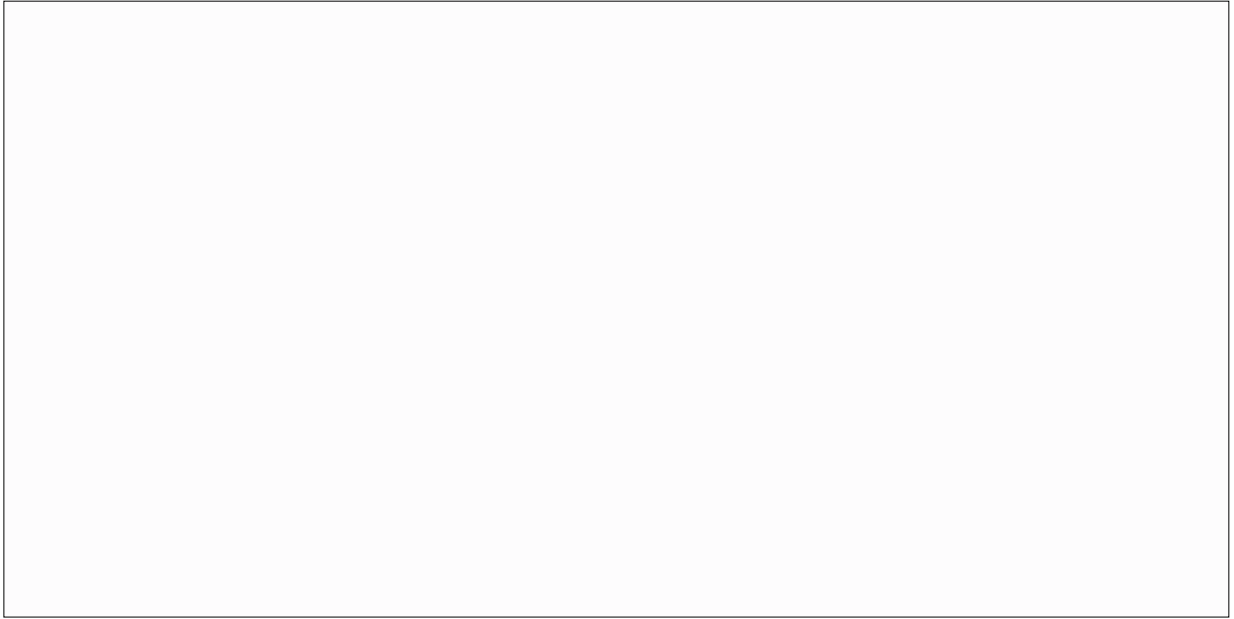


- **Ratio of girls to boys in primary school**
 - *by 2% from 1997 - 2001 and by 10% from 2001 - 2006.*
- **Ratio of girls to boys in secondary school**
 - *by 2% from 1997 - 2001 and remain unchanged in 2006*
- **Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary school**
 - *by 2% from 1997 - 2001 however in 2006, ratio of girls to boys are slightly the same.*
- **Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector**
 - *by 2.0% from 1986 to 1996 and further by 3.5% from 1996 to 2006*
- **3.3) Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament: 1 in 2005, 2 in 2006 and 2007 and 1 in 2008 and 2008 anr**



g) In countries emerging from armed conflict, to what extent were women involved, and gender perspectives and women's concerns included, in peace negotiations and in planning of reconstruction efforts?

N/A

h) How has globalization (for example, the use of ICT, market liberalization, changes in trading patterns, etc.) affected the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality? What efforts are being made to reduce potential risks and to build on opportunities for women?

i) In which sector areas have specific policies, strategies and/or action plans for promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment been developed and implemented? To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women routinely taken into account in legislation, policy-making and programme development in other sectors, so that inequalities and gaps are identified and addressed?

The sector areas of Education, Health, Commerce, Law, Public Service, Police and Statistics have strategies / policies / action plans for the promotion of gender and the empowerment of women. Gender perspectives and the concerns of women are taken into account when it is required and are normally sought from the National Women's Machinery, Women's Organisations or development partners.

j) What types of significant partnerships have been established with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, in support of different aspects of national efforts on gender equality and empowerment of women – through, for example, advocacy, participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes and service delivery?

The NWM is technical advisor to the National Council of Women, Tonga Handicraft Association; and members of the CCM Group which coordinates the development and implementation the HIV/AIDS Strategic Development Plan, as well as different Women NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.

k) What efforts have been made to actively engage men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, including, for example, in eliminating violence against women and combating HIV/AIDS? What successes have been achieved and what constraints have been identified?

