Equality, Development and Peace:

WOMENS
HUMAN SECURITY
FIRST

A FemLINKPACIFIC Policy for Peace Report
Fiji Islands
2009 - 2014

Foreword

There are many reasons why development has not worked for 52 year old Silina Nadilo of Wainikubukubu Village. One reason is the lifetime she has been waiting for electricity to reach her village. Ironic that her village is one of the closest to the Monasavu Hydro Electric Dam which was commissioned in 1983. While her village has benefitted from the solar panel production skills acquired by women who attended the Barefoot College training, Silina says without sustained electricity women like her have not been released from the burden of their daily work.

As a result of meeting 78 rural women leaders, representing close to 8000 women, in January 2014, we have heard again that despite gender equality commitments consultations and meetings where community development priorities are identified and endorsed remain under-represented by women. Today many women are still discouraged from speaking up in their families or in community meetings.

The under-valuing of women's mobilization power also persists despite their visible contribution to the community and country.

FemLINKPACIFIC's work builds on a rich her'story of women's activism in our country.

As an organisation which emerged from the Blue Ribbon Peace Vigil in 2000 we believe that our current political transition must take a peacebuilding and preventive action approach. This includes media freedom, inclusive of community media forms such as community radio, as a prerequisite for providing the enabling environment for participatory and inclusive democratization.

FemLINKPACIFIC's network has been using UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to inform and transform notions of security particularly to ensure development strategies are inclusive of women's human security priorities. Through our "1325" community media network the participatory process of engagement with local women leaders is providing a mirror we can hold up to governance systems and processes to remind them of the commitments to women's human rights, peace and security. The localizing of Security Council resolutions including the recently adopted UNSCR2122 and CEDAW General Recommendation 30 are pathways to make the connection with human rights, peace, human security and development as a regional network of communicators and peacebuilders.

The development and production of community media content is giving rise to both local and national action plans on women, peace and security through quantitative and qualitative evidence which has also informed the development of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAP-WPS) in October 2012. FemLINKPACIFIC's Women's Human Security First campaign was developed to ensure that the needs and capacities of people and communities are taken into account – development processes and priorities must be defined from the community level up, particularly to prevent conflict over resources.

Prevention strategies must also include investing in women's peace and security by ensuring women can inform and influence decisions which affect their lives including through equal participation in local and national governance. The efforts of community based women's movements must also be recognised and supported to bring about long term prevention and social transformation so that all women and girls can claim their right to peace and security. The return to parliamentary democracy requires a transformation from a military-led government to one that is more accountable to peace-building, democratization and development.

Through women's eyes, there is a broader notion of security – one that is defined in human, rather than in military, terms. Until women feel secure in their homes and communities, countries cannot be assured of sustainable peace in the nation. When women feel secure, peace is possible. When women feel secure enough to organise for peace – expressed through theatre, public demonstrations and civil disobedience – peace is on its way.

The women reflected in this report are a reminder of the change women deserve not simply because of political point scoring but because of the commitment that has been made to their socio-economic rights through CEDAW, the Millennium Development Goals and also in Fiji's 2013 Constitution. Their human security must be the bedrock of development planning whether at local, national or global level.

As Sangeeta says, "This change is urgent because I feel that I should be staying in a secured family, in a secured community, in a secure town, in a secure country."

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Executive Director - FemLINKPACIFIC

Acknowledgments

FemLINKPACIFIC's 'Women's Human Security First' Report is an outcome of collective efforts.

We would like to thank our community media centre staff, including the many community radio volunteers, who during the past several years have dedicated their valuable time to creating a safe space for girls and women to articulate and exchange their views.

We are also deeply grateful to the many girls and women around Fiji who have willingly shared their experiences, stories and made various contributions to FemLINKPACIFIC's work on peace and human security.

FemLINKPACIFIC expresses sincere appreciation to the many other individuals and organisations who are not listed here but who have supported in the preparation of this report.

Finally we would like to thank our donor partners Canada Fund in collaboration with the European Union, Global Fund for Women, the International Women's Development Agency and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict for continuing to enable us to amplify the voices of girls and women in calling for the type of development that will ensure their peace and security.

