CSW66 PARALLEL SESSION

21 March 5pm ET // 22 March 8am AEDT & SBT

Accelerating women’s economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data

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Ministry of Women, Children, Youth & Family Affairs, Solomon Islands
Dignity Pasifik
The Pacific Community (SPC)
UNESCAP
Accelerating women’s economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data

CSW 66

22 March 2022
Overview

• Why strengthening economic pathways to empowerment need a focus on systems
• How data makes it more difficult to see systemic impacts
• What can we do to improve outcomes by improving data
• The role of gender-sensitive measurement of poverty and inequality in revealing barriers to inform change
• ‘Women’s economic empowerment’ initiatives often focus on individual women.
• But many barriers women face are systemic and structural.
• Systemic change requires bringing visibility to the diversity of women’s lives
Data gaps slow gender equality

• Numerous priorities and finite resources make evidence of scope and scale vital
• Individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional poverty data can help to reveal the barriers facing individuals and how these vary.
• Connecting policy to people’s lived experience matters for effectiveness and legitimacy.
Measuring the poverty of households hides who experiences it

SDG Indicator 1.1.1.: Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

COVID-19 has led to the first rise in extreme poverty in a generation.

“The estimates presented so far are based on rich household survey data available at most until 2018 leaving a considerable uncertainty over the state of global poverty in more recent years.”

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

AN ADDITIONAL 119 - 124 MILLION PEOPLE WERE PUSHED INTO EXTREME POVERTY IN 2020
A new approach to measuring poverty

- Purpose-built survey
- Grounded in participation
- Individual-level sampling strategy

Gender-fit data

- Multidimensional
- Gender-sensitive
- Scalar
- Intersectional
- Within household
Economic empowerment

‘Economic empowerment’ comprises two inter-related components:
1. economic advancement and
2. economic-related power and agency.

Equality Insights collects information relevant to both

• Economic advancement can be measured by opportunities to engage in paid work (which are influenced by education and time use)
• Power and agency can be measured by voice in the household and public domain
• These influence asset ownership and control
Adapting to COVID-19
Equality Insights Rapid

• Data collection needs to adapt to the pandemic context
• Gendered poverty data is vital to understand impacts and focus recovery efforts
  • *Rapid* developed as a brief, and robust survey that addresses the COVID context
    • in its implementation
    • in its outcome
  • A ‘red-flag tool’ to highlight where deprivation is concentrated
• Data collection anticipated April/May 2022
Towards systemic change

• There are significant direct and opportunity costs to collecting data that is gender insensitive by design.
• These costs have been normalised to the point of invisibility.
• Making them visible is part of the change process
• Money spent on gender unaware data is money not available to support gender transformative data.
• Shifting standards about what constitutes adequate data will accelerate the availability of gender data and gender equality.

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ACCELERATING WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: THE ROLE OF GENDER-SENSITIVE POVERTY DATA

21st March 2022

Asia-Pacific regional gender data and statistics ecosystem

By Chris Ryan
Statistician
ESCAP Pacific Office
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SDG PROGRESS REPORT

2022

Widening disparities amid COVID-19

The Pacific

Link to SDG Progress Report

Link to SDG Gateway
https://data.unescap.org/
The Pacific
Progress in 2022

- Progress
- Regression
- Insufficient indicators
- Evidence strength

Target 2030
1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnership for the goals
SDGs – Data availability by Goal

Pacific 2022

Pacific availability by Goal in 2021
SDG Progress – Selected Indicators
Pacific 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5.1.P2 Gender parity in labour force participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>5.1.P3 Gender parity in mean years of schooling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.1.P4 Gender parity in youth NEET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.5.1 Seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SDG Progress – Selected Indicators

5.5.1: Seats held by women in parliament - Pacific SIDS v Asia

Seats held by women in National Parliament (% of seats), 2021

Pac-SIDS

Other
## SDG Progress – Selected Countries

### 5.5.2: Women share in employment – managerial positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Time Point 1</th>
<th>Time Point 2</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Is</td>
<td>36.1 <strong>2001</strong></td>
<td>59.8 <strong>2019</strong></td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>27.2 <strong>2004</strong></td>
<td>38.9 <strong>2016</strong></td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>27.3 <strong>2005</strong></td>
<td>37.2 <strong>2015</strong></td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>26.8 <strong>2000</strong></td>
<td>29.9 <strong>2014</strong></td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>26.6 <strong>2003</strong></td>
<td>41.6 <strong>2018</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>24.6 <strong>2002</strong></td>
<td>35.9 <strong>2016</strong></td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>16.0 <strong>2006</strong></td>
<td>22.1 <strong>2010</strong></td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>28.5 <strong>2001</strong></td>
<td>43.1 <strong>2017</strong></td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU

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Accelerating women’s economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data

CSW66

22 March 2022
Vaela Falefehi Ngai

Director, Women’s Development Division, Solomon Islands Government

Barriers to women’s economic empowerment in the Solomon Islands: data for insight and action
Data for insight and action

Individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional data about poverty and inequality:

• Illuminates inequalities, and associated barriers to help target efforts
• Shows who is most affected, in what ways and to what extent
• Without disaggregated data it is more difficult to
  ✓ Act
  ✓ Prioritize gender equality
  ✓ Allocate needed resources
  ✓ Mainstream gender
Data for insight and action

• Data collected March to April 2020, in two provinces of the Solomon Islands

• 1862 respondents from 849 households, equal numbers of men and women

• Aim: To gain insights into the economic, social, political, and environmental dimensions of the lives of men and women in Central and Guadalcanal provinces.
Economic empowerment

‘Economic empowerment’ comprises two inter-related components:
1. Economic advancement and
2. Economic-related power and agency.

