

SAMOA: COUNTRY GENDER PROFILE

NOVEMBER 2005

LALOTOA S. MULITALO

This information presented here was gathered from on-site sources. Therefore, JICA is not responsible for its accuracy.

SAMOA: COUNTRY GENDER PROFILE

Table of Contents	Page
Title page	
Table of Contents	2
List of Abbreviations	3
Opening Comments	4
1. Basic Profiles	
1-1 Socio-Economic Profile	5
1-2 Health Profile	10
1-3 Education Profile	12
2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender	
2-1 General Situation of Women in Samoa	15
2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender	18
2-3 National Machinery	20
3. Current Situation of Women by Sector	
3-1 Education	25
3-2 Health	27
3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	31
3-4 Economic Activities	33
4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors	38
5. WID/Gender Information Sources	41
5-1 List of International Organisations and NGOs related to WID/Gender....	41
5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender	42
6. References	44
7. Definitions	46

List of Abbreviations
SAMOA

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DFW	Division for Women
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
F/P	Family Planning
GDP	Gross (Values of) Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human-Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HDI	Human Development Index
HRPP	Human Rights Protection Party
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
LTC	Land and Titles Court
NACC	National AIDS Coordinating Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NUS	National University of Samoa
NZAid	New Zealand Aid
MESC	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
MOH	Ministry of Health
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
PGWNet	Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet)
PILOM	Pacific Islands Law Officers Meeting
PPP	Purchasing power parity
PSC	Public Service Commission
RH/FP/SH	Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Sexual Health
SAWG	Samoan Women Graduates
SBEC	Small Business Enterprises Centre
SDUP	Samoa Democratic United Party
SandCD	Social and Community Development
SPBD	South Pacific Business Development
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TAC	Technical AIDS Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
'Update Report' for CEDAW	means the Update Report prepared by solicitors of the Attorney General's Office as supplementary information to assist the Samoan delegation that presented the Samoa CEDAW Report 2005 to the CEDAW Committee in New York, 2005
WSFHA	Western Samoa Family Health Association
WHO	World Health Organisation

Opening Comments

Samoa: Women in Development - 1998 to 2005

This Profile is a review and update of a 1998 Profile on Women in Development, Samoa, now renamed, Samoa: Country Gender Profile.

As a result of this 2005 update of Samoa: Country Gender Profile, various factors come to light:

- it has taken some time, but women are beginning to make a name for themselves in Samoa;
- the government is now more involved in women related issues e.g. reproductive health care, review of legislation relating to women etc.;
- there is an increase in economically active women;
- women are beginning to take advantage of the Public Service Act 2004 provision where appointments and promotions are based on merit;
- there is a higher level of competition for higher learning among women and this year 2005, a substantial number of total scholarships (48%) were granted to women;
- there are more programs educating and training people and women in particular on domestic abuse, reproductive health, small businesses, and other related issues; and thus,

there have been developments in the development of women in the last 5 years.

Compilation

This Profile has attempted as much as possible to obtain the most recent data available from Government Ministries, Government Corporations, other Government agencies, NGO's and surveys by international organizations e.g. UNESCO. This Profile therefore is mainly a product of the most recent data, taken from recent research, record and reports of government offices, save for some periodical government publication e.g. the Report of the Census of Population and Census of 2001 compiled by the Statistics Division of the Ministry of Finance and the Directories of Women of Samoa compiled and published by the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD), Samoa. Being the most reliable authority on population and the recording of gender based activities, the 2001 Population Census has been heavily relied upon, save for where it is silent on matters like nutrition, non-communicable diseases etc. The search then turns to other available sources.

It is hoped that this Profile, like Profiles of similar nature, will assist in any way, further the development of women in Samoa, and that the next update Profile will record a similar improvement and enhancement of the development of women in Samoa.

1. Basic Profiles

1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Economic Indicators¹

GDP/Capita (PPP US\$) (2003)	GDP/Capita US\$ (2003)	GDP index	GDP per capita (PPP US\$) rank minus HDI rank
5,854	1,505	0.68	14

Economic indicators²

	GNP/Capita (US\$)	Growth rate of real GDP	Aid/Capita US\$
2003	1807	3.10	185.6
2002	1496	1.80	N/A

Demographic Indicators³

	Total	% of female population	% of urban population	Population growth rate	Total fertility rate	Life Expectancy (male)	Life Expectancy (female)
2001	176,710	48%	22%	1.0	4.4	71.8	73.8
1991	161,298	47.6%	21.2%	0.5	5.7 (1970) ⁴	63.5	65.5

Public Sector Expenditure to Sectors⁵

Government Revenue 2005-2006	ST \$312,178,520
Government Expenditure 2005-2006	ST \$300,485,992

Note:

1. ST\$1=US\$2.76
2. Social Welfare and Defence are not specifically part of government distribution. Appropriation, other public sectors are included for reference to government expenditure for financial year 2005-2006.

2005-2006 Financial Year Appropriations⁶

Public Sector	Appropriation ST\$	%
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests	11,667,462	3.9
Commerce, Industry and Labour	3,865,029	1.39
Communication, Information	1,853,984	0.7
Education, Sports and Culture	54,526,114	18.1
Finance	94,454,804	31.4
Foreign Affairs and Trade	15,348,098	5
Health	35,081,618	11.7
Justice and Courts Administration	5,825,081	2

¹ Human Development Report, UNDP, 2005.

² Comparative Tables of Indicators, Annex 1 Partnerships Moving Beijing Forward - Gender Equality and Empowerment: A Statistical Profile of the ESCAP Region;

³ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa

⁴ Human Development Report, UNDP, 2005.

⁵ Appropriation Act, 2005, Samoa. Passed by Parliament June 2005

⁶ Ibid.

Natural Resources, Environment, Meteorology	12,470,315	4.2
Police, Prisons, Fire Services	11,435,341	3
Prime Minister and Cabinet	4,503,558	1.5
Revenue	5,602,832	2
Works, Transport, Infrastructure	26,915,990	9
Women, Social Community Development	7,900,883	3
Attorney General Office	1,592,849	0.6
Audit	1,444,955	0.5
Legislative Assembly	2,040,023	0.7
Ombudsman	328,028	0.11
Public Service Commission	2,125,616	0.7
Electoral Commission	1,503,413	0.5

Industry/GDP⁷

	Agriculture ST\$	Agri %	Commerce, Industry, Labour ST\$	CIL %	Services + Others ST\$	Services + Ors %
2004-2005	386,668	.12	255,000	.08	311,536,852	99.8

Labour Indicators⁸

Total No. Economically Active Pop'n (EAP)	Employed in EAP	Employed Female in EAP	Employed Male in EAP	Inactive Group	Inactive female	Inactive male	Minimum Wage (Public)	Minimum Wage (Private)
104,724	50,325	15,207	35,118	51,779	34,106	17,673	\$2.40p/h ⁹	\$2.00p/h ¹⁰

* For more tables on Labour Indicators please see Part 3 – Current Situation of Women by Sector

Proportion of Workers Employed by industries¹¹

Industries	Total	%	Male	Male %	Female	Female %
Agriculture, hunting, forestry	17,711	35	15,613	44	2098	14
Fishing activities	2,575	5	2240	6	335	2
Manufacturing in Traditional/Home setting	5,422	11	1912	5	3510	23
Manufacturing in formal settings	1,941	4	907	3	1034	7
Electricity, gas	906	2	808	2	98	1

⁷ Appropriation Act, 2005, Samoa. Passed by Parliament June 2005.

⁸ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa.

⁹ Section 24 Public Service Commission Act 2004 – PSC Determination of scales and grading.

¹⁰ Order Prescribing Minimum Wage, section 19 Labour & Employment Act 1972, Samoa. In effect 26 Sept. 2005.

¹¹ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa.

and water						
Construction of buildings	1674	3	1601	5	73	1
Wholesale and retail trade	2,757	5	1460	4	1297	9
Restaurants and hotels	1,522	3	770	2	752	5
Transport, storage and communication	1,929	4	1636	5	293	2
Financing, insurance & business services	1082	2	526	2	556	4
Real estate, renting and business services	268	1	175	1	93	1
Public administration	3322	7	2143	6	1179	8
Education	2341	5	864	2	1477	10
Health and social work	843	2	341	1	502	3
Other community, social and personal services	2096	4	1566	4	530	4
Private household employees	2884	6	2022	6	862	6
International organisation	472	1	220	1	252	2
Not stated	854	2	545	2	309	2
Total	50,599	100	35,349	100	15,250	100

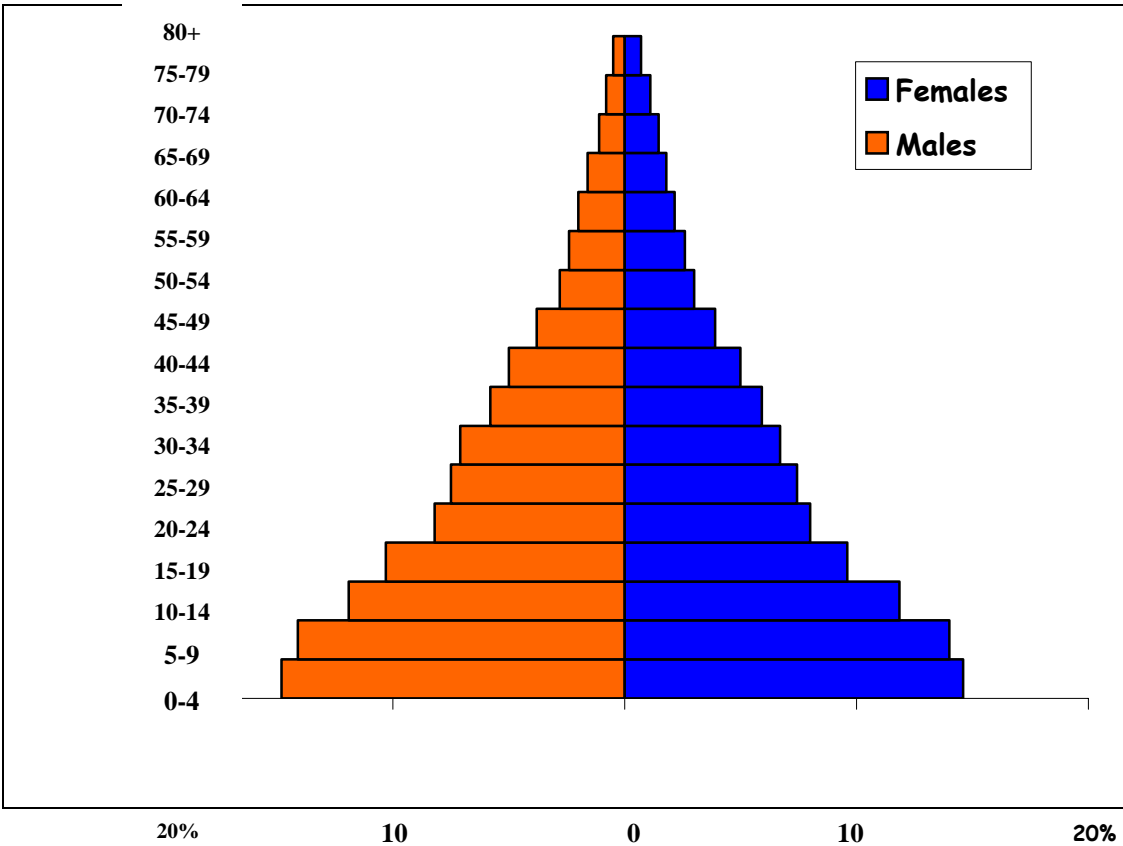
Population percentage distribution by 5-year age groups and sex - 2001¹²

