

# Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls

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## Operating at the Humanitarian- Development-Peace Nexus: Strengthening National GBV Systems, Lessons learned from Tropical Cyclone Yasa in Fiji



# Background: Fiji's VAWG Context



**64%**

**2 in 3 women**

women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime



**31%**

**1 in 3 women**

have experienced physical and/or sexual assault since the age of 15 by someone other than an intimate partner



**28%**

**More than 1 in 4**

ever-partnered women have had their partner either take their savings or refuse to give them money



# Background: Evolution of GBV Response Mechanisms



*Tropical Cyclone Referral Pathway 2016*



*Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol – launched in 2018*



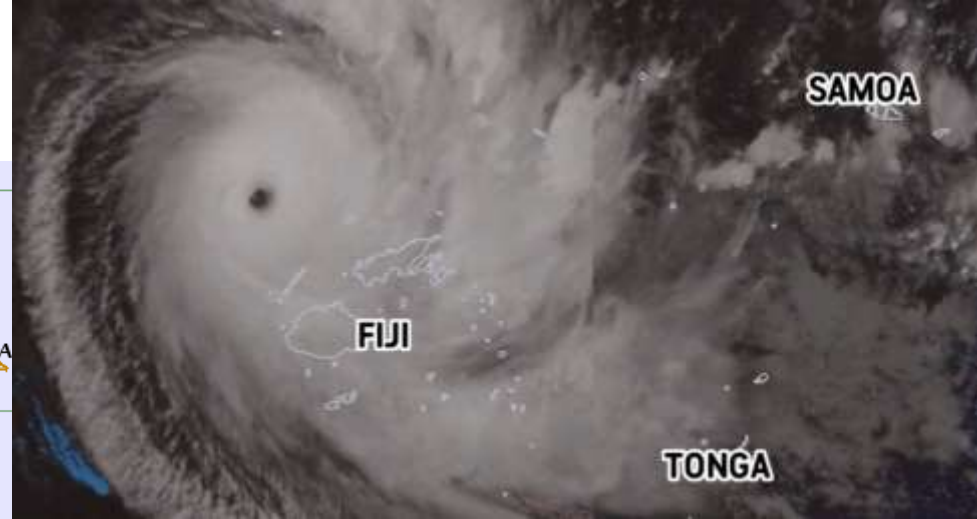
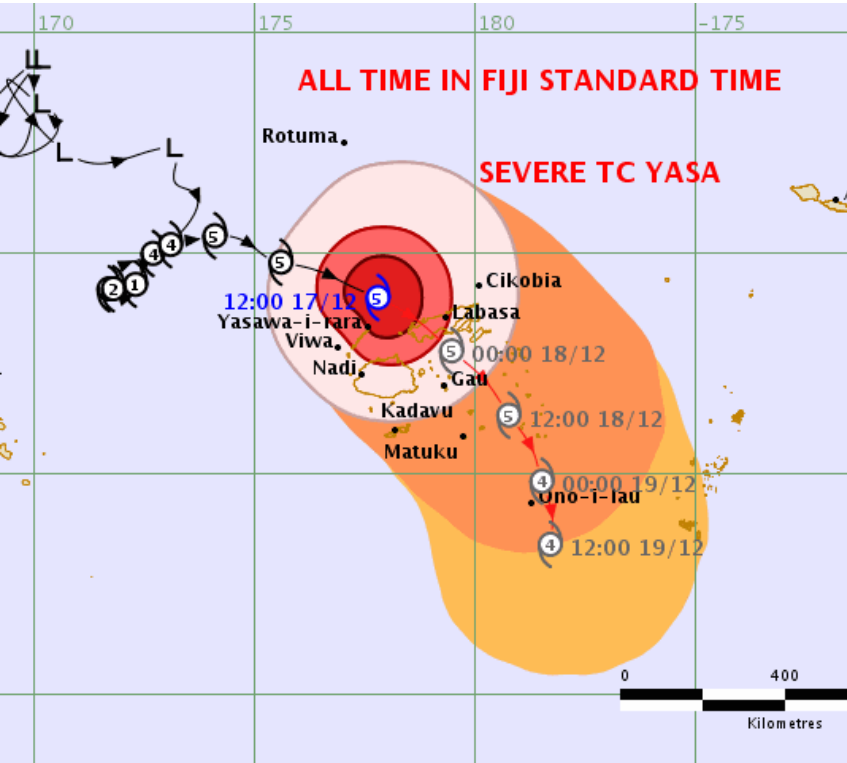
*Rapid GBV Service Delivery & Adaptation for COVID-19 & GBV – 2020*

