



PACIFIC FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GENDER

UN WOMEN: FIJI MULTI COUNTRY OFFICE FOR THE PACIFIC

Serving the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

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- Target 5.1 End Discrimination Against Women and Girls
- Target 5.2 End all Violence Against and Exploitation of Women and Girls
- Target 5.3 Eliminate Forced Marriages and Genital Mutilation
- Target 5.4 Value Unpaid Care and Promote Shared Domestic Responsibilities
- Target 5.5 Ensure Full Participation in Leadership and Decision-making
- Target 5.6 Universal Access to Reproductive Health and Rights
- Target 5.A Equal Rights to Economic Resources, Property Ownership and Financial Services
- Target 5.B Promote Empowerment of Women through Technology
- Target 5.C Adopt and Strengthen Policies and Enforceable Legislation for Gender Equality





3 out of 5 health care workers in Fiji are women. 55% of medical staff, 89% of nursing staff, 77% of lab workers and 98% of midwives, 43% of logistical staff.

Healthcare



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Ensure that the needs of women doctors, nurses, midwives and other frontline workers are integrated into every aspect of the response effort. This includes issues of gender specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), mental health and psychosocial responses, closely coordinated with the GBV and child protection, strategies to support and ease the domestic care work burden of frontline care workers.



Women are the primary caregivers in the family, people with disabilities and the elderly. Women play key roles as health care frontline responders and essential service providers as market vendors. These roles are placing women at increased risk and exposure to infection.



Almost **2 out of 3** women in Fiji are being subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

Women are hit harder by economic impacts caused by crisis such as climate change or COVID-19 as they are often employed in the informal sector or have short-term, part-time or informal employment which offer limited social insurance, pension and insurance schemes, placing them at greater risk. There is a strong economic argument for ensuring a gendered approach to disaster response, including pandemics such as COVID-19.

Agriculture



2 out of 5 rural women in Fiji work as farmers or workers on farms in the informal economy



women in agriculture earn **25% less than males**

- Increase in reported violence in countries experienced during COVID 19 lock-downs
- Women – majority working in informal economy – increased work and reduced revenue
- Women as “front line” workers – nurses, carers, vendors and service providers
- Women faced an increase in domestic and care duties
- All of the above – placed further limitations on women’s ability to access decision making, leadership roles and services and support

- Increase in support for services for women and children – help lines, access to domestic violence support and care – governments + civil society
- Recognition of women's role in the informal sector – support to small and micro businesses in some countries – other support – reduction or removal of fees for market vendors
- Social welfare system strengthening and support in some countries





Need of recognition of the “Care Economy”

FIGURE 1

The immense value of women's unpaid care and domestic work



Women on average spend
4.1 hours/day
on unpaid care and domestic
work, compared to
1.7 hours/day
for men



Women's unpaid contributions
to health care equate to
2.35%
of global GDP, or the
equivalent of
US\$1.5 trillion



When women's contribution
to all types of care (not just
health care) is considered, this
figure rises to
US\$11 trillion

Source: United Nations 2020.

- Create robust, resilient and gender responsive systems
- Invest in accessible basic infrastructure and technologies
- Transform labour markets to enable reconciliation of paid and employment and unpaid care
- Reorient macroeconomic policies to enable the care economy to thrive
- *Accessible and affordable child and elder/ disabled care*
- *Access to technology – including digital technology*
- *Family leave, flexible work options*
- *Support to greater sharing of domestic and care duties*
- *Invest in universal health care, reproductive health care and rights*
- *Greater protections and safety at work – esp for frontline workers*