Male Advocates and Counselors are part of the staff of the National Centre for Women and Children (NCWC) which is the only crisis centre for women and children, and works for eliminating violence against women and children. The NCWC has a male advocacy programme which mobilizes male representatives from organizations conduct outreach and training programmes for male perpetrators and victims. The Tonga Family Health organization, also has strategies for engaging men and boys in their outreach and training programmes.

l) What is the impact of climate change and food and energy crises on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women? What steps are being taken to reduce the potential risks for and impact on women and to engage women effectively in prevention and mitigation processes? Have social protection measures been put in place to reduce the impact on women and have measures been adopted to support women farmers?

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, strives to counter the food and energy crisis, by conducting trainings on; Food Safety/Food Handling, Food Processing & Value Added; To strengthen roles/involvement by women and youths in improving food and nutrition programmes, groups were identified to assist them on planting handicraft raw materials; promote plantings of traditional plants/tree-crops; nursery production and development. Further assistance for women groups on chicken, ducks, vegetables and sheep rearing, Seed Savings/Seed bank Project; Request Implementation of Livestock Projects on Small-scale basis are in the pipeline. The negative impacts on food production and consumption will increase the need for assistance in designing new financial mechanisms to enhance rural infrastructure needs;

m) What is the impact of the financial crisis on the promotion of gender equality? What measures have been taken to reduce the negative impact on women's access to resources, income and social protection? To what extent have measures to revive growth mobilized women's economic potential?

The current financial and economic crisis is global in its impact on the economy and society, in particular vulnerable groups including women. Areas of impact includes: food security, climate change impacts on agriculture which hinder the progress of financing women related programs and

reduce the flow of remittances which finances the purchase of basic necessities as well as education and some health services.

In previous crisis, remittances have often acted to counter the impact of economic downturns. This is not the case now when both remittances and aid flows are under pressure. Despite expressions of sympathy, developed countries have not been proactive in providing more aid when their own economies are under severe stress and global labour response standards to the economic crisis should be considered to limit the loss of revenue from remittances.

In **Part Two** of the questionnaire, reporting States are encouraged to **provide specific examples of achievements**, including policy development, legislative change, advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-development and programmes and projects which they have undertaken on implementation in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action (except for critical area H which is covered in Part Three), as well as areas requiring further initiative and action

A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

Specific commitments on resource allocation, policy and programme development, is made by Government in the annual budget contribution to the operation and staffing of the NWM, and the Women's Extension in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, and \$2million for NGO projects on community development. The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *facilitate community development by involving district/village communities in meeting their service needs; maintain and develop infrastructure to improve the everyday lives of the people.*

B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

A new allocation of \$1million is allocated by Government's budget for vocational and technical training which will include girls and women. The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *increase performance of Technical Training Vocational Education & Training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure;*

C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *Improve health of the people by minimizing the impact of Non-Communicable Diseases;* Government has also approved to extend the maternity leave for the women from 1 month to 3 months, which will come into effect from January 2010.

D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Since the year 2000, Government in the 2009/10 budget continues to support the only Crisis Centre for Women and Children in Tonga, by meeting the cost of the Office and Safe House. The NWM continues to offer support and chairs the multi sectoral Advisory Board since 2006.

E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Female officers of the Tonga Defence Services can now continue in their services within the army once they are married.

F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Government is committed to strengthening the capacity of women in small to medium enterprises (SMEs) by capacity trainings and training of trainers. It is envisaged that these local trainers would sustain supporting the capacity of SMEs thus increasing the contribution of women to the economy.

G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

In 2006, the first woman Minister was appointed as the Minister for Justice and Attorney General to Cabinet and in 2009, the second woman Minister was appointed as the Minister for Communication and Information. The NWM technically facilitated the National Council of Women in developing a submission for special temporary measures for quotas / reserved seats for women in Parliament. If successful, this will increase the percentage of women at the decision making level.

H. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Government has approved the recruitment of a Country Focal Officer to work on policy and drafting legislation on domestic violence and other Human Rights Instruments and would include working towards the ratification of CEDAW.

I. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Challenges; Overcoming the sense of competitiveness between training institutions / organisations and development partners as providers of resources and trainings on the number of trainings conducted at the national level.

C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

Obstacles; Provision of quality service to all, in the rural areas and outer islands.

Gaps; Appropriate service and efficient resources

Challenges; Ensuring a quality service is provided to patients

D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Obstacles; Cultural mindset that it is a right for men to beat their wives and children and that it happens behind every closed door

Gaps; Appropriate data

Challenges; Politically correct advocacy and outreach for the typical family, to come out and admit the VAW is a crime.

E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Obstacles; Cultural barrier that it is unsafe for women to be in the defence services

Gaps; No armed conflict in Tonga

Challenges; No armed conflict in Tonga

F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

Obstacles; Lack of coordination at the national level on the implementation of poverty development programmes for women

Gaps; Lack of consultation / network with the NWM by development partners, NGOs and Civil Society Organisation

Challenges; Coordinating a comprehensive and holistic approach to the development of projects and implementation of programmes for all stakeholders

G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

Obstacles; The traditional mindset that women's place is in the home is still very strong to look after their husbands and children is still very strong. This is evident when Parliamentary elections are held, women don't vote for women but for men.

