

SOMEBODY'S LIFE, EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!



National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010/2011): A Summary exploring the prevalence, incidence and attitudes to intimate partner violence in Fiji.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre



SOMEBODY'S LIFE, EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!

National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010/2011): A Summary exploring the prevalence, incidence and attitudes to intimate partner violence in Fiji.

Copyright © Fiji Women's Crisis Centre 2013

All rights for commercial, for-profit and not-for-profit reproduction or translation, in any form, rest with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

No part of this publication may be adapted, reproduced or translated, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, photocopying or otherwise), except for the purposes of training, private study, review or research. Any reproduction, translation or adaptation or other above mentioned allowed purposes must fully acknowledge the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

Published by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)
88 Gordon Street Suva, Fiji
Phone: 679 331 3000
www.fjiwomen.com

This research was funded by the Australian Government's aid program.

FWCC's national and regional programs are funded by the Australian Government's aid program.
FWCC's Branches are funded by the New Zealand Government's aid program.



What is in this Booklet?

This booklet summarises the findings of FWCC’s national research on men’s violence against women. A survey of 3193 women was undertaken in 2011 in all four Divisions of Fiji. Women from all provinces and major islands participated, from both rural and urban areas.

FWCC received technical assistance with the survey from the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics and used an approach developed by the World Health Organisation. This approach has been used in many other Pacific countries and internationally because it produces reliable and trustworthy findings, while also protecting the safety of women living with violence.

The full findings are included in FWCC’s research report – “Somebody’s Life, Everybody’s Business! National Research on Women’s Health and Life Experiences in Fiji: A survey exploring the prevalence, incidence and attitudes to intimate partner violence in Fiji” (<http://www.fjiwomen.com/>).

How Many Women Experienced Domestic Violence by Husbands and Partners in Their Lifetimes?

There were three main types of domestic violence by husbands and partners explored in the survey – physical, sexual and emotional:

- 61% of women were subjected to physical violence (more than 3 in 5).
- 34% were subjected to sexual violence (1 in 3).
- 58% experienced emotional violence (about 3 in 5).

How Many Women Are Living with Domestic Violence by Their Husbands and Partners Today?

The survey asked women about their experiences of domestic violence over the previous 12 months:

- 19% are living with physical violence (about 1 in 5).
- 14% were subjected to sexual violence (more than 1 in 10).
- 29% are living with emotional violence (more than 1 in 4).

Overall, 72% of women experienced one or more types of violence in their lifetime from their husbands or partners – physical, sexual or emotional.



What About Other Types of Violence by Husbands, Partners and Boyfriends – Such As Coercive Control Over Women?

Many women (69%) are subjected to at least one form of coercive control – such as needing to get permission for health care, and other restrictions on who women see and talk to, including friends, family, and other men.

- 28% are living with four or more of these types of control in their day-to-day lives.
- 28% (more than 1 in 4) are subjected to economic abuse – either her own savings or income is taken by her husband or partner, or he refuses to give her money for household expenses, even when he has money for other things.

Among those women living with domestic violence who also earn an income, about half (48%) said that their work was disrupted due to the violence. Women living with domestic violence are twice as likely to give up a job, and significantly more likely to be prevented from participating in organisations and meetings.

How Frequently are Women Hit, and How Severe is Physical Violence by Husbands and Partners?

All forms of physical violence can cause injury or emotional trauma. On average, each woman who is abused by her husband experiences three different types of physical attack. Among those women who experienced physical violence during their lifetime:

- 94% were slapped or had something thrown at them;
- 68% were hit with a fist or an object;
- 60% were pushed or shoved, or had their hair pulled;
- 44% were kicked, dragged or beaten up;
- 20% were assaulted with a weapon, or were threatened with this; and
- 10% were choked or burned on purpose.

Domestic violence is NOT just a slap!
Many women living with violence are subjected to torture in their own homes, including intense and repeated attacks, multiple types of physical and sexual abuse, humiliating emotional abuse, and high levels of coercive control by their husbands or partners.

