

Adapting Tuna-dependent Pacific Island Communities and Economies to Climate Change

ANNEX 08.a: Gender Assessment

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BPA	Beijing Platform of Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CI	Conservation International
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FHH	Female Headed Households
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HOH	Head of Household
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rates
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PIFWLM	Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

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1 Executive Summary

The fisheries sector is largely considered to be a male domain, with the role of women in the sector generally confined to support roles (e.g., post-harvest). Women's roles are often invisible, yet they can be quite significant and contribute to sustaining the fishing families and community, protecting natural resources and local food security.

This assessment provides a high-level overview of gendered roles, opportunities, and barriers within the context of coastal FAD fisheries in the Pacific region. This assessment provides context and analysis of the power dynamics, relative vulnerabilities, and varying roles and responsibilities of men and women in the communities that will be involved in, and impacted by, Programme activities in each participating Pacific Island country.

The assessment highlights five targeted gender equality regional objectives for the Programme's gender approach, noting that these will become more specific at country level.

- Provide a pathway for greater recognition of the roles both women and men play in the coastal FAD fishing context through training and equal remuneration with men doing the same roles.
- Measure benefits and empowerment (personal viability) that men and women receive working in the Programme encouraging gender inclusion to be a 'norm'. For example, fostering working partnerships between men and women fishers.
- Provide opportunities to improve the working conditions of women selling fish in unhealthy and unsanitary conditions, including investments that support institutional strengthening and improving women's access to productive assets related to the sector. These include several options for support, for example: shade, cold storage, lighting, handwashing facilities.
- Provide basic equipment to maintain shelf life of fish and provide training to women on the safe and effective processing and marketing of tuna.
- Provide an increased supply of FAD fish at an affordable price for urban and peri-urban communities. The market will determine the price.

These regional objectives provide enough flexibility to be adapted to the individual country local realities and nuances. Each country will identify what their priorities and opportunities are to advance national gender equality goals in the context of this programme.

2 Background and Introduction

2.1 Background and objectives

The Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan is a necessary safeguard requirement by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Under the GCF Regional Tuna Programme: Adapting Tuna-dependent Pacific Island Communities and Economies to Climate Change, the gender assessment explores how women and men are currently engaged in the value chain of the fisheries sector in the Pacific and the barriers and the foreseeable impacts to gender roles in transferring fishing efforts from coral reefs to offshore tuna. The shift in fishing efforts from coral reefs to tuna fishing will require the deployment and monitoring of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) by national/provincial fishery officers in coastal and relatively deep water, and small-scale fishers going further out to sea to fish. This change has come about due to a decline in the availability of reef fish for human consumption due to the degradation of coral reefs coupled with increasing human population in the Pacific Islands region, and all of this is exacerbated by subsequent climatic changes and storm events.

Over the last few decades there has been a large shift towards using FADs to attract tuna and other pelagic fish, and this has become one of the major fishing modalities worldwide. FADs are artificial structures placed at sea to attract fish and make them easier to catch. It is expected that the use of FADs can help increase the supply of fish for food security to local fishers and growing coastal communities and reduce fishing pressure on reefs. The Programme seeks to increase the sustainability of healthy fish supply for local consumption to decrease imports of unhealthy and inexpensive alternatives such as high-fat meats (e.g., lamb and mutton flaps, turkey tails etc.) and is also environmentally supportive.

While there are many benefits to the use of FADs, they do not come without challenges and FADs will have impacts on fishing, marketing, and consumption of the catch. Because of this, and the gendered roles and responsibilities of women and men across the domestic tuna fishery supply chains, particularly the value chain of small-scale tuna fisheries, implementation of this Programme may also impact men and women differently across the full regional geography. The increased risks from this programme will be reduced through risk avoidance or mitigating/minimizing activities. The programme also provides an opportunity to change the narrative about gender inequality in the fishing sector and support women's economic empowerment in this space by providing greater recognition of women's roles in fisheries in the Pacific Islands.

Gender equality is about equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities for women and men, girls and boys. It does not suggest that women and men are the same. Gender inequality is a result of unequal power distribution between women and men, exacerbated by ongoing discrimination, weaknesses in laws, policies and institutions, and social relations that normalise inequality. Experience over recent decades shows that gender equality, economic growth and development are mutually reinforcing and significantly correlated. This acknowledges that one cannot occur effectively without the other.

While fisheries are generally considered a male domain, the Pacific Islands region has made significant progress in this arena in both regional (currently the leading regional fisheries management agencies in the Pacific such as the Forum Fisheries Agency and the WCPFC are led by women) and national scales (<https://fame.spc.int/publications/bulletins/womeninfisheries/39>). This Gender Assessment demonstrates that both women and men are involved in the sector at different levels of the product value chain and identifies areas to promote gender equality.

This report provides a high-level overview of gendered roles, opportunities, and barriers within the fisheries sector in the Pacific Islands region. This will provide context and regional-level analysis of the power dynamics, relative vulnerabilities, and varying roles and responsibilities of men and

women in each participating Pacific Island country. Understanding the social nuances in each context is important, and while this assessment includes short country-specific overviews, it could not go into too much detail at the national level given that specific sites (where FADs will be placed) have not yet been identified. The social and cultural contexts of each country and each community are unique, and we did not want to homogenize at the national level. Therefore, we have built into the GAP (Activity 1.1.1) a process for collecting and documenting gender roles at the community level, where the FADs will be deployed, and where support across the value chain (including targeted post-harvest support to women) will be prioritized. This assessment also contains an annex describing country-level details which are meant to help the national gender and safeguard focal points ensure a tailored approach to national-level activities.

It is expected that national-level implementation will be further developed and tailored to each context. The Programme will strive to be gender responsive by addressing identified gender issues through a well-defined Gender Action Plan (GAP) that will be fully integrated into Programme design and implementation. The Gender Action Plan also aligns with the safeguard plans for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Accountability and Grievance Redress Mechanism, as well as the Environmental & Social Management Plan.

4.1 Methodology and scope of the assessment

To develop this gender assessment and highlight local realities and characteristics of the Pacific Island Region, a mixed method approach was undertaken. Note that this assessment is focussed on gender impacts specific to the proposed Programme, rather than a broader consideration of gender dimensions in general.

Further, given the specific data limitations in terms of gender characteristics in some Pacific Island Countries (PICs), (no territories are participating in the Programme) an assessment based on available gender related information from each targeted Pacific Island has been considered in the context of FAD fishing. Note that it is important to recognise that each PIC have their own realities and nuances, and this is only captured broadly in the current gender assessment. A short summary highlighting each country's context forms part of this assessment to provide a glimpse into the major gender related nuances of each Pacific Island country. When country projects are identified at the next phase of the GCF FAD Programme, the gender dimensions will be integrated into the project document from the start of the design phase onwards. These will be tailored according to the country nuances and current gender mainstreaming efforts.

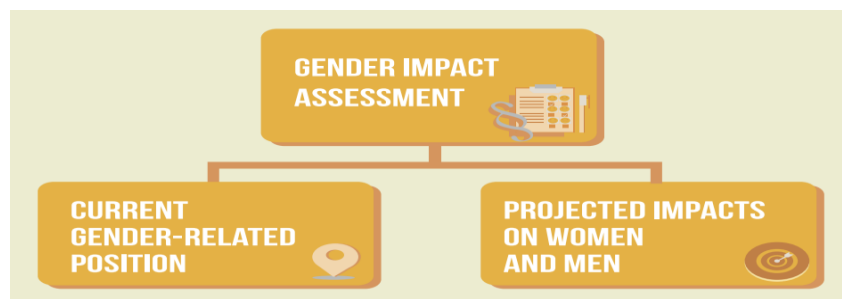
The methods used for this gender assessment included:

- Literature review of available statistics and information including national censuses, International Labor Organization documents, Household Income and Expenditure surveys, Health and Education Statistics and other available data;
- Review of regional and national gender policy and strategy documents;
- Interviews and consultations at the national level with a selection of fishing supply chain stakeholders. That is: fisher folk, fish sellers in stalls and markets; consumers of fish who purchase from local markets and impacted local stakeholders from affected communities. This included fishing communities from 13 PICs (the RMI chose not to participate in Component A) with a total of approximately 190 + interviewees; and
- Consideration of other recent studies and projects which may offer a glimpse into local realities (referenced in annex).

National consultants were recruited from each of the PICs to conduct community consultations using an approved survey to understand the gender dimensions in the fishery sector of their country. A line of questioning with a combination of qualitative and quantitative questions was developed to provide

a glimpse into national gender dimensions for the consideration of FADs. The information from the questionnaires and interviews have been analysed and reported herein in line with above project objectives in Chapter 6 Country Gender Profiles.

Figure 1: Gender Impact Assessment Structure



This Gender Assessment provides information on general gender dimensions inherent to the Pacific Islands Region and where available the local islands proximate to the proposed FAD project sites. The Assessment then details the potential risks and impacts of the Fish Aggregating Device in the Programme. Finally, an overview of primary gender-related gaps and opportunities, as well as project-specific recommendations to manage and/or prevent the negative impacts (and build on positive ones) are provided.

3 Gender and Development Issues in the Fisheries Sector

It is pertinent to commence this section highlighting the keynote speech by the recently elected Prime Minister of Samoa, (Fiame Mata'afa) at the first Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting (PIFWLM) in 2022. She noted that to pursue gender equality across the Pacific, it's time for leaders "to move beyond rhetoric", it is important to focus on the process required to strengthen outcomes for women and girls, leaving no one behind.

4.2 International policies

There are several international agreements, commitments and overarching principles that seek to improve gender equity and equality across all facets of development in the Pacific. Momentum is occurring to recognize women's role in the fishing industry, but more needs to be done. These include:

- Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948-Gender Equality was made part of international human rights recognized that,

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and that "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, ... birth or other status."

- Sustainable Development Goals outlines 17 global objectives to be achieved by 2030.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
- Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2005 to 2015);
- Pacific Plan;



- 42nd Pacific Island Forum commitment

4.3 Current stance on gender equality for the Pacific Island Region

Many Pacific Island countries have adopted policies aimed at working towards greater gender equality, encouraged by several international agreements and commitments. These include: the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2005 to 2015); the Pacific Plan; the 42nd Pacific Island Forum commitment to increase the representation of women in legislatures and decision making; and the 40th Pacific Island Forum commitment to eradicate sexual and gender based violence.¹

In 2012, PICs governments committed to the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration that stands to lift the status of women in the Pacific and empower women and girls as active participants in economic, political, and social life. These include commitments towards responsive programmes and policies to advocate for:

- I. Improved production and use of sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform government policies and programmes.
- II. Increased representation of women in decision making as part of private and local and national governance (e.g., advocacy groups, political parties, school boards and market committees).
- III. Economic empowerment through improved access and equal opportunity to employment opportunities and a reduction in discriminatory pay conditions for women and improved facilities for local produce markets to increase profitability and efficiency and support for women entrepreneurs.
- IV. Ending violence against women through implementation of essential services (protection, health, counselling, legal) for women and girls who are survivors of violence, enact legislation regarding sexual and gender-based violence and impose appropriate penalties for perpetrators of violence.
- V. Encourage education on reproductive health and awareness of programmes and gender parity in informal, primary, secondary, and tertiary education and training.

Despite these commitments, overall progress in PICs towards gender equality is slow. Many studies and reports have been undertaken about women's participation in the tuna industry highlighting impacts, costs and benefits, constraints, and opportunities. However, it appears that little has been done to implement the recommendations of these studies and reports² given that in all relevant PICs, women's role in the fishing industry remains obscure, even invisible. There is some progress towards improved education for girls and some positive initiatives to address violence against women,

¹ [Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 30 August 2012, Rarotonga, Cook Islands – Forum Sec](#)

² Gender Issues in the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry 2006 [Gender issues in P. I. Tuna Industries 1_0.pdf \(ffa.int\)](#)

however there is considerable room for improving outcomes in such areas. Gender inequality poses a high cost on personal, social, and economic outcomes for Pacific peoples and there are significant benefits if greater gender equality is acquired. Actions to encourage gender equality as part of this Programme, contribute to cultivating a more prosperous and secure environment for communities in the Pacific.

4.4 Characteristics of Pacific Island Communities in Gender Equality

Gender equality in Pacific Island countries is reportedly limited by several factors including representation in parliament and public decision making, legislation that protects women and girls against violence, lack of women's rights over their sexual and reproductive health (e.g., birth control and abortion) and fewer opportunities for economic independence (e.g., access to public and private finance) and customary delineation of domestic roles and responsibilities.

3.3.1 Literacy and Education

Education Levels and Access

In general, most PICs are on track to achieve targets for universal primary education and gender equality in enrolments to primary and secondary school (see *Figure 2: Gross Enrolment Rates and Gender Parity Indexes in Primary and Secondary Education for PICs*). Interestingly, boys are more likely to drop out of school compared to girls, and enrolments to university are also higher in females compared to males. There is still a strong inclination for girls to choose courses that are more female dominant, and girls are often under-represented in scientific, vocational and technical fields.³ Although advances in educational opportunities have been demonstrated in PICs, this has not yet resulted in a marked increase in women's economic empowerment through employment or entrepreneurship.⁴

In the context of this Programme, an **opportunity** lies in developing or increasing focused support to women in areas such as adding value to fish through cooking, barbecuing or smoking fish which can also be an entry point for women into formal roles in the fishing industry. This would require training, mentorship through small businesses incubators, and entry funding.

Women remain largely tied to traditional roles, and the majority of those who have professional careers carry these out in addition to their traditional home and community roles. This can place a considerable time constraint on those with professional roles, limiting the opportunity to advance into senior roles.

In the context of this Programme, a **risk** therefore stems from women not being able to engage in project activities actively or meaningfully due to the great burden of other priorities. At the national level, gender approaches should take this into account and find times, locations, strategies that work best for women in the fish processing & marketing sphere.

Figure 2: Gross Enrolment Rates and Gender Parity Indexes in Primary and Secondary Education for PICs

³ [Review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015 \(spc.int\)](#)

⁴ PIFS and SPC, Addressing Inequalities: the Case of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, Issues Paper for the Small Islands Developing States Conference 2013

Country	Year	Primary Gross Enrolment Rate Male	Primary Gross Enrolment Rate Female	GPI- Primary	Year	Secondary Gross Enrolment Rate Male	Secondary Gross Enrolment Rate Female	GPI- Secondary
Cook Islands	2014	103.0	103.0	100.0	2014	JS 99.0	JS 100.0	JS 101.0
						SS 64.0	SS 78.0	SS 122.0
FSM	2010	96.0	98.1	102.0	2010	72.5	79.9	110.0
Fiji	2013	109.0	110.0	101.0	2013	–	–	111.0
Kiribati	2011	89.0	90.0	101.0	2011	JS 79.0	JS 93.0	JS 118
						SS 38.0	SS 52.0	SS 137.0
RMI	2010	95.0	93.9	99.0	2010	57.1	63.5	111.0
Nauru	2013	106.6	100.4	94.0	2013	77.0	81.2	106.0
Niue	2010	100.0	100.0	100.0	2013	113.4	97.5	86.0
Palau	2011	120.2	117.5	98.0	2011	67.9	73.4	108.0
PNG	2009	89.9	80.8	90.0	2013	23.1	16.5	71.0
Samoa	2012	102.0	105.0	103.0	2012	67.0	76.0	113.0
Tuvalu	2011	101.0	101.0	100.0	2011	41.0	63.0	154.0
Vanuatu	2011	120.4	116.7	97.0	2011	39.1	42.8	110.0

Source: National Minimum Development Indicators database, SPC; Cook Islands: Cook Islands 2014 Statistics Report from <http://www.education.gov.ck/attachments/article/46/2014%20Education%20Statistics%20Report.pdf>; FSM 2010 Census Summary; RMI Ministry of Education; Nauru and Palau derived from Ministry of Education Annual Statistics Reports and SDD population estimates.
Note: JS = Junior Secondary; SS = Senior Secondary.

