

ADDRESSING GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC:

HOW A SMALL PACIFIC ISLAND NATION IS MOVING TOWARDS DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSIVENESS SO THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND



2nd LAWASIA HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

October 9, 2021

Country Overview: Federated States of Micronesia

- The Federated States of Micronesia (“FSM”) is a 607 island nation in the Western Pacific Ocean.
- The nation consists of 4 states from east to west: Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap.
- The population is approximately 116,539.



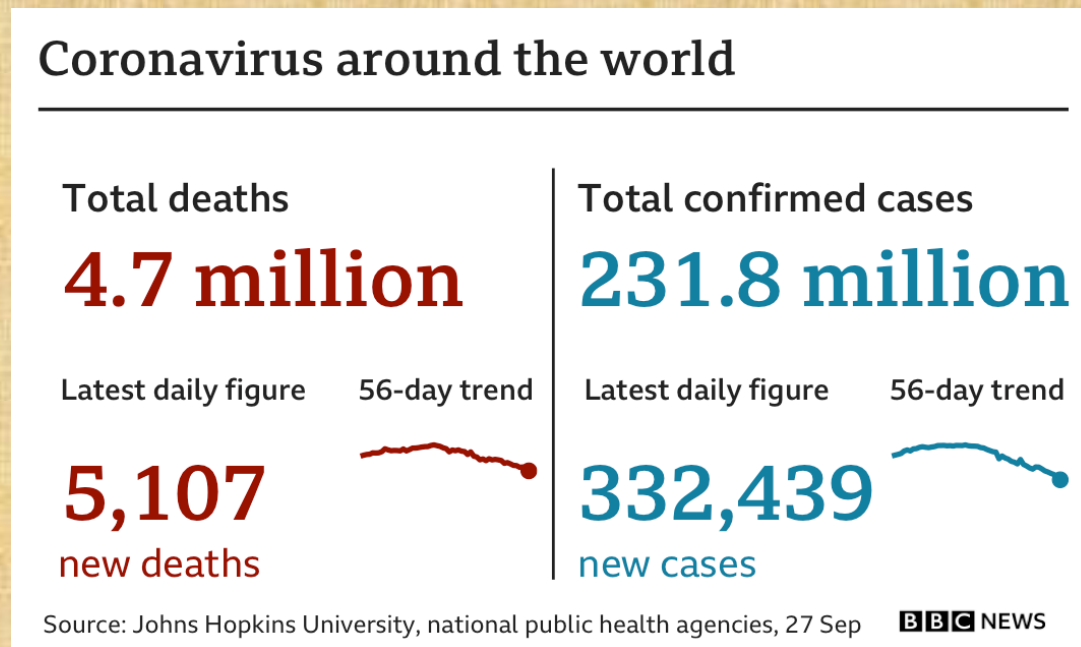
Country Overview: FSM within the context of Oceania

- The FSM is in the Micronesian region and located halfway between Hawaii and the Philippines.
- The Micronesian region is adjacent to other Pacific Island nations in Polynesia and Melanesia.
- These Pacific island nations vary in terms of how they were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and how they responded to the pandemic.



COVID NUMBERS WORLDWIDE VS. FSM as of September 27, 2021

WORLDWIDE STATISTICS



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (“FSM”) STATISTICS

- The Federated States of Micronesia is currently COVID-19 Free

World Health Organization


WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard

Overview Measures Data Table Explore

Latest Yesterday Micronesia (Federated States of) x

Covid-19 Response Fund [Donate](#)

Situation by Region, Country, Territory & Area

Name	Cases - cumulative total ↕	Cases - newly reported in last 24 hours	Deaths - cumulative total	Deaths - newly reported in last 24 hours
Global	233,503,524	354,168	4,777,503	5,812
 Micronesia (Federate...	0	0	0	0

Windows taskbar: Type here to search, 9:12 AM 10/4/2021, 81°F

PICTURED ABOVE: An October 4, 2021 screenshot of the WHO's COVID-19 tables available at: <https://covid19.who.int/table>



WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard

Data last updated: 2021/1/28, 8:31pm CET

Latest Yesterday Micronesia (Federated States of) x x Q [Table Icons] [Eye Icon] [Download Icon]

Situation by Country, Territory & Area

Name	Cases - cumulative total ⇅	Cases - newly reported in last 24 hours	Deaths - cumulative total	Deaths - newly reported in last 24 hours	Transmission Classification
Global	100,455,529	562,001	2,166,440	16,061	
Micronesia (Federated Stat...	0	0	0	0	No cases

Pictured Above: A screenshot of the WHO's COVID-19 tables available at <https://covid19.who.int/table>

MANY NATIONS ARE TRYING TO “BUILD BACK BETTER” TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- **However, any post-pandemic plans to “Build Back Better” should address the following issues:**
 - **Gender Equality**
 - **Human Rights**
 - **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations defines human rights as: “rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status.... Everyone is entitled to these rights without discrimination.”

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights>

UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Adopted: December 10, 1948

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. We are all born free and equal | 16. All may marry and establish families |
| 2. Everyone has rights despite differences | 17. All may own property |
| 3. All have the right to live, and live in safety | 18. All may think freely, including religion |
| 4. No one may enslave you | 19. All may freely express opinions |
| 5. No one may torture you | 20. All may assemble peacefully |
| 6. You have rights no matter where you travel | 21. All may participate in governing |
| 7. All are equal before the law | 22. All have rights to dignity and social protections |
| 8. Human rights are protected by law | 23. All have free choices of employment |
| 9. No one should be unfairly detained | 24. All have rights to rest and leisure |
| 10. All have a right to a fair trial | 25. All have the right to an adequate standard of living |
| 11. All accused are innocent until proven guilty | 26. All have a right to education |
| 12. All have a right to privacy | 27. All have rights to intellectual property |
| 13. All have the right to move freely | 28. All have the right to a world that enables and protects rights |
| 14. All may enjoy asylum from persecution | 29. All rights have responsibilities and can only be limited when infringing on others' rights |
| 15. All have a right to nationality | 30. No one can take away your human rights |

GENDER EQUALITY: WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD WE MAKE IT A PRIORITY?