Age Groups	Male%	Female%
0-4	14.8	14.6
5-9	14.1	14.0
10-14	11.9	11.9
15-19	10.3	9.6
20-24	8.2	8.0
25-29	7.5	7.4
30-34	7.1	6.7
35-39	5.8	5.9
40-44	5.0	5.0

¹² Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa

45-49	3.8	3.9
50-54	2.8	3.0
55-59	2.4	2.6
60-64	2.0	2.2
65-69	1.6	1.8
70-74	1.1	1.5
75-79	0.8	1.1
80+	0.5	0.7

Population percentage distribution by 5-year age groups and sex – 2001



Women in Decision-Making ¹³

Decision making level	Number	%	Comments
Lands and Titles Court Samoan Judge	1	6	In September 2005 a woman was appointed as a Lands and Titles Court (LTC) Judge and replaced the first woman so appointed who resigned in 2001(15 Samoan Judges).
Parliamentarians	3	6	49 members of Parliament
Cabinet Ministers	1	7	The longest serving Minister of Education in the Region (14 Cabinet Ministers)
Constitutional Offices	3	75	Clerk of the Legislative Assembly; Attorney General; CEO PSC (4 constitutional offices)
Government Ministry Chief Executive Officers	3	21	PSC, Finance, Health, Women, S and CD (14 Government Ministries)
Government Corporations Chief Executive Officers	4	15	Samoa Broadcasting Corp; Samoa Housing Corp; National Kidney Foundation; Samoa International Finance Authority (26 Public Bodies 22 Trading and 4 Public Beneficial Bodies)
Government Ministries Assistant CEO	30	39.5	Total of 76 ACEOs in 14 Government Ministries
International arena		61% of total international representatives are women	

¹³ Samoa Country Report for Pacific Islands Law Office Meeting 2005 – Office of the Attorney General, Samoa

Ratification and signature of International Law for Women

International Law for Women	Year	Ratified	Reports
CEDAW	1992	Yes	Yes, first report 2005
CRC	1994	Yes	Work in process for first report

Domestic Law for women

Domestic Law	Comments
Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa 1962	Contains fundamental rights including equality under the law
Ministry of Women Affairs Act 1990	Regulates the Office (MWCSD) responsible for the development of women and women related issues in Samoa
Labour Employment Act 1972	Acknowledges the differences in male and female physical capacity, prohibits the employment of women from 12 midnight to 6am with exceptions e.g. essential services
Public Service Act 2004	Provides for equal employment opportunity in the public service, and appointments and promotions to be made on the basis of merit.
Education	Compulsory education for all

Policy of WID

National Policy on Women and Action Plan reflected in the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development 2003-2007 Corporate Plan, the Way Forward.

Governmental organisation of WID

Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development

1-2 Health Profile

Expansion of Health Services¹⁴

People per physician (2002) ¹⁵	Total No. Employed in Health industry	Total female in health industry	Total male in health industry	Total Government appropriation 2005-2006 (ST\$)	Public expenditure on health (ST\$)
4,140	842	502	340	312,178,520	35,081,618

Note- ST\$1=US\$2.67

¹⁴ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa.

¹⁵ UNESCAP Comparative Indicators, 2004.

**Child Health
Mortality rate¹⁶**

Mortality Rate			
Infant (per 1000)			Under 5 (Per 1000)
total	Male	Female	Total
19 (2003)	19.5 ¹⁷	19 ¹⁸	24(2003)
106 (1970)			160 (1970)

% of vaccinated (1-year-olds)	
Tuberculosis	Measles
73(2003)	99(2003)

Family Planning¹⁹

Contraceptive prevalence rate	Births attendance by skilled health personnel(%)	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	Age at 1 st marriage Male	Age at 1 st marriage Female	Total fertility rate
N/A	100 ²⁰	130 (2000) ²¹	27	23	4.4

HIV/AIDS²²

Total found in Samoa 1990 – 2001	No. died to date	Surviving	Female	Male	HIV thru sexual intercourse	Gender
12 (10 adults and 2 infants)	7 (5 adults and 2 infants)	5	4 (HIV positive)	1 (HIV positive)	10 (3 females and 7 males)	8 heterosexuals and 2 homosexuals

Nutrition²³

Infants with low birth weight % 1998-2003	Daily per capita protein supply	Daily per capita calorie supply
4 (UNDP 2005)	84 grams (2002)	2945 calories (2002)
	80 grams (2000)	2843 calories (2000)

Community Health Services²⁴

	Population with sustainable access to improved sanitation (%)	Population with sustainable access to an improved water source (%)	Population without sustainable access to an improved water source (%)
1990	98	91	9
2002	100	88	12

¹⁶ Human Development Report, UNDP, 2005.

¹⁷ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Human Development Report, UNDP, 2005.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Department of Health 200. There has been no further HIV/AIDS cases reported to date.

²³ UNESCAP Comparative Indicators, 2004.

²⁴ Human Development Report, UNDP, 2005.

1-3 Education Profile

Commitment to Education

The Education Ordinance 1959 makes provision for compulsory education in Samoa. To date, this has not been realised due to resources. The Table below shows those in the primary school age who attends or do not attend school.

School attendance at primary school age 5-9 years²⁵

Total schooling			Attend full Time			Attend Part Time			Not Attending School		
Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
63,510	33,460	30,040	54,462	28,135	26,327	208	97	111	8,840	5,228	3,612

Public Expenditure on Education²⁶

Total No. Employed in Education industry	Total employed female in Education industry	Total employed male in Education industry	Total Government appropriation 2005-2006 (ST\$)	Public appropriation on education (ST\$)
2,341	1,477	864	312,578,120	54,526,114

Adult literacy rate²⁷

Adult literacy rate (% age 15 & above)		
Total	Female	Male
98.7 (2003)	98.4 (2003)	98.9 (2003)
98.0 (1990)		

29 years of age - Highest Age recorded of adult literacy²⁸

Total attending school	Male	Female	Full time total	F/Time Male	F/Time Female	P/Time Total	P/Time Male	P/Time Female
55	36	19	25	23	2	30	13	17

²⁵ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa.

²⁶ Ibid; also see the Appropriation Act 2005, Samoa.

²⁷ Human Development Report, UNDP, 2005.

²⁸ Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Samoa.

Enrollment ratio**Primary Education**

Total 5-10 years F/Time	Male F/Time	Female F/Time	Total P/Time	Male P/Time	Female P/Time	Net primary enrolment Female ratio% 2002-2003	Ratio of female to Male % 2002-2003
27,506	14,387	13119	78	44	34	96	.98

Secondary Education

Total 10-17 years F/Time	Male F/Time	Female F/Time	Total P/Time	Male P/Time	Female P/Time	Net 2ndry enrolment Female ratio % 2002-2003	Ratio of female to Male % 2002-2003
24,353	12,340	12,013	50	28	22	65	1.11

Higher Education

Total 18-29 years F/Time	Male F/Time	Female F/Time	Total P/Time	Male P/Time	Female P/Time
3,689	2,182	1,687	421	180	241

Female ratio of Higher Education

Tertiary students in science, math & engineering (% of all tertiary students) 1998-2003	Gross tertiary enrolment Female ratio - % 2002-2003	Ratio of female to male 2002-2003
62	6	0.90

NB: 48% scholarship holders for 2005 are female

2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender**Summary**

The general standard of women issues in Samoa in the last few years has notably improved greatly assisted by awareness programs carried out by the government through the national machinery or the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD). In the rural areas, Women's Committees continue to be of particular importance and influence in the shaping of morals, values and ideas of the general public on the importance and value of women in the Samoan society. As of recent, MWCSD has worked hard on pushing for the suppression of sexual harassment and violence against women, particularly in the homes. There still exists the idea particularly in the rural areas that a woman's place is in the kitchen and men may continue to leave the homes to work and put food on the table and spend time with their friends leaving the wife to deal with nurturing the children and keeping the home clean.

In a traditional Samoan family setting, the head of a nuclear family is the decision maker, and this is normally the male figure. If there is a paid worker in the family, that is normally the father or male figure. Generally, the male figure is the bread winner, whether employed

formally with a paid job or being a planter and fisherman producing food from the sea and from the land crops. The women would be responsible for preparing meals from what the husbands had brought home. Women also are without question given the responsibility of domestic work, cleaning, washing, cooking, making sure the children are clean and fed. This separation of family and domestic responsibilities are determined by the process of socialization where the children will automatically switch into the roles they see their parents play, chores within the homes for females and being the bread winner for the males. It is also within this separation of roles that the people outside of the family relate to easily. Whereas the father, with the outdoor responsibilities spend more time on his outdoor responsibilities, the mother's role determines she restricts herself to spending time with her domestic roles and her children.

The same situation applies in the bigger setting in extended families. The males are considered the breadwinner for the whole extended family whereas the females work together in setting the family in order, from the inside.

The status of a nuclear family determines that family's standing within the community or the village and the district in which the family resides. If the head of the nuclear family is a high chief, the wife and the daughters are recognized as of higher authority than the ordinary people within that village setting. However, a higher status does not automatically remove any of the general responsibilities stated above. It may only mean that the high chief's wife and daughters have more people from the extended family helping out with family activities in recognition of the respect owed to the chief title held by the chief, the head of the family.

The situations stated just above however do not strictly apply anymore to most residences of the urban area. Where there are more and more females competing for higher and better opportunities, the bread winner in the urban area may be both the father and mother, where generally both need to earn to live up to the standard of urban life.

It is generally believed that there are still many unreported cases of violence against women and girls in the home, whether it is physical, sexual or otherwise. The MWCSO continues to work together with the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Services to seek ways to control and bring such behaviour to an end. The Courts in Samoa are not taking sexual assault offences (the bulk of which are committed against females) lightly and continue to impose deterrence sentences on those who commit violence (physical or otherwise) against the female population. The Courts would normally seek a victim impact report for all offences but particularly for sexual offence cases to assist them in imposing appropriate deterrent sentences.

Samoa continues to be a patriarchal society and this continues to be reflected in the very low number of women in decision-making authorities not only in the government but also in the wider community. It appears however that women are taking a stand against this patriarchal system and are becoming more and more involved in improving their merits for promotions.

The Table shown in this Part shows that there is a balance in the total numbers of female and males involved in each religious affiliation. The Table shows that the number of females is normally lower than males in a religious affiliation. Currently in Samoa, there is no restriction

on females joining a particular religion, which may be a general recognition of the fundamental right (entrenched in the Constitution of Samoa), of every individual to a religion of his or her own choosing. The trend therefore, is not determined by a significant rationale other than that there is a lower number of females than males who become individuals or participants of that particular religion.

