



Equality, Development and Peace:

Women: Peace, Human Security & Development Report

August 2014

Contents

Overview	3
Fiji: Household Income and Expenditure Findings	5
Human Security Recommendations:	6
FemLINKPACIFIC Activity Updates	13

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Overview

With the Pacific region having one of the lowest numbers of women in parliament and local government the scheduled elections in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga is very significant for a network dedicated to increasing women's participation in political and government structures.

Without women's political engagement localization or the development of national strategies to implement the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security will not take place in an accountable manner.

Viewing development through a peace and human security lens is one way to bring about a shift from reaction to prevention and can also enable a tangible partnership approach that ensures women's efforts and leadership are recognised and enhanced.

As our monthly reports highlight, women's civil society has been using many innovative ways to respond to the gaps in advancing gender equality commitments in our region. Through our Election TOK series, for example, women's experiences as voters and candidates in national and local government elections responds to the gaps in coverage by public media.

The human security priorities communicated through our "1325" network in Fiji provides the evidence for action.

With our membership of the Pacific Islands Forum Reference Group on Women, Peace and Security, the board of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) as well as the UN High Level Expert Advisory Group for the Global Study on the 15-year implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) FemLINKPACIFIC is looking forward to sharing local experiences to advance the women, peace and security agenda.

Updates from Bougainville highlighted, the Autonomous Bougainville Government had recently passed a bill that will guide and control any mining company that wishes to extract gold in Bougainville. However there are still concerns from within the community and in particular women who continue to feel marginalised as women have been excluded from decision making processes.



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Executive Director -
FemLINKPACIFIC
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Overview

In Tonga, our partners with the Talitha Project Vanessa Heleta, spoke to women who are planning to contest the elections in November. Women candidates indicated that standing for elections meant breaking norms of society where women are to be seen only handling domestic related duties and not seen or heard within decision making processes.

There can be no development without disarmament and the full and equal participation of women. We call on the international community to prioritize and resource nationally-owned processes and institutions for development including national implementation mechanisms such as National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security which can be possible by redirecting military spending toward equitable social development and developing gender equality-strengthening macroeconomic policies and debt workout mechanisms.



Fiji: Household Income and Expenditure Findings

- There were 195 women respondents from four rural centres, Labasa, Ba, Tavua and Nadi
- 64% were between the ages of 32-54, whereas of these 77% were married with families and children
- 24% of respondents in rural Labasa and Tavua highlighted not having access to electricity and water
- 54% of income earners were earning from less than \$50 to \$200 FJD a week
- 63% visited health centres travelling at least 30mins to two hours to reach the nearest health centre.
- 32% were affiliated with a NGO or had access to information from local government, and of this 72% had attended workshops and consultations on the constitution

It has been highlighted that radio has been the main source of information to the women, with 76% of women stating that they have never accessed internet, and 82% respondents stated to having mobile phones, subscribing to 2 out of the 3 networks.

Priorities for women include proper safe, affordable and well-resourced medical centres, improvements in maternity health services as well as rural infrastructure to improve access.



Human Security Recommendations:

PERSONAL SECURITY

Recalling Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination of Women (CEDAW), personal security is connected to accessible infrastructure. This includes good roads, street lights in their communities, proper water supply and electricity which reiterates the need to have more women participating at all levels of development planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- o Development planning must ensure women have been effectively involved and their needs are reflected in approved plans.
- o Training on gender equality must be compulsory for all local, district and divisional level planning committee members to ensure accountability to women’s human rights conventions.

WHAT WOMEN SAY

“I just want them to upgrade the footpath in the communities.” Kuyala Nanuqu, 18, Nausori “For roads when its flooding we find it difficult to transport especially school kids to town and it’s like we have to cross the Bridge and our road is between 2 Bridges so we can’t go to town and go to the Village either. So, we find it very difficult so we would like to have our Bridge raised up a little bit so it’s easy for us to transport through during Rainy Season.” Nanise Ranadi, 28, Tavua

“Upgrading the roads which we have been talking about for so long in this FemLINK group and I’m really glad being away after 5 months I saw the development of the roads beside my village.” Nanise Cakau, 63, Nausori

“... I still am talking about street lights , drainage and the roads” Pushpa Manu, 50, Nausori



Human Security Recommendations:

HEALTH SECURITY:

Rural health services in particular maternity health as well as information, and access to and affordability of medicines remain a key concern:

HEALTH SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- o Local and sub divisional health managers must ensure that rural priorities are communicated to ensure the necessary supply of medicines.
- o Senior Divisional Medical Officer to organize a meeting with women leaders to help better understand health budget procurement process. There is a need to look at systems that are responsive to rural communities.
- o State must ensure that the Ministry of Health per capita allocation for medicines as well as operational costs are responsive to specific needs of rural and remote communities.
- o National budget processes must be accountable to rural women's health needs as an affirmation of the Women's Plan of Action (2010-2019) Pillar 10 Improving Health Service Delivery.
- o Call for PICTs states to implement effective/ accessible systems for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to be guaranteed, ensuring that girls, young women, and women, including those with disabilities, receive comprehensive and confidential SRHR services that respect their human rights throughout their life cycle.



