

**fem'LINKPACIFIC Women, Peace and  
Human Security Quarterly Report:  
*Ensuring Women's Full and Effective  
Participation in defining peace and  
human security***

**A Policy Initiative of the Regional Women's Community Media  
Network on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and  
Security)**

**[www.femlinkpacific.org.fj](http://www.femlinkpacific.org.fj)**

## **Introduction:**

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is an affirmation of the important role of women in conflict prevention and Peacebuilding. The resolution is expressly aimed at increasing the participation of women in conflict management at all levels of decision making, including prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.

In 2008, eight years on since the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), our Pacific regional women's community media network on "1325" launched its first policy initiative, which serves as a guide for governments and civil society organisations to assist in the implementation of this ground breaking resolution.

"Women, Peace and Security: Policy Responses and Solutions for our Pacific Region":

- Represents the collective voices of women and recommendations were drafted based on an analysis of interviews conducted by correspondents of our media network based in Fiji, Bougainville (PNG), Solomon Islands, and Tonga.
- Contains key policy references, aimed at policy makers to comply with the gender equality standards such as CEDAW and 1325 as well as understand the gender dynamics in our collective work of the prevention of conflict
- Serves as an easy reference guide for peace builders who want to ensure a more gender inclusive approach to peace and security in our region.

The policy document addresses a series of critical areas of concern such as *Transcending Violence and Transforming Conflict - Responses, Survival, Healing, Women's Budgets for Conflict Prevention & Economic Security, Democratizing Security Decision Making, Disarmament and Reintegration - more than weapons disposal, Security through Women's Eyes, Women Communicating a Culture of Peace.*

**Our first quarterly Women, Peace and Human Security report for 2009 and its recommendations reflect the voices of women and we hope this will serve as yet another reminder for leaders, policy makers and peacebuilders to ensure a more gender inclusive approach in our communities and countries will use this report as a way to ensure a more gender-inclusive approach to peace and security realities.**

## **Defining Priorities:**

Our first quarter report of 2009 builds on our initial regional policy initiative and serves to highlight critical women, peace, and human security issues once again drawn from our regional women's media network documentation as well as the work of members of our rural women's media network in Fiji. Interviews are featured in our monthly ENews bulletins as well as in our press releases and community radio broadcasts.

Stories produced by our regional correspondents based in Honiara and Buka are also featured on local radio stations. Vois Blong Mere Solomons hosts a 15 minute radio programme on Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation. Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency also has a weekly programme on Radio Buka.

Additionally, femLINKPACIFIC continues to systematically monitoring 2 daily news papers. Aside from applying a quantitative analysis, we have also reviewed the news stories using a qualitative women, peace and security lens. Key issues in the first quarter of 2009, relating to women, include reports on violence against women including rape. Women's perspectives have also been reported in relation to the impact of the rising cost of living. The police reports in the news media continue to also highlight crime rate in the country. Women's perspectives have been featured as individual reports or featured as part of stories including in photographs, and also as stories which highlight the initiatives and responses of women's human rights groups and other NGOs.

Our first quarter findings once again serve as further call to action for the greater integration of and compliance with UNSCR1325 as well as CEDAW in our 4 countries as well as at the regional level where we continue to strive as Peacewomen to bring about a transformation in decision making in the peace and security sector - whether it is addressing security sector governance issues, ensuring feminist analysis when address strategies to ensure economic security, defining and contributing to Truth and Reconciliation processes, or ensuring the equitable participation of women in Transitional Governance processes, including Constitutional reform.

Our recommendations, featured in our human security grids, provide recommendations from our interviews framed in the language of existing commitments, in particular those adopted by UN members and known as the Beijing Platform for Action.

