



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

National Review of the Beijing Platform

for Action + 20

**Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development , the Family,
Gender and Youth Affairs**

**St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Review of the Beijing
Platform for Action + 20 and the Outcomes of the Twenty-third
Special Session of the General Assembly**



**Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and
Youth**

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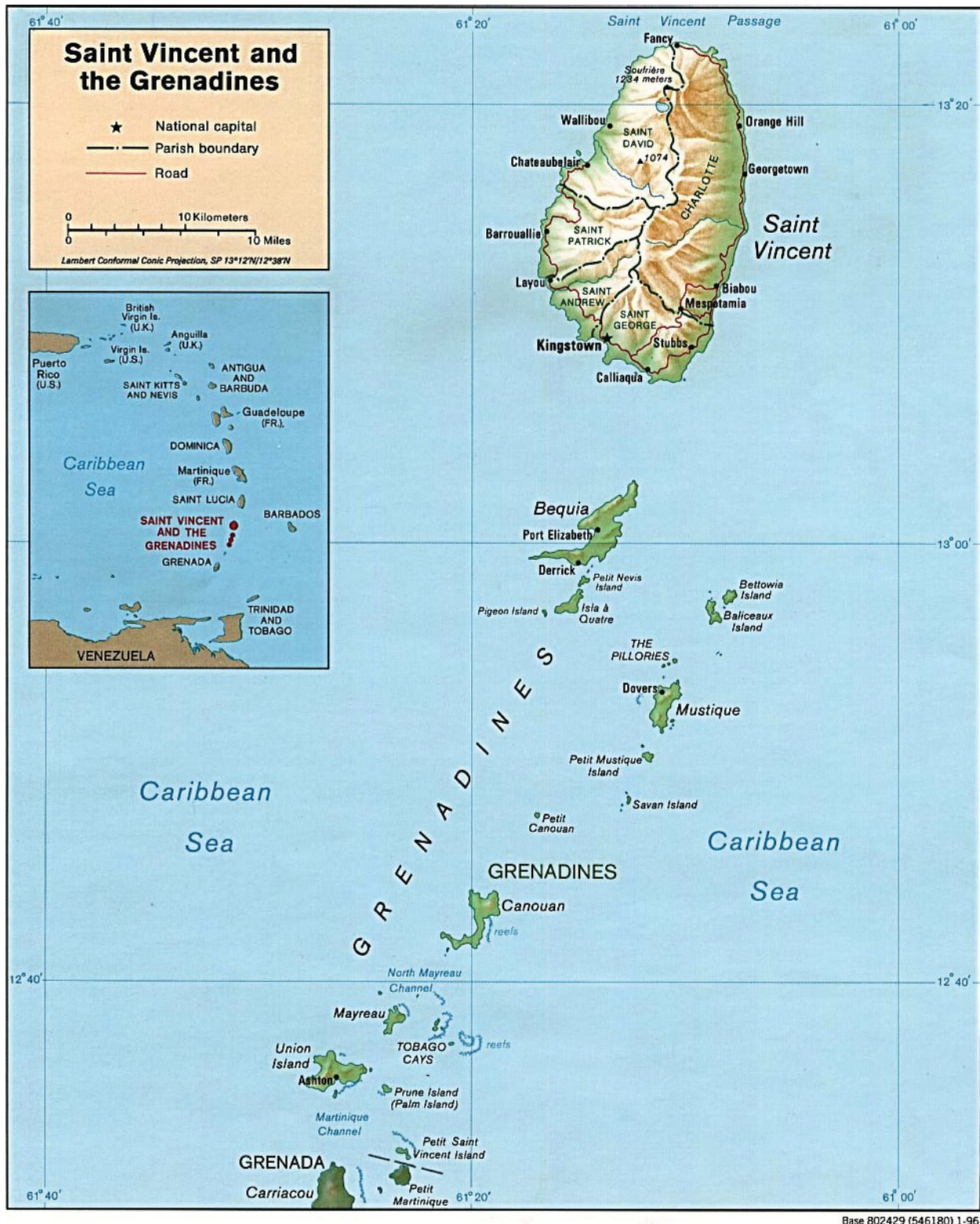
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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| BPfA | Beijing Platform for Action |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of Violence Against Women |
| CPD | Central Planning Division |
| CPA | Country Poverty Assessment |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| ECLAC | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GOVSVG | Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immuno Deficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| IPRSP | Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper |
| OECS | Organization of Eastern Caribbean States |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| MTESP | Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper |
| NCW | National Council of Women |
| NESDEC | National Economic and Social Development Council |
| NESDP | National Economic and Social Development Plan |
| OAS | Organization of American States |
| SVG | St. Vincent and the Grenadines |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |



SECTION ONE: BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is an archipelagic State in the southern Lesser Antilles of the Caribbean region. It comprises a main island, St. Vincent, as well as the Grenadines - a chain of thirty- two islands, islets and cayes , of which only seven are inhabited – Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent. St. Vincent is also the administrative center and the hub of commercial and other economic activity.

The country occupies a land area of approximately 389 sq. kms or 150 sq. mls however St. Vincent, which is the largest inhabited island has a total land area of 344 sq. km. or 34,462 Ha. Of this total land area , the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the major land holder owning in excess of 60% of the total land area. However 30% of this land owned by the state is above the 1000 foot contour line, thus making it highly unsuitable for agriculture.

The population as stated in the 2001 Population Census stood at 106,253 persons which represented a 0.2 percent decline from the 1991 Census. Preliminary data results for the 2012 Population and Housing Census showed a minimal increase in the population to 108,570. The sex distribution of the Population was almost even, with males accounting for 50.5% (50,983) and females for 49.5% (50,033).

Two aspects of the data encountered by the Population and Housing Census are worth noting. One is the predominantly rural nature of the population . It was found that 39.2 % of the population was urban and 60.8% was rural. Despite the overall decline in population, this was not evenly spread across the country as five of the thirteen census divisions registered increases. Of note is the fact that census divisions comprising the capital Kingstown recorded a decrease in population whilst the surrounding Kingstown Suburbs recorded an increase. This could be said to be attributable to the growing conversion of erstwhile dwelling houses within the capital into business places. The distribution of population between the mainland island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remained virtually unchanged between the period 1991 – 2001 with the mainland accounting for 91.9 % or the bulk of the population.

Another important demographic to be considered in relation to this Report is the youthfulness of the population. In 2001, children under 15 years of age were the largest single group of the population (30.7%) . The population aged 60 and over numbered 9,957 (9.9%) in 2010 , while the under -15 population accounted for 30.6% (30,969).

The period 1995- 2010 has been marked by severe external shocks which created major challenges for SVG and other small island economies. These external shocks included the severe and continuous global recession which led to a dramatic downturn in the economies of Europe, the USA and Japan- SVG'S major export markets; the impact of Natural disasters affecting SVG such as Hurricanes Ivan, Hurricane Tomas (2010) and Tropical Storm Lili (2009) which caused in excess of EC\$160 million dollars damage to roads, crops and infrastructure. The global recession also affected and continues to affect the economic recovery as it has impacted severely on tourist arrivals to SVG from Europe and the USA.

According to a 2007/ 2008 Country Poverty Assessment, (CPA) St. Vincent and the Grenadines had a poverty rate of 30.2 % in 2008. Despite the global financial crisis, this was down from the 37.5 % measured in 1996. Poverty eradication remained a central thrust of government policy and programming during the period. A primary aim of the poverty reduction strategy as outlined in the official policy

documents of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is to achieve the Millennium Development Goal targets. The Country Poverty Assessment reported that the Gini coefficient was 0.40, compared to 0.56 in 1996 and that 30.2% of the population was poor, down from 37.5% in 1996. It also found a marked decrease in the proportion of indigent poor, which fell from 25.7% in 1996 to 2.9% in 2008. An additional 18%, although not poor were deemed to be vulnerable, putting the total proportion of the vulnerable population at 48.2% in 2008.

The poverty statistics as revealed by the Country Poverty Assessment is reflective of the economic situation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. During the period under review - 1995 – 2013, the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was affected by the weak global economy and the continuing erosion of preferential trade access for its main export crop, bananas. The decline in the exports of bananas continued well into the last years of this review, falling from 2.6 % in 2000 to 0.3% in 2010.

However Agriculture was still able to contribute positively to GDP as other crops and livestock increased in production. The Tourism sector reflected inconsistent performance during the period, showing downward trend subsequent to 2008. Given the sluggishness in economic activity there were high levels of employment and underemployment found by the Country Poverty Assessment which was relieved only by remittances from abroad and some informal sector activity. Remittances was found to account for 28.8% of all income to the poorest households and 22.1% of households income overall.

UNDP HDI INDEX RANKING

According to the UNDP Human Development Report for 2006 SVG ranked 88 out of 177 countries on the basis of literacy, school enrolment, life expectancy at birth, and per capita GDP and was in the list of countries with Medium Human Development. This was an improvement from the 2002 HDI ranking of 91 out of 173 countries. By 2010 St Vincent and the Grenadines' Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of 86 out of 187 countries placed it in the list of countries with High Human Development. The most recent 2013 UNDP Human Development Report ranked St. Vincent and the Grenadines at 83 out of 187 countries and territories. This ranking for 2012 places SVG in the high human development category. Between 2010 and 2012 the HDI of SVG increased from 0.731 to 0.733, an increase of 0.27 percent.






