



**COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FIFTEENTH-YEAR REVIEW
AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING
PLATFORM OF ACTION (BPFA+ 15)**

The Gambia, West Africa
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INTRODUCTION

Country Questionnaire for the Fifteenth-Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) +15

The adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1995 ushered in a new era in terms of addressing women's empowerment and advancement. The inception of this Platform carried with it, a call for Governments to accelerate their efforts towards addressing gender inequality. In 2004, and in line with the BPFA, African member States reiterated their commitment to the provisions of the Platform and to gender equality in general. African member States committed themselves to addressing challenges as identified in the *Synthesis of the national progress reports on the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action* (2004). The current review will therefore cover the extent to which countries have scaled up efforts, post the 7th African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+ 10).

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has mandated the UN Regional Commissions, including the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to follow-up the implementation of the BPFA. At the recent meeting of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD), the process for the African review of the implementation of the Platform was presented to member States. This process was adopted with amendments during the CWD session in August 2008.

The process for the African review will be carried out by a number of stakeholders including the AU and UN Agencies. To ensure that a comprehensive review is undertaken, this questionnaire seeks to solicit information on the status of implementation of policies, programmes and legislation in the area of women's empowerment and advancement in your country. It will be appreciated if this questionnaire could be filled in a collaborative way and in consultation with all stakeholders involved in the implementation of activities related to the empowerment and advancement of women in your country. The national gender machinery is expected to coordinate the completion of this questionnaire and also provide documents supporting information provided.

The completed questionnaires will be analysed and summarized by ECA and the results will be published in the *synthesis report* of the regional report on Beijing+ 15. The report will form part of Africa's contribution to the global review and appraisal of the Beijing +15.

The ECA Executive Secretary would therefore appreciate it if you could submit the completed questionnaire to ECA through the REC and ECA Sub-Regional Office in your region, for onward transmission to:

**The OIC
African Centre for Gender and Social Development
Economic Commission for Africa
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: 251 11 551 2785/ 4416**

Soft copies in MS Word format should also be emailed to the following address:

eleteane@uneca.org

The deadline for the submission of the report is **31 March 2009**

Thank you in advance for your keen collaboration.

ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	African Union
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CWD	Committee on Women and Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HR	Human Rights
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development (<i>held in Cairo Egypt in 1994</i>)
ICTs	Information Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGP	National Gender Policy
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
VAW	Violence Against Women

PART 1: Enabling Environment

Preamble: In this section, countries assess the degree to which there is an enabling environment at country level for supporting effective implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action. This appraisal focuses on the following aspects of the creation of such an enabling environment for the implementation of the BPFA:

- a) Institutional Arrangements
- b) Commitment to CEDAW
- c) Commitment to continental level gender equality protocols
- d) Commitment to sub-regional level gender equality protocols
- e) Adoption of a national gender policy
- f) Emerging issues for Africa
- g) Integration of gender equality principles into national development strategies (NDS) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)

a) Institutional Arrangements for Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

- 1.1** Have any institutional arrangements been put in place for promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women in line with the strategic objectives for the BPFA, and recommendation from reviews of the BPFA. Yes No

If yes, please list the various institutional arrangements and mechanisms:

Institutional Arrangement	Year of Establishment	Function(s)
Dept. of State for Women's Affairs	1996	Oversee implementation coordination
Women's Bureau	1980	Implementation and coordination
National Women's Council	1980	Advice on Policy issues

- 1.2** What are the major constraints that prevent the National Gender Machineries from being effective?)

- Limited financial and material resources.
- Inadequate human resources capacity.
- Cultural and Religion misconception of Gender.
- Traditional beliefs and Stereotypes
- High illiteracy amongst Women

b) Commitment to CEDAW

- 1.3** What additional work has been done on CEDAW since the 2004 evaluation? What are the lessons learnt?

*Domestication Process for the CEDAW in to Woman's Bill is in Progress
The Forth, fifth and Sixth Country Report of the CEDAW is been developed*

- 1.4** Has the Government ratified the Additional Protocol to CEDAW?

