

UNICEF | Advancing Gender-
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COUNTRY CASE STUDY

**SOCIAL PROTECTION
AND WOMEN'S LIVELIHOOD
VULNERABILITIES DUE
TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN FIJI**

**UNICEF | Advancing Gender-Responsive
Social Protection in East Asia and Pacific**

Social Protection and Women's Livelihood Vulnerabilities due to Climate Change in Fiji

Country Case Study

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [Australian Government]
EAPRO	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
GRASSP	Gender-Responsive Age-Sensitive Social Protection
ILO	International Labour Organization
KII	Key Informant Interview
MWCSP	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection
UN Women	United Nations Programme for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Underlying gender inequalities and their intersections shape the effectiveness of social protection systems by influencing the risks and vulnerabilities individuals face. Women and girls navigate distinct challenges in education, employment, decision-making and caregiving responsibilities, which affect their access to and benefits from social protection. Many continue to face high rates of informal work, limited access to health and maternity protection, widespread gender-based violence and growing climate-related vulnerabilities.¹ Although social protection systems are expanding, there is still considerable potential to advance gender equality.

Integrating gender considerations into social protection can strengthen women's economic

empowerment and progress towards gender equality. Evidence demonstrates that well-designed and well-implemented social assistance can increase women's participation in the labour market, support savings and investments, expand access to healthcare and contraception, and boost school enrolment for girls and boys,² which is particularly critical for adolescent girls, for whom secondary school completion can be transformative. Gender-responsive social protection contributes to wider gains, such as poverty reduction, improved household well-being and stronger community resilience.³ When gender is overlooked or insufficiently addressed, social protection programmes may inadvertently reinforce gender stereotypes, deepen

1 ILOSTAT. 2024. 'Statistics in Asia and the Pacific'. ILOSTAT. www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Statistics+in+Asia+and+the+Pacific,+ILOSTAT&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8.
2 UNICEF. 2025. Impacts and Design of Social Assistance for Adolescent Girls' Empowerment and Well-Being in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: What works for adolescent girls. UNICEF, New York; and Kuss, M. K., Subrahmanian, R., Mathers, N., & Tirivay, N. 2024. Towards Gender-Responsive Social Protection: Evidence on policymaking, programme implementation and impacts for women and girls. UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, Florence. www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/9756/file/UNICEF-Innocenti-GRASSP-Synthesis-Report-2024.pdf.
3 Kuss, M. K., et al. (2024). Towards gender-responsive social protection: Evidence on policymaking, programme implementation and impacts for women and girls. UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, Florence.

inequalities and limit their transformative potential for women and girls.⁴

Research on the gender political economy of social protection is limited, particularly on how systems address specific gender inequalities and on the roles of different stakeholders, institutions and policy preferences in shaping policy outcomes. Even less is known about how adolescent girls are served or overlooked by these systems, especially during the school-to-work transition. This lack of evidence affects women and girls and undermines poverty reduction efforts, highlighting the need for research in these areas.

This report examines the gender-responsiveness of social protection in Fiji and assesses the political space for advancing this agenda at the national level. It explores how social protection systems respond to specific gender inequalities and identifies opportunities for change. Understanding these dynamics requires both a systems approach and a gendered political economy analysis. This country case study accompanies UNICEF's regional landscape mapping of gender-responsive social protection in East Asia and Pacific.⁵ Together, the two reports link broad policy trends with country-specific analyses of opportunities to advance gender-responsive social protection.

1.2 Unpacking the gender political economy of social protection

A gender political economy approach examines the negotiations between various stakeholders, including policymakers, women's movements, labour unions, ruling elites, donors and development partners, among others.⁶ These stakeholders hold different beliefs about women's roles and positions in society, as well as varying preferences regarding the type of support women should receive, how it should be delivered and for what purpose. Throughout the negotiation process, stakeholders strive to advance their preferences and beliefs by influencing the

policy process, while other stakeholders might be excluded from decision-making. These negotiations take place within a specific political and economic context.

This understanding reflects an integrated approach to studying the gender political economy of social protection. It aligns closely with the approach advanced by UNICEF's multi-year research programme, Gender-Responsive Age-Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP).^{7,8,9} While the various factors are interlinked, it is helpful to delineate four central components, as indicated in Table 1.

4 Perera, C., Bakrania, S., Ipince, A., Nesbitt-Ahmed, Z., Obasola, O., Richardson, D., Van de Scheur, J., and Yu, J. 2022. Impact of Social Protection on Gender Equality in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: A systematic review of reviews, Campbell systematic reviews, 18, 2, e1240; and Cookson, T. P. 2018. Unjust Conditions: Women's work and the hidden cost of cash transfer programmes (1st ed.). University of California Press.

5 UNICEF (2025) A Regional Landscape Mapping of Gender-Responsive Social Protection in East Asia and Pacific I UNICEF East Asia and Pacific. <https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/regional-landscape-mapping-gender-responsive-social-protection-east-asia-and-pacific>.

6 See Holmes, R., Jones, N. and Domingo, D. 2019. The Politics of Gender-Responsive Social Protection, Working Paper 568, Overseas Development Institute: London.; and Kuss et al. 2024.

7 Kuss et al. 2024.

8 For a review and concise overview of different gendered political economy approaches, please refer to Annex 2.

9 The study of the politics behind gender integration in social protection is relatively new. GRASSP is one of the few approaches that examine the policy processes behind the gender responsiveness of social protection systems. It builds on the 3-I framework – which analyses ideas, interests and institutions – and takes a step further by exploring this environment through a gender lens.