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Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CSW	UN Commission on the Status of Women
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPA	Women's Plan of Action

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Introduction

FemLINKPACIFIC is a national and regional organization committed to gender equality and women's rights, in which women are heard and fully participate in development and decision making. FemLINKPACIFIC works through the use of appropriate media and information, communication and technology materials, placing strong emphasis is on young women, women with disabilities and under-served women. FemLINKPACIFIC is a strong advocate nationally and regionally of UNSCR 1325, peace and human security, including lobbying for policy changes that reflect women's reality at all levels. FemLINKPACIFIC acts to transform structures and processes that are barriers to women's meaningful participation in achieving and maintaining peace and security, using an inclusive and participatory approach to involving women at community level.

This report informs and shapes what security means to the girls and women of Fiji and looks at human security from individual and community viewpoints. It also provides a policy guideline to those working towards democratization and sustainable development and peace in Fiji, and outlines principles and strategies that are responsive to the needs of the people, especially girls and women.

Why Human Security First?

The UN doctrine, which has since been adopted[1], proposes a two-layered approach of protection and empowerment to advance the human security of people through a structure of three interrelated pillars: peace and security (freedom from fear), development (freedom from want) and human rights (equal opportunities, rights, human potential; freedom from indignity), that equally consider civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

On 10 September 2012[2] a common understanding of human security was agreed upon which included:

It is the right of all people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. All individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential;

Human security calls for people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people and all communities;

Human security recognizes the linkages between peace, development and human rights, and considers civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights equally;

The notion of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect and its implementation;

Human security does not entail the threat or the use of force or coercive measures;

Human security is based on national ownership. Since the political, economic, social and cultural conditions for human security vary significantly across and within countries and at different points in time, human security strengthens national solutions that are compatible with local realities;

1   https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/HSU/Publications%20and%20Products/GA%20Resolutions%20and%20Debate%20Summaries/GA%20Resolutions.pdf
2   General Assembly resolution 66/290

Why Human Security First?

Governments retain the primary role and responsibility for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. The role of the international community is to complement and provide the necessary support to governments upon their request, so as to strengthen their capacity to respond to current and emerging threats.

Human security requires greater collaboration and partnership among governments, international and regional organizations and civil society.

Human security is putting people's safety, well being and political inclusion first, in any given context. It builds the foundation upon which both sustainable peace and sustainable development can be achieved and without which, neither can be achieved.

Human security as a necessary alternative to state-centered security because state-centered security does not adequately address the root causes that drive conflict and stalls the progress of development. People need to put human security before state security.

Without a human security approach to development and political challenges, results will be neither long-lasting nor sustainable, hence 'Human Security First.' With a human security approach, peace and security will remain people-centered with focus on inclusive processes of conflict resolution and preventive measures.

Global to Regional to National

Global, regional and national mechanisms provide the framework and mandate to put human security first.

Global standards and norms have been developed to work to protect and promote human security and achieve gender equality. UNSCR 1325 and 2122 and CEDAW are some of the key global instruments that provide the normative for human security.

The UNSCR 1325[1] affirms some important principles for maintaining peace and security. It also provides a gender lens on security and peace. It recognizes that women and children account for the vast majority of those affected and targeted during conflict. There is acute recognition that in order to maintain and promote peace and security women need to be equally and fully involved in all efforts. The role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution needs to be increased.

UNSCR 1325 urges States to ensure increased representation of women at all all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and in mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.

UNSCR 1325 also calls on non-state actors involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective; to support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution; to involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements; and to take measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary.

UNSCR 2122[2] emphasizes the participation and preventative aspects by focusing more on women's leadership and participation in conflict resolution and peace building.

1　　It was the first formal and legal document from the United Nations Security Council that required parties in a conflict to respect women's rights and to support their participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction and was adopted unanimously on 31 October 2000.
2　　Adopted on October 18, 2013 aimed at strengthening women's role in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution.

Global to Regional to National

It reinforces 1325 and recognizes that there are barriers to implementing 1325 which can only be overcome through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights, and through concerted leadership, consistent information and action and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision making.

UNSCR 2122 identified the importance of the rule of law as one of the key elements of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace building.

There was a reaffirmation that sustainable peace required an integrated approach based on coherence between political, security, development, human rights including gender equality, and rule of law and justice activities.

Both resolutions acknowledge the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.

CEDAW3, together with all the general recommendations made by the CEDAW committee, requires States to take measures to fully realize women's rights and achieve gender equality through elimination of discrimination against women. It aims for the equality for women in all aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life. The provisions of CEDAW require States to take measures to realize equality for women in law and to confront cultural, social and political inequalities and systems that perpetuate discrimination, violence and perpetuate unequal power relations.

