



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

*Excelling Together for the People of the Pacific*



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

*40th Anniversary* 1971-2011



***Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration  
A political tool for addressing gender Inequalities in the  
pacific ?***





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The Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum met from 27 to 30 August 2012 in Rarotonga and brought new determination and invigorated commitment to efforts to lift the status of women in the Pacific and empower them to be active participants in economic, political and social life



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- CEDAW ratified by 14 FICs
- 3.9 % Women in pacific legislature
- Prevalence level studies WHO Methodology completed in 4 countries :- Kiribati 68%, . RMI 51% , Samoa 46% ( 2006), Solomon Is 64%, others PNG 65.2%, Tonga 40% Tuvalu 45%, Vanuatu 60%
- Domestic violence law enacted in (4) Vanuatu, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau
- MDG 5 7 FICs on track, FSM and PNG off- track and four mixed



Priority Areas	Policy / Action	Indicators of success
<b>Gender Responsive Policies and Programs</b>	Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) into legislative and statutory reforms and policy initiatives across government Production and use of sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform government policies and programs; Strengthen consultative mechanisms with civil society groups, including women’s advocacy groups on key budget and policy issues	CEDAW Compliance law # of budget submission by women’s org
<b>Women’s leadership and decision making</b>	Adopt measures, including temporary special measures Advocate for increased representation of women in private sector and local level governance boards and committees	<input type="checkbox"/> % of seats held by women in parliament <input type="checkbox"/> % of seats held by women in local government <input type="checkbox"/> % of women in senior management in public sector
<b>Ending violence against women</b>	Implement progressively a package of essential services (protection, health, counselling, legal) for women and girls Enact and implement legislation regarding sexual and gender based violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of incident police reports on domestic violence <input type="checkbox"/> Number of women accessing support services for victims of violence
<b>Women’s economic empowerment</b>	Remove barriers to women’s employment and participation in the formal and informal sectors Implement equal employment opportunity and gender equality measures in public sector employment, including State Owned Enterprises and statutory boards, Improve the facilities and governance of local produce markets Target support to women entrepreneurs in the formal and informal sectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic needs poverty rate <input type="checkbox"/> Labor force participation ration of women and men <input type="checkbox"/> National retirement scheme ratio of women and men <input type="checkbox"/> Share of women in the paid employment in the non agricultural sector <input type="checkbox"/> Ration of women average wage to men average wage
<b>Sexual reproductive and health Services</b>	Ensure reproductive health (including family planning) education, awareness and service programs receive adequate funding support;	<input type="checkbox"/> Maternal mortality ratio <input type="checkbox"/> Contraceptive prevalence rate <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents birth rate <input type="checkbox"/> Births attended by skilled health worker
<b>Gender parity in education</b>	Encourage gender parity in informal, primary, secondary and tertiary education and training opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender parity index in primary, secondary and tertiary education <input type="checkbox"/> Government scholarship ratio between men and women



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## Beijing +20:

Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories



- 2  
THREE UNIVERSAL  
PRIMARY EDUCATION
- 4  
THREE  
MORTALITY
- 6  
THREE POLITICAL  
LEADERSHIP AND  
GOVERNANCE
- 8  
THREE STRATEGIES FOR  
DEVELOPMENT





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2015

- Gender Policies 9 countries , draft policies/ plans 4 countries
- CEDAW ratified by 14 FICs , Palau signatory ; CEDAW in legislation ( Samoa, RMI, Cook Is)
- From 2012 3.9% to now 5 % Women in pacific legislature ; 10% TSM Adopted in Samoa, 38% Vanuatu Municipal Council
- Domestic violence law enacted in (5) Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tonga, PNG ( total 9 countries)
- MDG 5 7( on track ), FSM and PNG off track and 4 (mixed) -same



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- Women highly vulnerable to hardships and poverty particularly in the context of rising food and fuel price, reduction of remittances, low levels of social protection, slow pace of women's labor participation, access to employment opportunities, decent work
- Gender parity in primary education improving however issues affecting enrolments and retention rates
- Access to justice for survivors of violence a real concern, little data on prosecution rates and social services
- Gender norms, social , political and economic factors contribute or limit women's political representation at all levels
- Human and financial constraints to implement gender policies
- Data improving however capacity and use of data needs to be strengthened.



