



**Twenty-Fifth Anniversary
of the Fourth World Conference on Women
and Adoption of the Beijing Declaration
and Platform for Action (1995)**

National Report

SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS



Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis

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Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**

**Country Report
The Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis
2013-2018**

April 2019

Introduction

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) which provides a roadmap for the achievement of gender equality. The year 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration. In March 2020, the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations will undertake a review and appraisal of progress made by member states since its implementation.

In this regard the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis presents its report which reviews the progress made since the implementation of the BPfA in the 12 critical areas of concern: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; media; environment; and the girl child. This national review takes into consideration achievements, priorities, setbacks and future goals. Particular mention is made of actions implemented by the Federation to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all women and girls.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Country Gender Assessment (2014), commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank, provided a snapshot of the country's position regarding gender equality. The assessment provided a gender analysis of the economic, social and governance sectors in St Kitts and Nevis and the findings revealed a national statistical gender profile where women slightly outnumber men by 1.4 and 2% in St. Kitts and Nevis respectively. Females outlive men, with life expectancy for males at 73 years and for females, 76.8 years (2012). Females were more likely than males to be among the indigent in St. Kitts. Within the Federation, women's labour force participation rates were lower than men. In terms of education, females (97.4%) have higher literacy rates than males (96.5%) amongst the 15-24 age range. Females had higher completion rates of primary and secondary level education, at 32.5% and 52.5% respectively, compared with 24.1% and 51.6% for males. Although females outperform their male counterparts at school and college level, men have a higher completion rate at university level (11%). The interruption of girls' education through the high rate of teenage pregnancy was a major issue. The percentage of women in politics remained small, at 20%.

St. Kitts and Nevis is a patriarchal society where power structures are dominated by males, consequently, some of the privileges associated with power are not open to females. Embedded socio-cultural attitudes and behaviours perpetuate ideas and practices along patriarchal gender lines which create disadvantages that affect the life chances of women. Traditional, religious beliefs often reinforce negative stereotypes and serve to promote acceptance and continuation of discrimination. Cultural roles of men and women, and the issues arising from gender roles assigned by society are evident.

The report that follows will review the progress of St. Kitts and Nevis towards the BPfA framework.

Summary

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis has made a number of achievements over the past five years in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The five main areas of progress comprise education, social protection measures, steps to address violence against women and girls; gender sensitisation training; and the launch of a national Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan.

Government priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls during the period 2013-2018 include the implementation of a National Social Protection Strategy, strengthened by a National Household Registry to improve case management of persons accessing public assistance. The Poverty Alleviation Programme improves the socio-economic status of disadvantaged families who are assisted with a monthly stipend to meet essential living expenses. Violence against women and girls has been addressed through legislation, specifically the Domestic Violence Act, 2014. The Special Victims Unit of the Royal St. Christopher Police Force is a dedicated facility staffed by specially trained officers who identify and investigate allegations that occur within the family. Improvements in healthcare include the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis; prevention programmes for HIV/AIDS and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and programmes targeted at women's health matters. Gender sensitisation training across the Federation in 2017 resulted in the identification of 116 gender focal points.

Women who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination include women living with AIDS/HIV, women living with disabilities, younger women, older women; and migrant women. Preventative measures dealing with these groups include educational programmes targeted at sex workers and females involved in transactional sex; the drafting of a Special Needs Policy and Action Plan; and services geared towards teen mothers to enable them to complete their secondary education. Older persons and persons living with disabilities are catered to through services delivered at community level. The Ministry's Ageing Policy is expected to be completed in 2019. Migrant women receive English language classes in order to equip them with the skills necessary to assimilate into the society.

