



# Spotlight Initiative

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT**

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## Acronym List

AWP	Annual Work Plans
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DFAT	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DV	Domestic Violence
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
EU	European Union
FSC	Family Support Centre
FLE	Family Life Education
FPA	Family Protection Act
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
KM	Knowledge Management
LBT	Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCO	Multi-country Office
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
PCC	Pacific Council of Churches
PIFS	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PJSI	Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative
PLGED	Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPDVP	Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme
RC	Resident Coordinator
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RRF	Regional Results Framework
SPCC RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team of the Pacific Community (SPC RRRT)
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SPC	The Pacific Community
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights





UN	United Nations
UNDAFs	United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UoM	University of Melbourne
VAC	Violence against children
VAG	Violence against girls
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WHO	World Health Organization



## **Executive Summary**

The regional Spotlight Initiative in the Pacific continued implementation in 2021 in a very complex environment, grappling with compounding impacts of disasters from previous year and facing new challenges in the Pacific nations. These include social and political unrests, fractured regionalism through PIFS, rising food insecurity, adverse weather events, natural disasters (earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis), and the effects of COVID-19.

The Spotlight Initiative RUNOs actively participated in the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster (PHPC), which plays a critical role in coordinating protection in humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery across UN agencies including issues on gender-based violence in emergencies, psychosocial support, and gender and social inclusion mainstreaming. The PHPC supported several emergency responses, such as TC Yasa, TC Ana in Fiji as well as political unrest in Solomon Islands in 2021 by providing technical support to national protection coordination mechanisms. Close coordination ensured that systems of essential services continue to be built whilst responding to the emergency protection needs.

The programme recorded a number of significant results in 2021 and made significant strides in the region strengthening women's movement through new partnerships with grassroots women's rights organizations, gaining political momentum in development and roll out of comprehensive sexuality education that is based on international best practices, as well regional mobilization of diverse stakeholders to roll out multi-sectoral standardized data systems for GBV data collection, management and analysis.

In early months of 2021, the Spotlight contributed to the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and subsequent 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women in May, which produced concrete action points requiring cooperation and collaboration across all sectors of Pacific societies to end violence against women and resolved that governments and their partners to act urgently. A specific recommendation dedicated to the ratification of c.190 on sexual harassment in the workplace was successfully negotiated by Women's Ministers in the Outcome Document of the 14th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women and 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women. This was a result of the engagement and high visibility of the UN and key partner, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, through a conference side event.

The Spotlight has provided the platform for development agencies to comprehensively engage in GBV data collection, analysis, and utilization. The team are leading the design and implementation





of multi-sectoral GBV administrative data systems in the Pacific and have engaged the support of the regional technical agencies such as University of Melbourne (UoM) and the Pacific Community (SPC). To ensure cohesion with stakeholders and to systematize application of minimum standards across the region as best practice RUNOs articulated an agreed process (Division of Labour) and are working to implement it with the Pacific countries. The agreed Division of Labour has enabled the highest level of collaboration, accountability, and coordination between agencies vital to achieve minimum standards of implementation.

In addition, with the support from Spotlight the Regional Reference Group (RRG) on GBV Administrative Data Systems, consisting of regional development partners and academia was formed. The RRG is responsible for ensuring coherence amongst all GBV administrative data programs at regional and country levels. The RRG has clear terms of reference with emphasis on: (1) bringing together best practices and guidance/resources for countries, (2) ensuring consistency in standards and approaches and (3) providing technical advisory services to national governments and frontline service providers, in line with their priorities to strengthen national administrative data systems. This work includes revision of data collection tools, standards and facilitate information sharing protocols and agreements, in line with international best practice, and capacity building of national level partners to develop and maintain the systems. The RRG ensures that national VAW/G administrative data systems are harmonized with national GBV referral systems to facilitate appropriate case management, through a streamlined coordination structure.

The programme invested significantly on women's movement-building in the region by supporting diverse civil society organisations, including women-led and feminist organisations at the grassroots level. It directly partnered with over 50 national, local and grassroots women's rights organisations across 14 countries in the region, solidifying new unique partnerships with those based closest to the communities. Small grants supported a wide range of activities including support to the LGBTQI+ community, vocational training and financial training to women and survivors of GBV, awareness raising in menstrual hygiene solutions, awareness raising for gender-responsive disaster risk response, to name but a few. Bridging these newly established partnerships with CSOs, programme partnered with DIVA for Equality and launched an 18-month Intersectional Advocacy capacity-building, networking and thought partnership hub for feminist, grassroots, and women's rights organisations in the region. In addition, 18 smaller civil society organisations across 10 countries were supported with Small Grants for work in the areas of COVID-19 advocacy for women and girls, GBV service delivery for rural and maritime communities, securing the safety of people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity/LGBTQI+ and feminist climate justice.





Since the virtual launch of the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance of Out-of-School CSE/FLE (Guidelines) in 2020, the Pacific is witnessing a changing landscape pro CSE/FLE, with growing political interest and national commitment resulting to notable milestones. Under the regional programme, the Spotlight Initiative is credited for having set the stage for a political tone that identifies with and values the relevance of CSE to transform lives of young people. In the last few months of the Spotlight Initiative support, CSE progress has been on an upward spiral and the region has experienced a shift in the mindsets and programming norms related to key decision makers and duty bearers for quality design and implementation of CSE needed to change existing gender inequalities and reduce violence against women and girls.

Countries have been supported to establish and operationalize CSE/FLE coordination mechanisms that are playing an oversight and advocacy role for CSE/FLE. There's on-going development of CSE/FLE resource materials as well as technical assistance to Ministries/departments of Education to integrate CSE/FLE in targeted syllabus for grades and training of master trainers all with technical support from FPNSW. The programme worked with the Ministries of education to develop CSE in and out of school curriculums in Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, FSM, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga. CSE assessments for all these countries and curriculum development for some grades: Kiribati's grade 10, Samoa's grades 9-12, Vanuatu's grades 11-12 are completed, while training of Master teachers also commenced in preparation for the nation-wide roll-out of the curriculums in 2022.

Furthermore, in the prevention space, through the partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), the programme contributed to the institutionalization of safe spaces and to the development of comprehensive tools to guide the work of faith-based networks in the region.

As the Initiative continues to navigate numerous complex challenges to implement, its integrated approach, and close collaboration with other GBV programmes and GBViE activities in the region, has made substantive progress in gaining momentum in critical areas towards long term impacts of ending violence against women and girls.

### **Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status**

In 2021 Pacific region continued its recovery from previous natural disasters as well as coping with new hazards, in addition to the impacts of COVID19 pandemic. The Pacific Islands remain one of the most disaster-affected zones in the world in terms of the recurrence, severity, and scope of natural hazards. Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Fiji are consistently ranked among the 20 countries most at risk in the World Risk Index experiencing natural hazards including





cyclones, volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts, tsunamis, and earthquakes, as well as the impacts of climate change.

The Pacific Humanitarian and Protection Team and Regional GBViE Cluster over the last year continued to support necessary preparations ahead of annual cyclical disaster risk exposures. The Spotlight Initiative together with other investments in GBV in the region continued to adapt to working across the humanitarian-development nexus for a more integrated approach. The Spotlight's focus remained on strengthening systemic root causes of violence which will have a better chance of reducing the impact of cyclical and recurrent shocks and stresses in the future associated with increase of violence against women, whilst immediate protection needs were met through other programmes and funding.

The 2020/2021 South Pacific Tropical Cyclone Season produced six (6) named Tropical Cyclones (TC) compared to 9 named the previous season. However, it produced the earliest Category 5 TC on record with Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa that made landfall in Fiji on December 17 and directly affected an estimated 93,000 people. It was followed by Category 2 TC Ana (30 January) and Category 1 TC Bina (2 February) that followed similar tracks and further compounded the impact of TC Yasa in the affected areas with 14,755 people registered in 422 evacuation centres across Northern Fiji on 2 February. The TC Yasa response was further complicated by COVID-19.

In 2021, the Pacific's focus on the COVID-19 pandemic moved from the immediate health challenges of preventing the spread of the virus, to grappling with new variants, vaccination challenges, and re-opening to the world. The consequences on the pandemic this year within the Pacific have varied significantly, highlighting the diversity in the region. Many countries in the region, as in 2020, have used their geographical advantages and natural isolation to prevent community transmission of the virus. However, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Fiji was deeply affected by COVID-19, particularly the Delta variant that swept the world in the middle of this year.

Following almost 12 months with no cases, community COVID-19 transmission was recorded in Fiji on 19 April 2021. By 25 April, the Government established Suva, where UN Multi-Country Offices are located, as containment area. In August, when a case had been confirmed in outer islands, inter-island travel was restricted until October. International travel from few selected partner countries under COVID-19 safe protocols only returned in December. As Spotlight Pacific Programme is governed out of Suva, Fiji, 2021 has been particularly challenging in convening stakeholders and bringing required team members and experts onboard. This has significantly and negatively impacted coordination and coherence of the programme implementation.



Fiji women's groups reported that the frequency and intensity of violence against women had increased since the onset of the pandemic due to the combination of unemployment-related stress and social confinement, compounded by women's lack of access to the formal justice system. Several women with disabilities in Fiji have reported that financial hardships as a result of the pandemic have exacerbated the situation of GBV. Limited access to services for sexual and reproductive health, including contraception and maternity services, has been reported, particularly with lock-down restrictions. Surveys on adolescent girls have registered additional problems, such as disrupted education; increased anxiety and loneliness; feelings of isolation and insecurity at home and online; increased care burden at home, and disrupted access to menstrual hygiene and sexual health services.

Palau, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu recorded no cases of community transmission in 2021. At the time of writing this report the community transmission was recorded for the first time in all these countries, and with slow vaccination rate (with exception of Palau) it is expected that both will remain closed for international travel in 2022. Tonga lost its COVID-free status after its first case in quarantine in October. Alongside Samoa, the country is continuing to build its vaccination rates ahead of expected border re-openings in 2022. Tuvalu remained COVID-free alongside Niue, with Cook Islands recording its first cases early 2022.

COVID-19 has shown the resilience and governance capacities of the PICTs, but also highlighted the fragility of its economies, the limitations of its public services and its interdependence with overseas territories. Shortcomings of the health systems before the outbreak left no alternative other than closing the borders to avoid a catastrophe, but as health institutions were diverted to vaccination campaigns in 2021, it halted GBV response integration in the sector under the Initiative.

Shut borders in these countries had numerous gendered impacts. The Women and Children Crisis Centre in Tonga recorded around double the number of new cases of family violence during Tonga's 15 days of lockdown. The Samoa police reported a significant increase in arrests since the COVID-19 state of emergency lockdown began on 21 March (587 arrests) and highlighted that many involved cases of family violence. The Christian Care Centre in Solomon Islands scaled down, accepting high risk clients only. This left a shortage of shelter options for women and children escaping men's violence.

Women's organisations in Tonga have reported demand for counselling and assistance from male stranded seasonal workers, as well incidents of remote and online abuse from seasonal workers toward women remaining at home.



As Fijian and Samoan workers who previously worked in the tourism sector have been returning to their home villages to live off subsistence farming, women in the village are expected to meet family obligations and care for returning family, adding to their household workload. In Tuvalu, relocation back to the outer islands away from the capital of Funafuti was suggested by the government. Families have moved back to the relative security and remoteness of the islands or for residents of Funafuti, relocated to the islets. Concerns have been raised by women that family income was spent on relocation without money left to buy food and that natural resources on the island could run out with the increase in population.

Postponed from 2020, with contributions from the Spotlight Initiative the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women was held virtually in April 2021. It brought together Pacific decision-makers, development partners, research institutions and civil society organisations to discuss the challenges to gender equality in the region, including the impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls. More than 1000 people participated in the event with an overarching theme of: Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future – Empowering All Women in the Blue Pacific Continent. The Triennial was followed by the 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women on May 4th. Again, participation represented a wide range of Pacific Community (SPC) members – Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. The meeting produced many action points requiring cooperation and collaboration across all sectors of Pacific societies. It resolved that governments and their partners need to take specific action to end violence against women and girls and increase support and services to survivors.

