
Gender Assessment

SAP016: Fiji Agrophotovoltaic Project in Ovalau

Fiji | FDB | B.26/02

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**GREEN
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Abbreviations

AE	Accredited Entity
BCDC	Bureta Community Development Committee
CAAF	Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
EES	Executing Entities
FDB	Fiji Development Bank
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labor Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGP	National Gender Policy
PPA	Pacific Platform for Action
PLGED	Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration
PV	Photovoltaic
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
SIDS	The small Island Developing States
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
WB	World Bank

I. Introduction

The Republic of Fiji is one of Pacific Island states, consisting of over 300 islands, of which 106 have permanent residents. The total population recorded 884,887 in 2018 and the sex ratio stood at 1.03 male(s) to one female¹. When viewed from the age perspective, the young people aged 24 years and under account for almost half of the total population², and it showed that more boys lived in the rural area and more girls living in urban areas, implying that young women move to urban areas earlier than young men.

This assessment aims to provide an overview of the gender situation in Fiji, identifying gender issues and necessary interventions in relation to the proposed Agrophotovoltaic Project in Ovalua, Fiji³. As the nature of this project providing co-benefit to the climate-resilient agriculture project separately funded by KOICA, this assessment includes not only the mitigation activity aspect but also the agricultural aspects. For the assessment, relevant data and reports available from the Fiji government and international reports from such organizations as World Bank were studied. An interview with the local women's group representative was carried out as well. The research mainly covered Fiji, the country of this project implementation at large, but, where necessary, zoomed into the local scale of the island of Ovalau, where the project is to be implemented, to be able to understand the circumstances specific to the local area.

This document investigated into existing gender inequality in Fiji in various socio-economic areas including employment, poverty, education and health as well as political and cultural dimension such as women's participation in politics, government as well as in traditional decision-making bodies with communities and families. In addition, special attention was made to Fijian women's vulnerability to violence and climate change and natural disasters. International, regional and national committees and institutional setup by the Fiji government, was also examined together with a preliminary analysis of the local governance in Ovalau Island, with qualitative analysis of its capacity and strengths. In the last section, the report summarises the key findings on Fiji women's conditions in terms of gender equality. In view of these, the report predicts the possible positive and negative impacts of the proposed project in terms of gender equality and empowerment.

¹ Fiji Bureau of Statistics (2018) Population and Housing Census 2017

² CIA World FactBook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fj.html>

³ The proposed programme for this gender assessment includes both the PV installation and operation component which is proposed for GCF's financing and the agricultural development component which is to be separately financed by KOICA.

In a nutshell, the report finds that due to the nature of the components of the project, the proposed project is unlikely to exacerbate the gender (in)equality and vulnerability of women or girl children (or men or boy children either.) Benefits of clean renewable energy will benefit both men and women in the entire Island. The proposed project has a potential to enhance gender equality and capacitate girls and women to fully enjoy the benefits of the project: This requires the following key interventions: 1) well-designed benefit-sharing arrangements (e.g. quota-based female employment and skill training with concrete target percentages for PV system installation and associated construction as well as farming) and 2) gender mainstreaming measures (e.g. ensuring the equal participation of women in community consultation, decision-making platforms at all levels).

As Fiji is a diverse country where many differences in economic, social, and geographic aspects are intertwined, it is difficult to generalize the status of the female population relative to male and to assess gender inequality in the country. The limited availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics was another barrier to carrying out gender analysis, especially at the household and community levels. This report provides an initial study on this matter and the project proponent is encouraged to continue to explore more specific local context along with the preparation and implementation of the project through continued consultation and engagement of the local stakeholders, particularly local women themselves. It is desirable to deploy a gender specialist, in-house or externally hired, to ensure overall gender-responsive measures are well implemented along with the project implementation as planned through monitoring and capacity building of the local stakeholders.

II. Policy, Legal and Institutional Context

The Fijian government seeks to promote women's right and gender equality by pursuing different government acts and initiatives, and by approving or ratifying international conventions.

1. International Commitments

The Fijian government has approved or ratified following international conventions and treaties in relation to women's rights and gender equality:

- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Ratification 1995): CEDAW address gender equality and non-discrimination in areas such as education, employment, marriage, health, finance and decision making. The Fiji Ministry of Women is responsible for the

implementation and reporting (the latest reporting being in 2016) of the progress of the Convention. The National Gender Policy is the key mechanism for the implementation of CEDAW.

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ratified, 1993): UNCRC recognizes civil, political, economic, social, health, cultural and human rights of any child under the ages of 18, including girls. The convention seeks to intervene with different gender issues including early marriage and sexual abuse against underage.
- ILO Equal Remuneration Convention (Ratification, 2002): The convention tackles inequality in wage or payment at work between men and women for the same value of work they do.
- UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Accession, 2017):
- ILO Discrimination in Employment and Occupation Convention (No.111) (Ratification, 2002)
- UN Underground Work (Women) Convention (Ratification, 1974): The Convention seeks to protect women from working underground or in the mining industry.
- UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (Succession, 1971): The Fijian government defined the minimum age for marriage as 18 in Marriage Act 1968 based on its commitment to protecting the underage from early marriage.

In relation to climate change and environmental protection, Fiji also ratified the following two UN environmental conventions. There are relevant to rural women in Fiji, in particular:

- UN Convention on Biodiversity (ratified 1993): This multilateral treaty seeks to conserve biodiversity, ensures sustainable use of its components, and share the benefits from bioresources fairly and equitably.
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (ratified 1993)

Furthermore, the leaders of the Pacific region also committed a collective initiative for gender equality by endorsing:

- SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014): The SAMOA puts

forth the sustainable development pathways and aspirations in areas including Climate Change, sustainable energy.

UN SDGs (2015): The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a shared blueprint around 17 goals tackling climate change and many other issues from poverty to peace. In particular, SGD Five - achieve gender equality and empower all girls and women - particularly provide a framework for policy development that are particularly critical to rural women and girls in Fiji.

The Fiji Government regularly attends the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The commission's agreements provide recommendations to support progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the SDGs and overall human rights of women and girls. The 62nd session of the CSW was on the empowerment of rural women and girls. The session's conclusion included supporting the roles of women and girls in a rural area in improving the livelihoods. These are relevant to Fijian women and girls in the rural area⁴.

2. Commitment to Regional Arrangement

Fiji is also participating in different regional initiatives on gender equality. These form the regional leadership in identifying and setting gender priorities to aid Pacific countries to develop their gender policies. Such initiatives can be enumerated as below.

- Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (PPA) (1994, 2004, 2017): As the first regional charter on gender equality established in 1994, PPA has been renewed in 2004 and 2015 respectively, the latter event leading to the change of its name to "the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights 2018-2030."
- Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and Meeting of Ministers for Women: Gender leaders from different walks of society such as government, NGOs, academia, etc. from the Pacific region gather for a discussion on progress, challenges, and recommendations for days ahead.
- The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED): Endorsed in 2012, the declaration defines its action areas as 1) gender-responsive policies and programmes; 2) leadership and decision making; 3) women's economic empowerment; 4) ending violence against women; 5) health and education.

⁴ Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

3. National Commitments & Capacity

The Constitution of Fiji (2013) stipulates all Fijian people's rights to equality and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of "*his or her actual or supposed characteristics or circumstances, including race, culture, ethnic or social origin, colour, place of origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, birth, primary language, economic or social or health status, disability, age, religion, conscience, marital status or pregnancy*"⁵

Women's rights and gender equality are incorporated in domestic laws such as Married Women's Property Act (1891), Widows and Orphans Pensions Act (1914), Family Law Act (2003), and Employment Relations Act (2007). With these national commitments, the Fijian government has been striving to encourage women to live free from physical and structural violence, as well as to participate various forms of economic activities and decision-making processes in the society.

The overall strategy of mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment into every aspect of Fiji's development and governance is found in the Fiji government's strategic vision document, "5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan: Transforming Fiji". The document explicitly recognizes women's rights to participate in all levels of decision making and the economy and to live from violence. The five performance indicators to include the percentage of women's participation in the politics and governance (e.g. % of female MPs in the parliament and % of female government employees) and in the economy (e.g. % of women in paid employment)⁶.

Putting the country's goal of gender equality into practice is founded in the National Gender Policy (NGP), adopted in 2014. The main objective of NGP is to develop plans and strategies in a gender-sensitive way and carry out gender impact assessments in relation to the utilization of natural resources. NGP is administered by the Fiji Ministry of Women, constituting a key platform for the country's implementation of CEDAW and other gender-related treaties and commitments.

