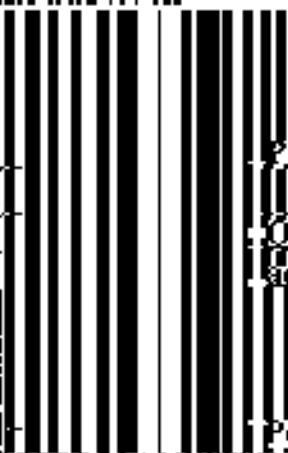


QUESTIONNAIRE TO GOVERNMENTS
ON IMPLEMENTATION

LES BEMING KLA... OF ACTION... SU... D... DI... T... O...



Part One

Overview
Advantages

ends in achieving gender equality and women's

1997 a State Commission on the Development of Gender
Policy was
established by the decision of the Prime Minister of Armenia.

Policy was

Members of the Commission are Cabinet Ministers, their
Government officials, NGOs participate in the work of the Commission.
The Chairman of the Commission is the Minister
Security.

This action is a follow up to the 1994 decision on protection of women.

...has significantly increased, the society is becoming more conscious of the gender issue. Although the public perception of the gender roles has improved, the public is more cognizant of the necessity to change the existing situation to democracy and market economy has had adverse effects on women's positions and disproportionate effect of unemployment on women. In addition, cultural stereotypes exist that stress the traditional role of women as mothers and housewives in a paternalistic way.

Armenian family has traditionally been headed by the man, the primary income earner, while the primary role of women was to bear children and raise the family. Through this tradition was strong under the Soviet system. Contributing to this change was the high-level government policies on women's employment and the increase of women's participation in the economic and political activities. The difficult economic situation in the country has further reduced women's income generation at the household level.

Yet, the real challenge is changing the mentality, bringing women to the point when they realize that the place of woman is far from being limited to her noble roles as a wife and a mother.

Under the Soviet system women in Armenia participated in the economy. This was due in part to the conversion of factories for women's employment, but also to the fact that women went so far as to discuss men in high decision making positions.

After independence, Armenia began economic and political reform. The economy is transitioning from a centrally planned economy to a market economy. This is true for any other ex-Soviet republic, which further exacerbates the economic crisis and consequences by devaluing savings of 1990s and early 1990s.

The overall economic decline has resulted in a large-scale labor migration and men who had found jobs in Russia and were supporting their families, which had stayed in Armenia, because of the Russian crisis are unable to do so any more. This of course further worsens the situation of women who are left to support the high number of children and elderly.

It is not an easy one given the scale of unemployment in today's Armenia. The overall economic decline has resulted in a large-scale labor migration and men who had found jobs in Russia and were supporting their families, which had stayed in Armenia, because of the Russian crisis are unable to do so any more. This of course further worsens the situation of women who are left to support the high number of children and elderly.

It is not an easy one given the scale of unemployment in today's Armenia. The overall economic decline has resulted in a large-scale labor migration and men who had found jobs in Russia and were supporting their families, which had stayed in Armenia, because of the Russian crisis are unable to do so any more. This of course further worsens the situation of women who are left to support the high number of children and elderly.

It is not an easy one given the scale of unemployment in today's Armenia. The overall economic decline has resulted in a large-scale labor migration and men who had found jobs in Russia and were supporting their families, which had stayed in Armenia, because of the Russian crisis are unable to do so any more. This of course further worsens the situation of women who are left to support the high number of children and elderly.

Despite certain inaccuracy in the data on unemployment in Armenia, even the existing figures of the registered unemployed show that women make up 71% of the unemployed. These figures, however, are more a reflection of the unemployment registration process than the actual true number of the unemployed.

The earthquake of 1988, the conflict in Nagorno Karabagh, collapse of the Soviet Union, and ensuing economic crisis have all contributed to massive migration movements both within the country and across the national borders.

The primary migratory trends during the 1989-1996 were labor migration, refugee flow, and internally displaced persons from the earthquake area border regions;

Official migration figures report that 61,700 people have left between 1992 and 1996. The period of outward migration coincided with the influx of an estimated 350,000 refugees from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Chechnya, and Nagorno Karabagh. A 1997 UNHCR survey found that there are about 286,000 refugees still living in Armenia.

GDP per capita in 1997 was USD 430.8. This figure, although low in comparison with the rest of the world, is comparable to the average in the Soviet Union. A poverty assessment survey conducted at the end of 1997 revealed that 54.7% of the population live in poverty.

The low rate of crimes against women is ascribed to under-reporting. Domestic violence is almost unreported for fear of public opinion, because of social dependence, desire to keep the family together for the sake of the children, or simple fear of public opinion.

Part Two

Financial and institutional measures

The issues under this title are covered in responses to Part One and Annex 1.

Annex 1

1. Women and poverty

Poverty survey is conducted by households and no gender-specific data is available at this stage.

