

Stronger together

Women and Youth Unite for Change

Report of the National Women and Youth Forum 2019

Funafuti, 9-13 December 2019

Report

Funafuti 9-13 December 2019



Gender Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and
Gender Affairs, and the Tuvalu Family Health Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
II. PROCEEDINGS	9
MONDAY 9 DECEMBER	9
1. OPENING	9
2. WOMEN'S FORUM	12
MONDAY 9 DECEMBER	12
SESSION 1: INTRODUCTIONS	12
SESSION 2: OUR PRIORITIES	13
SESSION 3: THE STATUS OF WOMEN	14
TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER	17
SESSION 4: UPLIFTING EACH OTHER	17
SESSION 5: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	19
SESSION 6: REVIEW OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR GENDER EQUALITY	22
SESSION 7: "THAT TIME I HAD BEEN BOLD"	27
WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER	28
SESSION 8: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN TUVALU	28
SESSION 9: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING	33
3. YOUTH FORUM	37
MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER	38
INTRODUCTION TO TUFHA	38
PLENARY 1: YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY	38
REFLECTION SESSION 1 ON LEARNING FROM THE DAY	39
TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER	42
PLENARY 2: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS & CROSS CUTTING ISSUES	42
PLENARY 3: MECHANISMS AND NETWORK TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS SEXUAL AND GENDER-VIOLENCE	43
WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER	44
PLENARY 4: STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES	44
PLENARY 5: COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION	46

REFLECTION SESSION 2 ON LEARNING FROM THE DAY	47
THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER	48
4. JOINT SESSION WOMEN AND YOUTH FORUM: PARTNERSHIP	48
PREPARATIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE WITH THE LEADERS	49
FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER	50
ADOPTION OF THE WOMEN AND YOUTH FORUM STATEMENT	50
5. DIALOGUE WITH THE LEADERS	50
III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	54
EVALUATION	54
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE	55
RECOMMENDATIONS	57
IV. APPENDIX	59
1. WOMEN AND YOUTH FORUM STATEMENT	59
2. PROGRAMME OF THE WOMEN’S FORUM	66
3. PROGRAMME OF THE YOUTH FORUM	72
4. PROGRAMME OF THE JOINT SESSION WOMEN AND YOUTH	77
5. AGENDA - DIALOGUE BETWEEN WOMEN, YOUTH, AND THE LEADERS	79
6. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	80
7. RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS ON PRIORITIES – WOMEN’S FORUM	82
8. CONSULTATION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN TUVALU	88
9. EVALUATION	93

I. INTRODUCTION

Background information

The National women and youth's forum is an important opportunity for women and young people in all their diversities to openly discuss the challenges and opportunities for achieving gender equality and sustainable development in our local context, and to amplify common concerns, advocacy efforts and building inter-generational partnerships and partnerships with stakeholders from government institutions and civil society organizations.

Recognising the different needs and concerns of women and youth, and the strengths they have, the forum invited the key stakeholders from women and youth organisations from across Tuvalu to participate in 2-day forum. Women and Youth constituency held their respective forum in parallel three days prior to the joint forum. The forum was organised by the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) and the Gender Affairs Department of the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, and Gender Affairs.

Purpose of the forum

The National Women and Youth's Forum was designed as a platform for dialogue among stakeholders from women and youth civil society organisations with the aims at:

- Providing an overview of the services offered by the TuFHA and Gender Affairs and the needed corresponding implementation partnership strategies by the participant organisations.
- Providing a platform for participants to exchange ideas, share experiences, learn good practices, build capacities of participants and facilitators and seek ways to work together in a coordinated way and strong partnerships.

The approach

The Forum was guided by community based approach, whereby the process of working together with donors and technical experts was very much shaped and controlled by the participants themselves to create and achieve a locally owned statement that reflects their needs, concerns and how they would like to drive and shape initiatives that provide control of the development process, resource and decision making, ending violence against women and girls as well as other emerging issues.

The issues

While we have witnessed so many positive changes in the last 25 years from universal access to education, the development of infrastructure and adoption of new technologies, including transport and communication, among others, we are also experiencing new threats because of the adverse impact of climate change and environmental degradations that impacts our livelihoods and our way of life. There are also emerging issues of cyber bullying, trafficking and migration as we move into labour mobility. Those are the changes we are experiencing together, but we are not all affected the same way by those issues and we do not benefit equally from the progress and new opportunities. Some of our people struggle more because they encounter specific issues or have more challenges to access opportunities. In some cases, our youth, our women and our people with disabilities – especially the ones living in the Outer Islands, have less opportunities to access employment, generally participate less in decision-making, and are more vulnerable to violence and abuse.

While we all acknowledge the remarkable progress made since the establishment of the Tuvalu National Council of Women in 1979, Tuvalu women, girls and youths are still constrained by social norms, unwanted practices, deeply rooted

gender roles and the burden of unpaid care and domestic work, unequal power and voice and discrimination.

The forum provided a platform for women and youths to discuss and share their views on how to transform a Tuvalu they want for today and tomorrow, a Tuvalu more relevant for them and the future generations.

In order to strategize and strengthen partnerships for addressing issues related to youth development and gender equality, the Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs, in partnership with the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA), organized a national women and youth's forum in Funafuti from 9 to 13 of December 2019.

The objectives

The overarching objective of the forum was for women and young people's interests to be increasingly and effectively represented and visible through leadership at all levels of decision-making and to accelerate efforts to eliminate violence against women, promote inclusive decision-making processes, and support the economic empowerment of women and youth. The forum also sought to foster collective actions among stakeholders on key issues that affect them. The Outcome Statement of the *Forum*, delivered on the final day, captured these views and recommendations and will inform the revision of the Tuvalu Gender Equality Policy, the National Youth Policy and the Te Kakeega III, all scheduled for review in early 2020. The National Forum will also inform Tuvalu reporting to regional and international gender equality and youth development mechanisms including the Beijing Platform for Action, CSW64, CEDAW, CRC and CRPD.

Theme, format and activities

The theme of the Forum was '***Stronger Together: Women and Youth Unite for Change.***' and focussed on leadership, decision-making, enhancing agency and collective action, economic empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls.

The Youth's Forum and the Women's Forum run in parallel from Monday to Wednesday and came together on Thursday in order to discuss further common and specific issues women and youth are experiencing and identify modalities to work in partnerships with different stakeholders, including with the government.

A dialogue with the leaders was held in Friday where the Forum's Statement was delivered.

Participants

Over 30 women and 41 youth from all islands actively took part to the Forum. Representatives of government institutions, civil society organizations and development partners also attended the Forum.

Partners

The Forum received the support from the Australian programme "Pacific Women Shaping Development", the Pacific Community (SPC) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The organisers wish to express their gratitude for their financial and technical support.

Acknowledgements

The Women and Youth's Forum would have not been possible without the contribution of multiple stakeholders. The organisers wish to sincerely thank all speakers, panellists, presenters and facilitators involved in the Forum. Your contribution in providing information, raising awareness, and building the capacity of our Women and Youth is very appreciated.

Honourable Ampelosa Tehulu, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Public Utility, Infrastructure & Environment

Honourable Nielu Meisake, Acting Minister for Health, Social Welfare & Gender Affairs and Minister for Communication & Transport and Tourism

Honourable Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finances

Honourable Timi Melei, Minister of Education, Youth & Sports

Honourable Katepu Laoi, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Agriculture

Ms Esealofa Apinelu, Attorney general

Penehulo Hauma, Ombudsman

Ms Temukisa Hauma, President of Tuvalu National Council of Women

Ms Pulafagu Toafa, Coordinator of Tuvalu National Council of Women

Ms Tuseta Kulu, President of Nanumea Women

Mine Pilikosi, FusiAlofa

Fusialofa

Akanda Alliance

Ms Lilian Leuelu, Red Cross Board Member

Ms Susie Kofe, Businesswoman

Ms Susana Taafaki, Businesswoman

Dr Miliama Simeona, Secretary of the Public Service Commission

Dr. Maoto, Ministry of Health

Mr. Erika Pepeuga, Ministry of Education

Constable Alamai George, Community Police Officer

Mr. Martin Vailopa, Culture Officer, Government of Tuvalu

Ms. Taotao Homasi, Youth Officer, Government of Tuvalu

Mr. Luka Seelu, National Disaster Management Operation

Ms Pasimeta Talaapa, Kaupule Board member

Ms Faitofi Pusinelli, Assistant programme producer, Radio Tuvalu

Ms Lupe Amupelosa, Retired Women Development Officer

Ms Pasai Falasa, SPC-Regional Rights Resource Team Officer

TuFHA Kilogatasi Drama Group

Ms. Jessynda O Baeke, TuFHA

Ms. Milikini Failautusi, TuFHA Youth Board Member

Fenuatapu T., Youth Officer TuFHA

The organisers also wish to express their gratitude to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia (DFAT) and its programme Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, the Pacific Community (SPC), and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) for their financial and technical support.

II. PROCEEDINGS

Monday 9 December

1. OPENING

The opening ceremony of the Forum began by the delivery of two skit performed by the TuFHA Kilogatasi Drama Group; the first one on illustrating the rejection by families of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity; and the second one on domestic violence. It was followed by a word of prayer from the pastor of the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, Mr Kalafi Tinipua.

In his remarks, Director of TuFHA, Mr Lono Leneuoti said this initiative of uniting women and youth to become one is a long overdue idea. He explained that youth faced many challenges in life, experiencing high Adolescent Fertility Rate, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), sexual and gender based violence, and lack of knowledge and skills to protect sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Mr Leneuoti, highlighted that this Forum is a great opportunity for youth to come forward with ideas to address these issues and show the importance to involve them in all aspects of decision-making processes because although our youth are the future of Tuvalu, they are also

Programme of the Opening Ceremony

1. Skit performed by TuFHA Kilogatasi Drama Group
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Kalafi Tinipua
3. Remarks from Mr Lono Leneuoti, Director of TuFHA
4. Remarks from Asita Molotii, Director of the Gender Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, and Social Welfare and Gender Affairs
5. Official opening by Acting Minister for Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs, Honourable Nielu Meisake.

relevant NOW and we must not forget to involve them in our decision making systems. He thanked the Government for providing grants to all civil society organizations, and Gender Affairs as a partner in this Forum. He also thanked all partners: SPC, and IPPF, especially DFAT for being the major funding contributor of the event.

In her remarks, the women Director of Gender Affairs, Ms Asita Molotii, called for stronger and meaningful partnership between government institutions, civil society organisations and our communities. She reminded that women are still facing difficulties to access loans because of security reasons and unemployed.

Their participation in decision-making is still a challenge. She recalled that the Tuvalu National Council of Women (TNCW) has been established 40 years ago to enable women to fully contribute in the development of Tuvalu and the importance to know their rights. She talked about Tuvalu's international, regional and national commitments, including to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years ago, and how the movement defined priorities for advancing women and gender equality and the remarkable milestones achieved so far.

Ms Molotii acknowledged all leaders of Tuvalu; past, present and emerging, and the strong women whose great work benefited women and girls of Tuvalu, old and young. She ended her statement by saying that in the best interest of Tuvalu, its everyone's responsibility and business to ensure that Tuvalu is a safe, inclusive and violent free society and that we must not tolerate violence by any means even if we do not personally



Photo 1: Opening Ceremony of the Women and Youth Forum 2019

suffer from any form of violence. We cannot make a difference unless we work together to tackle the injustices and inequalities in Tuvalu and transform our society to be safe, peaceful, inclusive and prosperous for all to enjoy.

The official opening of the Forum was conducted by the acting Minister for Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs, Honourable Nielu Meisake. He explained what he learned from the skits performed earlier by the youth, about the importance of listening, love, and the appreciation of one another. He also confirmed that the government will continue to support women and youth and

address their needs because without their involvement, development will not be achieved. He emphasized the importance to empower people and work together to make changes that are necessary. With those words he then declared the Women and Youth Forum officially opened.



