

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
UNJP INPUTS – VANUATU June 2013**

**I. Background and Framework**

**A. Scope of international obligations**

1. The combined Initial, Second and Third Report to CEDAW was submitted in September 2004. The Concluding Observations from the UN CEDAW Committee recommended that Vanuatu ratify a number of other HR conventions. The Fourth & Fifth Combined CEDAW Report has been drafted but is awaiting government endorsement. The CRC report was ratified in 1993 with the Initial Report submitted in 1997. The Combined Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Report is in draft and awaiting government endorsement.

2. The Convention on the Rights of People Living with Disability (CRPD) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) were ratified in 2008 and Vanuatu was the first Pacific country to ratify the Convention Against Torture (CAT) in July 2011.

3. Vanuatu became the 176<sup>th</sup> member state of the International Labour Organisation in 2003 and has ratified seven of the eight core ILO conventions, which are fundamental to the protection of human rights in the workplace except for Convention No.138. However implementation of ratified conventions, and reporting on progress therein, remains a major challenge. For example, the government of Vanuatu is required to make regular reports to the ILO on progress on implementation of ratified labour conventions. To date Vanuatu has not submitted any reports and there are several capacity constraints in this regard.

**B. Constitutional and legislative framework**

4. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is being incorporated into existing national legislation. The Government has already begun the process of enacting a comprehensive Children's Law.

5. UNICEF has compiled a Child Protection Baseline Research Report (CPBR) in partnership with the Government of Vanuatu that contains legislative recommendations for Vanuatu based on the research findings. The following list names the major ones:

- Create a National Child Protection policy
- Develop a comprehensive Young Offenders Act
- Child Friendly Investigative and Court processes
- Develop a comprehensive Family Law Act
- Establishment of a Child Welfare and Child Protection system

6. UN Women has been working in partnership with the Government and civil society organisations on the Women Human Rights Publication to look at CEDAW legislative compliance. The document is in the process of being finalised for government to work on implementation.

**C. Institutional and human rights structure**

7. Both the office of the Attorney General, who is responsible for drafting legislation, and the Vanuatu Law Commission which recommends reforms upon referral by the Attorney General, are extremely understaffed. The backlog for legislative drafting work is significant. Most of the necessary institutional structures are in place but political changes affect the availability of

resources and the implementation of activities. In February 2013 Vanuatu established an overarching National Human Rights Committee with a view of giving this Committee the responsibility of overseeing the development of a national human rights institution (NHRI).

The 2011 UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) noted Vanuatu performs better than the average for the Pacific islands standard governance indicators and there have been improvements in political stability, rule of law, and control of corruption, aspects of public financial management (PFM), and aspects of financial accountability, although Parliament has changed over once already since the 2012 elections, creating once again concerns about political stability. Since the Comprehensive Reform Program (CRP) Vanuatu has moved into the development of long-term strategic planning and has published their Priorities & Action Agenda (2006-2015) of that was reviewed in 2010.

8. The lack of capacity and the political will to address issues in a coordinated, cross-sectoral manner and focus on implementation of policies and programmes continues. A number of key Ministries or departments lack the capacity for research, policy analysis and legislative review. This presents a significant impediment to responsive policy advice.

9. The Vanuatu's Department of Women's Affairs does have the institutional authority to effectively promote implementation of the CRC and CEDAW although they are challenged by capacity and resources as well as Vanuatu's patriarchal and customary structures.

#### **D. Policy measures**

10. The UNDAF framework 2013-2017 acknowledges the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The country seeks to promote increased participation of women in leadership roles through the enactment of legislation and policies, and strengthening protective systems preventing exploitation and violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups as well as respecting and upholding human rights in line with international standards.

11. The National Children's Policy 2007-2011 underwent a review in 2012/2013 with the assistance of the National Children's Committee. The review is currently with the government for endorsement. The review has recommendations that need to be addressed by the relevant stakeholders and with findings that are also addressed in the CRC.

12. The Family Protection Unit with the Vanuatu Police Department deal with cases of non-sexual abuse of children and cases of domestic violence including sexual violence. There is no specialized police unit for child victims. The Government have established Family Protection Units in all provincial police headquarters. The Department of Women's Affairs is piloting the implementation of the Family Protection Act in South Santo and on Malekula. The National Women's Development and Gender Policy is currently being developed by the Department of Women's Affairs.

