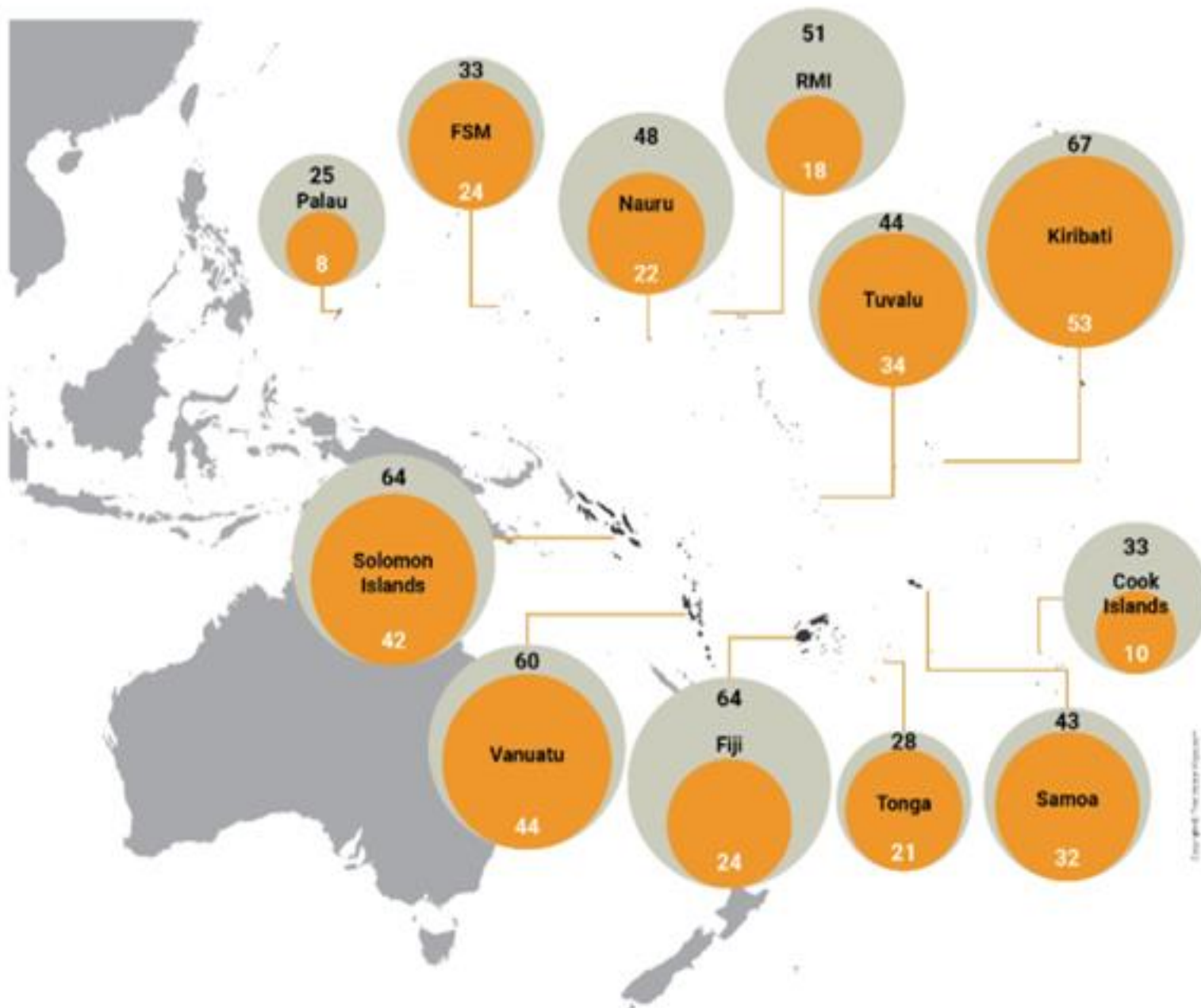


CONFIDENTIALITY





Patterns of VAW in the Pacific Island countries, based on national VAW studies (%)

Current physical and/or sexual violence by partner

Lifetime physical and/or sexual violence by partner

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Two fundamental principles:**
 - Respect for **human rights**
 - Promotion of **gender equality**



GUIDING PRINCIPLES WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS?

Autonomy

- A patient's rights to make informed decisions, a fundamental right that is undermined by GBV.

Freedom from fear and violence

- It's about creating environments where individuals can live without the threat of physical harm, coercion, or intimidation.

