

Final Report

Country Gender Profile: **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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Public Policy Department

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Dominican Republic

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Summary

The Dominican Republic is a country that occupies just over the eastern two thirds of the Hispaniola Island or Santo Domingo in the Greater Antilles archipelago. The western third of the island is occupied by Haiti. Regarding both, area and population, the Dominican Republic is the second largest country in the Caribbean (after Cuba), with 48,442 square km. (18,704 square miles) and is estimated to have approximately 10 million inhabitants and the second largest economy in the Caribbean. Although known for producing sugar, the economy is now dominated by services, with a predominance of telecommunications and tourism.

The population is mostly afro descendant with minority ethnic groups like: Whites, Mulatos, Chinese, Arabs, Haitians and others. The population is 9,950,000, in 2009; women represent 50.1%. In 2009 too, Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.777 and Gender-related Development Index 0.677. Dominican Republic is considered with middle HDI.

In 2009, the GDP per capita was US\$4,815.6; growth rate of real GDP: 7.5%; the Gini Index was 52; the public expenditure as part of the GDP on Health sector represented 4.7%; on Education, 2.3%; on Gender 0.06%. These indicators are very important to understand the governmental priorities related to economic and social progress of the country.

In the present, the unemployment rate is 14.9%, from these percentage women represent 25%, while men's is 14.7%. Women in decision making position are a few in comparison with men, for example, there are only two women ministers, one in the Ministry of Woman and the other in the Ministry of Superior Education; 40 women of 216 posts in Parliament, which represents 18.5%.

Despite the important governmental effort and investment in health services, remain issues like maternal mortality that demand the official attention, because the rate continues very high, in 2009 was 159 deaths per 100,000 persons. Thus, the fertility rate improved from 4 in 2000 to 2.6 in 2009.

Actually Dominican Republic the HIV prevalence is 1%, which indicates that programs against the epidemic have been efficient; a decade ago, the country had an increasingly number of infected population, only Haiti had a higher prevalence of the disease in the region. Thus, there are vulnerable groups that exhibit higher indicators like pregnant women (1.6%), people from "bateyes" (Haitian and Dominican-Haitian communities) 4.8-5%, among others.

In Education the literacy rate has increased in the last 5 years from 89.0 in 2004 to 91.2% in 2009; the mostly illiteracy population is still focused in rural areas. Educational system

presents parity in enrolment for both boys and girls in the different levels: primary and secondary; though indicators like drop out and repetition are higher for boys.

Education is one of the most important areas for the development of the country, but even so, public expenditure is much lower than recommended. Today, it is around 2% of GDP, below than other country in the region. For example, in Bolivia is 7%, in Panama is 6%, and the General Law of Education in Dominican Republic indicates that public spending should be 4% of GDP. In regards to gender education the system still falls short in promoting equal education that contributes to the formation of men and women with a conscience to contribute to a culture of equal opportunity and justice for all.

The general situation of Dominican women shows that, despite the advancements in the last decades there are still gaps between men and women, for example, women have higher education, 65% of university population is women, and they are majority among graduated students too. Thus, they still mostly access to low-end jobs, with meagre salaries and conditions of instability and continue receiving less pay than men for equal work. Other important issue in the women's agenda is the housekeeping and care job, which remains almost exclusively their responsibility, even when women have a job like men. That contributes to enhance the physical and mental burden for women.

Gender-based violence victims are mostly women, so it's very relevant to pay attention to this issue, because it affects all the aspects of the women's life and their children. The Government has specific policies to fight this scourge that has already reached dimensions, not only social but also economic and health that impact the lives of women in negative terms. 23.2% of criminal cases during the 2010 correspond to domestic violence against women.

In the field of health, government has made significant progress in relation to public policy and allocation of resources to implement them, mainly through the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) focused on women. These policies are expressed in relevant aspects such as the family planning programs; they have contributed to reduce the fertility rates from 8.5 to 2.8 in 20 years. Besides that, MPH elaborated a Domestic Violence Strategy, which has improved the system of care for victims, increasing the level of coordination and responsiveness of the institutions that form the system (Office, MPH, Police and Justice).

But, still remain serious problems like maternal mortality; even prevalence of chronic malnutrition has decreased from 11% to 7% in 2007; micronutrient deficiency remains a major health problem in the country, mainly in regard to vitamin A, iron, and iodine, among others. On the other hand, the prevalence of anemia among pregnant women continues to maintain a level of importance, among other health issues.

About the rural life and gender the countryside has been largely absent in public investments for decades, which has contributed to deepening poverty levels, expressed in less access to education, health services, economic resources, credit, making increasingly precarious living conditions in the field. Those conditions affect both women and men in rural areas, but women are doubly affected, the indicators are quite eloquent in this regard, the fertility rate is higher in rural than in urban areas, about a 3.2 against 2.7. Education levels are lower, the average years of schooling reach four to five years, the poverty rate substantially greater than that of urban area, it is estimated that for every 100 men there are 115 women in poverty.

The inequalities in the labor market are revealed in situation like the participation rate of women at the university level is around 65%, however the employment rate of women with university education is 58.4%, while the male is 77.4%, according Central Bank data in 2009. Actually the country has the same situation at the vocational-technical level (2009), where the employment rate of women was 32.7% while men's rises to 64.2% of total employment in this sector of the economy, although we don't have the education data of men and women in this area. In consequence is necessary to pay attention to the labour market in order to improve the equal opportunities for men and women.

List of Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization, UN
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
GAD	Gender And Development
HIV/AIDS	Human-Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labor Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organization
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PHC	Primary Health Care
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
WDR	World Development Report
ENDESA	Demographic and Health Survey
GTZ	Germany International Cooperation Agency
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
ONE	National Statistical Office
AECID	Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
IADB	Inter American Development Bank
WB	World Bank
DGGPM	General Direction for the woman Promotion
MARENA	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MPH	Ministry of Public Health
ME	Ministry of Education
ML	Ministry of Labor
MW	Ministry of Woman
MDO (MDG)	Millennium Development Objectives (Millennium Development Goals)
GEDO	Gender Equity and Development Office
OAS	Organization of American States
DR-CAFTA	Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement
PROFAMILIA	Asociación Dominicana Pro-Bienestar de la Familia, Inc.
CONAPOFA	Consejo Nacional de Población y Familia
HDI	Human Development Index

INTRODUCTION



General Data:

OFFICIAL NAME: Dominican Republic

COASTLINE (KM): 1,288

AREA KM²: 48,671

Bounded on the **West** with Haiti, the **North** by the Atlantic Ocean, to the **East** by the Mona Passage and **South** to the Caribbean or Antillean

POLITICAL DIVISION: 32 provinces

CAPITAL: Santo Domingo **CURRENCY:** Dominican Peso

LANGUAGE: Spanish

MEMBER OF: UN, CARICOM, OECS, IMF, OAS, LAIA, OMC

The Dominican Republic is a country that occupies just over the eastern two thirds of the Hispaniola Island or Santo Domingo in the Greater Antilles archipelago. The western third of the island is occupied by Haiti. Regarding both, area and population, the Dominican Republic is the second largest country in the Caribbean (after Cuba), with 48,442 square km. (18,704 square miles) and is estimated to have approximately 10 million inhabitants and the second largest economy in the Caribbean. Although known for producing sugar, the economy is now dominated by services, with a predominance of telecommunications and tourism.

Japanese International Cooperation Agency is interested in having a gender profile that provides the required information on the situation of both men and women's life, which should serve as input for decision making of the international cooperation for the Dominican Republic.

1. Basic profiles

1.1. Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-economic profile						
Social indicators						
International development indicators	Human development index*		Gender-related development index*		Gender empowerment measurement (Value)*	
	2007	0.777	0.670		0.550	
	2009	0.777	0.677		0.551	
Demographic indicators	Total (millions)		% of urban population		Population growth rate (%)	Total fertility rate (%)
		% of female population		% of female population		
	2007	9,650,054	49.3	64.4	1.49	2.76
	2009	9,950,000	50.1	65.8	1.64	2.67
	Life expectancy		Households number by head of households (HH)			
		Male	Female	Total	Male-headed	Female-headed
	2007	69.1	75.4	2,624,274	1,850,113 (70.5%)	774,161 (29.5%)
	2009	70.4	76.6	100%	69.0%	31.0%
Economic indicators						
	GDP/Capita		Growth rate of real GDP	GDP implicit deflator*	Gini index*	Aid/GNP
	2007	6,706.0	8.5	5.7	55	-
	2009	8,896.0	7.5	9.8	52	-
	Health		Education	Social welfare	Defense*	Gender
	Others					
Public sector expenditure on sectors(Peso)	2007	20,107,632,378	22,920,063,280	-	8,977,527,457	207,858,999
	2009	30,794,611,960	33,359,089,275	16,204,014,286	11,473,443,345	366,610,298
		/GDP	/GDP	/GDP	/GDP	/GDP
	2007	2.0	2.54	-	0.65	0.02
	2009	4.7	2.33	2.5	1.8	0.06
Industry (%)	Agriculture		Industry	Service	Others	
	2007	12.0	27.7	60.3	-	
	2009	7.7	26.0	54.1	12.2	
Labor indicators	Total Occupation rate		Unemployment rate		Minimum wage	
		% of female population		% of female population	Male	Female
	2007	47.6	32.5	15.6	26.2	10,461
	2009	54.9	34.15	14.9	25.0	8,458
	Agriculture		Non-agriculture			
Employment (2009)			Industry	Service	Other Services	
	Total	534,309	377,880	1,032,026	893,838	923,863
	% of female population	39.0	28.5	38.3	1.77	67.2

