



# Ending Violence against Women Roadmap Synthesis Report

Informing the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific  
Development Roadmap 2017–2022

March 2017

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## Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian aid
CAVAW	Committee against Violence against Women
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EVAW	Ending Violence against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FWCC	Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand)
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
ODI	Overseas Development Institute (UK)
PDF	Pacific Disability Forum
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team
SPC	Pacific Community
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organisation

# 1 Introduction and Background

The Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program (*Pacific Women*) aims to improve opportunities for the political, economic and social advancement of Pacific women in the 14 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) member countries. The 10-year program is funded under the Australian Government's aid program by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The program supports a range of activities in partnership with national governments, Pacific NGOs, regional organisations, the United Nations (UN), international non-government organisations, multilateral development banks, the private sector and research organisations. Expected program outcomes include:

- Women and women's interests are increasingly and effectively represented and visible through leadership at all levels of decision-making.
- Women have expanded economic opportunities to earn an income and accumulate economic assets.
- Violence against women (VAW) is reduced and survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.
- Women in the Pacific will have a stronger sense of their own agency, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need.

This report on ending violence against women (EVAW) aims to: guide future investments; prioritise approaches and activities; and provide a transparent and strategic framework for *Pacific Women* funding decisions. Key issues and recommendations from this report will be reflected in a single Roadmap Synthesis report – recognising the intersection between women's economic empowerment, women and leadership and EVAW.

Specifically focused on EVAW, this report has been informed by review of key research and available documentation and broad-based consultations. It outlines global best practice and guidance of relevance to the Pacific region; identifies key issues, barriers and gaps in the Pacific; summarises a range of relevant initiatives, lessons and approaches to addressing EVAW in the Pacific; and outlines options for priority areas of investment.

## 2 Global Context

This section provides a summary of global conventions, guidelines and standards addressing EVAW and a range of international approaches that are relevant to the Pacific region. Global standards and good practices in EVAW **response** and **prevention** have been separated for easy reference, while acknowledging that they are mutually reinforcing and should not operate in isolation from each other.

### 2.1 International and other regional conventions

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) provides a definition and agenda for national action to end discrimination (UN, 1981). General Recommendation 19 further elaborates how CEDAW applies to gender-based violence (GBV) and highlights how traditional and stereotyped attitudes can perpetuate VAW and deprive women of 'equal enjoyment, exercise and knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms' (CEDAW, 1992). It also outlines a range of measures that states are required to undertake to address EVAW through legislation, training, research, education, support services (including for rural and isolated women), prevention and rehabilitation measures, and criminal penalties. CEDAW also obligates states: 'to act to protect women against violence of any kind occurring within the family, at the work place or in any other areas of social life' (General Recommendation 12, 1989).



The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines VAW as: ‘any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life’ (UN General Assembly 1993). The Declaration outlines the requirements of states to: eliminate violence including sanctions and punishment; develop national action plans and guidelines; develop violence prevention measures and provision of support services; allocate budgets for EAW; provide training in gender sensitisation; recognise the role of the women’s movement; work with NGOs; support the most vulnerable; and foster coordination (UN General Assembly, 1993).

The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action constitutes the key global policy document on gender equality. The Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions 2013 (CSW, 2013) builds on the Beijing Declaration and requests governments, in partnership with key stakeholders, to: strengthen implementation of legal and policy frameworks and accountability; address structural and underlying causes and risk factors to prevent VAWG; strengthen multi-sectoral services, programs and responses; and improve the evidence-base.

Other international conventions that support the elimination of violence against women and girls (EVAWG) include the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) that specifies that: ‘children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally’ (UN, 1989). States are required to ensure that children are protected from violence and abuse by parents and others who care for them, including by reviewing relevant legislation relating to discipline and punishment. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities require states to take measures that ensure women and children with disabilities are protected from: ‘all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based aspects, within and outside the home’ (Article 6 and Article 16, UN, 2006).

There are numerous regional conventions and charters that are guided by these international conventions and developed in the context of the specific needs of a region. Examples include:

- The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, ‘Convention of Belem Do Para’ (Organisation of American States, 1994).
- African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, ‘Maputo Protocol’ (African Union, 2003).
- Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, ‘Istanbul Convention’ (Council of Europe, 2011).
- The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN (ASEAN, 2004), and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (ASEAN, 2015).

## 2.2 Global experience

Reviews of global best practice indicate that causes of VAWG are complex and multi-sectoral approaches are required that involve a range of stakeholders (Fulu et al, 2014). This requires strong partnerships and coordination between government agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), service providers and development partner programs, supported by improved policies and legislation (AusAID, 2011).

Global evidence also shows that both prevention of and response to VAWG requires challenging gender inequalities and power imbalances, increasing awareness, and addressing discriminatory social norms through gender transformative and rights-based approaches (DFID, 2016). Evidence indicates that such approaches have been more effective than gender-neutral and gender-sensitive<sup>1</sup>

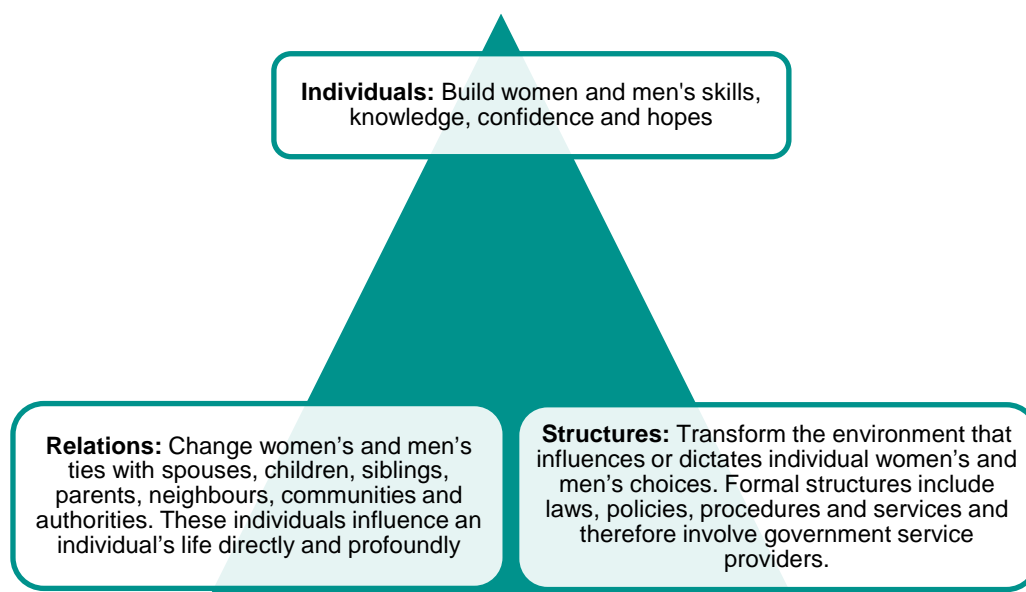
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<sup>1</sup> ‘Gender neutral’ means that gender is not considered relevant to development outcome and gender norms, roles and relations are not affected. ‘Gender sensitive’ approaches are a means to reach set development goals and involves addressing gender norms, roles and access to resources, as needed, to reach project goals (UN Women, 2011).

approaches as they: encourage critical awareness among men and women at all levels; increase criminal justice responses to violence; put pressure on the state for accountability; and challenge social norms (International Centre for Research on Women [ICRW], 2014; FWCC, 2012).

The CARE International Gender Equality Framework, for example, outlines a holistic approach to change at multiple and mutually reinforcing levels – the individual, relational and structural levels – for transformative and sustainable change to gender equality and women’s empowerment. CARE defines women’s empowerment as: ‘the sum total of changes needed for a woman to realise her full human rights’ (CARE International, 2014) or the interplay of change between: i) **agency**: her own aspirations and capabilities; ii) **structure**: the environment that surrounds and conditions her choices; and iii) **relations**: the power relations through which she negotiates her path.

Figure 1 CARE International gender equality framework



Source: CARE International, 2016

There are other examples of successful approaches that address the core risk factors for violence. The SASA! community mobilisation approach, for example, shifts from a focus on ‘gender’ to unpacking both the positive and negative aspects of power and the power imbalances between men and women, girls and boys (Raising Voices, 2013).

Effective prevention of and response to VAW requires developing the knowledge and capacity of health, education, law enforcement and social service providers to provide a full range of integrated support. This includes: medical services; counselling; shelter and accommodation; workplace and income support; police and court services; legal services; and specialised services for marginalised and vulnerable groups. Service providers also require support for effective coordination and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of response and prevention interventions.

There is evidence that National Action Plans on EAW and the establishment of national coordination bodies can facilitate efforts across multiple sectors and create space for dialogue between civil society and the state. The Peru National Action Plan Against Violence Against Women, for example, covers all aspects of response and details expected results over two-year intervals (VAWG 2014). Another example is the Australian Government’s ‘Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence’, that is a nationwide framework for a consistent and integrated approach to preventing violence against women and children (VAWG). It targets stakeholders at all levels, including the social and political structures, and highlights essential actions for addressing the drivers of VAW, as outlined below in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia



Source: *Our Watch et al, 2015*

Considerations when designing EAW programs include: using EAW indicators in broader sector programs; integrating multi-sectoral services under one roof for women; highlighting the development and human rights impact of EAW; including behaviour change and community mobilisation programming elements; considering women's safety; ensuring cultural relevance adapted from evidence-based interventions; and supporting impact evaluation and dissemination of learning (VAWG, 2014).

Monitoring and evaluation of EAW programs should be used as a learning tool to increase knowledge of what does and does not work and why, and measure long-term impact. M&E should:

- adopt mixed method quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate the multiple strategies required for EAW interventions;
- include a capacity dimension to strengthen the M&E capacity of local organisations;
- utilise adaptable frameworks to capture unintended outcome; and
- balance expectations of evaluating impact with available resources, tools and time (DFID, 2012a).

Marginalised women and children often experience multiple and intersecting discrimination and vulnerabilities, resulting in a significantly higher risk of them experiencing violence. This needs to be purposefully recognised, considered and addressed in program design and implementation by:

- increasing understanding, through research, of how GBV impacts different social groups, such as women with disabilities, minorities, migrants and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex people (LGBTQI)<sup>2</sup>;
- using knowledge and evidence from research to inform legislation, policy and practice;
- ensuring vulnerable groups are included in all aspects of planning and implementation; and

<sup>2</sup> Evidence indicates there are persistent gaps in knowledge about the extent and nature of violence against marginalised and vulnerable groups.

- developing targeted and culturally-appropriate strategies for addressing violence that tackle attitudes, discrimination and stereotypes, and the specific needs of the most vulnerable (Hester and Lilley, 2014).

## 2.3 Good global practice for EVAW response

### 2.3.1 Coordinated multi-sectoral service delivery

As noted above, coordinated multi-sectoral service provision that addresses all forms of VAW is an increasingly common approach (Hester and Lilley, 2014). The Essential Services Package (UN Women et al, 2015) highlights the importance of this approach as it:

- Provides more effective ways of keeping survivors safe by placing survivors ‘at the centre’ of the response.
- Is more effective in holding offenders accountable.
- Recognises the multiple needs of survivors by providing access to a range of skilled practitioners in a supportive environment.
- Supports effective information sharing between agencies, thereby reducing re-traumatisation from the number of times a survivor is asked to tell their story.
- Uses integrated care models that increase the likelihood of psychosocial, sexual health and other health needs being addressed holistically.
- Promotes women’s rights to financial and social autonomy that can be integrated into a coordinated response to reduce risk of future abuse.
- Sends a clear message to communities that VAW is treated seriously and will not be tolerated.
- Integrates child protection and GBV responses in the case of child sexual abuse.
- Can result in increased community awareness of available services for survivors (UN Women et al, 2015).

The Essential Services Package defines the set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced GBV. It encompasses essential service provision from the health, social services, police and justice sectors, as well as guidelines for coordination. Key service provision approaches include that they: are rights-based; advance gender equality and women’s empowerment; are culturally-sensitive and age-appropriate; are survivor-centred; ensure that safety is paramount; and ensure perpetrator accountability. Enabling elements that support the provision of services include: legislation and legal frameworks; training and workforce development; governance oversight and accountability; gender sensitive policies and practices; resources and financing; and M&E (ibid).

### 2.3.2 Policing and justice

Effective justice systems are a critical element of reducing VAW. They provide protection to survivors of violence and make a statement about behaviours that are not acceptable. This is particularly important in contexts where gender relations are changing. Successful prosecution of offenders removes the sense of shame-and-blame often felt by survivors, and contributes to their emotional recovery. Successful prosecution also acts as a deterrent to future offenders and an incentive for other survivors to come forward with their complaints (ICRW, 2012). In addition, engaging with customary and statutory justice systems increases access to justice (ibid).

To guide the response of law and justice services, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993, Article 4c) requires states to: ‘exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate



and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of VAW whether those actions are perpetrated by the state or private persons'. They should also provide access to just and effective remedies and specialised assistance to victims. The legal concept of due diligence requires states to respect, protect, fulfil and promote human rights through actions that ensure access to justice, investigation and punishment, and remedy (FWCC, 2012). It is therefore vital that police: record, investigate and gather evidence on reported cases of VAWG; establish and implement 'no-drop' policies; provide protection orders; and prosecute perpetrators of violence.

