

# REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

## FOR SERVICES

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Regional Working Group on the Implementation of Family Protection/Domestic Violence Legislation.</b>
<b>Nature of the services</b>	Consultant to conduct an end-of-activity evaluation of the RWG project
<b>Location:</b>	Home-based with some travel to 3 RWG member countries
<b>Date of issue:</b>	22/05/2024
<b>Closing Date:</b>	5/05/2024
<b>SPC Reference:</b>	24-6429

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## Part 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 About the Pacific Community (SPC)

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation of the Pacific region, established by treaty in 1947 with the signing of the *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Commission* (the Canberra Agreement).

Our unique organisation covers more than 20 sectors and is renowned for knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security.

For more information about SPC and the work that we do, please visit our website: <https://www.spc.int/>.

### 1.2 SPC's procurement activities

SPC's procurement activities are guided by the principles of high ethical standards, value for money, open competition and social and environmental responsibility and are carried out under our Procurement Policy.

For further information or enquiries about SPC's procurement activities, please visit the procurement pages on our website: <https://www.spc.int/procurement> or email: [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int)

### 1.3 SPC's Request for Quotation (RFQ) Process

At SPC, procurement valued at more than EUR 2,000 and less than or equal to EUR 45,000 requires an evaluation of at least three quotations to determine the offer that provides the best value for money through a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process.

This RFQ sets out SPC's requirements for a project and it asks you, as a bidder, to respond in writing in a prescribed format with pricing and other required information.

Your participation confirms your acceptance of SPC's conditions of participation in the RFQ process.

## Part 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

### 2.1 Background

SPC invites you to submit a quotation to deliver the services as specified in [Part 3](#).

SPC has compiled these instructions to guide prospective bidders and to ensure that all bidders are given equal and fair consideration. Please read the instructions carefully before submitting your bid. For your quotation to be considered, it is important that you provide all the prescribed information by the closing date and in the format specified.

### 2.2 Submission Instructions

You must **submit your quotation and all supporting documents** in English and as an attachment to an email sent to [julieanne@spc.int](mailto:julieanne@spc.int) and with the subject line of your email as follows: **Submission RFQ24-6429**. The email should also be copied to [rfq@spc.int](mailto:rfq@spc.int).

The supporting documents expected in this RFQ are:

- [The Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form](#) completed
- A Cover Letter
- Completed Technical Proposal Form

- Completed Financial Proposal Form outlining all costs, in line with the milestones of this RFQ (refer to Section F).
- Current resume with at least the names of two referees with contact details.
- Copies of Business Registration and TIN Registration are mandatory requirements for local vendors (Fiji Citizens).

Your submission must be clear, concise and complete and should only include a quotation and information that is necessary to respond effectively to this RFQ. Please note that you may be marked down or excluded from the procurement exercise if your submission contains any ambiguities or lacks clarity.

Bids will be evaluated on the basis of information received by **11.45pm Fiji (GMT+12) on 5/05/2024**.

### 2.3 Evaluation & Contract Award

Each quotation validly received will be assessed against the evaluation criteria matrix set out in [Part 4](#). Any changes in the evaluation criteria will result in the RFQ process being re-issued.

SPC may award the contract once it has determined that a bidder has met the prescribed requirements and the bidder's proposal has been determined to be substantially responsive to the RFQ documents, provide the best value for money (highest cumulative score) and best serve the interests of SPC.

In the event of a bid being accepted, procurement will take place under SPC's [General Terms and Conditions of Contract](#) and depending on the value or nature of the procurement, the award will be made by issuing a purchase order or a signed and dated contract, or both.

### 2.4 Key Contacts

Please contact SPC should you have any doubt as to what is required or if we can help answer any questions that you may have.

Julianne Wickham will be your primary point of contact for this RFQ and can be contacted at [julianne@spc.int](mailto:julianne@spc.int). You should copy any communications into [rfq@spc.int](mailto:rfq@spc.int).

Details will be kept of any communications between SPC and bidders. This assists SPC to ensure transparency of the procurement process. While SPC prefers written communication in the RFQ process, at any point where there is phone call or other conversation, SPC expects to keep a file note of the exchange, with all forms of communication with prospective bidders to be retained as source documents for the procurement of the services.

### 2.5 Key Dates

Please see the proposed procurement timetable in the table below. This timetable is intended as a guide only and while SPC does not intend to depart from the timetable, it reserves the right to do so at any stage.

