



Spotlight
Initiative



REGIONAL WORKING
GROUP ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
FAMILY PROTECTION/
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
LEGISLATION



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

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Fiji's Service Delivery Protocols for Gender Based Violence

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

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Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA)***

Ms Korovusere is the Director of Women at the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. She has served in a number of agencies within the Fijian Government. Her areas of expertise are in research and policy; planning, human resource training and development and productivity and excellence. Throughout her career she has worked extensively with programmes that promote Human Resource Development; Disaster Risk Management; Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.



OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENTATION:

The objective of the presentation is to share the experience of MWCPA, in coordinating key GBV service providers during the current COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji. Additionally, the presentation will cover the key lessons learnt in ensuring a coordinated and effective response to cases of GBV, particularly during the current COVID-19 pandemic and recent Tropical Cyclones.

BACKGROUND TO THE PRESENTATION TOPIC:

The three (3) tropical cyclones in 2020 to early 2021 and the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic in Fiji, makes the efforts of service providers for domestic violence more urgent than ever.

On the 15th of July 2021, Fiji's number of new COVID 19 cases peaked at 1, 405. As of August 22nd 2021 there have been 43,026 cases during the outbreak that started in April 2021 and a recorded total of 43,096 cases in Fiji since the first case was reported in March 2020.

It has been reported that the multiple crisis situation in Fiji has seen an increase in the number of domestic violence cases. Whilst this can be seen to be something that is to be expected during crisis, what is critical is how the response efforts to domestic violence and gender based violence cases are undertaken.

Fiji through the implementation of its Service Delivery Protocol (SDP) that was launched in 2018, is focused on strengthening its interagency response among social services and Government agencies.

KEY MESSAGES:

We are all aware of how crisis situations exacerbates the risk of domestic violence/ gender based violence.

Fiji's Service Delivery Protocol provides a multi-sectorial response to ensure that appropriate, timely and quality services are provided to survivors of gender based violence. The implementation of a well-coordinated effort is critical as Fiji also grapples with the impact of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

A major challenge when addressing cases of gender based violence would be the demand on service providers to handle multiple priorities as they are front liners during disasters and during the pandemic. The demands on health workers and the police and the restrictions of movement to essential service providers can put GBV victims at a greater risk.

It is therefore critical to promote and create awareness to the public on services that available. Services that are available to victims and services that members can access to refer cases of gender based violence.

It is also critical that front line workers are also provided with the necessary support to be able to carry out their work. Available services need to be available to address issues that will enable them to carry out their work as front liners during the pandemic and also as responders to cases of gender based violence.

New work processes need to be introduced in line with the new normal. The use of virtual conferencing and maximising the reach of social media platforms and the media in general is vital for the environment that we are operating in right now.