**This report also addresses women’s participation in disaster management. During the first quarter of 2009, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Bougainville faced severe floods:**

It is critical that women’s participation must transcend the “traditional roles” of nurturers and providers, but be formally recognised for their wisdom and expertise. Greater effort must be made to ensure greater technical and financial resources are invested in ensuring women in local communities have the capacity to effectively contribute to disaster prevention, management and rehabilitation strategies, with clear linkages to ensuring gender equality in for a where responses to the impact of climate change are being developed from the community to national and regional level.

The Beijing Platform of Action<sup>1</sup> notes that during times of conflict and disasters, governments and UN agencies should ensure that women have equal participation in all processes and programmes that relate to their personal security, including in the planning and management of camps and services for internally displaced persons.

What is critical is to ensure that the rights, needs and representation of women displaced by conflicts and disasters should be reflected in local and national legislation and regulation, such as ensuring provision of essential services, water, electricity, health centres, housing and schools.

This will require enhanced integration of gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development as well as the strengthening of mechanisms at the national, regional, and international levels to assess the impacts of development and environmental policies on women while also ensuring that women, in particular rural women, are actively involved in environmental decision making at all levels.

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<sup>1</sup> See Section B (Education and Training of Women), Section C (Women and Health), Section D (Violence against Women), Section F (Women and the Economy), Section G (Women in Power and Decision Making), Section K (Women and the Environment)

## **Key Recommendations to ensure gender equality in processes addressing Disaster Management:**

- **Ensure women's involvement in Disaster Preparedness Strategy Development and Implementation**
  - Women have been able to actively assess and respond to the floods for their communities. They have the knowledge and the expertise to contribute to address some of the recurring drainage problems, so what is really important is that when it comes to matters of the environment, what Fiji needs right now is a gender inclusive disaster preparedness and management strategy.
  - What this would mean is that ensuring that women from the community level are involved in designing any disaster preparedness programme.
- **Ensure appropriate information and communication strategies, including interpersonal communication and community based education/awareness raising programmes:**
  - It is the women in flood prone areas continue to experience and cope with the impact of floods time and time again. It is these experiences which should also inform the type of information, communication strategy that is needed.
  - Greater emphasis must be given to the use of community radio (such as femLINKPACIFIC's Suitcase Radio station model) and other community media initiatives, to produce and deliver appropriate information and disaster awareness raising programmes need to be participatory and incorporate inter-personal communication
  - Taking into account the close connection between disaster preparedness management and the realities of climate change, the impact of rising sea levels, it is critical to ensure a gender inclusive approach in the development of relevant programmes
- **Women must be involved in humanitarian and relief assistance programme planning and management**
  - Women must be trained to plan and manage humanitarian assistance programmes.
  - Women must also be actively involved in the food security and agriculture rehabilitation programmes as there is a need to recognize their critical role as food producers
- **Women must be involved in determining the location and management centres:** As part of any disaster preparedness programme women's involvement is also critical in determining the location and management of evacuation centers. This will ensure centres are easily accessible by all members of society whether it be women, children, disabled, the elderly as well as the broader community and women can also identify the security measures they must have at all times

## **femLINKPACIFIC'S Women's Community Media Network puts UN Security Council Resolution 1325 into a Human Security Framework:**

*From our Regional Women's Community Media Network Partners:*

<p>Economic Security</p>	<p>Economic security of families will ensure sustained education opportunities for their children</p> <p>There is a need to reduce reliance on extended family members Priorities are job security (viable employment) as well as ability to set up and manage income generating programmes especially for women</p> <p>There is a need to address the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in decision making is directly linked to women's poverty or their economic security.</p> <p>The need to address discrimination in education and training, remuneration and promotion, as well as inflexible working conditions, lack of access to productive resources and inadequate sharing of family responsibilities, with the lack of or insufficient services continue to restrict employment, economic, professional and other opportunities and mobility for women.</p> <p>The need to address the link of violence against women to economic security and knowing that violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures and unemployment.</p>
<p>Health Security</p>	<p>Women need to be better informed of their sexual and reproductive health rights and to be able to effectively share in the decision making regarding the number and spacing of their children</p> <p>Women need to have equal access to opportunities for the protection, promotion, and maintenance of their health in particular her reproductive health needs.</p> <p>Rural women, in particular, to be informed and have access to safe, effective, affordable, and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice.</p> <p>Violence against women must be recognised as a health issue and critical linkages made to women's economic and personal security</p>