Both CEDAW and the UNSCRs recognize that violence against women impedes the advancement of women and maintains their subordinate status, hence concerted efforts must be taken to end violence. This global framework also encompasses the importance of women's leadership in local, national and international decision making as critical to achieving gender equality and sustainable peace, reconciliation and development.

3   Fiji ratified it in 1995 and it is a legally binding International Convention.

Global to Regional to National

CEDAW enriches the UNSCRs by providing substantive normative and legally binding strategies on actions to be taken on the general commitments provided in them. The resolutions help broaden the scope of CEDAW by articulating the different dimensions in conflict and peace.

The UNSCRs and CEDAW can be used strategically together to strengthen implementation and the impact of work on women, peace and security.

The Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-2015 is an important regional instrument that brings the global framework into the region, garnering more direct political will and commitment. This Regional Action Plan provides a framework at the regional level for Pacific Islands Forum members and Pacific Territories to increasewomen's and young women's leadership in conflict prevention and peace building, mainstream gender in security policy making, and ensure women and girls' human rights are protected in humanitarian crises, transitional contexts and post-conflict situations. It also sets out a regional mechanism that will support regional and national efforts.4

The Regional Action Plan is situated in the context of the implementation of the Pacific Platform of Action for Gender Equality, Biketawa Declaration and Pacific Plan, and supports the Forum Regional Security Committee to ensure gender is mainstreamed in regional policy making on security and conflict prevention issues.

Fiji's National Women's Plan for Action (WPA) 2010-2019 and the 2013 Constitution of Fiji5 are critical in the protection and promotion of human security and the use of a human security approach to nation building.

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4   Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-2015
5   The 2012 people's draft constitution was removed by the military regime and replaced with their own constitution.

Global to Regional to National

The WPA commits to advance the status of women around the nation, prioritizing work around five critical areas of concern:

- Mainstreaming Women's and Gender Concerns
- Women and the Law
- Micro Enterprise Development
- Balancing Gender in Decision making
- Violence Against Women and Children

The WPA builds on commitments to women's human rights including CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. The current plan does not take into account UNSCR 1325, peace and security, and equality in women's access to Media and ICTs. The WPA has not been integrated into national planning and development processes and priorities. Fiji's political instability has been at the core of conflicts, often caused by elections that shift power balances, resulting in coups d'état.

The 2013 Fiji Constitution was promulgated on 6 September 2013 and provides for transitional phases to elections including some general guidelines for elections.

However with its immunity provisions, centralization of power, constitutionalising decrees made by the military government and an obscure separation of powers, the 2013 Fiji Constitution fails to provide a framework that takes a peacebuilding and preventive action approach.

There is a comprehensive provision on socio-economic rights encompassed in the bill of rights section. Of concern is that many of these rights are limited by decrees and limitation clauses stipulated in the Constitution. To guarantee inclusive, sustainable nation building the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups should be recognized in the Constitution.

Global to Regional to National

In the 2013 Fiji Constitution, there are substantive provisions on children's rights and the rights of people with disability. However there is no mention of women's rights, rights of the LGBTIQ community, or the elderly community. The Constitution does not have any substantive provisions on gender equality and is gender blind instead of being gender responsive.

Land has been a contentious issue in Fiji with conflicts surrounding access to land and leasing arrangements. The 2013 Constitution does not adequately address or stipulate measures to address the underlying causes of these conflicts.

In the earlier 2012 People's Draft Constitution, there was a clause on creating a commission through which landowners and tenants could directly communicate, providing a people centric model on policy formation pertaining to land. This attempt would have created avenues for preventative measures to be taken to address conflict concerningconcerning land. There is also no mention of gender or women's right to access land and ownership.

Women's right to leadership and equal participation in decision making roles is not recognized, protected or promoted in the 2013 Fiji Constitution. There is no affirmative action taken to achieve this through temporary special measures, especially in increasing the number of women in Parliament. Genuine democracy can only be gained through greater representation, especially of women, in Parliament, for which the 2013 Fiji Constitution fails to actively provide. There is also no provision on local government, which is an important avenue to create more direct representation of the people.

The focus of the 2013 Fiji Constitution is heavily centered on state security through provisions on national security and security forces that all invoke a protectionist approach. The constitutional framework fails to characterise a human security approach.

Global to Regional to National

Given the past coups d'état, the 2006 coup, the protracted process to elections from 2006, human rights abuses and a sense of injustice that prevails in some communities in Fiji, the 2013 Fiji Constitution does little to create a sense of peace and security. There is no truth, reconciliation and justice commission or other transitional justice mechanisms provided for in the constitutional framework to move Fiji towards sustainable peace building, democracy and nation building.

