



UNSEEN, UNSAFE

**THE UNDERINVESTMENT IN ENDING VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN IN THE PACIFIC AND TIMOR-LESTE**
IN-DEPTH COUNTRY CASE STUDIES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GLOSSARY

Violence against children:

“All forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.”ⁱ

Physical violence:

Physical violenceⁱⁱ includes corporal punishment (also termed ‘violent discipline’ and ‘physical and humiliating punishment’), torture, cruel or degrading treatment, and physical bullying. It also includes harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, binding, scarring and branding, as well as violent or degrading initiation rites, exorcism, sex selection and ‘honour’ crimes. Other forms of physical violence include physical child labour, slavery, trafficking, and the use of children by armed groups including as soldiers.

Violent discipline:

Child discipline methods that rely on physical (corporal) punishment and/or psychological aggression. “Psychological aggression refers to the action of shouting, yelling or screaming at a child, as well as calling a child offensive names such as ‘dumb’ or ‘lazy’. Physical punishment is defined as shaking the child, hitting or slapping him/her on the hand/arm/leg, hitting him/her on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with a hard object, spanking or hitting him/her on the bottom with a bare hand, hitting or slapping him/her on the face, head or ears, and beating him/her over and over as hard as possible”.ⁱⁱⁱ

Sexual violence:

This covers any form of sexual abuse and exploitation including child prostitution, sexual slavery, child sex tourism, trafficking or selling children for sexual exploitation and visual images of child sexual abuse. Sexual violence also includes the inducement, coercion or arrangement of children into forced or early marriages.

Emotional violence:

This is defined as any form of psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse or neglect. This may take a variety of forms including scaring, threatening, rejecting, humiliating, insulting, isolating or ignoring a child. It also includes the denial of emotional responsiveness or the neglect of mental health, medical and educational needs. Emotional harm is also caused by imposing humiliating or degrading conditions of detention including placement in solitary confinement.

Neglect or negligent treatment:

This is the deliberate failure to meet a child’s physical and psychological needs, protect them from danger or obtain medical, birth registration or other services. This includes intentional physical neglect, psychological or emotional neglect, neglect of a child’s health or education needs or abandonment.

Intimate partner violence (IPV):

“Any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship”.^{iv}

Gender-based violence (GBV):

“Any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between females and males. Including sexual exploitation/abuse and forced prostitution; domestic violence; trafficking; forced/early marriage; harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; honour killings; and widow inheritance”.^v

Child:

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Article 1 states that a ‘child’ is a person below the age of 18. There are four crucial stages of development that are pertinent when designing interventions to support children: early childhood (aged 0-4), primary (aged 5-9), lower secondary (aged 10-14), and upper secondary (aged 15-19).

Wantok (Pijin for “one-talk”):

Represents dynamic relationships grounded in historical commitments within groups having geographical, familial and traditional bonds.^{vi}

Kastom:

Traditional cultural matters concerning social behaviours, respected values, important artistic artefacts, religious beliefs, normal economic processes and magic.^{vii}

Overseas Development Assistance (ODA):

“Government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries... Aid may be provided bilaterally, from donor to recipient, or channelled through a multilateral development agency such as the United Nations or the World Bank”.^{viii}

EVAC-specific category (projects exclusively targeting EVAC):

These are projects that are entirely focused on ending violence against children or on some specific aspect of violence against children such as child trafficking, hazardous child labour, children associated with armed forces and groups, or early and forced marriage. This would include, for example, a project funded by the European Union (EU) in the Solomon Islands aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

EVAC-related category:

a. Projects targeting violence against both children and adults:

These are predominantly projects that address violence against women and girls; for example, the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that Australia funded, which addressed equality issues and violence against women and girls in Tonga.

b. Child-related projects with elements of EVAC:

Projects that are solely focused on children’s issues, which target violence against children alongside non-violence-related aims. This would include the Australian-funded project in Fiji aimed at advancing the rights of children with disabilities which includes child protection activities.

c. Other projects targeting children and adults with an element of EVAC:

Projects where violence against children is only one of a number of aims and beneficiaries are both children and adults, for example the Australian-funded health project in Kiribati which includes initiatives to strengthen the health system and address domestic violence against women and children.

INTRODUCTION

The child protection landscape across the Pacific and Timor-Leste is going through immense change and development. Governments across the region are endeavouring to build robust systems to protect children. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Child Welfare Act has been replaced with the Lukautim Pikinini Act; the Family Protection Act has been amended to include the specific welfare of children and women and the Sorcery and Witchcraft Act was introduced. In the Solomon Islands, the Child and Family Welfare Act 2017 has been passed and a Multi-Sectoral Implementation Plan is being developed, and in Vanuatu the government has adopted a National Child Protection Policy 2016–2026 to provide an over-arching framework for the development of child protection systems.

To complement the government's positive efforts, NGOs, churches and community organisations are working tirelessly to prevent and address violence against children. Parenting programs, for example, are being rolled out to reduce violence in the home, where most violence happens. Awareness and advocacy have increased visibility of children's rights and has empowered children to know where to go for help and to understand what the law says.

Despite these changes to legislation and increased awareness raising programs, the day-to-day experiences of most children across the Pacific and Timor-Leste remains largely unchanged. Recent studies in PNG revealed that 70% of children feel scared within their communities. Half of all sexual violence survivors referred to clinics are children. In Fiji over 15% of adolescent girls experienced physical violence and 72% of children in the Solomon Islands have received some form of violent discipline.



Most tragically, children are not only victimised by the harmful attitudes, actions and norms that are dominant in their families and communities; they grow up to embody those social influences and the cycle of violence continues.

This section of the report examines five countries as in-depth case studies – Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor-Leste and Fiji (with the remaining Pacific countries in the Appendix). Across the five countries, the key violence against children categories of physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence and neglect have been examined to reflect the scale of the problem. Further, overseas development assistance (ODA) is interrogated at the country level across all major donors.

While much is being done to end violence against children, much more is required if we are to give every child across the region what they deserve: a childhood free from fear. Countries across the region collectively have the wealth of skills, expertise and motivated people to effect positive change for children in their communities, and in the wider society. Supporting these positive initiatives requires increased investment by the Australian government and other donors in programs focused on ending violence against children (EVAC).

The children of today will steer the course for the future in the years to come. This report signals the beginning of a fortified, collaborative effort to enable children across the Pacific and Timor-Leste to dream of a **future free from violence and a future where they are no longer unseen and unsafe.**



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Physical and emotional abuse

A survey of 700 people, made up of parents, children aged 6–8 years, community leaders and key informants across 30 communities in Bougainville and Morobe, revealed the following findings:¹

- **Nearly 70% of children** reported feeling scared and in pain in their community.
- **27% of parents/caregivers** sometimes used physical punishment over and over as hard as they could.
- **Over 50% of parents and caregivers** reported calling their child lazy, stupid or something similar, with nearly two thirds reporting sometimes shouting, yelling or screaming at their child.

In other studies specifically conducted in Bougainville, the following results emerged:

- 85% of men reported that they beat their children, **29% of young people** stated that they were beaten at least once a week by a male family member, and **18%** of young people were beaten at least once a week by a female family member.²
- To the question “I feel safe from violence and abuse (verbal/ physical/ sexual)” **44% of children** stated this was never true.³
- To the question “my children feel safe from violence and abuse”, **35% of parents** stated this was never true.⁴

Child abuse in this community happens every day, 24/7.

Morobe, PNG male





Sexual violence

Sexual violence is exceptionally high in PNG, with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reporting that over 50% of the sexual violence cases referred to their clinics were against children. Children were exposed to violence from an early age and for close to half the children, sexual violence was occurring in the home by family or extended family members.⁵ Data from Haus Ruth, a domestic violence shelter in Port Moresby, also revealed that 60% of children who came to the shelter with their abused mothers had themselves also been abused.⁶

Young girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence within the home environment; it is often perpetrated by male caregivers who take advantage of the child's reliance on basic necessities such as food, shelter and school fees.⁷ Save the Children's child protection (CP) baseline also found that adopted children and disabled children, and especially girls, were more at risk of sexual violence.

In some communities, particularly in the Highlands region, women and girls have experienced brutal killings and torture as a result of allegations of sorcery and witchcraft. In 2015, the Government developed a National Action Plan on Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusation-Related Violence to address the issue.

Case examples from communities in Bougainville

- A 14-year-old girl was raped by an adult man and brought to the health centre. The girl received post-rape medical care and the man got arrested. A few months later the man was released and came back home after a reconciliation process. *Elementary Teacher, discussing a matter that took place in 2016.*
- A 10th grader girl went to high school but her stepfather took her out from school and brought her to Buka and lived there together and sexually abused her. (Her father died during the crisis). Her auntie found out and brought her back to the village and now she's with her mother baby-sitting. The stepfather is working in Buka and still comes back from time to time. Her mother doesn't want to report the case to the police, therefore no action has been taken. *Clan Chief, discussing events that took place in 2015.*

Neglect

Neglect emerged as a consistent theme across community-level consultations undertaken by Save the Children for its education program.⁸ Interviewees participating in the education program indicated the existence of various forms of neglect, including parents not providing the necessary levels of food or nutrition for their children, parents being ambivalent towards their child's school attendance, children being left unattended for extensive periods, and parents relying on older children to care for the younger siblings. Disabled and adopted children were noted to be more prone to such neglect.