Food Security	<p>Greater recognition is needed of women's roles in food security Women are the planners and managers of their family and community food gardens. At the same time there is a need to recognize the link to women's health security also.</p> <p>Women's expertise is needed when planning food and crop rehabilitation strategies especially after floods and other natural disasters</p> <p>Women's expertise is also required when addressed fuel security</p> <p>There is a need to take to seriously recognize that in many communities, when there is a lack of food, too often there is the inequitable distribution of food for girls and women in the households</p>
Community Security	<p>There is close link between community security and women's personal security especially at times of conflict within local communities</p> <p>Women have strategies to offer to ensure safer communities and must be involved in more decision making processes</p> <p>There is a need to promote and enhance the participation of local communities to be involved in the development of public services and also determining development priorities so that they feel they are being consulted and their needs are being identified and addressed</p>
Personal Security	<p>Women and girls continue to be vulnerable to all forms of violence (physical, sexual and psychological abuse) including in their homes.</p> <p>There is a need for more effective enforcement of policies and legislation to emphasize the prevention of violence, the prosecution of offenders, ensuring access to just and effective remedies including compensation and healing of victims</p>
Political Security	<p>Ensure women and girls full enjoyment of their human rights, including citizenship and land ownership</p> <p>Address traditional practices that continue the cycle of discrimination and inequality</p> <p>Support the ratification of CEDAW (specifically for Tonga)</p> <p>The percentage of violence against women and the number of women in parliament to be addressed.</p>

	<p>Recognize and address that violence against women is a critical barrier to women’s effective participation in decision making including political processes</p> <p>Governments must be ensuring that they appoint at least 30% representation of women when making appointments to boards and committees; appointing just 1 woman will not effectively ensure women’s representation.</p> <p>Support women’s development including legal literacy programmes especially at the community level so that women are able to effectively participate in decision making processes</p> <p>Support women’s organisations to document and provide qualitative and quantitative data for peace and conflict analysis, e.g. early warning indicators from women’s perspectives will provide a more inclusive and gendered perspective for conflict prevention</p>
<p>Environmental Security</p>	<p>Environmental security is closely linked to economic and food security.</p> <p>Empower women as producers and consumers to be effective leaders in community based environmental programmes.</p> <p>Address the lack of adequate recognition and support for womens contribution to conservation and management of natural resources and safeguarding the environment</p>



“Family bath time in South Bougainville”



## **What Have Women Told Us about their Human Security Priorities?**

**In Bougainville, women from Caterets Atolls (Han Islands, Yolasa of Caterets (Caterets Atoll is made up of 6 main islands namely Yolasa, Han, Yangain, Piul, Yesila and Huenei), Lonahan in the Tsitalato in Buka, Tinputz, Arawa, Kongora have been interviewed during the first quarter of 2009.**

In January, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency highlighted the election of James Tanis as the new President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government: *"Hakena reports that Tanis asked her to pass on his message to the regional "1325" network as well as the Pacific People Building Peace network reaffirming his commitment to building sustainable peace for Bougainville. She added that Tanis dedicated his victory to Pacific Peacebuilders calling for renewed collaboration. Tanis, she says wishes to continue to be included and informed of peacebuilding initiatives in our region and has reiterated that efforts to continue to build peace in Bougainville particularly by NGOs will should continue to have a strong voice and a sounding board." This was his message on the 3rd of January 2009"* (ENews 1/2009)

In February, further developments in Bougainville with the appointment of Laura Ampa as acting Vice President of the ABG:

