



# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS:

## Evaluating a decade of Australia's development assistance



A traditional sing-sing to bring peace by ending violence against women, held at the Women's Human Rights Defenders Forum, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. At the forum, women built connections, strengthened networks and established referral pathways. It was organised by the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation and Women Human Rights Defenders with support from the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) and the Australian aid program. Photographer: Catherine Fokes, IWDA.

**Violence against women and girls is a fundamental violation of human rights. Violence endangers the lives of women and girls and restricts their participation in economic and social life. Globally, economic losses relating to this issue are estimated to be billions of dollars per year in premature mortality, lost productivity, as well as health, social and legal costs.**

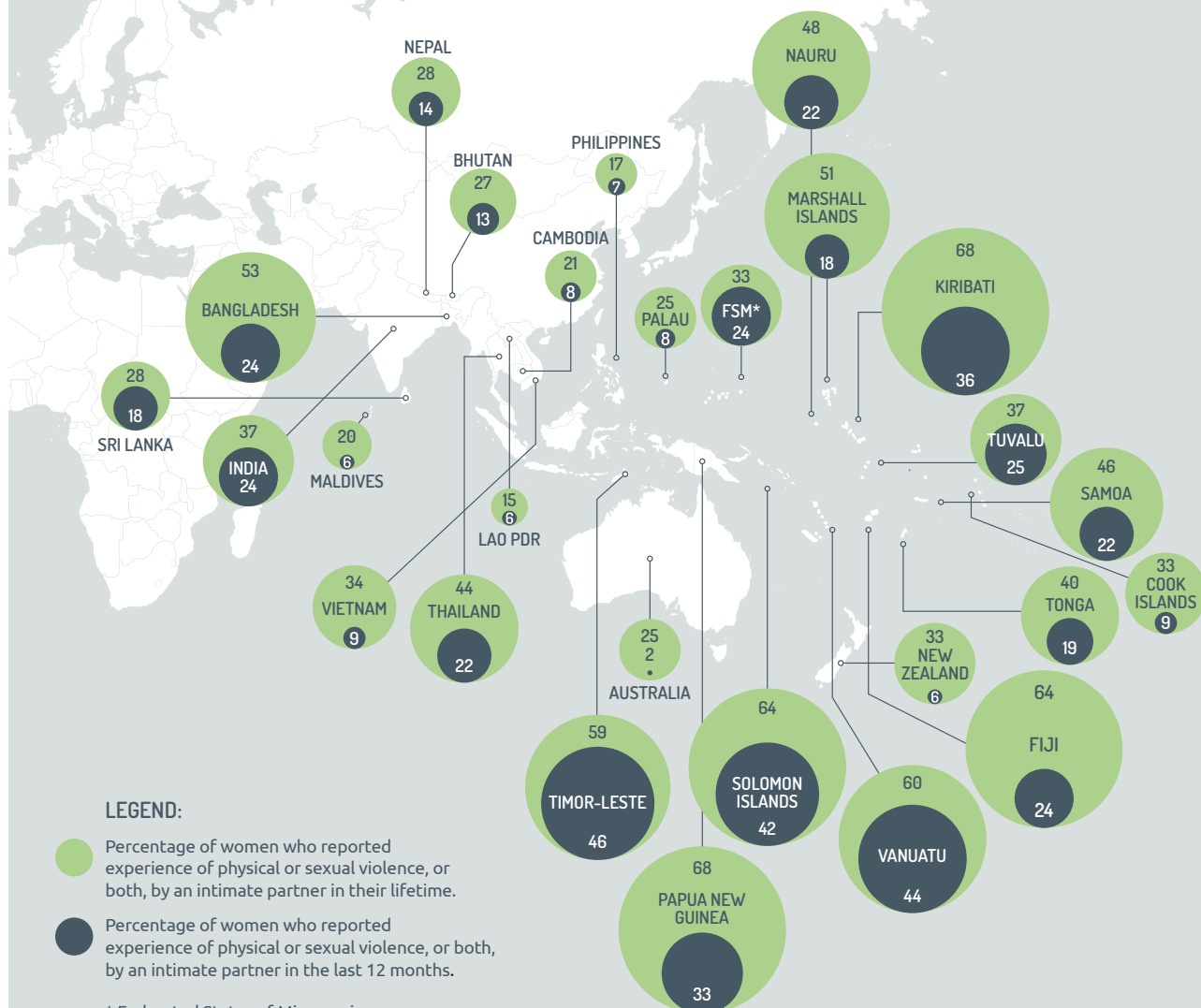
The Australian Government is committed to ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) in Australia and overseas. The Australian aid program has a comprehensive approach to EVAWG. Australian aid investments are supporting countries in the Indo-Pacific region to address gender-based violence as a human rights and gender equality imperative while improving services and access to justice for survivors.