Linking prosecution, protection and services can support the effectiveness of EAW responses and increases women's ability to exercise rights afforded under the law. Through integrated service centres, such as one-stop-shops and referral centres that integrate rights-based approaches, women who experience violence are able to access medical, legal and other services, such as counselling. Centres can also provide information related to legal processes and rights under the law that allow them to make informed decisions. However, the effectiveness of such approaches is dependent upon simultaneous efforts to eliminate myths and stereotyping within the legal system about women's behaviour. Such myths exacerbate the stigma and shame survivors of violence carry and inhibits women from reporting and accessing services. The due diligence principle in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993) obligates states to ensure that women have access to appropriate health care and support services to respond to injuries, protect them from further violence, and address long-term harm. Survivors of VAWG often suffer emotional, psychological, economic and social costs in silence due to a lack of services, lack of trust in and awareness of available services, and a sense of shame or guilt.

It is critical for police, lawyers and court personnel to have adequate skills and training to respond effectively and support EAW interventions. It is important to ensure that all legal actors have access to awareness-raising and gender-sensitive training and have standardised procedures and processes to follow. Promising global examples of approaches to increasing the effectiveness of police and justice service providers include:

- Integrating EAW training into training curricula for law and justice personnel including police, lawyers and courts (i.e. judges and personnel).
- Development of self-training manuals for police officers.
- Training conducted by civil society for state agencies where capacity of NGOs exists.
- Linking all sections of law enforcement to increase the number of arrests, prosecutions and convictions for VAWG.
- Adopting a survivor-centred and 'do no harm' approach.
- Working to change the knowledge, attitudes and practices of justice providers.
- Engaging with the whole of the justice sector.
- Establishing EAW units within police stations and staffing with female police officers to increase reporting and recording of VAW (DFID, 2013).
- Establishing specialised courts specifically for domestic violence and sexual assault, or special measures within courts for cases of VAWG, such as court procedures designed to process cases more quickly (UN Women, 2012a).

### 2.3.3 Health

Health systems are a vital part of a multi-sectoral and holistic EAW response and it is critical that governments establish national policies and action plans that include health system actions, budgets, staffing and senior level commitment to EAW (Garcia-Moreno et al, 2015). Health service providers require the appropriate knowledge and skills to effectively respond to practical needs with a gender-

sensitive approach, provide appropriate medical services, and refer survivors of VAWG to appropriate social and legal support services (ibid).

Health service providers also require specific knowledge and skills for managing cases of violence and sexual abuse against children that meet minimum standards for behaviour and action. Based on best practice principles outlined in UNHCR Guidelines on Sexual Violence and Response and Prevention, the key principles for responding to child survivors of violence are to:

- promote the child's best interest;
- ensure the safety of the child;
- comfort the child;
- ensure appropriate confidentiality;
- involve the child in decision-making;
- treat every child fairly and equally; and
- strengthen children's resiliencies (International Rescue Committee, 2012).

It is important for service providers to understand existing laws and policies and have supervision systems and staff training programs in place for managing cases of violence against children (ibid).

#### 2.3.4 Civil society engagement

CSOs, particularly women's organisations, and local level networks play a critical role in developing and monitoring the implementation of policies on EAW. This includes: accounting for the diverse perspectives and needs of different groups; strengthening local ownership of reform processes to improve their value and relevance; and advocating for EAW action (UN Women, 2012b). An example of an effective CSO initiative is the Ark Foundation (Ghana) that successfully spearheaded a Policy Advocacy Partnership consisting of state and non-state actors to develop a national policy and plan for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, and ensure that it more broadly addressed EAW. UN Women (ibid) have identified specific actions that civil society can take to uphold policies and improve accountability that include:

- Monitoring compliance of national laws and policies with international and regional agreements on EAW.
- Monitoring and reviewing police and military reform processes to ensure that they include efforts to respond to EAW.
- Monitoring implementation of policies and practices, documenting the prevalence of VAWG and making recommendations on responses. This includes, for example, conducting gender assessments of institutions, policies and budgets and collecting prevalence data.
- Public and media awareness raising.
- Establishing local networks that can contribute to coordination of referral systems and services.
- Supporting the institutionalisation of training on women's rights and GBV to promote coordinated services and referral systems.

In many contexts, especially in rural communities, few services exist to meet the immediate medical and psychosocial needs of survivors of violence. Where services do exist, the reality is that most survivors of violence never use them.<sup>3</sup> WHO's multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence (2005), found that those who do seek support often turn to informal networks rather than

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<sup>3</sup> See *Pacific Women Counselling Review*, forthcoming 2017.

formal services. Strengthening informal support networks, including equipping those around women in the community to respond appropriately to disclosures of violence, is therefore critical in meeting the needs of women survivors of violence at the community level (DFID, 2012).

## 2.4 Good global practice for EVAW prevention

Primary prevention is a strategic approach to EVAW that aims to stop violence before it occurs and uphold the rights of women and girls. More broadly, prevention can improve the economic, social and health status of women and lead to a reduction in related forms of violence including child abuse (UN Women, 2013a). Prevention involves working at different levels of society to change institutions and implementing targeted interventions with specific groups and initiatives that focus on society at large.

It is important to note that most evidence on successful prevention approaches has emerged from developed countries, and there is a general lack of longitudinal evaluation on the evidence base for specific prevention interventions for EVAW, particularly in lower middle income countries. However, there is a growing body of evidence from developing countries that can be adapted to Pacific contexts.

On that basis, results and lessons learned from existing prevention work globally indicates that prevention work should adhere to the following principles (Council of Europe, 2011):

- use a gendered and human rights approach;
- provide a local evidence-base;
- be sustainable and replicable;
- enable excluded sectors of society;
- encourage community ownership; and
- include partnerships.

Importantly, evidence shows that effective, quality and accessible response services for survivors of violence is the 'bedrock' of violence prevention efforts. Without the availability of quality response services, interventions focused solely on prevention have the potential to do harm as, undoubtedly, cases of violence will be uncovered through prevention efforts.<sup>4</sup>

### 2.4.1 Community and small group approaches

**Community mobilisation:** Community mobilisation is a systematic primary prevention approach that aims to develop critical thinking, skills and inspire action to prevent violence by changing negative social norms that perpetuate VAW. It is based on the premise that efforts to prevent violence need to be led by communities, reflect the local context, and aim to build a critical mass of individuals who will not tolerate violence. It recognises that violence prevention requires engaging and mobilising a broad range of stakeholders within a community and that change to power inequalities between men and women requires holistic, comprehensive and sustained efforts (Michau, 2012; UN Women, 2012c).

Multi-component community-based programs that challenge acceptance of VAW and children through community-level messaging, dialogue, grassroots campaigning and reflection have proven to be an effective change model. They provide forums for individuals to learn together about the negative impacts of gender inequality and enable communities to change together. Evidence indicates that a focus on change agents, training of community mobilisers and using multi-component communication materials to inspire change are key elements of success. If implemented effectively, such approaches can have a wide-reaching impact (DFID, 2012b; Fulu et al, 2014; Michau, 2012). The SASA! community mobilisation program model developed by Raising Voices has had proven success around

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<sup>4</sup> EVAW Roadmap Reference Group feedback, September, 2016.

the world (Fulu, 2016). The Stepping Stones Community Training package, designed in Uganda and now adapted to 40 different settings, is also an example of a promising community-based model (Fulu, 2016).<sup>5</sup>

**Campaigning:** While grassroots campaigning has been a common EAW strategy in lower middle income countries, impacts have been mixed due to campaigns often being ad-hoc, short-term, small-scale or stand-alone (DFID, 2012b). Evidence suggests that a promising approach combines grassroots campaigns and communication strategies with community mobilisation. For example, the We Can End All Violence Against Women Campaign (Oxfam, undated), raises awareness, mobilises communities to take action on EAW, and builds networks to sustain change. In addition, it is critical that campaigns are driven by communities themselves to ensure they are culturally appropriate, context specific, encourage ownership, and lead to sustainable change to social norms and behaviours.<sup>6</sup>

**Cultural assets and social capital:** Global research provides evidence that building on community strengths, rather than targeting needs or deficits, can have positive impacts on primary prevention. Using community asset (physical, human, financial and environmental) and social capital approaches allows community groups to identify positive aspects of cultural and social capital that can be built on to promote healthy, equal relationships and improve gender equality.<sup>7</sup> Such approaches not only support empowerment but also build ownership over change processes within communities. The Kiribati Family Health and Safety Study (SPC, 2010), for example, outlines a holistic cultural approach model that involves:

- Elders and traditional leaders documenting basic principles of culture that foster respect for women and girls, condemn VAW, and promote equality to form the basis for information on culture and appropriate behaviour and practices.
- Churches and faith-based organisations (FBOs) championing positive cultural practices that align with teachings of the church, promote equality and condemn violence.
- Integrating positive cultural norms into education curriculum in schools and technical/vocational training.
- Supporting CSOs and NGOs to disseminate positive culture-based messages on EAW.
- Government ministries and Parliamentarian champions involved in promotion of positive cultural norms.

**Small group education:** Small group education activities target specific groups such as parents, young men, police, company employees, teachers and religious leaders through participatory workshops. These workshops have demonstrated substantial success in changing attitudes and beliefs and reducing partner violence by building social skills, promoting reflection and debate, and encourage collective action (Fulu et al, 2014). Small group education interventions with men and boys that adopt a gender transformative approach to improving attitudes, combined with intense community mobilisation activities, have shown to be a promising and sustainable approach. They establish a group of people with the skills to engage with and influence the broader community (Michau, 2012; DFID, 2012b; Michaeljon et al, 2016).

**Engaging with men and boys:** A growing body of global evidence indicates that engaging boys and men is critical to changing attitudes, achieving gender equality and reducing VAW. Evidence suggests that working with men and boys through interventions that challenge gender roles and strive to transform unequal power relations is preferable to activities that specifically target violent behaviour, where evidence of effectiveness is inconclusive (Independent Commission for Aid Impact, 2016; USAID, 2015; Ellsberg et al, 2015). Research indicates that male perpetrator programs focused on

<sup>5</sup> This initiative led to a 38 per cent reduction in physical violence perpetrated by men two years after the intervention.

<sup>6</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> EAW Regional Meeting, Fiji, August 2016.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.vawnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc\\_id=1582](http://www.vawnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc_id=1582)

rehabilitation and mentoring can be effective in high income countries. However, further research of effectiveness in lower middle income countries is still required (Jewkes et al, 2015). Programs that work with men and boys should be designed based on local data and insight into masculinities and context-specific risk factors for perpetration of violence (ibid). Programs designed to encourage positive masculine identities and enhance the knowledge and skills of young people to develop healthy sexual practices, respectful relationships and gender equitable attitudes are also an effective approach to EAW (Fulu et al, 2013).

Successful approaches to working with men and boys include (Fulu et al, 2014; USAID, 2015):

- the 'active bystander' approach;
- collective male action and advocacy initiatives;
- male peer role models;
- group-based gender education and reflection;
- working with youth groups and sports programs;
- counselling programs; and
- mobilising male community and religious leaders.

According to research, programs aimed at preventing VAW that engage men and boys should adhere to the following principles:

- Framed within, and accountable to, a human and women's rights agenda.
- Focus on collective action, not just individual behaviour change.
- Consultation with groups promoting and protecting women's rights on an ongoing basis.
- Commitment to enhancing boys' and men's lives.
- Sensitivity to diversities among men.
- Address social and structural determinants of gender and health inequalities (Michau, 2012).
- Encourage men and boys to address their own violence before they can be effective role models, through training and ongoing support.
- Selection of influential men across multiple sectors, including the police, service providers and traditional community leaders.
- Gradual development of programs with in-depth reflection and investigation built into each stage (EAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).

Programs that have shown success through targeting men include: the Sonke One Man Can Campaign (South Africa)<sup>8</sup>; Program H (Brazil)<sup>9</sup>; and Stepping Stones (South Africa).<sup>10</sup>

**Family-based:** Family-based prevention initiatives can be an effective way to prevent child abuse and promote healthy, nurturing families aimed at breaking the 'cycle of violence'. Promising interventions include:

- Parenting programs that provide parents with the skills, tools and resources required to foster healthy, non-violent and safe homes as well as non-violent discipline.
- Campaigns to eliminate social tolerance of violence against children.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.genderjustice.org.za/community-education-mobilisation/one-man-can/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://promundoglobal.org/programs/program-h/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.stepsstonesfeedback.org/>



- Programs to improve conflict resolution skills and promote healthy communication within relationships (Fulu, 2013).

The relevance of parenting interventions to realities in low and middle income countries and transferability of findings from high-income countries remains unclear. Parenting programs need to be designed to suit the local cultural context and be based on formative research that addresses the drivers of violence, as well as include content that challenges rigid gender roles (Heise, 2011).

**Media, technology and marketing:** Media (including mainstream, social media and community and participatory media), can make a powerful contribution to disseminating information, rallying support and dialogue to challenge gender and social norms and attitudes on EVAW, particularly as part of a broader multi-sectoral approach. Approaches that engage a range of media have proven most effective when integrated as a component of a broader program, rather than as a stand-alone approach (DFID, 2012). An evolving 'edutainment' industry is having some success in mobilising communities towards social change to support VAW prevention efforts through television and radio as well as community mobilisation efforts, such as street theatre/arts and discussion groups (Fulu et al, 2014). Equal Access Nepal has established a community-based radio program with an audience of over one million people that provides information on EVAW and facilitates discussion among survivors of violence.<sup>11</sup> The program is combined with outreach activities and cascading training for women at the community level, who then act as focal points for the dissemination of information on services and legal rights. Other promising marketing and 'edutainment' approaches include Soul City (South Africa)<sup>12</sup> and Breakthrough (India).<sup>13</sup>

#### 2.4.2 Institutional approaches

**Education sector:** Schools can be where VAWG occurs as well as where it is detected and reported. Schools therefore require violence prevention activities and social protection policies, as well as guidelines and mechanisms for reporting VAWG and helping child survivors access appropriate social and legal services (Khadijah and Fraser, 2014).