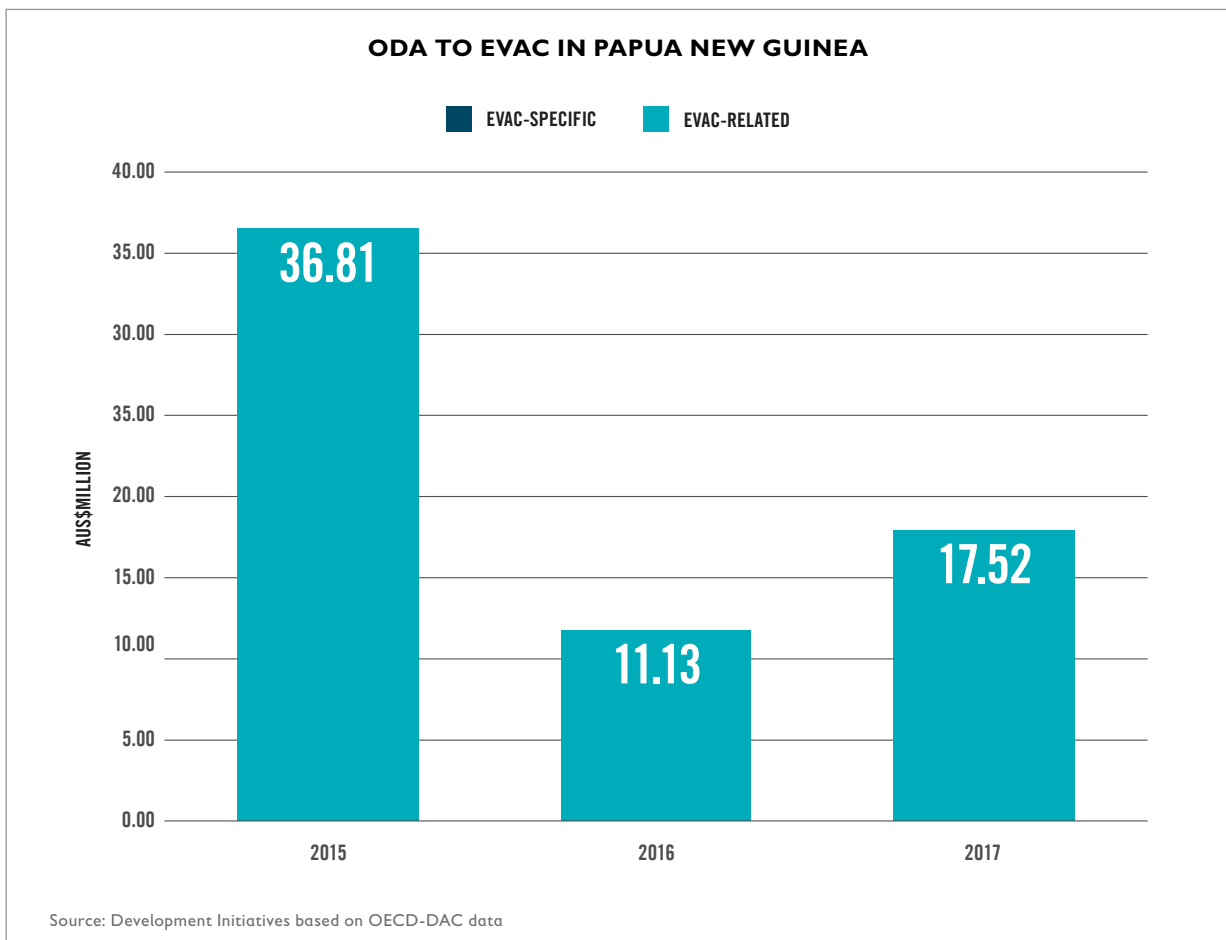
My sister has a disabled child at home and the child is crippled - he can't walk. Most of the time they leave him by himself in the house and they go to do their marketing. The child will stay with his dirty clothes from morning till late afternoon or night time. Sometimes his grandmother comes to help assist him by washing and cleaning him. It's really hard work, sometimes when we see him we do feel really sorry for him. We do hold him and clean or wash him and dress him and get rid of his used diapers. We do feel sorry for this child. He used to have a wheelchair but he no longer has it so he sits on the floor at his own home.

PNG female

Funding (2015-2017)

In Papua New Guinea, 2.8 million children experience violent discipline in the home, yet in 2017, only **AUS\$17.5 million** was spent by all donors on EVAC-related expenditure representing just **2.3%** of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) allocation. Across the three-year period, over 95% of this funding came from Australia, with just over 2% coming from New Zealand and institutions of the European Union.

None of this expenditure was for EVAC-specific programming with most expenditure targeting both women and girls through initiatives such as the 'Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development' program or broader development initiatives such as support to the Bougainville government which has some EVAC objectives. While such programs are critical for addressing gender equality, improving gender norms and reducing family violence, there is a lack of focused effort in relation to violence against children, and particularly boys.



The top projects receiving EVAC-related funding include:

- AUS\$40.4 million from Australia to the Papua New Guinea United Nations Country Fund. This project had a wide variety of aims, including specific action on child protection. This funding accounted for all the EVAC-related ODA to Papua New Guinea in 2015.
- Almost AUS\$15.2 million from Australia to the Papua New Guinea gender equality/gender-based violence initiative.
- Almost AUS\$3.4 million from Australia to support the Papua New Guinea gender action platform.
- Almost AUS\$1.8 million from Australia to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea.
- Over AUS\$1.4 million from New Zealand on services for victims of violence against women and girls.
- AUS\$875,000 from the EU for the HOPE (House for Protection and Empowerment) project that includes activities aimed at reducing violent abuse of children and women’s rights in Papua New Guinea.
- Just over AUS\$350,000 from the EU to strengthen prosecution efforts and protection measures to combat trafficking in persons, including children, in Papua New Guinea.
- AUS\$250,000 from Australia aimed at various human rights issues, including abuse faced by disabled children.
- AUS\$220,000 from the EU to the “Strongim Justis Long Strongim Komuniti” project aimed at supporting the rights of children and women in Papua New Guinea to be free from all forms of violence.
- AUS\$195,000 from Australia to the Autonomous Bougainville Government. This funding supported a range of activities, including action on violence against women and girls.

Safe Communities, Safe Children – Save the Children

Save the Children is conducting a four-year child protection project, across 30 communities in Bougainville and Morobe, targeting over 7,500 children and over 8,000 adults, including parents. The project adopts a socio-ecological framework which targets children (4–8 years), families, community leaders, provincial and national governments and key partners (police, health workers and teachers), adopting awareness raising and behaviour change strategies to create a positive impact for children, families and communities.

Robert and Darlan are parents to seven children between the ages of 7 and 15. They have attended the workshops with the hope of getting some new ideas about parenting and how they might provide a more positive, nurturing environment for their kids. Robert admits he has resorted to violence in the past in order to discipline his children and has acknowledged how this has impacted on his relationship with his children.

Both Robert and Darlan believe the workshops are bringing a positive message to their village which they hope will spread to neighbouring communities and beyond.



Photo: Save the Children

Equal Playing Field (EPF) for Schools Program – Plan International

Plan International’s Equal Playing Field for Schools Program will reach 5,330 boys and girls in schools in Port Moresby, National Capital District (NCD) through an eight-week respectful relationships program. The project aims to prevent violence against women and girls by promoting gender equality. It seeks to change the attitudes and behaviour of boys and girls in adolescence. The project is being implemented in partnership with local NGO Equal Playing Field.



Photo: Plan International

In the streets I see people drinking alcohol and they become senseless. They’re out of control. They hit their wives, their children. They destroy their homes – things they’re not supposed to do. They spoil themselves and they spoil their relationships.

I used to swear. I used to hit my friends. I used to punch them without any reason. Lots of people used to do these things. When I took part in Equal Playing Field they taught me not to do this.

Before EPF came I didn’t like staying with girls because they always gossip. I used to like to play with boys. EPF has taught us how to socialise with each other. I learnt from EPF how to solve problems in a peaceful way and how to be with both boys and girls.

They also taught us about different types of abuses: emotional, physical, sexual, financial, social. These are abuses we shouldn’t be involved with. It’s good for us to learn this so that we don’t follow what others are doing.

Mary, 14, is an Equal Playing Field participant.

1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain – ChildFund Papua New Guinea

This year the ChildFund Papua New Guinea’s gender-based violence hotline ‘1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain’ has been accessed by over 6,705 callers across Papua New Guinea. This essential service provides survivors of gender-based violence and their families with an immediate and comprehensive support package that includes access to information, confidential counselling and referral to other service providers, and is available in three languages – English, Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu. The hotline is a collaboration between ChildFund Papua New Guinea, The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (CIMC) and FHI 360.

Eight-year-old Julie (not her real name) is one child who has benefited from this service, and is now at a safe distance from threats of potential violence and death from her own relatives. She is living, being cared for and growing up in a safe shelter for women and girls run by a faith-based organisation in another province. After becoming aware of Julie’s situation through a local NGO, the ‘1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain’ counselling services connected different stakeholders along the referral pathway, enabling Julie to get away from her would-be perpetrators.

A member of a local NGO commended the ‘1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain’ service for their assistance and ability to connect callers to the right organisation. She said that she had trusted that the ‘1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain’ service would have the knowledge and networks necessary to help them find a solution. Because the hotline number was accessible, easy to memorise and free, callers were able to make an instant call and get a response. She said that she is grateful that such a service exists in PNG.



Photo: ChildFund Papua New Guinea

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Physical and emotional violence

Verbal and physical violence are the most widely practiced forms of discipline meted out by parents and caregivers. Solomon Islands' law allows for "reasonable punishment" by parents, teachers, or others where they exercise "the lawful control of a child or young person". This means that physical violence against children is sanctioned when it is considered to be "reasonable".⁹

A study conducted by UNICEF found that **72% of adult respondents**, "hit, smacked, kicked, pinched, flicked children or pulled or twisted their ears", most commonly for reasons of disobedience.¹⁰ The level of severe punishment being carried out in the Solomon Islands is also concerning, with 22% of children experiencing this level of harm.¹¹

A unique study conducted on the effects of childhood violence on the mental health and risk behaviours of men aged 18 to 70 in the Solomon Islands found extremely high levels of violence, with 84% witnessing community violence, 77% witnessing a household member treated violently and 52% experiencing emotional abuse. While the study focuses on an older cohort, it illustrates that violence is endemic throughout society, influencing how these men interact with women and children in their communities.¹²

Sexual violence

Exposure to sexual violence is high in the Solomon Islands, with many young girls being exposed to such violence at an early age. This can result in these girls "seeing it as a normal part of their lives, and therefore expect it to take place when they are adults and married".¹³ The growth of extractive industries such as logging and fishing in the Solomon Islands has been associated with the increased vulnerability of children as well as the increased commercial and sexual exploitation of children. The industry is a central part of the country's growth strategy, with 17 percent of GDP attributed to logging, which amounts to 60 percent of the country's exports.¹⁴ Yet, major power asymmetries between the local players and the foreign logging companies has seen minimal dividends reach local communities.

Children have been exploited across a range of activities, including:¹⁵

- Micro enterprise activities, such as selling cooked food.
- Small jobs from foreign and local workers who pay them in cash, alcohol or goods in exchange for running errands for them.
- 'Solair' activity. Solairs are intermediaries who arrange local girls for foreign logging or fishing workers. Findings show that the procurement of girls may be carried out in response to personal requests from individual foreign workers or a request from local managers or supervisors at the company.
- Work as house girls (domestic helpers) to pursue livelihood opportunities. However, once working as house girls, they are at high risk of being forced into relationships based on transactional sex.

A few years ago I remember one little girl aged about 10 or 11 years who was raped by one of the men working at the logging camp. She was bleeding and had bruising and abrasions. I was there when the doctor examined her. He then said that she could go home and did not give her any sexually transmitted infection tests or any support material. Two months later she came back and she was pregnant. I cannot forget this case as I feel very sad for the girl. She went on to have the baby and her family forced her to marry the man who raped her once they knew she was pregnant. The man was in his 40s. The last time I saw her she now has three children and no husband as he has left her.