Unfortunately, just a month before the Triennial Conference, the Pacific Islands saw a dramatic change with the threatened exit of Micronesian states from the Pacific Islands Forum and the fall of the region’s longest serving political leader, former Samoan prime minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi. In February, the Pacific Islands Forum broke apart over the controversial election of former Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna as the next Secretary-General, by one vote, over the Micronesian candidate, Gerald Zackios. Five Micronesian states — Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau — announced they would leave the Forum over what they saw as a breach of a ‘gentleman’s agreement’ to rotate the position of Secretary-General between the three sub-regions. The grievance is rooted in a long history of perceived North Pacific marginalization within what was originally called the South Pacific Forum. The situation has raised serious issues about several critical aspects of the Forum, one of which involves the ongoing tension between regional and national interests and how this plays out in both implicit and manifest





ways. Against this political backdrop Spotlight’s engagement with PIFS was strained, and further complicated dialogue with PIFS to co-chair the Spotlight Regional Programme Steering Committee.

Further social and political instability and tensions were observed in some countries which have been attributed to competition over land and access to resources; the role of chiefly leadership, influence, and authority; and inequalities and structural divisions in legislation and policies. Samoa’s election in April produced an unexpected result: the prospect of a hung parliament after Tuilaepa, the second longest-serving prime minister in the world, and his Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP) had dominated for decades. A new opposition party, Fa’atuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi (FAST), led by popular female politician Fiame Naomi Mata’afa, produced a shock upset at the polls. After months of political wrangling and legal challenges, Fiame was finally confirmed as Samoa’s first woman prime minister in July.

On 24 November, violent anti-government protests started in Honiara, Solomon Islands, when protesters from the ‘Malaita for Democracy’ movement travelled from the most populous island to Honiara and gathered outside the Parliament calling for Prime Minister to address them regarding the September 2020 shift of diplomatic ties from Taiwan to China and a one-China policy adopted by the Solomon Islands national government, whereby Malaita has long held diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Violence erupted in the streets of Honiara targeting Chinese-owned businesses with burning and looting and resulting in widespread displacement of Asian Migrants. The Prime Minister ordered a lockdown in Honiara. There were at least 3 deaths and 60 building destroyed.

Finally, a significant development materialized with the continuing reforms within the UN, as the third Multi Country Office (MCO) was formed in the North Pacific in October which became known as the Micronesian MCO. It was allocated five PICs, which were formerly led by the Fiji MCO. These are the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and RMI. Prior, the UN multi-country engagement in the Pacific was led by two Resident Coordinators and a UN Country Team (UNCT) linked across two regional hubs, operating regionally out of Fiji and Samoa. Following the establishment of the Micronesian MCO, the five Pacific Island Countries (PICs) under the leadership of the Fiji Multi Country Office (MCO) are Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The Samoan MCO has four PICs under the leadership of the Samoa MCO including Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau. Most of the Spotlight Initiative RUNOs remain covering all 3 MCO countries from Suva, Fiji. However, this further adds complexities in coordination of the Regional Programme and its governance.

**Implementation progress by outcome area:**



The implementation in Pillar 2 has been delayed and reprogrammed due to the challenges with the implementing partner PIFS working with the governments to roll out gender responsive budgeting. It has been reprogrammed and the work will be implemented by supporting civil society in this regard instead.

The Pillar 6 implementation is set against the budget that is allocated until December 2022 (with current extension to December 2023). Hence, the percentage is low, but does not reflect true financial performance against second year of implementation. Furthermore, due to funds being added in the second half of the 2020, the implementation only commenced in 2021.

<b>Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas</b>	Implementation progress as of 31 Dec, 2021
<b>Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework</b>	100%
<b>Outcome 2: Institutions</b>	51%
<b>Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change</b>	72%
<b>Outcome 4: Quality Services</b>	n/a
<b>Outcome 5: Data</b>	79%
<b>Outcome 6: Women’s Movement</b>	32%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54%</b>

## Programme Governance and Coordination

### *a) Regional Steering Committee*

Since initiation of the Regional Programme, number of attempts were made towards creating a joint governance and coordination mechanism for programmes addressing VAWG in the region, including efforts to create a joint Spotlight Initiative / Pacific Partnerships EVAWG Steering committee. From the initial discussions on Spotlight in the Pacific Region, representatives from the Pacific Partnership have been at the table seeking a way forward to have collaborative governance structures and mutually reinforcing efforts that benefit women and girls in the Pacific. The Pacific Partnership, including donors, and other key UN agencies proposed and recommended that the Spotlight and Pacific Partnership programmes, which included putting forward a combined governance structure for Spotlight with the existing regional EVAWG structures under the Pacific





Partnership. This proposal was not adopted or accepted by the other partners in the pre-meeting. The global model of governance for Spotlight was adopted therein leading to the current challenges with governance.

Co-leadership of the Regional Programme Steering Committee (RSC) should, ideally be assured by a regional intergovernmental institution representing the Pacific governments. SPC is the principal scientific and technical organization and PIFS, the premier political and economic policy institution. Attempts to engage PIFS in this role have been unsuccessful. SPC, as an implementing partner, has been a Steering Committee member, and towards the end of 2021 accepted to co-chair the committee. The long absence of a legitimate regional inter-governmental body in the governance of the Regional Programme has affected the level of regional ownership of the Spotlight Initiative. This was further compounded by the long absence of the CSRRG.

Despite the challenges, the CSRRG has been convened for the first time towards the end of the year and will represent its members in the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for early 2022. The current composition of members in the Steering Committee includes UN Head of Agencies, EU, PIFS, SPC representatives and civil society members.

There is broad agreement amongst UN and CROP agencies, donor partners and civil society for a joint technical committee on EVAWG – there is broad support for this, with UN Women formally raising this at the next Pacific Partnership technical committee and plans to continue discussions and, jointly with partners, move this forward in 2022.

### ***b) Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRRG)***

An interim Civil Society Regional Reference Group (CSRG) was initially formed in August 2019 and provided advice during the design phase of the Initiative. As part of the recommendations from the civil society were the establishment of reference group that serves beyond the project focus and provides an accountability to the UN's EVAWG work broader. Building upon the ongoing EVAWG work in the region that benefits from contributions of different UN programmes and initiatives, including the Spotlight and the Pacific Partnership Programme, in mid-2021 a nomination and consultative process with key CSOs and influential individuals was launched to establish a diverse, multi-country, and inclusive EVAW CSRG. The UN capitalized on the opportunity to embrace a holistic approach to coordination of EVAWG programmes and partnership with CSOs and agreed to have a CSRG as an advisory body to the UN Country on EVAWG related issues. The new Terms of Reference for this was drafted, reflecting on how UN system would accountably engage with civil society in its work to EVAWG.



The first meeting was held in December convening key regional CSO institutions, including representatives from the Pacific Women’s Network on EVAWG, Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, Pacific Disability Forum, We Rise Coalition, Pacific Conference of Churches, Fiji Women’s Rights Movement. Members reiterated their commitment to continue supporting the UN in the efforts to end VAWG in the region, as a high level advisory and accountability platform that looks at the issue of EVAWG and does not have a project focus to the UN Country Team. The members also sought for the UN to engage the group prior significant UN global level events to ensure Pacific voices and concerns are included in global level discussions.

At this first meeting, it was also acknowledged that there is a need to increase the group’s membership, to promote inclusion and representation of countries of the region. Reflecting on engagement at the national level with countries where civil society reference groups exist, such as Vanuatu, Samoa, Timor, and PNG, it was suggested to include representatives from these groups to ensure national country level voices are present in the meetings. Furthermore, the members also recommended to include the Northern Pacific region countries’ representatives, and invitations were sent to suggested women’s rights advocates who accepted the membership.

The next meeting of the CSRG is confirmed to be held in February 2022 to convene all members from regional organizations as well as country level representatives. The purpose of the meeting is aimed at hearing from all representatives on their engagement with the UN and Government representatives and their high-level advocacy in their respective countries, and dialogue on the future role of the regional group.

Until 2021, no specific budget had been allocated to the CSRG activities because the group had not been established. Following the first meeting of December 2021, an estimated budget of \$30,000 has been set aside to support activities of the CSRG in the year 2022. This will be reflected as part of resources allocated to the promotion of CSOs’ engagement in the programme. This budget can be revised based on upcoming needs and priorities and the work plan that is still to be developed.

The Pacific Partnerships programme will hold their Steering Committee early 2022 where the same level of engagement with the CSRG will be discussed for the model to be embraced. The programme currently does not have civil society representatives at its Steering Committee.

***c) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms***





The Pacific region boasts multiple regional structures across gender thematic area. The Outcome Group 2 (OG2) established under the UN Pacific Strategy convenes UN agencies quarterly during the year and is chaired by UN Women and UNFPA Representatives. The OG2 has an expanded group - the Pacific Gender Coordination Group - co-chaired by SPC and UN Women. Two agencies also co-chair the Pacific Gender Taskforce, established to strengthen coordination between regional organizations, UN agencies, women-led civil society organizations, and development partners working on gender across the Pacific. A sub-group of the taskforce, the Gender Technical Working Group, meets regularly to support strategic engagement in regional and global gender equality fora.

In 2021 August, the OG2 has also set up a sub-group specifically focusing on the UN's work of EVAWG in the Pacific. The terms of reference have been finalized and all UN agencies convene to update and share latest information on the work. Although the Spotlight team initially had a stand-alone agenda item, through the RCO the Group was supported in framing agendas and discussions against broad UN Pacific Strategy and strategic areas of interventions to end GBV and widening UN agencies engagement in EVAWG, outside of the Spotlight Initiative.

A programme specific technical meetings have also been convened for RUNOs' technical engagements to deep dive into areas such as costings of GBV, and gender responsive budgeting. Furthermore, the Pacific Partnerships programme has also extended the invitation to the Spotlight team representatives to join the Steering Committee meetings and Technical Coordination meetings as observer. This is further strengthening collaboration and alignment amongst two large EVAWG related programmes in the region.

Information sharing was also improved through a joint online calendar of events "Pacific EVAWG Events". <https://teamup.com/kskramnife6y4d7wqx> and WhatsApp Group. These also include colleagues from the Pacific Partnership programme to ensure cross programme coordination.

Regional Pacific GBV Sub Cluster under the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster as part of the Pacific Humanitarian Team coordination structures supports coordination, capacity building and technical assistance at regional, national and sub-national levels, working with National Governments, UN agencies, local and international Non-Government Organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the prevention, mitigation and response to GBV in emergencies within the context of humanitarian action in the Pacific region. Its secretariat is building a strong regional GBViE community of practice through regular meetings and a comprehensive online repository of GBViE resources including international guidance, sub cluster documentation and national resources. Pacific countries are represented by the National Gender and Protection Clusters. The Spotlight discussions that are presented in the cluster agenda have enabled mapping of service



providers, referral mechanisms, tailoring of the COVID-19 response plans for risk communication, and building capacity of staff and service providers on GBViE and SRHiE.

#### ***d) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools***

During the latter part of 2021, RUNOs participated actively in the development of the Common Country Assessments, led by the RCO. A standalone regional CCA was also prepared. Gender based violence was highlighted in all Pacific country level as well as the Regional CCAs, including its prevalence based on existing data and the analysis of root causes. This will ensure the prioritization of the elimination of VAW in the UN's Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 (UNSDCF), which will be developed during the year of 2022.

### **Programme Partnerships**

#### ***a) Government***

**The Pacific Community (SPC).** It is the leading technical and scientific inter-governmental organization in the Pacific, supporting its members, Pacific Island governments, along the sustainable development path. SPC facilitates implementation of Pillar 5 as a Regional Technical Organization supporting the development of tools and capacity to conduct Population Based Surveys including the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey with Demographic Health Components (MICS-DHS) which includes the Domestic Violence (DV) module of the DHS. Under the regional program, SPC is reviewing the MICS/DHS data collection and training tools and developing templates for the ethical components of the population-based survey. These tools are to be included in the Pacific kNOwVAWdata Hub to be accessed by Pacific countries when it is implementing a MICS/DHS with DV component. SPC is working with the Nossal Institute which supports further analysis of survey data and supports strengthening and harmonization of administrative data systems.

**National Legislatures (Parliaments of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu).** The Regional Programme partnered with these Parliaments on budget analysis from a gender perspective in light of the constitutional mandates of all Parliaments to debate and pass national budgets. Parliaments influence national budgets from a gender perspective and are thus strategic institutions. The regional project with the cooperation of the senior leadership in the respective Parliaments provided detailed gender analysis of budgets enabling MPs to engage in informed debate and discussion.