Photo 2: Kologatasi Drama Group performing skits at the opening ceremony of the Women and Youth's Forum

2. WOMEN'S FORUM

Monday 9 December

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTIONS

The introductions' session provided an opportunity for the participants to familiarize themselves with each others and with the programme of the Forum.

The quiz presenting some data on gender roles and gaps was an opportunity to open the discussion on the realities of women and how their life experiences is changing.

The whole women's Forum was conducted in Tuvaluan.



Photo 3: Getting to know each other at the Women's Forum

Session 1: Introductions

At the end of the session, the participants will know who is in the room and there will be an agreement on the programme and the expected results of the Forum.

Activities:

1. *Participants' introduction*
2. *Quiz to learn review gender gaps*
3. *Presentation of the programme*

Facilitators:

- *Sokotia Kulene, Gender Affairs Division*
- *Lupe Amupelosa, Retired Women Development Officer*

SESSION 2: OUR PRIORITIES

This session aimed at initiating a discussion on some women if women's priorities. At the beginning of the Forum, women were asked to fill a form with questions related to what is important for them; what they believe is the number one issue experienced by women; what are the benefits of women's participation in decision making; what makes a home a happy place; and what contributes to good relationships in a couple. For more information on responses to the questionnaire see appendix 7. The answers were compiled and used to play a game (type Family Feud). The participants were asked to find out the five (5) most popular answers for each question.

The responses to what is important to them included the wellbeing of their children, the improvement of their standards of living, their participation in decision making, their health and wellbeing, and their family. Domestic violence, discrimination, too much time spent in bingos, alcohol abuse, and the fulfilment of the numerous obligations related to customs and traditions were the five most popular answer to what is the number 1 issue experienced by women.

To the question related to the benefit of women's participation to decision-making, the participants cited that it enabling more women to be represented in politics and decision making bodies such as the Kaupule and Falekaupule, gender equality, the recognition of women overall management of family welfare, the empowerment of women, and women supporting women.

Session 2: Out priorities

At the end of the session, participants will have identified up to five priorities for women and factors to promote safe relationships within the family.

Activity:

- ✓ Game on top 5 priorities

Facilitator:

- Temukisa Hauma, President of TNCW

Participants considered that a clean house, a peaceful environment, the proper management of the house, food security and “supporting each other” are all factors contributing to have a happy home.



Photo 4: Game on women's priorities, Women's Forum

Finally, to the question related to what makes good relationships in couples, participants cited genuine partnership between husband and wife, respect, faithfulness, communication, and love.

SESSION 3: THE STATUS OF WOMEN

This session used an interactive approach to generate information and discuss different issues affecting women's lives. The objective of the session was to check the relevance of gender issues previously identified through the National Gender Policy.

Participants were divided into three groups. Each group was consulted on a particular theme: family life; work and standard of living, and relationships and rights. A number of questions were allocated to each group to be answered according to their experiences in their island communities and households. The facilitators asked closed questions to which participants answered 'yes' or 'no'. Few open questions were asked in order to understand the point of view of the participants.

Participants to the consultation on family lives reported that they are participating in decision-making in their homes; they thrust their children have all they need to have a good life in the future; and overall, they are happy.

Interestingly, if most women consulted practice births control, half of them find it difficult to discuss this with their doctor, and none have discussed family planning with their spouse; while half of them did have discussed this with their daughter(s) or daughter(s) in law. A majority of respondents believed that men should be equally involved in performing household's tasks and all think that child raising should not be the sole responsibility of women. That may explain why all respondents believed that boys and girls should be brought up the same way, have the same responsibilities and chores around the house, and be treated the same.

All respondents consulted in the group on work life and standards of living expressed that women and men have the same opportunities to earn incomes. Most women consulted in this group

reported the lack of opportunity in their islands and their lack of qualification to explain why they do not occupy paid job. Half of the respondents also said this was their choice to not work. However, the consultation did not define work and it is not clear if the respondents understood work as formal employment only or include incomes generating activities often performed at home. Also, four women out of ten mentioned that they do not get the permission of their spouse to work. Most respondents believed that women have the same opportunities to access training and promotion in the workplace, but not to hold decision making positions. However, a majority reported that their workplace is somehow an unfriendly place and half reported sexual harassment and bullying as being issues they are experiencing in the workplace. Most participants considered their material condition adequate but four respondents out of ten

Session 3: The status of women

At the end of the session, key gender issues experienced by women in different aspects of their lives would have been identified.

Activity:

✓ *Consultation with closed questions*

Facilitators:

- *Lilian Leuelu, Red Cross Board Member*
- *Susie Kofe, Businesswoman*
- *Susana Taafaki, Businesswoman*

believed they do not have enough resources to provides for their family. Customary obligations present some difficulties for women, enjoy performing those obligations but insisting that this is their duty.

The group consulted on personal life and rights seemed to have a good social capital, being able to meet with friends and family regularly, and being part of a church group or an association. However, the majority do not take part of public affairs such as community group or political activities. Half of the respondents said they needed to obtain the permission of a family member to attend that kind of activity. Most women consulted asserted that they know their rights. All believed that women and men are equal, but half of the respondents believe they should not be. All believed that the participation of women in the Falekaupule is something positive and the majority considered that there are not enough women participating in politics. Six women out of four know a close relative or friend who have been subjected to domestic violence. Only half of the respondents believed that the law provides adequate protection for women (in the event of violence, discrimination, divorce, etc.) while only two respondents out of 10 believe the custom provides adequate protection for women. Tables compiling the participants' answers to the consultation are in appendix 8.

FAMILY LIFE	YES	NO
1. Do you think households tasks are equally divided between you and your spouse	4	6
2. Do you think men should be equally be involved in the execution of in housework? why	8	2
3. Do you think that child raising should mainly be carried out by women	0	10
4. Do you think that girls and boys should be brought up the same way/have the same responsibility/chores in the household? Be treated the same (why)?	10	0
5. Are you involved in making decisions in your family?	10	0
5a Related to your children's education	10	0
5b Related to managing your family's finances?	10	0
5c Related to your family's activities	10	0

Photo 5: Sample of questions for the consultation on the status of women. Women's Forum

Tuesday 10 December

SESSION 4: UPLIFTING EACH OTHER

The first session of the second day of the Women's forum was dedicated to a reflection on social factors generating inequalities and contributing to make some people more or less resilient. The facilitation's tool utilised was the "power walk" in which identities were given to each participants who had to refers to during the exercise. The facilitator then read a series of statements and the participants had to take steps forwards or steps back based on the identity allocated to them. The exercise ended with a discussion on who were the people in front and who were the ones far behind and the factors influencing their capacity to be resilient or their vulnerability to climate change.

Typically, people who were found at in the front were people who were empowered, i.e. have resources, have information, can make decisions. Their social status often confers privileges that entitle them to have greater access to resources, information, and power. On the other hand, participants who were far behind often had a low social status with less access to economic opportunities, less information, and very limited opportunities to participate in decision-making. They are also poorer, less safe, and live in isolated places.

The exercise demonstrated that, although all people are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, not all are affected the same way; some

Session 4: Uplifting each other

At the end of the session, participants will understand how gender and other social factors affect people's vulnerability and resilience and have identified actions to "lift each other". They will also have a better understanding of the concepts of equity and equality.

Activities:

- 1) Power walk
- 2) Sharing cookies

Facilitators:

- Temukisa Hauma, President TNCW
- Asita Molotii, Director GAD

people, because of their socio economic status are more resilient; others are more vulnerable. This applies not only in the case of climate change impact but in all situation in life.



Photo 6: Power walk: reflecting on factors of vulnerability. Women's Forum

This exercise was followed by another one in which each participant received a cookie. This was a starting point to introduce the concept of equity and equality and the participants understood that equal access does not automatically results in equal benefit because different people experience different constraints.

At the end of the session the participants recommended for more development projects to be implemented in the outer islands and for some ministries to be decentralised like the Ministry of Agriculture to favour a more equitable access to opportunities and services and equal benefits from development outcomes.

SESSION 5: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

This session was dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence and some of the services in place to support the survivors.

At the beginning of the session youth from TuFHA Kilogatasi Drama Group performed skits to illustrate how services to survivors are provided.

The Director of the Gender Affairs Division, Asita Molotii, provided information on the Gender Policy and the partnership between the CEDAW Committee overseeing the work of the department. She talked briefly about the 'Family Protection Act' and the implementation status and the flaws experienced in its implementation. Ms Molotii mentioned the lack of data's in all areas of the policy and how it is critical to providing evidence-based information for policy makers especially the Leaders. She also highlighted the linkages between violence against women, economic empowerment and women in leadership and their roles in decision-making. She further stressed the need for strengthening partnership that enables administrative data sharing and reporting, strong evaluation, reporting, as well as necessity to improve the service delivery and establishment of a safe home for survivors. She stressed the links between the costs of domestic violence and the importance of having research done in the area.

Session 5: Ending violence against women and girls

At the end of the session, participants know more about domestic violence, existing services to support the survivors, and what access to justice entails; and they have identified concrete actions to take in their communities to prevent domestic violence and support the survivors.

Activities: Skits and panel discussion

Skits performed by:

- TuFHA Kilogatasi Drama Group

Panellists:

- Asita Molotii, Director of GAD
- Constable Alamai George, Community Police Officer
- Penehulo Hauma, Ombudsman Office
- Pasai Falasa, SPC-RRRT Officer.

The Domestic Violence and Community Police Officer, Constable Alamai George provided sex disaggregated data on domestic violence on the number of complaints received by the police in 2018 and 2019 to illustrate the scope of the issues.

Table 1: Number of domestic violence cases recorded by the Police in 2018 and 2019 by type of offense with sex disaggregated data

Offences	2018		2019	
	Perpetrators		Perpetrators	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Physical Abuse	32	3	30	7
Psychological Abuse	38	0	16	2
Verbal Abuse	11	0	1	0
Sexual Abuse	2	0	0	0
Economic Abuse	1	0	2	0
Total	84	3	49	9
Total all cases	87		58	

Constable George provided the information that the police officers are undertaking training provided by the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme (PPDVP) on human rights related issues, in particular on violence against women. Constable George also informed the participants that a domestic violence unit has been established within the police in Funafuti. Also, more female police officers have been recruited recently for a total of five women out of ten police officers.

The Ombudsman, Penehulo Hauma, has provided information about his function. The ombudsman office is involved in the prosecution of particular cases related to domestic violence and other acts of violence against women.

Ms Pasai Falasa provided information on the Regional Rights Resources Team (RRRT) programme of the Pacific Community's in Tuvalu. RRRT is providing technical support to the government and the civil society in raising awareness and promoting human rights and good governance. The RRRT officer is based in the office of the Gender Affairs Division.

SESSION 6: REVIEW OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The objective of the session was to obtain the participants' views on the progress made in the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy, what they consider as being recurrent or emerging gender issues, and what to prioritise.

The session started with a presentation of the current National Gender Equality Policy by the Director of the Gender Affairs Division, Asita Molotii.

Afterward, the participants were divided into three groups based on three key components of the policy: 1) ending violence against women; 2) women's participation in decision-making; 3) women's economic empowerment.

Outcomes of the group assessing the progress on the Policy outcome on **ending violence against women**.

The progress made in addressing EVAW includes:

1. More awareness on the laws
2. Better understanding of what "Rights" entails
3. Intensive programme to motivate women
4. Use role models in programmes
5. Discourage underestimation of women

Session 6: Review of National priorities in terms of gender equality

At the end of the session, participants will have expressed their views on what has progressed and what remain priority for the country for progressing gender equality.

Activity: Consultation

Facilitators:

- Asita Moloti, Director of Gender Affairs
- Temukisa Hauma, President TNCW

Recurrent and emerging challenges identified are:

1. Increase of divorce rate

2. Abuse of Social Media - participants agreed on the importance of social media to the development but also stressed their fears and frustrations on the increasing cyber bullying, abusive languages, stalking and the inappropriate use of the mediums by some people.