Health care worker, Solomon Islands



A growing concern is the involvement of family members in facilitating sexual acts, acting as ‘go-betweens’ and receiving monetary and/or in-kind payments from foreign or local workers for procuring their sisters, cousins or nieces.¹⁶ This complicity at the family level and difficulties in prosecuting logging companies that break the law has meant that commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) remains under-reported. In addition, ‘community bylaws’ have emerged in some provinces which have further distorted the magnitude of the crime. For example, fines of only SBD\$50 (approximately USD \$6) are imposed for the offence of the “selling of female members of the community for sex for personal monetary gain or beer”.¹⁷

I know of a case where a little girl aged between 12 and 13 was taken to the camp by her aunties who were in their 30s or 40s. The next time I went to this village and delivered a small awareness session, one of the aunties was in the audience and she became very sad about what she had done. She told me that she was told by the loggers that unless they brought a young girl to the camp for them, she would not receive their wages (the aunties worked in the camp).

Adolescent Health and Reproductive and Child Health Programme Manager, Solomon Islands

We have been arranging girls for a long time now and its normal practice for me and the boys. We arrange girls for foreign workers in Logging Camps because they give us money and beers.

Young Male, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

Neglect

Overall, children across the nation suffer from limited access to human development opportunities and resources in areas such as health, nutrition and education. Further exacerbating these vulnerabilities, cases of neglect by parents and caregivers exist in families and communities. The 2017 UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children in the Solomon Islands highlighted the following:¹⁸

- Children who sustained injuries from physical and/or sexual abuse are not taken for adequate medical treatment.
- In Honiara, both husbands and wives are often engaged in employment, and children can be left home without proper supervision for many hours at a time, which increases their vulnerability towards abuse.
- Children from provinces are often sent to live with relatives in Honiara or other town centres; some children are also adopted within the extended family. These children are more vulnerable to neglect and abuse, as they are viewed to have a lesser status. They may lack access to education and other opportunities.

Funding (2015-2017)

The Solomon Islands received almost AUS\$1.7 million in funding for EVAC-related projects in 2015. This rose to just under AUS\$10.1 million in 2016, before falling back to AUS\$9.3 million in 2017. This represents just over **3.6% of total ODA** in 2017.

As illustrated in the key project list (below), only AUS\$425,000 in 2015 went to a project wholly focused on EVAC (EU program on protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse); the vast majority of funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities. Similar to PNG, these were for broader gender equality and gender-based violence programs and justice/governance programs.

The top EVAC projects include:

- Almost AUS\$10.1 million from Australia to the Solomon Islands Justice Program which includes specific aims relating to violence against women and girls.
- Over AUS\$7.6 million from Australia to a project addressing gender equality in the Solomon Islands which, again, includes specific aims relating to violence against women and girls.
- Almost AUS\$1.7 million from Australia to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addresses violence against women and girls in the Solomon Islands.
- Over AUS\$1.2 million from Australia to a project aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls.
- AUS\$425,000 from the EU to a project aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.
- Almost AUS\$20,000 to a community theatre project aimed at reducing violence against women and girls.

Child Trafficking Project – Save the Children

There is a single mother to a daughter. She attends the Child Trafficking Project community awareness program which Save the Children is implementing in her community. There is a mother who attended awareness activities that is targeted for youths, and awareness activities that is targeted for mothers.

The awareness activities that Save the Children is doing in our community is very important as it reminds especially me as a young and single parent on how best I can support my daughter. I look back over the past years and I have to agree that yes, sometimes as a mother I fail to protect and provide for my daughter, I have failed to raise her to full capacity. Sometimes I get frustrated over life challenges and just yell for no reason in front of my daughter.



It also provides an avenue for single mothers like myself to voice issues that we face, discuss with other young mothers on how best we can work together for our children. This you don't get in the community, people just look at you and judge because you are a single mother. Through Save the Children awareness activities, we as single mothers have confidence in ourselves to voice our opinions, especially for me I can share what I learn from the awareness activities with others in the community and I have to be honest for once I feel valued and I feel like people are now understanding my situation.

There is a mother, Solomon Islands



VANUATU

Physical and emotional abuse

The physical punishment of children is common in most households in Vanuatu,¹⁹ with over 83% of children aged 1-14 having experienced violent discipline.²⁰ Focus group discussions undertaken in 2018 with children (girls and boys aged 7–18 years) and female caregivers in Buninga, Freshwota and Tongoa Island found violent discipline to be the most common form of violence experienced by children, and a nearly universally accepted practice in childrearing.

I don't like my parents when they whip me if I have done something wrong, instead of just talking kindly to me about what I have done.

Freshwota, Girl, 7–11

It does exist, we smack children to help them to improve, to learn. We smack them to teach them, we do it according to the Bible.

Buninga, Female Caregiver

Children who experience physical abuse often do not have a safe place to go. Many children described stories of violence or witnessing family violence and running away from home. They explained that the only option for these children is to “walk around or go to the bush, they stay in the bush until someone finds them and feel sorry for them and take care of them” (Freshwota Girl).

While there is scant data available on emotional abuse, it was an area that was widely mentioned by children during focus group discussions. For example, children mentioned they often get shouted at, and that adults tell them they are “losers”. They also indicated having observed emotional violence between their parents.

Sexual violence

The National Child Protection Policy (NCPP) identifies the high levels of sexual violence perpetrated against children, describing that “sexual abuse and incest are common”.²¹ However, the taboo nature of the issue does not enable public discussion to be held, nor is national-level information available. A child protection survey found that 84% of respondents felt that “sexual abuse is a big problem in Vanuatu, with most respondents agreeing that children are most often abused by someone they know and trust.”²²

Research conducted by the Vanuatu Women's Centre found that almost 1 in 3 women (30%) were sexually abused before the age of 15 years and identified that sexual abuse of children under 15 is higher in rural than urban areas, with Tafea and Torba, followed by Penama and Malampa, having the highest rates.

Concerns have also emerged on the high levels of inappropriate touching by other children. Overall, boys were touched more by other children (particularly on the genitals and buttocks) whilst girls were touched more by adults (particularly on the breast and genitals).²³ A 2015 comparative assessment by UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) noted “pockets of greater vulnerability” for “girls between 6–14 years old with low education and from a low-medium socio-economic background were at high risk of being abused”.²⁴ In addition, children from a previous relationship or adopted children are also reportedly most at risk of sexual abuse by a family member.²⁵

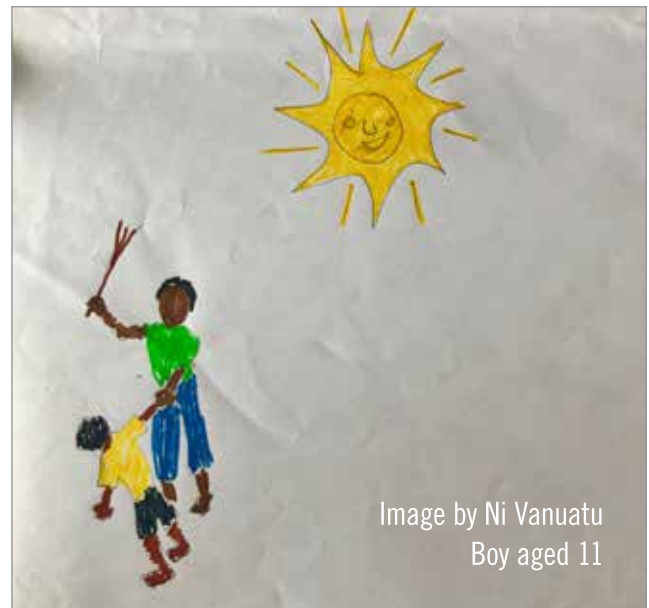
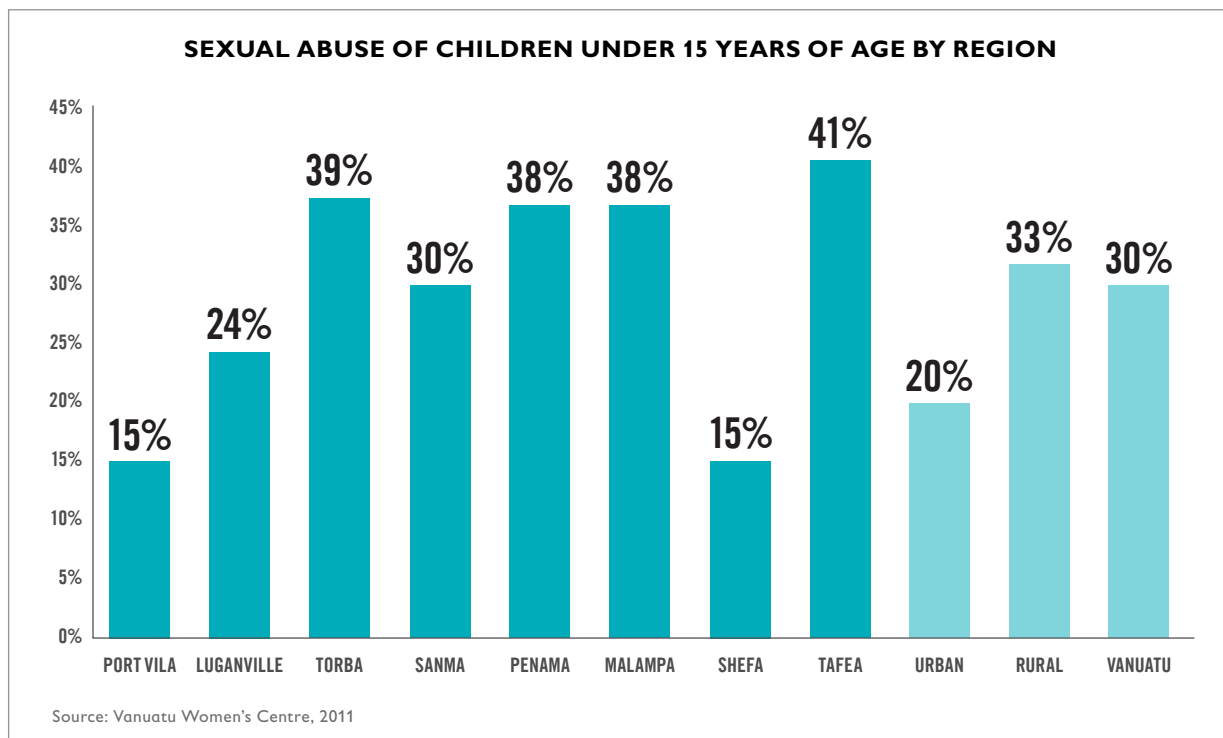


Image by Ni Vanuatu
Boy aged 11



Neglect

Neglect was an area that was often mentioned by children, caregivers and key informants during focus group discussions. For example, mothers sometimes do not feed their children properly and are unresponsive to a child's basic emotional needs. Children with disabilities also experience neglect as noted in some of the responses below.

