

# Integrating GBV into Humanitarian Preparedness: Pacific Regional Brief



This brief aims to assist FCDO humanitarian teams in integrating gender-based violence (GBV) considerations in humanitarian preparedness work in the Pacific region, particularly focusing on large-scale disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. It provides a summary of regional data on GBV and emerging practices on GBV integration in preparedness planning in the Pacific. Through funding and influencing, FCDO can support the following practices:

- **Integrate essential steps from the IASC Guidelines for Integrating GBV in Humanitarian action during all stages** of the [Emergency Response Preparedness \(ERP\) Cycle](#) such as analysing GBV risks as part of assessments of hazards; identifying and prepositioning resources that can mitigate GBV risks; conduct GBV trainings with all relevant stakeholders; and identifying a set of indicators to monitor GBV risk reduction activities through the programme cycle. All actors and sectors have a responsibility to mitigate GBV risks.
- **Support national policy processes and coordination systems** to address preparedness, disaster management, and gender equality in integrated ways, and specifically recognises GBV risks therein. This can include establishing/supporting coordination mechanisms that include ministries of women's affairs and departments and GBV actors, and enhancing collaboration between women's groups and government actors so that women's networks have a greater influence in policy making.
- **Actively involve women, girls and other at-risk groups in all assessment processes** to identify relevant GBV risks and impacts, which should be used to inform preparedness planning and ensure that relevant GBV considerations are integrated into preparedness actions such as when supporting the capacity of government and non-government actors to respond to emergencies.
- **Collaborate with GBV specialists to integrate GBV prevention, mitigation and response measures in preparedness work** to ensure that GBV risks are addressed in comprehensive ways and that critical GBV infrastructure is strengthened pre-disaster and equipped to respond to anticipated spikes in GBV from the immediate onset of a disaster. This can, for example, be included in anticipatory action.

**Prevention:** Refers to initiatives and activities aiming to prevent GBV from occurring in the first place such as addressing social norms and practices that contribute to GBV in communities.

**Mitigation:** Refers to actions taken to reduce the risk of exposure to GBV, such as ensuring sufficient lightning and security in camps for refugees and internally displaced people.

**Response:** Refers to response services for GBV survivors, such as health services, mental health and psychosocial support, law enforcement services, and access to legal and judicial processes etc.

## Gender-based Violence in the Pacific

In the Pacific region, rates of violence against women are among the highest globally, estimated at about double the global average.<sup>1</sup> Violence often starts from an early age; for example, 30% of women in Vanuatu experienced child sexual abuse under the age of 15.<sup>2</sup> Regional data on violence against women facing intersecting inequalities is limited, but some country-level evidence is available. For example, a situation analysis<sup>3</sup> in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga found that women with disabilities face high levels of violence,

<sup>1</sup> UN Women Asia and Pacific (2023) [Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#)

<sup>2</sup> Vanuatu Women's Centre Office (2011) [Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships](#)

<sup>3</sup> This reviewed existing evidence and conducted qualitative interviews with women with disabilities in each country.



and that women with intellectual and psychosocial impairments may be at particular risk of violence, including by family members.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) are also at high risk of GBV. In Fiji, a survey with LBT women and non-binary people revealed high rates of physical, sexual, verbal and emotional violence, with intimate partner violence being the most common form of violence (83% of the respondents).<sup>5</sup>

**Intimate partner violence (IPV):** Several Pacific countries have extremely high rates of IPV, ranging from 58% to 64% in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea (PNG).<sup>6</sup> Almost half of women over 15 in PNG, Vanuatu and Kiribati have experienced IPV in the past year (48%, 44% and 43% respectively). Emotional violence, including being intimidated, belittled, or humiliated by an intimate partner, is widespread throughout the region, with high lifetime prevalence in Fiji (58%), the Solomon Islands (56%), Kiribati (51%) and PNG (51%).<sup>7</sup> Economic violence is also common, with the highest rate being found in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) where 27% of ever-partnered women have experienced economic IPV.<sup>8</sup>

**Violence against pregnant women:** Several Pacific countries report high rates of physical violence in pregnancy including in Nauru (25%), PNG (18%) and Fiji (15%).<sup>9</sup>

**Non-partner physical and sexual violence:** High rates of non-partner physical violence are reported in Samoa (40%) and the Cook Islands (39%),<sup>10</sup> with female family members often perpetrating physical violence.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, close to half of women aged over 15 in Nauru (47%), in Vanuatu (33%)<sup>12</sup>, and 10% in Samoa (10%)<sup>13</sup> have experienced non-partner sexual violence, exceeding global (6%) and regional (6%) averages.<sup>14</sup>

