



Women Peace and Security and the Humanitarian Agenda: Participation, Preparedness and Protection



Building on the Women's Weather Watch campaign in Fiji, the regional 'Women, Peace and Security, and the Humanitarian Agenda: Participation, Preparedness and Protection' project is working through femLINKpacific's established regional network of convenors to ensure commitments to gender equality and human rights including the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAP-WPS 2012-2015) are realised.

The three priority areas of the RAP-WPS 2012 – 2015 were:

- i) gender mainstreaming and women's leadership in conflict prevention and management, political decision-making and peacebuilding and peacekeeping;
- ii) gender mainstreaming and women's participation in security sector oversight and accountability and;
- iii) protection of women's human rights in transitional and

post-conflict contexts

The following strategy was adopted at the April 2017 "Women, Peace and Security in Humanitarian Settings: Participation, Preparedness and Protection" meeting which was an opportunity for femLINKpacific to share our community media and radio network strategies with GPPAC Pacific gender focal points and peacebuilding allies in Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji.

The strategies are based on the lived experiences of women in disaster affected communities and the recognition of the need to support the leadership of women to ensure more gender-inclusive preparedness and humanitarian response during times of disasters – storms and cyclones, droughts and floods as well as tsunamis.

¹ femLINKpacific's Women's Weather Watch (WWW) model commenced in 2004 when we began to link United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and our own work on the ground on Women Peace and Security – reaffirming women's leadership in humanitarian crises including natural disaster in Fiji.

² http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/pacific_region_regional_action_plan_2012-2015.pdf

³ ActionAID, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, Pacific Conference of Churches, Talitha Project, Transcend Oceania, Vanuatu Young Women for Change, Vois Blong Mere Solomon

Women, Peace and Security:

Participation for Preventative Action including Preparedness

As the GPPAC Pacific network we will build on collective gains and lessons learnt since we began organising together as the “1325” network .

In line with our recommendations to the Global Study on UNSCR1325 (2015) , reaffirmed by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG16, 2015) , we continue to convene successive local, national and regional activities to progress and advance our network’s collective efforts to realise Gender Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Human Security in our region .

We will continue to undertake activities with a focus on enhancing women and young women’s participation in decision making and amplify women’s voices in regional inter-governmental processes and media networks, including community media:

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

- To amplify the need for special measures to bridge the gender gap in decision making on participation and protection in preparedness and humanitarian response through a women’s rights based approach;
- We will work together to demonstrate how systems and processes must enable women to be included in formal decision making spaces and processes from national to local levels;
- By continuing to address the under-representation of women in parliament through our existing coalitions and networks:

femLINK**pacific** emerged from the Blue-Ribbon Peace Vigil in 2000. From 2001 – 2004 it was a member of the Fiji Women, Peace and Security Coordinating Committee convened by the Department of Women. Since 2007 the organisation has convened a Pacific “1325 media and advocacy network” with partners in Bougainville, Solomons and Tonga. In 2009, “1325” network merged with GPPAC Pacific network to resulting in enhanced collective advocacy for a Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, as well as a regional Conflict Prevention and Human Security framework. Since 2014 femLINK has been the co-convenor of the Fiji Women’s Forum and Fiji Young Women’s Forum which aim to increase the participation of women in all her diversities in leadership and decision making processes. It is a registered media organisation and coordinates a regional community media hub for its network partners and allies including via Women’s Weather Watch.

Vois Blong Mere Solomon (VBMS) emerged from the Women for Peace initiative during the 2000 ethnic tensions. The organisation has been a leading advocate of UNSCR1325. It was represented on the Women, Peace and Security working group convened by the Ministry of Women (2011- 2016) contributing to the development of the draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Since 2016 the organisation has been a co-chair of the CSO Women’s Leaders Forum (established in 2016), a member of the Political Parties working group that is targeting cabinet to ensure the Political Parties Integrity Act (2014) is in line the government’s gender policy. Additionally, VBMS is also influencing the media governance landscape as a member of Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI);

Vanuatu Young Women for Change was established in 2014 to progress gender equality with a focus on enhancing the status of young women and girls through literacy programmes particularly to ensure 50% representation of women including young women in all levels of decision making. The organisation invests in the capacity development of young women and girls to advocate on priority issues such as prevention of violence, peace and human security as well as health services. The organisation is doing this by engaging with wider civil society as well as government sector including the Department of Women, provincial councils and the Port Vila municipality.

Talitha Project was established in 2009 with the purpose of empowering young women in Tonga to reach their full potential by providing information, through innovative media and communications and the collection of data. The organisation is at the forefront of advocating for the ratification of CEDAW and as a member of the Tonga Women’s Coalition works with CSO allies to increase women’s political participation including as candidates in national and local government elections. Talitha Project advocates for gender inclusive human development in line with the Tonga Strategic Development Framework (2015);

- By continuing to learn about and highlight practical approaches to progress gender equality in local governance: Following the signing of the Peace Agreement (30 August 2001) women in Bougainville campaigned for and secured 3 reserved seats for women in the Autonomous Bougainville Government's House of Representatives. There is a reserved seat for each region (North, Central and South), elected to represent the interests of the women of the Region as guaranteed in the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2004) .

This has also been integrated into the Bougainville Community Government Act (2016) which provides a model for replication as it prioritises “equal voice” in local governance. In Bougainville, each ward elects one man and one woman to represent them in Community Government or Bougainville's second tier of government. Additionally, the Autonomous

Region of Bougainville's constitution makes specific reference to “special measures in favour of the development of the least developed areas” .