The Federation's priorities for the next five years to accelerate progress for women and girls include improved and equitable access in education provision through the Education Sector Plan (2017-2021). A Social Protection Bill which seeks to formally secure social protection for vulnerable persons is expected to pass into legislation in 2019. The launch of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol in 2018 will be followed by an implementation process scheduled in May 2019, in which relevant stakeholders will receive training in the use of this important document. A number of initiatives in healthcare are planned; they include the development of a National Multi-Sectoral Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in St. Christopher and Nevis (2018-2022); the continuation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the quest for healthier babies; and expansion of the immunisation programme. The development of a National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan, which was formally launched in November 2018 will conclude in December 2019. The gender policy will provide an institutional framework to assist the government of St. Kitts and Nevis in facilitating gender equality and empowerment, in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals and other international instruments to which the Federation is a signatory.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis is committed to the implementation of policies that realise gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks

1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

1. Education
2. Social protection
3. Violence against women and children
4. Gender sensitization
5. Commencement of the national gender equality policy and action plan

Education

The St. Kitts and Nevis Education Policy Review (2016) revealed that gender parity has almost been achieved at primary and secondary school levels. Subject choice is all inclusive and all students have equal access. Gender disparities are in favour of girls, and greater numbers of females than males continue their education to tertiary level; however at tertiary level female students continue to display a propensity toward traditional gender-biased subjects. The dominance of females in education is also reflected in the National Academic Awards. The review provided a set of policy recommendations to contribute to educational development in the country.

Achievement: The Education Sector Plan (2017-2021) focuses on improved and more equitable access, participation and outcomes at all levels. The plan addresses issues such as retention rates at secondary education level (19% of secondary school age children are not enrolled) and drop-out rates (males represent 30% and females, 17%). Females outnumber males in gross enrolment rates in post-secondary (38% female and 20% male) and tertiary (86% female and 47% male) education respectively. Key performance indicators have been created, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms put in place for periodic reviews.

Improvements to educational provision are an important contribution to the development of a qualified and competent workforce equipped with skills. Inroads have been made with the introduction of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) education, in conjunction with training for teaching staff; a number of teachers attended regional STEM Teacher Training Workshops in 2017. In addition, the Basic Needs Trust Fund funded a project which provided science kits to primary schools without labs. The five year restructure of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Project commenced in 2018 with national stakeholder consultations on the St. Kitts and Nevis TVET and Gender Policy. Areas of consideration under this restructure include enhanced support systems to help reduce gender disparities and gender responsive career counselling in secondary schools to support skill selection and completion of programmes. The collaboration between the CARICOM Education for Employment Programme, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, led by the St. Kitts & Nevis TVET Council for the TVET and Gender Workshop was held in 2018. The consultation brought together stakeholders to plan strategies to mainstream gender in workforce training and development. The objectives included agreeing elements of a Gender and TVET policy to support the national TVET policy, developing a framework for integrating gender into the TVET policy; and proposing strategies to promote workforce development by mainstreaming gender.

Challenges: At tertiary level female students continue to display a propensity toward traditional gender-biased subjects. Data from the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College reveal that female students drop out at greater rates than their male counterparts in year 2.

Setbacks: The persistent gendered pattern of traditional subjects suggests the prevalence of entrenched social and cultural relationships.

Social Protection

The 2011 Census shows that 43.1% of households in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis were headed by females, compared to 56.9% by males. As at 2019, data from the Ministry of Community Development reveal that more females (60.2%) than males (39.8%) are registered in the National Household Registry (NHR). The NHR is a management information system (MIS) which measures levels of poverty and enhances the decision-making process for government public assistance programmes. Of the number of households registered on the NHR, females had more household members, at 53.8% compared to 46.2% for males (see Tables 3 and 4 at Appendix 1). Females in the age range 25-29 years represented the largest group in percentage distribution of population at 4.25% in 2011 (see Tables 1 and 2 at Appendix 1); and are also representative of the largest group of live births by age of mother at 26.1% (see Table 3, Appendix 6). Data suggests that females have higher dependency ratios and face greater risks of poverty. The use of women's unwaged labour in families and communities, and their concentration at the lower end of the labour market intensifies their vulnerability to poverty. Government policies and initiatives to ensure a basic standard of living benefit women and girls, by extension though measures designed to assist vulnerable and economically disadvantaged families.

