

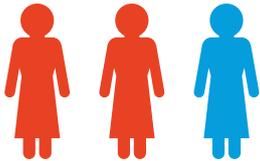


GENDER ANALYSIS

Fiji: COVID-19 Response Gender Working Group¹

Pandemics exacerbate existing inequalities for women and girls. The impact of COVID-19 are different for men and women including adverse impacts to their health, livelihood and safety and protection.

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



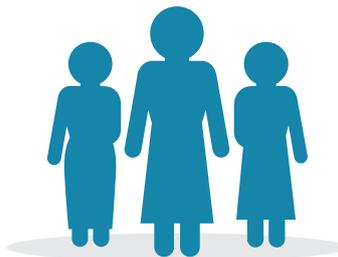
women in agriculture earn **25% less than males**

WMSMEs



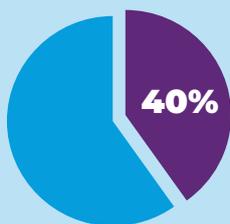
4 out of 5 market vendors in Fiji are women. **For 77% of market vendors**, vending is the only source of income on a weekly basis to cover business expenses and household basics.

only **19%** of businesses are registered by women



1 out of 5 women market vendors remain unbanked in Fiji. Women farmers and vendors' access to finance is limited. Women owned or led **MSMEs also play a critical role in inclusive and sustainable development** and therefore, need to be supported to bear the impact of the pandemic.

Tourism



The tourism sector in Fiji directly accounted for almost **40% of GDP** and directly supports 13.0% of total employment.



Almost **2 out of 5** tourism workforce is comprised of women. Most tourism jobs are at minimum wage level, including **cleaners, restaurant staff, and receptionists. 1 out of 4** managerial and professional level positions are held by women.

Healthcare



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.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

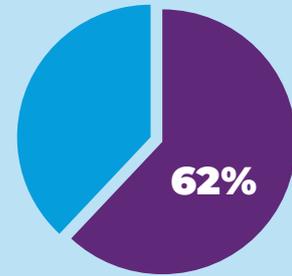
Ensure that the needs of women doctors, nurses, midwives and other frontline workers are integrated into every aspect of the response effort. This includes issues of gender specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), mental health and psychosocial responses, closely coordinated with the GBV and child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



Most Vulnerable



Women, women survivors of violence, children, people with disabilities, women and girls living in urban and rural and maritime settlements, older women, single mothers, LGBTQI people, sex workers, people living in poverty, young women, women and girls with **limited access to technology** and women who **depend heavily on the informal economy and precarious work.**



data point **62% of Lesbian Bisexual and Trans (LBT) women and gender non-conforming people** are unemployed and in precarious work.

¹The Working Group was formed in response to COVID-19. The working group comprises of: Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality Fiji, Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO), the Asian Development Bank and the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA)