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ADVOCACY & STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Stakeholder Identification and Analysis: Climate Change, Sex Work, Health & Human Rights in Fiji

Public Health Policy Programs

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<i>Organisation level</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Mechanisms of Influence (& direction)</i>
<p><i>International level:</i></p> <p>Multi-lateral Protocol /Policy & Global NGOs & Foreign Governments</p>	<p>UNAIDS</p>	<p>Advocacy – The UNAIDS program has a mission statement of no new HIV infections, they advocate for programs and initiatives which bring them closer to this goal.</p> <p>Policy – The UNAIDS program incorporates 11 UN programs, with a wealth of expertise, they offer advice with the creation of national level policy and support policy makers throughout the policy formation and implementation processes. This policy assistance influences the Fijian government as well as local and community levels by recognising measures required to assist even the smaller</p> <p>Funding – The UNAIDS program incorporates the world bank which has contributed 4.6 billion dollars in finance for the AIDS response. Given the area of influence of the World Bank, and its significant contribution to UNAIDS, the UNAIDS program can leverage this support to influence the Fijian governments response.</p>

		<p>Global Reporting – The UNAIDS program in combination with the UN has the ability to put a spotlight on issues on the global stage, the inferred pressure of the human rights abuses of Fijian sex workers being highlighted on the global stage influenced the Fijian government’s response.</p>
	<p>United Nations’ World Food Programme (WFP)</p>	<p>Provisions – The WFP was able to influence the Fijian governments’ response to Cyclone Winston, with a significant percentage of Fiji’s agricultural crop being destroyed by the cyclone, once the existing food stores were used, Fiji required assistance with provisioning of food, a requirement the WFP is uniquely positioned to provide.</p> <p>Funding – The WFP utilised their financial resources to supplement the Fijian governments’ response efforts, they influenced the Fijian government by agreeing to the supplemental support on the condition that the Fijian government used the existing social security network to support its citizens. Their influence extended to provincial levels ensuring that social security payments went to all affected even in the small villages distanced from the population centres.</p>

		<p>Infrastructure – The WFP was prepared with communication and IT infrastructure for immediate deployment following Cyclone Winston. With existing communication systems decimated, this was urgently required in Fiji due to the approximate 100 inhabited Fijian islands and associated difficulties in restoring services.</p> <p>Knowledge – With vast experience in relief efforts, the WFP has a level of acquired knowledge which proves invaluable in both preparation and recovery from disaster-level events. This knowledge can influence decision makers due to the proven success and level of familiarity which is not held by the Fijian government. Their knowledge extends from national directives through to remote communities, allowing them to influence decisions across all levels.</p> <p>Workforce – Another factor influencing the decision-making following Cyclone Winston was the availability of an expert workforce from the WFP. By offering the services of this workforce, the WFP can influence the areas of recovery by implementing the workforce in pre-determined areas. These areas can be in regional capitals as well as the community level, thus the influence exerted at a national and international level can lead to influence even down to the grass roots level.</p>
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<p>National level 1:</p> <p>Central Government</p> <p>National level 2:</p> <p>Government services & NGOs</p>	<p>Fijian Government –</p> <p>Ministry of Health and</p> <p>Medical Services</p>	<p>Policy – The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services are able to influence the nations response to HIV/AIDS through the issuing of policy directives. Given their position of responsibility in the health space, the national cabinet is influenced in their decision-making processes by the expertise provided. These policies follow a top-down cascading process, where the policy impacts not just the nation as a whole, but provincial and community levels also.</p> <p>Service Provision – The funding and provision of health clinics and medical services which directly relate to or have the capacity to provide relevant care to sex workers has the ability to impact on the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Allowing those who are at risk to be frequently tested serves to reduce the risk of transmission when identified and allows those afflicted to receive adequate care and treatment. Conversely, where these medical services aren't funded or made accessible, sex workers are less likely to be able to seek care and the transmission of HIV/AIDS is more likely to occur unknowingly.</p>
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	<p>Federation of the Red Cross in Fiji</p>	<p>Policy - The Red Cross (RC) in Fiji is a government endorsed NGO in Fiji. Recognised for their volunteer’s preparedness and network’s ability to contribute significantly to disaster response efforts at a national and international level, they have been granted a seat for their Director-General at the Emergency Management System table. They have been given responsibility for enacting their own policies which complement the government’s own policies.</p> <p>Advocacy – The RC has hundreds of volunteer members across 16 branches throughout Fiji, they are able to interact with local and grassroot communities to determine the needs and challenges faced</p>

		<p>by those who may otherwise be without a voice. These voices can then be heard at the governmental level when the RC take part in emergency management planning.</p> <p>Education – The RC’s vast network across Fiji also allows them to provide educational services to provincial areas and at the community level, this influences the Fijian government’s policy as it allows them to implement programs in a far more targeted manner.</p>
<p><i>(Provincial) Local level:</i></p> <p>Local government & Civil Society (NGO)</p>	<p>Police Officers</p>	<p>Intimidation – Police workers have used physical and psychological harassment with Fijian sex workers, impacting on the sex workers ability to access health services and causing them to feel unsafe in the places they conduct their business. The police harassment and attitude towards sex workers has an influential impact across both the grassroots and provincial levels.</p> <p>Law enforcement – Policy directives alter the manner in which police interact with sex workers, immediately after the Crimes Decree, the police were granted additional powers to detain anyone acting in a manner which gave rise to suspicion of sex work, they used</p>

