Regional Seminar for Asia-Pacific Parliaments

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

23-25 September 2014
Lepolo Taunisila (CFO SPC RRRT)
Presentation Focus

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

- First Democratic elected government in 2010, only 1 female out of 28 MPs
- Ratified CRC, CERD and signed CRPD
- Tonga is 1 of 2 pacific countries not ratify CEDAW
- Violence Against Girls and Women is one of highest in the world- 77%
- Higher enrolment of girls in both primary and Secondary education
National Study on DV 2009-2012

• VAW and against children, is widespread and deeply ingrained in Tongan society – largely physical,
• Physical violence by non-partners against women (mainly in childhood and teenage years) is among the highest in the world (77%)
• 40% women experience physical or Sexual violence by intimate partner.
National Study on DV 2009-2012

• Justification for the violence - traditional Tongan power relationships with dominant males using violence as a means to discipline women (and children).

• Many women themselves believe that in some situations, men are justified in ‘disciplining’ their wives.

• Women develop their own strategies to cope: a very few seek help from official authorities, only when the situation is critical.
Family Protection Act 2013

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

### FPA Implementation Task Force Members

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

• To prepare Key Stakeholders within government and civil society organisations to implement the law on 1st July 2014
• To ensure that implementing agencies are properly trained on their role and relevant procedures required under the Act
Implementation Plan
Key Contents- 3 Phases

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Who is Responsible?</th>
<th>Delivery Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Establish FP Advisory Council</td>
<td>MIA, WA</td>
<td>April</td>
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<td>2. Establish Family Trust Fund</td>
<td>MOF, AG’s Office</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td>3. Draft guidelines for registration of Counsellors</td>
<td>WCCC, MIA, TNCWC</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td>4. Print forms 1-5 for PO</td>
<td>MOJ</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>5. Print Form 6 for Police Safety Order</td>
<td>MOP</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>6. Media Awareness programmes</td>
<td>CFO, Task Force</td>
<td>Twice a month</td>
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<td>7. Publications: FPA law booklets, brochures and posters</td>
<td>CFO, WCCC, MIA</td>
<td>June</td>
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## Phase 2: Capacity Building/Training for Implementers

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<tr>
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<th>Delivery Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Training for Police include Executive, All levels including outer islands stations Review of DV Response Policy to be consistent with new law</td>
<td>MOP, PPDVP</td>
<td>Before July 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training for MOJ staff Training for Magistrates</td>
<td>MOJ, PJDP, AG’s Office</td>
<td>Before July 1st</td>
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<td>National Consultation Workshop for counsellors, lawyers, health practitioners, social service providers, education officers, church leaders, district officers, town officers,</td>
<td>Task Force</td>
<td>June 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; week</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPA Public awareness using radio and TV</td>
<td>Task Force (CFO)</td>
<td>Twice a month depending on availability of fund</td>
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### Phase 3: Review Implementation

**FPA**

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<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Delivery Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring the implementation of the Act, Collecting Data from Police, Health and CSOs, analysing the outcomes of the Act and develop strategies to address them</td>
<td>Advisory Council</td>
<td>After December 31st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Report on Challenges in implementing law</td>
<td>Advisory Council</td>
<td>After December 31st</td>
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<td>Recommendations for amendments, report submit to minister and minister to parliament</td>
<td>Advisory Council</td>
<td>Every 3 years</td>
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Status of Implementing the FPA

Successes

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

• Need ongoing refresher training for implementing front-liners’ attitudes/behaviour

• Need financial assistance for ongoing public awareness of FPA and other programs on causes, prevention and consequences of DV to reach outer islands

• Lack of Human resources (Police & Magistrates) to service all the inhabitat islands
Strong Government and NGO Coalition
Thank You