



2009
Fiji Women, Peace & Human Security Report
Edition 2

**“Linking Women’s Economic and Political
Security”**

We would like to acknowledge our rural women's media network members in Labasa, Savusavu, Ba, Nadi and Nausori, as well as our Generation Next Team.

Thank you to all the women we have met and who have shared their stories with us. Your trust and confidence in us, enables and empowers us.

Thank you also to all our development partners for enabling our work.

"Maturity means recognizing that you exist in an inequitable community of people, with wide disparities of opportunities, of incomes, of privileges and of power or access to resources.

Maturity recognizes your privileged situation within that community...

We are all in this world to serve."

Savenaca Siwatibau

Defining our Women Peace and Human Security Priorities

I have been reminded on more than one occasion in the course of producing femLINKPACIFIC's media and policy initiatives that we cannot afford the rhetoric of simply demanding equal participation and gender balance in representation when it comes to the implementation of critical gender equality commitments, in particular UN Security Council resolution 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as CEDAW.

Instead, we need to use the resources and skills we have to highlight the barriers and the strategies identified by women themselves to transform the barriers even during such challenging political times.

Too often the rhetoric has also been our own...*"Government should do this ...the Department of Women should do that"* But it is no longer enough simply to demand change, but to be part of the change. It is time to define our own strategies for our future grounded on the fundamental human rights and freedoms we all deserve.

Our Women, Peace and Human Security reports serve to contribute to that process.

FemLINKPACIFIC's Women, Peace and Human Security report is about 170 'ordinary' women living extraordinary lives during a time of political insecurity, particularly since the purported abrogation of the 1997 Constitution and the enactment of the Public Emergency Decree.

The evidence presented in this report is drawn from conversations on the mat, consultations with women's community leaders, data collection and interviews by our rural correspondents and focal points, as well as community radio programmes we have produced for our rural broadcasts, as well as the documentation of weekly "vox pops" by our Generation Next team of Young Women Producers and Broadcasters.

Our Community Empowerment Programme activities including field consultations and broadcasts, since April 2009, have made us more aware of the need for alternative and safe information and communication channels especially for women who do not have the luxury of traditional and new media access. Our report, therefore also serves as a reminder of the increasing information and communication divide between rural women and urban women.

Our community media process is not just about recording stories but providing a channel for expression, for an exchange of information, a safe channel for communication as the women we meet are empowered to analyse and articulate their stories. The Community Radio Times and sections of the Beijing Platform for Action and other information we take to rural

meetings, is part of our effort to demonstrate the need to also transform information and communication channels and processes.

It also enables cross-communal dialogue as we bring women together from different local communities, as well as ethnic and faith based background.

Security is Pervasive

Since the military coup of December 2006 we have had the opportunity to see firsthand the impact of our political realities on women and their families, in particular the growing feminization of poverty.

For femLINKPACIFIC, women's 'security' is pervasive. It is not just related to armed conflict but affects every area of women's lives. It is also not just about 'domestic violence'. It is about the welfare and status of women, human security issues, and the impact of decisions in relation to the form and functions of the military, police, and broader security sector on women.

Once again, our Women, Peace and Human Security is not telling you anything new, but it does serve to remind you that women's realities, whether economic or political, are inextricably linked to national realities.

In the political context of Fiji right, we hope that this report will also remind those responsible for implementing a return to parliamentary democracy, will also remember that there is a critical need for accountability to the women, for who each day is bereft with economic hardship. This, we would like to stress, is more than just staging a half day consultation with women in their communities. It is about investing in programmes of social, political and economic empowerment. It is about not only having women listen to you, but listening to them, during the time that is most suitable to them.

Right now these women are doing the best they can just to survive and live in hope. They are determined to empower themselves but they also want to turn to their own elected members of parliament who can be held accountable for their development priorities, rather than relying on assistance from the teams of non-government organisations (NGOs) and service clubs.

We salute the NGOs and service clubs are already under pressure to be as responsive as possible to the needs of under-served communities.

The evidence we bring you also links closely to the findings in Dr. Wadan Narsey's 2007 publication, "Gender Issues in Employment, Under Employment and Incomes in Fiji" in which he writes "*gender equality cannot become reality unless ordinary women are able to empower themselves.*"

Narsey's publication highlights that while women in Fiji are making tremendous contributions to economic and domestic life, too often they are only supporting or relying on men's economic activity. Burdened by the lack of access to financial resources, burdened by the time spent in undertaking unpaid work, these are the very women who need to be invested in when we talk about women's participation in decision making.

Invisible are the women who manage their own households, or provide this service for others. Invisible are the mothers baking pies, making food parcels, creating floral arrangements and other income generating ideas. Invisible are the community workers.

These, and women like them, remain invisible in the eyes of policy makers because, as Narsey notes, only 31% of Fiji's female population are regarded as "Economically Active". Females comprise a large 51% of Family Workers and 77% of Community Workers, two groups who receive low income, and are very much under-employed.

Narsey's report has highlighted that *"While Economically Active persons did an average of 14 hours of household work per week, the average for Females was 26 hours, while for Males was 9 hours. This indicates an unfair burden of Household Work falling on Females, implying serious time constraints on Female's ability to devote time and effort to personal development (career, leisure, etc)"*

FemLINKPACIFIC's 2nd Women, Peace and Human Security report for 2009 brings you the realities of the 170 women we have met in Nadi, Ba, Savusavu, Labasa and Nausori.

Women managing households on a single income of \$100 a week.

Women whose children have to walk more than 10 kilometres a day to and from school.

Women ignoring their health needs for the sake of the family budget.

Women, young women and men, whose economic reality is closely linked to their own personal and health security, especially as a result of their vulnerability to commercial-sexual exploitation.

These are women who are also, just very, very tired.

Many of the women we talked to related extra long days of work, some starting as early as 4am. Their daily routine includes household chores as well as small income generating projects to add to their family's weekly income.

Their days often end after 9pm, after the children have finished their homework.

Yes, they require livelihood projects, improved roads and access to water.

But they also need the time and space to be able to prepare themselves to participate in district and local level meetings.

While Narsey's report was produced in 2007, it still remains very relevant, in relation to women's economic security or status and the linkages with her overall empowerment.

Our report also provides additional information, based on our own ongoing women's household and income survey conducted through our rural women's media network, since the global economic recession and the devaluation of the Fiji dollar in April 2009.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

In our collective quest for a Fiji society that is just, inclusive and peaceful, requires policy and decision makers, as well as development partners to recognize that it is no longer enough to simply acknowledge women as peacebuilders, in the home and community.

UN Security Council resolution 1325 is our benchmark when it comes to claiming our equality. It remains an affirmation of the important role women have in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It is expressly aimed at increasing the participation of women in conflict management at all levels of decision making, including prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.

Our first quarter Women, Peace and Human Security report (April 2009) clearly noted that there is a need to address the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources including land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and minimal participation in decision making that is directly linked to women's poverty and economic security."

And as this report highlights, it is women's increasing economic security priorities which links together all other women's human security issues. Serious consideration must be given to how to correct the imbalances of caused by the lack of women's economic power and her ability to enjoy personal and political security.

There is a need to address discrimination in education and training, remuneration and promotion, as well as inflexible working conditions and inadequate sharing of family responsibilities and insufficient services that continue to restrict employment, economic and professional opportunities and mobility for women. There needs to be a more accelerated effort and investment to ensure that Pacific Peace women are not just part of conflict resolution and prevention efforts but fully integrated and resourced to be active participants.

Strategies must also build upon UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by ensuring that the allocation of resources and availability of safe women's spaces to organise dialogues and peace and trust building activities as a precursor to women's full involvement in the long journey of peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

This means ensuring women have the opportunity to prepare strategies for dialogue and increasing the chance of sustainable peace. Women's civil society representatives have to be involved in helping redefine and ensure implementation of the new human security agenda, including representation on local and national councils and committees addressing the broad range of security issues

As the Pacific statement at the July 2009 Open Debate on UNSCR 1820 noted" *We need to encourage women's engagement in conflict resolution and prevention and the negotiation of peace agreements, as their participation greatly increases the chances for sustaining peace during times of conflicts. Engage women in post-conflict dialogue and policies to ensure women's participation in creating a system-wide, there is a results-based monitoring and social provisions. Women's economic empowerment and security "*

This will require tangible and sustainable investment to not only improve women's economic situations, and addressing all forms of sexual and gender based violence but also as a process of political empowerment for women to define local action plans to define their own peace and security agenda.