STAGE	DATE
<b>RFQ sent to potential vendors</b>	24/05/2024
<b>RFQ Closing Date</b>	5/05/2024
<b>Award of Contract</b>	13/05/2024
<b>Commencement of Contract</b>	13/05/2024
<b>Conclusion of Contract</b>	31/07/2024

## 2.6 Legal and compliance

**Confidentiality:** Unless otherwise agreed by SPC in advance or where the contents of the RFQ are already in the public domain when shared with the bidder, bidders shall at all times treat the contents of the RFQ and any related documents as confidential. SPC will also treat the information it receives from the bidders as confidential.

**Conflict of interest:** Bidders must take all necessary measures to prevent any situation of conflict of interest. You must notify SPC in writing as soon as possible of any situation that could constitute a conflict of interest during the RFQ process. If you have any familial connection with SPC staff, this must be declared, and approval will then be sought for you to engage in the RFQ process. **In support of your response to this RFQ, you must submit to SPC [the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form](#) available on our procurement page website: <https://spc.int/procurement>.**

Breach of this requirement can result in SPC terminating any contract with a successful bidder.

**Currency, validity, duties, taxes:** Unless specifically otherwise requested, all proposals should be in EURO and must be net of any direct or indirect taxes and duties, and shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date. The successful bidder is bound by their proposal for a further 60 days following notification they are the preferred bidder so that the contract may be awarded. No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted at any time during this period.

**No offer of contract or invitation to contract:** This RFQ is not an offer to contract or an invitation by SPC to enter into a contract with you.

**Privacy:** The bidder is to comply with the requirements of applicable legislation and regulatory requirements in force for the use of personal data that is disclosed for the purposes of this RFQ. SPC will handle any personal information it receives under the RFQ in line with its [Privacy Policy](#), and the [Guidelines for handling personal information of bidders and grantees](#).

**Warranty, representation, assurance, undertaking:** The bidder acknowledges and agrees that no person has any authority to give any warranty, representation, assurance or undertaking on behalf of SPC in connection with any contract which may (or may not) follow on from this RFQ process.

## 2.7 Complaints process

Bidders that consider they were not treated fairly during any SPC procurement process may lodge a protest. The protest should be addressed to [complaints@spc.int](mailto:complaints@spc.int). The bidder must provide the following information: (1) full contact details; (2) details of the relevant procurement; (3) reasons for the protest, including how the alleged behaviour negatively impacted the bidder; (4) copies of any documents supporting grounds for protest; (5) the relief that is sought.

## Part 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE

### A. Background/context

The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Government of New Zealand (through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) forged a grant fund arrangement (GFA) for the implementation of the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of Family Protection/Domestic Violence legislation (RWG) Project in July 2021. The project is implemented by the SPC's Human Rights and Social Development Division. An amount of NZD1,979,146.00 was granted to the division to finance the project implementation from July 2021 to December 2023.

The HRSD division is responsible for supporting SPC members with their work in the areas of human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, youth, and culture. The HRSD Business Plan 2021-2025 serves as the guiding document for programming and delivery of various interventions.

The project is aligned to New Zealand's strategic goal 4 of its MFAT Strategic Framework on promoting a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific in which New Zealand's interest and influence are safeguarded. It also aligns with MFAT's Gender Action Plan 2021 – 2025, in particular the Gender Strategic Priority on the Elimination of violence against women and girls and implements government's policy for International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development (ICESD).

#### THE RWG PROJECT

The RWG is a Pacific-grown and led initiative which seeks to ensure DV legislation is effectively implemented in the Pacific with a more collaborative and coherent response across PICs. It does this through the creation of a regional platform which brings together high-level (senior) government officials from ministries responsible for coordinating and/or implementing their country/state's family protection/domestic violence (FP/DV) legislation. The platform enables information-sharing and discussions, strategizing, and development of regional initiatives to improve the implementation of FP/DV legislation at the national level. In doing so, encourage improved leadership in the region for effective FP/DV legislation implementation, and identifying solutions to address challenges the countries/states in implementing their respective legislation.

The overall objective of the RWG project is that "all people in the Pacific live a life free from domestic violence". The project aims to reach this goal through two primary long-term outcomes:

- a) Strengthening human rights and inclusive development for Pacific women and persons subject to domestic violence in the Pacific.
- b) Increase political, social, and economic opportunities and security for Pacific Women and persons subject to domestic violence in the Pacific.

More information on the project is available in Appendix A.