2016 – 2020

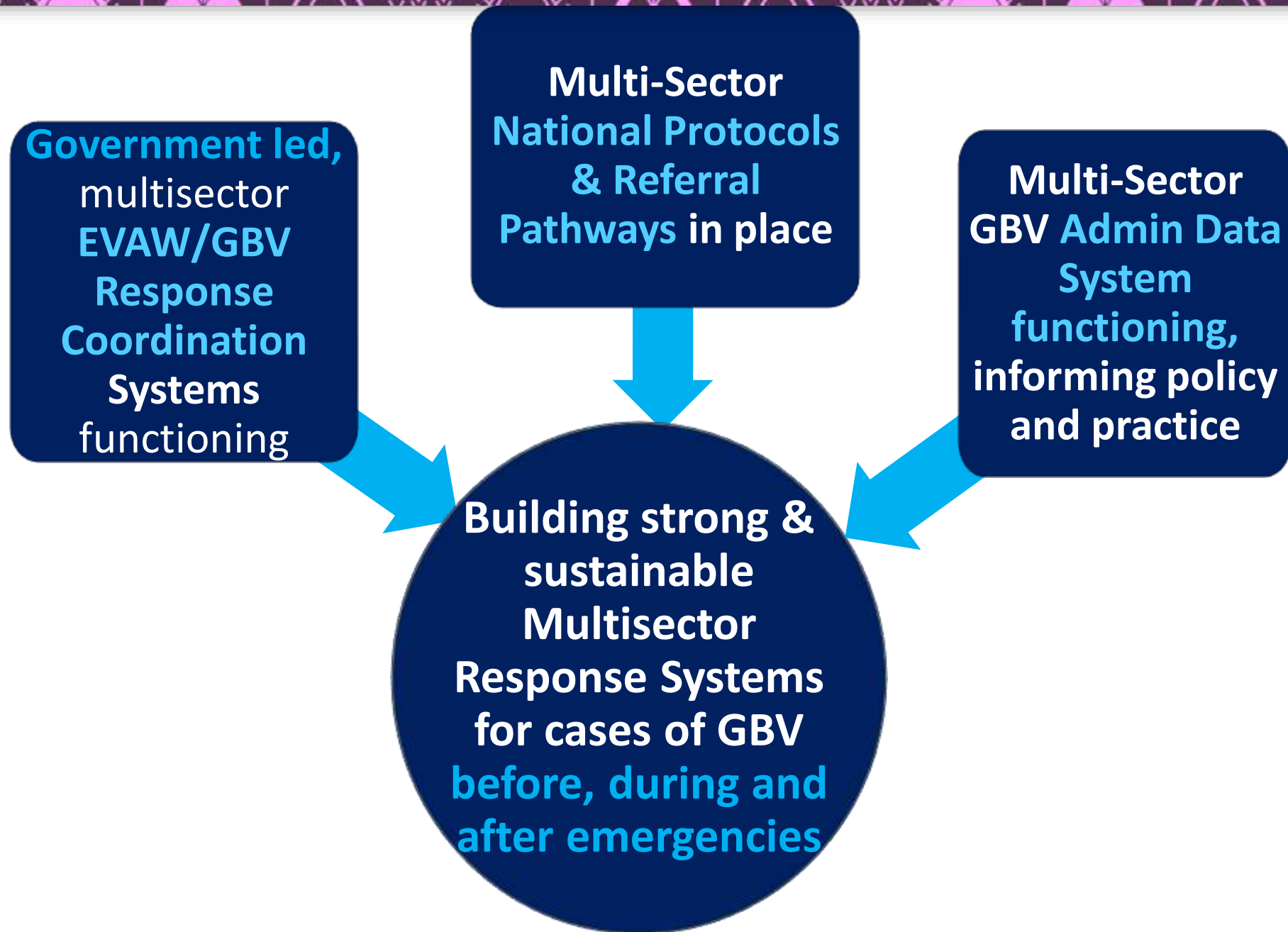




# Background: Tropical Cyclone Yasa (category 5 cyclone)

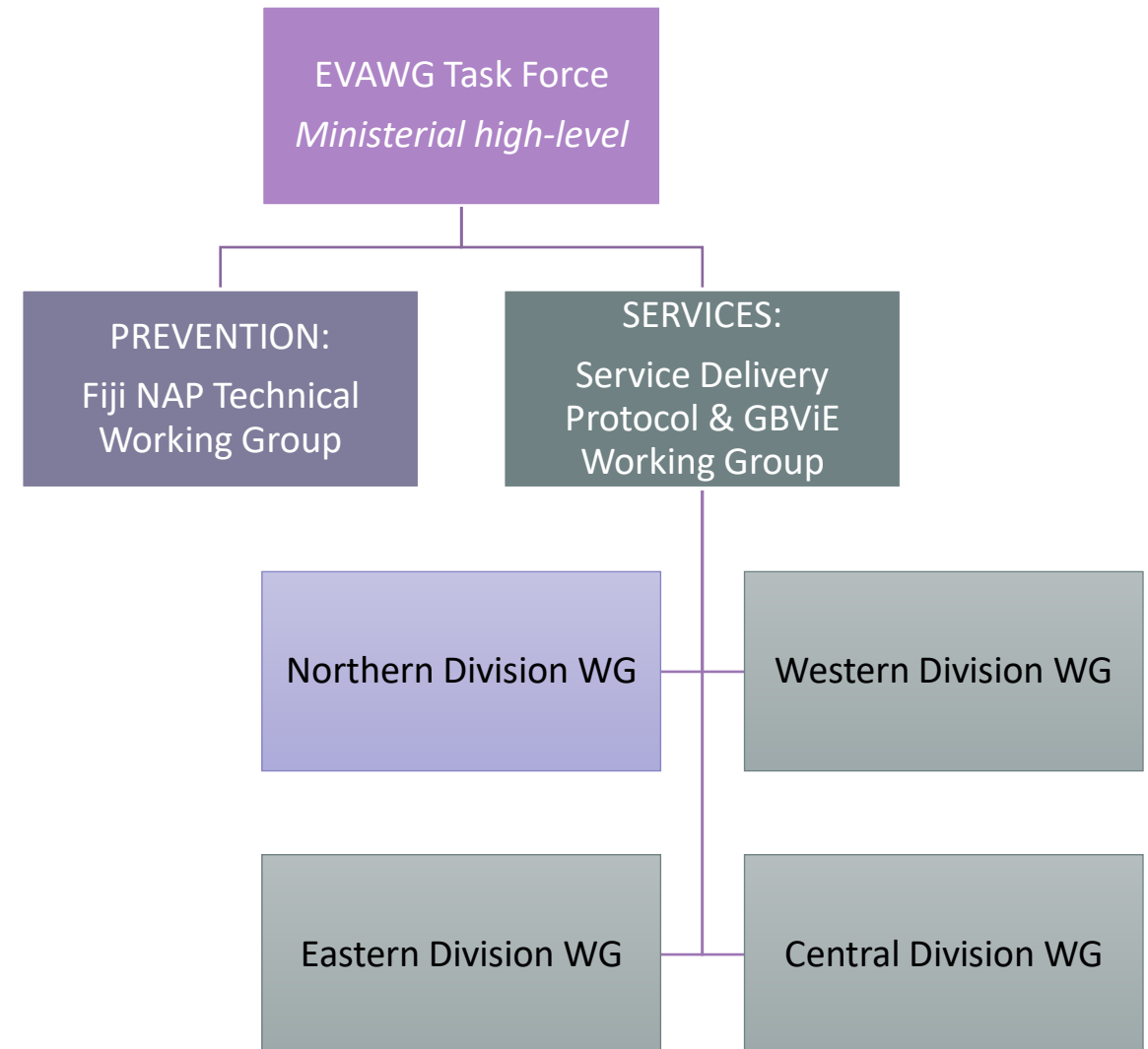


Crisis as an opportunity to galvanize a GBV response system that **adapts** and **functions** before, during and after emergencies



# Operationalizing a national & sub-national GBV coordination mechanism

- Operationalized and elevated the **visibility of the national women's machinery** (Ministry of Women) as the GBV coordinating body
- **Strengthened relationships between frontline service providers**, including provincial government at sub-national level
- Led to **local buy in to adapt national referral pathways to district level** inclusive of informal entry points (community leaders, faith leaders)
- **Practical experience** by GBV service providers and emergency actors (NDMO, Red Cross)





# Increasing access to essential services



## Fiji Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Working Group Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Ana Response December 19, 2020 – February 1, 2021

**76**  
GBV Awareness Sessions  
in communities and evacuation centres

299 Men, 225 Girls, 313 Women, 254 Boys



**3** District-level, localised referral pathways established



**202,000**  
Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials distributed on GBV hotlines, referral pathways and GBV prevention messages.