Table 1. Central components of the gender political economy analysis

Category	Category description
Key stakeholders	The broad range of stakeholders involved in social protection and their varying roles and relations. Stakeholders may include affected individuals, social movements and organisations, private actors, government and international agencies. Actors have different levels of influence to advocate for their interests and advance their vision.
Stakeholder's preferences and priorities	The different preferences of stakeholders, shaped by social norms, ideology and beliefs about the role of social protection in advancing gender equality. Competing perspectives negotiate for space in the design of social protection.
Gender mainstreaming structures	The formal and informal rules of the institutional arrangement that either facilitate or hinder gender integration in social protection. Includes normative and legislative frameworks, spaces for policy participation and dialogue, accountability mechanisms and decision-makers' gender expertise.
Broader context	The broader political and economic context, such as the ideology of the political party in power, the country's fiscal situation (including whether it is in recession or economic crisis), and the ability of the government to pass laws or reforms.

METHODS – GENDER POLITICAL ECONOMY CASE STUDIES

This country case study draws on primary and secondary data. For primary data, key informant interviews were conducted with diverse, high-level informants, including UNICEF staff, representatives from other United Nations agencies, government officials, activists, civil society organisations and other international organisations. The interviews were semi-structured to ensure that all topics of interest were covered, while allowing ideas and themes to emerge more spontaneously.

To complement the primary data, the research team conducted a desk review of relevant secondary sources. These included legal frameworks, national social protection strategies and policies, social protection programme documents, academic articles and reports from international organisations.

Despite the exploratory nature of the case studies and the constraints of a tight timeline and a limited number of key informant interviews, the findings were validated through data triangulation, an in-depth literature review and expert consultations.

Data was collected at the end of 2024, coinciding with major regional and international events in the development sector, such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Beijing+30. As a result, some invited participants were unable to take part in the study. Nevertheless, the findings provide valuable guidance and can serve as a practical reference for implementing partners seeking to ensure social protection benefits extend to women and adolescent girls. Further details on the conceptual and methodological approach are provided in [Annexes 1 and 2](#).



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2. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND WOMEN'S LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITIES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN FIJI

This chapter analyses the extent to which Fiji's social protection system addresses women's livelihood vulnerabilities caused by climate change. It examines contributory and non-contributory programmes and applies a gendered political economy analysis to assess the system's ability to respond. The study drew on a desk review of key documents and eight key informant interviews with

representatives from relevant government ministries, women's rights and civil society organisations, United Nations agencies and regional and international organisations. This chapter is structured in three sections: 1) women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change, 2) the social protection system's response, and 3) a gendered political economy analysis.

2.1 Women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change in Fiji

Fiji is highly vulnerable to climate-related hazards such as droughts, extreme rainfall, coastline erosion and rising sea levels. These and other climate impacts, such as saltwater intrusion and declining coral reefs, have wide-ranging social and economic implications for livelihoods and well-being. Women, given

their roles in households and communities, often experience distinct challenges during climate shocks. Adolescent girls, in particular, face life-course disruptions such as interrupted schooling, heightened risk of early marriage and reduced access to health services during crisis.

Factors such as differences in access to resources, caregiving responsibilities and participation in decision-making processes shape how individuals and families are affected by climate-related shocks.¹⁰ Women's unpaid care work, including caring for children, older people and persons with disabilities, limits their ability to engage in income-generating activities and build economic resilience.¹¹ Adolescent girls often assume additional caregiving responsibilities during disasters, which can keep them out of school and limit their future livelihood options. These responsibilities may also include roles in disaster preparedness, response and recovery, such as providing food and emotional support.

Women are highly engaged in the informal sector, particularly in small-scale agriculture and market vending, which are vulnerable to climate shocks.¹²

After Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, 88 per cent of market vendors who lost their livelihoods were women. This compounds the fact that households headed by divorced or unmarried women had a poverty rate 71 per cent higher than others. More than six months after the cyclone, many vendors still did not expect their incomes to recover for at least a year.¹³ Similarly, in Vunidogoloa, a coastal community that relocated due to rising sea levels, women reported significant

adjustments as they transitioned to new livelihoods and community structures¹⁴.

Access to productive assets, including land and fishing resources, is crucial to post-disaster recovery. While women in Fiji have legal rights to land inheritance and ownership, customary practices often influence land-related decision-making.¹⁵ Women earn roughly one-third less than men and are less likely to have cash savings, social insurance or productive assets.¹⁶ This gender asset gap affects adolescent girls too, limiting their inheritance rights, access to start-up capital or ability to enter secure forms of work.

Workplace safety and security also influence women's economic participation. Studies indicate that workplace harassment can impact productivity, job retention and overall workforce participation, particularly for those in less secure forms of employment. Twenty per cent of women surveyed reported experiencing sexual harassment at work, with higher levels reported by women in less secure or informal employment.¹⁷ As a result, women disproportionately struggle to rebuild livelihoods after climate shocks.

Climate change also impacts adolescent girls' well-being in Fiji. Research by Plan International documented the experiences of over 350 girls and young women in the

10 University of Notre Dame. 2020. 'Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative'. <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/>

11 Ibid.

12 Government of Fiji. 2021. Social Assistance Policy: Protecting the poor and vulnerable. https://wrđ.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Fiji_Social_Assistance_Policy.pdf

13 Ibid.

14 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH & Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Fiji. 2023. Culture-Gender-Relocation Nexus in iTaukei Villages: Supporting the implementation of the standard operating procedures for planned relocation in Fiji.

15 Government of Fiji. 2021.

16 ILO. 2016. Centralising Decent Work in the Response to Tropical Cyclone Winston. <https://www.ilo.org/publications/fiji-labour-market-update-april-2016>

17 ABD. 2022; and Parikh, R. 2024. Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Pacific: Implications for gender equality, economic development and women in Fiji.

Pacific, including Fiji, showing how climate change is altering the lives of girls and their communities.¹⁸ Adolescent girls in Fiji reported facing food insecurity, health problems such as headaches and skin infections due to hot temperatures and

changing weather patterns. Water scarcity also makes it challenging to manage menstruation safely, affecting their health, dignity and school attendance.