Photo 8: Consultations on the National Gender Policy. Women's Forum

3. It was also discussed that many factors fuel violence and women tend to think that the exposure others have during their duty travel was known to be one cause of the separation or the perpetuation of domestic violence.
4. While internet is an opportunity for many in terms of education, business marketing and plainly to be connected with loved ones and one's network, some use the platform to advance their cause of violence or doing all sorts of unwanted and inappropriate actions.
5. Changes in lifestyle broke the traditional ways of ensuring safety of all at home. This means that there are traditions which prohibits or pressures husbands not to lay hands on their wives as well as the parents to kids. For instance; Tuvaluans use to live in extended families with the eldest of men as head of the household. He would be the only one to give instructions or make decisions in the family. There used to have traditional mechanism to deal with family violence. For example, an angry man in the house at any one point

could be settled by a female cousin in the house or neighbouring no matter how angry he would be.

Some of the factors contributing to change identified by the participants include:

1. The 'No drop' policy - even though they expressed their concerns over this policy stating the need to review and also to do consultations
2. Enforcement of policy on reporting cases
3. Community awareness and support on reporting
4. Community involvement on the elimination of domestic violence
5. Advocacy programme for youth
6. The need for the continuation of awareness raising in communities on the impact of violence.



Photo 9: Consultations on the National Gender Equality Policy. Women's Forum

Outcomes of the group assessing the progress on the Policy outcome on **women's participation in decision making and leadership.**

Progress made includes:

- 1. More training on leadership available for women*

The recurrent or emerging challenges identified are:

- 1. Culture practices and traditions that view leadership and decision making as men's prerogatives*
- 2. Women do not support women*

Some of the factors contributing to change identified by the participants include:

- 1. Empowerment of women to hold leadership positions in local government and in parliament*
- 2. Women not supporting women and belittling women in leadership position*
- 3. Few women are involved in politics*

Outcomes of the group assessing the progress on the Policy outcome on **women's economic empowerment.**

Recurrent and emerging challenges identified by the group includes:

- 1. not enough land space for business*
- 2. lack of financial resources to invest in a business*

3. Families and relatives habit regarding consumption on credit
4. Lack of knowledge on how to run a business
5. Copycat business
6. Grace period too short

Some of the factors contributing to change identified by the participants include:

1. More training needed to enhance knowledge and skills
2. Business plans training
3. Hands-on job training

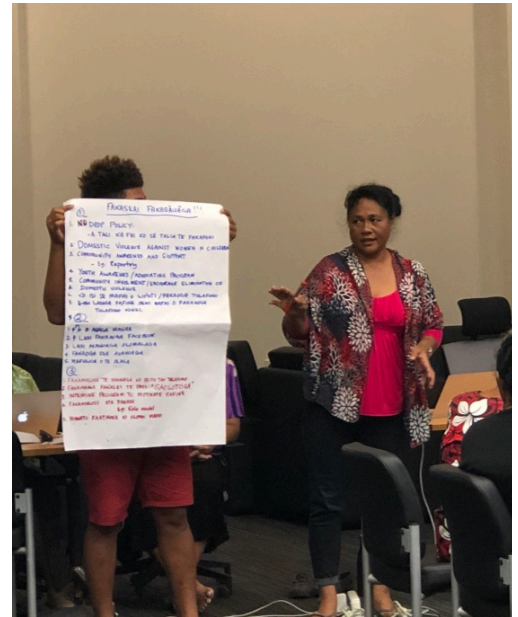


Photo 11: Consultation on the National Gender Equality Policy. Women's Forum

SESSION 7: "THAT TIME I HAD BEEN BOLD"

This session was designed in the spirit of the 16 days of activism on the elimination of gender based violence and the promotion of women's human rights. It aimed at celebrating women's courage and generating a reflection on the importance to support women being bold to address harmful social norms.

Women participants to the Youth forum join the women's forum for this specific session. The participants were invited to share their stories about an experience when they had to be courageous to overcome a difficult moment of their life. Six women shared stories domestic violence by their spouse or parents. It was an emotional moment for all be of the participants.

At the end of the session, the participants were invited to sign a pledge.

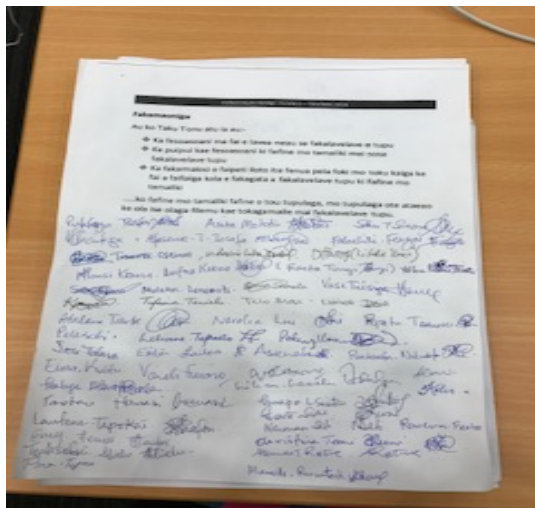


Photo 12: Pledge to prevent and end violence against women and girls

Session 7: "That Time I had been Bold"

At the end of the session, the participants will have recognized the importance to act at individual and collective levels in order to address harmful practices and gender-based violence.

Activity: Sharing stories

Facilitator:

- Pulafagu Toafa, Coordinator TNCW.

Pledge: I commit... to not remain silent if I see violence occurring around me; to protect women and children against any form of violence; to raise awareness about those issues in my community and in my home so that we collectively adopt practices to prevent violence women and children; ... and women and girls of our generation, and in the coming generations, live in peace and are safe from any form of violence.

Wednesday 11 December

SESSION 8: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN TUVALU

Half a day was dedicated to the the economic empowerment of women. The objective was to identify opportunities and obstacles to women's economic empowerment.

In the first part of the session, a panel discussion took place in which women running a business or involved in an incomes generating activity shared their experience. The panellists shared about their business experience and highlighted their struggles in keeping their business profitable in the context of social obligations and familial responsibilities.

Susie Kofe, a teacher by profession, started by selling stationeries, office equipment, and school kits. Her spouse assisted her in her business. She eventually got a loan from the Bank to establish her business. She shared that family members were coming borrowing money or asking credits and it was a difficult situation to manage because she wanted to help her family. She concluded that starting a business is difficult at the beginning, but she enjoys doing what she does.

Session 8: Economic empowerment of women in Tuvalu

At the end of the session, the participants will have

- *identified opportunities to use their skills and knowledge to generate incomes and wealth;*
- *defined what economic empowerment entails in the context of Tuvalu (how women define economic empowerment)*

Activities:

1. *Panel discussion*
2. *Inventory of knowledge and skills*

Panellists:

- *Susie Kofe, Businesswoman*
- *Tusefa Kulu, President of Nanumea Women*
- *Susana Semu, Businesswoman*

Facilitator:

- *Lilian Leuelu*

The President from Nanumea island, Ms Tuseta Kulu, shared her story of starting a business in selling tobacco. Although it started well, it gradually died because of having to give credit to family members. She explained that it is not culturally acceptable to follow up on credit payment from family members. She then started another business of producing and selling bread and the same issues occurred. Once she got pregnant she shut down her business. She clearly identified culture and tradition as impediments to run a business.

A woman from Nui island, Alen Matake shared the experience of their women association in selling handicraft on the islands. Their association produces and sells fans and kie. Women working together had helped them to get organised and increase the value of their products from \$22.00 to \$50.00 today for a fan.



Photo 13: Panel discussion on women's economic empowerment. Women's Forum

Susana Semu shared her knowledge and knowhow on how to start a business. She started by producing and selling ice blocks and gradually she expanded her business into providing services to the public sending goods overseas and bringing in goods into the country through DHL.

After the panel discussion, participants were divided into four groups - two groups comprised of women from the outer islands and two from women residing in Funafuti. They discussed the challenges women face in developing a business.

Challenges identified by the women from the outer islands:

- *No financial resources to start a business*

- *Not many working officers on the island so limited buyers/limited market on the islands*
- *People taking items on credits / attitudes have to be changed and for business women to be strong will and business minded in order to survive the traditional norms and community pressures at times.*
- *Copycat business*
- *Too many island commitments so less time available to be involve in business - there is the expectations of community or society for business to give more, and very often women moving into business are pressured to work harder to be able to provide for most of the expectations of society.*
- *Pregnancies*
- *Unreliable shipping schedules - not only the boat schedules impact the goods to arrive in time, handling of goods is a big problem and claiming of damaged goods are often ignored or process of claiming is long and tiring.*
- *Lack of knowledge on opportunities; women need to be notified of opportunities and sometime they learned about loan or funding opportunities too late.*
- *Lack of knowledge on business management.*
- *Too many types of business licenses; Women already have to deal with many house chores and just by learning of the many tax and license fees puts off women who have less knowledge of business and the need for those fees.*

Challenges identified by the women living in the Capital

- *Not enough lands for business infrastructure*

- *Lack of knowledge on business management*
- *Limited opportunities for trainings/workshops*
- *Lack of funding opportunities*
- *Competition from business run by non-Tuvaluan coming to set up businesses in Tuvalu*
- *No obligation of partnership with a Tuvaluan to set up business in Tuvalu*



Photo 14: Exercise on leadership. Women's Forum

Recommendations:

- 1) *Financial Institutions to be more flexible and simplify conditions on loans to women and youths.*
- 2) *Trainings on business skills and basic accounting skills*
- 3) *Technical training on sewing, food preparations, and other skills development.*

- 4) *Government to consider looking into the grace period offered by financial institutions to business entrepreneur*
- 5) *To have a woman minister in government under the portfolio of Transport (if we have a woman minister she will solve our problem of shipping to the outer islands.)*

In the third part of the session, participants were invited to identify their skills and knowledge and reported it on a flip chart. The session contributed to identify women's skills and knowledge that have the potential to support an incomes generating activity or the development of a business.

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All islands of Tuvalu have their set skills and knowledge that are related to traditional medicines, fishing, gardening, sewing, and cooking. The participants came up with various kind of skills and knowledge on local medicines and healing (including massages), different recipes on food, and different skills on sewing. Many were eager to reveal their traditional knowledge, however, some families preferred to keep their knowledge and skills on local medicine a secret because



Photo 15: Women in leadership session. Women's Forum

it is reserved only for the family. Tuvalu families transmit their traditional knowledge only to their children except on rare occasions.

SESSION 9: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

The session on women's leadership and participation in decision-making aimed at generating a reflection on the benefits for women to participate in decision making processes and occupy leadership positions. Four women were invited to be part of a panel discussion to discuss about their experience in the government, in local government in outer islands, and in islands communities.

Dr Miliama Simeona compared her experience of working for 20 years in a male-dominated profession in the medical profession, then as director of the Tuvalu Family Health Association for 5 years, and now as Secretary of a Ministry. She believes that it makes a difference for women when a woman is in a leadership position – their needs are better taken care of.

Pasimeta Talaapa works in the Kaupule of Vaitupu for two years. Although the Kaupule is a male dominated work environment, she believes this is not a challenge for her. There are cases where it is clearly a benefit for the Kaupule to have the views

Session 9: Women's leadership and participation in decision-making

At the end of the session, participants will have a shared common understanding of the benefits for women and for communities to support women's leadership and participation in decision-making.

Activities: Panel discussion

Panellists:

- *Esealofa Apinelu, Attorney general*
- *Pasimeta Talaapa, Kaupule Board member*
- *Dr Miliama Simeona, Secretary of the Public Service Commission.*

Facilitator:

- *Faitofi Pusinelli, assistant programme producer, Radio*

of an educated person in the committee and she feels that her contribution is valuable. However, she admitted that raising women's issues in the local government is different from other settings because women are only allowed to talk when they are told to do so. She compared her experience of being part of the Kaupule with her experience as head of department in a secondary school where she faced less challenges in leadership.

Arriving to positions as such requires lots of factors working together, said Attorney General, Ms Esealofa Apinelu. It was government's needs at that time made us come to this far, and even family's contribution and through their prayers as well.