UNICEF evidence indicates that classroom-based programs that focus on developing respectful relationships and promoting gender equality can have a significant impact on children and young people at a time when attitudes to relationships are forming.<sup>14</sup> School-based interventions are critical to prevention in contexts where children and young people are living with violence or are exposed to direct abuse. Positive relationship models through education can contribute to breaking the 'cycle of violence' and reduce the risk of boys and young men perpetrating violence (Khadijah and Fraser, 2014). Holistic school-based initiatives can include whole-of-school approaches involving teachers, students and parents focusing on teacher training, school leadership engagement, gender-aware protocols, policies and reporting mechanisms that support a violence free environment and safe spaces for girls. National education policies and guidelines for gender-responsive curriculum development and reform should be integrated into education sector reform programs (Khadijah and Fraser, 2014). Numerous examples of successful school EVAWG programs are cited in this report.<sup>15</sup>

Evidence from global comparative studies indicates that, while banning corporal punishment can lead to reductions in violence, this only occurs when coupled with intensive efforts to promote and implement laws, raise awareness, reinforce positive discipline, establish oversight committees and referrals and reporting mechanisms, and support coordination with other justice, health and social welfare agencies (Heise, 2011). The 2014 Overseas Development Institute (ODI) report highlights

11 [www.equalaccess.org](http://www.equalaccess.org)

12 <http://www.comminit.com/africa/content/soul-city-television-series>

13 <https://www.inbreakthrough.tv/campaigns/bellbajao/>

14 UNICEF is the lead UN agency on child protection work and violence against girls.

15 Growing Respect: <http://growingrespect.org.au/what-we-do/overview/>, Breaking the Silence Schools Program: <http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/schools>, The Line: <http://www.theline.org.au/>, R+R: <http://www.swova.org/rr/>, Raise It Up: <http://raiseitup.wavaw.ca/>, The Fourth R: <https://youthrelationships.org/fourth-r-programs>, Project Respect: <http://www.yesmeansyes.com>, Safe Dates: <http://www.hazelden.org/web/go/safedates> (Birchall, 2015a).

that, when norms are challenged in one institutional setting, this may open opportunities for change in other settings (Marcus and Harper, 2014). For example, addressing violence in schools can lead to change within households. In other words, by first challenging the notion that it is acceptable for children to be beaten or abused in school through a rights-based approach, programs can then move to challenging violent parental discipline and then draw an analogy between how violence harms children and the harm caused to women from violence (Heise, 2011).

**Health sector:** The health sector is also well-placed to identify and intervene with families and individuals at risk of violence. There is a clear association between VAWG and higher rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes (Fergus, 2015). Evidence indicates that health providers and facilities are best placed to support secondary and tertiary prevention from a primary prevention approach of promoting a zero tolerance for violence, increasing awareness of violence, and providing a safe environment for women and girls (Bell and Butcher, 2015).

**Faith-based organisations and religious institutions:** In many countries, religious institutions and faith-based organisations (FBOs) are well placed to champion efforts to end VAW. FBOs have the potential to promote positive cultural norms that protect women and influence change (DFAT, 2014). They often have a prominent role in shaping community and family beliefs, and strong networks and broad reach at the local level, including to marginalised groups (UN Women, 2013a). FBOs also often provide social support for survivors of violence, such as shelter and advocacy.<sup>16</sup> Global evidence indicates that failing to effectively engage with FBOs to address VAW can result in roadblocks (Fortune and Enger, 2005). Although there are sometimes tensions between FBOs and survivor advocates, it is important to find common ground and shared interests to advance efforts to address gender inequality and end VAW (Grape, 2012; UN Women, 2013).

Good practice examples of engaging with FBOs for EVAW include (ibid):

- Improving their skills and knowledge to respond to VAWG, including referrals, advocacy and knowledge of family protection laws.
- Working with them to develop context-specific and theologically-appropriate training materials and messages that promote the rights of women and girls.
- Inviting religious leaders to present on VAW at regional and global events.
- Conducting inter-disciplinary research on the role of faith in maintaining or challenging attitudes to VAW.
- Involving them in the collation of statistics and analysing the cost of VAW.
- Funding larger, more experienced FBOs to provide guidance and support to smaller organisations.

**Workplaces:** Based on evidence from developed countries and research undertaken in developing countries, workplaces provide a setting where key drivers of gender inequality can be addressed across structures, attitudes and practices (Powell and Findling, 2015). Interventions in the workplace can make an important contribution to EVAW through policies and practices that promote female representation and participation, increase awareness of gender inequalities, and reinforce anti-violence messaging. Gender Violence in Papua New Guinea: The Cost to Business, reports that businesses can benefit from reducing VAW both in the public and private sphere due to staff time lost from GBV (Darko et al, 2016). Women often experience violence in the workplace. Workplaces can provide training to all staff on policies related to GBV and support survivors to access services and support systems. Workplaces can also address violence that occurs outside the work context by providing a safe space for supporting survivors of violence to access services. Similarly, sporting clubs and other local institutions can be important and supportive arenas for building awareness through

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<sup>16</sup> See *Pacific Women Counselling Review*, forthcoming, 2017.

promoting gender equality, respectful relationships, non-violence and awareness raising activities (Darko et al, 2016).

### 2.4.3 Empowerment approaches

**Economic empowerment:** Global evidence suggests that, over the long-term, economic empowerment will strengthen women's bargaining power in the household, increase their ability to leave an abusive relationship, and reduce economic stress that can trigger conflict (Ellsberg et al, 2015). Evidence also shows that well-designed economic empowerment programs can contribute to reductions in VAW, provided that they are developed with specific EAW actions and coupled with approaches that aim to challenge gender stereotypes and social norms around women earning income (Taylor et al, 2015). Designing a holistic approach to economic empowerment and EAW requires analysis of: how social norms and power relations contribute to violence; how violence limits women's participation in economic activity; and the potential for economic activity to protect women and girls from violence. This recognises that the interactions between economic development and VAW are complex and context-specific, and that there is potential for an increase in VAWG due to 'backlash' against women claiming their economic rights (ibid).

While there is mixed evidence on the effectiveness of micro-finance and conditional cash transfer programs in reducing VAW, initiatives that have combined economic empowerment and social protection with gender transformative approaches and EAW interventions have shown some success (Fulu et al, 2014; Arango, 2014). The IMAGE program in South Africa, for example, is a combined economic empowerment and VAW initiative that halved the rate of intimate partner violence among participants after two years (Heise, 2011). The Juntos program in Peru, that integrated cash transfers with other programs and services directly addressing VAW, successfully transformed gender dynamics within communities (World Bank et al, 2014). Key success factors common to these programs include: recognition that economic empowerment of women is more effective at reducing violence when combined with education and skills building; use of gender transformative approaches; engagement of both men and women; and consideration of gender issues during design, implementation and M&E (ibid; Blanc et al, 2013).

**Adolescents:** Studies indicate that, worldwide, adolescent girls are at high risk of sexual violence both in the home of parents and relatives as well as in schools, workplaces and humanitarian response settings. The WHO multi-country study (2005) shows that, for more than 30 per cent of women who reported sexual initiation before age 15, the experience was forced. Adolescent girls are highly vulnerable to violence, particularly physical and sexual abuse by male partners. Adolescence is also a critical time when norms around gender equality develop (UNFPA, undated). International research and practice suggests that approaches targeting adolescents need to engage both boys and girls to effectively address the needs and realities of the lives of adolescent girls (Blanc et al, 2013).

A range of toolkits and approaches that target adolescent include the CARE 'life skills' empowerment model that provides a safe and non-threatening space where boys, girls, parents and community leaders can discuss sensitive topics such as consent, negotiation and respectful relationships which are essential for violence prevention and linking to referral pathways. The approach also focuses on building voice, confidence and planning skills.<sup>17</sup> Other successful and promising models include the Voices for Change program in Nigeria<sup>18</sup>, Stepping Stones training program in South Africa<sup>19</sup>, and the Adolescent Development Clubs in Uganda (World Bank, 2014). The Population Council (2015) has also developed toolkits to assist organisations and development partners design and implement programs that build adolescent girls' social, health, financial and cognitive assets, including monitoring and evaluating adolescent girl-focused programs.

<sup>17</sup> Roadmap Report consultation questionnaire response, CARE International Pacific.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.v4c-nigeria.com/v4cs-approach/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.steppingstonesfeedback.org/index.php/page/About/gb>

## 3 Pacific Issues and Barriers

The multitude of complex issues and barriers relating to the prevalence and nature of VAW in the Pacific and efforts to eliminate GBV are summarised below, noting the commonalities as well as differences between countries.

### 3.1 High levels of violence

Despite variation between countries, there are high levels of VAW in all Pacific countries compared to global averages.<sup>20</sup> National research conducted in 11 countries in the Pacific shows reported lifetime prevalence rates for physical and sexual VAW by intimate partners ranging from 25 per cent in Palau to 68 per cent in Kiribati. Patterns and types of VAW differ considerably between countries and sub-regions. In Tonga, for example, rates of non-partner violence are higher (68 per cent) than intimate partner rates (40 per cent) (ADB, 2016). Girls are often subjected to multiple forms of violence that can be further exacerbated by cultural practices and social norms (DFAT 2016).<sup>21</sup>

Research also indicates high rates of child violence and sexual abuse in Pacific countries. This can have profound emotional, physical and social development impacts and lead to an inter-generational 'cycle of violence', normalising the prevalence of violence and negatively impacting the sustainability of EAW efforts (SPC, 2010). People who are exposed to and/or experience violence or sexual abuse as a child are at increased risk of becoming perpetrators as adults (Scriver, 2015).

Due to the high prevalence of VAW, most EAW interventions in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have focused on responding to the need for crisis and support services. This has limited support for systematic prevention interventions that address the causes and drivers of violence and seek to change social norms and behaviours that increase risks of violence for women. It is critical, however, that quality, appropriate and accessible services are available before prevention efforts can be undertaken.<sup>22</sup> In the absence of services, locally-driven prevention efforts that encompass a 'do no harm' approach may need to be considered.

### 3.2 Social norms

The key underlying cause of VAW is gender inequality and unequal power relations between men and women perpetuated by social norms related to the gendered roles of men and women.<sup>23</sup> Gender norms are typically socialised during childhood, adolescence and adulthood.<sup>24</sup> They are unquestioned within communities and are often reinforced by social institutions including households, markets, the media, religious and education institutions (Marcus and Harper, 2014). Violent behaviour can be a social norm where there is shared belief that violence is typical or appropriate, especially around gender roles and power, particularly in the case of intimate partner violence (DFID, 2016).

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) research indicates that social and gender norms in the Pacific influence perceptions about men's rights to assert power over women and the acceptability of VAW where women do not adhere to prescribed gender roles (FWCC, 2012). Physical violence is often normalised as an acceptable way to resolve conflict and intimate partner violence viewed as a 'taboo' subject'. Sexual activity, including rape, is often seen as a marker of masculinity. As a result, VAW has been socialised as 'justified and culturally accepted' and is not necessarily viewed as a crime, despite legal frameworks that criminalise it (FWCC, 2012; DFAT, 2016). DFAT research demonstrates that

<sup>20</sup> See UNFPA Family Health and Safety Studies.

<sup>21</sup> Cultural practices include, for example, bride price, sorcery and reconciliation.

<sup>22</sup> EAW Roadmap Reference Group (Lara Fergus), Roadmap Report consultations, September 2016.

<sup>23</sup> Defined by Heise, 2011 as: 'A pattern of behaviour motivated by a desire to conform to the shared social expectations of an important reference group'.

<sup>24</sup> A category of social norms that refers to 'widely held beliefs about what is typical and appropriate behaviour for men and women, and boys' and girls', DFID 2016.

high percentages of men and women consider that VAW is often justified and, in some cases, women are more accepting than men of intimate partner violence (DFAT, 2016). This can be reinforced by institutions and traditional and religious leaders, such as the church teaching women to submit to their husbands as the heads of households.<sup>25</sup> VAW can also be further exacerbated by cultural practices such as traditional reconciliation, arranged marriages, bride price, forced marriages as part of dispute settlement, and sorcery accusations.

### 3.3 Policy and legislation

Despite progress in legislative and policy reforms related to VAW in the Pacific, there are often lengthy time-frames (eight to 10 years) for new legislation to be passed.<sup>26</sup> Legislative reforms have generally not adopted an integrated and coordinated approach to address the multiple forms of VAWG such as, for example, marital rape and protecting the rights of marginalised groups including LGBTQI people, widows, divorcees and women living with disabilities (UNFPA, 2012b). Legislation is often not well understood and implementation and enforcement and associated training often under-funded.<sup>27</sup> In countries where these mechanisms and procedures do exist, such as Solomon Islands and Kiribati, significant challenges remain with their application outside main cities. In addition, legislation often provides limited protection of women's rights – in certain Pacific countries marital rape is not included in legislation.

Gender stocktakes undertaken in 15 PICs by the Pacific Community (SPC), outline the ratification of key international conventions and identify key barriers to gender mainstreaming. Acknowledging significant variation across countries, the stocktakes have identified key barriers as:

- lack of legal and policy frameworks;
- limited political will for gender equality;
- weak support for gender equality in organisational cultures;
- weak accountability mechanisms;
- limited technical capacity to undertake gender analysis; and
- inadequacy of resourcing (SPC, 2016).