Box 1: Overall gender profile – Fiji

According to the World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Gender Gap Index, Fiji's gender parity stands at 64.2 per cent. Fiji's gender parity score had improved to 67.8 per cent between 2015 and 2020, but has since declined. Reflecting this trend, Fiji ranked 128th out of 146 countries in 2024, compared to 107th in 2022 and 121st in 2023.¹⁹ Gender norms continue to shape social and economic structures. Traditional expectations often place men in leadership roles within households and communities, while women take on caregiving and household management. These norms can also influence adolescent girls' education and career pathways.

2.2 Social protection responses

Fiji has demonstrated a commitment to addressing gender inequalities linked to climate change within its social protection policies and strategies. For example, Fiji's Social Assistance Policy commits to a gender-responsive and life-cycle approach. It explicitly recognises that crises such as disasters and climate change exacerbate existing gender inequalities, vulnerabilities and risks, including those faced by adolescent girls, such as education disruption, health risks and early entry into precarious work.²⁰ Fiji's Adaptive Social Protection Strategy

and Implementation Plan, launched in 2023, further articulates the country's commitment to strengthening the resilience of communities, households and individuals through preventing and reducing vulnerabilities to disaster and climate change impacts.²¹ The Strategy proposes two approaches to achieve this: 1) leveraging the government's existing social protection assistance programmes to inform current social assistance reforms, and 2) focusing support on high-risk locations impacted by disasters and climate change.²²

18 Godden, N.J., Naidu, K., Chakma, T., Leviston, Z., Nailevu, M., Alofa, P., Merryweather, J., Karoro, R., Hu, J., Scott, P., Wrigley, K. 2024. Pacific Girls in a Changing Climate. Plan International Australia and Edith Cowan University Centre for People, Place and Planet. <https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/pacific-girls-changing-climate#:~:text=Girls%20reported%20skin%20and%20stomach%20problems%20due,to%20climate%20change%20impacts%20on%20freshwater%20supply>

19 World Economic Forum. 2024. Global Gender Gap 2024: Insight Report. https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2024.pdf

20 Government of Fiji. 2021.

21 Ministry of Women Children and Social Protection. 2023. Adaptive Social Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan.

22 Ibid.



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Fiji's non-contributory (social assistance) programmes provide cash and non-cash support to women who are either unemployed or whose income is insufficient to meet their needs. The research identified several that help address women's livelihood vulnerabilities linked to climate change. These include the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Care and Protection Allowance and the Food Voucher Programme for rural pregnant women (see programme descriptions in Table 2 below). As adolescent girls are often dependents in affected households, these programmes, particularly the Care and Protection Allowance, can play an indirect but critical role in sustaining girls' access to schooling, health care and nutrition during recovery. Some social assistance programmes have been expanded during disasters, including top-ups provided after Cyclone Winston in 2016 and during the COVID-19 pandemic. While these programmes can support women facing such challenges, they do not explicitly target women or adolescent girls whose livelihoods are directly affected by climate change.

In addition to the regular social assistance programmes, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection (MWCSP) is developing the Welfare Graduation Programme. This initiative aims to reduce livelihood vulnerability by supporting social assistance recipients through long-term investments in life skills, technical training, enterprise development, savings and planning to help them transition to sustainable livelihoods.²³ If designed with age- and gender-specific pathways, such programmes could also help adolescent girls

acquire skills for climate-resilient livelihoods before entering the workforce. The programme is currently being revitalised as part of the Ministry's reform agenda, making the programme more gender-responsive.

The Government also administers various social protection-focused programmes through sector ministries. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture provides equipment, planting materials, training and grants to women farmers operating commercial farms or contributing to family or community farming in agriculture-based sectors vulnerable to climate change.²⁴ Although adolescent girls are not currently a direct target group, engaging them in agricultural youth activities could build resilience in climate-vulnerable sectors. A key objective of the Ministry's assistance is to support women farmers with crop diversification and training in climate-smart crops, such as drought-resistant varieties.

In addition to government-administered programmes, Fiji also has donor-funded programmes run by civil society organisations (CSOs). These programmes aim to build community livelihood resilience both before and after disasters. For example, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Fiji has implemented a cash voucher assistance programme since 2013, targeting women who lose livelihoods, face disasters or have low socio-economic status.²⁵ In some communities, these programmes have indirectly benefited adolescent girls by helping households maintain resources for school fees and menstrual health products after climate shocks.

23 Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection. 2024. 'Welfare Graduation Programmes'. <https://www.mwcsp.gov.fj/welfare-graduation-program/>

24 Ministry of Agriculture. 2022. '2022-2023 Financial Year Agriculture Development Programmes Announced'. <https://www.agriculture.gov.fj/pressdetail.php?id=432>

25 Adventist Development and Relief Agency. 2024. 'Fiji Livelihoods support'. ADRA. <https://fiji.adra.cloud/our-impact/livelihoods/>

Table 2: Non-contributory social protection programmes addressing women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change

Programme	Details
Government	
Poverty Benefit Scheme	Cash transfers to individuals, aimed at poverty reduction for vulnerable groups, including women. Supports households where adolescent girls may face food insecurity, risk of school disruption or inability to pay for uniforms, books or transport after climate shocks.
Care and Protection Allowance	Cash transfers for vulnerable children considered at risk of being deprived of education, health or other basic needs and women who have insecure livelihoods/financial shocks/hardship. Directly benefits adolescent girls as recipients or household dependents, protecting education continuity and access to healthcare during crises.
Food Voucher Programme for rural pregnant women	Food voucher assistance to help address food insecurity for vulnerable women providing support for up to six months. Indirectly benefits adolescent girls in the household or directly supports them if the pregnant woman is an adolescent.
Welfare Graduation Programme	Welfare to Work Strategy facilitates moving people into work with a specific focus on women who are single parents, widowed or not in employment.
	Welfare to Work Hiring Initiative provides skills training to start income-generating activities. Could be adapted to include pathways for older adolescent girls at risk of early school leaving, equipping them with climate-resilient livelihood skills.
Ministry of Agriculture Commercial Agriculture Crop Farming Initiatives and Commercial Agriculture Livestock Farming Initiatives programmes	Support (equipment, planting materials, training) for women farmers to build their resilience through crop diversification and climate-smart farming, and for women in sectors vulnerable to climate change. Opportunity to engage adolescent girls through agricultural youth training, apprenticeships or climate-smart farming education.
Reserve Bank of Fiji Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Credit Guarantee Scheme	Targets women entrepreneurs in sectors impacted by disasters and climate change (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) covering 75 per cent of the defaulted principal outstanding amount to women entrepreneurs with outstanding loan amounts to banks. Could encourage young women and older adolescent girls to pursue small-scale entrepreneurship with climate adaptation focus.
Non-government	
Adventist Development and Relief Agency Fiji Cash Voucher Assistance	Cash assistance programme for vulnerable groups, including women affected by disasters. Helps maintain adolescent girls' access to education, nutrition and menstrual health products after climate shocks.
Support (cash and in-kind) from family/community/other CSOs	Supports women whose livelihoods have become insecure through cash or in-kind support from church/community groups. Assists households with adolescent girls in meeting education, nutrition and healthcare costs during recovery.



