

BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

+30



KIRIBATI PROGRESS REPORT

**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM
FOR ACTION
(2020-2024)**

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ACRONYMS

AMAK	Aia Mwaea Ainen Kiribati
ATHKL	Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Kiribati Limited
AUSaid	Australian aid programme
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ESGBV	Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
GoK	Government of Kiribati
KDP	Kiribati Development Plan
KEF	Kiribati Education Fund
KEIP	Kiribati Education Improvement Programme
KFHA	Kiribati Family Health Association
KRCS	Kiribati Red Cross Society
KV20	Kiribati 20-year Vision 2016-2036
MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development
MoE	Ministry of Education
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MCIA	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
MWYSSA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs
SPC	Secretariat for the Pacific Community
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Family Population Report
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Beijing Platform for Action or the BPfA is a landmark document for advancing the rights of women and gender equality worldwide. The BPfA affirmed the principles that would govern future actions and strategies for women, and firmly set in place an agenda for empowering women by integrating their concerns in national plans and policies. Kiribati Governments adopted and approved National Approach to Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence policy and its NAP (2011-2021) which has been reviewed/ revised in 2023. A Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy (2019-2022) is in place with gender mainstreaming as its priority as a strategy to advance women's rights in the country, and to soon be reviewed/updated.

This Kiribati Progress Report focuses on the Implementation of the BPfA and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly is in preparation for the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the 69th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2024. This BPfA+30 Report provides an overview of the major achievements and challenges since the passage of the BPfA in 1995; updates on the 12 BPfA areas of concern covering the period 2020- 2024.

Methodology and Process

Women's Development Division (WDD) in MWYSSA, the national machinery on the advancement of women and gender equality in Kiribati, adopted a participatory process in the development of the BPfA+25 Progress Report. Three consultations with CSOs and two with Government stakeholders MWYSSA were held to go through details of areas of the report. Participation lists are as in ANNEX ... The B+30 Report questionnaire was shared during the consultations going through in an in-depth discussion to clarify issues and concerns.

WDD lead and staff as a team, with technical support of UN Women country team undertook the task of compiling the feedback from stakeholders to produce first draft Report and went on a weekend retreat offsite. Through group working and sharing of the key reporting areas between groups, WDD managed to complete around 80% of the report at the end of the weekend retreat. A 100% complete draft report agreed to be done in May for circulation to stakeholders and final validation to be finalized for Cabinet approval.

SECTION ONE: HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past five years, Kiribati has embarked on a comprehensive country-level review process aimed at enhancing various facets of societal development. This process involved evaluating and refining measures related to social protection, access to justice, education, empowerment, and policy reforms, with a particular focus on promoting gender equality and inclusion. Kiribati is advancing its work in the gender space, for climate resilience, fisheries, and social protection and continues to strengthen existing mechanisms and frameworks in both the formal and informal sectors. However, gender disparities remain and urgently need to be addressed, particularly in relation to reproductive health and technology, as well as the under-representation of women in the STEM fields and in leadership. Additionally, emerging issues related to the impacts of climate change require immediate attention.

SECTION TWO: PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

Priorities and Achievements

Over the past five years, the government has taken significant initiatives to prioritize social protection and enhance the well-being of its citizens. These efforts have included the launching of the new social protection program known as the Support Fund for Unemployed and increasing the social benefits of the existing program which are the Social Citizen Allowance and Disability Support Allowance ; strengthening the education system by improving infrastructure and integrating Social Citizenship Education and Family Life Education into the curriculum; empowering women; and enhancing mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) against women, girls, and children.

The government's commitment to creating a prosperous, healthy, and happy home for its citizens has also advanced support for gender normative work through several key areas:

- Increase recognition of gender work in the climate change and fisheries space
- Support and strengthen GBV programs that exist and merge to eliminate gender-based violence.
- Increase support to the economic empowerment opportunities to women.

1. Increase recognition of gender work in the climate change and fisheries space

The National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) in the Office of Te Beretitenti (OB) revised the first national adaptation plan known as the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP 2014-2023), integrating gender perspectives by improving KJIP gender indicators as well as including other activities that promote and strengthen gender responsiveness and inclusiveness. Disaster management for outer islands has established Island Disaster Committees where women are also represented.

The South Tarawa Drought Management Plan (STDMP) was revised in 2023 during the drought crisis and now has more activities for the roles of gender in different phases of drought such as prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. And for the first time, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs has jointly led with NDMO for a gender responsive STDMP.

The Women Resilience to Disaster (WRD) Program 2022-2025 of UN Women, coordinated by MWYSSA will prepare women and girls to withstand the impact of climate change and disaster, supporting government mechanisms for early warning systems and reform of policies and legislation to mainstream climate change and disaster component to prepare everyone, in particular; the vulnerable groups to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from the impact of climate change and disasters. The Aia M'aea Ainen Kiribati (AMAK), the national women umbrella organization works on a component of WRD program for a targeted result to build resilience capacity of women in communities in Tarawa and Outer Islands.

By other stakeholders, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD) completed a gender analysis for fisheries sector, providing training on how to do gender analysis and then visited a few islands in Kiribati to conduct their gender analysis. The Community-Based Fisheries Management (CMFM) integrates gender perspectives by including women in the planning and designing phases, such as moving away from traditional meeting practices (meeting in maneaba – traditional big meeting house where women are not invited) to ensure women fully and freely participate during meetings. This is one way of promoting gender equality in decision making by shifting from our traditional meeting structures.

2. Support and strengthen GBV programs to eliminate Gender-Based Violence.

The national survey (KFHSS) result in 2010 showed that 68% of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 had experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime and the Kiribati Social Development Indicator (KSDIS 2021) showed that 67% of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 had experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime critically put Kiribati to take the immediate action to strengthen its GBV prevention and response mechanism to address this issue. The 1% per cent GBV reduction shows a positive sign that progress is being made in eliminating GBV. Apparently, however, more work and effort are needed for increased results in reducing GBV rates.

Responding to the 2010 findings, the government created and mandated the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs to coordinate and strengthen GBV prevention and response mechanisms. The Strengthening Peaceful Villages Program (SPV) 2017-2023, aimed to reduce violence rates by adopting a prevention approach. The South Tarawa Healthy Living (baseline) Study 2019 of the SPV revealed significant rates of intimate partner violence (IPV), with 38% of ever-partnered women experiencing physical and/or sexual IPV in the past 12 months. Among men, 57% reported perpetrating physical and/or sexual IPV, with high rates of emotional.

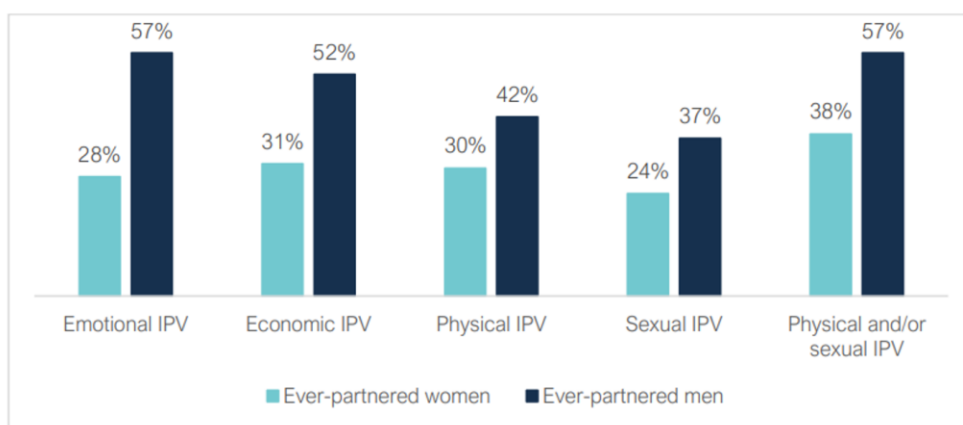


Figure 1: women's experiences and men's perpetration of different types of intimate partner violence, in the past 12 months, among ever-partnered women and ever-partnered men.

The 2022 Midline study findings (SPV) revealed that those who participated in this program were more proactive in providing support to women and children experiencing violence in their communities, being proactive bystanders, and understanding the gendered power dynamics in their own household and in the community.

The Kiribati Male Behavioural Change (KMBC) initiative works with men to address GBV and gender inequities at home. Between 2020 and 2023, the KMBC refresher training to the members and the outreach program to men have been conducted on these islands- Butaritari, Abaiang, Maiana, Arorae, and South Tarawa communities in Bonriki, Temwaiku, Bikenibeu, Ambo, and Betio. This program focuses on changing behaviors that are abusive and associated with our harmful norms and practices plus SRHR through trainings and radio program – drama and awareness on KMBC sessions. The impact of this program has caused churches such as Catholic to invite KMBC members to train men and women on KMBC training package and SRHR and the KUC Women group to invite KMBC members to share their experience and conversion (changing from their abusive behaviors) and engagement in this program.

The SafeNet team Service Providers was established more than a decade but was renamed to SafeNet in 2014 with the same team members to continuously functions to train key staff in the GVB SOPs, for standard and proper manner service to survivors of violence. SOPs for SAFENET, Police, Social Welfare, KWCS, have been developed to guide work in responding to survivors' safety and protection. The Police Officers receive continuous refresher training on laws (the Children and Young Family Welfare Act and the Te Rau N Te Mwenga Act- FPA) and their responsibilities while interacting with survivors. Police SOP manual has been developed and in the pipeline for translation to Kiribati language.

A National SAFENET Summit was held in June 2023 in Tarawa confirmed the roll out of the SAFENET SOP by bringing in all Mayors (outer island councils), the Clerks, the Police Officers, the Medical Assistance, and the Administrative Social Welfare Officer. Training on Gender, and on the SOPs, their roles in supporting survivors of gender-based violence and addressing GBV on their respective islands was conducted. In Dec 2023, the same Summit was done in Kiritimati Island for the Line and Phoenix Group for the same group of participants.

Kiribati has a larger female population than males, and many of these women are unemployed rated as 2 percentage points higher than the male rate as stated in the 2020 Kiribati Census Report, thus: making them the most vulnerable members of society, alongside youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The government affirms that working together to empower women economically will enhance women's engagement in business and decision-making at home, as

well as lessen domestic violence that they continue to experience in their life. Programs developed by keyline ministries in conjunction with NGOs, CSOs, and FBOs have resulted in an increase in income-generating activities and the number of female entrepreneurs (refer to Critical Area 6)

The introduction of the Support Fund for Unemployed citizens (SFU) in 2020 aged 18-59 in the amount of \$50 per month/\$150 per quarter, the rise in the amount of Disability Support Allowance (DSA) for disability aged 5 and above which ranged between \$30-\$60 dollars to \$50-\$80 depend on the doctor's medical report and the Senior Citizen Allowance (SCA) for elderly people (60 years and above) from \$60 a month to \$100 fortnightly and/or \$200 per month. These empowerment programs, particularly those aimed at women, have produced significant results in areas such as skill development, economic literacy, and in decision making at homes.

CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

Progress has not been without challenges. Gender disparities persist, particularly in the areas of women's economic empowerment and gender-based violence. Mainstreaming gender into policies and legislation has not advanced as expected, although opportunities for gender equality are ostensibly available. Nonetheless, gender inequality remains in other critical areas such as reproductive health and rights, decision-making, and representation in STEM fields.

Additionally, the impacts of climate change exacerbate these challenges, negatively affecting women's economic empowerment, health, and education. Harmful cultural norms and practices also continue to hinder the advancement of gender equality nationally.

Promising Practices

1. Family Life Education and Youth Engagement

Kiribati has made strides by integrating Family Life Education (FLE) for out-of-school youths, focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and life skills. This initiative aims to instill essential survival skills and an understanding of gender concepts and responsibilities from a young age. This proactive educational approach equips youth with the knowledge and values necessary for responsible citizenship and gender equality.

2. School Curriculum Integration and Women's Empowerment Programs

The incorporation of Social Citizenship Education (SCE) and Family Life Education (FLE) into the school curriculum stands out as a transformative practice. By embedding these topics into educational programs, Kiribati fosters positive societal values and equips students with critical life skills.

In parallel, targeted empowerment programs for women, including training in handicrafts, cooking, financial literacy, and budgeting, encouraging a comprehensive approach to addressing gender disparities. These programs not only enhance women's economic opportunities but also promote inclusive development.

3. Collaborative Approaches to Disability and Gender Rights

Kiribati's collaborative efforts with NGOs and development partners in implementing the Gender Equality and Women Development Policy and the National Disability Policy specify strategies for advancing the rights of diverse populations. WDD collaborates with the Disability Division of MWYSSA to assist with resource limitation and expertise, to the government's ability to address the multifaceted needs of persons with disabilities and promote their meaningful participation in society.

Kiribati's multifaceted approach to social development, which includes social protection, education, empowerment, and policy reforms, highlights the country's commitment to advancing gender equality, inclusion, and justice. While notable achievements have been made, ongoing challenges necessitate continued efforts and innovative solutions to ensure progress for all segments of society. By sharing and scaling promising practices, Kiribati offers valuable lessons for other countries striving to overcome similar challenges.

SECTION THREE: PROGRESS ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

CRITICAL AREA A: WOMEN AND POVERTY

Kiribati's poverty rate was 22 per cent in 2006, one of the highest among the Pacific. On the Basic Needs Poverty Line (BNPL) which has two main components, Food and Non-Food essential, differs across the Kiribati groups of islands with the national average at \$16.09 per week per capita adult equivalent. Figs 1 and 2 below illustrates the poverty rates across the Kiribati nationally, and by key regions, i.e., South Tarawa, Rest/Outer Islands and Line and Phoenix Group (LINNIX) depicting majority of people living below poverty line.

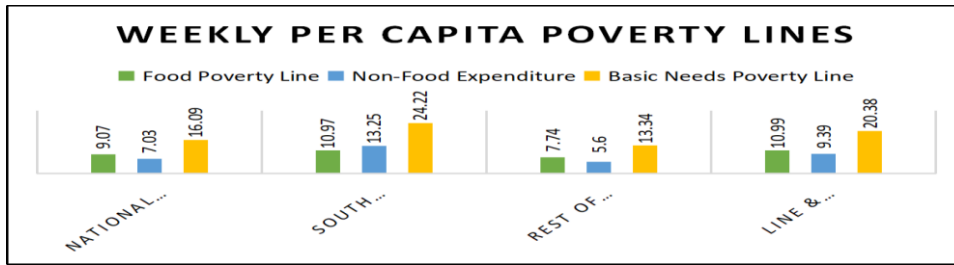


Figure 2. Poverty indicator (NSO 2019)

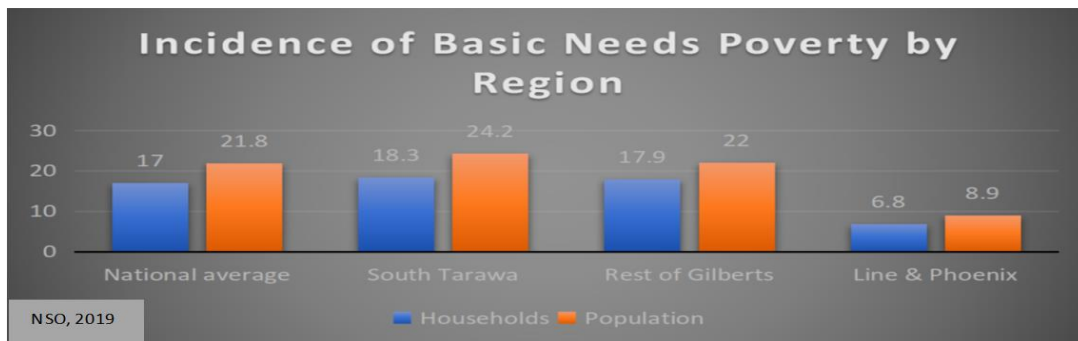


Figure 3. Poverty by Region (NSO 2019)

In comparing the depth and severity of poverty by region there is indication that women living in this situation face hardship and struggle each day to meet ends needs. In the 2010 KFSS result, women who have experienced more violence in their life are unemployed compared to employed women.

Over the last five years, the government take actions to reduce poverty among women and girls through initiatives and collaboration between governments, CSOs, and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs). Government’s KV20 under “Wealth Pillar” aims to promote holistic development by focusing on and improving natural capital, human capital, and cultural capital, that not only aims to spur economic growth but also address poverty alleviation. Fisheries and Tourism are singled out as crucial productive sectors for attaining the country’s development aspirations and contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Promoting Economic Opportunities

A good number of initiatives by Government, working with CSOs/NGOs and FBOs have progressed during the reporting period:

- Targeted training for women on handicrafts and cooking skills, food preservation, financial literacy, budgeting, business training, to name a few

- Between 2020 and 2023, the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry, and Cooperatives (MTCIC) developed two virgin coconut oil (VCO) facilities and has helped women production of VCO: one in Butaritari in the north and one in Tabiteuea South in the south. These two facilities offer pure and healthy body oil, coconut coffee, and soap, to name a few.
- Every year, the Ministry celebrates Coconut Day for a week on the outer island, followed by economic empowerment training in handicrafts, sewing, and financial literacy.

MTCIC hosts an annual expo/trade for local products and women benefits by showcasing and selling their products. During the expo, women, and youth from various women's organizations across the outer islands present and sell their local products, including virgin coconut oil, soap, handicrafts, Mauri wear blouses and dresses, local dried seafood, and crop foods. This event not only provides a market for their goods but also highlights the significant contributions of women to the local economy.



Photo 1: national expo/trade on local products

- MWYSSA through Women Development Division have conducted economic empowerment trainings in ten outer islands including South Tarawa with 30 participants for each islands including people with disabilities and men.

A youth loan scheme started in 2018 targeting young women, young men and young couples. The youth loan scheme was launched during the National Youth Day 2017 with the amount of \$20,000 and was given to DBK to operate it with the interest rate of 3% only and the administration fee of \$1. Given this loan scheme can be accessed by those on South Tarawa, it is

also important to extend this loan scheme to the outer Islands so that youths are also empowered to activate and build on their business skills. The Purpose of this program is to expand the scheme's coverage to any youth and young couples that would be interested to set up their small business particularly to those who are unemployed and experienced hardships in their family. The start-up capital is \$500 per person. This program was funded by the recurrent budget and there is a total number of 45 young women and 23 young already started their small businesses.

In terms of skills building training. The purpose of this program is to provide a pathway for the youths in building their capacity to enable them to become Self Reliant. This program offered variety of skills including cooking, jewelry makings, making decorations out of recycled plastics, rubbers bottles, screen printing, agriculture and fishing skills, banana chips and virgin oils, outboard motor and motorcycle maintenance, solar maintenance, financial literacy etc. The skills building training involved key partners from keyline ministries including MFMRD, MCTIC, MELAD, Solar company etc. These trainings were funded from the recurrent budget and there were less than 1,000 young men and young women have been trained in this program. In regard to SRHR and life skills trainings, young people were trained on gender and sex, ethical by-standing, decision making, setting goals, gender-based violence, healthy family concept, the effect of using alcohol and smoking, STI and Aids etc. This training will enable them to make positive decisions in their lives and become good citizens and to be protected from health issues and unwanted pregnancy. This program involved key partners such as MWYSSA, MHMS and Youth Peer Expanded Networks and was funded by UNFPA. Approximately more than 5,000 youth have been receiving SRHR and Life Skills training.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD) provided training in dry boneless fried fish, tuna jerky, and seaweed ice cream, as well as handcrafts made from marine resources. Nei Tengarengare Division (MFMRD), in partnership with the Tourism Authority of Kiribati, provides training on plastic bottle reuse starting on South Tarawa first.