NGP has several recommendations for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment

⁵ Article 26 of the Constitution of Fiji (2013)

⁶ Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

relevant to the proposed project. To list⁷:

- Ensure through enactment and revision of the existent laws equal employment, promotion, remuneration opportunities of men and women in the public and private sectors
- Promote gender equality at all worksites, mandating gender awareness in the provision of adequate occupational health and safety, sanitary facilities, flexible working hours, and increased access to quality child care facilities
- Promote gender balance in power and decision-making positions at all levels and sectors, including governmental bodies, the judiciary, trade unions, the private sector, political parties, employer's organizations and national corporations. In the rural sector, ensure women's participation in decision-making at all levels, including issues of land rentals, applications for financing from banks and financial institutions, and the distribution of rental and lease monies under the Land Use Decree 2011
- Utilize gender impact assessments, gender analysis and gender-aware approaches in assessing environmental issues
- Ensure that women in communities are consulted in any energy projects, and recognizing the roles and need of women in rural communities for energy access including renewable energy sources

There is room for improvements: In a stock take exercise conducted by the Secretariat of the Pacific (SPC) in 2014, weaknesses were identified in a technical capacity to do gender analysis, especially after the gender integration responsibility has been delegated from central planning to individual ministries. In addition, budget allocation for gender mainstreaming and short-staffing and weak capacity of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation was also identified as room for improvement⁸. Related to the latter, the Department of Women within the Ministry, is mandated to support other ministries through coordination with 1) gender focal points in sector ministries and 2) networks of rural women's organizations. There is no government-wide chain of accountability for the gender equality objectives of the National Development Plan, reportedly generating a lack of clarity and confusions in ultimate responsibility of undertaking fulfilment of the gender-related

⁷ For full text of the NGP, see: <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/getattachment/db294b55-f2ca-4d44-bc81-f832e73cab6c/NATIONAL-GENDER-POLICY-AWARENESS.aspx>

⁸ Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

objectives and mandates. 2014 SPC stock take exercise highlighted the need for better coordination across ministries.

4. Governance and Capacity at Local Level: Ovalau Island

Ovalau Island is part of Eastern Division of Fiji. Major local government entities include Lomaiviti Provincial Government, Eastern Division Office, Levuka Town Council (under Department of Town & County Planning) and Ovalau District Office. As the affected community, Vanua of Bureta is 100% indigenous Fijian (i-Taukei) population. I'taukei Affairs Board (Roko Tui Ovalua) is another important stakeholder together with the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji (CAAF) (due to the proximity of the proposed PV system to the Bureta airstrip. I'Taukei Affairs Board (and Office) is a government body for indigenous Fijian people, whose aims include promotion and protection of the indigenous cultures and traditions in the respective locality of the according to jurisdictions.

Available data and literature on gender issue at the sub-national level are scanty. It is not clear whether any designated officer(s) exist in the local government office level to promote gender equality. However, it is noteworthy that the Secretary of the I'taukei Affairs Board (Roko Tui Ovalua) is also the head of an NGO promoting gender equality.

The assessment below is largely dependent upon our preliminary findings through consultation meetings and interview with the local stakeholders:

Governance at Vanua level

Vanua of Bureta, the affected community by the proposed project, is represented by the Bureta Community Development Committee (BCDC). BCDC is composed of representatives of four villages (Naiviteitei, Nasaga, Tai, Navuola) with a common vision of " Sustainable Holistic Prosperity for the Vanua of Bureta." The Committee has 25 Commissioners including 1 chairperson (Donato Koyanasau) 1 Secretary (Ms Serena Qoro) and 1 Treasury. The Commissioners are village heads as well as representatives of women's groups and youth groups.

As of 2020, there are 5 female Commissioners (20%) who represent women's interests and voices in the localities. The secretary of the Committee, Ms Serena Qoro, is also the President of Lomaiviti Women's Group (LWG). LWG is a registered NGO in Fiji, part of i-Taukei Office. (Bureta is one of the 12 districts in Lomaiviti Province.)

The most local administrative level of governance is *mataqali*, a unit of land ownership in

most of the areas in the country. *Mataqali* is closely related (by marriage and kinship etc.) group of families over generations with distinctive characteristics of its own. In the context of the proposed project, BCDC is reported to be composed of the head of the 17 *mataqali*. The committee's decision making should engage all the representative *mataqalis*, although they are represented by three Trustees. *Mataqali* is traditionally patriarchal system.

Fiji has a unique traditional community-level decision-making and conflict resolution mechanism called "Talanoa"⁹. BCDC, as a unique modernization/evolution of the traditional "Talanoa" system, includes women members. Talanoa is based on the principle of fairness and openness and participation. Open, inclusive and facilitative nature of Talanoa tradition in Fiji has been officially adopted by the UNFCCC in COP 22 and officially practised as an effective consultation platform since COP 23 globally¹⁰. A series of interviews with Ms Qoro, BCDC Secretary cum a President of the local women's group, was conducted on 5 October 2019, 19 December 2019 and 22 January 2020¹¹ respectively¹². According to her, although women are minority groups in social aspects in Fiji, BCDC holds a special position as it is well-represented by women. Gender equality in the community level is also better in this region. In Ovalau, the local government is in good condition as the communities are well represented formally. Regular meetings are held and the committee's operation is active.

It is noteworthy that the Vanua of Bureta proactively embraced inclusiveness to Talanoa by ensuring women's participation. As a result, the climate change-related consultation via the "Talanoa Dialogue" was enabled more female representation in this community. Talanoa in the Vanua of Bureta is open to women and everybody is free to attend and voice out their opinions for the community's decision-making.

⁹ "[...] indigenous people in Fiji most often settle their decision-making is known by the term "talanoa". This is where the whole village or elders come together and talk over issues in a traditional manner where the chiefly herald acts as chairman of the discussion. After listening to all angles of the story from all the elders, the herald then advises the chief that those were ideas from the floor of discussion. The chief will then give his final say, but this is done only after everyone has voiced their different opinions. This exercise is carried out only in the traditional villages - not in towns and cities. [...] This procedure is still practiced at the present time." (Robinson, David; Robinson, Kayt, "Pacific ways" of talk Hui and talanoa", NZ Trade Consortium working paper no 36 July 2005). For full text, see: <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/66100/1/494642475.pdf>)

¹⁰ <https://www.dw.com/en/talanoa-dialogue-giving-everyone-a-voice-in-the-climate-conversation/a-42479711>

¹¹ The latest meeting in January 2020 was a telephone interview.

¹²For more details of the consultation meetings with the communities and other local stakeholders, pls see Annex 1 of this report.

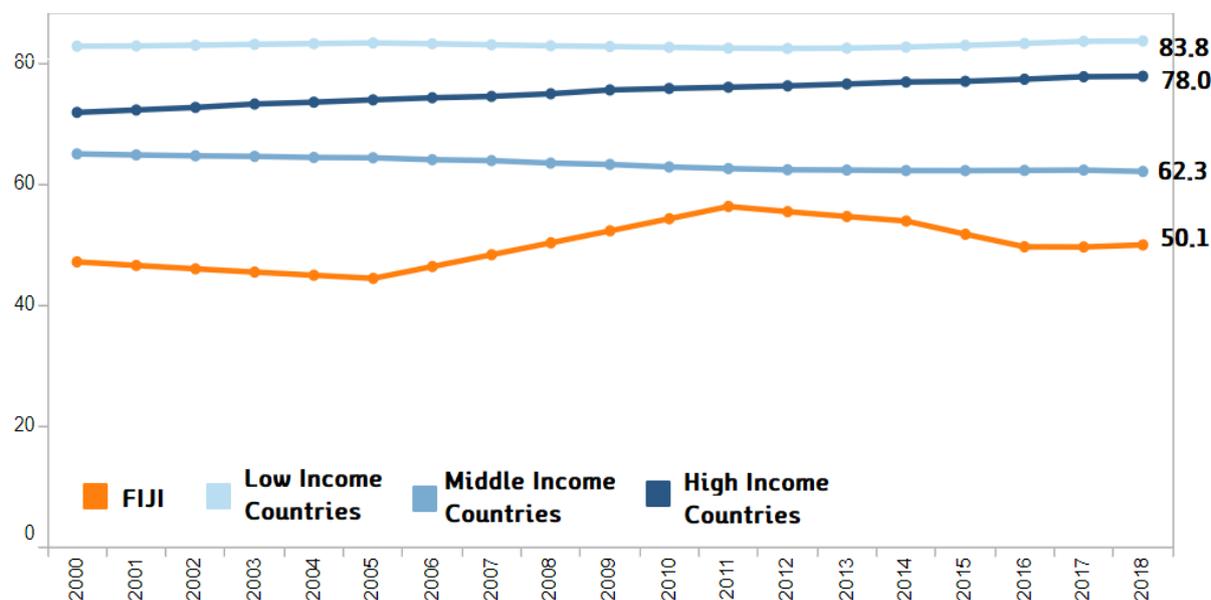
III. Conditions of Women in Fiji

Despite multiple commitments by the Fiji Government and locally-based communities to gender equality, the gender gap in Fiji still exists across many sectors, most notably, in the economic sector. The gender bias in part is rooted in traditional norms, customs and culture, with men often preferentially being the decision-makers.

Current gender status and female engagement in the Fijian society in a variety of areas for engagements are summarised below:

1. Economic Opportunities and Employment (Formal)

Gender inequality in relation to labour participation, particularly in the formal economy, is apparent: As for the ratio of female to male labour force participation rate, Fijian women were only 50% active in employment compared to men. Being an upper mid-income country group (by WB groups), Fiji's performance in female participation in the formal economy is way below the average of the Middle-income country group: Marking only 50% compared with the mid-income country group average: 83%.