Achievements: The Government, through institutional frameworks, provides equitable access to a range of quality social protection programmes which are important to safeguard families from the impact of economic shocks, natural disasters, and other crises. Government interventions enhance the ability of the poorest and marginalised to manage economic and social risks and to ensure a basic standard of living. Progress through the implementation of initiatives and policies include:

National Social Protection Strategy (2012-2017)

National Household Registry (2014-2017) **(ongoing)**

National Housing Corporation Hurricane Repair Housing Assistance Programme (2018)

Poverty Alleviation Programme (2018) **(ongoing)**

Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey (June – December 2018)

Skills Training Empowerment Program (STEP)

Challenges: Following the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 there were 1,114 reported cases of homeowners whose roofs suffered damages according to data from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The impact of natural disasters is mitigated by expeditious recovery through government-assisted hurricane relief funding. As at April 2019 over 2,000¹ households across the Federation benefited from the Hurricane Roof Repair Programme.

¹ <https://www.sknis.kn/outstanding-genuine-cases-under-roof-repair-programme-to-be-completed-by-june-2019/>

Violence against Women and Girls

Domestic violence is the most common form of gender-based violence which predominantly affects women and girls. Data from the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force² reveal an increase in reporting rates of incidents of domestic violence. Statistics reveal that women represented over 80% of victims during the period 2011-2017 (See Appendix 2).

Achievements: A Special Victims Unit (SVU) within the Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force was created in 2012. Headed by a female officer, and staffed by six officers in total; five of which are female (83%), the SVU works closely with the Ministry of Social Services, and deals with issues including domestic violence and child abuse. Officers are specially trained to identify and investigate allegations that occur within the family. In 2018, the Unit relocated from the main Police Station in Basseterre to operate from its own independent premises. Previously domestic violence incidents were reported as 'battery' or 'Abusive Language', this has since been changed. Since the establishment of the Unit there has been a significant increase in the reporting of cases of rape due to greater awareness.

In 2018, the development of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol was a significant achievement which was made possible through the Government of St. Christopher and Nevis, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The Department of Gender Affairs has responsibility for the protocol, which formally sets out the roles and responsibilities of the key agencies involved in service provision. The protocol was officially launched in November 2018.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis continues its commitment to address issues related to the sexual abuse and incest of children as part of the Blue Bear Campaign (first launched in October 2013). As part of a regional initiative, and sponsored by UNICEF, the local campaign officially dubbed 'Break the Silence: Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Blue Bear Campaign,' calls for empowerment through education. Awareness raising activities have been conducted in schools, churches and the media; and training delivered to teaching staff equipping them with skills to identify signs of abuse. A National Child Protection Protocol has also been drafted which provides guidance to agencies and professionals involved in child abuse cases. Counsellors are duty bound to report issues affecting children.

Challenges: Prevailing attitudes towards child sexual abuse and domestic abuse often result in under-reporting of incidents. Although the Social Survey on Violence against Children and Women: 'Attitudes to Corporal Punishment, Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence in St. Kitts' (UNICEF, 2014) reveal respondents' had major concerns about child sexual abuse (49%) and domestic abuse (44%) there remains much under-reporting. Factors that prevent women coming forward include fear of reprisals, embarrassment, economic and emotional dependence upon the abuser, stigma, belief that reports of child abuse would not be acted upon, and the length of the judicial process.

Reported cases of child abuse have increased steadily. The gender profile of abused children indicate that greater numbers of girls than boys experience abuse. The main reported cases of child abuse are neglect, physical and sexual abuse. Significantly more girls than boys are

² Special Victims Unit of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force

affected by child sexual abuse. In the period 2012 to 2014 girls represented 80% of child sexual abuse cases, 55% of neglect cases, and 57% of physical abuse cases.

Full implementation of the Domestic Violence Protocol was delayed, because the Domestic Violence Act, 2014; the key piece of legislation upon which the protocol hinges, has not yet been formally brought into force.