2.1 General Situation of Women in Samoa

a) Sexual harassment and violence against women

(i) The Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Service

Although the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Service has noted an increase in reported cases of sexual assault and abuse, indecent assault, incest, carnal knowledge and rape cases against women, it is believed that there are still a number of unreported cases prevented by family values from being reported. There is still reluctance in the part of women and female victims to report such cases for fear of family embarrassment, of family reputation, or of receiving more abuse and violence if the matter is reported.

One of the sad realities in Samoa for the past five years as noted by certain Prosecutors in the Supreme Court and District Court is the rising cases of natural mothers refusing to give evidence for their victim natural daughters in sexual offences cases e.g. a rape case against the natural mother's defacto husband. There have been incidents where the natural mothers rely on the protection of the Evidence Ordinance 1961 Samoa, where although a natural mother is a compellable witness against the husband (or defacto husband); where the issue involves her natural daughter, the law still protects the natural mother from having to testify on any personal conversation between herself and the defendant husband (or defacto husband).

(ii) The Courts²⁹

The courts of Samoa are not taking these matters lightly, particularly where there is a relationship between the victim child/female and the defendant. Already, the Supreme Court of Samoa has imposed the ultimate imprisonment term on two rape cases. One of the two cases,³⁰ related to complaints of incest in respect of the defendant's 3 daughters and the sustained sexual and physical abuse of his children over an extended period and was described by the Honourable Chief Justice as "*the worst case of sexual abuse committed by a father on his daughters that has ever come before [the] Courts*".

In light of the circumstances of this case, the Chief Justice held that it was warranted to depart from the usual sentence laid down in rape cases and to impose an unusually lengthy term of imprisonment. The defendant was ultimately sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Chief Justice noted that, while it was not the practice in Samoa to impose tariffs for certain offences, he could still apply English case law in determining the appropriateness of life

²⁹ Samoa Country Report to the Pacific Island Law Officers Meeting, Vanuatu, 2005

³⁰ *Police v Faleiva Fretton* (Rape/Incest/Indecent Assault/ Threats to kill) Unreported Supreme Court case 2005

imprisonment. In applying English case law,³¹ His Honour considered the following as the appropriate three-tier test to be applied:

- (i) where the offences in themselves are grave enough to require a very long sentence;
- (ii) where it appears from the nature of the offences or from the defendant's history that he is a person of unstable character likely to commit such offences in the future; and
- (iii) where, if the offences are committed, the consequences to others may be especially injurious, as in the case of sexual offences or crimes of violence.

This case represented only the second case of rape where a penalty of life imprisonment was imposed in Samoa.

(iii) The Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration (Probation Services)

In considering sentences to be imposed on those defendants convicted of sexual offences, the courts now require a 'Victim Impact Report' from the Probation Services. The Probation Office interviews the victim, the victim's parents, the victim's guardian or relatives, medical officers who may have attended to the victim, the victim's friends and any other person who may have been close to the victim.

The courts take the Victim Impact Reports seriously in imposing sentences, and imposes deterrence sentences not only to deter would be offenders from committing sexual offences or offences of the same nature but also with a view that as a consequence, the youth of Samoa are prevented from having to experience the same sexual abuse and violent behaviour.

b) Low representation in key decision-making positions in the government

In recognition of the low representation of key decision-making positions in Parliament, the year 2005 saw an initiative by the MWCSO taking the female youth for a mock Parliamentary session in the Parliament House. A number of schools both government school and church schools participated, where participants (Year 13 female students) had a mock Parliamentary sitting, all taking a seat in the Parliament House and debating the issue – "Should there be more women in Parliament?" The debates showed all kinds of schools of thinking, that women should be in Parliament because they are just as good as men in decision-making, women are able to participate but are not taking the opportunity for their own personal reasons, e.g. child rearing etc., and so forth. It was refreshing not only for the MWCSO but for the young female population of Samoa, and it is hoped that this experience would spark some interest in the young female population to become involved in the highest level of decision making in Samoa, the Parliament of Samoa.

Although women participants in decision-making is still notably low, it is of some note that the number of women in decision making positions is not declining but rather increasing. Please refer to "Decision making" 1.1 Socio-Economic Profile.

c) Religious Affiliation by Gender

There is generally no prohibition on females joining the religion they opt for. This generally is protected under Article 11 and 12 of the Constitution of Samoa, where every citizen of Samoa

³¹ *R v Hodgson* (1967) 52 Cr. App R 113

has the fundamental right of choosing which religion they wish to be involved in. Most customary land and titles matters that are judicially reviewed by the Supreme Court involve the villagers who opt to participate in a religion other than that already existing in the village. These however are disputes between the emerging new religious group and the Village Council.

The existence of religious affiliations determined by gender issues is not known in Samoa. At a younger age, youths (female and male) tend to join the religion their elders determine. This is one of the trends that appear to be supported by culture, that an immediate family joins the religion the chief or *matai*, the decision maker of the family thinks is best for the family. There is nothing stopping a female or male from joining the religion she or he may strongly believe in save for the fact that she/he won't get any approval from an unsupportive family or relatives who join a different religion. Generally, to maintain peace and harmony within the family, both females and males then affiliate themselves in their elders' religion.

The factors that determine the data and trends in religious affiliations are home based, determined by the elders and heads of the families. Foreign influence, family and relatives influence, change in faith, church financial contributions, church activities, the comparison in expenses and money spent to affiliate, location of church and convenience in attending, faith in religious management etc. may be seen as some of the factors that determine which religion a family or individuals involve themselves in.

For reference, below is a Table of Religious Affiliation by Gender reported by the Statistics Division of the Ministry of Finance in 2001.

Table of Religious Affiliation by Gender 2001³²

Religious Affiliation	Total	Male	Female	%
Total	176,710	92,050	84,660	100
Congregationalist	61,413	32,010	29,403	34.8
Catholic	34,714	18,151	16,563	19.6
Methodist	26,446	13,841	12,605	15.0
Latter Day Saints	22,521	11,778	10,743	12.7
Seventh Day Adventist	6,193	3,216	2,977	3.5
Assembly of God	11,742	6,071	5,671	6.6
Jehovah's Witnesses	1,362	708	654	0.8
Congregational Christian Church of Jesus Christ	1,788	921	867	1.0
Nazarene	744	368	376	0.4
Protestants	392	197	195	0.2
Baptist	436	245	191	0.2
Full Gospel	1,440	743	697	0.8
Voice of Christ	629	320	309	0.4
Worship Centre	2,346	1,144	1,202	1.3
Peace Chapel	380	179	201	0.2

³² Report of the Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Anglican Church	335	167	168	0.2
Community Church	563	280	283	0.3
Elim Church	132	73	59	0.1
Samoa Evangelism	216	111	105	0.1
Aoga Tusi Paia	653	322	331	0.4
Bahai	902	462	440	0.5
Muslim	48	33	15	0.0
Others	1,102	578	524	0.6
Not Stated	213	132	81	0.1

2.2 Government Policy on Women in Development/Gender³³

Summary

The current corporate plan 2003-2007 of MWCS D prioritizes policy development on women issues within the Ministry. Policy issues focus mainly on the incorporation of commitments under CEDAW into policy and issues of main concern to women in general such as domestic violence. It is envisaged by the Ministry that by June 2007, the Ministry would have realised the objectives of policy-making in their corporate plan.

One of several development plans for women MWCS D are to review legislation for the advancement of women in society. The legislation governing the regulation of women development, the Ministry of Women Affairs 1990, makes provision for the Division for Women (DFW) in the MWCS D to work closely with women committees in communities on women's issues and to provide training for women.

The Government recognizes that it is important for the national machinery (MWCS D), to work closely together with Non-Governmental Organisations to realize the objectives of the Ministry under its governing legislation. Government has been made aware of the needs of women with disabilities and Government has indicated its acknowledgement by noting a proposal to set up a Disabilities Task Force Unit to cater for disabled persons. One of the contributors to policymaking is the Women's Advisory Committee created under MWCS D's governing legislation. For the advancement of women at a national level, constructive networking with other stakeholders for the advancement of women is vital. To assist with the advancement of women in the rural areas, women liaison officers appointed from amongst the village women reside in the village communities. The Ministry anticipates a full review of its governing legislation to in particular clearly set out the mandate for women's advancement.

a) government policy on women

Policy Development on Women's Issues

The statement of core functions of the MWCS D reaffirms the importance of policy development to the advancement of women. Recent reports show that policies intended to be

³³ 2.2 is mainly taken from the 'Update Report' for CEDAW

finalized during the 2001-2003 period have not yet been completed as a result of capacity constraints on the former Ministry of Women's Affairs policy division. Although MWCSO has a mandate under the Ministry of Women Affairs Act, policy is required to direct the particular efforts of the Ministry, including to incorporate the ratification of CEDAW into women's policy; to address the issues facing minority women's groups (such as the elderly and young women) and to address issues of concern for women in general, such as domestic violence. The new corporate plan for MWCSO prioritizes policy development with the aim of completing the National Policy for Women and the National Sector Plan for Women as early as possible. MWCSO, taking on its new responsibilities for Women, is ambitious that by June 2007, the Ministry will have successfully realized its objectives as set out in its corporate plan. The MWCSO has increased its capacity to complete these tasks by strengthening its policy division with additional qualified staff, including staff with CEDAW training. The MWCSO's policy division's budget for the current financial year is SAT\$415,883.00, an increase from the policy division for the Ministry of Women Affairs' budget of SAT\$253,020.00 in 2003, although the MWCSO's use of its budget allocation is required to formulate policy for all divisions of the MWCSO, not only the DFW.

b) development plans for women

The MWCSO's 2004-2007 Corporate Plan, the Way Forward

The Division for Women's (DFW) core functions for 2004-2007, as set out in the MWCSO's latest corporate plan are to:

- Provide advice and policy direction for legislative development, review and any other matters pertaining to the advancement of women;
- Domestic regional and international instruments for the advancement of women; and to
- Coordinate the promotion, implementation, monitoring and reporting of national initiatives for the advancement of women.

The DFW's budget for the current financial year to undertake its core functions are SAT\$986,873.00, an increase of SAT\$545,633.00 from the 2003/2004 financial year. This represents 17% of the MWCSO's total budget of SAT\$7,249,870.00 for the 2004-2005 financial year. The MWCSO's budget represents 3% of the Government's budget 2004-2005 of SAT\$279,877,440.00.

c) WID/Gender related laws and regulations

Current law relating to women in Samoa

In relation to women's issues specifically, there is no legislation in force at the present time that prohibits discrimination against women in the private sector. Under the Labour and Employment Act and applied common law, termination may be without cause so long as it is on notice or pay in lieu is provided. Notably, provisions for the protection of employment, for both men and women, in the private sector are unclear. Although the Labour and Employment Act addresses fundamental employment standards such as wage protections, maximum work

hours, holidays, overtime, termination, annual leave, and sick leave, it does so in very brief terms.

The Government through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour will review employment law in Samoa with a view to reforming the law. This is one of the MWCSD's core objectives, as identified in its 2003-2007 corporate plan.

2.3 National Machinery – Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development³⁴

Summary

The national machinery for the advancement of women in Samoa is the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. Before 2003, the national machinery was known as the Ministry of Women Affairs. The restructuring of Government Ministries and Departments in 2003 saw the Ministry of Women merging with Social and Community Development.

