  **Organisation:** UNFPA  **Tittle:** From assessment to impact: inclusive sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence information and services for persons with disabilities |
| Anaseini Vakaidia, a visually impaired advocate for disability rights, is working at the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF) to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services for persons with disabilities.  Anaseini is associated with the UNFPA Transformative Agenda program and its partners, the national organisations of persons with disabilities, counterparts in the Government, Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), and Women Enabled International (WEI). She participated in a needs assessment study on SRH, reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and access to essential services for persons with disabilities in [Fiji](https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/needs-assessment-people-disabilities-fiji). Similar studies were conducted in [Vanuatu](https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/needs-assessment-people-disabilities-vanuatu) and [Samoa.](https://pacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/needs-assessment-people-disabilities-samoa) The findings from these studies across all three countries demonstrated that persons with disabilities face a range of barriers including legal and policy barriers, social and attitudinal barriers, physical, information and communication barriers that make it extremely difficult for people with disabilities to access accurate information and services related to sexual and reproductive health, gender based violence, and overall wellbeing. Anaseini was happy to share that in Fiji, the needs assessment findings were utilized to design and implement an evidence-guided, community-based sexual and reproductive health outreach programme to advance SRHR for women and young people with disabilities through a successful partnership among FDPF, PDF, Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Medical Services Pacific, WEI and UNFPA. As a priority, women and young people with disabilities were recruited and trained to serve as Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Officers who function as a liaison between persons with disabilities, their communities and the health sector. The programme employed these key elements:   * Health care providers are trained on disability rights and disability inclusion * SRH Officers and health service providers co-facilitate two-day outreach sessions to disseminate information on and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence and GBV services * Outreach sessions integrate the provision of quality and disability-inclusive SRH services and counselling on GBV.   The targeted programme reached 255 persons with information and services on SRHR and gender-based violence in 2022-2023 across Fiji. The outreach sessions also enhanced awareness among families, communities, and service providers about the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to SRH information and services and protection from gender-based violence. The SRH Officers were also empowered through this process and recognized in their communities for their key role.  A large proportion of persons who received services reported that they had never received information on SRHR, and an overwhelming majority shared that they had never accessed a SRH service. Over 80% of the participants reported they felt more empowered to exercise their SRHR and request SRHR services following the outreach activities, and a substantive proportion accessed a SRH service during the outreach or soon afterwards.  Anaseini has observed slow but positive changes in Fiji's healthcare system and attributes the success of the pilot to the leadership by persons with disabilities and strong, mutually respectful partnerships. The pilot programme has made significant progress. In 2024, MHMS committed to integrate disability inclusion into their regular SRH outreach programmes. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, the lead ministry for disability inclusion, also joined this programme in July. To further advance the initiative, UNFPA conducted an additional series of capacity building sessions to enhance the knowledge and skills of SRH Officers, government Disability Inclusion Officers and sensitized health service providers from across the country to strengthen capacities and build positive attitudes to deliver SRH and GBV services to persons with disabilities.  *“Both these steps are quite significant for the integration of the needs of persons with disabilities in the health care system. MHMS’ commitment will help to ensure the initiative's long-term sustainability. The training sessions are important to ensure that service providers have necessary knowledge and commitment to deliver information and services to persons with disabilities for SRH and GBV prevention. This progress is particularly meaningful to me because I was initially involved in the Fiji needs assessment study as a participant in a focus group discussion. Now, in my current position, I continue to work towards advocating and promoting a healthcare system in Fiji that is more inclusive and equitable, ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities are integrated in the health services”.* |

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| **Project:** Fiji Disabled Persons Federation (Women’s Fund Fiji)  **Tittle:** Case Study: Empowering Women with Disabilities through the Fiji Disabled Persons Federation |