**Child and forced marriage:** The prevalence of child marriage varies in the region, with high rates in PNG (27%), the RMI (26%), and in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (both 21%).<sup>15</sup> Forced marriage is a concern in PNG, including the practice of 'sister exchange' where two men marry each other's sisters to avoid paying bride price. Bride price is otherwise common and recognised as a driver of domestic violence.<sup>16</sup>

**Violence in public spaces:** Violence against women and girls in public spaces is widespread, including on public transport, in the streets, and in markets. A study in Port Moresby, PNG, found that 90% of women and girls had experienced some form of violence when using public transport, and 55% in market spaces.<sup>17</sup>

**Workplace violence:** An estimated 30-40% of women in the Asia Pacific have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace according to UN figures.<sup>18</sup> Whilst country-specific data is scarce, UN Women notes that sexual harassment is the most widely reported form of workplace violence in the region.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> UNFPA (2013) [A Deeper Silence: The unheard experiences of women with disabilities – sexual and reproductive health and violence against women in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga](#)

<sup>5</sup> DIVA (2019) [Unjust, Unequal, Unstoppable: Fiji Lesbians, Bisexual Women, Transmen and Gender Non-Conforming People Tipping the Scales Toward Justice](#)

<sup>6</sup> The highest rates of lifetime physical and/or sexual IPV have been recorded in Fiji (64% of women 18+), the Solomon Islands (64% of women aged 15+), Kiribati (61% of women aged 15+), Vanuatu (60% of women aged 15+), and PNG (58% of women aged 15+).

<sup>7</sup> UNFPA (2023) [2023 Regional Snapshot: Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence 2000-2023, Asia and Pacific Region](#)

<sup>8</sup> UN Women (2022) [Gender Equality Brief for the Republic of the Marshall Islands](#)

<sup>9</sup> Ever-pregnant women aged 15-64. UNFPA (2023) [Measuring prevalence of violence against women in Asia-Pacific](#)

<sup>10</sup> UNFPA (2023) [2023 Regional Snapshot: Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence 2000-2023, Asia and Pacific Region](#)

<sup>11</sup> UN Women (2023) [Gender Equality Brief for the Cook Islands](#)

<sup>12</sup> UNFPA (2023) [2023 Regional Snapshot: Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence 2000-2023, Asia and Pacific Region](#)

<sup>13</sup> Samoa Bureau of Statistics (2021) [Samoa Demographic and Health – Multiple Indicator Cluster survey 2019-20](#)

<sup>14</sup> WHO (2021) [Global fact sheet: Violence against Women, Prevalence Estimates 2018](#)

<sup>15</sup> Samoa Bureau of Statistics (2021) [Samoa Demographic and Health – Multiple Indicator Cluster survey 2019-20](#)

<sup>16</sup> CARE (2018) [CARE Rapid Gender Analysis Papua New Guinea – Highlands earthquake](#)

<sup>17</sup> Jimenez, A., Au, R. and Sandeka, D. (2011) [Making Port Moresby Safer for Women and Girls. Report on Scoping Study Findings](#)

<sup>18</sup> ILO (2015) [Eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace in the Pacific, ILO Policy brief](#)

<sup>19</sup> UN Women (2022) [Gender Equality Brief for 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories](#)

**Harmful practices:** Sorcery and witchcraft accusations in Melanesia, particularly PNG,<sup>20</sup> have led to severe forms of violence against accused women. A 2016 study in two provinces of PNG found that one-third of the 150 cases involving women accused of witchcraft resulted in violence, with over 1 in 10 women killed.<sup>21</sup> Additionally, there is potential for such violence to spike after natural disasters, such as the 2018 earthquake in PNG, when ‘witches’ were blamed for causing the disaster.

**Trafficking:** Women make up the largest group of detected victims of human trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific. In 2020, 58% of the detected victims were women and 21% girls. 38% of all detected victims of trafficking had been trafficked for sexual exploitation, and 54% for forced labour.<sup>22</sup>

**Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA):** SEA by aid workers is a recognised risk in the Pacific region, given its high levels of GBV and frequency of natural disasters which require complex emergency responses.<sup>23</sup> However, there is limited data available on the occurrence of SEA in emergency responses in the Pacific Islands.

**Technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV):** Research on TFGBV in the Pacific is limited,<sup>24</sup> but studies on violence against women in politics in the region highlight online forms of GBV. Many women in politics are subjected to hate speech, defamation, threats, and character assassination, often occurring online.<sup>25</sup>

### **Natural disasters and conflict-related GBV in Papua New Guinea**

Women and girls in conflict-affected areas of PNG face a high risk of GBV. Parts of PNG have long suffered from tribal conflicts, with reports of increased outbreaks of violence in recent years and tens of thousands of people being displaced as a result.<sup>26</sup> Conflict-related sexual violence has been reported, although there is limited documentation of the extent of the violence. PNG often experiences overlapping crises, for example, the 2018 earthquake in Hela province led to widespread displacement and food insecurity. At the same time, communal violence and instability continued, leading the UN and non-governmental organisations to pull out of the area, disrupting the relief efforts.<sup>27</sup> A gender analysis noted an elevated risk of domestic violence in food-insecure households, as women were perceived as failing to fulfil their role of feeding their family.<sup>28</sup>

## **Gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies**

Global evidence shows that large-scale disasters exacerbate GBV. New risk factors are introduced, such as displacement and breakdown of societal structures, while pre-existing risk factors, such as poverty and food insecurity, are amplified. Furthermore, crises can disrupt GBV services and infrastructure, such as shelters, and case management services. They can also affect law enforcement, justice systems, and health services, impacting GBV survivors’ access to medical services, protection, reporting and referrals.<sup>29</sup>

The Pacific Islands have long experienced natural hazards and climate-induced events such as tropical cyclones, earthquakes and volcano eruptions. While evidence on the impacts on the forms and prevalence of

<sup>20</sup> See e.g. United Nation (2009) [Harmful Practices against Women in Pacific Island Countries](#); Oppenheim, M (2021) [“Rising numbers of women in Papua New Guinea attacked after being accused of witchcraft”](#), *the Independent*, 10 June 2021

<sup>21</sup> Australian High Commissioner (no date) [Addressing sorcery and witchcraft accusations-related violence in Papua New Guinea](#)

<sup>22</sup> Data not disaggregated by gender. UNODC (2022) [Global Report on Trafficking in Children 2022](#)

<sup>23</sup> UN (2021) [No one is safe unless everyone is safe: Making emergency response safe for women and girls](#)

<sup>24</sup> Bansal, V. (2023) [A scoping review of technology-facilitated gender-based violence in low-and middle-income countries across Asia](#), *Trauma Violence Abuse*, 2023

<sup>25</sup> National Democratic Institute (2021) [Violence against Women in Politics in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands](#)

<sup>26</sup> See e.g. Harriman, B. (2023) [“Papua New Guinea killings: what’s behind the outbreak in tribal fighting?”](#) 29 August 2023, and Australian Institute of International Affairs (2022) [Forgotten Conflicts 2022: Tribal Violence in Papua New Guinea](#)

<sup>27</sup> Roy, A. E. (2018) [“Papua New Guinea earthquake: UN pulls out aid workers from violence hit region”](#), *the Guardian*, 5 April 2018

<sup>28</sup> CARE (2018) [CARE Rapid Gender Analysis Papua New Guinea – Highlands earthquake](#)

<sup>29</sup> First, J. (2017) [“Protecting women and girls from violence in disasters”](#), *Disaster and Community Crisis Center*, University of Missouri

GBV during and after these crises remains limited, rises in violence have been documented by women's rights organisations (WROs) and others responding to crises. For example, a women's centre in Vanuatu reported a 300% increase in new domestic violence cases following the cyclones in 2011,<sup>30</sup> and increased rates of sexual violence against women were reported in the Solomon Islands after the Gizo tsunami in 2007.<sup>31</sup> Slow-onset disasters can also increase GBV risks. In RMI, for instance, women's groups observed a spike in GBV during droughts, as women were perceived as failing to fulfil their household chores, such as cooking and cleaning.<sup>32</sup>

There are several ways in which large-scale disasters can exacerbate GBV:<sup>33</sup>