**3** Tools and resources developed on GBV

- GBV Working Group Advocacy Note
- GBV Risk Mitigation and Food Security Briefing Note
- Evacuation Centre-GBV Information Banner

**55**  
Frontline service providers equipped with GBV tools and information

**6** Women Friendly Spaces with multi-sectoral service provision, including social services, health, police, justice and/or referral capacity

The Fiji Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Working Group, under the Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster, is led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation with technical support from UN Women. Working Group members include GBV service providers and actors in Fiji, including the signatories to the Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender-Based Violence. The GBV Working Group's purpose is to prevent and respond to GBV in times of crisis and disaster through strengthening the emergency preparedness and response capacity of GBV service providers and other stakeholders, ensuring access to quality multi-sector services for survivors, enhancing GBV prevention and risk mitigation across humanitarian sectors and strengthening coordination in alignment with existing national protocols and policies.

For more information, contact MWCPA, Selai Koroisawa, selai@govt.gov.fj or UN Women, Abby Erikson, abigail.erikson@unwomen.org

Tara vakasala vei ira na dou ni veigaravi niutaki, ka ra dou maroroya talega na i tukutuku me balebale na nomuni qaravi. Gini lo na naba oqo mai na dua na talavoni e tiko.

Wasea na ka o lako curuma tiko, e tu o ira e rawa ni ra veivuke.

National Domestic Violence 24-hour toll-free helpline  
**1560**  
(from any network)

Child Helpline Fiji 24-hour toll-free helpline  
**1325**  
(from any network)

#TogetherWeCan #YouAreNotAlone #EndViolenceAgainstWomenAndGirls

**CAKAUDROVE DISTRICT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS REFERRAL PATHWAY**  
This referral pathway is for service providers from 11 Tikina's (CIRIKIOVA, NATAWA, NAVITULU, VITUVIWA, MAWENE, SAJANI, KOROALAGI, NASIVUSAVU, TAWALE, WAILEVU, WAIKIBI, VUNA, WAIKIBU, LAUCILA, CAKAUDROVE I and CAKAUDROVE II/VANUA).

**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO BE USED BY ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS AT ENTRY POINTS**

For Adult Survivors	For Child Survivors (Girls and Boys)
1. Ask the survivor if she/he feels safe talking to you in	1. Check how the child is feeling about their safety. Ask the

**Bua District Gender based Violence Service Providers Referral Pathway**  
This referral pathway is for service providers from 11 Tikina's - BUA, LAKUTU, NAVEKANGA, DAME, VUYA, SOLEVI, NADI, WAKIMBU, KUBULAU.