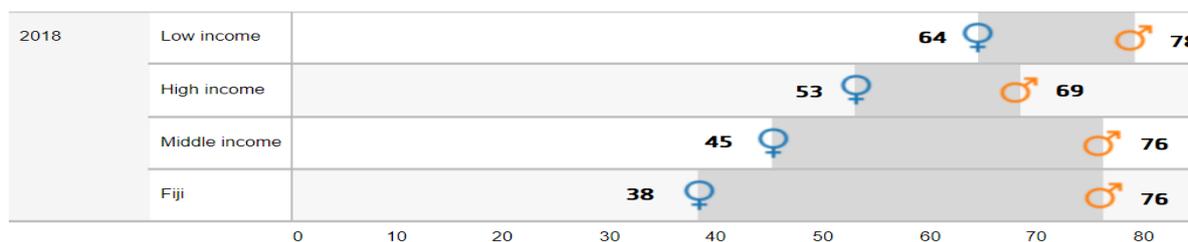


Source: World Bank Gender Portal

Figure 1. The ratio of female to male labour force participation rate (%)

Statistics show a lower level of female labour force participation than male across income strata. One noteworthy exception is the higher participation of female workers in the low-income class. This is deemed that low-income households are less likely to make their living

only with an income of breadwinners (who are mostly considered as men), thus are more likely to be depending on additional economic activities by women, compared with other income classes, indicating the likelihood of both husband and wife in the family being employed for income generation.



Source: World Bank Gender Portal

Figure 2. Labour force participation rate in Fiji by sex (% of population ages 15+)

Agriculture is a traditional basis of the economy in Fiji and one of the major employing industry for both men and women. Employment rates of men and women in agriculture are similar, marking about 30 per cent. Gender division in types of work is still apparent: The jobs given to women are more continuous and time-intensive while jobs taken by men are more physical. Women usually did garden maintenance, harvesting, processing and marketing and men did the garden clearing, burning, root crop maintaining, machine ploughing, and cane cutting, brushing or harvesting.

Service is the biggest business sector, which accounted for approximately 71 per cent of Fiji’s GDP¹³. Tourism is the most contributing industry within the service sector (about 38% of the GDP), whereas the portion of agriculture was only 11 per cent. The manufacturing sector, however, hired over 10% in 2018¹⁴. By gender, more men were involved in manufacturing, such as beverages, wood, and garments, while the employment of female labour appeared higher in the service sector.

The gap between genders tended to decrease in terms of wage in opposition to the overall labour force participation rate, although the rate of male workers was still 10% higher. As for unemployment, the rate of women was 5.3 per cent, which was a bit higher than that of male workers.¹⁵ Table 1. Featured indicators in relation to economy and employment

Indicators	2000	2018
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¹³ World Bank (2017) Republic of Fiji: Systematic Country Diagnostic

¹⁴ Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

¹⁵ World Bank Group (2019) The little data book on gender

	Female	Male	Female	Male
Labor force participation rate (% of population ages 15+)	37	78	38	76
Employment in agriculture (% of employed ages 15+)	44.2	46.5	38.7	39.8
Employment in manufacturing (% of employed ages 15+)	12.6	15.4	8.2	15.5
Employment in service (% of employed ages 15+)	43.2	38.1	53.2	44.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employed ages 15+)	60	60.4	50.4	58
Unemployment rate (% of labor force ages 15+)	5.4	3.5	5.3	3.6
Contributing family workers (% of employed ages 15+)	18.7	11.3	30.1	14.5

Source: World Bank Group (2019) *The little data book on gender*

It is noteworthy that the official figures for unemployment is regarding the formal economy only. Formal employment category in Fiji includes production of goods and services for subsistence and small-scale trading by the household. However, household work typically done by women, such as childcare, elderly care, cloth washing and meal preparation and other household tasks are not measured and included. In general, women's economic activities in Fiji are skewed towards informal, and subsistence farming and small scale handicraft and manufacturing rather than formal and large scale business activities.

Gender-disaggregate data on GDP and average income level by gender is not available.

2. Poverty

It is reported that a third of the Fijian population lived in under the national poverty line in 2008/2009 and the disproportionately higher rate of poverty resides in the rural area, estimated up to 43 per cent vis-a-vis 19 per cent in the urban area. It is reported that the impacts of climate change through the incidence of natural disasters and changes in rural economies are likely to have exacerbated the poverty gap between the rural and rural areas¹⁶.

¹⁶ Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

Domestically, women are engaged in many household tasks such as water securement, sanitation, cooking, caregiving, cleaning etc. No gender-segregated data is available for poverty, but some facts point to the likelihood of women to be poorer than men: 1) that women comprise a majority of the Family Assistance Scheme and 2) that women tend to be discriminated in the labour market, as described in the section A. This tendency seems more evident in the rural region where one in every four people work in agriculture, fisheries and forestry is a woman. The level of pay also differs by gender and women in rural areas make about 25% less than what men do. Given the wage gap between urban and rural areas standing at 44.5 per cent, it can be inferred that rural women are critically vulnerable to poverty¹⁷.

3. Women's Participation in Informal Economy & Asset Ownership, Access to Finance

Women's economic participation is skewed to informal economy and their roles in the formal economy is relatively low nationwide. In 2008, it was reported that only 19% of registered businesses were in women's name. Employment and Unemployment Survey (EUS) between 2010-2011 also indicates 27% of self-employment in both formal and informal sector are accounted for by women. Women's participation as business owner in formal sector is very limited: Around 800 women compared with 4,300 men were reported to be self-employed in formal sector.

Constitution of Fiji and other related laws ensure equal rights to the asset ownership for both men and women in Fiji. However in reality, deeply-rooted culture of regarding women's roles as that of household workers and children/elder caretakers is reported to continue to generate "*de facto discrimination against women [...] Examples cited include refusal to honor contract and salary agreements with women [...]*"¹⁸. Thus, Barriers to business development in Fiji "*affect both men's and women's potential businesses, but women can be further disadvantaged by gendered power relations, the structure of traditional leadership hierarchies, and men's control of economic resources and decision making.*"¹⁹

To be more specific the Government of Fiji has listed up the potential challenges for women to have an equal access to the micro and small-scale business development as follows:

¹⁷ Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

¹⁸ Fiji Country Gender Assessment 2015 (ADB)

¹⁹ Fiji Country Gender Assessment 2015 (ADB)

Table 5.5 Gender-Related Constraints to Economic Empowerment

General Constraints	Potential Gender Differences in Impacts of Constraints
Shortage of financial services suitable for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)	Shortage of services creates high competition and long wait time for service. Women may have less time and mobility and may miss out on opportunities to learn about how to use services. Some financial services are 'women only' and men may lack access to community-based options.
Shortage of support services for businesses	Women generally lack work experience due to years spent raising children and may need more coaching than men to enter business. Shortage of services that offer mentoring and coaching can reduce success.
Poor financial management skills of MSME operators	Women operate smaller and more intermittent income generation and business initiatives than men. Women may lack time to access training. Women may not envision long-term business success and undervalue skill development.
Lack of statistics on MSME sector	Lack of data makes it difficult to target initiatives to the different needs of women and men.

Source: Government of Fiji. 2010. Roadmap for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development, 2010-2014. Suva.

(Source: ADB Fiji Country Gender Assessment 2015)

Another report²⁰ indicates that women in Fiji generally lack business knowledge and skills, especially in the area of marketing at the micro business level, such as "how to access market demand, how to negotiate for better prices, or how to find out where the best markets area. Challenges as such are higher for women in rural due to lack of communication and transport infrastructure.

The main income-generating activity for women in the community near the project site is found to be handcrafting made with leaves. Some usually sell virgin coconut oil while others are engaged in agriculture and fishing.

20 Mennonite Economic Development Associates of Canada for the Government of Australia. 2015. Feasibility Study on Women's Economic Empowerment in Fiji. Melbourne. Referreed from: 2015 Fiji Country Gender Assessment (ADB)



Figure 3. Handcrafting with leaves

Regardless of the legal setup in ground reality, *"Women perform the vast majority of unpaid reproductive and domestic work and are primarily responsible for the care for children, the ill and the elderly. Fijian male heirs generally inherit traditional titles and ensuing responsibilities, with women only inheriting title if there are no male survivors"*²¹. "When it comes to estate economy, the institutional system for land and marine ownership is complex and respect customary ownership for 85% of land base by indigenous (i-Taukei) groups called *Mataqali*²². Reach of women's voices varies depending on the community locations, the influence of social norm, or education levels and political connections. Especially in rural areas, men often the voice for the families, and the culture puts the communal and collective benefits before individualistic benefits. The general tendency in Fiji to put heavier household work burdens on women is also found in Vanua of Bureta and the community would not be an exemption from the nationwide tendency of women focusing on informal sectors. However, given the relative openness of Vanua of Bureta community inviting women's participation to the community-level political decision-making process and strong community-based decision-making culture, relatively more active female participation could take place in the agricultural and other types of formal employments.