| The Fiji Disabled Persons Federation (FDPF) is an umbrella organisation that includes the Fiji Association of the Deaf (FAD), United Blind Persons of Fiji (UBP), Spinal Injuries Association (SIA), and Psychiatric Survivors Association (PSA). With support from Women’s Fund Fiji, FDPF is working to build the capacities of women with disabilities, positioning them as future leaders capable of making decisions at various levels. This project specifically focuses on placing more women with disabilities in positions of power within their organisations and communities to ensure meaningful representation and engagement in leadership bodies.  During this reporting period, FDPF conducted a mentoring program for women with diverse disabilities in Tavua, marking a new initiative focused on empowerment. The program identified and trained 20 women from various villages, many of whom had been struggling to embrace their disabilities and engage with their communities.  Through this program, participants gained valuable skills applicable to future employment or entrepreneurial ventures, developed a stronger sense of identity and self-confidence in relation to their disabilities, and built a network of support with other women facing similar challenges.  The mentoring program in Tavua has led to transformations, empowering women with disabilities and fostering self-sufficiency within FDPF branches. Litia Naitanui's success story as a financially independent entrepreneur serves as an example for the participants. Additionally, proactive engagement through executive committee visits to three inactive branches in the West and new board member elections has revitalised these branches, promoted a culture of self-reliance and strengthened their ability to support all members of the disability community.   The training also enabled the women's group to register with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Protection. With these new relationships established, the Tavua branch women's group registered for the women's expo for the western division in May. Furthermore, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection Officer has now engaged the women's group in training and workshops organised for women within the district, building their capacity and increasing the visibility of women with disabilities in the area.  For the Rakiraki and Ba branches, the inclusion of District Council of Social Services (DCOSS) representatives within their respective committees has provided necessary assistance and support. DCOSS's reach and human resources help to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and inform the committee for action, enhancing the effectiveness of these branches. |

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| **Project:** Balance of Power  **Tittle:** Increasing the number of women candidates in local elections in Tonga |
| Tonga held elections for key local government positions in May 2023: town officers and district officers. In the lead up to the elections, FI-E-FI-A’a Fafine Tonga (FFFT), with Balance of Power (BOP) support, ran several public media activities to encourage women to nominate, and advocate for voters to support women candidates. These included a television talanoa (discussion panel) and a radio ‘jingle’ which was aired repeatedly.  Ultimately, 25 women did nominate in these elections – more than ever before – and the FFFT developed and ran a short series of candidates’ workshops to provide targeted support to those women. The workshops reached mainly the candidates based on Tongatapu, the main island, with 15 attending the first and 9 the second. One of these candidates was Milise Vaiangina, who was a candidate for town officer for Nukunuku village, on the western side of Tongatapu. She told BOP:  *“I heard a promotional message on the radio by BOP and FFFT. Listening to the perspectives of women who were exercising leadership and making significant impacts in their communities truly sparked something within me. At that moment, I realised that I, too, could make a difference by seeking out opportunities to lead and serve. Inspired by the words of those women I heard on the radio; I decided to stand in the town officer elections in my community”.*  Once she had decided to stand in the election, the FFFT candidate workshops proved to be a valuable support for Milise in her candidacy, giving her peer support as well as practical tips. They showed her what she described as “the power of women supporting other women”. Ultimately Milise was not elected, but she still says that the experience was invaluable and very worthwhile. Not only has it changed the way she perceives herself as a leader, Milise has also decided to become active in the cause of women’s leadership more broadly and is now a new member of FFT.  Milise was not the only woman influenced by the BOP-supported FFFT campaign. Data collected from the women who attended the second workshop, who represented more than a third of women candidates nation-wide, all reported that the FFFT advocacy had contributed to their decision to run in the elections. And, in the end 9 women were elected including several into positions which have never been held by women before. This shows that BOP’s support for FFFT’s public communications has contributed to women’s political participation in Tonga. |

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| **Project:** Shifting the Power Coalition  **Organisation:** ActionAid Vanuatu  **Tittle:** We will flourish like no other – Flora spearheading women-led disaster response in Vanuatu |