Women-led organisations including Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency established in 1992 and the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, established in 2002, have led the advocacy on women, peace and security in Bougainville. The Nazareth Centre provides training to communities throughout Bougainville and its 3 regions including through its “From Gender based violence to Gender justice and healing” project. In preparation for the 2019 referendum, the Nazareth centre and its work on implementing women, peace and security is amplifying the importance of educating women to understand their role in the referendum as well as using a conflict prevention approach to ensure a peaceful referendum and that the outcome of the referendum is respected by all citizens.

NETWORK STRENGTHENING

- By organising Peace Education campaigns and events coinciding with International Women's Day (March 8), World Press Freedom Day (May 3), International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24), International Day for Peace (September 21), Rural Women's Day (October 15), 1325 Anniversary (October 31) and the annual 16 days of activism campaign (November 25 – December 10) which is inclusive of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3);
- Organising regional convenings, solidarity actions and visits;
- To work in collaboration with women and disability and LGBT networks and allies to amplify strategies to remove social, economic and political barriers which impede their participation

POLICY ADVOCACY

- To lead a review of commitments to gender inclusive conflict prevention and human security at regional and national level including Women, Peace and Security action plans and the implementation of the Forum Security Sector Governance Principles , the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities , to:

- a) ensure greater accountability including resourcing for women-led approaches
- b) review commitments to ensure linkages with the humanitarian approach



⁴ femLINKpacific is the regional secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

⁵ 2008 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2008.pdf;

⁶ 2009 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2009.pdf;

⁷ 2011 - http://www2.kobe-u.ac.jp/~alexroni/TR2014%20readings/2014_9/Pacific%20Peacewomen_Perspectives%20on%20Peace%20and%20Security%20Web%20version%202013.pdf;

⁸ 2012/1 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2012_1.pdf;

⁹ 2012/2 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2012_2.pdf;

¹⁰ 2013 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2013.pdf;

¹¹ 2014 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2014.pdf;

¹² 2015 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2015.pdf;

¹³ 2016 - http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/images/PDF/Policy/PolicyForPeace_2016.pdf
<http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/index.php/en/news-and-events/223-regional-cso-forum-outcomes-statement>

¹⁴ <http://wps.unwomen.org/index.html>

¹⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>

¹⁶ <http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/index.php/en/actions/policy-documents/450-strengthening-gender-inclusive-conflict-prevention-architecture-in-the-pacific-region-including-through-media-and-communications-strategies-policy-brief>; <http://www.femlinkpacific.org/fi/index.php/en/actions/policy-documents/459-young-women-key-to-gender-inclusive-conflict-prevention-and-human-security>

¹⁷ <http://www.abg.gov.pg/government/constitution>
ibid

Preparedness and Protection

Applying 1325 in Humanitarian situations

As partners of the Shifting the Power Coalition we will also amplify regional network priorities and undertake action so that policies and humanitarian responses are institutionalised in line with UNSCR1325 and human rights commitments.

To ensure women's disaster preparedness and response strategies in disaster affected communities are amplified

We will:

- i. Strengthen the demonstrated role of Women's Weather Watch-Fiji as a Pacific women-led innovation in disaster preparedness and response. This includes developing a similar model for our country partners and enhancing collaboration with DIGICEL as a non-profit – private sector partnership;
- ii. Communicate the integration of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and humanitarian action at regional and national levels via the media and policy engagement to ensure women and girls' access to health, psychosocial, legal and protection in times of humanitarian emergency and in reconstruction and rehabilitation
- iii. Enhance linkages with communications strategy of NDMOs and Meteorological Services to promote gender-inclusive Public Emergency Broadcasting systems
- iv. Strengthen Pacific women's leadership by supporting women-led networks at district/community (sub-national level) to enhance their knowledge and use of an integrated approach to WPS and Humanitarian response
- v. Resource women's networks to enhance the availability and analysis of gender, sex, age evidence and data
- vi. Lobby for increased representation of women with disabilities in NDMO structures



a) Women's knowledge and expertise are informing disaster risk reduction and preparedness:

We will:

- i. Ensure communities can access disaster risk reduction, management and response information such as distributions, sexual and gender based violence referral services and psychosocial support;
- ii. Strengthen capacity of diverse women including women with disabilities to engage in district, sub national and national disaster coordination mechanisms and their ability to organise and influence decision making including the Post Disaster Needs Assessment;
- iii. Use appropriate and accessible ICTs to document women's experiences and traditional knowledge in all stages of disaster management (preparedness to recovery) as a way of enhancing a human security approach

b) Women's safety, security and dignity are not compromised during disasters:

We will:

- i. Work to ensure that the standard operating procedures of identifying and managing evacuation centres are developed and implemented in line with UNSCR1325;
- ii. Ensure women (including young women, women with disabilities, elderly, LGBT) are effectively participating in disaster management committees with oversight on safety and protection;
- iii. Draw from the peacebuilding and trauma healing experiences of network partners to support and promote the Protection with Dignity approach of the network;
- iv. Amplify recommendations from the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security to ensure women and girls', particularly those with disabilities, are able access to health, psychosocial, legal and protection in times of humanitarian emergency and in reconstruction and rehabilitation

We acknowledge the support of



¹⁸ <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Annex%201%20-%20Framework%20for%20Resilient%20Development%20in%20the%20Pacific.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/Pacific%20Regional%20Strategy%20on%20Disability.pdf>

²⁰ *The Shifting the Power Coalition aims to catalyse localised gender responsive humanitarian action with a specific goal of strengthening Pacific women's leadership in emergencies, including disaster preparedness, response and recovery. This is part of partners' shared commitment to driving a transformative agenda during crisis that transform gender relations over the longer term by demonstrating women's capability and leadership for the benefit of the whole community.*