The **Gender Inequality Index (GII)** which reflects gender-based inequalities in the areas of reproductive health (measured by maternal mortality and adolescent fertility rates), empowerment (measured by share of parliamentary seats held by each gender and attainment of secondary and higher education) and economic activity (measured by labour market participation rates) could not be calculated for SVG due to lack of relevant data.

SECTION TWO: OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1995

The Gender Affairs Division (GAD) is the national machinery responsible for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) . Prior to 2001 issues related to Gender were managed by the **Women's Affairs Department** within the Ministry of Education, Culture and Women's Affairs . Subsequently, the name of the Department was changed to the **Gender Affairs Division**.

The work of the GAD during the period under review represents an important part of the BPfA as the Division continues to work towards the eradication of persistent and prevailing gender inequalities in all forms, through targeted interventions in key human rights and social justice areas. The Division has advanced as the focal agency for gender issues in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and has succeeded in securing support from local, regional and international partners including the UN Agencies, to assist with its efforts. It has favored an integrated, multi-agency approach by linking judicial, health and social services to achieving its goals.

The Five Major Achievements in Promotion of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

-  Improvement in the Legislative and Regulatory Framework for the protection of the Rights of Women
-  Improvement in Women's Achievements in Education
-  Improvements in the area of Women's Health
-  Provision of Support to Women affected by Gender based Violence
-  Increased Support for Women as Leaders in the Public and Private Sector

Improvement in the Legislative and Regulatory Framework for the protection of the legal Rights of Women

Four major **International Conventions** have been ratified during the period under review.

The **Inter American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women “Convention of Belem do Para”** which focuses specifically on Violence Against Women and which provides Guidelines to States Parties as to the measures they should take to eliminate such Violence. This was ratified in 1996.

In 2001 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratified the **International Labour Organization (ILO) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention 1958 (No. 111)** which prohibits discrimination on the basis of Sex in the field of Employment and Occupation.

In that same year (2001) The **ILO Equal Remuneration Convention , 1951 (No. 100)** which prescribes States Parties to ensure equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value was ratified by SVG .

In 2010 the **ILO Employment Policy Convention (1964) No. 122** which ensures “freedom of choice of employment and the fullest possible opportunity for each worker to qualify for , and to use his skills and endowments in, a job for which he is well suited, irrespective of race, colour, **sex** , religion, political opinion, national extraction, or social origin..” (Art. 1) was ratified.

In addition to these International Conventions, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the Tenth and Eleventh Regional Conferences on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean convened by ECLAC which approved the **Quito Consensus** (2007) and the **Brasilia Consensus (2010)** respectively.

Domestic Legislation

As part of a process of Constitutional Reform during the Review period the Government sought to include specific provisions for equality of access for women to certain Educational rights but was unsuccessful as the Constitutional Reform Bill 2009 was not passed in a Referendum held for that purpose. The Content of that relevant section in that Bill was as follows:

“Art. 21 (1) Women and Men have equal rights and the same legal status in all spheres of political, economic , cultural and social life. All forms of discrimination against women and men on the basis of their sex are prohibited.

(2) The rights of women are ensured by according to women equal access with men to academic, vocational and professional training, equal opportunities in employment, remuneration and promotion; and in social, political and cultural activity. Moral support is to be encouraged for mothers and children including paid leave and other benefits for mothers and expectant mothers.”

Domestic Legislation passed during the Review period (1995 – 2013) which now form part of the Revised Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2009 included the **Equal Pay Act, (1994) Cap 210 ; the Protection of Employment Act, (2004) Cap 212 ; Wages Regulations (Agricultural Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Domestic Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Security Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Hotel Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Industrial Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Workers in Offices of Professionals) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Shop Assistants) Order 2008; Wages Council Act , Cap 217; Shops (Hours of Opening and Employment) Act, Cap 214; and the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, Cap 209.**

Women’s Achievements in Education

The Education sector has during the period under review represented the hallmark of the achievements of the GOVSVG. In recognising the critical importance of Education to poverty alleviation, economic competitiveness and social development the GOVSVG has accorded greatest priority to the sector in its Poverty Reduction Strategy. In order to streamline its intervention in this sector, the Government through a consultative and participatory process, developed an Education Sector Development Plan . The Plan (2002-2007) addressed structural and institutional weaknesses at all levels of the education system. The GOVSVG launched what was termed an “Education Revolution” through which it delivered

programmes for the repair of existing schools as well as the construction of new plant at the early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

In 2000 the GOVSVG allocated 53.9% of its recurrent budget on Education. By 2010 this figure had doubled to 110%. Similarly, in 2000 GOVSVG allocated 19.5% of its capital Budget to Education and by 2010 this figure stood at 25.3%.

The NESDP 2013 -2025 notes “ As a first sign of encouragement, in 2007, the pass rate for the Common Entrance Examination rose to 60.1 percent and an above-50 average was maintained through to 2010.....Girls consistently outperformed boys at these exams with an average pass rate of 47.7 percent for the period 2000-2010” (NESDP: 42). Since 2005 the GOVSVG has provided universal access to secondary education thus requiring all males and females to attend. At this level, similarly, girls have either kept pace with or outperformed boys in the CSEC passes, with the notable exception of Mathematics (NESDP).

Generally more females complete secondary school with the qualifications to go on to higher education than do males. Further, like their Caribbean counterparts, Vincentian females not only participated in greater numbers in Tertiary Education but exceeded the performance of males. Caribbean Countries have some of the highest rates of female participation in Tertiary Education with the English Speaking Caribbean having the highest rates of all. One motivation for this phenomena is that females are discriminated against in the workplace as not only do they have to present more certification than males to become employed, but females are paid less when they do get hired for the job. (Reddock, 2009,) . Another factor is that males leave the formal education system earlier to enter the workplace.

Achievements in the area of Women’s Health

In the area of Services for Reproductive Health, improvements in service delivery have been seen over the period under review as GOVSVG has been able to provide considerable financial resources, with the support of partner donor Agencies, for women to become more informed about their sexual and reproductive functions and thus be able to make more informed decisions regarding their reproductive health. Notwithstanding a teen birth rate of 20% of total births, fertility rates have remained constant in the range of 2.0 – 2.1 births per woman in between the period 2001- 2009 (MOH 2009) and women have increased control over their sexual and reproductive health.

The key achievement in the area of Services for Sexual and Reproductive Health are (1) the provision of Family Planning Services which includes the provision of services for the prevention and management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI’s) at all health Centers.

Family Planning services which began as a vertical programme many years ago has now been successfully integrated into primary health care and services are provided free of cost. Due to the impact of Family Planning Education by the Ministry of Health more women in Saint Vincent are using contraception than in past years. Most women who use a family planning method use oral contraception, followed closely by injectable contraceptives. The National Family Planning programme is the main supplier of contraceptives including condoms. According to the data on condom distribution for 2007, a total of 305, 879 condoms were distributed. Of these, 297,369 (92.2%) were male condoms and 8,510 (2.8%) were female condoms.

Table 1.

| Nos. | Expenditure on Provision & Distribution of Condoms in EC Dollar : 2005-2009 | | | | | |
|------|---|-------------|-------|------|------|---------|
| 1 | Provision & Distribution of Female Condoms | 2005 & 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | Total |
| | | 194,498 | 4,899 | N.A | N.A | 199,397 |

Source: **Ministry of Finance and Planning, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines . 2009**

Table 2: Indicators – Sexual and Reproductive Health – St. Vincent and the Grenadines¹

| No | Indicators | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----|---|-------|--------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| 1. | Total Fertility Rate | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.10 | 2.09 | 2.17 | - |
| 2. | Maternal Mortality Rate | 57.05 | 172.61 | 0 | 0 | 57.80 | 114.48 |
| 3. | Antenatal Coverage (ANC) | - | - | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% |
| 4. | Births attended by skilled Health Personnel | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% | 99% |
| 5. | BEOC | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 6. | CEOC | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 7. | Perinatal Mortality Rate | 20.3 | 21.84 | 27.16 | 18.9 | 30.62 | 23.20 |
| 8. | Prevalence of Low Birth Rate | - | 6.4 | 5.24 | 7.0 | 7.9 | 6.75 |
| 9. | Prevalence of Positive Serology in pregnant women (15-24 years) | - | 1.69 | 2.26 | 2.95 | 2.33 | 1.25 |
| 10. | Percentage of Obstetric and Gynaecological admissions owing to abortion | 7.15 | 7.14 | - | 7.79 | 6.17 | 6.63 |
| 11. | Prevalence of HIV infection in pregnant women (Aged 15-24) | 0.5 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| 12. | Teenage Pregnancy Rate | 22% | 20% | 21% | 17% | 16% | 16.4% |

Support to Women affected by Gender based Violence

During the period under review the main legislation passed in 1995 has been the **Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, Cap 228** under which applications can be made by the spouse in respect of whom domestic violence has been perpetrated for an injunction , a Protection Order , a Tenancy Order or an Occupation Order. Application for these Orders are made only in the Family Court , a specialized Court established under the **Family Court Act , Cap 25**, which has sole Jurisdiction in all matters relating to Sexual Offences, Maintenance and Juvenile Offenders. The Family Court legislation enables all such applications to be heard *in camera*.