| The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), through the Pacific Women Lead at SPC programme (PWL at SPC), supports ActionAid Vanuatu through the Shifting the Power Coalition. The coalition aims to ensure diverse Pacific women’s voices are included in disaster planning and response at all levels. This includes assisting people like Flora, the Country Program Manager of ActionAid Vanuatu in assisting the tourism industry to support women-led recovery from Tropical Cyclone Pam.  Flora has played critical roles in establishing the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT) network in 2018. Through WITTT, diverse Ni-Vanuatu women organise, strategise and drive disaster response. She was also involved in establishing Women Wetem Weta (WWW) – a network of young women that monitor the weather and use mobile phones to share weather warnings and climate messaging to communities across the country. *“I mobilise and work with 5000 women on the ground. In times of disaster, I link up all these women from the National Emergency Operations Centre. The information from the community flows up to government, then goes back to the women in their villages.”*  This progress did not come easy. The work to establish WITTT and WWW required significant effort to ensure women had a firm grasp on their individual and collective voice and agency. *“Women are taught to wash dishes, clean the house and make sure there is food on the table. To say a sentence in front of others is a big step for them. It has taken courage and confidence to even use a pen. They have been silent for too long. But now the room is bubbling… you have to shout because the women are full of confidence.”*  By developing early warning systems that are contextualised and strengthen women’s leadership at all levels, both disaster response and community resilience are enhanced. Women's involvement in decision making reaps benefits for all members of the community, iteratively enhancing disaster resilience and – as a result – sustainable development at the local level. For example, as disaster relief can be slow to reach communities owing to limited transport and other challenges, the women’s response networks prepare and distribute local fruit, vegetables, and other resources most needed during a crisis. *“If the pandanus trees are affected, the community can’t do much anymore to sell and earn money. So, they get pandanus shoots to replant. It’s a different response because it’s led by women, for women; they know exactly what has been lost.”*  The coalition continues to share lessons learned from its work, taking a deliberately feminist approach to finding solutions that work for communities. *“There’s our sisters we have within the Shifting the Power Coalition, the safe space we have created. We know we have to join hands together. The work… if we are growing it, we are growing it together. We are not growing it for me, Flora. When I talk, I talk as WITTT. I’m talking as the network of women and the power of women.”*  *“This is how I want to see myself progressing to help saving lives of women… to live freely and happily as a woman in Vanuatu as well as any other woman in the Pacific. If they have that right, we will flourish like no other.”* |

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| **Project:** Balance of Power  **Tittle:** Working with the Anglican Diocese of Banks and Torres |
| In November 2022, the Vanuatu Balance of Power (BOP) team travelled to TORBA Province, to do preliminary work for the filming of the *Tru the Lens* film profiling Olivia Keith, school principal of Baldwin Lonsdale School, and to discuss the subsequent launch of her film on Rah Island. BOP was working with the chiefs of that island, and in addition engaging with the Anglican Diocese of Banks and Torres (DOBT) to arrange the launch event, so that BOP could remain in the ‘back seat’, and ensure that the film, and the event, was perceived as very much local.  BOP Program Administrator, Telstar Jimmy, had asked her mother’s sister, Jean, who lives in Sola, to assist with logistical arrangements for the team’s visit, especially arrangements for their travel by land and sea to Rah Island, where the launch event would take place.    Jean sits with the Women’s Desk of the DOBT, responsible for outreach and activities of the Women’s Union groups across the Banks and Torres islands, and her husband, Father Maurice Vaes, is the Mission Secretary/Vicar General for the Bishop of DOBT. They were both excited to hear about BOP’s work with men and women to target the social norms around women’s leadership, because – unbeknownst to Telstar and the rest of the BOP team – they were both already active on these issues within the Anglican Church. Jean had studied alongside her husband in Solomon Islands and gained the same degree in theological studies as the men who were ordained. However, this formal recognition and ordination was not an option for Jean, and her potential roles within the Church are limited. So, she and Father Maurice have been advocating for a change within the Anglican Church in Vanuatu, so women could be given equal leadership status, and opportunities. To achieve this, they were advocating for the necessary votes from 9 dioceses from Vanuatu & Solomon during their annual church gatherings called the Synod.  The Bishop responsible for their Diocese supports women’s leadership and had created a theme for ‘Women in the Frontline’ that Jean could use in her outreach to women’s groups across the islands. This was a call to encourage women to rise in leadership, drawing from women in the Bible who were leaders and instigators of change. However, this was proving difficult to progress in practice, with almost no resources to travel across the islands of TORBA Province. The conversations between Father Maurice and Jean, and the BOP team, have led to a number of strong opportunities to collaborate in pursuit of the shared aims of advancing women’s leadership.  