After all, as we all know, there cannot be sustainable peace if half of our population rights and security are undermined because they simply are made invisible by macro-economic policies. They are silenced by their poverty.

Ultimately "*Human security is a response to the challenges in today's world. Policies, institutions and civil society actors must respond to these insecurities in stronger and more integrated ways. Essentially human security is about both preventing violent conflict and reducing deprivations..... Addressing such insecurities effectively demands an integrated approach. This is why the focus must broaden from the security of states to the security of people – to human security. Human security means protecting vital freedoms. It means protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and situations, building on their own strengths and aspirations. It also means creating systems that give people the building blocks of survival, dignity and livelihood"*¹

¹ Vivienne Taylor Introduction to the Human Security=Women's Security (published by Feminist Institute of the Heinrich Boell Foundation in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Women's Security Council) October 2003

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Coordinator – femLINKPACIFIC

Summary of Findings

FemLINKPACIFIC conducted its field and rural broadcasts from the 22nd June– 11th July. During the course of femLINKPACIFIC’s rural and field broadcast, femLINKPACIFIC has documented 258 stories from women over a four week period.

Our field consultation and rural broadcast dates were as follows:

Nadi and Ba areas	:	23 rd – 27 th June
Savusavu and Labasa areas	:	29 th June – 4 th July
Nausori area	:	9 th to 11 th July
Suva ²	:	20 th July

We found that there were consistent and common concerns from women in each location.

The first and most pressing area of concern was the poverty, the daily struggle to provide for the family on a decreased spending power especially as some families were surviving on as low as \$50.00 - \$80.00 a week.

The unemployed and self-employed rural women of Fiji are generally given the task of managing the family with the little income that is gained from lower-earning incomes of their husbands and whatever they can contribute from micro-enterprises such as vegetable to handicraft production.

The issues which have emerged from our interviews have been categorized into a human security framework: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security.

This analysis is based on the documentation of **170** interviews with women in 44 local communities from 22nd June to 11th July. In addition, 88 women also participated in the field consultations and recordings as well as the rural broadcasts conducted in Nadi, Ba, Labasa and Nausori.

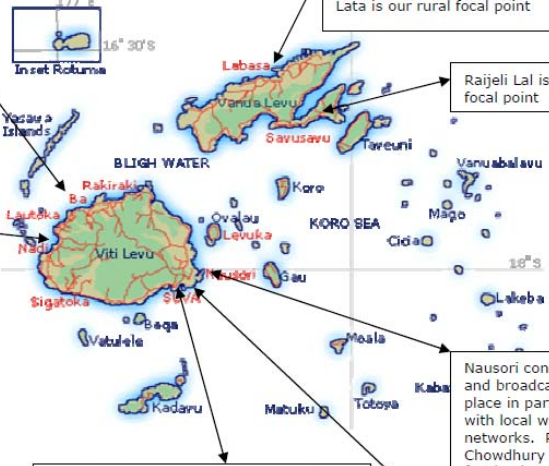
² femLINKPACIFIC conducts weekend broadcasts at its Community Media Centre in Suva every weekend

Ba Senior Citizen's Centre is our rural network partner; consultations and broadcasts take place also in partnership with the Town Council

Labasa town is the base of our rural correspondent Adi Vasu Chute who is also a peace facilitator for the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding and People's for Intercultural Awareness; Sindhu Lata is our rural focal point

Juleka Mastapha is rural correspondent based in Nadi
Linkages with National Council of Women and Soqosoqo Vakamarama networks
Consultations and staged in conjunction with Nadi Town Council;
McDonald's Nadi hosts our local broadcasts

Rajjeli Lal is our Savusavu focal point



Lami Town Council hosted our women's weekend broadcasts until we located to Bayly Trust building; Lami town is target community for our women's weekend broadcasts

Nausori consultations and broadcasts take place in partnership with local women's networks. Paulin Fong Chowdhury is our rural focal point

The community media centre is our national and regional media and policy advocacy "hub"



At a national level we network with co-affiliates of the National Council of Women e.g. Poor Relief Society, Fiji Disabled People's Association - Women's Group, Catholic Women's League, and YWCA, as well as other NGO/CSO partners working to provide alternative spaces for community news/information sharing through our community radio station

femLINKPACIFIC is a member of the NGO Coalition on Human Rights, Fiji Media Watch and the Suva Peace Vigil Collective as well as the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) and the World Association of Christian Communicators.

femLINKPACIFIC coordinates the Regional Women's Community Media Network on UNSC resolution 1325 with partner organisations hosting correspondents in Solomon Islands, Bougainville-Papua New Guinea and Tonga. We also feature content from women in other networks in other Pacific Islands including Vanuatu and also feeds stories to Pacific WAVE (media network), ISIS Manila International and World YWCA

We are also the Pacific Regional Media Focal Point for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the Pacific focal point for the GEAR Campaign and the Global Media Monitoring Project (2009) and a member of the Women's Peace Builders' Community of Practice (WPBCoP) coordinated by the International Women's Tribune Centre. Together with 22 other organizations and networks we are part of a global in-country monitoring of UNSCR 1325 -the compilation and analysis of which will be presented at the 10th anniversary of 1325 in October 2010

Sources of Information: Nadi, Nakurakura, Sikituru Village, Nagado Village, Nakavu, Uciwai, Alahdata, Votualevu, Mulomulo, Salovi, Nawaka, Namaka, Ba, Savusavu, Airport Area, Buca, Nakama, Nawaqiqi, Labasa, Bulileka, Vunicuicui, Bua, Vunimoli, Naodamu, Delailabasa, Dogodru, Siberia, Soaso, Dogotuki, Tawake, Udu Point, Tuatua, Nausori, Waituri, Waila Housing, Waila, Naimalamalevu, Savu, Kasavu, Vunimono, Raralevu, Makoi, Kiuva, Naiborebore, Valelevu, Toga

Overview of Human Security Priority Issues

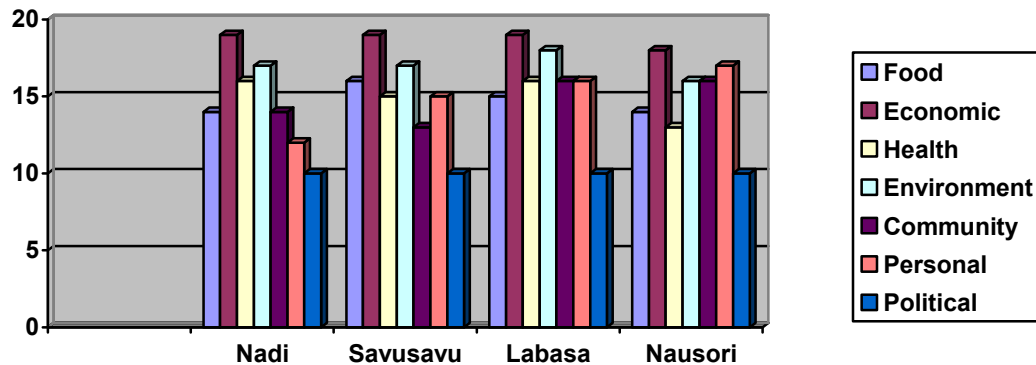
FemLINKPACIFIC has found that economic survival, food, health and environment security are the most important issues to women and their families.

Whilst economic survival is directly related to the high cost of living and the devaluation of the dollar, environment security is related to being able to live in a clean and sustainable environment, where rubbish is properly disposed of and other basic hygienic problems are dealt with. It also addresses the lack of recognition and support for women’s contribution to conservation, management of natural resources, and safeguarding the environment.

Food security is related to being able to use the environmental resources available to provide food for the family.

Health security is related to the availability of proper health facilities for women in the rural area, and of being able to look after their own health needs at home, including proper nutrition. Rural women need to have equal access to opportunities for the protection, promotion, and maintenance of their health. Women have admitted that they are putting their health second to that of the family. They most frequently go without meals to ensure the rest of the family is fed.