Technical and strategic partnerships for leadership on ending violence against women and girls in the multi-country programme include Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs in Solomon Islands; Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs in Republic of Marshall Islands; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation in Fiji.

**Ministries of Health.** Though the regional programme design does not include Pillar 4, understanding the importance of promoting access to SRH services including GBV clinical response, the programme partnered with the Ministries of Health of countries to ensure that the work under Pillar 3 on Comprehensive Sexuality Education is linked to the health sector's response. Ministries of Health (MOH) have ensured that health elements are integral parts of CSE curriculums for both in-and out of school students and teaching guides, as well as participating in the CSE ToT in preparation for the country-wide CSE roll-out. In addition, the MOH mobilized and coordinated over 32 Senior health staff, and with the programme technical support customized and validated SGBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOP, also called Clinical Guidelines) for survivor-centered care including for children and adolescents, and referral systems to external agencies/organizations in FSM, RMI.

**Ministries of Education.** The Ministries of Education through Curriculum Development Units are leading the development of CSE curriculums, along with Teacher's Guides. In Vanuatu, in school curriculum for Years 7 to 10; 11 and 12 are fully developed and over the next 6-months of the carry-over work plan for Phase I, the Ministry of Education will roll out in-school CSE curriculum, while in Samoa, and FSM and RMI these are at the final stages.

**Ministries of Youth.** The Ministries of Youth and Sports (MOYS) work closely with the CSE/FLE committees in the development of Out of School CSE curriculum and teachers guides including facilitating training of partners and will facilitate the up-coming country wide roll-out.

A programmatic partnership also engages the **Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tonga**. This partnership promotes diverse youth engagement on the prevention of violence, led by the ministry. The Ministry's Church Leaders' Desk and Youth Desk are viewed with respect and authority in Tonga and are called to work with communities where young people demonstrate risky behaviours and are at increased risk of perpetrating or experiencing violence.

**The Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC).** Government-owned radio broadcaster has partnered with the Initiative, specifically to be able to reach a wide audience during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2021 in Fiji. FBC broadcasts in the three official languages of Fiji (Fijian, Hindi, English) across three radio stations reaching a national audience.



**RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services.** Key Government partner for the Spotlight Initiative for Activity 3.2.3 (Pillar 3: Prevention) in the Marshall Islands Country Programme, implementing the gender-based violence prevention programme. A consultant based in the ministry was able to provide technical assistance to lead the development of the SOPs for MoHHS GBV referrals and provided the tailored assistance required to the ministry.

**RMI Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs.** Ministry is the lead institution responsible for addressing gender and human rights. They were the key ministry to work with to coordinate referral discussions for GBV in RMI. The support and leadership of the ministry on the referrals discuss it fosters ownership of the results as they had input into the direction of the work to meet national needs and requirements. The biggest challenge was related to the originally proposed creation of national referral mechanism, and due to limited staff capacity of the ministry (only 5 positions at the time) and competing priorities to mobilize all the needed actors to finalize and endorse a national referral mechanism was difficult. It was decided to focus on the directory of service providers toolkit instead. Recommendations on a national referral mechanism were provided to the ministry when they are ready.

### ***b) Civil Society***

The programme established meaningful partnerships with different CSOs at different levels, national, local and grassroots levels. Understanding the different levels of capacities and challenges faced by CSO, the programme used innovative strategies to reach grassroots organizations. It partnered with regional government entities and leveraged from their existing granting system to extend its outreach and ensure that financial and technical resources are available to small and grassroots organizations. Through the principle of transparency and equality, the programme provided a fixed amount of funds to each CSO participating in the same granting system. Technical support was also provided through an online learning platform where CSOs where different issues that affect the rights of vulnerable groups, including LGBTs and people with disabilities were discussed. To promote inclusion, the programme ensured that CSOs working with marginalized groups (LGBTIs and PwD) were among the partners and beneficiaries of the programme.

**Youth to Youth in Health.** Local civil society organization partnered with the Initiative in RMI to increase knowledge on topics of Family Planning and GBV with the aim to advance the current level of understanding. Through this partnership over 88 students between the age of 13-23 were reached with vital information on Reproductive Health, HIV/STI, Domestic Violence and Gender Equality. Through similar outreach activities, over 300 students will be reached.



**Sons and Daughters of Rearlaplap Arno (SADORA).** Grassroots CSO based in remote community of Rearlaplap, Arno Atoll in RMI working to improve women’s menstrual health management, as well as raise awareness on GBV and gain a better understanding of women and girls needs in the community. The project conducted a baseline survey on the local understanding of menstrual health management and sexual and reproductive health, lead workshops with local residence on menstrual health management and sexual and reproductive health and distributed menstrual health management kits to women and girls in the community.

**Marshall Islands Medical Society (MIMS).** Grassroots CSO based in RMI working to prevent violence against women and girls by raising awareness in GBV/IPV, sexual reproductive health, and menstruation health in the community and capacity building health professionals to provide support to those affected. The small grant has so far completed peer to peer education outreach on sexual reproductive health in Ebon Atoll, a remote at all in the neighbouring islands.

**Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI),** It is a registered non-government organization in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, established in 1984 with a mandate to improve the lives of Marshallese women.

**The Alofi South Women's Council.** It engages with all women of the village of Alofi South to promote the continuance of their cultural practices and sharing of knowledge, particularly through traditional weaving, arts, and crafts.

**Belau Wellness Centre.** A local NGO in Palau that targets vulnerable populations in its provision of health and wellness services. Its approaches are community-based, with programs and interventions designed to promote health protection and wellness practices to prevent diseases, abuses, and other social circumstances that widen health disparities amongst the most vulnerable people.

**National Rugby League (NRL) Tonga.** It was established in 2015 and has been running programs using the sport of rugby league to engage and help in the development of communities, with a focus on health and wellbeing; gender equality, with a particular focus on the prevention of gender-based violence; social cohesion; and participation opportunities for people with disabilities.

**Island PRIDE.** It is a woman- and youth-led grassroots organization based in Chuuk (FSM), working at the intersection of climate change and gender. Its work puts emphasis on the disproportionate impact the climate crisis is having on women and girls, which is now compounded by COVID-19.



**Te Ipukarea Society.** It is a proactive non-government environmental organization formed in the Cook Islands to help look after their heritage. Part of their work involves promoting sustainable essential feminine services, in the form of providing and increasing awareness of reusable menstrual hygiene products.

**Tonga Leitis Association.** It was established in 1992 with a focus on improving the rights and celebrating the contribution of Leitis (LGBTQI+) in Tonga.

**Tonga National Centre for Women & Children (TNCWC).** It is a service provider for survivors of gender-based violence.

**Kolomotu'a Women's Council.** Grassroots women's organization in Tonga committed to empowering rural women to be self-sufficient.

**Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM).** It is a leading feminist human rights organization that links local concerns to global debates; addresses all issues affecting women's human rights, status, and opportunity within Fiji; and advocates for equal access to services by women and equal opportunity. As a leading member of the We Rise Coalition, FWRM has convened the Pacific Feminist Forum twice, and it was supposed to hold the third PFF in 2021. However, due to the second wave of COVID-19 in Fiji, it was moved to 2022, but preparations are underway.

**Family Support Centre (FSC).** Established in 1995 to address the high incidence of domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, and rape in the Solomon Islands.

**VPride.** It was founded in 2007 as a community-based organization in Vanuatu to help educate, advocate, and mobilize around diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). VPride is the only SOGIE/LGBTI organization in Vanuatu.

**Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network (PSGDN).** It is a regional organization that advocates for resourced and sustainable LGBTQI community organizations at the country level, increased political commitment to SOGIESC, reform of discriminatory laws and government policies, greater sensitivity towards SOGIESC by law enforcement agencies, increased availability of strategic information through research and routine data collection, reduction of institutionalized and social stigma and discrimination, positive engagement with religious institutions, inclusive educational environments and increased representation of Pacific Islands of Diverse SOGIESC at local, national and international levels. PSGDN formed a consortium with Living All Inclusive in





Belau (LAIIB), Palau's first LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/ questioning, intersex, allies) advocacy organization and resource. They seek to promote equality in all areas of life between all peoples of the Republic of Palau by developing sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships within the private and public sectors.

**Chuuk Women's Council (CWC).** A service provider in FSM that assists women and their families in becoming more productive and self-sufficient members of our society through comprehensive programs, which enhance their social, economic, and physical well-being.

**Makefu Women's Council (MWC).** Grassroots organization in Niue that aims to unpack and understand the impacts of climate change, the role of women and GBV, and empower women to control the narrative regarding the feminist approach to climate justice, incorporating concepts in their traditional crafts.

**Samoa National Council of Women (SNCW).** It upholds the traditional reference and roles of Samoan women as Saoao (Daughters of the Village), Faletua (Wives of Paramount Chiefs), Tausi (Wives of Orators), and Ava A Taulele (Wives of Untitled men); to provide integral support for local governance through which they advocate developments for the protection of women and children in all levels of wellness, as well as for the advancement of women and girls.

**Tuvalu Red Cross Society.** It was established under the Red Cross Society Act 1981 and is a voluntary aid society, auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It is in consortium with Fafine Tuvalu Mo Se Lei ('FATU 'LEI) which is also known as 'Tuvalu Women for Change Association', which is an established and registered non-profit NGO in Tuvalu. It was formed in 2020 by women who are highly interested and keen on making changes for the betterment of their families and their community as a whole.

**Lifebread Stay Connected Fiji.** It provides empowerment training programs with the help of Government and Community participation to equip these women with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to find meaningful employment or start small businesses. It aims to give hope and empowerment to widows and women from rural communities and informal settlements in Fiji by helping them acquire the necessary education and skills to build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

**Rainbow Pride Foundation (RBF).** A local organization in Fiji that advocates for the human rights of LGBT persons so that they are respected and are able to live with dignity, free from discrimination, persecution, and violence; and where their human rights are upheld. Its mandate includes promoting





LGBTQI Rights and Equality, Social Justice, Health & Wellbeing, Economic Empowerment, and SOGIESC Inclusion in Climate Justice and Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Jroa Centre for Information and Development.** A rural grassroots organization that fosters a culture of self-sustaining for women in the Solomon Islands. We provide support to local/grassroots women’s organizations or community-based groups, through leadership and small grant programs, and through local expertise. We will remain well recognized in the community, and respected by other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

**Assemblies of God (AOG) Vanuatu.** It began in 1968 as a faith-based Charitable and Civil Society Organization. A Vanuatu Women’s Ministry (WM) & Missionites (Girls Ministry) are both ministries and initiatives of AOG Vanuatu, with their own annual programs that are implemented annually in all main 275 established assemblies or centres throughout Vanuatu. These ministries and initiatives were implemented to empower local women and girls to take on leadership roles, make the right decisions and contribute to behavioural and social changes in their families, churches, and communities.

**DIVA for Equality.** It was established in 2011 as a collective of feminists with a strong commitment to just and inclusive development driven by women and girls of all diversities living across the Pacific. DIVA stands for Diverse Voices for Action. Our vision is “All women, all people, all human rights, social, economic, ecological and climate justice, everywhere”. DIVA works at the intersection of many aspects of human rights and justice movements - on sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate justice, land health and rights, ocean health and rights, development and economic justice, and women’s and girl’s rights, LGBTI/SOGIESC related rights, Indigenous organizing and rights, and ethnic minority organizing and rights.

**Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC).** A regional faith-based organization representing Pasifika communities of the Christian faith. PCC is a Christian regional ecumenical organization comprising 34 member churches and 9 national councils of churches, with an unparalleled reach (approximately 80%) to the population of the Pacific region. The Church plays a central role in the lives of many Pacific Islanders, and in partnering with the leading faith-based network in the region, the Initiative is able to reach a diverse audience in all corners of the Pacific through a medium that is part of everyday life for most Pacific Islanders. The programme has ensured that the partnership goes beyond the usual way of working, by devoting significant time and space to allowing PCC to lead the strategic direction of the partnership and ensuring the ambitions as well as the hesitations of the faith-based community are recognized and accommodated. The programme has built up the capacity of the Child Ecumenical Desk within PCC, working alongside and in complementarity with





the Women's Ecumenical Desk (funded through the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls), to lead and manage the broad scope of programming for social norms change within and through the Church. Through the partnership, faith leaders have nurtured ownership and accountability of violence prevention within their faith and spirituality and encouraged their and communities of faith to internalise this perspective.