- Fetching food and water can expose women and girls to the risk of sexual assault, as seen at water sites after the Gizo tsunami in the Solomon Islands.<sup>34</sup> Distances and insufficient security at the water sites, where men had begun to wait around to target women, contributed to the increased risk.
- Crisis and displacement can exacerbate pre-existing drivers of IPV, including high levels of stress and trauma, which can trigger men's perpetration of violence. In Fiji, women living in relief centres following two tropical cyclones in 2012 reported high levels of sexual IPV by their husbands while staying in the centres.<sup>35</sup> Research in Samoa showed that women and girls who were displaced by a disaster were at higher risk of GBV than those who remained in their communities.<sup>36</sup> Crowded spaces and inadequate lighting and WASH facilities in shelters contributed to the higher risk of GBV.
- In times of food scarcity, child marriage can be used as a negative coping mechanism, as highlighted by a gender analysis following the 2018 earthquake in the Hela province in PNG.<sup>37</sup>
- Disasters often disrupt education and lead to increases in girls dropping out of school and child marriage. In Fiji, many girls were taken out of school after the 2012 cyclones to help look after younger children.<sup>38</sup>
- Women and girls risk being exposed to SEA, including sex in exchange for food and basic goods in times of increased poverty and food insecurity alongside the influx of humanitarian actors. For example, research in Fiji after the 2012 floods revealed increases in SEA to meet basic needs.<sup>39</sup>

Another indication of spikes in GBV during disasters in the Pacific region is the sharp increase in online searches for phrases such as 'abuse sexually', 'beating wife' and 'rape' (in local languages). A study which analysed search phrases and social media posts in Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga found a significant uptick in GBV-related searches when people were displaced by crises, threatened by extreme weather, or confined to their homes by COVID-19 lockdowns.<sup>40</sup> For example, in Tonga, online GBV searches surged by 600% when the country was re-connected to the internet five weeks after a major volcanic eruption and a tsunami that destroyed the undersea telecommunications cable. Women's centers in Tonga warned that women and girls would be at increased risk of GBV in the aftermath of the eruption<sup>41</sup>, which displaced thousands of people from their homes and caused extensive damage to the country's infrastructure.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Pacific Women (2021) [Thematic Brief: Women and Climate Change in the Pacific](#)

<sup>31</sup> UN Women (no date) [Climate change, disasters and gender-based violence in the Pacific](#)

<sup>32</sup> Mcleod, E. et al. (2018) [Raising the voices of Pacific Island women to inform climate adaptation policies](#), *Marine Policy*, Volume 93

<sup>33</sup> Howard, E. (2023) [Linking gender, climate change and security in the Pacific Islands Region: A systematic review](#), *Ambio*

<sup>34</sup> UN Women (no date) [Climate change, disasters and gender-based violence in the Pacific](#)

<sup>35</sup> UN Women (no date) [Ibid](#)

<sup>36</sup> EIFRC (2016) [Unseen, Unheard: Gender-based violence in disasters, Asia-Pacific case studies](#)

<sup>37</sup> CARE (2018) [CARE Rapid Gender Analysis Papua New Guinea – Highlands earthquake](#)

<sup>38</sup> UN Women (2012) [The 2012 Fiji floods: gender sensitivity in disaster management](#)

<sup>39</sup> UN (2021) [No one is safe unless everyone is safe: Making emergency response safe for women and girls](#)

<sup>40</sup> UN Women (2023) [Disasters, Crises and Violence against Women: Evidence from Big Data Analysis](#)

<sup>41</sup> Maykin, M. et al (2022) ["Domestic violence cases rise in wake of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption, as women call for a power shift in humanitarian response"](#), *ABC News*, 16 April 2022

<sup>42</sup> IFRC (2022) [Tonga, Asia Pacific – Volcano and Tsunami Revised Emergency Appeal](#)

## Emerging practice from the Pacific

There have been several initiatives to integrate GBV and humanitarian preparedness in the Pacific region, including in preparedness national policy, national and international architecture, and planning processes. Although there is little documentation on which types of approaches are most effective, there is some emerging good practice from the region, many of which align with actions critical for Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) and Advanced Preparedness Actions (APAs) as set out in the [IASC Emergency Response Preparedness Guidance](#). They also speak to recommendations in global GBV guidance which highlights the importance of addressing risk factors and responding to anticipated surges in GBV when a disaster strikes. For example, the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Guidelines for Integrating GBV in Humanitarian Action](#) calls for humanitarian actors to engage with governments to integrate relevant guideline recommendations into national preparedness policies and plans. It also emphasises the need for GBV integration in pre-emergency preparedness and preparedness work in ongoing emergencies to support response when another crisis strikes a setting.