The Independent State of Samoa is a democratic country with a unicameral Parliament, which works independently from the Executive consisting of Cabinet and the Judiciary. Parliament passes the laws tabled in it by Cabinet, these laws having being initiated by policy making bodies within the Government Ministries e.g. the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. The MWCSD is divided into 6 core units, each with a specific responsibility working towards a common goal, that of the advancement of women in Samoa.

a) Background

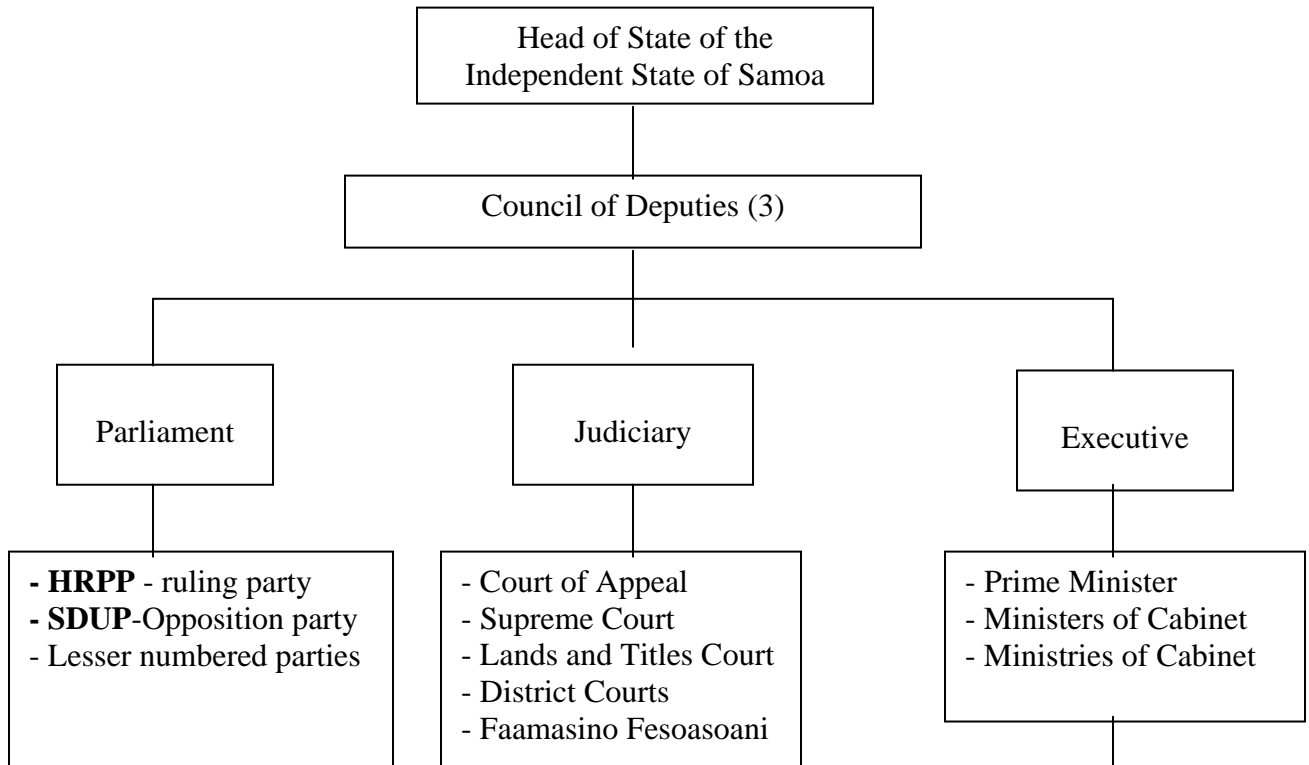
Samoa is a democratic country, its government modeled on the Westminster system from England. The Supreme law is the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa drafted by a Constitutional Convention comprising of Constitutional experts from New Zealand and the paramount chiefs of Samoa in 1960, and put into effect at independence in 1962. The Constitution in effect sets out three arms of government, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Parliament. The three arms of government are independent of each other, such as to monitor the existence of each arm to prevent corruption, overlap of powers and abuse of powers. Only Parliament makes the laws, only the Judiciary enforces the laws made by Parliament and the Executive implements the running of government through government Ministries, Departments, Corporations and Agencies only as expressly stated in the laws passed by Parliament. Such laws include the governing legislation for women, the Women Affairs Act 1990.

b) National machinery

The national machinery is the Executive, with its arms of Government Ministries, Government Departments, and Government Agencies.

³⁴ 2.3 is mainly taken from the 'Update Report' for CEDAW

c) Organizational chart of National Machinery



Key:

- MPMC – Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- MWCSO - Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
- MOF - Ministry of Finance
- MFAT - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- MESC - Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
- MOH - Ministry of Health
- MCIL - Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
- M for R - Ministry for Revenue
- MNREM - Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology
- MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- MWTI - Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
- MJCA - Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration
- MCIT - Ministry of Communications, Information and Technology
- MPFS – Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Services
- MIARD - Ministry of Internal Affairs and Rural Development

d) Main Activities of MWCS D

Following restructuring in 2003, the Ministry responsible for Women is now the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCS D). The MWCS D has six (6) core divisions, namely:

- The Division for Internal Affairs, responsible for village development.
- The Division for Women
- The Division for Youth, responsible for social development of Youth.
- The Division for Research, Policy, Planning and Information Processing, responsible for the policy requirements of all other Divisions.
- The Division for Corporate Services, responsible for the administrative services for the Ministry.
- The Division for Printing, responsible for providing printing services to Government.

(i) Mandate

MWCS D over the forthcoming 3 years will prepare its empowering legislation to reflect the restructuring. Preparations will include a review of the Ministry of Women Affairs Act, in particular the direction and mandate for women's advancement. This is likely to include an incorporation of the Convention (CEDAW Convention) into the Act; a review of the composition and terms of reference for the Women's Advisory Committee; and a review of the institutional mechanisms in place to achieve advancement for women across all areas (including a consideration of the status of the CEDAW Partnership and the Ministry's links with other stakeholders, both Government and non-Government), to ensure that the empowering legislation for women's advancement in the country is not only reflective of the times, but will be in operation for the continued and progressive advancement of women into the future.

Although responsibility for 'Women' has been realigned into the MWCS D in its Division for Women (DFW), the Ministry of Women's Affairs Act 1990 remains the governing legislation for the MWCS D's mandate for women. The Minister of MWCS D has specific responsibilities under the Act to formulate and direct policy pertaining to the "...*special interests of women...*" As set out in the Act, the functions of the Ministry and currently the DFW include to:

- Coordinate and work with village women's committees on women's issues;
- Provide vocational training for women;
- Promote better employment conditions for women in the public and private sector;
- Coordinate and work with non-government organizations to address women's issues, including sourcing donor funding for projects;
- Coordinate programs and project activities for women for their advancement;
- Advise the Government on issues affecting women;
- Plan and advise Government Ministries on programs whereby women's participation is necessary;
- Establish a database on women for planning and programming purposes;
- Liaise with women's groups on all issues relevant to and involving women; and
- Provide a Women's Advisory Committee for Government.

In general terms, in accordance with the Act, the MWCS D's focus on women, through the DFW, is to:

- Directly through its own capacity and through the Minister responsible for Women, to address the social issues facing Samoa's women;
- Be Government's focal point for women's issues in all other areas;
- Advise Government on women's issues.

(ii) An Overview of the DFW's Current Programs

To address social issues facing women, the DFW is directed by the Ministry of Women's Affairs Act to work together with village women's committees on women's issues and more specifically, to provide training programs for women. This was directly reflected in the former Ministry's organization structure (utilized until 2003), which had a separate division focused on programs, training and development services. Under MWCSO, the DFW maintains a strong focus on programs and training. The DFW's entire budget allocation for the current financial year is focused on implementing programs and training.

The focus area for the DFW's programs and training under the MWCSO's 2004-2007 corporate plan is the advancement of women, targeting specific areas of concern. Programs currently in place include the 'Family and Village Well-being Program' and the 'Husbands and Wives' Process. Capacity to offer more programs and extend the scope of existing programs is limited by funding and expertise constraints. The Government's ability to launch national programs is often only made possible through donor assistance.

(iii) The CEDAW Partnership

As Government's focal point for women, the DFW is directed by the Act to specifically coordinate with NGOs and women's groups on women's issues as well as source funding for their projects. This highlights the importance to Government of partnerships with NGO and women's groups to achieve the advancement of women, taking into account the limitations on Government's resources and the need to best utilize available resources, the breadth of the expertise and influence amongst NGOs and women's groups, and the need to effectively manage and channel donor assistance to address the issues facing women all over Samoa. The Government through MWCSO acknowledges the need to review the terms of reference and status of the Partnership within Government to ensure that the Partnership remains a viable body for the advancement of women's issues.

The Government will consider the recommendation from MWCSO for the CEDAW Partnership to become a statutory body, and any decision by Government will be reflected in a draft Bill to amalgamate MWCSO.

(iv) Disabilities Task Force Unit

The concept of a central unit within the Government to advance human rights has been promoted in the area of disabilities. Presently, there is a proposal before Government for the establishment of a disabilities task force unit to operate like the CEDAW Partnership to provide a forum for Government and the Samoan community to discuss issues for further proposals to Government on issues facing disabled persons.

(v) The Women's Advisory Committee

The Women's Advisory Committee was established by the Ministry of Women Affairs Act in 1990. The Committee is comprised of senior Government representatives from MWCSO, Health, Education, Agriculture and eight other persons elected by civil society groups. The functions of the Committee are to inform and advise the Minister and the MWCSO of interests or concerns affecting women and to assist MWCSO in carrying out Government policy on women's issues. In practice, the Committee meets regularly throughout the year and plays an active role in advising Government on pertinent issues facing women. The Committee initiated discussions for the revival of traditional weaving, to strengthen customs as well as promote weaving as an economic activity for women in the rural areas. The recommendation for the Government to support the revival was subsequently endorsed by Cabinet and the MWCSO now provides programs to support the initiative.

(vi) Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms

The statement of core functions also signals the MWCSO's commitment to strengthening institutional mechanisms within Government relevant to the advancement of women. The MWCSO currently enjoys constructive networks with its key stakeholder Ministries, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. The National Sector Plan for Women in particular will formalize, once completed and implemented networks between the MWCSO and stakeholders for the advancement of women at a national level. This is particularly important to more fully address the needs of minority women and women's issues in areas that are not the direct responsibility of the MWCSO.

The Government through MWCSO confirms its commitment to ensuring that all Government policies take account of gender issues. The Government confirms that the policy work for the establishment of gender focal points is progressing. In this regard, the MWCSO intends to establish a gender management system within Government before the end of 2007. The system will facilitate gender training, initially for MWCSO staff, the CEDAW Partnership and then other Government Ministries, to increase understanding of gender concepts and issues.

(vii) Women Liaison Officers

The establishment of women liaison officers within each village in July 2004 formalized the presence of a Government funding and village elected women representative in each village to assist in advancing women's issues, particularly in the rural areas. There are currently 175 women liaison officers. The Government has committed an estimated SAT\$40,000,00 per year in allowances to fund the positions. Individual officers receive an allowance of SAT\$50 per week.