**Oxfam Solomon Islands.** It has partnered with the programme to advance youth outreach in the Solomon Islands on gender-equitable and violence free social norms. Oxfam worked to engage diverse youth in the design process, and the programme supported the youth to travel widely in the Solomon Islands to reach youth in rural and remote areas, particularly those without internet connection.

**Vanuatu Family Health Association VFHA and Samoa Family Health Association SFHA ((IPPF and Mas).** IPPF facilitates regional implementation of CSE in Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, PNG, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga and through mobilization of youth networks, regional advocacy, knowledge sharing and customization of CSE materials. The IPPF works closely with the CSE/FLE committee to train TOT on Out of School Family Life Education and facilitate CSE linkage to GBV SOPs for the health sector response on GBV through training of health workers

**Family Planning NSW** has a strong expertise and resources in comprehensive sexuality education and is an important partner supporting the development of the in-school and out of school curriculums. It facilitates implementation of Pillar 3 as a Technical Assistance Organization to the development of both the In-School and Out-of-School CSE curriculum and teacher guides.

**Women Enabled International** provides technical support in the development of CSE/FLE resources (both in and out of school) by ensuring mainstreaming of gender and disability inclusiveness.

### ***c) European Union Delegation***

The partnership with the EUD remains both strategic and technical. The EU does not have physical presence across the Pacific, and COVID restrictions has made it difficult for visits across the region as well as in Fiji due to strict lockdowns. The gap in team's coordination and technical coherence staff has also limited regular engagement with the delegation. However, since the new team joined mid 2021 the Spotlight Coordinator together with the technical lead agency holds monthly meetings with the EUD.



Progress has been made in strengthening relationships and involving the EUD in communication and visibility opportunities. In 2021, the Delegation was involved in the preparation of inputs for press releases as well as recorded statements for the launch of different initiatives.

***d) Cooperation with other UN agencies (if applicable)***

The programme successfully engaged with other UN agencies and ongoing joint programmes in the implementation of different priority areas including in the development of cross sectorial tools ensuring the full alignment between VAWG prevention and response efforts. One fruitful collaboration was between the Spotlight and the Pacific Partnership Programme, where UNFPA worked closely with UN Women as the leading UN implementing agency of the Pacific Partnership Programme. These agencies joined efforts in the development of the Multi-sectoral Service Delivery Protocols for VAW/G case management in the regional programme target countries. The Multi-sectoral service delivery protocol provided an opportunity for harmonization of activities between the Spotlight Initiative under Pillar 4 on case management with the Pacific Partnerships interventions. This collaboration also provided a framework for coordinating the work on administrative data systems and strengthening referral systems, including the health sector response to GBV implemented under the Spotlight Initiative. In addition, UN agencies (UNICEF, UN Women, IOM, WHO) also collaborated in the review of the clinical SGBV SOPs in some countries, resulting in integration of GBViE issues and child protection aspects into this tool. Another fruitful collaboration between UN agencies was experienced between UNICEF, WHO and UN Women) in the facilitation of the TOT training in RMI, and FSM of key health staff, police, CSOs and Women led organizations on the implementation of the GBV SOPs for clinical response and referral systems/pathways.

Complementing the work of the Spotlight Initiative, UNFPA undertook internal cross funding support to scale up CSE in the regional programme target countries. Through DFAT support, under the Transformative Agenda programme, 49,911 in-school young people in Kiribati and Samoa between grades 7 – 13 were reached with the revised CSE in line with international standards. A technical partnership between FPNSW, WEI and IPPF-VFHA has been dedicated to building national capacity mechanisms for CSE led by the CSE committees that comprises ministries of Education, National Youth Councils, Ministry of Youth, and various national NGOs.

During the latter part of 2021, the programme also actively contributed to the development of Common Country Assessments, a process that will inform the next UN Strategic Development Corporation Framework. Individual CCAs were prepared for fourteen countries, with the finalization of the last ones taking place in early 2022. In addition, a standalone regional CCA was also prepared. Acknowledges the concerning situation of Gender based violence in the region, members





of the Spotlight team played a key role in this process by providing technical support and highlighting GBV issues in all country-level CCAs as well as the Regional CCA, including its prevalence based on existing data and the analysis of root causes done, which shows the high prevalence rates of GBV in the region. This will ensure the prioritization of the elimination of VAW/G in national development frameworks as well as frame it as a cross-cutting regional priority in the UN Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 (UNSDCF), which will be developed during 2022 and will not yet be finalized during Phase I of the Spotlight Initiative.

The availability of comprehensive data is key for the success of the programme, including to inform policy process, the planning and implementation of initiatives to address VAWG issues. At the regional level, the Spotlight Initiative has provided the platform for the development and for agencies' engagement and to work together in GBV data collection, analysis, and utilization. Although previously attempted, the SLI provided the space which enabled UNFPA and UN Women to clearly articulate their roles in co-leading the design and implementation of multi-sectoral GBV administrative data systems in the Pacific, with the support of the University of Melbourne (UoM) and the Pacific Community (SPC). A more systematic and coordinated approach saw the re-activation and strengthening of the Regional Reference Group on GBV Administrative Data Systems with the implementation of an agreed Division of Labour for delivery of support to the countries. The agreed Division of Labour has enabled the highest level of collaboration, accountability, and coordination between agencies vital to achieve minimum standards of implementation. Furthermore, the RRG encourages a unified presence at the start of an activity which greatly facilitates coherence between Service Delivery Protocols (SDP) and the inter-sectoral administrative data systems.

#### ***e) Other Partners and resource mobilization (if applicable)***

The University of Melbourne (UoM) and Nossal Institute (Nossal) in the programme work alongside SPC to support countries to strengthen their capacities in VAW/G data generation, analysis, and use. Under Pillar 5, UoM/Nossal support countries with technical assistance in undertaking of UND/MICs population-based surveys, strengthening and harmonizing GBV Administrative Data systems; and ensuring availability of standards tools, methods, and concepts for target countries. The UoM/Nossal also deliver formal training of key stakeholders on the KnowVAWdata course, to compliment government and CSO capacities for data generation, analysis, and use. Under the regional program, Nossal/UoM is also developing templates based on the recommended minimum dataset for inter-sectoral data collection, standard data sharing agreement with accompanying capacity building material. These are to be hosted on the Pacific kNOWVAWdata hub and available to all Pacific countries.



## Results

### Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

The programme contributed to high-level political engagements, that resulted in the firming of new commitments by governments of selected countries in the region. The second meeting of the Regional Working Group on DV/IPV was held in August 2021 and counted with the presence of leaders from different countries. This high-level engagement resulted in the approval of an outcome document with defined priority areas and clear areas for implementation to address issues of VAWG in the region. Among others are some of the agreed priorities to be implemented by countries. The outcome document will be a guiding tool for governments in the region and will inform country's policy processes and decisions. It is also expected to serve as an advocacy tool for CSOs and intergovernmental entities to motivate the leadership to fulfill such commitment to address VAWG in the region.

By targeting countries and groups that have little to no access to EVAWG funding, and by embracing innovative funding mechanisms, the programme was able to reach more grassroots organizations and marginalized groups, including those in remote communities in rural and maritime areas, communities of people with diverse SOGIESC, and homebound and aging women. With the Covid 19 Pandemic, the programme was forced to adjust and make use of technology tools for regular interaction with partners, including for planning and monitoring of activities and knowledge sharing.

In the spirit of the UN reform, coordination and collaboration between UN agencies have ensured complementarity on programme planning and implementation. Understanding the mandates and comparative advantages of each agency allowed for a better focus, programming, and effective use of resources. Results were registered across 2 joint programmes being implemented in the region, the Spotlight Programme, and the Pacific Partnership Programme.

The Spotlight programme played a key role in the development of a Regional Reference Group on GBV Administrative Data which acts as a core technical group to bring together knowledge and thought partnership on the rollout of GBV Administrative Data systems in the Pacific. Members include the Pacific Community, the University of Melbourne, UN Women, and UNFPA who are technical support organizations to women's machinery and service providers in the rollout of these systems. The group will be responsible for ensuring coherence on GBV Administrative Data systems; bringing together best practices and guidance/resources for countries; ensuring consistency in standards and approaches in alignment with global evidence and best practice,



including the adaptation of the GBV IMS for humanitarian settings to national systems and the forthcoming WHO-UN Women Guidance on GBV Administrative Data, and provide technical advisory services to national governments and frontline service providers.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted programme implementation and prevented the timely achievement of planned results. At the same time, COVID-19 proved to be a core issue that led to the need to be innovative and to the strengthening and pivoting of certain activities to best serve women and girls in the region. Across the Pacific, in 2021 COVID-19 continued to strain economic realities for countries and communities. In Fiji, the second wave of COVID-19 led to a series of emergency restrictions that limited gatherings, the movement of people and strained frontline service providers in responding to the public health and related socio-economic crisis. In Kiribati and Tonga, concerns of community transmission due to border cases led to various waves of precautionary actions with curfews, limited movement, and restrictions on gathering.

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have significantly impacted the achievement of results under Outcome 6, which was supposed to support civil society participation and engagement in regional and global policy dialogues, networking, and advocacy. The convening of the Pacific Feminist Forum (PFF) is one result that was not achieved due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The PFF that was supposed to happen in 2021 had to be postponed to 2022. This convening represents a key milestone within the women's movement as it will be the first one after the impact of COVID-19 and will focus on the impacts of Covid and identify opportunities to better position the feminist movement in this current context. The PFF is organized by the We Rise Coalition and works in close collaboration with the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM). Convenings of the PFF take place every two to three years and the last one was held in 2019. Preparations for the next PFF were initiated in November 2021 with the recruitment of key staff and the formation of the PFF working group.

## **Capturing Change at Outcome Level**

### ***Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework***

With the support of the Spotlight Initiative the second Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence Legislation was convened where the Governments of the region reiterated their commitment to address domestic violence issues through the launch of the outcome document. The outcome document comprises specific actions and agreed-upon selected areas of priority, including counselling for GBV survivors and data collection and monitoring and evaluation. The Regional Working Group consists of representatives of governments from countries across the region, who



gathered to reflect and analyse the status of implementation of DV policies in the regions. The topic of the second meeting of the Regional WG, held in August 2021 was the implementation of protection and domestic legislature in the region. The outcome document acknowledges that countries across the region face similar challenges such as the high rates of VAWG and limited availability of financial and technical resources. The importance of existing partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, and international partners, and the significant contributions such partners make for the provision of essential services and care to survivors of violence it is also highlighted in the outcome document. One of the key recommendations is for governments to continue to collaborate and support each other, through information sharing and the need to develop innovative ways to address GBV issues.

Evidence on the impact of intimate partner violence on countries' economies was produced in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and Solomon Islands. The study looked at the direct and indirect costs of VAWG including resources that government must invest to deal with acts of violence (provision of services, support to survivors, etc.) and the costs survivors bear to access services and the time out of work that victims of violence must allocate to access of services of deal with issues caused by the act of violence. The findings of this study are expected to inform governments' decisions on investments to address VAWG and to inform CSOs and other partners' advocacy efforts for additional allocation of investments on gender issues.

### ***Outcome 2: Institutions***

In 2021, the programme contributed to the strengthening of the evidence-based capacity of government entities and civil society organizations to cost the impact and policies of VAWG as well as mainstream gender in their plans and programmes in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands. It aimed at advocating and increasing government's capacity to analyse VAWG issues, increase track investments to address VAWG issues while ensuring that gender is effectively integrated in their plans and programmes. Finally, two civil society organizations, Family Support Centre (FSC) in the Solomon Islands and Women United Together in the Marshall Islands were supported by the programme to meaningfully engage in this initiative as well as to utilize the findings of the costing research to facilitate advocacy with other stakeholders in the EVAWG space. These CSOs actively benefitted from the training and plans have already been developed for the FSC to replicate the opportunity within its network. Both countries developed action plans and draft costed packages with specific recommendations for multisectoral services to be made available to for survivors of violence. These action plans will serve as an advocacy tool for partners' dialogue in each country and as advocacy for an increase of investments for VAWG service delivery and programming. Additionally, a package was developed for each country, with recommended



intervention to be implemented to ensure that a comprehensive system is in place to address VAWG issues.