**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO BE USED BY ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS AT ENTRY POINTS**

For Adult Survivors	For Child Survivors (Girls and Boys)
1. Ask the survivor if she/he feels safe talking to you in	1. Check how the child is feeling about their safety. Ask the

**Macuata District Gender Based Violence Service Providers Referral Pathway**  
This referral pathway is for service providers from 11 Tikina's (MACUATA, SASI, SEAGASI, DROKELI, WALEVO, LABASA, MALI, NADIGGO, NEMUSA, DODONIAI, UDU, and OKIOBI).

**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO BE USED BY ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS AT ENTRY POINTS**

For Adult Survivors	For Child Survivors (Girls and Boys)
1. Ask the survivor if she/he feels safe talking to you in	1. Check how the child is feeling about their safety. Ask the



# Advocacy across crisis response on GBV risk mitigation and PSEA with knock-on effects for post-emergency



## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL WORKERS IN EMERGENCIES

This Code of Conduct has been developed for agencies and other actors that are involved in emergency response and reconstruction activities after an emergency. They have a duty of care to affected women, girls, boys and men of all ages and a responsibility to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. All workers should ensure that certain minimum standards of behaviour are observed, regardless if the person is on or off duty.

In order to prevent sexual exploitation and all forms of abuse including sexual, physical, emotional and neglect, the following core principles should be respected by anyone engaging in humanitarian assistance or taking part in reconstruction activities in Fiji:

- All workers have to ensure assistance is delivered in a way that is safe, respectful, with dignity, and equally accessible to women, girls, boys and men of different ages and abilities.
- Sexual exploitation and all forms of abuse by workers providing humanitarian assistance constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
- Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18 years) is prohibited regardless of the age of

### Safety & Protection Cluster

#### Northern Division: Key safety risks and concerns

#### Shelter

- Lack of security around shelters increasing risk of violence, harassment and taking of personal belongings
  - ECs do not have a mechanism to monitor who comes in and who comes out allowing anyone to come in, increasing risk of violence, harassment and taking of personal items.
  - Tents set up in open environments without fencing or “lockable” doors. Stress and concern over anyone being able to enter and take their belongings or increase the risk of violence and harassment to family members.
- Families split between communities and ECs leading to girls and boys being left with minimal or no supervision → adolescent girls are at increased risk of violence, abuse, harassment and other protection concerns

- Raising awareness and advocating – at the highest levels -- for a **safer response** among donors and first responders
- Critical role of **CSOs and women-led organisations** in informing advocacy and knowledge
- Lessons learned led to **EVAWG systems strengthening** and better **preparedness** for next crisis



# Post-TC Yasa: led to a spur of momentum in strengthening the national EVAWG system to operate before, during and after emergencies

- Establishment of **Western Division WG**
- Strengthened **engagement between GBV service providers** at national level
- Set up for **COVID-19 response** in 2021 → GBV Administrative Data
- Cultivated a conversation on **preparedness as part of Fiji SDP roll out** → safety audits, who does what in emergencies

Date safety audit taken (day, month, year): \_\_\_\_\_ Name of enumerator (First, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact information (phone and/or email): \_\_\_\_\_

**Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster**  
**RAPID SAFETY AUDIT: EVACUATION CENTERS & TEMPORARY SHELTER**

*Note: This tool is based upon observation to identify key protection and safety risks in the immediate aftermath of a disaster/cyclone. Population numbers are recorded by NDMO for evacuation centers.*

Name of TC: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Village/settlement: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of EC (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_  
*E.g. school, house, tents, community halls etc.*

Fiji COVID-19 & Gender-Based Violence Administrative Data Trends Analysis, Monthly Report #3, 10 May – 01 August 2021



# Vinaka vaka levu

For further information:

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