Socio-economic profile

Approaches to gender issues

Ratification and signature of international laws

- Convention on the Nationality of Women (1934)
- Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women (1949)
- Inter-American Convention on Granting of Political Rights to Women (1949)
- Convention on the Fight against Discrimination in Education (1960)
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and the Registry of Marriages (1962)
- First International Conference of Women for Equality, Development and Peace (Mexico, 1975)
- Second International Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace for Women (Copenhagen, 1980)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women-CEDAW, (1982)
- World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi, 1985)
- Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women "Convention of Belém do Pará" (Brazil, 1994)
- International Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)
- Beijing +5 (2000)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW (CEDAW-OP) (2001)
- Beijing +10 (2005)

Women in decision-making

Government	In parliament	40	Private sector	Senior Officials & Managers	31	
	Ministers	2		Professionals & Technicians	51	
	Deputy ministers	N/A				

Policy of gender

	Year	
Policies related to the Millennium Development Goals	2000-2015	
National Plan for Gender Equity II (PLANEG II)	2007-2017	
Law 61-93 declaring November 25 as Day of No Violence against Women, as part of the implementation of the policy of preventing and addressing violence against women	1993	
Decree 68-94, creating the Committee on Maternal Mortality	1994	
Decree 66-95, Coordination Committee and support to the Fourth World Conference on Women.	1995	
National Development Strategy	2010-2030	
Constitution	2010 -	

Socio-economic profile

Laws of gender

Civil Area:

- Law on Divorce (Amendment of 2003), amending Article 35 of Law of 1937. (2003)
- Law No. 18-96 on Social Security. (1996)
- Law No. 87-01 creating the Dominican Social Security System. (2001)
- Health Act. (2001)
- Law on breastfeeding 8-95. (1995)
- Labor Code (1992), Law 116-92. (1992)
- Education Law 66-97. (1997)
- The Agrarian Reform Law 55-97. (1997)
- Law 14-94, which established the Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents. (1994)
- Commercial Code. Amendments and provisions of Law 3-02.(2002)
- Law on Consumer Protection 358-05. (2005)
- Municipal Land Use Law 176-07. (2007)
- Law on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. (2007)
- Law on Civil Service from 1941 to 1908. (2008)

Criminal Scope:

- Law No. 24-97 on domestic violence. (1997)
- Law 605-95 to ratify the Convention held in Belem do Para. (1995)
- Law 88-03 on foster homes or shelters. (2003)
- Law 136-03. New Juvenile Code. (2003)

Political Scope:

- Electoral Law No. 275-97 and amended by Laws 12-00 and 2-03. (1997/2000/2003)
- Act 13-2000 amending the 3455 Act, 1952 Municipal Organizations. (2000)
- Law 12-00 amending Article 68 and replaces the proportion of 25% to 33% in the case of Members charges allocation of women to them. An equal number will be included for municipal offices, except Trustee. (2000)
- The Act extends the law 13-2000 34-55 Municipal Organization, to enter Paragraph II of Article 5, which specifies that the municipal ballot of all parties should include a women at the Trustee or deputy major. (2000)
- Law 86-99 creates the State Secretariat for Women (Ministry of Woman). (2000)

Public organization of gender

Name of the national machinery	Ministry of Woman	
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Reference:

- 1) World Economic Forum. Dominican Republic. 2010.
- 2) Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC. 2009.
- 3) Human Development Report. Dominican Republic. UNDP. 2009.
- 4) Human Development Report. Social Policy. UNDP. 2010.
- 5) National Statistics Office (ONE)
- 6) Revenue Budget and Public Expenditure Act for Fiscal Year 2007.
- 7) Central Bank / Department of National Accounts and Economic Statistics. 2000-2010.
- 8) ENHOGAR 2006
- 9) ENDESA 2007
- 10) www.digpres.gov.do/
- 11) www.mujer.gob.do
- 12) www.cepal.org/es
- 13) www.bancentral.gov.do/
- 14) www.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/
- 15) www.unfpa.org/
- 16) www.sespas.gov.do/
- 17) www.bancomundial.org/
- 18) www.ilo.org/santiago/

1.2. Health Profile

Health Indicators							Ref.
<u>Prevalence of health services</u>		No. of Hospital beds (per 10,000 persons)	No. of physicians (per 10,000 persons)				
	2007	12.0	20.0 ¹				
	2008	15.7	13.2 ²				
<u>Infant mortality rate</u>	2005	Total	34.9	Female	30.0		
	2009		29.6		25.3		
<u>Under-five mortality rate</u>	2005	Total	35.0	Female	35.0		
	2007		36.0		34.0		
<u>Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis</u>	2007	Total 3,128	40.5 (Per 100,000 hab.)	Female	N/A		
	2009	4,400	42.0		N/A		
<u>Prevalence and death rates associated with infectious diseases</u>	2006	Total (death)	8.9	Female	8.7		
	2008		9.1		8.8		
<u>% of vaccinated (1 year old)</u>		BCG	DPT	Polio	Measles		
		92.4	85.2	85.6	96.1		
<u>Reproductive health</u>		Contraceptive prevalence rate		Rate of births attended by trained personnel		Anemia prevalence among pregnant women	
	2007	72.9		97.8		32.0	
	2009	74.8		98.9		35.0	
		Maternal mortality ratio		Total fertility rate		Average age of first marriage	
	2007	159 (per 100,000 hab.)*		2.70		18.8	
	2009	159		2.69		22	
<u>Nutrition</u>		Children under weight for age (& aged under 5)		Oral re-hydration therapy use rate		Iodine deficiency	
	2007	9.8		40.5		3.0	
	2009	5.0		40.5		3.0	

¹ Dominican Medical College (Colegio Médico Dominicano). 2008

² National Statistical Office. 2009

Community health service		Access to safe water			Access to adequate sanitation			
		Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	
	2007	86.1	91.7	73.3	96.2	97.9	92.5	
	2009	95.0	97.0	75.1	97.0	98.1	93.0	
HIV/AIDS		HIV prevalence, aged (15-49)			% of population aged (15-24 years) with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS			Total (*)
		Total	Male	Female				
					Pregnant women	Male	Female	
	2007	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.6%	33.7	40.8	38.5
	2009	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A

(*) ENDESA 2007

Reference:

- 1) Human Development Report. Social Policy. UNDP. 2010
- 2) ENDESA 2007.
- 3) ENHOGAR 2006.
- 4) Basic Health Indicators. Dominican Republic. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) 2008-2009.
- 5) Health System Profile of Dominican Republic. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Washington, D.C. 2007
- 6) Gender, Health and Development in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2009. PAHO, UNIFEM, ECLAC, UNFPA.
- 6) Demographic Observatory. Population projection. CELADE 2007.

1.3. Education Profile

Education Indicators								Ref.
Education systems		Primary		Secondary		Tertiary		
Adult literacy rate (歳- 歳)		Total	91.2	Male	90.0	Female	91.4	
Primary education								
Net enrolment rate	2007/2008	Total	93.7	Male	51.7	Female	48.3	
	2008/2009		93.8		52.0		48.0	
Progression rate	2005/2006	Total	81.7	Male	80.1	Female	81.0	
	2008/2009		88.4		87.0		87.6	
Drop-out rate	2005/2006	Total	6.4	Male	6.0	Female	4.8	
	2008/2009		10.8		9.8		3.2	
Secondary education								
Net enrolment rate	2005/2006	Total	75.3	Male	45.5	Female	54.5	
	2008/2009		91.5		45.0		55.0	
Progression rate	2005/2006	Total	53.4	Male	46.4	Female	53.1	
	2008/2009		65.6		48.0		54.0	
Drop-out rate	2005/2006	Total	12.1	Male	11.9	Female	6.8	
	2008/2009		8.2		8.0		5.0	
Tertiary education								
Net enrolment rate	2005	Total	322,311	Male	38.02	Female	61.09	
	2008		425,000		35.0		65.0	
Progression rate	2005	Total	32,746	Male	43.0	Female	57.0	
Drop-out rate	2004	Total	11,949	Male	N/A	Female	N/A	
	2008		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Tertiary level enrolment by field of study by gender (%)		Education	Arts	Social science	Engineering and Technology	Medicine	Others	
		Male	3.0	9.7	10.1	2.2	7.2	
		Female	11.7	18.9	5.4	5.2	14.7	

Reference:

- 1) Ministry of Education. Reports 2007-2008/2008-2009
- 2) UNESCO- Annual Report, 2006.
- 3) www.minerd.gob.do/
- 4) www.bancomundial.org/
- 5) www.seescyt.gov.do/

2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender

2.1. General Situation of Women in Dominican Republic

General Situation of Women in Dominican Republic

a. General situation

Currently, the situation that characterizes the lives of women can be approached from the general and/or from the individual context, conditioned this second approach by variables such as social status, age, educational level, and even racial status.

The conditions that define the lives of women have been changing over recent decades, in regards to increased participation in the labor market, greater presence in the different educational levels, in the public sphere and particularly, in the last decade, in the partisan political space.

However, despite the fact that women have increasingly higher education, they still face obstacles to access decision making positions in the government structure, and in private and political parties, with few exceptions. This reflects the resistance kept by a society with a deep cultural sexism.

There are still gaps between men and women, for example, in access to low-end jobs, with meager salaries and conditions of instability. And despite being the majority in universities (65%), and to demonstrate their ability in the workplace and professional area, they continue to receive less pay than men for equal work. The wage gap in the Dominican Republic is 79%, meaning that for every 100 Dominican pesos paid to men, women receive only 79 pesos³.

In spite that women have entered the labor market, and make a day of work equal to that of men, housework and care remain their responsibility almost exclusively, which increases their work load and affects their physical and mental health. In consequence, it is vital that the Government implements policies that alleviate the double burden of female population and develop a campaign to promote domestic co-responsibility within families that may lead to men taking reproductive work on equal terms to women.

b. Violence against women and sexual harassment

Another major concern of women focuses on gender-based violence. Though number is small, (around 2% of reported cases) men are also victims of violence based on gender. But, violence against women affects a significant part of this sector of the population,

³ International Labor Organization (ILO), 2009.

although it must be acknowledged that an overwhelming number of initiatives are carried out that aim to contribute to its prevention and punishment. The Government has specific policies to fight this scourge that has already reached dimensions, not only social but also economic and health that impact the lives of women in negative terms.

