

PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM: FACTSHEET ON DISABILITY GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- An estimated 1.3 billion people – or 1 in 6 people worldwide or 16% of the global population – experience a significant disability today.¹
- World Report on Disability indicates that the women with disability prevalence rate is 19.2 per cent, whereas it is 12 per cent for men.²
- Around one in five women worldwide is a woman with a disability.³
- In low and middle-income countries, women with disabilities comprise 3/4 of all disabled people in these countries.⁴
- 65-70 per cent of women with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries live in rural areas.⁵
- Girls and young women with disabilities face up to 10 times more gender-based violence than those without disabilities. Girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence.⁶
- Women with disabilities being 2–4 times more likely to experience intimate partner violence than those without disabilities.⁷
- For women with disabilities, gender-based violence is often compounded by disability-based discrimination.⁸
- Women with a disability are often considered weak and are often in isolation which forces them to be in vulnerable situations and therefore face a heightened disability and based violence.⁹
- Women with disabilities face double or multiple forms of discrimination because of their gender and disabling conditions.¹⁰
- Women with disabilities also face unique forms of violence results from the intersectional challenges they face.¹¹
- In the Pacific, UNFPA findings and assessment show that women and young people with disabilities face widespread stigma and discriminatory attitudes relating to SRHR and GBV.¹²
- Women and young people with disabilities living in Fiji face significant barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. They are prevented from fully realizing their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and their rights to legal capacity and to be free of gender-based violence.¹³
- Women and young people with disabilities in Samoa experience a range of restrictions to accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services on an equal basis with others and to realizing their rights to SRH legal capacity, and freedom from violence.¹⁴
- Due to the limited implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the national legal and policy frameworks on gender and disability rights, persons with disabilities living in Vanuatu experience extreme forms of marginalization and significant restrictions to their autonomy and self-determination.¹⁵
- A study in Tonga, Kiribati and Solomon Islands found that violence increased during pregnancy, which puts the health and well-being of both the woman and the fetus in jeopardy. The situation analyses found that women with disabilities require more support when they experience violence and also need support when they seek assistance.¹⁶

¹ or 16% of the global population – experience a significant disability today.

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2021/07/panel-1-violence-against-women-and-girls-disabilities>

³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-girls-with-disabilities>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/10/Making-SDGs-count-for-women-with-disabilities.pdf>

⁵ <https://punarbhava.in/index.php/resources/women-with-disabilities/women-with-disabilities-article-3-and-6>

⁶ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/five-facts-know-about-violence-against-women-and-girls-disabilities>

⁷ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>

⁸ https://add.org.uk/sites/default/files/Gender_Based_Violence_Learning_Paper.pdf

⁹ https://add.org.uk/sites/default/files/Gender_Based_Violence_Learning_Paper.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/women-and-girls-with-disabilities.html>

¹¹ https://add.org.uk/sites/default/files/Gender_Based_Violence_Learning_Paper.pdf

¹² UNFPA (2022), Needs Assessment.

¹³ UNFPA (2022), Needs Assessment.

¹⁴ UNFPA (2022), Needs Assessment.

¹⁵ UNFPA (2022), Needs Assessment.

¹⁶ UNFPA (2013), Study.