The distribution of Armenia's population by poverty indicators is as follows:

Non-poor	45%
Poor	27%
Very poor	28%

There are several underlying causes for the current poverty levels. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the poverty, although existed, did not affect majority of the population. Health care, utilities, education were provided by the state and the state salary was sufficient to cover decent

economic transition brought about drastic changes. Many families lost savings in early 1990s when banks collapsed and inflation was out of

control. Despite a growing economy and steady recovery on a macro-level, there are no effective mechanisms to assist families out of

II. Education and training of women

The Armenian Constitution underscores the principle of equality of men and women for all and guarantees the rights to education. Access to higher education for women in Armenia have attained a very high level of education, not any surpassing them at certain levels of and fields of

of higher education, professors and assistants

There are no women university rectors, the number of

Only 6 Academician out of 113 are female

of a lower level of education but more of an

There are however, no female

professors at the university

of deans is extremely small

This, however, is not an in

The number of male and female students in higher education institutions for 1996-1997 was respectively 19,028 and 16,689.

During the recent years school enrollment rates have fallen as compared with previous ones. A 1996 survey showed that 4.6% of children 6-14 years of age were not enrolled in school. This is a significant increase from 1.9% in 1990.

school. This data is mostly true for the upper non-compulsory grades (8,10).

The reasons for grades 8-10 are diverse, however the major causes are necessity to help the family to generate income and to help the family to generate income.

Although women traditionally prefer to study medicine (90% of medical students are females), paedagogics, or arts, their number tend to significantly increase at the economy, finance, communication, political science and other 'non-traditional' departments. About 90% of Linguistics and 50% of Middle East students are females.

III. 1. Women and health

Assessment of women's health in Armenia is often centered around reproductive health issues. This is partially because many of health problems encountered by women between ages 15 and 49 are in fact related to reproductive health.

established in 1992 and the recently opened reproductive health centers in Armenia but the region as a whole. The but there is payment waiver for women from

The reproductive health center opened in 1992 and the recently opened reproductive health centers in Armenia but the region as a whole. The but there is payment waiver for women from

se but women often see the doctor when the no general public health education for women regarding the importance of breast self-exam and yearly gynecological check-ups.

Cancer is a dreaded tumor is well advanced. Th

number of female personnel in the legal and judiciary system, and no psychosocial and health services available for male or female victims of violence.

Below are some figures for 1998

Rape	13
Rape of minor	11
Marriage to minor	37

Women and armed conflicts

As a result of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict about 350,000 refugees fled Armenia, which is roughly equivalent to 10% of the population. These are the Armenian population of major Azerbaijani cities, mostly Baku, Kirovabad, and Sumgait who fled after violent massacres. In addition, some of the population of the Armenian regions bordering Azerbaijan had fled to other parts of the country to escape shelling and bombing. Women, as always, were most victimized during the mass violence, suffering both physical violence and psychological stress. In 1996, the National Assembly passed the Law on refugees, which allows refugees to acquire Armenian citizenship. However, a large number of refugees fear that the loss of refugee status will deprive them of some privileges, including the dwelling, since many still live in collective centers.

At present, refugees are afforded full access to basic employment opportunities with the citizens. Some women have even started their own enterprises and have even applied for citizenship. However, women who are not citizens of Armenia do not have the right to vote or to be elected into public offices.

The social hardship affecting the whole population has forced many refugees to leave the country for better living conditions. Many of them are males and school-aged children, elderly and very young children. This has devastating social impact on women. A study is currently underway to assess the impact of the migration of women.

The other major problem refugee women are facing is the fact that most of them are from urban areas and have no skills for rural life and labor. They have found shelter in rural areas and had to acquire appropriate skills and overcome the difficult transition.

Women and the economy

The Government has enacted legislation aimed at achieving gender equity and protection of women within the work setting. Laws regarding gender equality include guarantees for equal consideration for promotion, equal pay, and equal choice of profession without discrimination. Protection measures for pregnant women, mothers and families include paid maternity

employment, 0.11 earnings, creation of special work conditions for pregnant and breast-feeding women. These measure may have

employees are bound to resist hiring or promoting women. Additional expenses include allowances, paid leave, and facilities.

it is difficult to measure in Armenia. Women comprise 70% of the unemployed, although there are possibly more unemployed but apparently women are more willing to re-employment has become widespread in the recent years, quit the job and engage in business and petty trade.

men enjoy equal rights for real estate and other property. In the land reform, land was distributed between households.

Regardless the gender of the head of the household, Family and Marriage Code guarantees equal rights for spouses for jointly earned property.

Specific information on Solid-legislative basis is encouraging, however actual practice is difficult to assess because of the paucity of

VII. Women in power and decision making

stitution, provides equal rights for decision-making. Yet, at this moment women are not involved in the

Armenian legislation, including the for the participation in the public life and moment women are not involved in the

king positions at the Office of the President is as low as that in the % of the total

The percentage of women in decision making positions at the Office of the President, and staff in the Cabinet and the ruling 12.5. The situation in the judiciary and the legislative executives - women comprise 13% of judges and administration officials.

VIII. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

Department of Gender Policy of Armenia, their Deputies, Commission with an Minister of Social and does not have on making power.

In August 1997, a State Commission on the Policy was established by the decision of the Prime Members of the Commission are Cabinet Ministers and Government officials. NGOs participate in the work of observer status. The Chairperson of the Commission is Secretary. The Commission is based in the Ministry of