The officers are particularly responsible for overseeing the 'Family and Village Well-being' program established in each village. A review of the liaison officer's monthly reports to the DFW indicates that officers are achieving their specific objectives in terms of overseeing the Well-being program and have increased cooperation between village *pulenuu*/mayors and village women's committees in carrying out the program. Cooperation with officers is highlighted by their election by village members. If the women liaison officer program continues to be a success, the MWCSO will consider expanding their terms of reference to specifically target other areas of development in the village for the advancement for women.

3. Current situation of women by sector

3.1 Education

Summary

Education is an area currently under reform. The Attorney General's Office together with the policy making bodies from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) are reviewing the current governing legislation for Education i.e. the Education Ordinance 1959. It is anticipated that the new reform will recognize accessibility to a better education environment in Samoa.

There are no restrictions to literacy education on the basis of gender in Samoa. The Government currently encourages competing primary and secondary education institutions both managed by government and by private authorities. The government is also promoting gender-neutral curriculum in primary and secondary schools. Towards the end of September 2005, the government launched the Samoa Qualifications Authority, which has as one of its administration objectives the management of vocational and technical educational institutions, to ensure that their curriculums are internationally recognized. Non-formal education is also encouraged in the communities, where drop out teenage women are trained on other small business enterprises, like the making of handicrafts for sale.

a) Government policy

The government fully supports 'compulsory education' for all as evidenced by section 16 of the Education Ordinance 1959 which provides that every child is required to have his name enrolled on the register of some government or registered school from the time when he attains 5 years until either he attains the age of 14 years or sooner completes the work of year 8 (i.e. 14 years). The *Pulenuu* (mayor) of every village has to be satisfied that every child of age is enrolled in a school and to inform the Ministry of Education authorities of a child who is not enrolled. A child may be exempted from enrollment where the child is unable to attend school regularly or is unable to be educated by reason of physical or mental handicap. Section 21 of the Education Ordinance 1959 makes the parent of the child liable to the offence of 'failure to enroll child' and to summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100. Though government is fully supportive of compulsory education, government appears to have fully realised this due to lack of resources. There appears not to be sufficient resources to monitor and enforce compliance with the Education Ordinance e.g. section 20 where the Director of Education may direct that a child be sent to a special school. This may be possible in the urban area, but there are no resources to enforce this in the rural areas, therefore, children with special needs in the rural area may have to do without a special school. There are complex enforcement issues; the current provisions of the Education Ordinance need to be reviewed if they cannot be implemented.

Education in Samoa is currently an area under reform as the Government considers the draft Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture Bill 2005. The Bill is intended to reorganize education in Samoa by providing for improved access to better education in a more regulated environment. The principle of gender equity underlies the Bill and is evidenced particularly in the regulation requirements for education providers, both government and non-government. All

education providers will be required by statute to treat all students with integrity and equity. Disciplinary policies for all schools will be required to be approved by the Ministry. By statute, discipline will only be allowed for misconduct. It is intended that pregnancy will no longer be a ground for expulsion from school. Under the Bill, all persons, including the disabled, have the right to attend any school they wish, provided that the school is equipped to meet the needs of that student. It is anticipated that, with the current Ministry's Special Needs Education Project underway in collaboration with UNDP, that by the time the Bill is passed, all districts will have special needs units established with adequately trained staff and teaching appropriate curriculum.

b) Literacy education

The government supports compulsory education but is yet to realize this goal due to resource restrictions. Currently, there is an equal playing field for both male and female and no restrictions exist in the competition for scholarships and higher learning on the basis of gender. In the workforce, employees (both in the public and private) are encouraged to obtain higher education, and a high number of women who left school for child bearing and child rearing are encouraged to return to school after having had children.

c) Primary and secondary education

It is notable however that in the last two years Government has promoted and supported a review of the administration of primary schools, which in effect sees each primary school being administered by the village itself, with minor assistance from the government. Government now encourages and promotes the establishment of a primary school in each village, to school the children born in that village. Government in effect has decentralized education facilities, and has opted to give out more responsibilities to the villages to obtain the best education for children particular to that village.

d) Gender consideration development plan and education

A completely new curriculum has been developed for primary and secondary education offered by the Government with aid assistance from AusAID and NZODA. Curriculum statements were independently reviewed to ensure Government's target objectives were met, including that the curriculum for the future of Samoa be gender neutral.

e) Vocational and technical education, higher education

Government has also established a Samoa Qualifications Authority under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, a statutory authority which has the monitoring and assessing of any educational or high education institution, University of otherwise to be established in Samoa, as one of its main functions. This Authority will ensure that any educational qualifications achieved in Samoa is up to international standards.

A total 48% of scholarships for tertiary education commencing in 2005 have been granted to women on merit. Women scholars for 2005 have achieved on merit, access to scholarships in engineering (chemical), pharmacy studies, law, medicine as well as the general arts and sciences.

Government Corporations in particular promote the return of full time employees to higher learning. Some corporations do this by partially funding part time tertiary education of its employees, in the event the employee is successful in their courses.

f) Non-formal education

Second Chance Learning – A program initiated from a Non Formal Education policy is initiated by the MWCSD, which targets drop-out teenage women from the formal education system and aims to provide second chance learning opportunities for early school leavers. A pilot project is underway in a village close to town.

3.2 Health

Summary

The government has given its commitment to a 5-year national health services framework for Samoa to improve accessibility to medical health services. The Attorney General's Office is currently reviewing and drafting the Ministry of Health legislation package for the reform of health related legislation. Legislation is hoped to set out the independency of professions whether it be dental practitioners, medical health practitioners and nursing profession etc., while at the same time work together to provide improved medical health services for the public. This reform is envisaged to also provide the same quality health services in the rural areas.

There appears to be similar patterns of nutrient intakes for the male and female population in Samoa. The Nutrition Centre in Samoa works hard to publish and distribute pamphlets and documents for public awareness on healthy eating to decrease the likeliness of getting non-communicable diseases e.g. diabetes.

A total of 12 HIV/AIDS cases were reported in Samoa in the years 1990 to 2001. To date, no further recorded cases has reached the Ministry of Health. Samoa has responded to the threats of HIV/AIDS by setting up several Committees to implement national programs raising public awareness on HIV/AIDS related issues.

a) Government Policy

The Ministry of Health has developed a 5-year national health services plan framework called the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2004-2008, which primarily aims at ensuring that women in rural and remote areas have access to quality medical health services.

The planning strategy for this project includes Rural Health Services which focus mainly on prevention and primary care in order to meet the needs of the rural population. The framework for this project includes strategies to redefine service roles and models of delivery for referral hospitals, district hospitals, community health outreach, develop partnerships with local communities, use of mobile clinics and home visiting services.

The government opened a Dialysis Unit funded by the Singaporean government, in March 2005. This major project will no doubt improve access to these services as previous cases needing dialysis treatment were all done overseas through government funding.

b) Medical Health
Reproductive and Sexual Health

Sex education is still not part of the government school curriculum, as determined by the government's Ministry of Education. However, there are workshops and trainings for young unemployed women on reproductive and sexual health with a component on HIV/AIDS, livelihood skills and negotiation skills for young women. Capacity building forums for village women committee leaders and representatives on HIV/AIDS are also held. The MWCSO intends to review its Strategic Plan in 2005.

c) Nutrition conditions

The Food and Nutrition Policy prepared by the National Food and Nutrition Council of the Nutrition Centre in Samoa is to facilitate and support action through the entire food and nutrition system (food production, processing, distribution, nutrition knowledge and food consumption) in order to achieve better health and nutrition for Samoans.

There is a small percentage (4%) of infants with low birth weight in Samoa from 1998 to 2003. This is much contributed to by family planning programs carried out by the Ministry of Health on the importance of breastfeeding and encouraging breastfeeding in a safe environment, even in the workplace. Records show that daily protein supply and daily calorie supply per capita in Samoa increases in the recorded years from 2000 to 2002.

In a survey taken 1998 on 455 American Samoans and 491 Western Samoans aged 25 to 55 years, it was found that there were a few differences between the nutrient intakes of men and women but substantial differences between residents of American Samoa and Western Samoa. The survey further noted that American Samoan consumed significantly more energy and carbohydrate (47% vs. 44%) and protein (18% vs. 13%) and less as fat (36% vs. 46%) and saturated fat (16% vs 30%).³⁵

The data following on non-communicable diseases are taken from the Launching of the STEPS Survey Results in 2004 by the Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Health Samoa. The survey was undertaken in 2002 but launched in 2004. In 2002, it was reported that 35.6 of the population of Samoa eat virtually no fruit and over half the population eat 5 or more servings of vegetables daily. Vegetable and fruit consumption patterns are similar for males and females.³⁶

The total prevalence of high blood pressure was recorded at 21.4%, 24.2% males and 18.2 females. High blood pressure is more common in the urban area and with increase in age. In Apia there was a recorded 23.5%, in Rural Upolu a reported 18.6 and in Savaii 21.2%. It was further noted that for every known case of high blood pressure that was diagnosed, another 4

³⁵ 'Dietary intake of modernizing Samoans: Implications for risk of cardiovascular disease', Galanis and others, 1999

³⁶ Launching of STEPS Survey Results, Brief Summary of Findings, Nutrition Center, Ministry of Health, Samoa 2004

cases of high blood pressure have not been diagnosed. This ratio is notably higher in the younger age group, and for every known case there are 22 unknown cases. The majority of the people diagnosed did not know they have high blood pressure.

The prevalence of obesity is 52.7%, higher in females i.e. 67.4% than in males i.e. 48.4%, and prevalence appears to increase with age. Obesity is more common in the urban area i.e. for males in Apia 53.1%, rural Upolu 48%, Savaii 40.2% and for females in Apia 69.3%, rural Upolu 65.9% and Savaii 65.4%.

The total prevalence of diabetes is 23.1%, 22.9% in males and 23.3% in females. Diabetes prevalence also increases with age. Compared with a 1991 survey, diabetes prevalence has doubled in Samoa in the 2002 survey. Diabetes is more common in the urban area than in the rural and other areas i.e. in Apia 27%, rural Upolu 19.7% and Savaii 20.3%. For every known case of diabetes diagnosed, almost 3 cases of diabetes have not been diagnosed, in males for every known case in males, there are 12 unknown cases. This ratio is higher in the younger age group. Of the known histories of diabetes, 56.8% of males and 68.5% of females are taking tablets and only 4% of males and females are taking insulin. The taking of insulin need to be encouraged as far too less people are reportedly taking insulin.

d) Family Planning

The Ministry of Health Division of Family Planning continues to stand by for women and family planning. There is also the Samoa Family Planning Association office in town where most women visit for check-ups etc. and this office has been notably accessible to working women in the urban area.