- a. Ratified? Yes Year of ratification [2006] No

c) Commitment to Continental Level Gender Equality Protocols

1.5 Indicate actions taken to implement the following continental level policy/strategy/framework in your country:

- Year
1. *AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa* [Report Writing in –progress]
- 1.1. Frequency of reporting: Always Sometimes Never
2. *The African Women’s Protocol* [2006]
- 2.1. Frequency of reporting: Always Sometimes Never

d) Commitment to Relevant Sub-regional Level Policies and strategies

1.6 State the relevant sub-regional level policy or strategy and actions taken at country level.

Instrument	Action taken at country level
ECOWAS Gender Policy	Sensitisation on the content of the policy
AU Decade for Women 2010 - 2020	Hosted an Expert Meeting in May 2009 Participated in the review process

e) Adoption of a National Gender Policy

1.7 Has the Government developed a national gender policy or reviewed an existing one to conform to the BPF+10 Recommendations?

- (a) Developed Yes Year of adoption [1999 - 2009] No

f) Emerging Issues for Africa

1.8 Has your Government adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting as a mechanism?

- Yes Year of adoption [_____] No

1.9 What are the lessons learnt in formulating, implementing and monitoring the National Gender Policy? Since 1999

The 1999-2009 National Policy for the Advancement of Women and Girls is a Women’s Policy aimed at bridging the gap that exists between women and men in the Gambia. However, because it is women specific some sectors particularly those headed by men are reluctant to fully mainstream the provisions of the policy. Thus, the policy was not fully accepted and some stakeholders indicated that they are not fully involved during the formulation policy. As a result after the mid term review conducted in 2006, a recommendation was put forward for a Gender Policy. Recently The Gambia is has drafted a Gender Policy 2010-2020 which is been sold to stakeholder.

g) Integration of Gender Equality Principles in the NDS/ PRSP

1.10 Has the Government formulated a National Development Strategy (NDS) / PRSP?

NDS: Yes No Year [_1997_]
 PRSP: II Yes No Year [_2007 - 2011]

If Yes, please indicate which of the following areas articulated in the NDS and budgeted for in the national programme of activities? (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

	<i>Gender Issues Articulated In the NDS/ PRSP</i>	<i>Gender Issues Budgeted for in the NDP</i>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
BPFA 12 Critical Areas of Concern		
1. Women and Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Women in the Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Education and training for women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Women and health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Violence Against Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Women in Conflict Situations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Women in Power and Decision Making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Human rights of women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Women in the media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Women and the environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. The Girl Child	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. HIV/AIDS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emerging Issues for Africa		
13. Financing for Gender Equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/>

1.12 Please rate availability of the following statistics and data in your country?

Very effective	Good	Average	Poor	Ineffective
1	2	3	4	5

Availability of gender statistics in following areas	Response				
	1	2	3	4	5
Sex disaggregate data on social issues (education, health)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregate data on economic issues (production, income, trade, employment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregate data on environmental issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex disaggregate data on Time-Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statistics on GBV/Violence Against Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statistics for women in decision-making positions (cabinet, parliament, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.13 How effective is the dissemination strategy of Gender Statistics in your country?

Very effective	Good	Average	Poor	Ineffective
1	2	3	4	5

1.13.1 Does it involve use of ICT? Yes No

Please elaborate:

PART 2: Review of the 12 Critical Areas of Concern and other Emerging Issues

Preamble: Part 2, provides a set of guiding questions that can be used to assess a country's performance against expected actions to be taken by governments as stipulated in the BPFA for 1995. All the 12 critical areas of concern are covered. Countries will also review their performance against cross cutting and emerging issues for the BPFA for Africa.

Section 1: Women and Poverty

a) Measures taken by government empower women and reduce poverty

2.1.1 Indicate actions taken by your government through review of macro policies, development of new legal framework and other socio-economic measures and strategies all aimed at empowering women and reducing their level of poverty. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Reallocation of public spending in favour of programmes and projects aimed at empowering women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Established a Social Development Fund(SDF), Community Skills Improvement Project(CSIP), Rural Finance,	Women have easy access to micro credit Increase in adult literacy Increase in skills acquisition
Design social protection tools (gender-sensitive safety nets in favour of women and girls)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Welfare Services	Provide housing and scholarship facilities for needy women and children.
Provision of services (training, legal services, credit) to women to enable them to start up businesses.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SDF,CSIP FLAG	Support to women's entrepreneurs on capacity building and credit facilities. Legal aid provided by Female Lawyers Association (FLAG)

