

Independent State of SAMOA

A series of horizontal lines in teal and light blue colors, with varying lengths and offsets, creating a modern, layered effect across the width of the slide.

We are here in the Pacific Islands



CONTENT:

- Samoa Gender Context
- Gender Issues
- Developments Towards Adopting Gender Responsive Budgeting
- GRB provisions in national budget

Country Context:

- Population of approximately 193483
- 55% of the population are under 25 and 35% are under 15, putting heavy pressures on the education system
- Only around 22% of Samoa's total population is engaged in formal paid employment. Two-thirds of the potential labour force is absorbed by subsistence village agriculture, a dominant sector in the Samoan economy.
- The economy is largely driven by tourism, remittances and foreign aid.
- The role of women and girls in Samoan society remain largely unchanged at village levels despite the relatively high educational attainment of girls compared to boys.

Gender Issue

- Women In Decision Making: small percentage of women involved in decision making
- Gender Based Violence: high level of violence against women

Legislative & Policy Developments

- **Constitutional Amendment Act 2013** guarantees a minimum of 10% or 5 seats Parliament for women.
- Enactment of the **Family Safety Act 2013**, plus the establishment of a specialist **Family Violence Court**. Also, a **Child Care & Protection Bill** to provide a protective environment for children, including young women, is in the drafting stage.
- Labor and Employment Relations Act 2013
- In 2014, Samoa signed the “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- **School fee scheme** introduced in 2010 to help Government meet the MDG for free education at primary level, has now been extended to include secondary schools.
- Samoa is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Consequently, the needs of women and girls are fully integrated into national climate resilience, disaster prevention and response operations, policies and plans.
- At the regional level, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders through their “Declaration on Gender Equality” in 2012 re-affirmed their commitment to lead, monitor and facilitate gender mainstreaming in our region at the highest political level.

Gendered Responsive Budgeting

- Health: Over the years Health Sector is the 2nd largest sector which receives about 16% of the overall national budget. In 2010 it was estimated to be receiving 13% by 2016/27 FY it has reached 16%
- Education: Government allocates the largest percentage of the national budget towards developing and sustaining the education sector. In 2010 it allocated 14% now it has increased to 19%

Heart of the Pacific



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