13. The Vanuatu Education Sector Strategy 2006 to 2016 for Vanuatu outlines the direction for education in Vanuatu envisioning that all children have equal access to quality education. Since January 2010, Vanuatu operationalized its Universal Primary Education policy by introducing school grants in schools. As a result, student enrolment increased significantly. This latter result has posed issues for the Ministry of Education in terms of space.

14. A National Policy on Persons Living with Disabilities 2008-2015 was developed by the Ministry of Justice & Community Services and the National Disability Committee. There are thirteen priority

areas of action identified in the document, amongst them: national coordination; legislative/policy framework; self-help and rehabilitative/service organizations; women with disabilities; education; training and employment; access to a built environment; access to public transport; poverty alleviation; early detection, early intervention and education; public awareness campaigns, and access to information and communication. A focus on regional cooperation obligated the government to utilize regional opportunities for implementation of the policy.

## II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

### A. Implementation of international human rights obligations

#### 1. Equality and non-discrimination

<b>1. Cooperation with treaty bodies</b>	<i>Latest report submitted and Treaty considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
HR Committee	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2010
CEDAW	2005	May 2007	-	Combined fourth and fifth report due since 2012 Report completed, pending Government endorsement
CRC	1997	October 1999	-	Second report overdue since 2000 – report completed, pending government endorsement
OP-CRC- AC	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2009
OP-CRC- SC	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2009

#### 2. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

15. OHCHR conducts its activities in Vanuatu largely through its regional office in Suva, Fiji, established in 2005. In November 2012, a joint mission between OHCHR, South Pacific Commission's Regional Resource Team (SPC/RRRT) and the Pacific Forum Island Forum Secretariat organized a workshop in Vanuatu on the UPR process, and how Vanuatu can prepare for the second round of reporting to the UPR. The workshop facilitated sessions for both the government and NGOs and helped the National Human Rights Committee to set up a work plan for the next 12 months supporting the endorsement of the next UPR and other Human Rights Conventions. Through the support of OHCHR, an independent monitoring group responsible for monitoring prison conditions was established and its members trained. OHCHR are supporting the placement of a UNV with the Ministry of Justice to assist in the implementation and reporting of the UPR, the CAT and to support the Independent Prisons Monitoring Group.

## **B. Implementation of international human rights obligations**

### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

16. The 2011 CCA and subsequent 2013-2017 UNDAF noted that there continues to be factors that impinge on the promotion of equal opportunity. Vanuatu is a society in transition, with the coexistence of traditional and so called “modern” lifestyles, which places a particular burden on women who are expected both to maintain their traditional roles and enter in the formal economy in larger numbers. They are struggling to achieve full equality in all aspects of social and political life, participate in decision-making at all levels, and claim their rights including the right to live free from violence.

17. Not all aspects of CEDAW have been legislated. There has been a lot of awareness on cultural norms, practices and traditions that are discriminatory towards women.

18. The 2010 Gender Monograph noted that a significant number of households are headed by women, more women are now employed in the cash economy and in particular in the labor force, although women’s employment rates are lower than that of men in both urban and rural settings; and women are speaking out and calling both Government and society at large to be accountable to meet commitments and they are beginning to take a stand on issues that have been considered the domain of males, a developing situation more evident in urban areas. It is not easy for women to claim their rights as the legal system generally fails to enforce the constitutional provision guaranteeing equal status between men and women and the island courts adopt decisions based on customary laws and practices, which are often discriminatory against women. Customary rules in the context of land ownership are often used to deny women or their direct descendants the sharing of land resources equally with those who are descendants of the male lineage.

19. There has been little progress in revising the Citizenship Act in terms of which a non-national man married to a ni-Vanuatu woman is not entitled to citizenship, while a non-national woman married to a ni-Vanuatu man is. The Citizenship Act as allows a woman who renounces her citizenship after marriage to a non-national to regain citizenship in her country of origin upon evidence of the breakdown of her marriage, but the provision does not apply to men.

### **2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

20. A regional literature review indicates that Vanuatu suffers from high rates of gender-based violence, especially intimate partner violence, with, for example 3600 cases reported by the Vanuatu Women’s Centre (VWC) from 1993 to 2000, about half the Community Legal Centre’s business relating to domestic violence, and the Port Vila police Station reporting 475 cases from February to July 2007 alone. Only a small number of cases make it to court and in general, women face difficulty in accessing justice and support services.