The majority of women who are living with physical violence are abused very frequently. During the 12 months before the survey:

- Among those who were kicked, dragged or beaten up, 47% were



subjected to this 2-5 times, and 34% more than 5 times during one year.

- Although comparatively few women were choked or burnt on purpose, half of them were subjected to this torture more than 5 times, and 30% between 2 and 5 times in just one year.
- Among those who were threatened with a weapon or had a weapon used against them, 37% experienced this 2-5 times, and 41% more than 5 times over one year.
- For women who were hit with a fist or an object, the vast majority (86%) were hit more than twice during one year.
- Most of those who were slapped, had something thrown at them, or who were pushed or shoved also experienced these acts of aggression many times during one year.

Violence During Pregnancy
15% of women have been beaten during pregnancy, and 1/3 of these were punched or kicked in the stomach while pregnant. For some, the violence reduces during pregnancy – but for more than half, the violence stays the same or gets worse.

How Frequently Are Women Sexually Abused by Their Husbands and Partners?

Among those women who experienced sexual violence during their lifetime:

- 82% were raped;
- 74% had sex because they were afraid of what their husbands or partners might do; and
- 44% were forced to perform a degrading or humiliating sexual act.

About 1/3 of the women who were physically abused had also been raped by their husband or partner following a physical attack.

Most of the women who had been sexually violated by their husbands and partners were abused very frequently during the 12 months before the survey:

- 45% were raped 2-5 times and 47% were raped repeatedly – all this occurred just in a 12-month period.
- Among those who had sex due to fear, 54% were subjected to this 2-5 times and 37% more than 5 times in 12 months.
- Among those who were forced to perform a degrading sexual act, 46%



were forced 2-5 times during the year, and 39% were forced more than 5 times in one year.

How Many Women Have Been Physically or Sexually Abused By Other People? Who Abused Them, and How Frequently Does This Happen?

Male family members and teachers make up the majority of perpetrators of physical abuse by non-partners. Perpetrators of sexual abuse are mainly male family members and family friends.

- 27% of women were physically abused since the age of 15 by someone other than a husband or intimate partner (more than 1 in 4). Sadly, about $\frac{2}{3}$ were hit several times.
- 9% were sexually abused since the age of 15 by someone other than a husband or intimate partner (almost 1 in 10) – 3.4% of these women were raped, compared with 6.8% where rape was attempted, and some suffered from both rape and attempted rape.
- About $\frac{1}{3}$ of these women were sexually assaulted several times, and $\frac{2}{3}$ were assaulted once or twice.
- In about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cases of rape and attempted rape, there was more than one man involved.

The combined prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners since the age of 15 is 31% (almost 1 in 3 women), because some women have suffered from both physical and sexual abuse by people other than their husbands, partners and boyfriends.

How Many Women Were Sexually Abused as Children? Who Abused Them, and How Frequently Did This Happen?

The survey asked women if they had been sexually abused as children before they turned 15.

- 16% of women were sexually abused as children before the age of 15.
- Of these, 59% said they were abused once or twice (about 3 in 5), 25% were abused a few times, and 16% were abused many times.
- In 95% of these cases, there was one perpetrator.
- Like sexual abuse of older girls and women, most perpetrators were male family members or friends. Only 15% of women said that the perpetrator was a stranger.



What About Women's First Experience of Sex? How Many Women are Forced or Coerced?

For 5% of women (1 in 20), their first sexual experience was forced. A further 24% of women said that their first experience of sex was coerced (almost 1 in 4). Younger women were more likely to be forced or coerced. For those who had their first sex before they turned 15, 66% were either forced or coerced (more than 2 in 3).

Overall, 7 in 10 women (71%) have been physically and/or sexually abused by either a partner or non-partner since they turned 15.

Who Suffers from Domestic Violence and Other Types of Abuse? Does this Problem Affect Women Throughout Fiji?