*"This means that all women of Bougainville have been elevated and are here with me. Women can lead. Men should give opportunities like this more often to enable women to experience new roles and responsibilities that go with those positions," she proudly said. She continued to say that in Melanesia, people learn through experience. One excels by doing hands on work"* said Ampa as women in Buka saluted this decision with one interviewee stressing that *"Women can lead and run the government. Women have experience running their households. This means they can run the government with help from everyone including men."*

Since February, heavy rains and storms have been experience throughout Bougainville Region. Women have highlighted to Leitana Nehan the shortage of food, lack of firewood to cook. Children were finding it hard to attend school as bridges had been washed away. Farmers were concerned about the damage to their cocoa plantations. Copra production had also been affected; prices to the copra farmers were reducing but the food prices at shops were increasing.

Rhonda Siro who lives in Tinputz and was one of the female candidates for the reserved seat for women in North Bougainville and she raised her concerns: *"Our gardens have been washed away .You know, some area in Tinputz are mountainous. Area on the coast had their garden under water. Women actually had to dive to find food. Only bananas survived the rain because it bears fruit above the ground. Kaukau and Taro have no tubers. It's only ropes and taro stock that can be found when we try to harvest."*

**In Tonga Ma'a Fafine moe Famili Inc. (MFF) continues with outreach work in local communities and outlying islands bringing home issues of Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance which is closely linked with the implementation of UN Resolution 1325.**

Barriers to women's participation in decision making, are also in faith based institutions have also been highlighted in reports : *"Some women explained that in their religion system women are not allowed to be part of the church's discussions or to question the work that the men are doing in their church. Another woman shared from the system of her religion in their society was that most of the people in their decision making committee are men and only a few women. And because of this, men are always manipulating the decision making process and women are always left behind. So women in these churches continue to feel they have no place in the decision making level."*

MFF also ensured that in their recent Electoral and Constitutional Review submission (together with Langafonua 'a Fafine Tonga (NCW), Tonga Women National Congress (TWNC)) supported the recommendation for temporary special measures to support women's participation in Parliament. *"This is linked closely to the recommendations in our regional policy document launched last October. We also contributed to the collection of the 3000 signatures required for the submissions"* said MFF co-founder Betty Blake

**In the Solomon Islands, Vois Blong Mere Solomons (VBMS) provided reports about the impact of flash floods which struck the island of Guadalcanal in early February and left wide spread destruction in its wake:** *"Homes and food gardens were washed away and several deaths were also reported. Road travel between communities was also impaired as bridges were washed away and sea travel was not even considered as the rough waves following the heavy rains meant boat travel was safe either. This also meant that many families had to wait for more than a week before the first batch of relief supplies reached them. Subsequently, the Minister for Home Affairs, James Tora, declared those areas affected disaster areas. Vois Blong Mere volunteer Olga Chapangi who is a resident in one of the worst affected area, Aruligo which is about a 2 hour drive west of Honiara spoke to women in her district who highlighted that like the January floods in Fiji, these floods were one of the worst disasters they had ever experienced."*

In the coverage of International Women's Day from Honiara a VBMS report highlighted that a speaker during the IWD celebrations highlighted the struggle continues for women's economic security especially in the formal sector: *"..... Women and girls have tougher chances of acquiring a job despite good qualifications....women and girls are paid less for the same job as men and in addition to that women have limited offerings for promotion or advancement for the few who reach managerial positions, they often make painful choices between a successful career or raising a family. women and girls are the workforce of the family, they are expected to cook, do the gardening, raise kids and to fulfill other commitments expectations and when they do not perform to the expectations they suffer from domestic violence, economic discriminations and forced pregnancies. She said we must all learn to say no to violence against women and girls, respect their rights as equal partners in the development of any society"*

VBMS also highlighted growing environmental insecurities as the impact of climate change and rising sea levels become more obvious particularly on the island of Malaita: *"Climate Change and sea level rise is a growing problem for us now especially people living in the small islands. Solomon Islands is no exception, with the many islands that form part of the country, sea level rise is a great concern."*