GENDER EQUALITY

- Gender Equality means that diverse groups of women, men, girls and boys, and gender-diverse people are able to participate and contribute to all spheres of life.
- Gender Equality was made part of international human rights law by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which recognizes that:
 - *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and that “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion,...birth or other status”.*

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY?

- Gender equality helps to provide equal opportunity for all.
- Gender equality helps to reduce poverty.
- Gender equality results in better care for children.
- Gender equality is good for the economy and businesses in the community.
- Gender equality helps to reduce incidences of human trafficking and gender-based violence.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE BOTH REPRESENT EXAMPLES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is defined in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol:

It is defined as "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation".



HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVOLVES THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Human Trafficking involves the exploitation of men, women and children for financial gains which is a violation of fundamental human rights.

- Human Trafficking is otherwise known as “modern day slavery”.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that:

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude

-- While anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, women and girls account for a majority of the victims of trafficking in persons cases.

Gender-Based Violence Violates Human Rights

- Gender-based violence is violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex OR gender identity. It includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life.

(Definition from womenforwomen.org)

- Studies have shown that 66% of Pacific island women experience gender-based violence, and 60% of women have experienced violence from family or romantic partners.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

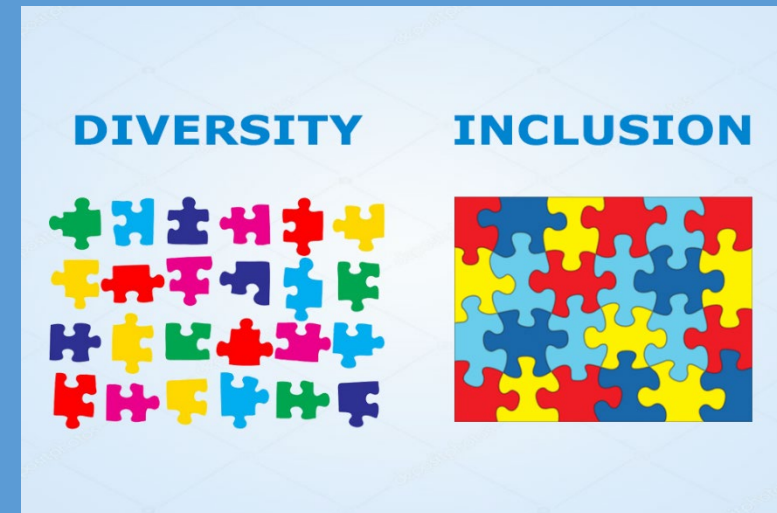
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

(Have people from different backgrounds)



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

(Inclusion means the act of bringing diverse individuals together in a manner that celebrates and values their backgrounds)



It is great to celebrate diversity but we should also be inclusive.

CURRENT GENDER -BASED VIOLENCE AND ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FSM

Type of Program	Target Groups	Types of Activities
Social Protection Program to safeguard citizens against the detrimental economic impact resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic.	Survivors of gender-based violence; and other vulnerable groups including the elderly and disabled.	Grant assistance for gender-based violence hotline; financial assistance for clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence kit, and consultation options for survivors of gender-based violence.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FSM

TYPE OF PROGRAM	TARGET GROUPS	TYPES OF ACTIVITIES
Social Cluster Protection Services Program for vulnerable groups during and post-Covid-19 Pandemic.	Vulnerable populations including women, children, disabled, and victims of GBV/HT.	Identify local service providers and develop referral pathway mechanism for vulnerable populations.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FSM

TYPE OF PROGRAM	TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ACTIVITIES
Anti Human Trafficking Program administered through the Covid-19 Pandemic	Vulnerable Populations (women, children, migrants)and the community at large	Renovation and furnishing of Human Trafficking shelter; Training-of-Trainer Workshop to build local capacity on the topic of human trafficking; HT training and awareness raising programs throughout the FSM

CURRENT PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FSM

TYPE OF PROGRAM	TARGET GROUPS	TYPES OF ACTIVITIES
Infrastructure Project	Project workers; and community members living close to the project sites, especially women and girls who are more likely to be victims of Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking	There will be training programs on gender-based violence and human trafficking for project workers; and community awareness programs on GBV and HT for communities close to the project sites within the four states.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FSM

TYPE OF PROGRAM	TARGET GROUPS	TYPE OF ACTIVITIES (BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM)
Economic empowerment program launched during the pandemic to break stereotypes and raise awareness of gender discrimination.	Women in business, entrepreneurs, NGO's to remove barriers to gender equality in the FSM.	Provided small grants to help women grow their businesses and learn about finances, banking, and advertising.

CONCLUSION

- **We must continue to have ongoing conversations about Gender Equality and Human Rights as we Build Back Better.**
- **Gender Equality helps everyone, not just women.**
- **Human Rights Violations are not an option when we Build Back Better.**
- **When we Build Back Better we must protect and assist vulnerable populations including women, children, disabled, elderly, and underserved populations.**
- **Programs that foster diversity, and inclusiveness are essential when we Build Back Better.**



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