A strong form of representative governance and democracy would positively impact the human security agenda, reducing the level of conflict and marginalization. The greatest challenges to realizing human security nationally will be in the interpretation and application of the new 2013 Fiji Constitution.

While the concept of human security is largely accepted globally and regionally, it is most important that human security is recognized by and incorporated into Fiji's Constitution and other domestic legal systems for effect and impact.

Stories and Experiences

This report is constructed through a qualitative approach setting girls' and women's experiences in a larger context and the findings synthesized from FemLINKPACIFIC's work over the past several years. FemLINKPACIFIC has systematically documented the experiences and stories of girls and women and held monthly consultations within the network's UNSCR 1325 networks. The documentation has been drawn through structured and unstructured interviews including group discussions.

The values of feminism have been captured in the qualitative research by placing women's experiences, perspectives, and contributions are at the core. The findings and recommendations are directed towards action and change.

Girls and women who inform this report spoke freely about what human security means to them, their concerns and priorities and the different areas in which they call for transformation. The six human security theme areas identified were – economic, environment, food, health, personal and political security. The diverse voices of girls and women are from rural communities, informal settlements and urban areas and include young women, women with disability and women from the LGBTIQ community. The locations from which the girls and women come are identified in Table 1 in the Appendix.

This report is directed at government, politicians, political parties, policymakers, civil society organizations and their donor partners, including advocates in global mechanisms such as CSW and SDG.

It is vital that these stakeholders are informed and understand girls' and women's realities and undertake effective efforts to make a real difference in human security and the lives of the people of Fiji.

"Change is urgent because I feel that I should be staying in a secured family, in a secured community, in a secure town, in a secure country."

Key Recommendations

The key recommendations are articulated in the context of national and international legal obligations to which the State is obliged to adhere, including a synergy of the specific recommendations found later in the report.

The key recommendations are: -

• A Gender and Security Sector Governance working committee to be established within the National Security Council with a membership that includes human security experts from the women's rights movement. The working committee to be responsible for reviewing defence and national security policy and budgeting processes in order to meet human security needs.

• Gender responsive budgeting to be initiated as a process of government planning and programming that contributes to responding to the actual realities of communities, with the system being accountable to women.

• Substantive consultations to be held with communities to inform the development of responsive and effective policies and resource allocation.

• Transparency and audit reports on budgetary allocations and spending to be readily accessible to the public.

• Collection of sex disaggregated data in all ministries and departments.

• To implement temporary special measures through constitutional review and/or legislative policies to increase the representation and participation of women in all national decision making structures including Parliament, political parties and in all peace and security bodies.

• To develop a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security drawing on the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and in partnership with women's rights activist.

•   Utilize the skills of women's peace activists to review and update pre and post deployment procedures for peacekeeping personnel.

•   Work in close collaboration with civil society and review the criteria for qualification for high level appointments and leadership positions to ensure that they do not continue to exclude women based on stereotypes and standards that are unrelated to real capacity to perform.

•   Undertake a comprehensive Security Sector Governance Review in line with international conventions and treaties including UN1325 to hold the security sector accountable for human rights violations

•   Institute gender inclusive civil society oversight provisions in the context of the constitutional role of military and navy with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities from the Fiji Police Force, which must provide a public service that is based on the needs of the community within which it serves; and as a crime prevention tool, take a more analytical approach to not only make certain of improved and effective resourcing for not only its community policing work, but to also undertake the necessary information collation/analysis in a conflict prevention role.

•   Undertake security sector reform by reviewing existing legislation and decrees and the Fiji Defence Act through a process of substantive consultations, including the full and effective participation of women's human rights advocates and peace activists.

•   Review the Media Decree to make sure it provides a framework for a free and pluralistic media environment including the recognition of community media, in particular community radio, which plays an important role in building participation and opinion sharing, improving and diversifying knowledge and skills and in helping communities hold the State accountable.

Development Partners to:

• Dedicate specific funds to support the efforts of women's peace activists working to improve the participation of women in conflict prevention and peace building.

• Support the efforts of women's organisations involved in localizing UNSCR1325, 2122 and other UNSCRs.

United Nations to:

• Aid the development of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security drawing on the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security by supporting a consultative process involving government officials and women's peace activists.