The Ministry of Health continues to carry out family planning advice in the rural areas, and have made access to contraceptives easier and available in health clinics by either handing them out for free or leaving them (i.e. condoms) at the counter for the taking. The Family Planning Unit at the National Hospital continue their Tuesdays and Thursdays programme with young mothers, pregnant or otherwise on the issues relating to family planning and raising a healthy family.

e) HIV/AIDS

From 1990 up to February 2001, a total of 12 HIV/AIDS cases comprising of 10 adults and 2 infants have been recorded. Seven have died (5 adults and 2 infants), while the surviving 5 (4 males and 1 female) to date, are HIV positive and have not yet manifested AIDS. Records show that 10 of the adult HIV cases transmitted the virus through sexual activity (3 females and 7 males). Eight were heterosexuals and 2 homosexuals.³⁷

A ' Strategic Plan for Responding to the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women in Samoa 2001-2005' was conducted by MWCS³⁸ in response to an evaluation of the South Pacific Community 'Regional Strategy for the Prevention and Control of STD/AIDS in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories' (PICT), which recommended that National Strategy Plans on the prevention of

³⁷ Department of Health: 2001

³⁸ In association with the Macfarlane Burnet Center for Medical Research, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and UNAIDS, funded by AusAID & UNFPA

HIV/AIDS be developed by PICT. This was also in response to UNAIDS call for action in the documented report 'Time to Act: Response to HIV/AIDS'. The project's aim was to 'enhance the capacity of the PICT to formulate strategies for HIV and most importantly to serve as a way to address the increasing number of HIV infection in the Pacific.'

The objectives of the Plan were:

- a. to promote quality support services (including counselling) for women living with HIV/AIDS, their families, carers and supporters;
- b. to foster acceptance of women living with HIV/AIDS in society and to ensure their involvement in Samoa's response to HIV/AIDS;
- c. to ensure quality health care and support services for women living with HIV/AIDS is obtained; and
- d. to raise awareness of women, so as to minimize mother to child transmission of HIV infection.

Through the Village Women's Committees Small Grant Scheme, women are given a small amount of funding to organize and conduct a one day village session on HIV/AIDS through the use of traditional learning methods such as songs, drama, poetry, dances, etc.

(i) The National Aids Coordinating Council (NACC)³⁹

As a result of Cabinet Directive, NACC was formed to develop and implement the National Aids Program and in particular to ensure effective consultation between the government and the community. NACC comprises mostly of representative of the government departments and representatives of NGOs, with CEO Health as the chairperson. The 12 member Council include the Chief of Public Health as Secretary, CEO Education, SBC, Police, CEO Immigration Officer, Executive Director Family Health Association. The Council's tasks include:

- assessing information need of the community and the specific group at risk;
- design, conduct and evaluate the AIDS education program in the context of a national education strategy;
- inform community groups as risk and health care workers with accurate up-to-date information on AIDS;
- communicate through the media providing accurate and balanced reporting on AIDS, as well as the legal and social issues associated with transmission;
- develop all HIV related services.

(ii) Response analysis on NACC

Whilst much has been done to inform the communities and to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS, it is clear that a lot more work need to be done. There is also the issue of continuity in question with regards to the NACC roles and responsibilities in this area. This body as a mandated by Cabinet needs to be revived.

(iii) Technical AIDS Committee⁴⁰

The technical arm of the NACC is the Technical Aids Committee (TAC) which consists largely of the Ministry of Health's technical personnel. TAC comprises of 10 members, chaired

³⁹ Women of Samoa and HIV/AIDS.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

by the ACEO Preventive Health with the Chief Health Educator as the Secretary, the physician of the STD/AIDS Clinic who was also the National AIDS program Coordinator, the ACEO of Curative Services and 6 others. TACS tasks were to:

- advise NACC on evidence and the spread of AIDS and provide advice on measures aimed at containing it;
- advise on research guidelines and priorities to deal with AIDS;
- Advise NACC on several matters including – assistance for people and households affected by AIDS, measures to oppose discrimination against infected people, medical and scientific research into the causes, prevention and cure for AIDS;
- provide the most up-to-date scientific information on AIDS for the benefit of NACC, health professionals and the general public at large.

(iv) Response Analysis on TAC

Although the TAC has been initially active in its technical role during the first decade of operation, it had not been able to sustain its work in the latter years. Its technical enthusiasm did not facilitate the active involvement of the NACC; which is made up of the department of Health's main stakeholders. The revival of the NACC is very much dependent on this committee as it is the advisory arm of the CEO Health.

3.3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Summary

The influences of generalisation remain strong particularly in the rural area where agricultural policy-making through practice is male dominated and ownership of customary land largely remains with the male gender. Though land ownership is normally held by the males gender as trustee for the communal family, there is no restriction where women may plant their vegetable gardens or fruit plants, provided it is on family land. A child grows up learning how to follow their father or mother's footsteps depending on the gender. In the rural areas in particular, women and girls tend to plant close to home and fish on the coastal area. Women are normally found at home taking care of the domestic duties and caring for the children while the male partner is out in the plantation planting food crops or in town working in formal employment. The use of formal fishing methods for commercial means are mostly a man's area of work while women fishing are restricted to the coastal area. Men leave their families for months on end when fishing boats leave the shores of Samoa, as this is also a viable employment for the male gender in the rural area. Further men tend to go out in the plantation and forest areas while women are restricted to activities or planting close to home.

In the urban areas, more women are found in formal employment, and young families tend to employ nannies and baby sitters to look after the children while both parents work. The MWCSO provides extension services for women in the urban area, on negotiation skills training with a focus on communication and decision-making skills.

a) Agriculture, policy and gender

About 80% of land in Samoa is customary land, a percentage of total land area available for agriculture and cultural development industries. There is no restriction on what and who may

plant or carry out agricultural developments on customary land, provided one is planting on land he/she is entitled to. All persons of Samoan origin have links to customary land and lineages around the country. Ownership in customary land is held communally by families, although rights of use and occupation may be more particularly identified to specific persons or members of a family. In practice, rights of use and occupation of customary land are determined by consensus by the family and they can be reconfirmed by the Land & Titles Court which has jurisdiction to determine matters regarding the bestowal of matai titles and customary land. The Lands and Titles Court of Samoa has confirmed rights of use and occupation of customary land to untitled women and her children.⁴¹

Currently, more women than men plant close to the family home by way of vegetable gardens and fruit gardens. This has always been due to the closeness of women to the home setting and domestic callings as well as the demands of the children. Working close to home allows women to be able to still perform their domestic duties while at the same time growing food for the family. Men would normally leave the family home for a plantation (in which usually the basic food crops like taro, bananas and coconuts are grown) some miles away in the early hours of the morning to work on the plantation before the heat from the scorching sun prevents further work.

b) Ownership of farming land and agrarian reform

Access to use customary land by a consensus system is largely presided over by male *matai* (Samoan chief) and this may in theory have an adverse effect of women's access to land. However, there is presently no data to indicate that this is a trend that is occurring in Samoa. In particular with the micro-credit schemes (see below) operated in Samoa, the Government is not aware that women operating businesses in the rural areas experience any difficulty obtaining consensus to utilize land for such projects.

c) Rural life and gender

Through the process of generalization young girls grow up learning how to become future mothers and young boys to be just like their father. Such is the reality in rural life, where girls learn how to cook for their fathers and brothers; how to sew and to weave the various kinds of mats appropriate for various types of village or family activity; how to care for the poultry farm next to home; how not to be involved with a boy until there is approval from the father (and the brothers in various cases); how to be able to prepare food and the younger children for evening prayer and Sunday church programs; how to be an appropriate daughter that never causes the family embarrassment; and how to be a good Samoan mother at marriage.

At the same time, young boys also have their family/traditional/cultural curriculum set out for them. A young Samoan boy learns how to make the fishing equipments from wood and glass and hard objects; how to read the weather for fishing; the indications of a virus entering the taro or banana or yam plantation; how not to give in to hunger before the sun is too hot having worked in the early dawn in the plantation; how to serve the Council of Chiefs; how to care for the pigs, cows and horses as the precious assets of the family; how to be vocal and fluent in Samoan oratory; how not to miss church on Sundays and the evening prayer; and how to be an upstanding Samoan citizen who does not put the family name in disrepute.

⁴¹ *Sili Uli v. Pei Taulapapa*, (1962) L.C. 2542

d) Forestry

This is normally the area of the men of the family, clearing, slashing and burning for the planting of further food crops. Some companies have taken up the business of logging and provision of wood for building. Normally, men predominate this business due to the nature of the work of logging.

e) Fisheries

Normally, men fish out in the open sea while women stay close to shore and fish for smaller sea-shore fish; sea urchins or searching for seashell food or just shells for handicrafts. The Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have mainly left the maintenance of the sea shore, the fishing rights and lawful fishing methods to the Village Council to monitor.

3.4 Economic Activities⁴²

Summary

Employment legislation in Samoa allows for a level playing field for both male and female. The Public Service Act (PSC Act) ensures this by providing for equal opportunity in the public sector. Though there is still a higher number of women employed in the support sector e.g. clerks, service workers, while men dominate technical and engineering employment, there is notably a competition put up by the female gender for professional work and for employment that were once believed male oriented employment. The Tables show that more men than women are economically active going out to earn money and to work for family use, while more women are stated 'not economically active' doing housework.

In support of female public servants, the Public Service Act allows for 8 weeks of paid maternity leave for women and a further 8 weeks unpaid maternity leave. The Labour and Employment Act which regulates all other employees who are not public servants offers protective provisions for women, obligating employers not to employ women in areas of physical and hard labour inappropriate for women. Breastfeeding is not prohibited in the workplace and is encouraged where there is no risk to the mother and the newborn baby.

The government has shown support for women in business and micro enterprises. Government supports the continuation of small businesses by financial assistance offered by offices like the Small Business Enterprises Center (SBEC) and the South Pacific Business Development (SPBD) to encourage the establishment of competitive small businesses. Although these schemes are not offered solely to women but to the general public, those who take advantage of these schemes are predominantly women. The MWCSO operates an ongoing Community Development Services program that caters for women not employed in the formal sector and women in the village committees.

⁴² 3.4 is mainly taken from the 'Update Report' for CEDAW and the Report on the Census of Population and Housing 2001.

a) Employment opportunities

The Update Report for the CEDAW delegation observes that the Public Service Act 2004 requires that “[t]here must be equal employment opportunity in the public service”, and that “[a]ppointments and promotions must be made on the basis of merit”. There are increasing numbers of competitive women in areas where no woman used to work before.

b) Women workers in public and private sector

The following charts indicate employment by gender in Samoa.

Employed by Occupation and sex, 2001⁴³

Occupation	Total	%	Male	Male %	Female	Female %
Legislators	677	1	484	1	193	1
Professionals	1064	2	744	2	320	2
Technicians	2668	5	1538	4	1130	7
Clerks	4542	9	2109	6	2433	16
Service Workers	5386	11	3206	9	2180	14
Skilled agric/fisheries	20988	42	18520	52	2468	16
Craft & related skills	6139	12	2575	7	3564	23
Plant machine operators	3335	7	2044	6	1291	9
Elementary occupation	5039	10	3614	10	1425	9
Not stated	761	2	515	2	246	2
Total	50,599	100	35,349	100	15,250	100

Persons Aged 15+ by Main Activities⁴⁴

<u>ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE</u>	Total	Male	%	Female	%
Paid job ⁴⁵	24,468	15397	63	9071	37
To earn money ⁴⁶	1,837	1336	73	501	27
Work for family use	23,408	17984	77	5424	23
Earn money and family use	612	401	66	211	34
Previously employed now	1,090	740	68	350	32

⁴³ Report of the Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

⁴⁴ Report of the Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

⁴⁵ ‘Paid job’ refers to the economically active group that works full time with continuous and consistent payment.