Highest attainable standard of health

- Crucial for addressing GBV it means having the right to a good quality of life, the ability to live free from harm and suffering, including the physical, mental, and emotional impact of GBV.

SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH FOR WORKING WITH INDIVIDUAL SURVIVORS

- This is an approach that recognizes and prioritizes a survivor's needs, wishes, rights, equality and diversity.
- Keeping the survivor as the focus and center of your support allows her to be empowered, feel cared for and feel of value.
- Putting the survivor's needs and wishes first will allow the survivor to make her very first step to healing and recovery.
- A survivor centered approach aids survivors in rebuilding a sense of self, confidence and personal integrity more quickly.



SAFETY

- Safeguarding the physical and emotional safety of the survivor is critically important during all parts of service delivery.
- using a same-sex service provider especially when dealing with small children.
- Allowing ample space between service provider and survivor, not sitting or standing too close
- No unnecessary physical contact with survivor
- Be calm and empathize with the survivor in a private room
- Contact police or emergency services when a survivor is in very serious and immediate or imminent danger of injury during the intervention

NON-DISCRIMINATION

- Every adult and child, regardless of his/her sex, should be accorded equal care and support.
- Survivors of violence should receive equal and fair treatment regardless of their sex, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, nationality, sexual orientation or gender identity or any other differentiating feature.
- For this, service providers must make sure that their personal beliefs, assumptions and attitudes do not interfere during interventions with survivors.
- Service providers who are known to the survivor must treat them fairly and equally and, if it is in the best interest of the survivor, refer them to a different person within your organization to assist.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING

- Procedures Confidentiality promotes safety, trust and empowerment.

Why is There a Need for Confidentiality?

1. Breaching confidentiality can put the survivor and others at risk of further harm.
2. Confidentiality helps to avoid a survivor being ridiculed, any misinterpretation of facts, and/or distortion or malicious use information.
3. People do not hear things in the same way and interpret things differently.
4. If service providers do not respect confidentiality, others will be discouraged from coming forward for help.
5. Non-confidentiality can put people's lives at risk and puts at extreme risk the ability of the service provider to support a survivor's healing and recovery.



CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOLS

- Interviews will be conducted in a private setting
- Information will only on a 'need to know' basis and only with providing assistance and as requested and agreed by the survivor
- People assisting with GBV cases cannot discuss any case information with friends or co-workers who are not involved with the case
- Only non-identifying data will be shared in public documents and reports.
- The exceptions are case management meetings when identifying information may be used, but only with the consent of the survivor and to support case actions



-
- In cases where service providers collect and store patient and client information like photographs this information should be stored in locked cabinets with access to files only by designated staff.
 - Photographic records should be avoided. In cases where this done, it should only be undertaken by the police or a doctor and with the informed consent of the survivor.
 - It is kept in a secure file and should be destroyed when the case is closed
 - Medical reports can only be released under the following circumstances

Official request by Fiji Police or Social Welfare, request by Court System, request by client

MANDATORY REPORTING AND EXCEPTIONS TO CONFIDENTIALITY

In Fiji, the specific situations includes:

- When the survivor is a child and/or in cases where there is likely to be harm affecting the health and welfare of children
- If the survivor is at risk of harming herself (possibly suicidal) or if the survivor is at risk of harming another person (possibly homicidal)
- If the survivor is in very serious and immediate danger
- When the woman requires urgent medical attention. For example, if a person is unconscious or so injured, or is so infirm, they cannot provide consent for care and treatment
- When a service provider is called to testify before the court, as mandated by law



SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR INFORMED CONSENT AND CHILDREN

- In Fiji, survivors 18 years old and younger are considered children and therefore, parents or other legal guardians who are deemed 'safe' must be part of an informed consent process.
- However, children, especially older adolescents (14 years old and older) should not be excluded from decision-making processes that affect their lives.
- Children who are mentally competent and developmentally mature and considered at an age of 'reason' should be involved in discussions about what is happening and service providers should listen to their opinions and wishes, and take these into consideration when making decisions for them.