### The IASC Guidelines

The IASC Guidelines provide guidance on how different sectors can address GBV throughout the programme cycle, setting out essential steps in the preparedness phase. This includes the shelter, settlement and recovery (SS&R), protection, health, and WASH sectors. A key action for all sectors is to actively involve women, girls and other at-risk groups in assessments, and promote women's leadership. Another shared step in the pre-emergency context is to provide training to relevant stakeholders, such as sector staff, community groups, and security actors.

**Incorporating GBV considerations in national humanitarian and disaster policy:** Pacific islands' disaster management and preparedness policies increasingly recognise gender issues, with some explicitly incorporating GBV considerations. For example, GBV risks were integrated into Samoa's [National Disaster Plan](#), and Samoa's [National Policy on Gender Equality and Rights of Women and Girls](#) promotes increased participation of women and girls in climate change and disaster preparedness and response, especially those facing multiple and intersecting discrimination.

**Strengthening national GBV systems and coordination mechanisms:** Effective preparedness involves strengthening the GBV architecture, both at the national level and working with international actors. For example, in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Yasa, Fiji recognised the need to improve its GBV response system so it could adapt and function seamlessly before, during and after emergencies. This initiative involved the operationalisation of national and sub-national GBV coordination mechanisms, elevating the Ministry of Women's role as a coordinating body. The result was improved relationships between service providers and local governments, with referral pathways extended to the district level. This enhanced coordination not only helped ensure a more effective response to COVID-19 but also laid a foundation for ongoing preparedness planning, for example as part of Fiji's Sustainable Development Plan rollout.<sup>43</sup>

**Planning for GBV risk mitigation and response in emergency response:** UNFPA is currently supporting emergency preparedness and response in 14 Pacific island countries and territories, with an additional \$1.6 million of support from USAID to integrate GBV and other essential services in disaster planning, including the 'pre-positioning' of necessary equipment. The second phase of the initiative will strengthen national and sub-national capacities to deliver lifesaving GBV services, including through 'Women and Girls Safe Spaces'.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Mawa R (2022) [Operating at the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: Strengthening National GBV Systems, Lessons learned from Tropical Cyclone Yasa in Fiji](#), Presentation at the SVRI Summit 2022

<sup>44</sup> UNFPA (2023) [USAID provides UNFPA with an additional \\$1.6 million to strengthen emergency preparedness and response for women's health and protection from violence](#).

**Setting up protection protocols.** National disaster preparedness efforts have progressed significantly in the region, including the creation and update of national service delivery protocols in Samoa, Tonga, the RMI, Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Similarly, there have been developments and updates in clinical management of GBV protocols during emergencies in Fiji, Solomon Islands, RMI, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).<sup>45</sup>

**Training service providers and local responders on GBV in emergencies:** Research in Tonga and Fiji underscores the importance of training service providers in GBV as part of preparedness planning. In Tonga, GBV training was delivered alongside regular preparedness activities, including participation in national stakeholder meetings.<sup>46</sup> Respondents in Tonga reported feeling prepared and confident when Cyclone Gita hit in 2018, helping to facilitate a swift response. In comparison, the lack of preparation and training in Fiji necessitated rapid training to scale up the capacity of responders at the onset of Cyclone Winstone in 2016.<sup>47</sup>

**Supporting women's participation and leadership in preparedness:** The importance of women's leadership and participation in preparedness is widely recognised and recommended across sectors in the IASC Guidelines for Integrating GBV in Humanitarian Action. Several Pacific Island countries have started to increase women's representation in humanitarian decision-making, preparedness and response.<sup>48</sup> For example, Solomon Islands' [National Disaster Management Plan 2018](#) is guided by a key principle stating that the involvement of women in preparedness and response arrangements at all levels is essential to promote effective disaster management, including involvement in operational processes and decision-making. The plan recommends that at least two women are involved in each committee, working group or team, with this requirement mandatory for operational processes in relief distribution, welfare, protection and shelter. Similarly, in Vanuatu, training female members of Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees and Provincial Disaster Committees has helped to raise awareness of GBV and gender in disaster planning.<sup>49</sup>

**Inclusive approaches to GBV integration in preparedness planning:** It is important to amplify the voices of women and girls at the highest risk of violence during crises and disasters, ensuring their specific concerns are addressed in preparedness planning.<sup>50</sup> An example of innovative practice is a sharing circle at the Regional Pacific Humanitarian Partnership Meeting, which was facilitated by UN Women and DIVA for Equality. The circle provided a space for diverse local humanitarians to share the unique needs and experiences of marginalised groups, including women with disabilities and LBTIQ women, as equal participants in planning and responding to natural disasters in the region.<sup>51</sup> Since 2016, the [Shifting the Power Coalition](#) has also supported diverse Pacific women to lead preparedness efforts and responses. The coalition also engages with state actors, including women's ministries, to enhance accountability to gender and GBV in preparedness.