To become a leader, it is not necessary people with qualifications are eligible to enter politics, but any one with interests and has the qualities of a leader is capable to do so. Now qualification is becoming a barrier to anyone wants to enter politics.

For women to be able to contest for elections, systems should be reviewed and allow more flexibility for women to be empowered to contest and of course the mindset should also change, said Ms Apinelu.

Attorney General, Ms Esealofa Apinelu confirmed that, despite the challenges, it is good for women to be involved in male-dominated settings because it is an opportunity to bring different views by raising women's concerns.

She also stressed that getting in leadership positions requires a combination of factors, including working together and supporting each other.

She concluded that women should not be stopped to enter politics because they lack educational qualifications; anyone interested and having leadership quality is capable. The systems in place however need to be reviewed to ensure

women's eligibility to run election and be represented. Mindsets towards politics and towards women also need to change.

Recommendations:

- 1.** *Reform laws discriminating women and enact legislations enabling gender equality.*
- 2.** *Create an enabling environment for women's informal work, access to justice, legal aid and awareness and expand social protection laws.*
- 3.** *Foster positive social norms that contributes to positive attitudinal changes.*
- 4.** *Ensure women's equal access to and control over resources and ensure their experiences, concerns and priorities inform services and policies.*
- 5.** *Strengthen gender mainstreaming by organizing gender awareness raising sessions for policy makers by within the Government to set and meet targets for gender inclusion and equality.*
- 6.** *Review the electoral system to ensure women's representation in the parliament.*
- 7.** *Support independence and mobility of women and promote women owned enterprises ; and for government to track women's participation in these areas.*
- 8.** *Encourage women themselves and organisation/associations to support women contesting;*

- 9.** *Include women in any decision-making processes in Kaupule/ Falekaupule and in any seminar and forum etc.*
- 10.** *End gender-based discriminations and prevent*
- 11.** *Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in all their diversities.*

3. YOUTH FORUM

The Forum which took place at the Dr. Rt. Hon. Sir Tomasi Puapua Convention Center, from 9th -13th December 2019 was part of the efforts to build capacity and empower the Youth in all their diversities and have a dialogue on some common concerns of Tuvaluan youth such as as; leadership and advocacy, sexual and reproductive health and rights, SGBV support mechanisms and network, strengthening access to youth friendly services.

The Youth Forum adopted different approach from the Women's Forum. A series of interactive sessions took place between the youth in all their diversities with numerous services providers from the government and civil society, including TuFHA, the department of Culture, the Department of Youth, the Ministry of Education, FusiAlofa Association, Akanda Alliance Association, Gender Affairs Division, the Police Department, and the Media Department. The main facilitators included Dr. Asaelu from the Ministry of health and TuFHA board member.

The issues discussed during the forum concern youth and aimed at fostering their leadership. The interactions with different government institutions and civil society organizations contributed to inform the youth about the programmes and services delivered by those agencies, but also for those agencies to get to know the youth of Tuvalu in all their diversities. Inclusiveness of marginalized populations, sexual and gender based violence, comprehensive sexual education, sexual and reproductive health, including in the context of emergencies/humanitarian situation, were among the issues discussed across the Youth Forum.

The Youth Forum was organised by the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) in collaboration with the Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs, with the support of the International

Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Australian Programme Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, and the Pacific Community.

Monday, 9 December

INTRODUCTION TO TUFHA

The objective of the introduction session was for young people to have a good understanding of the association's targets to reaching out to vulnerable populations in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. TuFHA's introduction was followed by a presentation of the purpose of the Youth forum.

Presenters:

- Ms. Jessynda O Baeke, TuFHA
- Dr. Maoto, Ministry of Health

PLENARY 1: YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

The objective of the session was to getting to know the Youth Programmes & agencies in Tuvalu.

Facilitator: Ms. Petsy Koau

Speakers:

Ms. Milikini Failautusi, TUFHA Youth Board Member

- *How do youth organizations involve young people and promote accountability?*

Mr. Martin Vailopa, Culture Officer, Government of Tuvalu

- *Youth, Culture and Tradition*

Ms. Taotao Homasi, Youth Officer, Government of Tuvalu

- *Using opportunities for youth engagement*

Ms Milikini Failautusi, TuFHA board member, discussed with the participants about strategies for increasing youth's participation in TuFHA's work either on voluntarily basis or paid jobs. She highlighted that youth should be directly involved in programmes, especially the ones in which youth is a target group. She also stressed that young people need to hold the organisation accountable but they also need to take responsibility for the work they are involved in.

Mr. Matini Vailopa, Culture Officer, first elaborated on the mission, vision and stakeholders of the department of culture. Afterward, he explained where young people can contribute in safeguarding our culture and be involved in cultural festival. Mr Vailopa ended his intervention by informing the participants about a programme being implemented on the integration of culture into formal and informal education and he invited the youth to take part to the initiative.

Ms Taotao Homasi, Youth Officer, presented the portfolio of the youth department. She then discussed how young people can participate, contribute, and benefit from development programmes implemented by the government.

REFLECTION SESSION 1 ON LEARNING FROM THE DAY

The last session of the day was dedicated to group work discussion to reflect on the obstacles to youth participation and make recommendations to meaningfully increase their involvement across development programmes for their benefit and the benefit of their communities.

What are the obstacles to youth participation in programmes?

- Young people living in the outer islands are rarely aware of opportunities because information is not shared/available
- They are not able to access information
- They do not know the agencies and their programmes
- Youths are not involved in decision-making

How to increase the participation of young people?

- ❑ The involvement of young people in the design and planning of programmes
- ❑ The inclusion of young people in decision-making, including young people living with disabilities.
- ❑ To propose a diversity of programmes to respond to the needs of diverse youth's abilities.

- ❑ Provide more opportunities in trades and vocational education programme.



Photo 16: Reflection session. Youth Forum

Tuesday, 10 December

PLENARY 2: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS & CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

The objective of the session was to share with the participants the experiences and lessons learned from marginalised groups.

Facilitator: Taumaoe

Speakers:

Representative of FusiAlofa

- Referral pathways for persons with disabilities

Representative of Akanda Alliance

- Promoting the rights of LGBTQI

A representative of FusiAlofa presented principles that all institutions must apply to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities:

- Availability – Stressing that facilities, goods and services must be available in sufficient quantity and continuous supply
- Accessibility - it refers to facilities, goods, and services that must be accessible to everyone without discrimination (including to be used by people with disabilities)
- Acceptability of people living with disability in facilities, which means that goods and services must be respectful of medical ethics and culturally appropriate.

In conclusion, she stressed that all persons with disabilities must be able to benefit from accessible health services, including family planning and contraceptive; that privacy and confidentiality must be ensured; that attitudes and communication must favour respect and inclusiveness; and STI and HIV prevention, treatment and care services must be inclusive of the needs of persons with disabilities.

The representative of Akanda Alliance shared the experiences of LGBTQI. The speaker explained the foundation of the association and its objectives which include reaching out to LGBT living in the outer islands. The meaning of “Gender equality” was discussed in this session.

PLENARY 3: MECHANISMS AND NETWORK TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS SEXUAL AND GENDER-VIOLENCE

The objective of the session was to raise awareness of the participants about sexual and gender-based violence and inform them on the law, the role of the Police, and health services.

Facilitator: Taumaoe

Speakers:

Asita Molotii, Director of Gender Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs.

- *Information about sexual and gender-based violence, support to the survivors, and institutional measures to improve the services.*

Constable Alamai George, Community Policy Office

- *Law and Protection Order; and the role of the Police*

TaoTao Homasi, TuFHA

- *Clinical services on sexual and gender-based violence*

Director Molotii first provided information on the services delivered by the department. Afterward, the Forum's participants had the opportunity to learn more about sexual and gender based violence. She discussed on the needs for safe spaces for survivors and the referral pathways for survivors.

She also talked about the partnership between the department and the CEDAW Committee and discussed about the need for stronger partnerships with all sectors and all stakeholders in order to progress gender equality and transform harmful social norms. Director Molotii explained why we need to produce evidence-based data for the improving planning and delivery of services and for evaluation, monitoring, and reporting.

Constable George discussed with the Forum participant about domestic violence and provided information about the Family Protection Act. She explained the different types of abuse that can be charged under this act. She also informed the participants about the services available to support people going through difficult time.

Wednesday, 11 December

PLENARY 4: STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES

The objective of the session was to raise awareness of the participants about sexual and gender-based violence and inform them on the law, the role of the Police, and health services.

Facilitator: Taotao Homasi

Speakers:

Mr. Luka Seelu, National Disaster Management Operation (NDMO)

- *How youth are engaged in the National Disaster Plans*

Ms Petsy Koau, TuFHA

- *Humanitarian Work – Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) and youths are engaged in the preparedness, response and recover phase.*

Mr Seelu briefly introduced the mandate of the National Disaster Management Operations. Thereafter, he stressed the important role youth people play during the preparedness and the recovery from disasters, and acknowledged that young people are often the first responders during disasters in all communities. The Forum's participants asked questions regarding the inclusion of young people in the planning phase and in decision making processes in the context of disaster preparedness and in humanitarian initiatives.

In her intervention, Ms Koau provided information about the "inclusion of SRH in



Photo 17: Presentation of MISP to participants. Youth's Forum

Emergencies” programme. The programme *Minimum Initial Service Package* encourages young people to be aware and get involve in times of emergencies.

PLENARY 5: COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The objective of the session was to raise awareness of the participants about the programmes implemented on comprehensive sexuality education for youth.

Facilitator: Taotao Homasi

Speakers:

Mr. Erika Pepeuga – Ministry of Education

- *Family Life Education/Comprehensive sexuality Education in School*

Fenuatapu T. Youth Officer
TuFHA

- *Comprehensive sexuality education out of school*



Photo 18: Erika Pepeuga form the Education Department presenting on the Family Life Education Programme. Youth's Forum

Mr Pepeuga discussed with the Forum’s participants about the comprehensive sexuality education which is usually delivered through the curriculum of Basic Science & Social Science. The purpose of the CSE is to equip young people with knowledge and enable them to deal with changes they are going through at puberty, the social norms and relationships.

Fenuatapu T explained the peer education approach used by TuFHA to provide comprehensive sexuality education to young people out of school.

REFLECTION SESSION 2 ON LEARNING FROM THE DAY

The day ended with group discussions in which participants reflected on issues discussed during the Forum so far and comes up with the following recommendations:

- 1) The inclusion of young people in decision-making at different level required voice of youths to be heard
- 2) Strengthen young people's engagement in programme
- 3) Strengthen policies that talks about "Gender Equality"
- 4) Raise awareness about health issues including alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) issues such as teenage pregnancy, STI prevalence, low use of contraceptives, and other health issues.
- 5) Build the capacity and involve young people in disaster and emergency planning, implementation and response initiatives.
- 6) Support the development and coordination of services providers to support survivors of SGBV

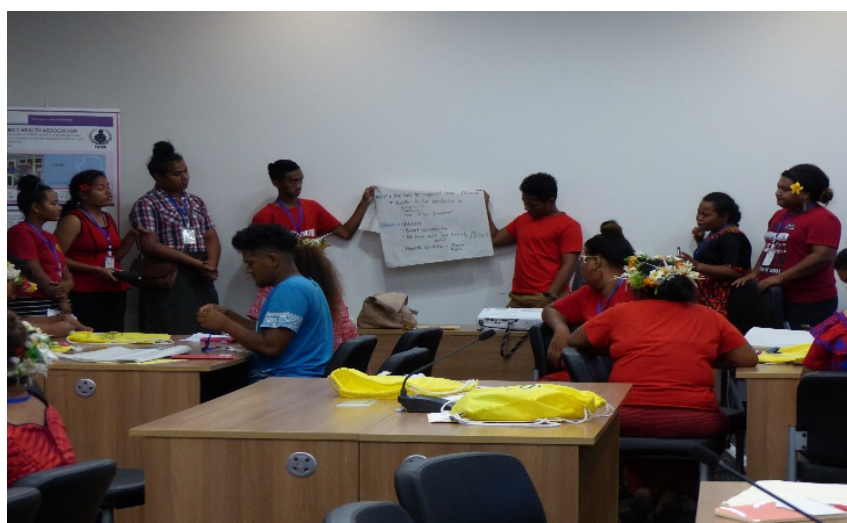


Photo 19: Presentation of group reflection. Youth's Forum

Thursday 12 December

4. JOINT SESSION WOMEN AND YOUTH FORUM: PARTNERSHIP

In this session, women and youth came together. The participants were given the opportunity to reflect on factors contributing to effective partnership and why and how women and youth can partner to progress gender equality, youth development and more broadly, social inclusion.