Photo 2: MFMRD Free Repurposing Training

Women Groups and NGO Empowerment Programs

Teitoiningaina, a Catholic Women's Organization in Kiribati, plays a crucial role in empowering women by providing training in handicraft skills. This initiative enables women of their faith and the wider community to contribute to their families' welfare. The organization operates a facility where women from around Kiribati, particularly Catholic women, can supply their handicraft products, ensuring a steady source of income and preserving traditional crafts.

Similarly, AMAK, the national umbrella organization for women's groups in Kiribati (excluding Teitoiningaina), has enhanced its infrastructure with recent maintenance on its two buildings. These facilities are dedicated to empowering women through various training programs. The programs include sewing and sewing machine maintenance, cooking nutritious meals, preserving food, planting local perennial trees for future food security, and establishing gene banks. With a substantial \$280,000 infrastructure support from DFAT, AMAK can offer additional training to further improve women's skills



Photo 3 & 4: AMAK Economic Empowerment Activities

Te Toa Matoa (TTM) registered as an NGO in 2011 under the Incorporated Society Act 2002. TTM, an organization for persons with disabilities, had established the TTM Resource Centre

with support from DFAT. This center empowers people with disabilities by providing local employment opportunities, including positions for two hearing-impaired graduates from the Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT).

The Live and Learn is an NGO that has been an active stakeholder who, with support of Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, launched the Kiribati Food Futures Initiative (Kiribati Development Program Progress Report 2021-2022). This initiative addresses food security challenges caused by climate change, poor soil quality, drought, and lack of arable land. The program has established nurseries and compost houses and delivered 90 Australian Foodcube planter beds to enhance plant growth at 11 community garden sites in South Tarawa, North Tarawa, and Abaiang Island.

Oversees Employment Opportunities

Beyond economic training programs for women, the Ministry of Employment and Human Resource offers opportunities for both women and men to participate in the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme in New Zealand and Australia. Between 2021 and 2022, 225 I-Kiribati accessed seasonal and long-term labor mobility opportunities. Australia supported Kiribati to become the first partner country to place workers in the Queensland aged care industry, with 32 placements in September 2021, predominantly women. However, the current data from 2020 to 2024 for men and women who are currently working in the scheme (PLS, SWP, RSE) totaled up to 1,498 men and 500 women.

State Owned Enterprise Loan Scheme Program

The Development Bank of Kiribati (DBK), a State-Owned Enterprise, supports economic development through various financial services. DBK offers at least five different types of loans, including:

- Rural Support Loan: Aims to support livelihoods in the outer islands, such as copra cutting, gardening, farming, fishing, and running trading stores, with a maximum loan amount of \$3,000.
- Kiribati Product & Handicraft Loan: Supports businesses involved in handicraft making, such as mats, fishing hats, baskets, candy, and shell earrings, with a maximum loan amount of \$1,500.

Other available loans focus on social development, business, home, and student needs. The Rural Support Loan and the Kiribati Product & Handicraft Loan specifically assist women with skills and talent in starting their handicraft markets, whether in South Tarawa or the outer islands.

Social Protection Benefits

In July 2020, Kiribati introduced new Social Benefits for the unemployed known as the Support Fund for Unemployed and in 1st of December 2020 Te Mwane ni Kara Act was passed by the Maneaba ni Maungatabu created an entitlement for I-Kiribati citizens aged 60 and above to a monthly SCA. The Support Fund for Unemployment (SFU) being for all unemployed citizens (18 to 59) and in line with Te Mwane ni Kara Act 2020, the Senior Citizens Allowance (SCA) for citizens aged 60 and above which recently increased to 100 AUD fortnightly. . People with disability are eligible for the SFU and the Disability Support Allowance (DSA) available at different rates and payable based on a doctor's assessment of the severity of their disability and authority's approval. These social benefits have enabled women to contribute to their family's livelihood elevating recognition and better respect, self-sense of importance and confidence/independence.

Social Protection Data on Women			
Island	SFU	DSA	SCA
Rural			
consist of 13 islands	11,625	719	2365
Urban (mass populaton)			
BTC- South Tarawa	3923	320	838
TUC- South Tarawa	9,809	684	2,288
Christmas Island	1,425	58	270
Total unemployed women	26,782	1,781	5,761

Table 1. Data on Social Protection Benefits as at of March 2024, MWYSSA

Promoting access to justice and strengthening Legal Systems

In 2020, the Judiciary conducted an outreach consultation on the High Court Civil Procedure Rules 2016 on the five (5) islands of Tabiteuea North, North Tarawa, Abaiang, Marakei, and Aranuka in order to create knowledge of the New High Court Civil Procedure Rules among society. The purpose of the awareness campaign is to tell the public about the new rules, which are more relevant and matched with current practices in Kiribati. A second consultation trip in 2021 enabled further outreach for islands including Maiana, Abemama, Arorae, Butaritari, Nonouti, Banaba, Onotoa, Beru, and Nikunau. This consultation included 1,793 individuals of all ages and genders who were informed about the Judiciary's services. The High Court Circuit program occurs annually and in 2021, visit five islands were reached: Onotoa, Beru, Aranuka, Kuria and Tamana. (Kiribati Judiciary Annual Report (2020-2021))



Public Consultation Trip on Arorae 2021



Public Consultation Trip on Maiana 2021

Photo 5 & 6: Public consultation in the outer island

Training of High Court Staff occurs continuously to improve their performance so they can better deal with their customers. This is to assist them comprehend, follow, and comply with important court procedures.

According to the 2022 Public Service Office and Office of Private Lawyers Staff lists, women held approximately 64% of law-related jobs. These roles included positions such as people's lawyer, paralegal, state attorney, magistrate class I and II, judicial trainer, fisheries legal officer, judicial officer, and law librarian. This significant representation of women in the legal field underscores their substantial contribution to the legal system, potentially enhancing support and services for the public, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The presence of women in these key roles could foster a more empathetic and responsive legal environment for SGBV survivors, promoting better access to justice and comprehensive legal support.

CHALLENGES

- Limited budget for mainstreaming gender issues across the work undertaken by different Ministries, for example supporting discussions and actions around the care economy.
- Limited access to money (women's loan program) for micro-entrepreneurs and policies, procedures around the loan schemes (DBK).
- Creativity not well supported by unavailability of materials for women-based products.
- Cultural challenges persist to address slowly and smartly.
- Geographical dispersion, all of which impede service delivery, efficient infrastructure development, and economic activity.
- The environmental concerns around climate change and rising waters jeopardize livelihoods, food security, and resources, limiting options for revenue generation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthening legal frameworks and policies to alleviate poverty by keyline ministries (MWYSSA, MTCIC, MELAD, MCIA, and MFMRD).
- Improve loan schemes at loan institutions,
- Investing in the national women umbrella to ensure the long-term viability of women's empowerment programs.
- Continue addressing GE for both men and women involving male counterparts more at all levels of government and community.

CRITICAL AREA B: EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

The formal education sector in Kiribati is structured into several levels: Early Childhood Education (ECE), primary, junior secondary, senior secondary, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and tertiary education. The Ministry of Education oversees the ECE, primary, and junior and senior secondary sub-sectors and the Kiribati Teachers College. The Kiribati Institute of Technology (a TVET institution) and the Marine Training Center (MTC) are governed by the Ministry of Employment and Human Resources and the University of the South Pacific.

According to the Kiribati Education Act 2013, "school" in Kiribati refers to primary, junior secondary, and senior secondary levels. Education in Kiribati is free up to year 12 (age 17) and compulsory for children aged 6 to 14. The primary school level includes years 1 to 6 for children aged 6 to 11, junior secondary covers years 7 to 9 for ages 12 to 14, and senior secondary encompasses years 10 to 12 for ages 15 to 17. The act mandates that no child can be refused school enrollment based on religion, sex, race, or disability. Furthermore, children with disabilities who fall within the compulsory school age must be enrolled in and attend school, participating alongside other students in both educational and extracurricular activities.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Women and girls in Kiribati access both formal and informal education and training through various vocational programs. The education sector is one of the best gender mainstreamed sectors in terms of policy, law, and practice.

Well, supported by changes in the Education Act 2013, changes in perception for education girls have occurred to a more positive view by parents now seeing investing in daughters' education is also worthwhile. Girls' performance in schools are better than male counterparts which has

become an issue to address. The early childhood education gross enrolment rate in 2020 is 93% girls and 85% men and the primary gross enrolment for girls is 111% and for boys is 105%.

These programs are conducted by women's groups, community organizations, NGOs, institutions, and government ministries. The training covers diverse areas such as agriculture, sewing, repairing sewing machines, cooking, preserving local foods, and crafting handicrafts. The specific training programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of women and girls on the island and are aligned with the objectives and purposes of the organizing entity.

Additionally, the Overseas Employment Unit is responsible for administering overseas recruitment schemes in collaboration with Australia and New Zealand. The schemes managed by the Ministry include the Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) program, the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP), the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS), and the Fisheries Pilot Program with Sealord. The previous number for SWP workers is 359, PLS workers is 118, RSE workers is 363, and Sealord workers is 18. The recent data received is tabled below showed the increase of our people working in the scheme from 2020 till to date. The data for the Sealord workers is not available currently. These initiatives provide opportunities for overseas employment, contributing to the professional development and economic empowerment of individuals in Kiribati.

Status 2020-2024	Former Workers		Off-Season workers		Current workers	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
PLS	46	7	-	-	873	328
SWP	104	39	70	33	381	117
RSE	102	87	28	24	245	55
SEALORD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL	252	133	98	57	1499	500

Table 2: Data on Seasonal Worker Scheme

Women's Economic Empowerment Training to Women

The Women's Development Division within the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs organizes and coordinates informal training for women in Kiribati. These training programs aim to upskill women by teaching them income-generating activities and essential skills for developing and improving small businesses. The areas of focus include cooking, sewing, handicrafts, agriculture, and financial literacy. The training is conducted on seven outer islands, each with 30 participants, and on South Tarawa for a specific women's market group selling Mauri Wear Clothes, which consists of 25 women. This group operates a Mauri Wear Market to sell their

clothing. The training topics on South Tarawa include making tuna jerky, ice cream from seaweed, crochet handbags, repairing hand sewing machines, and financial literacy.

All training sessions are funded by the Government of Kiribati. However, a key lesson learned from these programs is that women often require support from their husbands to maintain and improve their businesses effectively. This highlights the importance of family and community support in the success of women-led enterprises.

Women's Practice Parliament

The representation of women in the House of Parliament in Kiribati is very low, with only 2 out of 46 members in 2024. To address this imbalance, a women's practice parliament was conducted in October 2023. The main purpose of this practice parliament was to motivate, familiarize, and upskill women, particularly those interested in becoming members of parliament in the future. The training aimed to build their confidence for the upcoming election in August 2024.

During the practice parliament, women were trained on the procedures and rules of the House of Parliament, including how to raise motions and participate in debates. This activity was coordinated by the House of Parliament in partnership with various government stakeholders, NGOs, and donors. The training included participants from different islands, including Tarawa. The total number of participants was not specified in the information provided.

The practice parliament was co-funded by several organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UN Women, the Government of Japan, and the Kiribati Parliament.

Social Citizenship Education

Through the Kiribati Teachers College (KTC), an Inclusive Classroom module was developed for both pre-service and in-service teaching courses. This module was created by KTC lecturers to train the nation's teachers. Additionally, human rights and responsibilities, gender equality, and social inclusion were integrated into the Moral Education, Social Studies, and Health Education curricula for years 5 to 8, and the social science curriculum for year 9. Training was also provided to Ministry of Education (MOE) staff, school leaders, and teachers, leading to a better understanding of these important topics and a commitment to modeling social inclusion within schools and classrooms. A baseline study was conducted from June 27 to July 4, 2019, in schools on South Tarawa, Abaiang, Abemama, Maiana, and North Tabiteuea. This study aimed to assess

the knowledge and attitudes towards human rights, gender equality, and ending violence against women and girls. The results of this baseline study will allow for the measurement of changes over a three-year period when the schools are revisited. The Social Citizenship education programs in schools have reached 133 schools, involving 31,093 students and 1,481 staff and teachers, raising awareness about these critical issues.

Kiribati Education Improvement Program

The program's goal is to improve basic education results for I-Kiribati children in grades 1–9, including those with disabilities. This program aims to improve learning settings, increase school access, establish a curriculum that promotes student engagement and self-development, improve teacher quality, and support greater school retention for both boys and girls. The program also supports the Ministry of Education by effectively planning, resourcing, and managing priority sector activities, which include reviewing the Junior Secondary School curriculum; implementing recommendations to improve education delivery in years 7 - 9; supporting school rehabilitation on selected outer islands, including classrooms, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, water storage, and solar power; and providing in the Gilbert outer island schools; building the capacity of new and emerging school leaders; working with local storytellers and artists to develop a collection of original children's books in I-Kiribati, as well as a new English-Kiribati dictionary; supporting the Ministry of Education to establish two new model disability-inclusion schools; supporting the reduction of gender-based bullying in schools; and reducing negative gender stereotyping in the curriculum and school

CHALLENGES

Supporting women to participate fully in the informal sectors is hard because of the remoteness and geographical settings. Home chores and rearing of children and taking care of everyone in the home is still a barrier for women to fully participate in the trainings. Limited of resources and the impact of climate change has affecting our soils and resources that women are using to make handicrafts and many more.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To fulfill the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind, it is crucial for the education system—both formal and informal—and government ministries to strengthen their collaboration to enhance women's development, improve family livelihoods, and increase women's participation in

decision-making processes and opportunities. Here are several specific measures that can be taken:

- ***Inclusion of Relevant Courses in Tertiary Education:*** Beauty and Salon Courses: Tertiary institutions should offer courses in beauty and salon management to provide women with skills for income-generating activities.
- ***Gender Certificate Courses:*** Introduce certificate programs focusing on gender equality and women's rights to educate and empower both women and men.
- ***Revised Agreements for Seasonal Workers:*** Ensure agreements for seasonal workers, observers, and fishermen are revised so they do not have to wait for more than 3 to 6 months before going to work. This is vital as their families depend on their income.
- ***Involvement of Men in Economic Empowerment Training:*** Include men in economic empowerment training sessions to secure their support for their spouses. This can enhance the effectiveness of the training and ensure a supportive home environment for women.
- ***Inclusion of Women in Marine Training Center Courses:*** Increase the intake of women in the Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) courses at the Marine Training Center to provide them with more opportunities in maritime professions.
- ***Parliamentary Quota for Women:*** Establish a quota for women in parliament to ensure better representation and participation in the legislative process.
- ***Joint Training Sessions for Husbands:*** Organize specific days where husbands are invited to training sessions to brief them on the positive impacts of the training on their wives. This can help garner their support for women's economic empowerment initiatives.

By implementing these strategies, the education system and government ministries can work together to empower women, enhance their livelihoods, and ensure their active participation in decision-making processes, thus advancing the goal of leaving no one behind by 2030.

CRITICAL AREA C: WOMEN AND HEALTH

The Beijing+ 25 report stated the importance of partnership of KFHA with Ministry of Health and Medical Services to expedite work and services for women's health (on cancer) and sexual reproductive right (SRHR). The overall goal of Kiribati Healthy Families Project phase 2 under KFHA was to increase accessibility to sexual and reproductive health information, skills, and

services on South Tarawa and 6 outer islands targeting youth, people with disabilities and transactional sex workers.

The end of project review identified three areas of work in which the project had supported. Over the 5-year period capacity development to enhance skills and knowledge to deliver quality SRHR services across the country in clinical care, SRHR health promotion, updates on contraception, IUD and vasectomy counselling had been conducted to youth, Healthy Families Taskforce, and other stakeholders. It was notifiable that service delivery had been increased over phase 2 with additional staff funded by Healthy Family Project. Client and service numbers have grown with the increase in mobile clinics and outreach. In year 5, 2019, over 9,000 clients received over 47,000 SRH services in the static, mobile and outer island clinics, however contraceptive services comprised only 10% of all SRH services. There are more youth volunteers and about 2,000 young people (under 25) accessed services. People with disabilities and diverse sexual orientations access KFHA services and training. Outreach activities have increased significantly and more clients in remote villages in the outer islands are able to access SRH services through this outreach. Clinical staff conduct annual visits and work with MHMS staff including providing training and mentoring; an efficient and effective mode to meet client needs while reducing costs for more frequent visits. Nearly 8,000 clients received over 37,000 SRH services through outreach in outer islands in year 5.

Kiribati's Youth Leadership on SRHR advocacy and Climate Crises was another area of work which is critical to climate change preparedness, adaptation and resilience and it is vital in advancing gender equality, health, and individual wellbeing in society. Additionally, KFHA provides access to life saving sexual and reproductive health care including family planning, contraception, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV AIDs prevention and education. Ministry of Health and Medical Services (Health Sector Strategic Plan (2024-2027) Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) has recently presented a series of reports, policies and guidelines that are essential for sexual and reproductive health (SRH), especially for women and youth, and for addressing gender-based violence. The launch of these essential policy documents, which were developed with assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pacific, was timely, as they will feed into the next Health Sector Strategic Plan (2024-2027) that MHMS is currently formulating. Out of these, eight essential policy documents were launched by MHMS on 7 September 2023, including:

- Obstetrics and Gynecology: Clinical Practice Guidelines.
- Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability Assessment report.
- RMNCAH Policy.
- Post-Graduate Diploma Midwifery Curriculum.
- Health Management Information System (HMIS) Data Availability for Monitoring Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs Review and Gap Analysis.
- Family Planning and Pharmaceuticals Logistics Management System.
- Youth-Friendly Health Services National Operational Guidelines.
- Standard Operation Procedures for Response, Mitigation and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence including Clinical Management of Rape.

The Kiribati Red Cross Society (KRCS) a humanitarian organization to support community resilience for improved quality of life in Kiribati aim to support and reaching out to the most vulnerable people in the communities guided by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Seven Fundamentals i.e- humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality. KRC current initiatives focus on Resilience, Health, Disaster, Climate Change, Youth and Volunteerism, Communication, First Aid and Blood Donor Recruitment which become a tremendous supporter to help and connect people to other services for further support they may require.