Some mothers don't treat the child [with disability] as other children in the family.

Freshwota, Vanuatu girl

These kids don't eat or sleep well and sometimes they get beaten by normal children.

Freshwota, Vanuatu girl

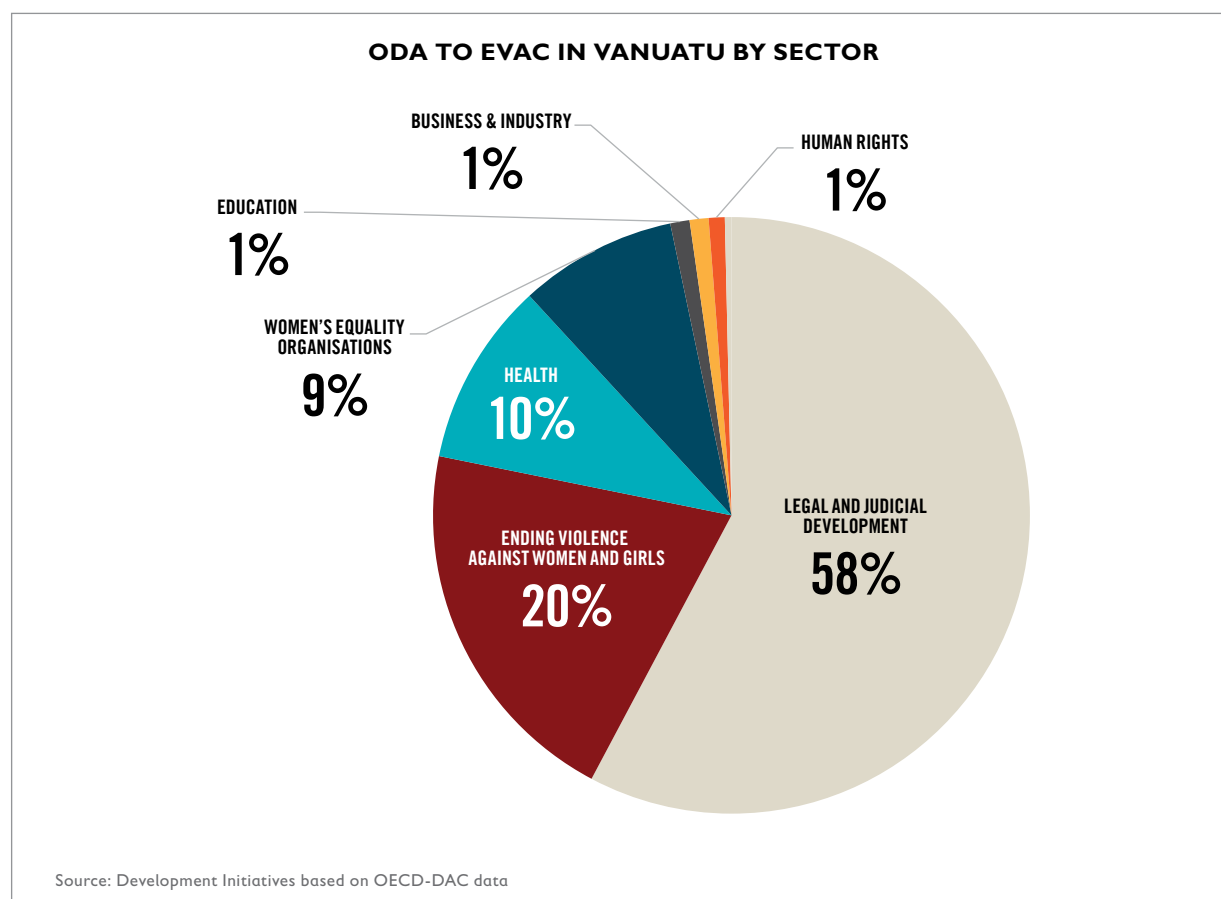
Funding (2015-2017)

Vanuatu received AUS\$8.2 million in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2015, rising to nearly AUS\$9.6 million in 2016 and just over AUS\$11 million in 2017. While this represented 6% of ODA in 2017 (one of the highest portions of ODA expenditure in the region), all this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.

The key projects receiving funding were:

- AUS\$16.6 million to the Vanuatu policing and justice program which includes some specific aims focusing on protecting children and women experiencing violence and youth in conflict with the law.
- Just over AUS\$4.5 million for the Pacific Women Initiative (Vanuatu) providing support to the Vanuatu Women's Centres and expanding their direct assistance to women and children suffering from violence.
- Almost AUS\$2.9 million to a community theatre, film and radio to promote community awareness of social issues, including domestic violence and child abuse.
- Just over AUS\$2 million for the part of the "Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development" program aimed at equality issues, including violence against women and girls in Vanuatu.
- Just over AUS\$1.5 million for the Vanuatu Gender Action Platform which carries out activities focused on ending violence against women and girls as well as other gender-related priorities.
- AUS\$250,000 aimed at various human rights issues, including abuse, faced by disabled children.

An analysis by sector illustrates that while the EVAC-related expenditure has increased, 58% of this is directed to 'legal aid and judicial development', followed by 29% to women's equality organisations and ending violence against women and children programming. Once again, it is difficult to ascertain how much of this funding is benefiting children.



World Vision – Respect yourself, respect others/Rispekem yu wan, rispekem naraman

In 2017, the World Vision Partnership launched *It Takes a World to End Violence Against Children*. In Vanuatu, the local name for the campaign is *Vanuatu Rispek*. The key theme is respect: respecting yourself and respecting others through good consent practices in relationships.

Child protection and consent are relatively new concepts in Vanuatu. As such, the campaign has employed a suite of innovative approaches to communicate the messages that boys and girls have the right to determine what happens with their own bodies and that they need to seek permission before touching someone else. It has used local sports stars, reggae artists, rap groups, short films and even a video game to reach Vanuatu's youth.

The campaign is also targeting younger children and adults through the Relationship Education about Choices and Healing (REACH) project, supported by the Australian government. REACH works through faith and community leaders and Sunday schools to help change behaviours and attitudes towards gender relationships and gender-based violence.

In Vanuatu, Jean and his wife Tovock are among those whose lives have been transformed by taking part in the project's counselling sessions run by faith leaders for both perpetrators and survivors of violence. Jean used to beat Tovock and make their children go hungry if he wasn't happy with the state of their home.



Now, Jean advocates against violence among his peers who mistreat their wives and children. “I learnt that no one was created by God to be abused,” says Jean. “I was also taught anger management techniques to help me during conflicts and all of this made me realise what I was putting my family through.”

“Not once has he beaten me again or treated my children badly, so we feel much safer and happier around him.” With a huge smile across his face Jean said, “My family is happier now and I am happier.”

It has been over a year since Jean first attended the counselling workshop and we are so pleased with Jean's progress. He continues to treat his family well and now advocates for World Vision in relation to gender-based violence among youth in his community.

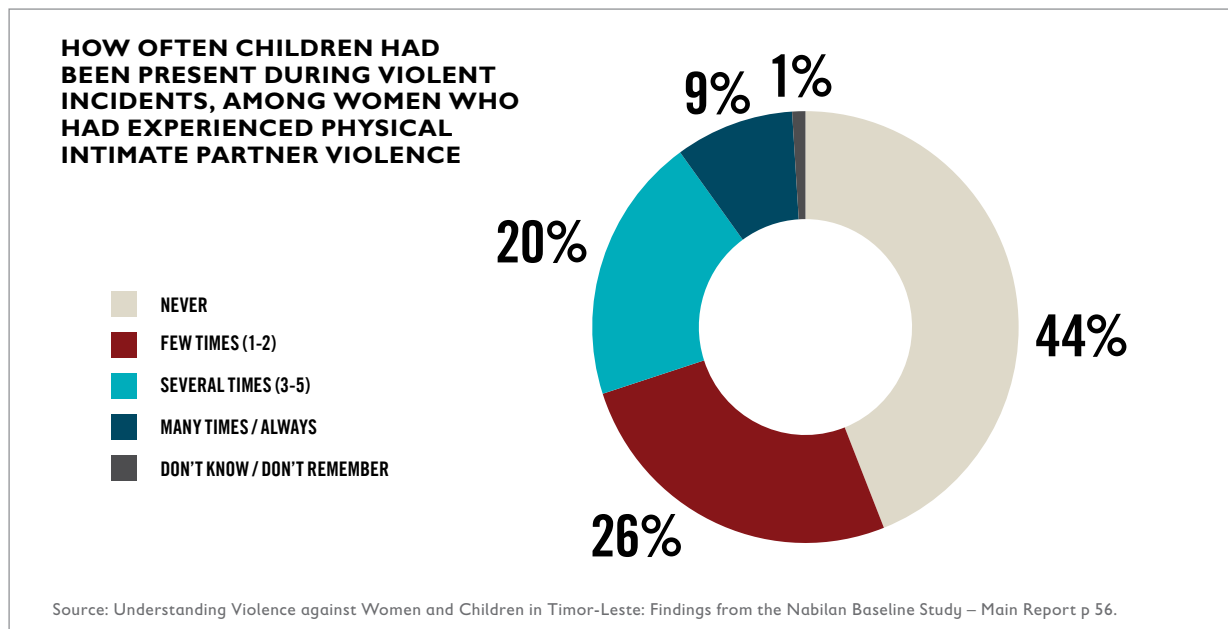
Lotty Riri, REACH Development Manager

TIMOR-LESTE

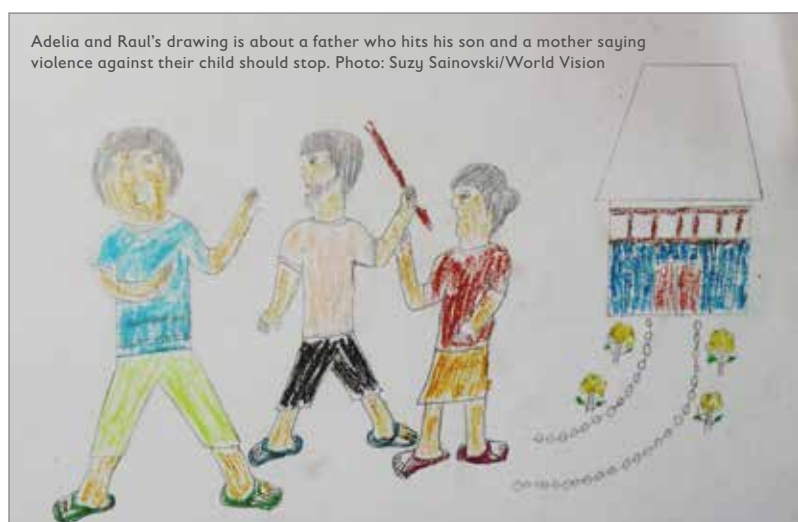
Physical and emotional abuse

Physical and humiliating punishment of children is widely accepted as a form of behaviour correction in Timor-Leste. 74% women and 54% men agree in the use of physical violence as a means of behaviour correction.²⁶ It is considered normal to “slap”, “beat with a stick” and “pinch or twist a child’s ears”. A 2016 study on Violence Against Children in and around school settings found 75% of boys and 67% of girls had experienced physical punishment such as being kicked, slapped or pulled by a teacher in the last 12 months.²⁷ Younger children were more susceptible to harsher treatment than older students and parents were supportive of punitive disciplinary measures, including hitting.