3.3.2 Women's Health and Nutrition

A few PICs have made substantial advances in women's health, yet in other countries there remains a lot to be done. Many of the health challenges are avoidable. These challenges can vary because of both biological and gender-related differences. In many societies in the Pacific, women are disadvantaged by discrimination rooted in sociocultural factors and subsequently, women's health suffers. Non-communicable diseases are a significant threat to women's health due to higher susceptibility and because women are more likely to undertake carer roles for others with non-communicable diseases.⁵ Heart-disease and stroke, diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease continue to be the most common causes of death among Pacific Island women. Subsequently, many PICs have not achieved the health Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets.

Furthermore, underlying socio-cultural circumstances are major contributors to maternal and newborn deaths, low antenatal coverage, high rates of home birth, low contraceptive use (<33% in some PICs), and high rates of unplanned pregnancy. And yet, improved maternal health; including antenatal care coverage and attendance at births by trained personnel, can result in a decrease in maternal mortality in PICs. However, accessibility to these services is often difficult in those countries with dispersed populations and those living on remote islands or in mountainous areas.⁶ In 2020, it was estimated that 75% of nurses and 48% of doctors are women (SPC 2022), offering the opportunity for improved health outcomes for women's health issues in the future. Women health workers generally provide a more comfortable and credible environment to support women's and family health issues, due to both cultural norms as well as through having a sound understanding on what other women experience.

In the context of this Programme, there is good **opportunity** to influence diet towards tuna and other fish taken in association with FADs and away from imported or other less healthy foods. Given that women are usually responsible for household meals, women would be a key audience for these messages.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ [Review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015 \(spc.int\)](#)

3.3.3 Vulnerability and Poverty

The Pacific Island countries face significant challenges which contribute to their growing vulnerability and the increased poverty experienced across the region. The following are some of the key challenges relating to vulnerability and poverty:

- Geographical location:
- Climate Change:
- Economic concerns:

Women and children are at a greater risk of poverty in PICs, particularly in urban areas where women's subsistence agriculture is no longer viable as a survival measure. Social protection programmes have been introduced in some countries; however, slow economic growth limits the effect of such measures.⁷ Socially disadvantaged groups and those who are discriminated against, often have limited rights to resources. As this inequality and vulnerability is normalised, these populations often overlook their rights and do not seek support from institutions and services that are available.⁸

3.3.4 Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Related Dimensions

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse

Violence against women and girls in PICs is amongst the highest in the world. Global evidence demonstrates that gender inequality is a root cause of violence against women and girls. In countries where prevalence studies have been undertaken, up to 68% of women in the Pacific have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by a partner in their life (see *Figure 3: Prevalence and Patterns of Violence Against Women in PIC*).⁹ Men's power controls over women and girls, traditional gender roles and social norms as well as male sexual entitlement are drivers of violence in PICs. In many cases, women in PICs who experience domestic violence believe it is 'normal' and that it is their responsibility to 'behave' in a way that does not anger their partner.¹⁰ In some communities' women may accept this way of thinking more than their male partners.

A high level of alcohol consumption in males and childhood experience of, and exposure to violence are also factors that reinforce violence against women and girls in PICs.¹¹ While some countries and/or communities are matrilineal, this does not deter the level of violence against women.

As a result of domestic violence, sexual harassment and trafficking women and girls, females are often more likely to be exposed to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV is increasing in some PICs. HIV is considered a low-level epidemic in countries such as Kiribati according to the 2015 Global AIDS report.¹²

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Pacific handbook for gender equity and social inclusion in coastal fisheries and aquaculture [gender equity and social inclusion handbook \(spc.int\)](#)

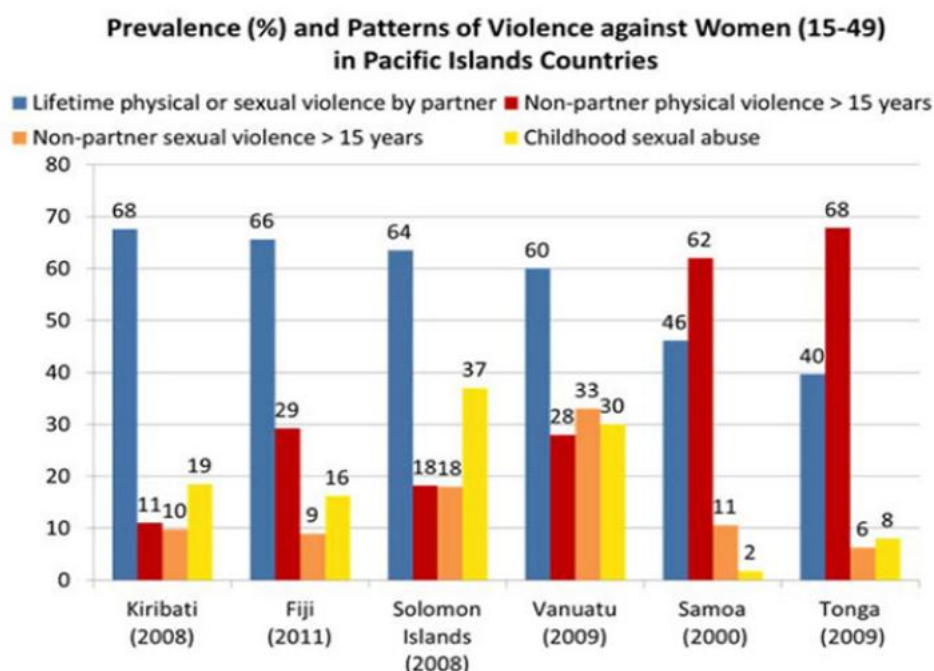
⁹ [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls | UN Women – Asia-Pacific](#)

¹⁰ Pacific handbook for gender equity and social inclusion in coastal fisheries and aquaculture [gender equity and social inclusion handbook \(spc.int\)](#)

¹¹ UN Women Asia-Pacific, Violence against women and girls in South Tarawa Kiribati, Findings from a 2019 baseline study.

¹² MoH, 'Global AIDS Response Progress: Kiribati Country Progress Report 2015', viewed on 15 February 2023, <http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/KIR_narrative_report_2015.pdf>

Figure 3: Prevalence and Patterns of Violence Against Women in PIC¹³



In the context of this Programme, there is a **risk** that activities could contribute to, or exacerbate GBV during the course of implementation. Not necessarily because FAD fishing is known to be a high risk GBV activity, but because of the contextual/background/existing high rates of GBV in the fisheries sector more broadly. At the same time, there is an **opportunity** within this programme to build awareness about GBV, women's/girl's rights, and resources that exist to help support survivors.

3.3.5 Employment opportunities and labour force participation

Overview of Employment and Gender Constraints

As described earlier, advances in educational opportunities have not resulted in a marked increase in women's economic empowerment through employment or entrepreneurship.¹⁴ Gender-based segregation and occupational streaming in vocational training and occupations tends to be gender stereotypical, which can limit both women's and men's access to certain jobs. Women are often siloed into gendered positions of employment and household roles such as preparing food and caring for family and children which limits their participation in the labour force.

Employment Status and Labour Force Participation

Aside from reports from Solomon Islands and Fiji, there is very little information on employment opportunities specifically for women in the tuna industry. Overall, there is a lack of job opportunities for women in paid employment, including within the fisheries sector. Most women occupy lower-level positions in the public sector and the number of women who hold senior public service positions is very gradually increasing.¹⁵ The majority of women participate in the informal economy which limits them to low earnings and no protection. Women are most frequently home-based and reliant on subsistence agriculture, marketing agricultural products and petty trading.¹⁶ Whilst this is the case, the fishing industry remains a predominantly male dominated area. Section 4 discusses the gender

¹³ [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls | UN Women – Asia-Pacific](#)

¹⁴ [Review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015 \(spc.int\)](#)

¹⁵ PIFS and SPC, Addressing Inequalities: the Case of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, Issues Paper for the Small Islands Developing States Conference 2013

¹⁶ International Finance Corporation, Economic Opportunities for Women in the Pacific, 2012

dimensions related to tuna fishing and how utilising FADs can increase the potential for greater food security for communities. Roles of women in FADs tend to be overlooked, however while women rarely go out on the fishing boats, they have a significant role in post-harvest handling and marketing of the catch.

While some efforts are made to improve the safety and facilities for women vendors in marketplaces, further efforts are needed to improve access to productive resources, financial literacy and safe working conditions in post-harvest handling and sales of fish for women in rural and remote areas and for young women and women with disabilities.

In the context of this programme, and as described in more detail in the following section, the highly disaggregated labour force in FAD fisheries presents a **risk** that women will not be in a position to directly benefit from the FADs. At the same time, the programme could present an **opportunity** to support and encourage women to enter into the FAD fishery if they choose.

4 Gender and Fish Aggregating Devices in the Pacific Region

4.5 Brief overview of fish aggregating devices in the Pacific Region

FADs have the capability of improving food security through increased availability and accessibility to localized aquatic animal protein, increasing the reliability of income from fishing and creating employment in coastal areas through fish trading and processing. Over the last 10 years, FADs for both artisanal and commercial/industrial fisheries have proliferated in the Pacific region.

While FADs are already located across Pacific Island seas, these are in varying conditions ranging from effective to washed up on reefs. The proposed Programme seeks to disseminate further FADs across various strategic locations to provide fishing locations and food to communities within PICs including the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The proposed Programme seeks to develop more effective FADs that are secure, functional, and more accessible to local fishermen. The project also seeks to facilitate the catch of quality non-reef fish to supplement the current nutritional sources in each location and reduce fishing pressure on reefs.

Primary stakeholders and target beneficiaries include:

1. Coastal fishers, processors, traders and their families, and communities
2. Government institutions responsible for the administration, management, and development of coastal fisheries at local, district and national levels.

These stakeholders are important to consider with the implementation of the regional tuna programme in and around the participating Pacific Island Countries.

4.6 Gender in the fisheries sector in the Pacific

Women play a crucial role in value chains of fisheries sectors. This is particularly true in industrial fishing particularly in processing factories, in the field of seafood sales as well as management of the fisheries sector. These and the relationship between sustainable development, fisheries, and the crucial role of women in different areas of fishing activities are reflected in various international conventions, agreements, and policies. Examples of these international agreements can include:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) – considered the Constitution of the Sea.
- International Health Regulations (2005).
- Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy.

Gender dimensions shapes the differential identities of women and men, their norms, roles and responsibilities. It influences people's (unequal) access to resources and decision making and people's agency. Fisheries are generally considered a male domain.

Although FADs are thought to greatly improve the availability of fish to the entire community, FADs can only be directly used by those who have access to boats (mostly men), therefore the benefits are not always equitably shared. Women's roles in fisheries—along the value chain, are in sustaining the fishing families and community through shore-based activities such as processing, coastal harvesting, selling, and trading. In a Gender Mainstreaming study¹⁷ done by WWF in Fiji's offshore tuna industry, gender participation of women in processing and post-harvesting at the Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO) in Levuka, Fiji was 33% more than the participation of men. While this is commercial fishing it is also reflected in other countries such as Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu whereby women have a key role in shore-based activities and coastal harvesting¹⁸.

Women face persistent gender-based discrimination and marginalization in the tuna value chain of the fisheries sector that is often defined by diverse social context. Women, youth, and other marginalised groups often have little to no say regarding decisions around the use of natural resources and which may impact their ability to gain benefits from marine resources equitably.¹⁹

In commercial fisheries, women are most commonly overrepresented in vulnerable categories of employment. They generally lack tenure security, access to productive assets and market opportunities and decent work conditions as shown by the women selling fish along the roadside often in dusty unhealthy conditions. They also have limited access to services like healthcare, childcare, credits, insurance, legal aid, and capacity building. Women are also often disproportionately impacted by sexual violence, prejudices, and other forms of harassment.

Across the Pacific, women are less represented in fisheries' associations, cooperatives, and unions. They rarely have a say in the decisions that govern their fisheries and other matters that affect their lives and livelihoods. Lack of quantitative data further undermines women's role in fisheries.

This Programme thus presents opportunities to create sustained change within the fisheries sectors of these countries through the gender-sensitive (perhaps beyond tuna). For example, the designation of a national GESI focal point in each country, housed within the Fisheries Ministry and supported by 2 full time GESI officers from the PMU, could significantly contribute to institutional strengthening on gender, including policy implementation.

Further, a primary approach of this programme (and the project level activities most directly impacting women) is to focus on capacity building & training in post-harvest methods for processing & marketing fish caught around FADs and in MSMEs. This will include basic supplies and equipment to apply post-harvest methods (e.g., freezers, smokers/dryers, bottling) and safe/clean post-harvest workplaces (such as shade). Additional productive assets are outside the scope of this project.

¹⁷ WWF, Gender Mainstreaming in Fiji's Offshore Tuna Industry, 2021

¹⁸ FAO Factsheet, Sustainable Fish Value Chains for Small Island Developing States (SVC4SIDS), 2017

¹⁹ Pacific handbook for gender equity and social inclusion in coastal fisheries and aquaculture [gender equity and social inclusion handbook \(spc.int\)](https://gender-equity-and-social-inclusion-handbook.spc.int/)

4.2.1 Fish Aggregating Device investments can overlook women's needs and priorities.

Gendered Roles in Fisheries in The Pacific

"Fishing" tends to be narrowly viewed as only catching fish at sea, which often leaves women out of sight in the industry. While offshore fishing activities are predominantly carried out by men in the Pacific, women are involved in supportive activities in some forms of fishing such as the post-harvest processing of fish and some smaller-scale styles of fishing i.e. 'kai' fishing in Fiji and shoreline net fishing in Tonga, and it is estimated that women carry out almost 50 percent of fishing activities that are crucial to Pacific livelihoods. Their role in the sector in the Pacific is much higher than the international average and yet women's contributions to the sector have not been well documented. A reason is that women mainly work in the less visible fishing roles, such as: shoreline fishing and picking shellfish; mending nets and processing and selling fish, doing the accounting; and roles in processing, and marketing¹.

Women working in the fishery sector can face poor working conditions and environments, lacking job and even personal security. Some roles are either under or unpaid making them invisible within the industry. This oversight not only creates a gender gap in wages but excludes them from opportunities to advance in the industry, having less access than men to resources such as technology, loans, insurance, industry networks and information. Women's traditional household and childcare responsibilities further limits what they can do in the industry both timewise and knowledge related.

Historically women's needs and priorities and women in the fishing sector have had limited access to services such as healthcare, childcare, credits, insurance and legal aid.

Gendered Roles in Market-Stalls for The Sale of Fish from FADS

There are safety and security issues related to selling fish in many markets across the project countries. The health of women, who are the primary sellers of fish, may be compromised while selling tuna at the market, and while travelling to and from the market. Selling locations may be in less than hygienic locations at the roadside and the women are subjected to dust, fumes and other risks such as harassment. Women may be at increased risk of infection (waterborne and food-borne illnesses) while handling the fish or have their safety compromised at markets and while travelling. Women and girls in PICs are often disproportionately impacted by sexual violence, abuse and harassment and prejudice in the context of this project, there is not a risk that women will be exposed to increased safety and security issues when selling tuna (vs. other fish), however there is an **opportunity** to improve the safety and security of women fish sellers through capacity building and awareness about support services.

