

Background

In response to the 2000 coup in Fiji and the ensuing violence, femLINKPACIFIC was formed with the aim of giving a voice to women affected by the crisis. Since 2007, the organisation has become more structured focusing on the development of women's rights, peace and security. FemLINKPACIFIC accepted the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 as a framework for its work which provided an impetus for undertaking regional work in the Pacific. FemLINKPACIFIC aims to nest the Community Empowerment for Peace and Security Programme (CEPSP) in a number of international, regional and national frameworks.

Purpose and objectives

This evaluation focused on the component of femLINKPACIFIC that was funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme: the implementation of the CEPSP in Fiji. The evaluation aimed to:

- Examine the programme's design and implementation, and assess the extent to which it has achieved its original goals and objectives.
- Assess the development impact of the programme, the level of demand from programme stakeholders and whether the programme is still relevant.
- Analyse the effectiveness of femLINKPACIFIC's management.
- Utilize femLINKPACIFIC'S work as a case study for the advancement of gender equity, development and peace through community media.

Main findings

FemLINKPACIFIC has primarily aimed to move the security and rights debate away from a powerful middle class to a community level. It was found that the original outputs/activities were largely achieved, although the anticipated outcomes were not all possible. Findings included:

- The lack of a systematic monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system has made project reporting against objectives difficult.
- Policy documents fail to clearly articulate the programme's sound logic.
- Geographically, and demographically the programme has achieved considerable reach.
- In terms of impact, the programme has facilitated socio-economic, financial, environmental, institutional and policy changes.

Conclusions and recommendations

Main recommendations included: the implementation of a MEL system to ease reporting and the collation of data; the development of a funding strategy for the next three to five years; MFAT to work in conjunction with other donors to ensure femLINKPACIFIC receives support to continue this work in Fiji; the finalisation and review of the femLINKPACIFIC Organisational Policy document every six months; and a restructure of current staffing to better support the rural network.