The table below has shown KRC its ongoing work and support for the benefit of the people of Kiribati including women and girls. This is the data provided for the year 2020 till to date

Thematic Area	Achievement	Data	Budget	Challenges
Women in poverty	Single mother program. Cash is given to mothers to help them start a small business, being the only one to support the family. This was initiated during COVID, when many people are affected and especially those people with small businesses at the roadside.	17 people	\$1,700	Very hard to pick the right candidates. Need to have a good monitoring system.
Violence against women	Activities during White Ribbon Day: Trainings to	2,000	7,000	

	Volunteers and Staff on ESGBV. Awareness programs			
Women and Health	Blood donation, women who are sick, pregnant, who undergo operation and other medical issues.	1500	6,000	
Women in decision making	Our Governing Board for Kiribati Red Cross also has women sitting as members, involved in decision making.	18	18,000	
Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of women	The use of Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) guideline for all programs use, ensuring that all programs support gender needs accordingly	5000	500	
Women and the environment	Support given to women during disasters. Non Food items were given to affected women during disasters and when affected incidences such as fires, strong winds and storm surges.	5000	15,000	

Table 3: Initiatives achieved by KRCS.

The Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2020-2023 highlights the improvement of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) as one of the priorities. Other priority areas include promotion of modern family planning methods and protecting and supporting the rights of women (i.e addressing gender-based violence), children and people with disabilities. These new policy guidelines and protocols provide practical guidance to health officials in their daily planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, and data management of life saving in the areas of maternal and newborn care, family planning, adolescent health, cervical cancer, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and health sector response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Health Facility and Readiness Service Assessment was conducted in all health facilities in Kiribati from March to September in 2019. This is to measure the level of service each facility provides in terms of infrastructure, capacity, skills, knowledge and equipment and the

accessibility of these services at the different levels within the Public Health clinics, Health centres and all hospitals. The HFRSA aimed to identify the strengths, gaps and issues for all health services provided at each level and to provide measurable recommendations to address and improve these services. In support of “leaving no one behind” the 2030 agenda, the results of this assessment will provide the baseline for good governance and good planning in improving and strengthening a quality integrated healthcare services provided at all levels for sexual reproductive health and to ensure rights and choices for all is well met, encompassing universal health coverage for all.

Review findings indicate progress towards policy support for SRH in disaster and emergency contexts in Kiribati. While policy and legislation do not explicitly require the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), the Government of Kiribati made a commitment to integrate the MISP in disaster management plans and response efforts at the Nairobi ICPD25 conference. The Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2019-2028 is also gender responsive, although it is important to flag that the Plan does not specifically include or refer to SRH.

Gender Based Violence

There is substantial evidence of policy and legislative progress to reduce GBV in Kiribati. The Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence (ESGBV) policy developed as an overarching guide for EVAW work in Kiribati. This leads to the establishment of multisectoral referral mechanisms through the creation of SafeNet. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services Strategic Plan 2016-2019 includes improving access to health care services for GBV victims as an objective, indicating support for a strong health sector response to GBV which leads to the launching of the

The Standard Operation Procedures for Response, Mitigation and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence including Clinical Management of Rape. The health GBV SOP standardizes health workers response to GBV cases and expedites process of GBV cases from within the health sector.

Male Involvement in sexual and reproductive health.

The Kiribati Men’s Behavioral Change (KMBC) program is an initiative under the Women’s Development Division which involve men to facilitate a transformation in mindset and norms among men, encouraging them to amend abusive behaviours and aspire to become supportive

and respected husbands. Additionally, it cultivates men to advocates for gender equality and the cessation of violence against women and girls. This program had expanded to include Sexual Reproductive Health Right (SRSH) awareness to community leaders on islands. Through financial and technical support of United National Population Fund (UNFPA), KMBC managed to conduct Training of Trainers on Men's Behavioral change program and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and then reach out to community members on South Tarawa and the outer islands. KMBC bodies on the Outer Islands conducted MBC approach training including SRHR to communities, collaborating with Medical Assistants for SRHR information. Approximately 400 individuals, including women and people with disabilities were reached in the outer Islands.

Just Play program.

Just Play is a multi-country Sport for Development programme designed by the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) for children and adolescents aged 6-18-years. The main objective of the programme is to support children to grow, learn and develop through football. Through Just Play, children and adolescents are empowered to advocate as agents for change, supporting the development of positive behaviour practices, promoting individual resilience and shared knowledge and experience among their peers and community. Just play program delivers football in combination with life skills messages. The program builds stronger healthier individuals, communities and nations through the incorporation of health messages. Under this program there are 8 pillars which are the key focus:

1. Health – By reducing risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases, and engaging children and adolescents on a range of health issues.
2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – By supporting the development of positive WASH behaviours and practices in schools, communities and in times of emergencies.
3. Safeguarding – By challenging harmful social norms and stereotypes and creating pathways to empower those disadvantaged on the basis of their gender, identity or ability to realize their human rights.
4. Emergency Preparedness – By building resilience and supporting the emotional recovery of children and adolescents following natural disasters and conflict.
5. Gender Equality – By changing perceptions towards women and girls and creating pathways to empower women and girls to realize their human right.

6. Social Inclusion – By changing perceptions towards persons with disabilities and creating pathways to empower persons with disabilities to realize their human right.
7. Wellness – By reducing risk factors associated with mental health and wellbeing.
8. Lifeskills – By enhancing the development of healthy lifestyle habits, which are more likely to be carried through to adulthood.

The program had been implemented on South Tarawa and rolled out to two outer islands, North Tarawa and Abaiang. The health component of the program is part of preventative measure in addressing the growing number of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Kiribati.



Photo 7: Primary school students participating in the One world one ball event in South Tarawa

Nutrition Training by women NGOs.



Photo 8: Graduates from the Kiribati Health Champions program raising awareness on healthy lifestyle to women in on South Tarawa and the outer islands.

Catholic Women Association (CWA), a church-based women NGO heavily involved in basic nutrition training to women, men and youth on South Tarawa and the outer islands under a

Kiribati Health Champions program. The program which had rolled out in South Tarawa and all the outer islands in Kiribati had raised awareness on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle through understanding of essential nutrients, healthy cooking methods, food safety, menu planning and cooking practical on healthy recipes. The curriculum used under this program was taken from a Certificate of Proficiency in Pacific Nutrition (CPPN) which is developed by Auckland University of Technology and delivered through Pacific Heart Foundation in New Zealand. More than 40 women who are graduates of this training program became trainers and were lead facilitators in this nutrition training in South Tarawa and the outer islands. The program extended to include gardening skills, basic food preservations as key components under food security and climate resilience training in preparation for emergencies and disaster situations such as Covid 19.



Photo 9: Cooking demonstration during one of the community outreach program and training on gardening skills.

CHALLENGES

Women often have less access to formal and informal education and vocational training because they are often responsible for most of the unpaid domestic work and childcare, which in fact limit their ability to engage in paid work or entrepreneurial activities. They also frequently face difficulties in accessing credit and financial services, which are essential for starting and growing their business including the lack of access to business development services, mentorship, and market.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To implement targeted programs to ensure girls and women have equal access to quality education and vocational trainings. Empower women and girls to apply for STEM studies. Improve infrastructure for women to sell their products domestically and establish business developments centers that provide women with access to training, mentorships, networking opportunities and market information. Expand market ventures to the regional and international.

CRITICAL AREA D: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Kiribati Family Health and Support Study, conducted in 2008 for the first time in Kiribati history, presented a picture of how widespread and serious the problem of violence against women is. According to the study's findings, 68% (2 in 3) of women aged 15 to 49 who have entered partnerships have been physically, sexually, or both abused by an intimate partner. The findings indicate that the degree of prevalence is among the highest in the globe. According to the study's findings, 78% of the women interviewed had never sought aid from professional services. The poor utilization of formal services reflects in part their restricted availability; however, the majority of women did not seek help because they believe that violence is normal, or not serious. According to the current Kiribati Social Development Indicator Survey (KSDIS), 55% of women aged 15 to 49 who experienced sexual violence did not seek treatment or tell anyone about it. Intimate partner abuse was considered a private problem, and many were reluctant to act, resulting in injury and even death. Some of these ideas and customs cause violence against women, have a negative influence on their life, and are regarded impediments to gender equality.

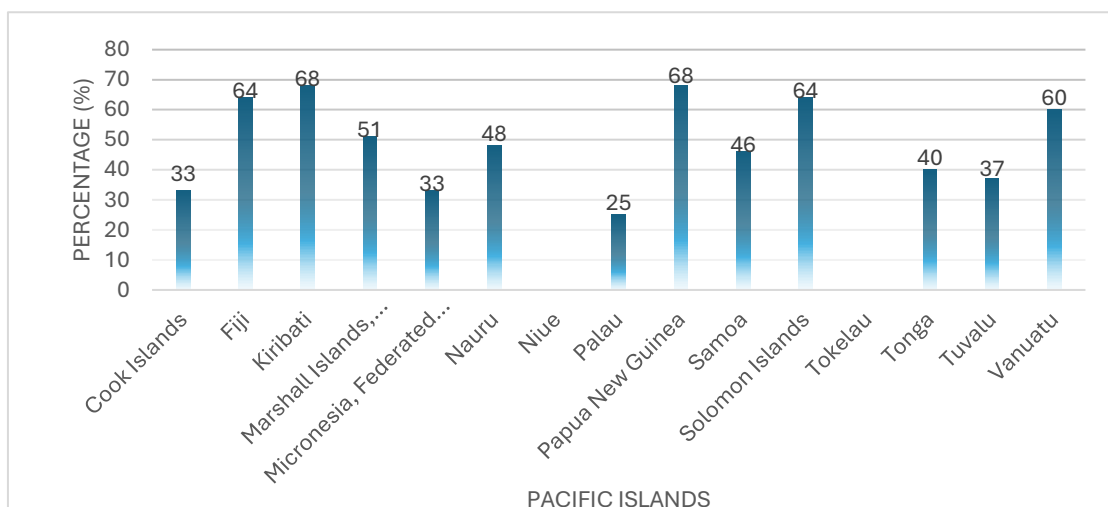
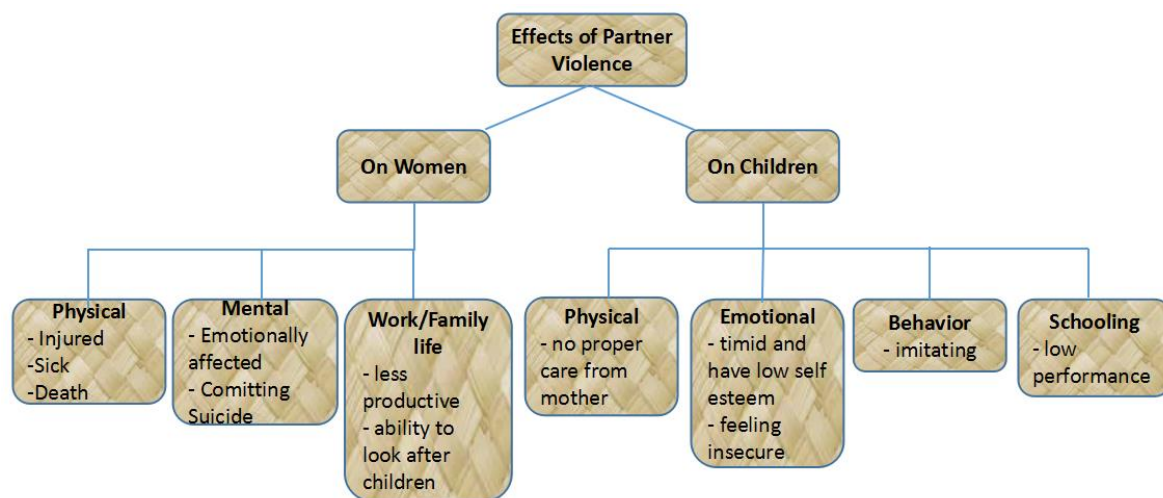


Figure 4. Proportion of Intimate Partner Violence of Women in the Pacific Islands Source: UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region, 2019 Regional Snapshot: Women who experience intimate partner violence, 2000-2019.

Among the Pacific Islands, Kiribati has the highest rate of 68 per cent gender violence together with PNG. Palau has the lowest rate of only 22 per cent. The zero percentage for Niue and Tokelau is due to the unavailability of data.

Figure 5: Effects of Partner Violence on Women and Children



Source: Kiribati Family Health and Support Study - SPC

Violence against women and children has an impact on their physical, mental, and professional well-being. Violence against children has an impact on their emotional health, educational performance, and may fear them for the rest of their lives.

According to the Kiribati Family Health and Support Study, women who have suffered abuse may develop mental illnesses, affecting their productivity at home, school, the workplace, and in the community. It increases the chance of suicide. The child's well-being and education will suffer. Furthermore, children do not feel safe and tend to replicate their parents' violent behaviour as they get older.

The Policy Commitments, based on Kiribati's national approach to eradicating sexual and gender-based violence (ESGBV), will serve as the foundation for removing barriers to achieve gender equality at the national level. It will also serve as a roadmap for activities taken to implement other

national, regional, and global commitments to combat sexual and gender-based violence and promote gender equality.



Figure 6: Survey findings

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Police Framework Reforms and Findings.

The revised Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2020-2024 marks a significant step towards achieving the Kiribati Vision 20 (KV20), aiming for a nation that is wealthy, healthy, and peaceful. This plan reinforces the commitment to eliminating poverty, reducing inequality and injustice, and fostering inclusive economic growth. It emphasizes building human capabilities, enhancing state capacity, and upholding the rule of law and democratic principles. Vice President and Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Honourable Dr. Teuea Toatu, highlighted the collective responsibility of leaders and parents to leave a better Kiribati for future generations. He stressed the importance of wisely harnessing the nation’s resources to ensure food security, job creation, and livelihoods, while preserving the culture, heritage, and fragile ecosystems.

The current KDP retains the focus of its predecessor but has been refined for greater clarity and impact. The six key policy areas are: (i) Harnessing Our Human Wealth, (ii) Growing our Economic Wealth and Leaving No-One Behind, (iii) Improving our Health, (iv) Protecting and Managing our Environment and Strengthening Resilience, (v) Good Governance and (vi) Developing our Infrastructure.

These priorities aim to guide Kiribati towards a sustainable and prosperous future, ensuring that economic growth is balanced with social equity and environmental sustainability.

Gender Equality & Women Development Policy (GEWD)

The Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy 2019-2022 was established to ensure that the Government of Kiribati meets the expectations of its citizens—both men and women, boys and girls—by providing equal opportunities, human rights, and access to services. The overarching goal is for everyone to reach their potential in economic, political, cultural, and social life. The policy's priority actions include gradually implementing a gender mainstreaming approach to achieve gender equality, increasing women's economic empowerment, supporting stronger, more informed families, improving women's political representation and leadership, and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence. The policy's target population is women and girls, as they confront greater challenges than men in Kiribati.

Te Rau N Te Mwenga Act (Family Peace Act):

Since the enactment of the Te Rau N Te Mwenga (TRNTM) Act 2014, and as highlighted in the preceding Beijing report, it has become evident that there are hurdles needing to be addressed. Consequently, the act is currently under examination and revision to enhance its effectiveness. The revision process has commenced with extensive consultations on South Tarawa during the National SafeNet Summit and in Christmas islands that involving organizations associated with this legislation, those that enforce it, and those that operate in alignment with its principles. Stakeholders include the Kiribati Police Service (KPS), Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Judiciary, Office of the People’s Lawyer Service (OPLS), Ministry of Justice and many more. The Office of the Attorney General is collaborating with the ministry of women, youth, sport and social affairs to lead this review, with assistance and support from the Pacific Partnership through European Union, DFAT, NFAT and UNWOMEN.

Eliminating Sexual Gender Based Violence Policy (ESGBV)

Since the expiration of the ESGBV policy, the government has continued its commitment by reviewing and updating the policy to a five-year ESGBV policy spanning from 2023 to 2032. The revised policy focuses on several key strategic areas, including.

1. Strengthen national and legal frameworks, law enforcement and the justice system.
2. Strengthen efforts to improve GBV prevention.
3. Improve data collection and data management.

4. Institutional strengthening and capacity building of GBV stakeholders.
5. Strengthen and improve GBV response through accessible and quality GBV support services and be inclusive of women's peace, security and climate security, which are emerging issues for women.

Improving Services to eliminate violence against women and girls:

SafeNet:

SafeNet is an existing body comprised of both government and non-governmental organizations. It consists of the Kiribati Police Services (KPS) through the Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Sexual Offences Unit (DCSU), the Ministry of Health and Medical Services through the Healthy Family Clinic (HFC), Social Welfare, the Office of Attorney General (OAG), the Our Lady of Sacred Heart (OLSH) Crisis Centre, the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre (KWCS), the Judiciary, and the Office of the People's Legal Service (OPLS). The coordination is led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs (MWYSSA). The primary goal of this committee is to provide a high-quality service to survivors of domestic abuse, as well as to ensure that these services are conveniently accessible and reachable whenever a survivor approaches it. Some of its initiatives included coordinating meetings, performing DV counselling training and registering DV counsellors, collecting GBV statistics, and establishing and strengthening ESGBV sub-committees through capacity building for service providers, the formulation of SOPs, and implementation plans.

Development of the SOPs training manual (SafeNet, KPS and Health) and translation of these manuals and the rollout to Kiribati Police Service and SafeNet in Outer Islands

Within the coordination body SafeNet, the Kiribati Police Service (KPS), and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), three standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed, alongside a training manual. The training manual is designed to provide service providers with comprehensive guidance on how to handle cases involving survivors of GBV. It begins with foundational concepts of gender, ensuring that all service providers have a clear and informed understanding of gender dynamics, which is critical for addressing and supporting survivors effectively,

Kiribati Police Service (KPS) SOP Translation

The Kiribati Police Service (KPS) manual has undergone translation to make it accessible at the grassroots level. This translation is aimed at training Kiribati Police Officers on outer islands who have limited proficiency in English and to ensure consistency in the language used during training sessions. The translation was done twice in 2023 as an offsite activity to allow members to focus on translation without distractions from their regular duties. The translation is currently in its final stage before taking it to Cabinet for endorsement. The translation involved diverse stakeholders including KPSS GBV sub-committee, SPV staff, and WDD staff.

Training to KPS on South Tarawa

In 2023, four training sessions were conducted to enhance the capacity of Kiribati Police Officers in dealing with and providing quality services to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). These sessions were aimed at officers stationed in South Tarawa (Betio, Bairiki, Bikenibeu and Bonriki police stations). The purpose of this training is to build the capacity of police officers in providing effective service including understanding their police power and duties under the family peace and child protection act when dealing with survivors. A total of 120 police officer participate which marked a significant step towards improving the overall response and support mechanism in the police service.

SOP roll out to outer islands.

The primary purpose of this rollout was to bolster the SafeNet Committee's capabilities on the islands of Abaiang and Aranuka, alongside conducting SOP training to SafeNet members (KPS OCS, Nurse, and Medical Assistant and ASWO). This comprehensive training targeted frontline service providers to enhance their ability to support survivors of GBV. The content of the training includes Human Rights, Gender and Sex, Types of Violence, Police Powers, Te Rau n te Mwenga Acts, Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act, the multi-sectoral procedure and referral pathway. More than 500 frontline service providers were reached and trained. Since it is an integration program, all SOPs from the three key line ministries (KPS, HEALTH and SafeNet) were delivered during this training.