Gendered Governance of Local Fisheries Resources and Fishing Grounds

Governance controls access to natural resources, local tenure arrangements, levels of education, wealth, and cultural values. Policies and procedures need to be in place to ensure the entire population benefits from fisheries and aquaculture. Women have limited roles in governance for local fisheries and fishing grounds, making it difficult for women to advocate for safe working conditions, health protection and programmes and policies to prevent sexual abuse and harassment.

In the context of this programme, there is a **risk** that women's specific needs and priorities may not be well represented in project governance, while there is also an **opportunity** within this programme to increase women's representation and interests in local fisheries governance.

4.2.2 Implementing Fish Aggregating Devices can promote gender equality.

Projects that seek to strengthen the role of women in skilled roles in the fishing industry help to address the gender inequality gap in the industry, and as highlighted above, there are both risks and opportunities in this programme. FAD programmes and projects need to integrate gender dimensions to maximise the opportunities available and enable greater sustainability of efforts to improve community food security and nutrition.

The following Table summarises the Risks & Opportunities that are likely from the Regional Tuna Programme as noted above. Note that these impacts are largely positive and can encourage greater gender equality in the fishing industry.

Table 1: Gender-related risks and opportunities to support gender equality from the Outcomes of GCF FAD Tuna Fishing Projects

Gender Impact	Recommended actions/approaches at the national level	Likelihood	Impact Level on project
Potential gender-related Risks			
Women not being able to actively or meaningfully engage in project activities due the great burden of other (gendered) priorities.	At the national level, gender approaches should take this into account and find times, locations, strategies that work best for women in the fish processing & marketing sphere. This particularly important in capacity building/training activities of the project.	High	High
Project activities could contribute to, or exacerbate, GBV during the course of implementation.	At the national level, GESI focal points should assess each project activity for potential to increase or exacerbate GBV and provide for mitigation where needed. Additionally, GBV support services should be mapped and provided to communities as a resource for care. The programme and national level AGMs should also be designed to be prepared for GBV-related grievances (see AGRM plan for more details).	Low; while GBV is prevalent in the fishery sector, project specific activities do not pose a significant likelihood of increasing GBV.	Low
Women will not be in a position to directly benefit (as fishers) from the FADs due to the highly disaggregated labour force in FAD fisheries.	Project activities should be designed to be open and accepting to anyone who wants to attend; for example, if a woman fisher wants to attend a FAD training, she should be made to feel welcome.	High	Low; while women will likely not benefit directly (as fishers) from the FADs, other activities have been incorporat

			ed to support their benefit in processing & marketing.
Women's specific needs and priorities may not be well represented in project governance	Targets have been set to help encourage women's representation at key governance spaces and incorporating of gender-specific considerations will be incorporated into workplans, communications, and other project-related activities.	Medium	Low
Positive impacts/opportunities to advance gender equity			
Opportunity for fish sellers to increase the hygiene and safety of fish, and/or through adding value (e.g., BBQ or smoking fish)	Fish sellers trained in post-harvest handling to maintain shelf life of tuna.		
Opportunity to influence diet towards tuna and other FAD fish and away from imported or other less healthy foods.	Given that women are usually responsible for household meals, women would be a key audience for these messages.		
Opportunity within this programme to build awareness about GBV, women's/girl's rights, and resources that exist to help support survivors	Community engagement should include links to GBV resources and clarity on women/girls' rights.		
Opportunity to support and encourage women to enter into the FAD fishery if they choose.	Ensure that FAD training is open and welcoming to all. Further it is primarily women who handle post-harvest processing so trainings with this focus will be geared towards women in the fishery.		
Opportunity to improve the safety and security of women fish sellers	Tailored capacity building and awareness about safety and security for fish sellers (e.g., GBV support services)		

From this standpoint each country can prioritise specific activities or approaches that consider local realities, resources and mainstream gender dimensions into these to enhance gender equality. The following table indicates negative impacts of the programme are few and which can be managed through enforcement and communication.

5 Recommended Strategies for Regional and Country Level Gender Equality Approach

There are several agendas behind the impetus to encourage Gender Equality in Fisheries. For example, fisheries organisation's view gender equality as a pathway to increase healthy fish stocks and improve community nutrition (instrumental); development agencies view gender equality as a core value or principle (inherent); fishers see gender equality either as a greater source of reliable labour and skills (if gender sensitised) or as a threat to men's roles and masculinity (if not gender sensitised). Obviously increasing gender equality needs to be managed and may vary by country and even location. These different viewpoints and agendas will most effectively be applied through a partnership and multidiscipline approach. This requires working collaboratively to bring together the business case and the altruistic case (Mangubhai et al 2022).

5.1 Recommended processes and activities to advance Gender Equality in fisheries

Several recommendations have been highlighted throughout this Assessment to encourage greater access to healthy tuna stocks for men and women in communities. It is important to emphasise the approach and related processes required to strengthen gender equality in the fishing sector. Furthermore, Gender and climate change also need to be interwoven into all activities and changes and benefits measured intermittently through country defined indicators. Some cross-cutting activities are as follows:

Upskilling women and men to improve fish products and services

- Opportunities for training provided to both men and women in various aspects of fishing including *gender dimensions*; *fisheries extension activities*; *safety dimensions* in all phases of the fish supply chain and conservation measures.
- Provide basic supplies and training to maintain shelf life of fish and provide training to women on the processing and marketing of tuna. This includes targeted capacity building on post-harvest techniques for women and men, with an emphasis on trainings for women as this post-harvest dimension of the fishery is mainly done by women
- Provide an increased supply of FAD tuna fish at an affordable price for all households.
- Provide training for communities to better understand and thus manage effects of climate change on coral reefs, reef fish and in communities. For example, consuming more tuna instead of reef fish.
- Identify and encourage activities that women and men and collective communities undertake to manage and conserve reef fish resources, particularly the health of the reef.

Gender Sensitisation – building an awareness

- Upskilling of project stakeholders in Gender and GBV dimensions to encourage greater awareness of men and women's roles in the industry, behavioural changes towards better family nutrition, and encourage participation of women in non-traditional work opportunities.
- Identify the gender related issues that can be faced by men and women in the industry and develop training to minimise risks of these issues. This can include safety risks, health concerns, GBV and SEAH issues and other behavioural risks. These are included in activity 1.1.1 in the GAP.
- Build greater awareness of women's contribution to family livelihoods and food security through roles in the fishing industry including in the artisanal tuna fishery sector.

Improve communication and collaboration

- Link project AGRM process to other national service support providers through greater collaboration between relevant agencies. This can help prevent as well as provide greater support to victims of GBV and SEAH project-related risks. A more detailed mechanism for reporting and responding to these types of incidents is outlined in the AGRM. Further both SPC and CI have Senior level staff who are trained in how to handle cases involving GBV and SEAH.

Understanding and encouraging Role diversity

- Men and women do not have to do the same roles in fishing to promote gender equality. However, it is important that they have a choice.
- Inclusion of a training for greater recognition of the roles both women and men play in the fishing industry, both coastal and offshore fishing, through training, accreditation and commensurate remuneration between women and men doing the same roles.
- Encourage women to pursue careers in the fisheries sector through scholarships, recruitment encouragement and improved workplace conditions – for all stages of the supply chain.
- Actively implement inclusive approaches to engaging FAD fishers and those along the value chain.
- Provide resources and training for both men and women in fisheries development and management such as leadership training, extension services and conservation activities.
- Peer mentoring for relevant emerging women leaders in the tuna fishery sector will encourage their participation in non-traditional roles.

Monitor improvements in gender awareness and equality

- Improve sex disaggregated industry data which provides greater recognition of women's roles in the industry both directly (fishing and post-harvest processing) and indirectly (nutrition aspects).
- Monitor developing shifts in knowledge and skills developed by women and men relating to fish catches and how they are using these to strengthen nutrition and food security outcomes for families within communities. This involves three core indicators including,
 - a. # of men & women who participate in project activities,
 - b. # of women & men who receive direct benefits,
 - c. # of plans/strategies/plans that integrate gender considerations
- Measure benefits and empowerment (personal viability) that men and women receive working in the project encouraging gender inclusion to be a 'norm'. For example, fostering working partnerships between men and women fishers. This can include leadership training and peer mentoring for emerging women leaders in the tuna fishery sector.

These priorities, strategies and recommendations will be tailored in each country, as resources and socio-cultural characteristics at the country level will vary. Yet these offer some practical and viable insights into practical means to enhance gender equality in the RTP.

An intersectional analysis of gender and fishing

Intersectionality offers an analytical framework which can consider how societies treat people based on inherent social and political identities, such as their gender, ethnicity, and sexuality.

Depending on those identities, a person may be privileged or oppressed. ([Women's changing productive practices, gender relations and identities in fishing through a critical feminisation perspective - ScienceDirect](#) [Intersectionality: An Underutilized but Essential Theoretical Framework for Social Psychology | SpringerLink](#))

However, what is subsequently important is how this framework can be implemented at a program and project level to deliver longer term sustainable change. While the approach offers various ways to analyse complex relationships and activities between men and women in different cultural environments, the outcomes of this approach can benefit both men and women and the fishing industry itself.

How this is important to the Regional Tuna Programme

The intersectional framework helps to systematically clarify the largely ‘invisible’ but significant contributions of women in sustaining fishing families, communities and industries in all Pacific countries ([Frangoudes and Gerrard, 2018](#); [Zhao et al., 2013](#)). In recent years there has been a greater consideration of the contributions of women in fishing families, communities and industries globally, regionally and nationally in the Pacific. Yet whilst it is important to recognise these contributions, there has been little attention to how women's changing roles and practices are managed within unchanged gender relations shaping, and being shaped by, women's (fishing) identities in different ways. The basic premise requires women to consider their roles and activities from their own perspectives and the subsequent value of their fishing roles to be reflected. Simply put: there has been little attention given to the identities and activities of women's lives in fishing and women's knowledge is often ignored in research and policy. This can serve to cement the invisibility of women's roles in the industry.

While women's roles and responsibilities in fisheries are often different from men's, they still have an active and important role. For example, women harvest and sell seafood and seaweed in shallow waters, sometimes on foot and using simple gear. They also engage in fish trading and fish processing in large numbers.

There was little included in the country questionnaires and responses regarding the benefits of the intersectionality approach of gender and fishing for several reasons:

- Little to no information available on the intersections between gender and fishing especially in the Pacific whereby information covered largely practical benefits and outcomes of fishing, yet there is limited understanding on the longer-term strategic benefits. This was an important aspect which was unable to be covered in such a short time and with available resources.
- An unwieldy number of responses were collected from a Pacific perspective which provided a baseline of practical roles of women in the fishing industry. This can be broken down at a national project level and investigated further to consider this strategic approach in terms of project activities and outcomes.

An example of responses which could be further broken down to build on an intersectional approach country specific

Country	Activities which can further intersectional gender outcomes
Tonga	Communities need focused training on managing parts of the FAD fishing supply chain – eg fixing ice machines Communities working together
PNG	Investigate mechanisms to drive community ownership of FADs Strengthen governance and justice systems in transshipping ports to reduce human trafficking and sexually transmitted diseases from crews of fishing vessels
Fiji	Need for an analysis of the number of active small and medium-scale enterprises, and the affiliated needs, costs, etc.
Samoa	Provide fish storage coolers for operators Ice making machines in key districts

Tuvalu	Build supply chains for distributing fish caught from FADs – include considering where the elderly and disabled can assist
Vanuatu	Some FADS put closer to shore than others so women may also be involved

How the Regional Tuna Programme will seek to integrate an intersectional framework

Consequently, this program will acknowledge the intersectionality of gender dimensions and women's roles in FAD fishing to develop a more systematic understanding of these roles, opportunities and benefits to understand women's varying and changing roles and practices and how this can (re)shape gender relations and identities. Primarily this will be guided through the GAP Activity 1.1.1 when a much more detailed investigation of gender roles within localized FAD fishery value chains is integrated into the workplans for scaling up of national FAD programmes. For example, the measure of women's many tasks can be supported through such elements of projects that both support women's reproductive roles while they are employed in productive roles in the FAD fishing industry. Key considerations can include:

- subsidised childcare support at market locations so children do not need to sit in the dust and face safety issues while their mothers sell fish.
- Training in maintenance of equipment's such as ice machines can include women to develop their more technical skills.

6 Country Gender Profiles

As aligned with the SDG gender indicators and targets, the regional and country gender equality briefs cover several thematic areas including Women's Human Rights, Women's Representation and Leadership, Women's Economic Empowerment, Education, Health/Sexual and Reproductive Health, Ending Violence against Women and Girls, and Gender and Protection in Humanitarian Action. Women undertake considerable roles in the fishing industry; however, their roles are not well articulated, hence many do not consider themselves fishery professionals.

Key information that can strengthen the use of FADs and benefit local communities can include:

- Country specific approaches that can deliver a baseline of sex disaggregated information as it applies to FAD fishing and to further inform proposed activities to ensure that both women and men benefit from the RTP.
- Improved disaggregated fishing industry data which provides greater recognition of women's roles in the industry both directly (fishing) and indirectly (food preparation aspects).
- Opportunities for training provided to both men and women in various aspects of fisheries including *gender dimensions*; *safe and effective FAD fishing activities*; *safety dimensions* in all phases of the fish supply chain.

A brief assessment of key gender dimensions has been prepared for each respective country in the proposed Programme. While some of the data is not consistent between countries, it is important to identify any gaps in information.

6.1 Cook Islands

International Gender Policies

Cook Islands has shown commitment to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through various international commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – acceded to in 2006.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs, and oceans.
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration signed 2012 – recent report (2016) noted that while women actively participate in village councils they are still under-represented in senior management and decision-making roles.

National Gender Policies

- 'National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment' together with a 5-year strategic plan of action 2011-2016. Recognises women and men are equal partners in the development of the Cook Islands. Also established the Gender and Development Division under the Ministry of Internal Affairs as the official national women's machinery.
- CEDAW Law Reform programme - began in 2008 with revisions noted to a few acts recommended, notably the Marriage Act and the Crimes Act and recently the Family Protection and Support Law Bill in 2017 - ensure children and families are protected from violence.
- Enactment of the Employment Relations Act 2012, which provides maternity leave benefits for women in the private sector and provisions for the prevention of sexual harassment.

Outcomes

- Women's Participation in Decision Making - progress in increasing women's representation and political participation, for example, in 2020 four of the 55 Island Government Councillors (7.3%) were women (Public Service Commissioner's Annual Report).
- The Cook Islands Women Parliamentarians Caucus, launched 2018, - bipartisan group that advocates for gender equality through law-making, budgeting, oversight, and representation.
- The percentage of women in parliament is 17%, women in management roles at 48% with managerial positions including senior government officials, corporate and general manager positions.
- At the local level, numerous initiatives provide capacity building and support for women candidates in island council elections:
 - Cook Islands National Council of Women, Cook Islands Gender Equality Policy SPC
 - 2012 Stocktake of the Gender Mainstreaming Capacity of Pacific Island Governments

Some Bottlenecks

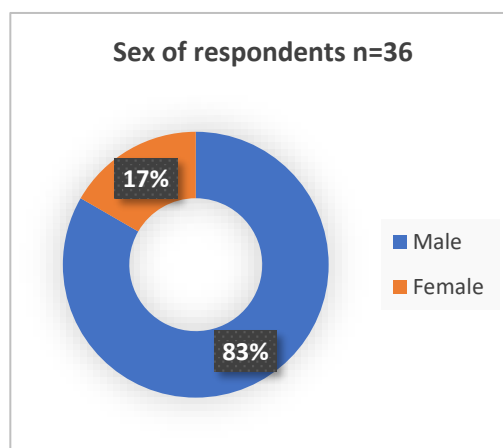
Sexual offences are defined in the 1969 Crimes Act. While updates have been under discussion since 2017 a new Crimes Bill has yet to be accepted and passed into law. This updated Bill,

- seeks to remove exemptions related to marital rape.
- criminalise sexual connection with a person under the age of 16 if married to the child in question.
- decriminalise same-sex sexual contact between adult men upon mutual consent.