A significant proportion of physical and emotional abuse takes place at home. The 2009–2010 Democratic Health Survey (DHS) found that 38% of women aged 15 to 49 years said they had experienced physical violence since the age of 15.²⁸ More than half of ever-partnered women who had experienced physical violence from a male partner (55%) said their children had witnessed and had been exposed to the physical abuse.²⁹



Evidence shows that prior to the establishment of the Law Against Domestic Violence (LADV) in 2010, cases involving family violence were treated as a private matter, resolved under traditional systems with very few being reported or prosecuted. The Asia Foundation notes that “between January and August 2003, 104 out of 148 domestic violence cases reported to the police in Dili municipality were withdrawn by the complainants with the permission of the public prosecutor”.





Sexual violence

A significant number of girls in Timor-Leste are forced or coerced into their first sexual encounter. At least 37% of the women who participated in a 2016 study said they had been coerced into their first sexual experience by the age of 14 years, while 19% of 15 and 19-year-olds said the same.³⁰

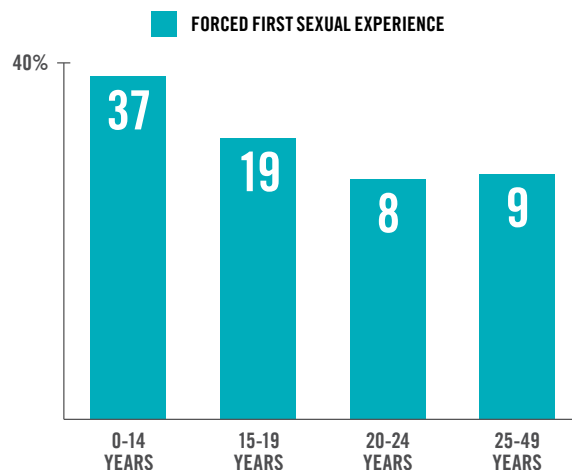
A study by UNICEF indicates that poverty predisposes girls to sexual harassment, inappropriate touching and suggestive comments by teachers in school.³¹ Girls from economically disadvantaged families are sometimes offered cash and other inducements by teachers.³² While the problem of child sexual abuse is drawing more attention, the exact numbers are difficult to establish due to Timor-Leste's traditional and cultural practices, which shame the victim. This leads to under-reporting or to the invocation of alternative remedies that sit outside the formal justice system.

Neglect

Neglect remains an issue in Timor-Leste, particularly for vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities. For example, 72% of persons with disabilities have never attended school.³³

Children with disabilities lack access to rehabilitation services and most available infrastructure and facilities are inaccessible to them. The education system is not user friendly for children with disabilities. Teachers generally lack the knowledge, training and skills to teach and support children with disabilities.³⁴

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHOSE FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN FORCED OR COERCED, BY AGE AT FIRST SEX, AMONG WOMEN WHO HAD EVER HAD SEX



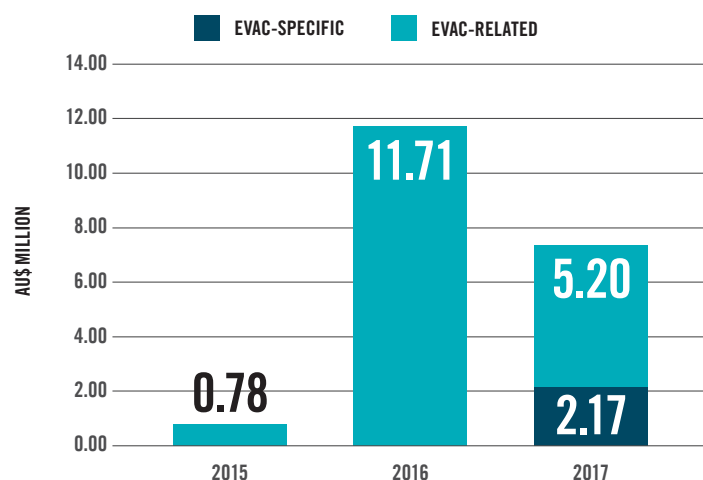
Source: Understanding Violence against Women and Children in Timor-Leste: Findings from the Nabilan Baseline Study – Main Report p 77.

Funding (2015-2017)

Timor-Leste received less than AUS\$800,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2015. This rose to AUS\$11.7 million in 2016, before falling to below **AUS\$7.4 million in 2017**, representing just over **2% of ODA in 2017**. Timor-Leste had the largest EVAC-specific expenditure of all 15 countries in this study, though it remains at the fairly small amount of **AUS\$2.2 million, representing only 0.69% of ODA**.

Two-thirds of the total EVAC funding came from Australia, with almost a quarter coming from Germany. Smaller amounts came from five other donors: the EU, Portugal, the US, Japan and Korea.

ODA TO EVAC IN TIMOR-LESTE



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data



The top projects receiving EVAC funding were:

- AUS\$11.6 million from Australia for a project aimed specifically at violence against women and girls.
- Almost AUS\$2.2 million from Germany for youth institutions working with youth exposed to violent conflict.
- Over AUS\$1.2 million from Australia to support the Timor-Leste gender action platform.
- Almost AUS\$640,000 from the EU for protection and support mechanisms for women and children victims of violence in Timor-Leste.
- Over AUS\$580,000 from Portugal for an integrated project of social-community development which includes activities relating to the protection of vulnerable children.
- Over AUS\$520,000 from Australia to a second project aimed specifically at violence against women and girls.
- Almost AUS\$360,000 from the US to for a project working with victims of violent conflict, including children.
- Almost AUS\$350,000 from Germany for a project aimed at women and girls who are victims of violence.
- Over AUS\$170,000 from the EU to a project working with marginalised youth, including the victims of violence.
- Over AUS\$120,000 from Japan to construct a shelter for women and children victims of violence.

Channels of Hope for Gender: Reducing gender-based violence project – World Vision

With support from the Australian Government, World Vision used its Channels of Hope model to engage faith leaders (Christian pastors and their spouses) and equip them with the information that they needed to change community attitudes and help reduce intimate partner violence.

Channels of Hope (CoH) for Gender is an innovative approach to explore gender identities, norms and values from a faith perspective. The curriculum dispels cultural gender biases and contributes to the transformation of perspectives on gender identity and relationships at both household and community levels. The project provided coaching and training on addressing gender-based violence (including referrals to services where necessary), and encouraged faith leaders to be proactive in discussing the root causes of violence with their congregations.

Since its inception, CoH for Gender has brought about a change of attitude in many faith leaders, transforming the messages they communicate on the worth of female and male members of their communities. This resulted in a positive ripple effect in the communities they serve. The project addresses the gender norms that give rise to gender-based violence and child abuse and strengthens community links to services for women and children who experience violence. The project works alongside partners such as village and sub-village chiefs, school teachers, service providers, local organisations and churches.

Domingas is a housewife and a mother of two daughters, from Aileu Municipality. Her husband, Marcelino, never helped with household chores nor did he take care of their children. He often gambled and was violent towards Domingas.

“I punched my wife and children when they tried to ask for money, so they were always afraid to ask for it when they needed to,” said Marcelino. Domingas and Marcelino regularly participated in Channels of Hope training and shared ideas with others about how to build a happy and healthy family. Marcelino underwent a tremendous change in his attitude as a husband and father. Now he tries to make a peaceful family with his wife and children.

Domingas has also changed her behaviour towards her daughters. “In the past, when my children played around, I showed anger toward them. However, after the training, when they fight each other, I counsel them to stop,” said Domingas.



Domingas (centre) and her daughters, Delia (17, left) and Abrial (12, right) are in front of their house. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision

Physical and emotional abuse

Corporal punishment is often seen to be the responsibility of the parent to guide their child into good moral behaviours based on the Christian teaching ‘spare the rod and spoil the child’. Many parents and families are not aware that violent punishment may affect the social and brain development of their child. If there was more education, then I think people would think twice.

FBO staff and participant to ChildFund Australia’s Child protection capacity training

Lifetime prevalence of physical and emotional abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner or relative of women and girls aged 15–49 is reported to be 64% in Fiji. This is the equivalent to over three in five women and girls from the age of 15 who have ever been in a relationship having experienced physical or sexual violence or both by an intimate partner. Nearly three out of five ever-partnered women (58%) have been emotionally abused by an intimate partner.³⁵

Rates of emotional, physical and sexual violence against women and children are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Nevertheless, there are very high rates of all forms of violence against women and children across all divisions, age groups, education levels, ethnic groups and religions. Approximately a third of women (30%) reported that their children (both male and female) had witnessed at least one incident of their abuse by their partner, with 17% of women reporting that their children had witnessed them being abused by their partner more than once.³⁶

Children reported that the home and school were the most common sites where physical punishment took place, and younger children received more physical forms of punishment than older children. Furthermore, most adults perceived punishment as a form of rehabilitation or discipline.³⁷ Statistics from 2017 reiterate that 72% of children in Fiji have experienced physical punishment at home with the most common type of punishment including being hit with hands and objects including whips, belts and chains, with words used to describe this including “beating”, “whacking”, “lashed” and “punched”.³⁸

In response to highly publicised incidences of corporal punishment in schools across Fiji in 2018, the Fiji Women’s Rights Movement issued the following joint statement with Save the Children:

We are deeply disturbed by the public outcry on social media on this issue. Children are continuously discriminated against because of their age and their rights as a person is not recognised because of archaic societal norms.

The prevalence of violence against children is astounding and their needs to be a stronger effort to change our attitudes when it comes to children and their human rights. Particularly at home and in our schools where it should be fostering a safer, respectful space.