Human Security Priority Areas:



The security areas of concern, namely, economic, food, health, and environment high-lighted are issues that are inter-connected. For example, women admitted to going without meals (food, economic, and environmental security) in order to ensure they can feed their families and many also admitted that they tend to place lesser priority on their health (health security) and more on their husband’s health as he is often the sole income earner.

There are also critical connections with the four priority issues and women's personal security, as well as local infrastructure conditions, which impeded their access to information and services, in particular education and health.

The Link to Political Security

The status of women in Fiji must be viewed through the lens of an unstable political environment particularly since the purported abrogation of the 1997 Constitution in April this year.

In the process of returning to parliamentary governance, concern is raised about the accountability to existing gender equality commitments such the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN CEDAW) and other women's human rights commitments, within the context of implementation plans of the Department of Women.

Of particular concern is that initial efforts to mainstream gender equality into the national planning process, has regressed and national policies fail to incorporate the Feminization of poverty within micro and macro level policies.

Even before the political events of December 2006, women's access to services and resources including housing, employment, health and education, which remain largely determined by government economic policies budget policy making processes were not in compliance with human rights standards, in particular the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The current political climate therefore remains an even greater challenge for women's human rights advocates, who continue to advocate for "Gender Budgets" which would ensure that national budget and accounts incorporate a human-rights based approach and would therefore ensure greater recognition to the long hours of unremunerated work undertaken by women to meet increasing hardships experienced in their households, which remain undervalued at the macro level

Dr Wadan Narsey, has reported that "when Household by the Economically Active persons is also taken into account, then Females are shown to work between 26% and 31% more than Males...A major part of the problem of course is that household work is typically unpaid (Narsey 2007.pg127)".³

The impact of the recent 20% devaluation of the Fijian dollar, has greatly affected the women that we spoke with. As more people are losing their jobs, more women are left with the decision of providing for their family. Women are looking for alternatives to save money and also provide for their family.

³ Narsey, Wadan. 2007. Gender issues in employment, underemployment, and incomes in Fiji. Vauvau Publications. Fiji

As a woman shared, "the poverty line has increased and that applies to all areas with food and transport and all the sides and my group discussed and they came out with some of the ideas which means we can get some solutions for that and like for them to identify their skills and generate self income like cooking food some they cook and some they preserved food and sweets like chutney and other handicraft work like weaving, sewing and baking flower arrangements and selling port plants and floral set ups and decorations what all our sisters have their skills and come out in some Sangam we are taking a lot of workshops to educate our ladies which ever area they can take and we have seen that most of the mare doing the self generating themselves. We have discussed that we are to go back to our traditional cooking habits like in rural areas we have seen that sometimes our sisters are getting lazy and they switch on this and switch on that so with the prices of the gas and other things if they could organize with their fire woods to have the open fire cooking and also maintain all their routine work in a systematic way where they can use less electrical appliances like blenders and all this things for making chutney for all juices and extractions they could go back with our traditional things which are there standing for nothing if they could go back and use some of this things".

During and since femLINKPACIFIC'S WPHS Consultations (June/July 2009) many women openly discussed and shared their weekly budget which provides a valuable insight into their every day struggle for families across Fiji whose average weekly income range from \$80 - \$120 a week. Of additional concern is the economic vulnerability of young women.

For example, a 19 year old young woman in Savusavu told us how she now only earns \$8 a day as a housekeeper as her hours have been reduced to only two days a week. Whatever she earns goes towards her family which includes nine adults, none of whom are formally employed, making her the key bread winner of the family. It has been very difficult for her to make ends meet and to also find employment, especially without formal qualifications.

The future for young women in the rural areas is bleak.

During many discussions the vulnerability of women, young women, girls, and boys, to commercial and sexual exploitation was also a critical issue of concern which upon further analysis is closely linked to women's economic insecurities. This also gives rise to issues of their vulnerability to STIs and HIV infection. Subsequently, a special radio programme was recorded with a group of women in Nadi which noted that a comprehensive, collaborative, and sustained partnership between the National Council of Women, Soqosoqo Vakamarama and Fiji Council of Social Services would augur well to address the root causes of commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, as well as the development of relevant support programmes.

Rural Women's Work Patterns

Most women who femLINKPACIFIC spoke to wanted to be part of cooperatives or to be self-employed. Decisions were based on economic and family factors as opposed to wanting a change of lifestyle for pure creative stimulation needs for example.

The need to work stems from the fact that a single income of around \$80 - \$200 per week, today, is not sufficient to cover basic human needs and women need job opportunities to support households.

Women are combining family management with income generating work is a growing issue as Nirmala from Vunicuicui, Labasa related:

"I just wake up every morning at four and start my day and first of all I just prepare the breakfast for my husband for my son for my in-laws after that I do my house work and then I got a vegetable farm I really have a big vegetable farm to do the planting and also I do take the vegetables to the market I am selling the vegetables but sometimes I find the challenges their it's a hard time to do whole of the housework. As a lady I manage to do all my house work and be part of my organisation too"

When asked what time her day ends, Nirmala answered:

"Oh sometimes it ends at ten and sometimes it ends at nine or nine thirty and after that I have a rest" Vunicuicui Interview: 3rd July, 2009

Women, like Nirmala are spending many hours engaged in unremunerated or under-remunerated work.

Narsey (Narsey 2007.pg 127) has noted that "...despite doing 52% of all time work done in the economy, Females receive only 26% of all income earned". Being engaged in home and family management in addition to income-

earning activity was an unfair burden that prevented women from spending time and effort on personal development, such as careers and leisure.⁴ Nirmala, for example invests up to seven hours a day engaged in house-work and another eleven hours engaged in vegetable farming and taking the goods to market. Her working hours consists of 18 hours of work per day.

Greater effort is needed by the state to put in place measures to advance the implementation of Article 14 of CEDAW to not only focus simply on the particular problems faced by rural women, but to invest substantively in ensuring that rural women can contribute to and participate in development planning, as well as have equal access to adequate health care, credit, education, and adequate living conditions.

According to article 14 (1) of CEDAW:

*State Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.*⁵

For the rural women in particular, these human security areas specifically address the problems they encounter on a daily basis and play an important role in their personal, social, cultural, economic, and political advancement.

While it is a global experience that at times of political instability or upheavals, women tend to be marginalized from formal decision making processes, this should not be the case. Greater efforts are needed to assist in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and women's peacebuilding initiatives, including the use of community media, to ensure women's voices continue to be heard.

Development partners must take into account the need to support not only livelihood programmes but ensure such programmes incorporate programmes to empower women to actively participate in decision making processes.

Government officials and development planners must intensify efforts to apply social and gender analysis when developing economic policies and practices and take into account the growing feminization of poverty and the resulting political disempowerment of women

⁴ Narsey, Wadan. 2007. Gender issues in Employment, Underemployment and Incomes in Fiji. Vauvau Publications. Fiji.

⁵ Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT).2005.The Big Seven Human Rights Conventions and Judicial Declarations. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. Fiji.

More and more women need to not only be equipped and resourced to generate income for their families, but also be brought into the decision making process.

Case Study:

It was the day (July 3) that the Ministry of Women in Fiji had scheduled the launch of the revised National Women's Plan of Action (WPA) in the capital city, but for a group of women, members of the Catholic Women's League Dogoru village group, 14 kilometres outside of Labasa town on the northern island of Vanua Levu, what did it really mean? Forget about regular and reliable access to information and the notion that we should all be empowered right now, almost 15 years since the (United Nations) Beijing Conference. Here are a group of women, like many women across Fiji, who continue to play a range of roles from addressing the call of the Vanua (their traditional roles) to responding to the call of the Church, which also includes fundraising and providing financial support for key church based educational institutes in Fiji, including the Pacific Regional Seminary, the Corpus Christi training institute as well as the Catechist Training Centre in Navesi.

In their daily lives, the Dogoru mothers continue to address some basic obstacles to education, health and economic empowerment, as well as access to information, which are all part of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.