The Probation and Child Welfare Board Act, 1994 makes provision for the care and protection of children, and places a duty on professionals to report all, and suspected cases of abuse. The functions and powers of the Child Welfare Board are defined under the Act and include receiving and investigating reports of abuse and, where relevant, providing to the Attorney General, Police Commissioner and Director of Public Prosecutions copies of those reports and investigations. Services are also provided for juvenile delinquency and residential care. The technical responsibilities bestowed upon the Probation and Child Welfare Board to execute child protection services under the Children (Care and Adoption) Act, 2013, is an anomaly compared to other models of practice in the region.

Setbacks: Training for key stakeholders in the use of the Domestic Violence Protocol is part of the implementation process planned for 2019. The delay in bringing into effect the Domestic Violence Act 2014, caused a setback and may be accounted for by the dissolution of Parliament in 2015 following elections and the change of Government. Expedition of this matter is now receiving attention.

Human resource and structural issues hampered the Probation and Child Welfare Board in fulfilling its mandate which resulted in delays for children in need of care and protection. The Act permits the Board to seek the assistance of child protection agencies, and in reality Probation and Child Protection Services executes service delivery.

Gender Sensitization Project (2016-2017)

Achievement: 'Gender mainstreaming' is a strategy embraced by the Government, and is an important initiative that promotes gender equality within institutions when planning actions such as policies and programmes. The implications and interests of men and women are considered in order to address unequal social structures. In 2016-2017 the Department of Gender Affairs received funding from the Basic Needs Trust Fund for a Gender Sensitization Project designed to provide the wider society with a more sophisticated understanding of gender; to improve gender mainstreaming in the public sector, and to enable the private sector to address and provide more substantial reporting about gender-related issues. Deliverables from this project included the creation of three sector specific training guides and a manual for use with adolescents, the private sector and focal point units within the public sector. Approximately 116 focal points across St. Kitts and Nevis in the private and public sectors, and civil society were trained. Gender sensitization training continues to be delivered through both Departments of Gender Affairs.

Challenges: Satisfying demands despite budgetary constraints is challenging so creativity is required to deliver objectives within the scope of finite resources. For example, the Department of Gender Affairs works in partnership with the public and private sectors, civil society, international and regional organisations in order to realize advancement in gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this regard, financial and in kind contributions support the

ongoing programmes of gender sensitization, public awareness raising activities and advocacy services for complainants of domestic violence.

Setbacks: No information available.

St. Kitts and Nevis National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan

Achievement: The findings of the Country Gender Assessment (2014) highlighted the need for the development of a National Gender Policy to assist with the mainstreaming of gender in all sectors of government and civil society. Following submission of a proposal to UNESCO by the Department of Gender Affairs, funding was approved in 2018. The Department of Gender Affairs is the official implementing agency for the St. Kitts and Nevis National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP). Formally launched in November 2018, the GEPAP is guided by a Multi-sector Steering Committee. The project is of 12 months duration and is expected to conclude in December 2019. The general objective of the Gender Equality Policy is to provide an institutional framework, an important tool that will assist the government of St. Kitts and Nevis in facilitating gender equality and empowerment, in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals and other international instruments to which the state is a signatory. The policy will ensure that men and women have equal access to resources, participate equally in every area of national endeavor, and that cultural barriers to the realization of equality are addressed.

Challenges: In general, availability of data is a challenge faced in the Federation. At the present time there is no national central mechanism for data collection. Although many institutions have their own recording systems, difficulties are encountered when attempting to access data which may not be stored electronically, nor in the format required, i.e. disaggregated by sex. Consequently there are gaps in the knowledge as reliance upon limited or older studies. Lack of human and physical resources are recognised as contributing factors to the paucity of data which also hampers the ability to measure policies and services effectively. Improved mechanisms for data management to enable accurate monitoring and evaluation and decision making processes are fundamental.

Setbacks: Government austerity measures resulted in a delay in the acquisition of funding for a national Gender Policy.

2. Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (please check relevant categories)

- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes

Laws

Domestic Violence Act, 2014,
Offences against the Persons Act, 1873³
Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2008
Electronic Crimes Act, 2009

Policies

The National Social Protection Strategy (2012-2017)
Green Paper on Universal Healthcare for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (2018)
Paternity Leave

Programmes

National Household Registry (2014-2017)
Skills Training Empowerment Program (STEP) (2017)
Women's Health Improvement Plan (WHIP) (2017)
Chronic Disease Self-Management Programme (CDSMP) (2017)
Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey (June – December 2018)
Poverty Alleviation Programme (2018)
Hurricane Repair Housing Assistance Programme (2018)
National AIDS Programme

Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

The **National Social Protection Strategy (2012-2017)** was prepared for the Government of St. Christopher and Nevis in partnership with UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean and UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean. The strategy's purpose was to establish a sustainable, comprehensive and integrated social system for the Government of St. Christopher and Nevis. This comprised the strengthening and integration of policies and programmes across the social sector, including safety nets, social welfare services, social insurance and labour market policies. The strategy identified the following vulnerable groups:

- The indigent and income poor.
- Those vulnerable to poverty.
- Special vulnerable groups, e.g. infants and children; the disabled; the elderly; 'at risk' young people; the chronically ill and female headed households.

The introduction of the **National Household Registry (2014-2017)** under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services strengthened the social protection sector. The Registry was developed in conjunction with Ayala Consulting Group, a management consultancy who specialize in national registries and proxy means testing. The Registry provides a common targeting mechanism to identify the poor and vulnerable, including means testing formulae to categorise households; reduce inclusion and exclusion errors, promote fairness and increase coverage in system administration. Case

³ Revised in 2009

management is improved by the enhancement of the decision making process in rendering social and public assistance, and reducing the potential risk of abuses of the system. The Data Protection Act, 2018 also provides citizens with increased protection of their private data which coincides with the increased use of technology in information systems. In addition, persons in receipt of social assistance can be linked to other services that can build resilience and provide relief.

The National Housing Corporation (NHC) aims to improve the existing supply of housing for the indigent and infirm. NHC is committed through its mandate to assist the economically challenged with their housing needs thereby improving socio-economic conditions. The **Hurricane Repair Housing Assistance Programme**, introduced in April 2018, is a substantial component of this mandate, particularly given the Government's pledge to build sustainable and resilient infrastructure. As at April 2019, over 2,000 households in St. Kitts and Nevis have benefited from the hurricane roof repair programme following the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

In August 2018 the Government launched the **Poverty Alleviation Programme** which was designed to provide monthly financial support to households with a total gross income below XCD \$3,000.00 (three thousand dollars). The aim of the programme is to help disadvantaged households meet some of the essential living expenses. The Programme was implemented in three phases; commencing with a data collection exercise, followed by assessment to verify eligibility; which culminated in payments to qualifying households on 24 December 2018. Qualifying households receive a monthly stipend (subject to receipt of other social assistance) of XCD \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) by cheque or direct bank deposit. Designed to improve the socio-economic status of citizens and residents in the Federation, as at 21 March 2019 just over 3,553⁴ households have benefited. The programme seeks to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 10, namely no poverty, zero hunger and reduced inequalities.

Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey (June - December 2018): Within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Department of Statistics conducted a Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey with a sample of the household population. The survey collected information on income education, health and living standards. The data collected will help in the establishment of a poverty index and serve as indicators in order to achieve national development objectives.

Many women have benefited from poverty alleviation measures in the form of entrepreneurial and employment training opportunities. In 2017, the **Skills Training Empowerment Program (STEP)** was improved and rebranded from the former People's Employment Programme (PEP) formerly designed to train unemployed persons and place them into employment. In addition to providing training, STEP now has an element of certification. STEP contributes to national social and economic transformation by facilitating participants' transition into the work-force. The payment of a weekly stipend or provision of micro-financing for small entrepreneurs contributes to household disposable income.