DV counselling Registration Process and Update

As mandated by Te Rau N Te Mwenga Act (FPA) Section 7(8) and Section 8, a registered domestic violence (DV) counsellor is required to meet specific criteria and undergo a

comprehensive registration process. The process, carried out in 2022, involves four key steps and eligibility criteria, including candidates must complete a minimum of 120 hours of counselling practice training specifically focused on gender-based violence (GBV), passed the theory test and the role play and direct observation.

Upon completion of these steps, the Taskforce for Domestic Violence Counselling Registration assesses the candidates' eligibility. If the Taskforce unanimously agrees on the candidates, their names are submitted to the Advisory Committee for approval and endorsement. The endorsed candidates are then forwarded to the Honorable Minister for final approval. Currently, there are four DV counsellors who have successfully passed all stages of the four-step process and are awaiting the Honorable Minister's approval.

In parallel with the DV counselling registration process, ongoing refresher training on GBV competencies is provided to the staff of the Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre (KWCS), who handle GBV/DV cases involving women and girls. Additionally, KWCS has expanded its services to Christmas Island in the Line Islands group to support women and girls in this isolated area. KWCS offers both face-to-face and phone counselling to reach individuals in remote areas and those requiring immediate assistance.

Reflection Dialogue & Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, Service Provider held a Reflection Dialogue to discuss the issues, challenges, and conflicts faced by them in delivering their GBV services and to find ways to enhance their service quality and goal attainment. The next dialogue took place offsite from 1st to 4th December at Uaai Resort, North Tarawa. The three-day event covered various aspects: Logistics Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Gender and Data Training, and

Meeting with Outer Islands Coordinators which are Police Officers responsible for outer islands (OCDs) and Nurses responsible for outer islands (DPNOs). The main purpose was to discuss strategies for sustaining the program in the outer islands.

The Reflection Dialogue aimed to foster better collaboration and communication among the stakeholders to ensure they provide quality services and achieve their respective goals.

Gender awareness during National Events (IWD, Independence Awareness, 16 days of Activism, Te Runga)

Over the past five years, awareness campaigns have been conducted throughout the year to mark significant events such as International Women's Day (IWD), the 16 Days of Activism for

Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and the Independence Day, including the National Sports Event (Te Runga) in 2023. These campaigns aim to disseminate key messages to the public about eliminating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

National SafeNet Summit



Photo 10: Kiribati SafeNet members including Mayors, Clerks, Police officers, medical officers on South Tarawa and the outer islands.

In 2023, two National SafeNet Summits were conducted with the primary goals of standardizing the approach to dealing with survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and securing support from island council representatives to sustain the program in their respective islands. Five members of SafeNet from outer islands were invited to participate in these two-week trainings, which saw approximately 150 participants. The first summit was held from May 4th to May 9th, 2022, on South Tarawa and the second summit was held in Christmas Island for the Line and Phoenix Islands SafeNet members.

The summits focused on standardizing Care for GBV Survivors to ensure all participants had a unified understanding of how to support and manage cases involving GBV survivors and securing local support in engaging with island council representatives to obtain their agreement and support for sustaining GBV programs in their communities.

One significant outcome from these summits was the commitment from the mayors (island council leaders) to provide one office or council house as a shelter for GBV survivors in each respective island. These shelters will be managed by SafeNet members, ensuring that survivors have a safe place to stay and receive necessary support.

Strengthening Prevention Net Mechanisms through establishing committees and working together to prevent gender-based violence.

Kiribati Men's Behavioral Change Program

The Kiribati Men Behavioral Change initiative commenced in 2016 with the provision of training sessions to 30 participants, comprising both men and women selected from SafeNet members. Led by Dr. Chris Lamming from Australia, the training utilized the MBC Australian (Men behavioral Change) toolkit, which was contextualized to the local context. The primary objective was to facilitate a transformation in mindset and norms among men, encouraging them to amend abusive behaviors and aspire to become supportive and respected husbands. Furthermore, the initiative aimed to cultivate advocates for gender equality and the cessation of violence against women and girls. Notably, the training was exclusively delivered by male facilitators and primarily targeted male participants.

Under the direction and management of the Women's Development Division (MWYSSA), the program was reactivated in 2019 with financial support from the United Nation Population fund (UNFPA). It extended its outreach to five Outer Islands (Butaritari, Marakei, Abaiang, North Tarawa & Maiana) to establish the KMBC body through conducting five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions on Men Behavioral Change (MBC) approaches alongside Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right (SRHR) training to 20 male community leaders per Island. Capacity building training on KMBC approaches and SRHR has been conducted several times between the year of 2021 to 2023 to KMBC bodies on the same Islands. Additionally, KMBC training was implemented on Arorae Island through the Kiribati Outer Island Food and Agriculture Program (KOIFAWP). KMBC bodies on the Outer Islands conducted MBC approach training including SRHR to communities, collaborating with Medical Assistants for SRHR information.

Approximately 400 individuals, including women and people with disabilities were reached in the outer Islands. KMBC training was conducted as well on the capital Island, involving five communities, two church communities and two workshop sessions with a total of around 200 people reached. The training was facilitated by KMBC members in partnership with MWYSSA and the Ministry of Health through the Island council protocol. Initially funded by the World Bank through the SafeNet project in 2016, the program received approximately \$10,000.00. From its reactivation in 2019 until 2023, UNFPA provided financial support through the MWYSSA under the Youth Division, totaling approximately \$100,000.00.



Photo 11: KMBC training

Gender Equality in Theology:

The primary objective of this initiative is to "Women experience greater safety in family and community, and more opportunities for representation in positions of church leadership and decision-making" This initiative began in 2018 as a collaboration with UnitingWorld in Australia. These activities have been carried out since the program's inception.

Training and workshops on gender biblical messages have been conducted in Butaritari, Abemama, Nonouti, Beru, Arorae, and North Tarawa, reaching around 600 individuals from the outer islands. The GET used the radio broadcast to raise public awareness and gain greater coverage for their program. This is an ongoing program, albeit the number could not be calculated. The public's remarks have been good about this program. The third action was to distribute the Bible Studies Booklet during the 2022 KUC General Assembly, when our Bible Studies Materials were delivered to all attendees. Furthermore, throughout the workshops and training held on the mainland and in the outer islands, the GET team distributed copies of these booklets to all Pastors in each parish. This would help them prepare for Sunday services if they were planning to preach about gender equality. Furthermore, display GET posters in public places such as clinics and KUC parishes. There were nine posters in total, all of which represented positive relationships between men, women, children, and the environment.

These posters promote gender equality and living in a safe and peaceful neighborhood. During government events such as 16 Days of Activism and Te Runga (National Tournament), the GET team raised awareness about child protection and climate resilience. To strengthen this effort, the GET team will create a Gender Equality Policy that will guide people of their church in following gender ideals as part of their faith. This policy will be approved in their church's upcoming general assembly.

The original phase was aimed at the public and adults, but the Church recognized the importance of this program for children, thus it is now aimed at children and young people to train their young brains on biblical gender equality messages. As a result, the GET is currently focusing on incorporating biblical lessons about gender equality into Sunday school curricula in order to raise awareness and instill gender messaging in young people. Another aim is to establish a male advocate on each of the islands visited by this program to boost their GET work and track the impact of the GET gender equality bible messages.

As a result of the program's beneficial impact, organizations like YCL (KUC youth group) and the North Tarawa Island Church Council invited the GET team to deliver gender messages during their gatherings and nighttime devotions.

Strengthening Peaceful Village (SPV):

As part of the WDD (MWYSSA) strategy to increase the work on eliminating GBV, the SPV project program was established and successfully conducted in South Tarawa and Betio during a four-year period, from 2018 to 2023. Despite its planned four-year timeline, the initiative was expanded to guarantee complete coverage and impact. The SPV's principal goal is to reduce violence against women by avoiding IPV and fostering gender equitable and nonviolent societal norms in South Tarawa and Betio. The program used parts of the SASA! Intervention and evidence-based community mobilization to prevent intimate partner violence (IPV). The project included a team of four people, including a Project Coordinator and three Project Officers. They worked closely with roughly 90 village activists (VAs) and 30 Village Leaders (VLs) drawn from 21 villages in South Tarawa and Betio. These VAs and VLs play an important role in voluntary community participation, leading efforts to promote gender equality in the community. Over the last four years, the Pacific Partnership and DFAT have provided financial support for the project through UNWomen in the amount of more than \$993,300. After 5 years of focused implementation, the program accomplished tremendous outreach programs, reaching about half of the people in South Tarawa and Betio through community-based training, home training, and public awareness campaigns. The South Tarawa Healthy Living Study, conducted three times by the Equality Institute (EQI), was used to analyze the program's success. A baseline survey was conducted in 2019, and midline survey will be conducted in 2022, followed by an endline survey in 2023.

The analysis of the baseline and midline results revealed significant modifications, but the endline result was still awaited. The Midline findings demonstrate the use of less violence in the household, being more proactive in supporting women and children experiencing violence in their communities, understanding that unequal power between men and women is the root cause of VAWG, a shift in household gender power dynamics, more equitable distribution of household tasks, and more open and respectful communication among family members. At the neighborhood level, there are examples of increased gender equity, and the community is becoming safer for women. However, the initiative experienced several problems, including a decrease in the number of VAs and VLs from 90 to 20 or more VAs and 10+ VLs in 2023, ascribed to relocation, loss of interest in the program, lack of salary or allowances, collaboration with other programs, and prioritization of their goals. In response, the program refocused its efforts, concentrating its activities on three important areas: two communities in South Tarawa and the entire Betio.

SPV Baseline report

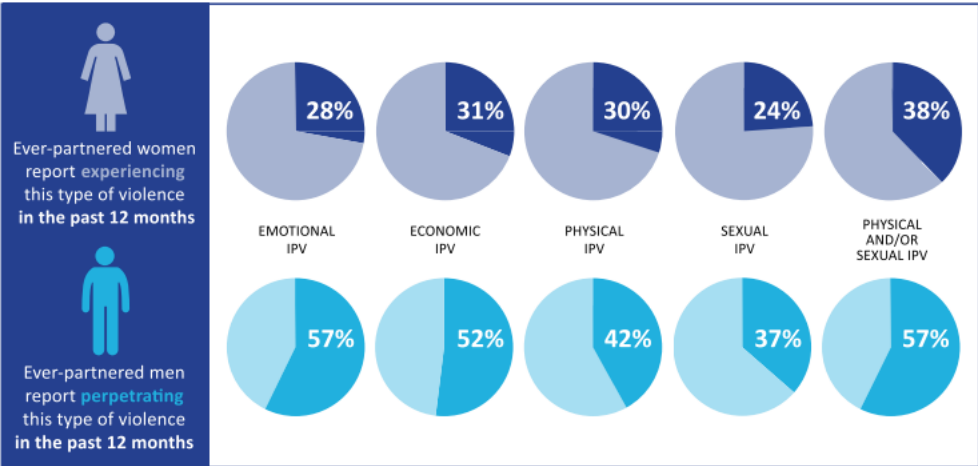


Figure 7: SPV baseline survey result 2019. (South Tarawa Healthy Living Survey)

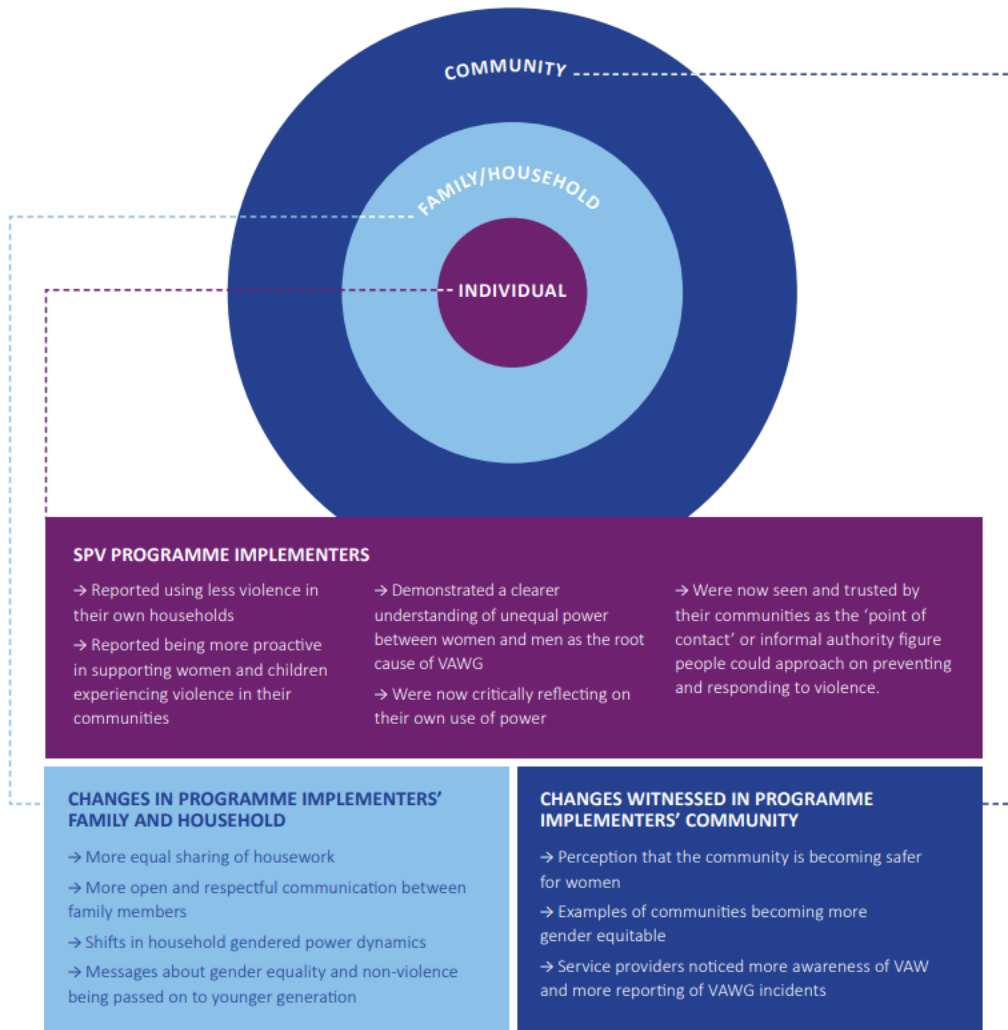


Figure 8: Midline findings

MWYSSA is looking forward to the endline survey report, which will help them identify further difficulties and devise ways to address them in the next future plan. Links for Baseline and Midline survey for further information can be sited on Equality Institute (EQI) website; <https://www.equalityinstitute.org>



Photo 12: SPV Village Activist and Village Leaders

Respectful Relationship Program:

The Respectful Relationship initiative was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. Working with the Women Development Division, the initiative attempted to incorporate gender equality promotion and sexual assault prevention into the school curriculum, particularly in year 9 moral education. The year 9 moral education curriculum was finalized and will be implemented in junior secondary schools across the country in 2020. In 2020, a total of 2,372 of year 9 students were involved in the moral subject, with roughly 9,000 pupils participating from 2021-2023.

Typically, the school curriculum is revised every five years. The initiative got \$41,290.00 in financing from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

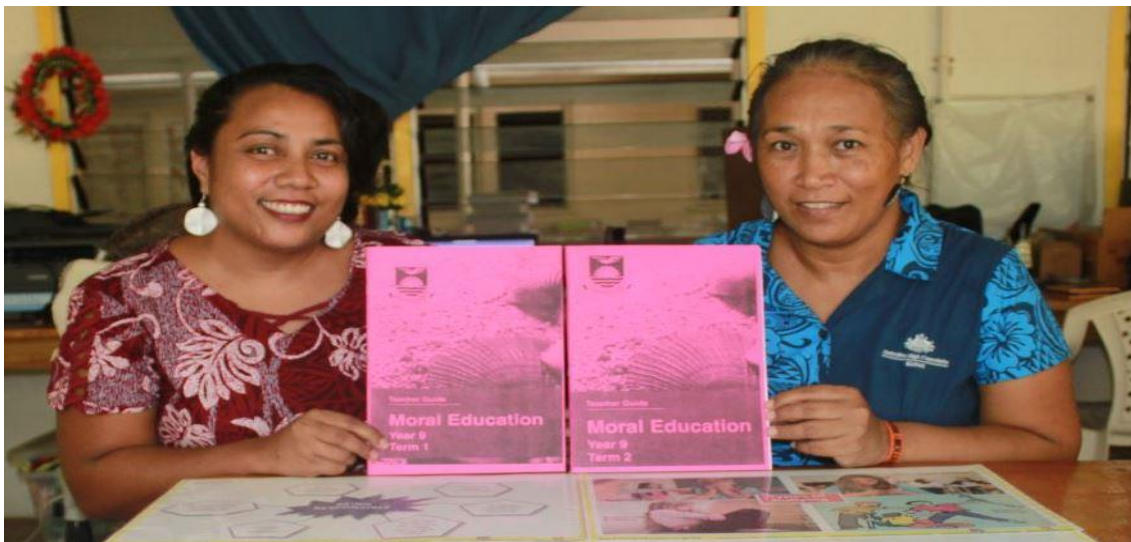


Photo 13. Integration of Respectful Relationship in the Curriculum

Young Couple Program

In July 2018, the Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) launched the Young Couple Programme in Kiribati. This domestic initiative aimed to mitigate family troubles impacting vulnerable family members and eliminate violence against children and women. The program sought to enhance the capacity of young couples through theoretical and practical lessons designed to benefit family well-being and reduce discrimination and violence.

The Counseling Unit of the Social Welfare Division MWYSSA emphasized collaboration with relevant partners and professionals to abolish all types of abuse against women and children, starting with young couples. The program initially targeted South Tarawa, as well as the outer islands of Abemama and Abaiang, from 2018 to 2021. It reached over 1500 people across more than ten localities, including Bikenibeu and Buota, and involved two congregations: the Kiribati Uniting Church (KUC) and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). In 2022, the focus shifted exclusively to young couples, with the eligibility age adjusted to 18-30 years old. Capacity-building assistance was provided to Abemama in 2022 and to Abaiang in March 2023.

Each of these islands saw participation from 20 couples, totaling 40 individuals per island. The program's efforts have been crucial in addressing domestic violence and promoting healthier family dynamics in Kiribati. Main objectives:

- Understand the roles and responsibilities of young couples as the building blocks of the family and how couple life situations can change for the better.
- Provide social service mechanisms for addressing family issues.
- Engage young couples in child protection and child upbringing best practices.
- Equip young couples with innovative activities to support their families.

CHALLENGES

Covid 19 pandemic disrupted the program implementation because travelling internally were cancelled. Lessons learnt from these challenges underscore the necessity of conducting monitoring and evaluation to gauge GBV program's effectiveness at all levels. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of continuous capacity building to teachers, service providers, and prevention to ensure they are adequately equipped to deliver the program content effectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To conduct the KFHSS second round with the same methodology used in the first study. Strengthening the male advocate program, EVAW bodies in the outer island and South Tarawa, the justice system, GBV Prevention and Response stakeholders, DV/GBV counsellors through capacity building and refresher training. To have the MEL in place to effectively monitor the progress of all GBV programs in the country and to strengthen the GBV data management and collection.

