



Regional Seminar for Asia-Pacific Parliaments

Ending the Cycle of Violence Against Girls in Asia-Pacific
Dhaka, Bangladesh



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Presentation Focus

- Tongan Context- Violence Against Girls and Women
- Brief Overview of FPA
- Development of FPA Implementation Plan
- Successes and Challenges since July 1st



Tonga Context

- First Democratic elected government in 2010, only 1 female out of 28 MPs
- Ratified CRC, CERD and signed CRPD
- Tonga is 1 of 2 pacific countries not ratify CEDAW
- Violence Against Girls and Women is one of highest in the world- 77%
- Higher enrolment of girls in both primary and Secondary education



National Study on DV 2009-2012

- VAW and against children, is widespread and deeply ingrained in Tongan society – largely physical,
- Physical violence by non-partners against women (mainly in childhood and teenage years) is among the highest in the world (77%)
- 40% women experience physical or Sexual violence by intimate partner.



National Study on DV 2009-2012

- Justification for the violence -traditional Tongan power relationships with dominant males using violence as a means to discipline women (and children).
- Many women themselves believe that in some situations, men are justified in 'disciplining' their wives.
- Women develop their own strategies to cope: a very few seek help from official authorities, only when the situation is critical.



Family Protection Act 2013

- Comprehensive legislation- protect all members of family from all forms of DV
- Inclusive, clear definition of DV
- Criminalise DV- prioritise safety and support for victims
- Protection Orders, police safety orders
- Prevention measures



FPA Implementation Plan

FPA Implementation Task Force Members

1. CEO MIA- Chair
2. SG- D/Chair
3. WA/CFO- Secretariat
4. MOP
5. MOJ
6. MOF
7. MOH
8. MOE
9. MFF
10. TNCWC
11. Church Leaders Forum
12. WCCC



Task Force Objectives

- To prepare Key Stakeholders within government and civil society organisations to implement the law on 1st July 2014
- To ensure that implementing agencies are properly trained on their role and relevant procedures required under the Act



Implementation Plan

Key Contents- 3 Phases

1. Early Implementation Tasks
2. Capacity building- trainings
3. Review of Implementation

Phase 1: Early Implementation Tasks

Activity	Who is Responsible?	Delivery Date
1. Establish FP Advisory Council	MIA, WA	April
2. Establish Family Trust Fund	MOF, AG's Office	May
3. Draft guidelines for registration of Counsellors	WCCC, MIA, TNCWC	May
4. Print forms 1-5 for PO	MOJ	June
5. Print Form 6 for Police Safety Order	MOP	June
6. Media Awareness programmes	CFO, Task Force	Twice a month
7. Publications: FPA law booklets, brochures and posters	CFO, WCCC, MIA	June

Phase 2: Capacity Building/Training for implementers



Activity	Who is responsible	Delivery Date
Training for Police include Executive, All levels including outer islands stations Review of DV Response Policy to be consistent with new law	MOP, PPDVP	Before July 1st
Training for MOJ staff Training for Magistrates	MOJ, PJDP, AG's Office	Before July 1st
National Consultation Workshop for counsellors, lawyers, , health practitioners, social service providers, education officers, church leaders, district officers, town officers,	Task Force	June 1 st week
FPA Public awareness using radio and TV	Task Force (CFO)	Twice a month depending on availability of fund

Phase 3: Review Implementation

FPA

Activity	Who is responsible	Delivery Date
Monitoring the implementation of the Act, Collecting Data from Police, Health and CSOs, analysing the outcomes of the Act and develop strategies to address them	Advisory Council	After December 31st
Annual Report on Challenges in implementing law	Advisory Council	After December 31st
Recommendations for amendments, report submit to minister and minister to parliament	Advisory Council	Every 3 years



Status of Implementing the FPA

Successes

- Family Protection Advisory Council established and has met- collecting monthly data from all social service providers, police and justice
- Police Safety Orders- 16 July, 25 August
- One Stop Crisis Centre- Police, Counsellor, lawyer, Health Practitioner, safe-house
- Strong referral support system



Challenges

- Need ongoing refresher training for implementing front-liners-attitudes/behaviour
- Need financial assistance for ongoing public awareness of FPA and other programs on causes, prevention and consequences of DV to reach outer islands
- Lack of Human resources (Police & Magistrates) to service all the inhabitat islands

Strong Government and NGO Coalition





Thank You