## This evaluation

The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) commissioned this strategic evaluation of Australian development assistance for EVAWG to assess the progress made since the 2008 ODE evaluation, *Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: Building on Global and Regional Promising Approaches*. The evaluation focused on the five countries that were case studies for the 2008 report—Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. Two additional countries, Indonesia and Pakistan, where Australia has significant EVAWG programs, were also included. The evaluation makes recommendations to guide Australia's aid program and policy engagement on EVAWG over the next decade.

## Regional prevalence of violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls is a problem in all countries. More than one-third of women and girls worldwide have experienced some form of violence at some time in their lives. In many Indo-Pacific countries the prevalence of violence is more than twice the global average.



### Evaluation findings— Overall Australia has:

- » been strategic with coherent EAWG programs that align with best practice
- » provided strong and sustained leadership on EAWG which has helped build partner government commitment and capacity to address violence
- » maintained or expanded its cooperation with key partners in the Indo-Pacific—government, civil society organisations at national, regional and global levels, United Nations agencies, and the private sector
- » supported prevalence studies and research that are informing efforts to respond to and prevent violence.

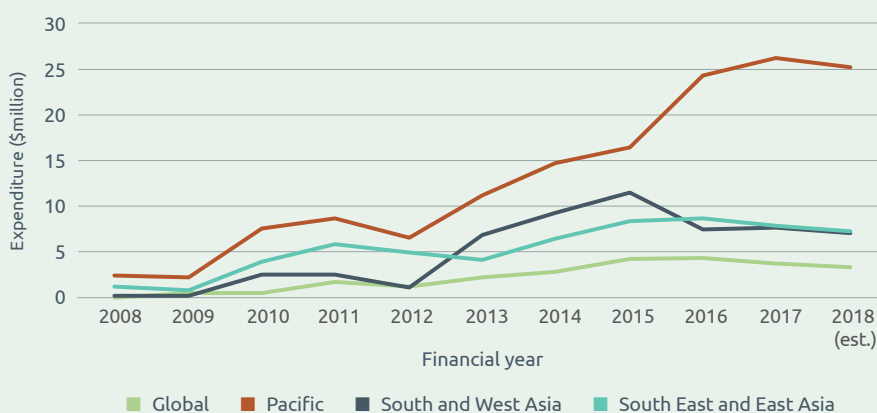
### Evaluation findings— Support for women's organisations

- » Australia has provided long-term core funding to key local women's organisations which has built their capacity and enabled them to lead work on EAWG
- » women's organisations have been crucial in advancing local understanding of women's and girls' rights, getting the issue onto the public agenda and providing much-needed services
- » many small women's organisations in the Indo-Pacific still do not have sufficient capacity to apply for funds through existing global funds

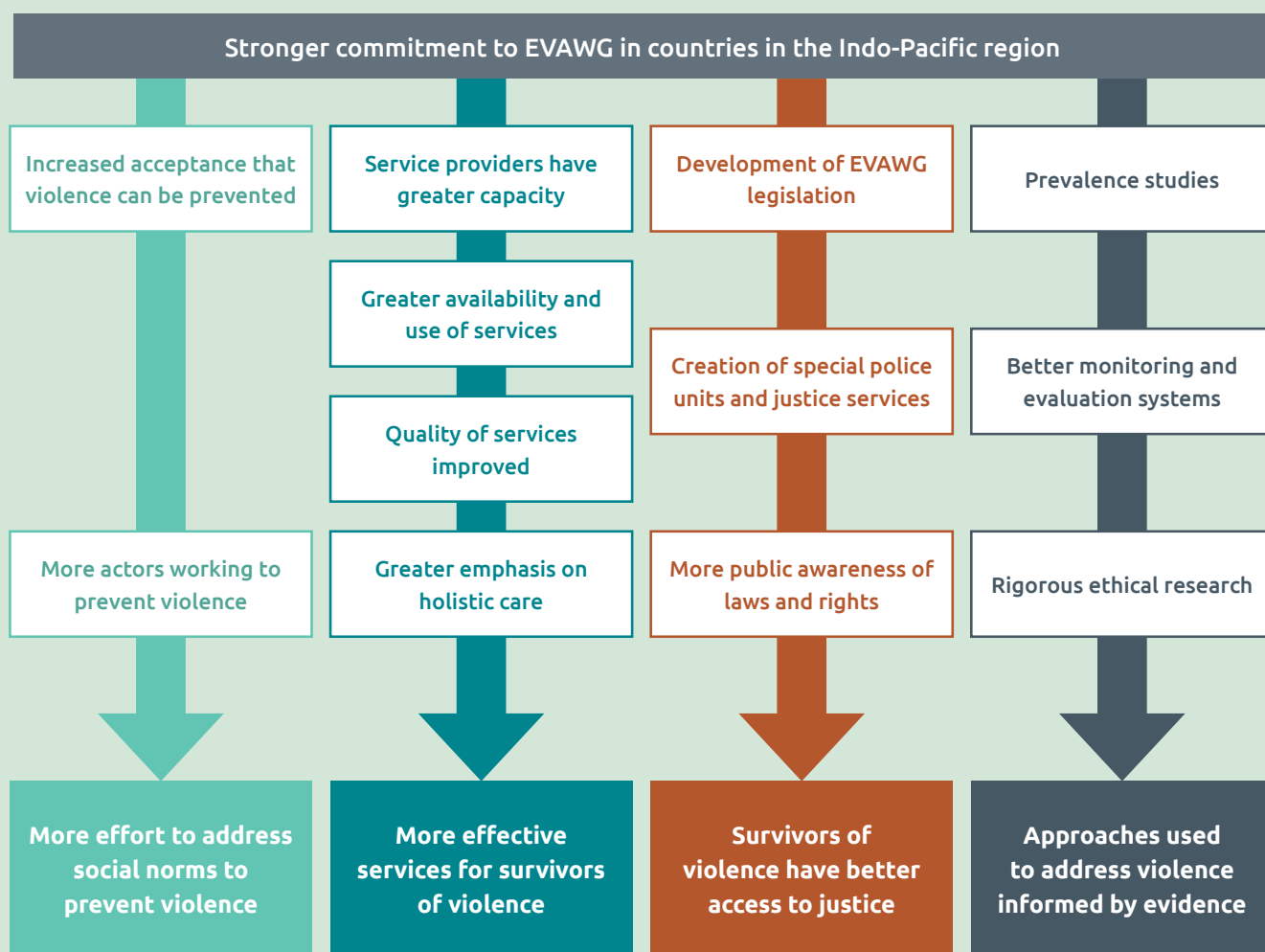
## Evaluation findings—Australian financial support