### B. Purpose, objectives, scope of services

#### INTRODUCTION

This Terms of Reference (ToR) governs the conduct of the End of Activity Internal Evaluation of the project entitled "Regional Working Group on the Implementation of Family Protection/Domestic Violence". The ToR adheres to the Pacific Community's (SPC) PEARL policy and compliant with section 6 of the grant funding agreement (GFA) entered into between the SPC and the New Zealand MFAT and amended as per

Letter of Variation 2. It is designed following the [OECD-DAC Evaluation Criteria](#) (relevance; coherence; effectiveness; efficiency; sustainability and impact), and considers New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development ([Policy Statement - New Zealand's ICESD](#)).

To ensure transparent and objective conduct of the final evaluation, a two-stage approach is established which guides the entire evaluation process.

- Stage 1: Using the SPC procurement process, consultant/s or team of consultants (Firm) will be commissioned by SPC. The consultants are selected and contracted/commissioned; they will then comprise as the final evaluation team.
- Stage 2: Once the evaluation team is commissioned, the evaluation mission shall commence with the formulation of the evaluation plan cum inception report or approach paper. The plan will define the actual conduct of the evaluation mission such as but not limited to background information, key evaluation questions and scope and limitations, evaluation governance, including detailed schedule of any field visits and consultations, data analysis, debriefing meetings, and reporting.

### **RATIONALE FOR THE EVALUATION**

The project grant funding arrangement, amended as per Letter of Variation 2, specifies that an end-of-activity internal evaluation report be submitted by SPC by Jun 30, 2024. It is appropriate to carry out the evaluation to take stock and ascertain the contributions of the project results towards the intended outcomes. Since its commencement in 2021, the project environment has been affected by several factors, including natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, amongst others. These resulted in slowing down of project implementation in 2021. In late 2021, the Government of Australia committed AUD 170 million to finance the Pacific Women Lead (PWL) Programme of which AUD55 million is directly managed by SPC. The additional PWL funds provided additional resourcing that enabled the RWG project to further work on its priorities.

As the RWG project comes to an end it is an opportunity to take stock of project results (outputs and outcomes), as per the project MERL Framework, and plausible attributable impacts, including the learnings that can be taken forward for future programming.

The evaluation is intended to:

- a) Inform decision-making to strengthen the RWG work in the region.
- b) Contribute to building evidence to inform future programming.

### **EVALUATION SCOPE**

The final evaluation will cover the entire project implementation period from July 2021 to date and cover the RWG membership.

A participatory and consultative approach will be employed throughout the evaluation process. Consultation meetings, one-on-one interviews and focus group discussions will be held involving especially those that directly were involved in project implementation, management, supervision and oversight. The list of stakeholders' group includes but not limited to:

- SPC Internal – Director, HRSD team leaders, RWG project staff and other related broader HRSD staff members
- External – MFAT designated representative/s, agency officials of the RWG member countries/States, project-activity partners, CSOs and NGOs, and communities.

## EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The following objectives and the Project MERL Framework (attached in Appendices) will guide the evaluation:

**Objective 1:** To assess the project results to date and ascertain the plausible contributions towards achieving the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the RWG project design document (Effectiveness, Impact)

### Evaluation Questions

- **Effectiveness:** Has the project achieved its goals, meaning, has the RWG project advanced towards its anticipated outcomes expected throughout the investment's duration? Has the project design, implementation and management been effective to achieve the desired outcomes? Has the project been successful in generating results (particularly outputs and short-term outcomes) that credibly contribute to attaining the medium term and long-term outcomes and impacts?
- **Impact:** What progress has been achieved to date against the project deliverables (outputs and outcomes)? What outcomes have emerged from the interventions of the RWG project? What significant changes or effects have occurred in the lives of the project's targeted beneficiaries? Has the Project contributed to meeting the goal that "all people in the Pacific live a life free from domestic violence"? What were the key intended and unintended outcomes achieved and why?

**Objective 2:** To assess the positive and negative effects of the project against the project objectives as well as the approaches and whether it's still fit-for-purpose. In particular but not limited to assess the Regional Working Group as a collegial body and a means to implement their respective FP/DV legislations (**Relevance, Coherence**)

### Evaluation Questions

- **Relevance:** How closely do the project's objectives and the design of the intervention match the needs of the PICs, national priorities, and global agendas? Does the RWG project meet the needs of its main stakeholders?
- **Coherence:** How effectively does the intervention align with other initiatives carried out by the RWG project, including those initiated by RWG members and other stakeholders?

**Objective 3:** To review the value of the RWG project (Efficiency, Sustainability)

### Evaluation Questions

- **Efficiency:** How effectively has the project converted its inputs (including financial resources, time, and expertise) into outputs, outcomes, and impacts in relation to the costs? Has the project been managed efficiently, adhering to value for money principles to realize the intended investment outcomes?
- **Sustainability:** How effectively has the RWG project incorporated and guaranteed the continuation of positive impacts beyond the project's duration?