Support was provided to the parliaments of Vanuatu Fiji and Solomon Islands to conduct gender analysis of national budgets and establish to the extent possible based on available data national budget investment on SGBV. Gender Budget briefs developed were disseminated to members of parliament to inform their engagements and debate in parliament. Specific seminars were held for CSOs to equip them with analysis for their citizens budget advocacy work. While acknowledging that budget information at national level is not detailed enough to give in-depth analysis required to establish the full extent of investments in SGBV, the process of gender budget analysis indicate limited focus to budget allocation, and this is an area of greater advocacy and strengthening in the whole chain of gender responsive budgeting from the executive to the legislature.

The 'RMI GBV Directory and Referral Tool' was completed, which provides an updated map of referral options, roles, and responsibilities of ministries and the RMI multisector of support and is a promotion of services and organizations within the RMI GBV Multisector. Mapping was achieved through initially reviewing existing literature and research pertaining to GBV and support in the RMI. This included but was not limited to key documents informing the GBV situation in the RMI. The intended result is that the Services Providers will have better capacity to support survivors of GBV and provide or refer to others for care. It will support coordination amongst services providers and should result in quicker and higher quality care for survivors. It should be sustainable as it is a living document that is owned by the service providers and can continually be updated.

MoHHS was supported reviewing SOP and providing feedback. Consultant also assisted in designing training on Physiological First Aid using the WHO/UNFPA "LIVES" model. Consultant then facilitated training on this model to Heath Care Workers in Ebeye to promote strategies for supporting survivor through the SOP.

### ***Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change***

The Spotlight Pacific Regional Programme strategy takes a gender transformative approach, recognizes, and addresses the intersection of different forms of discrimination, and ensures strategies are tailored and are inclusive to ensure the 'leave no one behind' principle is mainstreamed across all pillars and actions of the programme. Outcome 3 focuses on Prevention, and during the Covid 19 response, there was a need to work around protective factors to prevent the further spread of the virus to a group of vulnerable women and front liners. In the COVID-19 context, there was a need to integrate the food security component to close a gap identified on



women's access to basic needs while also reducing economic stressors that could place them in a vulnerable position for domestic violence. In the Pacific and in Fiji, many reports and analyses show the relationship between COVID-19, the impact on the socio-economic environment and the increased food insecurity felt by communities. Food insecurity, alongside other forms of income loss / economic impacts, are contributing factors to increased risks of violence against women and girls. Global research and evidence show this relationship and it is accepted in many of the global, vetted theories of change for violence against women and girls. The re-programming of providing food and basic needs support for the poorest women-headed households and households with majority women and girls by the organization FRIEND in Fiji mitigated the short- and medium- term impacts of income loss and food insecurity in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Yasa and COVID-19 as a measure to prevent women and girls from engaging in forced sex work for survival or to stay in abusive relationships because of food insecurity.

The COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji motivated the government to impose lockdowns on areas where there were positive cases, limiting the ability of households and health facilities within the lockdown areas to receive adequate food and hygiene supplies. The programme supported the Makoi Birthing Unit (MBU) and the other maternity isolation facility in Toorak where COVID-positive mothers were admitted at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji by providing 7200 meals for the patients and staff (positive mothers and front liners at Makoi Birthing Unit. This initiative was implemented through a tripartite partnership established to respond to the Covid emergency, between FRIENDS, The Ministry of Health, and UN agencies. Both the Ministry of Health and FRIEND are neither implementing partners nor grantees, but the programme was able to respond and ensure that this group was not left behind.

The programme's partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches aims at increasing churches, church leaders and its members' capacity to become strong advocates for ending violence against women and children, and for church institutions to be safe spaces for children. Through this partnership, in 2021 a Safe Church Policy and checklist was drafted, detailing the minimum commitments for Pacific churches to implement in order to institutionalize these safe spaces. Further, a Pacific- and faith-based toolkit for ending violence against children was drafted and validated by and for church leaders and church practitioners across the Pacific region This was implemented through a consultative process that included detailed consultations, in-depth review sessions of the content and purpose of each module (10 modules in total) held in the three focus countries (RMI, Solomon Islands and Fiji, each in their national language), and finally the presentation and endorsement of the modules at the Pacific Church Leader's Meeting (PCLM) in December 2021. The toolkit and associated training materials, communication tools and monitoring





tools will be used by individual churches to develop and implement prevention of violence strategies and activities within their churches and church communities.

COVID-19 had specific impacts on the progress of the church partnership, due to church services being banned in Fiji (where the PCC operates from) between April and October 2021, and any face-to-face meetings prohibited during this same period. While this hurdle delayed the planned implementation of the training of trainers (due to begin in Fiji in May 2021, postponed to quarter one 2022), it also resulted in some unexpected positive changes. Building on the progress made with church partners in Solomon Islands and RMI in 2020 (where original plans for in-person engagements were prevented by sustained border closures), PCC, its member churches and national councils developed stronger remote learning and connection strategies. PCC was provided with a Zoom account by the programme and facilitated in-depth review dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders in RMI and the Solomon Islands (who were able to gather in-country and link up to PCC via Zoom), resulting in deeper contextualization and more relevant content for each country. This has been a new way of working for the church councils, who previously have been heavily reliant on in-person engagement, and initial technical challenges have been mitigated. Under gathering and movement restrictions in Fiji, PCC took the opportunity brought about through the move to online sessions to widen the participation to invite other Pacific Island voices (e.g., church councils and leaders from Samoa, Tonga, Australia) to consult on the modules and deepen the contextualization to the Pacific, to which they provided strong feedback and input. Thus, while the community activities were delayed by the COVID-19 circumstances, the opportunity to deepen the content and further strengthen relationships with national church councils and members of PCC's network has resulted in a stronger sense of ownership of the movement by a wider group of church partners, and a sustained interest in continuing their participation in the programme in 2022. Additionally, with the support of PCC many churches in Fiji moved their sermons and content online, to Facebook Live and similar platforms, which has strengthened many church leaders' technological skills and provides them with a new avenue to reach diverse audiences (including, for example, Pacific diaspora).

Throughout the year, activities were built around targeted dates, for example Palm Sunday and Christmas (all countries), as well as existing events in the calendar, for example the Children's Convention and Minister's Retreat (Solomon Islands), and Youth Rally (RMI). Where gathering restrictions were not in place, in-person events were held or weaved into regular church activities, including protection-focused bible studies and sermons, child participation in art-based activities, and talanoa sessions. Under lockdowns, EVAWG issues were integrated into media campaigns designed, including social media and TV outreach to Christian populations. As a result of these



events, a broad range of stakeholders described a significant change to their spiritual role in protecting children from violence, including women, men, and young people.

The rapid spread of technology and faster internet connections in the Pacific region has been accelerated even further by the COVID-19 pandemic, as children and young people are forced online for schooling, play and communication. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated the inequalities and disparities in access to technology, and in the digital skills and capacities of children, as well as the risks that young people encounter online, particularly girls and young women who face a similarly gendered world online as offline. Regional messages for online safety and digital citizenship of young people were shared via social media, with more targeted interventions taking place in RMI, Solomon Islands and Fiji.

In RMI, the government with the support of the UNICEF Technical Advisor (TA) in-country incorporated online protection fundamentals into existing and planned community data collection and outreach activities, which will greatly inform the needs in the country where there was previously very little data. Core aspects of online protection were integrated into legislative updates, setting the framework for more protective and fair legal measures.

In the Solomon Islands, in partnership with OXFAM, a more extensive and intensive engagement with a team of young U-Reporters (ambassadors for an application that involves the use of technology for data collection with children and young people), allowed a meaningful, as well as practical, conversation on different aspects of online safety, resulting in an outreach strategy that was designed and operationalized by the youth, utilizing data from a pool they designed and promoted among young people in the Solomon Islands. From this poll the programme learned that, of 710 respondents, almost half had experienced something online that bothered them, and of those, three in five first reported the incident to their friends, and one in five told no one. This (anonymous) survey data ensured that the programme is responding directly to the needs that young people themselves have identified. The trained U-Ambassadors have designed a strategy to leave no young person behind in the Solomon Islands, even those in areas where high-speed internet has not yet reached, to ensure that as they come online and have greater access to phones and other technology, they do so better informed and with greater awareness of how young women and girls may face greater risks online. The engagement is CSO- and youth-led, which has made it more attractive and relevant to children and young people.

Through the implementation of a gender transformative approach, the programme also contributed to the empowerment of youth, through skills development, increase of knowledge on sexual and reproductive health rights and mentorship. A unique opportunity was capitalized upon for Spotlight





to support targeted engagement with at-risk youth on Tonga's main island of Tongatapu, an initiative that has since been identified by the Tonga Royal Family as exemplary for all of Tonga and a proposal to expand nationally is sitting with the King's Office. The in-country partner identified a community seeking help for marginalized youth at significant social disadvantage and living with elevated risk factors for violence, including substance abuse, unemployment and lacking formal education. The first workshop included 40 youth (36 male and 4 female) from two communities and adopted a positive development approach, considering young people as assets and sought to build their capacity to address harmful norms and practices and participate actively in the community. The programme included skills development, sexual and reproductive health, support for substance abuse, spiritual guidance and mentorship continuing until the second workshop scheduled for January 2022. Initial reports from the programme partner and the youth themselves were very positive, with a full evaluation expected following the second workshop.

In Fiji, technical partnership with the Online Safety Commission ensured government leadership and alignment with other relevant initiatives, and a wider network of partners met regularly through the Facebook-led Pacific Regional Technical Advisory Group to ensure collaboration amongst a variety of actors and stakeholders in the space, including government, non-government, UN agencies, academia, Pacific youth, and industry. Throughout the COVID-19 lockdown period, a communications campaign targeting young people and their parents broadcasted radio messages across three languages and reached upwards of 100,000 people. During this period of increased internet usage, the campaign built an awareness of online risks, advised parents how to help their children, and encouraged young people to be kind and build respectful relationships online and offline.

Following the virtual launch of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance of Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Guidelines in 2020, the Pacific is witnessing a changing landscape, more positive towards CSE, with growing political interest and national commitment resulting in notable milestones. The regional programme is credited for having set the stage for a political tone that identifies with and values the relevance of CSE to transform lives of young people. In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative supported a maiden annual CSE/FLE experience sharing and learning meeting for the Pacific region held in October for 10 countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu with over 380 participants connected virtually. Honourable Martin Moreti, the Minister for Women Youth and Social Affairs presided over the opening on behalf of H.E Taneti Maamau, the President of the republic of Kiribati.



The meeting aimed at nurturing the momentum of CSE in the region through increased collaboration between governments, academia, regional partners, civil society, youth led organizations and young people; taking stock of lesson learned and best practices in CSE implementation and identifying new accelerators for achieving SDG targets related to reducing gender-based violence through Comprehensive sexuality Education. The national CSE Coordinators of FSM, CSOs and youth champions led discussions which demonstrate growth in capacities of national stakeholders in operationalizing and implementation of CSE in the region. Progress in the areas of advocacy for policy change e.g., inclusion of people with disabilities in CSE implementation and need for strong SRHR prevention work and response programmes to address child marriage were showcased. Kiribati and Solomon Islands shared unique approaches to improve the capacity of in-service teachers as well as prepare pre-service teachers in CSE delivery.



*Annual CSE/FLE Experience Sharing and Learning Meeting for the Pacific region, October 2021*

The programme capitalized on the existing partnership with the IPPF and mobilized and engaged the media on the meeting and its objective through television spots and interviews, social media mentions, and videos produced on the thematic areas of the meeting from across the region. On just the IPPF Facebook page alone there were over 368,024 page impressions between 3rd and 7th October, while 380 people directly engaged in the online learning event. The event was a resounding success with regional and national partners sharing the experiences and lessons learnt in rolling

out CSE and this event contributed significantly to the upward spiral progress of CSE, shifting the mind-sets and influencing social norms to prevent violence against women and girls.

A shift in programming norms across the region has also been recorded in 2021, related to key decision makers and duty bearers for quality design and implementation of, in and out of school CSE, specifically:

- Draft out of school CSE/FLE manuals and corresponding facilitator guides were developed with Modules of these manuals include vital GBV prevention content aimed at increasing young people’s knowledge and critical thinking skills on gender, GBV power dynamics and respectful relationships. The manuals/curriculum in each country include specific information on referral for psychosocial and medical support for young people especially survivors of violence or abuse.



