



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

Beijing + 20

Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in SAMOA



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1. CONTEXT



Figure 1 – Map of Samoa – Source: University of Texas Libraries

SUMMARY OF MAIN INDICATORS

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
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Total enumeration population (November 7, 2011)	187,820	96,990	90,830
• <i>Percentage of males and females</i>		52	48
• <i>Sex ratio (number of males per 100 females)</i>	107		
• <i>Growth rate (%) of total population, 2006–2011</i>	0.4		
• <i>Population density (number of people/km²)</i>	67		
• <i>Median age</i>	20.7		
• <i>Total population 0–14</i>	71,890	37,349	34,541
• <i>Percentage of 0–14 over total population</i>	38.3	38.5	38.0
• <i>Total population 15–64</i>	106,615	55,523	51,092
• <i>Total population 65+</i>	9,285	4,094	5,191
• <i>Age dependency ratio</i>	76		
• <i>Urban population (Apia Urban Area region)</i>	36,735	18,485	18,250
• <i>Percentage of urban population</i>	19.6		
• <i>Rural population</i>	151,085	78,505	72,580
Households			
• <i>Number of private households(head of household)</i>	26,205	20,809	5,396
• <i>Number of people living in private households</i>	186,889	96,449	90,440
• <i>Average household size</i>	7		
• <i>Number of institutions & non-inhabitable units</i>	29		
• <i>Number of people living in institutions & non-inhabitable</i>	931	541	390
Fertility			
• <i>Number of newborns(12 months prior to the census date)</i>	5703	3055	2648
• <i>Crude birth rate/1000</i>	30.4		
• <i>Total fertility rate/1000 (average number of children/woman)</i>	4.7		
• <i>Teenage fertility rate/1000 (children/teenage mother 15–19)</i>	39		
• <i>Mean age at childbearing</i>	28		
• <i>Average age at first marriage (SMAM)</i>	24	24	28
Mortality			
• <i>Number of newborn died (12 months prior to the census date)</i>	89	52	37
• <i>Infant mortality rate/1000</i>	15.6	17.0	14.0
• <i>Under five mortality/1000</i>	19.4	20.6	18.0

• <i>Average life expectancy at birth</i>	<i>74.2</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>75.6</i>
Population with disabilities			
• <i>Total number of persons living with disabilities</i>	<i>4061</i>	<i>2182</i>	<i>1879</i>
• <i>Percentage over total population and total disabilities</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>46</i>
• <i>Number of disabled persons 0–14</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>205</i>
• <i>Number of disabled persons 15–24</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>181</i>
• <i>Number of disabled persons 15–64</i>	<i>2136</i>	<i>1211</i>	<i>925</i>
• <i>Number of disabled persons 65+</i>	<i>1380</i>	<i>631</i>	<i>749</i>
Church population (aged 5+)	160,961	83,013	77,948
• <i>Percentage of EFKS</i>	<i>31.8</i>		
• <i>Percentage of Roman Catholic</i>	<i>19.4</i>		
• <i>Percentage of Latter Day Saints</i>	<i>15.1</i>		
• <i>Percentage of Methodist</i>	<i>13.7</i>		
• <i>Percentage of Assembly of God</i>	<i>8.0</i>		
• <i>Percentage of Seven Days Adventists</i>	<i>3.9</i>		
• <i>All other churches</i>	<i>7.8</i>		
Education			
• <i>Total children aged 6–14 years old</i>	<i>40,076</i>	<i>20,821</i>	<i>19,255</i>
• <i>Percentage aged 6–14 attending school</i>	<i>96.2</i>	<i>95.6</i>	<i>97.0</i>
• <i>Primary enrolment ratio (number of boys/100 girls)</i>	<i>108</i>		
• <i>Secondary enrolment ratio (number of boys /100 girls)</i>	<i>92</i>		
• <i>Percentage of total educational level attained (primary)</i>	<i>39</i>		
• <i>Percentage of total educational level attained (secondary)</i>	<i>46</i>		
• <i>Percentage of total educational level attained (tertiary)</i>	<i>11</i>		
• <i>Percentage of total educational level attained (never)</i>	<i>2</i>		
• <i>Percentage of population 15+ with post-secondary certificates</i>	<i>6</i>		
• <i>Percentage of population 15+ with diploma</i>	<i>4</i>		
• <i>Percentage of population 15+ with first degree or higher</i>	<i>3</i>		

• <i>Literacy rate for persons aged 15–24</i>	<i>97.9</i>	<i>97.2</i>	<i>98.7</i>
Economically active population (aged 15+)	47,881	34,763	13,118
• <i>Employed population</i>	<i>45,161</i>	<i>32,939</i>	<i>12,222</i>
• <i>Number employed in subsistence (agriculture, farming, fishing)</i>	<i>16,085</i>	<i>15,154</i>	<i>931</i>
• <i>Percentage of employed in subsistence work</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>46.0</i>	<i>7.6</i>
• <i>Number employed in non-subsistence work</i>	<i>29,076</i>	<i>17,785</i>	<i>11,291</i>
• <i>Unemployed population</i>	<i>2720</i>	<i>1824</i>	<i>896</i>
• <i>Percentage of unemployed population</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>6.8</i>
Not-economically active population (aged 15+)	67,990	24,836	43,154
• <i>Percentage engaged in domestic duties</i>	<i>71.4</i>		
• <i>Percentage engaged in attending school</i>	<i>23.0</i>		
• <i>Percentage not capable of working</i>	<i>5.6</i>		

Table 1 – Census 2011 – Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Samoa shares with its Pacific island neighbors a vulnerability to natural and economic shocks, as well as challenges of social transformation. Over the past several decades Samoa has weathered these storms, progressively strengthening essential service delivery while improving the wellbeing of those facing the greatest hardship. At the Millennium, Samoa was poised to move beyond Least Developed Country (LDC) status. The United Nations (UN) recommended that Samoa move to developing country status in 2003, and the island nation was to officially graduate in 2011. However, on 29 September 2009 a tsunami swept over the nation's coastal regions, killing 143 people, destroying infrastructure and devastating the nation's vital tourism industry. Losses were estimated at US\$106 million, equal to 17 per cent of annual gross domestic product (GDP). It was the worst natural disaster to hit Samoa since gaining Independence in 1962.

The 2009 tsunami and its effects indicate just how extremely vulnerable Samoa remains to natural disaster and other external shocks. This vulnerability is compounded by substantial structural economic challenges and the social stresses of transitioning to a modern economy. Samoa has a small, open economy driven by agriculture, fisheries, tourism, remittances and, increasingly, the service sector. Subsistence agriculture and fishing are integral to Samoan livelihoods with more than two-thirds of households engaged in these activities. Understanding the external threats, economic constraints and social challenges facing Samoa today is critical for identifying the most vulnerable groups and analyzing and strengthening the country's social protection systems. Samoa differs from other PICs in that its population is concentrated on only two islands that have relatively developed road and communications infrastructure.

Samoa traditional systems have remained relatively strong. The customary ways of doing things—fa'a Samoa—encapsulates practices, institutions, hierarchies, kinship systems and

social protection.¹ Fa'a is the major network for socioeconomic sustenance of relatives and maintenance of cultural identity.² Vaai (2007) cites Samoan traditional social systems as providing a socially and politically stable environment conducive for economic growth. The extended family system is the most important contribution to social protection, which is so central to the country's social structure and way of life.

In 2011, the National Development Strategy SDS (2008–2012) was reviewed, and findings made available to and contributed to the discussions in the development of the current SDS (2012–2016). The final product was a result of country wide consultations involving focus groups, faith based organizations, private sector, civil society, parliamentarians and the general public.

The current Priorities of the Government as outlined in the current SDS are:

- Strengthening institutional and regulatory standards for macro economic growth and stability;
- Ensuring continued fiscal discipline and sound financial management;
- Generating private sector led investment and employment opportunities;
- Increasing agriculture contribution to development, in particular opportunities in niche markets;
- Improving access to technical and vocational training opportunities;
- Improving quality of education, and strengthening health promotion and primordial prevention; and
- Integrating environmental sustainability, climatic resilience and disaster risk reduction at all levels of development

2. OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

2.1 Policies and mechanisms for gender equality

A national Mechanism is in place and related National Women's Policy and Action Plan. The Division for Women of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development represents the focal point for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The National Women's Policy for Women of Samoa 2010 –2015³ represents a significant milestone. However, the NWM is still significantly marginalized in terms of resources and technical capacity.

¹ Traditional Social protection Systems in the Pacific – culture, customs and safety nets (2005:34)

² Vaai (2007:2)

³ See Annexure for full copy of Policy and related Action Plan

The policy looks at ensuring all women and girls have equal access to, and benefit from the utilization of opportunities to secure their full participation, in the sustainable development of Samoa towards achieving an improved quality of life. The Policy consists of five (5) policy outcomes to develop and enhance the capacity of women in Sāmoa.

These policy outcomes seek to address the following and immediate long term issues:

- Generate responsive institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women by carrying out necessary research and capacity building for Government officials on gender mainstreaming; strengthening data collection focusing on gender disaggregated data to inform strategic policy development for women;
- Reduce violence against women through the review and development of relevant legislation; strengthening interagency collaboration and response systems; promote and achieve zero tolerance for domestic violence and provision of services for victims of abuse;
- Provide better health for women both at the national and community level in particular facilitating and supporting village based health promotion programs to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases; improve coordinated responses to increasing breast and cervical cancer; reduce substance reliance or abuse and strengthen efforts in implementing and monitoring Aiga ma Nu'u Manuia program;
- Promote and provide sustainable economic development for women by fostering and stimulating small businesses; identifying opportunities with relevant sectors to gain access to market products developed by women in the small business sector; stimulate research and development in small business technologies; and
- Increase participation of women in public life and decision making by fostering and strengthening an enabling environment to promote women's role in leadership and decision making, strengthen efforts for the removal of obstacles to female participation in politics; promote women to decision making roles across senior management workforce sector, the church and on issues affecting their villages, families and households.

There have also been a number of achievements across the legislative framework to develop further the National Mechanisms. To date, the Government of Sāmoa in its efforts towards gender equality have progressed amendments or reforms which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Constitutional Amendment for Women in Parliament i.e. the 10% Quota;
- Gender neutral language in all legislations;
- Broadening the definition of rape to include rape in all orifices, by any object and by any person (Crimes Act 2013);
- Making available restraining orders for victims of domestic violence irrespective of marital status (Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act 2012);

- Abolishing archaic means of obtaining divorce (Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act 2012);
- Enacting the *Family Safety Act 2013*⁴ which outlines the procedure to apply for protection orders in the case of domestic violence. Section 15 specifically outlines the duties of police officers, namely that they must provide assistance as soon as possible and must not discriminate against applicants on the basis of sex, race, other status, etc; and
- Enacting of the *Labor and Employment Relations Act 2013*⁵
 - Includes provisions in Section 40 (1) and Section 42 (1) for 10 days paid for both Annual and Sick Leave.
 - In addition, male employees are entitled to paternity leave of 5 days as highlighted in Section 46 (1),
 - Section 44 (A) employers' provision of maternity leave for 6 weeks with 4 weeks of full pay.
 - The women in the Public Sector are protected under the Public Service Act 2004. These developments promote women's equal access to employment and decent work, ensure enjoy equal treatment in the work place, as well as equal pay for equal work and equal access to power and decision making.
 - The drafting of the *Child Care and Protection Bill 2013* which is in its final consultation phases before the parliamentary process and final enactment.

2.2 CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or CEDAW ('the Convention') was ratified by Samoa in 1992. In Samoa, the Convention is administered by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development ('MWCSO'). Over the years, the Ministry has undertaken various community and outreach programs, implemented awareness campaigns and educational courses with the overall aim of educating women of Sāmoa about their respective rights, responsibilities and obligations under the Convention. The CEDAW Partnership continues to be critical champions in the work and monitoring of Samoa's commitments and obligations. The United Nations considered in its fifty-second session, 19 July 2012, Samoa's most recent 4th and 5th Periodic reports under Article 18 of the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. A Samoa NGO Shadow Report was also compiled and submitted.

Currently a comprehensive CEDAW Issues paper is being led by the Samoa Law Reform Commission. This is a very encouraging undertaking. The Sāmoa Law Reform Commission ('the Commission') received a reference from the Attorney General to:

⁴ See Annexure for Act in full

⁵ See Annexure for Act in Full

- review the level of compliance on all legislation relevant to the articles of the Convention; and
- identify additional compliance issues with articles of the Convention that have been implemented or not through domestic legislation in Sāmoa.

The mandate of the Commission in reviewing and reforming legislation in Sāmoa is guided by three principles which are:

- to promote Sāmoan custom and traditions;
- to enhance the social, cultural, economic and commercial development of Sāmoa; and
- to ensure that the laws of Sāmoa are kept in a modern state which meets the needs of Government and the community.⁶

The purpose of reviewing national legislation for compliance with the Convention is to identify whether there has indeed been any progress by legislative means in relation to implementing the Convention. The review will also highlight pressing issues relating to the welfare of women in Sāmoa and measures taken to address them.

The Government's effort towards fulfilling its Millennium Development Goals has also raised the need for the Commission to review the legislative compliance to CEDAW.

2.3 MDG's

The enactment of legislation as mentioned has strengthened Samoa's approach to MDG Goal 3. Measures to implement MDG goals have assisted greatly in advancing a number of critical areas of key concern in the Beijing Platform for Action. The 2012 Pacific Regional Tracking Report documents Samoa as achieving gender parity at all levels of education with girls out performing their male counterparts at all levels of education. This gender gap is something the Government of Samoa has recognized as priority area deserving of targeted attention. In terms of empowerment indicators, women employment in the non-agriculture sector has increased over the years. Samoa is also in the process of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which supports the rights of persons with disabilities and subsequently meet gender equality measures under MDG Goal 3.