First, BOP delivered a two-day inclusive leadership workshop on Motalava Island for the Diocese of Banks and Torres. The District Priest of Motolava, Father Tione Ling, opened the event and encouraged participants to embrace the compatibility of women’s leadership and the Christian faith. This workshop took place in tandem with the *Tru the Lens* film launch and was attended by around 35 women, mostly from the Anglican Church in Banks and Torres, but also from other denominations, such as Seventh Day Adventist, Assemblies of God and Pillar of Fire Ministry. After that first workshop, and the film launch, the BOP team was approached by the Secretary of the Anglican Diocese, requesting an ongoing relationship and further activities together. This is a very significant development for BOP. There have been several attempts in the past to find entry points into church organisations, given their enormous influence in Vanuatu. However, these past attempts have not come to fruition. Amplifying the voices of faith leaders to advocate for women’s leadership has huge potential to advance social norm change, so BOP will continue to invest in this link with the Anglican Diocese of Banks and Torres, where there is great potential. |

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| **Project:** We Rise Coalition  **Organisation:** Brown Girl Woke  **Tittle:** Pacific Feminist Forum has inspired Samoa movement building and activism amongst youth |
| Babe Naama Heidi Sinei Fili is a Samoan youth representative from Brown Girl Woke (BGW) who participated in the Pacific Feminist Forum (PFF) for the first time. She wrote this case study to capture her learning experience.  ***“****I was thrilled about the opportunity to attend this forum mainly because I wanted to learn more about feminism and to meet new people who are experts in this field. As a new member of Brown Girl Woke, I found that it was crucial to be a part of such an amazing event in order for me to be able to educate the young women of the generation to come who will lead our country [referring to BGW activities on leadership amongst girls]”.*  **Key learnings and favourite part of the PFF**  *“It was seeing women with disabilities and hearing-impaired issues finding different ways to have a voice in these discussions. One of the sessions discussed how the majority of young people within the Pacific region lack sex education, which should not be a key issue, considering the inclusion of biology in primary, secondary, and tertiary schools”.*  *“My most memorable part of the activity was during the last night of the PFF when I finally had the chance to sit down and have conversations regarding different points of view and collective ideas with other young feminists on the different problems brought up during the various sessions we had”.*  **Forward looking plans and key message to the feminist movement**  *“For future use of the knowledge I had gained, I plan on educating young people on feminism through Brown Girl Woke and how it is not only about women’s empowerment but rather a broad definition that shelters collective issues from our homeland, as well as our neighbouring Pacific regional countries”.* |

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| **Organisation:** Pacific Feminist Fund  **Tittle:** The Establishment of the Pacific Feminist Fund |
| The Pacific region remains one of the most under-resourced and underfunded regions in the world. In 2019, a scoping study commissioned by the Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific (UAF A&P) and the Women’s Fund Fiji (WFF) found that less than 1% of funding reaches women’s organisations in the Pacific and recommended setting up an independent Pacific Feminist Fund (PFF).1 With funding support from Foundation for a Just Society, UAF A&F and Women’s Fund Asia (WFA),2 the PFF set up its Steering Committee and Advisory Group and carried out two studies that informed PFF’s design and its registration options during 2020 to 2022. The PFF is now officially registered as a charitable organisation in New Zealand and will be working towards registration in Samoa.  As a registered entity, it has a four-member Board of Trustees who are Pacific feminists who have a breadth of experience, knowledge and skills that will continue to guide PFF’s strategic direction, institutional processes and structure. At present, the PFF is part of a consortium of women’s funds called the Amplify, Invest and Reach (AIR) Partnership with DFAT. The AIR partnership is a component of the Pacific Women Lead Program funding for the Pacific and began its partnership and establishment processes with three women’s funds3 in 2019 while PFF officially joined the consortium as a partner in 2023.  As the Pacific is the only region in the world not served by at least one regional Women’s Fund, the ‘invest’ component of the AIR partnership aimed to support the establishment of the PFF. The PFF would deliver grants and funding safely and quickly to Pacific women’s rights organisations, women and feminist’s movements in the region, LGBTQI groups, Disability groups, gender non-conforming and marginalised groups. The PFF would also focus on drawing international and regional attention to the needs and priorities of women, girls, and transgender persons in the Pacific, and would be modelled on the values and lessons learnt from established global women’s and feminist funds. Michelle Reddy, the PFF Co-Lead said, *“The origins and beginnings of an independent fund that is mandated by the Pacific women’s and feminist movement is political. It means that we are first and foremost accountable to the movement. The presence of the home-grown women’s funds in the Pacific, that are situated and led within the Pacific movement is important. In 2017, the establishment of the Women’s Fund Fiji and Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific was hugely celebrated. And now we have the Pacific Feminist Fund. Now with the launch of the Pacific Feminist Fund in 2023, a new fierce and bold feminist fund. It’s groundbreaking!”