*Recently many parts of the country suffered from the ever changing weather pattern that left a lot of people homeless and properties lost either through flash floods which resulted in deaths and a noticeable rise in sea levels. This has been noticeable, for example in Malaita, in particular on the islands of Kwai and Ngongosila. According to Joyline Afu rising sea levels are not only becoming more visible but a serious and very real threat to people of these two islands. It is noticeable, by the damage being caused to buildings, pig pens and other property”*

Food security remains an ongoing issue highlighted from the Solomon Islands linked closely to economic security, including access to land.

In the lead up to the launch of the Solomon Island’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the critical role of women in the process including in the membership of the TRC process has been highlighted.

Local peace consultations, according to a VBMS report, has also been an opportunity for women to “mainstream” their peace and security perspectives.

A report from Malaita highlighted just how important it was for women to be also equipped with information and assisted in formulating their recommendations as Clera Gore Rikimani the Secretary to Women’s Affairs reiterated the need for greater recognition of UN Security Council resolution 1325 while thanking the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation for including a space for a women’s presentation during the provincial peace summit.

According to Rikimani, addressing the women’s human security needs is critical to enhance women’s development and the strategies should include strategies to *Support families to return to subsistence farming; Address the rising of cost of living of bus fares, unemployment and improved services; Implement decentralized development planning and programmes; Address rising crimes and sure better policing; provide relevant support for young people to cope with peer pressure including through sex education and drug abuse prevention; Care for our environment by highlighting the impact of global warming including rising sea levels; Improve access to Health facilities and medication; Improve community relations by enhancing respect; Through a more enhanced and open communication between national government and local communities as a way to build national confidence*



“Women are key providers of food” (Solomon Islands)

## **Fiji Women, Peace and Human Security: Ba, Labasa, Nadi, Nausori, and Suva**

<p>Health Security</p>	<p>The need to provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, which includes family planning and information services.</p> <p>Of critical concern is the available and affordability of medicines at local hospital pharmacies.</p> <p>Recognize the burden of responsibility borne by women and the linkages with her health.</p>
<p>Economic Security</p>	<p>Growing economic insecurity exacerbated by unemployment within families; Families growing inability to afford nutritious meals</p> <p>Economic insecurity in the family is also linked to domestic violence</p> <p>Access to transportation is a concern in the rural due to the bad road conditions</p> <p>Women are virtually absent from or are poorly represented in economic decision making. There is an urgent need to promote womens economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources.</p> <p>Women need to know what is available and how to access opportunities for self employment (income generating programmes) and the development of small enterprises e.g. bee keeping, cooperatives and how to access financial services</p>
<p>Environmental Security</p>	<p>Even though women bear the burden of having to ensure clean supply of water to their families, especially in rural communities, they are still not included effectively in the design and planning of water management projects.</p> <p>Women must be involved in formal decision making processes relating to disaster management/rehabilitation and be able to voice their concerns about the impact of industrial development on their sources of water and food.</p>

<p>Personal Security</p>	<p>Ensure the personal protection for women and children; protection of women during disasters and floods; a support system to be provided;</p> <p>Educational systems to should promote self respect, mutual respect and cooperation between women and men;</p> <p>Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women</p> <p>Acts or threats of violence, whether occurring within the home or in the community or perpetrated or condoned by the state, instill fear and insecurity in women’s lives and are obstacles to the achievement of equality and for development and peace</p> <p>The need to strengthen institutional mechanisms so that women and girls can report acts of violence against them in a safe and confidential environment,</p> <p>The need to strengthen programmes and procedures to educate and raise awareness of acts of violence against women that constitute a crime and a violation of the human rights of women, e.g more effective implementation of the No Drop Policy</p>
<p>Community Security</p>	<p>Families displaced during the floods need to be supported to adjust to their new circumstances</p> <p>Continued insecurity about access to land issue which is linked closely to livelihoods</p> <p>Need to continue to build relationships between women across the race and faith based barriers</p> <p>Promote the participation of local communities, particularly women’s groups, in the identification of public service needs and the provision and design of infrastructure so that communities feel that they are effectively involved in development planning e.g. Women remain under-informed about the Northern Development Programme and how to access development assistance</p>