Fiji Women’s Rights Movement Executive Director Nalini Singh ³⁹



Sexual violence

Sexual violence is high in Fiji relative to population figures. Incidences of reported rape and sexual violence released by the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutors for the month of October 2018 noted that, over the course of a single month, 19 people were charged with a total of 34 counts of sexual violence ranging from rape, indecent assault, defilement and sexual assault. The majority of victims were female children, and perpetrators were overwhelmingly male and known to the survivor as a close relative (such as a father, stepfather, cousin or uncle).⁴⁰

Studies undertaken by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre on the prevalence of violence against women and girls reveal 16% of women reported that they were sexually abused as children before the age of 15 and of these, 59% said they were abused once or twice. Of the respondents, 25% reported being abused a few times, and 16% were abused many times. In 95% of these cases, there was one perpetrator and most perpetrators were male family members or friends.

In its report, the US Department of Labour notes that:

Commercial sexual exploitation of children continued to occur in Fiji, particularly by family members, taxi drivers, foreign tourists, businessmen, and crew on foreign fishing vessels. Parents sometimes send their children to live with families in cities or near schools to facilitate their continuing education and to perform light household work. Research found that some of these children are vulnerable to involuntary domestic work or are forced to engage in sexual activity in exchange for food, clothing, or shelter.⁴¹

Neglect

The Child Services Unit recorded a total of 259 cases of child neglect from January to November of 2017. Neglect topped the Child Welfare Decree Statistics list of 2017, followed by physical abuse and sexual abuse, with 168 and 153 cases respectively. A social protection scheme is now in place in Fiji to support families experiencing poverty to care for children. However, the Ministry noted that child neglect occurred in many different forms such as lack of appropriate supervision leading to child injury, lack of appropriate nutrition for children leading to associated health problems and lack of interest or ambivalence about school attendance for children. The Ministry noted that amongst the profiles of children who were subjected to instances of neglect that disabled and adopted children⁴² were more prone to such neglect and often left in the care of siblings which was not adequate to address their more complex needs.

Following the release of these statistics, the Assistant Director of the Child Services Unit, Ela Tukutukulevu was quoted in the Fiji Sun:

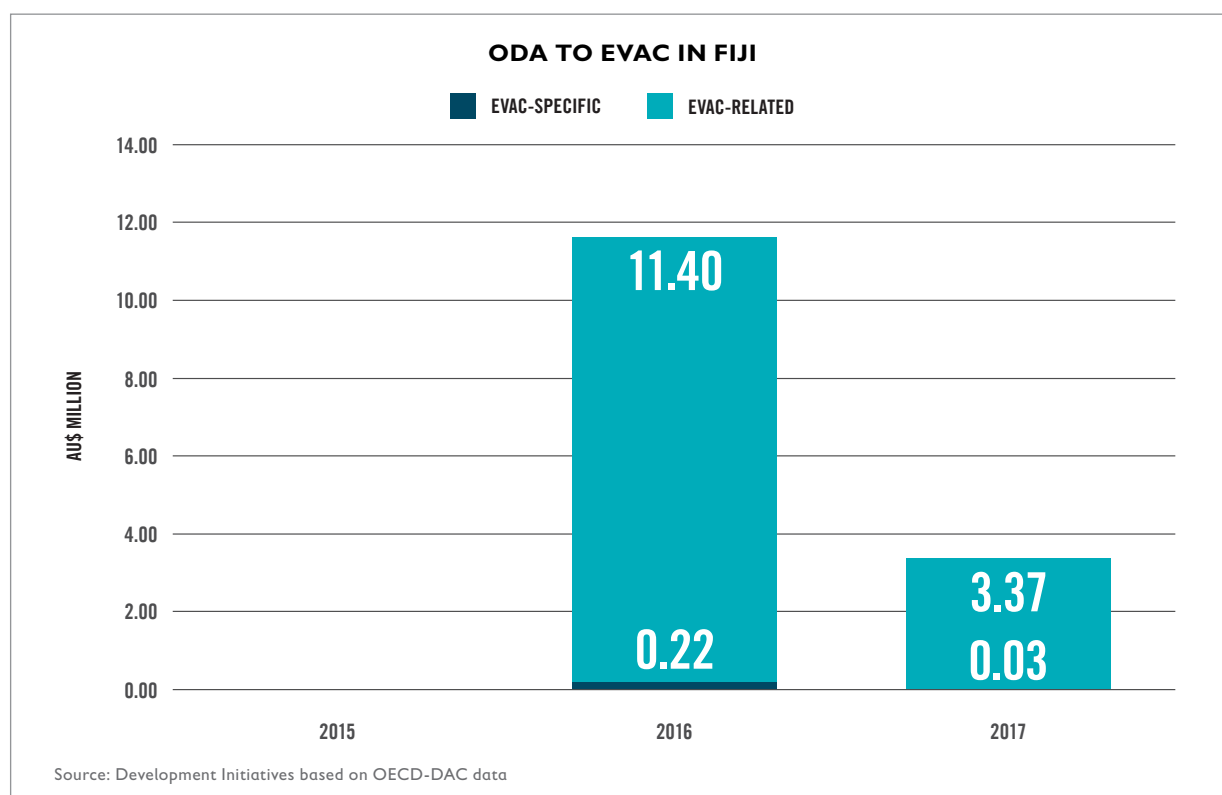
Child neglect tops the Child Welfare Decree Statistics list followed by physical abuse and sexual abuse with 168 and 153 cases respectively.

That goes to show that a lot of our children are left out there, so neglect can come in different forms; it can be neglect of care. Most are neglect of care, children not receiving proper nutrition or are not sent to school and some that are loitering the streets. So this has really become a concern for us.

Fiji Sun January 2018

Funding (2015-2017)

Fiji received just under AUS\$3.4 million in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down from AUS\$11.6 million in 2016. The overwhelming majority of this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC. Funding to projects wholly targeted at EVAC was just over AUS\$220,000 in 2016 and just over AUS\$25,000 in 2017. ODA to all EVAC-related projects comprised over 7.3% of total ODA to Fiji in 2016, falling to 1.7% in 2017.



The key EVAC projects include:

- Almost AUS\$7.7 million from Australia to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed violence against women and girls in Fiji.
- Almost AUS\$4.9 million from Australia to the part of the “Pacific Women Fiji Country Plan” that addressed violence against women and girls in Fiji.
- Almost AUS\$1.8 million from New Zealand to support the “Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre” which carries out activities addressing violence against women and girls.
- AUS\$250,000 from Australia to a project aimed at advancing the rights of children with disabilities which includes child protection activities.
- AUS\$243,000 from the EU to a project aimed at efforts to eliminate child labour.
- AUS\$90,000 from Australia for a project that includes activities aimed at providing safe spaces for women and girls.
- AUS\$78,000 for relief activities in the wake of Cyclone Winston, including child protection activities.
- AUS\$17,600 from Australia for the creation of safe spaces for children in evacuation centres and temporary shelters
- AUS\$3,000 from the EU for an audit of a charity aimed at eliminating child labour.
- AUS\$1,300 from Australia to a project addressing violence against children through Child Participation.

Improving child protection capacity in the Pacific – ChildFund Australia

ChildFund Australia is currently running a multi-year child protection project across four countries (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu) in the Pacific. This project commenced in 2016 and targets the major roadblock identified in the advancement in child protection in the Pacific: the low capacity of child protection service providers in responding to child protection cases.

The project adopts an intensive training, coaching and mentoring pedagogy targeting frontline service providers from key government, civil society, and religious actors responsible for formal child protection activities. This allows them to develop improved technical capacity and strengthen collaboration in the implementation of child protection services. Often, these entities and individuals had not previously identified as child-focused services and had been acting with no support. This project equips participants with knowledge, tools and skills that can be directly applied to their work in and out of the training environment. All skills learned were applicable to day-to-day practice and integration of newly learned techniques was further supported by mini project grants to operationalise learning into service provision to better resource child protection service and practice.



Fiji Training group of child protection frontline practitioners as part of Improving Child Protection Capacity in the Pacific Project. Photo: ChildFund Australia

Although we have had (child protection) trainings before, this is the first training that actually targeted my job and day-to-day work with children. The skills I have learnt from training and coaching are very useful to my role and provided me with simple actions to work on child protection cases.

Department of Social Welfare Staff training participants, Fiji

APPENDIX: PROFILE OF EVAC EXPENDITURE IN INDIVIDUAL PACIFIC NATIONS

Cook Islands

- The Cook Islands received just under AUS\$300,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, up from AUS\$125,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented less than half of a percent of total ODA received by the Cook Islands in 2016 and less than 1% of total ODA in 2017.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.

The funding was for two projects:

1. Just over AUS\$220,000 to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed violence against women and girls in the Cook Islands.
2. AUS\$200,000 to the “Cook Islands Gender Empowerment Support” project which includes activities aimed at ending violence against women and girls.

Kiribati

- Kiribati received just over AUS\$900,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down from AUS\$1.2 million in 2016.
- All of this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented less than 0.9% of total ODA received by Kiribati in 2017 down from 1.7% in 2016.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.

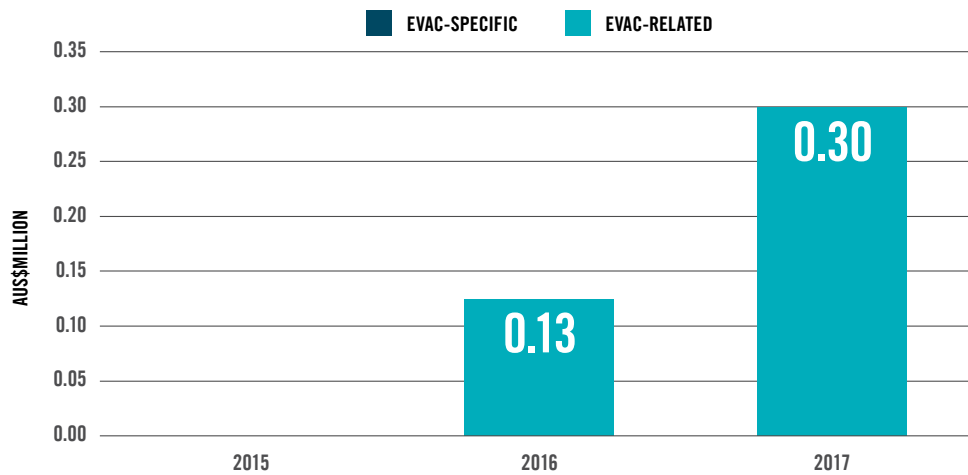
The funding was for three projects:

1. AUS\$1.4 million to the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project – AUS\$1.1 million spent on issues of women’s equality, including aims related to violence against women and girls, and a further AUS\$290,000 principally aimed at violence against women and girls.
2. Just under AUS\$420,000 to the Kiribati health programme which includes activities aimed at ending violence against women and children.
3. Just under AUS\$300,000 in support of the national action plan for eliminating sexual and gender-based violence in Kiribati.