In addition, there are women's organizations dedicated to working with female victims of violence, offering guidance and support in the legal and psychological area, mostly. But in spite of the laws that face this problem, violence and “feminicide” acts keep happening in the country to really worrying levels. In 2010, from January to July, 127 women have been murdered at the hands of their partner or former partner and this number is 12.77% of all homicides during this period. The 23.20% of criminal cases prosecuted during this year, corresponds to domestic violence against women and/or sexual abuse; the 3.05% to sexual crimes and 3.95% o abuses against children, mostly girls, making a total of 30.2%.

According to ENDESA 2007, about 24% of women aged 15 to 49 who have ever had a partner, say they were victims of violence from their partner. All these data continue to show a situation of violence against women, which in spite of the efforts made in terms of laws and initiatives of different natures, such as sensitivities in relation to the topic, training, networking support, etc., remains a problem of uncontrollable dimensions. It is necessary to improve prevention and care and toughen penalties for lawbreakers.

In regard to sexual harassment against women, it is defined in the law, however, is not recorded as such in the bodies responsible for receiving complaints, mostly, because, women, who are the main victims, are afraid to report it, either because they could lose their jobs, or, for example, in universities and schools, because they could receive retaliation from those who are their harassers, because they are also the authority, teacher, director, etc., and could fail the scholar year. Regularly, sexual harassment it is not registered as a legal precept, the complaints are included with those of sexual violence in both the police as the neighborhood Prosecutor offices and the Attorney General.

c. Poverty

Women from lower income sectors, remain one of the groups in a position of greater vulnerability in the face of poverty's onslaught, considered the poorest among the poor, which is exacerbated in households headed by women, being a single mother with low educational levels, the possibilities of escaping this situation, which in many cases reaches indigence, are almost nonexistent. This situation is evidenced by the participation in employment and wages lower than men by 16% for equal work.

The femininity index of poverty in the Dominican Republic in 2008 reached 125.2% at the national level, with little variation by geographic area, in urban areas was 126.4% and 125.3% for rural. This index tells us that for every 100 poor men there are 125 poor women, noting that women remain more vulnerable to the onslaught of poverty because of their gender. The poverty rate is more dramatic in the country area, nationwide is 139.5%; in urban areas is 139.2% but in rural areas reaches 145.8%.

Assistance programs implemented by the Government, considered targeted subsidies, although representing aid must be linked with the concern of both, women and men of the imperative need to create more jobs that would generate income to support their families and support their empowerment and development.

d. Low representation in key decision making positions in the Government

The conditions under which women participate in political parties is another concern, since they are practically half the membership (ranging between 47 and 50%), and as one ascends the pyramid of power their number decreases critically. The percentage of women on the cusp of political parties is 14%. The presence in the Congress is still relatively low compared with males. In the Senate, from 32 seats only three are occupied by women and in the Chamber of Deputies from 178, 37 are women. At the municipal level, which is considered more open to the participation of women, of a total of 154 mayors, only 12 are women, representing 18%.

e. Issues Originated in traditional religions and customs

It is important to note in this section, that although the Dominican people is recognized as a people with strong religious beliefs, the truth is that such beliefs represented institutionally by the churches, do not dramatically define constraints and obstacles to for the development and positioning of women in society.

Customs, traditional habits, although they influence the position and status of women, since gender roles are marked by culture, expressed in the customs and habits, for example, to internal roles home/family: women are responsible for housework and family care (children and older adults), men for providing the economically necessary to meet family needs. However, today women are part of the labor market, performing paid work, just as men, but they remain responsible, almost exclusively of domestic chores and care. While men only spend their time in paid work, around 90%, women spend 60% and 40% in domestic and care activities.

This traditional distribution of roles has been a real limitation for the advancement of women in relation to their own development and to increase their contributions to society in general.

2.2. Government Policy on Gender

Government Policy on Gender

The Dominican government has no specific policy on gender issues and this is explicit in the meager budget allocated to this topic, however, the existence of the Ministry of Woman allows it to promote public policies that favor women, but not necessarily point to the reduction of gender inequality gap.

The second plan for gender equality, **PLANEG II 2007-2017** was designed, although in relation to the first plan no progress was virtually made. On the other hand, the gender perspective in the MDGs has been taken into account, particularly for Objective 1 and Objective 3. Likewise, in the National Development Strategy 2010-2030, gender considerations appear in only a specific target within one of the general objectives on Axis 2, on "Cohesive Society", however, gender is a cross-cutting policy of the proposal.

The **Women's Micro Finance** is an important program that helps to facilitate access to credit for women and provides support for the creation of new micro enterprises through the implementation of a line of credit in the "Banco de Reservas" (state commercial bank) to micro, small and medium businesses, contributing to job creation and revitalization of local economies.

There are programs within the education and health sector in the rural area that aim to reduce the gap of gender inequality, but in practice they run into obstacles linked to resources, most often they have insufficient funds or lack of political will, which is what would allow their effective implementation.

Dominican Republic has quota laws that promote women's participation in the political, national and municipal levels with the goal to enhance the conditions for them, considering the inequalities based on gender that characterize that space of public life.

a. Government Policy on Women

Within the governmental structure exists the Ministry of Woman, created by Law No.86-99, also the Decree No. 974-01 that establishes as compulsory for all ministries, the creation of the Office of Gender Equality and Development (OGED) which should work in coordination with the Ministry of Woman to guarantee gender mainstreaming in public sector policies.

The gender issue remains as a no priority in the public policies, which difficult to ensure a gender perspective and therefore little progress in achieving gender equality, despite the progress in creating the OGED they still survive with a little budget and insufficient personal, which hinders their development within the ministries.

As was already mentioned, despite the existence of quota laws, which are the responsibility of the Central Electoral Board, women continue facing obstacles to participate in equal conditions as men. One of quota laws refers to the mandatory inclusion of a minimum of 33% of women in the lists of eligible candidates for positions in the Chamber of Deputies and a second one on the alternation in municipal governments of the eligible positions: City Mayor and Deputy Mayor, as already said. If the person elected as mayor is a man, then the second position corresponds to a woman and vice versa.

Recently, in 2009 the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development elaborated a proposal for the next 20 years: 2010-2030 National Development Strategy (NDS), which addresses 4 main strategic areas, with 18 general objectives, 54 specific objectives, 5 cross-cutting policies and 275 lines action.

The issues related to women appear in Strategic Axis 2, General Objective 3: “Equal opportunities and low levels of poverty”, where we can find one of the Specific Objectives that says, "Building a culture of equality and equity between men and women", in this section of the document, a set of lines of action towards achieving the goal are included, but the NDS does not reflect a real integration of gender perspective.

b. Development Plans for Women

- The Ministry of Woman has promoted various development plans that favor the interests of women, among them it could be mentioned the **National Plan for Gender Equity I - (PLANEG I)**, which was the result of a process of consultation with various sectors of society, both public sector and civil society in 2000. The plan got only to the design phase, but almost no progress seemed to be made in its implementation, however, in 2006 - **PLANEG II** was developed with an execution period of 10 years (2007-2017) and a new approach, aiming at achieving equal opportunities for men and women through ensuring a gender perspective in public policy sectors. Although, the fact that the Government does not have an explicit policy for gender, greatly difficult the fact that other government institutions take this plan of equal opportunities as part of their objectives.

- In the field of fight against gender violence, the **"Program for Prevention and Treatment of Domestic Violence"** has to be mentioned which has had a significant impact in addressing violence against women. Neighborhood prosecutors were established, which specialize in receiving complaints of violence and channel them to the Attorney General for penalization.
- The **"Vocational Technical Training Program"**. Vocational technical training schools are created in traditional and non-traditional careers at provincial and municipal level, as result of this program. It is managed by the Ministry of Education and is permanent in the structure and the budget of this institution.
- The **"Program for Prevention and Treatment of Teenage Pregnancy"** includes legal actions, health for mother and the baby and those aspects concerning to the insertion into the labor market and school relative of the teenager. The program was created in 2001 and is supervised by the Ministry of Woman.
- The **"School of Political Training for Women"**, responds to the need of building capacity for practicing politics established by the Ministry of Woman in 2002 with funding from the OAS.
- The **"Training Program on Gender and Sustainable Rural Development for Rural Leader Women"**. This program has regional characteristics, where Dominican Republic is one of the participating countries, having joined in 2001, under the supervision of the Ministry of Woman, although currently the Office of the First Lady is carrying it out.
- Production Cooperative **"Women in Growth"** with the installation of workshops for training women in clothing and household linen, as well as training in gender and cooperatives, which was promoted by "Industry of the Needle", which is a branch of the Ministry of Woman.
- The **"Microfinance for Women"** provides support for the creation of new micro enterprises through the implementation of a line of credit in the "Banco de Reservas" to micro, small and medium businesses, contributing to job creation and revitalization of local economies.
- There is the **"National Social Development Plan and the Strategy to Fight Poverty"**, which falls within the range of public policies for women, and is supervised by the department responsible for social policies with the MW advice. The Plan includes programs targeting women, as is the card of **"Solidaridad"**⁴, through which the Government transfers cash and subsidies for cooking gas and electricity payments to mothers with children of school age and attending school.

⁴ "Solidarity", in English.

- **"National Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality"** is led by the Ministry of Public Health. In practice, the plan has not registered significant progress, but the strategy **"Tolerance 0"** was developed and includes the reduction of maternal mortality as one of the strategic axis.
- **"Project of Gender Education in Public Schools in the Dominican Republic"** is an initiative of the Cultural Center "Poveda" with the Galician regional government, it responds to the situation of gender inequity in the Dominican Republic. Reversing this situation requires cultural change and, for this it is necessary to form the Dominican society in this perspective. In this situation, education has a key role and also teachers in public schools. This project takes five years of implementation with funds from international cooperation.
- And within the Millennium Development Objectives (MDO), the emphasis on **Objective 1**, in relation to poverty reduction and **Objective 3** on gender equality through specific actions that contribute to poverty alleviation among female-headed households.

c. GAD related laws and regulations

Table 1.