But the Dogoru mothers were not part of the recent half day consultation on the WPA which brought together women from across the three provinces of Cakaudrove, Macuata and Bua and so they were very keen to learn about the process which resulted in the development of the first National Women's Plan of Action following the 1995 UN Beijing Conference. Thankfully, as members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL), they have access to information, from the weekly programmes on the national Fijian radio station. Every Monday night, they diligently tune in to receive information from Susana Evening, who is the CWL National President.

The CWL also has been focusing on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325, and have been part of recent national level implementation activities, together with femLINKPACIFIC, including translation of this groundbreaking Security Council resolution. "1325" is a key priority of the CWL and is bound to be on the agenda of the upcoming August Annual General Meeting of the CWL which will be hosted by the Korolevu CWL.

While only six members of the Dogoru CWL will be attending the AGM as part of the Labasa Parish representatives, as Karolaina pointed out "We are looking forward to the different topics that are always part of the AGM (our

reps) will go and learn and come back and share"

So what are these obstacles?

First of all let us consider the 14 kilometres of rugged road which they have to contend with daily. Just travelling this road in our femLINKPACIFIC vehicle (which thankfully has 4WD) I was amazed that even though this was the main access road for the large broadcast and telecommunication corporations to the Delaikoro main transmitter site or access to the Nasealevu reservoir which is the main source of water for Labasa town. But, as one of the women observed, "The people who go there don't have to worry; they have their big trucks and four wheel drives" as we wondered why it was that the road had not been upgraded.

It can cost up to \$45 (one way) by taxi according to Bernadetta who we had met earlier in the day at our Women, Peace and Human Security consultation and had come across quickly to finalize plans for our afternoon meeting, "But the driver complained all the way about the road."

We had actually given a ride to a young mum and her daughter who were walking back to the village from the closest kindergarten, six kilometres away from the village. They had been walking since 11am and when we met them it was almost 3pm! It is no wonder that the Dogoru mothers would like to see a village kindergarten built soon. Investment in education is a key priority.

The main access road to Dogoru, along which buses and cane trucks slowly meander, becomes inaccessible when it rains. It is so bad that the Dogodru school children, who usually have to wake up at 4am to catch the 6am bus to town, have to walk the 14 kilometres to the nearest cane sector office in Waiqele.

And so, like many rural village families, arrangements have been made to rent accommodation in Labasa town to enable the children to be able to attend school easily.

So what happens when a woman is due to give birth? The village midwife, who has assisted with many deliveries, is now too old to assist the women, and this is a concern for the mothers. Karolaina, who is now a grandmother says that the Irish Crossing (low bridge) which is the final access point to the village from the main road, has been on the agenda of the "Bose ni Tikina" since she was a young girl, but they are still waiting for a bridge to be built. During the regular heavy rains (as the village lies in the shadows of a mountain range) they become stranded and often women in the middle of labour will have to walk to the bridge to meet the ambulance, "Women have given birth on the way," she told us.

One wonders, whether it is the lack of economic power, which stifles the voices and issues of the mothers of Dogoru. Yet these women are certainly enterprising and working hard to overcome their economic obstacles.

The Dogoru mothers are part of a micro-enterprise savings group and to date have invested in large cooking pots and cutlery which they hire out to local communities during large gatherings and events. They are currently saving up for a hot water urn and are now also considering investing in a computer and internet access after our discussions about the potential to secure information and have accessible communication via the internet.

The women are also keen to see the establishment of a local women's craft market in Labasa town as they felt currently there continues to be an undervaluing of women's traditional craft skills, in particular mat and basket weaving. As Bernadetta highlighted, "there is no point weaving mats because we do not get a good price in town." A mat can take up to a week to produce, from preparing the "voivoi" which is woven together in between all the other home and family responsibilities. Yet, all the women are able to earn from the sale mat is as little as \$80.

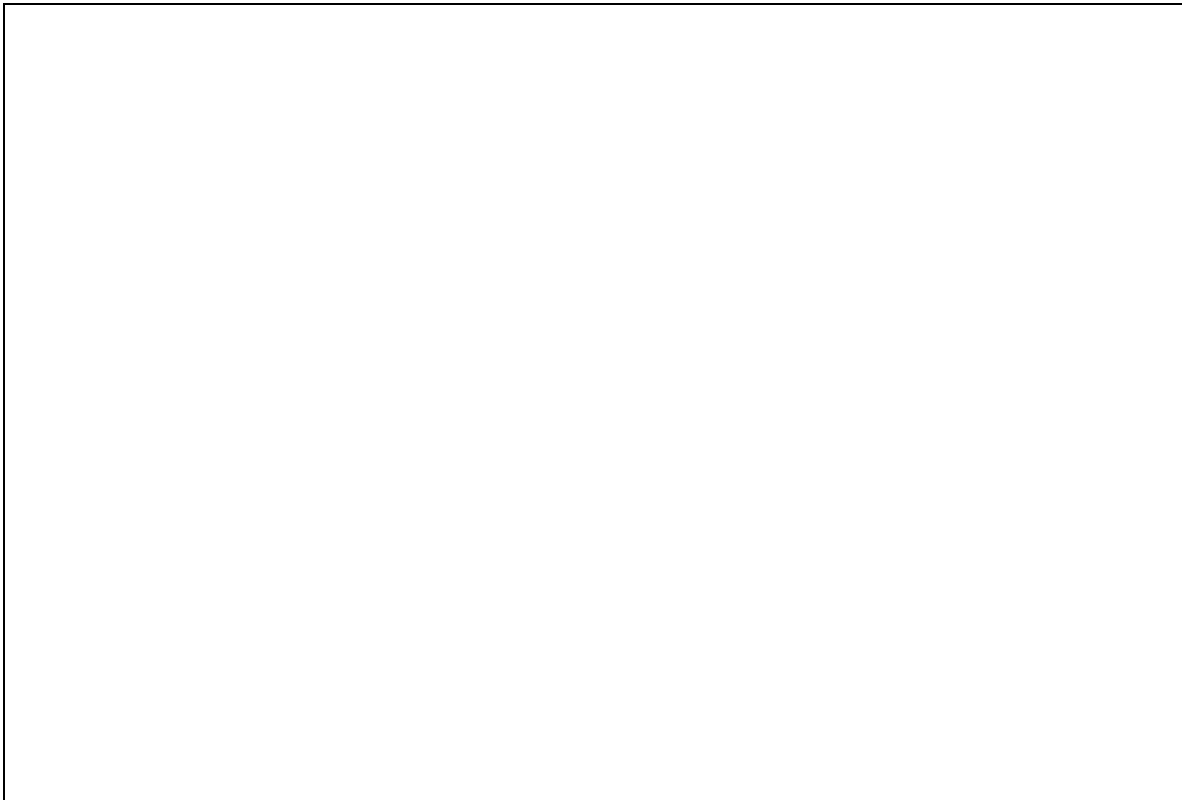
"We take whatever people will give us, because we need the cash," said Bernadetta.

That is why they also value the handicraft sales at the annual CWL Conference, as they are able to sell their mats and baskets at a good price.

Every year, like other CWL groups, they have to fundraise to cover the costs of the attending their annual conference. Previously, a few women would team up and secure a contract to clear yaqona plantations. Earning the \$500 target also meant sleeping at the plantation "camps" amidst all sorts of "creepy crawlies". While this met the fundraising target it certainly was not the most pleasant experience and so Elenoa, developed the "cooking collective". A cooking day was designated when women prepared special menus for the men and boys of the community. The sale of food and other trimmings earned them \$579, and all the women were able to participate in what ended up being a memorable and fun day!

The Dogoru mothers have also been inspired by the recent developments with the Vunicuicui Multiracial Group's efforts to develop a women's cooperative, which has been a model for women's economic empowerment shared amongst local networks. And so they have approached, femLINKPACIFIC's Labasa NGO partners, the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding, to facilitate a similar training and development programme to be able to start their own bakery! This, they say, would be one way to work together to try and earn the daily cash expenses of buying groceries, transport and school and other expenses, which, according to Elenoa, can add up to \$100 a day for an average family with two or three children at school. (July 2, 2009)

Women's Economic Empowerment Initiatives



Women want to be in paid employment for the same reasons men work – economic reasons. Activities such as sewing, handicrafts, and jam-making also need appropriate technical assistance, such as in business marketing, from appropriate or specialized development partners.