In line with Samoa's Constitutional Amendment Act 2013, a Women's Matai and Leadership Survey was implemented as a yardstick to facilitate women's empowerment via political representation.

Samoa is also in the process of finalizing the One Gender Program in collaboration with AUSAID. This is a five year initiative which will drive gender equality programs at all levels of society.

⁶ Law Reform Commission Act 2008 (Samoa) s4

This is further amplified by the Transformational Leadership Program which is envisaged to bring about change in the context of responses on pertinent issues such as eliminating violence against women and promoting women's participation in the political arena.

Samoa remains steadfast that recent advancements made in this concerned area are positive steps made by Government and its private and non Government counterparts. However, challenges continue to impede the full realization of service accessibility and delivery. This is in terms of attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of people which allow such behavior to occur. The limited resources and budget constraints are other factors that continue to be a challenge in meeting Samoa's obligations under this goal.

2.4 United Nations Development Report 2013

Samoa's HDI value for 2012 is 0.702—in the medium human development category—positioning the country at 96 out of 187 countries and territories. The rank is shared with Belize, Dominican Republic and Fiji. Between 2000 and 2012, Samoa's HDI value increased from 0.663 to 0.702, an increase of 6 percent or average annual increase of about 0.5 percent.

In the 2011 HDR, Samoa was ranked 99 out of 187 countries. However, as the 2013 HDR documents, it is misleading to compare values and rankings with those of previously published reports, because the underlying data and methods have changed.

Between 1980 and 2012, Samoa's life expectancy at birth increased by 12.8 years and expected years of schooling increased by 0.1 years. Mean years of schooling was estimated by the cross-country regression. Samoa's GNI per capita increased by about 38 percent between 1985 and 2012. Samoa's 2012 HDI of 0.702 is above the average of 0.64 for countries in the medium human development group and above the average of 0.683 for countries in East Asia and the Pacific. This is reassuring but Samoa still has challenges in terms of measuring Gender Inequality.

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent fertility rates; empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by each gender and attainment at secondary and higher education by each gender; and economic activity is measured by the labor market participation rate for each gender. Due to the lack of data, the Gender Inequality Index for Samoa was not able to be conducted and/or measured. This therefore presents as challenge for the advancement and empowerment of women and was duly noted in the survey as one of a number challenges. A proposed Gender Program with support from AUSAID DFAT and the SPC & Government of Samoa Gender Stock take intends to strengthen Gender mainstreaming processes across the

Public Service in terms of a standardized collection of sex disaggregated data, including the establishment of a set of core minimum of Gender Indicators for Samoa in the relevant areas.

The other identified challenges are in the area of:

- Food, fuel and Finance Crises
- Budget Constraints
- Gender mainstreaming
- Gender Based Violence
- Sector gender specific data
- Gender responsive budgeting

2.5 World Bank Indicators Development Report

In 2011 according to the World Bank and CPIA gender equality rating (1=low to 6=high) Samoa measured at 3.50. Gender equality assesses the extent to which the country has installed institutions and programs to enforce laws and policies that promote equal access for men and women in education, health, the economy, and protection under law.

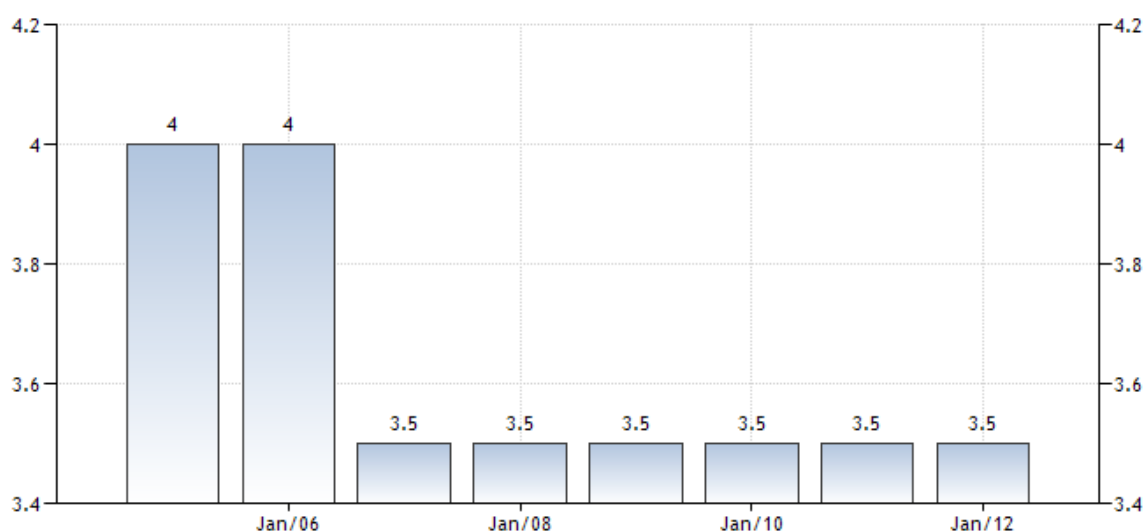
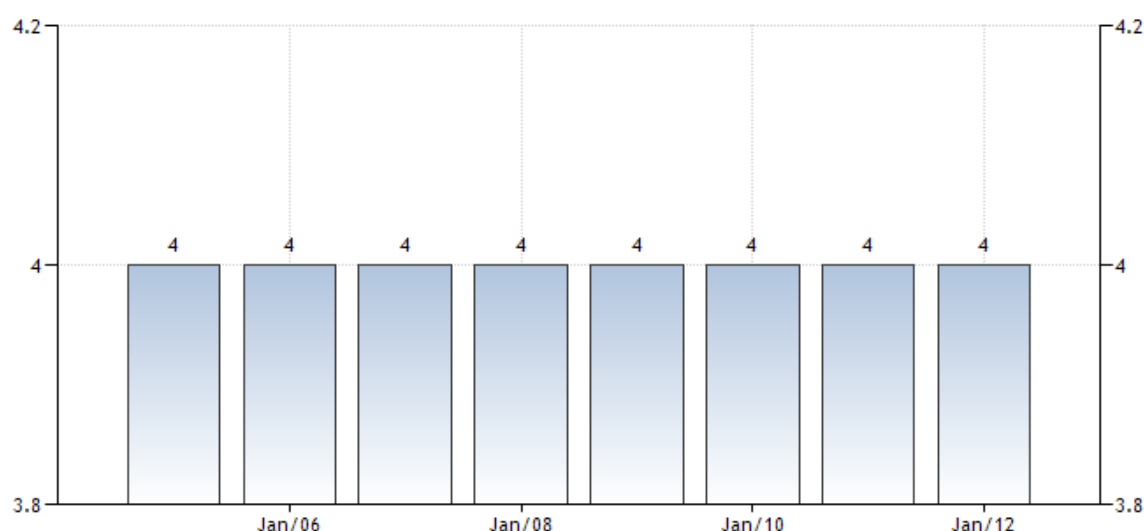


Table 2: CPIA Gender Equality rating 2005–Jan 2012

In terms of building human resources, again in 2011, the World Bank reported a measurement of 4. Building human resources assesses the national policies and public and private sector service delivery that affect the access to and quality of health and education services, including prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.



2.6 Budget

Samoa is no exception to virtually all other PIC's with limited evidence that gender perspectives and the concerns of women are taken into account in the preparation of budgets at the national level. However the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development does have a number of gender development programme outputs in its budget format. Also encouraging looking ahead, the Cabinet Development Committee has introduced gender analysis as a requirement for any aid project proposal, which represents a positive step in enhancing the role of gender development policies in the Government's resource allocation decisions. Current allocation to the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, as lead and mandated Ministry and focal point for National Machinery for Women is 2 % of Government expenditure. The table completed for the survey is reported again below.

a) the amount of Government funding received:	10.2million WST	current
b) the percentage of the national budget allocation:	2%	current
c) whether the overall funding level has increased or decreased since 2010:	Decreased with exception post tsunami year	current
d) the number of full-time staff positions:	91	current

Table 4 – Resources available to Samoa's national machinery for the advancement of women for the current financial year (i.e. 2013–2014)

Donor Partners are often meeting the main part of the budgets for substantive work on gender equality. Perhaps, like other Pacific Island Countries, likely key obstacles to gender responsive budgeting are a lack of understanding of the annual budget process and lack of capacity to influence it. Combine this with relatively few databases that record basic sex disaggregation of outputs, let alone detailed gender analyses.

2.7 Role of Partnerships

Samoa has effective aid management/development partner arrangements, which are considered by many to be the most developed in the Pacific. The Government has also established consultative arrangements with the private sector, civil society and Parliamentarians which help to ensure participation of the broader community in discussions on the National Development Strategy. In relation to the country's national machinery for the advancement of women, critical partnerships, engagements and forum are well established.

At the highest level there is the Cabinet Development Committee. The other critical enablers are the:

- Women's Advisory Committee (WAC)
- CEDAW Partnership Committee
- Sector Steering Committees
- Sector Secretariats
- Donor Roundtables

In terms of partnership with Civil Society and NGO's, there is regular engagement across:

- Communities through the Division of Internal Affairs (MWCSO)
- National Government Women Representatives
- Samoa Umbrella of Non Government Organizations
- Samoa National Youth Council
- Samoa National Council of Churches

The Government has established a multi-donor civil society facility to support Community identified priorities as well as a private sector support facility. UNDP support for Parliamentary strengthening is expected to enhance Government accountability. The development and implementation of Samoa's Aid Policy in 2010 has gone a long way in meeting commitments for mutual, as well as domestic accountability.

3. *PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN FOR THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION*

3.1 Women in Poverty

Traditional Samoan society embraces caring for, and sharing with, the extended family. As a result, there has been a strong belief that poverty could not and should not be a part of normal life. The suggestion therefore, that there might be poverty in some form was not readily accepted, until more recently.

With all the changes that are happening in socio-economic structures through “globalization” in its broadest sense, and the impact that these changes are having on the ability of our households to continue to lead traditional lifestyles, poverty and hardship, is now defined and understood in the Pacific. It is recognized that defining poverty by level of cash income or expenditure alone might not be appropriate in Samoa or the rest of the Pacific, where most economies include high levels of subsistence production and consumption of own-produced food.

After extensive consultations through a series of Participatory Assessments of Hardship (PAH) conducted by ADB in ten PICs (including Samoa) over 2001 – 2005, a working definition of Pacific poverty, or perhaps more correctly “Hardship”, was defined in Human Development terms as:

An inadequate level of sustainable human development, manifested by:

- A lack of access to basic services such as health care, education and clean water;*
- A lack of opportunities to participate fully in the socio-economic life of the community; and*
- A lack of access to productive resources and income generation support systems (rural credit ,capital, markets, skill) to meet the basic needs of the household, and/or customary obligations to the extended family, village community and/or the church.*

PRIORITIES OF THE PEOPLE OF SAMOA	
CHARACTERISTICS OF HARDSHIP	
AREA	CHARACTERISTICS OF HEARDSHIP
UPOLU (URBAN/RURAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment Increased school fees • School drop-out rates • Increased drug use (marijuana), alcohol, robberies • Increased domestic violence, child abuse, teenage pregnancies, and suicides • Lack or limited access to basic services and infrastructure (e.g. school facilities, transportation) • Erosion of respect for village authorities/parents • Increased number of people in families
SAVAII (Rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited land cultivation due to lack of able-bodied men to work on the plantations • Continued land disputes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited market for agriculture production • Poor access to basic services and infrastructure • Increased teenage pregnancies rate
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Table 5 – Samoa, A Report on the Estimation of Basic Needs Poverty Lines, and the Incidence and Characteristics of Hardship and Poverty August 2010, page 15.

A joint Government of Samoa and UNDP Report in August 2010 conducted through the operational arm of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and by way of a detailed analysis of the 2008 HIES is a good benchmark in terms of guiding policy makers and planners to continue to assess and gauge our country's progress in addressing the needs of our people.⁷

It was accepted that the analysis highlighted the need for more detailed analysis to be conducted on specific issues such as gender and children in poverty so as to add more policy substance to the key poverty indicators.

The 2008 HIES contains a wealth of information. It enabled detailed analyses of expenditure data to estimate the incidence of poverty and the Head Count Index (HCI) by comparing food and basic needs poverty lines to recorded levels of expenditure. Overall, in the past, data from the census and HIES has often not been collected with the analysis of poverty and hardship in mind, or has not been fully analyzed for poverty indicators.

Poverty as measured by national poverty lines was considered as a measure of the relative level of hardship or well-being experienced amongst households in similar parts of the country and in similar circumstances. It assessed the basic costs of an acceptable minimum standard of living in a particular society and measured the number of households and/or the proportion of the population that are deemed not to be able to meet these basic needs. The costs and basic-needs for individual households were considered to vary between the urban and rural areas. It was therefore necessary to analyse the data from each sub-region; in the case of Samoa it was divided into four sub-regions; Apia Urban Area, North-west Upolu, Rest of Upolu and Savai'i. Each region was assessed to provide an understanding of the relative costs and standards of living of households and people living in the different parts of Samoa.

The gender of the head of household appears to play a relatively small role in determining the likelihood of a household being in poverty in Samoa. The proportions of female headed households are shown in Table 6. Overall, approximately one-fifth of households (21.9%) were reported as being headed by women, a high of 24.0% of households in Apia and a low of 21.1% in Savai'i.