CRITICAL AREA E: WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

The policy framework of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) emphasizes the crucial role women play in achieving sustainable international peace and security. It advocates for a gendered perspective and ensures women's equal and meaningful participation in peace processes, peacebuilding, and security efforts. The involvement of women in peacekeeping activities, such as the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and the UN Peacekeeping missions, demonstrates the practical application of this framework.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

According to the police records, seven policewomen were involved in this mission, highlighting the contribution of women to peacekeeping in the region. Within the five years, the Kiribati Police Service has been involved in the UN Peacekeeping mission in Sudan. In 2022, five officers were deployed to Sudan, including two policewomen and three policemen and in 2023, the number of police officers increased to eight, with three policewomen participating. This shows a growing trend in women's participation in the peacekeeping program. The establishment of the Ministry for Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs in Kiribati marks a significant step toward advancing gender equality and protecting women's rights. This, alongside the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that women are both involved and protected.

Culture can be a powerful enabler in eliminating gender-based violence (GBV), disputes, and conflicts by leveraging its values, norms, and practices to promote peace, respect, and equality. Traditionally, women have often been seen as peacemakers within their communities when it comes family interventions and reconciliations in serious conflicts.

For instances, when it comes to marriage and eloping negotiations, the women (aunty/grandmother) always accompany the spouse or male relative to seek a girl's hand in marriage or seek forgiveness. In severe cases such as accidental deaths or killings, the involvement of parents, grandparents, and/or missionary couples in seeking forgiveness from the bereaved family to help prevent retaliatory violence and help to heal wounds. The cultural significance of a woman presence under these circumstances conveying messages of peace and harmony and highlights the respected role of women as peacemakers.

CHALLENGES

There is often a lack of tailored training and resources to prepare women for roles in peacekeeping, this includes insufficient access to specialized training programs that address unique challenges women might face in these roles. Despite international commitments to gender equality, systemic biases and stereotypes about women's capabilities persist within international and national organizations. It also too risky for women peacekeepers as they can face GBV and harassment, which may deter their participation and retention in peacekeeping missions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conduct national awareness campaigns to challenge stereotypes and promote the role of women in peacekeeping. Highlight successful female peacekeepers as role models to inspire others, Develop and fund training programs that prepare women for peacekeeping roles, ensuring they have the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in these positions. Strengthen cooperation among countries in the region to share best practices and resources aimed at increasing women's participation in peacekeeping and create programs aimed at developing leadership skills among women in peacekeeping, providing them with opportunities to advance to higher ranks and leadership positions.

CRITICAL AREA F: WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

Employment in Kiribati is divided across formal and informal sectors with the public sector providing two thirds of the formal employment. Women are more likely to be involved in informal work such as garment, handicraft production and artisanal fish processing. Manufacturing is the top employment sector for women (26%) compared to men (5.7%) in Kiribati. Within manufacturing, cigarette production (9.6%), handicraft production (7%), food beverages (5.1%), garment production (2.8%) are the main areas where women are employed.

Wholesale and retail trade is the second most important sector for women (14%) with retail shop constitute around half of employment in this sub sector. Other sectors of employment dominated by women are education, public administration, and health.

Social protection is defined as a set of policies or programs aimed at preventing or protecting people against poverty with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups. In a traditional Kiribati culture, extended families support the elderly, children, and those with disabilities. With monetization and urbanization family dynamics and social cultural networks have changed. This results in the disintegration of family coherence and leads to negligence of the disadvantaged. Since 2015 government under the Kiribati Development Plan 2016 to 2019 builds on commitments from the previous national plan to implement policies and programs that will maintain and expand existing social security mechanisms to ensure and to enhance the financial inclusion of the vulnerable groups including women.

The confirmation of Covid 19 cases in 2021 had a great impact on the overall economy with travel bans and restrictions which affect tourism business, decline in hotel revenues and redundancy of most hotel employers which are mainly women. Female owned led businesses had been negatively affected by the pandemic compared to male owned businesses. Since women are more concentrated in precarious, part-time and temporary jobs and in sectors that are directly affected by the pandemic such as services, women faced gender inequalities in access to resources which makes survival in times of crisis more difficult than male counterpart.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Formal Sectors

The Beijing+25 report identified that Pacific Labor scheme and Seasonal Employment Scheme had contributed to economic development of Kiribati by providing opportunities for I-Kiribati citizens to gain knowledge, work experience and skills in Australia, earn wages for performing work in Australia and remit some earnings to Kiribati. The number of females participating in this scheme stands at fifty (50). The scheme targets areas such as hospitality, aged care and trade sourced workers from South Tarawa.

Kindling Kiribati

Labor schemes organized by Government such as Ministry of Employment and Human Resource Development is not the only option for women to earn income for their families. Other nonprofit

organizations such as Kindling Kiribati had provided economic opportunities for women to access financial support in the form of small business loans.

Kindling Kiribati as a nonprofit organization had economically empowered Kiribati women towards self-reliance through business education and access to financial services. The program started off in Kiribati in 2018 and since then it had raised \$130K USD through contributions and donations from many generous donors and grants.

The annual report from 2020 to 2023 showed an increased investment into the loan scheme providing more opportunities to women who want to start up small businesses. In 2020 a total of \$7,900 had been disbursed to 21 loans, 2021 \$6,105 disbursed to 21 loans, 2022 \$51,944 to 176 loans and in 2023 \$42,845 to 109 loans. It is evident that the number of loans distributed each year has increased.



Meet Taraia, a graduate from our Bikenibeu class. Taraia used her loan to launch her business in the mauri-wear space where she produces and sells local women's tops called a "tibuta." It is a desirable market with longevity as she explains there is high demand. Although she faces short-term issues in meeting that demand, she is thankful for the opportunity the loan provided her:
I am thankful to Kindling Kiribati for its financial assistance that helped me start my small business. Taraia and other first time loanees are eligible to apply for and receive second-time loans if needed to continue to scale their businesses.

Photo 14: Taraia, a graduate from Kindling Kiribati

Church Based Women Organizations

Church-based women organizations also played a vital role to improve economic situation for women. Teitoiningaina, a Catholic Women Association through Kiribati Health Champions Program had empowered women economically, providing training on Nutrition under project funding support by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand. Their project has reached out to women in rural areas in all outer islands of Kiribati except for one, a non-Catholic island, Tamana. A total of 36,400 people had attended this training with a total of 13,858 male and the rest are female. Majority of these men and women are unemployed. The skills and knowledge attained from the training had been utilized well through the setup of small market vendors on South Tarawa and some on the outer islands.



Photo 15: First graduates of the Kiribati Health Champions Program. Gardening photo of one of the graduates at her home in Betio.

Importantly, the project has delivered a Training of Trainers program for a sustainable training and extended opportunities of men and women in other communities. A pool of graduates identified as facilitators have supported the roll out of the program to the outer islands. As facilitators, they earn income through travel and facilitation allowances. On average one facilitator can earn \$800 to \$900 within a one-week training period.

A new program of Teitoningaina organization, has evolved building on the Nutrition Project; the program had recently expanded into climate resilience putting more emphasis on food security and training on gardening. The new program targets women in 6 rural areas and south Tarawa.

Macroeconomic and Fiscal Environment Policies

The Covid-19 pandemic restriction put strains on economic activities, especially on our tourism and fisheries sectors including business activities in particular shortage of food from companies due to containment and closure of our port activity and labor mobility, as well as the impact of global economic conditions on the national RERF performance. However, when Covid-19 restrictions lifted, IMF estimates that Kiribati GDP reduced in real terms by 0.5 per cent in 2020, but will increase by 1.8 per cent in 2021, lifting to 2.5 per cent in 2022, as vaccination rates increase and containment measures ease leading to increase of labor mobility and port activity, investment projects move forward and international demand recovers. The government recognises that sustainable economic prosperity can only be built from a stable macroeconomic foundation. We understand the importance of maintaining macroeconomic stability throughout the KDP period. Macroeconomic stability covers all sectors of the economy but in our situation, fiscal stability is paramount.

Unpaid care and domestic work refer to all unpaid services provided within the household for its members including care of persons, cooking, cleaning and other housework. During the pandemic more women left labour market to take on additional unpaid work at home. According to the HICE survey 2019-202, households led by women earned just half of what those led by men earned in terms of average per capita expenditure and higher savings of 57 percent and 13 percent higher in terms of annual expenditure per capita and total savings compared to female-head household. During the COVID-19 pandemic, women have been disproportionately affected by its impacts compared to men.

Among all forms of government support during COVID pandemic, social protection grants had a great impact on the people of Kiribati. Other social protection measures include the distribution of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) but few received personal hygiene supplies or food and agricultural inputs.

For work life balance and strengthening of paid care workers, the National Conditions of Service allows women nursing breaks of half hour for every four-work effective from return from six months maternity leave and applies for 12 months. Equal remuneration for work of equal value to men.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Despite COVID 19, Government progressively implemented strategies and strengthened frameworks on introducing a financial management system to achieve its goal in generating a positive real rate of economic growth per person.

Kiribati Covid Recovery Plan had been instrumental in providing vital necessities in terms of medication, food and health equipment. The Recovery Plan focuses on three pillars including health security, stability and economic recovery including support is to strengthen public financial management and fiscal sustainability under ADB's funding support of \$5 million to help the Pacific Island nation expedite reforms to aid its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Kiribati-Australia Health Support Program of \$4.3m 2019-2023 supported the sector for mental health, rehabilitation services and preventing and managing high-burden infectious diseases (particularly tuberculosis, leprosy and hepatitis B) building on previous health. It is also aligned to support the Kiribati COVID 19 preparedness plan.

Disability Support Allowance

After the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2013, the government launched an inclusive education policy using the Washington Group Short Set of six questions on disability to measure disability incidence for those ages 5 years and over. Since 2016 more significant developments for people with disabilities were evident. To improve situations for people with disabilities, the Employment and Industrial Relations Code 2015 was amended and accompanied by the Disability Inclusive Policy to provide protection to the employment rights of people with disabilities. In 2017 the government highlighted the right of people with disabilities to meaningful work and paid employment and addressing the right to an adequate standard of living; the national building code reviewed to be disability inclusive and accessible and approved the Kiribati National Disability Policy in 2018 and in the same year, approved the new Disability Support Allowance that varies according to severity of disability at \$30, \$50, \$60, \$70, and \$80 per month.

The Kiribati Disability-Inclusive Development Program (KDIDP) had made significant contribution to improving access to and quality of disability-specific services in Kiribati since 2013/14. Some of the programs that support economic empowerment of disabled women was the plan for income generation activities for Te Toa Matoa (TTM) women group. Disability inclusion has been mainstreamed in policies of government ministries, private sectors, church organizations and other influential stakeholders.

Both the Government and TTM are working to engage the private sector in offering inclusive employment opportunities and training. Disability inclusion within Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT) increase educational opportunities and equip them with skills for employment, a path for sustainability and improving their life.

Senior Citizen Allowance

The Senior Citizen's Allowance is a pension paid to citizens ages 60 and beyond. The scheme was introduced in 2004 with a monthly rate of \$40. In 2011, the rate revised to improve this support resulting in an increase in the amount to \$50 for those aged 70 and above, and \$40 for ages of 67 to 69. In 2016 and age eligibility changed with eligibility lowered to 65 years and monthly rates increased. Under these new rates those ages 65 to 69 received \$50 and ages 70 and over received \$60. More female than male receive this allowance reflecting that women have higher life expectancy.

Unemployment Benefit scheme

A recent program established by the government after re-election in June 2020, all Kiribati citizens ages 18–59 years who are unemployed are entitled to an allowance of A\$50 per month. The unemployment benefit scheme also applied to people with disability in addition to the disability allowance received, hence increasing monthly benefits. Female and male are treated equally under the scheme.

Kiribati Education Improvement Program

The Kiribati Education Improvement Program (\$97 million, 2011-2023) is supporting Kiribati to provide a quality education to all I-Kiribati girls and boys, including those with a disability. Kiribati has made significant gains over the past decade in improving standards in basic education, in terms of both access and quality. We are building on this work, with a strengthened focus on improving the literacy and numeracy levels of I-Kiribati children. Our education program is also addressing the need for strong hygiene standards during the COVID-19, including by improving WASH facilities in Kiribati schools.

Kiribati-Development Partner Economic Reform Taskforce

The Kiribati-Development Partner Economic Reform Taskforce focuses on activities that assists Kiribati to maximize the benefits flowing from its resources and build greater economic resilience against external shocks. Australia coordinates its support with other development partners including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, New Zealand and the European Union. Development partners have agreed to focus support on achievement of a discrete set of economic reforms identified by the Government of Kiribati and to harmonize support. Key areas of reform include financial governance, revenue diversification and improvements to the effectiveness and efficiency of essential public services.

Gender More females are educated than males in Kiribati, with the proportion increasing with age, while the number of female teachers decreases. While this is a positive picture in terms of life chances for girls, who might otherwise be restricted to the home, remote learning will have the exact same effect. Students may face higher risk of domestic or gender-based violence (GBV) during school closure as they are confined to the home and community environment with limited opportunities of interaction with other people outside of their communities, while tensions are likely to run higher within the household. Within Output 1.1, there is a specific referral pathway for cases of GBV. The literature on gender divergences in education indicates

that boys typically achieve lower learning outcomes relative to girls and have considerably reduced levels of access to education overall.

These differences are most marked in secondary-level education, which suggests that additional support in the form of accelerated learning programs or back-to-school campaigns, may be needed to address this imbalance. Although specific strategies focused on boys' educational achievement are not stated directly in the contingency plan, these considerations were used to inform the development of the final strategy, and in this way have been integrated indirectly. The relative increase in male teachers with more specialized schooling for older children will be the relative increase in male teachers with more specialized schooling for older children will be relevant to the training they receive under Output 1.4 – especially in the context of gender Page | 48 sensitivity – and in cross-cutting with the above age-based training. Output 1.3 also provides a further communication channel for reporting and escalating issues associated with GBV, due to the usage of specific monitoring tool, while Output 1.4 enables its detection through upskilling teachers on the relevant referral pathway.

Skills for Employment Program

The Skills for Employment Program (\$36 million, 2016-2023) aims to build a more capable, qualified and mobile I-Kiribati workforce, including through technical and vocational education and training at the Kiribati Institute of Technology and effective management of the Kiribati skills sector. The program is key to the ongoing success of I-Kiribati obtaining local and international employment.

Women Resilience to Disaster program

The Women Resilience to Disaster program in Kiribati was officially launched on the 10th of June 2022. The Kiribati WRD program was developed following extensive consultations and has been designed locally to meet the needs of I-Kiribati women and girls in reducing the risk of disasters, climate change impacts, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The program which focused on building gender responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience also target to build the resilience of women and girls through early warning systems and women's resilient livelihoods and businesses. The program provided avenues for women and girls voices to be heard and recognized and included at all levels of disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. At the same time, it addresses the impacts of climate change and threats such as Covid 19. Programs implemented under this program includes training on nutrition, sewing, gardening

and food preservation all of which empower a woman economically and prepare her before any risk of disasters such as Covid 19.

CHALLENGES

The remoteness of islands leads to high transportation and communication costs that critically affect a robust business trade internally. Also, the extreme weather threatens our infrastructure, livelihood, and overall economic stability, requiring a significant whole government approach for adaptation and mitigation efforts, not forgetting that the people are heavily reliant on imports goods and services which exposes the economy to global price fluctuations and increases the trade deficit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To support small-scale businesses for local products from agricultural and local handcrafts activities to create additional sources of income and to strengthen participation in regional trade agreement and initiatives to improve market access, including enhancing of transportation and communication infrastructure to reduce costs and improve efficiency. To increase budget for gender activities for all government sectors to build a more resilient, diversified, and sustainable economy at the grassroot level through income generating activities.

CRITICAL AREA G: WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

Kiribati, like many societies, has traditionally operated within a patriarchal system, where men hold primary authority and decision-making power within both public and private spheres. This patriarchal structure manifests in various aspects of Kiribati society, including governance, family dynamics, and social norms. In governance, men have historically dominated political leadership positions, with women often underrepresented from formal decision-making processes. To foster inclusivity and gender equality in the leadership and decision-making space, the government take various initiatives to empower women through leadership trainings to create and build a more just and equitable society for all.

Overall, the National Gender Equality and Women Development Policy (GEWD Policy 2019-2021) aims to create an enabling environment for advancing gender equality and empowering women, with a focus on gender mainstreaming taking gender perspectives to integrate in legal frameworks, women's economic empowerment by working with key ministries and NGOs to provide capacity trainings to assist women to generate incomes through their economic activities, stronger informed families empowering men and women to work together for the wellbeing and

safety of their family , women’s political participation and leadership by empowering women to participate in life decision-making at the political, local and community level, and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence to address all forms of violence experienced by women and girls.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Aligning with one of the National GEWD Policy key priority on women’s political participation and leadership, the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs conducted two leadership trainings to women who were interested to run for Parliament and local government in 2020. The impact of such training was able to empower eight (8) women to run for parliament in which 4 out of this number were elected to Parliament, while at the local government level, 18 women were elected and out of this number, two (2) were becoming mayors.

Recently, the Women Practice Parliament in 2023 has provide a platform for women to develop their leadership skills, increase their knowledge of parliamentary processes, and teaching them to be able to participate effectively in public discourse, articulate their perspectives, and encourage greater participation in formal political structures for women who are interested to run for Parliament in 2024. There were total of 36 women came from outer islands including South Tarawa and BTC for the Women Practice Parliament, except for candidate from the Line and Phoenix group. These candidates spent two weeks to go over parliament procedures and processes including campaigning tips from two Parliamentarians who were invited from Fiji and Cook Islands including the former female Parliamentarian in country. Among these candidates, there are two possible candidates that are preparing to run for Parliament this year.

Straight after the Women Practice Parliament, the Transformational Leadership trainings were carried out to women leaders and potential candidates to increase their understanding on the principles of gender and transformational leadership, evaluate one’s own personal values, beliefs, and leadership styles, identify gaps in relation to transformational leadership and build self-confidence, to be able to recognize patterns and systems that exist in their communities that perpetuate problems and confident in creating alternatives to address gender issues as a transformative leader. This training was conducted on South Tarawa in November and Christmas Islands in December 2023 in which thirteen (13) women leaders and potential candidates participates on South Tarawa and twenty (20) women leaders participate on Christmas islands. At the end of each training course, the participants were presented with a certificate of participation.

Recently, the nomination of the first females I-Kiribati to hold the position of the speaker and the Head of Justice set a milestone and the showed the great support of the government to appoint these two ladies to become first females to hold these positions that are considered male jobs. Being a Speaker for the House of Parliament have proved women capability to lead a pre-male dominated roles and for the first female head of Justice also proved that women are also capable of making decision on critical and challenging matters. These two ladies are pillars of achievements and from their leadership roles in the leadership and decision-making space encourage women to participate more in this area.