The women in our rural communities possess a myriad of talents that can be utilized to provide economic security through innovative and sustainable activities which can increase women's substantial earnings. This is particularly critical for women living in impoverished conditions in the urban and rural areas.

The women who belong to single income households are under immense pressure to manage daily household expenses and income since the April 2009 devaluation of the Fiji dollar, and many have admitted that this is creating substantial stress on their family life. Every woman we spoke to, shared stories of innovative ways in which they are trying to supplement their husband's income from selling crafts or food, to tending home gardens.

To meet rising economic costs and scarcity of funds many women are involved in developing and implementing innovative income generating initiatives for their families.

Some of these initiatives include selling handicrafts and flowers, weaving mats, planting root crops and vegetables. It is a way to help the family generate a second source of income. For some families it is the only source of income, where spouses have lost jobs, women are divorced, or for the widowed.

Rohini from Nausori, for example has turned her love for flowers into a floral art business and who now supports her children and her husband who lost his job as a casual labourer while Savaira from the Bulileka area in Vanua Levu who has chosen to plant the root crop, dalo (taro), to utilize previously unused land.

But although women are setting up small businesses, this is often without appropriate training including business management and product development. Many women are also unable to access business development loans.

While the flexibility afforded by self-employment is often regarded as a way to better balance work and home management for the working mother, many women are also keen to join the formal work force. However, this will also require a safe and secure work environment, equitable wage rates, safe child support and also security of tenure.

The example of the Vunicuicui Multiracial Women's Forum is a shining example of how, through access to information and civil society support, rural women are able to empower themselves by starting their own co-operative:

Summary of Findings by Location:

Nadi Women, Peace and Human Security Consultation

The Nadi Rural Women, Peace and Human Security Consultation brought together women from Nawaka, Waqadra, Nadi Town, Votualevu, Mulomulo, Salovi, Nawaka, Kennedy Ave, Alahdata, Nakavu, Vatutu, Nakurakura, Sikituru, Uciwai, and Nakavu Village.

The participants were also representatives of different clubs and groups such as; the Divisional reps of the Fiji Council of Social Services, PRWIDE, Namaka Public Mothers Club, Nawaka Andrews Kindergarten, Muslim Womens League, Nadi Women's Advisory Council, Sikituru Women's Club, Nagado Women's Club. Many of the women's groups are affiliated to the National Council of Women and/or the Soqosoqo Vakamarama.

We also visited Nakavu Village (11 women), Sanasana Womens Sangam (14 women) as well as the Navakai HART (17 women).

Economic security was their main concern. Most of these women who spoke to us have been experiencing the difficulties and the hardships of not having enough money to fully support their family. They also engage in income generating activities where it provides them at least some money which helps them support the family.

Most of the women who were part of the consultation pay around \$2.50 - \$5.00 taxi fare to travel to town and it is usually to transport goods to and from the market, access services or for general shopping.

For households that on average earn around \$50.00 to \$200.00 a week, spending \$10.00 for a return trip to town is a considerable amount of money. Many women highlighted the importance of bus-fare concessions for the elderly, and school children, as well as for rural women who live in villages and settlements outside of the town boundary.

Mrs. Ramesh: As the speaker has mentioned about the health and we have is teenage pregnancy which is very high rated at the moment and we really have to do some ground work to avoid all these problems and another health issue is dispensary now. Before we used to have dispensary at district level like at Nadi hospital but I don't know what the government policy says, they have closed the dispensary at Nadi hospital and they were so many dispensary at rural levels and they have been closed too. Some places they were land issues and some places they say the government can't provide the medicine and can't provide the nurses so that is another issue. We are really looking forward to try to encourage government so that we have this dispensary back in the hospitals and so that our people can get better service for those who are poor in the community.

programme produced on: 23rd June, 2009)

(WPHS Radio

A special radio programme was produced to address a growing concern by many of the women at the consultation, and that was the rising number of women who are now involved in sex work as a way to earn a living.

Through the radio discussion, critical issues such as the economic vulnerability of many of the women and young girls which force them into a situation of sex work, as well as those who are being exploited by “pimps or madams”.

The radio programme highlighted that existing low wages for casual work which can be as low as \$16.00 a week while money earned through sex work can be as high as \$50 in half an hour. The programme also noted that women are also putting themselves at risk of STI and HIV infection.

Community security issues focused on the protection of groups threatened by other more powerful entities. Sex-work as an income-earner attracts various problems that threaten women’s economic, health, personal, and community security.

Another issue highlighted during the consultations was that at as the costs of living increase, women are bearing the brunt of these costs for example by choosing not to seek medical help when needed, or not engaging in business (selling of vegetables) at markets as expenses such as travel costs seem to outweigh the health and economic security advantages that could be gained. This is the reality of the rural areas.

There is enough evidence to suggest that the burdens faced by rural women could easily lead to unemployment, sex work, and illness in the family, divorce, and violence. Women are under a lot of pressure to perform their duties of mother, wife, and care-giver of elderly parents under these trying political times. It is time to give women a fair opportunity to learn skills and to earn a living, to better provide for their families.

Human Security	Issues
Health Security	The need for more dispensaries, the importance of planting vegetables and buying nutritious meals rather than opting for cheaper yet unhealthy foods
Environment Security	The need to look after the environment, disposing of rubbish
Economic Security	The impacts of the 20% devaluation, the need to address the high cost of living and the increase of unemployed young people
Community Security	There is a greater need for more respect for each other.

Ba Women, Peace and Human Security Consultation

FemLINKPACIFIC celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Ba Senior Citizens Centre. The suitcase radio went on air from Friday Night (6pm- 8pm) and on Saturday (730am- 2pm)

With the reality that women remain outside of the mainstream of decision making and development processes, it is important to note that older women, face double discrimination when it comes to their human security priorities.

Many of the elderly do not receive any government assistance. In fact, less than 25 percent of those interviewed received social welfare assistance and struggled to afford basic food items and medicine.

It should be noted that older women in rural communities, have had less chance of access to education and formal employment and are therefore more reliant on state support. Many who have depended on their families, in particular, their children to shelter and feed them, now are considered a greater burden and especially due to the rising cost of living. There is a need to understand that the elderly have special dietary and health needs.

Health security also remains a key concern for many of the women and men who belong to the Centre as costs for medicine for age-related diseases such as diabetes and hyper-tension increases. Many women do grow their own vegetables as a nutritious and economically viable option.

Despite these challenges, the Ba Senior Citizens Centre every week remains a safe place for the members to enjoy shared solidarity and support, and to address their human security concerns.

FemLINKPACIFIC also interviewed 4 young people involved in the celebration and got their perspectives on the issues that they face. The young people expressed their concerns on the lack of facilities and services for young people and children in Ba. Programmes and activities are needed within these small towns so that young people are actively involved and their time is well managed and used widely.

The main issues that the young people of Ba face is Economic Security, or for them specifically, the lack of employment.

Those who have graduated from tertiary education and the unemployed find it difficult to find jobs that ensure a fair wage or salary. They strongly felt that more opportunities should be provided for the young people living in areas outside of Suva.

The young people also reiterated that spending time with community elders is a way of showing respect to those who have contributed to the development of our country.

Human Security	Issues
Economic Security	The increase of unemployed young people. Social welfare assistance for the aged. A need to address the high costs of living.
Environment Security	The need to look after the environment, disposing of rubbish
Health Security	The cost of medicine for age-related illnesses. Water-supply problems. The importance of planting vegetables and buying nutritious meals rather than opting for cheaper yet unhealthy foods
Personal Security	Support for the elderly who need special attention and care.



Savusavu Women, Peace and Human Security Consultation

27 women who belong to the Seventh Day Adventist mother's kindergarten group together with a few toddlers and two babies braved the rain and came together from the Airport area, Buca, Nakama, Nawaqiqi and to share their issues as well as receive femLINKPACIFIC's 1st quarter Women, Peace and Human Security report.

Economic Security was the biggest concern for the women together with poor infrastructure as well as environment and health security concerns.