• As a UN Troop Contributing Country, ensure Fiji is in compliance with human rights standards in all pre and post deployment programmes as well as commitments to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

Women's Human Security First:

In the interviews and discussions with girls and women, different dimensions to human security emerged, including challenges and an insight into the components of human development.

There were six security themes that were dominant and prioritized – economic, environment, food, health, personal and political.

> "Women they have to hire tractor to get water from far away and hire truck which cost them."

Economic Security

Findings

Girls and women, especially in the rural areas, have reported an increase in the burden of poverty on them. Economic security has been identified being able to afford healthy food, having enough food to eat and being able to feed the family, having access to reasonable social welfare assistance based on need, being able to access and afford clean drinking water, having access to land, access to safe and free marketplaces, substantive employment opportunities including microenterprises and financial support for single mothers.

The national minimum wage of FJD$2.00 an hour[1] implemented in January 2014 caused concern among women because of its low rate relative to rising living costs and potential for exploitation by employers.
Access to electricity is also a concern as some households do not have electricity and some that do are unable to afford the rates.

Having access to electricity, especially for lighting and refrigeration, and use of technology for education and information is important for achieving human development.
Economic security is critical to personal security especially for women experiencing violence or who are survivors of gender-based violence. Women with economic security are more likely to leave abusive relationships[2] and are more able to have choices in their lives. Women with economic security positively impact their family's education and health resulting in healthy personal development.

In rural areas many people have been forced to leave their communities because they can no longer make an adequate living and/or have limited access to services and opportunities such as health care, education and employment.

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1   http://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Center/Press-Releases/FIJI'S-FIRST-EVER-NATIONAL-MINIMUM-WAGE-ANNOUNCED.aspx
2   Anecdotal evidence including research in other countries, and various UN recommendations and programmes show that women in abusive relationship are far more likely to leave this relationship if they had economic security.

Economic Security
Recommendations

1. The Social Welfare Department to immediately review its current policies and implement policies that are far more responsive to the needs of its beneficiaries.

2. Social Welfare Department to monitor, gather and collate gender disaggregated data to inform policies and assess needs in relation to medical services, nutrition, transport and housing.

3. National government to prioritise gender budgeting for efficient and responsive resources allocations and maintain public consultations throughout the budget making process.

4. National Planning to assess and systematically incorporate women's contribution to both the macro and micro economy into all development and budget processes and plans.

5. Local government to improve market facilities and reassess user fee policies following consultations with women market vendors.

6. Local government should work with rural women leaders to improve women's access for their produce to local markets such as hotels, restaurants and other businesses as an economic empowerment strategy

7. The WPA should be mainstreamed and adopted by all relevant government ministries and departments for a holistic, multi-sectored and effective approach to achieving economic empowerment for women.

8. Implementation of the WPA should ensure that women's access to services addresses the advance of rural women's participation in local government and improves their access to the market economy, and not simply regards women as market vendors.

9. Microenterprise funding and loans by government need to be developed in consultation with women to ensure their design and implementation are responsive to women's requirements and as a result they operate as a successful economic empowerment strategy.

10. Government to collaborate with the banking sector and bilateral donors to increase women's access to loans and credit for livelihood projects, including developing appropriate requirements for loan applications that do not discriminate against women.

11. Land access and leasing for agricultural purposes to be made available to women and government to work with women's groups and civil society in disseminating information on current land bank policy.

Recommendations Cont'

12. Policies and infrastructure to be revised to enable people to have access to clean drinking water and affordable electricity.

13. Development planning processes must take a conflict prevention approach to avoid local level disputes over access to resources and services, including water supply

"Drainage cause too much problem and in our community the houses are very near, all get flooded and the flood water goes inside the house. The water comes up and go into the toilet, so it is not good, this is no good"

Environmental Security

Findings

Girls and women described how the changes in the environment affect their daily lives and identified environment security priorities including improper drainage systems causing flooding, unhygienic conditions and resulting in loss of productive time and livelihoods; water and land pollution creating changes in the river/sea ecosystem and leading to loss of food sources; unpredictable weather patterns causing flooding and road damage affecting accessibility to school, marketplace and workplace.

The lack of environment security places an undue burden of responsibility on women and girls to manage the impact of the changes.

For women with disability, environmental security is particularly important to provide them freedom of movement to live a productive and meaningful life, and have an adequate standard of living. Environmental security is central to economic and health security due to its interconnectedness with natural resources, development, land, sanitation and disease prevention.