Consultations for this report also identified inadequate government capacity to undertake gender - responsive budgeting as a critical issue.<sup>28</sup>

The implementation of legislation and policies aimed at addressing discrimination and VAW needs to account for customary law recognised in most PIC constitutions. Customary law may be enforced through social sanctions, village courts or the conventional law courts, often with tensions between the two systems of law. The status of women in customary law can constrain their ability to challenge harmful practices and access resources, family property and child custody (Jalal, 2009). Language used in customary law can be open to interpretation, and 'new custom law' is sometimes introduced to limit women's autonomy (ibid). Traditional courts that hold jurisdiction over village, family and personal issues are usually presided over by male chiefs and traditional elders and, in some instances, the customary law system legitimises male power over women and sanctions violence against them. Political will to intervene in matters managed under traditional or customary law can be lacking (ibid).

<sup>25</sup> Pacific Women Advisory Board consultations, October 2016.

<sup>26</sup> 11 countries have Family Protection Acts and 5 countries have Domestic Violence Laws in place that are in varied stages of implementation (see [Annex 2](#)).

<sup>27</sup> Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Program consultations (Cam Ronalds), September, 2016.

<sup>28</sup> Roadmap Report consultations, UN Women, October 2016.



### 3.4 Service delivery (health, police, justice and social)

The majority of women do not formally report intimate partner violence and many do not inform anyone at all (see Annex 3). This is due to a number of factors including lack of available services, lack of trust in services, social perceptions of VAW, stigma, and fear of retribution. Survivors of violence and service providers often face threats, intimidation and harassment – further discouraging reporting of violence. Geographic isolation, poor infrastructure and transport costs also inhibit women from accessing support services. Survivors of violence are often not aware of their rights, laws or available support services. Access to legal representation and advocacy services is often limited (FWCC, 2012).

Women and girls from vulnerable groups often experience multiple forms of discrimination and are disproportionately more vulnerable to violence (e.g. LGBTQI, people living with disability, ethnic minorities, people living with HIV, refugees, trafficked women, or displaced communities). They are often unable to access services due to discrimination and, if they do, services often fail to meet their needs (ibid). Their higher risk of violence can be due to a lack of knowledge of how to address the issues they face and a lack of social support (WHO, 2012). For example, sorcery-related violence in PNG is predominantly directed towards marginalised individuals, resulting in disproportionate VAW (Mukasa et al, 2014).

Limited provision of coordinated, consistent, resourced and quality services remains a key barrier to the delivery and sustainability of EAW interventions in the Pacific. Lack of standardised service delivery guidelines and integrated referral systems between service providers can negatively impact the overall effectiveness of services required for survivors of violence.

Service providers can lack sensitivity to the needs of survivors of violence due to social norms that impact perceptions about VAW. Formal and informal justice providers in many countries continue to focus on reconciliation, despite ‘no drop’ policies whereby prosecution can proceed regardless of victim’s wishes.<sup>29</sup> Police are often under-resourced, lack protocols and accountability and have limited training in how to respond to and manage VAW. Where formal legal processes are pursued, sentencing is often low and inconsistent and there are often significant delays in case hearings and judgments (Kingi and Roguski, 2011). Health and social service providers often lack the capacity and resources to manage GBV cases, particularly in counselling and advocacy or cases of child and adolescent sexual abuse and violence. Additionally, balancing primary, secondary and tertiary services for survivors of violence continues to be a challenge (DFAT, 2016).

### 3.5 Capacity and resourcing of civil society organisations

Pacific CSOs, including women’s organisations, have varying levels of organisational and technical capacity to implement EAW initiatives and adopt gender transformative and women’s rights approaches (Birchall, 2015b). PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji all have a core group of women’s organisations that have been active for many years. Similarly, in Samoa and Tonga, a group of CSOs provide a mix of safety responses as well as counselling services, legal support and a domestic violence database (Tonga). In the north Pacific, Women’s United Together for Marshall Islands and the Centre for Women Empowerment Belau in Palau are recognised as active women’s organisations. In the smaller countries of Kiribati, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Niue and Nauru, civil society gender activities are mainly undertaken through less professionalised and/or community-based groups.

Many CSOs lack basic infrastructure, human resources, organisational processes and accountability systems. Limited funding can lead to competition rather than collaboration between organisations, and has often resulted in ‘gatekeeping’ and the duplication of research and training. As well as being a

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<sup>29</sup> Fiji, Cook Is, Solomon Is, Tonga, Samoa, RMI, Palau and Tuvalu have ‘no-drop’ policies.

burden on resource-constrained CSOs, this can lead to conflicting and mixed messaging on good practice approaches and standards for ending VAW (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).

## 4 Pacific Initiatives and Evidence of Change<sup>30</sup>

### 4.1 Regional frameworks and platforms

The governments of all Pacific countries, with the exception of Tonga, have signed or acceded to CEDAW, which has influenced a number of Pacific agreements, frameworks and platforms on gender equality.

The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012–2016) commits government to improve the status and participation of women in Pacific in economic, political and social life. The Declaration highlights concern for women’s political representation and economic opportunities, high rates of VAW, and slow progress towards gender equality in the region.<sup>31</sup> Specifically, Pacific leaders have committed to supporting the implementation of: a package of essential services for women and girls who are survivors of violence; enacting and implementing legislation regarding sexual and gender-based violence to protect women from violence; and imposing appropriate penalties for perpetrators of violence.

Another key regional agreement, the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015, outlines key actions endorsed by governments to eliminate VAW in the Pacific. It directs governments to:

- Play a greater role in EVAW through policy, legislation and programs.
- Formulate policies and supportive legislation to criminalise any form of violence.
- Recognise that family violence is not a private issue but a serious public problem and request that governments address the problem.
- Call upon religious and traditional leaders to take positive steps to challenge established assumptions that may contribute to the problem of VAW.
- Reaffirm the need to have policies and programs to collect and publicise data on VAW and its economic costs and curb the prevalence of sexual and family violence.

Progress on these regional frameworks has gained momentum over recent years as governments have progressed national gender policies, action plans and strategies on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Key achievements have been: legislative and law reforms; the development of national policies and plans with a gender and human rights focus; regional training in EVAW; and publication of important studies on the prevalence of VAW (Ellsberg, 2012). However, significant work is still required for these regional commitments to be met.

A range of regional platforms and forums aim to improve coordination, networking and sharing lessons learned on EVAW to support regional frameworks. These include, inter alia:

**The Pacific Women’s Network Against Violence Against Women:** Coordinated through FWCC, the Network has been in existence for almost 24 years as a loose network of organisations and

<sup>30</sup> This section outlines key regional and national frameworks, networks and initiatives, recognising that the full range of these requires ongoing identification and coordination.

<sup>31</sup>

[www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2012%20Forum%20Communique.%20Rarotonga.%20Cook%20Islands%2028-30%20Aug1.pdf](http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2012%20Forum%20Communique.%20Rarotonga.%20Cook%20Islands%2028-30%20Aug1.pdf)

advocates that work together on Pacific EVAW strategies based on human rights standards and feminist principles.

**Pacific Disability Forum:** Established in 2004 to represent people with disabilities and encourage cooperation on disability related concerns in the Pacific region. PDF provides a regional voice for women with disabilities and ensures that women and girls are included in policies and projects, including through a biennial Pacific Regional Forum for Women with Disabilities. Pacific Disability Forum and the Fiji Disabled Persons Federation have developed a Toolkit on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Fiji to support organisations and partners working on EVAW.

## 4.2 Regional and multi-country EVAW initiatives

### 4.2.1 Pacific Regional Organisations programs

**Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS):** As the regional policy organisation, PIFS has established a Reference Group on Sexual and Gender Based Violence to foster multi-sectoral coordination between other Pacific Regional organisations (PROs), governments and non-government actors. With a dedicated gender advisor, PIFS also monitors political commitments around national legislation.

**Pacific Community (SPC):** As the regional technical organisation providing advice and services to 22 countries and territories, SPC employs a multi-sector approach to set priorities, empower Pacific communities and address cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, youth and human rights. In collaboration with other PROs, SPC works directly with governments and CSOs to support EVAW work, including in gender statistics and gender mainstreaming.

SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) specifically supports training in gender and legal literacy, human rights advocacy, and legislative lobbying. RRRT tracks progress on international conventions and domestic legislation, and engages with Parliaments, judges, police, legal agencies, government departments, communities and civil society on issues related to EVAW. It has assisted with enactment of the Family Protection Act 2013 in Tonga, the Kiribati Family Peace Act 2014, the Solomon Islands Protection Act 2014, and the Tuvalu Protection Act 2014.

### 4.2.2 Bilateral programs

Several bilateral development partners have invested in EVAW research, prevention and response initiatives in the Pacific in recent years.<sup>32</sup> They have also played a key role in introducing gender issues across government agencies such the police and ministries of education, health, environment, agriculture, and labour. Key bilateral programs in the region include:

The **Australian aid program**, through DFAT, that contributes significant regional and national support for women's empowerment and gender equality in the Pacific. As discussed in [Section 1](#), the flagship gender program, *Pacific Women*, is a 10-year investment in 14 Forum member countries that aims to improve opportunities for women's political, economic and social advancement. The program builds on research and support provided by the Australian Government over the past decade. It works with a range of partners to increase the quantity and quality of prevention and response efforts, enhance women's access to justice, and strengthen the enabling environment for EVAW work.

The **New Zealand aid program**, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), that provides ongoing EVAW support to the policing and justice sectors through programs such as the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Program. This involves a range of regional training, networking and information-sharing activities, as well as national programs in Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati that provide support for the development of police domestic violence strategies and training programs. Key objectives of the program are: improved police capacity

<sup>32</sup> Mapping of EVAW support provided by all development partners is required to improve coordination and harmonisation of efforts and alignment to national priorities.

to manage domestic violence; development of ‘no drop’ policies for reported domestic violence cases; establishment of domestic violence units in police stations; and improvements in data collection on domestic violence cases. The program has contributed to improved awareness of domestic violence, trust in the police and reporting of domestic violence (Turnbull, 2011).

#### 4.2.3 United Nations programs

**Pacific Regional Ending VAW Facility Fund (UN Women):** Supports CSOs, FBOs and Governments to:

- Provide services for survivors of violence (including counselling, paralegal aid, shelter and referral services).
- Build the capacity of organisations in advocacy, policy development, law reform, women’s human rights, community education and counselling services.
- Improve access to services by women in different settings, including sexually abused women and girls, sex workers, LGBTQI people and groups, urban and rural women and girls, women and girls with disabilities, young girls, and older women.

The Fund encourages multi-disciplinary approaches to violence (involving health, policing, social welfare, education and justice), and supports regional and national exchanges on promising practices, innovations and evidence.

**Markets for Change Program (UN Women):** Promotes gender equality and women’s empowerment by ensuring that marketplaces in rural and urban areas of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory. The program adopts a combination of implementation strategies to contribute to social and economic advancement, expanded economic opportunities and the elimination of discrimination and VAW.

**Pacific Child Protection Program (UNICEF):** Supports governments in the 14 Pacific Island Forum countries to strengthen protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation through: strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks on child protection; country analysis; awareness-raising through schools and communities; civil registration; positive parenting programs; and child protection policies in schools.

**Strengthening Regional and National Capacities to Measure Violence against Women in Asia and the Pacific (UNFPA/DFAT):** Is developing a pool of trained professionals and researchers in the Pacific to measure EVAW data at the national and regional levels.

#### 4.2.4 FWCC training programs

FWCC’s Regional Training Program provides four-week training courses to a range of partners, including network members, CSOs, NGOs and government agencies. Training covers human rights, women’s rights, causes of gender inequality and the nature and prevalence of VAW. It provides participants with a strong foundation for addressing GBV and fills critical information and training gaps for service providers in the Pacific. The program is also an effective mechanism for raising awareness about EVAW and changing individual attitudes. FWCC actively seeks participants from organisations that support women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups such as LGBTQI. Key success factors are that the training is grounded in women’s human rights and brings together diverse participants from across the Pacific (Szamier, 2015).

FWCC’s Male Advocates for Women’s Rights Program in Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and PNG takes a gender transformative and women’s rights approach, addressing the root causes of VAW and seeking men’s accountability. The training program aims to encourage men to learn and identify their own acts of violence and advocate for prevention of VAW. The curriculum encourages rethinking power structures and identifying concrete actions for achieving positive change. Successes include:

information sharing and the transfer of good practices between the Vanuatu Women's Centre, the Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre and FWCC; increased participant awareness and skills; linkages between participants and information sharing; shared problem solving; and influencing individuals in key agencies (Mukasa et al, 2014).

FWCC also implements a Safe Accommodation for Women program focused on technical support and mentoring in EAW service provision for organisations in the Pacific region.

#### 4.2.5 Faith-based programs

**Partnering Women for Change (Uniting World):** aims to change attitudes and behaviours related to EAW and challenge gender stereotypes through the development of gender equality resources, theological training, regional workshops with church partners, and training for Christian educators and gender advocates within the Church.

#### **Pacific Conference of Churches and South Pacific Association of Theological Schools**

**Program:** works with member churches and aims to build and facilitate an ecumenical network on EAW, focusing on:

- working with the Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network;
- increasing the participation of women and youth in church mission;
- research on human rights and alignment with biblical teachings;
- increasing education and awareness of human rights;
- recognising international instruments on EAW;
- providing counselling and advocacy services;
- technical support and mentoring for local EAW initiatives;
- addressing Christian barriers to EAW;
- providing safe spaces for survivors; and
- providing training for current and future leaders (UN Women, 2011).

### 4.3 National EAW initiatives

#### 4.3.1 Enabling environment

There has been significant investment in initiatives to strengthen governance, transparency and accountability at both the regional and country level in the Pacific. This includes initiatives that aim to: build institutions and capacity in public financial management; enhance knowledge to inform policy and improve decision-making; support human rights capacity through state institutions and CSOs; improve public dialogue and media capacity; and promote access to law and justice (DFAT, 2013).