WHAT THE WOMEN SAY

“We find it very difficult to come straight to Tavua Town so if we could have one Health Centre in the Village because during the Night or day time if we miss the Bus we have to pay Carrier or Car from the Village to Town it takes \$30-\$35 charge and we find it very difficult if they are pregnant ... they don't have time to come or they miss the bus they have to hire transport from the village to hospital” Nanise Ranadi, 28, Tavua

Human Security Recommendations:



ECONOMIC SECURITY:

The feminization of poverty is connected to women's health and exacerbated by the lack of well-paid fulltime jobs including for school leavers. Families struggle with low wage rates where there is unemployment and more rural women are also working longer hours in small businesses to help their families meet their daily expenses. With higher prices on basic goods economic security is also linked to food and nutrition security.

ECONOMIC SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- o The implementation of the National Women's Plan of Action should ensure that women's access to services address (a) enhancement of rural women's participation in local government (b) improve women's access to market economy and not simply regard women as market vendors
- o Participation for women in the economy and public life, and propose a range of government and other measures to support this participation, including in decision making and leadership from the grassroots level to national level.
- o Local government should work with rural women leaders to enhance their access to local markets such as hotels, restaurants and other businesses as an economic empowerment strategy.
- o Local government should ensure that the administration and management of local markets take fully compliant with CEDAW provisions including women's participation in public life.

WHAT THE WOMEN SAY:

"We can only pay our bills we can only pay our food and everything we put on our table and some, little expenses we can't use that money to go here and there, clothing. . ." Rohini Devi, 37, Nausori

"The retirement age - we need to ask government to (increase it to) 60 years." Taufa Bainivalu, 67, Nausori

"Sometimes are left beside what we want to buy, because unnecessary things we are not buying and only the Groceries, family needs that are the only things we buy and if we have some extra cash, extra money than we buy the things extra." Sashi Sharon, 37, Tavua

". . . I also want them to create more jobs for women and school leavers who are coming out now." Filomena Koroi, 69, Nausori

"...and the price they have been giving us we only make less than \$5 profit. And it's better for us to get it from home, that's what we need as women in the Ba market." Kalera, Ba Market

Human Security Recommendations:



POLITICAL SECURITY:

Rural women and young women demand an increase in the number of women leaders at national and local level governance. women leaders at national level to ensure gender equality is achieved.

POLITICAL SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- o The implementation of the National Women's Plan of Action should ensure that women's access to services address (a) enhancement of rural women's participation in local government (b) improve women's access to market economy and not simply regard women as market vendors.
- o Participation for women in the economy and public life, and propose a range of government and other measures to support this participation, including in decision making and leadership from the grassroots level to national level.
- o Policy on democratizing security decision making builds on Pacific Conference of Church' commitment to peace building and conflict resolution by calling on churches and faith based leaders to explicitly support UNSCR 1325 and to include more women in decision making positions, including through the development of curricular at theological colleges.
- o Government and political parties should adopt quotas and affirmative action measures to ensure democracy in all peace and security decision making, including at least 30 percent representation of women in cabinet, parliament, provincial council and district committees, political party leadership, local government and committees, and through reform of campaign financing frameworks and policies.
- o National electoral laws should incorporate gender equality quotas and ensure voter registration and education for women, as well as increase women in electoral commissions and observer missions. Electoral experts should work with local women's groups to provide relevant training for women candidates and political parties.
- o International donors and development agencies to incorporate women, peace and security commitments, including adequate representative of women in decision making, as a condition of supplying aid and development.
- o Equal participation of women in the economy and public life, and proposes a range of government and other measures to support this participation, including in decision making and leadership from the grassroots level to national level. Elections are a prime time to inform and encourage women about their rights.
- o Gender equality to be incorporated in constitutional reforms and for women to participate in constitutional forums.

Human Security Recommendations:

WHAT THE WOMEN SAY:

“This 17th September voting is very important for me because the one that you are going to elect to sit there for you will carry on what your needs the rural and another thing as coming from the rural area the women their needs will be recognized there and their vote will be counted and like in the beginning of this interview I want my country to go back to democracy.”
Nanise Cakau, 63, Nausori

“Women are good leaders to rule our government.” Meri Droinakelo, 50, Nausori,

“It is important as our vote will decide the betterment of our future.” Teresia Timaleti, 69, Nausori

“It is important as my vote will be counted and the country can go back to democracy.” Kuluya Nanuqu, 18, Nausori

“It is very important for me because the person whom I wanted elected will lose her vote, will lose because of my one vote of not voting.” Sheleni Lata, 37, Nausori

“The challenges women face (are) gender (in) equality and discrimination because they can't voice out their plights.”
Pushpa Mala



Human Security Recommendations:

FOOD SECURITY:

Food and nutrition security is a requirement throughout a woman's life cycle including as a nursing mother and as she ages. However the elderly who lack social protection are unable to meet their food, nutrition and medical needs

WHAT THE WOMEN SAY:

"When we go to Social Welfare only lack of money is giving to the poor people and the Cost of Living is very high and people can't afford. And Social Welfare voucher a selected item is given by the Poor, selected item just example; like the lower Quality of Rice and the Dhal - only Split Dhal and Fish the Lower Grade of Fish. We are the citizens of Fiji we don't want selected item to eat; because poor people are poor they get sick." Satya Nand, 69, Tavua

"Being a woman my priority is to see that there is enough food on the table, and I would like the government to look into the reduction of cost of living." Labasa rural women's network.