CHALLENGES

Despite these programs, gender inequality persists. Women are still underrepresented in decision-making bodies. It is reflecting our deeply entrenched social norms, cultural attitudes, structural barriers, and unequal access to resources that continue to impede women's opportunity and advancement in the political and leadership space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To promote women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles, a multifaceted approach, and comprehensive strategies is required to address root causes that hinder the progress of accessing equal opportunities to participate and lead in decision-making processes. And through revising our Gender Equality and Women Development Policy, investing in Leadership training programs, establishing a Gender Taskforce, and strengthen our gender mainstreaming work in all sectors and encourage open dialogue by our female leaders as role models, we are creating a more inclusive and equitable environments that empower women to participate fully in leadership and decision-making roles, driving positive change that contribute across society.

CRITICAL AREA H: INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Institutional mechanism plays a vital role in driving forward the nation's commitment on gender equality and empowerment. Under the portfolio of MWYSSA, it is mandated to provide and support efficient, proactive, and effective service delivery for the benefit of all citizens with special attention on those that are most vulnerable. Each division and unit have designated roles and responsibilities that are guided by their legislation and policies to ensure people are receiving the best and quality services they request. Not only that but the ministry strengthen it network

and collaboration with relevant ministries, NGOs, CSOs, and FBOs to achieve gender equality and empowerment for all especially to women and girls.

areas are prioritized to close gaps and to include new emerging GE issues such as in climate change and security concerns for marginalized groups such as women, children, people with disabilities inclusively.

Over the past five years, Kiribati has dedicated significant resources to strengthen this division, increasing its permanent staffing and expanding its mandate to promote gender equality across various sectors. The GEWD policy clear objectives are highlighted for advancing women's rights and for mainstreaming gender in national policies and programs. Additionally, efforts to integrate gender considerations into community-based initiatives, such as fisheries management, highlight Kiribati's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities and representation for all members of society. Despite challenges, including the establishment of a standalone National Human Rights Institution, Kiribati remains steadfast in its pursuit of gender equality, recognizing the critical role of institutional mechanisms in driving sustainable development and human rights for all its citizens.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

The MWYSSA as the leading role in advancing GE work nationally has been strengthening each division and units to ensure the need of the most vulnerable or grassroot people are prioritized through their roles and responsibilities. For instance, the Women's Development Division aims to facilitate and promote women's development and gender equality in Kiribati through an efficient and adequately resourced team within the Division.

With its vision as to improve the status and livelihoods of women and girls in Kiribati through equal access to resources, opportunities, rights, services, and their full participation in social, economic and political development. Moreover, WDD is increased permanent staffing from 6 to 7 staff and 2 project officers who will be absorbed into WDD establishment register. Recently Women Resilient to Disasters project has included 2 staff specifically for the project, to also advance gender interests in Disasters through building their resilience. The key women umbrella organization, the AMAK (Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati) receives Government/MWYSSA support for funding 2 key positions by development partner (DFAT) has assisted to improve coordination of its programs for women organization members.

Youth Development Division aims to improve and enhance the development status and general welfare of the Kiribati youth and children. It is also to facilitate the acquisition of skills and orientation that will assist young people in making desirable choices for self-development and full participation at all levels in society. Through its new FLE program the youth that are dropped out of school will be able to learn through this program as well as they can apply for the Youth Loan Scheme to start off and manage their own business.

Sport Development Division aims to administer the organization of sport for the benefit of athletes, national federations, the ministry, and the government of Kiribati. The Runga Tournament that was held last year provided all island athletes to build their talent and engage in sport at the national level. In addition to this, the government enforced that every Wednesday from 4 to 5p.m. is a day for government and companies to break from work and enjoy sport. In 2023-2024, the Sport division hosted a community sport tournament in partnership with the NGO division and organized the sport competition between ministries and state-owned enterprises. Disability Inclusion Unit vision is for "Kiribati as an inclusive and barrier-free society, where persons with disabilities are empowered and seen, where they have equal opportunities, meaningful participation and full enjoyment of their human rights". Social Welfare focuses on protecting and providing counselling, and other services to the child including couple counselling.

Moreover, Social Welfare developed the Child Referral Pathway to ensure the child received the quality services he/she needs from service providers. Social Protection Unit managed and provided social benefit to unemployed people including people with disability and the elderly, while NGO Division focuses its work on registering communities and churches including offering training on how to become an NGO, CSOs, and what requirements should you need when applying for a registration and other important matters related to their division.

Technically, the ministry portfolio is to provide necessary support, protection and empowerment program that will sustain and improve the livelihood of the people. Thus, its legislations and policies that are in place are guiding their everyday work.

Mechanism and Tools Mainstream gender equality across sectors-Women in Fisheries

One significant approach has been the integration of gender considerations into Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) processes. CBFM serves as a vital platform for

communication between local council members and government officials, facilitating dialogue and collaboration in fisheries management. Traditional meeting practices, such as those found in the maneaba (meeting house), have been adapted to ensure the inclusion of women, thereby reshaping local governance structures to promote gender equality.

During CBFM pilot projects, communities have identified key marine species important for community management, with women actively participating in these discussions. The Kiribati National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap, a product of CBFM activities, further advances gender mainstreaming by prioritizing women's involvement in coastal fisheries development. It represents a collaborative effort among various ministries, including the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (MFMRD), to empower and support women in fisheries. While the Roadmap emphasizes gender-awareness training and the development of gender-inclusive fisheries cooperatives, there is a need for greater specificity regarding women's fisheries, particularly in addressing the exploitation of invertebrate species such as bivalves(bun), conches(nou), or peanut worms(ibo). Nonetheless, these initiatives reflect Kiribati's commitment to mainstreaming gender equality across sectors and fostering sustainable development that benefits both men and women.

National Human Right Institution in your Country

In Kiribati, a National Human Right Institution proper is yet to be established for which Ministry of Justice has made efforts and still in progress. The proposal for the National Human Rights Institution has been completed by the Division staff for their Minister and is now ready to be presented to the cabinet. In the meantime, the Human Rights Division under the Ministry of Justice serves to some extent the anticipated purpose through the national human rights taskforce established in 2014.

The Human Rights Division carries out various responsibilities related to law, justice, and human rights, including the formulation of service-related policies, management of prisons and the probationary system, provision of legal aid, civil registration, overseeing elections, citizenship matters, customs services, and law reform. Human Rights has visited most of the Kiribati Islands which is 16 islands out of 23 islands in total except for Line and Phoenix Island (Kiritimati, Tabuaeran, Teraina) Tabiteuea North and South, Nikunau and Banaba from the Ocean Island.

Some of the topics covered were Human Rights, Family Peace Act, Child Protection & Children Rights, Prison Service and Gender Equality and Equity.

While Kiribati has ratified several international human rights treaties, concerns persist regarding fulfilling reporting obligations and addressing discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability. The Constitution of Kiribati guarantees fundamental human rights but does not explicitly protect against discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Efforts to amend the constitution to include non-discrimination provisions have faced challenges. Nonetheless, the Human Rights Division plays a pivotal role in promoting and safeguarding human rights within Kiribati.

Collaboratively, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs works with the Human Rights Division to promote human rights, gender equality, and the elimination of gender-based violence, and to formulate policies and laws for women and girls in Kiribati. As a member of the National Human Rights Taskforce, MWYSSA collaborates with other entities to address women's and girls' issues. Initiatives such as SPV, SafeNet, WEE, Women in Organic Value Chain, and KMBC, managed by the Women's Development Division, are tasked with resolving breaches of women's rights and advancing gender equality to eliminate gender-based violence.

National Strategy/Action plan for Gender Equality

The Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2019-2022 is a cornerstone initiative in Kiribati's efforts to ensure equal opportunities, rights, and access to services for all individuals. It aims to empower both men and women, boys, and girls, enabling them to reach their potential across economic, political, cultural, and social spheres. Key priorities of this policy include implementing a gender mainstreaming approach, enhancing the economic empowerment of women, promoting informed and resilient families, boosting women's political representation and leadership, and combating sexual and gender-based violence.

This policy primarily targets women and girls, recognizing the unique challenges they face in Kiribati. The Women's Development Division collaborates with government ministries, institutions, and women's groups to execute various activities outlined in the policy. Funding for these endeavours come from both the Kiribati Government and international organizations such as DFAT, UNWOMEN, and SPC.

Additionally, the Elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2011-2021 complements efforts to eradicate gender-based violence. It seeks to address the underlying social, cultural, political, legal, and economic inequalities perpetuating violence against women. Priorities include developing national leadership commitments, strengthening legal frameworks and law enforcement, enhancing preventive measures, improving support services, and engaging in advocacy efforts.

Recently, this policy underwent a comprehensive review and transformation, resulting in the Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy 2023-2032.

The revised policy aims to accelerate the reduction of gender-based violence by strengthening legal frameworks, improving prevention strategies, enhancing data collection and management, capacity building of stakeholders, and bolstering support services.

Furthermore, the Kiribati National Disability Policy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 addresses the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, including women and girls. It reflects a collaborative effort involving people with disabilities, government entities, and various stakeholders. This policy emphasizes the need for societal and institutional change to create an inclusive environment. It identifies priority areas, including addressing the specific challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities, such as access to healthcare, education, vocational training, and protection against violence and abuse.

In alignment with international conventions and agreements, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Kiribati is committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

These policies underscore the government's dedication to achieving these objectives while recognizing the importance of collecting gender-disaggregated data to inform decision-making and policy formulation processes.

Formal mechanisms on Implementation and monitoring of BDPA & 2030 Agenda & preparation for National report.

In Kiribati, formal mechanisms are not yet in place, but recognizing their importance, there is a need to establish them. Currently, staff from the Women Development Division engage with

civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders through consultations, workshops, and dialogue sessions. Additionally, the Women Development Division assists Kiribati in participating in regional and international reporting and review processes to assess progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the BDPFA and the 2030 Agenda. This often involves submitting periodic reports to relevant UN bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Overall, these mechanisms ensure that different stakeholders actively participate in the implementation and monitoring of the BDPFA and the 2030 Agenda, contributing to concerted efforts towards achieving gender equality and sustainable development in Kiribati.

Country's action Plan and timeline for Implementation of recommendations of CEDAW

In Kiribati, there is a Human Rights Division under the Ministry of Justice which coordinate the national human right taskforce that established in 2014. The function of this taskforce is to implement and do reports on the conventions that Kiribati have signed. One of it is the CEDAW that address gender inequality/discrimination against women. The report on CEDAW was submitted in 2019 and was reviewed in 2020, thus conclusion observations have been aligned to the workplan of keyline ministries in collaboration with NGOs, CSOs, and FBOs. The next step is to work on the UPR report in mid-year 2024, to have it finalized prior next year. This will be done with the support of the TA from SPC

Gender-specific indicators Kiribati prioritized for monitoring progress on the SDGs.

The UN has developed Gender Indicators to monitor progress on SDGs in the Pacific Region. National population survey/census has added gender/GBV questionnaires including the KSDIS 2021 which it has been possible to see the violence rate against women (ages 15 years and older). In the recent KSDIS, a 1% reduction from 68 to 67% has been achieved, to contribute to the 25% Pacific Region target/milestone. The KDP is closely aligned with the SDGs the SDGs addressing all goals in the 6 Key Priority Areas of the plan (KPAs) of the KDP, rephrased to add more weight and meaning to them. KPA 5, Good Governance has 5 strategies and one it strategies specifically stated effective changes starts from Home, Therefore GBV/GE were included in this pillar and implemented by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs (MWYSSA). Yet most of the activities were highlighted and reported through different sectors of this reports. The 6-monthly Progress review reporting mechanism for the KDP serves to assess and monitor progress

on all Government priorities implementation. Through monitoring progress of the KDP, implementation of SDGs are also monitored, as well as the KV20 of the Government.

Position	Male	Female	Total	Source
Cabinet Members	14	0	14	PSO 2019
Parliament Members	42	3	45	Parliament 2019
Island Mayors	22	1	23	MIA 2019
Island Councilors	218	6	224	MIA 2019
Secretary	7	9	16	PSO 2019
Deputy Secretary	7	9	16	PSO 2019
Senior Assistant Secretary	4	10	14	PSO 2019
Assistant Secretary	4	14	18	PSO 2019
Chief Executive Officer	14	4	18	SOE 2019
Total	332	56	388	

Table 4: Management Positions by Gender

However, we recognize that we are still lagging in many sectors on gender balance. For instance, only 6.6% of women are members of Parliament, there were no women in the last Cabinet, there are only 1 women Mayor in 23 Councils, and 22.2% of women held CEO positions in SOEs. Overall, for management positions, only 15% were held by women. Through MWYSSA and other stakeholders some of the activities to empower women and protecting women's rights including establishing of the Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre (KWCS), Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for survivors of GBV, referral pathways, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MWYSSA and stakeholders (Government and NGO's). Yet the list of activities was also listed in the reports.

The Government of Kiribati launched its 2020-2023 Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) at the House of Parliament in Ambo on Thursday evening 2nd of December 2021. This 2020-2023 KDP is a guide that will keep Kiribati on its course as we pursue our long-term goal of achieving the Kiribati 20 Year vision (KV20) of a wealthy, healthy and peaceful nation with people at the

centre of it all. The core priorities of the KDP are to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality and injustice through inclusive economic growth, building human capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state, and upholding the rule of law and principles of democracy.

CHALLENGES

When talking about gender, everyone thinks is a “women issues” and even meetings and trainings related to gender, always women staff from government are sent to participate in these meetings and trainings. Lack of socializing of GEWD policy to key line ministries narrowed ministries understanding to understand that gender is about men and women, boys and girls, and elderlies in all their diversities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Establishment of Formal Mechanisms: Support to establish National Human Rights Institution. Establish sub-Committees at MWYSSA to advance implementation of recommendations by the UN body with support of key agencies such as UN Women, SPC (e.g. CEDAW Committee etc.), to ensure timely reporting by Government, and ensure continuity of work in the space rather than on ad hoc basis as and when reports are near due. This will ensure closer monitoring of implementation and tracking performance, to enable timely reporting to the UN authorities. For all ministries to have a National Gender Action Plan. Gender Analysis and Monitoring and Evaluation on Gender work taking the whole nation approach.

By implementing these recommendations and building on existing initiatives, Kiribati can further enhance its efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, contributing to sustainable development and human rights for all.

CRITICAL AREA I: HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental - the right to life - to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, was the first legal document to set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The UDHR, which turns 75 on 10 December 2023, continues to be the foundation of all international human rights law. Its [30 articles](#) provide the principles and building blocks of current and future human rights conventions, treaties, and other legal instruments.

The UDHR, together with the 2 covenants - the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - make up the [International Bill of Rights](#).

In the past five years, Kiribati has implemented various initiatives aimed at enhancing judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls, particularly in situations of humanitarian crises and crisis response. These actions primarily focus on professional training, capacity building, access to justice, community awareness raising, and improving data management within the judiciary.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

National Human Right Institution

In Kiribati, a National Human Right Institution proper is yet to be established for which Ministry of Justice has made efforts and still in progress. The proposal for the National Human Rights Institution has been completed by the Division staff for their Minister and is now ready to be presented to the cabinet. The Human Rights Division carries out various responsibilities related to law, justice, and human rights, including the formulation of service-related policies, management of prisons and the probationary system, provision of legal aid, civil registration, overseeing elections, citizenship matters, customs services, and law reform. Also, this division conduct trainings to 35 people for each islands they visited such as Arorae and Christmas besides monitoring and coordinating the implementation of Human Rights treaties and reporting on conventions through the National Human Rights Taskforce established in 2014 which is coordinated and managed by them.

While Kiribati has ratified several international human rights treaties, concerns persist regarding fulfilling reporting obligations and addressing discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability. The Constitution of Kiribati guarantees fundamental human rights but

does not explicitly protect against discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Efforts to amend the constitution to include non-discrimination provisions have faced challenges. Nonetheless, the Human Rights Division plays a pivotal role in promoting and safeguarding human rights within Kiribati.

Collaboratively, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs works with the Human Rights Division to promote human rights, gender equality, and the elimination of gender-based violence, and to formulate policies and laws for women and girls in Kiribati. As a member of the National Human Rights Taskforce, MWYSSA collaborates with other entities to address women's and girls' issues. Initiatives such as SPV, SafeNet, WEE, Women in Organic Value Chain, and KMBC, managed by the Women's Development Division, are tasked with resolving breaches of women's rights and advancing gender equality to eliminate gender-based violence.

Judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls

Over the last five years there are several professional training and capacity-building programs that Judiciary staff attend, including Legal Studies Courses (both Certificate of Justice and Diploma of Justice) at USP, as well as workshops aimed at instilling knowledge, skills, and abilities required for effective job performance and career growth opportunities. The primary objective of these staff training programs is to cultivate a workforce capable of delivering quality work output while serving their customers, particularly in the context of judicial proceedings.

Additionally, a workshop on Human Rights in the Practice of the Court in Kiribati was conducted with the assistance of the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative. Facilitated by Dr. Carolyn Graydon on June 12th to 13th, 2018, at the High Court premises in Betio, Tarawa, this workshop mainly targeted staff from the High Court and Magisterial Division. Dr. Carolyn Graydon, serving as the Human Rights Adviser/Legal Aid & Bar Associations Adviser with PJSI, provided valuable insights during the sessions.

Another significant initiative by the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative is the Access to Justice & Community Awareness Raising: Enabling Rights & Unrepresented Litigants workshop. Held at the Teuanete Boardroom in Taborio on December 9th and 11th, 2019, and

facilitated by Dr. Livingston Armytage, this workshop aimed to improve the quality of justice provided by courts to the community.

It included discussions on the challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups in accessing court remedies, strategies for community engagement and awareness raising, and refreshing participants on court guidance for unrepresented litigants.

Furthermore, the Data Base & Registry Workshop, sponsored by the Judicial Pacific Partnership Fund (JPPF) and facilitated by the New Zealand High Court and Ministry of Justice, provided insight into the functioning of New Zealand's High Court registry. Conducted over two days at the High Court premises, this workshop focused on aspects such as case management, data entry, movement of files within registries and courts, and the responsibilities of registry clerks, court clerks, and Institutional Technologies personnel.

CHALLENGES

Regarding data management and collection, there is a limited data from the Attorney General's office to monitor how many cases on survivors successfully or failed. In the outer island, there is a need to capacitated court staffs on the rule of law and other related laws that will assist these staff to execute their decision accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve data management and collection through training and providing their tools and equipment. Also, it requires the support to their human resources, especially to have a data analysis for data management and capacity training to outer island court staffs to effectively executive their work as expected.

