Violence against women in the Pacific. What do we know from 20 years of prevalence studies?

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Workshop on Gender Statistics in the Pacific – Nadi, Fiji
12-14 Feb 2019
Topics

1. SDG context for data collection on VAW
2. Key findings on VAW in Asia-Pacific
3. kNOwVAWdata
Gender equality is central to ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all
# Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>End discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2.1</td>
<td>Intimate partner violence</td>
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<td>5.2.2</td>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
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<td>5.3</td>
<td>Eliminate all harmful practices</td>
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<td>Value unpaid work</td>
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<td>Leadership and decision-making</td>
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<td>Sexual and reproductive health</td>
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<td>5.6.a</td>
<td>Economic resources</td>
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<td>5.6.b</td>
<td>Enabling technology</td>
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<td>5.6.c</td>
<td>Policies for gender equality</td>
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Target 5.2.
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicators:

• 5.2.1. ("IPV") Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

• 5.2.2. ("SV") Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
Computation of prevalence rate

Number of persons that experienced (form of violence)

Total number of persons

5.2.1. PREVALENCE IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Number of ever-partnered women subjected to (type of) violence by spouse x100

Total number of ever-partnered women

Two time periods:
- Lifetime: did it ever happen?
- Current: did it happen in the last 12 months?
Data on VAW

- Administrative data
- Survey data
Physical violence
e.g. slapping, pushing, biting, hair pulling, kicking, throwing things, choking, burning, using or threatening to use a weapon such as a gun or knife

Sexual violence
e.g. forced/coerced intercourse, intercourse out of fear, degrading or humiliating sex

Psychological violence
e.g. prevented from seeing friends and/or family, insisting on knowing where she is at all times, verbal insults, making her feel scared or intimidated
WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, 2000 – 2018

UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region
Do women around the Pacific have similar experiences of violence?

Prevalence of lifetime physical or sexual violence against women by anyone, since age 15, among all women 15-49*/*16-49** years old

* Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
** Cook Islands, FSM, Palau, RMI
Patterns of violence against women in Pacific Island countries

- Lifetime physical or sexual violence IPV
- Non-partner physical violence > 15 years
- Non-partner sexual violence > 15 years
- Childhood sexual abuse < 15

Countries: Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon, Vanuatu, RMI, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, FSM, Palau
Proportion of ever-married women who experienced only physical, both physical and sexual, and only sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetimes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ONLY PHYSICAL</th>
<th>BOTH PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL</th>
<th>ONLY SEXUAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji (iTaukei)</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indo-Fijian</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMI</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
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<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Region Breakdown**
- **Melanesia**
  - Vanuatu
  - Solomon Islands
  - Fiji (iTaukei)
  - Indo-Fijian
- **Micronesia**
  - Palau
  - Nauru
  - FSM
  - RMI
- **Polynesia**
  - Kiribati
  - Tonga
  - Samoa
  - Cook Islands

**Countries**
- Vanuatu
- Solomon Islands
- Fiji (iTaukei)
- Indo-Fijian
- Fiji
- Palau
- Nauru
- FSM
- RMI
- Kiribati
- Tonga
- Samoa
- Cook Islands

**Legend**
- ONLY PHYSICAL
- BOTH PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL
- ONLY SEXUAL
Key messages on prevalence

• Overall prevalence rates hide huge variations
• The variation shows us that there violence is not inevitable
• Importance of understanding context and the story that the data tells for effective policy, prevention and response
• Prevalence data (surveys) will never capture the most severe

Challenges:
• Countries without any data, most countries only one data point
• Issues with comparability, methodologies,
• How often should we repeat a survey
• Data collection on VAW is difficult and risky
• Complex data sets, not easy to analyze
• Data literacy of VAW data is crucial and needs strengthening
• Data dissemination and use
Website

http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata

- Data visualization
- Resources: reports, tools, stories
- News
- Links to our social media
“The households that were the hardest to get always had some kind of violence.”