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.1.2 For the critical area of Concern “Women and Poverty”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to empower women and reduce poverty. *(Tick the appropriate response)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective Result Based Management mechanism	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and poverty	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Food security	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality to reduce poverty	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

- The establishment of a National Youth Service Scheme and National Youth Council who participate in most government activities as oversight institutions for youths.
- The Government also promote women in the ICT sector through the provision of enabling environment for private sector development. To day Women formed a significant number in the telecommunication industry and other ICT related areas. A national ICT Policy has been formulated.
- The Gambia Government has embarked on a vigorous campaign on back to the land to ensure food security. Women are at the forefront of this campaign since they constitute 70% of the agricultural labour force and produce 90% of the stable food (rice).
- Series of projects and programmes have been implemented such as CSIP, SDF, Rural Finance, Community Driven Development Project and many other projects at the Ministry of Agriculture all aimed at reducing Poverty particularly poverty among women.

Section 2: Education and training for women

a) Measures taken by government for education and training of women

2.2.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure education and training of women. *(Tick the box for which the answer is ‘Yes’ or leave box unchecked if answer is ‘No’)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Elimination of barriers that hinder boys and girls’ access to education	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Advocacy at community level Free Education for Girls at Lower Basic Level	Education for All (EFA) and Fast Track Initiative (FTI). Gender parity at Lower Basic Level in 2008.

<p>Measures to increase tertiary enrolment and retention of women and girls, especially in sciences, mathematics and technology-related disciplines</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Promote recruitment of female teachers, extension workers and nurses at Gambia College</p> <p>Enrolment of more female at the University of The Gambia</p> <p>Provision of Scholarship for female science students</p>	<p>Remedial Initiative for Female Teachers (RIFT) at Gambia College over 500 teaches have benefited</p> <p>Access programme at The University of The Gambia for female students who do not have the entry requirements. Tutorials are offered for such students.</p> <p>President Empowerment of Girls Education Project (PEGEP) offered scholarship to girls.</p>
<p>Eliminate gender gap in basic functional literacy</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Construction of more schools across the country</p> <p>Establishment of Mother Clubs and Girls Friendly Schools</p>	<p>3 and 5 Kilometre policy recommendation for lower and upper basic schools is attained</p> <p>Increase enrolment and retention of girls</p>
<p>Support and develop gender studies and research</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Existence of Gender Studies at most Tertiary Institutions</p>	<p>University of The Gambia, Management Development Institute and Gambia Collage all offer Gender Studies at Diploma and Certificate levels.</p>
<p>Eliminate gender disparities in all areas of tertiary education by 2015</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Enrolment of more female at the University of The Gambia</p>	<p>Access programme at The University of The Gambia for female students who do not have the entry requirements. Tutorials are offered for such students.</p>

Measure to eliminate barriers to schooling of pregnant adolescents	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A policy exists that allows pregnant girls to go back to school and also discourage sexual harassment of female students.	Many girls are coming back to school. Strict punishment is meted on violators.
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b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.2.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Education and training of women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to empower women and reduce poverty. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and education	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality education and training of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to the question above, please elaborate:

- The Education Policy 2007- 2015 promotes gender equity. Among the strategies pursued by the policy is the promotion of functional education and skills training. Series of skill training centers have been constructed in all the regions. Example Gambia Technical Training Institute, Sobeya Skill Centre, Takulegaye etc
- The Women’s Bureau is responsible for monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programmes related to gender. As a result a data base and website are created for women programmes and organisations. Equally the government solicited for funding from ECA to develop national gender machineries ICT capacities. A Gender Monitoring and Evaluation Framework have been developed in 2008 and nearly all ministries and departments have gender focal points. However these focal points are not functional as desired due to capacity gaps and funding limitations.
- The department of state for education has a planning unit and a gender unit. These two departments work closely to ensure the availability of sex disaggregate data by region, educational levels of students and teachers.
- Capacity building is an on going activity at the department of state for education. Series of in services course at the Teacher training college and other tertiary institutions are available for both men and women. However as stated above many programmes exist for women.
- Gambian women are the main producers of food. The government back to the land programme focuses on the increase production of NARICA rice, which is predominately cultivated by women. Women are also the main producers of vegetables and the department of state for agriculture offer extension services and training to women horticulturalists. The main constraints with regard to food security are increasing production and marketing of goods.