*Equality Insights* collects information relevant to both

- Economic advancement can be measured by opportunities to engage in paid work (which are influenced by education and time use)
- Power and agency can be measured by voice in the household and public domain (which influence asset ownership and control)
More women (40%) than men (24%) were ‘most deprived’ in educational attainment.

More men (10%) than women (8%) were ‘most deprived’ in functional skills (field literacy and numeracy tests).

Education deprivation increased with age.

The gender gap increased at each age group.

Figure 68. Percentage of men and women in each category of education deprivation by age group.
Time use: men

- Primary activities undertaken by men during waking hours were paid work.
- Followed by socialising and self-care.

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Time use: women

- Primary activities undertaken by women during waking hours were unpaid work, followed by care work.
- Women were far more likely to have a child in their care while doing other activities.
Paid work and unpaid care work

- Women spent more time on unpaid work and care than men, regardless of paid work status.
- On average, women spent 2 more hours on unpaid domestic work and care than men.
- Women without paid work spent 38 more minutes on unpaid domestic work and care than women in paid work.
- Men without paid work spent 6 more minutes on unpaid domestic work and care than men in paid work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Paid work status</th>
<th>Mean hours of unpaid work and care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Paid work</td>
<td>4 hours 31 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No paid work</td>
<td>5 hours 9 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Paid work</td>
<td>2 hours 42 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No paid work</td>
<td>2 hours 48 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voice revealed some of the largest gender differences

More women (34%) than men (19%) were in the lowest two categories of deprivation, with little voice in public or household domains

And significantly more men (23%) than women (11%) were in the least deprived category

More men than women had sole decision making power over household finances, large purchases, duration of their work, duration of their study and social commitments

Figure 53. Percentage of men and women in each category of voice deprivation
Voice and paid work

• Paid work had a large impact on men’s perceived ease of raising concerns.

• Men engaged in paid work were significantly more likely to say raising concerns at the local level was very easy, than men not in paid work.

• Women in paid work were more likely to say raising issues in public was ‘difficult’ than ‘very easy’.

• Women who did not engage in paid work were more likely to say raising concerns was very difficult, relative to those in paid work.

• This finding points to the relevance of other factors such as discriminatory gender norms.
Differences in women’s and men’s lives influence patterns of asset ownership.

**Men** were more likely to own:
- Assets tied to productive activities
- Transport-related assets, with implications for time-use
- Assets relevant to participating in business activities, e.g. mobile phone, computer, internet connection, and general business equipment
- Radios and TV, for accessing information

The only asset owned by more **women** than men was a sewing machine.

### Assets relevant to participation in economic activities - percent ownership by men and women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Own by myself - Men</th>
<th>Own by myself - Women</th>
<th>Own with others - Men</th>
<th>Own with others - Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellphone</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business equipment</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet connection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land/dwelling ownership

- Nearly the same number of men (64%) and women (62%) said that they owned the dwelling at which the interview took place.
- But far more men (74%) than women (26%) owned the dwelling alone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Own</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dwelling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned alone</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned with others</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned alone</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned with others</td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supporting data use

- Data needs to be used to make a difference
- Linking data producers and users supports data relevance and use
- Solomon Islands Steering Committee brought together Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, the National Statistics Office, relevant line departments, and CSOs
Gender data is vital for COVID-19 recovery

- COVID-19 has underlined the importance of disaggregated data
- The Solomon Islands Government’s COVID-19 priority is recovery
- Comprehensive, disaggregated, gender-sensitive data is crucial to support a more gender-equal recovery
- Which is why we advocated for further data collection in Solomon Islands
- Looking forward to having Equality Insights Rapid data in the next few months
For more Solomon Islands findings

Equality Insights Website: https://equalityinsights.org/resources/
Accelerating women’s economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data

CSW66

22 March 2022
Ruth Maetala
Director & Founder,
Dignity Pasifik
Gender data context in the Solomon Islands

Lack of gender data, limited focus on gender indicators since Independence in 1978

Consequences can include

- Filling knowledge gaps with assumptions and stereotypes
- Relying on gender norms
- Using out-of-date information
- Ignoring differences e.g. between urban/rural, or younger/older women

Gender data gaps hinder progress on gender inequality, limiting evidence for policy development and advocacy

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Data collected by *Dignity Pasifik* in Central and Guadalcanal Provinces in 2020 confirmed the value of individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional data.

Revealing inequalities, the multiple and interconnected barriers experienced by particular groups, to enable targeted advocacy and action.
Making the invisible visible

• Prior to 2020, little information about gender dynamics inside households and implications for options and opportunities

• Understanding differences inside households provides a more complete understanding of women’s and men’s lives, and how their circumstances vary
Dignity Pasifik:
Connecting gender data and gender-informed data collection

Economic empowerment + Data quality
Dignity Pasifik researchers, 2020
Establishing and growing a women-led data collection organisation

*Dignity Pasifik* was established in the belief that quality data collection should be operated and owned locally.

Being embedded in the community supports inclusive data and can complement “official statistics”.

Close, trusted relationships support growth.
Why does this matter?

• Gender bias can influence data collection
• Women-led research firms can be a mechanism for closing gender data gaps
• Employing single mothers, young women, and women and men with disabilities provides economic opportunities and wider empowerment benefits through the data collection process and can shift perceptions in the community
Next: Equality Insights *Rapid*

- The COVID context makes data about individuals’ circumstances and the inter-related challenges they face even more vital
- But undertaking a phone survey in the Solomon Islands is challenging
- A story of geography, communications infrastructure, remoteness, limited mobile phone penetration
- Expect to be in the field April/May 2022
- Excited to be part of the first use of this new tool