Laws and regulations	Date	Content
Law No. 86-99 which created the Ministry of Woman	1999	Create the Ministry of Woman
Law No. 24-97 on Domestic Violence	1997	It's about the prevention, attention and punishment of the violence against women and the family in general.
Law No. 61-93 declaring November 25 as Day of No Violence against Women	1993	Declare this day to emphasis the fight against the violence inside the family
Act shelters or refuges, No. 88-03	2003	It's about the shelters or refuges
Commercial Code. Amendments and provisions of the Law 3-02.	2002	It specifies that a married woman who exercises trade compromise, can transact, mortgages and sales her goods (house, land, etc.) except when dowry is under married regime.
Labor Code (1992), Law 116/92. Replacement and Amendment to the Code by laws 103/99 4099, 1955 and that year. 1992 Replacement and Amendment to the Code of Laws No. 4099, 1955 and 103/99 of 1999.	1992	Government regulation of the protection of motherhood. These are detailed regulatory times pre and post natal, severance pay, care employer in the gestation period and the corresponding benefits of breastfeeding and child care in their first year. Contemplates the inclusion of any employee or worker who is pregnant at rest and protection to pre-and postnatal, either the State or its institutions or autonomous bodies, the

		Administrative Council, Town Councils, as well as person, firm or particular entity.
Law on Divorce (Amendment 2003).	2003	Allows a divorced woman to marry immediately after pronouncement of the decree of dissolution of their marriage.
Law No. 18-96 on Social Security.	1996	Includes maternity risks. Article 50 details, about motherhood, every benefit they are entitled to the insured in pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum.
Law 87-01 creates the Dominican Social Security System.	2001	Establishes the concept of universality in the equal treatment of all citizens and noted the participation of both genders on the boards and operating committees, and the inclusion as beneficiaries of the subsidized pensions for single mothers, unemployed and under-age children who lack resources.
General Health Law	2001	Takes into consideration as priority groups for women, especially pregnant women. Also emphasizes everything related to health education, the right to information, prioritization of maternal and child care and the prevention of morbidity and mortality. This is supported by the Labor Code and the Health where there are provisions for maternal and child care.
Breastfeeding Law 8-95		
Education Law 66-97		It establishes education for the knowledge of the dignity and equality of rights between men and women.
The Land Reform Law 55-97		Contemplates a fair land distribution and a suitable selection of farmers and farmers chosen according to its provisions.

Source: Human Development Report. UNDP, 2010

d. Tools to ensure gender equity and women's rights exist in international law

Table 2.

Instruments	Year
United Nations Charter	1945
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	1948
Convention on the Suppression of Illicit Traffic in Persons and Exploitation of the Prostitution	1949
Convention on Equal Remuneration for Equal Work (ILO)	1951
Convention on Political Rights of Women	1952
Convention on Nationality of Married Women	1957
Convention on Discrimination in Relation to Employment and Occupation	1958
Convention on Discrimination in Education	1960
Convention on the Need for Consent and Minimum Age for Marriage	1962
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1966
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1966
Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	1967
Declaration on Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict	1974
The Beijing Platform for Action	1995
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	1979
Convention on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women Workers: Workers is with family responsibilities	1981
Convention against Torture, Punishment or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading	1985
Declaration on Violence Against Women	1993
Millennium Development Goals Declaration	2000

Source: Isis International and Web browsing.

2.3. National Machinery: Ministry of Woman

National Machinery: Ministry of Woman

a. Background

Since the eighties, there was the General Direction for the Promotion of Women (GDPW), a dependency of the President's Office, which handled issues, related to women, but had limited power to influence government decisions specifically on public policies. After the Fourth World Conference on Women, organized by the UN in Beijing, China, which recommended to the States to create mechanisms that represented women's interests under governmental

structure, the movement asking for ministerial status of GDPW was began mainly by women's organizations and the creation of the Ministry was achieved by 1999.

The State Secretariat for Woman (SSW), now referred to as Ministry of Woman (MW) was created by Law 86-99, called as the lead agency responsible for setting standards and coordinating the implementation of policies, plans and programs at sector, interdepartmental levels and with the civil society, aimed at achieving gender equality and full citizenship by both men and women In addition to its powers and governing regulations at the national level, MW follows up on the international commitments made by the country, promotes changes in attitudes, values and behaviors that facilitate gender equity and builds a culture of peace and articulates with civil society.

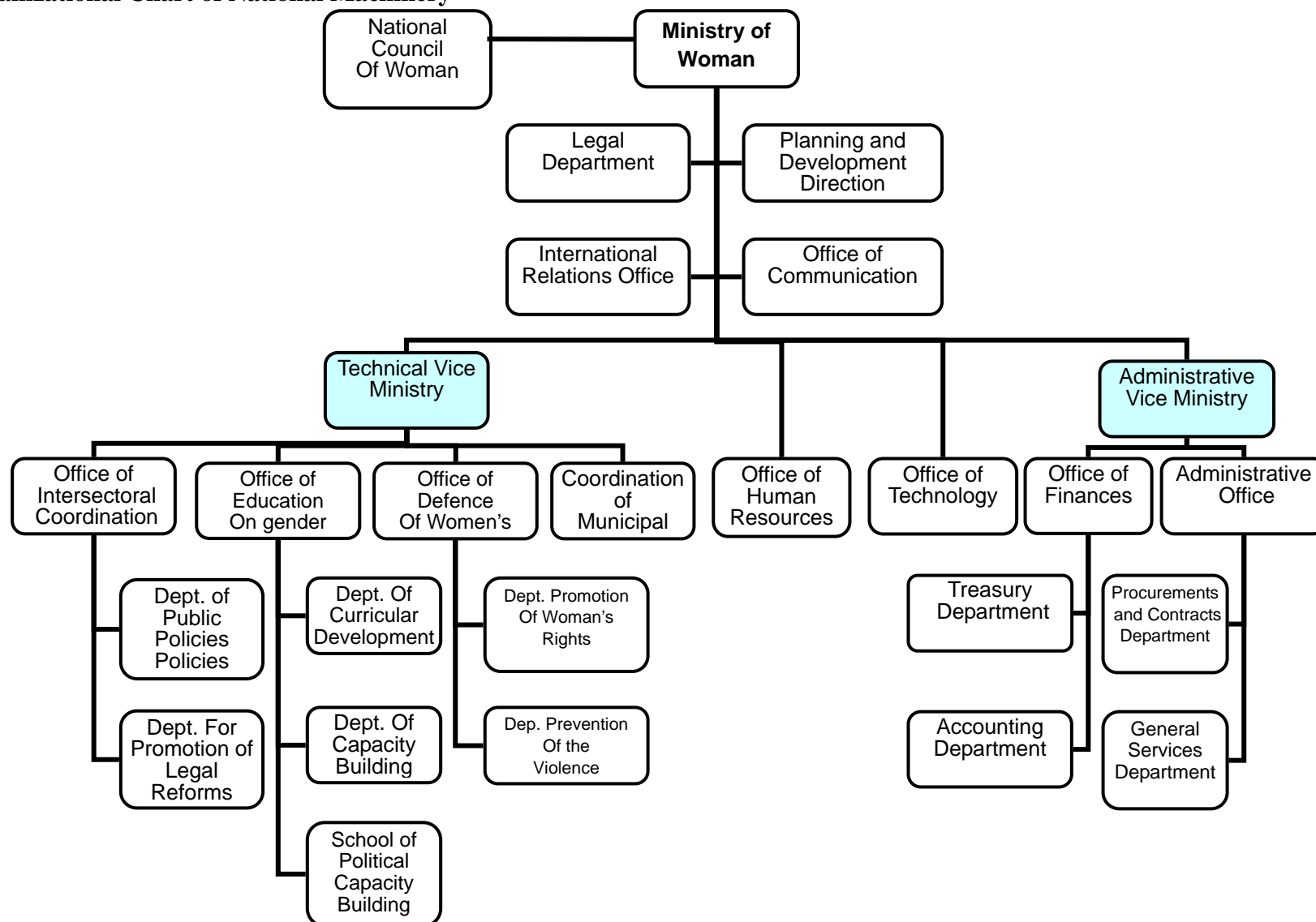
The institution has defined its vision as a leading, innovative ministry, renowned for its ability to influence the transformation of society so that women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities, while there are still lots of obstacles to lead the implementation of public policies, plans and programs to promote gender equality and full citizenship of women.

It has 31 provincial offices and 22 municipal offices throughout the national territory, representing the Ministry in the provinces and municipalities, and promoting policies, programs and projects benefiting women in each governmental body, NGOs and community organizations.

Table 3.

Name of National Machinery	Ministry of Woman
No. of personnel	404
Budget (2009)	DR\$366,610,298.0
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To achieve the gender equity •Achieving full citizenship by women •Promoting changes in attitudes, values and behaviors that facilitate gender equity and building a culture of peace
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish standards Roles • Coordinate the implementation of policies, plans and programs at the sector level, ministerial and civil society • Follow up the international commitments made by the country on gender issues and women • Joint initiatives with the company, actions that contribute to the achievement of gender equality

Organizational Chart of National Machinery



b. The Main Activities of the Ministry of Woman

✓ **Non-Violence:**

- Formalize procedures for care, supervision, monitoring and intervention used in the various institutions or agencies that provide services to victims (prosecutors, courts, Women's Provincial Offices, Municipal Offices, Service Units, NGOs, among others).
- Design programs, proposals and plans aimed to the implementation of national strategies to prevent violence against women.
- Ensure, evaluate and follow up the implementation of laws 24-97, 88-03 and 137-03, as well as international conventions related to violence against women.
- Carry out training in coordination with the Directorate of Education on violence against women to community groups and public and private institutions.
- Coordinate with the Justice Sector to establish a permanent training program on violence, gender and human rights for judges and court referees of the institution where cases of violence against women are known.
- Coordinate with the Attorney's Office, Ministry of Public Health and nongovernmental offices, the design of therapeutic programs for individual and group treatment to battered women and male perpetrators.