In addition, considering the relative inclusiveness and higher representation of women members in the BDCD, a community-level decision-making body in relation to the

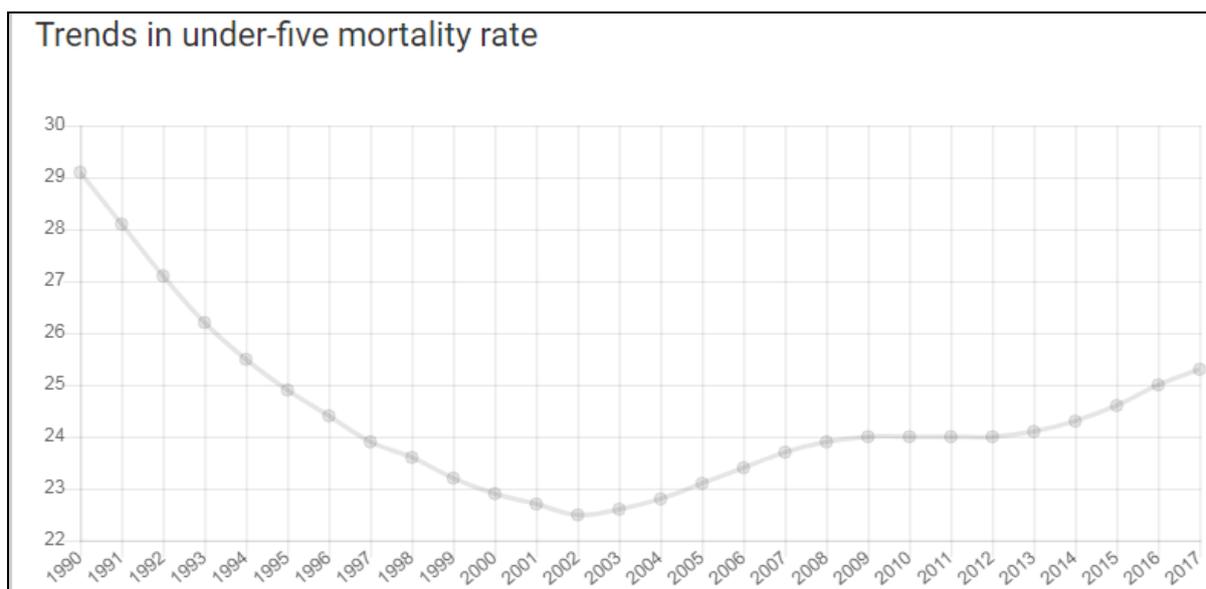
²¹ Fiji Development Bank and Green Climate Fund GESI Policy and Action Plan 2018-2021

²² Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Fiji (FAO, 2019)

implementation of the proposed project, it is possible that women's access to the economic and other benefit sharing opportunities from the proposed project may not be too severe. The project proponent is strongly recommended to ensure equal access to the project's benefits to both men and women.

4. Health Status of Women

Sex ratio at birth in Fiji was 1.06 in 2017, and it had remained the same as the figure in 2000. Female births were slightly more frequent than the newborn male babies, which seemed following the laws of nature. Infant mortality (in relation to children under 5) was recorded as 25.3 per 1,000 live births in 2018, 23 for female and 28 for male, respectively. What is noteworthy is that the trend of infant mortality rate is on the rise since the early 2000s. This is concerning and further studies are required to identify the causing factors.



(Source: UNICEF, Dec 2018/ <https://data.unicef.org/country/fji/>)

Infant mortality rates of both genders somewhat increased since 2000, and male infants' mortality rate was a little bit higher. A longer lifespan was expected in 2017 for both female and male, compared to 2000, and women on average lived 6 more years.

Table 2. Featured indicators in relation to health

Indicators	2000		2017	
	Female	Male	Female	Male

Sex ratio at birth (male births per female births)	1.06	-	1.06	-
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	21	25	23	28
Life expectancy at birth	70	65	74	68
Prevalence of smoking (% of adults)	16	54	10	35

Source: World Bank Group (2019) *The little data book on gender*

For maternal health, maternal mortality was recorded at 34 per 100,000 live births in 2017. Given that Fiji belongs to the upper-middle-income country group, maternal health condition of this country can be considered exceptional. It is much closer to the average of high-income countries and is far better than that of other middle-income countries.

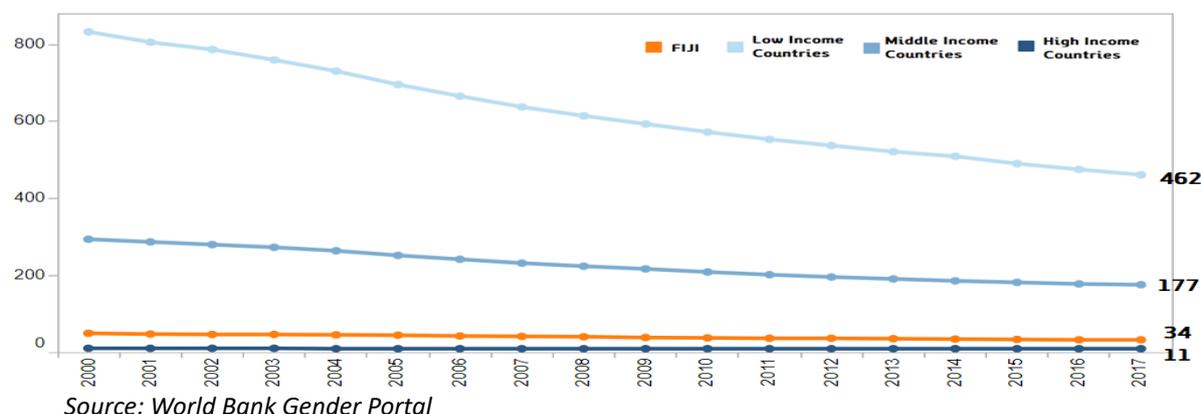


Figure 4. Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)

What is notable is the adolescent pregnancy, to which bring special attention as other health figures of Fiji appear good. Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19) in Fiji was 49.4 in 2017, higher than the average of middle-income countries, 37.7. The main culprit of such phenomenon can be deemed as a shortage of sexual and reproductive health education, especially in rural regions where health services and contraception are limited for young women. Pregnancy during adolescence can critically affect girls' lives in negative ways: not only by being exposed to health risk or social stigma against teenaged single mothers, but also a deprivation of educational opportunities because girls tend to stop attending school once they have babies.

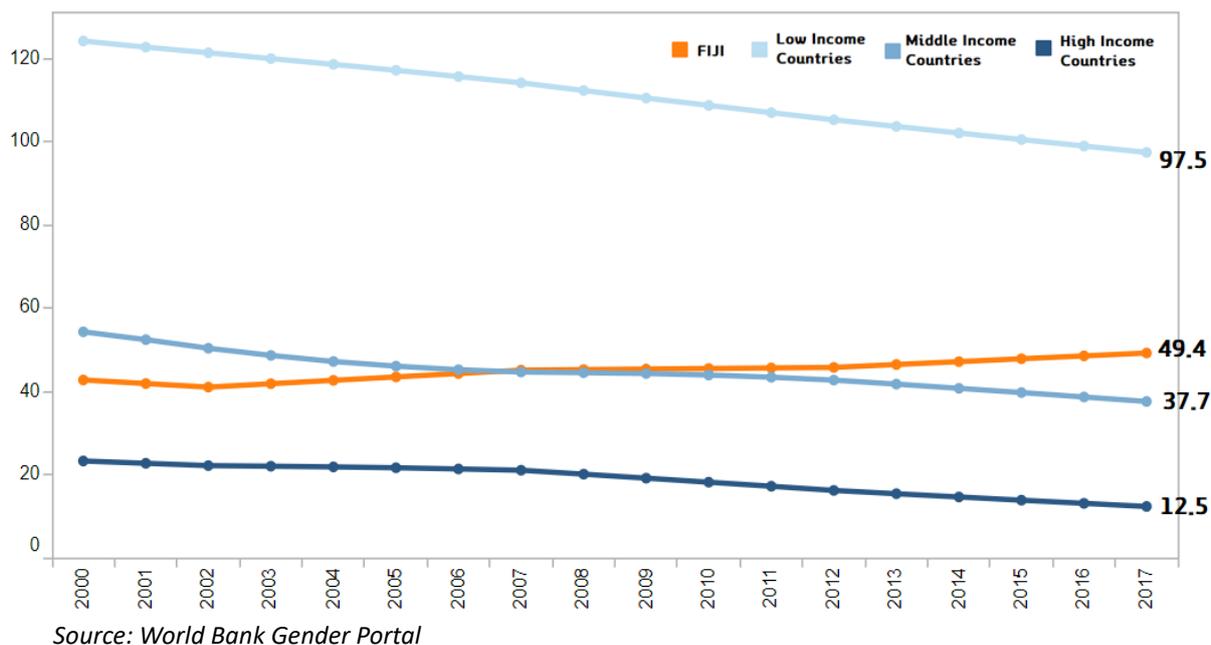


Figure 5. Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)

5. Women's Education

Gender inequality was not severe in education as the gender ratio for almost all education-related indicators between girls and boys in Fiji is close to 1:1, and the literacy rates also stood almost at 100% for both men and women.²³

Overall, the conditions for Fijian education improved in 2017 compared to 2000. The net primary enrollment rate is 98% for female students and 97% for male. Completion rate of primary school is 103 for both genders, and most of them continue and register for secondary education.