Marshall Islands

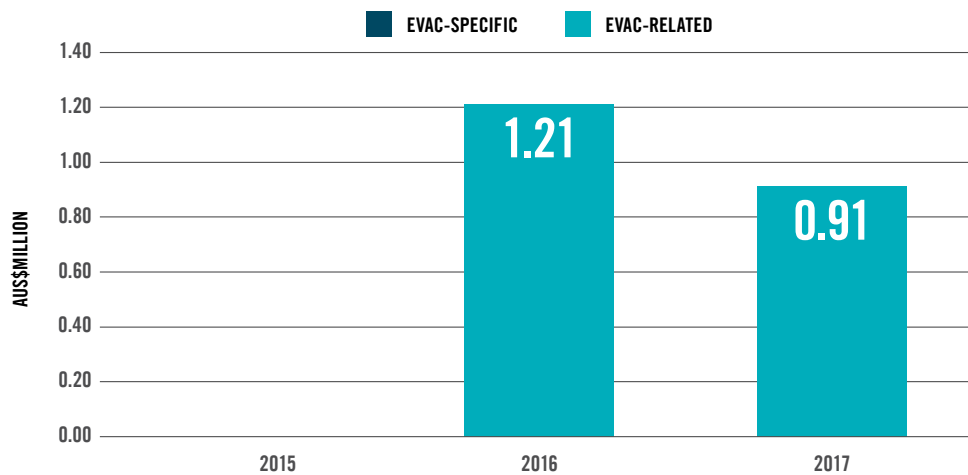
- The Marshall Islands received just over AUS\$470,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down from almost AUS\$560,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- Overall ODA to the Marshall Islands rose more than fivefold between 2016 and 2017. This increased ODA mainly came from the US, a donor which reported no spending on EVAC in the Marshall Islands. Therefore, the percentage of total ODA spent on EVAC fell sharply, from over 2.8% in 2016 to less than 0.5% in 2017.
- Funding for EVAC came entirely from Australia.
- The funding was entirely for the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed violence against women and girls in the Marshall Islands.

ODA TO EVAC IN THE COOK ISLANDS



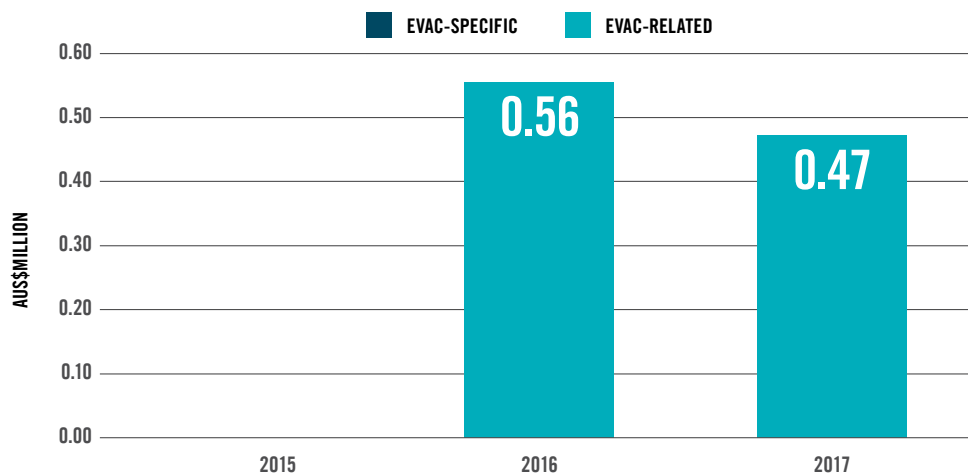
Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data

ODA TO EVAC IN KIRIBATI



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data

ODA TO EVAC IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data

Micronesia

- Micronesia received just over AUS\$700,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, up from around AUS\$140,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented just over half of a percent of total ODA received by Micronesia in 2017 and just over 0.2% of total ODA in 2016.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.

The funding was for two projects:

1. Almost AUS\$630,000 to education projects under the Federated States of Micronesia Partnership for Development which included actions aimed at protecting women and girls from violence.
2. Just under AUS\$230,000 to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed equality issues and violence against women and girls in Micronesia.

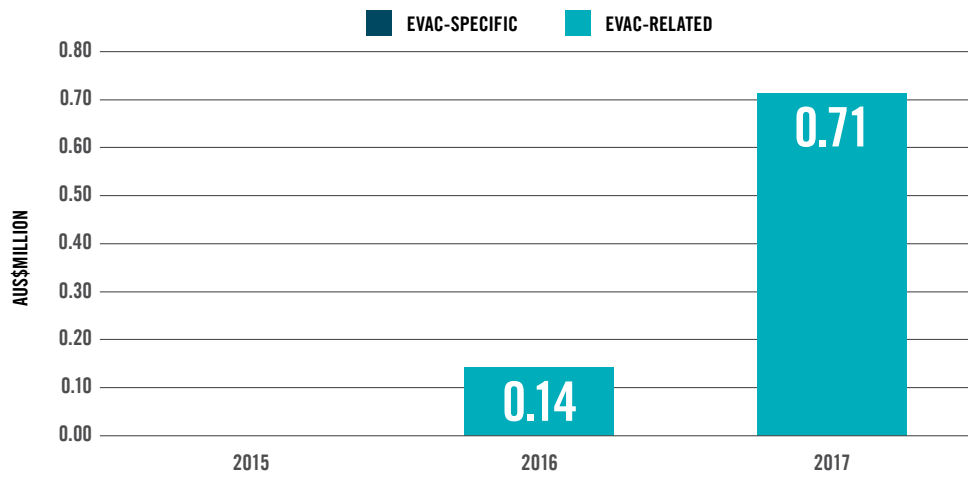
Nauru

- Nauru received just under AUS\$290,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down from almost AUS\$850,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented 0.85% of total ODA received by Nauru in 2017 down from just over 2.8% of total ODA in 2016.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.
- The funding was entirely for the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project – just over AUS\$1 million spent on issues of women’s equality, including aims related to violence against women and girls, and a further AUS\$100,000 principally aimed at violence against women and girls

Niue

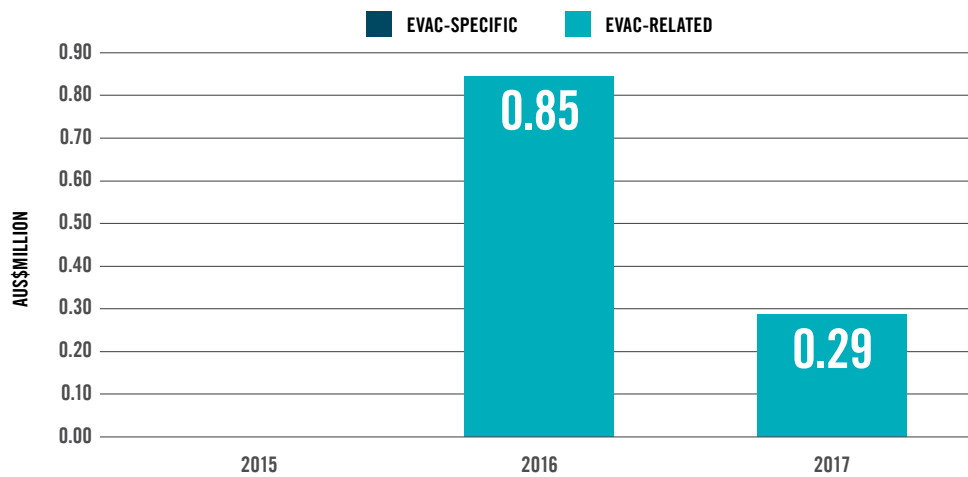
- Niue received just over AUS\$15,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down from just over AUS\$18,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented less than one-tenth of one percent of total ODA received by Niue in 2016 and 2017.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.
- The funding was entirely for the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” aimed at violence against women and girls.

ODA TO EVAC IN MICRONESIA



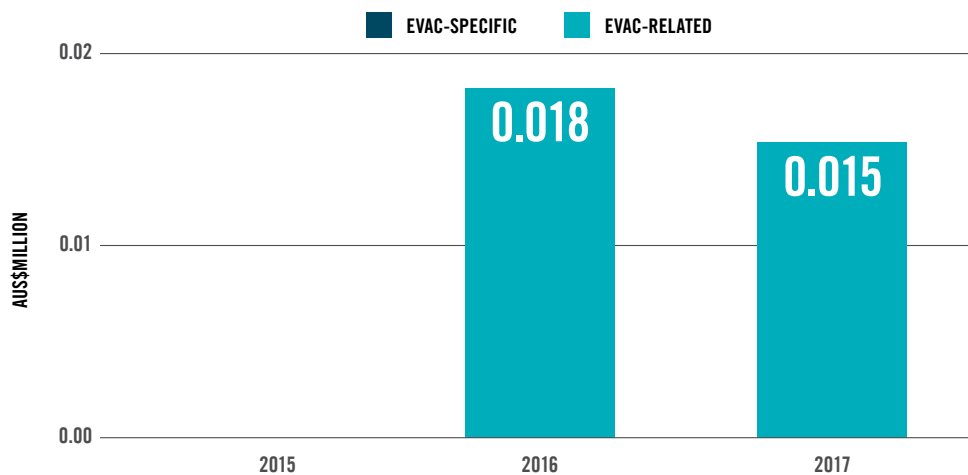
Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data

ODA TO EVAC IN NAURU



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data

ODA TO EVAC IN NIUE



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD-DAC data

Palau

- Palau received just under AUS\$1 million in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, up from just over AUS\$100,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented 3.2% of total ODA received by Palau in 2017 up from just over 0.4% of total ODA in 2016.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.

The funding was for two projects:

1. AUS\$900,000 for the Republic of Palau Partnership for Development. This project has a wide variety of aims, including the laying of an undersea cable – leading to the project being classified under the ‘communications’ sector code. This project does, however, also include actions aimed at protecting women and girls from violence.
2. Just under AUS\$180,000 to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed equality issues and violence against women and girls in Palau.

Samoa

- Samoa received just over AUS\$530,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down over AUS\$1.5 million in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented almost 1.2% of total ODA received by Samoa in 2016, but just 0.35% of total ODA in 2017.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.

