

ADVANCEMENT

policy on women
machinery for the
securing sectoral

Since the Government of St. Lucia approved a national policy on women and a five-year Plan of Action in 1991, the government and advancement of women has been working towards s

to be done in supporting and strengthening the national machinery to be more proactive in coordinating and strengthening sectoral involvement in

Implementation

for its implementation. However, four areas of priority were selected for action by the national machinery viz:

- ◆ Women and Poverty
- ◆ Women and Health
- ◆ Violence against Women
- ◆ Women in power and decision-making

There has been no major breakthrough in any of the areas identified. However, there has been heightened awareness in these areas, and that has served to place certain gender issues on the public agenda.

Efforts have been concentrated on &w

- The establishment of community local points to represent the needs, concerns and interest of women in their respective communities;
- Educating violence against women and girls through -
- Mass media campaign (community discussions, radio/TV talks, production of pamphlets and bumper stickers);
- Training programmes in counseling for community leaders
- Formation of support groups for victims and perpetrators
 - Allocation of funds in the national budget for the establishment of a shelter for abused women and children.

conce
♦ Eradicate

Between 1995-1998, some noticeable changes have occurred in the situation of women and girls that have not been included in the priority areas selected.

There has been a marked increase in enrolment at all levels. This follows a regional trend where more females participate in the education system but there has been no scientific explanation for this phenomenon. At the tertiary level the majority of persons enrolled in continuing education classes include working women seeking to advance themselves professionally and occupationally. Enrolment in adult literacy classes

Employment figures show an increase in the number of males employed.

There has been an increase in female employment particularly in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, unskilled work and professionals. However, in 1997 there was a narrowing of the male/female gap at the middle management level.

The decrease in female employment could be attributed to the closure of some garment and electronic factories on the island. Also the banana situation as this relates to the WTO ruling on Windward Island bananas has had a significant impact on rural women and the economy in general.

In the media, more women have entered the profession, and there has also been an increase of female managers.

In terms of institutional mechanisms set up for the advancement of women, no formal inter-ministerial collaboration presently exists to integrate gender perspectives in general policies relating to all spheres of society.

In the context of Human Rights, educational materials (pamphlets) have been produced and disseminated and our air sensitization programmes organized on radio and television to heighten awareness on issues pertaining to women's rights.

Women have benefited from projects such as the Rural Enterprise Development Programme and the St. Lucia Rural Enterprise Project. Women and youth have been identified as target groups for focus in a poverty alleviation drive. The NWM has conducted training in marketable skills for women and young girls. These women have not been able to fully use these skills for generating an income because of the difficulty in accessing start up capital and the conditions attached.

Following the 12th Biennial Conference (1995 to 1997), there was much media focus, enthusiasm and discussion on gender equality.

was renamed "Gender Relations" to reflect the focus on gender and development.

inclusion of a course entitled "Gender
of the associate degree in Management at
y College" the island's lone tertiary
view, the course can be made available to
aff of the department of Gender Relations
course

development is the
Management for students pursuing
the Sir Arthur Lewis Community
institution. It is hoped that upon re
other departments at the college. St
served as resource persons for the c

PART 2

Financial and Institutional Matters

2. Budgetary Allocations and

Gender Relations as well as the availab

\$356,670 in 1999/2000

3 (a) Four areas of priority have been identified from the Platform of Action

namely: Women and Poverty, Women and Health, Violence against Women
Women in power and Decision-making. No specific structures have
been put in place to institutionalise follow-up to an implementation
Platform for Action.

(b) No special arrangements exist to coordinate the various follow-up
to global conferences. Generally these efforts are incorporated in the
work of individual Ministries/ Departments where they coincide
with national priorities.

(c) Generally NGOs involvement and participation are derived from
the NWM. However, some NGOs for example, the Women's Arm of
the St. Lucia Teachers' Union have developed programmes based on the

goals of the Platform.

PART 3

widely disseminated to women's groups/organizations and the public at large

ular mass media campaigns against violence have been organized

ing has been secured for Training programmes targeted at the Police, Community workers, Community Health Aides, etc. to respond to the needs of victims. The project also entails the facilitation of community support groups for victims and perpetrators.

Funding has already been secured to establish a shelter for abused women and children.

- Women and poverty

National consultations were held in several communities to identify the needs of women in poverty stricken areas. Training programmes in income generating skills were conducted for young mothers in these areas.