TABLE 6

⁷ Samoa, A Report on the Estimation of Basic Needs Poverty Lines, and the Incidence and Characteristics of Hardship and Poverty August 2010

PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY FEMALES BY DECILES						
RANKED BY PER CAPITA HH EXPENDITURE DECILES	NATIONAL	APIA AREA	URBAN	NORTH–WEST UPOLU	REST OF UPOLU	SAVAII
AVERAGE ALL HOUSEHOLDS	21.9%	24.0%		21.3%	21.5%	21.1%
LOWEST QUINTILE	17.4%	19.0%		20.9%	23.2%	11.7%
LOWEST THREE DECILES	17.5%	20.3%		21.6%	21.5%	10.6%
HIGHEST QUINTILE	21.8%	23.8%		20.0%	27.0%	32.6%

A somewhat different picture emerges from the location of all females across expenditure deciles, Tables 7 shows that 37.4% of all females live in HH in the lowest three deciles, and only 12.9% of all females live in HH in the highest quintile. In NWU almost 40% of all females in this region live in HH in the bottom three deciles. This suggests that females are more likely to be in poor HH and therefore to be potentially disadvantaged.

TABLE 7						
PROPORTION OF FEMALES BY DECILES						
RANKED BY PER CAPITA HH EXPENDITURE DECILES	NATIONAL	APIA AREA	URBAN	NORTH–WEST UPOLU	REST OF UPOLU	SAVAII
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	48.6%	49.2%		48.9%	47.6%	48.5%
LOWEST QUINTILE	26.6%	25.7%		27.4%	25.7%	25.5%
LOWEST THREE DECILES	37.4%	36.8%		39.9%	36.9%	37.0%
HIGHEST QUINTILE	12.9%	11.3%		13.1%	14.3%	13.6%

Differences in the primary economic activities engaged in by men and women are quite marked and appear to reflect strong gender roles. However, no data is currently available on gender and intra-household access to or decision making control over income and other resources.

Samoa continues to face the challenges of rising inequality and how to better target vulnerable groups, ensuring socioeconomic policies are pro poor and making the development process more inclusive and sustainable.

Samoa needs an increased emphasis on pro-poor economic policies and programmes to address inequality and targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the community;

including through implementation of social safety nets and specifically targeted social and economic programmes.

The most important theme that is emerging is the need for poverty reduction approaches based on a sustainable and equitable development agenda. This involves integrating and balancing all the dimensions of sustainable development; including specific attention to gender and other equality issues.

3.2 Education and Training of Women

Education is generally acknowledged as being one of the most critical factors in influencing whether a household is likely to be in poverty, and whether it will be able to rise out of such a condition. Samoa is in the fortunate position of having very few people reporting not having completed primary level; less than five-percent of females (both urban and rural) and ten percent of males (urban and rural). Of those living in the urban areas approximately sixty-percent overall reported having completed at least primary level; however for those in the bottom three deciles the proportion achieving only primary level was over seventy-percent for females and two-thirds for males. The implication of this being that those who have only achieved primary education have a slightly greater chance of being in the three bottom three deciles. The data from analysis of the Samoa HIES 2008 survey indicates that the higher the level of educational attainment the less likelihood of that person being in the bottom three deciles; it also tends to reinforce the view that living in the urban areas is more likely to lead to a higher level of education.

The recently launched 2013–2018 Samoa Education Sector Plan [ESP 2013–2018] represents a major milestone in terms of mapping out short, medium and long term strategic direction of the Education sector, recognizing the continuing need for improved access, equity for all and the provision of quality education opportunities. It is designed to help tackle challenges around quality of provision, learning outcomes, scarcity of skilled work force and inadequate relevance of some courses to the Samoan economy and overall national development. The *vision* is “*That all People in Samoa are Educated and Productively Engaged*”.

Ideally placed is the Education Sector Project II (ESP II) which is in its second phase providing pooled support from the Governments of Samoa, Australia and New Zealand, the ADB and some civil works supported by Government of Japan. The goal of ESP II is ‘the establishment of a more equitable and effective education system that enhances learning outcomes of young people for further study, work, and adult life’. The project has 6 components as follows:

1. Curriculum Reform and Assessment System – to ‘ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes specified in the national curriculum;
2. Developing Effective Teachers: ensuring that ‘teachers are at the core of efforts to improve the quality of education and the level of student learning’. The main

outcome of this programme has been the development of a National Teacher Development Framework (NTDF);

3. Improving Access to Quality Education: Providing infrastructure in the form of 'improved Secondary School Facilities and a Community Learning Centre;
4. Strengthening Capacity to Undertake Research, Evaluation, Policy Analysis and Planning: 'The outcomes of this component include increased capacity for research and evaluation, the completion of at least five (5) Major Research Studies that contribute to Sector Analysis and Policy Development, and the Completion of specific evaluation studies associated with ESP I and II activities;
5. Strengthening Capacity to Implement and Manage Development Projects: This 'component is associated with Project Management, and in developing MESC's capacity to implement donor-funded programs; and
6. Enhanced quality of education by delivering the curriculum, assessment, learning materials, teachers training and learning through Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Primary school enrolment for 2013 is being disaggregated by age, gender and year level. The percentage of male students for ages 5 to 12 fluctuates between 51% and 53% and gradually increases to 55% and 61% for ages 13 and 14 respectively. The percentage for female students ranges from 47% to 49% for ages 5 to 12, and suddenly drops to 45% and 39% for ages 13 and 14 respectively. Furthermore, for each age there are more males than females at primary education. Interesting however the trend somewhat changes for secondary enrolment in 2013 where there are more females than males for ages 12 to 18, and vice versa for ages 19 and 20 at secondary education. The 2013 Samoa Education Statistical Digest is annexed as a relevant monitoring tool and some graphs have been duplicated below.

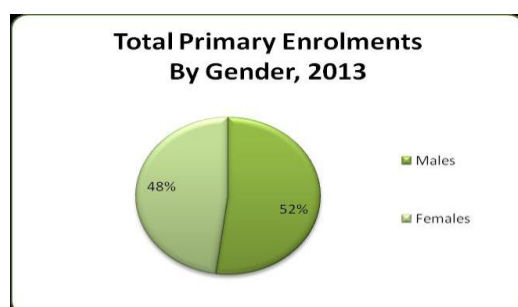


Figure 1

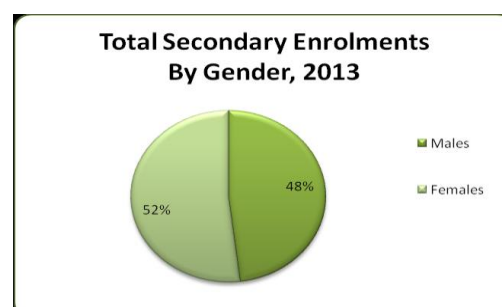


Figure 2

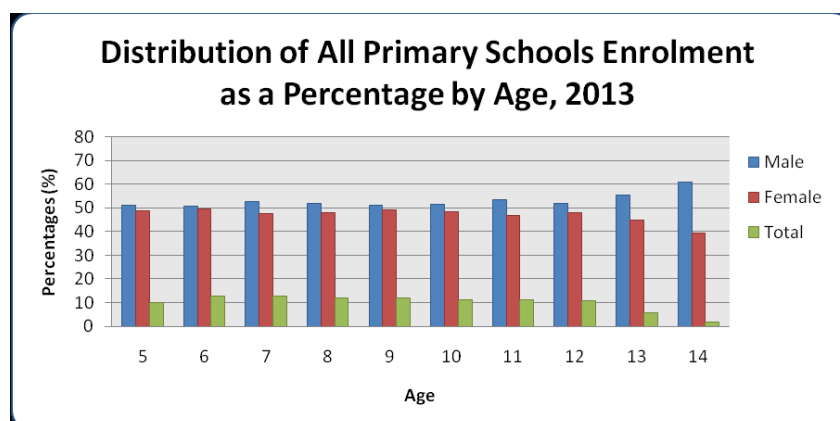


Figure 3

Gender/Age Group	Years									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Male age 5-14	97	96	95	94	94	98	97	93	91	100
Female age 5-14	96	95	95	95	99	96	95	98	96	101
Total age 5-14	97	96	95	94	97	97	98	95	94	101
Gender/Age Group	Years									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Male age 15-19	42	42	41	42	49	53	52	53	56	51
Female age 15-19	49	49	48	49	57	61	66	67	64	59
Total age 15-19	45	45	45	45	53	57	59	60	60	55

Table 6; National Participation rates

For the improvement of Post-Secondary Education and Training (PSET), the Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA) continued to foster strong partnerships with PSET providers and its stakeholders, to gain feedback towards a more forward looking approach to PSET development. The Strategic Plan for PSET 2008-2016 was launched in June 2008 and a Rolling Corporate Plan mechanism developed to deliver on the implementation. The improvement and alignment of qualifications to national needs, SQA has completed the standards for national qualifications in the agriculture, and tourism and hospitality sectors. The development of national qualification standards for traditional knowledge and skills, employability skills and the trade sector are currently being completed.

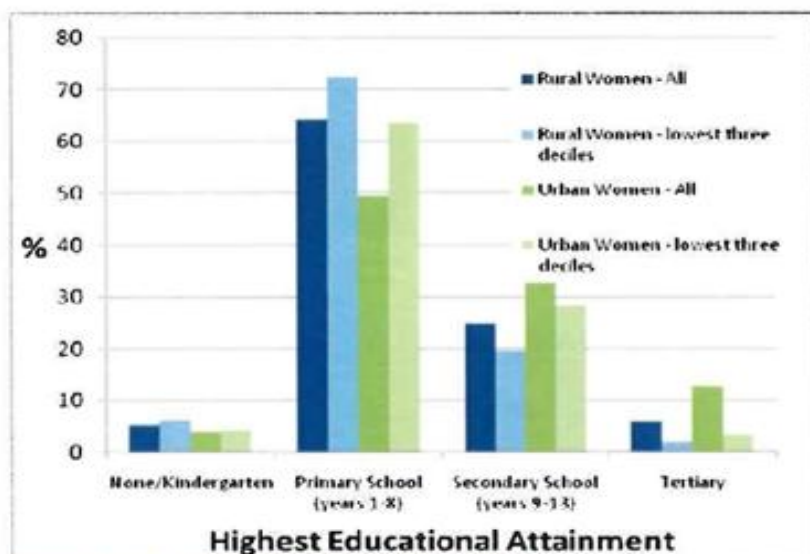


Figure 10 - Highest educational attainment - women

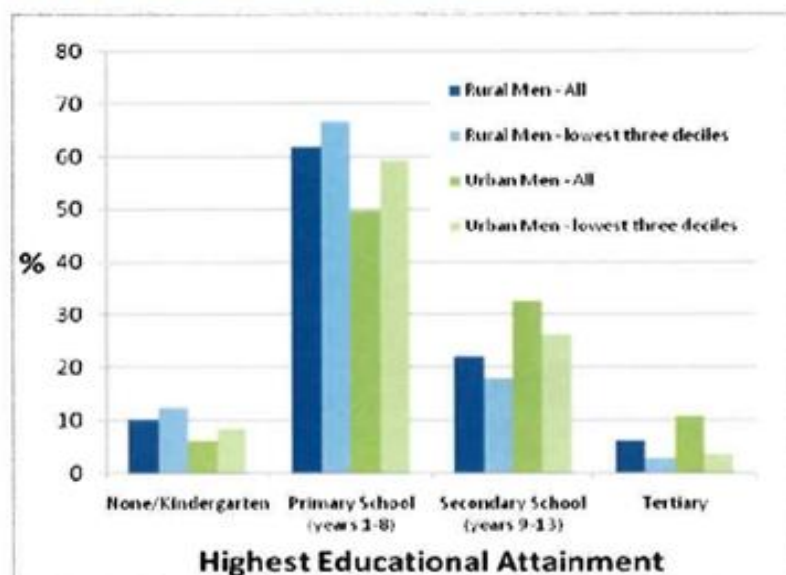


Figure 11 - Highest educational attainment - men

(Note above is Figure 4 and 5 not 10 and 11 as unable to alter format)

The development of national qualifications standards will help to focus Post Secondary Education and Training (PSET) on the skills and knowledge required for work in each sector thus ensuring relevance of qualifications to national needs. The Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) provides courses in pursuit of up-skilled and refocused industry needs and community and health services. The most recent data for Post school Education and Training (PSET) shows steady enrolment over the period 2007–2011 with numbers staying in the 4000–4500 range. In 2011 there were 4,280 students enrolled in 18 formal PSET providers. 53% of these were female with the National University of Samoa (NUS) taking a 75% majority share of enrolments.⁸ The

⁸ Education Sector Plan July 2013 – June 2018

higher transition rates from school education to NUS have been driven by a growth in Government of Samoa scholarships for students. However, critical issues do remain around student drop out and the impact of fees as a barrier to access various public, private and mission providers.

However, Samoa acknowledged the important link between education and the development of its people when it introduced the School Fee Relief Scheme in 2010, making it free for primary school children to go to school, including children who could not previously attend because their families could not afford it. This has now rolled out to Secondary schools. The School Fee Relief Scheme addressed a key obstacle preventing disadvantaged Samoan children from continuing their schooling. Without the loss of family income, those otherwise unable to afford school could now attend. The scheme is now Government priority helping Samoa meet the free education at primary level MDG by 2015

Significant support for Inclusive Education was made available under the Samoa Australia partnership. The Samoa Inclusive Education Development Program (SIEDP) has enabled improved access, retention and progression for boys and girls with disabilities throughout the country. Through SIEDP support, 331 children with disabilities had access to schools in Samoa a 54% increase since 2009 and 129 children received early intervention support. Families and communities were increasingly advocating and supporting the right to inclusion of all children with disability in all aspects of Samoan society as a result of extensive education and community awareness campaign evident in the increase in number of referrals of children with disability. Establishing a policy and practice environment committed to continuous improvement in inclusive education is in its early phases and the mainstreaming of inclusive education into all education sector operations remains work in progress. A small grants scheme for inclusive education was initiated in 2009 and provided support for over 24 schools and institutions.