Development and implementation of legislation and policies related to EAW across the Pacific, such as such as Family Protection Acts and Domestic Violence Laws (see Annex 2 for summary of the status of relevant legislation in PICs), requires ongoing significant effort to reform legislation, increase government commitment and resourcing of implementation, and improve the capacity of service providers to effectively implement and enforce legislation (AusAID 2011).

There is also a need to proactively map donor and development partner initiatives, identify entry-points for integrating EAW programming through these initiatives, and strengthen gender mainstreaming across bilateral and sectoral programs.



### 4.3.2 Response

As discussed above, there has been a stronger focus on response than prevention due to the high prevalence of VAWG in the Pacific. Assistance to government and non-government partners to support response efforts include:

- Working with the police, courts and justice agencies to improve service delivery and manage financial and human resources.
- Strengthening laws and policies related to access to justice and family violence.
- Developing National Action Plans on EVAW.
- Technical support to develop EVAW guidelines, referral systems, case management and training in counselling.
- Funding for safe-houses, shelters, crisis centres and legal assistance for survivors of violence.
- Establishing family support centres in hospitals and safe spaces for survivors of violence in police stations.
- Establishing 24-hour help lines, crisis information and referral phone services.
- Establishing one-stop-shop clinics and outreach services for survivors of violence.
- Establishing rapid response teams and community alert systems.
- Strengthening and activating local committees to support action on EVAW.

Successful or promising response programs and approaches include:

**Women's crisis centres:** FWCC, Vanuatu Women's Centre, Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre and Femili (PNG) offer one-stop-shop services to women, girls and younger children. The range of services varies between organisations but can include face-to-face, phone and mobile counselling and referrals to legal, medical and support services. There is potential for using these centres as models to leverage government commitment for broader replication in other countries and to support integrated referral pathways and approaches to service provision.

**Komuniti Lukautim Oi Meri (PNG):** Works in a number of communities in PNG to reduce VAWG and support strengthened service delivery through three pillars – prevention, response and empowerment (FHI 360, 2013). Through this program there has been a significant increase in the uptake of EVAW services and a shift in attitudes at the community level.<sup>33</sup>

**Family support centres in hospitals (PNG):** Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centres (through Femili PNG, Oxfam PNG and Australian National University) have been established in PNG to assist women and children in high-risk situations to access services, navigate the court system, and return to home villages away from perpetrators. The centres work collaboratively with other service providers including the Family Support Centre, medical and psycho-social support, safe houses, police, legal services, orphanages, government, social workers and other NGOs.

**Family and Sexual Violence Units and Family Support Centres (PNG):** Family and Sexual Violence Units are attached to police stations and are expected to be established in all provincial police stations in PNG (UNDP, 2016). Family Support Centres are attached to all major hospitals, providing medical, psychosocial, first aid and treatment centres for survivors.

**Medical Services Pacific (Fiji):** Implements a clinical outreach model in Fiji designed to bring integrated services and information to women in their workplaces. Mobile clinics, staffed with skilled practitioners in seven rural market locations, provide improved access to sexual and reproductive health care, sexual assault counselling and referral services. A total of 6,854 people (4,938 women and 1,916 men) have benefited directly from the project, either by accessing clinical services or taking

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<sup>33</sup> Use of EVAW services has increased from 13 per cent to 59.1 per cent in the Western Highlands Province and from 29 per cent to 63.2 per cent in West Sepik province. 92.9 per cent of men in Western Highlands Province and 83.3 per cent of men in West Sepik province said they would intervene if they witnessed VAWG in their community. (Refer to Roadmap Report consultation questionnaire response; FHI 360).

part in awareness raising sessions on GBV, sexual and reproductive health or child protection. To date, Medical Services Pacific has provided post-rape care to 186 women and girls under its agreement with the Fiji Police Force.

**Phoenix Survivor's Network (Fiji):** Provides a full spectrum of services for survivors of sexual violence and their families in Fiji, including medical care and social and legal services that can be accessed through a one-stop-shop clinic or through weekly outreach to rural communities. The Phoenix Survivors Network has recently included a micro-business component to create opportunities for women's economic and social empowerment.

**Homes of Hope (Fiji):** Works with young women and children who are victims of, or are vulnerable to, sexual and GBV. The charity provides residential care that includes counselling and community programs to support survivors of violence, training in parenting and life skills, and safety nets in at-risk communities.

**Samoa Victim Support Group:** Manages a 24-hour hotline and community alert system for survivors of violence that is staffed by volunteers and supported by two private communication companies (Bluesky Samoa and Digicel Samoa). The hotline aims to support women's and girl's access to shelter, counselling and justice, and provides immediate intervention and support for women and girls (UN Women, 2013b).

### 4.3.3 Prevention

Prevention efforts have primarily focused on the provision of training and awareness-raising on EVAW in Pacific countries for stakeholders at multiple levels. Training programs to prevent VAWG have included male advocacy, community mobilisation, legal advocacy, gender equality, GBV awareness, substance abuse awareness, child protection, and strengthening human rights. Training for media, religious and traditional leaders and sporting teams has also been provided. Prevention programs implemented at the country level include community support and education programs, school education programs and campaigns, positive parenting programs, and programs aimed at increasing awareness of gender inequality and VAW. A number of countries have used media initiatives (through mainstream and social media platforms) to increase awareness and convey anti-violence messages.

Based on available information on current prevention interventions in the Pacific<sup>34</sup>, promising country level approaches include:

**Partnership for Positive Parenting Program (PNG):** Recognises that churches play an important role in influencing culture and daily life in communities. As a collaboration between UNICEF and the Catholic Diocese in PNG, the program builds on the strengths of the church to deliver a positive parenting program through communities.

**Safe Cities Program (PNG):** Focuses on reducing public violence and increasing women's engagement in market activity in Port Moresby. The program aims to: increase respect among market users for women's and girls' right; support infrastructure and social planning measures that address the safety of women and girls in market places; and work with media representatives to improve reporting on all aspects of EVAW, with particular attention to sexual violence against women and girls.

**Safe Families (Solomon Islands):** Operates in two provinces in the Solomon Islands, through a partnership between Oxfam Australia and the Pacific Leadership Program, to prevent family violence and create an enabling environment for violence prevention. Core elements of the program are: providing support to community activities that prevent family violence; facilitating coalition action at the provincial level to strengthen prevention activities and enhance access to services; and investing in M&E to learn more about the causes and dynamics of family violence (Pacific Women in Business, 2016).

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<sup>34</sup> Most of the information available on prevention initiatives in the Pacific comes from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

**Channels of Hope for Gender (Solomon Islands):** Explores gender identities, norms and values from a faith perspective. The program works with religious leaders to: acknowledge and act upon gender injustices in their communities; promote principles of equality and shared access; and utilise family and community resources to contribute to harmonious relationships within families and communities. The program is training 10 national church leaders in gender equality methodology as trainers for 25 church and community leaders; and establishing six action teams of church leaders and community and church members to deliver events promoting non-violence and gender equality. Additional training in positive conflict resolution and the reduction of substance abuse is provided with support from Royal Solomon Islands Police and Ministry of Health. The program also aims to improve access to services for survivors of violence through focal points who are trained to support them. Key program successes have been: changed community attitudes towards recognising women's rights to non-violence and participation in decision-making; increased numbers of men willing to discuss EVAW and gender inequality; and improved commitment of church leaders to EVAW.

**Committees Against Violence Against Women (Vanuatu):** Aim to promote access to services for women, build community awareness and change attitudes and behaviours that condone VAW. The 41 active committees consist of 200 volunteers who: conduct community outreach and education; provide free individual and family counselling in remote areas; support women's access to services including justice services; and work with local chiefs in *kastom* dispute resolution related to EVAW. Program successes include a reduction in tolerance for violence, improved reporting of violence, increased knowledge and awareness, and improved access to services. Key success factors include using locally relevant materials and integrating learning into community training sessions, respecting and navigating local contexts, and working with male advocates to speak with men and male community leaders (ICRW, 2014).

**House of Sarah (Fiji):** Trains and resources religious leaders to promote gender equality and zero tolerance for VAWG through the Association of Anglican Women. Successful elements of the program include: strong leadership from the Archbishop; a community-based network of Christian women leaders united against VAWG who actively address domestic violence in their communities; and establishment of 'Sarah's Carers' groups in local villages, who are trained to undertake community outreach for survivors of violence and work as community educators.

Relevant examples of initiatives that specifically target adolescents and youth and aim to challenge gender norms to enhance EVAW efforts in the Pacific, include the following.

**Save the Children (Solomon Islands):** Addresses the root causes of harmful alcohol abuse and aims to increase awareness and access to information, support and services for young people. Key strategies of the program include: linking with existing projects and services that address alcohol abuse (livelihoods, education and youth engagement); raising awareness through connecting with young people; sensitising young men and women on the harms of alcohol abuse; integrating awareness into sports, arts and music; providing gender-appropriate and confidential spaces for youth to discuss issues related to alcohol abuse; and working with the Ministry of Health to strengthen mental health services for young people, alcohol counselling and access to health services.

**Sports for Diplomacy (PNG):** Aims to build trust, raise awareness and promote positive ways of relating among young men and women. The pilot program is based on the premise that sport is a universal language and plays a unique role in shaping and showcasing national identities, values and cultures. It aims to challenge social norms through widespread community involvement, and contribute to broader multi-sectoral development initiatives by communicating important messages and awareness-raising among communities.

**Stay Safe and Think Big Programs (Tonga):** The Women and Children's Crisis Centre delivers two prevention programs working with adolescents – the Stay Safe program in eight primary schools and

the Think Big awareness-raising sessions in four secondary schools. The reach and coverage has been significant, with 1,904 girls and 3,483 boys participating.<sup>35</sup>

**Wan Smolbag Theatre (Regional):** Based in Vanuatu and operates across the Pacific to create awareness, engagement and public discussion on issues related to education, health, governance, the environment, youth and gender. The organisation produces television shows, DVDs, booklets and posters for raising awareness on specific issues at the community level. It provides training with a human rights-based approach in communities, NGOs, schools and government departments in the Pacific and provides an important link to communities.

## 4.4 Lessons learned

### Policy and legislation

- Undertaking community consultations as part of legislative review and reform processes can be an effective way to build public trust in legal institutions and systems, increase awareness of laws, and increase levels of awareness around the rights of women and girls (AusAID, 2011).
- Implementation and enforcement of legislation aimed at improving women's empowerment and addressing VAWG requires changes in the beliefs of those who implement and enforce legislation (government, police, health workers, judges, etc.) (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).
- Ongoing capacity development is required at national level, including in relation to capacity across government to collect and use gender data to inform government policy and planning and undertake gender-responsive budgeting (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).
- Parliaments and governments can be effective mechanisms for change, however they tend to be overlooked by development partners as an entry-point for programming (Roadmap Report consultations, 2016). In some cases, working with Cabinets and Ministers may be a more effective approach to social and legislative change than working with Parliaments (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).
- Regional organisations can be effective mechanisms for advocacy and accountability of national governments (ICRW, 2012).

### Response

- Long-term commitment to local organisations, rather than project-focused support, enables innovation, supports capacity development, and increases the quality and breadth of support for survivors of violence (AusAID, 2011).
- Strong informal networks of partners are critical where formal services are unreliable or unavailable, especially in isolated areas, as they can provide practical assistance and support (DFAT, 2015).
- Coalitions and networks of women's organisations can be effective advocates to governments to prioritise human and financial resource allocation to core EVAW service areas (ICRW, 2012).
- Increasing community awareness of the availability of free medical and counselling services for sexual and GBV increases the number of survivors of violence accessing care (ICRW, 2014).
- Specialised units within police stations, especially those with separate entrances, private waiting areas and staff with specialised training in GBV, can be an effective mechanism for supporting the needs of survivors in accessing health and justice services (ibid).

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<sup>35</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> EVAW Regional Meeting, Fiji, August 2016.

## Prevention

- Programs aimed at changing attitudes and behaviours require a long-term investment, engagement with stakeholders at all levels, and accounting for resistance and backlash. Development partners need to acknowledge that tangible results will not be realised in the short-term (DFAT, 2014).
- Flexible funding support can provide opportunities for organisations to investigate and test approaches for changing social norms and allow for evidence-based adaptation and local level research and solutions.
- Interventions focused on preventing violence need to challenge men's power over women and address gender equality as a root cause of VAW (FWCC, 2013).
- Increasing women's economic empowerment and leadership skills by integrating violence prevention activities into existing development programs (such as microfinance, social protection, education, and health sector programming), can support multi-sectoral approaches and scalability (AusAID, 2011).
- Sports programs can be an effective way to promote positive social norms that protect women, support gender equality, engage youth, promote healthy and respectful relationships, and encourage women's leadership. They need to be well-designed, account for the local context, and work collaboratively with and through other development programs.

## Programs and activities need to align with national and regional priorities

- Programs require strong partnerships with government to advocate for increase budgeting and resourcing of services, and build on or adapt to the local context (ICRW, 2012; EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).
- Programs fail when they are supply-driven by development partners and at the mercy of available donor funding (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).
- If it not carefully contextualised, rights-based language can have a negative effect as it may be perceived as externally imposed (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).

## Replication, adaptation and scalability strategies need to be built into programs

- Scalability of interventions in terms of available human and financial resources needs to be considered to ensure programs reach enough change agents for sustainable change to occur (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).
- Making interventions more adaptable can involve working through existing platforms and programs, identifying low cost, effective mechanisms such as social media, and effectively engaging with communities (AusAID, 2011).