- The Situation Analysis for CSE in RMI was completed and a national validation meeting was conducted to develop a roadmap for CSE integration into the formal curriculum, which presently guides technical support to the Ministries of Education.
- CSE has been integrated in the RMNCAH policies of four (4) countries - Kiribati, RMI and Tonga, which have further strengthened the policy and programme environment for CSE implementation, roll-out and ultimately sustainability.
- Acknowledging the complementarities between prevention and response components, technical assistance was provided to strengthen CSE implementation and its linkages to the health system responses to incidents of SGBV in the region. This included working with key local clinicians to support first-line, empathetic clinical care to SGBV survivors including in and out of school adolescent GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and training of key health staff, Police, legal, NGOs and CSE service providers. Health staff were also familiarized with other SGBV services available, and the SOPs include contact details and how to provide 'warm referrals' so that survivors are able to make informed choices about going to other services and the need for mandatory reporting of cases of violence/abuse against underage children and youth.

Through the competitive small granting mechanism, the spotlight programme partnered with the Marshall Islands Medical Society (MIMS) and SADORA to deliver awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive health and menstrual health management and was able to reach remote communities of Ebon Atoll and Rearlaplap Arno Atoll. SADORA's pre and post assessments showed that women and girls felt they had increased knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual health management and GBV, but still noted challenges in discussing these topics openly at a community level.

The Spotlight Initiative together with SADORA, Cook House Confidential, engaged to improve women's menstrual management in Rearlaplap, Arno, the easternmost community in the Arno lagoon which is often neglected from awareness and development opportunities. Simple capacity building training for surveyors to collect data, distribution of menstrual kits, workshops and circle time with girls and women of Rearlaplap were organized. In addition, SADORA addressed for the first time a range of gaps and issues, while also influencing behavioural changes in the community. To ensure impact and sustainability, the NGO worked closely and adjusted its approach with much influence and guidance from the local community.

The goal was to increase awareness on menstrual health management in Rearlaplap Arno by August 2021, aiming to contribute towards the increased local understanding of menstrual and sexual/reproductive health management in this community. Its expected outcomes were to help



gender inequitable social norms, attitudes, and behaviours to improve in Rearlaplap Arno and at home at individual levels to prevent harmful practices, especially when it comes to Menstrual Health Management. It was expected that community members have an increased access to menstrual product options by understanding what is available, the risks and benefits of each type, and the most fitting product to use by August 2021.

A baseline survey was conducted, indicating that of the 210 surveyed, 100% indicated that hygiene, menstrual management, nor sexual or reproductive health were available or accessible; almost 100% indicated that they feel vulnerable, not confident, or have concerns of their current practice, and 100% of girls/women using rags or some form of fabric as menstrual pads. Additionally, almost 100% had indicated that they have experienced some form of gender-based violence from their partner, father, brothers, or other male in the household. Four workshops were held, with 64 households reached which is a 100% coverage. 180 menstrual kits were distributed, each kit made up of homemade reusable menstrual kit for heavy days which are significantly larger, and another kit which was ordered from overseas, totalling two kits per adolescent female/woman. An unexpected achievement was from how the mothers and grandmothers of the community inserted their thoughts to the success and sustainability of this project, evidence of empowerment amongst women and ownership of the project. Recently trained females had bonded together and challenged themselves to design an environmentally and culturally sensible reusable fabric menstrual pad and sew their own DIY (Do It Yourself). A post-project survey resulted in about 50% improvement in all aspects. However, the openness and quality and comfort level of openly discussing was observed.

### ***Outcome 5: Data***

A multi sectorial GBV administrative data system was designed and implemented, a result achieved through the ongoing collaboration between the Spotlight and the Pacific Partnership programmes. The Spotlight programme has provided the platform for development agencies engaged in GBV data collection, analysis, and utilization to work together. In collaboration with other joint programmes and agencies, the programme contributed to the design and implementation of multi-sectoral GBV administrative data systems and have engaged the support of the regional technical agencies such as the University of Melbourne (UoM) and the Pacific Community (SPC). To ensure cohesion with stakeholders and to systematize application of minimum standards across the region as best practice, an agreed process (Division of Labour) was articulated between UN participating agencies of both Spotlight and PP programmes, and they are now working to implement it with the Pacific countries. The agreed Division of Labour has enabled the highest level of collaboration, accountability, and coordination between agencies - vital to achieve minimum standards of implementation.





In addition, a Regional Reference Group (RRG) on GBV Administrative Data Systems, consisting of regional partners - UoM, SPC, RUNOs - was formed. Spotlight Initiative supported RRG is also responsible for ensuring coherence between the Spotlight Initiative and other GBV administrative data programs at regional and country levels. The RRG has clear terms of reference with emphasis on: (1) bringing together best practices and guidance/resources for countries, (2) ensuring consistency in standards and approaches and (3) providing technical advisory services to national governments and frontline service providers, in line with their priorities to strengthen national administrative data systems. This work includes revision of data collection tools, standards and facilitate information sharing protocols and agreements, in line with international best practice, and capacity building of national level partners to develop and maintain the systems. The RRG also ensures that national VAW/G administrative data systems are harmonized with national GBV referral systems to facilitate appropriate case management, through a streamlined coordination structure.

The programme also supported data analysis processes in Kiribati, Tonga, and Tuvalu, countries with newly released data sets, by ensuring the integration of VAWG related modules and different surveys. The analysis of Domestic Violence data is being completed for Kiribati and Tonga where the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) included the Domestic Violence module of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Tuvalu recently released their MICS datasets which also include the DV module and analysis of the results have commenced. This will continue as other countries complete data collection and make data available for analysis. The combined survey offers the opportunity to link GBV data with a wide range of socio-economic variables including SRHR data.

In addition, the programme supported policy discussions on the importance of data to eliminate GBV. The programme supported the 14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women held in April 2021, drawing participation from across the Pacific, Government and CSOs. The Conference discussed the need to sustain momentum towards gender equality in the Pacific focusing on elimination of VAWG and the importance of both prevalence and administrative GBV data as enablers of social change in the region.

Countries' knowledge on the concept and design of data systems has increased through capacity building initiatives implemented across target countries. This aimed at promoting active participation and ownership of national stakeholders in strengthening of the GBV administrative data systems. It included capacity building in technical aspects, from ensuring countries understand the concept and design of administrative data systems, design and review of data collection tools, establishment of



decision-making processes related, to indicator selection, data sharing across sectors, dissemination, and utilization. A four-part GBV Administrative data workshop series was organized for Tonga, Solomon Islands and Kiribati countries on the development of inter-sectoral GBV administrative systems. In addition, the formal kNOwVAWdata course was implemented in collaboration with the University of Melbourne to improve capacities of national institutions and CSOs on VAW data collection, analysis, and use. The programme also supported the consolidation of data tools and systems. This was done through a mapping of all GBV related data collection tools, services and referral systems provided by government and NGOs and in alignment with National Gender Equality policies in countries where they are passed.

In 2021, additional data resources were made available to countries in the region, as a strategy to promote an increase on the use and the supply of quality data in the region. The Pacific kNOwVAWdata and Knowledge Hub was created as a Pacific website and to enhance access and knowledge sharing on standardized and internationally accepted GBV data collection tools and methodology by countries. Tools for prevalence data collection and for use in inter-sectoral administrative data systems were developed to be used as templates by countries when conducting GBV surveys and strengthening their inter-sectoral data systems. Past kNOwVAWdata course participants are being encouraged to join the community of practice which is a key component of the knowledge hub. These initiatives will ensure that the demand for and supply of high quality GBV data are well established in the Pacific region.

List of people trained in data Administrative Systems:

Country	# trained in the data generative series	# trained in the KNOwVAWdata course (1st Cohort)	# trained in the KNOwVAWdata course (2nd Cohort)
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	10		
<b>Samoa</b>	8	5	1
<b>Tonga</b>	5		
<b>Vanuatu</b>	23	2	6
<b>Fiji</b>		11	21

### **Outcome 6: Women’s Movement**

VAWG is a challenge across the Pacific region, which calls for joint efforts by countries. The programme contributed to the creation of an enabling environment for women’s movement building, networking, and advocacy in the region by supporting high-level events and ensured the availability of platforms for CSO engagement.



The programme engaged both local and grassroots CSOs. A granting system was adapted to ensure that grassroots organizations could also access programmes resources and contribute to the EVAWG work. From the 15 CSOs engaged, only 2 operate at the central level, all other 13 are grassroots organizations operating at the community level.

In 2021, CSOs who had accessed resources through the call for proposals launched in 2020 started the implementation of activities and were able to contribute to change.

In the late 2020, in the interest of reaching the furthest behind first, small grants for COVID-19 response and advocacy were made available to the Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu small Pacific Island Countries that do not usually have access to EVAWG funding in the region, The implementation was undertaken during this reporting period. In 2021, another round of small grants' applications was opened to 14 countries in the Pacific. In response to recommendations made by international civil society on making Spotlight funding more accessible by simplifying application requirements and ensuring that technical assistance is available to applicants, the process was simplified with plenty of time given to prepare for the two-step application process. The first step was an Open Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI), which was advertised via social media platforms and through various other networks (such as PACWIN). Additional support was provided to CSOs in the application process, with three information sessions (on Zoom and Facebook Live) conducted during the advertisement period to increase the accessibility of the call and its processes with potential applicants. A total of 45 EOIs were received of which 26 were deemed eligible to submit small grant proposals. Technical support was provided through webinars, to clarify any questions they could have around small grants, the proposal template, the selection process, and the reporting requirements. The aim of the webinar was to make the process more accessible and transparent. Ten applicants, including two consortia, were awarded small grants.

The programme capitalized on SPC's existing PPAC granting initiative to reach and access hard-to-reach CSOs and beneficiaries in the spirit of leaving no one behind. This initiative targets small, grassroots organizations that advocate for human rights in remote areas, and through a granting system, the Spotlight programme supported organizations working on GBV.

Acknowledging the intersectionalities of different groups and that different CSOs are at different levels of capacities, the programme also promoted the principle of leaving no one behind by ensuring that CSO, including grassroot organizations had access to learning opportunities.





A new platform for CSO engagement and networking has been established in 2021. The Pacific Feminist Community of Practice (PacFemCOP) is a regional civil society capacity-building initiative launched in partnership with Fiji based CSO - DIVA for Equality to provide a space for remote capacity-building, networking and to strengthen movement building across Pacific Island Countries. This initiative targets at least 20 civil society organizations and is promoting feminist movement-building and increasing their understanding of advocacy and opportunities for movement-building in the current COVID-19 pandemic context.

The initiative targeted smaller, advocacy focused CSOs working on EVAWG and gender equality across the region with a specific focus on the areas of advancing the safety of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI) and feminist climate justice as it relates to EVAWG. It also provided capacity building, networking, and movement building opportunities for grassroots and women's rights organizations, and all those who expressed interest in the Intersectional Advocacy small grants.

Among others, partnerships have been established with the following CSOs: SPC (outcome 1 and 6), Wutmi (outcome 1,2 and 6), FSC (outcome 2), FWRM, Diva for Equality and small grant beneficiary CSOs, and together contribute to outcome 6 of the programme.

In 2020, small grants were awarded to eight local organizations in Tonga, FSM (Chuuk), Palau, Niue, and Cook Islands to strengthen their organizational capacity, knowledge, and learning to facilitate effective advocacy or response for women and girls in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each grantee received about USD\$15,000 for programme implementation. These projects were completed in 2021, and a new cohort of small grants were awarded for intersectional advocacy to ten civil society organizations working on EVAWG and gender equality across the region with a specific focus on the areas of advancing the safety of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI) and feminist climate justice as it relates to EVAWG. Grantees were also local organizations based in Fiji, FSM, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and each received that total amount of maximum \$30,000.

In addition to the small grants mechanism, a partnership agreement was signed in 2020 with the Pacific Community (SPC) to undertake Secretariat functions for the Regional Working Group on Domestic Violence and the 14th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women, as well as implement the EVAWG portfolio of their civil society granting programme, Pacific People Advancing Change to increase resources to grassroots organizations. The programme also capitalized on the SPC Pacific People Advancing Change Programme (PPAC) and existing granting mechanism to provide support with about USD\$8500 to 21 grantees to implement advocacy campaigns. These grantees also





benefitted from technical support and mentoring. Another partnership that started in 2020 and continued in 2021 was with Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) to support their work in responding to VAWG in rural areas/ outer islands of the Republic of Marshall Islands and increase advocacy efforts to end VAWG.