- Violence against women survey coordinator, Palau

1 in 4 women in Palau have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime

Almost half of women who experienced violence by an intimate partner had injuries as a result

Data source: Belau Family Health and Safety Study 2014
"When I first started working as a civil servant I experienced work harassment, including being touched on my breast and having men touch other parts of my body."

- Violence against women survivor, Kiribati

73% of women* in Kiribati have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives, either by an intimate partner or by someone else.

*Women aged 15-49
Data source: Kiribati Family Health and Support Study 2010
“Our father often hit us and our mother. I hope no more girls have to go through what I went through, and that my dad was the last of his kind.”

-Violence against women survivor, Cook Islands

39% of women in the Cook Islands have experienced physical violence by someone other than an intimate partner at least once since the age of 15

Data source: The Cook Islands Family Health and Safety Study 2014
"It has really affected my children, especially our first son's education and learning ability. He has sleepless nights and is scared. They are traumatized by this problem."

- Survivor of violence against women, Solomon Islands

OF WOMEN IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS WHO DISCLOSED THAT THEIR FATHER HAD HIT THEIR MOTHER

92%

HAD EITHER SEEN OR HEARD THIS VIOLENCE DIRECTLY

Data source: Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study 2009
“I lost three teeth that day. Luckily I did not lose the baby I was carrying.”

- Survivor of violence against women, Tonga

In Tonga

8% of pregnant women* experienced physical violence (like kicking or beating) during a pregnancy

*Of women who have ever been pregnant and have ever been in an intimate partnership. Data source: National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Tonga 2009
**UNFPA APRO / DFAT / University of Melbourne / ANROWS partnership on measuring VAW data**

| Technical support to national VAW prevalence studies | Development, implementation and roll out of curriculum on VAW data collection (kNOwVAWdata course) | Building network of practitioners, support and mentoring | Knowledge capture and sharing |
The kNOwVAWdata course aims to build capacity in Asia and the Pacific so that measurement of violence against women is rigorous, ethical, safe and effective in contributing to social change.

2017-2018
• Develop & pilot course curriculum
• Focus on participants from Asia

2019
• Focus on participants from the Pacific
• Design a program to “Twin” with a regional partner
Four weeks of face-to-face sessions, conducted in 2 x 2 week blocks:

Block 1 (June 2018 Bangkok):
- Gender, gender inequality and violence against women
- National and international mandates to end violence against women; SDGs and international indicators
- Data visualization and data literacy
- Ethics and safety
- Research methodologies
- In-depth training on WHO questionnaire
- Sampling
- Enumerator training
Block 2 (September 2018, Melbourne)

• Beyond prevalence and other ways to measure VAW
• From data to action on violence against women, advocacy, messaging
• Learning from colleagues in Australia – speakers and site visits
4 week kNOWVAWdata course 2018: 2 weeks in Bangkok + 2 weeks in Melbourne

Fiji
Nepal
Pakistan
Viet Nam
Sri Lanka
Cambodia
Lao PDR
Thailand
Indonesia
Philippines
Australia
Participants’ feedback

“In general the course is developing very systematically and it’s good to have practice and role play which really helps us to deepen our understanding especially because we are seeing the good and the not good sides.”

“It’s the soft skills that are so important – how to conduct an interview safely and well. We need to remember there are risks for both the interviewee and the interviewer especially after the interview has been conducted so we need to really care about these people. We also need to remember about the people who handle the data; they can also be affected. It’s so different from other types of surveys which is difficult for people to really understand so that was brought across in the training very well.”
kNOwVAW data capacity building model

**Fundamental principles:**
- Participatory process
- Standard (4-week) curriculum
- Open source, co-branding
- Learning from each other
- Strong mentoring component
- Network building
- Sustainable/long term vision
- Expansion through twinning

Other Regions

- Twinning South East Asia
- Twinning South Asia
- Twinning Pacific
- UNFPA APRO
- University of Melbourne ANROWS
Refections:

• Participation as participant (learners)
• Partnering in implementing the course: twinning, co-facilitating
• Funding opportunities?