Environmental Security Recommendations

1. Local government planning and development committees must include equal representation and active participation of women in decision making roles including in Disaster Risk Management and Response Strategies

2. Substantive consultations to take place with communities, especially women, on all planning and development processes to ensure that their views and needs are taken into consideration in approved plans.

3. Measures to be taken to develop and include environmental, economic, cultural, social and gender analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of programs and policies.

4. Local and national government to prioritise as a matter of urgency and build proper drainage systems and disabled friendly footpaths following consultations in communities, including in flood prone areas, to reduce the risk of flooding and loss of people's livelihood.

5. Local government to enforce existing litter laws and provide proper garbage disposal facilities.

6. Local government to partner up with civil society organizations to create awareness on climate change, environment pollution and the knowledge and conservation of natural resources, ensuring women are involved in the awareness programmes.

7. Programmes to create rural and urban training, research and resource centres that will disseminate environmentally sound information to women on environment sustainability.

8. Free and informed consultations to be carried with communities, including women and young people, on extractive resources mining and development.

"At work they used to get bread and tea during breaks and my mom would bring her share home for us to eat. Good food was always scarce for us. We used to eat just fried onions with rice or roti a lot. I think the worst part was when sometimes we used to eat bad food. I used to just pick off the fungus from the food and eat it."

Food Security

Findings

Women defined food security as more than just food on the table, and women play a critical role in dietary diversity and children's health.   Food security priorities were having enough food to eat, information and services on agricultural opportunities, and active and substantive roles in climate change programs. Food security was about accessibility, adequacy and availability.

Climate change and economic downturns also impact how women and girls access food. Most women ate less food than their children and husband or went without food so the family had food. Unstable political and social environments including poor governance limit sustainable economic growth that prevent people, especially women, from having access to adequate healthy food for an active life.

Food security is closely linked with the other dimensions of human security and was an issue that cross-cut all other concerns.   Food insecurity was caused by political instability, economic hardship and environmental changes, and impacts our health and personal security.

Food Security

Recommendations

1. Support families to return to subsistence farming, with women being inclusive in all processes from consultation to implementation.

2. Department of Agriculture efforts in supporting micro farming of rural communities to include women in substantive roles.

3. The National Women's Plan for Action 2010-2019 be allocated funds and monitored to assure food security programmes are made available, especially for rural women, single mothers and elderly women.

4. All national climate change adaptation and mitigation programs to include an equal number of women on their committees and in leadership roles.

5. Improve women's access, control and ownership of land.

> "Due to contaminated water that they are using children have been affected by diarrhoea and all kind of sickness and because they are very far away from Tavua hospital, they are travelling as far as 15 to 20 km to get access to health services"

Health Security

Findings

Health security concerns for women have been inaccessibility and affordability of medication, lack of maternal health care, poor hospital facilities and lack of medical and health professionals. Women also raised concerns on the quality of health care and service provided by doctors and nurses, reporting misdiagnoses and delayed treatments.

Environmental concerns such as flooding, improper disposable of garbage, inadequate sanitation and polluted water are causing outbreaks of diarrhoea related and mosquito spread diseases in communities.

Health security for women and their families was linked to economic and food security, the ability of people to afford proper nutrition and have access to money to get proper medical care, including being able to buy medication. An important preventive health measure involves the provision of healthy and balanced food and women reported compromising the quality of food because of economic hardships.

Specific health security issues were raised for pregnant women, people with disability, elderly people and lesbian women. Health security protection for them is further exacerbated because of their vulnerabilities. Mental health was also an important element of health security that was a concern to women.

Health Security

Recommendations

1. Local and sub divisional health managers must make certain that rural priorities are communicated to national centres to ensure the supply of necessary medicines. The Ministry of Health must hold the health managers accountable.

2. Senior Divisional Medical Officers to organize meetings with women leaders and women to gather feedback to inform health budget procurement processes so they are responsive to the needs of rural communities.

3. National budget processes must be accountable, through transparency and audit reports, to women's health needs, especially in rural centres.

4. Government to prioritize maternal health care facilities and make sure that women in rural areas are able to access health facilities without any undue burden. The Ministry of Health to work across sectors with such bodies as the National Planning section and Fiji Roads Authority to effectively implement this.

5. High priority to be accorded to improving health care and service coverage to those areas that have been previously marginalized.

6. Timely access to be provided to basic health services in all public hospitals and health centers.

7. Improve access to basic mental health care delivered in a non-discriminate and in a right-based approach.

"Security is not being guaranteed in Fiji because we are still subjected to violence, physical violence, torture and also domestic violence."

