

Tuvalu Country Brief

March 2025

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# About Pacific Women Lead

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.

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. For more information visit [www.pacificwomen.org](http://www.pacificwomen.org)

# Overview of Pacific Women Lead activities in Tuvalu

As of 31 March 2025, 13 Pacific Women Lead projects were being (or had been) implemented in Tuvalu, with a total funding of AUD29,621,360.38.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Table 1 shows how each of these projects are linked to the different PWL portfolio components.[[2]](#footnote-3) Through these components, technical support and funding is provided to Pacific civil society organisations, multilateral and regional organisations, government and other stakeholders.

Table 1: Summary of PWL projects in Tuvalu as of 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PWL components | # of projects | Ongoing | Completed | Total funding (AUD) |
| PWL at SPC projects | 2 | 2 | - | $664,698.33 |
| PWL Governance Board projects | - | - | - | - |
| Pacific Women’s Funds projects | - | - | - | - |
| DFAT regional projects | 6 | 4 | 2 | $28,693,970.05 |
| DFAT bilateral projects | 5 | 4 | 1 | $262,692 |
| PWLES projects | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **13** | **10** | **3** | **$29,621,360.38** |

## Pacific Women Lead at SPC

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 and a grants program for its government partners and women’s organisations across the Pacific.

In Tuvalu, PWL at SPC funds 2 downstream partners to implement 2 projects.

Table 2: DFAT PWL at SPC projects in Tuvalu as at 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Aidworks number | Project name and partner | Project description | Value (AUD) / timeframe | Project Status |
| 1 | Not applicable | Empowering women and girls now for a resilient and prosper future  (Fatu Lei) | The Project focuses on advancing women’s rights, incorporating economic empowerment and access to health and women’s safety, including ending violence against VAWG. | $164,698.33  2024 - 2025 | Ongoing (new) |
| 2 | Not applicable | Just, Safe, Resilient and Empowered Pacific Communities  (Pacific Conference of Churches - PCC) | The Project works to establish a reporting system for member churches to track and report on their gender equality performance, implement a Safe Church policy on zero tolerance of VAWC in church communities and the Code of Conduct and development and roll out of the Pacific regional faith-based EVAWG strategy. The Project also works to increase women’s participation and access in Church leadership and theology, collaboration of women theologians and national, regional Feminist Organisations, development of Church programmes to address masculinity and violence. | $500,000  2024 - 2025 | Ongoing (new) |

## Pacific Women Lead Governance Board

The PWL Governance Board comprises 13 members, 12 of whom are from the Pacific region. DFAT’s Assistant Secretary of the Pacific Development Branch serves as an ex-officio member of the Board.

Currently, there is no representative from Tuvalu on the Governance Board.

The Board has a $5 million discretionary fund for projects that it can use to add value to and build on existing PWL activities. To date, no projects in Tuvalu have been funded by the Board.

## Pacific Women’s Funds

The Pacific Women’s Funds is made up of 3 feminist organisations: Women’s Fund Fiji, Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific and Pacific Feminist Fund.

The Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) is liaising with the Pacific Women’s Fund component and will include projects being funded in Tuvalu under this component in the next update.

## DFAT regional

This section presents information on regional (multi-country) gender activities in Tuvalu. These regional gender activities are managed by either DFAT Post in Fiji or DFAT Canberra (Australia).

There are 6 DFAT regional projects implemented by 5 distinct implementing partners in Tuvalu. Of these, 5 are ongoing and one has been completed.