## Partnerships with CSOs, FBOs, support networks, coalitions and coordination among diverse groups need to be sustained beyond program cycles to increase the power, reach and scale of interventions

- Short-term approaches to partnerships with local organisations undermine long-term outcomes and sustainable impacts (DFAT, 2014).
- Support for ongoing capacity development and improved coordination between local partners will strengthen the technical and organisational capacities of local organisations across the Pacific (DFAT, 2015).
- FBOs and leaders have significant influence and reach across Pacific communities. They can be effective agents of social change at the community level. Where FBOs are excluded from EVAW



interventions there is a risk that they can become gate-keepers, prevent change and inhibit program effectiveness.

### **Training that involves a diverse range of professionals encourages cross-learning, information sharing to increase the strength of networks, and more coordinated responses to ending violence**

- Training is more effective if: more than one person from an organisation attends training workshops; specific groups are targeted for tailored training; training is undertaken by local trainers with appropriate skills and resources; and follow-up mentoring is incorporated.
- One-off training sessions have limited effectiveness (ICRW 2014; EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).

### **Programs focused on transforming gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment need multi-level and multi-sectoral engagement**

- To target: men, women, youth, adolescents, boys and girls, traditional leaders, religious leaders, communities and community organisations, government, public service institutions, and the private sector (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).

### **Best practice community-based approaches**

- Community-based approaches should: be tailored to and respect the local context and culture; build on and collaborate with existing programs addressing VAW; reach isolated communities; and work with grassroots and community-based partners (ICRW, 2014; DFAT, 2016).
- Approaches at the community level that engage both women and men can lead to greater acceptance and ownership of program interventions (DFAT, 2016).
- Campaigns focused on EVAWG need to be locally relevant and driven by the women's movement (where they exist), and communities.
- Small ad-hoc and externally imposed community awareness raising campaigns should not be equated with behaviour change (EVAW Roadmap Report consultations, 2016).

## **5 Gaps**

### **5.1 Data, research and evidence**

Despite significant research into VAW in the Pacific, there is a lack of available evidence and information about what does and does not work and why. Existing data and research is not easily accessible and evidence is often anecdotal. As a result, data is not systematically used to inform policy, programming and advocacy efforts, coordination is limited, and there is often duplication and/or gaps in activities.

Specific gaps in data, information and evidence include:

- Database of existing EVAW related activities and programs that includes information about implementing organisations, key stakeholders (government and non-government), geographic coverage, approaches and achievements.
- Quantitative and qualitative data on impacts, lessons, progress towards the achievement of outcomes, evidence of effective regional, sub-regional and national program approaches and strategies.

- Systematic data collection and analysis of cases of VAWG across service providers including the number of reported cases, types of violence, age of survivors, and perpetrator profiles.<sup>36</sup>
- Analysis of factors that contribute to increases (or decreases) in reported cases of VAW and longitudinal data on changes to prevalence rates.
- Data on availability and accessibility of health, police and justice services and crisis centres across Pacific countries.
- Research and data on VAWG from vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women and girls with disabilities, ethnic minorities, widows, migrants and LGBTQI people.
- Research on effective approaches to engaging with FBOs in Pacific countries.
- Accessible and user-friendly data, research and knowledge management information systems to support EVAW programming, coordination, advocacy and knowledge.
- Longitudinal evaluations of the prevalence of violence and changes in social norms.

## 5.2 Coordination

Coordination between governments, CSOs, community organisations, and development partners is a key gap limiting the effectiveness of initiatives addressing VAW. Resource constraints within PICs mean coordination and collaboration between partners and key stakeholders is critical to the sustainability of EVAW programming. Specific gaps in coordination include:

- Integrated regional and/or national level strategies and action plans for addressing VAW (both response and prevention) that provide a framework for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder EVAW approaches that engage stakeholders at all levels and increase linkages, partnerships and dialogue between government and civil society, including FBOs.
- Database of key stakeholders including networks and existing forums and platforms at regional and national levels to support coordination and learning.
- Database of existing bilateral and other development partners' support for service delivery and identification of entry-points for integrating EVAW activities through their law and justice, health and education sectoral programs.
- Integrated programs that address women's economic empowerment, EVAW and women and leadership and the core capacity needs of local organisations implementing programs across the three thematic areas (e.g. leadership skills, organisational development, M&E, budgeting and financial reporting).<sup>37</sup>

## 5.3 Implementation of legislation

A lack of government resource commitment for implementation of key EVAW policies and legislation at national levels has resulted in key gaps that include:

- Awareness and understanding of new legislation and related policies among service providers and law enforcement agencies.

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<sup>36</sup> Solomon Islands is the only country where service delivery data is being collected through the UN-Government joint program (UN Women consultation, October, 2016).

<sup>37</sup> Based on consultations and available literature, while programs such as Markets for Change and Safe Cities aim to support reductions in violence, there are currently no programs with a direct focus on the three *Pacific Women* thematic areas of Women's Economic Empowerment, EVAW and Women in Leadership.

- Government capacity in budgeting and planning for the implementation of legislation including the cost of implementing EAW commitments and gender-responsive budgeting.
- Human and financial resourcing of EAW commitments.
- Local stakeholder capacity for advocacy and monitoring the implementation of EAW commitments.
- Availability of data and evidence on VAWG to inform legislative reforms.

#### 5.4 Capacity, resourcing and workforce development

Organisational and technical capacity and investment in workforce development remains a significant gap impacting the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions focused on EAW. Specific gaps in capacity, resourcing and workforce development include:

- Minimum service standards and training for service providers (e.g. health, police, justice and social services) in essential services for survivors of violence including responding to cases of child sexual abuse and violence.
- Standardised operating procedures on responding to VAWG that align with international standards.
- Specialised training for local women's organisations and service providers in counselling, advocacy, women's rights-based approaches, and working with men and male perpetrators
- Strategies for addressing the long-term technical and financial resourcing needs and sustainability of key national partners implementing EAW-related activities. The availability of core funding for local organisations (e.g. in budgeting and financial management, M&E, advocacy, leadership, communication and project management), will strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of investments.

#### 5.5 Programs

Specific gaps related to EAW programs include:

- **Marginalised and vulnerable groups:** Mainstreaming of social inclusion considerations across EAW programs and activities, with targeted support for women and children survivors of violence from marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- **Geographic coverage across the region:** especially in the northern Pacific countries, with most regional and national EAW investments flowing to Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Support for services in more isolated, rural areas is low, even though more than half of PICs have predominantly rural populations (ADB, 2016).<sup>38</sup>
- **Prevention approaches designed to address social norms related to EAW:** including programs that:
  - Work with children, adolescents, parents and men and boys (including violent male perpetrators), to promote healthy relationships and behaviours and break the inter-generational cycle of violence.
  - Involve targeted engagement with FBOs and traditional leaders.
  - Engage and collaborate with media, arts/theatre groups, workplaces and local sporting clubs as key platforms for promoting non-violence and challenging discriminatory social norms.
  - Support health providers and schools to promote non-violence and detect cases of VAWG.

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<sup>38</sup> Only six Pacific Island countries have mostly urban populations, ADB, 2016.

- **Design and implementation of activities that require:**

- Use of data and evidence from prevalence studies and other research.
- Implementation approaches that encourage coordination, collaboration and information sharing between delivery partners.
- M&E frameworks to capture data on what does and does not work in relation to culture, geography, levels of development and the role of civil society in advocacy in different countries.
- Integration of replication/adaptation and scale-up strategies to explore the feasibility and validity of adapting approaches and models to other contexts.
- Integrated women's economic empowerment, EVAW and women in leadership programs.<sup>39</sup>
- Opportunities for all stakeholders to share information and learning through open forums and communities of practice on specific thematic issues related to EVAW.

## 6 Issues and Priorities in the Context of a Single Roadmap

This report provides one input into the *Pacific Women* Integrated Roadmap on Women's Leadership, Women's Economic Empowerment and Eliminating Violence against Women. It recognises the increased impact that can be gained from implementing an integrated approach to gender equality through designing interventions that recognise the intersecting needs, challenges and opportunities for women and attempt to address them holistically. This section incorporates the preceding analysis of what has been done in the region, what has worked, what has been less effective and what has been overlooked. It also builds on *Pacific Women's* current Program Design Document, Delivery Document and M&E Framework and seeks to assist *Pacific Women* to prioritise its investments and support activities, projects and programs that, together, will aggregate towards sustainable results over time.

### 6.1 Summary of key international and Pacific evidence

Ending VAW is a **long-term, complex process** that requires transformative change at the individual, relational and structural levels.

Integrated and coordinated prevention efforts need to directly **challenge discriminatory social norms and risk factors** for VAW. They also need to target men, women, boys and girls across different stages of the life-cycle.

An holistic, **multi-sectoral approach that targets and engages stakeholders and institutions at all levels** is required. Poor multi-sectoral coordination across service providers and collaboration between donors, development partners, and CSOs continues to limit the overall effectiveness and impact of investments, constraining already limited resources.

The **needs of survivors of violence from marginalised and vulnerable groups** have not been adequately addressed or integrated into programming. Services for survivors of VAWG are limited, particularly in rural and isolated areas.

Efforts need to support the **reform, implementation and enforcement of policy and legislation**. Laws remain that discriminate against and disadvantage women. Implementation and enforcement of EVAW-related legislative reforms have tended to be slow and ineffectual.

**Development of capacity of key sectors**, including health, police, justice and social services, to provide a coordinated response to VAWG is required, as organisational and technical capacity across governments, service providers and local organisations is varied. Investments need to increase the organisational and technical capacity of local organisations and engage FBOs, traditional leaders, the

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<sup>39</sup> Building on experience and learning from the Markets for Change program in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

media and other regional, national and local platforms. This will improve program reach, impact and sustainability.

Programs should adopt overlapping strategies and approaches that build on proven or promising global and regional best practices that are **adapted to national and regional priorities and the local context**.

Programs should **contribute to the evidence base** on what EAW interventions work or do not work in the Pacific context and why. Despite significant investments, there is minimal evidence, for example, of reduction in violence prevalence rates, and policy and legislative reforms. Research, evaluations and baseline surveys are often duplicated.

## 6.2 Emerging linkages, integration and innovation

Despite the challenges and barriers to EAWG in the Pacific, there is **momentum for change**. There are signs of progress, as well as promising approaches and opportunities that can be developed and further supported through *Pacific Women's* current and future investments at the regional and multi-country level. These include:

- **Improving the enabling environment in key sectors** including health, education, and law and justice that provide entry points for integrating EAW activities.
- Supporting the enactment of EAW related **legal reforms** including Family Protection Acts and Domestic Violence Laws in most PICs.
- Focusing on **violence prevention program approaches and models** that: involve community mobilisation around EAW; integrate women's economic empowerment and EAW; involve men and boys; target adolescents, youth, parents and children; work with and through FBOs; and use media and arts/theatre to convey anti-violence messaging.
- Supporting an increase in the number of **crisis centres and one-stop-shop centres** for survivors of VAW.
- Strengthening regional EAW **networks and coalitions**, including faith-based networks.
- Funding **regional training programs** targeting organisational and technical capacity development.
- Increasing the **body of knowledge and awareness** of: gender equality and the impacts of VAW; the prevalence and types of violence in Pacific countries; legislative and policy constraints to EAW; and barriers to mainstreaming gender equality across Pacific governments.

## 6.3 Priority issues

### 6.3.1 Priority Area 1: Support for coordinated, multi-sectoral implementation of EAW related legislative reforms

There is opportunity for *Pacific Women* to provide holistic, multi-sectoral support for the implementation of EAW-related legal reforms in multiple Pacific countries. Specifically, *Pacific Women* could work with national and local governments, service providers, regional organisations, bilateral sectoral programs and national and local organisations to provide coordinated support for:

- Strengthening awareness, understanding and enforcement of legislation at all levels.
- Increasing government capacity to: collect, analyse and use data on VAW; undertake gender responsive budgeting and planning; and monitor implementation of legislation.
- Supporting coordination across key service providers and strengthening systems, processes and procedural guidelines.



- Facilitating linkages and dialogue between key stakeholders at national and local levels and building the monitoring and advocacy skills of local organisations.
- Identifying key gaps in legislation to support knowledge of policy and build the evidence base on effective approaches to improving the implementation of legal reforms for further replication or adaptation.

### 6.3.2 Priority Area 2: Support for data collection, research collaboration and knowledge management

There is opportunity for *Pacific Women* to support improved data collection, research collaboration and knowledge management through:

- Establishing a regional knowledge hub that acts as a clearing house for surveys, studies, evaluations and research and support coordination on future research ideas and approaches.
- Commissioning research to inform EVAW programming, including follow-up research on family health and safety studies to assess progress towards addressing recommendations, and research on VAWG in relation to marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- Supporting longitudinal studies on the prevalence of VAWG and effective prevention approaches in Pacific contexts.
- Developing guidance for better M&E tools and approaches, ensuring that *Pacific Women's* M&E system is able to effectively capture data on what does and does not work across different cultures, geographic locations, development settings. This includes ensuring that M&E data is disaggregated to capture information on specific groups (including adolescents, children and marginalised groups), as well as data on the role of civil society in different countries.
- Developing knowledge products that are easily accessible to a range of stakeholders and convening forums and/or communities of practice on specific themes related to EVAW.
- Strengthening the capacity of local research institutions to undertake EVAW research and data collection.

### 6.3.3 Priority Area 3: Support for capacity development and coordinated service delivery

*Pacific Women* can support service providers, specifically in the health, police, and law and justice sectors, to build their knowledge and skills to enable them to:

- effectively understand and address the drivers of gender inequality and social norms that perpetuate violence;
- respond to the needs of survivors of violence through a human rights and gender transformative approach;
- provide quality treatment and care that adheres to international best practice;
- coordinate and follow integrated referral systems; and
- undertake outreach and support survivors of violence access to support services.