Government has established a Department of Social Services to benefit women.

- Women and Health

Workshops on Health/Sexuality were conducted by community groups to address the problem of teenage pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Participants included women of all age groups, and some men also who benefited from the sessions.

Education materials have also been developed on STDs, including a booklet on "Sexual Offences and the Law" to familiarize women on issues which

health and measures which can be taken for their

impact directly on their protection

7 & 8. (See Annex)

9. The Vision for the advancement of women and gender equality for the new millennium.

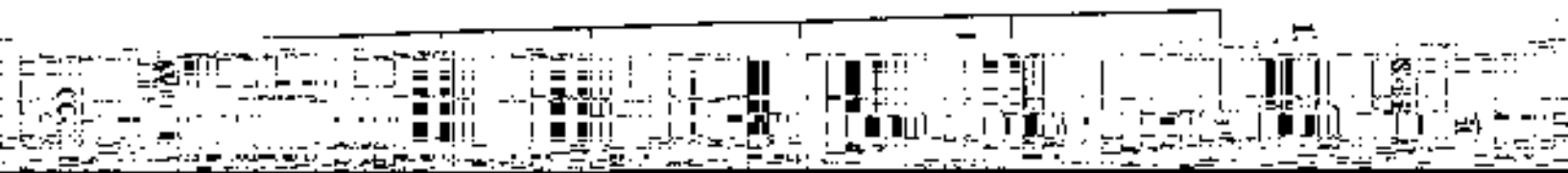
The institutionalization of a gender and development framework for policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the public and private sectors.

This could be facilitated through the establishment of the Gender Management System and a national machinery comprising both government and NGO representatives for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Achievement of gender equity and equality with men and women enjoying equal benefits of development. Institutional mechanisms/support structures

established to facilitate the advancement of women towards attaining

their full potential. |||



2. Education and Training

Critical Areas of Concern	Examples of programs, projects, or activities implemented	Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	Commitment to further action/initiatives
2.1	2.1.1 Data Not Available		
	2.1.1 N/A		
	2.2.2 N/A		
2.2.3	Last Issue Report		

successful - political projects in critical areas

Key Messages and

Mc (N/A)