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The most extensive contributory social protection programme in the country is the Fiji National Provident Fund. The Fund manages retirement savings and provides additional pre-retirement benefits such as housing, medical and education schemes. Membership is mandatory for formal (wage or salaried) workers, while informal sector workers can contribute to the fund voluntarily. The programme allows members to withdraw funds during periods of unemployment,²⁶ which is seen as a way to support women's financial needs and help them recover from economic shocks caused by disasters and climate events. Although the Fund is not designed for young people, financial literacy and voluntary savings pathways could be adapted for older adolescent girls in vocational training or entering the workforce, building their resilience to future climate and economic shocks.

South Pacific Business Development is a microfinance institution providing financial

products, business skills training and financial education to support women entrepreneurs who are vulnerable due to low income, livelihood risks from disasters or climate change and other disadvantages. This microfinance approach could be tailored to support older adolescent girls interested in self-employment or starting small-scale, climate-resilient enterprises, particularly in rural areas. The Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme, a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and UN Women, offers parametric insurance for women farmers and market vendors whose livelihoods are affected by climate-related events. Awareness campaigns linked to this programme could introduce adolescent girls, especially those in farming families or market vendor households, to the concept of climate risk insurance early, fostering long-term financial preparedness.

Table 3: Contributory social protection programmes addressing women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change

Programme	Details
Government	
Fiji National Provident Fund	Financial savings for long-term security; members can withdraw funds during periods of unemployment. Benefits adolescent girls indirectly through household stability. Could explore early-career financial literacy and voluntary savings options for older girls in vocational training.
Non-government	
South Pacific Business Development	Financial services and products to support women's livelihoods. Could create youth-focused microfinance pathways for older adolescent girls entering self-employment.
Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme	Donor-funded programme implemented by UNDP/UNCDF/UN Women provides microinsurance support to women farmers and market vendors whose livelihoods are impacted by climate-related events. Awareness-building for adolescent girls on climate risk, insurance literacy and future livelihood protection.

26 Fiji National Provident Fund. 2024. 'Withdrawal Policies Revised'. <https://myfnpf.com.fj/2023/07/27/fnpf-withdrawal-policies-revised/#:~:text=For%20Unemployment%20Withdrawal%2C%20members%20who,www.myfnpf.com.fj>

Interviews with stakeholders reveal a range of views on the effectiveness of gender integration in social protection programmes. One stakeholder noted:

“Before answering this question, I think it is important to look at the extent to which women are covered by social protection in Fiji. Look at the Fiji National Provident Fund: there is limited coverage of women compared to their share of the population. We know there is high unemployment among women,

and those in work often don't have protection as they are in informal employment. They have the voluntary contribution, but we know women will spend their money on family and others before thinking of savings or insurance.”

This observation is also relevant for adolescent girls, who may enter informal work early and remain outside contributory schemes, limiting their long-term protection against climate and economic shocks.

2.3 Political levers and moderators

Reducing women's vulnerability to climate-related events, particularly their livelihood vulnerabilities, requires understanding the political and economic dynamics within Fiji's social protection system. This section, therefore, examines: 1) the key stakeholders, 2) their preferences and priorities, 3) existing gender mainstreaming structures and 4) the broader political and financial context.

1. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The key stakeholders addressing and advocating for gender-responsive social protection include the government, particularly the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, and line ministries that make gender equality an explicit priority in their strategic plans. Civil society organisations, in particular women's rights and feminist groups such as the Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and DIVA for Equality, also play a significant

role in delivering community-based programmes and services and advocating for more inclusive development.²⁷ Some of these civil society organisations also run youth-focused or girl-centred initiatives, providing important entry points to address the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent girls in social protection. Key donor partners, such as the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), work on gender equality and women's empowerment and provide technical assistance on social protection to the government.²⁸ These donors could also leverage education, skills-building and leadership programmes targeting adolescent girls as part of resilience-building investments. Other key stakeholders include the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, which implement social protection programmes through funding and technical assistance while advocating for gender considerations in policy and programming.²⁹

27 KII-WRO-R-1, KII-UN-R-1, KII-ML-R-1

28 Ibid.

29 Asian Development Bank. 2022. Women's Resilience in Fiji: How laws and policies promote gender equality in climate change and disaster risk management. ADB. www.adb.org/publications/women-resilience-fiji-gender-equality-climate-change

The Government of Fiji

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection **plays a key role in overseeing** the government's primary social protection assistance programmes and leads policy-making and social protection reform.³⁰

While current priorities are framed broadly around women and vulnerable households, integrating adolescent girls into these priorities, particularly those at risk of early marriage, school disruption or unsafe work, could help strengthen the life-cycle approach already embedded in Fiji's Social Assistance Policy. Line ministries that deliver social protection support do so within their respective sectoral mandates, often collaborating with the MWCSP, particularly as many beneficiaries are drawn from existing social assistance programmes.³¹ The government also convenes consultations on social protection reform or review processes and announces changes to social assistance programmes.³²

During interviews, stakeholders highlighted **the importance of broad-based participation in decision-making processes.**³³ While the MWCSP plays a central role in social protection decision-making, some stakeholders pointed to opportunities for further engagement with line ministries and subnational government structures. Provincial and District offices are essential for programme delivery and strengthening direct community engagement. Such decentralised engagement could also provide channels for directly involving adolescent girls in programme consultations, ensuring their perspectives on climate, livelihoods and education are heard.