The **Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, Cap 228** protects against physical violence. Mental injury and harassment . Persons who can seek relief include persons who are living together as husband and wife although not married to each other; persons who are married to each other; persons who were married to each other; persons who were living together as husband and wife who are not married to each other.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines analyses have shown that gender based violence is a systemically linked to the inequality of power relations which result in discrimination against women. In addition to legal remedies, victims of Domestic Violence can receive counseling and tangible support from the Gender Affairs Division, the Family Services Department and from a non-governmental organization, Marion House. The Gender Affairs Division has developed a draft Action Plan on Domestic Violence and has conducted Gender Sensitisation training for Police Officers under the State Accountability Project supported by UN Women. In addition, the curriculum for the training of new police recruits now includes a Gender Sensitisation Module.

A major achievement has been the creation of a Crisis Center for victims of Domestic Violence in 2012. At this Center, victims of Domestic Violence are able to receive counseling, support and are able to stay at the Shelter until other arrangements are made for the accommodation of themselves and their children. The Center provides a 24 hour Crisis Hotline, In-house counseling and support to clientele, telephone referrals, court advocacy services, accompaniment and assistance through each stage of the judicial Process. This Center was established to enable police, counselors, advocates, health care professionals, and specialist services to work together to identify and track domestic abuse, support victims and bring offenders to justice. Training to front line staff and the police, nurses and counselors has been conducted through various programmes. The Family Court also provides counseling services through its Counsellors on staff for victims of Domestic Violence.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a member of The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States which, as part of the **OECS Children, Family and Domestic Violence Law and Social Reform Project**, supported by UNICEF developed a Model Bill to address the issue of Domestic Violence. This Model Legislation has not yet been approved by the Parliament of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, however it has been discussed at the National Level in consultations held in SVG. SVG also is a signatory to the **Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women**, also known as the Convention of Belem do Para.

Support for Women as Leaders in the Public and Private Sector



Women as Candidates:

In relation to women's being eligible to be elected as candidates, Section 25 of the Constitution provides for any Commonwealth Citizen over the age of twenty-one who has resided in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for a period of twelve months immediately before the date of his nomination for election, who is not physically incapacitated to be elected.



Women actively participated in the 2001 , 2005 and 2010 General Elections as candidates, a factor which was favourably commented upon by the Commonwealth Secretariat Electoral Observer Mission which monitored the elections. Of the forty-one (41) candidates who contested the Elections, six (6) were women. Both of the two women elected into Parliament subsequent to the 2001 elections presently held substantial Ministerial portfolios. In addition, the Attorney General is a woman. In Parliament in 2001, a woman was appointed to be one of the four Senators of Government. The position of **Clerk of the House of Assembly** is also held by a woman. Since 2010 the number of women holding political office has declined. On the Government side in 2010 there was only one female Parliamentary Representative and no female Senator. On the Opposition side there were two female Senators.



Measures to ensure the highest functioning of women in public life include the participation of female parliamentarians in training activities conducted locally, regionally and at the international level.

Women in Public Office:

Women are well represented in the leadership of the Public Service of the GOVSVG as Permanent Secretaries, members of Statutory Boards and Heads of Departments. Under Section 79 of the Constitution, these persons cannot be removed without the intervention of the Governor General. Other significant positions in Government held by women include that of the Accountant General, who heads the Treasury Department and the Director of Planning within the Ministry of Finance.





Within the Judiciary, women are well represented. There are two High Court Judges, one of which is female. The Registrar of the Supreme Court is a female. At the lower level, within the Magistracy, which is the court of lowest jurisdiction during the period under review, two women held the important positions of Chief Magistrate and President of the Family Court respectively during the period under review. This represents a total of two out of four or half of the Magistracy. Of the four Magistrates, two are female.

Women in Non-Governmental Associations and Political Parties.

Women play major leadership roles within Non-Governmental Associations, Community Based organizations, Social Service clubs and church organizations,. There are many non-governmental organizations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and they focus on various issues including income generation, cultural activities, youth development, provision of social services and poverty reduction. The most notable factor of women's involvement however is their major role in church organizations.

Women are also active in Trade Unions both as members and as participants in the leadership. For example, the General Secretary of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers Union, one of the main Trade Unions with a large female membership, is a woman. As part of the trade union movement, women receive ongoing training in many aspects of organizational development, collective bargaining and other issues including social and health issues relevant to their role as workers. The Teachers Union for instance, organizes an annual summer training workshop for all its trade union leaders and organizers, many of whom are women. The nurses association also represent a formidable body comprised a majority of women. These bodies have been very organized and vocal, not just in representing the interests of their membership, but in speaking out on broader national issues.

Challenges to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

-  Reducing Teenage Pregnancy
-  Improving the Responses to Gender Based Violence
-  Eliminating Gender Segmentation in the Labour Market
-  Reducing Gendered Poverty causing female headed households to be poorer

Reducing Teenage Pregnancy:

Teenage Pregnancy is prevalent in SVG. In 2007/2008 CPA found that 49.3 percent of women had their first pregnancy between 15-19 years of age. The study found that 60.2% of women in the poorest quintile had their first child in their teens compared to 30.1% of women in the highest quintile. Other data indicates that between 2005 – 2010 the trend was for 20% of all births were to teenage mothers.

This is a challenge as teen pregnancy and birth sets off a cycle of poverty as the children of teenage mothers are often subject to poor performance in school, child welfare and health issues and crime and risky behavior. Teenage girls who become pregnant are often forced to suspend or discontinue their education in order to take care of their child. According to the CPA, the father is often an older man who may have simultaneous relationships with other partners. This often leads to teenage mothers not receiving substantial support from the father of the baby and may result in them having multiple relationships and subsequent pregnancies for other men.

The Division of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of National Mobilisation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has instituted a program to support teenage mothers returning to continue their secondary school education. Through this program girls are provided with financial assistance to secure daycare services as well as school uniforms and transportation to attend school.

Counseling services are also available through the Division of Gender Affairs and the Family Affairs Division for girls who become pregnant through Incest and Rape. There are still, however cases where the matter is not reported to the police because the perpetrator is providing economic assistance to the family.

Improving the Responses to Gender Based Violence

Whilst there has been much improvement in addressing the issue of Gender based Violence more remains to be done.

The **Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, Cap 228** does not provide a comprehensive definition of Domestic Violence and has therefore cannot been used to protect against psychological abuse and sexual violence. It states that the court can make an Order once it is satisfied that the Respondent :”has used or threatened to use violence against, or caused physical or mental injury...and is likely to do so again; or has committed or attempted to commit any Sexual Offence listed in the Criminal Code or has conducted himself in a manner which is sexually offensive.” (Sec. 4 (2)).

It does not allow persons who are not living together (i.e in a Visiting Relationship) but who are intimate to apply , and it does not allow for police officers or social workers to apply for an Order on behalf of the woman who is being abused. Any member of the household may apply on his own behalf or on behalf of any other member of the household. Persons who are in same sex relationships are excluded from the categories of persons who can apply. The Act does not criminalize Domestic Violence, it however provides that if a Protection Order or other Order made by the President of the Family Court is breached , criminal sanctions can apply.

Procedures in matters of Domestic Violence need to be streamlined within the Police Force: On receiving a complaint of Domestic Violence, the police record a statement in writing from the victim. Medical Forms are issued to see the District Medical Officer and these Forms are returned to the police who should conduct a full investigation into the complaint, following upon which the alleged perpetrator is arrested and charged and taken before the Family Court , Magistrates Court or High Court

depending on the seriousness of the allegation, where Criminal Proceedings will ensue. Most Police Officers require further training in how to handle cases of domestic violence.

The police often express frustration with the fact that women who commence criminal proceedings against a man with whom they are in a relationship with usually do not continue with the case after the matter has been filed. Police tend to not take such Domestic Violence seriously in cases of repeat complaints where the woman has returned to live with the man after a previous incident. There is no mandatory response requirement on the part of the Police nor are they required to complete a Domestic Violence Report which details the abuse or related investigations and final outcome.

One of the ongoing issues which still need to be addressed in SVG is the lack of statistics on Domestic Violence. Work has been done to design a data collection mechanism within the various departments and agencies that interface with cases of Domestic Violence (Police, Family Court, High Court , Family Services Division) to systematically collect data disaggregated by age , type of violence etc. This will continue to be addressed, however, it is also known that due to cultural reason some incidents of domestic violence are not reported to the police. The Police Department has been instrumental in supporting the efforts of the Gender Affairs Division in its programmes to combat Gender based violence.

The **National Council of Women** , the main NGO representing women in SVG has called on the Government to (a) Develop a legislative agenda for the development and implementation of laws for the protection of women, and the prevention of domestic violence; (b) Ensure that cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse are investigated and prosecuted by the State when incidents are reported by concerned citizens or victims, and provide safe houses for the victims; (c) Facilitate public education and provide training on domestic violence intervention/prevention methods and on conflict resolution in general; (d) Provide a secure, humane and rehabilitative facility for female prisoners and ensure that their children, wards or dependents are not neglected or disadvantaged as a result of their incarceration; (e) Establish or strengthen accountable, supervisory and monitoring systems to ensure that women and girls within the custody of the criminal system are not subjected to sexual assaults and exploitation.