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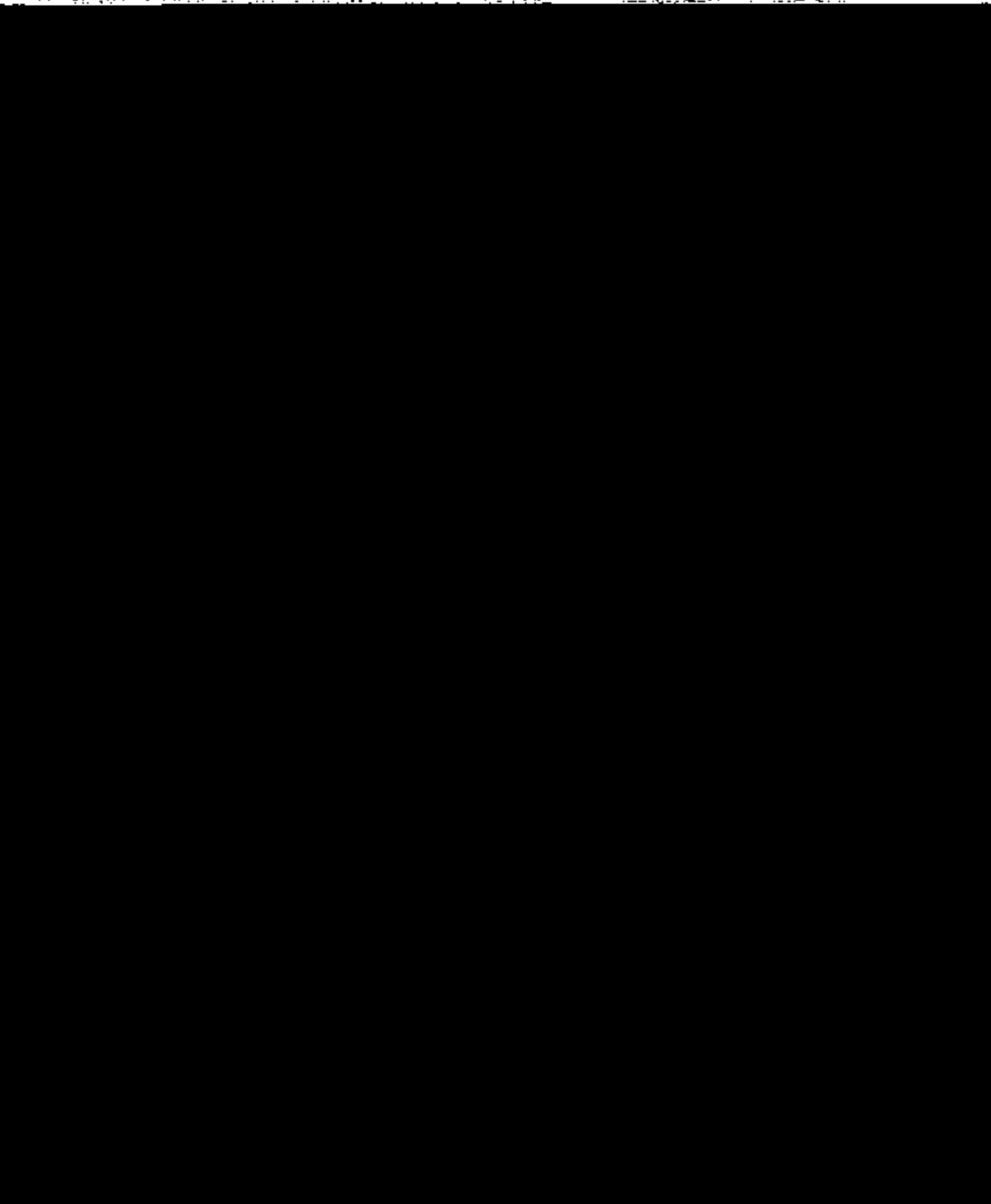
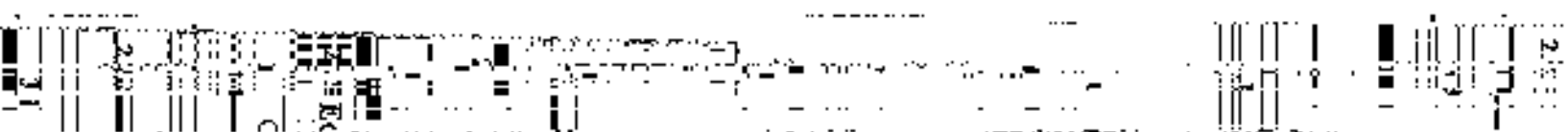
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Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned

Commitment to further action/initiatives



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

<p>4. ...</p>	<p>1. ...</p>	<p>Example: ...</p>
<p>2. Critical Areas of Concern</p>	<p>1. ...</p>	<p>Example: ...</p>
<p>3. ...</p>	<p>2. ...</p>	<p>Example: ...</p>
<p>Professional and insensitive filing of victims of abuse by the ...</p>	<p>3. ...</p>	<p>Example: ...</p>
<p>4. ...</p>	<p>Example: ...</p>	<p>Example: ...</p>

ADDITIONAL MECHANISMS FOR

8.1
 (1997) per v
 (1998)

Examples of
 programmes
 implemented, the
 concern of the
 Action: (indicate
 strategies and
 achievements)

No established
 coordination

responsibility vested
 in
 Chief Minister

NWAD
 Director
 QADC

obstacles
 lessons learned

Commitment to further action
 initiatives

Example: the
 encouraged

successful
 d. proj
 critical
 Selinger, M

Training

Production of material: Log and Human Rights of Women Awareness/Sensitization activity to mark 50th Anniversary of Human Rights.

	<p>Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned</p>	<p>Commitment to further widening initiatives</p> <p>Provision of training for possible target groups.</p>
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	<p>Examples of successful projects/programmes and projects</p> <p>Identify the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (indicate any target areas/strategies and activities/elements)</p> <p>No-legal literacy program - 152</p>	
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WOMEN

Concern

HUMAN RIGHTS

Legal Awareness

Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	Commitment to further efforts/initiatives
<p>social policies, projects "10-10" of, Platform for targets and related</p>	
<p>successful policies, projects "10-10" of, Platform for targets and related</p>	
<p>successful policies, projects "10-10" of, Platform for targets and related</p>	
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<p>successful policies, projects "10-10" of, Platform for targets and related</p>	

INDIA

Example of the "10-10" program in the area of social policies, projects "10-10" of, Platform for targets and related

10. NON-

LAND TUBE

Areas of Concern

Other

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...

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