Spotlight also partnered with two more CSOs in 2021: with Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) to support the implementation of the Pacific Feminist Forum (PFF). The next PFF is scheduled for mid-2022 and the planning was initiated in 2021. The Family Support Centre (FSC) in Solomon Islands was provided with an opportunity to participate in the capacity building initiatives supported by the programme. It is expected that knowledge acquire in this training will allow FSC to utilize its expertise in GBV response to replicate the knowledge and facilitate a learning, exchange, and dialogue about gender sensitive budgeting among CSOs members of its network.

A UN's EVAWG Civil Society Reference Group was established as an effort to address violence against women and girls in a more cross-programmatic and comprehensive way in the region while leveraging from the existing active civil society players. This represents a key milestone in the fulfillment of required programme governance structures and provides a space for civil society strategic engagement with the UN.

The programme also contributed to women's movement-building in the region by supporting diverse civil society organizations operating in cross-sectoral areas, including women-led and feminist organizations at the grassroots level which has created a favourable environment for feminist organizations to advocate for gender equality and women's rights. In 2021, through a partnership with DIVA for Equality, an 18-month Intersectional Advocacy capacity-building initiative was launched as a hub for feminist, grassroots, and women's rights organizations' engagement and networking in the region.

In addition, technical and financial resources were made available to 39 smaller civil society organizations across 10 countries in the region, implementing EVAWG advocacy campaigns and working in the areas of COVID-19 prevention for women and girls, GBV service delivery for rural and maritime communities, securing the safety of people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity/LGBTQI+ and feminist climate justice. This support has increased the knowledge and capacity of CSOs to advocate for more comprehensive prevention and response systems and increased their awareness about VAWG issues, their ability to develop tools to guide prevention and response efforts, and the provision of safe spaces for women and girls for learning and exchange of experiences.



A granting system was the selected approach to channel the technical and financial support to beneficiary CSOs and showed to be an effective and innovative approach to reach grass-roots organizations from remote areas, including those that, had never accessed EVAWG funding before.

### Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2021	Indirect for 2021	Comments
Women (18 yrs. and above)	128,626	33,999	
Girls (5-17)	67,635	1,176	
Men (18 yrs. and above)	54,961	32,419	
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	7,087		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258,781</b>	<b>67,594</b>	With added direct beneficiaries of 92 trained on KnowVAWdata and 380 from the regional CSE event but not segregated by sex.

### Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Multiple significant external challenges (Fiji’s second COVID-19 lockdown April-October 2021 with extreme movement and gathering restrictions; Solomon Islands’ unrest and violent demonstrations in November 2021; Samoa’s political crisis May-July 2021; sustained border closures for all programme countries throughout most of the year) impacted the Pacific in 2021. Often, the push to show expenditure was not responsive to the realities of the region. However, the programme demonstrated accountability to achieve meaningful change through working alongside civil society and other national and regional partners to navigate these specific contexts. For example, in response to the shift to remote and online technologies required to continue dialogue and engagement within the region, the programme allowed time for capacity building and adaptation to this way of working through training and provision of technology products to facilitate connections. In the Solomon Islands, young people expressed they did not always feel comfortable to freely express themselves in Government or UN office conference rooms, therefore alternate connections and spaces were established to ensure this was recognized and accommodated. The result was a safe space, but often weak internet or difficulties for the regional team to fully participate, so the civil



society partner was empowered to lead activities and ensure the vision was, most importantly, established by the youth participating rather than the programme managers or technical experts.

Delays in the approval of Pillar 6, experienced in late 2020, contributed to a delay in the implementation of activities, as CSOs were left with limited time for planning in 2020 and with competing priorities to be implemented in that same year. In addition, there were also delays in getting funds disbursed to CSOs, as most had never worked with the UN before and induction sessions needed to be organized first to familiarize them with the financial rules and regulations. As a result, the implementation of Pillar 6 of the programme only started in 2021. Mitigating measures included the development and sharing of financial templates. Information sessions to explain such tools, constant communication with partners, which included discussing options on how to deal with the delays of disbursement, and constant follow-up with the support staff leading the financial processes.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crises greatly affected delivery of the regional programme and impacted on timely achievement of planned results. There were number of activities not implemented due to natural disasters and the Covid19 pandemic, including restrictions placed by governments to prevent the spread of the virus. The roll out of CSE revised curriculum for both in and out school to communities, the training of health workers at facility level on SGBV SOPs for clinical response and conduct the DHS/MICs with integrated DV modules, are some of the activities that were not implemented as planned. Though most countries remained open internally, international travel restrictions continued to be implemented which affected regional Implementing Partners - IPPF, SPC, UoM/Nossal offering technical support to countries. In addition, the shortage of personnel and emerging priorities in countries e.g., mass COVID-19 vaccination campaigns and response to natural disasters which required all non-covid activities to be put on hold.

The programme also faced challenges in attracting qualified and skilled human resources and IPs to deliver Comprehensive Sexuality Education interventions regionally and at country-level. Other factors that also contributed were the 18% strict guidelines on PMC, limited availability, and weak capacities of national Implementing Partners to deliver specialized and sensitive areas on CSE, and in areas of Pillar 5, specifically on GBV administrative data systems strengthening, which slowed implementation, as RUNOs had to source out IPs and staff as foundational basics for implementation.

Other challenges recorded, are the limited alignment between the nature of activities and the elements of the M&E framework that makes difficult to report on results. Some areas of the programme are centered on systems strengthening and capacity building of stakeholders to



enhance ownership and long-term sustainability, which take a long time to realize impact and meet planned results. For example, the implementation of CSE, health systems strengthening and building or strengthening of administrative data collection systems are not one-off activities but longer-term processes. Building systems, whether health management information systems or the intersectoral GBV administrative data systems, requires coordination across sectors, and changing the programming norms of duty bearers requires long term investments. Capacity building was an essential element to building ownership hence results from CSE, improved data systems and high-quality data take time to happen. The lack of a programme inception phase contributed to a delay in the programme implementation which spilled to 2021. It has taken significant amount of time to get the right implementing partners on board, dialoguing governments and stakeholders on the sensitive CSE areas before implementation could commence to gain acceptance. In a similar way, under Pillar 5, establishing oversight multi-sectoral mechanisms to oversee harmonization of administrative data and to ensure that qualified human resources were available was crucial and took time before implementation and funds absorption could commence.

## **Lessons Learned and New Opportunities**

### ***a) Lessons Learned***

The Spotlight programme investments have led to significant shifts in attitudes and systems to support CSE in the countries. Government ownership, cross sectorial collaboration was key for the progress and success of the CSE work. Having well defined structures driven by countries e.g., CSE committees who played oversight, advocacy, and technical roles to ensure customization of CSE curricula, teaching guides and political acceptance; dedicated staff to lead CSE work in Ministries and CSOs feminist push helped to entrench wide-scale acceptance and ownership of CSE at political, institutional and programme levels. In 2021, significant progress was recorded on CSE across the regions, especially in finalization of the RMI situation analysis on CSE, customization of CSE curriculums and teaching guides for in and out of school, and integration of CSE in to the RMNCAH policies of the Ministry of Health of FSM. The political commitment and interest by the government have supported the institutional shift and public attitudes towards young people's access to CSE. In addition, recruitment/designation of national CSE coordinators augmented the building of national capacity for advocacy and technical soundness of CSE through a strong leadership role they played alongside the CSE committees.

Though the regional programme does not have provision for Pillar 4 implementation, the programme acknowledges and learnt that prevention and response are complementary areas that need to move side by side to ensure that there are resources and systems in place to meet the demand created by ongoing prevention efforts. COVID-19 travel restrictions and lockdowns highlighted to countries



in the regional programme (FSM, RMI, Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji) an increasing concern for the high prevalence of SGBV and the need to take ownership to strengthen their health system responses. Governments acknowledged that health providers and health systems have a critical role to support women in preventing and minimizing the impact of violence as they are women's first point of professional contact. The programme galvanized this opportunity to develop new modes for technical assistance as international consultants were unable to conduct in person training. The programme created conditions for local senior health clinicians (obstetrics, psychiatry, emergency room, outpatient, public health doctors, midwives, and nurses) to be oriented to the latest WHO clinical guidelines and to have training sessions organized and facilitated by the health practitioners themselves. In these trainings, clinicians discuss case scenarios and referral pathways within the health sector and across other services leading to system and reporting changes; and clearer pathways in the local GBV Clinical SOPs. At the same time, understanding of the wider roles by CSOs, Police and government Women's departments in prevention and response to GBV was built through the development of GBV SOPs and training, including articulation of external referral pathways for survivors.

Through the Regional TA, countries developed GBV Clinical SOPs and facilitated GBV health elements in the CSE curriculums. As a result, a key programming shift was realized; instead of GBV response being seen as 'NGO business' the capacity building process, adapted to respond to GBV during COVID-19, enabled a much deeper understanding and ownership of the health system response by key senior health staff. They then built capacity within their departments and into outlying health facilities through the roll-out of training in countries on GBV SOPs for clinical response which will continue in 2022. This health GBV team will provide a sustainable in-country workforce to continue rolling out the latest GBV guidelines.

Capacity building is also an essential element to building ownership of administrative GBV data systems in countries. It enables the stakeholders to advocate for improved data quality and to advance the technical work. The workshop series, the kNOwVAWdata course and in the case of Samoa, the technical support to regular meetings of the Technical Working Groups, have helped the national stakeholders understand the process of building an inter-sectoral GBV administrative data system and the role of each agency in contributing to a strong system. The national stakeholders have identified what elements of the system exist in their countries and which need to be strengthened, as well as what elements are missing. For example, each of the countries were able to critically evaluate the indicators presently generated by the existing data collection system and the quality of the indicators including where definitions need to be standardized. The countries themselves have identified the need to strengthen their coordination mechanisms and to identify a minimal shared data set which can provide useful data across the entire GBV administrative data



system. Further at the end of the course the participants were able to indicate what further technical support they need to accelerate the system strengthening.

Key lesson learned is the benefit of working with civil society partners with strong community-based approach. This approach allowed the Spotlight Initiative programme to learn from CSOs' practical experience in conducting violence-related sessions at the community level and build on these localized approaches with high levels of technical expertise from the programme's own understanding of global best practices on GBV prevention.

### ***b) New Opportunities***

In the Pacific, countries are open to what works and how, as demonstrated by the customization of global CSE guidance. In the target countries of Samoa, Vanuatu, FSM, RMI which have fully developed CSE curriculums for in and out of school, the programme will facilitate the roll-out into schools and enhance community engagement to mobilize adolescents, youth, and communities against early onset of sex, menstrual health, prevention of unwanted pregnancies and to increase the agency of women and girls on their SRHR and GBV. The Spotlight team will galvanize this opportunity and enthusiasm in the Pacific to intensify advocacy among the political leadership and undertake capacity building of institutions and networks such as youth institutions, councils, and CSOs as champions of CSE work in the region.

### **Innovative, Promising or Good Practices**

The granting system was an innovative approach that allowed CSOs that had never accessed EVAWG funding to benefit from technical and financial assistance from the programme. Through the partnership with SPC grants, financial support was provided to small CSOs, some with low organizational and technical capacity who were not able to meet the requirements of other funding mechanisms. The small grants initiative was non-traditional approach with high risks considering the low level of management capacity of CSOs, but one that has produced significant results.

The ongoing collaboration between the Spotlight and the Pacific Partnership across the Pacific, on the design and implementation of multi sectoral GBV administrative data systems (MS GBV Admin Data System) was an innovative way to ensure cohesion and collaboration between the agencies, enable strengthened systems between and for national stakeholders and to systematize application of minimum standards across the region as best practice. These programmes had an articulated an agreed process (Division of Labour) through which each Pacific country is following. The agreed Division of Labour has enabled the highest level of collaboration, accountability, and coordination



between agencies vital to achieve minimum standards of implementation. Together with its Regional Implementing partners, a Regional Reference Group (RRG) for GBV Administrative Data, has been formed, and although its focus is on the work around Spotlight, the RRG is also responsible for ensuring coherence between the Spotlight Initiative and other GBV administrative data programs whether regional in nature or country specific. The RRG has a clear term of reference with emphasis on: (1) bringing together best practices and guidance/resources for countries, (2) ensuring consistency in standards and approaches and (3) providing technical advisory services to national governments and frontline service providers, in line with their priorities to develop national administrative data systems (e.g., reviewing standards, forms and information sharing protocols and agreements).

## **Communications and Visibility**

### ***a. Overview***

The results were reflected in media and communications mostly from the second half of the year of 2021, as the communications team has been recruited after long delays due to COVID19 restrictions. The programme consolidated its brand and profile in the region, while visibility and media uptake steadily increased throughout the year both among the national and regional media press, and through the UN's online and social media channels. Besides national media, some of the press content was also picked up by Pacific regional platforms such as the Pacific News Service (PINA) and Scoop Independent News (New Zealand).

The team launched 4 press releases and 1 op-ed covering work on EVAWG and the Spotlight Initiative's contribution, all timely picked up by national press across the region and beyond, with a reach of over 100,000 readers. UN social media accounts were used extensively to promote the programme with over 10 social media posts and a social media engagement rising steadily with a reach of over 10,000.

Progress has been made in strengthening relationships and involving the EU Delegation to the Pacific in communication and visibility opportunities. In 2021, the Delegation was involved in the preparation of inputs for press releases and events such as the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women.

### ***b. Messages***



Amidst a global pandemic exacerbated by natural disasters, and the COP26 global appointment, most of the key messages have looked at GVB as the shadow-pandemic and how compounding factors increase existing gender-based violence and inequalities, and how equality and inclusion are the only way forward. Key messages included:

- Any meaningful national and international effort aiming to address climate change, emergency response and resilience in the Pacific region, must recognise the critical role of integrating gender considerations and analysis, and advocate for equitable participation of men and women in planning and implementation of resilience-building activities.
- What Covid-19 has taught us is that no one can end a global pandemic alone. Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic in its own right. For our communities to develop the antibodies needed to eliminate GBV and create the environment where women and girls can thrive, we need to continue working together every single day, supporting our communities and injecting change with our words and actions, leaving no room for the virus of inequality to survive.
- No climate justice without gender justice, ending violence against women and girls is a must for the survival of Small Island Developing States and their communities.

### ***c. Media and visibility events***

Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 and natural calamities affecting the region in 2021, the Spotlight Initiative managed to support several events including the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women held on 27-29 April and 4 May 2021 respectively. The Spotlight also supported the delivery of a [side event on GBV data and statistics](#).

In addition, communications and visibility activities were delivered around the following events:

**GBV Admin Data Workshop series** - The Regional Gender Based Violence (GBV) Administrative Data Technical Reference Group - strengthened under the Spotlight Initiative Pillar 5 - supported capacity building of key stakeholders to develop and manage robust GBV case management systems, including national statistics offices, and the women's, justice, and police sectors in the Pacific. You can read more about the impact of the GBV administrative data workshops here - <https://bit.ly/3FJ8qnu>

**2021 Annual Regional Family Life Education / Comprehensive Sexuality Education Meeting**  
- Family Life Education/Comprehensive Sexuality Education can be a sensitive topic in the Pacific.





This workshop played an important role in bringing together government and CSO representatives from six Pacific Island countries for a learning exchange meeting. The event was live streamed on Facebook through the Fiji TV Facebook page and viewed by 1,800 users across the region. Recording of the workshop can be viewed here <https://www.facebook.com/fijionetelevision/videos/391409289253405/>

**The Launch of The KNOwVAWdata Website for The Pacific** - Consistent GBV data (both prevalence and administrative data) management and analysis is key in devising services to support GBV survivors and creating solutions to EVAWG in the Pacific region. To strengthen this area, the University of Melbourne together with the support of the Spotlight Initiative launched the KNOwVAWdata, which aims to train stakeholders on the importance of prevalence data and data collection. The kNOwVAWdata website can be viewed here <http://knowvawdata.com/pacific>

**LAIB Helpline Launch** - To address issues of discrimination and reluctance to access public services by the LGBTQIA community in Palau, Spotlight Grantee Living All Inclusive in Belau (LAIB) launched a helpline that manages cases and provides support to the LGBTQIA community of Palau. The helpline was launched as part of the 2021 edition of 16 Days of Activism.

**WUTMI Takes Lead in Marshall Islands** - Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) took the lead in creating awareness and strengthening institutions during the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence last year. WUTMI organised several events funded by The Spotlight Initiative, including counselling and case management training for WUTMI staff, police training on GBV, and a candlelight vigil.

**d. Campaigns**

The Spotlight Initiative supported dozens of events in the Pacific region under the 16 Days of Activism global campaign, including the launch of a Helpline for LGBTQIA in Palau, and the training on GBV for police officers led by Women United Together in the Marshall Islands.

In addition, one of the Spotlight Initiative’s implementing partners Diva For Equality has been running the #PacificFeministCommunityOfPractice campaign to stimulate next generation feminists and activists. As part of this long-term awareness-raising activity, the organisation has launched #freeskool a campaign based on a series of conversations with gender equality activists to create a safe space for healthy conversations and learning on feminism and human rights.

**e. Human interest stories:**





**The National Rugby League (NRL) Tonga leads Voices Against Violence to address gender-based violence.** Through the Spotlight Initiative small grants mechanism, UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office has allocated resources to strengthen the capacity of grassroots organisations in Tonga, including the National Rugby League (NRL) – Tonga. (NRL) Tonga uses sport as a vehicle to address gender inequalities and raise awareness among young people about the impact of gender violence among different communities, making NRL Tonga an important advocate for the prevention of GBV through the sports and programmes for youth.

<https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/national-rugby-league-nrl-tonga-leads-voices-against-violence-address-gender-based-violence>

**Maine Mura: Girls with Dignity, closing the period poverty gap in the Cook Islands.** To close the gap in period poverty, counteract the stigma and discrimination around menstruation and create new empowering narratives around women’s natural period cycle, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS), a grantee of the Spotlight Initiative, delivered Maine Mura: Girls with Dignity, a series of workshops to alleviate



some of the pressure associated with period poverty while promoting sustainable ways to manage periods and reduce waste, alongside Cook Islands Family Welfare Association, and in partnership with the local civil society organisations, schools and advocacy groups for women and girls.

<https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/maine-mura-girls-dignity-closing-period-poverty-gap-cook-islands>



**Building more inclusive communities for senior citizens in the Federated States of Micronesia.** In its work towards strengthening inclusiveness and achieving equal participation and representation, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) registered its very first Net’s Senior Citizens Association (NSCA) as a legal entity at both the state and national level in October 2021. The NSCA was registered by the Net Indigenous Women Council Association (NIWCA) that has been operating in Pohnpei State for the past five years.

<https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/11/building-more-inclusive-communities-for-senior-citizens-in-the-federated>

**Faith Based Organisations’ Commitment to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.** All over the world faith-based organisations play a critical role in changing behaviours and attitudes in any society. The Pacific is no different and engaging the church to end gender-based violence and violence against children has had its challenges.

“We face the challenge that patriarchal attitudes and structural violence has been ingrained and reinforced in our culture and religious practice,” said General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), Reverend James Bhagwan at the launch of Spotlight Initiative’s Pacific Regional Programme in October 2020. “There is also a confrontational approach in engaging the church, in a region where over 90 per cent of the population identify as Christian and hold a worldview shaped by their faith, as agents of social transformation.”



<https://pacific.un.org/en/115362-faith-based-organisations-commitment-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls>





**Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines) launched in the Pacific: And now to roll out the curriculum in Samoa and Vanuatu.**

Research shows that the majority of adolescents lack the knowledge required to make those decisions responsibly, leaving them vulnerable. As part of ongoing support to Pacific Island Countries, UNFPA and its partners, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, are working with

relevant Government Ministries and stakeholders to develop or revise several curricula on Comprehensive Sexuality Education to meet the standards of the 2020 International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Guidelines). Of paramount importance is the contextualisation to address local issues and needs of the target populations.

<https://pacific.un.org/en/115365-out-school-comprehensive-sexuality-education-guidelines-launched-pacific-and-now-roll-out>

**f. Testimonials:**

“GBV Admin Data workshop series has advanced my knowledge, understanding and skills about GBV data. I can now take these new skills to the front line, in my work with SAFENET GBV data, knowing what data to collect from service providers in the Solomon Islands, how to use them and how to manage the information sharing protocol.” ~*Julianna Zutu, National SafeNet Coordinator, Women Development Division at the Ministry of Women Youth Children and Family Affair, Solomon Islands*

“Through the Spotlight support we are going to standardize the training curriculum and post training support activities. Currently there are different agencies conducting different and fragmented aspects of comprehensive sexuality education for out of school young people, with one standard curriculum and one mode of delivery there can be better coordination but importantly consistency in information reaching the target populations.” ~ *Jack Martin, Programme Officer – Youth and CSE International Planned Parenthood Federation*

“This programme is important in empowering women so that they know their rights and they can do anything, and their voices need to be heard. It will help in stopping violence in our country. This programme helped me a lot. We’ve learned important things about violence.” ~*Amanaki, 14-year-old participant at the NRL Tonga Voices Against Violence workshop*



“We run Voices Against Violence (VaV) workshops through the schools in Tonga. One of the activities that we found to be very engaging was allowing the students the freedom to come up with solutions to eliminate violence against women and children. Also engaging in team building fun activities that have significant messages behind them. So, the activities in the VaV programme all relate, from being able to stand up, speak out and take action,” ~Joe Kafatolu, *NRL Tonga Project Coordinator*.

## **Next Steps**

GBV data systems has been an area that produced significant results during the year. In 2022, the programme will continue to work with regional implementing partners to increase capacity of Pacific countries on the use of the regional tools developed and basic concepts related to measurement of prevalence and incidence of GBV, tailored their country contexts. The capacity of countries to utilize regional tools and basic concepts on measurements is crucial at this point of the SLI implementation given the duration of the programme and considering that systems development require continuous capacity building and GBV data collection takes time and efforts and investments for sustainability beyond the SLI.

The programme has built foundational results in CSE work and operationalisation in the region through curriculum development, CSE assessments and training of trainers. Over the next 6 months the programme will focus on ensuring country-wide roll-out of in school and out of school CSE revised curriculums for in school years 7 and 10; 11 and 12, and out of school CSE engagement with adolescents, youth and communities in Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, and Vanuatu. In RMI and FSM where uptake of CSE curriculum development has been slow, the programme will facilitate finalization of curriculum development and focus on roll-out in Phase II.

Phase one continues through June 2022. The PCC partnership will continue to focus on rolling out the training and community pilots in the three focus countries (Fiji, Solomon Islands, RMI), context permitting. At the same time, PCC will continue to offer technical support to other national councils in the region to begin to use the messaging and implement smaller activities through their regular church events. These connections are helping to lay the groundwork for phase two, which will see further countries in the region engage with the Safe Church policies and programme.

The expansion of the Safe Church curriculum into the Pacific theological schools has the potential to shift the culture within Pacific churches and to change the awareness, attitudes, and practices of church leaders as they go about their mission within communities. Structured education can



promote the importance of child safeguarding policies and codes of conduct to be adopted and implemented by member churches, including child safeguarding programmes with men, women, youth, and children’s ministries, while church leaders are encouraged to include the message of ending violence against children in their sermons.

The youth engagement activities will be expanded in Solomon Islands and RMI during the first half of 2022. The youth engagement second workshop for Tonga was planned for January 2022, however it is assumed this will be impacted by the State of Emergency due to the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai volcanic eruption in early January 2022.

In Pillar 3 RUNOs will finalize the last small grant and implement in RMI as well as help the current small grants complete reporting. In Phase II in RMI, it will aim to focus more on competitive small grants focusing on menstrual health. The team will support on the whole project cycle, from writing proposals to final reporting. This will be also done in coordination with other projects working on CSO support and building capacity.

With the extension of the programme to June 2022 and possible allocation for phase 2, offers an opportunity for the programme build up on gains registered and capitalize on existing partnership to continue to reach and support CSOs, including at grassroot level. The programme is looking to continue supporting CSOs organizations through an expansion of the granting system and provision of technical support. In 2022 the programme will also continue to support the finalization of the study on the cost of DV, the development of costed packages for RMI and Solomon Islands. These will be important tools to inform CSOs and government efforts for an increase of investments to address VAWG issues. The PFF is planned for mid-2022 and will provide another opportunity for CSOs engagement and learning.

## **ANNEXES**

**Annex A: Results Framework**

***Annex B: Risk Matrix***

***Annex C: CSO Engagement Report***

***Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template***

**Annex E: Annual Work Plan**