21. Vanuatu Women’s Centre is the main agency providing legal support, counseling and temporary accommodation. There has been a systematic study of domestic violence in Vanuatu undertaken by Vanuatu Women’s Centre. The type of violence measured in the study and the results during a woman’s lifetime compared to the last 12 months, indicate that high rates of violence are perpetrated by current or former husband/partner; emotional violence (68%); physical violence (51%); sexual violence (44%); physical and/or sexual violence (60%). The Family Protection Act of 2008 provides for victims of domestic violence to apply in court for a family

Protection Order (restraining order). Courts can issue Family Protection Orders to constrain the behavior of perpetrators for up to two years.

22. The Police Academy has provided training in the handling of domestic violence and sexual assault cases. The Police Department has a "no drop" policy under which they do not drop reported domestic violence cases; if the victim later wishes to withdraw her complaint, she must go to court to request it be dropped. However, "kastom" fines (the traditional act of passing judgment and appeasing parties involved, often entailing the exchange of mats and local food items) do act as mitigating factors for cases going to court. There is a need for more EAW training provided to the Police Department. The Family Protection Unit does provide support to survivors of abuse and sexual crimes in the Port Vila Police Station. An opportunity exists in this Unit to develop these strategies: a) instituting a special procedure for dealing with domestic or sexual violence and b) special procedures for child survivors and extend the reach of the unit outside of Port Vila.

23. Vanuatu has one of the highest rates of incest amongst girls aged 15 years in the region and this continues to be a concern. In certain communities marriage between second cousins is traditionally acceptable. There are concerted efforts amongst government and its partners alike in ensuring legislation, and other frameworks are in place to protect and respond to cases of domestic violence, ill-treatment and abuse of children, including sexual abuse within the family. Measures are on-going to respond and ensure provision of support services to women and children in legal proceedings and the prevention of criminalization and stigmatization of victims.

24. The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and its partners are working closely toward putting systems in place to raise awareness of the negative effects of corporal punishment, the provision of counselling and other programmes for parents, teachers and professionals working in institutions to encourage use of other alternatives to corporal punishment. Work is on-going in strengthening traditional protection measures to compliment the formal structures.

25. The 2009 National Population Census provides a monograph on youth which has been used to develop the National Youth Development Policy 2012-2022 and the Youth Strategic Plan of Action 2012-2015. Amongst its 8 policy areas, two are on Youth Rights and Empowerment as well as Youth Employment and Social Security.

### **3. Administration of justice and the rule of law**

26. It is not easy for women to claim their rights as the legal system generally fails to enforce the constitutional provision guaranteeing equal status between men and women and the island courts adopt decisions based on customary laws and practices, which are often discriminatory against women. Customary rules in the context of land ownership are often used to deny women or their direct descendants the sharing of land resources equally with those who are descendants of the male lineage. In May 2013, the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs organised a workshop on Gender and Land resulting in the Council endorsing a Declaration on Gender and Land. The Declaration recognises that the fundamental principles of the UDHR and CEDAW are part of custom. Part of the declaration was for the MNCC to strengthen customary practices that promote the value of gender equality and land issues and to work together with organisations to promote, address and protect gender and land in the areas of access, ownership and active participation in decision making processes.

27. While the police force remains weak, a New Zealand Police Project and support from a local Australian Federal Police post in Port Vila are strengthening the functionality of the force. There

is a backlog of court cases overdue, and inadequate staff within the Public Prosecutor's and Public Solicitor's Offices. The capacity, neutrality and independence of the judiciary needs further enhancement.

28. There is continued concern on the low minimum age for criminal responsibility (10 years) and on the age at which children can be taken into custody (16 years). There is a lack of services for victims, and especially for women and children. The proposed Children's Act and a review of priority laws in the penal code as recommended in the Child Protection baseline study will begin in August 2013. With respect to the judiciary, including the juvenile justice process, Vanuatu has undertaken measures to reform the system of juvenile justice in accordance with the CRC and of other United Nations standards in this field, introduce training programmes for police officers and judiciary.

#### **4. Right to marriage and family life**

29. Discriminatory provisions in the customary law governing marriage and family relations, permitting polygamy and the practice of *kastom*, and with regard to land and inheritance are expected to be addressed by a comprehensive family law. There is continued concern that the law provides for different ages of marriage for women and men - 16 years for women and 18 for men.