**Objective 4:** Documentation of technical successes and lessons learnt for improvement - to develop an evidence base for the design and delivery of future/subsequent initiatives, and to recommend strategic focus and/or intervention packages for the successor project – RWG Phase 2.

### Evaluation Questions:

- What are the regional lessons learned on the methodology taken by the RWG in the project (regular information sharing and cross-learning between governments, regional partnership



building and collaboration, as building blocks for regional actions, e.g. GBV/VAWG framework for quality counselling services)?

- What were the key barriers and challenges which affected progress over the project to date?
- What could the project have done differently?
- What are the opportunities for the project to evolve in the future?

## METHODOLOGY

An external, utilisation-focused evaluation is planned which will involve the key steps enumerated below:

- **Briefing, project documentation (desk) review.** Project data, information, and reports will be made available to the evaluation team. Key project documents such as design & Theory of Change, reporting, work planning, reflection workshop notes, activity reports, etc. will be reviewed. The review will serve as basis for crafting the evaluation plan.
- **Develop an evaluation plan cum inception report/approach paper.** The consultants will develop an evaluation plan to be reviewed and approved by SPC, specifically the Team Leader for Governance & Institutional Strengthening and Team Leader for Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Knowledge management and Communications (MELKMC). The evaluation plan will include the evaluation's design, including defining the actual conduct of the evaluation mission such as but not limited to background information, key evaluation questions and scope and limitations, evaluation governance, including detailed schedule of any field visits and consultations, data analysis, debriefing meetings, and reporting. This plan will be reviewed by SPC and shared with the MFAT officials. Once approved, this plan will be the basis for the conduct of the evaluation.
- **Primary data collection.** As outlined earlier, a participatory and consultative approach will be employed throughout the evaluation process. Consultation meetings, one-on-one interviews and focus group discussions will be held involving especially those that directly were involved in project implementation, management, supervision and oversight. The list of stakeholders' group includes but not limited to:
  - **SPC Internal – Director, HRSD team leaders, RWG project staff and other related broader HRSD staff members**
  - **External – MFAT designated representative/s, agency officials of the RWG member countries/States, project-activity partners, CSOs and NGOs, and communities.**

Fields visits may also be arranged, based on the agreed evaluation plan, providing the evaluation team the opportunity to interact with national and regional implementing partners and stakeholders. Any countries/states to be visited will be representative of the three sub-regions, and other criteria as agreed to by the project team. The list of stakeholders that the evaluation team will meet with will be developed in consultation with the project team.

- **Debriefing and reporting:** Data and information collected will be analysed and triangulated with and against the project records and reports. A debriefing meeting with the project management team will be arranged to discuss findings, conclusions, and recommendations. As appropriate, a sense-making meeting or workshop to engage with initial findings and co-develop recommendations for use in evidence-based decision-making to inform project direction and future funding proposals for the RWG.

Note: The consultant/s will conduct data collection in at least three (3) RWG member countries/states, and these include Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia.

### USERS OF THE EVALUATION RESULTS

The primary audiences are SPC and MFAT to make evidence-based programming decisions. Secondary audiences include RWG membership and key stakeholders; including review participants listed in the methodology section.

### C. Timelines, Works Plan and Budget

The entire final evaluation process is expected to be completed within 33 consultancy working days, from May 13 – Jun 30, 2024. The submission of a final evaluation report will be made not later than Jun 30, 2024. Aligned with the milestone outputs, the following schedules are indicated in the table below:

Activity	Level of Effort (days)	Indicative Due Dates
1. Conduct desk review of documentation, and submission of evaluation plan.	4	May 17, 2024
2. Stakeholder consultations	18	Jun 30, 2024
3. Debriefing and presentation of preliminary findings to Chair/Deputy Chair and HRSD	1	Jul 5, 2024
4. Draft evaluation report	7	July 5, 2024
5. Review of the draft report by the RWG Chair/Deputy Chair and HRSD		Jul 17, 2024
6. Integrate comments of the RWG members to the draft final evaluation report and submit final version of the document to HRSD	3	June 31, 2024
<b>Maximum number of working days (level of effort)</b>	<b>33</b>	

*The consultancy **MUST** be completed no later than the July 30 deadline due to the end of the project timeframe. No leniency will be provided with regards to the timeframe.*

### D. Reporting and contracting arrangements

At various stages of the evaluation, the consultant/s may be requested to inform HRSD, via an email update, of key activities completed.