Many of the women admitted that to properly manage the household and education expenses of their families, they needed at least \$200 per week. At the moment women have reported that some of them survive on an income of as low as \$8.00 per day to the highest of \$120 per week, as one woman shared:

"...He earns \$87 a week so from that \$87 we have to sub divided our rent the cost of our rent is \$120 a month and we just staying in one small room and the cost of food and I got 2 kids 1 in primary school and 1 in pre-school and I have choose health too. Like as I have mentioned that we renting we don't have a suitable place to rent there and the poor drainage too like this kind of weather its raining and at our place there's a block drainage there and it mainly from beside our house so..."

Many of the women shared that their families do not have adequate access to land to plant vegetables for household consumption or for sale.

One woman who supplied her vegetables to Labasa Market had all her vegetables washed away during the floods in January. Another woman reported that a landslide damaged the driveway to her house, leaving her home inaccessible. The January floods also damaged sugar-cane, affecting income for the following year.

Utilities such as water-pipes and electricity posts in her area also ceased to work. The absence of electricity generally gives rise to crime in the area. For example, men use this time as an opportunity to intimidate residents by stoning homes and engaging in petty theft.

While access to water is a human rights issue, many women are still forced to wash clothes in creeks and children bath in drains.

My name is Savitri Devi I stay at the airport I'm 50yrs old and my daily routine is that I wake up at 3 to 3.30 am and start my day with a worship with my family and after my worship I have to do my cooking for my family, for my daughter goes to school and after cooking I have to wake her up and do the brushing and everything I have to do for her and make her ready and her to the road for her to catch the bus. After she goes and I come back home and prepare the breakfast for my husband and then the lunch, he goes to work at half past 7 and then I have a lady to look after so I have to wake her up give her water because most of the time she stays sick and after her brushing I prepare the breakfast for her. This goes till half past 8 when I finish with her then I come back and start my work like sweeping, cleaning and washing after I do my house work then I have my breakfast till 10 o'clock I finish my work. After that I have to go to my neighbors to share what I get from my church and try to help them out and then rush home to prepare the lunch for my elderly women, after I prepare the lunch for her I give her lunch by half past 12 that goes off and then I have my lunch but sometimes I missed it out and then I have to feed my chickens and other works to do apart from my inside and I have to go outside in my garden, when it's a good weather I do some planting that's my daily routine work. Like my problems are especially economic because the place where I live in it's lower ground and I hardly grow anything in my compound because of that and the floods come in and I usually grow chickens just to help my husband out because he is the only one working for us and amount of wages his getting makes me difficult sometimes so I'm trying out to help him by growing chickens but the problem is that when the flood comes my chickens they die, if they small and if they are big and some just fly up to upper ground or on the trees that's how I save some and this really gives me problem because it concerns on my health too, when the flood is there because all the rubbish from the upper hill side comes to my compound. The water in my compound stays for a week after I week it gets dry so we have to move out of the compound to do the cleaning and we are really concern about it because it can affect our health and there's lack of drainage, the place where I'm staying because the government has made a drain but all the water from the drain is coming to my compound. Giving the complains how many times they haven't done anything yet and this is my main issue that I want to put it here so that my voice goes to them and maybe they can help me out.

Savusavu Interview 1st July, 2009



Human Security	Issues
Health Security	Problems with water-supply.
Food Security	The need to encourage people to plant for own use, eat more healthy foods, Training in land management to utilize farmable land.
Environment Security	No Proper Drainage in low-lying areas which is a problem during flooding. To empower women as producers and consumers in community-based environmental programmes.
Economic Security	Bus fare concessions. Financial assistance to start up small businesses. Basic business skills training. Technical support for small businesses. e.g. marketing.

Labasa Women, Peace and Human Security Consultation

The consultation was staged in collaboration with the Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding.

Yet again we heard that economic insecurities continue to top the list of priorities for women, as women community leaders from Bulileka, Vunicuicui, Bua, Vunimoli, Naodamu, Delailabasa, Dogodru and Siberia, brought the experiences of women from their clubs and groups, to the consultation, and shared their issues in a women, peace and human security framework.

Critical areas of concern included rising cost of living for many single income families, who only earn around \$100 a week are also closely linked to the food and health security of women and their families:

"My husband has only \$130 for his wages and it's not enough, so I come to the market and try and earn more than \$20 a day buy selling food. We're renting now, \$80 per month, I am helping my husband to pay for the FEA and water bills," said Mereia.

"It's not only the supermarket (shopping), which is expensive," shared Elizabeth, "(at the market) pumpkin can cost \$10. (so) It is much cheaper to buy chicken and from that you still have some change left. We need to live within our budget".

The consultation also heard that women are making tremendous sacrifices, including skipping meals and not visiting the doctor when they become sick because they simply cannot afford these expenses: "We women sort of sacrifice all the time, and we're getting tired of it now, we're carrying the burden. we sacrifice a lot for our husbands and children, its now time for us to care for ourselves," said Elizabeth

Most of the women of Labasa raised transportation and road conditions as an issue. In order to get to town to buy groceries, for school and for other purposes the women provided us with examples of the cost of transport: Bulileka 85c (bus), Naodamu- \$7.00 (carrier), Soasoa- \$5.00 (taxi), Dogoru \$1- \$2 (bus), Vunicuicui- \$1.50, Siberia- 50c, Urata - \$1.05c

Efficient and safe transport is need for school students, market vendors, shopping visits, and to access medical services. Many women reported that their children walk miles to reach town and schools when money is not available adding frustration to an already problematic rural transportation system with inconsistent timetables and poor condition of vehicles.

Human Security	Issues
Economic Security	The increase of food items and the cost of living, transportation costs, Low income, Education Costs.
Environmental Security	The access to safe and clean drinking water, the access to roads, after the floods road conditions have worsened,
Heath Security	People not eating a balanced diet, women have also been missing meals, The lack of proper access to health facilities for women,

Nausori Women, Peace and Human Security Consultation

There were 20 women who attend our consultation from Waituri, Waila Housing, Waila, Naimalamalavau, Savu, Kasavu, Vunimono, Raralevu, Makoi, Kiuva, Naiborebore, Valelevu and Toga. They were working mothers, single mothers, young women, and those who managed the family home.

A crosscutting concern was the low wages earned by their husbands despite working long hours. While the men earn the income, they depend greatly on their wives to manage the family and the home on a small wage, and are not home to share the significant social and economic task of home/family management.

Since the flood in January, my husband is not... out of job. He was working for a government department where they used to construct road in Monasavu and there have been slacking drivers, truck drivers and my husband was one of them. So after that I was thinking the school is about to begin and what to do, so at first I did the provident fund withdrawal, the partial withdrawal so I managed to cope with the school fees for my son. After that I was thinking and thinking and what to do and then I talked to few ladies and they said you got talent you should do something. Let your husband look for the job and then you too do something. I was thinking what to do and are you got garlands you got the flowers there. Make the garlands and who is gonna buy the garlands I was thinking. One of the ladies say you advertise in the papers, garlands and garlands. I advertise in the business notice in the Fiji times and I was getting lots and lots of orders for garlands, so I was making the garland. I was doing the flower arrangement. I was making wreaths and till then, now I have been more experienced making garlands and wreaths and flower arrangements. So that how it working for my...

Nausori Interview: 9th July, 2009

Clearly the rising costs of living, made worse by the 20 per cent devaluation of the Fiji dollar earlier this year is contributing to the difficulties these women face with regards to their day-to-day survival and quality of life.

As in other consultations, transportation costs were also highlighted, which costs ranging from 70c to \$5.00, as listed: Raralevu- 70c , Makoi- 85c, Vunimono- 50c, Kiuva- \$1.60, Naiborebore- \$2.00, Toga- 70c, Valelevu- \$1.05, Waila- \$5.00, Kasavu - \$5.00

These women travel from their respective suburbs and villages to reach Nausori town which is a hub for local services such as supermarkets, vegetable markets, hospital, pharmacies, and banks.

Closest to the capital city than the other four towns documented in this report, the area is more prone to the human insecurities more prominent in urban centres. These include the issues of overcrowding in housing settlements, which contribute to the rise of crime in these areas near Nausori town.