⁴ <https://www.sknis.kn/poverty-alleviation-programme-to-be-fine-tuned-says-prime-minister-harris/>

Investment in rural development is evident. Within the farming sector women tend to be involved in retail marketing and agro processing. One such group, the Fahie Agricultural Women Co-operative Society (FAWCS) was established to improve the livelihoods of its members and comprises 15 women who engage in farming activities; and agro-processing of local produce using the cafeteria of a local primary school. The first green energy school in the Federation is an example of the Federation's commitment to sustainable infrastructure, combined with women's collective action and leadership. Funding support (XCD \$54,000) was procured from the GEF Small Grants Programme⁵. Utilising an 11.4 kilowatt solar panel system, the corporate partnership between a women's farming cooperative and rural primary school enables both parties to benefit from renewable energy technologies. The initiative works towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 7, to end hunger and access to modern energy respectively.

Capacity for food and nutrition security, and income generating activities is strengthened through linkages to agricultural resources and services, in addition to international funding opportunities from agencies such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA). The impact of natural disasters is mitigated by expeditious recovery through government-assisted hurricane relief funding.

Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls

Protection is provided to vulnerable females through existing legislation (see listing above). Complainants of domestic violence have access to the Special Victims Unit (SVU) of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, a dedicated facility staffed with specially trained officers. In 2018 the SVU relocated to independent premises which affords greater privacy. Efforts to protect complainants have been accelerated with the development of a **Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol** in consultation with stakeholders from the private and public sectors; and civil society. The protocol, launched in 2018, is a rights based approach to gender based violence and is reference document and resource tool involving the coordinated response of the agencies involved. Central to the protocol is the Domestic Violence Act, 2014 which provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence including violence against women and children and makes provision for the granting of protection orders. Under the Act the various forms of domestic violence are defined.

Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

The Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis is aware of various changes around the region on national policies that relate to social issues, including human rights. The country position with regard to the language used is set out below:

In relation to access to sexual and reproductive health for girls (under 18 years), current legislation does not permit access to these services without parental consent. 'Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights' is a contentious issue because under the Federation's legislation abortion is illegal, with the exception of rape or the need to save the mother's life.

⁵ <http://www.sknpulse.com/newton-ground-primary-first-solar-powered-school-in-skn/>

Primary and secondary health care is delivered by the Ministry of Health through community based health services and institutional based facilities. Clinic services available include pre-natal and ante-natal care, women's health, family planning, immunisation, child health surveillance, chronic disease management, voluntary counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Antenatal services are accessed routinely by pregnant women in St. Kitts and Nevis; these services include prevention of vertical transmission of HIV and Syphilis. Pregnant women have at least two HIV and syphilis tests, usually in the first, and third trimesters. Individuals with HIV/AIDS have access to care and provision of anti-retrovirals is free.

The National AIDS Programme on St. Kitts, and the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit on Nevis observes global, regional and national health promotion activities, e.g. HIV Regional Testing Day where persons may receive free, confidential rapid testing and counselling at identified sites throughout the Federation.

The National AIDS Programme has developed a working relationship with vulnerable groups involved in prostitution, delivers programmes, and educates on human rights, tolerance and choices. Sex workers and females who exchange sex for money receive education about HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and condom use, and benefit from the distribution of condoms and lubricants. The Sister Programme looks at AIDS and STIs and is geared towards women in a vulnerable position and who engage in transactional sex. The Programme identifies and works with peers, adopting an 'each one, reach one' approach where 'sisters inform sisters'.

Developments in sexual and reproductive health have resulted in improved maternal health, reduced teenage birth rates, and a protocol for Zika virus management in pregnancy and neonatal care. St. Kitts and Nevis marked a major achievement in 2017 with the eradication of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis, as validated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Healthcare services at community level effectively help to maintain achievements such as the successful immunization programme which attains 98% immunization coverage. The Federation is currently ranked number 2 in the Caribbean Region for Immunization Surveillance and was awarded the Henry C. Smith Cup in 2018 in recognition of for having the most improved Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in the region during the past year (based on their 2016 coverage).

Women are disproportionately affected in the incidences of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The Health Promotion Units on both St. Kitts and Nevis take an active role in educating and raising public awareness of health issues. The Ministry of Health implemented a number of programmes to address this national health concern. In 2017 the **NCD Program** launched the **Women's Health Improvement Plan (WHIP)**, a program geared to empower and educate women on how to effectively manage their health and well-being. A further example is the **Chronic Disease Self-Management Programme (CDSMP)** or "**Living Healthy**" Programme created by Stanford University and introduced to the Ministry of Health by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In 2018 a number of persons were trained to facilitate community workshops, open to the general public and

targeted at individuals diagnosed with, or have risk factors of a chronic non-communicable disease.