- Funding for gender programmes is a challenge and government continue to invest in his area. Donor support is often the main source of funds for this sector.

Section 3: Women and health

a) Measures taken by government for women and health

2.3.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure quality health services for women (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Copenhagen Declaration	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Design and implement and monitor gender-sensitive health programmes, including affordable sexual and reproductive health care services and education for women and girls, and increase resources for women's health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Free maternal care Population and family life education in schools UNFPA country programme that supports gender , reproductive health services and population issues	Reduction in maternal death from 730 /100000 in 2005 to 540 in 2009 All junior and senior secondary schools offer family life education. This five year programme supports population issues. This country programme is the fifth of its nature been implemented all over the country.
Reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, deal with health impacts of unsafe abortions, ensure that girls have continuing access to necessary health and nutrition information and services, and address harmful traditional practices that harm women and girls' health including female genital mutilation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Free maternal services and information on health and nutrition for pregnant women in all health facilities. Advocate for the accelerated abandonment of harmful traditional practices in collaboration with Civil Society.	Reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality over the years 2005 - 2009 as indicated above Policies formulated to address issues related to harmful traditional practices(Women's Bill)

		Organisations	
Support interventions to curb the spread of malaria, cardiovascular diseases, STIs and cancer that affect women, including provision of free and subsidized reproductive health care services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Established a National Malaria Control Programme, National Policy and Strategic Plan developed. Provide Insecticide Treated Bed nets. Global Fund Round three on Tuberculosis Malaria and HIV/AIDS UNFPA/Government of the Gambia County Programme Support to reproductive health care services	Drastic reduction on malaria cases, incidence and death rate associated to disease in all health centres and hospitals. Reduction in cases incidence, prevalence and death associated with TB. Improvement on the proportion of TB cases detected and cured under direct observation Increase access for women to reproductive health care services
Medical school curriculum includes gender-sensitive mandatory courses.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The introduction of Gender and Health studies in the curriculum of the Medical School of the University of The Gambia	Increased awareness of medical personnel on gender and health related issues.

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.3.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and Health*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure quality health for women. (*Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and health	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women’s health	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Provision of support for elderly women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of support for HIV/AIDS affected girls	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

- The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare embarked on regular monitoring and evaluation of activities and programmes implemented. A monitoring and evaluation framework was developed by the health sector as tool to ensure consistency and effectively measure the implementation of the health policy. As a result a health data base system is envisaged by the Directorate of Planning at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.
- The health programmes are designed to encourage the participation of both men and women. Series of activities are designed to ensure men and boys participation in reproductive health.
- Capacity Building is an ongoing activity in the health sector and women in science and technology in tertiary institutions example UTG and Gambia College are given scholarship. This has increase the number of female nurses and health personnel over the years.
- The health sector advocate for adequate nutritional calories for pregnant women. Therefore ensure that quality and affordable food is available for women, thereby conducting and supporting programmes to address food security.
- Health is a major concern to the Government of the Gambia, over the years the health sector benefited budgetary allocation aimed at improving the services provided by the sector.
- The Ministry of Health has institutionalised social welfare services that provide support to elderly women with regards to food shelter and medical services in The Gambia.
- The National Aids Secretaries (NAS) under the office of the President support HIV/AIDS affected girls. The Global fund Round 3 for the fight against Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV/ AIDS support orphanages programmes. Home based care services supports feeding, clothing and Scholarship is through civil society organisations of (PLHIV) such as Hands on Care, Santayana Society, and Nyanaikiling etc.

Section 4: HIV/AIDS and its Gender Implications

a) National Institutional and Policy Framework

2.4.1 Has the Government put in place the institutional framework to address HIV/AIDS or adopted any recent strategies or measures including changes in legislation to address HIV/AIDS concerns?