Before the panel discussion the participants to the Women's Forum and Youth' Forum share what they have learned and what they have discussed in their respective space.

Due to time limitation and the sudden notification of panellist being sick, the panel discussion was reorganised and include, as panellists, representatives of TuFHA, Fusialofa and the Gender Affairs Division. They were interviewed by the President of TuFHA and a Red Cross Board Member.

Each presenter was invited to talk about their experience of partnership; what are the advantages and also challenges experienced in their organisation or workplace.

Fusialofa opened the discussion by talking about the hardships faced by persons with disability and the importance of partnership given their special needs. People with disabilities in Tuvalu faced multiple barriers that prevent their full participation in life, according to Ms Pilikosi. Their disability prevented them from

Joint session Women and Youth Forum: Partnership

At the end of the session, participants will have identified enabling factors for effective partnerships for change.

Activities: Panel discussion

Panellists:

- Lono Leneuoti - TuFHA
- Mine Pilikosi - Fusialofa
- Asita Molotii - Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs

participating in family and community events, largely due to physical barriers. Health facilities remain inaccessible to about fifty percent of persons with disabilities. There is a crucial need for assistive devices which can enable PWD to participate more fully in their communities and live lives of dignity. She highlighted that through the partnership of Fusialofa with departments of government, person living with disability's lives has improved tremendously and continue to improve.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE WITH THE LEADERS

The afternoon was dedicated to the preparations for the dialogue with the leaders. Members of the drafting committee from the Youth Forum and the Women Forum finalised the Forum statement. In parallel, the video on the proceeding of the Forum was being edited.



Photo 20: Preparation to the dialogue with the leaders

Friday 13 December

ADOPTION OF THE WOMEN AND YOUTH FORUM STATEMENT

In this session, the Women and Youth came together to review the Forum Statement and adopt it. The Forum Statement can be found in appendix 1.

5. DIALOGUE WITH THE LEADERS

The dialogue of the women and youth with the leaders took place on Friday 13 December. It was initially planned for a duration of a 1 hour but, because of the interest expressed by all, it was extended to 2 hours and half.

The session started by the presentation of 7-minute video produced during the forum to illustrate the reflections that took place in the forum.



Photo 21: Dialogue with the leaders: Women and Youth Forum

It was followed by the delivery of the Forum statement by two representatives of the Women's forum and two representatives of the Youth Forum.

Afterwards, the leaders share their views on the statements and the concerns expressed by women and the youth.

After an initial discussion, the acting prime minister, honourable Ampelosa Tehulu, invited the ministers to come (physically) to the level of the participants to have a more intimate discussion with the forum's participants. They brought their chairs down from the stage and closer to the participants.

Participants were invited to share their concerns and ask questions to the leaders. Young people expressed their priority in terms of accessing education, especially for young people living in the outer islands. Participants highlighted good programmes which had benefitted many students like the "Student Educational Loan Scheme". It was suggested for island communities to establish such scholarships from their islands funds.

Women expressed their concerns related to bullying occurring at the Motufoua Secondary school and requested for security measures to be taken.

Dialogue with the Leaders

The objective of the dialogue was to strengthen partnership between women, youth, and the government to progress gender equality and youth development.

Participating leaders:

- Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Public Utility, Infrastructure & Environment, Honourable Ampelosa Tehulu
- Acting Minister for Health, Social Welfare & Gender Affairs and Minister for Communication & Transport and Tourism, Honourable Nielu Meisake.
- Minister of Finances, Honourable Seve Paeniu
- Minister of Education, Youth & Sports, Honourable Timi Melei
- Ministry of Internal Affairs & Agriculture, Honourable Katepu Laoi
- Ombudsman, Penehulo Hauma

The preservation of cultural heritage and traditions has been highlighted by women who notice that knowledge on weaving and carving is disappearing.

A participant from the persons with disabilities constituency expressed the need for them to travel to and from the outer islands and asked for the improvement of accessible infrastructure.

The Honourable Minister of Education and Youth, Honourable Timi Melei, shared information about the importance of making education accessible for disadvantaged young people who cannot compete for scholarships.

The honourable Minister for Internal Affairs and Agriculture, Honourable Katepu Laoi, stressed the importance for mothers to attend to their children because home is where the child should build his or her capacity before entering school. He said that informal education such as handicrafts making, arts and crafts, locally made artefacts all comes under informal education and hands on training. The Minister also expressed the need for gender sensitized programme for ministers and senior government officials, and to all ministries to improve their understanding of women's situations.

The Honourable Acting Prime Minister commented on the changes in youth attitudes and the importance to come back to their role of taking care of their parents and elders.

The acting Prime Minister thanked the organizers, the resource-people, and



Photo 22: Dialogue between leaders and participants to the Women and Youth Forum

sponsors of the Forum for the great outcome of the Forum and suggested to consider the organisation of a men's Forum in the future.

Acting Minister for Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affairs, Honourable Nielu Meisake, said that Ministers now have heard the voices of the women and youth; they have received their outcome statement and will see that it comes through proper protocols and procedures to government. He then thanked all the women and youth, the organisers, the resource people and the sponsors of the Forum for a job well done.



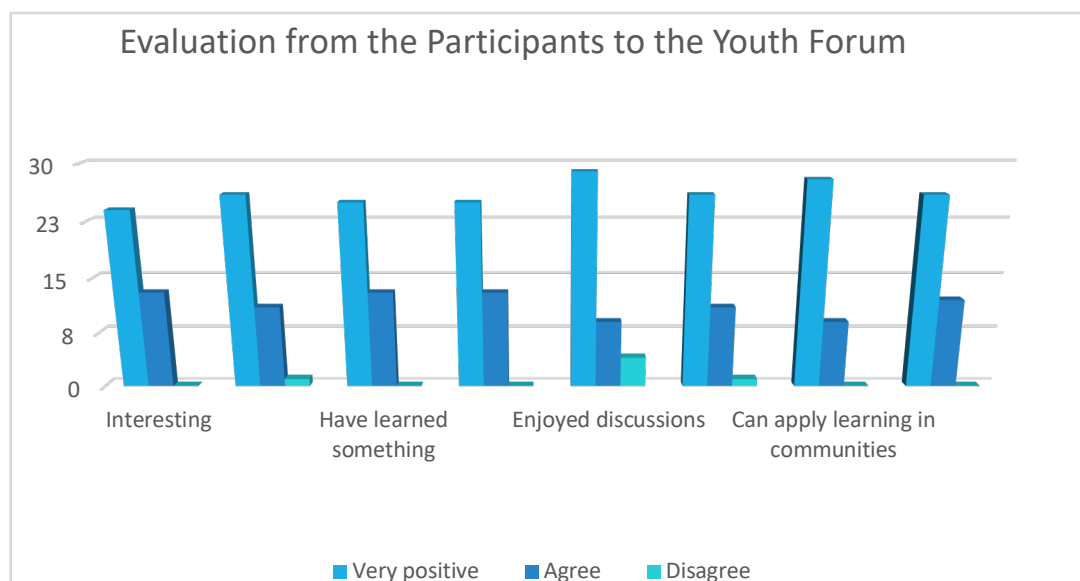
Photo 24: Women and Youth at the dialogue with the leaders

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

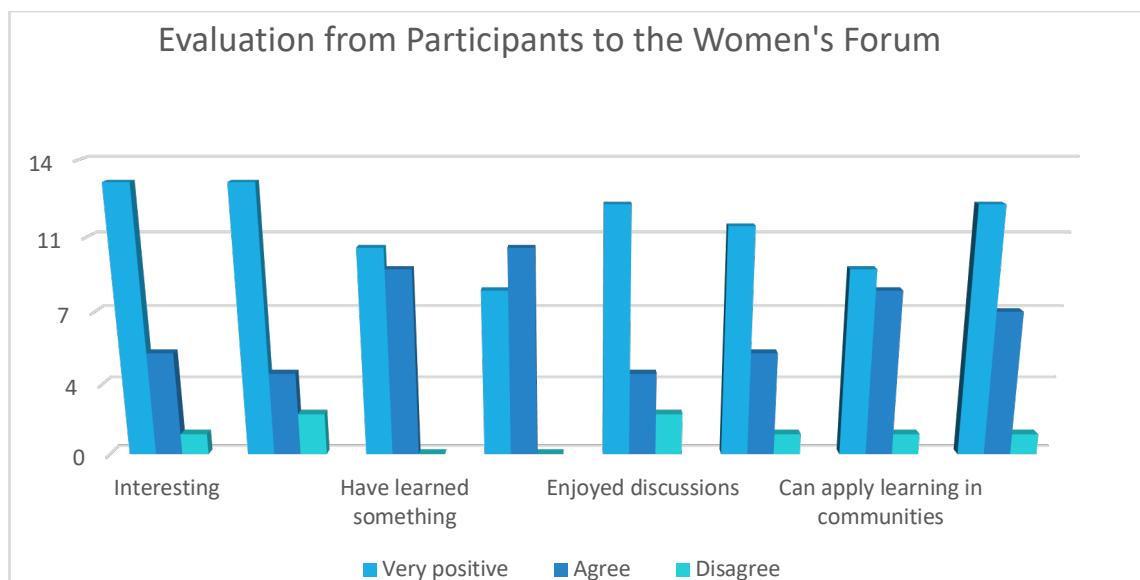
The Forum was successful in bringing together women and youth from all eight islands to discuss about their respective issues and identify their priorities. The discussions were rich and participants showed much enthusiasm in sharing their experience and discussing the issues important for them and their communities.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of the Forum reveals a very high level of satisfaction from both Women and Youth constituencies.



Most participants confirmed that the Forum was interesting, they have learned something, and their participation to the Forum worth it.



Participants to the Women's Forum enjoyed having the opportunity to work together and make their voice heard, the discussions about violence against women, and that no women were discriminated. Participants to the Youth Forum appreciated the contribution of the participants from the outer islands, sessions related to the elimination of violence against women and the police presentation, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and also sessions on youth empowerment and practical work to empower youth to be involved in meetings and workshops.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Altogether, the Forum lasted five days; three days for the respective the Forum of women and the one of youth and the joint Forum. The organising committee noticed that the level of energy of the participants was decreasing from Thursday morning therefore, the programme was reviewed to give more space for discussions and exchanges and sessions finished earlier. Nevertheless, many participants expressed, in the evaluation of the Forum, that they wish the Forum would be longer so that they could have more time to discuss issues and learn

from each other. The organisers will explore other avenues to provide this type of space for women and for youth to meet with their peers more regularly.

The programme of both Women's and Youth Forum were dense and there was obviously a need for women and youth to have their space to discuss about their experience. However, there was not enough time dedicated to joint sessions where they could have discussed more in-depth their common issues about inclusiveness in decision-making, economic empowerment, and violence and abuse (including bullying) and identify concrete actions to implement together for changing norms and practices that are negatively affecting them. It was the first time a Forum for women and youth was organised jointly.

Participants were nominated by their constituencies in the Outer Islands, i.e. islands' women and youth association selected who would represent them at the Forum. Although the Forum targeted women and youth, there was a gap in terms of representation of women from age 30 to 49 (11 participants only). Most participants in the Women's Forum were aged 50 years old and more. For the exception of one session, the young women did not have the opportunity to take part to discussions that may have been of importance to them such as the participation in decision-making from a women's perspective and gender-based violence. The Youth Forum did discuss the issues of economic empowerment from a youth perspective, but the specific challenges young women experience in this area



Photo 25: Interactions with the leaders. Women and Youth Forum

may not have been discussed in-depth. In future Forum, more attention will be given to ensure the attendance of women from different age groups.