*  The PFF was launched in 2023 at the 3rd Pacific Feminist Forum, held at Pearl Harbour in Fiji. Professor Underhill-Sem, Board Trustee said *“There has also been a lot of learnings, the most important being the need to create an independent Pacific Feminist Fund, to facilitate engagement with new financing modalities and to improve the transparency of funding data so that dialogues with Pacific women’s organisations are more informed and inclusive,”* and *“Amidst the diversity of peoples that constitute the Pacific, the politics of indigeneity, race and climate change will continue to add further complexities. However, our understanding of gendered power relations in the Pacific shows that patriarchal privilege prevails to the detriment of women regardless of the hue of their skin, the superiority of their skill or knowledge, the quality of their education or their leadership potential. While it may take generations to transform this – the PFF will ensure the pulse of feminist hearts remain strong, and fuelled by resources that will make a difference.”*  The AIR partners have acted as incubators for the PFF. UAF A&P is currently the PFF's fiscal sponsor while PFF establishes its institutional processes.  WFA, through the Dutch Government’s Leading from the South (LFS) programme, is currently supporting the establishment and inception phase of the PFF through a 5-year institutional strengthening grant from 2021 to 2026. The AIR partners have successfully connected PFF to new donors in the region. For instance, WFA have connected PFF to the Foundation Chanel, who are in the process of finalising grant agreement with PFF for a period of 3 years.  All partners are collectively working together to ensure that PFF is a part of key spaces, meetings and events around resource mobilisation and advocacy and can directly access donors and secure funding. In December 2022, WFF and UAF A&P nominated PFF to be a keynote speaker for Global Philanthropy Project’s 2023 Asia Pacific Donor Conference, and Sydney World Pride. Because of the PFF status as a new actor in the region, the speaking opportunity was only made possible through these recommendations. The panel titled “Resourcing LGBTIQ Movements for Change in Asia and the Pacific'' and “Resourcing LGBTQIA+ Movements for Success'' provided a public platform for advocacy by the PFF. The [Australian Government’s] Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s (DFAT) Ambassador for Gender Equality facilitated this panel, demonstrating the strength of the AIR Partnership to address issues of marginalisation and exclusion. Both UAF A&P and PFF were also invited to join the Oceanic Pacific Regional Women Deliver Convening Committee.  By working together and identifying collective solutions to identified needs, AIR partners have grown and increased the sustainability of the feminist aid architecture in a strategic and meaningful way. By delineating responsibilities, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and practices, consolidating the strength of new actors and directing donors to the appropriate actor, the AIR partners have also increased support and resources to women, girls, trans and non-conforming defenders, organisations and networks in the Pacific. |

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| **Project:** We Rise Coalition  **Tittle:** We Rise has grown into a dynamic Pacific feminist coalition |
| The We Rise Coalition has expanded from being a Fiji-focused Coalition made up by two Fiji partners, femLINK and Fiji Women’s Right Movement (FWRM) and IWDA in Australia to a dynamic Pacific Coalition. Voice for Change (Papua New Guinea), Sista (Vanuatu), Brown Girl Woke (Samoa) and The Talitha Project (Tonga) joined the Coalition in 2021. The Talitha Project has left the Coalition in 2023 due to other competing priorities.  The Coalition’s expansion was supported by its Diversity, Inclusion, Engagement and Movement (DIEM) Strategy which sets clear principles for feminist movement building and engagement centred on inclusion and diversity. The Coalition has taken a leading role in strengthening the feminist movement in the Pacific.  Key actions include the establishment of National Feminist Forums as new spaces for diverse stakeholders to come together and agree on joint outcome statements; We Rise engagement and facilitation of the Pacific Feminist Forum in 2023; and collective engagement at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Women Deliver and at the Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. This has supported a strong presence of Pacific feminists at the national to global level and a unified and amplified Pacific feminist movement that stretches to beyond the Coalition and its members.  The Coalition provides accompaniment support to member Women’s Rights Organisations in the areas of governance, finance and operations, and also peer-to-peer mentoring on running an organisation with feminist principles, gender analysis and advocacy. These linkages have enabled organisations to link with national, regional and global advocacy and learning. For example, **Sista** has gained increased recognition of its feminist movement work in Vanuatu and welcomed into key decision-making spaces such as the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) consultation in February 2023. The consultation enabled **Sista** to provide feedback into focus and governance aspects of the next iteration of the declaration and provide voices from Vanuatu’s grassroots into these processes. **Brown Girl Woke** has developed a partnership with the Ministry of Samoa, with plans to deliver anti-sexual harassment in the workplace training to ministry staff with support of the International Labour Organization.  **Voice for Change (VfC) Expansion to Neighbouring Province**  VfC was established in Jiwaka Province in the highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1996. Since then, it has worked towards eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls, creating safe spaces and empowering them economically, amidst an extremely difficult operating environment marked by tribal conflicts. Due to this work, VfC was invited recently to participate in the PNG Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment and Gender-based Violence (GBV).  With the We Rise Coalition’s support, VfC expanded its operations to Mapowa Local Level Government and the entire Baiyer River District, in the Western Highlands Province in 2021. A needs assessment and steadily building relationships with main stakeholders in the region resulted in VfC’s small office receiving increased influx of women needing support and requests for training to facilitate peace building processes from community stakeholders. In turn, VfC has supported communities to reconcile, which in particular helps women to be safe in their home and working environments and provide advice and accompaniment to GBV survivors to access justice and other resources needed for their safety and well-being. |

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| **Project:** Pacific Women Lead at SPC  **Organisation:** SPC  **Tittle:** Regional telephone gender-based violence counselling training |
| The first Pacific-specific training on telephone counselling for gender-based violence (GBV) crisis centres ensure women and girl survivors of GBV have access to quality services, no matter where they are.  As part of the response to COVID-19, crisis centres adapted to remote service provision including the delivery of GBV counselling over the telephone – upscaled in some countries and introduced in others since the onset of the pandemic1.The Regional Telephone Gender Based Violence Counsellor Skills training was delivered in June 2022 to 5 countries through PWL at SPC program, following extensive peer review and pilot training sessions.  PWL at SPC’s GBV Adviser, Wilma Eileen co-facilitated the training with Candida Kaious, Program Coordinator for Weto in Mour (WiM), operated by Women United Together Marshall Islands, and Sonali Owen, former Family Protection Adviser for Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). During the training, participating counsellors and caseworkers used the [Telephone Counselling for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survivors: a Pacific Toolkit](https://pacificwomen.org/key-pacific-women-resources/pacific-training-toolkit-assists-with-gender-based-violence-gbv-telephone-counselling/)2 which is unique in nature due to its specificity for the Pacific regional context. Developed by and for counsellors and caseworkers it is a full package including audio recordings, a printable Pacific Toolkit and ready-to-use PowerPoint presentations for trainers. The training continues to impact and improve the delivery of telephone counselling services provided by these counsellors and caseworkers in their countries.  For Lorna Nikiri, Senior Counsellor for 1'Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain in Papua New Guinea, she said the training enabled her to work with her clients with greater confidence and awareness in both a face to face and over the phone. *“A client-centred approach really does put the focus on the client and their decisions do matter,”* she said. *“These are some of the skills and qualities that I have utilised to give the client the best help I can to support, empower and break the cycle of violence.”*    Chuuk Women’s Council’s (CWC) Tongen Inepwineu Counselling Center’s (TICC) Senior Counsellor, Lestina Berdon said the training re-affirmed the importance of confidentiality, *“The training has [helped] us to do [our] work [better] and we have learned the importance of confidentiality, this has helped us in continuing to help our clients”* and *“From the training I feel that I don’t just practice [the skills I’ve learned] at the centre but even at home.”*  May Eroi, a counsellor from Solomon Islands adds that the training has helped her continue to create safety plans for her clients, *“For telephone counselling we don’t see the physical space therefore as a counsellor we need to ask questions about the physical safety of the client”* and *“The training has really helped me to work closely with the clients regarding the safety of her and her children, so we create a safety plan for her.”*  The multi-country training was organised at the request of counsellors and caseworkers keen to enhance their telephone counselling skills. It also provides an opportunity to share knowledge and experience of GBV counselling across the 5 participating Pacific countries. |

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| **Project:** Transformative Agenda for Women, Adolescents and Youth in the Pacific.  **Organisation:** UNFPA  **Tittle:** People with disability’s sexual reproductive and health rights not realised |