There is a need to address crime and ensure better policing. This includes the provision of transport for the local police.

Human Security	Issues
Health Security	Access to health facilities, lack of doctors and nurses in health centers, the shortage of supply of medications in villages and in rural areas, no mortuary in certain areas,
Food Security	The need to encourage people to plant for own use, eat more healthy foods,
Environment Security	No Proper Drainage, the need to dispose rubbish in bins and in proper dumping areas,
Economic Security	Not enough money to cater for needs of the family, the high number of people who are left unemployed, cost of living is very high, low salary, the increase in education costs. The impact of devaluation,
Community Security	Over crowding of people in settlements which leads to crimes and disputes, the lack of privacy
Personal Security	Domestic Violence, Physical and Emotional Abuse.

Summary of Women's Household and Income Survey

Locations: Nausori, Nadi, Labasa

Total # of respondents: 39

Survey Period: July – August 2009

Location: Nausori

- Name Pushpa Wati
- Location Naselai Feeder Rd.
- Number of people in household 2

The couple lives alone. Husband buys and pays for bills but does not give her money for her own personal expenses. Husband is a Taxi Driver and the sole income earner in the house.

Weekly Income

She has two children who have both migrated and do help by sending money. She was reluctant to share their financial details.

Weekly Expenses

Grocery	\$50.00
electricity (per month)	\$30.00
Water (per 3 months)	\$20.00

- Name Anita Chand
- Location Vuci
- Number of people in household 6

Anita lives on a feeder road, which is in very bad condition. She has two children who have both migrated overseas. They help by sending money but she was reluctant to share their financial details. When asked about her personal needs, she replied that she tries to adjust the grocery allowance to allow her to afford her personal purchases. It was very difficult because she has the responsibility to make all ends meet and her husband doesn't give her much. She has one child in primary school, and one at high school. Husband and nephew are income earners in the house.

Weekly Income

Husband's wage	\$200.00
Nephew's wages	\$50.00

Weekly Expenses

Groceries	\$150.00
Bus fare for school children	\$15.00
Electricity (per month)	\$60.00
Water (per 3months)	\$30.00

- Name Kavita Devi
- Location Vusiya
- Number of people in household 6.

They include parents in-law, a 4 year old daughter, and a sister in-law. Kavita is also a part-time University student. Husband is a Taxi Driver and the sole income earner for family.

Weekly Income

Husband provides her with \$200.00 weekly

Weekly Expenses

Grocery	\$100.00
Bus fare	\$ 29.00

- Name Babita Chand
- Location Kuku, Bau
- Number of people in household 5

She lives with in-laws so it is also a bit hard for her. Her 'personal needs' are requested to husband for consideration as an extra expense. She also was very reluctant to share financial details. They have one daughter. Husband is a taxi Driver and the sole income earner for family.

Weekly Income

Reluctant to share details of income.

Weekly Expenses

Grocery	\$150.00
School bus fare	\$ 10.00

- Name Sumintra Dei
- Location Koronivia, Tailevu
- Number of people in household 4

Husband is a dairy farmer and the sole income earner. He provides for all expenses and gives her \$300.00 a week. Her brother is also living with them but unemployed. They have one child.

Income (Weekly)

Husband's wages \$300+

Weekly Expenses

Grocery	\$150.00
Rent (per month)	\$150.00
Primary school bus fare	\$ 15.00

- Name Pushpa Wati
- Location Vuci South
- Number of people in household 4

Her husband died and she receives a pension. Her son works in a garage and helps her out financially. Two children are at school. She also mentioned that her brothers help her financially.

Weekly Income

Pension	\$120.00
Son's wages	\$100.00

Weekly Expenses

Grocery	\$50.00
Bus fare	\$15.00

Nadi Area

- Name Chandar Prabha
- Location Malawai Road, Votualevu, Nadi
- Number of people in household 9

Five family members contribute their income.

Weekly Income

Chandar Prabha	\$78.00
Spouse	\$120.00
Elder son	\$180.00
Daughter in law	\$1,500
Younger son	\$210.0

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$150.00
Bus fares:	
Chandar Prabha	\$ 5.00
Elder son and daughter in law	\$50.00
Younger son	\$20.00
Vegetables	\$20.00
Medication	\$ 5.00

- Name - Champa Wati
- Location - Votualevu Cemetary Road
- Number of people in household - 4

Weekly Income

Champa Wati	\$50.00
Husband	\$60.00

Weekly Expenses

Rent- land lord	\$15.00
Food	\$80.00
Bus fare	\$ 5.00
Daughter's bus fare	\$ 3.00

- Name - Rohini Lata
- Location - Votualevu, Nadi
- Number of people in Household - 4

Weekly Income

Husband earns \$120 per week.

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$30.00
Bus fares	\$50.00
Vegetables	\$20.00

- Name - Angeela Devi
- Location - Votualevu, Nadi
- Number of people in Household - 4

Weekly Income

Husband earns \$80.00 per week.

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$50.00
Bus fare	\$11.50
Vegetables	\$ 3.00

- Name – Uma Sharma
- Location – Votualevu, Nadi
- Number of people in Household - 2

Weekly Income

Husband earns \$120.00 a week.

Weekly Expenses

Rent	\$20.00(lease)
Food	\$100.00
Vegetables	\$20.00
(Fuel) own transport	\$10.00

- Name Suman Lata
- Location Votualevu, Nadi
- Number of people in Household 6

Weekly Income

Husband earns \$150.00 a week.

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100
Bus fare	\$20.00
Vegetables	\$20.00
Recharge Card	\$10.00

- Name Sham Kumari
- Location Cararas Road
- Number of people in household 5

Weekly Income

Earns \$170.00 a week.

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100.00
Bus fare	\$ 10.00
Recharge card	\$ 5.00
Vegetables	\$ 20.00

- Name Sunita Devi
- Location A. Jan Road, Nadi Back road
- Number of people in household 4

Weekly Income

Husband earns \$600.00 a week as a vegetable wholesaler.

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$150.00
Bus fare (son)	\$10.00
Farm Petrol	\$100.00
Farm Wages	\$70.00

- Name Shaheel Dean
- Location Saravi Road, Navakai, Nadi
- Number of people in household 6

Two daughters attend primary school. Daughter in Kindergarten catches a 'carrier' to school. Family sometimes sells ducks and chickens to pay additional school expenses.

Weekly Income

Husband earns \$100.00 weekly.

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$60.00
Carrier (Truck) Fare	\$ 6.00
Vegetables	\$ 5.00
Medication	\$ 5.00
Recharge card	\$ 5.00
Easy Tel Phone card	\$10.00

- Name Alex Wong
- Location Kennedy Avenue
- Number of people in household 6

Weekly Income

Daughter's (2) Wages	\$180.00
Mother receives a pension (\$140.00/month)	\$ 35.00
Uncle's wage	\$ 35.00

Weekly Expenses

Rent	\$ 50.00
Food	\$150.00
Bus fares	\$ 2.00
Vegetables	\$ 10.00
Recharge cards	\$ 10.00
Grog	\$ 10.00

- Name Susan
- Location Raiwaqa, Suva
- Number of people in Household 4

Met this lady at the District Officer's office. She is the guardian of an orphan girl who is studying at university. The girl is on a Multi-Ethnic scholarship.

Weekly Income

Fortnightly pension (\$92.00) \$46.00/week
 Monthly Pension (\$82.00) \$20.50/week

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$70.00
Fare	\$20.00
Kerosene	\$ 6.50
Recharge Card	\$10.00
Vegetables	\$12.00
Donations to Beggars	\$20.00

- Name Akesa Dawai
- Location Solovi, Nadi
- Number of people in household 3

Weekly Income

Volunteer Worker \$20.00
 Family support from overseas \$50.00/week
 Help from family and friends \$20.00/week

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$50.00
Fare	\$10.00
Marketing	\$20.00
Kerosene	\$10.00
DVD	\$5.00
Recharge Card	\$3.00
Snacks for the 5 year old daughter	\$5.00

- Name Yashmeen Begum
- Location Navakai, Nadi
- Number of people in household 4

Yashmeen works as a housegirl. Her son also works and helps out financially.