Key input from national consultations

30 men and 6 women respondents were interviewed in focus group discussions, aged between 30 to 70 years of age. This was broken down into 23 from Mangaia (5 female, 18 male) and 13 from Rarotonga (12 male, 1 female) villages in July 2023.

Of these respondents, 13 respondents from Rarotonga and 15 from Mangaia were fishermen. Note that several people had multiple work roles. Most head of households (HOH) were men – 17 in Mangaia compared to 1 female-headed household (FHH). In Rarotonga, there was a different response with 5 FHH compared to 8 male HOH.



Roles and Responsibilities

The main roles for men and women in fishing as reported in the survey are as follow,

- Offshore fishing – male dominated – no female respondent is a fisher in this type of offshore fishing including FAD fishing. While many respondents did not consider there were constraints to women carrying out FAD fishing, traditional roles and time commitments make up the main reasons women do not participate in offshore fishing.
- Coastal fishing – 100% men carry out coastal fishing.
- Boat management and repair – only men are involved in these tasks – apart from one woman in Mangaia.
- Post-harvest handling – predominantly men, however a significant number of women are also involved in post-harvest handling – 28.5% respondents in Mangaia and 46% respondents in Rarotonga noted that women are involved in post-harvest handling.
- Fish cooking for home or selling use is cited to be the role of both men and women fairly equally.
- Cleaning fish is carried out by both men and women.
- Selling fish is the role of both men and women.

6.2 Federated States of Micronesia

Given that no FAD fisheries supply chain surveys were able to be carried out in FSM, this section has drawn from a few comprehensive gender equality briefs carried out in FSM in recent years, while some are becoming dated, they still provide a coverage of the main gender dimensions in the different States and basically reflect several key local realities.

Context

Approximately 22% of residents live in urban areas of the FSM island States, this means that ~78% of the population live in rural areas. Different levels of Governance exist in the nation with the overall national government forming one level of governance and each of the four states Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei manage each States governance and affairs. This multi system governance can both offer support and yet constraints to actions geared to strengthen gender equality in the country. This which is summarised in this country brief.

While there is some political will at the national level towards encouraging greater gender equality, there is limited action to actively address issues pertaining to gender equality. Gender sensitisation has been undertaken but more is required with adequate allocation of resources.

International Commitments

FSM has shown commitment to strengthening gender equality through several international commitments and national priorities and policies, including the following:

- The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (BPA).
- The 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015 (RPPA).
- Pacific Plan (2005, revised in 2007).
- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – acceded to in 2006. FSM maintains a few reservations to CEDAW, including in respect of Article 11(1) (d) on equal remuneration in employment; Article 11(2) (b) on maternity benefits; and Articles 2(f), 5, and 16 on the elimination of discriminatory cultural stereotypes.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 2004.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs, and oceans.
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration signed 2012 – recent report (2016) noted that while women actively participate in village councils they are still underrepresented in senior management and decision-making roles.

National Gender Policies

Legislation in FSM is shared between the National Congress and the four state parliaments.

- National Constitution and the constitutions of the four states protect the legal rights of women, all prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sex ().
 - Article IV of the FSM Constitution (GoFSM 1978) provides for a 'Declaration of Rights'. Section 4 of this Article confirms that equal protection of the laws may not be denied or impaired on account of, among other things, sex. However, the Constitution contains no definition of discrimination against women.
 - States' constitutions (GoFSM 1978) have provisions that can protect women's human rights, including:
 - Article III of the Chuuk State Constitution, section 2, - rights to be enjoyed by a person irrespective of, among other things, sex.
 - Article II of the Kosrae Constitution, sub-sections 1(b) and (c), set out provisions for protection under the laws based on equality.
 - Article 4, section 3 of the Pohnpei State Constitution and Article 4 of Yap State Constitution set out parallel provisions on equality.
 - All constitutions, apart from Kosrae, contain provisions through which a person who has experienced discrimination can seek redress.
- National Gender Policy for FSM (endorsed 2018) which guides training in gender mainstreaming in fisheries management, development, and enforcement at national and state levels, in collaboration with the Women's Interest Office and women's associations.
- The FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2004–2023 (GoFSM 2004: 525) includes a strategic goal to mainstream gender issues into decision-making, policies, and strategic development plans.
- Women's Participation in Decision-Making - progress in increasing women's representation and political participation, for example, in 2020 four of the 55 Island Government Councillors (7.3%) were women (Public Service Commissioner's Annual Report).

Some bottlenecks

Institutional challenges include:

- Many government agencies with overlapping mandates and responsibilities in coastal fisheries management, as defined in their respective legislation.
- Coastal fisheries management is carried out at national, state and local/municipal government levels, as well as at community level. The four different levels of governance adding complexity to fisheries management and development and requires strong coordination.
- However, from a gender mainstreaming perspective, the management of coastal fisheries at a community level can also provide an entry point for stronger engagement and visibility of organised women's groups in each state.
- Gender analysis of the fisheries sector in FSM coastal waters (this includes territorial seas and internal waters) are under the responsibility of states, and the national government has the role of coordination.
- There is a lack of support for women wanting to move into roles that have traditionally been dominated by men. Leadership at the national, state, and municipal levels is based strongly on traditional forms of local leadership, in which women are not highly represented.
- There is insufficient collection, compilation and analysis of sex disaggregated data and gender indicators across sectors to provide the basis of positive gender mainstreaming.

6.2.1 Literature Summary of the Federated States of Micronesia

Gender relations in FSM are shaped by cultural norms and practices which vary across the four states. While dated information is available, it is pertinent to include some cross cutting gender related dimensions as summarised:

Education

- There is close parity between male and female student numbers at schools,
- However, at tertiary level there tends to be stereotypical fields of study (2008 FSM Statistical Yearbook). For example, 60 boys compared to 14 girls in marine science. The lack of women in technical and professional positions in employment reflects this situation.
- Traditional gender roles can limit girls' and women's choices in education and careers options.

Employment

- The number of female wage and salary earners was on average less than half that of males in 2019 (4,514 vs. 9,286) (UN 2022).
- Furthermore, women in the paid workforce, are concentrated at the lower levels of the hierarchy, with comparatively lower pay.
- Formal employment in the FSM fisheries sector consists of only about 250 people working for wages, the majority of these being men. Overall, less than 2% of all wages earned comes from formal fisheries-related employment. Both men and women, however, stand to benefit from proposals by the government to support the development of tuna-loining plants in Pohnpei and Kosrae States.
- As far as women's roles in the National Fisheries Corporation (NFC), they are employed in the office as administration and finance staff, with the crew of the fishing vessels being men.
- Twenty-five per cent of male employees come from FSM Maritime Training College, which offers an entry point for training on prevention of sexual harassment and domestic violence.

Health

- Although maternal mortality rates (MMR) have fallen significantly, FSM still has one of the highest in the Pacific region (206 in 2003) (GoFSM and UNDP 2009).
- All four states report high teenage pregnancy rates (SPC Stocktake 2012). Teenage pregnancy is a major reason for girls dropping out of high school and college.

Access to water

In 2010 data suggested that only 41 per cent of the population has access to an improved water source and about 45 per cent to improved sanitation (ADB 2010). This is of particular concern for women, both in terms of their role in food preparation and their hygiene requirements.

Gender Based Violence

GBV in all its forms including sexual harassment is a common cause of physical and mental harm to women and children and a major contributor to social problems (2004 Situational Analysis Report). Some concerns inherent to FSM include:

- Until recently, the age of consent in the four states has been 13–16 years of age, with Chuuk recently increasing the age of consent to 18 and Yap State planning to do the same (UPR 2015).
- While there is mandatory prosecution of sexual offences, bail can be gained for defendants even where there is a risk of violence to survivors. Furthermore, customary practices of ‘forgiveness’ are given due recognition by the court.

Actions need to integrate both legal and cultural practices that strengthen the protection of vulnerable women and children. Some actions undertaken have included:

- As a pilot project in 2018, the Education Department conducted a domestic and sexual violence prevention and education training in 94 per cent of the elementary schools in Pohnpei.
- Women’s groups in all four states have lobbied extensively for protective legislation. Pohnpei passed the Family Protection Act in 2017, addressing some gaps in protection of women and children. Kosrae passed similar legislation in 2014. over the years for legislation that protects women from domestic violence and marital rape. Yap and Chuuk are yet to institute specific legislation that provides for the protection of women against domestic violence and related issues.

Land ownership

While FSM is largely a matrilineal nation, most decision making related to land ownership and land use is managed by male members of the family.

Governance and Decision Making

Women rarely become traditional leaders, deferring to men in community affairs. No woman has held one of the 14 positions in the FSM National Congress. However, there has been some representation of women at national cabinet and State Congress levels.

6.3 Fiji

In Fiji, women reportedly provide around 80% of the seafood catch for their communities’ annual subsistence needs (Mangubhai 2022). However, the role of women in fisheries is often unrecognized, not recorded or poorly understood, leading to their overall limited engagement in fishing activities and especially decision-making in fisheries management.

International Gender commitments

Fiji has shown commitment to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through several international commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

²⁰ Progressing gender equality in fisheries by building strategic partnerships with development organisations Sangeeta Mangubhai a,b,† , Sarah Lawless c , Anna Cowley d , Jayshree P. Mangubhai e,f , Meryl J. Williams

- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – ratified in 1995.
- the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG 5) on gender equality and women empowerment.
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration signed 2012.

National Gender Policies and Strategies

- Fiji National Gender Policy which should be reflected in both coastal and offshore fishing.
- Fiji's Women in Fisheries Network (WiFN) an active group of women in the sector.

A few studies have been carried out in Fiji which sadly reflect that despite policies aimed at creating employment, women's contribution to the offshore fisheries sector labour force is impacted by cultural beliefs, traditional norms, and gender stereotypes. Many local fishing vessels are over 40 years old and do not have separate crew cabins, washroom facilities etc. Furthermore, boat owners are reluctant to take females on their vessels since they do not want to be accountable to any sexual harassment, abuse or worse cases. Subsequently, women are traditionally confined in their fishing activities to coastal areas, mainly harvesting (e.g., reef gleaning), seafood processing, and food preparation for home consumption.

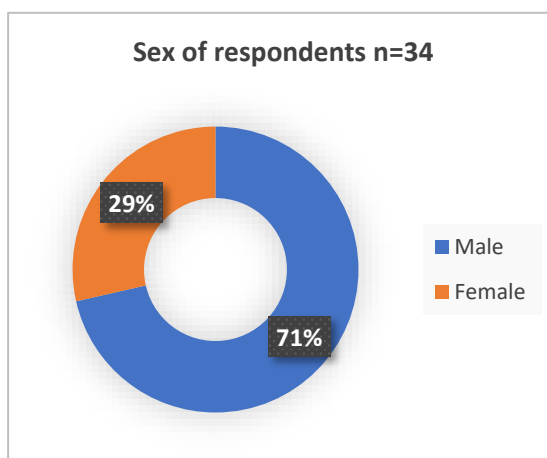
However, women are increasingly participating in economic opportunities such as marketing or small businesses that involve the harvesting capture and sale of marine resources. For example, there is greater participation of women in the Management/Administrative areas and in processing.

Key inputs from national consultations

34 Participants composed of 10 women and 24 men were interviewed. Ages of men ranged from 25 to 60 and women's ages ranged from 30 to 55. This was broken down into 18 men and 8 women from Natarawau and some Nakavika as well as Lami villages in July 2023.

Several interesting insights came out of the surveys in terms of women's roles and opportunities.

- Most head of households (HOH) were men – 3 FHH were interviewed.
- People live in extended families, with about 6-12 people in a household.
- Most in the community own their own home. This will be the same in all other traditional fishing communities where FADs are deployed.



Natarawau village & Nakavika in the Ba Province in Western Viti Levu are settlements that comprise people who are originally from other Provinces. People spoken to were from Vanua Levu, Kadavu, Lau and other parts of Fiji who had moved to these settlements. Settlements are those sites that have no traditional mechanism of governance, no traditional clans (mataqalis) with their different mataqalis. For example, in Traditional Fijian villages there would be a chief, his spokes people clan, the carpenter clan and the traditional fisher's clan. This is not the case in this settlement.

Fishers Cooperatives/Fishers Association

Some of those interviewed are part of the Natarawau Fisherman Association (NFA) set up in the Community. This Cooperative is a collaboration between the Ministry of Fisheries and the

Department of Cooperative Business (DCB), within the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MITT), which is the regulatory and promotional authority on cooperatives.

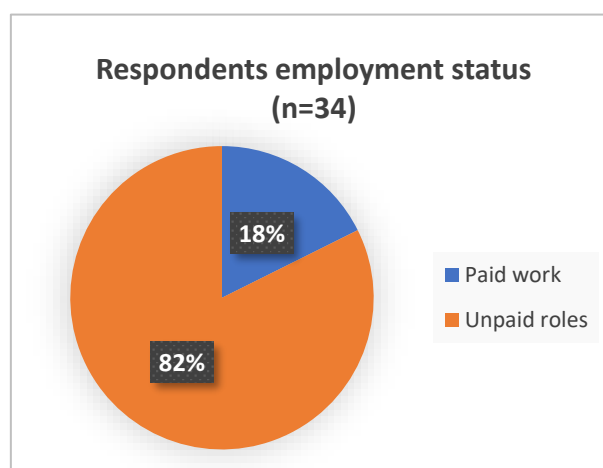
In March 2023, the Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), visited the Natawarau fishing community in Ba, Fiji to present fishing families with Fish Aggregating Devices (known as FADs) used to enhance nearshore fisheries.²¹

- Foods consumed are almost the same with most households relying dominantly on fish and marine products. This will be the same for all other locations where FADs had been deployed.
- **Gender roles** - Both men and women fish in the two communities, with men fishing in deeper waters and offshore reefs while women fish in mangroves, sand flats and in inshore reefs. This will be the same case for communities in Lau, Kadau, Vatulele, Ra Yasawa and other locations where FADs had been deployed.
- **House designs** - There is not much difference in house designs in this community and those in neighbouring land. This will be the same in outer islands and other locations where FADs had been deployed.
- **Markets** - Markets for fish are at the Ba and Lautoka municipal markets, Ba and Roadside stalls or middle sellers buy from the communities and sell independently.

Employment

Main livelihoods among community residents

There are a few people employed in these communities as most are dependent on fisheries and farming for subsistence and income sources. Two only work for the government, and one is a trades person. This will be the same in the outer islands where most FADs were deployed- Only 6 respondents had paid employment. Most women are engaged in unpaid work and selling of fish is the main occupation. This means “unpaid work” in this context and defines women in care giving roles and carrying out domestic chores. However, all these women are involved in post processing and marketing and distribution of men’s catches.



Both men and women carry out fishing, women are engaged in coastal fishing as well as run a small-scale fishing trading /business. Roadside stalls are communally owned as people sell together- and now with the cooperative selling are in central positions where everyone sells.

When women are carrying out shoreline fishing or are selling fish at the market, the men then assist with these domestic roles. Hence the family can operate as a unit undertaking complementary roles.

Most fishers work full time unless there is bad weather when there is no fishing. Seasonal fishing takes place for certain fish species along coastal areas and reefs, which women often target.

Income Levels

²¹ Fiji Sun, March 2023. FAO Deputy Director-General visits fishing families in Fiji to view successes in sustainable fishing practices.