International organisations, civil society and the public

Donors and development partners play a key role in shaping the design of social protection programmes by providing resources and technical assistance to the government. Beyond government-led social assistance programmes, contributory schemes are often designed and implemented through collaborative processes involving government and non-government stakeholders.

For schemes like the Fiji National Provident Fund, governance processes are in place to address changes to its products and services. For donor-funded programmes implemented by civil society or international organisations, design is typically informed by consultations with relevant stakeholders at both community and national levels.³⁴ However, adolescent girls are not always explicitly included in these consultations, thereby missing an opportunity to capture their specific needs and aspirations.

These stakeholders often coordinate closely with the MWCSP, **using national datasets to align targeting approaches, minimise duplication and enhance outreach to people who might otherwise be missed.** Stakeholders also emphasised the importance of consulting intended beneficiaries and engaging gender specialists and women's rights organisations to share their expertise and insights from community networks. This consultation network could be expanded to include youth-led and girl-led organisations that can bridge the gap between formal policy-making and the lived experiences of adolescent girls.

30 MWCSP. (n.d.) www.mwcsp.gov.fj/about-us/; and KII-UN-R-1, KII-ML-R-1

31 Government of Fiji. 2024b. Fiji National Development Plan 2025-2029 and Vision 2050. https://www.finance.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NPDF_final-9.pdf

32 Ibid.

33 KII-CSO-R-1, KII-UN-R-1, KII-WRO-R-1

34 KII-CSO-R-1

Table 4: Stakeholder mapping – Fiji

Stakeholder	Role/responsibilities	Relevance to gender-responsive social protection
Government of Fiji (MWCSP and line ministries)	Administers social protection programmes, leads policymaking and reform, coordinates with other ministries, convenes consultations and announces programme changes.	Central to designing and implementing gender-responsive social protection policies. Requires broader inclusion of line ministries and subnational governments to ensure a multisectoral response that includes adolescent girls, especially those at risk of dropping out of school or early marriage due to climate impacts.
Civil society and women's organisations – Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, DIVA for Equality	Advocate for gender-inclusive policies, deliver community-based programmes and support vulnerable groups.	Ensure gender-responsive approaches by amplifying the voices of women, adolescent girls and marginalised groups, providing direct services and pushing for inclusive policies that address the specific vulnerabilities and empowerment needs of adolescent girls.
Key donor partners – DFAT, ADB, World Bank	Provide funding and technical assistance and advocate for gender considerations in social protection policy and programming.	Influence gender-responsive social protection design by prioritising women's and adolescent girls' empowerment and equality in programme implementation.
International organisations – UNICEF, UN Women, ILO	Implement and design social protection schemes, collaborate with government and CSOs and use national data for targeting beneficiaries.	Ensure gender-sensitive programme design by consulting affected populations, integrating gender specialists, and preventing gaps in assistance, particularly for adolescent girls facing intersecting vulnerabilities due to climate change.

2. STAKEHOLDER PREFERENCES AND PRIORITIES

The research identified several strategies stakeholders are using to address women's and adolescent girls' livelihood vulnerabilities to climate change. These include social protection measures that support recovery from shocks, promote livelihood diversification and help build savings. Stakeholders also provide complementary livelihood support initiatives, such as skills training and access to resources, to strengthen economic resilience.

These strategies are guided by sustained advocacy for more shock-responsive and

inclusive social protection to better address women's and adolescent girls' livelihood challenges. Stakeholders are also working to confront the underlying inequalities and norms that restrict women's and girls' opportunities, including unequal decision-making power, unpaid care burdens and barriers to leadership and economic advancement. As one organisation described: "We target the unequal gender norms that say that women are still expected to do cooking, cleaning, everything before they can attend the workshop. Even our women fishers, they are out for a long time at sea or in the river, and when they come back home, they are expected to look after the

children, cook and clean. So our message is about shared responsibility. We have to address these barriers first and influence the community to be more supportive of women.”³⁵

The research did not identify stakeholders who openly oppose integrating gender into social protection. However, interview respondents emphasised the importance of working collaboratively with traditional and community leaders to promote gender-responsive strategies while respecting cultural context.³⁶

3. GENDER MAINSTREAMING STRUCTURES

Coordination

Fiji has several government gender mainstreaming initiatives that can be leveraged to strengthen the social protection system's responsiveness to women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change. These include two pioneering national action plans – on gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment – both of which provide important entry points for supporting women's resilience. For example, the forthcoming Women's Economic Empowerment National Action Plan prioritises gender-responsive social protection, including support for women experiencing climate-related losses.³⁷

In 2020, the Government of Fiji endorsed the Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting initiative, led by the Ministry of Finance, to integrate gender analysis into national budgeting and promote equitable resource

allocation, with all 30 ministries implementing it by 2024–2025. Additionally, the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development Initiative, led by the MWCSP, strengthens government capacity for gender mainstreaming by equipping ministries with resources, forming Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups (GMAGs) and embedding gender equality in policymaking and programme delivery. Current investments in social protection reforms, supported by DFAT and the World Bank, include revisions to eligibility criteria and recertification processes, as well as the development of Fiji's Adaptive Social Protection Policy and Implementation Plan. These present opportunities to integrate gender-responsive approaches that consider the specific vulnerabilities of women and adolescent girls, including their access to education and protective services.