However, obstacles remain. In some isolated areas lack of access to reliable transport and poor road conditions force children to walk long distances to school. Access to high-quality schooling is also a challenge with untrained teachers accounting for 23.1 per cent of all primary teachers and a shortage of math, science and agriculture secondary school teachers. Another challenge is the mismatch between skills taught and skills needed for employment and livelihood opportunities. The ESP II and Education Sector Plan is a valuable mechanism to improve the quality of curriculums, teachers, teaching materials and infrastructure.

3.3 Women and Health

The Government provides subsidized primary care through a system of integrated health services delivered in district hospitals and community health centers. It funds the national health scheme from budget revenues and guarantees all residents access to public inpatient and outpatient care.

NCDs pressure the delivery of health services and lead to increasing costs for both service providers and the community. This has been exacerbated by demographic changes, with an increasing number of older people facing NCDs. Most primary and public health programs rely heavily on donor funding.

The Health Sector Plan (HSP) 2008–2018 was launched on 31st January 2008 and is expected to end in December 2018. The current HSP is a plan for the health sector as a whole and is the third to be undertaken since public sector reforms commenced in 1998. Building on the strength of the previous two plans, this Plan seeks to contribute to Government's vision "For Every Samoan to Achieve a Better Quality of Life". The vision of the HSP is "A Healthy Samoa".

The HSP is aligned with the Government of Samoa's priorities as defined in both the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2008–2012 and Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2012–2016. For well over a decade, the Government of Samoa (GOS) has identified health as a priority. The 7 long-term outcomes for the health sector for the remaining life of the current HSP are:

1. Improved Healthy Living through Health Promotion & Primordial Prevention
2. Improved Prevention, Control and Management of Chronic and NCDs
3. Improved Prevention, Control and Management of Communicable Diseases and Infectious Diseases
4. Improved Sexual Reproductive Health
5. Improved Maternal/ Child Health
6. Improved Health Systems, Governance and Administration
7. Improved Risk Management and Response to Disasters, Emergencies and Climate Change.

Indicators for Sexual and Reproductive Health have generally shown an improvement over the last decade. The Total Fertility Rate rose slightly between 2006 and 2011 but the 2018 target is still attainable. Births to adolescent mothers showed an overall decline from 2001 to 2011. Comparative data on contraceptive prevalence rate is not available but in 2009 less than one-third of married women were using contraception. Life expectancy at birth has been steadily increasing for both males and females over the last decades. Life expectancy is higher for females than males as shown in Table 1.

Life Expectancy at Birth			
	2001	2006	2011
MALES	71.8	71.5	72.7
FEMALES	73.8	74.2	75.6

Table 1: Source: Population and Housing Census Analytical Report 2011

The Adolescent Birth Rate or Teenage Fertility Rate is the age-specific fertility rates of girls aged 15 to 19 years expressed as a rate per 1,000 women. The adolescent birth rate had been decreasing up to 2006, and had in fact exceeded the 2018 target, but a reversal of this positive trend was found at the 2011 census. Despite an increase in adolescent births between 2006 and 2011, the rate at 2011 was below that of 2001. In each of the last three censuses, the adolescent birth rate has been lower in Apia than in rural areas.

In early 2013 a Teen Mums Pilot Program was launched by the MWCSO as a commemorative activity for International Women's Day. The program focuses mainly on sexual and reproductive health rights which are also in line with CEDAW and CRC articles. It also focuses on gender based violence which links to the relationship between the mother and the father and between the parent and the child. Leadership is also a theme which this program covers in terms of child rearing and parental care. This includes decision making in the forms of family budgeting, communication skills between parents and children and between the mother and father on all issues that come with raising a family. In essence raising community awareness in this program can ensure that cultural and religious attitudinal barriers on the issue of teenage pregnancy are addressed.

Contraceptive prevalence rate is defined as the percentage of currently married women who are using any method (modern or traditional) of contraception. In 2009 nearly 29% of married women and 18% of all women were using some type of contraception. The vast majority of women were using modern methods of contraception. Contraceptive prevalence rates are highest among women aged 30 to 44 years. There is almost no difference in contraceptive prevalence rates for urban and rural areas of Upolu but slightly fewer women in Savaii use contraceptives. Use of contraception generally increases with number of children, education and wealth.

Up until 2008, testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) was done through the Second Generation Surveillance Surveys, which screened blood samples from 350 women attending

antenatal clinics⁹ From 2009 STI surveillance has been done at the National Health Services (NHS) laboratory through testing blood samples from 11 different clinic sites/ sources including the two major hospitals, private clinics, blood donors, Immigration, Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA) and the STI Clinic. With the surveillance methods introduced since 2009, many more blood samples are screened annually than previously and the testing and recording of results continues to improve. These improvements have identified slightly higher prevalence of Chlamydia in 2010 and 2011 although this may reflect better surveillance systems than actual increases in prevalence.

The first case of HIV in Samoa was detected in 1990. Since that time, a cumulative total of 22 HIV cases have been reported of which 10 are now deceased and 12 are living with HIV. Based on the population of Samoa at November 2011, the prevalence of people living with HIV is 6/100,000. No new cases of HIV have been reported since 2009. The most common mode of transmission of HIV is heterosexual sex and there have been five cases of mother to child transmission.

Performance and progress on most of the indicators for maternal and child health has been good. Although the MMR has increased, the absolute number of maternal deaths annually has remained low. While the apparent increase in maternal deaths over 2010 to 2012 is not as alarming as it might first appear, any maternal deaths are cause for concern and all maternal deaths are ideally investigated to determine ways in which Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services can be improved. The baseline Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) was sourced from the Millennium Development Goals Second Progress Report of 2010.

The percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health professionals was high at 81% in 2009 and even higher at 97% if TBAs are included. There are more babies born to rural women but women from urban areas are more likely to have supervised delivery. The World Health Organization defines 'skilled birth attendant' as a doctor, nurse or midwife who has been trained to competently manage uncomplicated pregnancies, births and the immediate post natal period and to recognize and refer women or newborns with complications to more highly trained professionals. Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) are excluded from the definition of skilled birth attendant. In Samoa, TBAs have traditionally played a significant role in pregnancy and childbirth. Recognizing the importance of the TBA role, the health sector has provided training and equipment for TBAs to help them manage pregnancy and childbirth. 93% of women receive some antenatal care but, for many, not in the first trimester or at least four visits as is recommended.

⁹ WHO, 2006, Second Generation Surveillance Surveys of HIV, other STIs and Risk Behaviors in 6 Pacific Island Countries (2004–2005)

The Human Resources for Health Policy and Action Plan¹⁰ identified workforce shortages as a major issue and real challenge facing the health sector. In response to this identified need, the number of places in training courses has been increased and determined efforts have been made to attract secondary school leavers to the health professions. There have been increases in health professional to population ratios for most cadres. The most significant increases have been in the nursing profession.

With regard to health financing, both Total Health Expenditure as a percent of GDP and Government Expenditure on Health have increased between 2006 and 2011. However obstacles remain to accessing quality healthcare, particularly in rural areas and disadvantaged communities. Lack of reliable transport in isolated villages is a notable barrier to reaching health facilities, and can be problematic for the sick and elderly. Many rural health centers do not always have enough medical staff. Progress is needed to make healthcare provision equitable given the inequality among income groups.

3.4 Violence against Women

Reducing violence against women through the review and development of relevant legislation; strengthening interagency collaboration and response systems; promote and achieve zero tolerance for domestic violence and provision of services for victims of abuse is one of the critical outcome areas of the National Policy for Women.

Samoa achieved a critical milestone in the legislation landscape with the passing of the Family Safety Act 2013, an Act to provide for greater protection of families and the handling of domestic violence and related matters. It ultimately provides the mandate for the courts to act promptly when requests for protection orders are made. It also provides for representatives of victims to act on their behalf when seeking a protection order. It brings together a collaborative approach between the Domestic Violence Unit, a specific unit within the Ministry of Police, the Ministry of Justice and Courts and Samoa Victim Support Groups. Timely also to deal with this new instrument and prosecutions is a specialist Family Violence Court that was established in September 2013. This court sits every Monday and on an average sitting can hear up to 25 cases.

At the time of reporting, final public consultations on the Child Care and Protection Bill are underway. This proposes to be a very comprehensive piece of legislation informed by a lengthy Baseline Research Report. The Baseline Research was carried out by the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development “MWCSO” in collaboration with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund “UNICEF”. The Law Reform Commission “Commission” verified the legislative review findings of the Baseline Research. It was one of the first of its kind of research done in Samoa with special reference to children.

¹⁰ MOH Samoa and JTA International, 2007.

The work of Village Women Representatives over the past few years has also resulted in increased engagement and participation of women and girls in gender violence advocacy. Community based initiatives continue, including working with boys and men at the Village Council level. The National Council of Churches is also becoming an increasingly critical partner in Advocacy and Outreach programmes. The Men against Violence Advocacy Group are increasingly visible also in their awareness and support services work. The media is giving more attention to Gender Based Violence also.

The Government through the Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) coordinated the first Transformational Leadership Development Program for a range of stakeholders. These included; Political leaders, Senior Government Officials, Heads of Civil Society Organizations, Heads Non Government Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Media, Youth Groups, Faith Based Leaders, Theologians and Academic institutions. The selected participants were divided into two categories – (1) Core Trainers and (2) participants. The difference between the two categories were (1) Core trainers were expected to conduct further trainings later on and had to undergo the full training program which lasts for 21 days. Whereas, (2) participants were not considered core trainers and went through 15 days of the program. The gender ratio for participants was an equal number of females and males which also consisted of young men and young women.

The program was delivered by highly qualified Core Facilitators contracted to UNDP who had extensive experience in conducting the same program in other countries. The training was held in three 6 day sessions, over a period of 3 months. The program objectives specifically for Samoa were to;

- *Facilitate self awareness and reflection particularly in the context of gender relations*
- *Identify patterns and systems that exist in society that bring about gender inequality*
- *Learn how to design and implement Breakthrough Initiatives (BTIs) to address gender inequality and discrimination.*
- *Learn how to deliver results, scale up and lead change¹¹*

The training program focused on the thematic areas of the National Policy for Women which reflect the direction for Samoa's Gender Program for the next 5 years;

¹¹ Transformational Leadership Development Program Information Note for Samoa; UNDP 2013

To facilitate ownership and transforming commitment into action, participants formed into different Break through Initiative (BTI) teams who selected their topics based on the four thematic areas mentioned above. Each group was tasked with developing its own Action Plans and with exploring possible Break through Initiatives that would give a full spectrum response to the visible change required, and that would foster a more inclusive society. The groups were; Faith Based Organisations, the Media, Youth Groups, Parliamentarians, Creative Arts, Private Sector Group, Academic Institutions and Public Sector/Government Ministries.

The Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development, in conjunction with the Ministry of Police, Public Service Commission, UN Women and UNICEF, initiated awareness programs during the months of September and November 2013. Awareness on the impacts of violence was facilitated during Public Service Day focusing on the importance of eliminating violence in the family and workplace settings. Awareness was further amplified in November when the Ministry jointly coordinated the Opening March to launch the 16 Days of Activism for Ending Gender Based Violence in Samoa. Focusing on the theme, “Ending Gender Based Violence by Promoting Peace in Families and Communities”, the march saw the participation of 452 people from all levels of society.

The Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development dedicate significant staff resources to raising awareness of Gender Based Violence and options available to both women and girls for support and assistance. This is a country wide program. As a result, the majority of participants in their response surveys clearly report an increase in understanding of Gender Based Violence, its causes, effects and ways that can solve family disputes in a non violent manner. The participants are able to identify some methods on how to eradicate violence within their homes. These include quality time with family (particularly parents and children), ensure that family members come together during evening prayers and improve on their communication skills (parents and children, couples need to talk more often and talk about their problems and resolve them at the right time). It was interesting to find out that during pre test, the a high number of the results showed that participants knew that many women are the victims of violence in Samoa, which also reflects the coverage of messages aired by the Ministry during their radio programs, TV advertisements, newspaper ads and community outreach programs.

A programme which was formerly supported and funded by the UNFPA Gender Based Violence Project and Government of Samoa since 2005 and has been implemented by the MWCSO together with the assistance of the Samoa Family Health Association has proven to be well received. Focusing on young couples with and without children, these programs have been

rolled out more frequently to the various districts with the main objectives being:

- To raise the awareness of young couples on domestic violence and alternative ways to deal with conflict and disputes in a non violent manner;
- To build the capacity of participants on sexual reproductive health and how it can enhance their awareness for their protection and self reservation, as well as its importance in relationships between a person and their partner/spouse;
- To strengthen bonding between husbands and wives;
- To make available sexual reproductive health services to remote communities or rather villages which seldom have access to such services as well as identify special cases which may require referral for action; and
- To increase understanding of couples on positive parenting methods to discipline their children instead of using physical abuse to discipline them.

At present, this program is being sustained under the national budget.

Various capacity building initiatives for Law enforcement agencies have also been realized through the wider Law and Justice Sector, including Gender Based Violence programs that are carried out by the Ministry of Police through the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Project. NGO's have also benefited from financial support through funded activities that target victims and support services by the Law and Justice Sector. UNICEF also supports violence prevention programs in relation to violence against children. Furthermore, when the MWCSO implements international commemorative events such International Women's Day, International Youth Day or the 16 Days of Activism for Eliminating Violence against Women, there is an opportunity for the MWCSO to request some funding assistance from donor partners; with the most recent being UN Women. This is however, subject to the international theme for the year which informs programming accordingly.

It would be fair to say that tracking the incidence, nature and context of Violence against Women has been somewhat challenging. Advocacy and awareness combined with legislative reform have enabled a heightened awareness of gender based violence. There remains a need for mindset shifts. The most comprehensive study remains that of the Samoa Family and Health Study that was conducted in Samoa in 2000 and Samoa has previously reported on, which highlights the telling need for mindset shifts.