The average weekly wage from fishing is \$150- \$300. When the weather is good, a 6-day fishing week can earn them up to a thousand dollars. If it is bad weather, there is no fishing and thus no income. Many male fishers also market their fish by the roadside.

Expenditure

On average weekly expenditure is approximately \$200, spent mainly on food items.

Impacts of climatic events on fishers

The effects from climate change and increasing changes in weather and increasing number of storms, hinder fishing. Key impacts are as follows:

- There is also a lot of coral dying (bleaching) so it is harder to catch fish when diving.
- Safety issues- people are aware of the changes in climate and safety becomes an issue when fishing when storm warnings are in place. There are sometimes unusually bigger waves that catch fishers by surprise and safety is becoming more an issue for fishers.
- Higher Costs – ‘Closer reefs are dying- we have to go out further to fish thus costs us more’.
- Health concerns - longer hours fishing for men and women- and can affect health especially during cold weather.
- Many men are divers, and they are affected when the weather is cold.
- Food availability - Because of depletion of resources from reefs dying- there are less fish.
- Others- Because of climate change, there has been changes to fishing seasons. Certain fish were in certain areas, but now they do not appear or may come months later. Hence, traditional knowledge of fishing that they know and when to fish for certain species may in the future not be practical or useful.

Fishing Practices

Reef fishing (onshore) - 90 % of fisherfolk fish on reefs and free dive. [OBJ]

Reef fishing (offshore) - 20% of men- diving. [OBJ]

Bottom trawling - Rarely mentioned, although may be used. But diving is preferred. [OBJ]

FAD fishing. When a FAD was installed- it was used for about 2 months, then the floater was cut and then the FAD was no longer used. The men are traditional divers, thus using fishing lines at the FADs was new. The FAD was deemed too far- and the community only has a few boats which are used for inshore fishing- It was pricier (fuel) and too time consuming to go out to the FADs. [OBJ]

Gleaning-Eighty percent of women gleaned and used cast nets and fishing line. Some women also dive and fish day and night, although only 2 women have previously dived with men.

Crabbing and collecting sea cucumbers are among the fishing activities that women undertake.

Seasonality and location of fish. Women also know seasonality of fish – that is where to fish for certain species and when to fish (seasons). There are times in the year when there is not enough fish for sale due to bad weather. At such times the household mainly eats tinned fish and vegetables.

Roles of men and women in the fishing industry

Fishing is for subsistence livelihoods and for income. All family member fish, yet roles may differ between women and men as highlighted below:

- Boat operation – men
- Offshore fishing including FADs – men
- Boat repair/ maintenance – men

- Post-harvest handling – women
- Cleaning of fish products – women
- Use of fish for food or sale – both men and women
- Selling of fish, all kinds: shoreline, reef, and offshore – both men and women
- Catch coastal fish and other sea products – both men and women
- Sell fish (all types of fish) – both men and women
- Cook fish for home use – Women and men sometimes
- Cook fish for sale, e.g., restaurants, stalls, etc. – women.

Health issues

The main health issues suffered in the household are related to the colder weather including flus and COVID. Some people also suffer from NCDs.

COVID posed a considerable impact due to all markets and towns closing. People could not travel around to buy produce and fish. This was because all markets and towns closed.

Nutrition

Households prefer fish over meat, which is considered to take more effort to prepare. Fish are sourced from their fishing activities. Meat (mainly chicken) is eaten about 2 times a week, whereas fish is eaten daily. In this context fish includes fish, crabs, shellfish, and seaweed.

6.4 Kiribati

General information²²

Kiribati has a population of population is over 119,000 as of 2020 census and comprises 33 islands. It is located in one of the world's largest exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of 3.5 million km² and has a coastline of 1296km. There are 3 main island groups and more water area than land, therefore the communities of Kiribati rely heavily on fishing activities for subsistence and commercial purposes.

Fishing and seaweeds contribution to GDP was an estimated 13.6 million USD in 2015. Estimated exports of fish/fishery products were valued at 121.4 million USD, tuna being the major fish exported. In 2016, 5000 people engaged in marine fisheries full time or part time.

The total, with more than half living on Tarawa atoll²³. The capital, South Tarawa, is the most populated area. Kiribati is at the forefront of islands impacted by threats associated with climate change. Saltwater intrusion, coastal erosion, and food insecurity is a current reality for many I-Kiribati people²⁴. All survey respondents were involved in some part of the fishing supply and demand chain as fisher people, sellers or consumers.

Gender policies

Kiribati is a member of a number of international agreements

- 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and includes 1999 Optional Protocol
- 1992 Rio Conference 1992: woman as environmental managers
- 1995 Beijing Platform for Action of 4th UN World Conference on Women
- Millennium Development Goals (MDG 3, 5) - Gender equality and WASH

²² Fisheries and Aquaculture Kiribati. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [viewed 2023 July 20] <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/kir>

²³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiribati>

²⁴ <https://thecommonwealth.org/news>

- MDG 3 seeks to promote gender equality and empower women.
- MDG 5 (reducing child mortality). A healthy and productive population and natural environment are critical for achieving economic growth and poverty reduction.
 - Infant mortality rate - 46 per 1,000 live births - among the highest in the world and partially attributed to infantile diarrhea.
 - Average of two to three outbreaks of acute diarrhoeal disease in South Tarawa every year which is directly linked to inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

Key input from national consultations

The following information was collected through a mixture of desktop information and complemented by a community engagement survey in August 2023. Key considerations focussed on fish consumption, fishing activities, health and nutrition and FADs in Kiribati. Thirty-one respondents were surveyed from Betio and Teakorereke in August 2023. This included: 14 male and 17 females. Traditionally, fish is the main dish in Kiribati, showing the 'true cultural identity of the Kiribati people'. Fish is also cheaper than meat.

Women are traditionally not involved in the offshore fishing, however, are active participants in the shoreline fishing and gleaning. They also participate in the selling of fish in the roadside or main market areas. Boys above the age of 10 can go fishing with the fishers.

Fish sellers indicated that they earned AUD\$300-450 a month, whereas fishers noted that income depended on catch which was usually under \$300 a month.

Fish consumption – health, nutrition and food security²⁵

There is a significant reliance on marine resources for the community's livelihood, government revenue and nutrition. Kiribati has one of the highest per capita fish consumptions in the world at 76.3kg (2013) per person annually.

The 2015 census demonstrated that 12 196 households (67% of households) had at least one member who fished regularly. Most households fished for consumption purposes, especially those on outer islands. The census also demonstrated that 75% of households fished for consumption only, 19% for consumption and sale and 4% for sale only.

- Many islands have refrigeration for storage of local sale and shipment to Tarawa. However, catches taken by small-scale fishers in South Tarawa are mainly sold on the roadside by women vendors from insulated ice boxes. It is likely that the limited cold-chain facilities may contribute to the sale of fish that are not fresh which may compromise the health and safety of the community, contributing to communicable infectious diseases.
- Much of the catches are transhipped to other islands and overseas. As such, the purchase of reef fish from outer islands for frozen export may jeopardise long-term and future food security.

FAD Fishing

Kiribati's fisheries sector has two main categories; coastal fisheries (subsistence and small-scale commercial – nearshore areas) and offshore fisheries – predominantly industrial scale fisheries.²⁶

²⁵ Fisheries and Aquaculture Kiribati. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [viewed 2023 July 20] <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/kir>

²⁶ Ibid

Coastal fishing is primarily carried out for subsistence purposes and for sales in local markets and only some coastal fisheries export.²⁷

In 2021 the Fish FAD project deployed 4 FADs in the waters of Tarawa. It was expected that the FADs support the livelihoods of Tarawa's large urban fisher population, increasing catches of larger fish, improving domestic food security and revenue generation.²⁸ Three respondent groups from Betio and Teoraeke indicated that the FADs were no longer operational.

Safety in the fisheries industry

Fishing boats²⁹

The total number of artisanal fishing vessels in 2015 was estimated to be 4,766. Respondents indicated that the boats available are reliable for near shore fishing and there are skilled boat operators.

Subsistence and small-scale commercial fishing is conducted using traditional canoes, plywood canoes powered by outboard motors and larger outboard-powered craft.

From 2005 to 2010 there was an overall increase in the number of boat-owning families. To a certain extent catch size is dependent upon the number of fishing vessels licensed by Kiribati.

Fishing Infrastructure³⁰

The majority of Kiribati's offshore catches are exported and therefore transhipped to other ports. Catches from small scale fisheries are mostly landed in South Tarawa and smaller catches are landed at villages throughout Kiribati.

Climate Change

Fishers are aware of the changes in climate and safety can become an issue when there is a storm, hence safety and health are key challenges. Furthermore, if they cannot fish there may not be enough food to feed their families.

Training

Fishers have reportedly had a few trainings including:

- PPE
- First Aid
- Flares and appropriate safety equipment
- Boat carriage limits
- Radio Communication systems – eg GPS.

6.5 Republic of Marshall Islands

Comprehensive studies into the fishing sector in RMI were carried out in 2019 by RMI Government and some of the questions duplicate those in the current survey. Hence, it was deemed adequate to review the responses in this survey.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ FAD deployment in Kiribati a success. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [viewed 2023 July 20] <https://www.fao.org/in-action/sustainable-nearshore-fisheries-improves-livelihoods-pacific/news/details/en/c/1419206/>

²⁹ Fisheries and Aquaculture Kiribati. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [viewed 2023 July 20] <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/kir>

³⁰ Ibid

A number of measures to address gender equality in RMI have been adopted over the last 10 years. Some of these International and others National are summarised below. For example, two significant Agreements have included:

- Ratification of CEDAW
- Ratification of CRC

National Gender policies

- The National Gender Mainstreaming Policy, a critical policy that seeks to “engage adolescents and youth as strategic groups for ending the cycle of domestic violence.” According to the policy, the RMI government is taking additional actions to remove all obstacles to gender equality and empower women in areas where they have been disadvantaged. Under the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy, the RMI government have adopted strategic measures for addressing gender issues (Figure XX). These measures seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and promote gender equal rights in civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural areas.
- Comprehensive National Study on Family Health and Safety 2014. This study (FHSS) was initiated through the RMI Ministry of Internal Affairs and conducted by Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI).
- Dedicated Office in the Ministry of Internal Affairs with an operational budget.

Civil society organisations

- **Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)** is an organization representing the voices of women’s clubs in RMI. WUTMI’s focus includes but not limited to - women empowerment (especially for young women), life skills development, raising awareness on gender-based violence and child abuse, while protecting and strengthening Marshallese values and culture.

National Gender targeted legislation in RMI

Key gender equality legislative efforts include:

- Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act of 2011 to address gender equality and GBV
- Child Rights Protection Act of 2015
- Human Rights Committee Act of 2015
- Rights of Persons with Disability Act of 2015
- Birth, Death and Marriage Registration Act of 2016
- Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2017 (ADB 2020)
- National Climate Change Policy Framework – covers goals and outcomes on gender – gender sensitive strategies for climate change responses

An issue relates to implementation and enforcement of the law which have been challenging, and addressing political, economic, social, and cultural barriers pose significant barriers to progress.

6.6 Niue

Gender Policies

Niue has committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through international commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – efforts to ensure women benefit from resource conservation and development especially in rural areas. Ratified under the auspices of Niue’s relationship with NZ prior to 1994. However,

the country has not independently ratified CEDAW or incorporated it into domestic law. Niue does not have legislation to prevent discrimination based on sex (non-compliant in this area).

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs, and oceans.
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration signed 2012 – recent report (2016) noted that while women actively participate in village councils they still under-represented in senior management and decision-making roles.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action signed 1995 – Niue has maintained good maternal healthcare provisions and outcomes.
- Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region 2015 - an agreement on cooperation between Forum Fisheries Agency members about monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing.
- 2015 Draft National Policy on Gender Equality – need for greater awareness and increased budget to address gender equality challenges. Less than one per cent of the national budget allocation goes to the Department of Women. Four priority areas that include,
 - Healthy, safe, and harmonious families.
 - Developing full potential of women and men for economic development and food security.
 - Women and men participate equitably in decision making bodies and leadership positions in all sectors.
 - Gender-responsive government policies and programmes are implemented in all sectors.
- Draft Family Law Bill – process defined for dealing with GBV through legal system – still in draft after 10 years.

Overview of Gender Dimensions in Niue

- There is a good representation of women in the National Parliament (25 per cent) – the highest in the Pacific (apart from Australia and New Zealand).
- Women are under-represented in senior management positions in the public sector.
- Strong gender stereotypes as to what constitutes women's and men's roles have created an inequitable participation in the labour force and food production.
- Police and health services indicate that both physical and psychological abuse are present in Niue. Local response continues to be largely managed within the village or extended family network as violence against women and girls is a taboo subject and can be considered a private family matter. This can discourage victims seeking help, with a corresponding lack of services available for victims, e.g., safehouse or counselling.
- Men and women of Niuean descent have equal rights to family land under the Land Act 1969. Sixty seven percent of households own the house they live in.
- In 2017, 27.7% of households were headed by women.
- The Niue National Disaster Plan of 2010 does not mention gender or the vulnerability of any group.

Changing gender stereotypical subjects such as carpentry, mechanics, cooking, and sewing are increasingly being undertaken by both boys and girls in Niue (SPC 2015).

However as noted in Figure on the right, labour force participation rate is far more gradual for women than men. More men are in the private sector than women (20.0% of men and 11.8% of women), and women are more likely to be homemakers (2.9% of men and 14.2% of women).

Key Input from National Consultations

Characteristics of Respondents

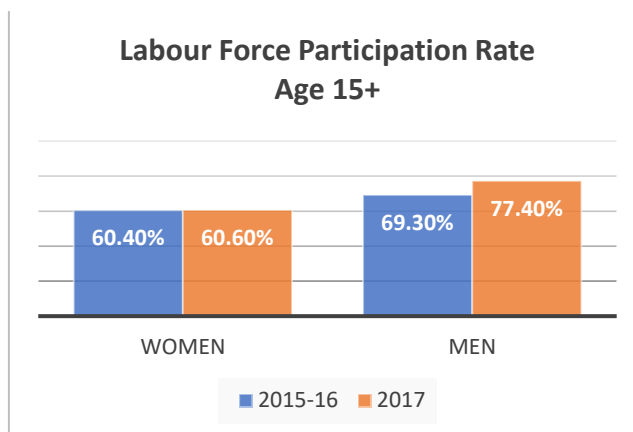
Fifteen participants in total were interviewed which consisted of the following:

The median age of participants was 40 and they were selected from the following villages: Avatele, Vaiea, Liku, Lakepa, Mutalau, Tuapa, Makefu, Alofi Nth, and Alofi South.

Other characteristics include,

- 7 males and eight females were interviewed.
- 14 interviewees indicated they had one or more children and one interviewee also cared for an elderly person in their household.
- On average three people lived in each household.
- All participants were of Niue ethnicity.
- 14 interviewees indicated that an ethnically diverse group of people lived in their community. The main groups highlighted were of Tongan or Samoan descent. There were no significant differences highlighted among the groups as indigenous groups present tended to
 - speak vagahau Niue,
 - belonged to a Christian church,
 - held similar cultural beliefs,
 - consumed similar foods and
 - are generally involved in Niue community events and activities.
- Interviewees were either running a small business or working for the Niue government. All interviewees were engaged in farming work.
- Of the 15 interviewees, 9 were in full time work.
- All interviewees earned over NZD 600 per month.