Eliminating Gender Segmentation in the Labour Market

Another challenge to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women is the issue of the compartmentalisation of women in the labour Market. The 2007/2008 CPA found major Gender Segmentation in the Labour Market as a result of which females were limited to certain low paying occupations either by choice or by design. This phenomena, in which certain unwritten rules socially and culturally defined certain types of work(teaching, nursing, domestics, hairdressing) as “women’s work” and other types of work as “men’s work” (construction, electrician, plumber, sales agent) generally excludes women’s participation from many vocational and technical areas of employment which traditionally attract higher salaries and limit them to occupations related to the traditional roles of caregiver and general support to the home.

This situation is juxtaposed against the increasing numbers of women outperforming men at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels who still have not successfully been able to negotiate the same pay levels as men doing the same work .

This issue of Gender Segmentation is receiving considerable attention in attempts to understand its relationship to the way females and males are socialised in the home, and the way in which this is reinforced in the institutions such as the Education system.(Reddock, 2009). In SVG, girls are not excluded from pursuing technical and vocational careers at any institution, however the socialisation of girls as well as societal pressure tends to steer them away from these careers which are seen as male preserves. This limits the opportunities available to poorer women. One result is that females who are not successful in achieving the numbers of CSEC passes required for entrance to the SVG Community College either remain unemployed or become domestics, shop assistants, hair dressers or enter other low paying areas of work. Many of these females become pregnant as teenagers. Women who are able to migrate do so.

Reducing Gendered Poverty causing female headed households to be poorer

The issue of greater poverty of female headed households identified by the 2007/2008 CPA is a continuing challenge for the achievement of Gender equality. The 1995/1996 CPA found that there were 56% of the households headed by males and 44% headed by females. This figure had shifted by the time the 2007/2008 CPA was conducted and 52.1% of households were headed by females and 49.1% by males. The data collated showed that the poorest women had the largest size households (5.1) compared to the most well of which had small size households (2.4) (KAIRI: 2009). According to the CPA women and men experience poverty in different ways. While it is important to disaggregate data by sex and to obtain relevant quantitative data, this alone is insufficient to identify and examine the separate realities of males and females or to identify gender issues that must be addressed in order to ensure that poverty alleviation programmes will be based on the particular needs of poor females as well as poor males (Kairi: 2009).

The reality of increased female headed households results in women having the main if not the sole responsibility for the economic survival of themselves and their children. The effect of this is that not only do women have to source the income required for the family but they are also responsible for performing those domestic chores which are necessary for the family's daily sustenance – cooking , cleaning, child care , home management .

The 2007/2008 CPA found during the period under review that the engendered roles of females compartmentalize women in the labour market to occupations traditionally defined as “female jobs”. This by extension relates to those jobs which are traditionally performed by women as care givers, nurturers and supporters of the males. These include jobs such as , office clerks, secretaries, nurses and teaching for those with that level of training. The 2001 Population and Housing Census found that 54% of women were employed in the wholesale and retail trade, Hotels and restaurants, Education and Private Households. For women without secondary education the job market offers low paying jobs as office attendants and domestics among others .

Women's experience , however has been that even these jobs are limited and demand far outnumbers supply. As a result some females trained as nurses and teachers migrated to England and the USA under recruitment programmes . Other women have been able to be absorbed as domestics, chefs and

waiters on sailing boats/cruise lines. Prior to 1995 women had been more successful in pursuing jobs as farmers and agricultural workers. The impact of the downturn in the banana industry in SVG reduced much of these opportunities for women.

In addition the access of women to the labour market on an equal footing with men is limited by their socialization as well as by the cultural barriers erected by society which excludes women from certain occupations in practice. In effect, women's unequal access to opportunities in the labour market, linked to the resulting reduced opportunities has contributed to the poverty experienced by female headed households in SVG (Kairi: 2009).

Setbacks Towards Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Whilst Vincentian women have made considerable progress since the BPfA, there are some general issues which are vexing and which create serious impediments to the long-term achievement of Gender Equality in SVG. Like other countries in the region, the pervasiveness of patriarchal attitudes to women are deeply embedded in the society. The negative impact of this attitude has come to the forefront of attention , since BPfA and the GOVSVG during the period under review has worked along with civil society organizations to address the problem. Notwithstanding, the system of patriarchy is so entrenched that many of the institutions , including the Constitution and the legal framework, unwittingly align themselves to promoting gender inequality. The Education system, which plays a significant role in the process of socialization of children and young people has yet to address in any serious way, the issues of gender including the messages and information which are purveyed in the curriculum which systematize and institutionalize gender inequality.

During the period under review, post BPfA, the Caribbean experienced through the women's movement, an upsurge in awareness and consciousness raising activities and programmes, which enabled many women to examine and critically analyse their reality. This dynamic and exciting moment in the Caribbean allowed for the formation of Women's organizations dedicated to the empowerment of women.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines was impacted by this dynamism and Vincentian women were exposed through linkages with other Caribbean women at conferences, workshops and similar programmes to new information and educational opportunities. The decline of the vibrancy in the Caribbean Womens movement has been a setback for the process of addressing gender inequality in SVG. It was followed by the economic decline in the country as the banana industry, where many women achieved economic support through employment, underwent serious crisis. In general, women's organizations as well as other civil society organizations in SVG lost vibrancy and participation as women concentrated on more urgent survival issues.

This has definitely been a setback in SVG as there has been insufficient work at the level of civil society to support the efforts of GOVSVG to create change in the fundamental gender relations in the country. The efforts to mitigate this situation has been sporadic, however mention must be made of the First Congress of The National Council of Women held in 2012 which attempted to focus once again the attention of the country on issues relating to women's empowerment.

Constitutional, Legislative and Legal Developments in promoting Gender Equality

The Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to provide broad protection from discrimination on the grounds of sex. Specifically, Article 13 of the present Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines generally prohibits discrimination of all kinds.

Article 13 (1) “Subject to the provisions of subsections (4),(5) and (7) no law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect.

(2).... no persons shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any persons acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority.

(3) In this section, the expression “discriminatory” means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by **sex**, race, place of origin, political opinion colour or creed whereby persons of one such description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another such description are made subject or are accorded privileges or advantages which are not accorded to persons of another such description.”

The Constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by virtue of Section 13 (4) allows for the passage of legislation which promotes affirmative action in favour of women.

Section 13 (4) of the Constitution states, inter alia, that:

“Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to any law so far as that law makes provision ____

(a) for the appropriation of public revenues or other public funds;

(c) for the application, in the case of any such description as is mentioned in subsection (3) of this section (or of persons connected with such persons) of the law with respect to adoption, marriage, divorce, burial, devolution of property on death or other like matters that is the personal law of persons of that description;

(d) whereby persons of any such description as is mentioned in subsection (3) of this section may be subjected to any disability or restriction or may be accorded any privilege or advantage that, having regard to its nature and to special circumstances pertaining to those persons or to persons of any other description is reasonable justifiable in a democratic society.”

By virtue of the above provision, legislation promoting affirmative action to improve the situation of women which implied the use of Public Revenues would not be inconsistent with the Constitution.

Prior to 1995 the **Equal Pay Act, (1994) Cap 210**ⁱ was passed to correct discrimination against women, specifically prohibits any employer from discriminating against women with respect to equal pay for comparable work.

Subsequently other Legislation have been enacted which in effect supports the Principle of prohibition of discrimination against women. Such legislation provide relief for women in specific situations. The main example of this is Maternity Leave. Under the **Wages Council Act CAP 217** several Regulations were promulgated specifically making provisions for Maternity leave for certain classes of Workers. These include **Wages Regulations (Agricultural Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Domestic Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Security Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Hotel Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Industrial Workers) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Workers in Offices of Professionals) Order 2008; Wages Regulations (Shop Assistants) Order 2008; The National Insurance Services Act, Cap. 229** of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2009 also provides for improved maternity leave benefits for working women and for the partners of employed men

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines sought to implement significant changes to Constitution during the period under Review through the process of Constitutional Reform from 2003 – 2008 but was unsuccessful. This Bill contained the following important provision with respect to Equality for the present Article women and men:

“Section. 21 (3) Political parties are obliged to aspire to having not less than thirty percent of the combined total number of persons whose names are included on the Party List submitted by a Party in accordance with Section 98 of this Constitution as women; and not less than thirty percent of that combined total as men.” (St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Constitution Bill 2009).

Particular Mention must be made of the **Protection of Employment Act, (2003) Cap 212** which came into effect in 2004 provides a significant support for the improved terms and conditions of employment for women. This is an important piece of domestic legislation in that its stated objective is to support successful employment relationships. Its contents speak to the broad issues of Promotion of employment rights , referring to the protection against dismissal without good cause. Women claiming Unfair Dismissal are entitled under the Act to pursue legal remedies available which include Hearings before a Tribunal.

The Act specifically prohibits the employer from terminating the services of an employee on various grounds including sex, marital status, pregnancy (Sec. 16 (d)) reasonable absence from work due to family emergencies or responsibilities (Sec. 16 (e) or absence of work during maternity leave as certified by a medical practitioner (Sec. 16 (f)). These clauses provide important legal protections relevant to women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines particularly in relation to the right to Maternity Leave and freedom from termination by employers due to pregnancy.

