

# Women's Entrepreneurship in the Pacific

Mereseini Rakuita

Principal Strategic Lead – Pacific Women and Girls

The Pacific Community (SPC)

# SPC's approach to GE and women's empowerment

## Two interlinked approaches:

- Institutional strengthening on gender equality and diversity.
- Connecting our work across sectors and amplifying impact through a Gender Equality Flagship



# Current Status and Trends on WEE



Kai fishers selling at local markets. ©Alyssa Thomas

- Lower labour force participation rates
- More likely to work in the informal economy
- Carry the burden of unpaid care work
- Negative impacts of climate change and disasters
- Lower levels of access to digital technology
- Key barriers to women's economic empowerment include:
  - Gendered social norms
  - violence
  - lack of access to finance and economic assets
  - Lack of voice in decision making

## Pillars

- Legal Framework
- Supportive Policy and entrepreneur ecosystem
- MEL

- Understanding of economic pathways and measures to support women's economic empowerment, including the impact of macroeconomic and fiscal policies, as well as trade agreements on women and their rights, is strengthened.
- Statistics on the gender wage gap and contribution of women to the economy through unpaid or informal employment are collected, compiled, analysed and disseminated.

- Regulations, legal and policy frameworks remove barriers to economic opportunities and contribute to women's human rights.
- Access to inclusive financial services and access to markets increased, and infrastructure improved for women of all diversities.
- Implement gender responsive policies so that workplaces are safe and women's rights are respected.
- Equal employment opportunity and equal pay for work of equal value policies are implemented.



# Enhanced Pacific Focus

- **Business Hubs/Incubators for Women**
- **E-Commerce Literacy**
- **Targeted focus on women led/owned MSMEs**
- **Expert Advisory Group to policymakers**
- **MEL**

**THANK YOU**