| In 2020, UNFPA commissioned three needs assessments on women and young people with disabilities and issues related to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV) and access to essential services. These assessments took place in collaboration with Women Enabled International (WEI), the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) and local organisations of persons with disabilities. They identified barriers in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu that prevent women and young people with disabilities from fully realizing their SRHR, their right to legal capacity and their right to live free from violence.  While the Samoa report was finished in 2021, the remaining two reports, on Fiji and Vanuatu, were finalized and published in 2022. Key findings centred on how people with disabilities do not receive proper treatment and face significant physical and communications barriers when trying to access SRH services. They are also discouraged from making their own decisions about their children and lives; caretakers tend to take on this responsibility for them. Key recommendations to tackle these barriers include:   * Enumerate the legal capacity and rights of persons with disabilities to make autonomous decisions about their SRH rights. * Make awareness, training and other programs disability-inclusive to improve the reach of SRH services to this group. * Ensure SRH services have infrastructure that are physically accessible to people with disabilities. * Design information and communication materials to be available and accessible to people with disabilities.   All three reports were launched at a virtual event attended by more than 200 people from the Pacific region, including governments, NGOs and organisations of people with disabilities. The reports are currently being translated into an easy-to-read format in local languages, enabling organisations and persons with disabilities to use them for advocacy and programming.  In response to the Fiji report, a government-civil society partnership was formed, involving the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Fiji Disabled People’s Federation (FDPF), Medical Services Pacific (MPS), Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), UNFPA and WEI. It seeks to enhance outreach, increase knowledge of SRHR and expand demand for SRH services among women and young people with disabilities, their caretakers and family members. It has trained persons with disabilities to become community-based SRH officers who co-lead community outreach with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and MSP.  The officers in turn also train service providers on disability rights and inclusion. |

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| **Project:** Pacific Girl  **Organisation:** Fiji Women’s Rights Movement  **Tittle:** Deaf girls can do anything |
| *“Deaf girls can do anything,”* signs Vasiti of the FWRM GIRLS programme.” She is one of the many girls in 6 Pacific countries who have been reached by projects supported by the Pacific Girl programme since it began in 2019. Through partner-led activities, girls – including girls with disabilities – are being supported to advance their rights and opportunities. The FWRM implements Girls Arise, a program working with girls aged 10–12 years to build their life skills and confidence.  [Pacific Girl is enabling FWRM to extend activities to girls outside of the capital Suva, share the organisation’s approach in a toolkit, and raise the profile of girls’ issues with decision makers. FWRM has since extended its Girls Arise program to reach deaf girls through a partnership with the Fiji Association of the Deaf (FAD), over time extending their collaboration to other institutions, the Gospel School of the Deaf. FWRM’s approach aligns to broad principles of engagement with Deaf girls as part of the Deaf community – a culturally distinct group that specifically identifies as ‘Deaf’ (with a capital D, i.e. “Deaf girls”) rather than the broader definition of people with hearing impairment.](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/FWRM%20SL%201_Vasiti.jpg)  [Sign language is a core element of Deaf culture, with variations across the Pacific and, more broadly, the world. Therefore, connecting with the appropriate stakeholders – such as the Deaf community and its representative bodies – is vital to tailoring development initiatives that respond to their different needs, identities and language. *“We have partnered with FAD to sensitise our work, particularly the toolkit,”* explained Emeli Anise, FWRM’s Team Leader for the Intergenerational Women in Leadership Programme (IWLP). *“FAD helped us design the FWRM GIRLS Programme Deaf Girls Engagement Strategy and through them, we identified a Deaf consultant to help us sensitise our work, specific ally the toolkit.”*](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/FWRM%20SL%201_Vasiti.jpg)  [This collaboration is also reflected in a cross-sensitisation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FAD. The two organisations have been sharing their respective expertise in gender equality and deaf inclusion since 2019, including FWRM staff learning Fiji Sign Language (FJSL). *“The toolkit consultant has also developed a glossary for jargon we often use – like feminism and intersectionality – because there was no [FJSL] sign for it,”* added Ms Anise. *“Right now, the glossary is being reviewed by the FAD”* and *“The consultant has also helped our programme content to be deaf girl friendly and linked us up with organisations that specifically work with Deaf children like Gospel School for the Deaf and Hilton Special School.”*](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/FWRM%20SL%201_Vasiti.jpg)  [Some of this work has been implemented by focusing on a core cohort of 10 Deaf girls, but engagement has also extended to a greater number of Deaf girls through platforms and events like the Girls Forum. This year, Deaf girls from both the core cohort as well as additional girls attending Gospel School of the Deaf attended the second Girls Forum – making the safe space for girls to amplify their voice and guide the advocacy priorities of the GIRLS programme to be more inclusive.](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/FWRM%20SL%201_Vasiti.jpg)  [This year, FWRM is sharing a series of messages from their core cohort of Deaf girls in a video on social media in commemoration of the International Day of Sign Languages. In the video girls highlight their rights, needs and priorities as well as encourage others to learn. *“I need to have sign language in school,”* highlights Silina. *“Sign language is fun,”* adds Shakshi. *“Learn sign language. Respect my sign language.”