

More than half of **WOMEN IN FIJI** have bank accounts

But lags behind men and other countries

Only 52% of women have formal bank accounts compared to 68% of men. On average 67% of women in other upper middle-middle income countries have bank accounts. These include countries like Jamaica, Jordan, Thailand, Macedonia, Bosnia and Namibia.

Both women and men who earn a salary or wage and who own a business are more likely to have a bank account.



52%

of Fiji women have formal bank accounts

67%

of women in upper middle income countries have bank accounts



Women are more likely to close their bank accounts

14% of women said that they had to close their bank account while 9% of men reported the same. The main reasons for closing a bank account are:

1. Low usage. In Fiji, a bank account is closed after being inactive for 6 months
2. No longer needing one
3. Unwilling or unable to maintain the minimum balance
4. The bank branch was too far away
5. Fees were too high



A third of urban females received remittances in the last year

Women are the principal recipients of remittances. 28% of women receive remittances compared of men (19%). A slightly higher proportion of urban women (30%) receive remittances than their rural counterparts (25%).

Insights into women's financial behavior can deepen financial inclusion

Women want financial products and services that are affordable, can better meet their needs and are close to where they live and work. Developing cheaper and more efficient ways of receiving remittances will benefit women and their households. Use of sex disaggregated data and women-centric design methods can better address the financial needs of women and men.

About the Fiji Financial Services Demand Side Survey

Understanding the needs and challenges that women and men face in their daily financial lives can enable a range of actors to design financial products and payment channels as well as to prepare policies and regulations that support their financial empowerment.

Between 2015 and 2016 financial services demand side surveys (DSS) were conducted in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga to capture such information. These surveys were jointly supported by the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), the Pacific Islands Regional Initiative (PIRI) and the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP). Data gathering were managed by the Central Banks and National Statistics Offices in each country.