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## Key Message 1

“ we call for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women’s human rights, and for the incorporation of gender perspectives across the post-2015 development framework with targets and indicators that capture the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls, particularly in small island developing states;” CSW 59<sup>th</sup> Session  
Hon Minister Baklai Temengil Pacific Islands Forum Regional Statement

- Gender fully prioritized in National Development Plans, goals, targets, indicators
- Investments in gender equality, national budgets and development partners
- Gender mainstreaming using a ‘whole of government approach”





## • Key Message 2

**Violence against women a common gender inequality issue affecting the region is a development issue:-** costing the government money

UN Secretary-General study on Violence Against Women found that VAW prevent women from fully participating in their communities economically. Other research has shown that VAW is also a drain on limited resources for social services, justice systems and health-care agencies

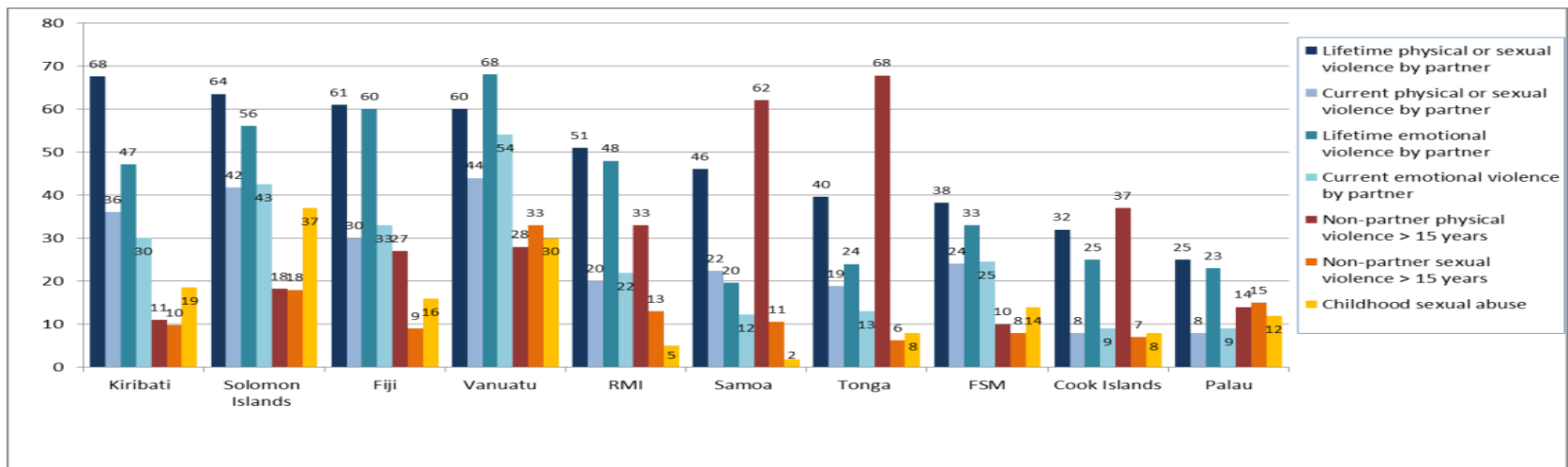
- 2009 Australia National Council to Reduce Violence & KPMG estimated that in the year 2021-22 VAW would cost A\$15.6 billion if there were no interventions to address the issue (\$7.5b on pain and suffering; \$3.5b on consumption related costs; \$1.2b on production and the rest on admin and other costs).
- 2003 Reserve Bank of Fiji research: VAW cost the economy between FJD300-500million/year (in direct medical and services costs and productivity costs). About 12% of GDP that year.
- 2003 US Centre for Disease Control estimated that VAW cost the government US\$5.8billion/yr. (\$4.8b on direct medical & health care and 1.8\$b due to productivity costs).



- Key Message 3

Data on the status of gender inequalities and progress towards addressing gender gaps critical for inclusive policies

Prevalence of Violence against Women, by type (percent; Ages 14-49 and 18-49)





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# Highest level Accountability and governance mechanism to track gender equality progress Is key