Table 3: DFAT regional projects in Tuvalu as at 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Aidworks number | Project name and partner | Project description | Value (AUD) / timeframe | Project status |
| 1 | 69294/46 | Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific  (Human and Social Development Division - SPC) | This project focused on strengthening gender mainstreaming by enhancing policy design, implementation, and monitoring to advance gender equality outcomes. It worked to build the capacity of Pacific governments to integrate gender considerations across policies, programs and services.  The project also supported improved collection, analysis, and use of gender data and statistics at both country and regional levels. By strengthening data systems, the project aimed to provide evidence that informs policy decisions, tracks progress on gender equality commitments and ensures that the needs and experiences of women and men were accurately represented. | $2,156,401  2021–2023 | Completed[[3]](#footnote-4) |
| 2 | 74843 | Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy (2018 - 2022) Phase 1[[4]](#footnote-5)  (International Planned Parenthood Federation – IPPF) | The Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy provides a framework and guidance on a life course approach to SRHR in the Pacific. This entails broadening the focus from family planning to services across the life span from pregnancy and prenatal care and pre-menstruation through menopause. It also looks at critical factors for the Pacific including climate change, gender, disability, non-communicable diseases and sexual and gender-based violence. | $500,000  2021 – 2022 | Completed |
| 77862 | Core funding to the IPPF Global Strategic Framework (22-26) and Pacific Strategy (22-26) Phase 2  International Planned Parenthood Federation – IPPF) | IPPF's Pacific Niu Vaka Strategy, Phase II aims to break down barriers and ensure quality sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are accessible to all in the Pacific. The project focuses on reaching the most marginalised and excluded groups with comprehensive SRHR information and services. It champions the voices of young people and leverages the power of movements and networks to advance SRHR across the region. | $2,000,000  2023–2026 | Ongoing |
| 3 | 77520 | Gender responsive Climate Policy and Women’s Climate Leadership in the Pacific  (Women’s Environment and Development Organisation) | This project sought to advance Pacific women’s leadership in climate change decision-making through WEDO’s Women Delegates Fund (WDF) program. By providing funding and capacity-building opportunities, the WDF enabled Pacific women to engage meaningfully in global climate discussions, ensuring their perspectives were reflected in critical decision-making processes. The project also aimed to enhance gender-responsive climate policy in the Pacific by strengthening the capacity of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points through targeted training and resources to support the integration of gender considerations into national climate policies and strategies. | $699,900  2022–2024 | Completed |
| 4 | 74112 | Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PPEVAWG) Phase 1  (UN Women) | The Project sought 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. | $800,000  2021 – 2023 | Completed |
| 77334/8 | Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PPEVAWG) Phase 2  (UN Women) | The Project aims to promote gender equality, prevent violence, and improve access to services for survivors. The programme supports regional and national leadership to align legislation and policies with international standards, addressing gaps and securing resources for enforcement. It challenges harmful social norms through community engagement and education, with the Social Citizenship Education project working within schools to promote gender equality. The programme strengthens survivor-centred services by enhancing the capacity of health, justice, and social service providers, while empowering women’s rights movements and amplifying the voices of marginalized groups. | $15,934,693.05[[5]](#footnote-6)  2023 – 2027 | Ongoing |
| 5 | 69294/67 | Pacific Community’s Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division Support | This project provides program funding to support the implementation of the SPC HRSD Business Plan 2021-2026. The plan focuses on strengthening inclusive, transparent, and responsive governance and institutions for human rights and social development; promoting gender equality, equity, and social inclusion; preserving and protecting positive cultural expressions; and accelerating impact through knowledge, learning, and innovation. The project aims to achieve a just, equitable, and resilient Pacific Island society by ensuring that state laws, policies, and institutions uphold the rights of all people, providing equitable access to social services and economic opportunities for women, youth, and marginalised groups, promoting non-violence and inclusion in communities, and safeguarding cultural heritage. | $2,700,000  2022–2026 | Ongoing |
| 6 | 78400 | Progressing Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Priorities  (Pacific Island Forum Secretariat) | This project provides funding for the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting (PIFWLM) and supports broader gender equality and disability inclusion efforts by the Secretariat, including the implementation of PIFWLM outcomes and the coordination and monitoring of key regional frameworks such as the revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED), the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD), and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) commitments outlined in the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan. | $3,902,976  2023-2026 | Ongoing |

## DFAT bilateral

This section presents information on bilateral gender activities in Tuvalu. These bilateral gender activities are managed by the Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) on behalf of Tuvalu DFAT Post.

There are 3 projects implemented by 3 distinct implementing partners in Tuvalu, and 1 Technical Adviser.