*](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/FWRM%20SL%201_Vasiti.jpg)  [According to Ms Anise, finalising the toolkit and the partnerships with FAD and Gospel School of the Deaf are just the first steps to embed an inclusive approach to FWRM’s adolescent girl programming.](https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/2022-09/FWRM%20SL%201_Vasiti.jpg) |

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| **Project:** Shifting the Power Coalition  **Organisation:** SPC  **Tittle:** Partnership with organisations of people with disability increases representative and voice |
| Established in 2016, Shifting the Power Coalition (StPC) brings together 13 women-led civil society organisations in 6 countries working together to support diverse women’s leadership in humanitarian action at local, national and regional levels. StPC strengthens women’s capacity to engage in policy and decision making and engage in national and regional advocacy.  StPC has three longstanding partnerships with Organisations of People with a Disability (OPDs) - the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy (VDPA), and Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF).  At the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk-Reduction (APMCDRR) in September 2022, the Coalition’s delegation was comprised of 50% of women with disabilities who collectively called for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster planning and management. VDPA, PDF, FDPF and ActionAid Vanuatu’s disability network profiled their work on the inclusion of persons with disability in effective disaster risk reduction, and amplified the Coalition’s recommendations to the Conference on the importance of partnerships with OPDs:  Women’s organisations, disability rights organisations and feminist coalitions have the solutions to address under-representation of Pacific Island women in local, traditional and national governance spaces, are partners in disaster management and climate change agenda to drive inclusive, community-led approaches.  Women with disabilities and their networks determine approaches to implement the principle ‘nothing about us without us’ in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation. Resources are dedicated to support women-led efforts to increase access to information so that accurate risk knowledge is communicated widely to diverse women and communities, as well as persons with disabilities.  *“Partner with OPDs, women with disabilities and ask us directly how to support us. We can share our lived experiences and we know how to best support us. If you look at accessibility in evacuation centres, there’s a lot that’s not accessible. Why are persons with disabilities not moving (evacuating)? Because it’s not accessible. Invest in multiple forms of accessible communications to respond to deaf challenges. Access to information - online platforms - are not conducive to participation. Keep the focus on being inclusive for all persons with disabilities.”* - PDF Focal Point  Through StPC’s PowerShift Grant Making Mechanism in the broader Coalition portfolio, small grants have been provided to OPD partners such as VDPA for core funding support, to ensure that partners are institutionally strengthened to implement their strategies and are enabled to conduct their advocacy on disability inclusion at the local, national and regional levels. |

1. Distinct implementing partner means organisations who have a direct grant agreement with donors or funders. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. An ambition outlined in the PWL design was for SPC to progressively take over responsibility for the whole-or-program MEL. This process will need to be incremental and supported over an extended period. Further conversations will be had with SPC’s PWL MEL team and more details about how this could happen will be outlined in future PWL MELF updates. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Reach data refers to the coverage of activities: how many diverse men, women, boys and girls have been reached by an activity or project. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. As found in the Pacific Women Lead baseline, social norms and attitudes that condone violence include: wives and mothers should be submissive to their husbands; husbands and fathers are the head of the household and make the final decisions; there is a certain way women and girls should dress, always modestly and never exposing body parts that could lead to rape or sexual harassment; men can drink and socialise after hours with their friends, but their women should return or remain at home to take care of chores; women and girls should do the household chores (washing, cleaning, cooking, taking care of children, looking after elderly); wives who cannot give birth are devalued; women should be virgins before they get married; girls should aspire to become wives and mothers; there is no such thing as marital rape because husbands have the right to demand sex from their wives; violence against women can be justified, especially if she oversteps the line; sexual harassment is normal and in the Pacific, it is generally accepted

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)