#### **5. The right to participate in public and political life**

30. In May 2013, the Council of Ministers endorsed in Decision 50/2013 a policy paper to amend the Decentralization Act [Cap 230] and the Municipalities Act [Cap 126] to introduce temporary special measures for a quota of 30 – 34% reserved seats for women in all Municipal Government Councils for a period of four terms or 16 years.

#### **6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

31. Despite the critical role played by formal sector employment in supporting rural based extended families, Vanuatu does not have a system for aligning minimum wage with rises in the cost of living. This has led to a situation where many employees can be accurately described as 'working poor', with serious implications for the welfare of their extended dependents. While Vanuatu has well developed representative organisations of both workers and employers and a generally co-operative tripartite consultative process, the benefits of collective bargaining are out of reach of most employees in the private sector. This is characterised by a large number of small businesses and a high rate of informal sector employment. Gaps in the existing industrial relations framework and weaknesses in legal enforcement of the minimum wage, in compliance with National Provident Fund obligations, and in the process of minimum wage setting are all issues that must be addressed.

32. The concern raised by CEDAW on the discrimination faced by women in employment, as reflected in the wage gap and occupational segregation continues to be an issue.

#### **7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

33. Vanuatu has been accorded United Nations Least Developed Country status since 1995. A 2011 UNDP report ranks Vanuatu 125 on the Global Human Development Index. At the national level the average incidence of basic needs poverty, was estimated at 11% of households or 13%

of population in 2010. This remains largely unchanged from that of 2006. The incidence of basic needs poverty declined slightly in rural areas and Port Vila decline in 2006 and 2010. In 2006, 12% of the rural population was in basic needs poverty as compared to 10% in 2010. In Port Vila, basic needs poverty decreased from 20% of the population in 2006 to 18% in 2010. In Luganville, basic needs poverty increased from 12% of the population in 2006 to 24% in 2010.

34. Key challenges to continued and inclusive economic growth include: few primary commodity exports; vulnerability to natural disasters and impacts of climate change; growing population scattered across many isolated islands remote from main markets and with no economies of scale; infrastructure deficiencies that raise costs, reduce access to essential social services, increase the size of the few urban centres and thus contribute to exclusion; high costs of services; external shocks including high food prices; wages and salaries not reflecting rises in the cost of living, limited financial and human resource capacity and low productivity of small-holder production systems.

35. In Vanuatu, a distinction must be made between rural and urban poverty. The rural majority, which has traditionally enjoyed “subsistence affluence”, suffers a “poverty of opportunity” - a lack of access to services (education, health, regular water supply, transport, communications, and energy) and increasingly a lack of income-earning opportunities, as Vanuatu enters the cash economy, which are both driving rapid urbanisation. The rapidly growing urban population, especially in densely populated squatter settlements in the urban areas of Port Vila and Luganville, living in rented sub-standard accommodation, is increasingly experiencing real income poverty, with families unable to meet basic nutrition, shelter, education and health needs. This situation is exacerbated by the effects of the global economic crisis and rising food prices, with families cutting back on amounts and types of food consumed, removing children from secondary school and experiencing increased protection and domestic violence issues.

36. The Vanuatu Child Poverty Study shows that children experience three times more deprivation in rural than urban areas; however, food deprivation is significantly worse in urban areas. The report also shows that deprivation is concentrated in the lowest income bracket. Children experience poverty differently from adults, and the experience of deprivations in childhood can have long-term consequences for children’s development.

39. Efforts to empower women economically through training and micro finance opportunities are continuing and have been expanded to women in rural and remote areas.

37. The proportion of households using an improved drinking water source has been increasing steadily since 1990 (68%) to reach 81% in 2009, slightly short of the MDG target of 85%. While substantial progress has also been achieved in sanitation, the situation with respect to sanitation is of much greater concern, as about a third of the population does not have access to an improved source of sanitation and only 30% of households dispose of children faeces safely.

38. Past progress in both under-five and infant mortality has been stagnating in the last decade, and these indicators may not reach their MDG targets without substantial acceleration. More than 80% of the under five deaths occur in the first year. There are also considerable disparities between provinces with an under-five mortality rate of less than 20 per 1000 live births in urban Shefa, and 35 per 1000 in rural Tafea and this may be due largely to reporting challenges in these areas. Considerable disparities also exist for immunization, with full immunization coverage ranging from 32% to 82% in different provinces although recent efforts including a Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) in May 2013 should see figures improve.