**Integrating GBV into climate change adaptation:** Recognising the vital role of women and girls in climate adaptation and the GBV impacts, the RMI prioritised GBV prevention as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement (2015).<sup>52</sup> As part of the NDC, UNFPA supported the RMI to

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<sup>45</sup> UN (2021) [No One is Safe Unless Everyone is Safe: Making Emergency Response Safe for Women and Girls](#)

<sup>46</sup> These meetings included the National Emergency Management Office, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Emergency Services (including Police), and local NGOs working in women's rights, disability, and LGBTQI areas.

<sup>47</sup> Beek K, Drysdale R, Kusen M and Dawson A (2021) [Preparing for and Responding to Sexual and Reproductive Health in Disaster Settings: Evidence from Fiji and Tonga](#), *Reproductive Health*, Vol.18.

<sup>48</sup> UN Women (2022) [Gender Equality Brief for 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories](#).

<sup>49</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2022) [Pacific Resilience Standards: Compendium of Case Studies](#)

<sup>50</sup> Oxfam (2018) [Down by the River: Addressing the Rights, Needs and Strengths of Fijian Sexual and Gender Minorities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response](#)

<sup>51</sup> UN Women (2017) [Diverse and Local Humanitarians Essential for Disaster Preparedness and Response](#)

<sup>52</sup> NDCs are commitments that countries make under the Paris Agreement to outline their plans and targets for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change

develop a gender action plan encompassing GBV prevention and response, improved access to sexual and reproductive health, and women's economic empowerment.<sup>53</sup>

**Integrating GBV in anticipatory action:** In the Pacific islands, efforts are underway to integrate GBV into anticipatory action strategies. The [Regional Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action Asia-Pacific](#) plays a pivotal role here, with the group tasked with building an evidence base on protection and GBV risk mitigation for anticipatory action, among other key knowledge-sharing activities.<sup>54</sup>

### **Key GBV actors and coordination structures**

**Pacific GBV Sub-Cluster:** Led by UNFPA, the GBV Sub-cluster has been building a GBV in Emergencies (GBViE) regional community of practice to support coordination, capacity development and technical assistance, including engaging national GBViE structures to support an integrated approach and multi-year GBV systems-building approach to emergencies and disasters. Linked to the regional sub-cluster are eight national clusters covering Fiji, the FSM, Kiribati, the RMI, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu.

**Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls:** Also known as the [Pacific Partnership](#), this collaborative initiative involves governments, civil society organisations, and communities to promote gender equality, prevent VAWG and increase access to quality response services for survivors. It is primarily funded by the European Union, with contributions from Australia, New Zealand and UN Women.

**Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (PWNAVAW):** This regional network has a membership of 129 organisations in 13 countries, all aiming to end violence against women.

**National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs):** Key representatives from these government agencies work with women's organisations to address the increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse during disasters, both nationally and regionally. For example, in 2017, representatives from NDMOs in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa came together for a five-day workshop in Fiji to share knowledge and identify solutions for preventing GBViE with PWNAVAW and UN Women.

## **Recommended resources**

### **National and regional resources:**

- EIFRC (2016) [Unseen, Unheard: Gender-based Violence in Disasters, Asia Pacific case studies](#)
- UN Women (2014) [Climate Change, Disasters and GBV in the Pacific](#)
- UN Women (2022) [Gender Equality Brief for 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories](#)
- Pacific Women (2021) [Thematic Brief: Women and Climate Change in the Pacific](#)

### **Global resources:**

- [The IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#)
- [The Inter-agency GBV Minimum Standards](#)
- Resources on [Emergency Response and Preparedness](#) on the GBV Responders Network website

Relevant [GBV AoR Helpdesk](#) resources, for example:

- [Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Settings Affected by Natural Disasters](#)
- [GBV and Anticipatory Action Approaches](#)
- [Climate Change and Gender-based Violence](#)

<sup>53</sup> GBVAoR Helpdesk (2021) [Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence: What Are the Links?](#)

<sup>54</sup> Regional Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action Asia-Pacific (2022) [Terms of Reference](#)