Despite those challenges, the Forum was a very valuable experience for all and the dialogue with the leaders was a great opportunity to raise their awareness about gender equality and youth development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to multiply the impact of the Forum, it is recommended:

- 1) to disseminate the Forum's statement to the Development Coordinating Committee (comprising of all CEOs) and cabinet for its endorsement by the government;*
- 2) to disseminate the Forum's statement to the government ministries, the Falekaupules, and the civil society organisations;*
- 3) to produce a brochure on the proceedings of the Forum (summary of this report, along with the video produced during the forum, to inform the Falekaupules;*
- 4) to use the outcomes of the Forum to inform the revision of the National Gender Policy and the National Youth Policy and the upcoming CEDAW and CRC reports;*
- 5) to support the organisation of women and youth Forum in each island in the context of the revision of the National Gender Policy and Youth Policy;*
- 6) to work with the media to inform communities about youth development, gender equality and human rights contextualised to the Tuvaluan culture;*

- 7) *to organise an information session with members of the parliament to raise their awareness about gender equality and youth development and the outcomes of the Forum;*
- 8) *to use the Forum statement to inform development programmes being implemented in Tuvalu (by development partners and regional organisations) and attract specific funding to support its implementation, especially related to economic empowerment of women and youth, preventing and ending all forms of violence, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, and improve public services delivery to be inclusive and gender, youth, and disabilities responsive.*

IV. Appendix

1. Women and Youth Forum Statement

Stronger Together: Women and Youth Unite for Change

Tuvalu National Women and Youth Forum 2019

Funafuti, 9 to 13 December 2019

- 1. The first Tuvalu National Women and Youth Forum was held from 9 to 13 of December 2019 in Funafuti under the theme of 'Stronger Together: Women and Youth Unite for Change'.*
- 2. Seventy-one people - including 30 women and 41 youth in all their diversity -from the 8 islands of Tuvalu took part to the Forum. Members of civil society organisations, governmental institutions, and development partners also jointed the event.*
- 3. The Forum reaffirmed the commitments to gender equality and youth development made through the Te Kakeega III, the National Gender Equality Policy and the National Youth Policy. These national commitments are in line with regional commitments our leaders have made through the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights, the Pacific Youth Development Framework, and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.*
- 4. The Forum recognized the many forms of discrimination and adversity that women and youth experience at different stages of their lives.*

5. *The Forum recognised that gender equality and youth development are a prerequisite for the full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.*
6. *The Forum acknowledged that women's economic empowerment is related*
7. *The Forum made recommendations to achieve economic empowerment of Tuvalu women and youth, their inclusion in decision making processes, and the importance to work together to end violence against women in line with the Tuvalu National Women Policy and the National Youth Policy.*
8. *The Forum further recommended the opportunity for youth to be included in governance and decision making committees and other such bodies where decisions are made regarding youth issues or the engagement of young people.*

OUR PRIORITIES

9. *During four days, we reflected on what is important for women and youth, for our families, for our communities, and for our country.*
 - a. *We want to live peacefully and be safe. Safe from the adverse impacts of climate change because we are experiencing a climate change crisis that have tremendous impact on our land, our resources, our health, our livelihoods, our way of life, and our culture.*
 - b. *We also want to be safe from all forms of violence within our homes, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in the public space. We need to take measures to address cyberbullying in particular towards women and girls who are the main targets.*

- c. *We want to work and earn incomes. We want to have the means to sustain our families and communities through decent jobs and the development of economic opportunities that lift and empower our communities and respond to our needs.*
- d. *We want awareness raising programmes to continue to be conducted for the young people in the areas that are important to them such as:*
 - i. *Health issues, including alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, sexual and reproductive health and rights issues such as teenage pregnancy, STI prevalence, low use of contraceptives and other health issues and welcome the opportunity to learn more about Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) or Family Life Education (FLE) and support the continuation of these subjects in formal and out of school education systems.*
 - ii. *Disaster and emergency planning, implementation and response engagements taking into consideration the concerns and needs of women and youth*
 - iii. *Gender-based violence issues, including about the service providers, police systems and other services that support survivors*
- e. *We want to live sustainably and for our environment to be clean and the resources of our land and ocean to be used in a sustainable way so that future generations can use those resources to sustain themselves.*
- f. *We respect and acknowledge our culture and traditions but acknowledge that some practices discriminate women and need to be reviewed.*
- g. *We want our spirituality to guide us in the management of our people and our resources.*

h. We want our children and youth and our elders to be cared for.

i. We support the inclusion of vulnerable people such as people with disabilities to be included and treated fairly in all areas of life. We further support the inclusion of the LGBTQI community members into awareness raising workshops, education and training programmes, consultations and also into governance and decision-making forum.

j. We want all women and girls, in all their diversities, to be protected from all forms of violence.

k. We want our leaders to adopt laws and policies that protect and promote human rights and dignity.

10. The Forum provided the opportunities to identify our priorities for progressing gender equality and youth development by:

a. Accelerating the implementation of commitments to end violence against women and girls.

b. Developing opportunities to economically empower women and youth and adopt measures for their financial inclusion.

c. Fostering inclusive participation and increasing the participation of women and youth in decision-making.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

11. We call on our leaders, civil society, private sector and development partners to:

- a. Accelerate the implementation of our commitments to progress youth development and gender equality including in the areas of decision-making, sexual and reproductive health and rights, the elimination of gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination against women and girls of all diversities.*
- b. Implement programmes to support the financial inclusion, including financial services, of women and youth by being more flexible and simplify conditions on loans to women and youth.*
- c. Organise trainings on business skills and basic accounting skills.*
- d. Organise technical and vocational education and training to develop technical skills for income generating activities.*
- e. To offer opportunities for youth to develop their capacity through sporting opportunities and other alternative career pathways other than academic (e.g. performing arts).*
- f. To support the development of youth's skills through traditional art and craft, learning the knowledge of elders passed down from ancestors.*
- g. Take the responsibility to implement the principles of inclusivity, including social responsibility to promote gender equality and support women's economic empowerment and women in decision-making.*
- h. To address the specific needs of women and youth in all government portfolios, the Kaupule assistance and development programmes, and adopt measures to lift obstacles women and youth may face to benefit from services.*
- i. To value and protect cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, including traditional medicine to be documented and practiced where ever possible.*

OUR COMMITMENTS

12. In order to make significant progress in terms of gender equality, youth development and overall sustainable development, we, participants to the Forum, commit ourselves;

- a. to be mindful of diverse life experiences, diverse views, and diverse issues people face when making decisions;*
- b. to respectfully share our views and voice our concerns to our leaders.*
- c. to promote, respect and protect the rights of all Tuvaluans;*
- d. to protect our cultural heritage;*
- e. to transform harmful practices and social norms;*
- f. to be transparent and accountable for our actions;*
- g. to work in partnership with our leaders*

The youth also commit to:

- h. be more responsive to invitations for representation into workshops, consultations and training opportunities to ensure that the voice of young people are heard and taken into account;*
- i. encourage their peers within their own communities to take this more participatory approach to opportunities now and into the future;*
- j. actively participate in volunteer programmes to support development initiatives within the government and civil society movements, and in community engagements;*

- k. use new technologies of communications such as online social media and other tools, to network with friends and peers around the world to distribute education and positive material;*
- l. not using it for cyber bullying or other abusive and negative activities and to encourage other youth to use these online media responsibly.*

2. Programme of the Women's Forum

Official opening of the Women and Youth Forum

Monday 9 December

8.00 am	Registration
9.00 am	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Skit from young people- Opening prayer- Remarks from Director of TuFHA, Mr Lono Leneuoti- Remarks from Director of the Gender Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and and Gender affairs, Asita Molotii- Official opening by Honourable Nielu Meisake, Acting Minister for Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and and Gender affairs
10.00 am	Photo
10.30 am	Morning tea

Women's Forum

Monday 9 December 2019

11.00 am	Session 1: Introductions This session aims at introducing the participants, the Forum's programme, and the present some statistics to set the scene. <i>At the end of the session, the participants will know who is in the room and there will be an agreement on the programme and the expected results of the forum. The participants will also have selected 2 people to be part of the committee responsible to draft the statement.</i>
12:30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	Session 2: Our priorities This session uses information shared by the participants during the registration process to identify some priorities for improving women's lives. <i>At the end of the session, participants will have identified up to five priorities for women and factors to promote safe relationships within the family.</i>
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea

3.30 pm	Sessions 3: the status of women in Tuvalu This session uses an interactive approach to generate information and discuss different issues affecting women's lives. <i>At the end of the session, participants will have identified specific issues experienced by women.</i>
5:00 pm	End of Day 1 Meeting of the drafting committee

Tuesday 10 December 2019

8.30 am	Session 4: Lifting each other This session aims at generate a discussion on the social determinants of vulnerability and the importance to adopt measures to "lift" people who are disadvantaged. <i>At the end of the session, participants will understand how gender and other social factors affect people's vulnerability and resilience and have identified actions to "lift each other".</i>
9.45 am	Session 5: Ending violence against women and girls This session's objective is to raise awareness about the issues related to violence against women and girls and services in place to support the survivors and support the identification of actions to prevent and end violence against women and support the survivors at the community level. <i>At the end of the session, participants know more about domestic violence, existing services to support the survivors, and what access to justice entails; and they have identified concrete actions to take in their communities to prevent domestic violence and support the survivors.</i>
10.30 am	Morning tea

11.00 am	Session 5: Ending violence against women and girls, CONT.
11.45 am	<p>Session 6: Review of National priorities - gender equality</p> <p>In 2020, the National Gender Policy will be under review. This session provides the opportunities to the Forum’s participants to review progress and discuss priorities for advancing gender equality. This session will use a format of “world café” to give the opportunity to all participants to express their views on 1) ending violence against women; 2) women’s economic empowerment; 3) and women’s participation in decision-making</p> <p><i>At the end of the session, participants will have expressed their views on what has progressed and what remain priority for the country for progressing gender equality.</i></p>
12:30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	Session 6 CONT.
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea
3.30 pm	<p>Session 7: “That time I had been bold”</p> <p>At the beginning of the session the ombudsman will meet with the Forum participants to explain the role of the ombudsman.</p> <p>Through personal story-telling, this session aims at generating a reflection on the value of being bold and audacious, and challenging social norms that harm women or prevent them to fulfil their aspiration.</p> <p><i>Young women attending the Youth forum will join the Women’s forum for this session.</i></p> <p><i>At the end of the session, the participants will have recognized the importance to act at individual and collective levels in order to address harmful practices and gender-based violence.</i></p>
5:00 pm	<p>End of Day 2</p> <p>Meeting of the drafting committee</p>

Wednesday 11 December 2010

8.30 am	<p>Session 8: Economic empowerment of women in the context of Tuvalu</p> <p>This session aims at initiating a reflection on opportunities and obstacles to women's economic empowerment. It will include mapping of women's knowledge and skills and identification of gaps in terms of products and services in different regions. The session will also include a panel discussion with women running businesses in order to learn from their experience.</p> <p><i>At the end of the session, the participants will have: 1) identified opportunities to use their skills and knowledge to generate incomes and wealth; 2) defined what economic empowerment entails in the context of Tuvalu</i></p>
10.30 am	Morning tea
11.00 am	Session 8 Cont.
12:30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	<p>Session 9: Women's leadership and participation in decision-making</p> <p>A panel discussion composed of women in leadership position will initiate a discussion on the benefits of women participating in decision making and the identification of strategic actions to support women's leadership and participation in decision-making</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Faitofi (Dobby) Pusinelli, Assistant programme producer, Radio Tuvalu</i></p> <p><i>At the end of the session, the participants will have a shared common understanding of the benefits for women and for communities to support women's leadership and participation in decision-making</i></p>
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea

3.30 pm	<p>Session 10: The future we want</p> <p>This session will entail a short presentation to recapitulate the discussions of the forum so far and contextualize it with the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action (+25); the Pacific Leaders' declaration on gender equality; the SDGs; the The Kareela; and the review of the national gender policy. Also refers to the 14th triennial conference where Tuvaluan women's concerns and aspirations coming from this forum will be shared. It will be followed by a visioning exercise.</p> <p><i>At the end of the session, participants will have formulated their aspirations and priorities.</i></p>
5:00 pm	<p>End of Day 3</p> <p>Meeting of the drafting committee</p>

3. Programme of the Youth Forum

9 th December 2019		
Time	Item	Presenter/Facilitator
11.20– 11.30 AM	Brief on the work of Tuvalu Family Health Association	Ms. Jessynda O Baeke
11.30 – 11.40 AM	Partnership between TUFHA and MOH	Dr. Maoto
11.40 – 12.30 PM	<p>Plenary One: Youth Leadership and Advocacy – Getting to know the Youth Programmes and agencies in Tuvalu</p> <p><i>National Leader championing the inclusion of youth in national and community development</i></p> <p><i>How do youth organizations involve young people and promote accountability?</i></p> <p><i>Youth, Culture and Tradition</i></p> <p><i>Using opportunities for youth engagement</i></p>	<p>Facilitator: Petsy Koau</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Tuvaluan MP</p> <p>Ms. Milikini Failautusi (TUFHA Youth Board Member)</p> <p>Cultural Department (Mr. Martin Vailopa)</p> <p>Ministry of Youth (Ms. Taotao)</p>
12.30 – 1.00 PM	Questions and Answers the Plenary	
1.00 – 2.00 PM	LUNCH	

2.00 – 3.00 PM	Group Sessions	Lead Facilitator: Petsy Koau
3.00 – 4.00 PM	<p>Group Presentations and Discussions</p> <p>Sessions discussion guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are young people engaged in the programme • Access to services and information • Gaps and challenges • Solutions/recommendations(way forward) 	
3.30 – 3.40 PM	Afternoon Tea	
4.00 – 4.30 PM	Discussions on Key Recommendations /Outcomes	Facilitator : Petsy Koau
10 December, 2019		
Time	Item	Presenter /Facilitator
8.30 – 8.45 AM	Recap	
8.45 – 10.30 AM	<p>Theme: Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights & Cross cutting Issues</p> <p>Marginalized Groups Sharing lessons (success, challenges, good practice)</p>	<p>Lead Facilitator: Taumaoe</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Referral Pathways – FusiAlofa Association</p> <p>LGBTQI – LGBTQI Association</p>

10.30 – 10.45 AM	Morning Tea	
10.45 – 12.30 PM	<i>Plenary: Sexual Gender Based Violence Mechanisms and Networks in Tuvalu</i> <i>Referral Pathways</i> Laws and Protection Order Clinical Services on SGBV	<i>Speakers:</i> <i>Gender Affairs Dept.</i> <i>Tuvalu Police</i> <i>TUFHA clinic nurse</i>
12.30 – 1.00 PM	Questions and Answers	
1.00 – 2.00 PM	LUNCH	
2.00 – 3.30 PM	Discussions in Groups Sessions discussion guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are young people engaged in the programme • Access to services and information • Gaps and challenges • Solutions/recommendations (way forward) 	Facilitator: Taumaoe
3.30 – 4.00 PM	Group Presentation	
4.00 – 4.30 PM	Discussions on recommendations/ Outcomes	

11 December, 2019		
Time	Item	Presenter/Facilitator
8.30 – 9.00 AM	Recap	Facilitator : Taotao Homasi
9.30 – 10.30 AM	How youths are engaged in the National Disaster Plans	National Disaster Management Operation (NDMO)
10.30 – 10.45 AM	Morning Tea	
10.45 – 11.40 AM	Humanitarian Work – Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) and youths are engaged in the preparedness, response and recover phase.	Facilitator: Ms. Petsy Koau
11.40 – 1.00 PM	Family Life Education/ Comprehensive Sexuality Education In-school Programme Out- of school	Speakers: Ministry of Education Acting TUFHA Youth Coordinator Tuvalu Media Department
	Maximizing social media and mainstream media to strengthen youth networks	
1.00 – 2.00 PM	Lunch	
2.00 – 2.50 PM	Group Discussions and Presentation Sessions discussion guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are young people engaged in the programme • Access to services and information 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps and challenges • Solutions/recommendations(way forward) 	
3.00 – 3.15 PM	Afternoon Tea	
3.15 – 4.00 PM	Discussions on Recommendations and Outcomes	Facilitator : Petsy Koau
4.00 – 4.30 PM	Presentation of Outcomes Statement and Appointment of Youth presenters (2 males and 2 females)	

4. Programme of the Joint Session Women and Youth

Thursday 12 December

8.30 am	<p>SESSION 1: Looking back, planning ahead</p> <p>In this session within which the participants to the Women's Forum and Youth Forum come together to share the outcomes of their reflections. The session will. They will take stock of the changes and progress realised in the last 25 years and discuss the future they want.</p> <p><i>At the end of the session, participants will have identified areas where they have been progress, common challenges in terms of equality and youth inclusion, and different issues experienced by diverse components of the society.</i></p>
10.30 am	Morning tea
11.00 am	<p>SESSION 2: Stronger Together: Women and Youth Unite for Change</p> <p>This session discuss focus on partnerships and how women and youth can work together and partner with governmental institutions to progress youth inclusion and gender equality.</p> <p>The session will include a panel discussion with organisations from the civil society and the government to address a specific issue (inclusive education; health and EVAW); The panellists will share their experience of partnership and identify modalities for an effective partnership.</p> <p><i>At the end of the session, the participants will have identified good practices and modalities for effective partnerships between members of the civil society organizations and with the governments.</i></p>

12:30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	<p>SESSION 3: Preparation of the dialogue with the leaders</p> <p>This session is dedicated to the preparing the dialogue with the leaders. The facilitator will guide the discussion around the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>what do we want the leaders to know about women and youth?</i> 2) <i>what "we" want to know about our leaders?</i> 3) <i>how would like to partner with the government and other stakeholders to progress youth inclusion and gender equality.</i> <p><i>At the end of the session, participants will have shaped the messages they want to share with the leaders.</i></p>
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea
3.30 pm	Preparation of the dialogue with the leaders and finalisation of the draft Forum's statement

Friday 13 December 2019

8.30 am	<p>Session 4: Adoption of the Forum's Statement</p> <p>The draft statement will be presented to the Forum for its adoption.</p>
10.30 am	Morning tea

5. Agenda - Dialogue between women, youth, and the leaders

Friday 13 December 2019

11.00 am	<p>The purpose of the dialogue is to strengthen partnerships between civil society and government to progress gender equality and youth inclusion</p> <p>The dialogue will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>1) A presentation of the content of the programme through a visual media</i><i>2) The submission of the Forum's statement</i><i>3) Response from the leaders</i> <p>At the end of the dialogue, leaders will have a greater knowledge of the the priorities of women and youth and their will to fully participate in development process; and there will be renewed commitments to progress gender equality and youth development in all areas of development in Tuvalu.</p>
12:30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	Retreat
5:00 pm	End of the Women and Youth Dialogue

6. List of Participants

Youth

No	Names	Surname	Sex	DOB	YOUTH GROUP
1	Teinamasi	Isopo	M	12/02/92	Nanumaga
2	Meleseini	Luka	F	24/02/78	Nanumaga
3	Viliamu	Tusaga	M	25/07/00	Nukufetau
4	Esther	Maheu	F	30/08/04	Fakaifou
5	Viliame	Enele	M	14/02/99	Tamanuku
6	Kaeva	Pouniu	F	08/06/99	AOG
7	Kitiseni	Eli	M	05/10/94	Fusi Alofa
8	Tufaina	Tanielu	F		Fusi Alofa
9	Tealuga	Aleni	F	26/11/94	Fusi Alofa
10	Kahine	Manate	F	19/12/95	Nanumea
11	Emy	Feuini	F	19/02/00	Niutao
12	Nobuki	Vevea	M	19/09/01	Nanumea
13	Toaki	Kokea	M	11/08/96	Fakaifou
14	Liana	Iosia	F	14/04/97	Laeva
15	Tealasefoki	Alielu	F	7/11/88	AOG
16	Sonia	Samalu	F	6/06/86	Kavatoetoe
17	Susie	Nilama	F	26/07/96	Nui
18	Tila	Faaliga	M	07/08/98	Nui
19	Melean	Leneuoti	F	25/12/01	Catholic
20	Keketi	Tepope	M	02/05/97	Niutao
21	Rowena	Temate	F	02/08/98	Nukufetau
22	Guy	Pusinelli	M	26/07/97	Kavatoetoe
23	Falamua	Kimo	M	18/04/02	Brethren
24	Temukisa	Onosai	M	27/02/02	Brethren
25	Fakaoti	Tuaa	M	09/07/92	Lofeagai
26	Talo	Mose	F	17/09/94	Vaitupu
27	Paia	Kala	F	03/03/03	Lofegai

28	Lautene	Tapokai	F	16/09/00	Vaiaku
29	Amoni	Uhila	M	19/04/00	Nukulaelae
30	Tofiga	Paka	M	20/07/96	Vaitupu
31	Foliseti	Folitau	M	20/11/96	Nukulaelae
32	Aselu	O'Brien	M	04/07/96	Toa Tuvalu
33	Leupena	Paatea	M	19/09/98	Vaiaku
34	Sililata	Esekia	M	03/08/98	Akanda
35	Kelera	Pasivao	F	24/11/98	SDA
36	Filiesi	Keti	M	22/01/00	Akanda
37	Tepua	Teagai	F	19/07/91	Funafuti
38	Iese	Tavita	M	01/01/00	Funafuti
39	Nokise	Kaitu	M	02/05/00	Funafuti
40	Paul	Teasi	M		Funafuti
41	Maryanne	Vunisarati	F		Funafuti

7. Responses to the questions on priorities – Women's Forum

Women's Forum - Session 2

ID	1) What is important to women	2) Problems faced by women	3)Inclusion of women in DM/Politics	4) Improve family and Household	5) Factors that improve family relation
1	Rights	Teenage Pregnancy	GE	Partnership	Genuine Partnership
2	Children	Finance	Implementer	GE	Positive Communication
3	Respect	Lack self esteem	Represent Women	Religion	Religion
4	Children	Customs & Tradition	Health & education	Safety at home	Positive Communication
5	Decision Making	Decision Making	Include Women's needs	Submissive wife	Respective Relationship
6	Decision Making	Divorce	Improve Standard of Women	Work together	Discipline of Women (alcohol)
7	Welfare Development	Not included in DM	Backbone in Family	Peaceful Environment	Peace
8	Empowerment of women	GE	Empowerment of Women	Safety at home	Respective Relationship

9	Decision Making	None	Implementer	Business	Stop dishonesty/ unfaithfulness
10		DV	Inclusion in DM	Water Security	Trust
11	Children	Not included in DM	Inclusion in DM	Partnership	Respective Relationship
12	Decision Making	Divorce	Disagree	Clean & Hygienic	Respective Relationship
13	Health, safe, happy living		Inclusion in DM	GE	Honesty
14	Understand standard of women	Discrimination	Represent Women	Partnership, Respect	Positive Communication
15	Family	Discrimination	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Respective Relationship
16	Family	Alcohol use	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Respective Relationship
17	Family	Alcohol use	Inclusion in DM	Food Security	Genuine Partnership
18	Family	Alcohol use	Inclusion in DM	Food Security	Genuine Partnership
19	Divorce & Alcohol use	Overcrowded Household	Inclusion in DM	Safety at home, peaceful environment	Respective Relationship
20	Decision Making	Lack self esteem	Inclusion in DM	Proper MG	Respective Relationship