39. Pregnancy outcomes have improved as a result of improved antenatal care (84% with at least one visit), the higher proportion of births attended to by skilled birth attendants (80%), increased rates of deliveries taking place in health facilities (80%), better referral mechanisms to access emergency obstetric care and better access to primary health care. While they are improving as a result of improved contraceptive prevalence (now at 38%), both the total fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate are still high, respectively at around 3.9 and at 64 per 1000 women aged 15-19. The number of positive cases of HIV is low (5 reported since 2011), but it may be higher because of low levels of testing (only 10% among the most at risk adolescents from the urban areas were tested and received results), and may be increasing because risk factors (such as high STIs and teenage pregnancy rates, low levels of awareness and condom use, gender based violence, transactional and forced sex and difficulty in accessing HIV services) are high.

40. Regarding People Living with Disability, the Ministry have established a Disability Desk to oversee the implementation of the Disability Policy and Strategy. The Ministry of Education has integrated a policy for Children with Special Needs in School and are currently training teachers to support its implementation.

## **8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community**

41. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) policy encourages the use of local vernacular in the curriculum. The dual language system inherited from the colonial Condominium with England and France has been addressed through a new harmonized curriculum. Access to quality primary education has been addressed through the introduction of the school grants in 2010 creating a gender balance in enrolment.

42. The introduction of minimum standards and school based management in schools hopes to address the disparities in literacy, resources and qualified/trained teachers and enhancing general management at school level. There is a continued concern at the high levels of adult illiteracy, and girls' high drop-out rates in secondary education as well as the low level of enrolment of girls in secondary and higher levels of education. There is marked difference in the quality of and access to education in urban and rural/remote areas, including the lack of sufficient boarding facilities for students but in particular girls. Through the additional support of NGOs, Vanuatu is able to enhance implementation of its national action plan for education for all.

43. The Gender Equity in Education Policy does not address temporary special measures for women and girls in education. This policy is yet to be integrated into the Vanuatu Education Road Map.

44. There are also concerns about the effective transition from school to life after school. There remain too many examples of children, who are either pushed out early by the system or even who complete secondary level education, and are unprepared for the real world in which they are entering. This includes entering the labour market either as an employee or as an entrepreneur. Increased access to tertiary study in general has been achieved through an increase in scholarships provided by government and development partners, although concerns remain regarding the effective targeting of scholarships to the human resource and economic development needs of the country. For long-term benefits, Vanuatu should work towards excelling in educational achievements beyond primary level.



### III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

45. The Government of Vanuatu is clearly committed to improving the delivery of social services: a third of the recurrent budget is allocated to Health (11%) and Education (21%) alone, and development partner support to these fields is substantial. A large number of policies and strategies guide its work in these areas, including the Health Sector Strategy 2010-2016 and the Vanuatu Education Sector Strategy 2007-2016 – which is supported by a ‘Sector Wide Approach’ (SWAP), and a number of supportive strategies and initiatives addressing specific issues such as malaria, sexual transmitted infection (STI) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), reproductive health, non-communicable disease (NCDs), water and sanitation, vocational training and youth. Top priority is given to revitalizing the primary health care system, and in particular maternal and child health (MCH), universal access to education and literacy, including “fee free” primary level education up to Year 6 and improving the quality of education.

46. The passing of the Family Protection Act (2008) is a milestone, which makes domestic violence a crime and establishes mechanisms for protection of women in rural and remote areas and excludes the payment of bride price as grounds for defence in domestic violence cases. Specific policy has been developed to address gender equality and empowerment of women, including the Gender Equity in Education Policy (2005-2015), which establishes a gender focal point within the Ministry of Education (currently vacant). The Women in Government Policy (draft) outlines specific measures to be taken to increase the political participation of women, including research, education (political literacy) of candidates and voters, and affirmative action and there is a commitment in the PAA to gender-mainstreaming as a strategy of the whole of government to address gendered issues. The Government is now in the final processes of developing its National Women’s Development and Gender Policy.

47. The low use of information, the weakness of accountability and performance measurement, and the difficulties of collaboration and coordination and management of increasing cross-sectoral initiatives in the public sector continue to pose governance challenges.