Table 3. Featured indicators in relation to education

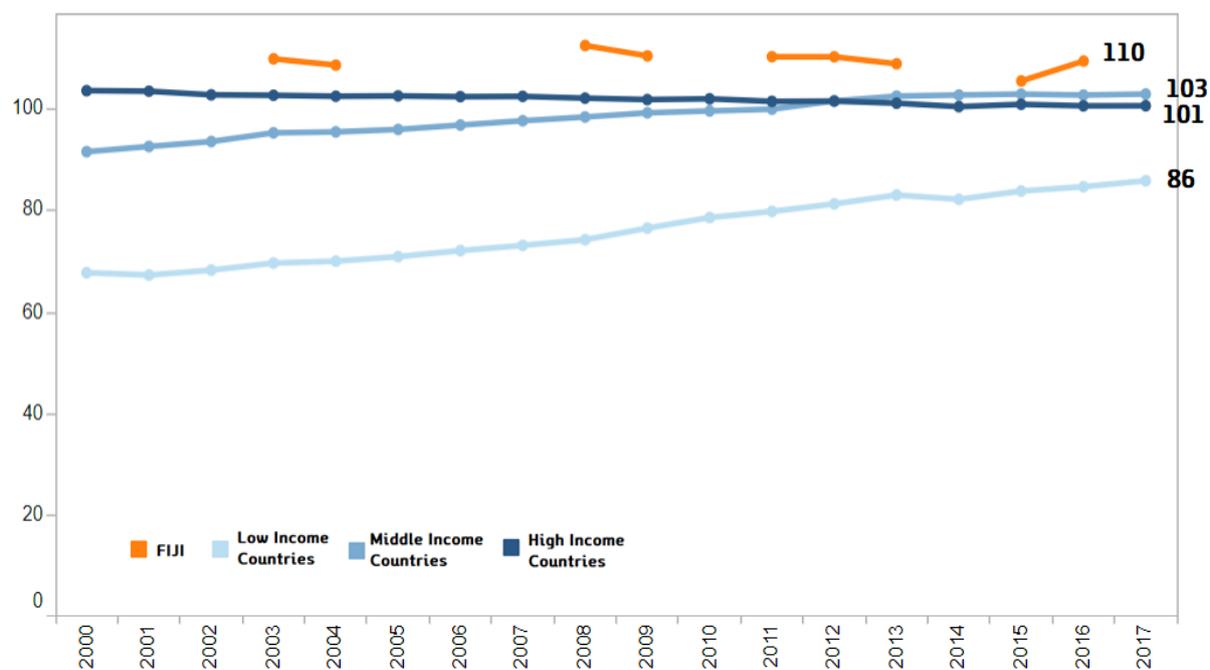
Indicators	2000		2017	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Net primary enrollment rate (%)	93	93	98	97
Primary completion rate (% of relevant age group)	94	96	103	103

²³ World Bank, World Development Indicator: Gender, <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/themes/people.html>

Progression to secondary school (%)	97	100	98	98
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Source: World Bank Group (2019) *The little data book on gender*

Although secondary completion rate is lower, more girls successfully finished their courses than boys. The ratio of female students to male was 100 in 2016, higher than the average of both middle-income countries and high-income countries.

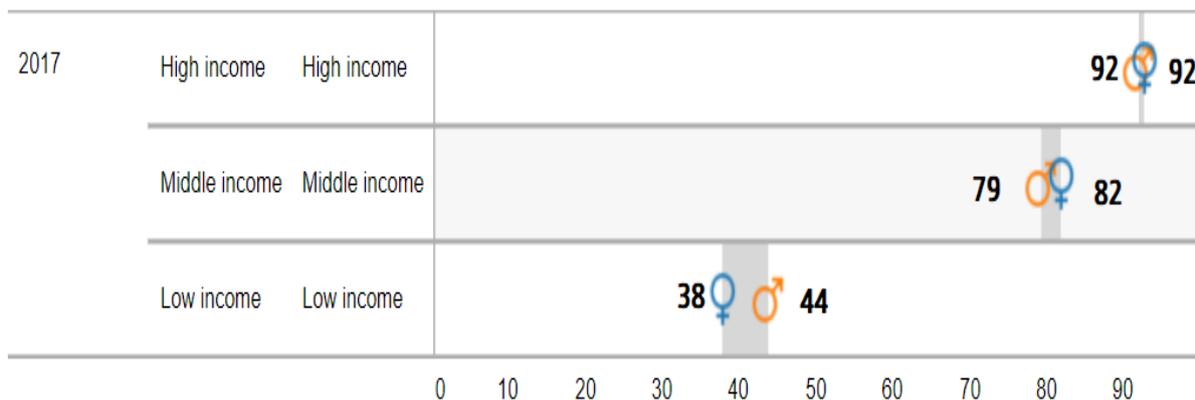


Source: World Bank Gender Portal

Figure 6. The ratio of female to male lower secondary completion rate (%)

One point to note is the difference in completion rate between income groups. In the case of the high-income group, 90 per cent of both female and male, completed lower secondary education. About 80 per cent of students from the middle-income group graduated from lower secondary school. The low-income class, however, showed a significantly lower level of completion rate for both genders, and the gender gap was widening for this group (44% of boys and 38% of girls).

This difference in completion rate by income group reveals that the income level is a more influential factor than gender for educational opportunities. However, this does not mean that there is no gender inequality in Fiji education. Gender gap rises with a decrease of overall income, which is most apparent within the low-income group.



Source: World Bank Gender Portal

Figure 7. Lower secondary completion rate by sex (% of relevant age group)

6. Women in Public Life and Decision Making

At the political decision-making level, women represented 16% of the total seats at the national parliament in 2018. Even though this was an enhanced situation, considering 6% in 2000, the figure was still insufficient to speak for women in the Fijian society. The proportion of women in ministerial level positions was similar to the national parliament - 15.4 per cent, which is insufficient to properly represent and protect women's rights.²⁴

Employment market indicated a more favourable condition for women. Female share of employment in senior and middle management was 38.6 per cent in 2017, showing greater participation than in political and governmental sectors.

Table 4. Featured indicators in relation to public life and decision making

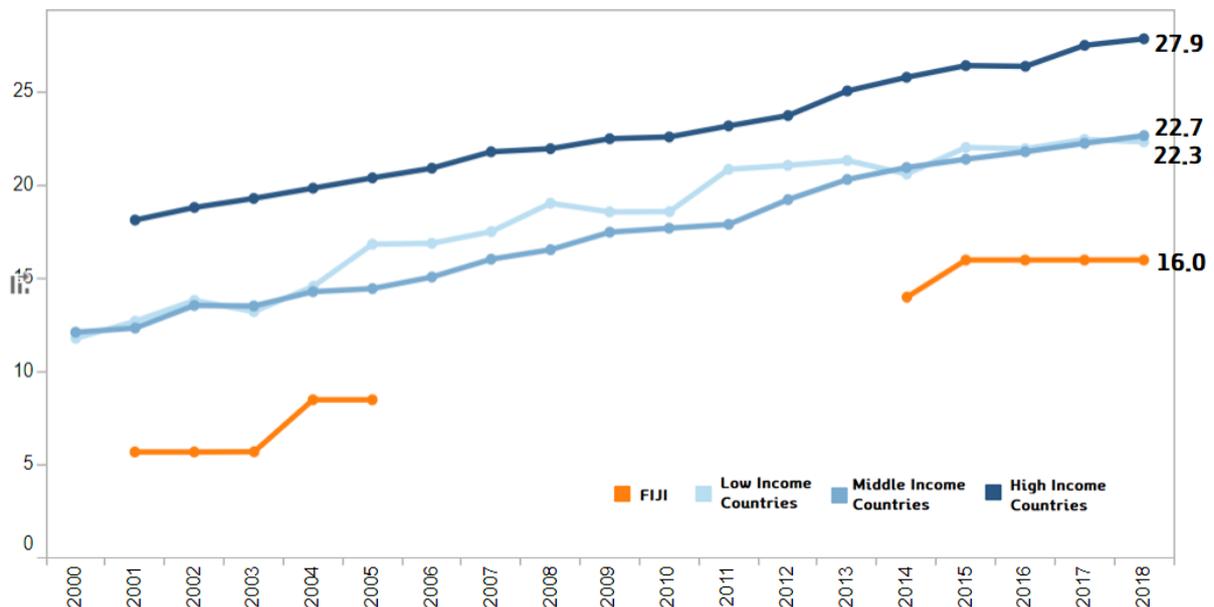
Indicators	2000		2018	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Seats held by women in national parliament (%)	6	-	16	-
Female share of employment in senior & middle mgmt. (% of total)	N/A	-	38.6	-
The proportion of women in ministerial level	N/A	-	15.4	-

²⁴ World Bank, World Development Indicator: Gender, <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/themes/people.html>

positions (%)				
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Source: World Bank Group (2019) *The little data book on gender*

As mentioned above, the representation of Fijian women in the Parliament has stayed low. The numerical value of 16 per cent was not only lower than the average of high-income countries (27.9 per cent) and of middle-income countries (22.7 per cent), but also lower than the average of low-income countries (22.3 per cent). As one of the upper-middle-income countries, the gender inequality of Fiji at the decision-making level is remaining far behind than the average of the relevant country group.



Source: World Bank Gender Portal

Figure 8. Seats held by women in national parliament (%)

7. Violence

More inequality was found at home or in a local community. About two-thirds of the Fijian women in their adulthood (between the ages of 18 and 65) have experienced physical or sexual violence²⁵. The prevalence of violence against women has negative impacts on community and family capacity as well as on social cohesion. This, in turn, hinders economic

²⁵ Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre (2013) *Somebody’s Life, Everybody’s Business! National Research on Women’s Health and Life Experiences in Fiji*

and social development.

Female residents in rural areas are more likely to be prone to violence than those in the urban regions. Their access to support or protection services is also restricted, largely because of their remote abode.

During the interview, the president of the Lomaiviti Women's Group said that the communities around the project site do not have serious issues in relation to violence against women, with churches' big roles in ensuring safety for women. Furthermore, since most of the residents are relatives and connected with one another, women are reported to be fairly safe even at night.

