



THE FOUNDATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



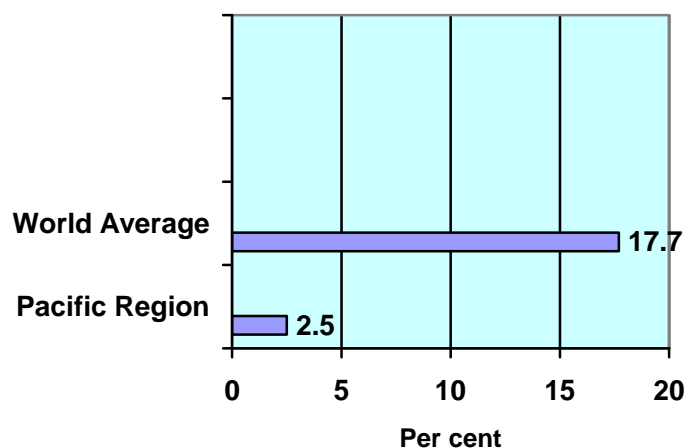
Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific

In its mission to support projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes, the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) has tasked The Foundation for Development Cooperation to implement the *“Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific (BLGP)”*. The program began in September 2008 and will run for two years. BGLP’s main mandate will be to train women from four Pacific Islands in leadership and governance skills.

Overview

A common element in Pacific Island countries is that women have limited political power as a result of the low number of female candidates, elected members and civic leaders. An average of 2.5 per cent of parliamentarians in the Pacific region are women, compared with a world average of 17.7 per cent.

Average per cent of female parliamentarians



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In addition, of the 25 countries with the lowest percentage of women in parliament 10 are in the Pacific region.

This has a negative impact on both the quality of governance and in ensuring Pacific women's issues of concern are dealt with by governments, civil society organisations and international bodies in an appropriate and democratic manner.

BGLP aims to increase women's knowledge of governance and leadership in the Pacific and support bottom-up governance initiatives by women in their local communities. The program will provide an e-learning and knowledge platform to help women familiarise themselves with governance issues and provide a series of training programs in leadership skills. The program will also fund small-scale, women's initiatives that aim to improve governance in their own local communities.

In the initial stages, FDC will be seeking applications from young and emerging female leaders from PNG, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga to participate in this project. The project will be implemented from FDC's main office in Brisbane, Australia, and its Pacific Regional office in Suva, Fiji Islands.

Program Goals

The program's goals are to:

- increase women's political representation;
- increase familiarity with governance issues;
- increase women's leadership skills.

Program Outcomes

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- increase women's knowledge of governance and leadership in the Pacific;
- increase bottom-up governance initiatives by women in their local communities.

Chad
Lebanon
Mongolia
Kiribati
Haiti
Vanuatu
Kuwait
Tonga
Comoros
Marshall Islands
Islamic Republic of Iran
Bahrain
Egypt
Sao Tome and Principe
Papua New Guinea
Yemen
Belize
Federated States of
Micronesia
Nauru
Oman
Palau
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Solomon Islands
Tuvalu

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Strategy

BGLP aims to increase women's political representation by familiarising them with governance issues and improving their leadership skills. To achieve this aim, the program is divided into two distinct phases. The end of each phase indicates the completion of a milestone.

Phase 1 - *E-learning, knowledge management platform and governance leadership training materials*



Participants at a PPM workshop in Suva.

In the first phase, FDC will select the women who will have access to the e-learning, management platform and governance leadership training materials. The selection will occur after the program's promotional campaign and will be based on how well the applicants address the selection criteria. A prerequisite for the applicants is to have some prior experience as budding leaders in their own communities or to have proven leadership qualities. FDC will select the best 65 applicants.

FDC, in collaboration with the training consultants, will develop an e-learning and knowledge management platform

("the Platform"). This platform will be a repository for training materials in governance, democracy and leadership designed to increase women's knowledge of democratic processes and strengthen their skills in leadership, with the goal to enhance their participation in bottom-up governance. The platform will be specifically tailored for women in the Pacific and will address specific problems they face.

The platform will also act as an evaluation tool, information and resource hub and assist in the management of BGLP. Local NGOs will receive copies of BGLP's CD-ROMs to facilitate access for those who do not have an internet connection. The platform will contain governance leadership training materials that women can study at home or at one of the partner NGOs. Women can send their take-home exams to the training consultants for assessment. The content of the material will include models and strategies for women leaders, governance approaches in the Pacific and issues of democratic principles and their applicability in communal societies. Those who complete the BGLP governance leadership training will receive a "Certificate in Basics of Governance".