✓ **Health & Sexuality:**

- Promote safe motherhood in the context of sexual and reproductive health focused on rights and gender.
- Develop and implement an action plan in line with the Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and in line with the Millennium Development Objectives.
- Promote social participation with the creation of spaces aimed at promoting women's empowerment so that they can exercise their rights to health and acknowledge their reproductive risks.
- Coordinate actions with Ministry of Public Health.

✓ **Sexual and Reproductive Health:**

- Promote the rights of women in the health area, and the strengthening of various prevention programs.
- Redefining health policies with a gender perspective.
- Design programs on sexual and reproductive education to improve the knowledge of the population.

- Conduct activities to strengthen breastfeeding through promotion and education which increase the knowledge of women about the importance of breast milk for their children.
- Coordinate actions with Ministry of Public Health.

✓ **Public Policy:**

- Institutionalization of the gender perspective into all policies, plans and public programs, through actions of design, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies with other government bodies and civil society.
- Advice and develop policies and sector programs.

✓ **Education:**

- Support processes to incorporate the gender perspective in the curricula of elementary, secondary/high school, technical training schools and universities.
- Design, deliver and evaluate educational processes on Gender and Violence to leaders from the educational community, including parents' associations in schools.
- Design, develop, monitor, track and evaluate methodological procedures, programs and educational content and educational strategies that positively impact the formation of values, attitudes and behaviors of citizens in favor of gender mainstreaming and the promotion of a culture of peace.
- Develop work aimed at the production of materials and the updating of theoretical, methodological and technical documentation on gender and nonviolence subject which enable it to become the support of various educational processes and generate publications enhancing these processes.
- Collaborate with Ministry of Education.
- The Political Training School is a program of MW, it contributes to the politic formation, development and qualification of Dominican women to increase their participation and influence within decision-making structures in political parties, organized groups of civil society, positions of politic power, local governments and administrative and technical decision making entities of the public and private sector.

d. The Activities of Other Ministries

- Ministry of Labor. The Ministry organizes training workshop for women on labor rights.
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The Gender Department, as part of the institution, is working on the design and implementation of the strategy of gender mainstreaming into the Ministry and its policies, plans, programs and projects. There is an Ad-hoc Gender Team to work in the field of the Provincial Departments around gender issues and environment.

3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

3.1. Education

Education

Education is one of the areas of attention for the Government, but even so, public expenditure is much lower than recommended. The General Education Law indicates that public spending should be 4% of GDP, currently it is around 2%, which necessarily have a negative impact on sector development plans and programs of Ministry of Education (ME). In regards to gender education the system still falls short in promoting equal education that contributes to the formation of men and women with a conscience to contribute to a culture of equal opportunity and justice for all.

The General Law of Education in its Article 5 says: Dominican education purposes. Literal c says: “Educating for the knowledge of the dignity and equality of rights between men and women”; in Article 38: Functions of the First Cycle of Basic Level, Literal b says: “Develop the acceptance of the principle of gender equality”. These articles provide a basis to guide specific actions in the education system which contributes to the achievement of gender equality.

The Ministry of Education, as the governing body of educational policies in the country, and based on the aforementioned articles of the General Law of Education, defined within the Ten-Year Education Plan 2008-2018, the Policy No. 7, which speaks of "Promoting educational equity with support to students from vulnerable social sectors." This policy draws attention to the need to provide and develop effective actions to ensure inclusive and quality education to students and disadvantaged sectors of the country, especially those at risk and vulnerability.

Programs to promote gender equality and equity within the system are based on this policy. The ME has the Department of Education on Gender, which manpower and budget are not enough to carry out such programs, which gradually loses power in the institutional structure.

It's important to put emphasis on some educational variables like literacy and the gender disparities, actually they are less pronounced among young adults as well as among children. At present there is little or no difference in literacy rates among 15 to 24 years of age in the Dominican Republic. Other relevant variable is the net enrollment in both basic and secondary level, which similarly, exhibits a real parity between women and men. At university level, women exhibit a higher percentage than males in enrollment and completion of the career. What does go on is the persistence of women in traditionally female careers,

such as engineering, computer technology careers in general, where women are still minorities.

It appeared to be very difficult to formulate government policy applied in practice which transcends speeches and documents points to cultural changes in education. To the extent that education is the essential vehicle to facilitate these changes. It is vitally important to formulate public policies in the education sector to promote the changes that society needs for greater equity between men and women to achieve true equality of opportunity.

a. Government Policy

The Ministry of Education has a Ten-Year Plan 2008-2018, that includes POLICY No. 7 as was mentioned before. This policy draws attention to the need to provide and develop effective actions to ensure inclusive and quality education to students of poorest population groups. It is the only policy that refers to equity in education.

Although there is the Department of Education on Gender, formerly a department with great influence in the institution and leader in training processes for teachers on gender issues, “*Educ-Mujer*”⁵ as it was previously named, produced significant educational materials on the subject and encouraged initiatives in order to incorporate a gender perspective in the education system, however, at present, has lost much of its staff and does not seem to have much impact on the institution.

Department of Education on Gender has a policy on awareness in gender issues for teachers of public sector schools, in order that teachers change traditional discriminatory and andocentric teaching practices for a quality inclusive education that treats children as people with the same natural rights, equal opportunities and with innumerable valid interpersonal differences and worthy of respect. This policy provides a framework for the actions, initiatives from the Department to influence a change in attitude towards the need to incorporate a gender perspective throughout the education system.

Beside, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, recognizes the need to give women full and equal education and training as one of 12 areas of concern requiring urgent action by governments and the international community.

As well, the MDGs, endorsed by the Dominican Government in 2000, Goal 3 says, "Promote gender equality and empowerment of women" and Goal 3 states, "eliminate gender disparity

⁵ Educ-Woman, in English.

in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and in all other levels before the end of 2015". Both, the Platform for Action and the MDGs contribute to promote public policies to achieve gender equality.

Dominican Republic has made progress in achieving parity, basically in education sphere, and the data presented earlier in this report corroborate it. Thus, the innovation of the educational system curriculum, that is an effective tool in the empowerment of girls and women, is still pending. It reflects that, despite the high enrollment of women at all educational levels, the gap of inequality between men and women remains significant in regards to access to decision-making positions in all areas of society and unequal pay for equal work.

These reasons are more than enough to justify the need for a development plan of education with a gender perspective, besides encouraging autonomy and self-worth, delayed marriage and motherhood and providing better tools for care and childcare and promoting greater school retention are also strong reasons.

b. Primary education

✓ Gender disparity on the net enrolment rate

In the Dominican Republic there is no significant difference in the enrollment of girls and boys in primary education. The difference reaches about four percentage points, 52% male and 48% girls.

✓ Drop-out and their reasons:

The ME has not available dropout data by sex, but the trend in the region is that dropout is higher in males than in females. The main risk factors for dropout are derived from repeated absences, poor performance and the overage associated to the consequent school delay. Although, reliable figures to determine that the dropout rate is lower in girls than in boys does not exist, but is assumed that a lower dropout for women influenced by the fact that they have less lag in general.

The insufficiency of income in the homes and the various deficits of welfare of children and adolescents from poor strata are decisive factors for the increased frequency of the delay and therefore of school dropouts.

Another factor influencing the dropout rate is the educational level of the father and mother, the lower the level; the greater the possibility of dropping out of the minor. As school attendance is not important for the family, poverty does the rest.

c. Secondary education

✓ Gender disparity on the gross enrolment rate

At the secondary level, enrollment for girls is higher than in boys, differing by about 10 percentage points for women. Males reach 45%, while the girls reach 55% of secondary school net enrollment. This is because more boys enter the labor market earlier than girls.

✓ Drop-out and their reasons

Just as at the primary level, there is no data for drop-out disaggregated by sex, but a set of factors that influence the dropout rate have been identified, especially in high school. Primarily the socioeconomic status and the family context of the young people are pointed out as primary sources that can directly or indirectly facilitate the removal from school.

The conditions of poverty and discrimination, which in turn causes an early labor affiliation, the existence of certain types of family organization -among which single parenthood as a source of neglect, violence and even promiscuity- which because of their structural characteristics do not support the formative work deployed by the school, especially in the area of discipline, thus facilitating the development of offending behavior and school negligence of youngsters. It could be mentioned among the influential factors, addictions, although with less weight than the previously mentioned.

d. Tertiary education

✓ Gender disparity on the gross enrolment rate

At the tertiary level the Dominican Educational System, the disparity in enrollment between men and women, works in favor of the latter; it is estimated that the female percentage of the student population at this level is about 65% which significantly exceeds the male rate. The reasons are not identified clearly and precisely, but it is assumed that men enrollment in paid work at a younger age than women, becomes a constraint for entry to tertiary education. There are no precise data to document this, so far.

✓ Employment rate among young graduated population,

In 2008, according to Central Bank data, the percentage of employed university graduates represents 21% of total employment in the country. From this percentage, 51.5% are women. For 2009, the situation remains quite similar.

e. Literacy education

In 2007 the percentage of the population over age 15 who can read and write, was 87%. While the literacy rate among men was 86.8%, among women was 87.2%. On the other hand, in 2009 UNESCO reported that the illiteracy rate fell to 10.8, representing an improvement in

the literacy indicator (89.2%). The illiteracy rate has no significant difference between women and men, in 2009 men registered 9.8% and women 9.3%.