Government continues to provide other forms of Social Security Benefits under the National Insurance Scheme. This provides benefits in cases of sickness, invalidity, retirement and death. Persons who are self-employed may now contribute towards the provision of benefits for themselves. Other benefits are negotiated within the context of collective agreements with trade Unions. These include the provisions of uniforms for work, the regulation of health and safety conditions at the workplace and the right to paid leave.

Gender Budgeting for Equality and Women’s empowerment

During the period under review there has been an attempt to institute Gender Budgetting. The Ministry of Finance partnered with the Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Programme in a Gender Mainstreaming Initiative in order to define strategies for integrating gender into Macroeconomic planning. The specific activities included the collection of available sex-disaggregated labour, work and other economic data; the review of legislation governing the relationship between the Gender Affairs Division, the Ministry of Finance and other government Agencies and training in concrete tools for the formulation of a gender sensitive National Budget.

National, regional and bilateral Mechanisms for Dialogue and Monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

At the National level, St. Vincent and the Grenadines the Gender Affairs Division within the Ministry of National Mobilisation is the focal point for monitoring and implementation of the BPfA and the outcomes of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly. In addition, the GOVSG has also created the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDEC) which represents a grouping of CSO’s, Government representatives and the private sector. NESDEC has become the focal point for the development of a poverty reduction strategy and assisted in drafting the 2003 Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP) as well as the NESDP 2013-2025. Whilst there is no formal mechanism for

monitoring the BPfA the Gender Affairs Division can, through this body continue to share knowledge and experience . The Gender Affairs Division liases closely with the National Council of Women in the performance of its mandate.



The National Council of Women (NCW) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the largest CSO representing women in the country. In March 2012 the NCW in collaboration with the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the OAS Secretariat held its first Congress under the theme “Women Rising, Crisis and Response – Women as Agents of Change” . The Congress was attended by representatives of women’s organisations, parliamentarians, regional and international organizations, civil; servants, private sector workers, entrepreneurs, trade-unionists, credit unions, academia, the legal fraternity, indigenous peoples, disabled persons, faith-based organizations, farmers, vendors, teachers, nurses, the police force, students, artists and service organizations.

The Congress was structured in eight Plenaries to address Gender Equity, Economic Development, Trade and Finance, Peace and Security, Political Participation, Health, Indigenous Peoples, Vulnerable and Marginalised Communities, and Education.

Among other significant gains, the Congress recognized the importance of legislation enacted and the work accomplished in the State of St. Vincent and the Grenadines since Independence, on behalf of women and the advancement of their health, education and well-being .



First National Congress of Women

At the sub-regional and regional level, various supportive mechanisms exist which have been developed by sub-regional , regional and International organizations. These include the Secretariat of the

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNDP, OAS and ECLAC.

Millennium Development Goals and the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The Millennium Development Goals are examined with a view to determining how St. Vincent and the Grenadines has fared with respect to removing gender inequities through the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals which were set to be achieved by 2015. During the period under review Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has made some strides in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The MDG monitoring Unit in SVG recorded only partial success for Goals 3,4,6,and 7.

Goal 1. Eradication of Poverty and Extreme Hunger, the Poverty Reduction Strategies pursued by the Government since 2001 have beneficially impacted women. The goal set by the international community of reduction by half of persons who live in extreme poverty was exceeded in that extreme poverty in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been reduced from 26% to 2.9% according to a Country Poverty Report completed in 2008. Continuing efforts need to be made to address less extreme forms of poverty. In addition, further studies need to be conducted to provide disaggregated data by gender.

Goal 2: Achieving Universal Primary Education. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has far exceeded this goal of 100% Universal Primary Education and has also achieved the goal of Universal Secondary Education. From the perspective of Gender Equality there has been very positive developments in the expansion of training opportunities for girls in non traditional areas of study although more needs to be done in this regard.

Goal 3. Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment.

Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

It has been found that increased access of women to education is directly linked to their capacity to rise out of poverty and combat gender discrimination within the households and in the workplace. With respect to the indicators set for this goal Girls and Women in St.Vincent and the Grenadines have no disparity in primary, secondary or tertiary education.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to focus heavily on Education and a significant portion of the Government budget is allocated to improving Educational services at all levels and in all areas. The female population has been benefit extensively from this investment. The NESDP 2013 – 2025 has shown that girls significantly outperformed boys from 2001 -2010 at all levels.

Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

The Population and Housing Census 2001 showed a decline in women's employment in Agriculture from 1991- 2001 by 6.4%. In contrast female employment in the areas of Hotels and Restaurants, private households with Employed persons, Education and Wholesale and retail trade accounted for the majority of women (54%).

Elimination of Gender based violence

The issue of gender based violence is being addressed through programmes spearheaded by the Gender Affairs Division, the police and the Family Court. Mention has been made of the Crisis Center established in 2012. However more will continue to be done to address this scourge which seriously affects women's ability to fully develop their potential as productive human beings St. Vincent and the Grenadines. SVG is a signatory to the **Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women**, also known as the Convention of Belem do Para.

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

During the period under review only Two women sat in the Parliament as members of the Cabinet. However four more sat as Senators and were members of Parliament. The Clerk of the House is a female. More work however needs to be done in improving women's representation in representational politics .

Goal 4: Reduce Infant Mortality: The reduction in Child mortality has been achieved in St. Vincent and the Grenadines through successful programmes implemented by the Ministry of Health.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health: This Goal addresses the specific areas of Contraceptive Prevalence use, adolescent pregnancy, ante-natal care and family planning. This includes Nutrition Support programmes for pregnant women and children and free or subsidized hospital care.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases. The main source of transmission of HIV/AIDS in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is heterosexual contact. Since 2008, the HIV program has been linked with the Primary Health Care Services offered by all Health Centers and the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH). Services offered include HIV Prevention Information, Condom provision, HIV Counselling and Testing, Prophylaxis and treatment of HIV patients and Psychosocial support.

Through an aggressive programme of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and control the incidence of HIV/AIDS has stabilized although there is a higher incidence of the disease among females in the age group under 5 years, 15-19 and over 65. The majority of AIDS cases among females prior to 2008 has been in the age range 20 – 39 years. There has been a general decrease in the HIV cases.

Stigma and Discrimination associated with HIV present a challenge to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services. SVG has taken several steps to address these issues even at the highest level of Government. Several political speeches have been made in support of the call for termination of stigma and discrimination against PLHIV (UNFPA 2010). In addition a law, ethics and human rights national assessment which consisted of a desk review of the laws and policies as they pertain to HIV/AIDS human rights issues was undertaken in the country. Stigma and discrimination sensitization training sessions were conducted for Health Care Providers and staff of Line Ministries. Additionally, a number of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities were implemented to address this problem.

TABLE 3. Number of new HIV-infection cases, and among 15–24-year-olds, by sex, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2006–2010.

HIV INFECTIONS

| YEAR | New Cases | | | 15-24 | | |
|------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| | | | | | | TOTAL |
| 2010 | 42 | 22 | 64 | 02 | 07 | 09 |
| 2009 | 39 | 24 | 63 | 05 | 05 | 10 |
| 2008 | 41 | 25 | 66 | 04 | 07 | 11 |
| 2007 | 42 | 40 | 86 | 08 | 10 | 18 |
| 2006 | 45 | 36 | 81 | 05 | 14 | 19 |

Source: Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ministry of Health, Health Planning Unit 2010

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The GOVSVG has become a Party to important Conventions intended to secure Environmental Sustainability. Compliance with the obligations of these Agreements is ongoing and is designed to ensure that SVG manages its natural resources in sustainable manner. The programs to ensure proper environmental management are directed by various Agencies including the Forestry Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority and the Environmental Management Department in the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.

In pursuit of environmental sustainability SVG has signed on to the St. Georges Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS; the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) ; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Cartagena Protocol on land based sources of marine pollution; the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants; the Caribbean Challenge Initiative to protect near shore marine and coastal natural resources by 2020.

SECTION THREE: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWELVE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION – POST 2009

Women and Poverty:

The issue of Gender and Poverty was specifically examined as part of the CPA 2007/2008 and the findings of this Assessment were reviewed in Section One of this report. We will only focus here on the specific issues post 2009 which are relevant to this Section. Whilst the CPA 2007/2008 did not disaggregate their findings by Gender, their examination as discussed regarding the situation prior to 2009, still continues as supported by the 2013 NESDP situational analysis.

The Global Economic Crisis of 2008 and beyond was the most significant element of the scenario which impacted on the Economy of SVG in the post 2009 period. In the NESDP 2013-2025 it was stated that as a traditionally agriculture based economy, the developments on the international, in particular the reduction in trade preferences adversely affected the economy. Other factors affecting the Economy were the global rise in food and oil prices as well as the impact of disasters particularly major storms which devastated SVG since 2009.

Between 2009 – 2013, female headed households still predominated and rural and banana farming populations remained at High Risk. The GOVSVG continued in its initiatives to reduce poverty experienced by women. These included the following:

- ✚ Focus on providing subsidized low income housing to the poor, many of whom are headed by females;
- ✚ Focus on job creation in rural communities which benefit women;
- ✚ The continuation of a Social protection system which involves direct cash transfers, support with school uniforms and books to children, provision of rent payments and other benefits;
- ✚ The Programme Children against Poverty, a summer programme to support the children of poor families which was initiated in 2002 continues to provide them with remedial training and skills for life. Many female headed households benefited from this programme which provided meals over a eight week period to the children;

The NESDP established as one of its strategic objectives the reduction of poverty and outlined various strategic interventions to arrive at that objective including the formulation of a National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the creation of an enabling environment for greater job opportunities as well as the strengthening of the social protection network.