Figure 4: Labour Force Participation Rate Age 15+



Source: 2015-16 HIES

Effects of Climatic Events and Fishing Activities

Most participants indicated that climatic events affected their ability to carry out their work. The following characteristics of FAD and reef fishing were mentioned,

- FADs were accessible via Niue canoes however, weather events prevented regular fishing at FADs.
- Fishermen were more likely to reef fish onshore.
- Tools used included fishing rods, lines, hooks, sinkers, soft bate and traditional fishing rods. Bottom trawling was used by all fishermen.
- Women were more likely to engage in gleaning compared with men. One interviewee indicated she did not appreciate FADs being used as a model for attracting fish as she felt that the FADs drew the fish away from the reef. One fisherman however indicated that FADs attracted different fish that were not normally present.
- Cast netting was not a method used by any of the interviewees nor was it considered an approach commonly used in the community.
- Interviewees who owned boats and canoes noted they had access to reliable boats suitable for nearshore fishing and they were in good working order. Operators of boats were also highly experienced.
- There has been significant investment in marine education in recent years which has helped

FAD fishermen and/or reef fisherfolk

4

Fish sellers

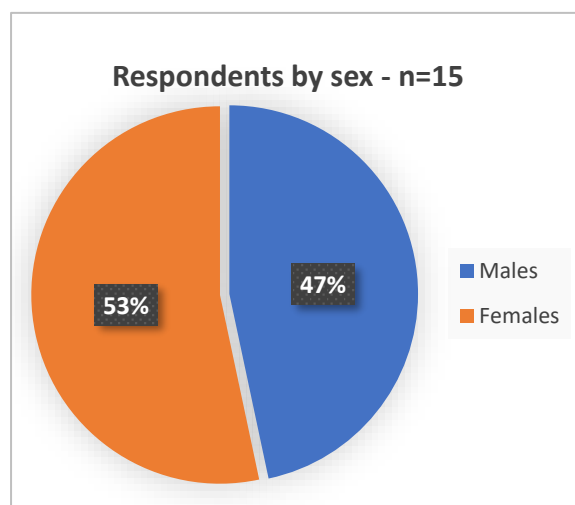
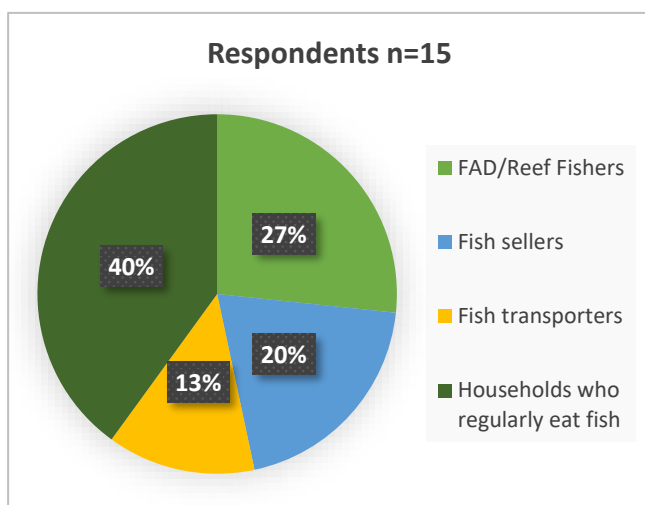
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Fish transporters

2

Households who eat fish regularly

6



to improve community awareness in marine safety.

6.7 Nauru

Gender policies

Nauru has committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through international commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

International

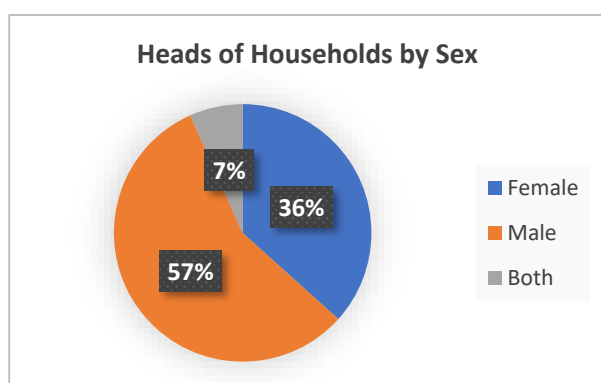
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Accession 1994) •

- Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Signed 2000). Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Signed 2000)
- International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (Signed 2001) • Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Accession 2011). Nauru has not signed the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Accession 2012)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (Signed 2001, ratified 2012; Optional Protocol on CAT (Accession 2013)
- Nauru is a signatory to the 2011 Joint Statement on Ending Acts of Violence Related Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at the UN Human Rights Council.
- Nauru is not included within the World Risk Index on disaster risk or the Global Climate Risk Index due to its small size and lack of relevant data.

National legislation

- Nauru National Women's Policy 2014-2019 2014. Policy reviewed in 2021
- 2016 Crimes Act criminalises rape and sexual offences within marriages and de facto relationships, and states that evidence of physical resistance is not necessary to prove non-consent
- Under the Public Service Act 2016, women in the public sector who have been in service for six months are entitled to 12 weeks' paid maternity leave, while men are entitled to two weeks' paid paternity leave.
- Nauru's 2015 Framework for Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt) recognises the gender-differentiated impact of disasters on the vulnerability of households and individuals, and states that the empowerment of both men and women is necessary in order to build resilience and future capacities
- The definition of domestic violence in the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017 includes not just physical and sexual violence but also coercive control, economic and financial abuse, stalking, and cruel and degrading treatment.

Key input from national consultations

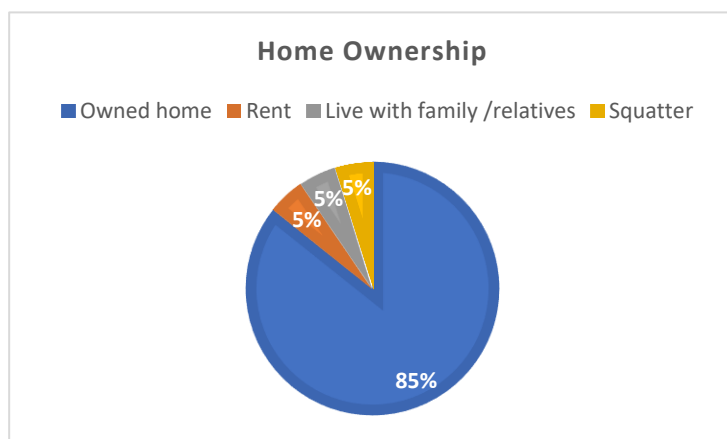


Thirty respondents from Nauru were surveyed in October 2023 regarding tuna fishing and the fish supply chain. Respondents included 10 women and 20 men. As shown in the following diagram, eleven households or 36% of respondents were FHH. Twelve households (40%) also had elderly family members residing in the home. All respondents earned over \$600 a month in income.

In 2013, 34% of households were headed by women which reinforces the results of this study.

The respondents came from the following villages:

Yaren, Boe, Aiwo, Buada, Denig, Nibok, Uaboe, Batisi, Ewa, Anetan, Anabar, Ijuw, Anibare, and Meneng.



Eighteen respondents (85%) owned their own home while the remainder either rented, lived with relatives or was a squatter.

6.8 Palau

Gender policies

An approximate 70% of Palauans rely on ocean resources for food, livelihoods, and recreation. On average, Palauans prepare about 50% of their own seafoods within the household, indicating a high reliance on local marine resources for food security. This indicates the importance of sustainably managed and accessible marine resources.

Palau is a matriarchal and matrilineal society whereby lineage and titles are inherited from the mother's side of the family. Women traditionally hold positions of power and respect and hold central positions in Palau society.

International Gender policies

Palau is committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through several international commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – signed in 2011, but they are yet to sign the Optional Protocol.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs and oceans.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action signed 1995 – Palau has introduced a National Gender Mainstreaming Policy in 2018 and established a Bureau of Aging, Disability and Gender.

National Gender policies

- Palau's Constitution prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, place of origin, language, religion, or belief. Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is not explicitly prohibited.
- Family Protection Act 2012 provides protection for victims of GBV.
 - National Gender Mainstreaming Policy, 2012:
 - Provides support to victims of GBV.
- All women and men have the same opportunities to earn incomes and fulfill needs.
- Voluntary National Review 2019 - five key areas that needed improvement in Palau:
 - Universal mandated maternity leave.
 - Legislation to address sexual harassment in the workplace.
 - Expanded childcare facilities.
 - Improved support services for victims of GBV.
 - Removal of gender discriminatory marriage and inheritance laws.

Violence against women is considered by many in Palau to be a private family matter that should be dealt with within the family, not through the courts, which prevents women's ability to access services.

Health and nutrition

Many Palauans currently have a diet rich in seafoods, but also eat a range of unhealthy tinned meats such as Spam. There is the local interest to consume even more seafood and reduce this intake of unhealthy canned meat (kansume) (Ferguson and Singeo, unpublished data).

Largely because of poor diets there are high levels of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Palau. For example, in 2017 and 2018, 36% of school age girls and 40% of school age boys were overweight or obese. In 2018, 36.3% of men and 11.2% of women reported that they currently smoked tobacco. In 2019, it was reported that 64% of women aged 25-64 chew betel nut daily, compared to 57% of men. Additionally, women are more likely than men to add tobacco to betel nut.

Gender Roles

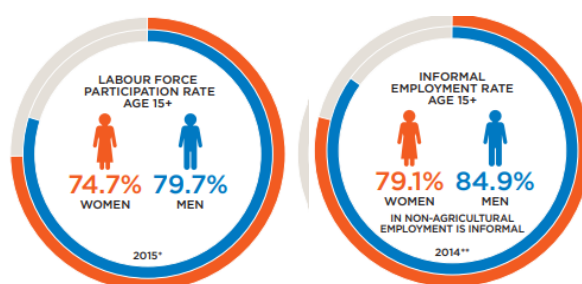
As recorded by the 2015 Census, 30.7% of households were headed by women. Eighty one percent of the population reside in urban areas (not disaggregated by sex). Twenty two percent of women and 5.6% of men were unpaid family workers helping with basic household duties in 2015 (Census 2015). This included full time students (40.8% of men and 34.7% of women outside the labour force).

The 2015 Census identified that women undertaking tertiary education were more likely to specialise in business, administration, and law (34.0% of women and 15.7% of men); education (15.2% of women and 6.7% of men); and health and welfare (11.2% of women and 3.0% of men). Men comprised 77% of students undertaking Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors were men (Census 2015).

Employment

Data from the census 2014/2015 shows that 79.1% of women and 84.9% of men were engaged in informal employment in the non-agricultural sector. Informally employed workers do not benefit from national labour legislation or social protections (UN Women, 2022).

Figure 5: Palau-Employed Men and Women in Labour Force and Informal Sector



Source: Census 2015, cited UN Women 2022

Key input from national consultations

Fifteen respondents from the villages of Ngatpang and Aimeliik were interviewed. Of these respondents 8 were female and 7 males. Ages were between the ages of 29 to 60.

Gender roles in fisheries

Fishing is a male dominated in Palau, while gleaning is dominated by women. Different fishing modes largely are carried out by men and women as follows:

- Fishers – 67% men.
- Spearfishers – 86% of spearfishers in Palau are men.
- Gleaners – 85% of gleaners are women, with 72% of sea cucumber gleaners being women (Ferguson and Singeo, unpublished data).

Fishing related Role	Men	Women
Boat operation	Men	
Offshore fishing including FADs	Men	
Boat repair/ maintenance	Men	
Coastal fishing and other sea products	Men	Women
Post-harvest handling	Men	Women
Cleaning of fish products	Men	Women
Selling of fish	Men	Women
Cleaning of fish	Men	Women
Cook	Men when there is no female around to cook.	Women
Cook fish for sale, e.g., restaurants, stalls, etc.		Women

Source: 2023 survey for GCF proposal

Gleaners depend heavily on their catch for income and food and rely on nearshore coastal resources that can be accessed without a boat. These women are vulnerable to food insecurity and loss of income from unsustainable coastal developments such as dredging, sand mining, and land reclamation, including polluted, and unproductive fishing grounds (Gender and Natural Resources Report 2020). Many gleaners (89%) and fishers (86%) have personally and directly observed the effects of climate change on their marine resources (Gender and Natural Resources Report 2020). Gleaners and fishers reported the same four leading threats to their resources:

- climate change,
- overfishing,
- sedimentation, and
- plastics pollution.

Solutions to climate change requires global action, overfishing must be addressed locally.

6.9 Papua New Guinea

Considerable efforts have been made to mainstream gender equality across all sectors in PNG. Sadly, GBV is widely accepted and “culturally condoned”. While challenging this remains a commitment of the Government. Key international and national policies are summarised:

International Gender policies

PNG is committed to strengthening gender equality across sectors including the fisheries sector through a number of international commitments:

- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – ratified on 12th January 1995.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action signed 1995.

National Gender policies

- PNGs Constitution provides for gender equity and equality, but customary law, recognized by the constitution, discriminates against women in relation to rights and property.
- The National Policy for Women and Gender Equality, 2011–2015 – the government's mission to promote improved equality, participation, and empowerment of women.
- The government's Vision 2050; the Development Strategic Plan (DSP), 2010–2030 and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), 2011–2015. These outline broad aspirations about gender equality, providing 'what should be done' but this requires implementation instructions.

Key input from national consultations

Undertaking the community surveys posed some challenges in PNG related to the size of the country and processes to organise meetings in each location, and selection of a representative sample that provides an example of local reality differences. However, four locations were selected, and surveys were undertaken in July 2023. Locations surveyed were as follows:

- Karasau Island
- Vekeo Island
- Koil Island
- Koil Island

Twenty seven respondents were interviewed from different stages of the fishing supply chain from fishers, market vendors and consumers. Of these respondents 21 were male and 6 were female. Interviewees were aged between 27 and 53.

Employment and Income generation

Only one respondent had a full-time job while the remainder 26 carried out fishing and home duties. Fishing was carried out for subsistence and excess fish catches were sold. Earnings reportedly per month are ST\$55 - \$300 a month. Local Government earnings reportedly were ST\$200 a month.

Consumption of fish

All respondents consume fish every day and indeed favour fish over meat. Respondents indicated that they eat meat when there are fish shortages such as bad weather when the fishers cannot go out in their boats. The fish are caught on the reef and deep waters around each island.

Roles in Fishing

Both men and women carry out fishing activities. All respondents indicated that there were no constraints to women fishing. However, women tend to fish in the coastal waters and do not go out to the deep waters. Reasons provided were sea safety and personal security. Thus, women do participate in the coastal FAD fishing.

Fishing related Role	Men	Women
Offshore fishing including FADs	Men	
Boat repair/ maintenance	Men	
Coastal fishing and other sea products	Men	Women

Post-harvest handling	Men	Women
Cleaning of fish products	Men	Women
Selling of fish	Men	Women
Cleaning of fish	Men	Women
Cook	Men.	Women
Cook fish for sale, e.g., restaurants, stalls, etc.		Women

Source: 2023 survey for GCF proposal

FAD Fishing

All respondents have heard about FAD fishing and understand that it is 'safer' and reduces fishing costs. However, concerns regarding perceptions are as follows:

- that volume of fish caught will be reduced.
- If FADs are placed in areas with strong currents, fishers safety can be compromised.