There is some comprehensive data captured in the Annexure sourced from the Domestic Violence Unit of the Ministry of Police and Prisons as well as the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration and goes some way to highlighting the scope of this critical area of concern.

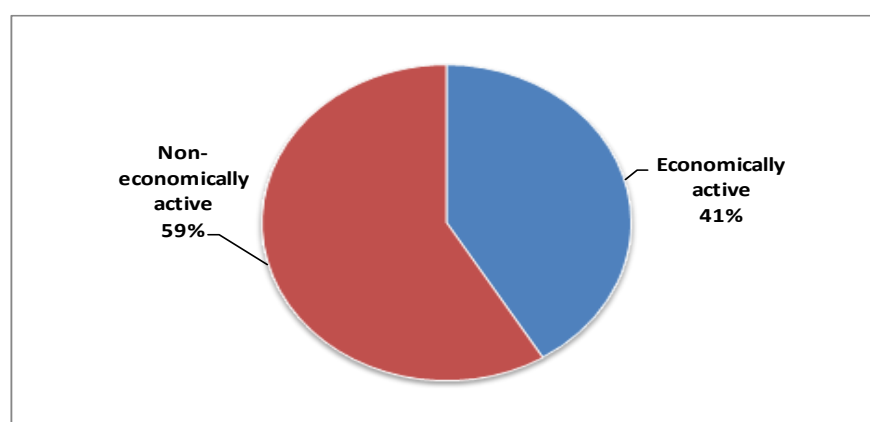
3.5 Women and Armed Conflict

There has been an involvement of female police officers as part of the peace keeping mission in some of the countries like the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Sudan.

3.6 Women and the Economy

The Analytical Report of the Census 2011 documented a significant rise in total population from 2006 to 2011 which resulted also in an increase in the working age group from 109,804 to 115,900 and was categorized into two active groups. As shown in Figure 6, 41 percent of the working age group was reported as economically active and 59 percent performed non-economically active activities.

Figure 6: Percentage distribution of the working age group 15+, 2011



In terms of the top three activities performed in Samoa summarized by Table 7, the majority of respondents found during the census period occupy their time with domestic duty activities of 42 percent taking up nearly half of the working age population. Moreover, with the increasing figure of those entering the workforce today, it slightly contributes to the growth of employees, as the second largest activity performed of 20 percent. The third largest activity which covers 14 percent of the workforce were those that worked in plantations, farms, and fishing subsistence for sale and family support which is very common to rural residence in Samoa.

By sex distribution as shown in Table 8 and Figure 7 below, 73 percent of males were noted to be engaged in economically active activities compared to 27 percent of females. On the other hand, the results showed quite the contrary with 37 percent for males and 64 percent females in non active activities in the 7 days before the census. Meanwhile, there is likely to be more males than females in the following activities – actively looking for jobs, and income earning

activities (like being an employer, an employee, being self-employed, and street vendors), except for the manufacture goods for sale activity, where women outweighed men by 6 percent.

Economically active	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	47,881	41.3	34,763	72.6	13,118	27.4
Employer	582	0.5	386	66.3	196	33.7
Employee	23,410	20.2	14,276	61	9,134	39
Self-employed	3,984	3.4	2,595	65.1	1,389	34.9
Make/manufacture goods for sale	1,040	0.9	491	47.2	549	52.8
Street vendors	60	0.1	37	61.7	23	38.3
Produce subsistence for use or sale	16,085	13.9	15,154	94.2	931	5.8
Look for a job	2,720	2.3	1,824	67.1	896	32.9
Non-economically active						
Total	67,990	58.7	24,836	36.5	43,154	63.5
Domestic duties	48,536	41.9	15,323	31.6	33,213	68.4
Attend school	15,614	13.5	7,538	48.3	8,076	51.7
Incapable	3,840	3.3	1,975	51.4	1,865	48.6
Not stated	29	0	18	62.1	11	37.9
All	115,900	100	59,617	51.4	56,283	48.6

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011

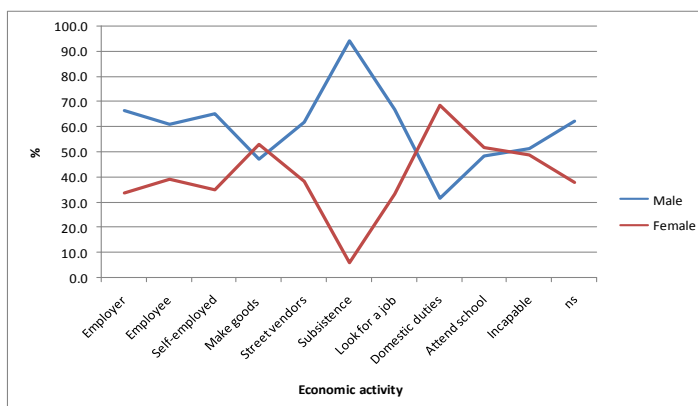


Table 8: Population 15 + by main activities and sex, 2011

Figure 7: Distribution of activities by population 15+ and sex, 2011

In terms of differentials by age group and sex, Table 9 presents age and sex specific labor force participation rates. Overall, men have a higher participation rate than women (30 percent compared to 11 percent). The results indicate a higher participation rate by males in all age groups compared to females. The same information is illustrated by the gap in Figure 34 below where the most active age groups were ages 20 to 29 for both sex. The participation rates obviously begin to decline by age 44 as workers leave the workforce and further declines as the age increases towards the 70s. Differentials by regions show that North West Upolu yields the highest participation rate with Savaii (9.7%), Apia urban area (9.5%) and Rest of Upolu (8.7%). Out of the total economically active population in Table 9, the majority were noted to be employees (49%) followed by those who produced goods and services for subsistence purposes (34%), 8 percent said they were self employed, 6 percent were unemployed during the reference period, 2 percent were reported to be manufacturing goods for sale and the rest were reported to be employers or street vendors.

As a result of high participating males mentioned earlier, men obviously outweigh women in all activity categories shown in Table 10 and Table 11 except for manufacturing goods as women are more likely to be engaged in activities such as handicraft and other production for sale

Table 10: Labor force participation rates by sex, age group and region, 2011

Age Group	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	47,910	41.3	34,781	30	13,129	11.3
15-19	2,813	2.4	2,240	1.9	573	0.5
20-24	7,034	6.1	4,877	4.2	2,157	1.9
25-29	6,897	6	4,816	4.2	2,081	1.8
30-34	6,173	5.3	4,404	3.8	1,769	1.5
35-39	5,925	5.1	4,372	3.8	1,553	1.3
40-44	5,719	4.9	4,222	3.6	1,497	1.3
45-49	4,604	4	3,344	2.9	1,260	1.1
50-54	3,722	3.2	2,728	2.4	994	0.9
55-59	2,496	2.2	1,847	1.6	649	0.6
60-64	1,316	1.1	979	0.8	337	0.3
65-69	760	0.7	595	0.5	165	0.1
70-74	304	0.3	240	0.2	64	0.1
75+	147	0.1	117	0.1	30	0
Region						
Apia Urban Area	11,058	9.5				
North West Upolu	15,506	13.4				
Rest of Upolu	10,103	8.7				
Savaii	11,243	9.7				

Table 10 Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011

Economically active	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	AUA	NWU	ROU	SAVAII
Total	47,881	100	34,763	72.6	13,118	27.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employer	582	1.2	386	66.3	196	33.7	2.4	1.3	0.5	0.6
Employee	23,410	48.9	14,276	61	9,134	39	73.4	60.2	32.9	23.7
Self-employed	3,984	8.3	2,595	65.1	1,389	34.9	12.3	9.5	5.8	5.0
Make/manufacture goods for sale	1,040	2.2	491	47.2	549	52.8	1.6	2.0	2.9	2.3
Street vendors	60	0.1	37	61.7	23	38.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0
Produce subsistence for use/sale	16,085	33.6	15,154	94.2	931	5.8	4.4	20.2	52.0	64.2
Look for a job	2,720	5.7	1,824	67.1	896	32.9	5.7	6.7	5.9	4.1

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011

Table 11

Both Figure 8 and Table 12 show a distribution of the employed population by activity categories and sex. Men are more likely to be employed than women (73 percent of men and 27 percent of women). The results show that, except for making goods for sale, every activity is dominated by the males compared to females. Women are more likely to be engaged in making goods for sale 53 percent compared to 47 percent for men. On the contrary, men are more likely to be engaged in manual work such as farming and fishing, the reason for the substantially high proportion of 94 percent compared to only 6 percent for females.

Table 12: Employed population 15 + by main activities and sex, 2011

Employed activity	Total	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total (E)	45,161	32,939	72.9	12,222	27.1
Employer	582	386	66.3	196	33.7
Employee	23,410	14,276	61.0	9,134	39.0
Self-employed	3,984	2,595	65.1	1,389	34.9
Make goods	1,040	491	47.2	549	52.8
Street vendors	60	37	61.7	23	38.3
Subsistence	16,085	15,154	94.2	931	5.8
Labour Force (L)	47,881				
Employment rate (e): (E / L)	0.94				

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011

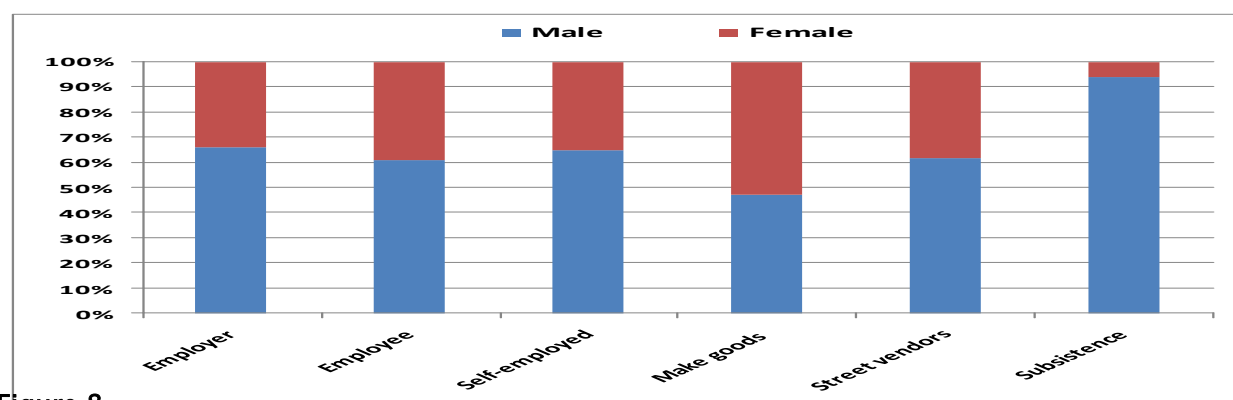


Figure 8

The distribution of employed population by industry and sex is presented in Table 13 below. It shows that the top three industry where women are more likely to be found working include Education (17.1%), Commerce (14.3%) and Other Services (12.1%) constituting 43.5 percent overall. In contrast, men are more likely to be found working in Agriculture (42.4%), Other Services (8.4%), and Transport (6.8%) constituting 57.6 percent overall.

Table 13: Employed population 15 + by industry type and sex, 2011

Industry type	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	45,161	100.0	32,939	100.0	12,222	100.0
Agriculture	14,841	32.9	13,960	42.4	881	7.2
Fishing	1,851	4.1	1,688	5.1	163	1.3
Food Manufacturing	901	2.0	543	1.6	358	2.9
Other Manufacturing	1,564	3.5	852	2.6	712	5.8
Electricity	858	1.9	742	2.3	116	0.9
Water	277	0.6	223	0.7	54	0.4
Construction	1,892	4.2	1,809	5.5	83	0.7
Commerce	3,530	7.8	1,787	5.4	1,743	14.3
Accommodation	1,597	3.5	747	2.3	850	7.0
Restaurants	865	1.9	474	1.4	391	3.2
Transport	2,501	5.5	2,243	6.8	258	2.1
Communication	614	1.4	368	1.1	246	2.0
Finance Services	1,080	2.4	430	1.3	650	5.3
Other business services	1,231	2.7	779	2.4	452	3.7
Education	3,215	7.1	1,131	3.4	2,084	17.1
Health	960	2.1	382	1.2	578	4.7
Public Administration	2,383	5.3	1,476	4.5	907	7.4
Consultant Services	533	1.2	389	1.2	144	1.2
Other Services	4,254	9.4	2,774	8.4	1,480	12.1
ns	214	0.5	142	0.4	72	0.6

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011

Unemployment by age group and sex is presented in Table 9j. It shows that more males are likely to be found actively looking for work (34 percent) compared to females in all age groups while young people in the age range of 20–24 years are more likely to be found unemployed (38%).

Table 14: Unemployed population 15 + by age group and sex, 2011

Age group	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	2,720	100.0	1,824	67.1	896	32.9
15-19	566	20.8	351	62.0	215	38.0
20-24	1,023	37.6	632	61.8	391	38.2
25-29	505	18.6	353	69.9	152	30.1
30-34	269	9.9	196	72.9	73	27.1
35-39	169	6.2	138	81.7	31	18.3
40-44	97	3.6	83	85.6	14	14.4
45-49	46	1.7	36	78.3	10	21.7
50-54	24	0.9	20	83.3	4	16.7
55+	21	0.8	15	71.4	6	28.6

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 2011

There are organizations in Samoa that provide assistance and training to business women; such as the Women in Business Development Inc, and the Samoa Small Business Enterprise Centre. Their focus is on business development skills and the provision of loan finance, rather than on policy reform. The number of women engaged in some small enterprises supported through the Samoa's Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) provides an indication that 46 percent of these businesses are owned by women. Women are particularly associated with the fishing, handicrafts, retail, and tourism sectors.

Women in Business Development Inc. (WIBDI) provides opportunities for skills building and engagement in projects, technology, technical advice, and basic business and financial training to women to support income generation, job creation, and participation by women and youths in the village economy. It also assists business women in accessing finance and markets.