21	Rights, Peace, Children	Domestic Violence	Inclusion in DM	Eliminate alcohol use, peaceful environment, Eliminate DV	Genuine Partnership
22		Domestic Violence	Inclusion in DM	Women	Genuine Partnership
23	Finance	DV	Support leadership	Respect	Genuine Partnership
24		DV	Represent Women	Clean & Hygienic, Eliminate Conflicts	Genuine Partnership
25	Economic Development	Unemployment	Represent Women	Availability of land and HH	Respective Relationship
26	Finance	Overpopulation, Less women serve the country	Represent Women	Finance & Family Development	Respective Relationship
27		DV & Broken Family, Customs & Tradition fading	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
28	Respect	DV	GE	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
29	Cleanliness	Other commitments	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
30	Health	DV	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership

31	Decision Making	No freedom of speech	Inclusion in DM	Cleanliness	Genuine Partnership
32	Decision Making	Customs & Tradition	Inclusion in DM	Cleanliness	Genuine Partnership
33	Decision Making	Other commitments	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
34	Decision Making	Family conflicts	GE	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
35	Rights	DV, Alcohol use, sexual abuse	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
36	Family protection	DV	Represent Women	Proper MG	Genuine Partnership
37	Project Development	Finances	Represent Women	Cleanliness	Genuine Partnership
38	Represent Women	Communication	Inclusion in DM	Cleanliness	Genuine Partnership
39	Customs & Traditions	Lifestyle change	Inclusion in DM	Duty, Respect	Genuine Partnership, Religion
40	Family Management	No respect	Inclusion in DM	Cleanliness, Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
41	Understand standard of women	Discrimination	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
42	Respect	Love, Respect	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
43	Health	Alcohol use	Inclusion in DM	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership

44	Family Development	DV		Be Single	Genuine Partnership
45	Family Development	Pregnancy, poor management	Inclusion in DM	Food Security, Elderly	Genuine Partnership
46	Family Development	Weaving	Inclusion in DM	Proper MG	Genuine Partnership
47	Rights	DV	Inclusion in DM	Proper MG	Respective Relationship
48	Family Development	DV	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
49	Rights	DV	GE	Peaceful Environment	Love
50	Respect	DV	Inclusion in DM	Women	Love
51	Family Development	DV	Inclusion in DM	Women	Religion
52	Rights	Other commitments	Inclusion in DM	Good leadership	Genuine Partnership
53	Women Empowerment	No freedom of speech	Inclusion in DM	Work together	
54	STI protection	Teenage Pregnancy		Cleanliness	Respective Relationship
55	Respect	DV			Respective Relationship
56	Work together	Other commitments (Bingo)	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
57	Family Development	DV	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership

58	Welfare Development	DV	Inclusion in DM	Women	Respective Relationship
59	Family Development	Alcohol use	Represent Women	Peaceful Environment	Genuine Partnership
60	Family Management	Discrimination	Inclusion in DM	Cleanliness	Genuine Partnership
61	Family Development	DV	Represent Women	Work together	Love

8. Consultation on the status of women in Tuvalu

Women's forum, Session 3

The objective of the session was to check of relevant of gender issues previously identified through the National Gender Policy through closed questions and discussions were open in particular issues.

It was expected that, at the end of the session, key gender issues experienced by women would have been identified.

The table below reports on the outcomes of this exercise:

FAMILY LIFE	YES	NO
1. Do you think households tasks are equally divided between you and your spouse	4	6
2. Do you think men should be equally be involved in the execution of in housework? why	8	2
3. Do you think that child raising should mainly be carried out by women	0	10
4. Do you think that girls and boys should be brought up the same way/have the same responsibility/chores in the household? Be treated the same (why)?	10	0
5. Are you involved in making decisions in your family?	10	0
5a Related to your children's education	10	0
5b Related to managing your family's finances?	10	0
5c Related to your family's activities	10	0
6. Would you like to be more involved?		0

6a) For what kind of decisions which you wish to be more involved		
7. <i>Do you think your health is good?</i>	6	4
8. <i>Can you always get the medical care you and your family need?</i>	3	7
9. <i>Do you find it easy to discuss birth control with your doctor?</i>	5	5
10. <i>Do you have access to birth control when you needed?</i>	9	1
11. <i>Do you have access to birth control on a regular basis?</i>	9	1
12. <i>Have you already gotten pregnant at a time that wasn't right for you?</i>	6	4
13. <i>Have you ever discussed family planning with your spouse at any moment?</i>	0	10
14. <i>Have you ever discussed or provided information about family planning/birth control with your daughter(s) or daughter (s) in law?</i>	5	5
15. <i>Do you find it easy to maintain healthy lifestyle?</i>	6	4
16. <i>Are you able to see a doctor when you need it?</i>	10	0
17. <i>Do you find it challenging to raise your children or grand - children today?</i>	2	8
18. <i>Are you confident your children will have all they need to have a good life in the future?</i>	10	0
19. <i>Have you noticed changes in your relationships with your spouse since getting married?</i>	10	0
20. <i>Are you able to talk about your problems with someone when you need to ?</i>	10	0

21. Do you think that you have enough self-confidence to carry out your projects, make your own decision?	7	3
22. In general do you feel happy	10	0

WORK AND STANDARD OF LIVING	YES	NO
1. Is your family supportive of you working?	6	4
2. If so do not you have a job or occupation, please specify?		
2a Lack of opportunities in the islands	7	3
2b. Out of choice	5	5
2c. Lack of qualifications or training	1	9
2d. Due to family children or elderly care	5	5
2e. Due to spouse not giving permission	4	6
3. If you do have a job or an occupation, are you experiencing some difficulties related to:		
3a. Difficulty to conciliate family responsibility because no time flexibility	3	7
3b Limited opportunity to attend professional training	1	9
3c Limited opportunity to get promoted	1	9
3d Unfriendly workplace	9	1
3e Not being respected	4	6
3f Sexual harassment	5	5
3g Bullying	4	6

3h Other issues	3	7
4. <i>Do you think women have the same opportunities than men to earn money? Why?</i>	10	-
5. <i>Do you think women have the same opportunities than men to hold decision-making positions in the workplace? Why?</i>	1	9
6. <i>Do you think that your family's material conditions are adequate for your family's well-being?</i>	9	1
7. <i>Do you receive support from your family for certain expenses? (funeral, recovery from disasters, etc.)</i>	6	4
8. <i>Do you have enough resources to provide for your family?</i>	6	4
9. <i>Are you in charge of managing or involved in the management the household budget?</i>	7	3
10. <i>Is custom something you enjoy doing?</i>	10	0
11. <i>Is custom something you do out of a sense of duty?</i>	9	1
12. <i>Do you encounter some difficulties, sometimes to fulfil customary duties?</i>	9	1

RELATIONSHIPS AND RIGHTS	YES	NO
1. <i>Do you have friends or family members you visit regularly?</i>	10	-
2. <i>Do you regularly meet with other women (to talk help each other, have fun)?</i>	10	-
3. <i>Are you involved in women's group or church group or any other type of association?</i>	10	-

4. Do you take part in public affairs (politics, community groups)	3	7
5. Do you need to ask for a family member's permission before taking part in such activities?	5	5
6. Do you think you know your rights well?	9	1
7. Do you know close relative of friends who are subjected to domestic violence?	6	4
8. Do you think that the law provides adequate protection for women (in the event of violence, discrimination, divorce, etc.)	5	5
9. Do you think that custom provides adequate protection for women ?	2	8
10. Do you think that women face specific problems men don't have? (which ones)	2	8
11. Do you think that men face specific problems women don't have? (which ones)	5	5
12. Do you think men and women should be equal/ Why?	5	5
13. Do you believe that they are actually equal?	10	-
14. Do you think that it is a good thing to have women serving in the Falekaupule	10	-
15. Do you consider that enough women are involved in politics?	2	8
16. Do you think that women's status in society should change? Why?	6	4
17. Do you think that women have an important role to play in shaping the future of the country?	10	0

9. Evaluation

Participants to the Women's Forum

	Agree ++	Agree	Disagree	Disagree ++
1. <i>The Forum was interesting</i>	13	5	1	0
2. <i>The Forum was well organized</i>	13	4	2	0
3. <i>I have learned something</i>	10	9		0
4. <i>It was valuable for me to attend the Forum</i>	8	10		0
5. <i>I enjoyed taking part in the Forum's activities</i>	12	4	2	0
- <i>Group discussions</i>				
- <i>Games</i>	11	5	1	0
6. <i>I can use/apply what I have learned in the Forum in my community</i>	9	8	1	0
7. <i>Overall, I am satisfied/happy to have been part of the Forum</i>	12	7	1	0

8. *What did you like the most – work together, women's voices are heard, All, Violence against women, all activities, Non -discrimination of women,*
9. *What did you like the least: none, presenters made us sleepy, economic empowerment,*
10. *If we organize a forum like that again, what should we:*
- a) Do differently: less food and increase allowances, give opportunities to leaders to reveal weaknesses and strengths, more workshops, transports from Wharf, more discussions, more time reveal weaknesses and strength,*
 - b) Improve: allow more questions, catering, activities on gender equality, allowances paid on time, limited time on discussions, presenters providing more information and taking the time to explain what they do. Timing of the forum inappropriate - prefer middle of the year,*
 - c) Keep the same: more workshop on gender recommended on youth and women, workshop 2 times a year,*

Comments and suggestions

- 1. More workshops of this kind*
- 2. Invited any woman in Parliament if available*
- 3. To have plans on a way for women to work on*
- 4. Be able to solve weaknesses*
- 5. More presenters and facilitators*
- 6. Improve catering and transportation*
- 7. Funding allocation for outer islands for workshop like this*
- 8. Women and youth unite workshops*

Participants to the Youth Forum

	Agree ++	Agree	Disagree	Disagree ++
<i>1. The Forum was interesting</i>	24	13	0	0
<i>2. The Forum was well organized</i>	26	11	1	0
<i>3. I have learned something</i>	25	13	0	0
<i>4. It was valuable for me to attend the Forum</i>	20	18	0	0
<i>5. I enjoyed taking part in the Forum's activities</i>	24	9	4	0
- <i>Group discussions</i>				
- <i>Games</i>	26	11	1	0
<i>6. I can use/apply what I have learned in the Forum in my community</i>	28	9		0
<i>7. Overall, I am satisfied/happy to have been part of the Forum</i>	26	12		0

8. What did you like the most: business plan, the venue, more discussions, all, contributions from outer island participants, all issues, sharing, presentations, ending violence against women session, Police presentation

on VAW, DV, video, Convention on the right of the child, youth empowerment, all presentations, sharing of ideas, empower youth to involve in meetings/workshops, discussions on the importance of youths.

9. *What did you like the least: none, limited time for questions, catering, explanations too long, timing of the forum.*

10. *If we organize a forum like that again, what should we:*

a. *Do differently - allow opportunities to women leaders to raise challenges of their island communities, more energizer activities, 3 weeks for the workshop, more time for presenters, more discussions, all to contribute, women leaders to be treated like Island leaders, gender equality, invited men participants,*

b. *Improve: none, more discussions, limited time for the workshop, timing, punctuality of participants, catering,*

c. *Keep the same: more workshops, increase number of participants from outer islands, gender equality, this kind of workshops, education, allowances, traditional knowledge and skills,*

Comments and suggestions

1. *Provide solutions to solve challenges identified*

2. *More workshops in the future*

3. *Participants to contribute more*

4. *More time for the workshop*

5. *Opportunities for women on business knowledge*

6. *Appreciate all contributions*

7. *Proposal writing, transportations*

8. *Step forward*

9. *Enhance understanding of youths in all issues*

10. *Workshops are important for the future of youths*

11. *Punctuality*

12. *Conduct workshops on the outer islands as well*
13. *Disseminate information*
14. *Involve youth in all workshops conducted on the capital*
15. *Forum to be held every year*
16. *Full participation of youth throughout*
17. *Maintain partnership*
18. *Avoid talking bad things about youths*