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate as follows:

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Existence of an engendered national HIV/AIDS policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Engendered service delivery guidelines and standards | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Availability of adequate human resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Others (please specify): | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Multi Sectoral Response to the Fight against HIV/AIDS | | |
| • Established a National AIDS Council | | |
| • Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in sectoral Policies | | |

2.4.2 Has your government established, enforced and monitored strict legal frameworks to address the vulnerability of girls and women

Yes

No

If yes give details

Rape and sexual harassment is prohibited and in fact rape is punishable by life imprisonment.

b) HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Strategy

2.4.3 Has the Government adopted any recent measures and strategies including changes in legislation as part of the country's HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy?

HIV Prevention and Treatment Strategies	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Counselling and voluntary testing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Available in all hospitals major health centres	Free services for all
Male and female condom availability and use	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	availability of the condoms in all health facilities	Increase acceptance and use of the female condom by men.
Targeted intervention to women and other vulnerable groups	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VCT is provided to pregnant women and youths Information dissemination of on HIV/AIDS	Increase access and data on VCT and other related programmes on HIV/AIDS targeting women and youths.
Prevention of mother to child transmission	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provision of services to prevention of parent to child Transmission services countrywide	Reduction in Mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS
Provision of antiretroviral therapy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Antiretroviral therapy is provided in all major health centres country wide	Extend services of ARV
Behaviour change communication	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerate HIV/AIDS prevention programmes	Increase awareness on HIV/AIDS at all levels of the society.
Medical, psychological and social care to HIV/AIDS victims	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make ARV available to eligible people. Monitoring of Patients on ARV. Strengthening care and support services	Stabilised the infection rate Ensure adequate adherence medical guidelines Ensures sustainable management of HIV/AIDS Improved clinical records on HIV/AIDS
Home based care	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening and supporting the implementation of the home based care services.	Maintaining home based care services to the vulnerable
Other (please specify)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		

Section 5: Violence Against Women

a) Measures taken by government for elimination of violence against women

2.5.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure elimination of violence against women (*Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No'*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Legal sanctions for violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harmonisation and domestication of the CEDAW.	Formulation of a Women's Bill (enactment process is ongoing) 2007
Enacted or reinforced country legislation to punish offenders and support women subjected to violence with justice and legal services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prohibition of GBV.	Live imprisonment for perpetrators
Mainstreamed gender perspectives in all policies and laws related to VAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Formulation of a Gender Policy (2010-2020) has addressed sectoral policies.	Mainstreaming Gender in to sectoral policy.
Women with disabilities have access to information on services for violence against women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GoTG provides Social Welfare Services to women victims	Social Welfare Services provided to women victims of GBV
Provide well funded shelters and relief support for girl and women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Welfare Department provides shelters and relief support for girl and women victims of violence	Shelters and relief support for girl and women victims of violence provided
Promote research, collect data and compile statistics on domestic violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conduct Operational Research and information on GBV	UNFPA/UNICEF support to the development of a National Plan of Action to Accelerated the Abandonment of FGM/C.
Measures aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Polices and legislation enacted on preventing sex tourism and trafficking	Drastic reduction of sex tourism and human trafficking

Encourage the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotyping including those encouraged by commercial advertising.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women and Girls (1999-2009) encourage the Media in examining the impact of gender roles stereotyping as a policy strategy	The issues of gender stereotyping has been address at the media level, both men and women are encourage in commercial advertisements.
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b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.5.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Violence Against Women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to ensure elimination of violence against women. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for violence against women	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

- The ministry of Women’s Affaires and the Bureau has developed policy objectives to address violence against women. The Gambia Women’s Bill and Gender Policy (2010 -2020) have specific provision that address gender based violence. The two documents are on the process of enactment and formulation respectively.
- The Women’s Bureau Monitoring and Evaluation Framework have indicated tools and mechanism to measure progress in issues related to violence against women. The ministry of interior also establish a unit under the police responsible for investigating and prosecuting domestic violence cases. However due to social and cultural stigma associated with reporting offenders , many women are reluctant to report domestic violence cases and few that report often end up withdrawing the case due to family interventions. Series of sensitization programmes are being conducted by the government and non governmental institutions. Some NGOs have taken up violence against women as there core mandate.