Likewise, local CSOs implementing EVAW programs require technical skills in gender and women's empowerment, as well as organisational capacities (in business planning and budgeting, financial reporting, M&E and reporting skills, management and leadership skills, and advocacy and communication skills).

*Pacific Women* could prioritise:

- Improving the knowledge, attitude and skills of service providers to provide quality, coordinated care and support for women and children survivors of violence.
- Supporting coordinated data collection and analysis of cases of VAWG across service providers.

- Addressing technical, leadership and organisational skills of local women's organisations through coordinated capacity development support.
- Continuing to support regional platforms, networks and coalitions to increase collaboration, information sharing and linkages.
- Investing in regional platforms and networks to develop the advocacy and lobbying skills of CSOs.
- Supporting the long-term sustainability of local women's organisations and crisis centres.
- Resourcing the establishment of one-stop-shops where there is sufficient population density for confidentiality protocols to be maintained.

#### 6.3.4 Priority Area 4: Support to address discriminatory social norms

As identified by stakeholders as a key issue, there is opportunity for *Pacific Women* to build on existing prevention programs, as well as support new approaches, to eliminate discriminatory social norms in Pacific contexts.

Priority focus areas and approaches include support for:

- Development of prevention frameworks to guide national coordination and programming.
- Community mobilisation and small group education initiatives that target: different age groups, particularly men and boys (including male perpetrators), adolescents and youth; and networks of FBOs, creative artists, local sporting clubs and social media.
- Cultural assets/strengths and social capital approaches to prevention (rather than deficit/needs approaches), that engage traditional leaders, FBOs and communities.
- Child protection initiatives that adopt whole-of school approaches involving teachers, school management, students, parents, communities and local government.
- Integrated women's economic empowerment, ERAW and women and leadership programs that adopt a holistic approach to changing social norms (such as the CARE life-skills model, Voices for Change approach or IMAGE program).
- Engagement with employers and businesses as a key entry point for changing discriminatory social norms.

## 7 Conclusion

This report provides a summary of global evidence and good practice for promoting ERAW. It also seeks to examine and reflect upon good practice and lessons learned from Pacific programming to date as well as to identify remaining critical gaps and possible entry points for support by *Pacific Women* and other interested stakeholders. This analysis does not seek to be comprehensive as many programs in the Pacific are insufficiently documented and/or have not been systematically evaluated. The analysis is based on the literature available, stakeholder consultations and the authors' own experiences in the Pacific. Overall, the findings show that, while some good practice has been evidenced through individual activities in certain countries, support has tended to be ad hoc, inconsistent and unable to aggregate into meaningful, sustainable changes. To address this, global good practice suggests a more comprehensive framework of assistance to be systematically supported over the long-term. Complementing such efforts, individual successful interventions need to be reviewed, analysed and examined for adaptation and scaling up. Impact will depend on a sustained engagement that harnesses the capacities and commitment of Pacific women, men and institutions over the long-term.

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## Annex 1 – Summary Consultation Reports

**(Confidential – not to be published)**

### Non-government organisations

#### Summary information

- Bedrock of prevention is a robust response system. This is a duty of care issue – if awareness is increased and social norms perpetuating violence are challenged then need to be able to provide quality services (justice, health, legal) and systems need to be functioning effectively.
- Strong women’s movement is critical to change in policy, legislation, implementation and gender inequality. Pacific needs solidarity through coalitions and networks to address gender inequality.
- Do no harm: many organisations picking up VAW and working unethically despite commitment to addressing VAW; disempower women if come from area of no knowledge or experience; and if don’t know what to do then don’t do anything.
- Local context: too many ‘gender specialists’ funded by donors; expats need to listen to locals and understand the local context and the lived experience of women in a Pacific country; feminism must be driven by local women, not externally driven; and context is critical.
- Coalitions: women’s rights organisations create and sustain change; supporting women’s rights orgs, especially those working to tackle VAWG; to make change and build strong and inclusive social movements is the most effective mechanism for ensuring sustainable change in the lives of women and girls; and addressing backlash from changes to social norms.
- Workforce development: investment in workforce development at all levels is the foundation of EVAWG response and prevention and this needs to exist before it is possible to impact sustainable change to social norms. The Our Watch ‘Change the Story framework’ backs this up as being critical to achieving change.
- There is not one simple intervention that will prevent/address violence – need to address individual, system and societal level through multi-sectoral, holistic approaches with a range of strategies that target all stakeholders through interventions at all levels.
- Need to ensure long-term funding for response and prevention and not take a project-focused approach – there is little gain in funding projects and then pulling out; currently a lot of disconnected and small scale work on the ground.
- Critically important to address social norms that are impacting high rates of violence against women in the Pacific. Elements of a successful program that transforms social norms emphasises positive norms and promotes public debate and deliberation – individuals need to need to see/hear from positive role models or influencers amongst their peers. The benefits of changed behaviour need to be publicised and promoted.
- Need to engage men and boys and invest in male perpetrator programs but avoid investing in stand-alone men and boy programs.
- Knowledge management and coordination needs to be improved, including mapping existing training available and improved linkages between donor programs.
- DFAT bilateral sector programs need to work with *Pacific Women* to mainstream gender equality standards and commitments into design, implementation and monitoring to promote non-violence and shared, inclusive decision-making.

- Need to engage with faith-based organisations and identify faith leaders who can champion gender equality; it only takes one priest to say ‘don’t need women or child rights as Jesus died for our rights’ to undo all the work achieved in communities.
- More effort required to secure government commitment to EVAWG; donors and development partners need to meaningfully engage Pacific governments and align their investments to national plans and emphasise the important role that civil society plays in national development.
- UN Essential Services for Women and Girls Subjected to Violence should be rolled out across the Pacific and integrated into government training.
- LGBTQI women need to be consulted in a meaningful way. This can be done by working with an ally identified by the LBT community or through an LBT organisation/network. Safety and security of the LBT women must always be prioritised and be at the core of any engagement with the communities.
- Disabilities: young women and girls with disabilities are still being left behind and there is a lack of knowledge and services for psycho-social disabilities (more research needed).

## Detailed information

### Current and past initiatives / approaches to respond to issues

- Too much focus has been on training and this is not necessarily the answer, it’s the application of the training. The gap is often not knowledge, its supervision and implementation of training.
- The Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre (FWCC) Male Advocates for Women’s Rights program is a proven model, but may not suit all violent men, as some men are inherently violent.
- The SASA! Model, supported by UN Women in the Pacific, offers a potentially wider (community based) remedy/program.
- Programs that draw on the strengths of the underlying culture of a country are a proven model, with examples available.
- Pacific Judicial Development program: linked into family violence and youth justice, successfully got police, lawyers, other service deliverers together, identified two aligned programs and matched them up.
- Male Mentoring in Rarotonga: A Traditional Pasifika Approach Supporting Men to Have a Better Life: mentoring program for convicted male perpetrators of violence. Still a pilot program and small but shows promise despite some risks to sustainability (depends on commitment of one person).
- SAFENET – Kiribati and Solomon Islands – joined all parties together under an MoU – DFAT have funded support for this in some areas.
- Preventing VAWG with People with Disabilities (UN Women): grassroots project implemented by Pacific Disability Forum, Fiji Disabled People’s Association, FWCC and RRRT – involves training in counselling, referrals, policy, legislation and disability data collection for advocacy toolkits.
- Some examples of effective prevention strategies include community mobilisation, organisational development initiatives in workplaces, sporting clubs and FBOs (where address gender inequality internally and then they work with broader clients). Caveats around quality, contextualisation to country and population group.

### Observations on gaps

- **Geographic isolation:** inhibits access to services (health, justice) e.g. may not even be police or health services in some areas. Donor emphasis has been on lower Pacific rather than outer islands closer to the equator, Micronesia has not been included enough.



- **Resourcing:** lack of resourcing for police and justice sector; Pacific Island Forum policy development and implementation;
- **Knowledge-sharing:** lack of understanding of the various EVAWG activities in the Pacific leads to: potential for over-delivery or gaps; lack of sharing of existing baseline surveys and follow-up surveys; and the use of these to support activities. Often new and duplicitous baseline reviews are conducted for activities which is wasteful and constrains already limited resources in the Pacific.
- **Coordination:** lack of coordination among development partners and donors.
- **Policy:** Pacific Island Forum lacks funding for policy development and implementation; legislative reform and implementation not being driven by countries.
- **Male perpetrator programs:** lack of programs that address the attitudes and behaviours of violent men; programs for violent men are almost non-existent.
- **Training:** inconsistent delivery of training for police, agencies and NGOs to meet the provisions of the recently enacted VAW and Family Protection legislation in the Pacific training is often inappropriate to learning styles and needs of recipients and focuses on external (imported perceptions of what is required).
- **Social norms:** lack of investment in changing beliefs and social norms around culture, religion and tradition in the region.
- **Lack of economic empowerment:** often one of the key reasons women survivors of violence return to their husbands.
- **Access to Justice:** lack of financing to access justice; lack of female magistrates; lack of local court capacity; delays in processing of cases; mediation and compensation favoured over formal justice; and police lack understanding of women's rights
- **Governments:** Still a lack of recognition that VAW is a development issue and inadequate funding for services. EVAWG still not seen as a priority in the health sector even though HIV and AIDS is linked to VAW.
- **Disabilities:** there is a need for training in specialised counselling for people with disabilities and more research led by women with disabilities to increase skills and increase access to people with disabilities.

### Recommendations from stakeholders

- Any **prevention work needs to have been very well thought through** and include robust evaluations to understand what works and identify unintended impacts.
- **Prevention approaches should be multi-sector and include multiple interventions sustained over a period of time.** For example, can't just do a schools' program and expect to impact levels of violence.
- Invest in **locally designed and owned action research on prevention** of VAWG. For example – invest in action research by community-based researchers particularly from communities of women living with disabilities or LGBTQI. There is limited research in the Pacific on these communities, by these communities, on issues that matter to them.
- **Target response and prevention in isolated areas** – both small island states and geographically isolated communities – this requires a community development approach rather than a systems approach. A community development approach integrates response and prevention and would involve engagement of local leaders, faith leaders and build on strengths. See SASA! Raising Voices / Tostan (FGM at village level) as examples of strengths based community mobilisation model (SASA! currently being piloted in PNG).

- **Core funding:** should be provided by local government but many countries don't have the funding for this so rely on donors and there is no way to avoid this, it just needs to happen.
- **Positive cultural approach:** approaches to EAW should leverage local cultural values to shift view that human rights is an imposed foreign concept.
- **Campaigns:** need to be very careful about campaigns as there is often some serious backlash and negative press. Campaigns are global and often not applicable to context and can set back the EAWG agenda rather than unite partners around the issues.
- **Social Norms:** successful program that transforms social norms emphasise positive norms and promotes public debate and deliberation – individuals need to need to see/hear from positive role models or influencers amongst their peers. The benefits of changed behaviour need to be publicised and promoted.
- *Pacific Women* and government **co-funding and resourcing** of investments is needed – not necessarily 'matching' but partnerships that allocate resources.
- Encourage **coalitions and multi-stakeholder consortiums** that have programs that have multiple and intersecting circles of influence.
- **Sports:** can be an effective advocacy tool to advance gender equality. There is some emerging work currently underway through the Fiji Rugby Union that uses rugby to raise awareness on EAW and women in shared decision-making. This is creating small shifts within the union.
- **LGBTQI:** need to engage more meaningfully with LGBTQI communities and draw on work they have completed or are already working on – there are limited resources, networks and group are time poor and are often already over-committed.
- **Disabilities:** consider ways to support involvement of young women and girls in programs and cultural life (arts, dance and sports) and how to access women and girls with disabilities in remote and isolated communities.
- **Training:** scale-up regional training on prevention and gender equality or scale-up with a view to integrating into government training. Map existing training available, identify best training to be delivered and increase coordination on training. This requires people to allow others to use their training (no gate-keeping). *Pacific Women* could map, reference and describe what training delivers, the cost, benefits and outcomes – would need to be kept up to date and maintained.
- **Targeting youth for prevention programs:** and working with media, advertising agencies, sporting clubs on representation of women and girls and gender identities.
- **Roll-out UN Essential Services training:** to ensure performance measures for justice sector including basic policing processes and courts. There is currently no single package of training that covers this. Need to consolidate existing training and create a library of available training that can be accessed, identify best training and best people to deliver.
- **Scale-up FWCC Male Advocates for Women's Rights Program and expand to include male perpetrator elements:** however, must not be at the expense of other programs focusing on providing services for women and needs to be owned by the women's movement who have the influence, passion and commitment. Need to find solid role models and ambassadors. Avoid investing in stand-alone program working with just men and boys.
- Support on-going **research and knowledge** building and innovation including research on VAWG with disabilities in the Pacific.
- Develop a **monitoring, accountability, evaluation and learning framework.**
- Need to: **target young men and include violence prevention in school curriculums;** understanding consent; healthy relationships; and 'safer families' to build safe healthy environments.

- **Costing policy implementation:** working with government to cost out implementation would be helpful – currently no idea of cost. This would be a form of gender responsive budgeting – more and more interest in this in PNG. PNG gender budget is small compared to other investments; costing out implementation of policy is a space no one else is in and would be beneficial area to invest in.
- Provide **sustained and long term core funding** to organisations and programs that have shown transformative results over time.

