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Mainstreaming **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion** Across Sectors

22 July, 2022

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SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **1 in every 4 Pacific Islanders** are living below their **national poverty lines**
- **Increasing inequalities in the Pacific, e.g.** High prevalence rates of violence against women, with more than **60 percent in Melanesia**, and **more than 40 percent in Polynesia and Micronesia**; **Low number of women in politics**
- **Youth unemployment is at 23%** compared to global average of 13%
- **Persons with disabilities in the Pacific are among the poorest and most marginalised** in their communities.

(PIFS 2018)



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SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND COVID-19

- COVID-19 has exacerbated these inequalities
- Violence against women is on the rise
- More people are unemployed including young people
- Our situation from a social development perspective has been severely impacted as a result of COVID-19
- Integrating a gender perspective across all sectors is therefore becoming increasingly important
- Diverse populations experience these impacts differently therefore calling for GESI



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POLICY CONTEXT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- Global Commitments – **CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action on Gender Equality, SDG 5**
- Regional Commitments – **Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights, Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration**
- National Policies for Gender Equality





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WHAT IS GENDER MAINSTREAMING?

Gender Mainstreaming is:

- ✓ Assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action;
- ✓ Strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences, an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these planned actions across all sectors and spheres of life. (*ECOSOC 1997*)



WHY GESI IS IMPORTANT?

- Better understanding of the social/ gender dimensions of development interventions
- Stronger Evidence based:
 - Policies
 - Decision making
- Improved responsiveness of sector to needs
- Ensures that we don't reinforce existing inequalities





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HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THAT CHANGE?

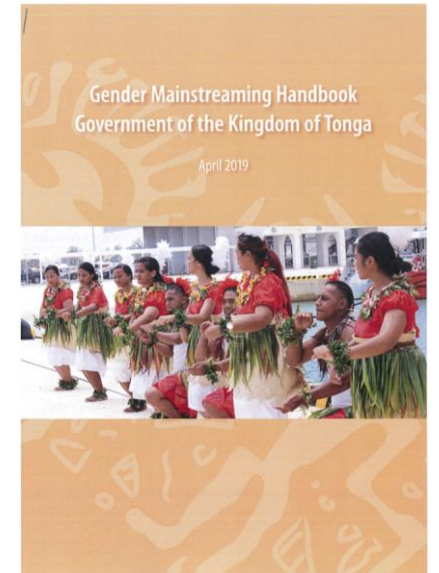
- Evidence based practice and policies
- Implementing gender mainstreaming to address gender inequalities
- Advocacy for a whole of government response to addressing gender inequalities
- Engagement of women and women's organisation as partners in development
- Building capability on gender that is contextualised, relevant and appropriate



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PROGRESSING GENDER IN THE LAST 5 YEARS?

- Gender policy development informed by gender statistics and analysis
- Gender mainstreaming training focused on the 'why', 'what' and 'how'
- Gender mainstreaming across sectors at national level and regional level through SPC's technical and scientific programmes
- Promoting broader People Centred Approaches to Development





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EXAMPLES OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING

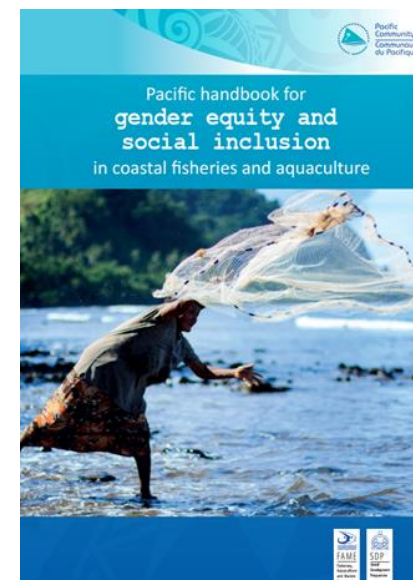
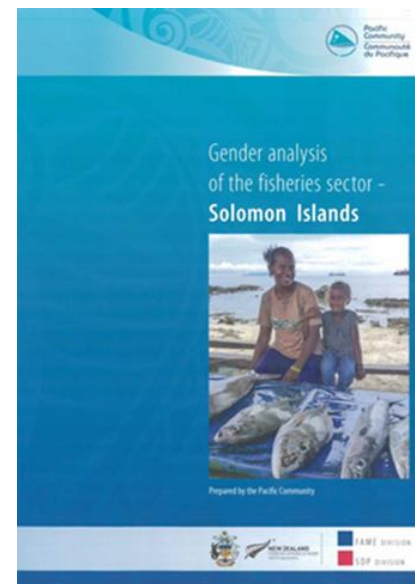
- Solomon Islands - gender mainstreaming in the Public Service Commission
- Tonga - Gender Mainstreaming manual for Government Ministries
- Fiji - gender mainstreaming in aquaculture
- Palau and Solomon Islands - gender equality and social inclusion assessment as part of the climate change finance assessment
- Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands - gender assessments in agriculture and the rural sector



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GENDER ASSESSMENTS OF FISHERIES SECTOR

- Completed gender analysis of the fisheries sector in some countries – Fiji, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, RMI is also in progress for 2021





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AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Capacity and institutional strengthening for GESI
- Connecting strategy with resourcing and MEL
- Cross sectoral collaboration
- Whole of Government ownership and accountability for GESI
- Appreciation of gender mainstreaming as a pre-requisite for achieving for sustainable development goals



SOME LESSONS LEARNED

- Building GESI considerations into government decisions and processes takes time
- Maximizing impact requires multiple partnerships and collaboration
- Relationships and trust is as important as our expertise.
- Adapting approaches, finding common ground for collective buy-in
- Embedding a culture of learning and adapting lessons towards sustainability



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Fa'afetai Lava!

