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
Pacific Findings – COVID 19 + SDG 5

- 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

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
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

- 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**.

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
- 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