Women from all walks of life suffer from domestic violence by husbands, partners and boyfriends, regardless of where they live, their age, level of education, ethnicity, religion, and social and economic status. Women from all social groups are also subjected to physical and sexual abuse by people other than their partners. However, the prevalence of domestic violence is higher for younger women.

Differences in Prevalence in Different Locations

All forms of violence against women and girls are widespread throughout urban and rural areas, and in all four Divisions of the country. However, some locations do have higher rates:

- The rates of all forms of violence are considerably higher in rural areas, including control over women's mobility.
- The percentage of women who have been subjected to domestic violence by their husband or partner during their lifetime in the Eastern Division is one of the very highest recorded to date in the world – 79% of women in the Eastern Division experienced physical violence compared with 61% for Fiji as a whole, and 53% experienced sexual violence compared with 34% for the whole country.
- 22% of women were sexually abused as children in the Eastern Division, compared with 16% in the Eastern and Central Divisions, 13% in the Western Division, and 16% for Fiji as a whole.

Similar differences exist in the current rates of domestic violence:

- 24% of women were subjected to physical violence by husbands and



partners in the Eastern Division, compared with 23% in Northern, 20% in Central and 15% in Western Division, and 19% for Fiji as a whole.

- For sexual violence by husbands and partners, both the Eastern and Northern Divisions have higher rates (18%), Central Division has 14% and Western Division has 11%, compared with 14% for the country as a whole.
- Emotional violence is currently highest in the Northern (35%) and Eastern (33%) Divisions, followed by the Central (28%) and Western (26%) Divisions, compared with 29% for the whole of Fiji.

How does Fiji compare with other countries? Fiji has the 4th highest rates of domestic violence over a woman's lifetime (physical and/or sexual, and emotional), compared with 20 other countries that used the same survey method.

Differences in Prevalence Among Ethnic Groups

The rates of violence against women and girls are generally lower than the national average for Indo-Fijian women, and significantly higher for i-Taukei women, as well as for all other ethnic groups combined. This is closely related to the higher prevalence in the Eastern Division, which has a much higher proportion of i-Taukei communities, compared with other Divisions.

The main differences in lifetime prevalence of physical violence by husbands and partners are:

- 69% of i-Taukei women experienced physical violence, compared with 47% of Indo-Fijian women, and 61% for Fiji as a whole.
- I-Taukei women have a higher prevalence of the most severe forms of physical violence (55% compared with 24% for Indo-Fijian women and a national rate of 44%) – including being hit with a fist, object or weapon, being kicked, dragged or beaten up, and being threatened with a weapon.
- As a result, i-Taukei women and those from the Eastern Division also have much higher rates of injury – 51% of i-Taukei women have been injured by their husbands, compared with 35% of Indo-Fijian women and 47% for the whole of Fiji.
- 18% of i-Taukei women were physically assaulted when they were



pregnant, compared with 11% for women from the Indo-Fijian community and a national rate of 15%.

Similar patterns are found for other types of domestic violence:

- 41% of i-Taukei women experienced sexual violence by husbands or partners in their lifetime, compared with 21% of Indo-Fijian women, and 34% for Fiji as a whole.
- 65% of i-Taukei women experienced emotional violence by husbands or partners during their lives, compared with 44% of Indo-Fijian women, and 58% for Fiji as a whole.
- I-Taukei women also experience higher rates of coercive control, including restricting women's contact with her birth family and friends, insisting on knowing where she is at all times, and getting angry if she speaks with another man – 74% of i-Taukei said that they experience at least one type of damaging control by their husbands or partners, compared with 61% of Indo-Fijian women and a national rate of 69%.

Although there are some variations in the prevalence of domestic violence in Fiji's four Divisions and between ethnic groups, all ethnic groups in all Divisions have much higher rates of physical and sexual violence by husbands and partners than the global prevalence.