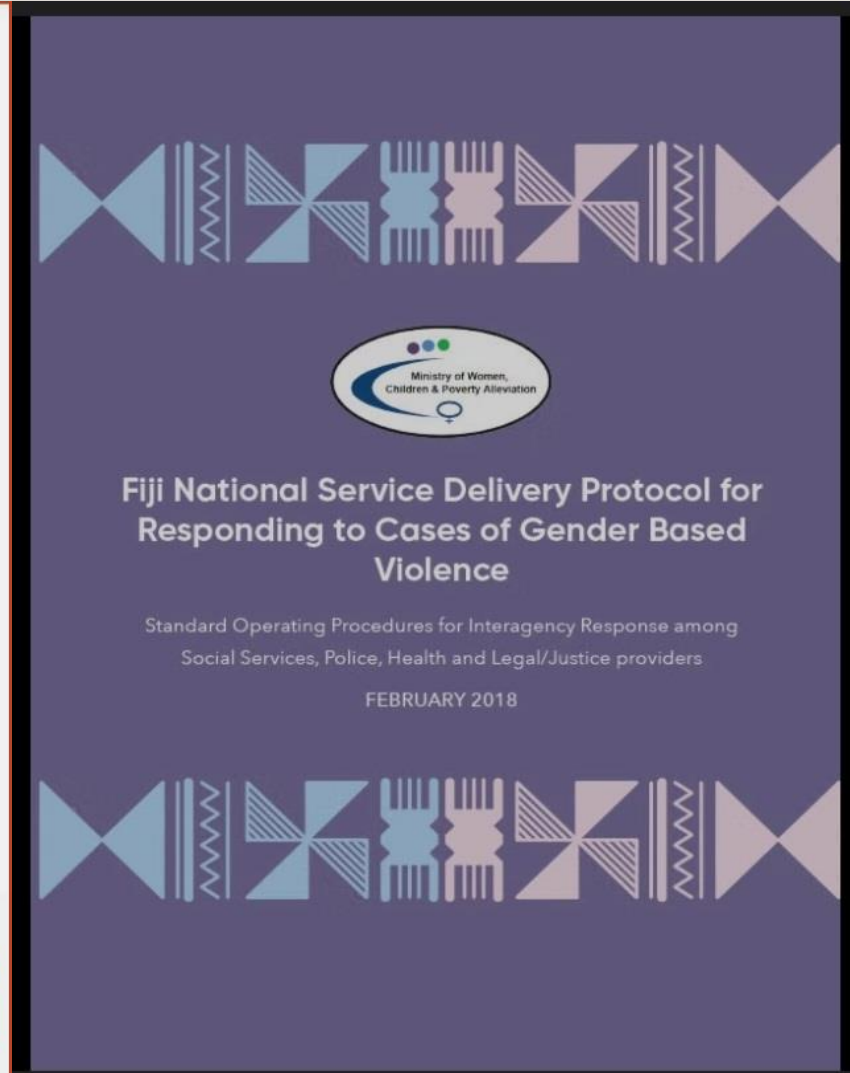
REFERENCES

★ New modules
for health managers

Slide 1 of 317

Caring for women subjected to
violence: A WHO training curriculum
for health care providers.
Revised edition, 2021

Slide Deck



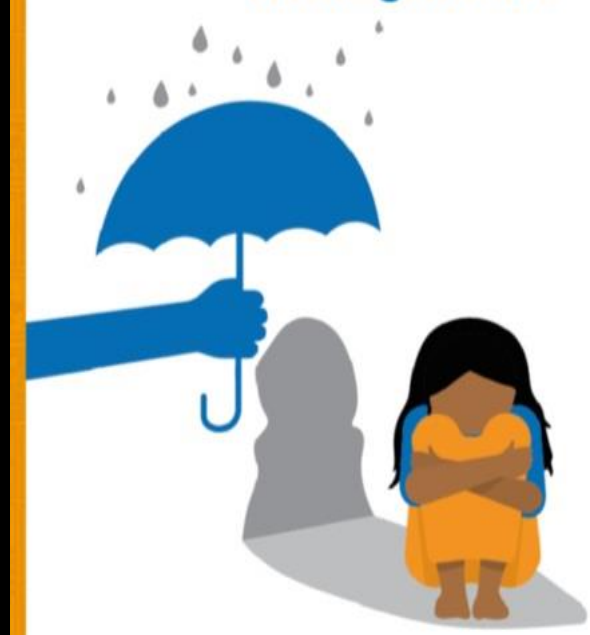
Ministry of Women,
Children & Poverty Alleviation

Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence

Standard Operating Procedures for Interagency Response among
Social Services, Police, Health and Legal/Justice providers

FEBRUARY 2018

Responding to Gender-based Violence: Fiji Health Guidelines for Comprehensive Case Management



An initiative of the United Nations funded by the European Union