6.10 Samoa

Gender Policies

Samoa has committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through several internal commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following,

- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – efforts to ensure women benefit from resource conservation and development especially in rural areas.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs and oceans.
- The Agriculture Sector Plan 2016–2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries - opportunities for women in the fisheries sector.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Corporate Plan 2016–2020 - specific outputs to increase women's capacity and access to opportunities. **Key input from national consultations.**

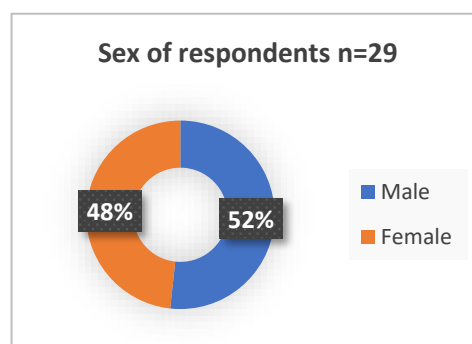
Key input from national consultations

15 men and 14 women respondents were interviewed and were aged between 25 to 83 years of age. This was broken down into 15 from Manono (7 female, 8 male) and 14 from Siumu (7 female, 7 male) villages in July 2023. Of these respondents 9 buy fish and 22 get fish from fishing and two sell fish. Note some roles overlap.

While the majority of HOH were men, there were 2 FHH in both Manono and Siumu respondent – 14% of respondents were FHHs.

Roles and Responsibilities

It was interesting to see the results from the survey whereby both men and women self-identified as fishers. While the fishing carried out by women predominantly covers reef fishing, aquaculture, and



gleaning activities, at least 9 women surveyed do consider themselves fishers. Some of these female fishers also carry out other roles in the household such as care giver. This is different from a 2018 SPC Survey³¹ the 'aquaculture study' that found that women seldom self-identify as aquaculture farmers or fishers, even though they are actively engaged in fish farm maintenance and post-harvest processing and marketing. This recognition can enable women fishers to also receive necessary training and supports that they may have previously missed out.

Despite this gradual change in thinking regarding the roles of women in fishing, when this is broken down further the roles remain much as they have always been with women having extra home roles on their fisher roles.

The main roles for men and women in fishing as reported in the survey are as follows,

- Offshore fishing – male dominated – no female respondent is a fisher in this type of offshore fishing including FAD fishing. While most respondents consider the constraints to women carrying out FAD fishing, home commitments and lack of interest are the main reasons women do not participate.
- Coastal fishing – 100% men and 45% of women reportedly carry out coastal fishing.
- Boat management and repair – only men are involved in these tasks.
- Post-harvest handling – predominantly men, however a significant number of women are also involved in post-harvest handling.
- Fish cooking for home or selling use is predominantly the role of women, however a number of men also undertake this role.
- Cleaning fish is carried out by both men and women.
- Selling fish is the role of both men and women.

6.11 Solomon Islands

International Commitments

Solomon Islands has committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through several international and national commitments, priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

- CEDAW – acceded 2002 – efforts to ensure women benefit from resource conservation and development especially in rural areas.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs, and oceans.

National Commitments

- Solomon Islands National Development Strategy – Objective 2 – highlights 'the need for the benefits of development to be more equitably distributed for the whole of Solomon Islands which includes improved gender equality and targeted actions to empower and include everyone'.
- National gender equality and women's development policy, enabling policies and initiatives that facilitate gender mainstreaming - enabling policies and initiatives.

Key input from national consultations

³¹ Gender and fisheries in Samoa Summary of key issues June 2018. Online at: [Gender and fisheries in Samoa - Summary of key issues. \(windows.net\)](#)

Three respondents from a fishing village in Honiara and 5 respondents from the Honiara Central Market were interviewed in July 2023. Some key demographics of the respondents are summarised in the following table.

Location	Respondents		Household residents	HOH	Indigenous residents	Home ownership
	Male	Female				
Fishing village	2	1	6 to 7	All male	All local Solomon Islanders	All owned home.
Honiara central market	3	3	6 to 7	All male	Mixed clans from across SI	5 owned home and 3 rented houses.

Women participants mentioned they are part of household decision making.

Health

Many respondents and their families have been afflicted by the flu and colds and even COVID which has meant that respondents cannot earn while they are sick. Some market vendors were also affected by Dengue and Malaria and even knee problems.

During COVID the market was closed and there was no income for families. Even after COVID respondents noted that fish selling is not as good as previously – reportedly the only good days to sell fish are Thursday to Saturday, and on Sunday for the SDA market.

Nutrition

Respondents all noted that they prefer fish over meat. Respondent families each eat meat once a week or less which is mainly chicken wings. However, families eat fresh fish 2-3 times a week and tin fish every 5-6 days. The main fish consumed are reef fish, bonito and mackerel.

Most respondents indicated that it is faster to cook fish than meat. They also noted that fish prices are higher now than 5 years ago. With a family of 5/6 people it costs more than SBD 50 to feed the family fish. Furthermore, the size of the fish sold is smaller compared to 5 years ago.

Respondents indicated that the main reasons for not eating more fish relate to the following:

- Cost
- Cost of fishing
- Quality / freshness of fish concerns
- Access to quality fish
- Fear of food poisoning. Many fish sellers at the market sell salted fish from fish that are not fresh.

Employment and earnings

All respondents interviewed work in the informal sector as fishermen or fish sellers. When there are no fish due to bad weather and other issues, they sell vegetables, clothing, cooked food, and other products in the market. While bad weather can affect sales, all respondents work full time.

Each respondent earns over SBD 600 a month.

Expenditure

Fish market respondents reportedly spend around SBD 250 a month whereas the Fishing village report around SBD 550 a month.

Climate change effects

All respondents noted that climate change affects their work. They noted that bad weather and strong winds affect safety, cost to attain and sell their fish, personal health concerns as well as broader access to services and commodities.

Fishing gender roles

Fishing roles tend to be dictated by cultural taboos, especially in communities. Only men allowed in some communities. Respondents indicated that at times women know how to fish better than men, but cultural norms limit them to specific roles. See the table below indicating main fishing industry roles of men and women in Solomon Islands.

Fishing related Role	Men	Women
Boat operation	Men	
Offshore fishing including FADs	Men	
Boat repair/ maintenance	Men	
Coastal fishing and other sea products	Men	Women
Post-harvest handling	Men	
Cleaning of fish products	Men	Women
Selling of fish	Men	Women
Cleaning of fish belle	Men	Women
Cook	Men when there is no female around to cook.	Women
Cook fish for sale, e.g., restaurants, stalls, etc.		Women

6.12 Tonga

Gender policies

Tonga has committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through several international commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs, and oceans.

Tonga is one of xx countries in the Pacific that have not ratified CEDAW.

National Commitments to Gender Equality

- The Constitution of Tonga states, "No laws shall be enacted for one class and not for another class, but the law shall be the same for all the people of the Land". Laws not always applied consistently to men and women.
- Tonga's Strategic Development Framework –'Strong inclusive communities, by engaging districts/villages/communities in meeting their prioritised service needs and ensuring equitable distribution of development benefits'
- National Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Tonga Policy and Strategic Plan of Action 2019–2025.

Key input from national consultations

Eighteen respondents from Ha'atafu, Tongatapu and 20 respondents from 'Eua were interviewed in July 2023. Ages of respondents varied between 32-72 in Ha'atafu and 35-85 in 'Eua.

Some key demographics of the respondents are summarised in the following table.

Table 1.

Location	Respondents		Household residents	HOH	Indigenous residents	Home ownership
	Male	Female				
Ha'atafu	13	5	4 to 5	All male	All respondents were Tongan.	All owned home and looked after homes of overseas relatives.
'Eua	17	3	5	All male	All respondents were Tongan	

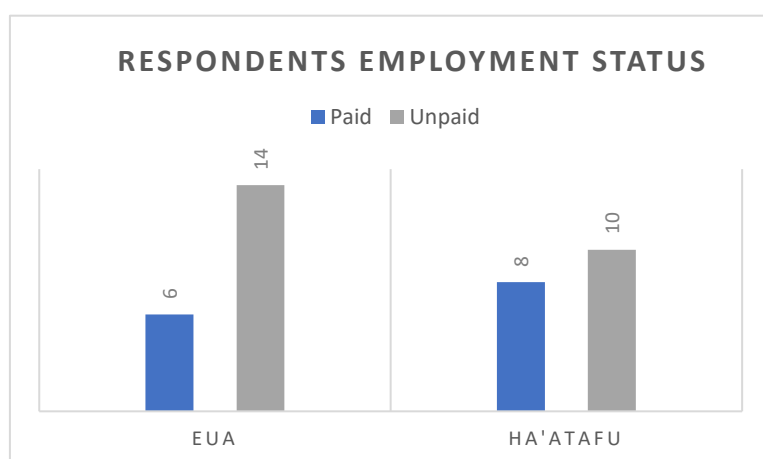


Figure 1.

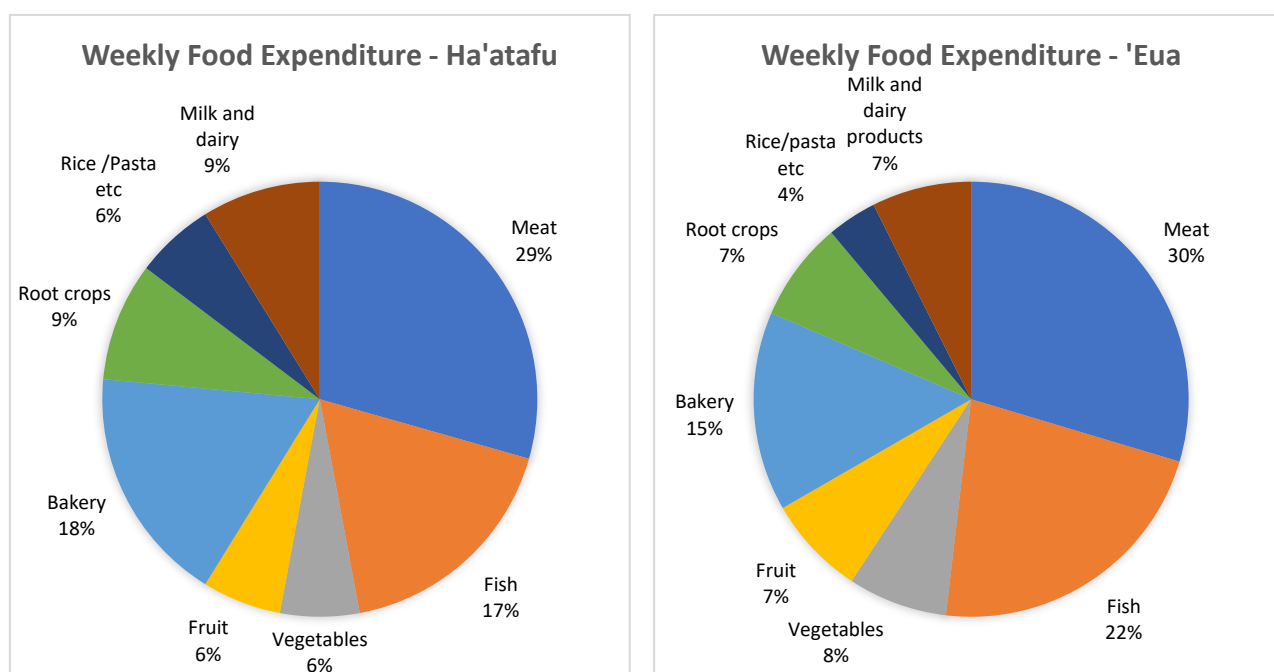
Employment and earnings

Most of the respondents did not receive an income as noted in Figure 1 above. Those who earned an income included 7 respondents from 'Eua and 5 from Ha'atafu who were in full time employment. The remainder were either in part time employment or self-employed. Income earned each month

reportedly was between \$150 -300 in Ha'atafu and 'Eua.

Food Expenditure

Respondents reportedly spend TOP 170 a month on food. Of this approximately 18% (Ha'atafu) and 20.7% ('Eua) is spent on fish and 29% on meat in Ha'atafu and 29.5% ('Eua). See below the expenditure pattern of respondents from Ha'atafu and 'Eua.



Climate change effects

All respondents noted that climate change affects their work. They noted that bad weather and strong winds affect safety, cost to attain and sell their fish, personal health concerns, food availability as well as broader access to services and commodities.

Health

Many respondents and their families have been afflicted by the flu and colds and even COVID which has meant that respondents cannot earn while they are sick.

During COVID the market was closed and there was no income for families. Even after COVID respondents noted that COVID affected the way the marketing operates, and it has been slow to re-establish normal operations and generate incomes.

Nutrition

Respondents all noted that they prefer fish over meat. Respondent families reportedly eat meat daily, and this includes mainly lamb flaps or chicken thighs or wings. However, families eat fresh fish 2-3 times a week in 'Eua and weekly in Ha'atafu. The main fish consumed are **reef fish and tuna from longline fishing vessels**. Most respondents indicated that it took longer preparatory time cooking fish than meat.

Respondents from both Ha'atafu and 'Eua noted that cost and limited access to quality fish were the main reasons that they did not eat more fish.

Fishing gender roles

Fishing roles continue to follow traditional patterns whereby offshore fishing and more laborious roles are carried out by men. Women fish and glean in coastal areas and carry out some of the less physically demanding roles such as cleaning and selling the fish. See the table below indicating main fishing industry roles of men and women in Tonga.

Fishing related Role	Men	Women
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Boat operation	Men	
Offshore fishing	Men	
Boat repair/ maintenance	Men	
Post-harvest handling	Men	Women
Cleaning of fish products	Men	Women
Use of fish for food or sale	Men	Women
Selling of fish	Men	Women

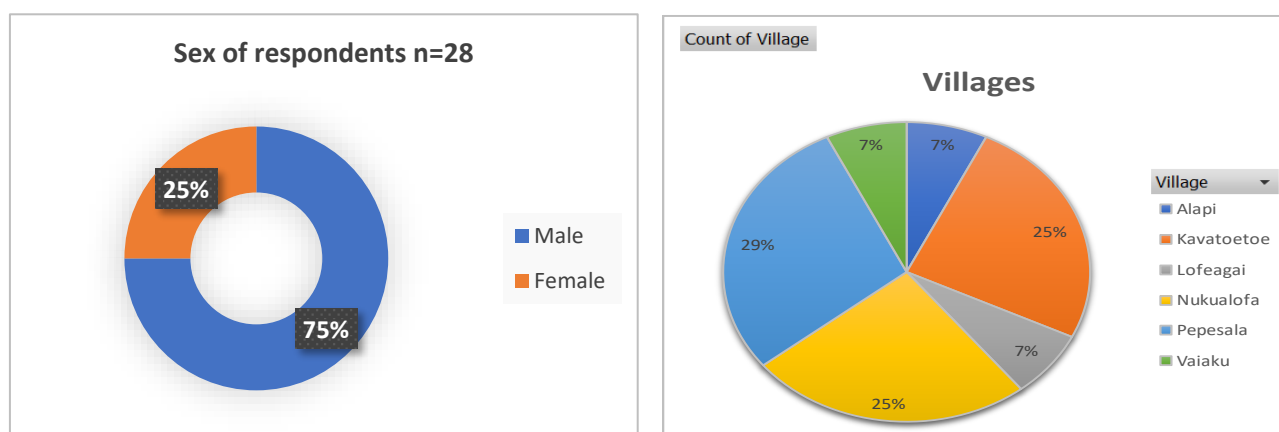
6.13 Tuvalu

Gender Policies

Tuvalu has committed to strengthening gender equality in the fisheries sector through a number of internal commitments and national priorities and policies, including but not limited to the following:

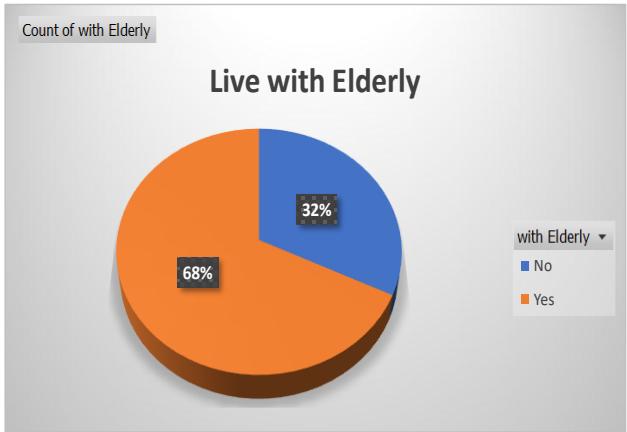
- The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – ratified in 2000 - efforts to ensure women benefit from resource conservation and development especially in outer islands.
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified in 2000.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This considers men's and women's roles in resource management, including management of rivers, reefs and oceans.
- Tuvalu National Gender Policy - opportunities for women in the fisheries sector.