As SVG seeks to perform its obligations under the BPfA, it will become important for the GOVSVG to provide targeted interventions aimed at female headed households, particularly those in rural and banana growing communities.

Education and Training of Women

This has been substantially reviewed in Section One. Females in SVG have no obvious impediment to the accessing of Education in SVG and women and girls have been accessing these opportunities in even greater numbers than their male counterparts. Post 2009 There is now a concern for male participation and performance in the Education system. Notwithstanding, the main issue to now be addressed post 2009 is the development of programmes to augment the participation of females in technical and vocational areas of education and training as it has been found that societal and institutional attitudes to the pursuit by females of training in these areas has limited their participation in them. As a result females have not been able to access certain job opportunities in non-traditional fields.

The other issue which needs to be highlighted with regard to the implementation of the BPfA is with respect to the continuing education of teenage girls who become pregnant. During the period under review, some of the stigma relating to teenage pregnancy has been removed and society has now become more accepting of the idea of teenagers continuing their education after pregnancy. This sensitization of the society still needs to be continued , however there has been significant progress. Whilst this programme is currently being administered by the Gender Affairs Division, there is a need to support this programme with more resources in order for it continue to meet the expanded need as more teenagers seek to further their education despite becoming pregnant.

Women and Health

As was reviewed in Section One , SVG has invested considerable financial and human resources in the development of its Health Care system and this has impacted positively on women. Post 2009 this is set to continue as the GOVSVG has elaborated two key documents which relate to health, one of which is the 2007 -2014 Strategy for Health “A Healthy Vincentian is a Wealthy Vincentian” (Ministry of Health, 2007) and the NESDP 2013 – 2025. Both these documents build on the existing platform of a strong Primary Health Care delivery service with improved facilities and programmes for Maternal and Child Health Care and Sexual and Reproductive Health, including HIV/AIDS.

The major issue post 2009 is the shift in mortality factors from infectious diseases to Non Communicable Diseases in the review Period. Women’s mortality rate from Breast Cancer is higher than any other factor. The cost to women for diagnosis, care and treatment of Breast Cancer is high and many women cannot afford treatment outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Table 4.

PMR for Deaths caused by Selected types of Malignant Neoplasm, 1996 - 2002

| Type | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Breast | 1..8% | 1.7% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 1% | 2.7% | 0.8% |
| Cervix | 1.5% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 1.8% | 1.1% | 0.5% | 0.8% |
| Malignant Neoplasm (All Forms) | 16.0% | 14.3% | 14.0% | 18.5% | 18.1% | 17.7% | 16.1% |

Source: Digest of Health Statistics 1996 – 2000; 1998 – 2002.

Table 5.

Mortality by selected Causes and Year, 1996 - 2002

| Year | Total Deaths | Total Female Deaths | Total Male Deaths | No. of Maternal Deaths | Deaths from Cervical Cancer | Deaths from Breast Cancer | Death from Prostate Cancer | Deaths From AIDS (|
|------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1996 | 777 | 381 | 396 | 3 | 12 | 14 | 28 | 26 |
| 1997 | 743 | 382 | 361 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 18 | 34 |
| 1998 | 830 | 396 | 434 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 44 |
| 1999 | 833 | 409 | 424 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 30 | 47 |
| 2000 | 700 | 295 | 405 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 26 | 46 |
| 2001 | 750 | 336 | 414 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 34 | 34 |
| 2002 | 759 | 382 | 377 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 36 |

Source: Digest of Health Statistics 1996 – 2000; 1998 – 2002.

Violence Against Women

The backdrop to the prevalent scourge of Violence against women remains the prevailing patriarchal attitudes towards women and girls, the economic dependence by women on male partners and the poor self esteem often experienced by women themselves. The prevailing harsh global, regional and economic climate sets the backdrop for the violence to continue in SVG and therefore there needs to be increased vigilance and more active programmes to address this issue.

The Gender Affairs Division has been doing sterling work in this regard, in collaboration with the Crisis Center established in 2012. However Post 2009 there is the need for more specific documentation of cases of violence through an improved system of statistical records in which the police, the courts, the health care system and the Education system is involved. A National Data collection system of Gender based violence is still not in place. In addition there is no Gender Based Violence training or services offered at any Health Clinic .

There is also a need for more aggressive information and education programmes targeting women and girls as well as expanded training and support programmes for counselors from the religious community and civil service organizations, health workers , police and teachers in the Education system. Finally there is the dire need for legal aid services for persons who choose recourse to the Justice system for redress.

Women and Armed Conflict

Fortunately, this is not an issue of relevance to SVG at this time.

Women and the Economy

The economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is mainly focused on Agriculture and Tourism. There has been an increased participation by Women in the labour force as is revealed in a comparison of the 1991 and 2001 Population and Housing Census Report (GOVSVG: 2001). The majority of women in SVG (54%) were in this period been involved in the Industries, Wholesale and Retail trades, Hotels and Restaurants, Education and Private Households.

The GOVSG has since 2001 focused the economy in pursuit of pro poor policies which have been relatively successful despite severe challenges from the external economic environment. Despite historic structural factors including a small, open economy, an undeveloped manufacturing sector , a high level of unemployment and underemployment and a small consumer base with a low level of technological development, SVG has utilized much of its resources in strategic ways to promote macro economic, trade and investment policies geared to poverty reduction.

The GOVSVG in 2004 embarked upon the implementation of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (IPRSP) which proposed strategic policies to stimulate growth , trade and investment. These were:

- ✚ Improving the macro-economic environment
- ✚ Expanding and diversifying the sources of economic growth including Agriculture, Fisheries and Tourism
- ✚ Investment Promotion and Poverty Reduction
- ✚ Facilitating Credit and support to small businesses and micro-enterprises
- ✚ Accessing Dead Capital and turning it into Live capital;
- ✚ Improving Income distribution
- ✚ Strengthening Natural Resource Management
- ✚ Strengthening Rural Development
- ✚ Strengthening capacity for improved data collection and analysis.

As this strategy has been implemented, with varying degrees of success, women have been able to improve their living standards. In the institution of a Micro Enterprise programme women were the major beneficiaries of micro-loans of \$15,000 each to develop small businesses . In addition, the programme to regularize squatter settlements through the “Turning Dead Capital into live Capital” saw women gaining title to their land which they were then able to utilize to secure bank loans . Through the expanded programmes offered as part of the “Education Revolution” women have had greater access to education and training opportunities at the Tertiary level which has allowed them to qualify for employment at management levels in the economy.

GOVSVG has improved women’s participation in the economy by such measures as creating the enabling environment through the passage of relevant legislation such as the Protection of Employment Act and Minimum Wage laws with set remuneration and benefits for women at parity with men.

The major challenge now for women in relation to their participation in the labour force in SVG is for them to prepare themselves to compete more aggressively with men for the jobs and opportunities which have traditionally been perceived as “male jobs”.

Women in Power and Decision Making:

Women in SVG are becoming well placed through their training and experience to strengthen their numbers in the corridors of power and decision making. However, they still have to work much harder to equal the males in this regard. In the public sector, females are well represented at the level of leadership either as permanent Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries. This does not extend to Statutory

Corporations where all the managers are male. Nor does it extend to Government Ministers where almost all but one of the Ministers are men.

This picture is reflected in the private sector as well although data is not available in this regard. Notable exceptions exist in the private sector whereby some females hold high positions in a few large corporations.

Women are well represented in the Magistracy and in the Judiciary , in the Nursing Profession as well as in the Education Systems as Principals and senior management. Increasingly, women are attaining leadership positions in churches and religious organizations.

Post 2009 the issues remain the same in relation to the public perception and acceptance of the patriarchal order of male leadership. Women are burdened by the double responsibility of household and family care and are not always able to shoulder the added responsibility of leadership.

Institutional mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

The strengthening of the Gender Affairs Division has been a critical achievement during the period under review. This included reorganizing and renaming the Division and reorienting its work towards a more targeted approach in the areas of Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Policy development. The Gender Affairs Division has the responsibility for mainstreaming Gender into all the various Government Departments. Despite financial and human resource constraints, the Division has been involved in sensitizing various Government Departments on Gender issues. The Gender Affairs Division sits on several intersectoral committees and task forces, including committees on trade, health and poverty alleviation.

This evolution marked more than a cosmetic exercise on the part of the Government but indicated a commitment to the long term thrust to work with both men and women in the harmonization of gender relations. This is a reflection of the Governments embrace of modern thinking which understands that both men and women have been impacted by negative historical influences which can only be overcome by a commonality of purpose, process and action.