The Samoa Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) operates with support from NZAID to provide business training, (for example business management, financing, marketing, and business plan development), assistance, and related advisory services to small businesses in Samoa. It works with commercial banks to provide, through its Small Business Loan Guarantee Scheme, an 80 percent loan guarantee on advances to emerging and expanding small businesses. SBEC also works with WIBDI to help businesses graduate from micro/informal status to formal.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an association of businesses, corporations, industry associations and business people representing the Private Sector Business Community. The Chamber is committed to improving the economic and social well being of the people of Samoa by promoting sustainable growth and free enterprise. Chamber supports policies that will best serve the interests, well being and growth of Samoa's private sector. It is the largest

advocacy group for industry representing businesses in Samoa at the national, regional and international level.

The Chamber provides support to women entrepreneurs through mentoring support by way of business training, financial management, budgeting, marketing and others. Technical and financial support is made available through the NZ Government via resource personnel who are work with the Chamber in facilitating and funding these mentoring programs which are conducted every six (6) months.

The Central Bank of Samoa in collaboration with the Money Pacific Group of New Zealand continues to raise awareness on the importance of being financially literate. These include the dissemination of user friendly resources out to communities which teach basic principles of budgeting, saving, financial planning to ensure that people as consumers and contributors to economic development are financially resilient during times of hardship.

Samoa women who are engaged in economic activities face the challenge of balancing this role alongside their social and family obligations. At a more recent Woman in Business Workshop it was generally agreed that, in addition to the time women commit to running their businesses, they were also responsible for running their households and fulfilling the responsibilities expected of them in their families, communities, and church. Even the single women indicated that, in addition to their time spent at work, they too had responsibilities within their families and communities. The close-knit structure of Samoan society brings with it many societal obligations, particularly to the village and church. Women are generally active in all aspects of village life both within their extended families and through village-wide structures such as women's committees. In some villages, all adult women are expected to participate in the women's committee (other villages are less prescriptive).

Key improvements introduced by Samoa's new Companies Act administered by the Registration of Companies and Intellectual Property Division of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor, includes the provision of advice and data on companies and other legal entities to various users. Officials in the Companies Registry reported significant administrative gains have been made as a result of the new Act:

- It takes only a single day to incorporate a company: immediately after an applicant registers, he/she is allocated a registration number pending approval of the proposed company name, which may be confirmed within a few hours;
- Administrative steps have been eliminated: for example the need to make a separate application for company name approval prior to registration; and
- Registration is now effected by filing a single form

The introduction of the new Companies Act in July 2008 led to a massive improvement in Samoa's scores in the World Bank Doing Business indicators in 2009 in relation to business start-up, with a ranking of 20 (an improvement in ranking from 131 in the previous year). While it is too early to properly assess the impact of the new Companies Act, it is clear that the Act has the potential to be of particular benefit to women entrepreneurs. The ability to incorporate with a single shareholder may be especially significant. It means that a woman can start up a formal business registered as a company on her own without having to bring in a male relative (husband or brother, for example as a second shareholder.) In addition, the overall simplification of the process may be particularly advantageous to Samoan women because:

- They tend to have less access to business advisory networks and less confidence and experience in dealing with bureaucracy and officialdom;
- They are frequently time poor – responsible for domestic and childcare duties as well as their businesses and so have less ability to deal with complex and bureaucratic procedures; and
- They tend to have less exposure to business/official matters (preferring in many instances to leave such issues to the men) and so, again, may find navigating complex incorporation processes more challenging than their male counterparts.

The new Labor and Employment Relations Act 2013 has been a relevant legislation milestone with significant protective measures for women. It provides for:

- New provisions relating to labor and employment relations to ensure compliance with International Labor Organization requirements;
- Improved provisions relating to conditions of employment for national and foreign employees, including wage protection, contracts of service, holidays, leave, maternity entitlements, paternity leave, hours of work, overtime, conciliation procedures; and
- Introduction of new fundamental employment rights including: no forced labor; equal pay for equal work; prohibition on discrimination in employment on the grounds of ethnicity, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status etc; right to bargain collectively; and freedom of association.

Another benefit that has been made available for the public service in accordance with Cabinet Directive F.K (11) 34 is for every Government Ministry, public body and state owned enterprise to provide a day care room or space for lactating mothers to breastfeed their newborns should the need arise.

3.7 Women in power and decision making

The Government of Samoa has recognized by way of The Constitution Amendment Act 2013 a unique quota system to ensure that women of Samoa enter politics. This provides for the potential for an increasing number of women to contribute at the highest level of decision making. With 10% of seats in Parliament reserved for women it highlights the necessity for more women to be involved with the country's decision-making. The country does appreciate this

perhaps falls short in the context of commitments under CEDAW but nevertheless it is a significant step forward as women's participation in politics is an ongoing feature in the political landscape. To extend awareness of this legislation and to build on its community engagement program, the Office of the Legislative Assembly intends to provide ongoing capacity building support to encourage participation in Parliament, including by women political aspirants.

There continues to be ongoing progression of the Parliament of Samoa public engagement program under the Samoa Parliament Support Program 2012–2015 (SPSP). This Programme is one of the focal deliverables developed and coordinated by the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly under the Samoa Parliamentary Support Project (SPSP) sponsored by the Government of Australia and the Government of Samoa with the assistance of the UNDP Multi Country Office. The initiative is designed to inform and encourage women by acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the realm of politics or sustain interest in it; and to serve as a medium to promote and support women's participation in the legislative process. The UN Gender Programme has a similar commitment to address persistent gender imbalance and increase support for the advancement of women representation at the national level in leadership roles and decision-making positions. As the instrument for MDGs compliance by 2015, the UNDP is committed to continue as the catalyst to ensure a substantial increase of women parliamentarians in the next election.

A 'Women's Parliamentary Forum' was held in October 2013 to coincide with Parliament's October sittings. This initial forum, expected to result in the development of a framework for future activities in the lead-up to the 2016 election, and was conducted with the support of the UN Gender Program. This is part of a broader programme which is aimed at familiarizing interested and potential women candidates with the Parliament of Samoa, its functions and parliamentary processes. This initial forum provided a valuable opportunity to deliberate as to how the Parliament can provide the required capacity building support in 2014 and 2015 in which women from the public and private sector, as well as from rural areas, can take part.

As the first parliamentary initiative specifically tailored for women, representatives were nominated by Government ministries, corporations and non-Governmental organizations to participate. The program provided them with: basic knowledge of parliamentary procedures and processes; exposure to parliament and interactions with parliamentarians to initiate and encourage interest in politics; as well as practical elementary legislative training with the assistance of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. Additionally, a new Candidate's Handbook has been formulated as a result of the Electoral Office's/UN Women joint workshop as a gender mainstreaming tool.

Within the village context, there are currently seven (of 364) villages in Samoa that do not allow women to hold a *matai* title. In the context of village societies, the village council has the authority to make the rules that govern their respective villages.

There are prevailing traditional attitudinal barriers which continue to impede women's participation in local level decision making; with one of the most prevalent being Samoa's traditional norm of the 'brother-sister covenant'. The sacred covenant makes it inappropriate for a woman chief to sit in the village council if her brother is also a chief as it is during these congregations that chiefs' tend to jest or when harsh words are spoken; This social norm has also been confirmed in Women and Matai Leadership Survey. Other reasons why there is a small number of women participating in this local level executive platform is that some women recognize this role as one more suitable to men, and that they **do** have a voice in village based decision making through their own structure within the village (women's committees).

However, two forms of Government exist within the structure of Sāmoan society: firstly, the local level (village level) which consists of the village councils and secondly, the national level which comprises the Judiciary and Parliament. At the village level, village councils are primarily made up of chiefs or *matais*. The 2011 census showed that 9% (16,787) of Samoa's total population have chiefly titles. Of this percentage, 89% of *matais* are male and 11% are female. As noted above, some villages do not permit women to hold *matai* positions, thus limiting their access to the village fono sphere within their own villages. Furthermore, in figures 10 and 11 the trend on the percentage of matai title holders from the period of 1957–2014 are predominantly held by men, however with the numbers of women chiefly titles also improving. As aforementioned, village based decision making is not limited to the village council. There are social groups in place which all contribute to development. Information and advice is filtered from these groups (women committees, youth groups, untitled men) up to the village council for final decision making.

Fig 10: Percentage of Matai Holders (Upolu) 1957–2014¹²

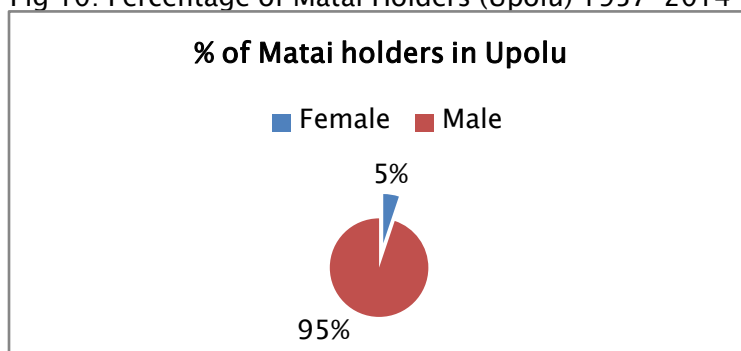
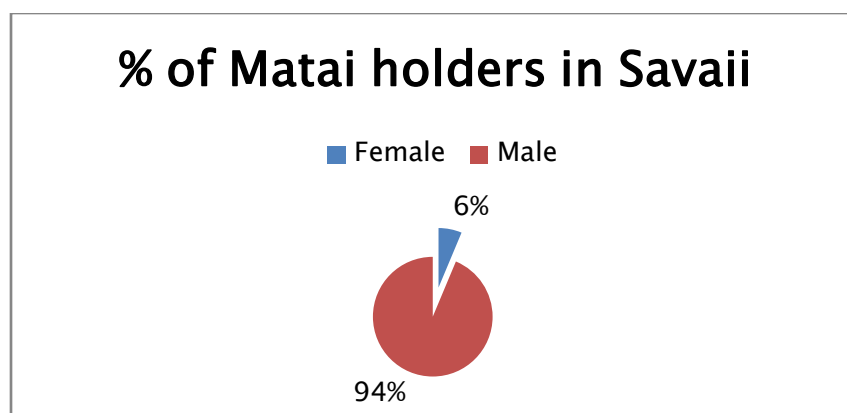


Fig 11: Percentage of Matai Holders 1957–2014 (Savaii)¹³

¹² Lands and Titles Courts Database: Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration 2014

¹³ *ibid*



The *Public Service Act* protects the rights of women to seek employment in the national public service.

Executive Management Positions held by Women in Government Ministries:

Below is a summarized table comparing the executive management positions held by women within the 19 Government ministries, in the years 2008, 2012 and 2014.¹⁴

Position	No. of Women 2008	No. of Women 2012	No. of Women 2014
CEOs	5	6	8
Assistant CEOs	31	62 (52% of total)	78
Public Servants	N/A	2203 (54% of total public servants)	–

Table 16: Number of Women in Executive Management in Government Ministries 2008–2014.

There has been a collective increase in female employment for all positions in Samoa's public service since 2008. More women are becoming ministry CEOs, while the majority of ACEOs and all Government employees are female. Hence women are well represented in Government services.

WOMEN IN EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING BODIES¹⁵ (COLLECTED 2012)

Directors of Government Boards

Appointed Chairs of Government Boards

¹⁴ As summarized by the Public Service Commission 2014, Government of Samoa.

¹⁵ Institute of Directors Brief 2012

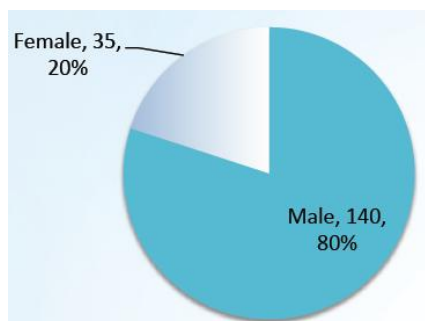


Figure 13

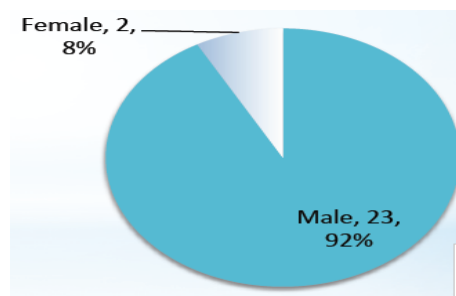


Figure 14

Figures 13 and 14 convey the number and percentage of women's participation in executive decision making bodies 2012. Extracted from the Institute of Directors brief 2012, 20 percent of Government board members are women while 8 percent are appointed Chairs. The boards which are chaired by women are those of the Samoa Qualifications Authority and the National Kidney Foundation.

3.8 Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of Women

The 2011 Census states that almost 80% of women in Sāmoa live in rural areas. MWCSO is charged with formulating policy and overseeing matters that pertain specifically to women.

Article 15 of the Constitution provides for the freedom from discriminatory legislation, where all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection under the law. Article 15 also goes further to set out that no law, executive or administrative action of the State shall expressly or in its practical application subject any person/s to:

- Any disability or restriction;
- Confer any privilege or advantage on grounds of descent, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, place of birth or family status.

The provision on freedom from discriminatory legislation also sets out a qualifier for the article itself to not prevent the making of any law for the provision for the protection or advancement of women or children or of any socially or educationally retarded class of persons.

Article 111 of the Constitution has also set out what law means in Samoa. This includes the Constitution, any Act of Parliament, any proclamation, regulation, order, by-law or other act of authority. Law that is also recognized in Samoa and under the Constitution includes any custom or usage which has acquired the force of law in Samoa or any judgment of a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 6 of the *Ministry of Women Affairs Act 1990* outlines the functions of the Ministry, which include but are not limited to promoting better employment conditions for women, providing better training for women in their work, assisting women with their home economics,

advising the Government on women's affairs and liaising with women's groups on all issues involving women.