The funding was for three projects:

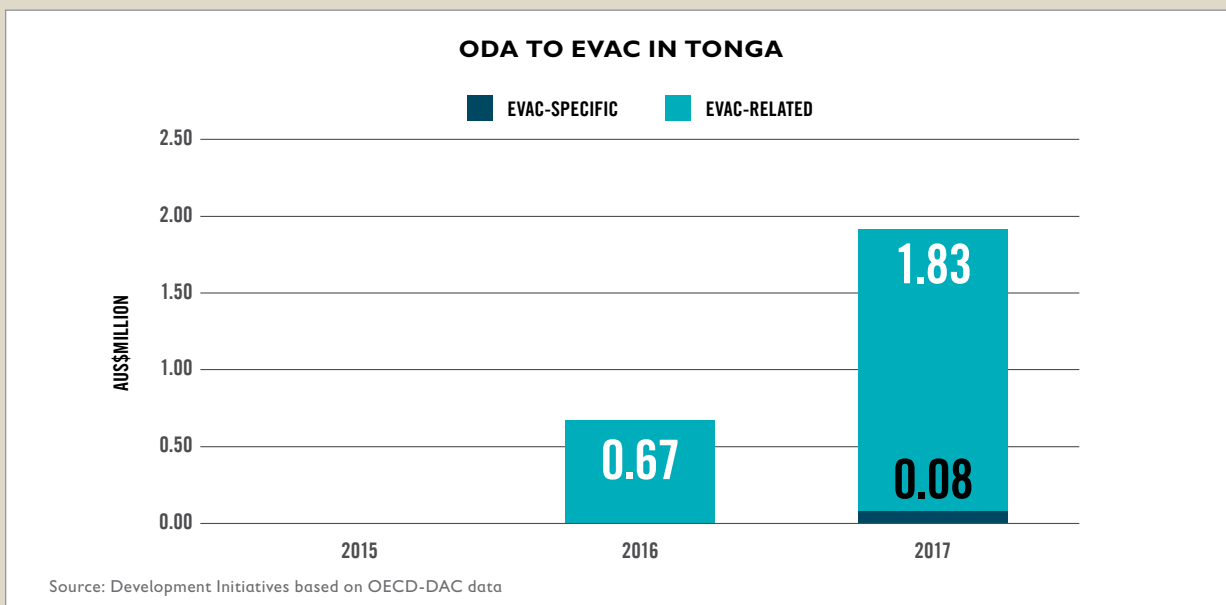
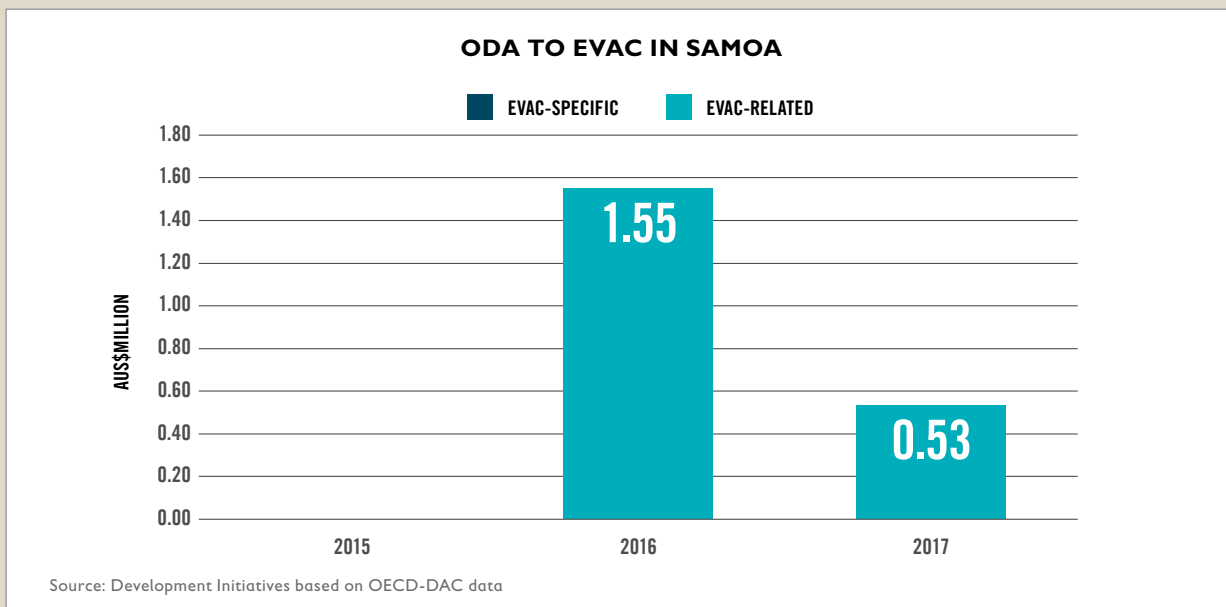
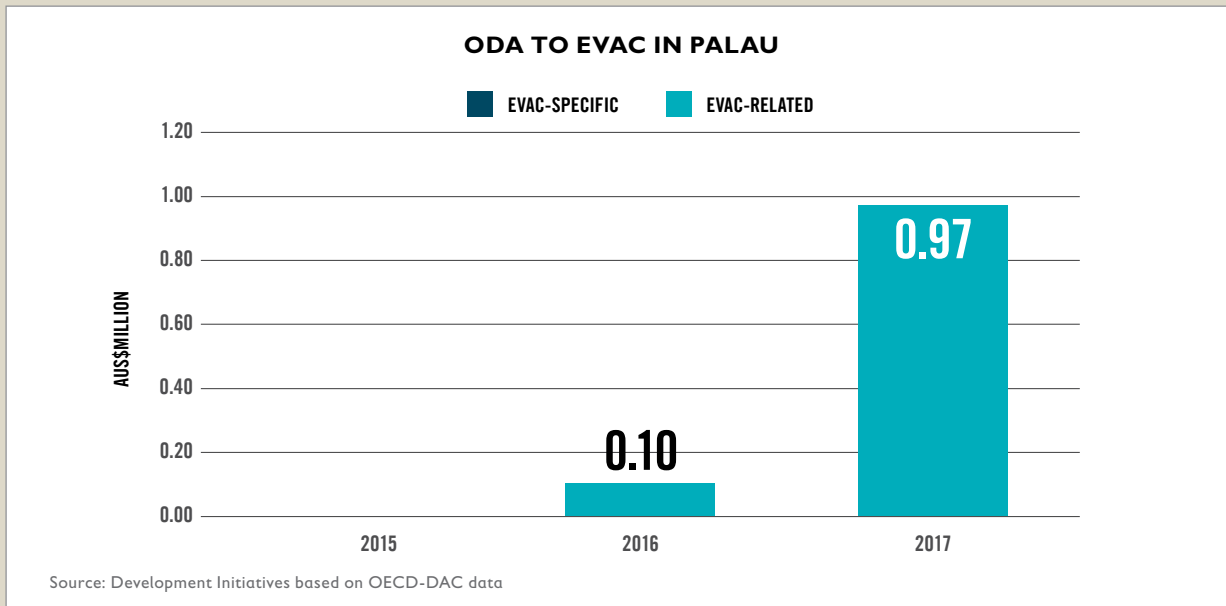
1. Just over AUS\$1 million to the Samoa Women Shaping Development project. Although this project was reported under the business & industry sector, it includes aims relating to the reduction of violence against women and girls. This project received almost AUS\$920,000 in 2016, but less than AUS\$140,000 in 2017 – accounting for most of the reduction in EVAC-related ODA to Samoa over this period (although both the other projects listed also received lower funding in 2017 than 2016).
2. Over AUS\$540,000 to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed violence against women and girls in Samoa.
3. AUS\$480,000 to the Samoa Program Quality and Performance Support project which includes activities aimed at improving child protection in Samoa.

Tonga

- Tonga received just over AUS\$1.9 million in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, up from just over AUS\$670,000 in 2016.
- Virtually all this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC. The exception was one EU project wholly focused on EVAC which received around AUS\$80,000 in 2017.
- This represented over 1.7% of total ODA received by Tonga in 2017 up from just under 0.6% of total ODA in 2016.
- 97% of this funding came from Australia with the remainder coming from institutions of the European Union.

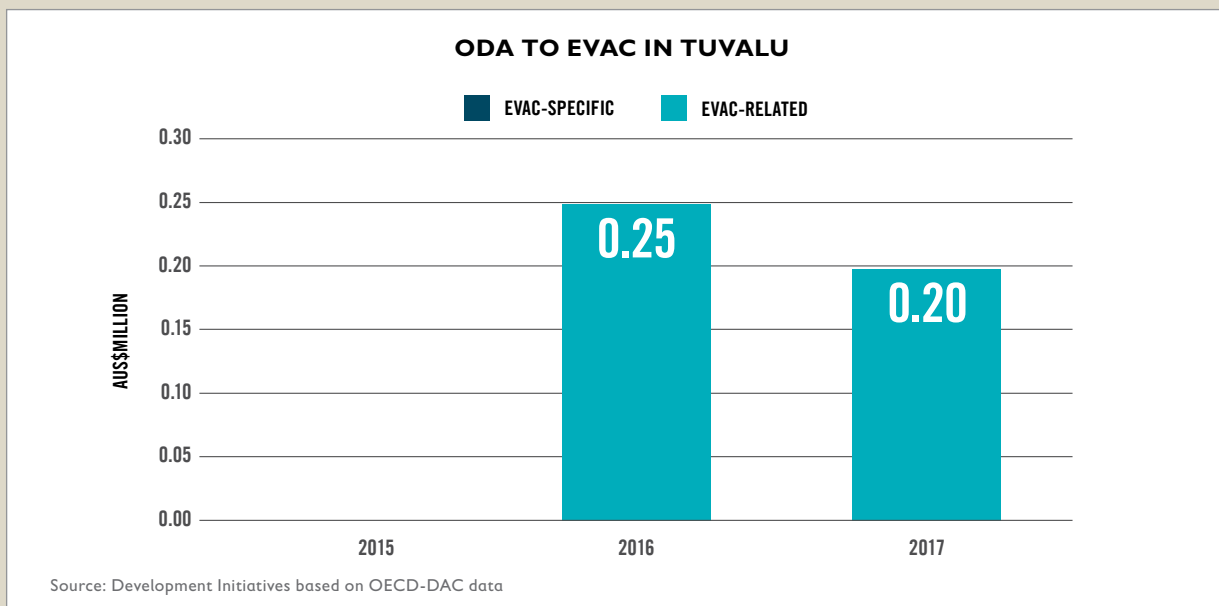
The funding was for two projects:

1. AUS\$2.5 million from Australia to the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” project that addressed equality issues and violence against women and girls in Tonga.
2. Almost AUS\$80,000 from the EU to fund a national study on violence against children in Tonga



Tuvalu

- Tuvalu received just over AUS\$20,000 in funding for projects addressing EVAC in 2017, down from just under AUS\$25,000 in 2016.
- All this funding went to projects that included EVAC-related aims alongside other priorities rather than being wholly focused on EVAC.
- This represented just over three-quarters of one percent of total ODA received by Tuvalu in 2016 and just over half of one percent in 2017.
- This funding came entirely from Australia.
- The funding was entirely for the part of the “Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development” aimed at equality issues, including violence against women and girls.



END NOTES

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