

# 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





- 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







### ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS







MEN ALREADY SPEND <mark>about 2.5 times</mark> as many hours as mei on unpaid domestic and care work

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2021: UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2021/



# Pacific Findings – COVID 19 + SDG 5

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.



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

### Agriculture





women in agriculture earn 25% less than males

Source: Gendered Impacts of COVID 19 on Women in Fiji – COVID 19 Response Gender Working Group – Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation plus UNW, ADB and Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) and DIVA for Equality – April 2020

- 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



# Measures taken by Pacific Governments

- 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

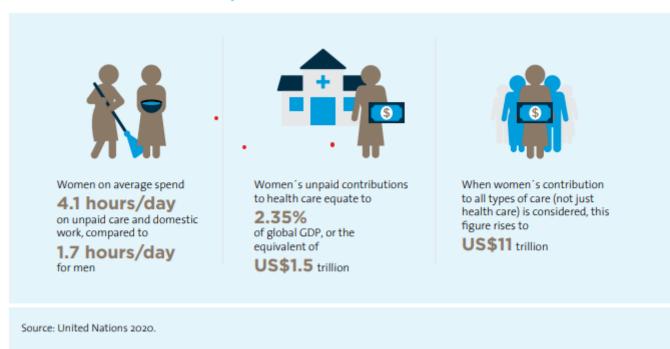






## Need of recognition of the "Care Economy"

FIGURE 1
The immense value of women's unpaid care and domestic work





## Long term measures

- 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

POLICY BRIEF NO. 16





COVID-19 AND THE CARE ECONOMY:
IMMEDIATE ACTION AND STRUCTURAL
TRANSFORMATION FOR A GENDER-RESPONSIVE
RECOVERY

- 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



## **THANK YOU**



Photos: UN Women