Section 6: Women and Armed Conflict

a) Measures taken by government for protection of women in armed conflict situations: Emelang

2.6.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure elimination of violence against women (Tick the box for which the answer is ‘Yes’ or leave box unchecked if answer is ‘No’)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Women's voices in conflict prevention are heard and they are meaningfully involved in peace processes, including in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of refugee projects	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NIL	
Train women in conflict resolution, reconciliation and tolerance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Integration of a gender perspective in the resolution of armed and other forms of conflict	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NIL	
Investigate and punish policy, security and armed forces involved in acts of VAW	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
Protect the safety and integrity of women refugees	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Train military officials on the human rights of women and measures to assist women refugees deal with the trauma of rape and rejection	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Implement provisions of UNSC Resolution 1325	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		
Implement provisions of the AU Protocol on Women's Rights	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ratified and domesticated international Conventions and Protocols	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.6.2 For the critical area of Concern "Women in armed conflict", please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to protect women in armed conflict. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women in armed conflict situations	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women in armed conflict	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded "yes" to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

NOT APPLICABLE SINCE THE COUNTRY DOES ENJOY PEACEFUL COEXISTANCE

Section 7: Women and the Economy

a) Measures taken by government for women and economy

2.7.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure full participation of women in the economy. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions	Give Brief Description of
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Following Areas		Undertaken at Country Level	Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Adopt and enact laws that guarantee an equal access to employment opportunities and social protection benefits.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No special law exist for men and women to access employment. However employment policy equally guarantees employment for all. Special measures are also adopted by government to appoint women at key decision making positions.	
Ensure equal access to capital and trade opportunities.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Due to proliferation of financial institutions women access to capital has greatly improved. In fact women are the main beneficiaries of MIFs.	Series of micro finance institutions are established. interest rate for some of those institutions are below a15%
Build capacity in gender-sensitive economic analysis.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three senior officers trained on gender budgeting in 2009	UNFPA support capacity building for three staff from the ministry of finance and economic affairs
Ratified and domesticated International Conventions that guarantee the participation of women in the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not yet domesticated , but ratified by government	CEDAW and African protocol

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.7.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women and the Economy*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to ensure equal participation of women in the economy. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women and the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressed food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality for women and the economy	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Issues highlighted above are applicable here.

Section 8: Women, governance, power and decision making

a) Measures taken by government on women governance, power and decision-making

2.8.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure meaningful participation and involvement of women in power and decision-making. (Tick the box for which the answer is ‘Yes’ or leave box unchecked if answer is ‘No’)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Encourage and promote stronger representation of women in political and diplomatic circles	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Series of projects are implemented to promote women participation in decision making.	Since 2006 to date, UNDP support women in decision making project have conducted capacity building and other sensitization activities on the importance of women in decision making.
Encourage greater involvement of women, in particular indigenous women, in decision-making processes	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Through sensitization and advocacy by lobby political parties to nominate more women during the local government elections.	Increase in the number of women at cabinet, national assembly and area councils. Eg. Cabinet 33.33%, 5out of 53 national assembly members , and 27

			out of 147 councillors
Support research to help identify adequate ways and means to politically empower women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conduct capacity assessment of women in decision making in 2008	Report validate and recommendations are been implemented in the 2009 women in decision making project

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.8.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Women in power and decision making*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to ensure equal participation of women in power and decision-making. *(Tick the appropriate response)*

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Institutional mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs for women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Same as above. The national women machineries and donors are responsible for the promotion of women in decision making agenda. Sex disaggregated data exist on women in decision making .

Section 9: Human rights of women

a) Measures taken by government for human rights of women

2.9.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to protect human rights of women. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Report on schedule to the Committee on CEDAW	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Submitted first, second & third report	Comment from the committee received and the fourth, fifth and sixth report are drafted and ready for submitted.
Publicise information on national, regional and international mechanisms for seeking redress of HR abuse	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frequently done by government and Human Rights Institutions.	
Embody the principle of the equality of men and women in country legislation and strengthen development of programmes to protect the human rights of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 33 of the constitution guarantees women and men equality.	
Translate to user friendly language information relating to the equal status of women including relevant protocols	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CADAW translated into Arabic and other national languages	This process is supported by African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights studies.
Ratified and domesticated International and African Conventions and Protocols that guarantee the human rights of women	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ratified but not yet domesticated	Domesticated process on going.