✓ **Who is engaging in:**

The ME has programs in adult education, which are aimed at improving literacy in the country. In these educational plans, the ministry also involves more than 100 civil society organizations by the National Literacy Network: "*Yo sí puedo*"⁶. The Network promotes the creation of cross-sector support groups or committees at Educational Regions level, School Districts, municipalities and communities. Currently, the ME has not published the indicators of adult education disaggregated by sex, making it impossible to conduct a gender analysis in this area of education.

f. Vocational and Technical education, higher education

The Technical Professional method is regarded as a subsystem within the formal education system and is regulated by the Ordinance 1'95 of the new curriculum of education in the Dominican Republic. This method is taught in polytechnics schools and colleges.

There are two models:

- Model 1:

Within the formal education system, Professional Technical Education is offered at second cycle of the secondary level, it takes two years to complete the process. The students get their Technical Bachelor's degree in the specialized study. At college level it has duration of two years after high school and they are granted a degree as Technician or Technologist. Professional qualification is one year and come up with the degree of Basic Technician. In this modality of educational system important differences in the participation of men and women do not appear, although they do in the specialties, since a traditional profile for both stays. Unable to identify gender-disaggregated data, it is not possible to develop a gender analysis.

- Model 2:

This model includes Initial Training, that is to say Learning (dual training) with the Habilitation and Rehabilitation Training. Then there is the Complementary Education: Specialization, Complementation, and Update. In this model, updated data is not available, but it is known that more men than women are formed, as this training allows them to be inserted quickly into the labor market, while women feel less pressure to find work than men.

⁶ "*Yes, I can*" in English.

h. Non-formal education

The Organic Law of Education, in one of its articles (Art. 28 of Chapter I) indicates that non-formal education is the process of appropriation of knowledge, attitudes and skills that aim for the purposes of formal education in parallel with it for special populations, with greater flexibility and diversity of media for learning.

Non-formal education covers many aspects of education such as adult literacy programs, cultural expansion, political education, civic and social, environmental, ecological, health, among others.

The development and implementation of non-formal education programs is assumed not only by the Ministry of Education, through adult education programs, primarily, but also by various civil society organizations engaged in non-formal education work, in addition to the various initiatives promoted and financed by international organizations.

For example, one of the most important programs developed by the ME is “*PREPARA*”, which has the technical and financial support of International Cooperation from Spain, which allows youth and adults to complete their basic education or to complete high school through Distance learning. Another program is the Dominican Educational Radio, which is responsible for bringing education through radio to rural communities where there are no schools.

Similarly, it is necessary to mention the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, which has among its training programs those on environmental issues, ecology and management and control of natural resources with gender perspective. However, the publication of sex disaggregated data is not updated, thus not allowing the development of a gender analysis.

3.2. Health

Health

In the field of health, government has made significant progress in relation to public policy and allocation of resources to implement them, mainly through the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) focused on women. These policies are expressed in relevant aspects such as the Domestic Violence Strategy, which has improved the system of care for victims, increasing the level of coordination and responsiveness of the institutions that form the system (Office, MPH, Police and Justice).

The programs of sexual and reproductive health which are implemented by the Ministry of Public Health, accompanied by campaigns to promote services in these areas, focusing mainly on women and raising men's understanding, are part of the gender policy in the field of health. This is also reflected in the fact of institutional care during delivery being almost 100% in the country, reaching 99% in 2009. Another point to consider is malnutrition has decreased from 6% in 1996 to 4% prevalence in 2007.

Similarly chronic malnutrition fell for the same period from 11% to 7%, without introducing significant differences between women and men. However, the prevalence of anemia among pregnant women continues to maintain a level of importance, linked to poverty levels among them.

a. Government Policy

As was mentioned before, the programs of sexual and reproductive health that are implemented by the Ministry of Public Health are supported by governmental budget and resources from the international agencies to develop campaigns to promote services and health rights of women. Progress in reducing mortality rates and maternal morbidity are results displayed by the Government in this area, resulting from the implementation of the strategy "Tolerance 0", although still high, considering that almost all births are attended in health facilities. The reduction in the fertility rate from 4.0 in the late nineties, to 2.7 for 2009 has been significant. It is necessary to mention family planning programs through which women have access to planned and contraceptive use.

b. Medical Health

The institutional health care during delivery is almost 100% in the country, reaching 99% in 2009; services in sexual and reproductive health have been increasing and spreading to different hospitals and health centers. The number of general practitioners has increased, as did specialists (see Health Profile).

c. Nutrition conditions

According to ENDESA 2007, prevalence of global malnutrition has decreased from 6% in 1996 to 4% in 2007. Similarly chronic malnutrition fell for the same period from 11% to 7%, as was mentioned before. Micronutrient deficiency remains a major health problem in the country, mainly in regard to vitamin A, iron, and iodine, among others. On the other hand, the prevalence of anemia among pregnant women continues to maintain a level of importance, basically linked to poverty levels among them and the access to quality health services around their living geographical area. It should be noted that malnutrition is closely linked to indicators of poor and indigent population, in addition to low coverage of exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months of age, gestational age of the mothers, low consumption of

diversified diets and coverage and quality of inadequate health services and no emphasis on nutrition.

d. Family planning

In the area of family planning the Dominican government has a specialized institution in the topic which is the “*Consejo Nacional de Población y Familia*”⁷ (CONAPOFA), which is responsible for designing and implementing policies relating to family planning. The institution has programs for dissemination of information, the use of contraceptives, mainly condoms, education and training of health personnel, as well as conducts research on the topic.

The Dominican Association Pro-Family Welfare, INC. -PROFAMILIA, a NGO who settled in the country in 1966, to the present has showed significant results in educating people on conscious procreation, decision freedom and human rights. PROFAMILIA has several health care facilities in different parts of the country and attended 106.849 people, men and women, and 104.157 family planning methods were placed in 2008.

e. HIV/AIDS

In the Dominican Republic the HIV prevalence is 1%, and there is no a significant difference by sex, although there are high-risk groups with high prevalence rates, such as the people living in “*bateyes*” (the sugar workers' villages), sex workers and pregnant women who exhibit a prevalence rate of 1.6%. The geographical areas with the highest prevalence are the tourist destinations. The Dominican government has a specialized institution in the field, the “*Consejo Presidencial contra el SIDA*”⁸ (COPRESIDA). The data provided by this instance is based on the ENDESA 2007, which reported a prevalence of 0.9% for people between 15 and 49, i.e. about 51,000 people infected. The zero prevalence range in this age is 0.8%, while stating that the age of greatest risk is 30 to 39 years. There is a significant difference between men and women in condom use, while 70.7% of men used it in their last high-risk sexual relation, only 43.9% of women did.

The prevalence of HIV in pregnant women is about 1.6% (2007) but is expected to decrease to 0.09% in 2015, as part of the MDOs. COPRESIDA develops and implements public policies for HIV, impacts the process of reform and promotion of laws and national plans related to HIV and AIDS in the country.

⁷ “National Population and Family Council” in English.

⁸ “Presidential Council on AIDS” in English.

3.3. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

In the framework of international commitments by the Dominican Government to promote gender equity, it has established strategic guidelines to encourage the rural women's access to productive resources, increasing their economic participation and their level of organization by implementation of plans and projects that contribute to the guidelines outlined.

The Ministry of Agriculture created the Office on Women's Agricultural Sector in 2001 as a mechanism to promote public policies for women in rural areas. It has the Law 55-97 to include women as direct beneficiaries of the Agrarian Reform Program, provides equal rights to both partners and guarantees women the land in case of widowhood or abandonment. Despite this law, many women seem not to be able to own land, even when they inherit the same, in most cases are in the name of the couple, either a cultural issue of the "household head", either because they do not have identity documents, making it difficult to register property in their name, aggravating the lack of economic autonomy. These are the important aspects that must be addressed by public policies in order to create better conditions for reducing the inequality gap between the sexes in rural areas.

a. Government Policy

The Dominican Government has promoted public policies focused on women; in order to impulse their participation in agriculture activities, which contribute to reduce the gender gap in that economic sector. Through the Ministry of Agriculture, the Government has been establishing strategic guidelines to encourage the rural women's access to productive resources, supports micro credit programs and technical assistance in order to place women in better position for their economic and social development in rural areas.

b. Agricultural Policy and Gender

The Agricultural Loan Bank eliminated the requirement of husband's endorsement or masculine close relative in the credit policy; it has helped to give women greater access to credit resources for investment in rural production.

That institution develops a "Rural Women Program" which sought to integrate the objectives of generating revenue with in-service training and awareness. It also develops a model of business association that provides great benefits to farmers' associations to increase the income productive activities and commerce.

c. Ownership of farming land and Agrarian Reform

The Law no. 55-97 introduced amendments to the Law no. 5879 on Agrarian Reform of 1962. Those amendments allow access to land under the agrarian reform to women since 1997. However, it remains a limited access to land ownership, which remains concentrated in a few

hands and the bulk of the peasantry have no land to work, resulting in driving them to migrate to urban centers in extreme poverty. This situation affects men as well as women, particularly, young people.

d. Rural life and gender

The countryside has been largely absent in public investments for decades, which has contributed to deepening poverty levels, expressed in less access to education, health services, economic resources, credit, making increasingly precarious living conditions in the field. Women are doubly affected, the indicators are quite eloquent in this regard, the fertility rate is higher in rural than in urban areas, about a 3.2 against 2.7. Education levels are lower, the average years of schooling reach four to five years, the poverty rate substantially greater than that of the city, it is estimated that for every 100 men there are 115 women in poverty.

