



Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

Samoa Country Plan Summary

Background

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) was announced by the Australian Government at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' meeting in August 2012. It commits up to \$320 million over 10 years in 14 Pacific Islands Forum member countries. The program aims to improve opportunities for the political, economic and social advancement of Pacific women. *Pacific Women* will support countries to meet the commitments they made in the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration. The intended outcomes sought by *Pacific Women* are:

- Women, and women's interests, are increasingly and effectively represented and visible through leadership at all levels of decision making.
- Women have expanded economic opportunities to earn an income and accumulate economic assets.
- Violence against women is reduced and survivors of violence have access to support services and to justice.
- Women in the Pacific will have a stronger sense of their own agency, supported by a changing legal and social environment and through increased access to the services they need.

Pacific Women is implemented by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and works with a wide range of implementing partners, including the 14 partner governments, multilateral organisations, international and national nongovernmental organisations and civil society organisations.

The *Pacific Women* Support Unit provides technical and administrative services to assist in the management of the *Pacific Women* program, including planning, delivery and monitoring of activities at the country and regional level, as well as research and communications. The Support Unit is based in Suva, Fiji, with a sub-office in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Samoa

Samoa consists of four inhabited and five uninhabited islands. The Samoan economy is dominated by subsistence agricultural farming. The government, in collaboration with private sector and development partners, is supporting programs to expand the livelihood options and other income generating opportunities for women.

Samoa ranks 104 out of 188 on the Human Development Index.¹ While there is some evidence of changing gender norms, traditional culture still plays a central role in the Samoan way of life and

¹ Human Development Index 2017, United Nations Development Programme, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/WSM>.



men are predominantly regarded as the head of the household. However, women are experiencing greater equality in some aspects of public life, such as in participation levels in formal employment.

Through *Pacific Women*, the Australian Government will spend **\$9.3 million over 10 years** (2012–2022) on initiatives supporting women’s empowerment in Samoa.

Country plans are the mechanism through which *Pacific Women* outcomes and activities are planned and agreed between DFAT and counterpart governments, following extensive national consultations. They provide detail on what will be funded and how these funding decisions are made. The Country Plan for Samoa includes activities valued at approximately \$4.4 million and will be implemented from 2015–2020.

The Samoa Country Plan was developed following a scoping mission informed by consultations with a broad range of stakeholders. These included village communities, civil society and nongovernmental organisations, private sector, media, government agencies, the judiciary, cabinet ministers, the Prime Minister, DFAT staff and other development partners. Discussions were also conducted with rural and urban women, men, young people, women with disabilities, eminent Samoan leaders and church representatives in Apia and Savaii (representing stakeholders from across rural areas). Discussions sought information about barriers and opportunities for gender equality, the drivers of change in the Samoan context, and where Australia is best positioned to provide support.

A review of the Samoa Country Plan was conducted in November 2017 to inform the development of future activities to be implemented by the program.

Rationale for the activities in Country Plan

Pacific Women is owned and led by Pacific and women’s organisations. The overarching model used by *Pacific Women* is that the program is managed by DFAT and implemented through a series of partnerships, the majority of which are with Pacific-based organisations. In Samoa *Pacific Women* is delivered through the country’s relevant government ministry and UN Women in partnership with local Samoan and women’s organisations.

(a) Increasing women’s economic empowerment

Around 97 per cent of households engage in agricultural activities. Women account for approximately seven per cent of this agricultural activity. There is greater parity in formal employment opportunities, as 43 per cent of the formally employed population are women and 40 per cent of businesses are headed by women.⁶ Samoa passed the *Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013* that provides for non-discrimination against applicants who are pregnant, mandatory paid maternity leave and equal pay without discrimination based on gender.

(b) Increasing women’s leadership and decision making

In June 2013, the Samoan Parliament unanimously passed the *Constitution Amendment Act 2013* that introduced a 10 per cent quota of women representatives into the national Legislative Assembly. Consequently, following the 2016 elections, women hold five of the 50 seats in the National Parliament (four women elected outright and a fifth seat activated under the quota provisions). A threshold challenge for women becoming political leaders is that political candidates are required to hold a chiefly title of *matai*. In 2015, only seven per cent of *matais* were women.

Samoan traditional culture, *fa’asamoa*, including the social structure at the village level, plays a central role in the Samoan way of life. Villages are governed by *matais* or chiefs through the village council and hierarchy of committees. The *fa’asamoa* provides for the distinct and different roles of





men, women and children in society, including the role of Village Women's Committees in providing advice to the Village Council. Consultations during the scoping mission stressed the need to strengthen built-in cultural practices that promote gender balance by ensuring that gender equality programs and messages are promoted in the Samoan cultural context.

(c) Reducing the incidence of violence against women

Violence against women is a serious issue in Samoa, with 46.4 per cent of all women who have been in a relationship having experienced one or more forms of violence² and 60 per cent of women aged between 20 and 49 who have ever been in a relationship having experienced some form of partner abuse in their lifetime.³ Data from the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration shows that 625 women applied for protection orders between 2015 and 2016, while numbers from the Ministry of Police show domestic violence cases increasing to 767 in 2015.