Weekly Income

Housegirl wages	\$50.00
Son's wages	\$110.00 - \$120.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$90.00
Fare	\$7.00
Kerosene	\$5.60
Recharge card	\$10.00
Vegetables	\$15.00
Cigarettes	\$7.50

- Name Rozina Khan
- Location Martintar, Nadi
- Number of people in Household 3

Weekly Income

Rozina	\$100.00
Husband	\$150.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$75.00
Takeaway	\$10.00
Marketing	\$ 15.00
Kerosene	\$ 10.00
DVD	\$ 5.00
Recharge Card	\$ 10.00
Son's Pocket Expense	\$ 5.00
Donations to Beggars	\$ 5.00
Rent	\$115.00

- Name Razia S Bi
- Location Nasoso, Nadi
- Number of people in Household 14.

Razia's household includes the extended family.

Weekly Income

Razia	\$100.00
Father	\$200.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$180.00
Fare	\$ 35.00
DVD's	\$ 5.00
Recharge Card	\$ 30.00
Vegetables	\$ 30.00
Takeaway's	\$ 5.00
Donations to Beggars	\$ 10.00

- Name Inise Sakovo
- Location Lodhia Street
- Number of people in Household 6

Weekly Income

Inise	\$200.00
Spouse	\$120.00
Daughter	\$120.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$70.00
Fare	\$10.00
Cigarettes	\$30.00
Recharge Card	\$30.00
Vegetables	\$15.00
Kindergarten Expenses	\$10.00
Payments	\$20.00

- Name Lilla Wati
- Location Bangladesh Squatter Settlement, Navakai
- Number of people in Household 5

Husband is a Casual Worker and works as a fisherman. He only works as weather permits.

Weekly Income

Son	\$85.00
Father	\$50.00 – \$60.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$70.00
Fare	\$10.00
Kerosene	\$ 5.20
Cigarettes	\$10.00
Vegetables	\$10.00
Grog	\$ 5.00
Pocket Expenses	\$ 5.00
Recharge Card	\$ 5.00

- Name Sushila Devi
- Location Bangladesh Squatter Settlement, Navakai
- Number of people in Household 2

Sushila works as a housegirl. The son is a Fisherman. Works as weather permits.

Weekly Income

Sushila	\$50.00
Son	\$60.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$60.00
Fare	\$ 3.00
Medication	\$10.00
Payments	\$12.50
Vegetables	\$ 5.00
Recharge Card	\$ 5.00

- Name Ashwindar Kaur
- Location Kennedy Avenue
- Number of people in Household 3

Weekly Income

Ashwindar	\$120.00
Husband	\$162.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100.00
Fare	\$ 15.00
Vegetables	\$ 15.00
Recharge Card	\$ 10.00
Donations to Beggars	\$ 5.00
Baby Sitting	\$ 30.00

- Name Emily Sharma
- Location Moosad Place, Kennedy Avenue, Nadi
- Number of people in Household 6

Family has four children, ranging in ages and attending primary school and high school. Husband is currently unemployed and living off his savings, assistance from overseas family as well.

Weekly Income

Rent (\$350.00 per month)	\$ 87.50
Overseas family assistance	\$100.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$200.00
Bus fare	\$ 30.00
Vegetables	\$ 40.00
Recharge Card	\$ 20.00
Pocket Expense	\$ 25.00
Grass Cutting	\$ 4.00

- Name Arun Kumar
- Location Navakai
- Number of people in household 5

Husband is the sole income earner. He is a mechanic whose earnings fluctuate with business.

Weekly Income

Husband's wages \$400 - \$500

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$200.00
Fuel	\$100.00
Vegetables	\$ 50.00
Recharge Card	\$ 15.00
Grog	\$ 5.00
Crime Prevention	\$ 10.00

- Name Ravinesh Kumar
- Location Navakai
- Number of people in household 2

Ravinesh is 17 years old. He and his father live alone.

Weekly Income

Ravinesh	\$50.00
Father	\$100.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$45.00
Kerosene	\$ 3.00
Vegetables	\$ 2.00
Recharge Card	\$20.00
Grog	\$ 5.00

- Name Chinnamma
- Location Navakai
- Number of people in Household 4

Weekly Income

Husband	\$80.00
Elder son	\$60.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100.00
Fuel	\$ 20.00
Vegetables	\$ 10.00
Recharge Card	\$ 20.00
DVD's	\$ 2.00
Medication	\$ 5.00

- Name Lora Lei
- Location Navakai
- Number of people in household 4

Husband is currently unemployed. Receiving assistance from family overseas at the moment. There are two children who receive pocket money.

Weekly Income

Lora	\$100.00
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Weekly Expenses

Food	\$80.00
Kerosene	\$ 5.60
Vegetables	\$10.00
Recharge Card	\$ 20.00
Bus Fare	\$ 7.00
Pocket Expense	\$10.00

- Name Shanta Devi
- Location Navakai
- Number of people in household 3

Weekly Income

Shanta \$100.00
 Husband \$150.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100.00
Taxi Fare	\$ 6.00
Vegetables	\$ 10.00
Grog	\$ 10.00
Cigarettes	\$ 10.00
Toiletries	\$ 15.00
Recharge Card	\$ 5.00
Medication	\$ 10.00
Payments	\$ 7.75

- Name Rahana Ahmad
- Location New Town Road, Wailoaloa
- Number of people in household 4

Husband is a boat builder and fisherman. He works only as weather permits.

Weekly Income

Rahana \$300.00
 Husband \$ 60.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100.00
Kerosene	\$ 5.00
Vegetables	\$ 20.00
DVD's	\$ 6.00
Beggars/donation	\$ 5.00

- Name Alisha Khan
- Location Saravi Road, Navakai
- Number of people in household 6

Weekly Income

Alisha \$130.00
 Husband \$170.00
 Rent
 From Flats (\$280 per month) \$70.00

Weekly Expenses

Food \$100.00
 Taxi Fare \$ 40.00
 Recharge Card \$10.00
 Vegetables \$10.00
 Diaper \$10.00
 Kerosene \$ 5.20

- Name Sarojini Kumar
- Location Malolo
- Number of people in household 3

Weekly Income

Sarojini \$90.00
 Husband \$60.00

Weekly Expenses

Food \$70.00
 Bus Fare \$15.00
 Kerosene \$5.60
 Vegetables \$12.00
 Recharge Card \$ 5.00
 Misc. expenses for daughter \$ 20.00
 Beggars/Donations \$ 3.00

Labasa

- Name Bijma Wati
- Location Bulileka, Labasa
- Number of people in household 4

Stays at home and manages the family home. She also does voluntary work as a secretary for the Bulileka Mahila Mandal.

Weekly Income

Husband earns the only source of income \$170.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$110.00
Bills	\$ 20.00
Bus fares	\$ 20.00

- Name Usha Sharma
- Location Bulileka, Labasa
- Number of people in Household 4

Stays at home and manages the family home. She also does voluntary work as a Treasurer for the Bulileka Mahila Mandal.

Weekly Income

Husband earns the only source of income \$170.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$110.00
Bills	\$ 20.00
Bus Fares	\$ 20.00

- Name Ashu Raj
- Location Bulileka, Labasa
- Number of people in Household 4

Stays at home and manages the family home. Is a member of the Bulileka Mahila Mandal.

Weekly Income

Husband's wages is the only source of income \$200.00

Weekly Expenses

Food	\$100.00
Bills	\$ 30.00
Bus fares	\$ 10.00

- Name Maya Prasad
- Location Vunimoli, Labasa.
- Number of people in household 4

Stays at home and manages the family home. Is the President of Vunimoli Arya Mahila Mandal

Main source of Income

Husband's wage is the only source of income \$130.00 (per 3 week income)

3 Week Expenses

Food	\$80.00
Bills	\$20.00
Bus Fares	\$21.00

- Name Aruna Prasad
- Location Vunimoli, Labasa

Husband is the sole income earner.

Main source of Income

Husband's wage is the only source of income \$150.00 (per 3 Week income)

3 Week Expenses

Food	\$80.00
Bills	\$25.00
Bus fares	\$45.00