The work of the Gender Affairs Division has begun to shift away from a social welfare modality of temporary handouts and individual support to women, to that of building bridges with other Government Ministries , the Private Sector and Civil Society organizations in an effort to provide more acceptance and understanding of the role and significance of Gender relations in building an equitable society. Whilst this policy is not formally articulated, it is being slowly implemented in practice and its effectiveness still remains to be evaluated. Notwithstanding, the absence of a fully articulated policy framework, the stated Mission of the Division is “ **To ensure that all citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have equal access to opportunities that will shape their social, cultural, spiritual , educational , economical and political development**”.

The **Objectives** of the Gender Affairs Division are to:

Increase public awareness on Gender;

- Strengthen partnerships for the formulation and implementation of a Gender policy.
- Collaborate with other departments/Government Ministries and organizations to institutionalize the responsibility for gender equality throughout government;
- Create a systematic data collection system and Influence departments/Government Ministries and NGOs to institute systems to collect and store disaggregated data;
- Research the current Gender situation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines through situational analyses e.g employment, migration, income, etc.
- Introduce Gender Mainstreaming initiatives in the key sectors and strengthening Gender Mainstreaming through continuous reviews of legislative initiatives around a gender equity framework;
- Formulate a policy on gender equity and implement an action plan that will ensure gender integration into all policies, procedures and programmes,
- Address the issue of prevention and eradication of domestic violence and educational, social, cultural, and economic growth of the marginalized.”

The five member staffing of the Division has not been substantially increased and this remains an obstacle to the work of the Division. This matter will continue to be discussed within the context of limited financial resources at the national level.

Human Rights of Women

Instruments of Accession to the **Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** were deposited by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on August 4th, 1981. By becoming a State Party to the Convention, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joined with many countries in the international community in the most comprehensive and broad-ranging document addressing women’s rights. This Convention was signed and Ratified by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines without Reservations.

To date, only one report has been submitted, namely the Combined Initial, First, Second and Third Periodic Report which represented the period 1981 – 1994 . That Report was examined by the CEDAW Committee at its Session in 1997 following upon which the Committee issued some important concluding comments. The combined Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Periodic Report representing developments, achievements and challenges in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from the period 1995- 2010 in relation to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention has been prepared and submitted to Cabinet.

SVG has not accepted the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW.

SVG is a signatory to the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)** since November 1981. To date, a periodic report has not been submitted by SVG, however in the absence of a Report the situation in SVG was considered in 2007 and as part of its concluding observations the Human Rights Committee welcomed the legislation implementing parts of the Covenant including the removal of discrimination based on gender relating to remuneration for work. The Committee also expressed concern about the high incidence of violence against women in SVG and recommended that SVG take steps to monitor this situation, facilitate investigations and implement a plan of action. It also recommended that legal and educational measures be taken to combat domestic violence. This BPfA

report in Section One outlines the actions which have been undertaken and which are planned in this regard.

Finally SVG is a signatory to the **Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women**, also known as the Convention of Belem do Para.

The **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association** is the main Human Rights organization which was in existence during the Review Period. As part of its work it publicized incidence of violence against women and also offered free legal Aid to women who were victims of Domestic violence.

Women and the Media:

There has been an increase in the number of media houses and radio stations available to the public in SVG and concomitantly , the numbers of females who are trained journalists, DJ's and announcers has also risen. This has become a very positive element in that it indicates the diverse areas of employment into which women are venturing. Notwithstanding, the portrayal of women in the media has not evolved in a totally positive way as many of the songs aired on some radio stations reflect the inherent biases in favour of portraying women as sex objects. There is very little local content on the television channels as most of it is streamed from outside of SVG, reflecting cultural standards from North America or Europe .

The limited level of local content does not involve the development of consistent presentations or discussions on positive aspects of women's development although the Gender Affairs Division does its part by airing of a weekly radio programme on the National Radio Station.

Women and the Environment:

SVG is subject to serious natural disasters ranging from flooding to volcanic eruptions and hurricanes.

Environmental Sustainability is an issue which has been brought sharply and bitterly home to the country as a whole and to women in particular, when on December 24th 2013 a devastating period of rain caused catastrophic flooding, landslides which resulted in the loss of several lives and severely damaged infrastructure. To date, women and children are still living in shelters as a result of that event.

There are several agencies and institutions which are responsible for the management and oversight of the country's natural resources, as was outlined earlier in this report, however, it is the population who live in vulnerable areas which must become more integrally involved in natural resource management.

It is not clear to what extent the policies of these Agencies and institutions have integrated a gender focus into their policy making and practice. Given the demonstrated effect in 2013 of the vulnerability of the environment , it is clear that there must be a more aggressive approach to education of women and families to sensitise them with regard to the relationship between the impact of natural disasters and environmental management.

The Girl Child

SVG signed on to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1993. It also ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the child on the sale of children, child Prostitution and child Pornography on September 15th, 2005 as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on March 29th, 2011.

As part of its obligations as a signatory to these various instruments the GOVSVG prepared its first periodic report in 2002 which comprehensively reported on actions which have been implemented to promote the rights of and protect the Girl Child. These actions include the passage of legislation relating to child protection and the review of existing legislation under the **OECS Children, Family and Domestic Violence Law and Social Reform Project** sponsored by UNICEF. The GOVSVG mandated the Ministry of National Mobilisation to develop and implement programmes to respond to issues affecting the girl child in such areas as : sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence.

SECTION FOUR: DATA AND STATISTICS

A primary tool for monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the BPfA through services provided in various settings is data. Although much relevant data is compiled by various institutions and Government Agencies in the areas of Health, Education and Social Services insufficient data disaggregated by Gender is compiled and reported. There is no centrally located hub for the hosting and analysis of the available data. This call for the routine collection and analysis of data for monitoring of Gender issues has been made by various agencies which generally deal with the Social Services.

The issue of insufficient data collection mechanisms was highlighted in an ECLAC report on the status of MDG monitoring in the Caribbean (ECLAC , 2009) in relation to most Caribbean countries . A similar point was highlighted by the 2013 UNDP Human Development Report in relation to the calculation of the Gender Inequality Index (GII) for SVG.

This issue is difficult to address, because in order to advocate for additional resources to support capacity building for analysis and planning expertise, analysis and planning of such needs is required. As external funding sources decline, the development of new programs as well as the sustainability of existing programs for attaining long term Gender equality needs to be carefully understood and planned for.

The Statistical Office in the Ministry of Finance and Planning of SVG is the main statistical agency for the management of the collection, compilation and dissemination of data. The Office has four main areas of responsibility :namely: Census taking; collection, compilation, analysis and publishing of statistical data, provide local, regional and international organizations with timely statistical data.

In SVG several ministries also have units which function outside of the CSO. This includes the Ministry of Education , the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health and there is insufficient coordination between these Agencies and the CSO in the collection of statistics. As a result the production of statistics is fragmented. There needs to be more coordination and integration , more compatibility in the measurement instruments and data representation, consistent documentation, a coherent legal framework for the administration of data and knowledge sharing . The above situation has been reflected in the lack of data to guide programs for combating Gender Inequality.

SECTION FIVE: EMERGING ISSUES , PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Reducing Teen Pregnancy.

The CPA 2007/2008 recommends programmes which will target behavioural changes in both male and female teens. This includes promoting educational messages to teens, supporting and training parents and educational institutions to discuss sexual behavior, values, relationships and related issues with teens. It also proposes curriculum changes to allow schools to teach self esteem, womens rights and other issues. The CPA recommends that a national survey to establish the root causes of teenage pregnancy be carried out.

Reducing Gender Segmentation in the Labour market & Poverty in Female headed Households

In the context of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the 2007/2008 CPA emphasised the fact that women in SVG need much higher levels of Education to compensate for the inherent bias in the labour market. It was also found that because Gender inequities are reinforced by institutions initiatives are required to change the attitudes of the society, including women to overcome the bias created in labour market segmentation.

What is also required is for Educational programmes to target women for pursuit of non-traditional training programmes in areas where women have been excluded such as construction, electricity and plumbing, among others in order for women to qualify equally for opportunities in the technical and vocational sector. There is also a need for developing more support systems such as day care services for females who have sole responsibility for child care. This will enable women to be able to leave their children in a safe and nurturing environment during the work day.

The GOVSG, as part of its investment in Education, dubbed “the Education Revolution” has embarked on a new phase of the programme which is focussing on improved access of families to Early Childhood Education. This will see increased provision of free daycare services to families. Although this will not target the 0-3 age group, this programme will go a long way in supporting working mothers.

In the NESDP 2013-2025 the GOVSVG commits to continued expansion of social infrastructure, example housing for low income families and development and maintenance of a transfer budget to be used in targeting the poorest and address cohort and gender specific vulnerability, providing social protection. This social protection will add to what is already in place for families as under its current programme, funds are available to provide school uniforms for children, payment for rent for destitute families and other types of support including a direct cash transfer programme called Public Assistance which benefits a limited number of elderly women.

An important role in the reduction of poverty of female headed households is being carried out by the Family Court in SVG. Through this Court, women are able to apply for and secure maintenance Orders from the fathers of their children who are able to make a financial contribution to their care. The enforcement of these Orders still remains a challenge however there is still a lot being done. In 2012 the Family Court recorded 576 Maintenance Orders the second highest in all the OECS countries.

Notwithstanding, there remains the need for more advocacy programmes to inform women of their right to seek Maintenance from the fathers of their children and to support them in the process.

In addition to the above there still remains the need to conduct an indepth Gender analysis of Poverty in SVG and to sensitise the population of the impact of this phenomena on future generations.