		<p>condoms as proof of a sex workers guilt and thus influenced the decisions sex workers made with regards to their sexual health.</p> <p>Economic deterrence – Responsible for enacting the policy changes regarding first offences, issuing fines of \$500, this led sex workers to changing their standard business practices, which in some instances reduced the time they could negotiate terms with a client, impacting on their ability to advocate for their own welfare and sexual health.</p> <p>Protection – Following the advocacy work of organisations aiming to reduce the HIV/AIDS risk to sex workers and their clients, but prior to the release of the Crimes Decree, police understanding and education enabled sex workers to feel safer with clients and in interactions with the police, potentially reducing the risk of harm to sex workers and influencing their ability to advocate for their own wellbeing. Just as police harassment led to influence across the provincial and grassroots level in regards to discrimination of sex</p>
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		workers, protection has led to the opposite effect, reducing stigmas and decreasing discrimination.
Community level: Grass roots organisations (NGO)	Survival Advocacy Network – Fiji	Advocacy – Advocates for sex workers in Fiji from a community level, seeking to reduce the associated stigma of sex workers at community health clinics through to advocating for policy which protects the rights of sex workers at the national level. Commodities – Provide condoms and lubricating agents free of charge for sex workers in Fiji, allowing them to establish contact and rapport with sex workers at the grassroots and provincial levels and influence their behaviours through the provision of education.

2. With the introduction of the Crimes Decree (2009), Fiji modernised and updated their existing penal code. The new decree, part 13, section 230-233 addressed prostitution. The 2009 crimes decree utilised the existing code predominantly, introducing only a few relevant additions; the inclusion of male and transgender persons in the definition of a prostitute, associating with or supporting sex workers was criminalised, the criminalisation of loitering (previously only soliciting was a criminal offense), increasing the financial penalties for first offences from \$50 to

\$500, and most significantly clients of prostitutes could also be prosecuted for seeking or utilising prostitution service (McMillan & Worth, 2011).

Following the criminalisation of seeking prostitution services, sex workers had to change their modus operandi to avoid detection by authorities. The initial encounters with a potential client were reduced to a minimum, this reduced the capacity of sex workers to advocate for their own safety and set terms which promote their own wellbeing and sexual health. Clients' power increased, with the increased difficulty in acquiring a client due to the additional risk, the sex workers had to agree quickly to terms or risk losing business in an environment in which business was harder to gain (Bingwor, 2012). This led to an increase in unprotected sexual activity, resulting in an increase of STIs and incidences of HIV/AIDS transmission. This increase in client resistance to condom use was compounded through the reduction of organisations providing condoms. Organisations began to fear associating with sex workers due to the criminalisation of association and support for sex workers. The effect of this was twofold, not only did associations fear engaging with sex workers, but sex workers became concerned to associate with known support networks as they risked being identified (Worth, 2021).

It is evident therefore that the crimes decree, intended to bring Fijian penal code into the modern era and increase the capacity of authorities to regulate crime had some unintended consequences regarding the human rights and health of sex workers. The crime decree was notably

stricter on sex work and sought to reduce the incidence of sex work by deterring clients from participating. Thus, authorities' attitude which had evolved previously through the advocacy of support services promoting consideration of the health and wellbeing of sex workers to reduce infectious disease transmission, reverted to one of harassment and renegade policing (Worth, 2021).

3. Following Cyclone Winston, Nigigi was one of the many villages destroyed by the winds and rains and forced to rebuild. The Fijian government introduced a number of policy directives for the rebuilding process, aimed at risk minimisation. Buildings were required to be structurally sound and capable of withstanding a category 5 cyclone. Another government policy stipulated that a number of villages, including Nigigi village, should rebuild dwellings a minimum of 30 metres back from the coastline, whereas prior to the cyclone, the dwellings were predominantly situated on the beaches (Craig, 2021). The area behind the beach at Nigigi village has significant elevation, with the directive for relocation designed to minimise risk of flooding from rising water levels and tidal waves.

This well-intended policy sought to prevent similar destruction in the event of a repeat cyclone event, but nevertheless received a mixed response from the residents of Nigigi village (Worth, 2021). Whilst most of the village appeared to be in favour of retreating into the hills behind the coastline, a former village head reported that even prior to Cyclone Winston, rising water levels had washed away two rows of houses (Worth, 2021).

The policy directing people away from the site of their village did not sit well with all of the villagers however, many of the older residents had a lifetime of their memories on the shores and had formed close relationships and long-standing routines with their neighbours next door (Craig, 2021). With the elevated terrain at the new site for the village, elder residents were unable to have houses as close to each other like it had been previously and additionally had difficulties walking between houses on the steeper terrain. Some of these residents resisted the policy and rebuilt on the coastline, unwilling to leave the site of their ancestral home and preferred to attempt to mitigate the risk themselves.

Education surrounding climate change is not as well dispersed in developing nations, and even less-so in the rural and remote regions of those developing nations (Reddy & Assenza, 2009). The government policy for village relocation relies partly on climate change data to inform its decision-making, however it is difficult for this reasoning to be understood by those unaware of modern industry and the trends in climate and the subsequent impact on water levels for example. Developing nations have a high proportion of its population living in poverty, for those in the coastal villages forced to relocate the land upon which their property was built may have been the only thing belonging to their family remaining after the cyclone destroyed their homes, it is therefore understandably difficult for them to accept the loss of this valued patch of land.

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