Table 4: PWL DFAT Post in Tuvalu projects as at 31 March 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Aidworks number | Project name and partner | Project description | Value (AUD) / timeframe | Project status |
| 1 | Not applicable | Women and Entrepreneurs Training  (Development Bank of Tuvalu) | The project aims to build the capacity of women and youth entrepreneurs in financial literacy and digital platforms and to provide more information on the products and services that the Development Bank of Tuvalu offers. The project targets women and youth entrepreneurs who are interested in the financial assistance that the Development Bank provides through loans; and who also lack the necessary skills and knowledge to manage their finances effectively and leverage digital platforms for business growth. | $46,184  2024–2025 | Ongoing |
| 2 | Not applicable | Women and Girls Resources Centre  (Fatu’Lei) | The goal of this project is to establish a safe space for women and girls to learn, share experiences and support each other to be empowered and resilient. This project focusses on setting up the Women and Girls Centre to allow women and girls in Tuvalu to access violence support services. The project will also offer training opportunities in gender-based violence to ‘FATU ‘LEI’s networks. | $134,076  2024–2026 | Onoing |
| 3 | Not applicable | Paagatasi: Empowering Women for Resilient Communities  (Gender Affairs Department) | The project has been developed with the objective to support the implementation of the Tuvalu Government Te Paagatasi a Tuvalu Policy. The project aims to advance gender equity and equality, with a specific focus on empowering women and girls, and building institutional capacity to apply gender equity practices. | $82,432  2024–2025 | Ongoing |
| 4 | Not applicable | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser | The Adviser provides technical gender mainstreaming support to the Tuvalu Gender Affairs Division, including in the implementation of Tuvalu’s Gender Policy." | 2022-2024 | Ongoing |
| 5 | Not applicable | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Advocate | Provide technical, mentorship, coordination and logistical support to implement, and monitor the implementation of the Pacific Women Lead program in Tuvalu. Co-lead and support stakeholder engagement; support analysis and facilitate dialogue. | 2021-2022 | Completed |

## Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services

Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES) provides whole-of-portfolio monitoring, evaluation and learning oversight, technical advisory support and grant management services. PWLES has an independent Quality and Technical Assurance Group (QTAG) panel of approximately 50 consultants. PWLES is valued at AUD32 million.

PWLES provides the technical and grant management support to Tuvalu.

# Impact stories and reach data for DFAT bilateral projects

## Impact stories

This section will provide links to impact stories collected for DFAT bilateral projects when available online on PWL website.

## Periodic reach data

From July to December 2024, 2 projects in Tuvalu provided data against quantitative PWL indicators.

Table 5: Periodic reach data (July to December 2024) for DFAT bilateral projects in Tuvalu

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project title | Indicator | Girls | Women | Men | Boys | Not disaggregated | Total |
| Women and Youth Entrepreneurs Training | Diverse women entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services | 0 | 615 | 405 | 0 | 0 | 1020 |
| Women and Girls Resources Centre | Number of people who participated in sessions on gender issues and women’s equal rights | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 |

# More information and support

This country brief was prepared by Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services (PWLES). PWLES provides support for DFAT Posts and PWL at SPC in the following ways.

## Monitoring, evaluation and learning support

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.

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 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. These stories are published on the PWL website: [Pacific Women Lead - Stories](https://pacificwomen.org/latest-updates/stories/)

**Monitoring the rights of people with disabilities Framework:** PWLES developed two guidance notes to support 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 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 the 2024 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).

**Clear Horizon Academy PWL MEL Platform:** PWLES has developed 3 training modules with Clear Horizon Academy to support PWL partners:

* Using data for reporting and learning,
* collecting impact stories
* 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, FSM, Palau, Nauru, Niue, and Republic of Marshall Islands. QTAG currently offers tailored GEDSI support through consultants to smaller DFAT Posts.

## Grant management

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

* One regional program: Balance of Power
* Three projects in Tuvalu (funded through the Tuvalu DFAT Post Gender Country Plan), and
* Management of Gender Advisers in Tuvalu (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser), FSM (Family Protection Adviser) and Palau (Family Protection Act Adviser).

## Contact and feedback

If you have questions or feedback on this country brief, please contact PWLES on [info@pwles.org](mailto:info@pwles.org)

1. Note that total funding only reflects the grants managed under these components that are being implemented in Tuvalu and does not reflect the total value of the components. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Each component is a distinct implementing partner of PWL, which means that organisations have a direct grant agreement with donors or funders. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Next phase to be funded under Pacific Women Lead at SPC. Details to be confirmed. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Projects that have Phases 1 and 2 are counted as one and counted as on-going if Phase 2 is ongoing [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Total includes DFAT Post (TBC which Post) contribution of AUD 2,000,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)