- » more than \$300 million in EVAWG programs over the decade 2008 to 2018, with 50 per cent of expenditure in the Pacific region
- » globally Australia is a leading donor—in 2017, Australia's disbursements were the second highest of donor countries and made up 17 per cent of total disbursements reported by donors
- » annual expenditure on EVAWG activities increased more than 10-fold from 2008 to 2018.

Australia's annual expenditure on EAWG activities, 2008 to 2018



## Evaluation findings—Australia has contributed to the considerable progress made in the key areas of assistance for EAWG and built the evidence base of what works



## Evaluation recommendations—to further progress EAWG, Australia should:

- » continue core funding to local women's organisations to strengthen their catalytic and critical work
- » continue to invest in regional and local programs through a mix of long and short-term funding mechanisms
- » intensify high-level policy dialogue to encourage governments to incorporate comprehensive responses to violence against women and girls in national budgets.

<b>Preventing violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» increasingly prioritising prevention work</li> <li>» providing local organisations with long-term funding to address social norms</li> <li>» bringing EAWG and child protection actors together</li> <li>» strengthening regional research on prevention</li> <li>» supporting work to draw out common lessons needed to inform prevention work</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» training health and service providers to improve the quality of EAWG services</li> <li>» improving case management and counselling through training and oversight</li> <li>» working with non-government organisations and the private sector to make services more accessible</li> </ul>
<b>Improving access to justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» strengthening justice responses for marginalised women and girls</li> <li>» supporting partner countries to address gaps in legislation</li> <li>» continuing training and support for justice operators</li> <li>» supporting local efforts raising public awareness of laws and monitoring their implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Building evidence and supporting learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» sharing learning to contribute to regional and global knowledge</li> <li>» improving sharing of learning between Australian programs</li> <li>» focusing on research needed to build evidence of what works</li> <li>» investing in rigorous evaluation of prevention programs</li> </ul>

## Violence against women and girls



Female infanticide  
Child abuse and neglect  
Female genital mutilation  
Child marriage



Femicide  
Dating violence  
Sexual violence  
Intimate partner violence  
Early and forced marriage  
Sexual harassment  
Acid throwing  
Trafficking



Elder abuse  
Sexual violence  
Intimate partner violence  
Violence by family members and carers

**Violence against women and girls is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm. It affects women and girls at all stages in life. Also, with violence against women and girls:**

- » any component of identity (such as socioeconomic status, indigeneity, gender identity and disability) influences the way women and girls are discriminated against, as well as the type and degree of violence
- » incidents are associated with injury, disability, death, induced abortion, low birth weight and prematurity in women's babies, poor sexual health, suicide, depression, anxiety and harmful alcohol use.

### Office of Development Effectiveness

The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) is a unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which monitors the quality and assesses the impact of the Australian aid program. The full EAWG report, including the management response, is available at [dfat.gov.au/ode](https://dfat.gov.au/ode)