Key Input from National Consultations



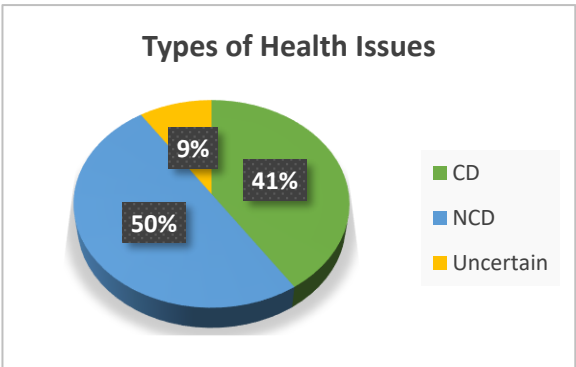
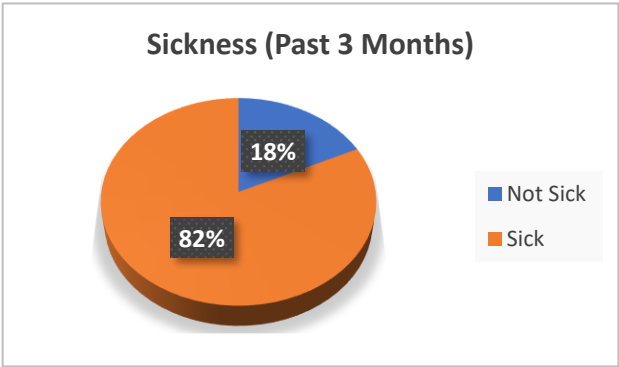
7 women and 21 men respondents were interviewed and were aged between 23 to 66 years of age. This was broken down into 13 from Funafuti (5 women and eight men) and 15 from Nukulaelae (13 men and two women) villages in July 2023.

Of these respondents 27 were fishers who also farmed and undertook several other tasks including house duties. Figure XX highlights respondents from villages surveyed in both Funafuti and Nukulaelae.

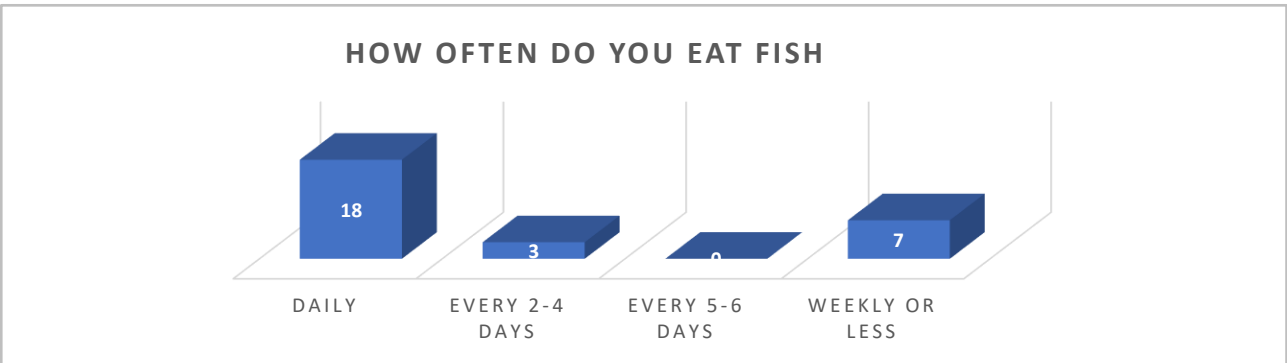


A significant number of respondents reside with elderly family members, who are likely to face increased vulnerability to climatic events.

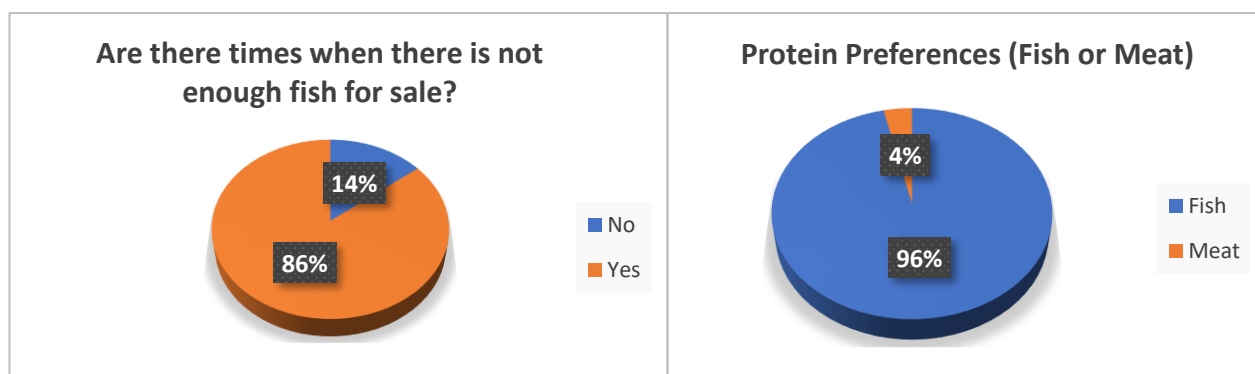
The high level of sickness in respondent households and the further fact that the illnesses suffered are predominantly non-communicable in nature, can suggest the vulnerability of respondents’ households as determined by health-related causes.



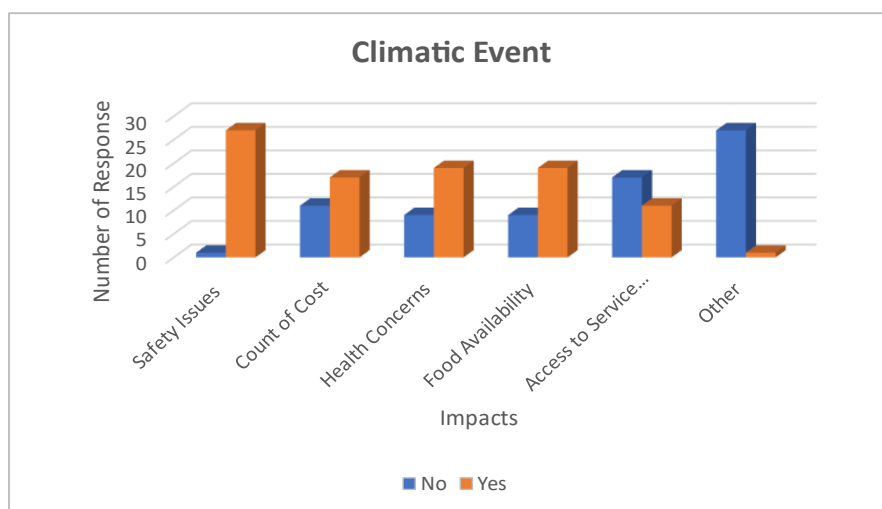
Consumption of Fish



64% of respondent eat fish daily. Furthermore, fish is the favoured protein source in respondents’ diets. Most respondents indicated that there were times that no fish were available for sale in the community.



Climatic Events

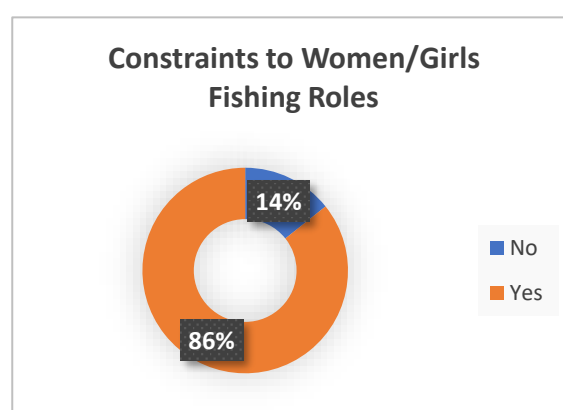
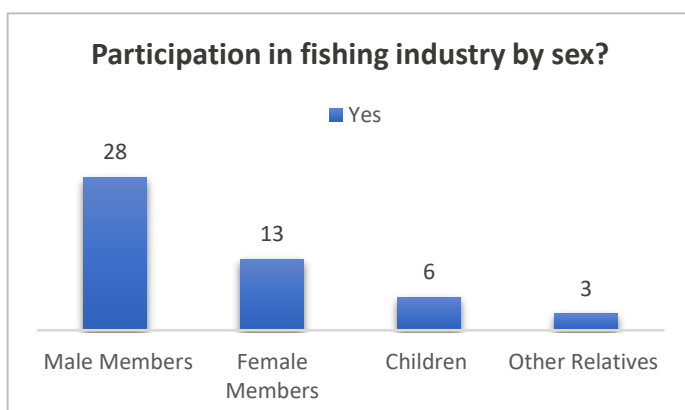


Reflected herewith are the key concerns of respondents in a climatic event.

Understandably, especially with many vulnerable household members, 'safety' is the dominant concern. This is subsequently followed by 'health, costs of climate induced impacts, access to services and food availability'.

Roles and Responsibilities

Constraints of traditional working roles highlighted fishing sector roles and responsibilities. Women do not carry out offshore fishing but are responsible for selling the fish. This is the same situation in both Funafuti and Nukulaelae. Respondents (96%) indicated that there are constraints to women being involved in offshore fishing, the main ones being 'traditional roles and lack of interest' are the main reasons women do not participate in offshore fishing. Both men and women are involved in sale of fish in Funafuti, whereas it is largely the role of women in Nukulaelae.



6.14 Vanuatu

Gender policies

'The Vanuatu Government recognises that gender equality is part of the fundamental right and duty enshrined in the National Constitution of Vanuatu' (National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019).

'The future of Vanuatu is shaped by active participation and meaningful contribution of all citizens'.

International commitments

Vanuatu is a signatory to several international and regional agreements on gender equality and the advancement of women. These include:

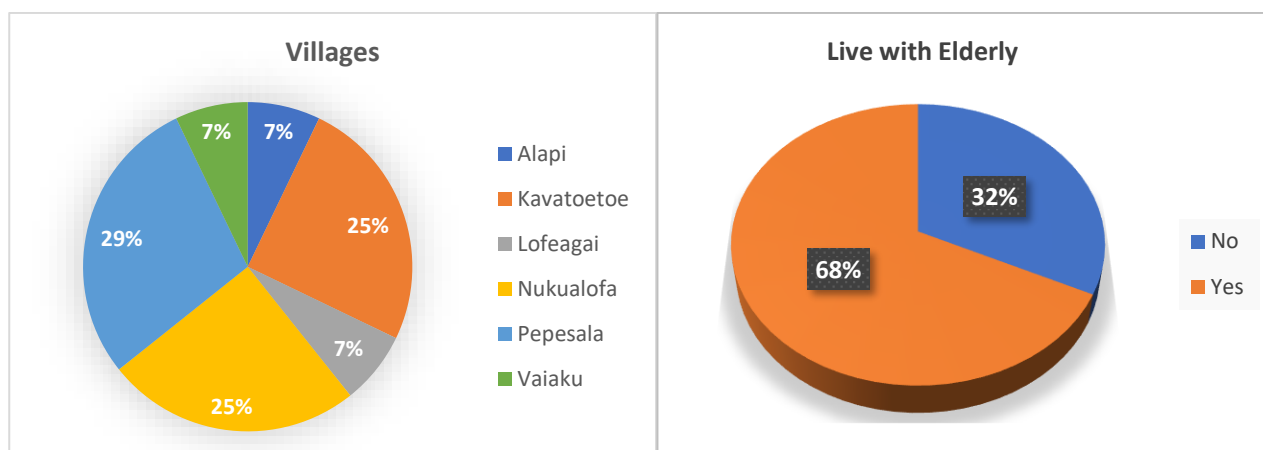
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Optional Protocol;
- Millennium Development Goals;
- Beijing Platform for Action (BPA);
- Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation;
- International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action;
- Pacific Plan;
- Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality;
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

National Commitments

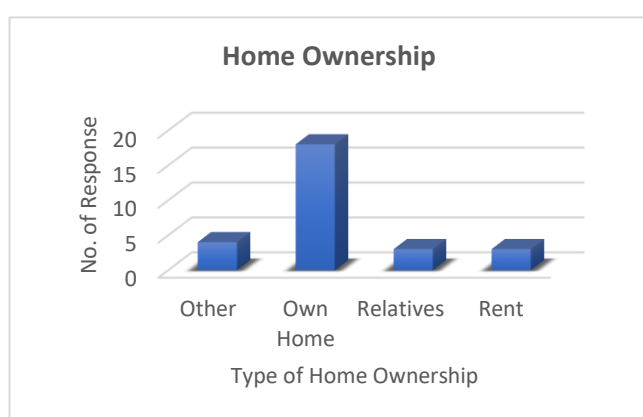
- Constitution recognises the rights and freedoms of all individuals without discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, place of origin, religious or traditional beliefs, political opinions or language.
- The first National Policy on Gender Equality affirms the Vanuatu Government's commitment towards gender equality across all sectors and at all levels of society and the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- the 2006 National Women's Forum;
- the National Plan of Action for Women 2007-2011;
- Policy development consultations undertaken in Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Shefa and Tafea provinces, 2012-2013; and
- the 2015 national and provincial policy validation. towards men and women.
- the Comprehensive Reform Programme (CRP) and later in the Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) 2006 – 2015.

Key input from national consultations

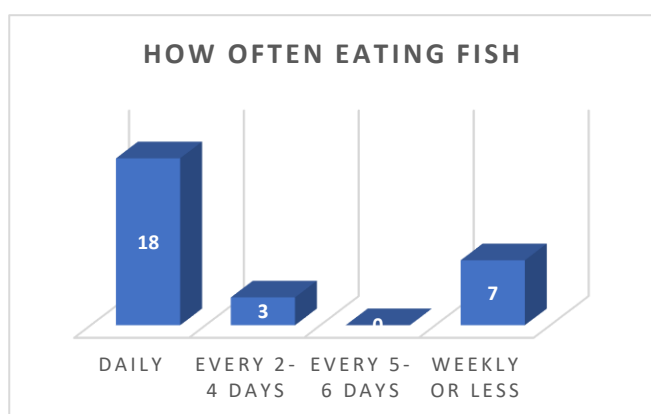
28 respondents from Vanuatu were surveyed from islands of Efate, Pele, Nguna, Emao, Moso and Lelepa. Ages of respondents were between 23 and 66. There were seven females and 21 male respondents.



What is shown clearly here is that most (68%) of respondents live with elderly family members. This indicates a high dependency rate which can increase household vulnerability.



16 respondents owned their own home, while 12 either lived with relatives or rented.



Fish is important to both the culture as well as the diet as shown in Figure xx. Eighteen respondents (64%) of respondents eat fish daily. In comparison to 28% or 7 respondents ate fish weekly or less.

Only one respondent preferred meat over fish.

85% percent of respondents indicated that women are constrained from fishing. The main constraints to women actively fishing is traditional roles (93% of respondents) and lack

of interest (96.5% of respondents). However, 75% of respondents indicated that women sell fish. Eighty six percent of respondents noted that there were times that there was not enough fish to sell.

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