Data reveals that only 20-25% of women have regular pap smear screening resulting in more women being diagnosed with cervical cancer later. Health promotion via local media and public health campaigns utilise opportunities to raise awareness and sensitise the population on health risk factors and preventative measures. Cervical cancer awareness programmes and free pap testing to screen for cervical cancer exist on both islands.

NGOs also provide public health interventions, campaigns and events on women's health matters. For example Lake Health and Wellbeing, and Business and Professional Women's Club programmes have conducted outreach programmes covering cancer awareness, menopause, fibroids, and cervical cancer.

In terms of provision for childcare, the **Maintenance of Children Act, 2012** acknowledges the need for shared family responsibilities and that equal duty should be placed on each parent in the care of the child. It provides for the equal treatment of children without discrimination based on the marital status of the parents or the status of the child at birth. An obligation is placed on each parent to provide for the child's maintenance irrespective of whether the child is in their custody and also gives fathers the opportunity to take women to court for child maintenance. Maternity is a social function and the provision of support to fathers through parenting programmes conducted by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services promotes the concept of shared family responsibilities.

Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)

The St. Kitts Nevis Social Security Board for St. Kitts and Nevis continues to provide income protection to qualifying women, including the provision of maternity benefits, survivor benefits and minimum pension. The Government introduced paternity leave through the Statutory Rules and Orders No 11 of 2014, Public Service Standing Orders. Fathers employed by the Civil Service have the option of applying for **paternity leave** which will ease the burden of care for mothers. Paternity allowance is not available to fathers, however where the mother of a child does not qualify for a maternity benefit, the maternity grant can be claimed if the father qualifies based on his contribution record. According to statistics from the St. Kitts and Nevis Board of Social Security, maternity grants and maternity allowance represent less than 10% of the total of short term benefits claimed. During the period 2013 to 2015 the number of claims increased year by year (See Appendix 3).

The Government continues to improve social protection measures for all of its citizens, particularly women and girls. The **Government's Green Paper on Universal Healthcare for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (2018)**, is indicative of renewed policy attention on universal health care for the Federation, and focuses on the need for more accessible, sustainable and efficient health care services. The Green Paper considers factors that affect people's health and their access to services, such as living conditions, household income and education. Participation in the planning and implementation process was fostered through public consultations which were recently concluded.

Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes

'Gender mainstreaming' is a strategy embraced by the Government, an important initiative that promotes gender equality within institutions when planning actions such as policies and programmes. The implications and interests of men and women are considered in order to address unequal social structures. In 2016-2017 the Department of Gender Affairs received funding from the Basic Needs Trust Fund for a **Gender Sensitization Project** designed to provide the wider society with a more sophisticated understanding of gender; to improve gender mainstreaming in the public sector, and to enable the private sector to address and provide more substantial reporting about gender-related issues. Deliverables from this project included the creation of three sector specific training guides and a manual for use with adolescents, the private sector and focal point units within the public sector. A total of 116 gender focal points were trained. Gender sensitization training continues to be delivered through both Departments of Gender Affairs.

3. Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)

- Women living with disabilities
- Women living with HIV/AIDS
- Younger Women
- Older Women
- Migrant women

Three concrete examples include:

- Women Living with Disabilities
- Younger Women
- Older Women

Women Living with Disabilities

Training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Aims: Training to ensure that the Federation satisfies the International requirements. To respond to needs of citizens and residents with disabilities and to ensure their human rights are protected. Support provision of services

Target Populations: Government staff / Persons living with disabilities

Scope of Measures: The United Nation (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was approved by Cabinet for ratification in 2016. Training on the CRPD to Government officials was facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2018). Ministry of Community Development et al staff were trained in American Sign Language (2018) to enable them to assist hearing impaired clients to access services. The Ministry of Community Development et al provides support to the St. Kitts-Nevis Association of Persons with Disabilities (SNAPD) through the provision of financial assistance and free accommodation to SNAPD at the McKnight Community Centre, St. Kitts. SNAPD's mission is

to improve the lives of persons with disabilities through advocacy, education, peer support and service.