Personal Security

Findings

Personal security for girls and women encompassed living without fear and carrying out their productive and personal roles without fear of violence. Rural market vendors defined it to also include accessible hygienic toilet facilities and proper accommodation facilities at marketplaces.

Sexual harassment and bullying of women was a major concern, with a need for an efficient and able police presence, including proper street lighting. Women with disabilities highlighted the need for more disability friendly public services and places, including opportunities for employment.

Young women studying at tertiary institutions and high school leavers defined personal security as being able to have financial support whilst schooling and employment opportunities thereafter. Women shared concerns on teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and bearing a double burden of responsibility.
Lack of choices in protecting themselves from physical and emotional domestic violence was another concern and women also highlighted the perpetration of violence by police and communities based on a person's sexual orientation.

Personal Security

Recommendations

1. Training on gender equality must be compulsory for all local, district and divisional level planning committee members to make cerain of accountability to women's human rights conventions and UNSCRs.

2. Implement and take action on policies that require women's full involvement in peace building processes and equal participation in all processes and programmes that relate to their personal security, including planning and management of university campuses.

3. Community police initiatives to be improved through regular engagement with women's groups and the recruitment of women with expertise and life experience to community policing programmes.

4. Introduce and promote gender sensitization and training of the entire Fiji Police Force in partnership with women's and human rights organizations, making the program part of the training of new police recruits.

5. Make police, prosecutorial, health, social welfare and other services accessible, effective and responsive to women, and establish specialised units to address cases of violence against women and children.

6. Eliminate gender based violence against women, young women and girls, including those with disabilities, and those in rural and remote locations; include them in national development strategies, plans and public financing mechanisms; and adequately resource such initiatives through clearly identifiable expenditure, human resources and budget allocations.

7. Support the engagement of adolescents and youth as strategic groups for ending cycles of violence through educational programmes based on gender equality and human rights.

8. All development planning processes should adhere to gender inclusive indicators based on CEDAW.

9. Local and national government to recognize the health and safety needs of market vendors through providing clean and safe toilet facilities and making provision for accommodation, thus protecting the dignity, safety and security of women market vendors.

"In one of the meetings we had one of the ladies speak up and she was told you shut your mouth…we feel that ladies are being belittled and if the government can introduce a policy, if the ladies can be invited to be a part of meetings and allowed to voice out whatever they feel…"

Political Security

Findings

Girls and women shared that political security for them simply meant having 50% of women in all community, local and national decision-making structures such as villages, disaster management, local government and parliament.

Cultural and social barriers were identified as preventing women from participating in decision-making.

Personal Security
Recommendations

1. Government and political parties should adopt quotas and temporary special measures to actively promote 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, statutory bodies and committees, and through reform of campaign financing frameworks and policies.

2. National electoral laws should incorporate gender equality quotas and ensure voter registration and education for women and accessibility for women with disability, as well as increase women on electoral commissions and observer missions. Electoral experts should work with local women's groups to provide relevant training for women candidates and political parties.

3. International donors and development agencies to incorporate women, peace and security commitments, including adequate representation of women in decision making, as a condition of supplying aid and development.

4. Have substantive consultations with the community and various stakeholders on reviewing the local government system to create a system that takes a human security approach, and has equal number of women in leadership and decision making roles.

5. Reviewing legislation and decrees to promote gender equality.

6. Build on the Pacific Conference of Church's commitment to peace building and conflict resolution by calling on churches and faith based leaders to explicitly support UNSCR1325 and to include more women in decision making positions, including through the development of curricular at theological colleges.

Vanua Levu

In addition to the findings and recommendations under the six theme area pillars of human security, special attention to Vanua Levu is required due to the centralization of services and governance in Suva and the increased costs of goods and services available in Vanua Levu that further exacerbate difficulties and barriers to human development and security there,

National government needs to link local planning and budgeting with national development priorities so the needs of the people in Vanua Levu are met.

Government needs to explore avenues for subsiding increased costs on basic goods and services including newspapers.

People's empowerment will be achieved with improved governance mechanisms that include decentralized policymaking, accountability mechanisms and implementation closer to the grassroots level.

Conclusion

Human security is key to sustainable development and peace building. Worthy development projects can only be revealed when the processes are democratically rooted through the inclusion of people at all levels of society with equal representation of both women and men, including women with disability, rural women and women from the LGBTIQ community.