<p>Food Security</p>	<p>Greater recognition is needed of women’s leading role in food security matters.</p> <p>It is critical to use their local expertise and knowledge as the basis of their formal involvement in agricultural rehabilitation and broader agricultural sector as well as when addressing household and national food security and food self sufficiency strategies by allocating the necessary financial technical and human resources.</p> <p>Provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase womens incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market based cooperatives.</p>
<p>Political Security</p>	<p>Desire for sustainable peace, better leadership within communities and country</p> <p>Increase women’s access to formal decision making structures including village and district level, especially to ensure women’s perspectives are incorporated into peace and security issues, including security sector governance</p> <p>Recognize and address stereotypical gender roles which perpetuate unequal power relations, including in the context of HIV and AIDS</p> <p>Recognize that the low proportion of women among economic and political decision makers at the local, national, regional and international levels reflects structural and attitudinal barriers that need to be addressed through positive measures</p> <p>Take measures to ensure women’s equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision making; The need to create a system of mentoring for inexperienced women and in particular, offer training, including training in leadership and decision making, public speaking and self assertion.</p>



More than 150 women were interviewed in Lami, Vunicuicui, Bulileka, Korotari, Nausori, Lakena, Bau, Kuku, Toga, Makoi, Waituri, Vutia, Vunimono, Waila, Dilkusha, Lautoka, Ba, Badrau, Tauvegavega, Kerebula in Nadi, Nawaka, Nakavu, Qeleloa, and Navakai have shared their stories.

Location	Women Interviewed	Men Interviewed	Total
Suva	87	21	108
Lami	12	3	15
Nausori	15	6	21
Nadi	39	0	39
Ba	17	1	18
Lautoka	3	0	3
Labasa/Savusavu	25	1	26
TOTAL	198	32	230

Issues range from expiration of land leases, cost of living, education costs, water and transportation, HIV/AIDS and unemployment.

Due to the economic instability within our country and the increasing unemployment, women have now taken over the roles of breadwinners alongside care giving, being a mother, sister, and also being a wife.

The impact of the January flashfloods have clearly also have had an impact on women's peace and security issues. Families suffered the greatest loss including the loss of jobs, their homes, and their sources of income.

Through our stories, however, we have found that women are also resilient!

A member of the Nausori Rural Women's Association noted in the discussions linked to the 2009 Commission of the Status of Women theme: *"Talking about education to your own child sometimes is a struggle/challenge for both mums and dads; there are existing barriers and challenges for even parents to communicate the right information and step up to their responsibility to being about to talk about the ....it is also time for more equal responsibility between men and women"*

*'.. There needs to be more workshops, flyers pamphlets to be distributed to those who are unaware of it and people who can just talk on such topics and don't just get remarks from back people are sitting out there and listening to them. While they are speaking there needs to be someone listening to them.'*

*'...There should be more workshops for people more awareness programmes as well as media should involved like TV and newspaper and to all radio stations there should be a hour programmes just a strictly one hour programmes for listeners to listen and for people to be aware or HIV/AIDS and they should be listening so if they feel shy to listen to people face to face they can at least tune in to the radio for more information and details on HIV...'*

Devina a student from USP...*Devaluation at this time in our country I think when the whole world is faced with recession I think it has both good and negative impact on our country, negative in terms of that the value of our money used, so you know the prices of our basic items have increased people will have to pay more and the things they have to pay for \$1.00 now they have to pay 20 cents or 30 cents more. I think*

