



FDC

THE FOUNDATION FOR
Development Cooperation

Bottom-Up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific

The Bottom-Up Governance Leadership Program aimed to increase women's knowledge of governance and leadership in the Pacific and support bottom-up governance initiatives by women in their local communities.

Background

The Bottom-Up Governance and Leadership Program (BGLP) was initiated in response to the significant lack of female representation in government leadership positions in the Pacific. Within a number of Pacific Island countries, women have limited political power as the result of a low number of female candidates in elections, elected female members and female civic leaders.

An average 2.5 per cent of parliamentarians in the Pacific region are women, compared with a world average of 18.2 per cent. In addition, of the 25 countries with the lowest percentage of women in parliament, 10 are in the Pacific region.

This not only has a negative impact on the quality of governance, it can also prevent women's issues from being dealt with by governments and international bodies in an appropriate and democratic manner.

About the program

BGLP was an initiative of the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). In conjunction with partners and affiliates, FDC implemented BGLP in Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.



BGLP participants standing outside Parliament House in Brisbane

FDC received over 160 applications from women in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga to participate in the Program. From these, 68 participants were selected to take part in the BGLP based on their demonstrated passion for learning leadership skills and in some cases building upon their existing skills.

The selection of women included a number from rural and remote communities, many of whom have not had previous opportunities for training in the area of governance and leadership. FDC recruited five local affiliates to support BGLP within each country, they included:

- Solomon Islands National Council of Women
- Civil Society Forum of Tonga
- People's Action for Rural Development Inc, PNG
- The Microfinance Competence Centre - PNG Institute of Banking and Business Management
- Partners in Community Development Fiji

BGLP affiliates provided input into Program design the BGLP course curriculum at a 'training of trainers' workshop in Nadi, Fiji. The BGLP training program covered a variety of themes, including modules relating to democracy and ethics, governance and leadership.

Materials were then made available to the 68 Program participants by way of an e-learning knowledge management platform on the BGLP website www.bglp.org/ and as hardcopy curriculum materials. This platform also enabled interaction between participants both within and across countries, and provided a database of useful resource articles for participants to draw on.

Participants were encouraged to utilise the Program affiliate's offices and internet connection when they did not have access themselves.

Women were also encouraged to interact with other participants, country affiliates and FDC while they completed their modules, and to actively discuss any concerns, queries and issues with the course materials over email, fax and face to face.

Following successful completion of their modules, participants were encouraged to design a local initiative to improve the involvement of women in governance and assist women to participate more actively in leadership roles.

Ten participants were then selected, based on the quality of their proposals, to attend a fully-funded Participatory Project Management Workshop to build their skills in further developing and delivering their respective projects.

Five selected applicants from the workshop were then awarded USD \$5,000 grants each to develop and manage their proposed local initiative, with mentoring support from FDC.

United Nations Award For BGLP

BGLP won the inaugural United Nations Association of Australia (Queensland) award for NGOs, in 2010. These awards are made for an outstanding contribution to or development of projects which advance the UN's purpose.



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GRANT RECIPIENT PROFILES



CHERYL PEROCCO AND LYDIA FRANK, PNG

Project: Leadership and governance training for Women in Milne Bay, PNG.



This project engaged women (including women living with HIV/AIDS) in human rights and leadership training by making them aware of the roles and functions of some of the democratic institutions within the country.



KORI TOUA, PNG

Project: Awareness-building Program of the Motukoita Assembly Act and gauging views on an ID/Accreditation Voting System for Women in the Western Region of the Motukoita Assembly.

This project developed and implemented an awareness-building program of the Motukoita Assembly Act and gauged views on an ID/Accreditation Voting System for Women in the Western Region.



SAMANI PUPDI, PNG

Project: Review and pilot the Bottom-Up Governance and Leadership Program for Women in PNG.

This project trained PNG women in the Bottom-up Governance Leadership training materials with a view to achieving ongoing delivery of formal training for potential woman leaders in PNG.



YVONNE BRECKTERFIELD, FIJI

Project: Provide leadership training for rural women in Fiji.

This project provided leadership training for rural women in Fiji in the areas of good governance, and direct participation of rural women in achieving poverty reduction through the set-up of a microfinance group. Training courses for this project were aimed to be held for rural based women in the towns of Rabi, Taveuni, Savusavu, and Namosi.



CHRISTINA MITINI, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Project: Strengthening the Capacity of Women and Young Girls in Vura Three Neighbourhood and educating them on the Solomon Islands Electoral Process.

This project sought to improve local level governance and democracy and the advancement of women leaders in the Solomon Islands. The training program strengthened the capacity of Women and Young Girls in the Vura Three Neighbourhood in Honiara and educated them on the Solomon Islands Electoral Process.

Project Partners and Affiliates



FDC

For more information:

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