Section 16B of the Act outlines the duties of the *Sui Tama'ita'i o le Nu'u*. These include but are not limited to promoting the advancement of women in her village, ensuring the free flow of information between the Women's Committees of her village and the Government through the Ministry, and promoting wellbeing and health in her village.

Under this legislation, the '*Sui Tama'ita'i o le Nu'u*' is also established¹⁶ with the following duties:

- Promote the advancement of women in her village through the implementation, coordination and monitoring and evaluation of, and provision of assistance to, all programmes, activities and development projects for women that are economically viable, socially beneficial, culturally appropriate and environmentally sensitive;
- Ensure the free flow of information between the Women's Committees of her village the Government through the Ministry;
- Report to the Ministry on the progress of implementation and monitoring of programmes, activities and development projects;
- Record and register births and deaths in her village where appropriate in accordance with the provision of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 2002;
- Collaborate closely with the Village Women's Committee and Sui o le Nu'u on promoting the wellbeing and health of the village through the Aiga ma Nu'u Manuia programme and other relevant programmes and developed projects;
- Promote good governance in women's committees and all other women's groups in her village;
- Provide at all times assistance that may be requested through the Ministry of the successful implementation and completion of Government programmes and development projects, locally and nationally; and
- Perform any duties that promote and support Government policy related to the work on the advancement of women in her village.¹⁷

The Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development are currently advocating for a more up to date overarching piece of legislation. This would be a valuable mechanism to progress further advancement for women.

MWCSD has for the past 4 years developed and implemented its National Policy for Women of Sāmoa. The policy which looks at ensuring all women and girls have equal access to and benefit from the utilization of opportunities to secure their full participation, and consists of five (5) policy outcomes to develop and enhance the capacity and advancement of women in Sāmoa.

¹⁶ *Ministry of Women Affairs Act 1990* (Sāmoa), s16A

¹⁷ *Ministry of Women Affairs Act 1990* (Sāmoa), s16B

However, several gaps that have been identified at this current point are some of the limited policy outcomes that address issues particular to young women, such as single parenthood, marginalization of young women's issues or an outcome that caters specifically toward the continued difficulties women face gaining a matai title and actively participating in the village fono. The findings from the Women Matai and Leadership Survey will provide another evidence base piece of research that will inform strategies to take in addressing such a pertinent issue.

While there is no specific outcome to address the issue of prostitution and unsafe abortions, these are currently been looked at by the Samoa Law Reform in its CEDAW Legislative compliance Review and consultations should offer some options to address these moving forward.

Samoa is also in the process of finalizing the One Gender Program in collaboration with AUSAID. This is a five year initiative which will drive gender equality programs at all levels of society. This is further amplified by the Transformational Leadership Program which is envisaged to bring about change in the context of responses on pertinent issues such as eliminating violence against women and promoting women's participation in the political arena. The establishment of Break Through Initiative Teams as an outcome of the TLDP trainings have resulted in enhanced public awareness on the issues of violence against women and enhancing women's participation in the political arena. These include but not limited to the following:

- The group of faith based leaders have developed a "Family Enrichment Program" course which focuses on the importance of communication between couples. The development of the Family Enrichment course has created an opportunity for different religious denominations within this group to adopt the course content and implement similar modules in their respective denominations.
- The Creative Art Group commenced their 'Expression of Faa'aliga' (Faaaliga is the Samoan word for 'Feelings' in this context). A program was implemented for girl child survivors of sexual violence currently under the care of the Samoa Victim Support Group House of Hope. The program aims to empower and heal young women through self expression and creative art therapy. This program has started to provide the avenue for these survivors to have some sense of confidence to express their feelings and not feel ashamed.
- The Private Sector Group has teamed up with the Public sector group and together they are quite vigilant to ensure that there is a high number of 'women who will contest in the 2016 National Elections. The group have already started to gather testimonies from former female parliamentarians and are creating a profile of interested women candidates from the villages. Improving knowledge through the collection of data will

support the implementation of this initiative under thematic area three and truly lead to a break through result in the history of this country.

Samoa remains steadfast that recent advancements made in this concerned area are positive steps made by Government and its private and non Government counterparts. However challenges continue to impede the full realization of service accessibility and delivery. This is in terms of attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of people which allow such behavior to occur. The limited resources and budget constraints are other factors that continue to be a challenge in meeting advancement goals for women of Samoa.

Currently under the *Crimes Act 2013*, abortion is still illegal in Sāmoa, except in cases where the attending physician is of the opinion that carrying a foetus full term will endanger the life of the mother. Divorce procedures in Sāmoa have been simplified and made more accessible to women since Parliament passed the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act 2012 which applies a 'no fault' based system for grounds of dissolution of marriage.

A Women in Leadership Advocacy Group for Healthy Living (WinLA) was established in 2010. It is currently chaired by the Minister for Justice and consists of all current Parliamentarians and Women Heads of Government Organizations. While the forum was founded on principles of health promotion, the mission of WinLA continues to expand to take on a much broader focus and to include the orientation of women to become future leaders across the public and private sectors.

In line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Donor Harmonization for Development Assistance in Samoa, three key support facilities have been established. They are the Public Sector Improvement Facility, the Private Sector Support Facility and the Civil Society Program. These mechanisms mobilize financial assistance for the relevant groups and organizations to apply for funding. All these have and continue to provide additional support for various women NGO's, women private sector organizations and women community based organizations. These have all contributed to the advancement of women across the different sectors of Samoan society.

The work of the Samoa Law Reform continues to be instrumental in developing Policy/issues discussions papers for the purpose of informing new legislation and in response to emerging concerns for Samoa.

The MWCSO provides the financing of annual implementation of gender equality programs with the assistance of donor aid. Such support includes the funding of the Samoa Victim Support Group's skills building programs for victims of violence as a yardstick of social reintegration,

the outsourcing of funding to community based organizations to raise awareness on HIV AIDS and STIs through sports and conferences, support to the Loto Taumafai Society for the implementation of positive parenting programs for parents with disabled children, recognition and support of youth development initiatives to facilitate self employment and business sustainability, as well as support garnered to village women committees for the reconstruction of pre schools, committee meeting houses, and domestic scale vegetable gardens as a form of livelihood restoration. The Ministry is not oblivious of their financial limitation which is why it works as a Sector level and also Civil Society groups.

A network of 204 village women representatives enabled the active participation of rural women in development and advancement of women. The representatives engaged women and girls in advocacy against gender violence. Disaster preparedness and management programmes, school enrolment and vocational training opportunities, improved birth registration for children, and livelihood programmes for unemployed mothers and young women.

3.9 Human Rights of Women

Article 15 of the Constitution provides for the freedom from discriminatory legislation, where all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection under the law. Article 15 also goes further to set out that no law, executive or administrative action of the State shall expressly or in its practical application subject any person/s to:

- Any disability or restriction;
- Confer any privilege or advantage on grounds of descent, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, place of birth or family status.

Article 13 of the Constitution of Sāmoa provides for the right of all persons to move freely throughout Sāmoa. Women have a legal capacity identical to that of men in all civil matters. There is no legislation which denies women the right to enter into a contract or purchase property.

Sāmoa has established a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) that was launched in December, 2013. The Office of the Ombudsman has recently passed the *Ombudsman Act 2013* where it provides for the establishment of the NHRI within the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as setting out the mandate of the institute. The NHRI's mandate will be to monitor advice and report on human rights issues. It will raise awareness of individual rights and responsibilities amongst the population and will work towards achieving a human rights aware society in order to promote good governance and prevent human rights violations in Samoa.¹⁸

3.10 Women and the Media

¹⁸ Samoa Law and Justice Sector, (14 Aug 2013), *Establishment of the National Human Rights Institution(NHRI) at the Office of the Ombudsman*, Apia, Samoa

The establishment of a 24-hour help line by the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG) in April 2013 has made a difference in the Samoa. The help line has been instrumental in alleviating the frustrations of parents, husbands and partners who are looking for someone to talk to about their problems. This group comprises 65 per cent of the help line's callers, a testimony to the fact that Samoans increasingly want to 'speak out' and seek assistance. SVSG also credits the media with spreading the word about the 24-Hour Help Line. At the launch in April 2013, when Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi asked for help informing the public, an influx of calls came through, encouraged by media reports. This positive use of the media coupled with the 24-hour Help Line peopled by trained and committed staff is a new age for ending violence against women in Samoa. The 24-Hour Help Line service is supported by two private communication companies, Bluesky Samoa and Digicel Samoa, and is part of a two-year project sponsored by the UN Women Pacific Regional Ending Violence against Women Facility Fund. The Fund is supported by AusAID and National Committees of UN Women in Australia and New Zealand.

The Asia Pacific Journalism Centre is developing a leadership initiative for journalists from Pacific Islands Forum countries aimed at improving news reporting on economic issues involving women. Obviously Samoa is part of this initiative. The initiative will contribute to improving economic literacy among women and the economic empowerment of women, which is a prerequisite for sustainable development and pro-poor growth. The program will aim to promote women as news media leaders, with special attention to reporting business and economic news in a way that properly addresses the role and place of women in local economies, and which appeals to women as audiences and develops their economic literacy. The program will also address the broad spectrum of issues concerning women including human rights issues such as maternal health, equal opportunity and access to resources, both physical and intellectual, as well as gender-based violence.

Key elements

- Empowerment of women for leadership roles in the newsroom
- Skills development for covering business, finance and economic news
- Strategies for putting women in the news
- Packaging and presenting business news and media for women audiences
- Exploration of the role of women in the informal sector and the economy generally
- New media developments and practice, including opportunities for women

Main activities

- Leadership course
- Master classes in business news reporting and editing for print, broadcast and online media Seminars and workshops on putting women in the news
- New media training (mobile phones, other for info gathering and reaching remote audiences)

- Visits and seminars (with leaders in media, business, development, Government, education) Refining goals, exploring strategies for follow-up programs
- Development of a handbook on reporting women's economic issues

The Rural Internet Connection for Samoa (RICS) initiative aims to address some of the major telecommunication challenges facing rural and remote communities including:

- lack of access to communications technology for rural and remote areas
- high costs of ICTs and access to ICTs
- digital and communication divide affecting mostly rural and remote areas(www.pacrics.net)

To date the link has been established with the Satellite and updates downloaded with internet access are possible. The equipment will relocate to the pilot site at Vaipouli College in Savaii as soon as possible. It is a Project funded by AusAID.

Fesootai Centres (Telecentres or ICT Centres) have been established in 12 rural villages throughout Savaii and Upolu as part of the Universal Access objective outlined in the National ICT Strategy. The community run centers, give Samoans access to, awareness of and skills in ICT. Located in villages where many people have never seen a computer before, help and training is offered to people who are unfamiliar with new technology. "Affordable and Reliable ICT for All," Feso'ota'i centers make ICT available for people to keep in touch and up-to-date with the latest technologies in the world. Fair prices and a variety of services including, internet, passport photos, family and group photos, color printing, copying, scanning, phone, fax, webcam, projector hire and CD burning give people access to a variety of services they previously would have had to travel to the capital for.

The project has a number of donors including the Government but aims to become sustainable and independent over time. Solar power initiatives have also been successful and future developments including establishing an administrator training centre in the Savaii, piloted broadband and increasing the number of centers are all activities to be completed over the next reporting period.

One lap top per child initiative is in its pilot phase. A total of 150 laptops including a server and access to the internet will be provided by the pilot project. Two primary schools, one in Savaii and one on Upolu will participate in the pilot. This project is in the process of being implemented by Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) and Ministry of Communications, Information and Technology (MCIT). Also there is the School Net program with the aim to connect all secondary school students to the internet. This is at early phases and currently in the tender process in collaboration with MESC and has support funding from AusAID.

The Government's National ICT Policy provides an overarching framework to harmonies and align the national ICT priorities of various industry sectors and Government Ministries. This policy document is positioned at the level immediately below the Strategy for the Development

of Samoa, which sets out Samoa's national social and economic goals, and endeavors to integrate the national ICT policy direction with the goals and initiatives of key industry sectors and Government Ministries. This National ICT Policy currently has five goals for the period 2012–17 based on the key themes of accessibility, capacity and community so women and girls are very much at the forefront of this policy. Those goals are:

1. To achieve accessible and affordable communications for all;
2. To create an enabling environment for the development and adoption of ICT through policy reform and improvements in legal frameworks;
3. To strengthen ICT human resources and increase human resource development opportunities through ICT;
4. To improve economic growth and socio – improvements and their sustainability; and
5. To utilize ICT for good governance.

The Samoa National Broadband Policy 2012 has been prepared by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology ('MCIT') following public consultation in late 2011 and early 2012. It has been developed taking into account the applicable legislative regime detailed in the Telecommunications Act 2005 and the Broadcasting Act 2010. The Government believes that it is necessary for policies, especially in areas involving both public and private sector input, to be formulated and enacted in as transparent manner as possible. This public consultation means that Samoa's national broadband policy is both practicable and reflective of a broad consensus in the country.

3.11 Women and the Environment

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) for Samoa is a country-wide programme of immediate and urgent project-based adaptation activities that address the current and anticipated adverse effects of climate change, including extreme events. The wide range consultation process provided an adequate awareness platform for adaption to climate change issues. Furthermore, consultation with local Governments and grass root institutions created adequate ownership and support to the NAPA and hence for NAPA follow up projects and programmes. The programme has a specific focus on 'on the ground' implementation of coastal adaptation measures in tourism development areas, addressing climate change impacts on key infrastructure elements and tourism reliant communities in order to enhance their resilience. The design of the actual adaptation interventions will actively engage small tourism operators and communities to ensure their sustainability. Women are critical participants in the implementation arrangements.