Reducing Gender Based Violence

As this Report has indicated there are many indicative plans, proposals and frameworks in place in SVG for addressing the issue of Gender based violence. However, due to the entrenched nature of the problem, this issue must continue to be prioritized and a National Strategy must be developed and implemented at all levels, involving a cross section of agencies .

Strengthening Institutions for the Advancement of Women

Despite the apparent inclusion of gender-related considerations in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies at the national level; the chronic under-utilization of these documents in practice, makes it is doubtful that this form of “mainstreaming” will in fact be successful at promoting better decision-making and development planning in the country. There is still widespread concern that gender is still somewhat of an after-thought. Furthermore, the lack of sustained funding and resources to support implementation of the plans makes it extremely difficult to coordinate and enforce the requirements for the gender equity . Consequently, there is a need to promote a better understanding and awareness of the importance of gender related issues and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an ongoing necessity.

There is also a need to support and strengthen the **National Council of Women**, the main Non Governmental Organization which is addressing the Gender issues in SVG. The NCW has to be strengthened in order for it to fulfill its mandates and for it to become a more consistent voice for women.

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United Nations Development Programme (2013): 2013 Human Development Report

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PROCESS OF PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORT: LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

METHODOLOGY

The Methodology utilized in the preparation of this National Report involved gathering information from a desktop review of national reports and assessments carried out in St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the Review period. In the process, substantive documents relating to the legal and regulatory framework as well as the social, economic and political context have been reviewed. Other documents which provide information on programmes which have been implemented by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the reporting period which speak to the advancement of women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have also been examined.

Important documents reviewed in the preparation of this report include the Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013 – 2025, the 2007/2008 St. Vincent and the Grenadines Country Poverty Assessment and the Combined Periodic Reports for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to CEDAW for the period ending 2002 and 2010 respectively. These documents were developed through a process of consultation with community groups, rural and urban women, youth and community groups. These stakeholders had the opportunity to present their views on the role of women and the challenges and opportunities faced by them.

In addition to this specific element of consultation in the process of preparation of the report face to face interviews were conducted with key personnel from the Gender Affairs Division in the Ministry of National Mobilisation and with representatives of the National Council of Women of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Limitations and Constraints

Many deficiencies were encountered in the quality and quantity of data as there is an absence of internal structure within the government agencies for continuous data collection, storage and analysis in relation to gender. However, in number of cases narrative reports were sourced from and this greatly assisted the present exercise.

ANNEX 2: STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Table I.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY BROAD AGE GROUP AND SEX 1991 AND 2001

| | 1991 | | | 2001 | | |
|------------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| Age Group | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Under 15 | 37.7 | 36.7 | 37.2 | 30.8 | 30.5 | 30.7 |
| 15-29 | 30 | 29 | 29.5 | 28 | 27.6 | 27.8 |
| 30-44 | 16.4 | 15.8 | 16.1 | 21.7 | 20.5 | 21.1 |
| 45-64 | 10.3 | 11 | 10.7 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 13.2 |
| 65+ | 5.4 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 8.3 | 7.3 |
| Not Stated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Population and Housing Census 2001

Table 2. Population Changes : 1996 - 2002

| Population | Unit | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|------------------|----------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Crude Birth Rate | Per 1,000 pop. | | | 18.96 | 19.45 | 19.19 | 20.68 | 18.01 |
| Crude Death Rate | Per 1,000 pop. | 7.0 | 6.7 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 6.3 | 7.1 | 6.9 |
| Natural Increase | % per Annum | 13.9 | 14.2 | 11.5 | 11.9 | 13.0 | 12.3 | N.A. |
| Fertility Rate | % per Annum | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.4 |

Source: Digest of Health Statistics, 2003

| Table3: Contraceptives Distribution at PHCS by Year and Cost 2000 - 2004 YEAR | DISTRIBUTION | | | | | COST \$EC |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Condoms | Pills | Injectables | Condoms | Pills | Injectables |
| 2000 | 209,606 | 23,313 | 6318 | 20,414 | 3200.00 | 15,539.00 |
| 2001 | 221,945 | 21,018 | 9547 | 40,474 | 9212.50 | 13,832.68 |
| 2002 | 281,613 | 21,935 | 8393 | 60,443 | 70,992.00 | 42,285.28 |
| 2003 | 244,652 | 17,032 | 10,105 | 16,786 | 55,793.00 | 22,040.00 |
| 2004 | 218,900 | 16,177 | 8146 | 10,528 | 218,900 | 12,062.00 |

Table 4.

Colleges Enrolment by Type and Gender, 2001

| College | A Level | TTC | Technical | Nursing | Totals |
|---------|---------|-----|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Male | 245 | 54 | 91 | 2 | 392 (40%) |
| Female | 316 | 65 | 125 | 70 | 576 (60%) |
| Total | 561 | 119 | 216 | 72 | 968 |

Source: Education Sector Development Plan 2002-2007

Table5.

Awards for University Study by year and Gender 1998 – 2002

| Year | Undergraduate | | Postgraduate | | <i>Total</i> |
|-----------|----------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| 1998/1999 | 26 | 41 | 4 | 4 | 75 |
| 1999/2000 | 31 | 23 | 6 | 7 | 67 |
| 2000/2001 | 23 | 33 | 8 | 2 | 66 |
| 2001/2002 | 27 | 42 | 3 | 3 | 75 |
| TOTAL | 107 | 139 | 21 | 16 | 283 |

Source: Service Commissions Department

Table 6.

Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population by Educational Attainment, 2001 and 1991

| Educational Level | 2001 | | | 1991 | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Primary School | 73.9 | 52.3 | 66.8 | 81 | 65.6 | 74.8 |
| Secondary School | 21.4 | 40.8 | 27.7 | 17.6 | 33.2 | 23.9 |
| Pre-University & University | 2.3 | 4.9 | 3.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Other | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| None | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Not Stated | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.1 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Table 7.

Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Gender 2001 and 1991

| Main Occupational Group | 2001 | | | 1991 | | |
|--|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Legislator, Senior Officials & Managers | 5.1 | 8 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 6.4 | 5.4 |
| Professionals | 7.4 | 14.1 | 10 | 3.1 | 3 | 3.1 |
| Technicians and Associated Professionals | 4.2 | 6.4 | 5 | 5.9 | 15.4 | 9.2 |
| Clerks | 3.3 | 19.1 | 9.4 | 3.2 | 15.7 | 7.6 |
| Service Workers and shop and Market Sales | 11.9 | 18.8 | 14.5 | 8.3 | 16.1 | 11 |
| Skilled Agricultural and Fisheries workers | 15.3 | 4.9 | 11.3 | 17.6 | 6.2 | 13.7 |
| Craft and Related Trade Workers | 20.1 | 3.1 | 13.6 | 21.5 | 6 | 16.1 |
| Plant and Machinery Operators | 10.3 | 1.1 | 6.7 | 8.7 | 1.3 | 6.1 |
| Elementary Occupations | 19.4 | 22.3 | 20.5 | 26.6 | 29.7 | 27.7 |
| Not Stated | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2001.

Table8.

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS 1997 -2001

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Nominal GDP (\$M)Market | 793.1 | 856.6 | 891.7 | 905.3 | 940.3 |
| Real GDP Growth Rate (%) | 3.1 | 5.8 | 3.6 | 2.0 | 0.2 |
| Inflation (CPI) | 0.8 | 3.3 | (1.8) | 1.4 | (0.7) |
| Banana Export Earnings (\$ECM) | 38.9 | 56.5 | 55.4 | 49.5 | 36.9 |
| Gross Tourism Earnings (EC\$M) | 186.7 | 197.7 | 206.5 | 203.4 | 211.6 |
| IN PERCENT OF GDP | | | | | |
| Central Government Current Savings | 4.0 | 4.2 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 1.4 |
| Public Sector Current Savings | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 5.3 | 6.1 |
| Balance of Merchandise Trade | (42.9) | (44.9) | (45.8) | (33.4) | (40.7) |
| Current Account Balance | (28.6) | (29.7) | (21.9) | (7.8) | (9.5) |
| External Debt | 29.9 | 31.5 | 48.5 | 47.8 | 48.8 |
| Debt Service | 3.9 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| PSIP | 8.8 | 12.1 | 7.1 | 3.9 | 3.7 |

Source: Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance and Planning

LIST OF DOMESTIC LEGISLATION IMPACTING ON WOMEN- Revised Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2009

- Equal Pay Act (1994), Cap 210
 - Protection of Employment Act, (2004) Cap 212
 - Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act , Cap 209
 - Wages Regulations (Agricultural Workers) Order 2008
 - Wages Regulations (Security Workers) Order 2008
 - Wages Regulations (Domestic Workers) Order 2008
 - Wages Regulations (Hotel Workers) Order 2008
 - Wages Regulations (Workers in Offices of Professionals) Order 2008
 - Wages Regulations (Industrial Workers) Order 2008
 - Wages Regulations (Shop Assistants) Order 2008
 - Wages Council Act CAP 217
 - Shops (Hours of Opening and Employment) Act, Cap 214
 - Education Act, Cap 202
 - Further and Higher Education Accreditation Act, Cap 203
 - National Insurance Services Act Cap 296
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