48. The socio-economic disparities, geographic and political difficulties facing Vanuatu have impeded full implementation of some of the Human Rights Conventions of which Vanuatu is a member, particularly regarding children & women in its dispersed island communities, some of which are very difficult to reach.

49. Vanuatu faces a full range of geologic and climatic hazards as it is located in both the “ring of fire”, which makes it subject to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides, and the “cyclone belt” which puts it in the path of tropical cyclones. It is subject to climatic variability and extremes through cycles of El Niño and La Niña, which increase the risks, respectively, of droughts and floods. The effects of climate change and sea-level rise threaten to exacerbate these natural risks, making disasters more frequent and increasingly serious. In addition, rapid economic growth, a young and rapidly growing population, urban drift, land speculation, agricultural intensification, deforestation, weak coastal management systems, poor sewage and waste disposal, the use of diesel for power generation (which makes the country highly dependent on imported fossil fuels leading to insecurity in energy consumption), high level of fuel wood use for cooking, and extractive industries all threaten the integrity of the natural resource base. Communities living near urban centres and lagoons are the most affected by problems associated with poor or no sewage treatment and high levels of pollution.

50. Climate change and sea-level rise (particularly for low lying settlements, with communities coping with the impacts of these phenomena); soil erosion and land degradation; coastal

erosion; loss of forests; loss of biological diversity; water pollution; waste disposal and recycling; reef destruction and over- exploitation of marine resources; and the natural disasters to which it is extremely vulnerable, are key environmental challenges that confront the country. The potential impacts unfolding due to climate change on health, survival and development will be most severe for the youngest children (0-5 years). Increased natural disasters and displacement also puts access to education and protective safety nets for all children at risk

#### **IV. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

51. UNICEF Pacific is supporting Vanuatu in the enactment of a comprehensive Children's Law which will see to incorporating aspects of the CRC into national law. In collaboration with the National Statistics Office, a Child Poverty and Disparity study for Vanuatu has been undertaken as well as an Atlas of Indicators for Children. UNICEF is a member of the Education SWAp and contributes to the school grants and implementation of the school based management program. UNICEF Pacific also supports government in its work in early childhood education such as the development of an ECE Policy as well as the harmonizing of the pre-school curriculum with that of primary. In Health, UNICEF continues to offer support the governments' integrated mother and child health program. A joint UN project with UNICEF, UNDP and FAO aims to assist rural communities in strengthening their resilience to the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

52. Over the past four years, UN Women have been supporting the Vanuatu Government in women's political participation through its Gender Equality in Political Governance project. A series of trainings/workshops have been held with both government and civil society in empowering women to participate in politics and beginning discussions on appropriate measures. A re-design of this concept with the government is underway covering the area of gender responsive governance, planning and budgeting; women's political participation; and human rights and women's access to justice. In collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, UN Women have also supported programs in women's economic empowerment through rural women market vendors. UN Women is supporting government with the implementation of the Family Protection Act.

53. UNFPA will be supporting the government in the development of a gender based violence communication package and training for senior civil servants. UNDP and UNFPA have also assisted the government in developing an acceleration framework to meet MDG5B. Support is also being given to the Vanuatu National Council of Youth in working closely with the Ministry of Education to promote the inclusion of Family Life Education into the school curriculum and to advocate on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Services. UNFPA have supported the National Statistics Office in developing a youth monograph that has greatly informed the National Youth Strategy.

54. UNDP have supported the government, in partnership with international NGOS such as the Centre for Democratic Institutions, in facilitating two sets of induction programs for newly elected Members of Parliament. The inductions are designed to prepare and empower MPs in their new role as duty bearers. UNDP have also supported a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2010 and undertaken an analysis of the data. While work on Family Law Reform and an analysis of the human rights impact of Vanuatu's accession to the World Trade Organisation are stagnant, UNDP continue to be keen to supporting the process. UNDP have also supported the government in developing a Freedom of Information Bill and Policy.

55. ILO supported the government in establishing a tripartite labour advisory council convened by the government and attended by representatives of workers and employers creating a forum for partnership amongst the three. In the past ILO worked closely with the Vanuatu National Youth Council in developing a Youth Employment Strategy. ILO has also assisted with the establishment, equipping and training of the Vanuatu Employers Organization (VEO) within the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI), to focus on employer advocacy with Government, development of good communications with members and other activities to ensure an optimal environment for sustainable enterprise development and investment.