The National Environment & Development Sector Plan (NESP) 2013 – 2016 vision is to ensure Samoa's natural and built environments are well protected and resilient to natural and human-induced hazards, and supporting a sustainable and healthy human population. The NESP is read

in conjunction with the 2013 State of Environment (SOE) report and the NESP Report: Background & Process. The SOE report provides:

- I. The detailed analysis of the overall context of drivers and pressures that interact and combine to cause environmental changes in Samoa;
- II. The state of health of the key habitats and species groups comprising the country's biodiversity and biophysical environment; and
- III. An analysis of impacts generated by the operation of environmental drivers and pressures, and prescribes strategic responses for alleviating their negative impacts.

The NESP's primary purpose is to define and articulate the key strategies for achieving the Environment Sector and SDS goal of 'environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction'. It is based on the findings of the State of Environment Report but is a forward looking and prescriptive document that sets out strategies and measures for addressing the key environmental issues facing Samoa. Women and gender are significant considerations in policy, programs and implementation arrangements. Other related purposes include:

- I. Discussing issues and impacts on the environment that stem from activities of other economic sectors including agriculture, water and sanitation, infrastructure and energy, tourism;
- II. Seeking to complement other sector strategies with environmental related issues by identifying specific areas of concern that need addressing in those sectors;
- III. Identifying sector strategies for pursuing the overall national goals of environmental sustainability and disaster resilience set out in the Samoa's Development Strategy (SDS) 2012 – 2016;
- IV. Promoting multi-agency coordination to ensure cross-cutting issues are implemented and not duplicated; and
- V. Proposing arrangement for implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting.

A yearly review of the NESP is soon to be conducted to track any changes in the status of the environment using the set indicators established in the SOE assessment. The initial focus for Monitoring & Evaluation will be an Outcome Evaluation to assess the HOW and WHY outcomes are/ not being achieved, and on assessing the overall contributions of various factors to a given OUTCOME, with such factors including partnerships, gender, community awareness, policy advice and dialogue, advocacy and coordination rather than on implementation processes.

The Government of Samoa has just received funding from the International Development Association (World Bank) towards the cost of the Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Resources and Communities Project. A tender process is currently underway for the development of a Community Engagement Plan containing detailed guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the Project at community level, which involves the delivery of small scale subprojects and village scale resilience activities identified in the Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans review. Gender is at the forefront of these Community Engagement Plans.

The Disaster Management Office (DMO) is a division within the MNRE that is responsible for ensuring the ongoing coordination, development and implementation of Disaster Risk Management programmes and activities in Samoa. The Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management Program (CDCRM) was developed for the Government of Samoa through the Disaster Management Office under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2010 with the financial assistance from UNESCO. The CDCRM programme is a unique tool developed to facilitate the delivery of disaster and climate risk management programme for all villages in Samoa. The CDCRM program is an effective and a highly important program ensuring the benefit of all people, therefore inclusive of women, and sharing knowledge and understanding of villages and facilitators to build up their capacity and learning of new gateways and ideas of how to minimize effects of lives and belongings.

The main objectives of this program are to;

- Enable the development of disaster plans for all villages informed by a hazard assessment and vulnerability analysis, hazard mapping, establishment of village disaster teams, development of village mitigation plan for implementation, specialized trainings including logistics, search and rescue, first aid, shelter management, warning dissemination, body handling and management and other relevant emergency response skills; and
- Simulation is also conducted to test village plans as well as monitoring and evaluation of progress and effectiveness of this program. Within this program, the first round includes 50 villages to receive program and its being funded by Australian Red Cross.

There also exists a Samoa National Action Plan (NAP) for Disaster Risk Management which is designed to contribute to sustainable development by facilitating the inclusion of risk reduction and risk awareness as integral to societal functioning rather than as parallel or external activities. It identifies Samoa's disaster risk management (DRM) goals and priority measures for implementation through a whole-of-Government and whole-of society approach over the period 2011–2016. The NAP requires all hazard risk and vulnerability reduction with a focus on gender to be integrated within all development planning and implementation. Building requisite capacities in Samoa will attain greatest impact in the medium to longer-term time frame. The NAP aims to create firm foundations for disaster risk reduction (DRR) to become fully integrated into national and sub-national development planning, becoming part of the same process. This commitment to integrated planning extends beyond merely articulating NAP objectives in a national development strategy. Rather, it will eventually become evident in all national and sub-national planning documents. All long-term development and investment projects will be required to ensure hazard risk and vulnerability reduction principles and practices are considered. Ultimately, the recommended national mitigation strategy will ideally be officially incorporated into Samoa's long-term development strategy and included as a separate sustainable development Priority Area within the next SDS. Building resilience is the focus of the National Action Plan. Resilience refers to reduction of the probability of, as well as actual

damage to property, loss of life, and community disruption, and to prompt reconstruction and restoration of livelihoods.

3.12 The girl-child

The critical areas above that focus on Poverty, Education and Health to a large degree document measures that also address this critical area. The most exciting milestone over this reporting period has been the long journey from baseline research to a drafted Bill currently at the public consultation phase that has the child's best interests as paramount. This includes also principles of safety and wellbeing. It promotes responsibilities on persons for ensuring protection, risk from harm and children's upbringing, protection and development. When final consultations are completed over the next couple of months we should be able to report the successful passing into legislation of The Child Care and Protection Act 2014. Protection orders will be a critical mechanism available to the Court and respective law enforcement agencies for the protection of the child. It is expected the Act will be consistent with international conventions and standards. We look forward in the next reporting phase to report on the administration and enforcement of rights as provided for in the proposed legislation.

4. DATA AND STATISTICS

4.1 Has a core set of national indicators for monitoring progress in gender equality been established?

Yes partly through the monitoring and evaluation of the following policies:

3. National Policy for Women.
4. National Policy for Children
5. National Youth Policy
6. National Policy for Persons with Disability

If so, please provide the indicators in an annex.

The above policies are provided as annex.

Where is responsibility for collecting the data located? In regards to the National Policy, the MWCSO is responsible for monitoring and collecting this data, whether it is from programs implemented by the NWM or collected from sector partners as secondary sources. However, this responsibility is scattered amongst Government ministries which collect their own data which are aligned accordingly to their specific mandates. This data shared amongst partners upon request.

4.2 (a) Has data collection and compilation on the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators begun, which was agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013? Yes partly

(b) If so, what is the status of data collection and compilation? Please describe plans to improve gender-related data collection and compilation at the national level that have been developed.

The collection of gender disaggregated data continues to remain as a challenge for Samoa. However, recent developments indicate Government's commitment to ensuring that gender related data collection and compilation is improved. To date, the Government of Sāmoa in its efforts towards gender focused data collection have progressed which include, but are not limited to the following:

- As an institutional strengthening initiative, the MWCSO has developed a series of gender checklists which seeks to assist divisions in improving program development, policy design and service delivery. These checklists are being trialed within the Ministry's divisions. It is envisaged that the MWCSO can further amplify the use of these checklists across other sectors. These checklists can become platforms towards the design of national level gender specific indicators. The development of a core minimum set of gender indicators has been identified as one of the core action points emphasized in the SPC/Government of Samoa Gender Stocktake. This stocktake will inform direct support to the capacity of the MWCSO and her partners on producing and using of sex disaggregated data and compilation of the Gender Indicators.
- The MWCSO is in the process of finalizing its Gender Program and Implementation Plan in collaboration with AUSAID under the Pacific Women Shaping Women Initiative. This plan encompasses programs and activities which are also aligned to outcomes of the National Policy for Women, the Community Sector Plan, as well as Samoa's National Development Strategy. Indicators have been developed alongside this plan as a monitoring strategy to ensure that the plan is effectively implemented during its five (5) year lifespan.
- The National Census is spearheaded by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics every five years and provides population and housing information that assists in the development of population and housing policies pertaining to general health, education, labor force, employment, disability, children, youth, aging population, gender, communication, technology, urbanization, home appliances and more. It is a document proven useful to planners, policy makers, the business community and NGOs which has formulated policies that seek to enhance and improve socio-economic developments in the country.
- The Education Statistical Digest is an annual document which provides a range of statistics and performance measures related to education in Samoa. It captures a range of data, from primary to secondary level and looks at indicators such as literacy rates, net enrolment ratio, gross enrolment ratio, gender parity index, transition rates to secondary education levels, etc.

- The Demographic and Health Survey in 2009 which was undertaken by the Ministry of Health and the Samoa Bureau of Statistics is a national survey covering all four regions of the country. The survey was designed to collect, analyze and disseminate information on housing and household characteristics, education, maternal and child health, nutrition, fertility and family planning, as well as knowledge/behavior towards HIV/AIDS and STIs. The pre test of the research tools for data collection for an updated DHS will commence in August 2014, with the survey to be completed June next year. The updated DHS now includes specific data collection and indicators on people with disabilities.
- Data on public life and decision making is collected by the Public Service Commission, the MJCA, the Office of the Electoral Commissioner and the Ministry of Police. The MWCSOs recent Women's Leadership and Matai Survey which supports the Constitutional Amendment Act 2013 by outlining prevailing attitudes and beliefs which contributes to the participation of women in decision making, and works towards identifying solutions in order to see more women taking up political leadership positions.
- Data on violence is collected by the Ministry of Police, and the Ministry of Justice (court cases). The Law and Justice Sector has established a centralized information system known as the Mau Database which seeks to collect and disseminate all crime related information for sector partners. Data includes violence cases which have been reported to the Ministry of Police as well court cases which are administered by the Ministry of Justice.

4.3 Has data collection and compilation on the nine indicators on violence against women, as agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013, begun? No

If not, are there any plans at the national level to begin work based on these indicators? Please describe briefly.

The closest data which partly adheres to the nine indicators on violence against women is the Family Health and Safety Study of 2000 but published in 2007. Noting that data from this survey is significantly outdated, it is imperative to note that a follow up survey is envisaged to take place in 2015 given availability of funding under the Gender Program. It is anticipated that this follow up study will include the nine indicators on VAW.

4.4 What processes have been undertaken to collect data on the situation of particular groups of women, such as rural women, older women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, women living with HIV and AIDS, or other groups? Please describe briefly.

The upcoming Demographic and Health Survey will have updated information women with disabilities. The upcoming Household Income and Expenditure Survey will also capture economic data on income and spending of households in urban and rural areas for women.

4. EMERGING PRIORITIES

Remaining Challenges

- Raising the quality of life for all in all sectors of the economy remains a most significant challenge;
- The agriculture sector as a whole and agricultural export earnings in particular, have generally been weak which is critical when 80% of women live in rural areas;
- Increasing gender based violence and limited participation of women in Parliament;
- High levels of NCDs and related health issues – as well as cost and service delivery issues;
- Low student (both females and males) school retention rates particularly at secondary level;
- The land tenure system can be a challenge to private sector growth;
- Limited statistics analytical capacity to inform use of survey results, datasets and census results restricts effective measurement of BPA targets and indicators

Potential measures to address the challenges

- An increased emphasis on pro-poor economic policies and programmes to address inequality and targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the community; including through implementation of social safety nets and specifically targeted social and economic programmes;
- Because BPFA monitoring at the national level can sometimes disguise inequality at sub national levels for certain groups in the population, there is a need for more comprehensive analysis and design of measures to address the root causes;
- Targeted programmes to address NCDs, student school retention at certain levels and gender based violence as broad community and social development issues and not narrowly defined as health or education issues;
- Working with the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders including in the informal sector to implement women employment programmes that build skills and promote financial literacy to address women unemployment or underemployment in the population;
- Mainstream gender equality into the national development process through the Gender Program ;
- Continue to strengthen affiliations between the Government of Samoa and its donor partners to ensure that the MWCSD is adequately resourced to realize its mandated function as the National Women's Machinery. Therefore, the Gender Program and Implementation Plan for 2014 – 2019 which supports the priority outcomes areas of ; Economic Empowerment for women, advancing Gender Equality in Decision making and political governance, reducing incidence of violence against women and girls. Continue

to consolidate its sector planning/programming approach to address its issues of gender;

- Samoa Parliamentary Community Engagement & Women's Program
- Samoa Parliamentary Support Program for members of parliament and political parties on gender equality
- Increase the focus on expanding Women in Business opportunities to increase food security;
- Respond to climate change and increased natural disasters through a fully integrated sector wide approach which sees climate change as a development variable impacting on all segments of the community and across all dimensions of the economy;
- Taking a transformational approach to address the issues of gender equality through consideration of the structural factors at the roots of these inequalities and deriving actions and initiatives to bring about lasting improvements;
- Sustainable youth employment promotion and enterprise creation;
- Exploring opportunities for further labor mobility and vocational training for women.
- Improved social protection schemes for women and families;
- Building resilience to multiple shocks which are becoming a new normal for the for Samoa and the Pacific and promote a process which requires systems thinking, applying new and sophisticated decision making tools and overcoming inherent limitations in addressing risks and uncertainties;
- Continue to make the Government of Samoa accountable in fully encompassing the principles of inclusiveness, equity and human rights particularly with regards people with disability, children and gender equality;
- Assess and adjust where needed economic policies in order to be more pro-poor as well as considering appropriate social protection measures especially for rural and young women;
- While progress was achieved in health and education service delivery along with significant investments in infrastructure there remain concerns over the quality of such services; and
- To minimize the impact of climate change on vulnerable villages and coastal areas which have high populations of women and young girls.

5. ANNEXURE

1. National Women's Policy 2010–2015
2. Family Safety Act 2013
3. 2013 Samoa Education Statistical Digest
4. Domestic Violence data
5. Labor and Employment Relations Act 2013
6. Child Protection Baseline Report for Samoa 2013: Executive Summary

7. National Policy for Children 2010–2015
8. National Youth Policy 2011–2015
9. National Policy for Persons with Disability 2011–2016