8. Ethnicity and Women

The indigenous population in Fiji (i-Taukai) constitutes about 50 per cent of the total population and Indians make up 46 per cent. The remainder of the population is made up of Pacific islanders, Chinese, and people of European descent. Related to British colonial history, the Indian Fijian had been enjoying a relatively higher income level in professional and high-skill jobs in urban areas. Since the country became independent in 1970, 'affirmative actions' had been taken in order to achieve economic equality between the two races. Data on the gender aspects in the ethnic differentiation in Fiji was not available. For the proposed project, the ethnic dimension is not relevant as the affected community is 100% Indigenous Fijian (i-Taukei).

9. Climate Vulnerability of Women²⁶

In general, it is reported that in Pacific island countries, women are more likely to be negatively affected by climate change and related natural disasters. Global research shows that women and children are 14 times more likely to die or be injured than men due to a disaster.

²⁶ The gender aspects of the climate change and natural disaster impacts are summarised here based on the following sources: UN Women Brief - Why is climate change a gender issue/ Gender and climate (in)security in the Pacific from the Strategist(14 May 2019): <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/gender-and-climate-insecurity-in-the-pacific/> Putting women at the forefront of climate change and disaster response in the Pacific, 4 June 2014, UN Women/ Life on the Front Line of Climate Change for Fiji's Women and Girls, 6 November, 2017, News Deeply

In addition to high fatalities, loss of homes and livelihoods, women and girls also experience more intangible losses. They are subject to a number of secondary impacts, including SGBV and trauma, loss or reduction of economic opportunities, and increased workloads.

In response to the impacts of damage, girls are more likely than boys to be pulled out of school to help with domestic chores after a disaster, making the achievement of universal primary education more difficult. After the 2012 Fiji floods, for example, evidence suggests that girls were being taken out of school to help take care of younger children or solicit extra cash through sex work. Damaged infrastructure also limits access to health resources from pregnant women, increasing the risk of maternal death.

Pacific women are often responsible for water collection. In the case of water shortage due to the drought, flood and salination of groundwater, a decrease in the availability of freshwater means women and girls will spend more time collecting water for their families. Additionally, the responsibility for caring for those who fall ill due to the increase in water-borne diseases associated with the inevitable decrease in water quality will also fall on women and girls. This increase in workload results in women and girls having less time to spend on earning an income and education or contributing to community-level decision-making processes, including climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Changing rainfall patterns combined with salinity intrusion are likely to have a significant impact on agriculture. Women and girls are affected the most when traditional crops begin to fail. Even though women are responsible for most of the agriculture production they often have limited land ownership and less access to productive resources to improve yields.

The situation of women in Ovalau would not be too different in case of the occurrence of natural disasters and extreme weather conditions.

IV. Gender-inclusive Measures in Project Implementation

To summarize, a generally low level of women's participation in the formal political and economic arena, violence against women as well as cultural barriers for women to take part in deeply male-dominated local governance mechanism remain to be barriers. However, the level of gender (in)equality appears to vary from place to place and the project location, Ovalau Island, is judged to have a relatively robust local governance system with a degree of representation of women in its decision-making roles.

The proposed project involves the generation of electricity by a solar PV system to, at least in part, replace electricity generation capacity provided to the Ovalau grid by diesel generators

in Levuka. Unlike other similar projects in Fiji, the proposed Projects does not include the connection of additional households or communities to the electricity supply. Given the nature as such, there appear to be no explicit gender components in the proposed project.

Given that the BCDC, the representing body of the affected community of Vanua of Bureta, is well-represented by both men and women, as long as 1) the meaningful consultations are ensured to reach a consensus among the affected community members (including girls and women) and to engage both men and women along the entire lifecycle of the project implementation, and; 2) appropriate land acquisition and compensation/benefit sharing agreements are made and implemented accordingly, the project is not expected to exacerbate the existent gender inequality in the community or in the broader context.

Well-prepared and effective implementation of the project's benefit-sharing scheme, which is well-supported by both men and women, could even improve actively furthering the welfare of the female population in the community. While effective gender mainstreaming may not be feasible at the policy or institutional level at the national scale, it is still possible that considerations are made in order to maximize the women's participation in decision-making and consultation process as well as benefit-sharing of (particularly more vulnerable) women's group amongst the beneficiary group, i.e. Vanua of Bureta, represented by the BCDC. Following are some of the measures to be considered to maximize the benefits on women: These measures shall be included as Gender Action Plan (GAP) for incorporation the overall design, planning, implementation and operation of the proposed project.

1. During the design/Planning stage

It is of utmost importance that the project proponent, FDB(AE/EE), ensures the due presentation of female community members during the consultation and decision-making process especially on land acquisition and compensation and livelihood support packages for the losses and temporary disturbance of their livelihoods. One should bear in mind that both landowners, as well as landless affected households (engaging economic activities such as coconut (and other fruit/commercial) tree and crop farming and cattle herding with or without legal or customary rights), need to be equally considered for consultation and engagement along the entire life cycle of the project implementation.

International safeguard policies also require that all types of persons and households whose livelihood and income sources are permanently or temporarily disturbed and affected are entitled to according compensation by the project proponent, regardless of their legal ownership status, i.e. major difference from many of the country laws and regulations on

land acquisition and compensation. Special consideration should be made, in particular, to women and vulnerable group, especially those without land titles or tenure.

2. Construction/Installation Stage

This project's key component is a solar photovoltaic power generation, and sectoral specialists, especially engineers, are required for the construction and operation of the system (such as general workers, machine operators, truck drivers and managers). At this point, it is highly desirable to actively consider **hiring female experts and engineers**. As confirmed in the previous chapters, gender inequality in labour and employment, particularly in the manufacturing industry needs to be improved. The creation of female experts' employment in this project will contribute to bridging the gender gap. The required skill training program is recommended to be introduced (for installation of PV systems, maintenance and operation, as well as farming techniques for the selected four crops in the project site etc.)

3. Operation stage

In addition, in the post-construction (operation) stage, it is important to maintain the energy efficiency of the installed PV system by regularly managing solar panels to secure the originally planned power generation and to keep energy efficiency from falling. To do so, it will require regular maintenance of solar panels such as regular cleaning of the panels and replacement of some electric equipment. The tasks as such are not physically demanding that women will not be disadvantaged. Given that the PV operation and maintenance training shall target vulnerable women groups, it is likely that the community women will also be hired. This project is also a new type of project incorporating agriculture into solar power generation and plans to farm under solar panels. The east-west facing system would provide sufficient solar irradiation to keep the expected yields of crops (such as taro, tomato, lettuce and bell pepper) above 87% compared to conventional agriculture. Many women on the island of Ovalau are also engaged in agriculture as are women in other areas of Fiji, and **female employment for agriculture activities** is expected to increase in this stage of operation. With limited space under the panel, it is expected that it will be difficult to apply farming methods using agricultural machinery such as tractors, and most agricultural activities are expected to be carried out manually. Such small-scale farming is mainly done by women (female specialization), which requires female agricultural labour force for maximization of the project effectively and also alleviate gender inequality in labour force participation. This will be able to offer a lot of benefits to women, including agricultural techniques, such as how to grow vegetable and good ideas on organic farming.

4. Benefit-sharing

Aspects of gender equality are also related to access to benefits accruing from the lease and use of land for the project. Whilst the land subject to acquisition related to the project implementation is held in trust on behalf of the Vanua by three men, it is apparent from the consultation that decision making in relation to the use of this land is vested in the broader Bureta Community Development Committee. This committee is, in turn, comprised of representatives of both men and women. Indeed, the committee has a women's group who have direct input into the decision-making process and the chairperson of the committee is an influential female within Fijian society. The positive activities of the group can contribute to alleviating gender inequality.

Although more stable energy and power supply can at least partly be provided through solar power generation, this project represents only a switch in the way in which electricity is generated, as 98 per cent of the population of Ovalau is already connected to the electricity grid. Therefore, it would be difficult to expect positive gender-related effects such as educational opportunities and increased income activities through liberation from household labour and securing nighttime safety by installing streetlights.

Having said that, it is still possible to consider designing a benefit-sharing scheme particularly targeting venerable women (such as female-headed (divorced or widowed) households)²⁷ and other groups at risk (such as minors or the elderly without family support or the persons with disabilities etc.). It is recommended that specific gender consideration is proactively and consciously made in the process of consultations by the project proponents with the affected community.

²⁷ The predicament of female-headed households are not documented in the host communities. However, it is a well-grounded presumption based on sufficient documentations and studies that in a strong patriarchal society where an access to the land and other properties of economic values are exclusively or predominantly allowed only to men, by laws or by cultural or religious norms, women without male family members, especially husbands, are often castrated by the society and marginalized in access to resources, wealth and political power. Thus female-headed households often constitutes the poorest and most powerless and vulnerable component of a population. This would not be an exception in Fiji and the host community of the programme.