*prices of all stuff have increased with our economy not probably not be well and the recession I think people would face a lot of difficulties into providing basic needs for their families and that poverty will increase and there will be more squatter settlement cause people wont be able to pay rent you know and than factories and shops will be closing luckily they will close smaller ones you know wont be able to make profit so it will have a huge impact on people's life and living the Standard of people would be affected and poverty increases than the crime rate will increase you know because there will be no job and there will be very few job, people will try to look for other alternatives like stealing because everyone wants to survive you know wants to have food at the table so crime rate will increase ...*

*... Nasoni settlement in Vunivicui Labasa is still one of the settlements that are still without electricity. The communities still continue to live a life of darkness, with a candles and kerosene lamps as their only source of light during the night. The womens of this community still use charcoal irons and kerosene lamps and stoves, and with the increase of fuel prices, they are finding life very difficult for most of these struggling families...*

Savaira a member of Bulileka Mothers Club and recently attended a new business creation course: *"It was very helpful to me and my family and to the mothers club because everything we do is just using money here and there and this course helps us to on how to use money and time and the other entire thing that we need"*

Adi Vasu Chute: *"This is a bigger challenge in situation such as Vunivicui and Bulileka where the mothers' women's groups are of different denominations and ethnicity. Lessons learned for me is the how I remain neutral and ensure peace approaches are practiced and maintained at all time."*

Sindhu Lata, Waiqele: *"Ladies washing clothes in the creek, I mean in the drains and after that for 5 days they didn't have water in the taps. It was really sad to see the ladies affected so much in the disaster. They are the only one who are looking after the family and running the whole family and suffering the most. I saw them just beside the road the small drain. They were washing their clothes in that drain. That's really bad and the kids were having their bath in the small drain because there was no water in the tap and very less attention is give to those people. Nobody goes to see them what are the problems and just to fix it. It can be done but nobody is there to fix the tap. The ladies are the most affected because they are the ones staying at the house and most of the time they need water to do the things and cook the food for the whole family and keep everything. They are the ones looking for everything so it was really bad to see the ladies sitting beside the road and washing clothes."*

Kiran, a market vendor in Ba: *"We hope to make plenty but we can't do because this time is very hard, this time the people they have no money and selling in cheap, sometime we sell cost to cost and sometimes we lost. It's impossible to earn the money that we need. Last time people were buying as much cause they have money and everything and this time they got money and they can't afford and they can't buy much and then we can't earn much".*





*"My Women, Peace and Human Security ...defined by members of the Nausori Rural Women's Association*

*A pre school teacher in Nadi..."Compared to past years this year we have noticed a lot of changes and the first one, the paying of school fees is very low and at the moment 30 to 35 students are still owing the fees and we are giving them time to cope it slowly and for the type of food children are bringing, we can't just force them to bring healthy food because what ever the parents can find they just providing children for the food..."*

*Sabita Gandhi, Poor Relief Society: "Although extreme poverty generally goes unnoticed in disadvantaged countries like Fiji, there is strong evidence that hardship and hunger not only exist but are increasing because of land tenure issues, inadequate resources (including cash) to meet the basic needs of the household, and/or customary obligations to the extended family, village community and/or the church. Malnutrition is present, with the proportion of underweight children."*

*"My name is Silovate Naivalili, I'm nineteen years old and I'm currently a student in the Femmus hospitality doing food and beverage services. I live at Badrau Yalalevu in Ba. Since my dad is the breadwinner in the family he is the only one working, so there's not enough for the family. So my parents' first priority is to send me for further education in Suva. When I'm in Suva I usually face problems because when he gets his earnings he usually send it to Suva, because he wants me to go for my education so I can help them back and they usually look for what they eat and what to feed the children back at home, because they send the money for the rent. Sometimes I walk to school because I know I have to struggle just as long I reach school. When I get back from school I'm tired and sometimes don't eat and just go off to sleep."*