The consultant/s will mainly liaise with the Team Leader for Governance & Institutional Strengthening and Team Leader for Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Knowledge management and Communications (MELKMC) in the implementation of the entire evaluation.

The consultant/s will be home-based. As part of the evaluation, they will be required to conduct consultations in up to three Pacific Islands Countries/States. These include Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia. The consultations may be conducted virtually or in-person.

Any cost of travel to and from the consultant's place of domicile to any of the countries will be refunded by SPC upon receipt of the relevant supporting documents. The travel must be via the most direct and economical route. Any costs outside of the most direct and economical route will be at the cost of the consultant/s. This excludes visa costs.

SPC will also be responsible for admin and logistics arrangements and meeting the costs for any in-country workshops, meetings, etc.

## E. Skills and qualifications

The evaluation team will consist of the following expertise:

- Team leader/key evaluator - will lead the evaluation mission and be responsible for the overall design and finalization of all reports under this consultancy. They will have the following qualifications: a master's degree in either international development, management, business management, governance, or related disciplines, with at least 8 years' experience in conducting evaluations of development projects in social sector – preferably in evaluating projects that promotes gender equality and social inclusion, and/or address gender-based violence/ ending violence against women and girls.
- Member/s - the team leader/key evaluator may have up to an additional two members as part of their evaluation team. They contribute to drafting evaluation plan, and other reports of this consultancy. With the evaluation mission team leader, jointly carry out the entire evaluation mission. If there are additional team members, they will have the following qualifications: Qualifications in sociology, social sciences, gender studies, statistics or related disciplines with at least 5 years' experience (each member) capacity building and strengthening, conducting training, coaching and mentoring, and evaluating projects that promote gender equality and social inclusion, and/or address gender-based violence/ ending violence against women and girls. They will also have knowledge of and experience in the Pacific Islands region.

SPC encourages a small multi-disciplinary team to undertake the evaluation, with the inclusion of Pacific Islander expertise as part of the evaluation team.

**Note: Those previously involved in the RWG project implementation are disqualified from engaging in this consultancy.**

## F. Scope of Bid Price and Schedule of Payments

The bid price must include the professional fees, taxes, management and operating costs. The contract price will be paid in lump sums based on the satisfactory delivery of milestones as outlined in the table below.

Costs for any travel to the three (3) countries selected for in-country consultations; will be on reimbursable basis upon receipt of appropriate and relevant supporting documents, e.g invoice, receipt, etc as per the SPC Travel Policy.

Bidder is requested to specify the preferred schedule of payments and terms acceptable, noting that generally, SPC will not enter into arrangement requiring a 100% advance payment.

Terms of payment shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the SPC General Conditions. The key milestones & deadlines expected of the consultant throughout this period is detailed below:

<b>Milestone/deliverables</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Evaluation plan	17 May 2024
Reports from stakeholder consultations	30 June 2024
Briefing and presentation of preliminary findings and a draft evaluation report	5 Jul 2024
Final evaluation report	30 Jul 2024

### **G. Annexes to the Terms of Reference**

Annex 1 – Details of the existing Project

## Part 4: PROPOSAL EVALUATION MATRIX

### 4.1 Competency Requirements & Score Weight

The evaluation matrix below reflects the obtainable score specified for each evaluation criterion (technical and financial requirements) which indicates the relative significance or weight of the items in the overall evaluation process.

Evaluation criteria	Score Weight (%)	Points obtainable
<b>Mandatory requirements</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict of Interest Declaration form completed.</li> <li>• Technical Proposal Submission form</li> <li>• Financial Proposal Submission form</li> <li>• Business registration (if applicable as per consultant’s applicable legislation)</li> <li>• Tax Identification Number (TIN) Letter (if applicable as per consultant’s applicable legislation)</li> <li>• Submission of cover letter, detailed CV with at least three referees and their contacts details</li> </ul>		<b>Mandatory requirements.</b> Bidders will be disqualified if any of the requirements are not met
<b>Technical requirements</b>		
<b>Technical requirement 1:</b>		
<p><b>The firm:</b></p> <p>At least 10 years of experience in conducting evaluations of development projects in social sector – preferably in evaluating projects that promotes gender equality and social inclusion, and/or address gender-based violence/ ending violence against women and girls.</p> <p><b>Team Leader:</b> Must have a master’s degree in international development, management, business management, governance, law, or related disciplines, with at least 8 years’ experience in conducting evaluations of development projects in social sector – preferably in evaluating projects that promotes gender equality and social inclusion, and/or address gender-based violence/ ending violence against women and girls.</p> <p><b>Member/s:</b> Qualifications in Sociology, social sciences, gender studies, statistics, or related disciplines, with at least 5 years experience in capacity building and strengthening, conducting training, coaching and mentoring. Must have experience in evaluating projects that promotes gender equality and social inclusion, and/or address gender-based violence/ ending violence against women and girls.</p>	30%	300
<p><b>Technical requirement 2:</b> Show evidence of at least 2 samples of evaluation reports that the consultant/s have carried out and authored/co-authored in the last 4 years – preferably in the socio-development sector.</p>	20%	200

