

QUESTIONNAIRE TO GOVERNMENTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM OF ACTION

Critical Areas of Concern	Examples of successful policies, programs and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)	Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	Commitment to further actions/new initiatives	Other
I. Women and poverty	The Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) tackled this in a holistic way, combining Poverty, Economic Empowerment, Education & Training, Health & Decision-making & came up with the Project on Micro-finance Scheme based on the Grameen Bank Model.	Apart from shortage of staff and finance, it is hard to teach adults to read & write. To take them away from living for only today, to plan for tomorrow and to save To help them make a change in their lives, their families and way of thinking & living.	1. To establish a bank for the disadvantaged people, and expand scheme to rural areas. 2. First center in Rural Area to be set up in May 1999	Financial & technical assistant from donor agencies Budgetary Support from Government

	<p>It is funded by the UNDP and began in November 1996, with the first loan given out in February 1997. As of March 31 1999 we have 10 active centers in 6 areas, with 226 members, who started with zero balance in the bank. Now they have a savings of about \$US10,000.</p>	<p>No budgetary allocation for training from central government</p>	<p>3. New initiative... marketing of handicraft to other countries of the region.</p>	
<p>II. Education and training of women</p>	<p>The Vanwool project incorporates education & training of women in literacy, business, environment, etc.</p> <p>The Government, through the INTV and with assistance from AUSAID has a program that grants scholarships to girls in non-traditional areas such as electrician, carpentry, plumbing & so forth.</p>	<p>Customs & traditions that predetermine the role of the sexes.</p> <p>Attitudes of parents toward females, encouragement, funding of fees, more household responsibilities for girls.</p> <p>Not enough schools.</p>	<p>The CRP (Comprehensive Reform Program) calls for equity and equality in all areas.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education is embarking on a new Master that should take into account some of these issues raised</p>	

	<p>Some donor agencies now insist on equity & equality in allocation of scholarships & it is help in promoting and educating women.</p>	<p>Insufficient accommodation for girls in high schools and lack of opportunities in other areas.</p> <p>Teenage pregnancies that prevent a girl to progress further.</p>	<p>The DWA, VNCW & VWC continue their awareness programs in various areas of concerns in human rights, violence against women, literacy, business, etc.</p>	
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<p>III. Women and health</p>	<p>The Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) an NGO works on reproductive health, family planning, counselling of parents, workshops in the rural areas.</p> <p>A Nutrition Fance is attached to the main hospital in Vila and Noosup to deal with children who are malnourished; helping mothers to prepare balanced meal. The team visits throughout the islands.</p> <p>The DWA through the Vanuatu project includes family health</p>	<p>Very little support from Government to VFHA through DWA.</p> <p>Fully funded by Aid Donors.</p> <p>Human & Financial resource constraints</p> <p>Not enough doctors in the hospitals and none in the clinics and dispensaries.</p> <p>Not enough drugs.</p> <p>Not enough beds in the hospital so many mothers sleep on the floor when they deliver their babies.</p> <p>Increase of teenage pregnancies</p> <p>Increase in STD</p>	<p>Training of Health Workers throughout the islands, including men.</p> <p>Introduction of Pupspear</p> <p>The VFHA, and women's groups as well as the main health department are concentrating more on preventative health.</p> <p>Awareness on prevention of HIV/AIDS</p>	
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<p>IV. Violence against Women</p>	<p>Domestic Violence is become a problem. In 1992, the Vanuatu Women's Center (VWC) was set up. It is fully funded by AUSAID through IWDA.</p> <p>The VWC does crisis counseling, community education, Advocacy & Law Reform.</p> <p>A counseling Center is set up in Santo to deal with women's issues on domestic violence in the northern islands.</p> <p>The Regional Rights Team is now set up in Vila to assist in</p>	<p>Because of the traditional bride price system, men think women are part of their properties and treat women as such.</p> <p>Some religious teachings seem to perpetuate these beliefs.</p> <p>No financial support from Government to VWC apart from a very small grant.</p>	<p>A sub-center will set up in Tafea.</p> <p>A draft Bill on Domestic Violence to be tabled in 1999.</p>	<p>Van Smol Bag Theatre group too helps in this</p> <p>The Van Theatre group assists in providing women in rural areas with dramatizations to aid in the learning of new concepts rather than literature</p>