The rates of non-partner violence against women and girls are also higher for Taukei women:

- 33% of i-Taukei women have been physically abused by someone other than their husband, partner or boyfriend compared with 16% of Indo-Fijian women and 27% of women in Fiji as a whole.
- 5% of i-Taukei women have been raped since they turned 15 by someone other than their husband or boyfriend, compared with less than 1% for Indo-Fijian women.
- Attempted rapes are also higher for i-Taukei women – 9% compared with 1% for Indo-Fijian women.
- The rate of child sexual abuse for i-Taukei girls is 19% compared with 7.5% for Indo-Fijian girls, and 16% for the country as a whole.

The figures above tell us about women's experiences of violence over their



lifetimes. The survey also asked about experiences of domestic violence over the last 12 months – so these figures tell us what is happening in the Taukei and Indo-Fijian communities today:

- Currently 23% of i-Taukei women are experiencing physical assaults by their husbands or partners, 17% are being sexually abused, and 33% are suffering from emotional violence.
- 12% of Indo-Fijian women are living with physical assaults by their husbands or partners, 9% are subjected to sexual abuse, and 20% are suffering from emotional violence.

Domestic violence is one of the biggest risks to women's physical health and mental well-being in Fiji today! More women are affected by domestic violence than by diabetes, high blood pressure, or hypertension.

What Impact Does Domestic Violence Have on Women's Health?

Physical Health

Almost half (47%) of the women who have been physically or sexually abused by their husbands or partners have been injured due to the attacks:

- Among those ever injured, 3 in 5 (60%) have been injured more than once and 2% (1 in 50) now have a disability.
- More than 1 in 10 (13%) have lost consciousness due to the abuse.
- Among those who needed health care due to their injuries, less than 2 in 3 actually received health care.
- Women living with physical and/or sexual violence have much poorer health and are hospitalised more often.

Fiji's rates of injury due to domestic violence are one of the highest in the world: of 20 countries that used the same survey methodology, only 3 have higher rates of injury.

Mental Health

Women living with domestic violence have many more symptoms of emotional distress than those who have not experienced such abuse in their relationships. (The survey used a tool developed by the World Health Organisation to assess these symptoms.) They are also significantly more likely to think about and attempt suicide than those who have not experienced domestic violence:



- Among women living with physical, sexual and emotional domestic violence, 32% had thought about suicide, and 9% had attempted it.
- This compares with 8% who had ever thought about suicide, and 2% who had attempted it among women who never experienced domestic violence.

Reproductive Health

Fiji sees itself as a society that values family, children and community. But the prevalence of physical assault during pregnancy (15% of women who have ever been pregnant) and the high number who were punched or kicked in the stomach (1/3 of these women) are among the very highest in the world. The findings are shocking, and show that this has been a persistent problem over many generations.

- Women living with domestic violence are significantly more likely to have unwanted pregnancies (or pregnancies that they would have preferred to have later), and their husbands or partners are also more likely to prevent them from using contraception.
- Women beaten during pregnancy are significantly more likely to have a miscarriage.
- Women suffering from domestic violence are less likely to have a post-natal check-up, and more likely to smoke or drink during the pregnancy.

What Impact Does Domestic Violence Have on Children?

Domestic violence has both short-term and long-term negative impacts on children. These are damaging both for the individual children affected, and for national social and economic development.

Children need emotional support to address the emotional and behavioural problems that they experience due to violence against their mothers – but what they need most is for the violence to stop.

- More than half (55%) of the women who experienced physical violence from their husband or partner said that their children had witnessed the abuse.
- The survey demonstrated that domestic violence has many negative impacts on

Children whose mothers are living with domestic violence are about twice as likely to repeat years at school, and stop going to school.



children including a range of behavioural problems and failure to progress at school.

Growing up in a family with domestic violence is one of the biggest risk factors for girls to experience violence, and for boys to perpetrate violence in their own relationships.

However, some women and men who witnessed violence as children are not living in a violent relationship, which shows that this learned behaviour can change.

How Many Women Are Injured in Fiji Each Week Due to Domestic Violence?