Gaps; Training and Education to influence these set mindsets that women can be decision makers.

Challenges; Committing Government and development partners to provide efficient resources to implement such strategies.

H.

I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Obstacles; The perception that human rights do not include women's rights

Gaps; Understanding women's rights, and merging the concept into a non threatening approach

Challenges; Overcoming the perception and mindset that women do not require any other rights because of their high social and cultural status in society

J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Challenges; Acknowledging there are problems regarding the girl child

C. Lessons learned

d) Provide information on the main lessons learned in implementation in relation to each of the critical areas of concern and other key issues identified.

A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

Lessons learned in implementation

- **A must to conduct needs assessment surveys on what are the priority needs of women in the grassroots from women in the grassroots.**
- **Government and NGOS partnerships is critical to success in implementation of programmes**

B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

Lessons learned in implementation

Use of the vernacular language is very critical and contextualizing concepts just as important when conducting training and programmes; use of good practices at the national level and regional level whichever is available.

C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

Lessons learned in implementation

Confidentiality in the provision and conduct of sensitive topics and programmes is important.

D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Lessons learned in implementation

Confidentiality in the provision and conduct of sensitive topics and programmes is important to

I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Lessons learned in implementation

The message is as important as the messenger so important to keep a good relationship with all stakeholders and use leaders / trainers of good reputation to implement the programmes

J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Lessons learned in implementation

A good relationship with the media is crucial for the positive depiction of women and for them to “hear” constructive criticism

K. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Lessons learned in implementation

Partnership with all stakeholders (Government / NGO/Women) to plan and implement strategies to counter climate change and environment crisis

L. THE GIRL CHILD

Lessons learned in implementation

Need collaboration with Government and relevant NGO Stakeholders to maximize and strengthen capacity and outreach in implementing programmes and activities.

e) Provide concrete examples of successful interventions and explain why these were judged to be successful? Describe any effort to replicate these efforts.

A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

Partnerships between the NWM with women NGOs to conduct capacity building trainings for women in the outer islands quite successful. This strategy will continue in the future.

B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

Focusing on including the youth in projects and programmes sustains the programme and ensures the continuation of programmes and activities.

C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

Women's reproductive health programme and immunization for children is one of the best in the region with its wide coverage. This is due to home to home visits to new mothers and for the immunization of infants – children.

D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Partnership between the Ministry of Police, the National Centre for Women and Children, relevant Government Ministries and NGOs have addressed the issue of Violence Against Women as a national issue with the involvement of these proactive organizations. It has brought the issue to the forefront and is now considered as no longer an issue not to be discussed in public.

E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

N/A

F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

Revival of women in business has come about due to the involvement of young stakeholders, proving that there needs to be sustainability and succession plans for programmes to increase women's participation in the economy.

G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

The NWM technically facilitating a submission from the National Council of Women, to the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee for quotas / reserved seats for women. Even though the results have not come through, the collaborative effort and support of leaders of women's groups was tremendous. Successful was ensuring a wide sectoral consultation of women.

H.

I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Involving, training women in Human Rights organizations on gender perspectives and the rights of women. Successful interventions as these women can work from inside the organizations to push the human rights of women. Training and advocating the spouses of influential and leaders is another successful intervention on this.

J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Keeping a good relationship and the news flowing to the media would ensure women's issues (negative or positive) are reflected in the media.

K. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

When the woman in the home is ready for environmental and climate change crisis, the family survives This was recognized by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to involve women stakeholders in development plans, and strategies to prepare for climate change and environment crisis.

L. THE GIRL CHILD

Engage young women / girl child in work on addressing, counseling for the girl child. It will create a conducive environment for the support and assistance that the Girl Child requires.

Part Three focuses on institutional development or those structures and measures countries have put in place to support promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. It covers the critical area of concern H in the Platform for Action: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, and chapters V on Institutional Arrangements and VI on Financial Arrangements, as well as actions identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Information on national machineries, capacity-building programmes for line ministries, resource allocation, statistics and indicators, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and partnerships should be described in this section. Responses to Part Three of the questionnaire should be four pages in length.

Part Three: Institutional development (4 Pages)

(v) increase performance of Technical Training Vocational Education & Training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure;

(vi) Improve health of the people by minimizing the impact of Non-Communicable Diseases; and

(vii) Integrate environmental sustainability

c) Give examples of measures (with targets and timeframes) which will be taken in each of these areas.

The timeframe for implementation will be from 2009 – 2011 of the above National Strategic Development Plan.

d) Outline explicit new commitments that will be made to accelerate implementation.

Areas on;

WOMEN AND POVERTY

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THE GIRL CHILD