⁴⁶ ‘To earn money’ refers to that active part of the population that works only to get money for a period of time or for a purpose, once that objective is met or that payment is received, the person discontinues working to earn money e.g. casual time workers, part time workers, contractors, consultant work etc.

looking for work					
Looking for a job for first time	1,530	881	58	649	42
TOTAL ACTIVE	52,945	36,739	69	16,206	31
<u>NOT ECONOM ACTIVE</u>					
Attending school	12,582	6585	52	5997	48
No activity done	7,846	3777	48	4,069	52
Housework	31,315	7290	23	24,025	77
TOTAL NOT ACTIVE	51,743	17,652	34	34,091	66
Not stated	36	21	58	15	42
TOTAL FOR SAMOA AGED 15+	104,724	54,412	52	50,312	48

Persons Aged 15+ by Main Activities⁴⁷

	Total	Male	% Male	Female	% Female
Economically Active	52,945	36,739	69	16,206	31
Not economically active	51,743	17,652	34	34,091	66
Not stated	36	21	58	15	42
TOTAL FOR SAMOA AGED 15+	104,724	54,412	52	50,312	48

c) Support system for women workers

The Public Service has generous maternity leave (8 weeks paid leave and a further 8 weeks unpaid maternity leave) entitlements for its female employees (regulation 16 of the Public Service Regulations) as well as paternity leave entitlements for its male employees (regulation 14A of the Public Service Regulations). The Public Service also has a policy of flexible working hours to allow parents to better juggle work and home commitments. As a significant employer of women in the workforce (over 2000 employees), the Public Service is leading the way in providing appropriate work and family balance for its employees. Advancements in the law regarding the Public Service, however, have increased the disparity with the private sector in regard to employment conditions.

There is further no restrictions to breastfeeding in the workplace where the baby's health is not at risk or the mother's work is generally not affected. Breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to breastfeed their babies even during work hours where appropriate. It is now left to the Government to provide facilities in the workplace that allow for the breastfeeding and care for babies of breastfeeding mothers.

d) Informal sector

A substantial percentage of the female population aged 15 and over is treated as economically inactive and comprise of people attending school, engaged in housework, or having no activity at all. Given these statistics, MWCSO operates an ongoing Community Development Services program that provides courses in different vocational skills to women, targeting rural and women village committees, unemployed women and women in the workforce. In the period

⁴⁷ Report of the Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

from 2001 to 2004, over 4000 women from all over Samoa received training under the program. The following table⁴⁸ contain figures of the numbers of people who have attended trainings in different areas that were conducted in rural areas in 2004:

Types of Training	Gender		Total sessions conducted
	F	M	
Beekeeping	3	8	11
Fine Mat Weaving	1135	2	1137
Handicrafts	14	-	14
ADB Micro finance	2	1	3
Organic Farming	22	7	29
Small Business	54	9	63
Total Count of Project	1230	27	1257
Total Count of Gender	1230	27	1257

e) Support for micro enterprises

The Government supports and encourages the establishment of small business enterprises by providing and supporting initiatives for access to micro-finance schemes and training in small business enterprise. Although access to such schemes is generally open to both men and women, women's participation in the schemes has been found to be predominant.

f) Savings and loan scheme

The MWCSO recently initiated a savings and loans scheme to complement its existing income generation programs. The aim of the savings and loans scheme is to encourage the past and current beneficiaries of its income generation programs to save and re-invest their incomes. A core component of the activities, training and follow up sessions with respect to the savings and loans scheme are incorporated into all of MWCSO's workshops and visits for all other projects. About 89.5% of participants in MWCSO's savings and loans scheme are women. MWCSO also conducts small business training activities. MWCSO reports that in 2004, 314 clients participated in such activities, of which 140 (44.6%) were women.

g) Women in Business

Women in Business Foundation (WIBF), an NGO supported by MWCSO, has also recently established a savings and loans scheme to cater especially for women in business, to assist women to save and re-invest their income. WIBF reports that there are 444 current savers in their savings and loans scheme, consisting of 399 females (about 89.6%), 41 males and 4 groups.

h) Small Business Enterprises Centre (SBEC)

SBEC, another NGO with close links to MWCSO, run credit schemes to assist the establishment of small business enterprises. SBEC reports that currently, about 45% of the

⁴⁸ Source: WIBDI training database 2004

beneficiaries of these credit schemes are women. The small business activities initiated by women are included in the various categories namely: crop production, animal farming, baking, ecotourism, fishing, handicraft production and sale, retailing and sewing. SBEC also offered business advisory services, which served 38 clients in 2004, 18 (47%) of whom were women.

i) South Pacific Business Development (SPBD)

The SPBD program is another Government-supported initiative which only has female members. The program provides members with training (including in areas of modern information and communications technologies), unsecured credit and ongoing guidance and motivation to help them start businesses that will be sustainable and prosperous based around existing livelihood skills. In less than five years of operation, SPBD has helped over 4,800 such businesses. Also over 98% of SPBD’s members are 100% current on their loan repayments. The Table⁴⁹ below illustrates more on the number of businesses initiated from loans issued to members:

Activities	Total numbers
Businesses Started	4811
Loans Issues since inception (Jan 2000)	6545
Amount of Loans issued since inception	ST\$5,665,514 (US\$2,079,244)
Portfolio in arrears over 30 days	1.7%

j) Aiga ma Nuu Manuia Program: Village and Family Well-being Program

The Government through the MWCSD’s Aiga ma Nuu Manuia program has seven (7) critical focus areas, being: vegetable gardens, smoke-free homes, clean and hygienic toilets, clean homes/houses, clean and safe village environments, clean kitchens and clean water supply. The program started with just 6 villages in 1998 and is now in 153 villages (92 in Upolu and 71 in Savaii), and the Government intends to encourage the remaining villages to sign up to the program.

Situational analyses of the program have been conducted in 86 villages (40 in Upolu and 46 in Savaii) regarding the success of the program and the Government’s plan is to conduct situational analyses in the rest of the villages in the Program as well as any new village that joins the Program.

⁴⁹ Source: SPBD Foundation Newsletter #15, December 2004

4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Project/Program	Implementing Organisation	Donor Organisation	Duration	Budget	Relative to Women
Women/General					
Women's Rights	Ministry of WCSD	Government	Government Ministry	N/A	Protection of women's rights
UNDP- the fight against domestic violence	MWCSD and NGOs	UNDP	Periodically	N/A	Funding documentaries for public awareness on the realities of domestic violence in Samoa
Education					
Women's rights	Ministry of WCSD	Government		N/A	Elimination of discrimination against women
Safer Samoa	Ministry of Police	Government	2 pilot roadshows completed, working on the next roadshows end of 2005	N/A	Crime prevention and safety issues
Second Chance Learning -	Ministry of WCSD	Government	Just commenced but envisaged to be ongoing	N/A	The Ministry is currently developing a 'Non Formal Education' policy for second chance learning opportunities for early school leavers. A pilot project is underway in the village of Moata'a.

SAWG - NGO SAWG networks locally with the Samoa National Council of Women and other NGOs. Also maintains close regional links e.g. (PGWNet).	Samoa Women Graduates who have earned educational qualifications beyond secondary school level, founded in 1991 by women graduate living in Samoa	SAWG an NGO		N/A	- to promote education and the quality of life of women and girls. Commitments: - to further the development of education for women; - to improve the status of women and children; - to protect human rights; to promote peace.
Health/Medicine					
Faataua le Ola	NGO	Government grants and overseas aid	Ongoing	N/A	Prevention of suicide
Komiti Tumama (Committee for Hygiene)	NGO	Government grants and overseas aid	Ongoing	N/A	Delivery of health service to rural women
Lafitaga Trust	NGO	Government grants and overseas aid	Ongoing	N/A	Assist women in prison and poverty alleviation
Maternal Child Health Family Planning Program	Ministry of Health	UNFPA WHO	Ongoing	Aid grants	Advocates and promotes safe motherhood, reproductive health services, high coverage of immunization amongst infants and children.
HIV and Women related issues	Ministry of WSCD	Government	Ongoing	N/A	Prevention and assistance to those with HIV/AIDS
HIV/AIDS and Women	AIDS Foundation	Grants/aid to AIDS Foundation	Ongoing	N/A	Prevention and Protection
RH/FP/SH Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Sexual Health	Family Planning & Health – Ministry of Health	Government	Periodically	N/A	Issues on reproductive health, family planning and sexual health
Red Cross Issues	Red Cross	Government & aid	Ongoing	N/A	HIV/AIDS and female blood donor issues

Project/Program	Implementing Organisation	Donor Organisation	Duration	Budget	Relative to Women
Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries					
Proposed involvement of women in Samoa in a Pacific Women's Maritime Association	Ports Authority, Samoa Shipping Services, Samoa Shipping Corporation	Envisaged to be funded by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), IMO	Proposed to be ongoing once the authorities in Samoa commits	N/A	Encourages the greater participation of women as both students and academic staff within the maritime industry
Small Business Enterprises Centre (SBEC)	SBEC Office	Samoa Govt/AusAID/NZAid	Ongoing	N/A	Credit schemes to assist with small business enterprises - on crop production, animal farming, and fishing.
Economic Activities					
Aiga ma Nuu Manuia Program: Village and Family Well-being Program	MWCSD	MWCSD	Ongoing	N/A	Promotes vegetable gardens, smoke-free homes, clean and hygienic toilets, clean homes/houses, clean and safe village environments, clean kitchens and clean water supply
South Pacific Business Development (SPBD)	SPBD Office	Overseas donors	Ongoing	N/A	Training on unsecured credit and ongoing guidance on the conduct of small businesses
Small Business Enterprises Centre (SBEC)	SBEC Office	Samoa Govt/AusAID/NZAid	Ongoing	N/A	Credit schemes to assist with small business enterprises - on crop production, animal farming, baking, ecotourism, fishing, handicraft production and sale, retailing and sewing
Women in Business Foundation	Women in Business	Govt. grant/local sponsorship &	Ongoing	N/A	established a savings and loans scheme to cater

		overseas aid			especially for women in business, to assist women to save and re-invest their income
--	--	--------------	--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

5. WID/Gender Information Sources

5.1 List of Organisations/Individuals related to WID/Gender

Name of Organisation	Contact Person (Area of Specialisation)	Results (Project Content, Year Related Organisations, Experience in Social & Gender Analysis)	Reports/Writers (Published Years etc.)	Contact Address Tele/Fax/Email
Government Organisation				
Ministry of Women and Social Community Development	Luagalau Fo'isaga Eteuati- Shon	CEO of Ministry	2000 to current	MWCSD P.O.Box 872, Apia, Samoa Tele- (685)22421 Fax – (685) 22539
NACCS	Dr. Nu'ualofa Potoi	ACEO, MOH	2001	MOH, Motootua, Tele – (0685) 21212
TAC	Dr. Nu'ualofa Potoi	ACEO, MOH	2001	MOH Motootua Tele- (0685) 21212
International Organisation				
UNDP	Resident Representative	Video Documentary – Domestic Violence	2002	
UN CEDAW	Luagalau Fo'isaga Eteuati- Shon	CEO of Ministry	2000 to current	MWCSD P.O.Box 872, Apia, Samoa Tele- (685)22421 Fax – (685) 22539
NGOs				
NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa	Vaasiliifiti Moelagi Jackson (President Samoa Umbrella NGO)	Development of Women in Samoa	2004	SUNGO Office Motootua, Apia