Using the data from FWCC's survey, we can estimate the number of women injured due to domestic violence each day, week, and year:

- 15,725 women will suffer from injuries each year – this is an average of 302 women every week or 43 women injured every day due to violence by their husband or partner. However, only about 1 in 10 of these women will tell a health worker the true cause of their injury.
- 312 women will become disabled – 6 every week or almost 1 every day.
- 3,682 women will be physically assaulted so severely that they lose consciousness – 71 each week or 10 every day.
- 5,678 women will need health care for their injuries – 109 each week or about 16 each day – but many of these women will not get the health care they need.
- 10,733 women will have eardrums broken or eye injuries – 206 per week or about 29 every day.
- 1,872 women will have a bone fractured or broken – 36 each week, or 5 each day.
- 1,872 women will suffer from internal injuries – 36 every week or 5 each day.
- 1,622 women will have sprains or dislocations – 31 each week or 4 each day.
- 437 women will suffer from burns – 8 each week or 1 each day.
- 936 women will have their teeth broken – 18 each week or 3 every day.



How Were these Estimates of Injuries Calculated?

1. The survey asked women whether they were injured due to domestic violence in the 12 months before the survey. This gives the number of women in the survey sample with different types of injuries, including those with a disability due to their injuries.
2. There were 3035 women aged 18-64 who participated in the survey who had ever been in an intimate relationship with a man. Using this as the denominator, we calculated the percentage of women who experienced each type of injury. (For example, 5 women who participated in the survey are now disabled due to domestic violence – so the percentage of women disabled was $5/3035 = 0.165\%$ of the total sample.)
3. 2007 Census data showed that there were 189,385 women aged 18-64 who had ever been in an intimate relationship with a man. This figure was used to calculate the number of women that would suffer from each type of injury per year. (Using the same example of disability, $189,385 \times 0.165\% = 312$ women who would be disabled due to domestic violence each year).
4. The number estimated with each injury per year was divided by 52 to estimate the number of injuries each week; and by 365 to estimate the number of injuries per day. (For example, 312 women disabled each year divided by 52 weeks = 6 per week, which is almost 1 per day.)

Full details of each calculation are provided in FWCC's research report. These figures under-estimate the impact of domestic violence because: 2007 Census data was used (by 2014, the number of women aged 18-64 would have increased); the survey counted the number of women with injuries of the previous 12 months, not the number of times she had any particular injury (but some women suffered from the same type of injury more than once); most women tend to under-estimate their injuries and the impact of violence as a way of coping with the violence.



How Many Women Tell Someone or Try to Get Help?

Almost half (47%) of the women who experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime had never told anyone about the violence.

- When women do tell someone, they usually tell their own family, friends, or their husband's family.
- Most women (76%) had never asked any agency for help.
- When women do make the very difficult decision to ask an agency for help to deal with the violence, most go first to the Police, Courts, or health services.
- 40% of women (2 in 5) had to leave home at least once due to the violence, but many do not tell anyone their real reason for leaving. Only 4% left home permanently.

When women asked for help or left home, the most common reasons were because they couldn't take any more of the violence, or they were badly injured.

Why Don't More Women Ask for Help, or Leave?

The most common reasons why women do not ask for help are:

- they see the violence as "normal" or "not serious";
- they fear that this will lead to more violence, often because of threats from their husband or partner;
- they feel ashamed and fear that people will not believe them;
- they don't want their family to get a bad name;
- they are afraid the relationship would end; and
- they are afraid that they will lose their children.

The most common reasons women give for never leaving, or for going back to their husband and partner are very similar:

- they don't want to leave their children, and they fear they cannot support them on their own;
- they love and forgive their husbands and partners;
- they believe in the sanctity of marriage;
- they see the violence as "normal" or "not serious";
- they don't want to bring shame to the family;
- they believe their husband or partner may change; and
- they have nowhere to go.



Indo-Fijian women are more likely to seek help than Taukei women:

- Indo-Fijian women were more likely to ask for help from the police, courts and social welfare, and to get legal advice.
- I-Taukei women were more likely to seek help from a hospital, health centre, or a religious leader.

What About Attitudes to Violence, Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights?