Gender analysis

Gender analysis to inform social protection programmes delivered by both government and non-government actors should be leveraged to ensure the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups, including adolescent girls, are addressed. Gender analysis appears to be key to ensuring that the design and targeting of social protection programmes reflect women's livelihood vulnerabilities and account for differences across contexts and climate-related risks, such as geographic location (rural, maritime or urban areas), age, disability, and socio-economic status.

To advance this, the capacity to conduct gender analysis within the MWCSP and other ministries should be strengthened so that staff

35 KII-CSO-R-1.

36 KII-CSO-R-1, KII-UN-R-1, KII-WR-R-1, KII-Gov-R-2.

37 Personal communication received on the Women's Economic Empowerment National Action Plan.



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can perform regular, robust gender analyses of programmes and policies. One stakeholder outlined the need for context-specific gender analysis to inform social protection: “If Fiji gets hit by a category 5 cyclone and factories get damaged where women predominantly work – this is the reality here in Fiji –how will the Government step in to provide support with the factory owners? First, do the factory owners have the insurance to cover their own interests and the workers as well?”³⁸

Capacity building

Stakeholders also emphasised the importance of strengthening technical capacity to implement gender-responsive social protection through targeted technical assistance. This includes sensitising decision-makers and administrators of social protection programmes in the continuum of care and the empathy and understanding required when designing and delivering support so that everyone can access assistance free from discrimination. As one stakeholder noted: “Fiji

is still very traditional when it comes to looking at social protection and emerging issues such as women’s economic vulnerabilities. We have to change the way in which we look at issues that are emerging – something like women’s livelihood vulnerabilities. We need to move away from individual assistance to holistic household-level assistance that truly addresses the needs of all women in need of support.”³⁹ This holistic approach must explicitly include adolescent girls, recognising their unique vulnerabilities within households and communities and ensuring their access to education, health and empowerment opportunities through social protection.

4. THE BROADER CONTEXT

The policy and legal context

Fiji’s legal and policy framework supports addressing women’s livelihood vulnerabilities. In recent years, significant progress has been made in integrating gender into the social

38 KII-WRO-R-1

39 KII-WRO-R-1

protection system, alongside efforts to enhance its shock responsiveness. The Constitution of Fiji protects fundamental rights, guarantees equality before the law and recognises every person's right to social security schemes (Section 37). Fiji is a signatory to key United Nations conventions for children and women, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and has national policies such as the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, National Gender Policy and action plans on gender based violence and women's economic empowerment.

Fiji's Social Assistance Policy prioritises gender responsiveness, explicitly focusing on vulnerable women as target groups for programmes such as the Care and Protection Allowance, the Social Pension Scheme, and the Food Voucher Programme for rural pregnant mothers.⁴⁰ Similarly, the National Development Plan includes a specific goal to empower vulnerable households through social protection, with a key strategy to "develop and implement comprehensive assistance programmes for households impacted by natural disasters".⁴¹

In 2023, the Government of Fiji, led by the Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and the MWCSPP, launched the Adaptive Social Protection Strategy, with support from the World Bank's Fiji Social Protection COVID-19 Response and System Development Project. Using the Social Protection Stress Test

Tool, this strategy assessed the system's adaptability to shocks, including those linked to climate change. The findings showed that "the Fijian adaptive social protection system is mostly at an emerging stage, with notable gaps in disaster risk financing and data".⁴²

Fiji's political context also supports inclusive social protection. Efforts to reduce inequalities based on geographic location, gender, age, disability and ethnicity began over a decade ago, with explicit commitments to inclusive development. In 2014, the government implemented fee-free primary and secondary education, expanded the Poverty Benefit Scheme to double coverage for vulnerable groups, introduced micro-credit programmes to support women's income-generating opportunities and established a national minimum wage.⁴³ From 2015 to 2018, policy reforms further strengthened inclusivity. The government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reformed the social welfare system and the Fiji National Provident Fund and developed national policies, including the 2017 National Ageing Policy and 2018 National Employment Policy.⁴⁴ These initiatives expanded social protection programmes targeting vulnerable populations, including women, youth, children, older adults and persons with disabilities. Sector-specific policies, such as the Fiji National Climate Change Policy, Planned Relocation Guidelines and the Policy for Gender in Agriculture (2022–2027), also integrate gender considerations and acknowledge the specific impacts of climate change on women.⁴⁵

40 Government of Fiji. (2021). *Social Assistance Policy - Protecting the poor and vulnerable*. https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Fiji_Social_Assistance_Policy.pdf.

41 Government of Fiji. (2024b). *Fiji National Development Plan 2025-2029 and Vision 2050*. https://www.finance.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NPDF_final-9.pdf.

42 World Bank Group. (n.d.). *Fiji Social Protection COVID-19 Response and System Development Project*. World Bank. <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P175206>

43 Chung, M. 2022. Regional: Enhancing ADB's support for social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. ADB.

44 Ibid.

45 Government of Fiji. 2024c. *Policy for Gender in Agriculture*. www.agriculture.gov.fj/documents/policies/Gender%20Booklet%202022%20Final.pdf

Fiji's commitment to gender-responsive social protection extends to the regional level.⁴⁶ As part of the 2021 Pacific Islands Forum, leaders commissioned a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19. Policy recommendations emphasised the importance of developing “equitable, inclusive and accessible gender-responsive social protection policies that are human rights-based and contextualised to the Pacific,” with commitments to long-term, gender-sensitive and shock-responsive programmes aligned with the SDGs.⁴⁷ This regional commitment supports an increased focus on the needs of adolescent girls, recognising their heightened vulnerability to climate and socioeconomic shocks and the necessity of targeted social protection to safeguard their education, health and empowerment.