V. Recommendations

To summarize the actions to be taken:

- All processes related to local residents' consultation during project implementation, including information disclosure, need to ensure proper representation and participation of the relevant women's group and female community members. Setting a women's and girls' participation target (e.g. 50%) is desirable. If culturally appropriate and/or requested, consider having a separate consultation meeting with the women's group. Consider to include NGOs, CBOs and female workers' unions as participants.
- Consideration of equal participation between men and women of the relevant decision-making body is desirable. Ensure to include a certain quota of female participation at important decision-making bodies (e.g. project steering committee etc.) Ensure to include gender officer, if available, of the relevant government ministries and agencies.
- In this context, active cooperation with BCDC is desirable because women are already involved in the BCDC and a group of women who are directly involved in the decision-making process participates in the committee. Regular consultation sessions between the BCDC and the Project proponent needs to be scheduled as part of the stakeholder engagement plan. Each session should be duly documented with counting the female participations and gender-specific concerns.
- It is recommended to classify indicators by gender when preparing environmental, social and gender monitoring reports. Ensure to evaluate the project benefits by gender (e.g. count the different number of male and female target population as project beneficiaries)
- It is desirable to ensure equal participation of both men and women in employment related to power plant operation/management and agricultural activities. More proactive gender-friendly measures could be considered, such as 1) a quota-based system or priority policy for female employees in PV system operation, maintenance and APV farming. Per Fiji's National Gender Policy, it is recommended identifying any specific needs (flexible work hours etc.) amenity facilities (such as child care facilities etc.) for female employees. Equal payment and no-discrimination policy would need to be strictly introduced and observed. The project proponent is expected to closely monitor the performance and compliance on this front.
- To create jobs for professional women, the quota system for female engineers is recommended when selecting engineers. A quota-based skill-training program for girls and women are strongly recommended.

The project proponent is encouraged continuing to explore more specific local context along with the preparation and implementation of the project through continued consultation and

engagement of the local stakeholders, particularly local women themselves. It is desirable to deploy a gender specialist, in-house or externally hired, to ensure overall gender-responsive measures are well implemented along with the project implementation as planned through monitoring and capacity building of the local stakeholders.

In implementation all the recommended actions and the Gender Action Plan for the proposed project, the project proponent shall activate its gender policy ("Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy and Action Plan 2018-2021") and according to procedures.

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ANNEX 1. List of the Consultation Activities with the Key Local Stakeholders & the Community

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
1/ Consultation with Local Government (1)	22 & 23 Oct 2018/ Levuka Town Hall	CEO & Environmental Officer of Levuka Town Council & Local EIA team	Selection of Project Site & Joint ocular inspection of the site	<p>- The CEO of Levuka Town Council is supportive of the proposed development and was present when all alternative sites were examined for their feasibility and encouraged the selection of the proposed development site. Of interest to the CEO and the council is the potential role of the development in catalysing either a reduction in the time during which the Levuka power station is operated or the relocation of the power station out of the town boundaries.</p> <p>- The Environmental Officer from the Town Council accompanied the field team during the detailed inspection of the proposed site on the 22 and 23 October 2018 and met with the trustees of the landowners.</p> <p>The CEO of Levuka Town Council also attended the consultation held on 15 May 2019 and, during this consultation, provided a brief introduction to the Project.</p>
2/ Consultation with Local Government (2)	22 & 23 Oct 2019/ Levuka Town Hall	Ovalau District Officer & Staff With EIA Consultants	Selection of Project Site & Land acquisition arrangement	<p>The Ovalau District Officer and staff accompanied the inspection of the proposed and alternative sites.</p> <p>The District Office is supportive of the proposed development, and expressed a preference for the identified site, given the landowners of the site have a similar lease</p>

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
				<p>arrangement over the portion of their land used for the Bureta airstrip.</p> <p>The Ovalau District Officer also attended the consultation held on 15 May 2019.</p>
3/ Consultation with Local Governments (3)	17 Jul 2019/ Levuka Town Hall	<p>Lomaitivi Provincial Administrator (PA), Officers and the CEO of the Levuka Town Council, Officers of the Ovalau District Office</p> <p>With the Korean Delegation (KOICA & Ministry of Economic and Finance) and Project Developer</p>	Consultation with key local government decision-makers on the project and cooperation	<p>The Lomaiviti Provincial Administrator (PA), other government officers and the CEO of the Levuka Town Council joined the meeting on 17th July 2019 in Levuka</p> <p>The PA is under the command of the commissioner Eastern division and welcomed the Korea delegation. The PA emphasizes the support of the project from the Ovalau District Office and the commissioner Eastern Division.</p> <p>The CEO of the Levuka Town Council also showed full support for the project. The CEO agreed to support the construction plan approval and in other local license/permit process that is necessary to progress with the project.</p>
4/ Consultation with local government (indigenous) (4)	23 Oct 2018/ l’Taukei Affairs Board Office, Suva	<p>l’Taukei Affairs Board (Roko Tui(*) Ovalau)</p> <p>(*) Office of Liaison personnel assigned by the Fiji government to facilitate cooperation between the village and the regional government</p>	Traditional welcome ritual (l’sevusevu) for the proposed project by indigenous community tradition & consultation	<p>The Roko Tui Ovalau accompanied the field team to the village of Bureta on the 23 October 2018 and assisted in the presentation of l’sevusevu to the freehold landowners and the Vanua of Bureta. The Roko Tui Ovalau is supportive of sustainable development on Ovalau, and the role that the proposed development will play to meet this goal.</p> <p>The Assistant Roko Tui Ovalau also attended the consultation held</p>

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
				on 15 May 2019 – to listen to the feedback raised by the community and landowners.
5/ Consultation with the Community (1)	23 Oct 2018/ Nasaga village hall, Bureta	Two official Landowners (Trustees) of the BCDC With EIA Consultants	Information disclosure of the proposed project to the community representatives & consultation on land acquisition	Two of the three trustees who hold the freehold land proposed for the development in trust, on behalf of the Vanua, were present during an initial discussion about the proposed development, held in Nasaga village on 23 October 2018. Both were, in principle, agreeable to the land being used for the proposed development, and proposed a lease arrangement similar to that held with the State for the special aerodrome lease, rather than outright purchase of the land. The trustees indicated that further negotiations and discussions would be needed, and that consensus amongst the Vanua on any proposed lease arrangement would need to be sought. These individuals also represented two of the seven mataqali whose land is included in the alternative site 2. In response to this alternative site, both indicated this area is heavily cultivated and is subject to dispute between the mataqali and, as such, would not be a viable alternate site.
6/National Government Stakeholder Meeting (1)	8 Nov 2018/ KOICA Fiji Country Office, Suva	Officials of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji Ministry of Economy • Fiji Ministry of Agriculture • I’Taukei Land Trust 	Multi-Party Stakeholder meeting including Fiji NDA & other relevant Fiji central government agencies and the Korean Delegation	A decision was made to develop a steering committee with the Government stakeholders to continue support and assist on any issues that are relevant to the Project. The Ministry of Economy as National designated authority (NDA) for

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
		<p>Board (TLTB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) • Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Fiji Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport • Fiji Development Bank (FDB) • Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Fiji Office <p>With the Korean Delegation (KOICA & Ministry of Economic and Finance) and Project Developer</p>		<p>Green Climate Fund (GCF) will oversee the steering committee.</p> <p>All the Government stakeholders shared their support for the project and recognize the benefits that will come from the project.</p>
7/ Consultation with the Community (2)	5 May 2019/ Private residence of the Head of the Community	<p>20 members of the Bureta community (including landowners) (both men and women) including the Head of the Community, Mr Donato Koyanasau</p> <p>w. Fraunhofer Institute (APV technical specialist) & Project Developer</p>	Information disclosure on the technological aspects of the project and its positive impacts on agriculture & Collection of the community's views, concerns and requests	<p>Twenty landowners and neighbouring community members including one of the trustees of the land Donato Koyanasau, attended the consultation held on 3 May 2019 in Bureta.</p> <p>A representative of Fraunhofer Institute (APV technical specialist) explained the benefits of APV with renewable energy and agriculture.</p> <p>One of the trustees of the land Donato Koyanasau, mentioned that the Project site was originally used for agriculture use. Rice and ginger were cultivated for a few years but due to economic reasons, it did not continue. He mentioned that through this APV project it will be great to restart cultivation of crops on the existin</p>

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
				<p>g agricultural land.</p> <p>The landowners and neighbouring community members were interested in the farmland that is provided through APV and wanted information regarding what crops will be considered for the project.</p>
8/ Consultation with the Community (3)	15 May 2019/ Levuka Town Hall	34 members of the Bureta community (including landowners) (both men and women) With EIA Consultants	Collection of the community's views, concerns and requests	Thirty-four landowners and neighbouring community members attended the consultation held on 15 May 2019 in Bureta. Individuals were broadly divided between members of mataqali who are owners of the Project site land and those that, whilst not owners of the land, live around the Project site and whom collectively fall under the Bureta Development Committee.
9/ Consultation with the Community (4)	17 July 2019/ Nasaga village hall, Bureta	Members of the Bureta community (including landowners) (both men and women) With the Korean Delegation (KOICA, Korea Ministry of Economic and Finance) and Project Developer	Site inspection & Potential financier/partner's direct communication with the community	<p>Landowners and neighbouring community members attended the consultation held on 17 July 2019 in the Bureta town hall. The Bureta people welcomed the Korea delegation from the Korean government and KOICA. The Korea delegation showed the full support of the Project and appreciated the warm welcome and support from the Bureta communities.</p> <p>The Bureta community requests to address the following issues:</p> <p>That the Project site is returned to the original status after demolition (after project lifecycle)</p> <p>The batteries in the energy storage system to be disposed of properly</p> <p>Benefit-sharing is important for Bureta which could be achieved from em</p>