Many women agree with statements that undermine women's rights and reinforce the view that women should be obedient and subservient to men:

- 43% of women agree with one or more "justifications" for a man to beat his wife;
- 60% think that "a good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees";
- 55% believe that "it is important for a man to show his wife/partner who is the boss";
- 53% do not agree that woman has the right to choose her own friends; and
- 33% believe that a wife is obliged to have sex, even if she doesn't feel like it.

Women said that violence usually occurs when her husband is jealous of her, when he thinks she is disobedient, and when he wants to show he is the boss, as well as when he is drunk.

58% of all women surveyed believe that people outside the family should not intervene if a man mistreats his wife.

What are the Implications of All These Findings?

Gender Inequality and Tolerance of Violence

These beliefs and attitudes – and the very high rates of men's violence and control over women – reveal patterns of extreme inequality between women and men. The use of violence as a form of punishment and discipline is accepted within many families and communities. Women themselves minimise the impact of the violence on their health and well-being – and this is one of the main ways that they cope with the violence.



Tolerance for men's violence against women and unequal power relations are entrenched in social, cultural and religious institutions. These attitudes stop women from telling anyone about the violence, and they stop women from getting help.

How We Need to Respond to Violence

Women show enormous resilience and strength in the face of repeated and serious violence and abuse. Most try to cope with the violence by themselves before telling anyone or seeking help. When they do ask for help or leave home, it is because the problem has reached crisis point.

All requests for help need to be taken seriously. This means that service-providers, traditional and church leaders, families and friends need to ensure that they do not condone, excuse or tolerate the violence.

If we want to prevent violence, we need to ensure that women's rights, health, access to resources and life are protected.

The survey also looked into risk factors – in other words, the likelihood or risk that particular groups of women would experience violence, and the risk that particular groups of men would perpetrate violence. This confirms that violence against women is learned behaviour, and that it is directly related to the mind-sets, social norms, accepted ways of behaving and beliefs that reinforce gender inequality:

- Risk factors for men who perpetrate violence include having multiple sexual relationships, fighting with other men, being regularly beaten as a child, and frequent alcohol abuse.
- Risk factors for women include being sexually abused or coerced into sex, and growing up in a family where her mother was abused.

The findings show that violence begins very early in relationships – younger women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence, younger men are more likely to perpetrate it, and a family history of violence significantly increases these risks.



The findings show that helping women to take steps to stop domestic violence is essential to prevent it in future generations.

Tackling violence towards boys and girls at home, at school and in all our social institutions and organisations is also important – to prevent young men from learning and repeating these damaging behaviours, and to help young women to understand that they do not have to put up with this type of behaviour.

Challenging men’s power over women is fundamental to prevent violence and to end it. The intense web of coercive control and the damaging impacts of emotional abuse also need to be challenged head-on to prevent violence against women and girls, in addition to tackling and condemning physical and sexual violence. All this means that we need to actively promote the rights of women and girls in all walks of life.

FWCC’s Recommendations – to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Prevention

1. Prevention programs must be evidence-based, and grounded in a sound understanding and gender analysis of the problem and dynamics of violence against women and girls.
2. Gender equality and awareness on violence against women and girls should be included in the education curriculum in schools and in teacher training programs.
3. Prevention programs should focus on the prevention of coercive control and emotional violence, as well as physical and sexual violence, in addition to actively promoting the rights of women and girls.
4. Innovative methods for reaching young women and men should be trialled to enhance the effectiveness of awareness-raising and behaviour change strategies, such as: building and mentoring a network of creative artists from various forms of performance art and social media; working through sports groups; and through social media.

Targeting High-Risk Areas and Groups

5. Differences between ethnic groups in help-seeking behaviour, prevalence and severity of violence against women and girls need to be acknowledged



by all service-providers in their prevention and response efforts.