<p>V. Women and armed Conflict</p>	<p>promoting education in human rights.</p> <p>The DWA assisted in these programs.</p> <p>Lobbying by various women's groups has resulted in the Government ratifying CEDAW without reservation in March 1995.</p>	<p>The DWA & the women of Vanuatu support the Peacekeeping Mission in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. We have sent a second civilian community worker with the Police Contingent on a six months mission.</p>	<p>Funding is the major constraint.</p> <p>Materials and equipment to work with and gaining the confidence of the local community.</p> <p>Things we take for granted like soap, medicines, and so forth need to be carefully used.</p>	<p>Vanuatu women volunteers are ready for the next contingent in May 1999.</p>	<p>Vanuatu women continue to work for equality, development and peace in the world.</p>
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<p>VI. Women and the Economy</p>	<p>The DWA began a program based on the Gramscian model in February 1997, targeting some 3000 households in the suburban areas of Port Vila.</p>	<p>226 households have been reached as of April 15 1999. Illiteracy is one of the major problems. The demand is there but Not enough funds A lesson learnt is that the poor are indeed credit worthy.</p>	<p>A project is underway for handi-craft marketing for women in the rural areas. Funds to publish a training manual</p>	<p>Assistance required in quality control & marketing training Market research</p>
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<p>VII. Women in power Decision-making</p>	<p>A major component of the Vanuods is in leadership & decision making, in terms of group members, types of business, etc.</p> <p>In the Government, 2 directors, 2 assistant directors, 1 Ombudsman, 1 Auditor General, a Public Prosecutor, Chief Registrar of Court.</p> <p>Vanuatu Women in Politics (VANWIP) has been set up to assist women who want to contest elections. It is done by volunteers & very ad hoc.</p>	<p>No Parliamentarian</p> <p>No Political Secretary & no Director General</p> <p>Many qualified women, but political parties do not accept them.</p>	<p>VANWIP continues</p> <p>But requires finance & human resources</p>	<p>Women have tried in two general elections to stand as independent candidates but have failed</p>
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<p>VIII. Institutional Mechanisms For the advancement of women</p>	<p>The DWA re-organize its structure. A gender planner will be recruited soon. The VNCW is in the process of re-organization as well.</p>	<p>The DWA as a department on its own has some advantages. The major problem is one DG for all departments is creating bottlenecks. With the CRP, reduction of staff, budget decrease is affecting us.</p>	<p>The DWA to concentrate on policy and a ll program implementation to be done by VNCW.</p>	<p>With the CRP 'right-sizing'. It has an adverse effect on us.</p>
<p>IX. Human rights Of women</p>	<p>The VWC does workshops and seminars The RRRT does awareness programs also.</p>	<p>Customs & Tradition prevails. Not many people know about human rights of women. People, especially men, do not attend meetings & workshops to learn</p>	<p>A weekly radio program on issues of domestic violence and women's rights.</p>	

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<p>X. Women and The media</p>	<p>The two local papers have granted space for women</p> <p>Two radio programs a week on general topics and on Violence Against Women & related issues.</p> <p>VNCW has a monthly paper reporting on women's issues.</p> <p>Logging has stopped.</p>	<p>Funds to pay for air time</p> <p>Gender sensitized journalist</p>		
<p>XI. Women and The environment</p>		<p>Men above make decisions that affect all. E.g. damaged waterholes, women have further to walk to get water, firewood, make gardens.</p>	<p>To get women into the decision making of development projects.</p>	

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XII. The girl Child	Incest, Teenage Pregnancies is what the VWC and the VFHA are dealing with.	Girls under 15 would not name the father of the child nor report him. No social security to help the young mother.	With support from the Rotary Club of New Zealand, we start programs for girls on confidence building, home management, sewing, cooking, & information on opportunities that are available.	