



Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Country Report

**‘Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming
Policies for Government Officers’**

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Government: Independent democratic state with a Westminster Parliamentary system of Government. There are 3 arms of government: National Parliament, National Executive Council and National Judicial system.

Land: 474, 000 square kilometers + (600 small islands).

Population: 5.6 million with an annual growth rate of 3.2% per year.

Economy: Traditional and modern cash economy.

Language: 866 different languages & extremely diverse in culture.

Education: 43% over 15 years illiterate & 49% female illiterate.

Health: High mortality rate & low life expectancy of 55 and above.

Religion: Christianity (99%) and others (1%).



Current Gender Issues



- Customs and beliefs are contributing factors to gender issues.
- Less number of female enrolment in education.
- Early marriages and unwanted pregnancies.
- Lack of respect and violence against women.
- Lack of participation in politics and decision making at all levels of government.



Challenges

- Women's value as house wives and child bearers.
- Culture and customs that prevents women from participation in decision making.
- Men dominion in decision making process and the political arena.
- Women not encouraged to involve in politics.
- Jealousy and envy from other women and competition.
- Women lacking confidence in standing for recognition and decision making.
- Competition and influence by money power in buying votes from people.



Counter Measures Taken

The following are some of the policies and laws developed to enhance and improve gender mainstreaming in PNG.

- Government has established an Office of the Development for women.
- National Gender Policy.
- Early Childhood Care & Development Policy.
- Gender Equity Policy in Education.
- White Paper on Agriculture.
- **Laws:** Lukautim Pikinini Act – (*Currently reviewed for approval by NEC*), Marriage Act, Civil Registry Act, Deserted Wives & Child Act, National Council of Women Act, Adoption of Children Act and other Laws addressing gender in PNG.



The Way Forward

What the government can do to address gender issues is to:

- Review current laws, policies and programs.
- Revise them in accordance with CEDAW.
- Find like-minded people in other ministries to work with.
- Wide dissemination of CEDAW to people.
- Training and education for stakeholders about CEDAW.
- set up mechanisms aimed at recognizing and addressing gender issues in legislation, policies, programs and projects.
- institutionalizing gender concerns in the mainstream development processes.



Action Plan 2008 – 2012.

‘Empowering Women Participation in Decision Making’

Implemented by JICA & Government of
Papua New Guinea (PNG).



Issues of Concerned

Lack of women participation in decision making at the political level. Reasons are:

- Currently only one women parliamentarian.
- Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government provides for 3 women Representatives at Provincial and LLG.
- Greater number of women groups established, but need to build capacity.
- Lack of education and skills training has hindered women in politics.
- Lack of gender mainstreaming by government stakeholders and disseminating information.



Goal:

Empowering Women Participation in Decision Making.

Objective:

- To promote more women councilors to participate in Decision Making at the Local Level Government (*LLG*) and the Provincial Government (*PG*).
- To educate women councilors on right based approach to making good decisions in political participation at the LLG/PG.



 **Project Duration:** 2008 to 2012.

 **Budget and Source of Funding:** About K 1, 155, 000 funded by JICA, Department For Community Development and Department of Planning and Finance.

 **Activities:**

1. Stakeholder consultation,
2. Awareness & Dissemination of Information to stakeholders,
3. Providing Technical Assistance to Provincial Women's Office,
4. Capacity Building for women groups in the 4 Regions,
5. Leadership Management Course for women groups and
6. Networking & Dissemination of Information.



Indicators to measure outputs:

- Government stakeholders have made commitments to implement gender mainstreaming into their action plans.
- Also information disseminated to all levels of governments, Donors and NGOs.
- Every 3 women councilors from 89 districts are educated and trained.
- At least 2/3 women representatives in each of the 89 Districts and 20 provinces.
- National Gender Policies implemented by Provincial and Local Level Governments.



Expected Outcome

- By year 2012, the provincial and the Local Level Government in 89 Districts and 20 provinces would have 3 women representatives in the decision making process.
- By 2012, at least 4/more Regional Women Representatives elected to the National Parliament.
- More women are educated and trained in leadership management and decision making.
- Women groups are empowered through capacity building.



Thank You!

The End.