CRITICAL AREA J: WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Women in the Media

Kiribati is one of the Pacific Island that is conservative and women's expression and participation in decision making in social media is seen as a proscribed against the Kiribati tradition. But because of the influence of modern education in this age, time changes and educated women in Kiribati today sees the importance of using social media such as Facebook and radio broadcast through BPA as a way to help express and disseminate their important

decision makings and information to the directed people as it is one source of immediate communication publicly.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) had profound impact upon people's lives and they are fundamental necessity for economic progress. ICT promote economic and social well-being, underpin growth and improvements in other important part of people's lives such as security, health and education. Worldwide International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of April. The annual celebration provides an opportunity for girls and young women to understand the benefits of ICT in enabling their careers and aspirations. Girls in ICT for Asia and the Pacific was celebrated on May 2nd, 2024. The celebration was also attended by the Kiribati Girls in ICT working group and women in the Ministry of Information Communications & Transport at the Digital Transformation Office Betio.



Photo16: Girls in ICT regional celebration was conducted virtually by a collective of Girls in ICT in the Asia Pacific May 2, 2024.

ICT symposium and school visit was conducted on Abaiang from 7th to 9th September 2023. The theme of the symposium, which is Leveraging digital knowledge to the young generation, is to encourage young professionals and students from member countries to develop their skills and understanding on Information Communication & Technology (ICTs). The program was organized by the Digital Transformation Office under the Ministry of Information Communications & Transport. Below are the key objectives of the symposium:

- To disseminate knowledge about developments in the ICT sector

- To facilitate in developing ICT applications
- To promote ICT career to young generation
- To raise awareness on cybersecurity
- To provide a platform to discuss ICT related issues.
- To understand the potentials of ICT in solving socio-economic issues
- To raise awareness of the APT activities
- To encourage them to participate in the APT activities.
- To encourage women in the ICT and contribute gender mainstreaming.

As part of the 2 days program, 2 mission schools and one government Junior Secondary school were visited with the key objective to promote benefits of ICT to young generation, ICT careers, cybersecurity awareness and updates from the Government on ICT related.

The events targeted college students with an objective to upscale their knowledge and understanding on ICT and further to guide the young minds as they start embarking towards their journey of building a career in the ICT sector. There is a growing number of women in ICT which total up to 20 in the last record including Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT) and abroad universities.



Photo 17: ICT Symposium and school visit on Abaiang 7th to 9th September 2023.

Furthermore, Kiribati has taken to account to prevent and respond to technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The portrayal of women and girl's discrimination and gender bias in social media is now one of the main problems in Kiribati. Since most of this generation uses social media for example Facebook, whatever news or photos of women or girls they see which is inappropriate to the Kiribati culture, they upload and expose it as a way of showing their disagreement without their consent and not knowing that it discriminates and violate the right of that person. This is a common practice today by the people of Kiribati and Facebook is one way of exposing these discriminations against girls and women.

The Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western Sydney University, Child Fund Australia and Plan International Australia conducted research to map the challenges and opportunities that digital technology presents in Kiribati. Child and adult participants were the key targets during this research and most of them representing local and national NGOs, churches, government agencies and police. The research findings on children shows that most of them use social media for educational purposes and in cases of online violence and cyberbullying they tend to turn to their parents for online safety. Parents and caregivers emphasize the importance of digital literacy as part of their personal development which can position them for future careers within technology related fields though some showed concern in regard to negative impact on their children's sleeping patterns. Overall children and parents believed that Kiribati Police Services should provide safety for children online.

Women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media

In 2011, the Kiribati National Parliament hosted the first ever mock parliament for women in Kiribati which is marked as one of an historic day in Kiribati. Thirteen women from Tarawa and seventeen women from the outer islands of Kiribati came together in the Maneaba ni Maungatabu (Parliament) following a 3-day preparatory training workshop. The first Mock parliament which was held from 8th to 9th August was an excellent move in advancement of women. The training and Mock Parliament was designed to provide an opportunity for potential women candidates to develop and apply their public advocacy skills and for the community to be encouraged to reflect on the importance of supporting the inclusion of more women in decision-making positions in Kiribati.

The training and the first Mock Parliament for Women is being spearheaded by the Kiribati Parliament and the Kiribati Department of Women. It was supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme with additional funding from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). Women Mock parliament conducted every 4 years prior national elections. The second one was conducted in 2015, then 2019 and the current one was held in 2023. Women were selected from the outer islands and south Tarawa. All these sessions went live through the Broadcasting Publication Authority which extend coverage to all outer islands in Kiribati including the Line and Phoenix group.



Photo 18: Women mock parliament training

National ICT Policy 2019

This National ICT policy is consistent and align with strategies of the Government's manifesto, its 20-year vision, (KV20) and the Kiribati Development Plan. The Policy aimed to improve the lives of citizens through further development of the economy and citizens' capabilities.

Additionally, it aimed to increased availability of affordable and reliable telecommunication services as the key factor in economic growth and increase the accessibility of online resources, information and knowledge products which enhanced learning for all.

The policy had six specific goals and objectives in which one of it focus on education and protection of children from danger on the internet. This covers school programs including teaching children on how to safely to use the internet and teaching ICT skills and technology to be part of the school curricula. The main strategies and plans as the next steps to achieving the goals include cyber security and cyber safety. This includes establishing new cyber law developed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for Pacific Island countries. This law will strengthen legal framework in Kiribati and will lead to the establishment of the

Kiribati Computer Emergency Response (CERT). Ministry of Information and Communication Transport (MICT) will enhance protection of human rights, criminalization, investigation, electronic evidence through working with different agencies such as police. MICT will work with Ministry of Education to bring the level of knowledge about cyber security and ways to protect children and citizens of Kiribati against cyber threats.

(MICTD) toward preventing gender based violence.

Over the five past years, the Ministry of Information Communication Technology Development (MICTD) worked on preventing gender based violence by introducing and strengthening awareness on facilitating gender based violence to women and girls. The Kiribati Government also contributed a lot to prevent and respond to technology facilitated gender-based violence by passing Cybercrime act to prevent any unlawful act towards women and girls on social media.

Below are some activities already launched by the Ministry of Information Communication Technology Development.

- a) Implementing awareness also done by the MICTD office through following activities.

Cybersecurity awareness outreach

This is a yearly activity conducted by the DTO focusing on increasing awareness on cybersecurity issues for schools, communities and government officials.	
Target	Local schools, communities and government officials
Location	Schools and communities around Kiribati <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Tarawa schools and communities - Kiritimati 2023 - Abaiang 2023
Impact	Increasing cybersecurity awareness as well as provide cyber hygiene best practices

Table 5: Cybersecurity awareness outreach

Mobile training and Streaming training for AMAK

Training details	
Aim	Empower women in the use of mobile phones, applications, ICT tools and technologies, focusing of the creation of quality streaming videos.
Target	Women between 40 – 60+
Budget	Sponsored by\$5,000
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased level of awareness in the use of different online tools - Increased cybersecurity awareness in terms of using online platforms

Table 6: Mobile and Streaming Training

1) ICT in Education - e-Learning

Government will utilize ICT in education - to extend e-Learning applications and tools to schools in a more efficient and effective way. Applications will include the ongoing education and upskilling of teachers as well as the education of students. Introducing ICT in the school curriculum is encouraged to allow more students and teachers to understand current ICT developments through academic studies. Students will also benefit from access to the enormous range of on-line courses and remote study opportunities.

Activities will include:

- Developing e-learning applications
- Developing the skills of the teachers

Introducing more comprehensive ICT instruction throughout the school curricula ranging from basic skills to advanced ICT courses

Cybercrime

There shall be a Cybercrime Unit within the Kiribati Police Service consisting of Police officers whose function is to administer this Act. The Unit shall provide a report of its investigations to the Office of the Attorney. Cybercrime act is an act to provide for the prevention, investigation and suppression of computer offences and for other connected purposes. The act also plays an

important part by providing certain offenses with penalties that everyone must know what penalty will be given to them if they done something wrong with is related to ICT.

Offense and Penalty by Cybercrime act 2021

Section 14 sexual abuse material depicting a child.

(1) A person who knowingly:

(a) produces sexual abuse material depicting a child—

(b) offers or makes available sexual abuse material depicting a child through a computer system.

(c) distributes or transmits sexual abuse material depicting a child through a computer system;

(d) procures or obtains sexual abuse material depicting a child through a computer system for oneself or for another person.

(e) possesses sexual abuse material depicting a child in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium; or

(1) obtains access, by means of a computer system to sexual abuse material depicting a child, commits an offence punishable upon conviction, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years.

(2) It is a defense to a charge of an offence under subsection (1) (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) if the person establishes that the sexual abuse material depicting a child was a bona fide law enforcement purpose. If sexual abuse material depicting a child was stored for such a purpose, the authorized person needs to ensure that it is deleted as soon as it is not legally required anymore.

Section 15. Solicitation of children- A person, who through the use of a computer system, communicates to a child, with the intent of committing an offence, including but not limited to;

(a) soliciting a child; (b) grooming a child; and (c) grooming a third party 9 for the purposes of engaging in a sexual explicit conduct with a child commits an offence punishable upon conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years.

Therefore, the Ministry works with other agencies, including the Police and the Ministry of Education, to bring the level of knowledge about cyber security and ways to protect the children, citizens and businesses of Kiribati against cyber threats to the highest levels.

Actions taken to reduce the gender digital divide.

However, during the past five years in Kiribati, there were actions taken to try and reduce the gender digital divide by developing of the Information Communication Technology Policy by the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology Development in 2019 which is known as the Kiribati National Policy 2019. This National ICT policy is consistent with the aims and strategies of the Government's manifesto, its 20-year vision, (KV20) and the Kiribati Development Plan. There are twelve policy objectives. One of the twelve policy objectives is non-discrimination. This policy specifies that all people must receive all services at a same price no matter who you are, a male or female.

Apart from that, the MICTD also implement a very new activity known as Women in ICT. The program encourages girls and women to joint ICT.

The photo was taken during the second meeting of Women in ICT held at the Digital Transformation Office boardroom on the 28th July 2022.



Photo 19: Women in ICT meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to strengthen the association and to work on their work plan for the next three years. This is also notifying members the growing number of women in ICT is now coming up to 20 in total including graduates from KIT and abroad universities.

The Chairperson envisaged the team spirit to join hands together, working cooperatively to encourage young women to enter the ICT sector and to note its high priority in the Government training plan. Women in ICT open its door and welcome young women to join them. The women in ICT also Introduced and strengthened programs to provide universal meaningful connectivity for women and girls, especially for undeserved areas.

In addition, the MICTD also conducted a few activities to promote ICT to the general public in order to bridge the digital divide such as mobile training and Streaming training for AMAK, Girls in ICT Day 2024

1. Girls in ICT Day 2024

Event details: To be held on the 2th of May 2024	
Media promotion AM radio, displaying of banners with this year’s theme, regional celebration online with member countries in the Pacific.	
Aim	Encourage young girls and women in the use of ICT tools and technologies and to pursue careers in the field of ICT
Target	Everyone focusing on young girls
Budget	Sponsored by CCK
Impact	- Promoting ICT to everyone focusing on girls and women to pursue careers in ICT

Table 7: Girls in ICT

ii. The inclusion of Information Communication Technology in the new Curriculum in Junior Secondary Schools and Senior Secondary schools by the Ministry of Education such as:

- KCS (Kiribati Community Skills) in JSS

- TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) in Senior Secondary Schools where all genders are taught Information Technology Skills. Basic skills are taught in Junior Secondary Schools and more advanced skills to Senior Secondary Schools to bridge these gaps. The inclusion of computing and technology at the earlier age to girls in school will help women in full access to computing and technological work in the future.

iii. Digital literacy programs by VODAFONE

Vodafone Kiribati also plays a very important role in Vodafone Kiribati main aim to reduce the digital gender divide in Kiribati through various initiatives. Digital literacy programs implementing targeted digital literacy programs tailored to women to improve their skills and confidence in using digital technologies. Infrastructure Development investing in expanding and improving telecommunication infrastructure in underserved areas to ensure equal access to digital services for both men and women. Partnership Collaboration with local organization, government agencies and NGOs dot develop and implement initiatives focused on bridging the gender digital gap, with involvement form statutory bodies in Kiribati for effective coordination. Training and support: Providing training and support women entrepreneur in the tech sector including mentorship programs, business development resources and access to funding opportunities.

CHALLENGES

Lack of socializing of the ICT Act and Policy to the public to understand their limitations and rights to media.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Community workshops on the importance of gender digital divide to women in out islands and Tarawa e.g (Churches such as RAK, ITOI NI NGAINA etc.)
- Awareness by the Police on crimes and penalty toward Cybercrime act 2021 to the public.
- More awareness needed from the related organizations to social media users on the prohibition of discrimination and uploading of women and girls photos in social media.

CRITICAL AREA K: WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Kiribati, a low-lying Pacific Island nation, has far-reaching consequences due to its sensitivity to climate change and other environmental pressures and calamities. Climate change and other disasters have a direct impact on individuals, particularly women and girls in all their diversity.

Rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, king tides, and Covid 19 imperil people's lives, posing a huge threat to women's health and empowerment. Recognizing the realities of the situation, the government and its major partners work together to address the intersectional implications of climate change on women's health and empowerment. This demands a comprehensive approach that integrates gender concerns into climate policies, disaster, preparedness, and adaptation strategies.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

Women Resilient to Disaster Program

The Women Resilient to Disasters is a three-year initiative with two main focal areas focusing on strengthening our national processes and instruments to support our programs and prepare women and girls of all backgrounds to endure the impact of the climate crisis. With a total budget of around \$1,150, 000.00 USD, the government will spend \$700.000 USD, while the leading NGO, the National Umbrella Organization for Women - Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati (AMAK), would spend \$450,000 to undertake WRD operations.

So far, the major government agency, MWYSSA, and the Office of Te Beretitenti (OB), have taken the initiative to develop IEC materials that are gender responsive to DRR to educate the public with gender-related climate change information. The manual on Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender was created earlier in 2023 with the help of UN Women. This manual was trialed in mid-2023, with MWYSSA and OB staff, including our NGO partners, receiving TOT training before outreaching to the community.

AMAK, the programme's leading women's non-governmental organization, has visited two (2) outer islands in Kiribati- Tamana and Nikunau, to conduct WRD training on cooking nutritious meals, preserving local food techniques, and establishing a nursery where women can obtain a variety of food crops and medicinal plants. Each island selected 30 people to participate in this training. As part of the program's monitoring and assessment, a technical committee was formed, with members from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, DFAT, UN Women, and MWYSSA meeting to review the status of their implementation plan. The work on gene banks for biodiversity, food preservation, and the resurrection of edible indigenous trees and plants is progressing, and committee members are taking the initiative to be role models by planting their own gardens.

Teitoiningaina (Catholic Women's Organisation) Nutrition Programme

The Kiribati Health Champion initiative began in 2018 and continues to this day, with an emphasis on fundamental health awareness with the goal of informing and educating the population, particularly women, about gardening, food preservation, food security, menu planning, and food safety, to mention a few. This program serves the community of 22 islands, except for one. This initiative targets not just the islands, but also schools (primary, junior secondary, and high school), Catholic Youth, and many sectors of the Catholic Church.

Number of trainings	Number of Participant		Youth	Total	Training contents
	Male	Female			
Year 1					
South Tarawa					
Special event	1045	3054	950		Nutrients
Community training	900	4045	400		cooking demonstration
Sector training	360	306	200		Menu planning
Cooking demonstration	420	420			Food security
Total	2725	7825	1550	12100	Reading food labels
Year 2					Food safety
Special event	3356	4182	2000		Eating and nutrition
Community training	699	1346	356		Physical activity
Cooking demonstration	296	397			Obesity
Total	4351	5925	2356	12632	Weight management
Year 3					Non communicable disease
Special event	1350	2173	600		NCD
Community training	776	1741	210		Alcohol and smoking
Cooking demonstration	10	90			gardening
Total	2136	4004	810	6950	Practical cooking
Outer Islands	10	50			
Group 1 Islands					
Butaritari	35	80			

Abaiang	25	80			
Abemama	10	50			
Marakei		60			
North Tarawa	24	8			
Tab-North	20	90			
Tab-South	10	50			
Group 2 Islands					
Makin	3	35			
Maiana	1	44			
Kuria	1	39			
Aranuka	1	34			
Nonouti	2	58			
Onotoa	1	37			
Beru	3	37			
Nikunau	1	38			
Arorae	2	38			
	139	778		917	
Outreach to Schools					
Primary	3,539	3,776			
JSS	971	1,142			
College	1480	1650		3130	
OUTREACH AND AWARENESS					
Catholic youth			114	114	
Bikenibeu Katioburaeki	80	2020			
Ierutarem ae Boou Maneaba Anniversay	42	56			
	122	2076		2198	
Nikunau Kiribati Health Champion					

Sector Awareness	15	26			
Christmas event	1,510	932			
	1525	958		2483	
Awareness(Non-formal training)					
20 Team from Outer island Runga team	1,380	916		2,296	
Total participants	13,858	22482		36,340	
Total Participant	Outer island and Tarawa			36,340	

Table 8. Kiribati Health Champion Program 2018- 2024

The Catholic women's outreach to outer islands, schools, and Catholic parishes was successful in securing another program concentrating on climate resilience, which is scheduled to begin in March of this year. Furthermore, the program's executive staff is still monitoring and evaluating their work, which continue this year.

Though the COVID-19 lockdown slowed all activity for more than a year, the government, in partnership with major development partners and stakeholders from ministries and NGOs, is making efforts to ensure people recover from the pandemic's impact.

In 2022, the government doubled the copra subsidy to encourage copra production and distribute funds to the outer islands. To deal with growing worldwide fuel prices and price controls on kerosene and gasoline, the government reimbursed Kiribati Oil Company Ltd (a state-owned enterprise) for a portion of the difference between global and domestic fuel prices. The 2023 budget preserves current social protection spending while providing additional leave grants for the private sector. (IMF Country Report No. 23/329, September 2023).

In addition, Te Beretitenti altered its policies, structures, and plans to incorporate gender into their work. As a result, in 2019, the OB CCDRM (Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management) developed a revised long-term climate change adaptation plan that includes gender concerns. The initial national adaptation plan (also known as the Kiribati Joint Implementation

Plan for CC and DRM) operative from 2014 to 2023, did not include gender, however; the evaluation undertaken in 2008-2019 by the NAP GN consultant collaborated closely with MWYSSA, AMAK, and other gender-focused agencies to update and improve KJIP activities using gender indicators.

This includes enhancing sex-disaggregated data collecting in integrated vulnerability assessments, as well as other initiatives that promote and deepen gender responsiveness and inclusivity.

Furthermore, the South Tarawa Drought Management Plan was updated in 2023 during the drought crisis. During the review, more actions focused on gender roles in drought prevention, mitigation, readiness, response, and recovery were included. Furthermore, it is the first time that the National Disaster Committee has included a delegate from the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs, which is a major ministry for gender and other vulnerable groups.

With DRR programs, the OB CCDRM division creates a governance structure for coordinating CC and DRM across the nation. This primary coordination body is for policy and program development initiatives, and it consists of all current institutions, including institutions and bodies of vulnerable groups.