<b>Technical requirement 3:</b> The consultant/s have experience working to address GBV/VAWG issues in the Pacific Islands region.	20%	200
<b>Total Technical Requirements</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Financial Requirements</b>		
Pricing and payment terms	<b>30%</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,000</b>

## 5.1 Annex 1 – Details of the Existing Project

### Situational analysis

The project primarily focussed on supporting members of the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of Family Protection/Domestic Violence Legislation (RWG). The RWG is made up of fourteen countries/states which have enacted family protection/domestic violence legislation. It was established in 2018, ten years after the first Pacific Island country passed its FP/DV legislation. These countries/states are represented on the RWG by Permanent Secretaries/Chief Executive Officers and Director (and equivalent roles) of government ministries/departments with the mandate to coordinate and implement their FP/DV Legislation.

Presently, a total of fifteen countries/states have passed FP/DV legislation. Some of these, have developed domestic violence implementation plans<sup>1</sup>. However, despite these advances, the legislation has for the most part not translated into increased rights for women, or survivors of violence, and is still facing challenges in the implementation of these FP/DV laws. In many cases, governments are slow to implement key aspects of the legislation.

Certain challenges are common to all Pacific Island Countries (PICs), including challenges related to geography, where it may be difficult to ensure access to services for survivors located in the more remote areas of the country, and challenges that are more country specific. In the Pacific region, the government ministries and divisions responsible for women and gender development (in eleven<sup>2</sup> of the fourteen RWG member countries) lead the coordination of FP/DV laws, and address violence against women and girls (VAWG), and domestic violence (DV). They face constraints of staffing, funding, technical capacities to effectively implement or coordinate the FP/DV legislation and are usually dependent on funding from development assistance.

Where some countries have made significant progress in for example, developing interagency referral pathways and protocols<sup>3</sup>, establishing helplines<sup>4</sup>, shelters<sup>5</sup>, specialised police domestic violence units<sup>6</sup>, training of counsellors, police personnel, etc., others still struggling with these, and more work is needed in strengthening coordination between government offices, NGOs and other key stakeholders. The development of measures such as Protection Orders to effectively provide immediate support for victims and their dependents are lagging and had not been developed in some RWG countries. This places further burden on lawyers seeking Temporary Restraining Orders from judges and particularly more challenging in the evenings and weekends. Survivors/victims and their dependents in rural, remote locations and outlying islands or from low-income settings are further at a risk, as their accessibility to emergency support from the police and courts including to Protection Orders/TRO are further jeopardised when these facilities are not readily available. National/State Strategies and Implementation Plans with accompanying monitoring and evaluation developed through multi-stakeholder, consultative and inclusive processes between governments and NGOs, including local and faith-based organisations are areas that warrant attention in RWG member countries. The challenges

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<sup>1</sup> Kiribati and Nauru have specific implementation plans for their DV laws. Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa, and Vanuatu have theirs integrated into other national policies and/or action plans on EVAWG or gender. Pohnpei State is planning to develop an implementation plan, and Kosrae State's implementation plan is still in draft.

<sup>2</sup> Cooks Islands, Fiji, FSM National, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

<sup>3</sup> Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Pohnpei State, Republic of Marshal Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu

<sup>4</sup> Fiji, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu

<sup>5</sup> Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, and Samoa

<sup>6</sup> Pohnpei State, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, and Tonga

of social, cultural and religious norms, values and practices further have a pervasive impact on the development and effective operationalisation of domestic violence laws in all countries.

Other critical factors that impact the laws are the allocation of national and state budget resources, the capacity development of personnel in the courts, police, health and education sectors. Provision of support for initiatives led by NGOs and FBOs that had in most instances led measures to address violence against women and girls in most Pacific Island countries are needed. The strengthening in the collection of administrative data and regular prevalence studies to capture the trends and emerging forms of violence are further critical for addressing the implementation, gaps including reforms of domestic violence laws. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with multiple natural disasters over the last few years<sup>7</sup>, has also further impacted the already high numbers of women facing domestic violence in the region. In turn, adding more pressure on the existing challenges for implementation of DV legislation, including coordination and service provision.