## Pacific governments

### Summary information

- Women's machinery feel disconnected to the *Pacific Women* program.
- Donors and development partners need to meaningfully engage Pacific governments and align their investments to national plans.
- Better coordination amongst development partners and donors is strongly encouraged; the focus should not just be on civil society.
- Too many consultants fly in and fly out without meaningfully engaging with the women's machinery. Staff at the ministry also need their capacity strengthened – the focus should not just be on NGOs. Capacity strengthening programs need to be implemented in a meaningful and sustainably.
- Governments have very little resources for gender and development programs; it would be helpful if *Pacific Women* could support the women's machinery behind the scenes so that it can increase its influence to secure improved political will and public funding.
- There is a lack of capacity building opportunities for service providers, both CSOs and government.

### Detailed information

#### Observations on gaps

- Lack of direct support at the community level – CSOs have not expanded services to rural (outer-island) areas which has led to limited awareness and access to support services for these communities.
- Lack of capacity building initiatives through the Pacific Gender Adviser
- Lack of consistent training/workshops on organisational and strategic planning for organisations representing women's interests.

#### Recommendations from stakeholders

- The *Pacific Women* country plans need to coordinate and better align to the governments' national plan of action on women.
- Encourage improved coordination and sharing of resources, knowledge, and skills between government, NGO and international non-government organisations services, particularly in remote areas and hard to reach communities.
- Support government to integrate EAW, women's economic empowerment and women in leadership into its other sectors.
- Regional knowledge sharing forums.
- Multi-country attachment programs (between varying organisations, both government and CSOs).

- Regional success story sharing (through varying mediums) of *Pacific Women* projects.
- Invest in community awareness programs and educational EAW activities i.e. targeting schools and curriculum.
- Invest in youth awareness activities and programs.
- Support extension services to rural communities including outer islands where there are no crisis centres.
- Invest in national surveys for all three outcome areas under *Pacific Women*.
- Support M&E workshops for women's organisations.

## Regional agencies

### Summary information

- Eleven PICs now have domestic violence or family protection legislation. Although that legislation now needs to be implemented, it provides a framework for prevention and protection for victims of VAW.
- Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) has successfully supported the enabling environment through technical support tailored to each individual country context, Country Focal Officers and supporting advocacy for human rights and EAW.
- Training for stakeholders in legislation is important however full implementation of legislation requires change in the beliefs of individuals responsible for implementation.
- RRRT is developing access to justice programs for individual Pacific island states. These are still in their development phase and are tailor made to the individual country's legislative framework.
- A schools' human rights curriculum is an approach that can challenge and stop the pervasive gender stereotypes that schools are currently reinforcing. There are a range of existing school curricula developed by Equitas, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International that RRRT is adapting for application in the Pacific context.
- Community-level human rights education programs can empower women to assert their rights and hold governments – national and local – accountable to implement their human rights commitments and obligations.
- Global evidence however shows that awareness is a necessary but insufficient condition for behaviour change. Large-scale, multi-strategy behaviour change campaigns can work in the Pacific when these are well-designed and sufficiently resourced. Social change programs need proper investment (money and time), and specialised expertise.
- Knowledge products – using modern, online and downloadable media formats – of how Pacific countries have approached women's participation, empowerment; or developing services for survivors of VAW need to be developed and disseminated. The days of heavy reports, manuals and huge toolkits are coming to an end. There is a growing appetite / demands for more user-friendly and focused information, teaching and learning tools.

### Detailed information

#### Current and past initiatives /approaches to respond to issues

RRRT had a different level of involvement in each of the legislation processes depending on the country's need and requirements. Where RRRT was heavily involved, the evaluation found that RRRT's support was vital to creating an enabling environment to discuss, draft and pass the legislation. This was due to RRRT's expertise and provision of technical support which was tailored to

each individual country context. Further, the support provided by RRRT to government task forces and working groups developing and advocating for this legislation was highly effective, as was the consultation process that took place with CSOs, government, traditional power-holders at the community level and communities. A national dialogue and consultation process smoothed passage through Parliament.

RRRT's work through its Country Focal Officer architecture has been successful in mainstreaming human rights within Pacific island governments. The Country Focal Officers are responsive to the needs of the individual governments and able to tailor their work to the individual country context. In certain countries, this has meant that VAW has been a prominent part of the Country Focal Officers work because of that country's priorities and agenda. For example, Country Focal Officers carry out training on VAW, are part of human rights task force that discuss and set priorities on VAW and provide TA on some of the work done by governments on VAW. A presence in-country, backed by regional expertise and cross country learning and sharing, overcomes the inherent limitations of a fly-in-fly-out technical assistance and capacity building delivery model. Although there are varying levels of capacity and involvement of Country Focal Officers, the architecture is highly valued and overall effective in sustaining momentum of action for change.

The 2016 RRRT evaluation found that the previous paralegal program was successful in having a long-term effect on changing mind-set and behaviours and creating a group of individuals within countries that were able to advocate for human rights and EAW. This is particularly pronounced in certain countries where women's NGOs are made up of individuals who came through RRRT's paralegal programme. The investment of time by RRRT in sustained training (i.e. a number of weeks over a few years) meant that individuals were trained on the same material over a period of time, leading to changes in beliefs and attitudes which are often difficult to capture with one training.

RRRT did a comprehensive training of judges, magistrates, lawyers and frontline service providers in the Solomon Islands in March 2016. This training was used to discuss the different roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders under the Act. Although the training was successful, the full implementation of the family protection Act will require changes in beliefs from individuals who have been working in a particular way for many years. For example, police officers will need to understand that they have new powers under the act, such as issuing police safety notices which may go against the way in which they have been working (i.e. by promoting reconciliation between parties). This will take years to change, but it is important to engage with these groups so that these attitudes start to change. RRRT is looking to replicate and scale-up this training to other PICs, as well as considering how to best engage and do follow up training with the relevant stakeholders.

RRRT draws from a pool of former judges and senior magistrates to provide capacity building to the higher echelons of the judiciary. Peers influence peers and drawing from this pool of RRRT associates is a highly effective strategy.

RRRT has also learned many lessons on effective human rights advocacy through experience lobbying for domestic violence legislation. A part of what makes the Pacific People Advancing Change program effective is the move away from workshop-based advocacy training to providing tailored and targeted remote and on-site mentoring and coaching to advocacy coalitions. Also important has been the provision of access to small grants to advance advocacy work and sustain campaign momentum. The strengthening and effective participation of civil society is essential to eliminate VAW and to advance women's human rights. Pacific People Advancing Change is currently only available to 4 PICs – Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga. RRRT is working with development partners to scale up and replicate advocacy capacity building to all PICs.

RRRT has started this work in Kiribati, successfully integrating gender, non-discrimination and human rights units into the Year 5 and Year 6 national syllabus. While currently unfunded, RRRT intends to develop a regional model curriculum, teachers' Guide and teachers' training program that can be adapted at the national level. Learning from international best practice, RRRT also intends to pilot a Whole of School Approach – an approach which goes beyond the classroom and into all aspects of



school life, in which both schools and young people become powerful catalysts for change in their wider communities.

RRRT has been successful in building a cadre of human rights champions across the Pacific. This has been done through people participating in RRRT regional programs, including for example previous legal literacy project and PDLP (law school).

### Observations on gaps

Although governments are at different stages of development of implementation plans for family protection legislation, there is a gap in legislation implementation planning and stakeholder understanding of roles and responsibilities.

There is a gap in EVAW primary prevention in the Pacific. This may be addressed through for example, schools' curriculum, and large-scale, multi-strategy social and behaviour change campaigns, implemented across country borders.

More work needs to be done to consolidate and build upon the work of faith-based organisations nationally and regionally, to promote message and practice of gender equality and women's human rights. Useful examples include Uniting World and House of Sarah.

The current gender equality work does not sufficiently support the work of nascent LGBTQI movement and support women who are further marginalised because of their sexual identity or sexual orientation.

There is a gap in working with the media to address women's rights and equality and challenge negative stereotypes about women across all three thematic areas.

### Recommendations from stakeholders

Consider investing in follow-up on implementing recommendations from the national EVAW research studies conducted using the WHO methodology.

More investment in institutional strengthening is required as only SPC works with PICTs to support gender mainstreaming in governments. However, the ability to make a meaningful impact is almost impossible given the size of the SPC team and the requirements of member governments. DFAT should invest its resources in making DFATs bilateral support to member countries more gender sensitive. The areas that DFAT supports in governance, trade, justice etc. are intrinsic to the effective implementation of the focus areas of *Pacific Women*.

There is a need to develop legislation implementation plans and adequate budgeting for legislation implementation.

There is a to develop the capacity of CSOs to monitor the work of governments, particularly on resource allocation and service provision under these acts.

A regional or multi-country project could therefore work with individual ministries responsible for implementation of the act to convene a consultation with relevant stakeholders and then provide technical assistance and support to drafting an implementation plan, setting milestones and mechanisms to monitor implementation. In the early days of lobbying for domestic violence legislation, RRRT developed model laws and drafting instructions booklets to guide countries develop best practice, comprehensive legislation. A similar approach could be applied to providing technical assistance resources to guide implementation.

Providing regional platforms, including South-South Exchange platforms for sharing and drawing lessons on policy implementation would be helpful to understand what models work.

Following on from RRRT's work on family protection legislation, a similar regional project could be developed to review and amend family law legislation across the Pacific. This would include issues around marriage, divorce, maintenance and custody. As these issues are often linked to family

violence, having strong legislation on these would protect women and enable them to have recourse to judicial remedies should they wish to separate from their partners.

## Donors and international development partners

### Summary information

A range of support currently provided by Australian Government, other bilateral donors and UN agencies at the regional and bilateral level for supporting law and justice services in PICs including improving policing capacity to address GBV.

Some key lessons on what works including importance of supporting coordination and integrated services and ensuring regional and national trainings are contextual and tailored to national level policies and legislation.

Violence prevalence studies in Pacific impacted policy but Pacific government investment in EAW has been very limited and not clear what will catalyse/incentivise change in government investment.

Capacity is extremely low in the Pacific and there is limited government budget support for services. Services are not well integrated and there is a lack of coordination within and between agencies; disconnect between legislation and how to implement legislation.

### Detailed information

#### Current and past initiatives / approaches to respond to issues

A number of examples of promising programs including: Save the Children social protection program in Vanuatu; Live and Learn; World Vision Channels of Hope (successful as community owned and contextual); and Oxfam Safe Families (capacity building approach to prevention and response and includes coalitions, lobbying to government for increased services for survivors of violence).

#### Observations on gaps

- Capacity is extremely low in the Pacific and there is limited budget support for services
- Lack of coordination between law and justice agencies and a lack of procedures and integrated services available
- Disconnect between legislation and knowledge of how to implement legislation and lack of understanding of Family Protection Act and used in limited way
- Lack of procedures and integrated services and lack of government presence and funding
- Lack of awareness of impact of VAWG and large gap in prevention activities for EAW and knowledge of what works in Pacific contexts
- Large gap in efforts to address violence against children and children with disabilities are 3-4 times more vulnerable to violence and psycho-social disability 10 times more likely to be subjected to violence. Disabilities are still highly. Has been a lack of commitment to developing capacity in disability inclusion in the Pacific – building capacity in this area no more expensive than other capacity development but requires commitment.
- Still significant gaps in all aspects of service provision for people with disabilities including health, reproductive health, education, social services in Pacific.

#### Recommendations from stakeholders

- EAW services need to be: physically accessible; engage local Disabled Peoples' Organisations; reach and target people with disabilities to understand barriers; appropriate and address the

needs of people with disabilities; recognise the specific barriers of people with disabilities accessing services.

- Need to apply same principles as gender inclusion
- Mainstreaming disability inclusion through education sector (infrastructure, resources and materials etc.) – this is one of the easier sectors.
- Need to have a multi-disciplinary approach to EVAWG to drive national policy dialogue.
- Need to work with existing partners and ensure investments support bilateral programs.
- Consider an information exchange to provide a regional platform for sharing ideas and identifying representation at global forums.
- Need to test ideas; identify lessons from Pacific to be taken to the global level; bring together posts in Pacific and identify gaps in regional policy.
- Civil Society grants are resource intensive and not necessarily the best approach.
- Need to leverage other sectors such as health to services to improve coordination and provide integrated services for survivors of VAW. Model integrated services at the regional/multi-country level for replication at the national level.
- Family Protection Acts across the Pacific are almost carbon copies of each other – there is room for research and evaluation of what has worked and comparative data across countries.
- Consider approaches such as those in Partners for Prevention program. For example, could roll out Stepping Stones.

## Annex 2 – Summary of National EVAW Legislation

Country	Legislation title and year of enactment	Status
Cook Islands	Family Protection Bill	Drafted
Fiji	Family Law Act (2003), Family Law Act Amendment (2012), Domestic Violence Decree (2009)	Enacted
FSM (National)	None	None
FSM (Kosrae State)	Family Protection Act (2014), Domestic Violence Act (2012)	Enacted
FSM (Chuuk State)	None	None
FSM (Pohnpei State)	Family Protection Bill (2012)	Pending
Kiribati	Family Peace Act for Domestic Violence (2014)	Enacted
Marshall Is	Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act (2011)	Enacted
Nauru	None	None
Niue	Family Protection Bill	Drafted
Palau	Family Protection Act (2012)	Enacted
Papua New Guinea	Family Protection Bill (2013)	Unknown
Samoa	Family Safety Act (2013)	Enacted
Solomon Islands	Family Protection Act (2014)	Enacted
Tonga	Family Protection Act (2013)	Enacted
Tuvalu	Family Protection, Domestic Violence Act (2014)	Enacted
Vanuatu	Family Protection Act (2008)	Enacted

Sources: RRRT, *Pacific Women* Draft Counselling Review Report

## Annex 3 – Summary of Women Survivors of Violence who Never Seek Assistance