The financial context

Most funding for social protection is allocated annually from Fiji's national budget. In the 2024–2025 national budget, the government allocated F\$200 million to the MWCSF for its social assistance programmes.⁴⁸ This is separate from allocations made by various sector ministries that deliver social protection-focused programmes in education, health, agriculture, and rural development. Between 2012 and 2018, government expenditure on social protection grew by 37 per cent, with the largest increases for child protection, microinsurance for women and support for persons with disabilities and older people.⁴⁹

However, social protection provisions show some gender disparities. In 2018, the Social Protection Indicator^[28] was 1.2 per cent of GDP per capita for women compared to 2.1 per cent for men.⁵⁰ According to ADB analysis, this disparity is primarily due to a disproportionate share of male membership and benefits in large social insurance programmes, such as the Fiji National Provident Fund and other pension schemes. Women are less likely to have formal employment, often earn less than men and consequently benefit less from contributory schemes.⁵¹ While women tend to receive slightly more social assistance benefits due to their socioeconomic conditions, their overall social protection remains significantly lower because of the large employment-related coverage gap.

Outside the Government, donor and development partners also commit financial resources to support gender-responsive social protection. This includes significant contributions from the Government of Australia, the World Bank, and the ADB for disaster response and social protection reforms. For example, DFAT's Partnerships for Social Protection programme provides technical assistance to the Fiji Department of Social Welfare for reform processes and offers training on integrating gender, disability and social inclusion into social protection. This funding and technical support are essential for expanding coverage and ensuring programmes are accessible to adolescent girls, particularly those facing intersecting vulnerabilities such as poverty, disability or geographic isolation.

46 This includes the 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific and enabled through key commitments including the Framework for Resilient Development to Climate Change and Disaster Risks, the Revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, and Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights.

47 Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. 2021. Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in the Pacific Region, 2020–2021. <https://forumsec.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/SEIA-Report.pdf>

48 Prakash, P. 2024. 'Social Protection reforms underway'. Fiji Broadcasting Cooperation News. <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/social-protection-reforms-underway/>.

49 Chung, M. (2022). Regional: *Enhancing ADB's support for social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. Asian Development Bank.

50 Ibid.

51 Ibid.



3. CONCLUSION

This report has examined the extent to which Fiji's social protection system addresses women's livelihood vulnerabilities arising from climate change, analysing both the system's responsiveness and the political economy factors shaping its evolution. The evidence shows that prevailing gender inequalities in Fiji mean women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change, facing heightened risks to their livelihoods, well-being and long-term prospects. The findings point to three key insights:

First, **climate impacts are gendered and vary across the life course**. Women, particularly those working in informal and climate-sensitive sectors, face disproportionate losses after shocks. Adolescent girls experience school disruptions, health risks, such as challenges managing menstruation due to water scarcity, and increased unpaid care responsibilities. After Tropical Cyclone Winston, for instance,

88 per cent of market vendors who lost their livelihoods were women, and poverty rates for households headed by divorced or unmarried women were 71 per cent higher than those of others. Experiences of relocation, such as those in Vunidogoloa, show how transitions to new livelihoods can alter gender roles and exacerbate vulnerabilities. Persistent gaps in assets, income and savings, including lower rates of membership and benefits in contributory schemes, reduce women's capacity to recover and invest in resilience.

Second, **social protection already contributes to resilience but targeting and design can be further strengthened**. A mix of non-contributory programmes, such as the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Care and Protection Allowance, and the Food Voucher Programme for rural pregnant mothers, along with community and donor initiatives, has supported recovery, protected

basic consumption, and indirectly sustained girls' access to schooling, nutrition, and health. Contributory and financial services, including the Fiji National Provident Fund withdrawal provisions, South Pacific Business Development microfinance and parametric microinsurance under the Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme, provide additional buffers. However, these services often under-serve women and older adolescent girls, who are concentrated in informal work and have fewer assets.

Third, **political, institutional and financing levers are advancing, yet gaps in data, shock financing and inclusive participation remain.** Fiji's Adaptive Social Protection Strategy and ongoing reforms are aligned with national commitments, including constitutional guarantees, National Development Plan goals and gender and disability policies. Gender mainstreaming initiatives, such as Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting across ministries, Gender-Transformative Institutional Capacity Development, and the forthcoming National Action Plan on Women's Economic Empowerment, create enabling conditions for integrating gender into design, budgeting and delivery. Stakeholders, including the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection and line ministries, civil society organisations, such as the Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and DIVA for Equality, and partners such as DFAT, ADB, World Bank, UNICEF, UN Women and the International Labour Organization (ILO), are advocating for shock-responsive, inclusive systems and for tackling underlying norms such as unequal care burdens and barriers to leadership and decision-making.

However, diagnostics indicate the system is at an emerging stage, with notable gaps in disaster risk financing and data. Gender-disaggregated coverage and benefit gaps, such as the overall Social Protection Indicator for women being 1.2 per cent of GDP per capita compared to 2.1 per cent for men, underscore structural disadvantages in employment-related contributory schemes. Consultations and programme governance often do not sufficiently include adolescent girls, limiting their voice and relevance.

Several opportunities have been identified to strengthen the current social protection system's response to women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change. These include continued investment in shock-responsive, adaptive social protection that recognises women's livelihoods and climate-affected communities or households as specific criteria for assistance, and extends coverage to livelihood loss and other intersecting issues such as gender-based violence, women's unpaid care burden and the needs of women in communities undergoing relocation. This should be informed by quality data, robust gender analysis and holistic needs assessments to better understand the needs of women, young women, and girls in all their diversity. A multisector and multi-stakeholder approach that brings together government, civil society and the private sector is essential to design social protection solutions that address not only the immediate impacts of climate change, such as more frequent and intense weather events, but also the medium- and long-term impacts, including displacement and loss of productive land and sea resources.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Conceptualising a gendered political economy approach

Gaining commitment to integrate gender into social protection is not easy, as it involves several factors and challenges. Advocates may struggle to find allies or face opposition due to deeply ingrained national values, existing power relations and varied vested interests concerning women's rightful place and perceived deservingness in society; in addition to the existing institutional arrangement and contextual factors that are also decisive. These rapid case studies use Political Economy Analysis as an analytical framework because it helps identify the political, economic and social contexts, as well as the stakeholders, their interests, relations and institutional arrangements that shape the complex political processes driving or obstructing the integration of gender into social protection.

