

IMPACT STORIES



AUSTRALIA: VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Jordan



“I now...am able to earn an income for my family.”

– Mona Ahmed Alqkla

Several years after fleeing the conflict in Syria with her family, **Mona Ahmed Alqkla** realized her ambition to work outside her home and support her family. She joined the incentive-based volunteer programme as a tailor in the Oasis Centre in Taibeh, Jordan and is now able to financially support her family as well as access childcare facilities and pay for services to support her disabled daughter. UN Women’s partnership with the Jordanian Ministry for Social Development, for this programme, is generously supported by the Government of Australia.

Through this programme Mona has learned new skills and hopes to build on the opportunity to achieve better for herself and her family. “My dream is to open up my own tailoring business one day. And, now that I have the skills to do so, I have bought a sewing machine for my home and I am even teaching my husband how to sew.”

Banner photo: © UN Women/Murray Lloyd

Above left: UN Women/Lauren Rooney; above right: UN Women/Miho Watanabe

Fiji



“One thing I learned, when we share our power as man and wife, all of us benefit.”

– Tomu Dari

Tomu Dari is a community activist working to change gender norms and create a community that rejects violence against women. He was influenced to change his ideas about gender roles and the impact of gender-based violence by his wife and their pastor. Encouraged to be an activist, Tomu now influences other men and boys in the community to change their thinking about gender norms, particularly on violence against women and girls.

As someone who once thought it normal and part of the gender dynamic to abuse his wife and children, Tomu knows how difficult it can be to make the changes needed. After initiating a conversation on the subject, he perseveres, noting that, “it takes time. You try three or four times, and they finally listen to you...If I can change, they can.”

Solomon Islands



“[Previously] decision-making positions were held by men and we never saw the benefits. Now seeing women as strong, it motivates me.”

– Janet Ramo

Fifty-one-year-old **Janet Ramo** is the President of the Auki Market Vendors Association in the Solomon Islands, a key site for UN Women’s Markets for Change project which is supported by Australia. The programme has helped Ramo to gain important leadership and business skills. “Before, we struggled with saving [...] but after the Markets for Change financial literacy training, I saw the benefits of saving and investing for my cooperative business,” Ms. Ramo explained. “With this project, I see myself as a business woman—I no longer look down on myself—I am happy.”

Viet Nam



“I learned how to recognize the signs of people experiencing domestic violence and my role in assisting them.”

– Nguyen Thi Thuy Tram

Nguyen Thi Thuy Tram is Head of the Social Work department of Nguyen Dinh Chieu Hospital, Ben Tre Province. She was one of 160 health workers in the province who received training to strengthen health service delivery for survivors of violence. This was a component of the UN Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. The Government of Australia has generously contributed to the programme.

A 2019 assessment of the pilot programme in Viet Nam has shown that it has resulted in creating an enabling environment, improved awareness and improved capacity towards addressing gender-based violence issues. This has led to the development of a new national programme where health and social services training will be scaled up.

Photos: above left: UN Women/Marc Dozier; above right: UN Women/Hoang Thao