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.9.2 For the critical area of Concern “*Human rights of women*”, please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to protect human rights of women in decision-making. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded “yes” to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Section 10: Women in media

a) Measures taken by government for human rights of women

2.10.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure effective participation of women in media (*Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No'*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Measures that support research on women and media and ensure women's access to and participation in media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Promote gender-aware media policies and gender balance in appointments at all levels of the media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Encourage and recognise women's media networks	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Encourage the participation of women in the development of professional guidelines and codes of conduct for media	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NIL	
Promote gender sensitive research and implementation of a strategy of information, education and communication and support research on women and the media	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NIL	
Enforcement of provisions of the World Summit on the Information Society	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.10.2 For the critical area of Concern "Women in media", please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to promote equal participation of women in media (*Tick the appropriate response*)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Institutional mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded "yes" to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Section 11: Women and the environment

a) Measures taken by government on women and the environment

2.11.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure beneficial participation of women in the environment. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Measures integrating gender in the design and implementation of environmental sound resource management, especially in rural areas	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Measures to engender MDG 7, empower women as producers and consumers to ensure effective environmental actions	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NIL	
Provide technical assistance to women in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, small enterprises, trade and industry	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Evaluate policies and programmes in terms of environmental impact and women's equal access to and use of natural resources	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

b) Addressing Cross Cutting and Emerging Issues for BPFA

2.11.2 For the critical area of Concern "Women and the environment", please indicate if any of these issues were address in efforts to promote equal participation and benefit in the environment. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have responded "yes" to any of the questions above, please elaborate:

Section 12: The girl child

a) Measures taken by government on the girl child

2.12.1 Indicate actions taken by your government to ensure beneficial participation of women in the environment. (Tick the box for which the answer is 'Yes' or leave box unchecked if answer is 'No')

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	If Yes Indicate Specific Actions Undertaken at Country Level	Give Brief Description of Concrete Results Achieved and when (year)
Eliminate injustice and obstacles related to inheritance by girl children	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	NIL	
Enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of VAW and ensure marriage is by young women's consent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Implement policies, plans and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ongoing research on the situation of the girls and realignment of policies and programmes	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Develop and adopt curricula, teaching materials and textbooks to improve the self image, lives and work opportunities of girls	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Facilitate the equal provision of appropriate services and devices to girls with disabilities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

2.12.2 For the critical area of Concern "The girl child", please indicate if any of these issues were addressed in efforts to promote the rights of the girl child. (Tick the appropriate response)

Specific Measures/Actions Taken in the Following Areas	Response	Response
Effective policy development and implementation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms in place	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sex disaggregated data	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement of men and boys	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity Building	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and ICTs	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Food security issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financing gender equality	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Ratification or domestication of relevant global protocols

2.12.2 Has your country ratified and domesticated the Convention on the Rights of the child?

Ratified

Yes

Domesticated

Yes Not yet

If you have responded "yes" to the question above, please elaborate:

The Gambia has ratified the CEDAW and also drafted a women's Bill that try to domesticate certain provisions of the convention. The bill is awaiting enactment by the National Assembly.

PART 3: Review on key Achievement, Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Overall, what do you view as your key achievement, challenges and lessons learnt in your efforts to implement the BPFA at country level. For each of the three items highlight 4 priority.

Key Achievement in implementing the BPFA

1. Gender parity at Basic level of education
2. Reduction in Maternal mortality and child mortality
3. increased awareness on the importance of women empowerment and environment in decision making by the general public
4. increased number of women in decision making positions

Key Challenges in implementing the BPFA

1. Inadequate financial and material resources
2. limited capacity development of women machineries as both public and NGOs level
3. Cultural and Religion barriers
4. Limited data, coordination of interventions and monitoring and evaluation
5. High illiteracy rate among women

Key Lessons Learnt in Implementing the BPFA

1. The significances of partnership in building commitment
2. the involvement of religions and traditional leaders is crucial in attaining gender equality
3. Men, particularly rural men should be targeted in sensitisation and advocacy campaigns
4. without adequate material resource, both financial and human, planned programmes will always fall short of target

Final Note:

Are there any relevant issues that were not covered in the questionnaire? If yes, what are your views, comments and observations on these issues?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!