Human security combines human protection and human development and interconnects peace, security and sustainable development.

To ensure sustainable human security girls and women must be included.

Appendix

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Table 1

Suva	Urban Communities within Suva: FDPC, Brown street, Nasese, Faith-based centres. Community/ Informal settlements around Suva: Wainibuku, Suvavou Village, Naivikinikini Settlements, Nakori Settlement, Nakasi, Yacata Village, Suva market, Lami market, Malabi village (Wainibuka, Tailevu), Koronivia (Nausori), Veisari settlement, Qauia village, Naboro, Tamavua village, Raiwasa, Samabula, Nairai road, Wailoku, Nakasi, Reservoir Road
Nausori	Areas are at least 2hours bus ride from the closest urban centre; Means of transportation are punts and buses to trucks and carrier trucks. Majority of women from the province of Tailevu, Rewa and highlands of Naitasiri: Naduru, Naselai, Kuku Rd, Lokia Settlement, Vuci Rd, Raralevu, Bau Rd, Namuka, Luvuluvu, Ramanu Feeder, Naloto Rd, Hiralal Rd, Maribar Rd, Pondari Rd, Vuci Sth, Visama Rd, Baulevu, Nausori Koro, Taro Setllement, Namara, Davuilevu Housing, Soso Bau, Naila, Bau, Kuku, Nadoi Rd, Naitalasese, Vuci, Dilkusha, Korociriciri, Tailevu, Bau, Bau Rd, Naduru, Vunimono, Raralevu, Naimalavau, Nadali, Nakasi, Kuku , Nakoroivau, Princess Road, Koronivia, Nadave, Viwa, Toga-Rewa, Vutia-Rewa, Lomanikoro-Rewa, Sawani
Tavua	Informal Settlements/Villages are at least 45 mins-2 hrs bus/truck rides on off road tracks from the main highway. Rural women travel from the highlands of Tavua for at least 2 hours by trucks or carrier vehicles on off road tracks: Vuqele, Tavualevu vill, Toko, Waikubukubu village, Nakavika, Natolevu, Kadovu settlement, Makosoi, Yaladro, Mataiwailevu, Narau Sttlement, Korowaqa,Dramasi, Navitilevu, Rokovuaka, Nalawa, Malele, Vunikavikaloa, Sawanivo village, Dawa Setllement, Nalawa, Colasi, Mulau, Burenitu, Yasiyasi, Navai, Natoalevu, Vatukoula, Nadarivatu
Ba	Villages that are at least 30mins-1hr bus ride to the Ba Senior Citizens Centre (1325 consultation venue): Koroqaqa, Ba Senior Citizens, Vutuni, Badrau, Yalalevu, Vatulaulau, Balele, Clopcott Street, Nukuloa, Badrau, Namos au, Yalalevu, Tauvegavega, Nasolo village, Naidrodro village, Vutuni, FSC Compound, Naidrodro, Nasolo, Yalalevu,
Nadi	Villages around the Nadi Town area, villages, informal settlements and communities around Nadi that are at least an hour-2 hours bus ride away: Malamala, Bavu, Logi, Naivou, Nawai, Nawaka, Kennedy Avenue, Nakavu, Narewa, Saunaka, Dratabu, Yavusania, Navakai, Vuniyasi, Vavinaqiri, Navo, Wailoaloa, Korovuto, Nawaicoba.
Labasa	Communities/Villages in and around the Labasa town centre. Communities are at least 30mins-2 hoursbus ride away. Women also travel in punts from nearby islands for 30mins and then take 1hr-2hrs bus rides to consultation area n main town centre: Salasala, Vunimoli, Naduna, Benau, Nukubalavu, Waidamudamu, Seniwaloa, Sarava, Wasavulu, Delailabasa, Masiraniqai Village, Bulileka village, Namara village, Salusalu street, Nakawaga village, Mali Island, Vunicuicui, Anglican Association of Women, Vunivaivai, Vunivauvau, Baleyaga village, Lagi village, Vuniika, Mataniwai village, Labasa Market, Waikisi, Naboutini, Naqai, Savusavu surrounding villages(on eastern side of Vanua Levu island), Bulileka, Udu Point, Naleba, Labasa, Vatulutu (Bua), Vunicuicui, Naqai, Tawake, Mataniwai village, Lagi village (Dogotuki), Wailevu (Macuata), Tuatua, Lajonia, Nabaleyaganiga, Lekutulevu, Nayarabale