The study of the politics behind gender integration in social protection is relatively new. A notable exception is the work by Holmes and Jones (2019), who draw on the 3-I framework for policy analysis to examine ideas, interests and institutions relevant to the integration of gender into social protection. Drawing on a literature review, they examine i) the institutional

arenas – the elections and party politics, the legislature and the judiciary – where negotiations take place, ii) the interests and power balances between key stakeholders such as political elites, bureaucrats and civil society organisations, and iii) the ideas about poverty, deservingness and social policy held by elites and the public. However, their approach tends to treat the three variables as largely separate entities, thereby overlooking their interdependence and oversimplifying the inherent complexity of real-world policy negotiation processes.

A more recent approach to studying the integration of gender into social protection has been advanced by UNICEF's multi-year research programme GRASSP.⁵² This approach also builds on the 3-I framework but combines it with process tracing, yielding a more comprehensive analytical framework. It views the integration of gender into social protection as the outcome of complex, evolving negotiations among stakeholders with differing preferences and influences, all operating within a specific institutional context. Below, we summarise the core elements and dimensions of this analysis framework, as described by Kuss et al.

52 Kuss, M. K., et al. (2024). Towards Gender-responsive Social Protection. Evidence on Policymaking, Programme Implementation and Impacts for Women and Girls. UNICEF Innocenti - Global Office of Research and Foresight. www.unicef.org/innocenti/media/9756/file/UNICEF-Innocenti-GRASSP-Synthesis-Report-2024.pdf.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND RELATIONS

The first element refers to the broad range of stakeholders involved in social protection and their varying levels of power, which depend on their capacities and available resources. Stakeholders are diverse, ranging from affected individuals, social movements and organisations to private actors, government and international agencies. These actors are drawn to this particular issue and come together to advocate for their interests and vision of this agenda. However, their level of influence depends on their power and various other factors.⁵³

POLICY IDEAS

The second element addresses the different preferences of each stakeholder, including their social norms, ideology and beliefs about the role of social protection in advancing gender equality, the gender barriers across different life-cycle stages, and the extent to which deserving women and other populations are entitled to social support. This diversity of views competes and negotiates for space in the design of social protection. Perspectives such as those of women, civil society organisations, and academia are often better informed on the issue and push for more progressive ideas. However, they do not always have the power to influence the agenda.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING STRUCTURES, PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS

The third element addresses the formal and informal rules of the institutional arrangement that either facilitate or hinder gender integration in social protection during policy design and/or implementation. It pertains to the existing normative and legislative frameworks (particularly national commitments to gender equality), spaces for policy participation and dialogue, accountability mechanisms and the capacity of decision-makers to operationalise gender responsiveness within the social protection system. Some examples of institutional arrangements that facilitate dialogue on public issues include parliamentary discussions, democratic participation mechanisms and gender commissions.

THE BROADER CONTEXT

The final element relates to the broader political, economic and social context that can affect the gender responsiveness of social protection. For example, factors such as the political party in power and its ideology, the country's fiscal situation (including whether it is experiencing a recession or economic crisis), and the social support and legitimacy of the government to pass laws and reforms.

53 Moon, S. 2019. Power in Global Governance: An expanded typology from global health. *Global Health* 15 (Suppl 1), 74.

Annex 2. Detailed methodology of the case study

Ladysmith, UNICEF EAPRO and the UNICEF field office in Fiji jointly identified women's livelihood vulnerabilities due to climate change as the focus of the Fiji case study. The research employed a qualitative research design, drawing on a purposeful mix of secondary and primary data gathered through a desk review and key informant interviews (KIIs) with diverse stakeholders, including civil society, United Nations agencies and multilateral and regional organisations (see Table 1). A rapid review of more than 30 documents was undertaken using online search tools, including Google and Google Scholar, as well as documents shared by stakeholders. Key documents included Fiji Government reports, policies and frameworks on social protection, gender and climate, along with research and policy analysis on women's economic resilience and climate change. Content from the literature review was mapped to the key research questions and used to refine the interview guide based on identified data gaps.

Five KIIs were conducted with representatives from civil society (a women's rights/feminist

organisation), a United Nations agency, a multilateral and a regional organisation and a donor-funded programme (see Table 5 below). The sampling criteria for the interviews was based on key criteria including 1) sample target of 5-10 KIIs, 2) stakeholders who represented diverse voices and mandates across government and non-government sectors, 3) stakeholders who could respond to the key research questions and thematic topic, 4) stakeholders who had a leadership/decision-making role at the national level with influence over social protection policy and programming. The interviews were semi-structured, guided conversations that ensured all topics of interest were covered while allowing for ideas and themes to emerge during discussion. This iterative approach enabled a flexible information-discovery process, with stakeholder perspectives and local knowledge reconstructed through data collection and analysis to inform recommendations for strengthening the gender responsiveness of social protection policies and programmes.

Table 5. Stakeholders consulted - Fiji

Stakeholder group	Organisation
Government actors	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection; Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Civil society/women's rights organisation	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
United Nations agency	UN Women Fiji Multi-Country office
Multilateral international organisation	World Bank
Regional inter-governmental organisation	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Donor-funded programme	USAID Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership



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There were key limitations to this study that must be acknowledged, as they influence the interpretation of the findings and recommendations. Primary data collection was conducted at a time when competing priorities and events, such as COP29 and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review, made key government representatives unavailable for interviews. Therefore, this case study does not include perspectives from government stakeholders to provide a more complete view of the extent

to which current social protection policies and reforms specifically address women whose livelihoods have been impacted or are at risk of being affected by climate change. Limited access to disaggregated data focusing on adolescent girls' vulnerabilities and needs related to climate change and social protection also constrained the ability to fully capture and analyse the unique challenges faced by adolescent girls within broader gendered livelihood vulnerabilities.

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