### **Project scope and anticipated results**

The overall objective of the RWG project is that “all people in the Pacific live a life free from domestic violence”. The project aims to reach this goal through two primary long-term outcomes:

- Strengthening human rights and inclusive development for Pacific women and persons subject to domestic violence in the Pacific.
- Increase political, social, and economic opportunities and security for Pacific Women and persons subject to domestic violence in the Pacific.

The RWG Theory of Change (Results Logic as referred to in the MERL document) is illustrated in **Error! Reference source not found.** below.

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<sup>7</sup> Tropical cyclones Winston, Harold, Yasa and Ana, and the volcanic eruption in Tonga in 2022.



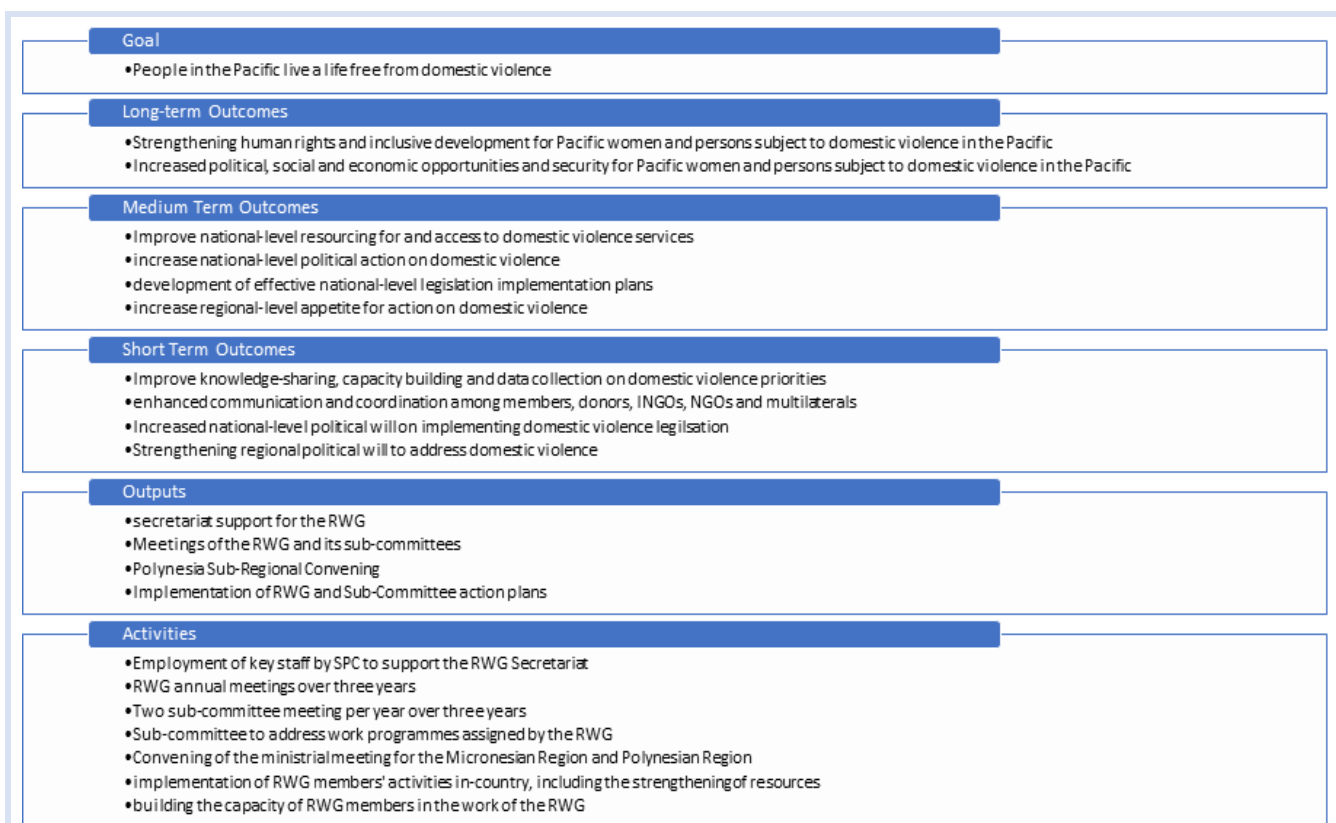


Figure 1 RWG Project logic

## Project activities

The project has the following key activities:

- Employment of key staff by SPC to support the RWG Secretariat
- RWG annual meetings over three years
- Two sub-committee meetings per year over three years
- Sub-committee to address work programs assigned by the RWG
- Convening of the ministerial meeting for the Polynesian region
- Implementation of RWG member activities in-country, including strengthening of resources
- Building the capacity of RWG members in the work of the RWG

## Project outputs and outcomes

Project activities are intended to achieve the long-term outcomes through the following sequence of outputs and outcomes:

### Outputs

- Output 1: Secretariat support for the RWG
- Output 2: Meetings of the RWG and its sub-committees
- Output 3: Polynesia Sub-regional convening
- Output 4: Implementation of RWG and Sub-committee action plans

### Short-term Outcomes

- Improved knowledge-sharing, capacity building and data collection on domestic violence priorities.
- Enhanced communication and coordination among members, donors, INGOs, NGOs and multilaterals.

- Increased national-level political will on implementing domestic violence legislation.
- Strengthened regional political will to address domestic violence.

#### **Medium-term Outcomes**

- Improved national-level resourcing for and access to domestic violence services.
- Increased national-level political action on domestic violence.
- Development of effective national-level legislation implementation plans.
- Increased regional-level appetite for action on domestic violence.

#### **Project organization and management**

The overall management of the RWG project is overseen by the Team Leader Governance and Institutional Strengthening. Two Officers, an Advisor, and Finance and Admin Assistant act as the “Secretariat” for the RWG and are responsible for the implementation of the project. The Secretariat is charged with coordinating activities, supporting the Chair and Deputy Chair of the RWG, and following up on outcome and implementation plans and reporting for the member countries.

The project is aligned to the HRSD business plan 2021 – 2026. Specifically:

- Objective 1: Strengthen inclusive, transparent and responsive governance and institutions for human rights and social development.

The project aims to strengthen capacity of government to implement their FP/DV legislation fully and effectively through increasing the sharing of knowledge, challenges, and good practices, among key government coordination and implementing bodies.

It does this through the following HRSD strategies:

- Strategy 1: Regional oversight, coordination and convening.
- Strategy 2: Strengthening and coordination of State laws, policies, and institutions; and
- Strategy 6: Capacity strengthening of EAWG services.

#### **Project achievements to date**

The project commenced in July 2021. In its first year, activities planned were slow in being implemented due to various internal and external challenges, including staffing within the division, natural disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the region.

Regardless of this, over the life of the project, the following have been some of the key achievements:

#### **Outputs:**

- Recruitment of two full-time staff (an Officer – Human Rights and Social Development and a Finance and Admin Assistant) for the project.
- Two annual meetings of the RWG were convened, providing space for members to share ideas and information, communicate and coordinate.
- Meetings of the RWG’s sub-committees

#### **Short-term Outcomes**

- There have been several bi-lateral meetings/conversations/emails between members to share information and experiences regarding the review of their domestic violence legislation. Others also report increased knowledge of good practices.

- Partnerships and collaborations were also actively sought with stakeholders including development partners and other regional organisations in order to further the objectives of the project and create opportunities for RWG members. Key collaborations included the Family Protection Orders Symposium in 2021 (Australia National University), EAW Services Symposium in 2022 (UN Women Fiji Multi-country Office), Gender and Family Harm Workshop in 2023 (Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Secretariat), the Women’s Advisory Network Leadership Workshop in 2023 (Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Secretariat), the E-Safety Symposium in 2023 (PWL at SPC program), development of a draft Regional GBV/VAWG Counselling Framework (in partnership with UN Women, the RWG’s Counselling Sub-committee, and five crisis centers<sup>8</sup> in the region).
- A tracking tool and dashboard which shows the status of implementation across the region, was also developed and tested during the project life. It is envisaged that the tracking tool and dashboard will be used to determine on an annual basis how the region is making progress in implementing its domestic violence laws.

### **Medium-term Outcomes**

- Development of a draft Regional GBV/VAWG Counselling Framework (in partnership with UN Women, the RWG’s Counselling Sub-committee, and five crisis centers<sup>9</sup> in the region), supported by the RWG membership, showing increased regional-level political will.

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<sup>8</sup> Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre, Vanuatu Women’s Centre, Family Support Centre, Tonga Women and Children’s Crisis Centre, and the Kiribati Women and Children’s Support Centre

<sup>9</sup> Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre, Vanuatu Women’s Centre, Family Support Centre, Tonga Women and Children’s Crisis Centre, and the Kiribati Women and Children’s Support Centre