"...we have to feed the cane cutters; it is very hard to give them food to eat because we people, it is very hard time for us to get food for our children and there the farmers are to bring the cutters from the island or from the villages so it is very hard for the farmers to look for them after the Cane cutters." Jai Mati, 57, Tavua.



Human Security Recommendations:

ENVIRONMENT SECURITY:

Unpredictable weather patterns due to climate change have left rural women food producers uncertain about crops they use for subsistence use and as cash crops.

Rural women have also expressed concern over the poor drainage systems within the rural areas that have been a major contributing factor to flooding.

ENVIRONMENT SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- o Membership of local development planning committees must include equal representation by women;
- o Training on local government officials to mobilise resources in ensuring that communities have proper drainage systems, ensure that the litter law is effective, proper footpaths, functional bridges that are not easily flooded during heavy rains, etc.
- o Development planning must ensure women have been effectively involved and their needs are reflected in approved plans
- o Local government to partner up with NGOs on enlightening community members on climate change, environment pollution and the knowledge and conservation of natural resources.

WHAT THE WOMEN SAY:

“When flooding comes it comes overnight most of us we are not prepared only we put all our stuff up and we don’t keep it under the table we know it’s get flooded very often so all our things if we leave under the table they will go wet and when it gets flooded here.” Rohini Devi, 37, Tavua

“The weather (is) really affecting my crops are sometimes during dry weather then it does not grow well from wet season.” Asenaca Nainima, 57, Tavua

“The drainage - it’s important to avoid flooding so that the women can do backyard gardening for themselves and their families and they can sell some of that for money.” Pushpa Manu, 50, Nausori



FemLINKPACIFIC Activity Updates

FemTALK89FMCommunityRadioBroadcasthours
(includes live televisionsimulcasts*)

2014	2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suva	1160	193	220	238	261	246	256	256	268				
Nausori	12*		6			4							
Nadi	7*			6		4							
Ba													
Tavua /Rakir aki	4			6					4				
Labasa	462*	71	81	80	72	80	84	80	84				
Totals	1645	264	307	330	333	334	340	336	356				

Community Radio Programmes Produced

	2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suva	80	9	5	13	6	10	6	28	28				
Nausori	41	21	12	4	3	7	10	3	5				
Nadi	29	8	2	4	1	6	4	2	5				
Ba	24	21	4	4	1	3	2	3	15				
Tavua/ Rakiraki	40	24	2	3	3	3	4	2	7				
Labasa	60	32	6	4	2	5	7	4	8				
Totals	274	115	31	32	16	32	33	40	68				

Number of women featured in community radio programmes

	2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suva	654	9	18	4	5	7	8	23	9				
Nausori	231	21	54	18	13	12	30	14	23				
Nadi	76	8	16	25	13	17	12	13	50				
Ba	73	21	29	37	28	2	8	16	66				
Tavua /Rakiraki	147	24	7	28	12	8	9	7	53				
Labasa	379	32	32	30	23	16	45	27	51				
Totals	1560	115	156	142	94	62	112	100	252				

FemLINKPACIFIC Activity Updates

Respondents to the Monthly Women's Household Income and Expenditure Survey

	2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suva	115	5											
Nausori	565	50	50	50	50								
Nadi	175	50	50		18		24		30				
Ba	343	50	50	50	36	43			20				
Tavua/Rakiraki	358		50	50	50	50			50				
Labasa	203	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50				
Totals	1759	205	250	200	204	143	74	50	150				

Attendance at FemLINKPACIFIC monthly network meetings & local and divisional consultations

	2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suva	20												
Nausori	230	16	50	24	11	39	13	12	23				
Nadi	82	9	16	16	13	32	12	8	50				
Ba	464	11	26	21	28	28	8	13	66				
Tavua/Rakiraki	142	17	7	35	9	9	7	5	53				
Labasa	225	14	32	28	21	16	23	23	51				
	1163	67	131	111	82	96	63	61	243				

Media Advocacy and Outreach

	2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Press releases	20			2	2	4	2	1					
Op-Eds	27	4	2		1	1			1				
Quoted in the media	58	2	1	12	2	5		2					
PressIVs	53	3	1		2	3	2	1					
Presentations	21	1		5	1	1	1		2				
FemVIDS	35	9	4	7		1	9	3	2				
Facebook Likes	2472	2527	2593	2625	2705	2762	2800	2860					