The lack of income and wealth becomes a factor of vulnerability to violence. Participation is very low in public spaces due to the huge gap of inequality that characterizes the lives of women in the countryside, where traditional cultural patterns that give priority to males, have higher incidence than in the city.

e. Extension Activities and Training for Women

Training activities are regularly carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Women and the Office on Women's Agricultural Sector. In 2002, Ministry of Women developed a diagnosis on the situation of rural women who served as a reference for the design and implementation of training processes and development of projects from the Ministry of Agriculture. It has implemented programs to support rural micro enterprises run by women, funded by international cooperation soft loans and technical assistance. There are groups working in the rural areas in training initiatives which contribute to the empowerment of women, to the visibility of their contributions to the economy and reducing the participation based on gender gap in this area.

f. Forestry

It is estimated that 52% of the country's land is suited for forests, but deforestation has been increasing, although we must give credit to Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) making significant efforts to reforest the country. Rural women have become involved in reforestation processes in almost all activities. The Ministry support the reforestation plan “*Quisqueya Verde*”, where the bulk of the brigades are made up of women. It seems that participation of women in the field of forestry has been promoted, but still there are problems to be solved. For example, no or very few agro forestry enterprises run by women have developed significantly.

g. Fisheries

Women's participation in fisheries haven't been proceed yet: in the south there were two women fishing in *Laguna Oviedo*, and only two women dedicated to fisheries in the province of Samaná, located in the northeast of the country, and in aquaculture there are some women's associations, such as the Mother Centre of the Community *La Rosa* (it is part of the Community of *Restauración* in the northwest); the "Cadieux" in *Loma de Cabrera*, municipality geographically located in the north; in *Bonao*, a municipality located in the north there is also a foundation that support women and children, giving them financial support and technical assistance, among others. In general, female activities in fisheries is cleaning the fish, market it fresh or fried, work in laboratories or breeding hatcheries for shrimp larvae.

The main problems identified in this sector are economic and lack of training, so the Government could develop training programs in aspects like cleaning, fresh or fried, breeding hatcheries or work in laboratories, as part of public policies, and to encourage economic participation of women through development projects in this area of the economy.

3.4. Economic Activities

Economic Activities

Employment opportunities are concentrated in the communications sector. Another dynamic sector in the provision of employment is tourism, which is one of the sectors of the economy more dynamic and provides more resources to the nation's GDP.

On the other hand, the decline of economy activity in the formal sector as a result of the recent global economic crisis, the informal sector has captured much of that labor expelled or idle in a wide range of informal activities. According to Central Bank data in 2009 there were 2,065,000 persons employed in the informal sector of the economy, of which 2,003,458 had incomes and 61,542 were not paid income. Women are still a significant percentage of labor force in this sector, however, data published by the Central Bank show that the percentage of males is greater than females. Women have been located in the micro enterprise sector, still prevailing in the free zone companies and in the services sector.

In order to reveal the inequalities in the labor market, for example, in 2009 the participation rate of women at the university level is around 65%, as was mentioned before; however the employment rate of women with university education is 58.4%, while the male is 77.4%. Actually the country has the same situation at the vocational-technical level (2009), where the employment rate of women was 32.7% while men's rises to 64.2% of total employment in this sector of the economy, although we don't have the education data of men and women in this area.

a. Employment Opportunities

In terms of national legislation, there are no regulations that specifically favor women in the Labor Law 103-99, or the 1993 Labor Code currently in force. It has the ILO conventions, which are mentioned later in this section of the document and have been signed and ratified by the Dominican State, which serve as reference in the order of national legislation.

The ratio of labor income of women relative to men in 2009 was 0.79, which means that for every 100 pesos earned by a man a woman receives only 79 pesos for the same work. The ratio of labor income per hour worked, for the same year was 0.90.

Currently the Ministry of Labor (ML) has an employment agency, which publishes the employment opportunities that are reported to the institution, which can be accessed by the Internet, by industry and specialty. The young people, first entering the labor market, are facing greater difficulties finding employment. So, the ML has specific policies to promote employment opportunities, focused on that population, currently has a Youth Employment Program, which is funded by the World Bank and aims to encourage the development of young people for the job, through training in different areas of knowledge and facilitating access to employment through arrangements with Dominican companies.

b. Women workers in public and private sector (2009)

Table 4.

Sector	Employment				Total 3,608,154	% 100
	Male	%	Female	%		
Government	218,507	6.1	221,444	6.14	439,951	12.2
Private	786,109	21.8	608,075	16.9	1,394,184	38.6
Own Account (Self-employed)	1,203,069	33.3	335,338	9.3	1,538,407	42.6
Unpaid Family Worker	28,605	0.8	32,937	0.9	61,542	1.7
Total	2,236,290	62.0	1,197,794	33.24	3,434,084	95.1

Source: www.bancocentral.gob.do

Women tend to be placed in higher percentage in the services sectors, both public and private, and are also abundant workforce in the free zone companies, due to the nature of their economic activity. In these companies in 2007 from a total of 126.187 jobs, 60.583 were performed by men and 65.604 by women. The same figures for 2008 varied slightly a total of 122.531 jobs were reported, of which 59.274 were filled by men and 63.257 by women, who continue to outnumber men in this line.

Men participate in a greater proportion in the productive sectors, factories, etc. and the activities of "self-employment", which is clearly shown by the figures in the table above. The data continue to show that women are a minority in employment, representing only 33.24% as opposed to men with 62.0%.

The unemployment figures published in 2008 indicate that the level of unemployment reached 14.5 in total, but the level of unemployment for men was 8.5, while for women it was 22.8. These figures continue to reinforce the approach of the conditions of inequality in men and women participating in the labor market only for reasons of gender.

c. Support system for Women Workers

The Dominican Republic has signed and ratified a number of international agreements, mainly with the International Labor Organization, some of which emphasize the care and protection for women in the workplace. For example, Convention 45 on Underground Labor, ratified in 1957, Convention 89 on night work, ratified in 1953, Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration, ratified in 1953, Convention 111 on Discrimination, ratified in 1964, Convention 122 concerning Employment Policy, ratified in 2001. There is also the CEDAW, ratified in 1981, on all forms of discrimination against women.

d. Informal Sector

This population is distributed by branches of economic activity in the informal sector as follows, but does not show sex-disaggregated data in this line, because there are no gender-disaggregated data in relation to the distribution by activity of the persons employed in the informal sector:

Table 5.

Economic Activities	Employees	Without Income	With Income
Employees in the Informal Sector	2,065,000	61,542	2,003,458
Agriculture y Livestock	470,726	16,304	454,422
Mining and Quarrying	1,685	0	1,685
Manufacturing industries	112,638	1,089	111,549
Electricity, Gas and Water	0	0	0
Construction	193,823	872	192,951
Wholesale Trade and Minor	549,910	28,688	521,222
Hotels, Bars y Restaurants	114,199	6,651	107,548
Transport y Communications	201,322	921	200,401
Financial Intermediation y Insurance	17,014	0	17,014
Public Administration and Defense	0	0	0
Other Services	403,683	7,017	396,666

Source: www.bancocentral.com.do. October 2009

e. Support for Micro Enterprise

There are an estimated 359,304 micro-enterprises, which, according to the latest census, generate about 1,100,000 jobs, a figure that should have increased in subsequent years. There are various support programs for micro-enterprises, among which must include the “Support Program and Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises” (PROMYPIME) with public resources funded and managed by the “*Banco de Reservas*”; the “Program Support Rural Micro-enterprise in Latin America and the Caribbean” with resources from the International Fund for Agricultural Development United Nations (IFAD); “Program of Support for Small Dominican Business” (PROEMPRESA) with funding from the European Union; the Dominican Development Foundation provides micro-enterprise credit, representing 75% of its loan portfolio; the Mortgage Bank (SMEs BHD); Dominican Association of Microenterprise Support (ADEMI) is the Industrial Development Corporation, which establishes the Industrial Districts.

The National Training Institute (INFOTEP) offers professional technical training with public (Government) and private (enterprises) financial support. The Fund for Development (FONDESA) a private institution, in 2009 made available to micro enterprises \$812.5 million pesos in credit, 40% of which goes to support women's micro enterprises, mainly in rural areas of the country.

Institutions that specialize in women's micro enterprise finance:

✓ Dominican Association for the Woman Development – ADOPEM

1. Personal Credit
2. Group Credit
3. Capacity Building
4. World Woman Bank

✓ Dominican Women in Development – MUDE

1. Financial Programs (credit)
2. Social Services (Primary health, environmental sanity)
3. Capacity Building
4. Community Organizations

✓ Dominican Foundation of Development – FDD

1. Micro credit
2. Entrepreneur Development
3. Capacity Building

✓ Dominican Development Center – CDD

1. Micro credit
2. Capacity Building

In general, the statistical information system does not record many data about micro businesses, since many of them are not registered as formal enterprise, so sex-disaggregated data and other information for latest years is not available.

f. Migration

The Dominican Republic is a country that exhibits a large number of migrants, a process that begins in the first half of the twentieth century and grows from the seventies of that same century. The interesting thing to emphasize is women's participation since two decades ago, which is called "feminization of migration", because traditionally those who migrated were the men and women did as spouses, however, women begin to lead the migration, primarily for economic reasons, to seek better opportunities to increase revenue and help the family improve their living conditions. This migration has been directed to countries in Europe, mainly to Spain, where it is estimated that of all immigrants from the Dominican Republic, 74% are women.

Main destinations of domestic migration (Not available disaggregated data by sex):

- United States (73%)
- Puerto Rico (8%)
- Spain (5%)
- Italy (1%)
- Venezuela (2%)

g. The number of international migrants (female / male)

In 2008 there were an estimated 200 million people as international migrants in the World, but the data on the amount corresponding to women is not available.

h. The destinations of international migrants (female/male)

The receiving countries are grouped into four main international migration axes: (1) North America (2) Western Europe, (3) The Persian Gulf Region (4) The Asia-Pacific Basin. Other countries are for instance, Israel, Libya, Costa Rica, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil and Australia. No statistics are disaggregated by sex.

i. The number of domestic migrants (female / male)

Net migration rate: 2.50/1000 inhabitants

Total population living outside the country: 12%

Women: 52%

Men: 48%

j. The situation of domestic migration (female / male)

Although women have always been part of the migration processes in the country, however, starting from the 90's, women began to migrate in greater numbers and also independently. This has been a characteristic phenomenon for the entire Latin American region, where the international trend shows that women account for 48% of the total contingent for Latin American/Caribbean people outside their country of origin. In the case of the Dominicans, this migration has gone mainly to U.S. and European countries, particularly Spain, where such workforce perform domestic work in homes and companies, as well as sex workers in lesser extent. In 2006 there were 60,050 Dominicans in Spain, from which 61% were women.