This major coordination body is the Kiribati National Expert Group for CC and DRM, and one of its technical working groups is Gender and Resilience. This technical working group oversees coordinating national gender considerations, as well as issues of catastrophe risk management and climate change.

Furthermore, the National Disaster Risk Management Unit of the OB CCDRM collaborates with the Kiribati Red Cross Society to develop a standard method for analyzing disaster needs and damages. The forms created use SADDD, and reaction measures are devised based on the information gathered from these evaluation forms.

CHALLENGES

Lack of data on this area of concern and competing priorities from key stakeholders halt them participating. Many NGOs with climate and disaster programs are unwilling to submit data for this report. Competing priorities from keyline ministries to participate in the reporting and obtain permission to extract data pertinent to the report are also crucial.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthening partnerships with important stakeholders to incorporate gender into their plans, activities, and budgets. Gender mainstreaming in all sectors.

CRITICAL AREA L: THE GIRL CHILD

Kiribati had ratified the Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) in 1995 and had made specific efforts to increase social protection for children. Kiribati is a state party to the 1999 ILO Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst forms of Child Labor (ILO Convention 182). Girls are exposed to all forms of abuse due to their vulnerability and dependence on adults for survival and protection. The current Kiribati Development Plan provides us with a roadmap that will enable our work and purpose of building our nation better than before for the young generation, and with that driven purpose, MWYSSA through the Social welfare division aimed to focus on child protection specifically addressing issues faced by children including sexual abuse.

PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS

The Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI), implemented from 2013 to 2015, made significant strides in improving the lives of adolescent girls by recognizing and promoting their rights in various domains, such as health, leadership, and skills development. Following the AGI, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) continued these efforts, focusing on life skills programs that included nutrition, baking, sewing, and other essential skills.

Elimination of discrimination against and violations of the rights of girl children, including adolescent girls

Children's rights are fundamental and encompass various aspects of their lives, ensuring their well-being, growth, and development. Parents play a crucial role in upholding these rights, providing a supportive environment that fosters cognitive, emotional, and social development. The Family Life Education (FLE) program is designed to ensure that children and young people are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to thrive in various aspects of their lives. This comprehensive program focuses on holistic development, emphasizing health, well-being, social relationships, and rights protection.

<https://youtu.be/baOsf6fBqWI>

The Social Welfare Division under the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) has initiated a program targeting young couples, particularly those from vulnerable groups. This program aims to address and prevent violence against children and women within families. Although it does not directly target adolescent girls or the "girl child," it focuses on young married couples at the beginning of their family lives, raising awareness and providing education on critical issues such as; ü understand the roles and responsibilities as young couples in rearing and bringing up their family for the better; provide social service mechanisms for addressing family issues; ü engage young couples in child protection and child upbringing best practices; and ü equip young couples with innovative activities to support their families

For the last five years, this program has visited two outer islands where the team trained 20 couples each island and have been working with more than 10 communities on South Tarawa estimating around 1,500 people trained in this program.

The Kiribati Male Behavioral Change (KMBC) Program focuses on training men on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and behavioral change principles to promote non-violence and gender equality. The program highlights the importance of SRHR for their wives and children, addressing abusive behaviors, and fostering a culture of respect and peace. MOE in , has established the Gender Equality (GEA) body with the aim to empower the members to challenge harmful gender-related issues, promote gender equality inclusion and to educate their peers to collaboratively initiate programs and campaigns to eliminate GBB and bullying in Junior Secondary Schools (JSS). Currently, the GEA has established in four JSS on South Tarawa and one in Arorae Island. These bodies focus on addressing GBV issues, including physical, emotional, and psychological abuse, as well as bullying. Successfully, 10 students (boys and girls) from each school received training on (gender concepts and as part of MoE and MWYSSA training package) conducted by MoE and MWYSSA. Each GBV Advocate team has developed their workplan that will address GBV cases in their school. Moreover, The Ministry of Education (MoE) has implemented a program to support quality education for girls by providing free sanitary pads or menstrual hygiene products in Junior and Secondary schools. This initiative aims to ensure that menstruation does not hinder girls' educational experiences and attendance.

In 2019, the Kiribati Teacher's College (KTC) introduced the Inclusive Education and Students' Wellbeing (LEA420) course to enhance teachers' understanding of inclusive strategies for supporting both girls and boys in realizing their potential in school. This course, aimed at pre-

service teachers, was designed to impart knowledge on gender inclusivity and mainstreaming gender in teaching and learning practices.

By 2020, the LEA420 module was extracted to focus specifically on identifying and addressing gender-related issues within various educational contexts, including teaching and learning processes, curriculum and learning resources, teaching strategies, access and participation, as well as the school environment. The goal was to simplify the learning of gender concepts and inclusive strategies for future teachers. The gender training package within this module consists of 10 hours of coursework, ensuring that KTC Associate lecturers are equipped to teach these concepts effectively to the intakes. This initiative helps pre-service teachers clearly understand gender concepts and inclusive strategies, ultimately fostering a more equitable and supportive educational environment for all students. In Kiribati, existing programs generally focus on both girls and boys, rather than exclusively targeting "girl child and adolescent girls." However, one notable exception is the "Girls in ICT" program, held annually in May, which aims to empower young girls and women in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and technologies. This event is financially supported by the Communications Commission of Kiribati (CCK).

Girls in ICT Program

The "Girls in ICT" initiative is designed to bridge the gender gap in technology and encourage young girls and women to pursue careers in the ICT sector. This annual event is a critical effort to empower girls through technology education and provide them with the skills necessary for success in the digital age.

CHALLENGES

There is a limited activity that is specific to a girl child and adolescent girls in related to eliminating of discrimination and violation of their rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To effectively empower girls and enhance their engagement in STEM fields and other areas where they are underrepresented, Kiribati can implement targeted initiatives and strengthen non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly faith-based organizations (FBOs). Additionally,

encouraging boys and men to advocate for non-violence and non-discrimination through peer-to-peer dissemination can create a supportive environment for girls.

SECTION FOUR: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

Kiribati's commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment aligns with international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). These policies highlight the importance of collecting gender-disaggregated data to inform decision-making and policy formulation processes, underscoring the government's dedication to these objectives.

National Strategy/Action plan for Gender Equality

The Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2019-2022 is a pivotal initiative by the Kiribati government aimed at ensuring equal opportunities, rights, and access to services for all individuals, with a focus on empowering both genders across various spheres of life. The policy outlines several keys include implementing a gender mainstreaming approach, enhancing the economic empowerment of women, promoting informed and resilient families, boosting women's political representation and leadership, and combating sexual and gender-based violence.

The primary beneficiaries of this policy are women and girls, recognizing their unique challenges in Kiribati. The Women's Development Division collaborates with various government ministries, institutions, and women's groups to implement the policy's activities. Funding comes from the Kiribati Government and international partners such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UN Women, and the Pacific Community (SPC). Complementing this policy is the Elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2011-2021, which aims to address the root causes of violence against women by tackling social, cultural, political, legal, and economic inequalities. Key priorities include developing national leadership commitments, strengthening legal frameworks and law enforcement, enhancing preventive measures, improving support services, and engaging in advocacy efforts.

This policy underwent a thorough review, resulting in the updated Eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy 2023-2032, which focuses on accelerating the reduction of gender-based violence through strengthening legal frameworks, improving prevention strategies, enhancing data collection and management, capacity building of stakeholders, and bolstering support services.

Additionally, the Kiribati National Disability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2021 targets the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on women and girls. This policy was developed through collaboration with people with disabilities, government entities, and various stakeholders. It emphasizes societal and institutional changes needed to create an inclusive environment and identifies priority areas such as healthcare, education, vocational training, and protection against violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities.

Country's system for tracking the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)

In Kiribati, the government's annual budget allocation increases for each ministry range between 1 to 3 percent. Although Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) has not yet been introduced, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports, and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) effectively allocates its budget among its divisions to expand and implement their activities.

As part of its commitment to promoting women's contributions and addressing violence against women and girls, the government recognizes and celebrates International Women's Day as a public holiday. Additionally, the government supports the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence by collaborating with ministries and non-governmental organizations. Each event – the International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism receives \$7,700 for each events from the government to support the activity, thus; 200 AUD is distributed to 21 island councils to support these two activities in their respective areas

Furthermore, Human Rights Day is also recognized as a public holiday, underscoring the government's dedication to human rights issues. The government actively supports Disability Day, highlighting its commitment to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

These initiatives reflect the government's broader strategy to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring that celebrations and advocacy efforts are well-funded and widely supported across the nation.

Formal mechanisms on Implementation and monitoring of BDPA & 2030 Agenda & preparation for National report.

In Kiribati, while formal mechanisms for ensuring gender equality and sustainable development are not yet fully established, there is a recognized need to develop these structures. Currently, the Women Development Division (WDD) takes proactive steps to engage with a wide array of stakeholders. This engagement occurs through consultations, workshops, and dialogue sessions, involving civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations, indigenous communities, and other relevant parties. These events serve as platforms for discussing issues related to gender equality, women's rights, and sustainable development. They also help in identifying community needs and priorities, ensuring that policies and programs are responsive and inclusive. The WDD assists in participating in regional and international reporting and review processes. This includes preparing and submitting periodic reports to relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). These reports assess Kiribati's progress toward achieving the goals and targets set by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPFA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Country's action Plan and timeline for Implementation of recommendations of CEDAW

In Kiribati, there is a Human Rights Division under the Ministry of Justice which coordinate the Kiribati National Human Right Taskforce established in 2014. This taskforce is responsible for implementing and reporting on international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The latest CEDAW report for Kiribati, which includes the combined initial, second, and third periodic reports, was submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2019 and the concluding observations on this report were published on March 11, 2020.

SECTION FIVE: DATA AND STATISTICS

Over the past five years, the National Statistics Office (NSO) of Kiribati have made significant progress in several areas related to gender statistics at the national level:

The NSO has improved its capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate gender-disaggregated data across various sectors, including education, health, employment, and household surveys. This effort would provide a more comprehensive understanding of gender disparities and inform evidence-based policymaking and programming. Integration of Gender in Surveys and Censuses that have integrated gender-sensitive questions and modules into its surveys and censuses to capture information on issues such as women's empowerment, reproductive health, gender-based violence, and women's participation in decision-making processes. This ensures that gender considerations are mainstreamed into data collection efforts. Capacity Building and Training have invested in capacity building and training programs for staff members to enhance their skills and knowledge in gender statistics, including data collection methodologies, gender analysis, and the use of gender-disaggregated data for policy formulation and monitoring. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration to strengthened partnerships and collaboration with government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and international development partners to improve the availability and quality of gender statistics. This collaborative approach fosters knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and coordination of efforts to address gender data gaps.

Awareness Raising and Advocacy that NSO engaged in awareness raising and advocacy campaigns to highlight the importance of gender statistics for evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development. By emphasizing the value of gender data, the NSO can encourage stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment in their policies and programs. Policy Reforms and Institutional Support which contributed to policy reforms and institutional support mechanisms aimed at promoting gender equality and mainstreaming gender considerations into national development plans and strategies. By providing robust gender statistics, the NSO enables policymakers to track progress, monitor outcomes, and address disparities effectively.

By focusing on these key areas, the NSO can play a critical role in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment efforts, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes for all citizens.

Priorities for strengthening national gender statistics.

For instance, Kiribati Gender and Environment Survey (upcoming Survey) to fill in the gaps in the Gender and Environment nexus to target the expected outcome such as identification of Gender Disparities that may reveal disparities in environmental experiences, access to resources, decision-making power, and participation in environmental initiatives between different genders. Insights into Gendered Perspectives on Environmental Issues to provide insights into how different genders perceive and prioritize environmental issues. For example, women might prioritize issues like clean water and sanitation, while men might focus more on energy and resource management. Understanding Gendered Impacts of Environmental Changes to highlight how environmental changes affect genders differently. For instance, women and girls might be disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters or changes in natural resource availability due to their traditional roles in caregiving and resource management. Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming in Environmental Policies to assess the extent to which gender considerations are integrated into environmental policies and programs, highlighting areas for improvement. Identification of Barriers to Gender Equality in Environmental Action that might uncover systemic barriers that prevent equal participation and representation of genders in environmental decision-making processes, such as cultural norms, institutional biases, or lack of access to education and resources. Overall, the expected outcomes of a GES aim to inform evidence-based policies and programs that promote gender equality and enhance environmental sustainability. The other interesting topics will be “Roles of gender in reducing poverty” and the expected outcomes will also be to be inclusive and to promote gender equality and reduce poverty.

Gender-specific indicators priority for monitoring progress of the SDGs.

Collecting data on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, which focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, can be challenging due to several factors:

Data Availability and Quality: In all data collection, there may be a lack of reliable and disaggregated data specifically related to gender equality indicators. Data collection efforts often rely on existing administrative records or surveys, which may not adequately capture the full range of gender disparities and experiences.

Social and Cultural Norms: Social and cultural norms may hinder accurate reporting on sensitive issues related to gender equality, such as domestic violence, reproductive health, and women's

economic empowerment. In some Kiribati contexts, there may be stigma associated with discussing these topics openly, leading to underreporting or biased responses.

Underrepresentation of Marginalized Groups: Marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as rural women, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals, may be underrepresented in data collection efforts due to barriers such as lack of access to education, healthcare, and decision-making processes.

Data Disaggregation: SDG 5 requires disaggregated data by sex, age, disability, and other relevant factors to effectively monitor progress towards gender equality. However, collecting and analyzing disaggregated data poses technical challenges and may require additional resources and capacity-building efforts.

Data Interoperability and Standardization: Ensuring interoperability and standardization of gender-related data across different sectors and sources can be challenging. Data collection efforts may be fragmented, making it difficult to compare and integrate data from various sources and track progress over time.

Resource Constraints: Limited financial and human resources may impede comprehensive data collection efforts on SDG 5 indicators. Governments and organizations may face competing priorities and budgetary constraints, resulting in insufficient investments in data collection, analysis, and reporting on gender equality.

Conflict and Instability: Conflict-affected and fragile contexts often face significant challenges in collecting and reporting data on gender equality indicators due to security concerns, displacement, and disruptions to essential services and infrastructure.

Addressing these challenges requires concentrated efforts to strengthen data collection systems, improve data quality and disaggregation, promote gender-sensitive methodologies, and address the underlying social, cultural, and economic barriers to gender equality.

Collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, academia, and international partners is essential to overcome these challenges and effectively monitor progress towards achieving SDG 5.

Data disaggregation is provided by major surveys.

Disaggregating data is crucial for gaining a comprehensive understanding of various population groups and ensuring that policies and programs address the specific needs and challenges they face. In Kiribati, disaggregating data related to Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on gender equality and women's empowerment can help monitor progress and identify areas requiring targeted interventions. Here are some examples of disaggregation that could be included in surveys and censuses:

SEX: Disaggregating data by sex allows for a comparison of outcomes and experiences between males and females, providing insights into gender disparities in areas such as education, employment, health, and decision-making.

AGE: Age disaggregation can reveal differences in experiences and needs across different life stages, such as childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. This information is valuable for designing age-appropriate interventions and policies.

URBAN/RURAL RESIDENT: Urban and rural disaggregation helps identify disparities between populations living in urban centers and those residing in rural areas, including access to services, infrastructure, and employment opportunities.

ETHNICITY: Disaggregating data by ethnicity allows for the examination of disparities and inequalities faced by different ethnic groups within the population. This information is important for promoting social inclusion and addressing ethnic-based inequalities.

DISABILITY: Disability disaggregation highlights the experiences and challenges faced by people with disabilities, including access to education, healthcare, employment, and social services. It helps ensure that policies and programs are inclusive and accessible to all members of society.

MARITAL STATUS: Disaggregating data by marital status provides insights into the economic and social status of individuals, including issues related to marriage, family structure, and household dynamics.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION: Disaggregating data by geographic location, such as island group or administrative region, helps identify regional disparities and tailor interventions to address specific local needs and priorities.

INCOME AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS: Disaggregating data by income level and socioeconomic status enables the analysis of inequalities and poverty dynamics within the population, informing targeted poverty reduction strategies and social protection programs.

By incorporating this disaggregation into surveys and censuses, the National Statistics Office of Kiribati can generate robust and nuanced data that supports evidence-based policymaking, fosters accountability, and contributes to the achievement of SDG 5 and other development goals.

CHALLENGES

Statistics are vital for good decision making. The availability of quality and reliable data will enable policy formulation and evidence-based decision making. To be useful, statistics must be relevant, reliable and timely.

Our challenges in statistics are:

- a) While there are many sources of economic and social statistics, our major challenge is in drawing the statistics into a usable form to facilitate decision making. Our KSO should centralize data collection and publication on a regular basis.
- b) There are gaps in the collection of important social indicators like health, education and environment that are needed to track our progress.
- c) Data on poverty and employment is only available at the census which are 5 years apart.
- d) There are delays in producing key surveys like the Household Expenditure and Income Survey (HEIS) which are required to develop economic and social policies. These delays are mainly due to the lack of capacity of the KSO in manpower.
- e) The poor tracking of international indicators is due to lack of resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the above challenges, we aim to:

- a) Update of gender statistics from current surveys (KSDIS, HICE, etc)
- b) Complete the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to guide and address statistical capacity challenges and priorities.
- c) Review the Statistical Act to have adequate and updated statistical legislation that will serve as a framework to harmonize National Statistical Systems.

- d) Make the KSO the central depository of all national statistics and require, through the law, ministries to provide statistics to the KSO on a regular basis including the monitoring of international indicators.
- e) Provide resources to allow the KSO to undertake regular surveys on key economic and social indicators like employment and poverty

SECTION SIX: CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The government recognizes that gender inequality, youth issues, and the climate change crisis are interconnected. As a result, it emphasizes the need for all government ministries and non-government entities to:

- develop Gender Action Plans to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies, Acts, budgets, and activities.
- Strengthen Male Behavioral Change and School GBV Advocate Programs
- Strengthen GBV Response and Other GBV Prevention Program such as FBOs, Sport, Island Councils, NGOs
- Specific programs for girls in all areas
- To have a gender responsive budget for all ministries to implement their National Gender Activities
- Review policies and Act to integrate gender perspectives.
- Strengthen data management and have gender statistics available on the KSDIS, HICE and many more done by NSO.
- To conduct another KFHSS using the similar methodology (WHO) to see the impact of GBV in Kiribati
- Gender analysis at the national level

In addition, to have specific strategies on the 12 Critical Areas of Concern in particular on areas that have lack information or specific activities on such as the Women in the media, Women in the Economy, Women in decision making, Women in Health, and Women in Education and Training.

To reaffirm and acknowledge the government's commitments to the international obligations on CEDAW, CRPD, CRC, PLGED, CSW priorities; regional commitments – Beijing+ Platform for Action for Women, Triennial Outcomes, the Revitalized Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, the An Towepo Declaration from the Micronesian

Women's Minister meeting, and the sub-region Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) Gender Equality Framework which is underdeveloped.

By adopting these comprehensive measures, Kiribati aims to create an inclusive society where gender equality is at the forefront of national development efforts, aligning with both international and regional commitments.

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