A Family Violence Court and a Drugs and Alcohol Court has been established to oversee cases regarding all forms of violence in Samoan families related to drugs and alcohol. The *Domestic Violence Act 2013* establishes the legal framework for responding to domestic violence.

(d) Enhancing agency

Samoa is a signatory to a range of international and regional commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. These commitments are premised on the belief and understanding that gender equality goes hand-in-hand with sustainable national development.

On 2 December 2016, the Government of Samoa ratified the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which emphasises the need for a gender perspective in efforts to support women living with a disability.

² Pacific Community, *Samoa Family Health and Safety Study* (2006).

³ Samoa Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, *Samoa Family Safety Study 2017*.

Table 1: Bilateral Activities

PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	ABOUT THIS PROJECT	BUDGET
Intended Outcome: Leadership and Decision making		
Increasing Political Participation of Women in Samoa: partner-led agreement with UNDP	Provided support to the implementation of the 2013 Constitutional Amendment to introduce a 10 per cent quota of women representatives in Parliament.	\$500,000 (2015–2016)
Women in Leadership Samoa Project (WILS) and in partnership with UNWomen and UNDP in a partner led agreement.	Strengthening women’s leadership and gender equality in Samoa by building on the progress of past work through the Increasing Political Participation of Women project in Samoa. It will also capitalise on lessons learned on supporting leadership pathways, promoting political inclusivity, increasing public awareness on political participation and sharing knowledge of Samoa’s experience.	3,000,000 (2018 - 2022)
Intended Outcome(s): Enhancing Agency; Increasing Women’s Economic Empowerment; Reducing the incidence of gender-based violence		
Samoan Women Shaping Development Program (Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development)	Supporting the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development to implement the gender components of the Community Development Sector Implementation Framework in the key outcomes areas of: increasing women’s economic empowerment; advancing gender equality in decision making and political governance; and reducing violence against women. This project enables the Ministry to fund multiple activities with national non-governmental and women’s organisations in Samoa.	\$1,900,000 (2015–2019)
Civil Society Support Program (CSSP)	Support gender-focused NGOs delivered through CSSP (CSSP is currently a separate DFAT program an existing funding facility to support civil society development) administered through Samoa Ministry of Finance.	\$400,000 (2018 – 2019)
Gender Adviser (Consultant)	Providing technical assistance to support Post staff. The Adviser provides mentoring, coaching and training to support capacity strengthening within Post and key partners to enable gender mainstreaming of DFAT sector programs in Samoa.	\$331,283 (2015-2017) \$100,00 (2018-19)



Table 2: Regional Programs with Activities in Samoa

PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	ABOUT THIS PROJECT	BUDGET ⁴
Intended Outcome: Leadership and Decision making		
Pacific Women Parliamentary Partnerships Project (Australian International and Community Relations Office, Department of the House of Representatives)	Building the capacity of Pacific women parliamentarians and their staff to ensure gender equality issues are better addressed in parliament.	\$2,850,037 (2013–2018)
Shifting the Power Coalition (ActionAid Australia, femLINKpacific, Pacific Disability Forum, Nazareth Centre, Transcend Oceania, Talitha Project, YWCA PNG, YWCA Samoa, Vanuatu Young Women for Change, Vois Blong Mere, ActionAid Vanuatu)	Working to ensure diverse Pacific women's voices provide leadership in disaster planning and response at all levels in six countries. Expected outcomes are increased capacity to engage in disaster coordination mechanisms and influence decision making; documentation of needs and capacities in crises to contribute to evidence based disaster planning; and establishment of platforms to strengthen diverse Pacific women's voices in regional forums to influence policy and decision making.	\$895,000 (2018–2021)
Intended Outcome: Ending Violence against Women		
UN Women Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (UN Women)	The program focuses on three essential interventions: formal and informal education; contextualised, community-based prevention approaches and civil society organisations' capacity to engage with national and regional institutions and authorities. These approaches create a comprehensive program to promote gender equality and reduce violence against women and girls across communities and nations while producing promising practices on the prevention of violence against women and girls in the Pacific.	\$7,627,947 (2018–2022)
UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program (UNICEF)	Supporting governments in 14 Pacific Island countries to strengthen the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation.	\$7,000,000 (2014–2018)
Support to the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (Pacific Community)	Funding to provide policy advice, technical support and training on human rights, elimination of violence against women, governance, democracy and the rule of law. Partners include governments, regional organisations and civil society.	\$5,750,000 (2015–2020)

⁴ This allocation is not for Samoa alone but for multiple countries under *Pacific Women*.



PROJECT NAME AND PARTNER	ABOUT THIS PROJECT	BUDGET ⁵
Intended Outcome: Enhancing Agency		
Partnerships for Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all in the Pacific (International Planned Parenthood Federation)	Supporting the expansion of access to sexual and reproductive health services in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea ⁶ , Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.	\$3,000,000 (2015–2022)
Progressing Gender Equality in the Pacific (Pacific Community)	Conduct stocktakes and support for the strengthening of government capacity to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into policies, legislation and programs and improve the collection and analysis of data to better track outcomes.	\$3,941,712 (2013–2018) \$5,494,203 (2019-2023)

⁵ This allocation is not for Samoa alone but for multiple countries under *Pacific Women*.

⁶ Papua New Guinea included in phase two from 2019-2022