Other NGOs and bodies which could be contacted through the Umbrella Organisation SUNGO include:

- Aids Foundation (or Ken Moala President)
- Women in Business Foundation
- Traditional Healers Association

- Soroptomist International of Samoa
- Society for the Intellectually Handicapped: Disability Educational Provider
- SAME: Samoa Association of Manufacturing Enterprises
- Mapusaga o Aiga
- Rotaract – Young People Business Group
- National Council of Women
- Nuanua o le Alofa National Council for people with Disabilities: Disability Advocacy
- Inailau Women Leadership Network
- Loto Taumafai Society for the Disable
- Lafitaga Trust
- Faataua le Ola
- Komiti Tumama
- Church Women Committees

5.2 List of reports and references related WID/Gender

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Education and Training			
Samoa Family Health and Safety Study – a joint research initiative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and UN Population Fund (UNFPA).	MWCSD	2003	MWCSD
Health and Medicine			
Women of Samoa and HIV-AIDS A situational Analysis and Responsive Review - August 2000	Ministry of Women & Social Community Development - Funded by AusAID through the Macfarlane Burnett Centre for Medical Research, Melbourne “ <i>Project on Strengthening the Capacity of Pacific Island Countries to implement an Expanded Response to HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases</i> ”. July 1997 – August 31, 2000	2000	Ministry of Women & Social Community Development
A Strategic Plan for Responding to the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women in Samoa 2001-2005 Prepared at the Women and HIV/AIDS Strategic Planning Workshop, Pasefika Hotel, 6-13 September 2000.	Conducted by the MWCSD in association with the Macfarlane Burnett Centre for Medical Research, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and UNAIDS, funded by AusAID & UNFPA	2000	MWCSD
National Plan of Action for HIV/AIDS-STI in Samoa, 2nd draft.	Technical Assistance Committee (Government Initiative through Ministry	25 October 2002	Technical Assistance Committee (Government Initiative

	of Health) This plan of Action aims to provide a framework for the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS policy and strategies identified in several national consultative meetings on HIV/AIDS.		through Ministry of Health)
Samoa HIV/AIDS Policy 2001, Samoa	Ministry of Health, (Government Initiative through Ministry of Health)	2001	Ministry of Health
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries			
The Role of Women in the Maritime Sector, Samoa - Regional Maritime Workshop Paper	Kerryn Kwan (Principal Legal Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology) and Lalotoa S. Mulitalo (Senior State Solicitor, AG's Office)	2003	SPC - Regional Maritime
Economic Activities			
SBEC: Training database	SBEC	2004	SBEC
SPBD Foundation Newsletters on Business Training Database	SPBD	2004	SPBD
Women in Business Foundation	WIBF	2004	WIBF
Social/Gender Analysis			
Directory of Women of Samoa (1st issue) 2001, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	MWCSD, Samoa	2001	MWCSD, Samoa
Directory of Women of Samoa (2nd issue)	MWCSD, Samoa	2002	MWCSD, Samoa
CEDAW Draft Update Research by AG Office Samoa 2005 Report to the 'Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Committee' 2005	Solicitors of the Attorney General	2005	Attorney General's office (Unreported)
Report on the Status of Women in Samoa 2001	Combined Initial, First and Second Periodic Report on the Convention on the Elimination of all Kinds of Discrimination Against Women	2001	The Government of Samoa with the assistance of NZODA and UNIFEM
NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa	PPSEAWA: Women for Peace, Understanding and Advancement) Inclusion International (Disability and Human Rights), National Council of Women (NCW) and members of the Civil Society	2004	PPSAEAWA
Report on the Census of	Statistical Services	2001	Government of Samoa

Population and Housing, Samoa.	Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Samoa		
Others			
Samoa Country Report to the Pacific Islands Law Officers Meeting (PILOM)	Office of the Attorney General	2005	Government of Samoa

Papers by the current Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Women and Social Community Development, Luagalau Foisaga Eteuati-Shon include:

1. “Applying UN Conventions In-Country” Paper presented at the MOA Paralegal Training 21-25 June 1999 Apia;
2. “Traditional Medicine in the Islands of the South Pacific: its historical roots, research and utilization and future development” Proceedings of a WHO Kobe Centre for Health Development. International Symposium on Traditional Medicine; Better Science, Policy and Services for Health Development, Awaji Island, Japan 11-13 September 2000;
3. “Strategies for maximizing women’s capacities in leadership and empowerment: Samoa’s experience,”: Proceedings of WHO Kobe Centre Second International Meeting on Women and Health: Maximizing Women’s capabilities and leadership, Canberra, Australia 4-6 April 2001;
4. Developing Roles and Needs of Women in Samoa: How Should the Post-Secondary Institutions Assist: A Paper presented at the National Seminar on Post Secondary Education and Training, National University of Samoa, 28 October 1998.

Paper by Attorney General Brenda P. Heather-Latu:

- “Samoa Women’s Legal Rights” Paper presented at the National Symposium on CEDAW focusing on RH 0-22 July 1999, Apia, Samoa.

Paper by Le Tagaloa, Aiono Dr. Fanaafi:

- “Traditional Rights f Samoa Women” Paper presented at the National Symposium on CEDAW focusing on RH 0-22 July 1999, Apia, Samoa.

Ministry of WSCD Reports

Ministry of Finance – Statistics Division Census and Surveys

6. References

With the exception of a few publications, the bulk of this paper was compiled from government Ministry reports, Ministry surveys bulletins and period publications holding the most recent information required in this Profile. Some internet references are also included for reference.

- **A Strategic Plan for Responding to the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women in Samoa 2001-2005** Prepared at the Women and HIV/AIDS Strategic Planning Workshop, Pasefika Hotel, 6-13 September 2000. Conducted by the MWCSO in association with

the Macfarlane Burnett Centre for Medical Research, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and UNAIDS, funded by AusAID & UNFPA

- **Update Report for CEDAW** – A report prepared by solicitors of the Attorney General’s Office, Samoa 2005 as supplementary information to assist the Samoan delegation that presented the Samoa CEDAW Report 2005 to the ‘Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women Committee’ in New York, 2005
- **‘Dietary intake of modernizing Samoans: Implications for risk of cardiovascular disease’**, in ‘Journal of the American Diabetic Association, Vol. 99 No.9, February 1999’, survey conducted by Galanis Daniel J (PhD), Stephen T. McGarvey (PhD, MPH), Christine Quested (BSc), Brenda Sio (MCN), Saleta Afele-Faamuli, (PhD).
- **Directory of Women of Samoa**; (1st issue) 2001, Ministry of Women, Social and Community Development, MWCSO, Samoa, 2001, MWCSO
- **Directory of Women of Samoa**; (2nd Issue) 2002, MWCSO, Samoa.
- **Human Development Report 2005, International Cooperation at a Crossroads: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world**, UNDP 2005
- **National Plan of Action for HIV/AIDS-STI in Samoa**, 2nd draft. Technical Assistance Committee (Government Initiative through Ministry of Health) This plan of Action aims to provide a framework for the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS policy and strategies identified in several national consultative meetings on HIV/AIDS.
- **Launching of STEPS Survey Results, Brief Summary of Findings**, Nutrition Centre Samoa, 2004.
- **NGO Shadow Report on the Status of Women in Samoa**; PPSEAWA: Women for Peace, Understanding and Advancement) Inclusion International (Disability and Human Rights), National Council of Women (NCW) and members of the Civil Society, 2004, PPSEAWA.
- **Partnerships Moving Beijing Forward – Gender Equality and Empowerment: A Statistical Profile of the ESCAP Region** – http://www.unescap.org/stat/statpub/gender_profile_publication.pdf
- **Plan of Action for the Western Pacific Declaration on Diabetes 2002-2005**, Western Pacific Region, 2001.
- **Report of the Census of Population and Housing 2001**; Statistical Services Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Samoa.
- **Report of the Status of Women in Samoa 2001**; Combined Initial, First and Second Periodic Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women; Funded by the Government of Samoa with the assistance of NZODA and UNIFEM.

- **Samoa Country Report for Pacific Islands Law Offices Meeting 2005**; Prepared by the Attorney General's Office 2005.
- **Samoa HIV/AIDS Policy 2001, Samoa**, Ministry of Health, (Government Initiative through Ministry of Health), 2001, Ministry of Health.
- **Samoa Family Health and Safety Study** – a joint research initiative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); 2003, MWCSO.
- **SBEC Training Database Records** (WIBDI training database 2004).
- **SPBD Foundation Newsletters** (#15, December 2004).
- **The Role of Women in the Maritime Sector, Samoa** - Regional Maritime Workshop Paper, Kerryn Kwan (Principal Legal Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology) and Lalotoa S. Mulitalo (Senior State Solicitor, Attorney General's Office), 2003, South Pacific Commission – Regional Maritime Sector.
- **The Asia-Pacific Perspective: Redefining Obesity and its Treatment, WHO**, February 2000
- **Women of Samoa and HIV-AIDS**
A situational Analysis and Responsive Review - August 2000
Ministry of Women & Social Community Development - Funded by AusAID through the Macfarlane Burnett Centre for Medical Research, Melbourne "*Project on Strengthening the Capacity of Pacific Island Countries to implement an Expanded Response to HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases*". July 1997 – August 31, 2000

7. Definitions

Appropriation Act, Samoa 2005

The name given to the Act of Parliament which appropriates (distributes/allocates) money for a financial year. The Appropriation Act 2005 is the budget passed by Parliament of government expenditure for the financial year (July) 2005 to (July) 2006.

Constitutional Offices

The Offices of the Legislative Assembly, the Public Service Commission, the Audit Office, the Ombudsman Office and the Attorney General are office of which establishment are set out by the Articles of the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa 1962.

Domestic law

Refers to the laws passed by the Parliament of Samoa.

Defence of ‘necessity’

Referred to in the discussion of the ‘abortion’ Supreme Court case, the defence of necessity is a defence a defendant may rely upon, relying on facts (if any) that the act of ending a fetus’ life (and thus aborting it) was to save the life of the mother. In the case referred to in the Profile, the Court of Appeal were not satisfied that there was a matter of life and death, that the defendant aborted the fetuses to save the lives of the mother.

Victim Impact Report

The Victim Impact Report is prepared (in Samoa) by an officer of the Probation Services, located at the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration. The report should record the short and long term consequences the offence may have on the victim. This assists the Court in imposing appropriate sentences.

CEDAW Partnership

The MWCSD legislation makes provision that the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development is to coordinate with NGOs and women’s groups on women’s issues as well as seek funding for projects relating to women issues.

Legislator (in the Table on Employment by sector)

According to the Ministry of Finance Statistics Division, this sector includes all those (male or female) who have involvement in legislation development and making. It therefore includes those that draft legislation, those that are work in the Legislative Assembly, those that are involved in policy making towards the formulating of legislation etc.

Professionals (in the Table on Employment by sector)

Includes any kind of professional whether a minor professional or common profession.