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
				ployment opportunities and others.
10/ Consultation with the Community - Leader of a Women Group (1)	5 Oct 2019/ Lako Yani Company, Suva	Ms Serena Qoro, Secretary of BCDC & cum President of the Lomaiviti Women's Group) w. Project Developer	Updated project information disclosure to BCDC, Discussion on land acquisition arrangement	The Project Developer had a meeting with the secretary of BCFC, Serena Qoro, for an update on the project development process and other items . The main discussion was on the Land Lease Agreement and the need for both parties to conduct a valuation of the land by a registered valuer in Fiji. Draft Land Lease Agreement was shared to the secretary to start to discuss the terms and conditions of the lease.
11/ National Government Stakeholder Meeting (2)	16 July 2019/ Grand Pacific Hotel, Juva	Officials of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji Ministry of Economy • Fiji Ministry of Agriculture • I'Taukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) • Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) • Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Fiji Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport • Fiji Development Bank (FDB) • Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Fiji Office 	Multi-Party Stakeholder meeting including Fiji NDA & other relevant Fiji central government agencies and the Korean Delegation	The second Government stakeholders meeting was held on 16 July 2019. The Korea delegation from the Korea Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF), KOICA Headquarters and Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) also attended. MOEF as a national designated authority of Korea for GCF, showed the Korean government's support, asked for Fiji government's support and mentioned the benefits that the Project will bring to Fiji and the relationship between the two governments. KOICA, an ODA agency from South Korea and one of the executing entities (EE) of the Project showed the support for the project and talked about the continuous activities KOICA is performing to assist Fiji in expanding the renewable energy resources. A member from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) joined the meeting and c

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
		With the Korean Delegation (KOICA & Ministry of Economic and Finance, KEITI, First Secretary of the Korea Embassy to Fiji) and Project Developer		<p>commented that GCF supports the projects for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Fiji, and welcomes projects, especially from direct Accredited Entities such as FDB.</p> <p>The FDB Chief Executive Officer, Mark Clough also emphasised on the importance of the project for Fiji because of its impact, relevance and replicability.</p> <p>The project progress was updated to all the participants and the discussion session was held to raise any issues or comments regarding the project</p>
12/ Consultation with the Community - Leader of a Women Group (2)	19 Dec 2019/ Lako Yani Company, Suva	Ms Serena Qoro, Secretary of BCDC & cum President of the Lomaiviti Women's Group w. Project Developer	A semi-structured, questionnaire-based interview with a women' group leader cum Secretary of BCDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of conditions of the women in the community • Participation and representation of women within BCDC & • Activities of the Lomaiviti Women's Group • Perception of the Project • Local governance and decision-making mechanism etc. <p>(☒ For more details, see Annex 2. "An Interview with Ms Serena Quoro in Dec 2019" below.)</p>
13/ Consultation with the Community - Leader of a Women Group (3)	20 Feb 2020/ Lako Yani Company, Suva	Ms Serena Qoro, Secretary of BCDC & cum President of the Lomaiviti Women's Group) w. Project Developer	A semi-structured, questionnaire-based interview with a women' group leader cum Secretary of BCDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of Bureta Community Development Committee (BCDC) • BCDC opinion on the APV Project in Ovalau <p>(☒ For more details, see Annex 3. An Interview with Ms Serena Quoro</p>

No/Subject	Date/Venue	Participants	Key Agenda	Details
				in Feb 2020" below.)

ANNEX 2. An Interview with Ms Serena Quoro in Dec 2019

I. Interview Overview:

- Date: 19 Dec 2019
- Venue: Lako Yani Company, Suva, Fiji
- Interviewee: Ms Serena Qoro, President of the Lomaiviti Women's Group)
- Interviewer: Mr Yoon Sung, Project Developer

II. Questions:

(1) ABOUT THE GROUP

1. What are the major activities/ functions of the Lomaiviti Women's group (LWG)?
LWG is a registered NGO in Fiji, part of iTaukei Office (Government Body for Indigenous Fijian). LWG looks after the province's culture protection, craft skill preservation, training young women, indigenous language preservation, and others.
2. In Lomaiviti, what are the ethnic composition?
It's 100% iTaukei (Indigenous) group
3. Tell me about the representative composition of the group. (Do you well represent of ethnic minorities? e.g. Chinese Fijian etc.)
It's 100% iTaukei (Indigenous) group
4. What's your role as a leader?
Overall management of the group, representative of LWG for the 12 districts in Lomaiviti province (including Ovalau)
5. Are you engaged in the affairs of BCDC? (Yes. how?/ No)
Engaged as the secretary of BCDC

(2) ABOUT THE WOMEN IN COMMUNITY

6. What are the difficulties Fijian/Lomaiviti women face in life in general? Do you think men and women are equal in Fijian society?
As a group of islands, transportation can be a problem. No proper port, walf, very difficult transportation. In general, the women groups in the province are a minority in terms of the social aspect, but the BCDC is a unique situation that the women are well represented in the community with equal rights.
7. FAO Country Gender Assessment: high rate of violence (including domestic (by an intimate partner) against women. Safety of women appears to be a problem. Do you agree?
There are some cases, but not common. Churches play a big role in the safety of women.
 - 7.1. Long-distance commuting of children and women esp. at night (without proper lighting): This is reported to be unsafe. Do you think this safety problem hamper women/girls' freedom of movement and access to education/economic activities?
Not really. Most of them are relative and connected so pretty safe.
 - 7.2. What explains a relatively high level of violence against women? (Is there an ethnic difference/

cultural /religious norms etc.?)

The province does not have a common issue of violence against women.

8. Can women own land and other properties (such as buildings)?

Itaukei Land Act -> women and men have equal right on the land (by Law).

9. What are the common income-generating activities of women in your community?

Major income comes from selling handcrafted met with leaves shown as the picture below



Women income generation mostly from Crafting, some from selling virgin coconut oil
Agriculture, Fishing.

10. Is it common married women or unmarried women/girl open their own (separate) bank account?

Yes

11. Is it common a girl child inherit land or family heritages rather than a boy child? Is it legally allowed?

Yes

(3) ACCESS TO SERVICES

12. Which social service do the community members face a challenge to access?

Well supplied generally, but serious medical cases needed to be transferred to Levuka town

13. Do most of the households in Lomaiviti use electricity (all the time? part-time (how many hours?)) /
Water?

Yes (most of the times)

14. Do most of the households in Lomaiviti eat three meals a day?

Yes

15. What is the common health issue in the communities?

There are cases of malnutrition. Bad food feeding, for babies too. Nutrition-wise, the project will help.

(4) VULNERABILITY

16. Any vulnerable groups in the community prone to natural disasters(drought, flood, tornados, soil erosion
and sea-level rise etc.)?

All groups in the province are vulnerable to natural disasters

17. Is there any intervention or action that the community-initiated to improve their living condition?

Water supply issue, reservoir water catchment should be improved. Drought happens

18. What are the challenges that children are facing in your community?

(not answered)

19. Where do women and girls feel safest or less safe? -> Generally safe in the province

(5) PERCEPTION OF PROJECT & EXPECTED IMPACTS ON WOMEN

20. Do you think this project will make women's lives more difficult? If so how?

A lot of benefits will come in training wise for women, how to grow vegetable, giving them some good ideas, organic farming.

21. Do you think the project will benefit men more than women? If so, how? (Or, Do you think this project will benefit women more than men? If so, how?)

Pretty much the same

22. What are the possible risks in your mind related to the project implementation? Why?

It will give a lot of benefits, but can't think of any risk at the moment.

(6) GOVERNANCE & INFORMAL LEADER/DECISION-MAKERS

23. How would you rate community engagement of your community?

Women are very actively involved (BCDC), but low involvement in other areas

24. What is the main strength of your community?

Formalized community, well organized, representatives, keeping proper meeting notes that is accessible for others.

There are good resources and flat land.

25. [Other than yourself] Who are the most trusted leaders (formal and informal) in the community (both male and female)? Where are they located?

Matagali(District) heads, Mr Donato (key person) in Bureta

But, everyone has actively involved [THE END]

FIJI AGROPHOTOVOLTAIC PROGRAMME IN OVALAU

Consultation for Lomaiviti Women's Group

Date: 19TH DEC 2019

Location: Lako Yani, Suva

Participant List

Name	Position	Organization	Sign
Sereana QORO	President	Lomaiviti Women	

ANNEX 3. An Interview with Ms Serena Quoro in Feb 2020

I. INTERVIEW Overview:

- Date: 20 Feb 2020
- Interviewee: Ms Serena Qoro, President of the Lomaiviti Women's Group)
- Interviewer: Mr Yoon Sung, Project Developer

II. Questions:

(1) Structure of Bureta Community Development Committee (BCDC)

- A. BCDC represents the 4 villages (Naiteitei, Nasaga, Tai, Navuola) in Bureta Tikina(District) with the vision of "Sustainable Holistic Prosperity for the Vanua of Bureta."
- B. BCDC has 25 committee members with one chairperson (Donato Koyanasau), one secretary (Sereana Qoro), and one treasury.
- C. The 25 members are composed of the head, women group representative, youth group representative, and other group representatives for each village. This composition is designed for all the voices to be heard regardless of the sex, age group, and positions. (5 out of the 25 members are women).
- D. Each member will reflect the voice of the village with the traditional conversation dialogue called "Talanoa Dialogue" which was the main theme for anyone to submit their Climate Change story and voice with transparency, fairness, and participation in COP23 when Fiji was the president.

(2) BCDC opinion on the APV Project in Ovalau

- E. BCDC is welcoming the project to be implemented in their land
- F. BCDC is willing to lease the land for a minimum of 30 years, and the lease signing is pursued in March 2020.
- G. BCDC stated that the project aligns with their 5-year community development plan in terms of sustainable agriculture and food security. The English translated version of the development Plan to be shared by BCDC.