Women have always been present in migratory movements, but today are found in almost all regions, in all types of flows and increasingly in an independent way, unlike other centuries where the pattern was associative, linked to husband and/or family.

Generally, the conditions of this work are rough, with low wages, no social security, in most cases. This female migration has been called the "feminization of transnational labor" which means the creation of a transnational market for labor composed of networks of women performing domestic work services, personal care, street vending, bar or restaurant staff. Those occupations are mostly characterized by low stability conditions and low pay.

Despite the precarious working conditions in which migrant women are placed, they represent an important source of remittances for the countries of origin, since women are more constant than men to send remittances to their countries. Unfortunately, we do not have the remittance data disaggregated by sex, but it is known that the total amount of remittances received in 2007 was 3,045.7 million dollars and in 2009 the figure dropped to 3,041.5 as a consequence of global financial crisis.

4. Gender issues which should be particularly taken into consideration in future JICA and other donors/NGOs' intervention in the country.

Sector	Gender Issues for Particular Consideration
National Gender Policy	Policies to promote gender equality in all the sectors of society in collaboration with Ministry of Woman
Education	Develop programs in the educational curriculum for the empowerment of women (technological programs) in collaboration with Ministry of Education
Health	Develop programs that guarantee quality in health services for both women and men
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishery	Credit and technical assistance for women to promote their productive and commercial knowledge
Economic Activities	Financial support to development projects for women (micro enterprises)
Social Aspects	Public policies (projects and programs) to achieve equal opportunities for both women and men
Others	Promote more participation of women in public affairs through campaigns and training programs Promotion and improvement of female new-graduates employment

5. On-going Gender Projects

Project / Program	Implementing Organization	Donor Organization	Duration	Budget (US\$)	Area
Women / General					
Building local policies and national protection mechanisms integral to domestic violence against women in DR	Coven Support Center	PAHO	7 months 2009-2010	N/A	Santo Domingo
Institutional Strengthening Project of the Ministry of Woman	Ministry of Woman	Spanish Agency for International Development (SAID)	10 years	1,501,413 (Euros)	La Romana, Dajabón, Sánchez Ramírez, Pedernales y Bahoruco
Education					
Job Training and Employment Promotion for Women Heads of Family	Assistance Board Fire Department Bayaguana	European Community	1 year		Monte Plata
		Foundation	8 months	18, 150.36	Bonao

Support for technical training of young women	Girls Home Mother of God	Tau		(Euros)	
Health / Medicine					
Project Management Education and Reproductive Health in the Dominican Republic	Women in Development, Inc. (MUDE)	Labor Foundation y Resource Foundation	1 year	N/A	Barahona
Project Management Education and Reproductive Health for Young Women	Women in Development (MUDE)	Marion Community Foundation y Resource Foundation	9 months	N/A	Barahona y Bahoruco
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery					
Rural Economic Development Project in the Central and Eastern	Ministry of de Agriculture	International Development Agriculture Found (IDAF)	6 years	9.250,000	20 provinces on the North, center and East in DR
Project PRORURAL West	Ministry of Agriculture	International Development Agriculture Found (IDAF)	6 years	N/A	Azua, Barahona, Bahoruco, Elías Piña, Independencia, Dajabón, Montecristi, Pedernales, Santiago Rodríguez, San Juan y Valverde
Rural Economic Diversification	Group for the Promotion of Ecological Agriculture	USAID	1 year 2009-2010	200,000	San Juan, El Cercado
Economic Activities					
Adequacy of infrastructure for promoting	Ministry of Economy and Ministry of	Republic of Taiwan	3 years 2008-2011	200,000 N/A	Santo Domingo Este

the rights of women, youth and adolescents in the DR	Woman				
TRANSAGRO-CIENEGA Project (Community enterprise fruit processing, run by women)	Women Association from Ciénega-Barahona	Foundation Taigüey	5 years	N/A	Ciénega, Barahona
Remittances and Rural Development in DR	Micro entrepreneurs	Inter American Development Bank (IDB)	5 years	615,000	All country

6. Gender Information Sources

6-1 List of Organizations related to Gender

Name of Organization	Area of Specialization	Activity	Contact
Organization/individual who prepared the Profile			
Altagracia Balcacer Molina	Economist and Gender Issues	Teaching and research	abalcacer@gmail.com 809-885-7414
Government Organization			
Ministry of Woman	Women issues	Advocacy, capacity building, public politics design and implementation	Mexico Av. Block D 809-685-3755
Ministry of Agriculture	Agricultural issues	Technical assistance, production programming, agribusiness	Women Office
Ministry of Education	Public education	Educate, capacity building	Gender Department
Ministry of Public Health	Public health	Coordinate the health system, provide health services	Department of Maternity and Infant Health
Ministry of Labor	Labor activities	Guarantee labor rights, organize and supervise the economy sector related to the job conditions and worker's rights	Deputy Minister of Gender
Ministry of	Environment issues	To conserve the	Department of

Name of Organization	Area of Specialization	Activity	Contact
Environment and Natural Resources		environment and natural resources	Gender an Environment
National Congress	Legislative issues	To make the laws	Gender Commission
Statistical National Office	Statistical	To prepare and provide statically information	Gender and Statistical Unit
National Police	Citizen's security	Guarantee the security to the population	Gender and Development Office
National Army	National security	Guarantee de security of the country	Gender Coordinator
Jail Direction		Organize and supervise the jails	Gender Coordinator
Ministry of Culture	Cultural issues	Cultural issues, art expressions, and coordinate the cultural institutions	Deputy Minister of Creativity and Popular Participation
National Council for the Children	Responsible for ensuring the rights of children	Enforces laws protecting children	Counsel for children and adolescents
Ministry of National Army	Coordinate the actions of National Army	Training and coordinate the actions of the Army	Director of Gender Office
International Organization			
UNFPA	Population and development issues	International Agency	Sonia Vasquez, Director
UNDP	Development issues and programs	International Agency	Raissa Crespo
AICS	International Cooperation/aids from Spain	International Agency	N/A
GTZ	German international cooperation/aids	International Agency	Oscar Mena
NGOs			
CIPAF	Women issues	Work on women and gender issues and defend their interests	Magaly Pineda
Collective Woman and Health	Women's health issues	Work on health of women and gender issues	Sergia Galvan
COSALUP	Health and development issues	Work on health	Fermina Acosta
Consultants			
Magaly Pineda	Gender and development	Advisor	

Name of Organization	Area Specialization	of	Activity	Contact
Denise Paiewonsky	Gender and health		Advisor	
Sergia Galvan	Gender and Political participation		Advisor	
Santa Mateo	Gender		Advisor	
Lourdes Contreras	Gender and education		Advisor	

6-2 List of reports and references related to Gender

Title	Author	Publisher/Source	Year
Education and Training			
Woman and Education in DR	Luisa Mateo Diclo	Ministry of Education	2006
For non-sexist education and culture of peace	Ana Abelenda	Popular Education Network among Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (REPEM)	2008
Health and Medicine			
Gender and health of Woman. Case Of DR		PAHO	2004
Elder Abuse Against Women	Iris Miguelina Mendoza	www.monografias.com	2008
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries			
Report to the IX Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender and Rural Women	American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IIA)	American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	2004
Economic Activities			
Gender Equity in the RD: Results of the Poverty Report	Jefrey Lizardo Hiska Reyes	Ministry of Economy and World Bank	2007
A niche for the employment of poor women in Central America and Dominican Republic	Fernández Pacheco, J.	Internacional Labor Organization (ILO)	2002
Social/Gender Analysis			
The mechanisms of women inter-and intra political parties in Dominican Republic	Altagracia Balcacer	United Nations Development Program	2009
Survivals	Lucero Quiroga & Others	United Nations Development Program	2009
RD: Information for the universal periodic review of the UN	Amnesty International	Amnesty International	2009
Others			
The Observatory Dominican Republic	-	Latin American Gender...ing (It is a Virtual Bolletin)	2009

Report on the participation of Dominican Republic in the working group "Gender and ICT"		ECLAC, Gender Division	2010
Study of Trafficking in Persons in Central America and Dominican Republic	Ana Hidalgo	International Cooperation/aids from Spain	2009

7. Definitions

Technical Terms

✓ **Gender**

Analytical concept to clarify the social role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender implying the role of men and women and their interrelationship is likely to change according to social notion and sense of values.

✓ **Informal sector**

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

✓ **WID (Women in Development)**

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into development processes, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

✓ **Reproductive health/rights**

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to live safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom to decide whether, when and how many children to deliver.

✓ **National machinery**

Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

✓ **Empowerment**

To empower individuals or groups in political, economical and social sense

✓ **Affirmative action**

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the difference, in the case that discriminated groups are placed in extremely unequal conditions to other groups, due to the discrimination accumulated in the past

✓ **Access and control**

Access is to be able to use resources and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. Control is a right to decide how to manage resources and services or to own them.

✓ **Reproductive activity**

Activity to “reproduce for the next generation” including to give a birth and raise the children, and to sustain the daily life, for instance, washing and cooking

Indicators

✓ **Inflation rate**

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

✓ **Gini index**

Aggregate numerical measures of income inequality ranging from 0 to 100. A Gini index of zero represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

✓ **Percentage of Women’s Income**

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women’s income is 75% of men’s in non-agricultural sector.

✓ **Total fertility rate**

Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life

✓ **Under-one mortality rate**

Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth

✓ **Under-five mortality rate**

Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after the birth

✓ **Maternal mortality rate**

Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery because of pregnancy

✓ **Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel**

The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel, or trained traditional midwives

✓ **Percentage of infants with low birth weight**

The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate

The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for under-five infants having diarrheal

✓ **Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school**

Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school age against the people at the school age.

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- 14) Directorate General of Budget / www.digepres.gob.do/
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