6. More attention needs to be given to targeting isolated and vulnerable communities where this research has shown women and girls to be at the greatest risk, including the Eastern Division.
7. Traditional leaders need to demonstrate strong commitment and active involvement in community based initiatives and mobilisation to end violence against women and girls.
8. Faith based organisations should be actively involved in the prevention of violence against women and girls through their missionary work as well as through their welfare and support programs.
9. Community based initiatives and mobilisation should focus on providing knowledge, skills and practical strategies to family and community members and friends who witness violence against women and girls, and assist them to respond appropriately when women turn to them for help or disclose violence for the first time.
10. All service providers should be trained to respond appropriately to cases of violence against women and girls using a gender equality and rights based approach, including police, judiciary staff and officers, traditional leaders, faith based organisations and welfare agencies.
11. Perpetrator programs should be based on a sound understanding of the causes and dynamics of violence against women; they should focus on behavioural change and holding offenders accountable, and be adequately monitored and evaluated from a rights based perspective.
12. Prevention and service delivery programs should take into account the links between violence and disability, and be responsive to the needs and rights of women and girls with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
13. Quality standards should be developed for both prevention and service delivery programs that address violence against women; standards should articulate a rights based and gender equality approach, and be grounded in evidence regarding the scope, nature, dynamics and impacts of violence against women and girls.
14. The Fiji Police Force should systematically and consistently implement its No Drop Policy for all offences against women and girls; police and other law and justice sector agencies should be adequately resourced and skilled to respond expeditiously and sensitively.



-
15. Donors that support prevention and response programs should assess proposals from a rights-based and gender equality perspective, and ensure that funded programs and organisations adhere to quality standards.

Improving Health Sector Responses

16. Protocols need to be established within the health sector for dealing with cases of violence against women against children.
17. All health workers should be trained to ensure sensitive and appropriate responses when victims/survivors access health services, to ensure protection of their rights, confidentiality and their health.
18. Health services in rural and maritime areas should be equipped to provide appropriate prevention and response services to women and girls.
19. Physical, reproductive and mental health prevention strategies need to take into account the serious impacts of violence against women including men's control over women's access to health care, by reinforcing women's rights to decision-making about their own health, access to health care, and sexual and reproductive rights.

Economic Empowerment

20. Economic empowerment programs should be based on an understanding of how gender inequality and gender based violence impacts on women's lives and their ability to earn and control income and assets; they should support women to claim their rights to earn and control income and assets, by working with both women and men.
21. Targeted activities are needed to support women who have made the difficult decision to leave a violent relationship, to ensure they have access to long-term housing and secure income-generating opportunities.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

Since 1984, we have worked towards empowering victims/survivors of violence and advocating for the human rights of women in Fiji and the Pacific

Our Services Include:

- Free and confidential, non-judgmental crisis counselling for victims/survivors of Domestic Violence, Rape, Child Abuse and Sexual Harassment.
- Community Education
- Advocacy and Lobbying
- Information and Research
- Regional and National Training on Gender, Violence Against Women and Human Rights
- Male Advocacy Programme on Women's Human Rights

For further information contact the:

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

88 Gordon Street

P O Box 12882, Suva, Fiji

Tel: (679) 3313 300 (24 Hour Line) **Fax:** (679) 3313 650

Mobile: (679) 9209 470 (24 Hour Line)

Email: fwcc@connect.com.fj

Website: www.fijiwomen.com

Nadi Women's Crisis Centre

84 Sagayam Road

Tel: 670 7558 **Mobile:** 9182 884 (24 Hour Line)

Labasa Women's Crisis Centre

Lot 3 Naiyaca Subdivision (Off Hospital Road)

Tel: 8814 609 **Mobile:** 9377 784 (24 Hour Line)

Ba Women's Crisis Centre

21 Navatu Street, Varadoli

Tel: 6670 466 **Mobile:** 9239 775 (24 Hour Line)

Rakiraki Women's Crisis Centre

Lot 2, Yaratale Road, Vaileka

Tel: 6694 012 **Mobile:** 9129 790 (24 Hour Line)

To download Survey Report go to: fijiwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/1.pdf



Fiji Women's Crisis Centre [FWCC]



Fiji Women - @CommsFwcc



Australian
AID 