Key Activities in Phase 1

- design of curriculum and training material;
- design of an e-learning platform and accompanying CD ROM;
- training of local partners;
- selection of women with leadership capabilities from each country;
- training of women in governance leadership;

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Phase 2 - *Good governance and leadership contest*

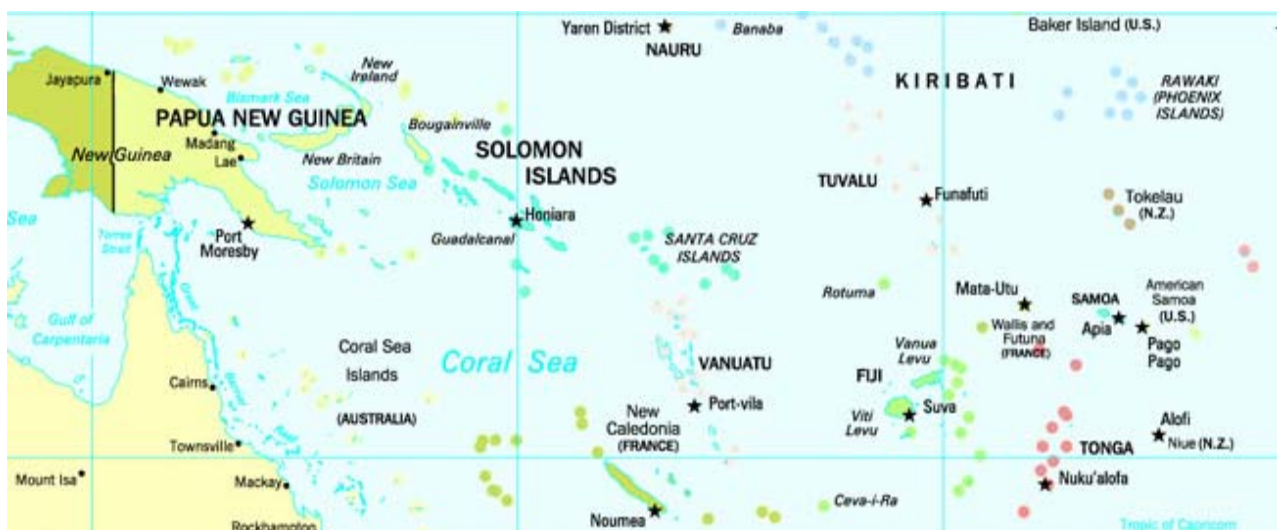
In the second phase, the graduates will be encouraged to apply for funding from BGLP for innovative small-scale local-level initiatives to improve the involvement of women in governance and assist them in participating more actively in national affairs affecting their countries. The initiatives can be entered in the contest by individuals or by teams. The coordinators of the 10 best initiatives will be funded to take part in a three-day Participatory Project Management Workshop (PPM) to adapt the skills gained during their studies and to help them manage their own initiatives. A study tour will take place after graduation to showcase project sites where women's leadership has been key in bringing any given project to fruition. The tour will allow the graduates to ask questions to the project manager about the problems encountered during the implementation of the project and what successes and impacts the project has achieved. Some of the concepts the participants learn in the PPM workshop will still be fresh in their minds and this tour will give them the opportunity to put some of these concepts into perspective.

Out of this group, the best five (two from PNG and one from each of the other participating countries) will receive up to US\$5,000 for their initiatives based on their proposals. The initiatives will be selected on the basis of feasibility, adaptability and sustainability. The initiatives will be required to directly address issues of governance in their own communities and demonstrate how women's participation in civic life will be improved within the initiative's time-frame. FDC will provide the selection criteria for the contest and will manage the selection of the initiatives.

Those women whose bids fail to gain selection in the contest will still be able to access the BGLP Platform and its resources, share ideas with other women and receive advice from BGLP on an on-going basis. Ongoing evaluation will take place during the entire period and outcomes will be assessed at the end of the project.

Key Activities in Phase 2

- implementing participatory project management (PPM) training;
- organisation of on the ground project support, training and consultation;
- development of small scale local level women initiatives guidelines;
- evaluation of women's initiatives.



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About FDC

The Foundation for Development Cooperation is an independent, not-for-profit international development organisation. Established in Brisbane, Australia, in 1990, the mandate of FDC calls for it to conduct policy-oriented research, foster public awareness, mobilise broader Australian and overseas development cooperation, and support non-governmental development efforts.

Through partnerships and alliances, FDC undertakes a range of initiatives which seek to improve the lives of poor people in developing countries, foster innovative approaches to development, and connect policy work to self-help efforts at the grass roots level.

FDC's work includes economic development and assessment, policy analysis, grass-roots community-based initiatives, strategic research, partnerships and leverage, advocacy, consulting and advisory services, project design and implementation, secretariat and network management, and training and capacity building. FDC's headquarters is in Brisbane, Australia. FDC has an Asia regional office in Singapore and a Pacific regional office in Fiji.

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Program Partners



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