

PLANNING FOR PREVENTION: Spotlighting potential gendered implications of COVID-19 in Fiji



➔ Responding effectively to COVID-19 means ensuring the needs, priorities and knowledge of diverse women are considered and the barriers they face addressed.

Wash your hands



Frequent handwashing is essential to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Additional need for water means increased work for women.

82% OF WOMEN
REPORT UNPAID HOUSEHOLD CARE WORK (INCLUDING FETCHING WATER, COOKING, CLEANING, WASHING CLOTHES) AS THEIR MAIN UNPAID WORK, COMPARED TO 11% OF MEN.

WOMEN TRAVEL UP TO
90 MINS A DAY
TO GET WATER.

15% OF WOMEN
NEVER OR RARELY HAVE
ENOUGH WATER FOR
PERSONAL USE.

Ensure women have sufficient water available for existing care work AND increased handwashing.

Stay at home



Social distancing is vital to slow transmission of COVID-19.

For too many, home is not a safe place to self-isolate.

64% OF WOMEN IN FIJI
HAVE EXPERIENCED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, 2013

84% OF LESBIANS, BISEXUAL WOMEN, TRANSMASCULINE AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE
HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE FROM AN INTIMATE PARTNER.

Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, 2019

Increase resourcing for family violence services and safe housing.

Look after your health



Health systems may be overwhelmed by COVID-19, affecting the response to other health needs.

Existing respiratory problems may be worsened by increased exposure to fumes from unclean fuel as more meals are cooked at home.

WOMEN SPEND 3.5 X AS LONG
EXPOSED TO UNCLEAR FUMES FROM COOKING AND HEATING AS MEN.

WOMEN WERE 30% LESS LIKELY
THAN MEN TO ACCESS
HEALTHCARE THE LAST TIME
THEY NEEDED IT.

25% OF WOMEN
REPORTED HEALTH
PROBLEMS FROM
EXPOSURE TO FUMES
AT HOME.

Ensure the healthcare needs of diverse women are addressed, alongside responding to COVID-19.

Involve diverse women in planning so responses to COVID-19 are informed by their needs, priorities and knowledge.

IF THE GENDERED IMPACTS OF A CRISIS ARE PREDICTABLE, THEN THEY ARE ALSO PREVENTABLE