The Dial-A-Ride bus service was made possible through funding from the Sugar Industry Diversification Foundation (SIDF). A Toyota Coaster bus, capable of carrying up to four wheelchairs simultaneously is available to transport persons living with disabilities and caretakers of persons with disabilities who are in need of assistance, which may include trips for medical appointments, or business errands. The Ministry of Community Development et al continues to provide a monthly subvention to the organization which is used to provide a salary to the bus driver. The Skills Training Empowerment Program (STEP) pays a stipend to the trainees attached to the McKnight Community Centre.

In 2013, SNAPD launched the first ever Women with Disabilities⁶ (WWD) network to build partnerships and provide support. A number of social events were held for members. The Women's Network held membership of the Disabled People International-North America and the Caribbean (DPI-NAC) Regional Women's Network. Currently, the network is in the process of being revived following the resignation of the president, the recruitment of new members.

The needs of disabled citizens are catered for through the National Housing Corporation who make provision for the design and construction of homes for the differently abled; as at 2019, six (6) applications had been received.

The Ministry of Community Development et al has drafted a Special Needs Policy and Action Plan, which was funded by an EU consultancy. The next stage will involve taking the draft back to stakeholders for consensus in this quarter. Cabinet is willing to respond better to the needs of citizens and residents with disabilities and to ensure that their human rights are respected and protected.

Younger Women

Teenage mothers in particular face multiple forms of discrimination. There is a high rate of teenage pregnancy. Ministry of Health figures for the period 2014-2018 reveal that 19 school girls below the age of consent (16 years) became pregnant. Data from the Department of Statistics reveal that during the period 2013-2017 live births to mothers up to the age of 19 represented 12.69% of total live births (See Appendix 6). Teenage mothers in particular are negatively impacted by social and economic risks, e.g. lack of sexual education, early exposure to sexual activity and lack of life skills. Early pregnancy often disrupts education and entry to the labour market. Low levels of education contribute to minimal skills, limited earning potential and vulnerability. Data suggests that early pregnancy is often the start of a cycle of poverty. Pregnant teenagers are a cohort who have been identified as an at risk group requiring support.

Aims: Completion of secondary education. Poverty reduction. Skills Training. Advocacy

Target Population: Teenage mothers aged 14-19 years /Incarcerated women

Scope of Measure: Project Viola facilitates completion of secondary education; this includes provision of social assistance required in order to fulfil this goal. Personal development of the young mothers is a priority and they are equipped with life skills,

⁶ <http://www.sknepd.org/newsdetail.asp?conid=5>

receive training for employment readiness and are exposed to education in sexual health and reproduction with the aim of reducing repeat pregnancies.

With support from the Basic Needs Trust Fund Programme, a project was implemented in 2016 to 2017 which sought to enhance the structures and programming of Project Viola. As a result, a project manual and handbook was developed and has been issued to school principals to ensure that they are guided by the process. In addition, assistance is provided to remove financial barriers to education, e.g. cost of day care for babies, extra tuition, books and uniforms.

The Department of Gender Affairs runs a Prison Programme as part of the women's empowerment platform. The Prison Programme facilitates short term skills training and education for female inmates of Her Majesty's Prison to assist them with their personal and career development e.g. hair braiding, entrepreneurship classes and agricultural training. Where appropriate, advocacy services are provided on behalf of inmates. The Department facilitates a luncheon twice a year; prior to the commencement of the school academic year and before Christmas at Her Majesty's Prison to give incarcerated women the opportunity to spend quality time with their families and children (children are not normally allowed inside the prison). The donation of back-to-school supplies and small gifts at these events assists children who would otherwise be disadvantaged by having an incarcerated parent.

Impact Evaluations: In 2018, 5 of the 13 teen mothers (38%) in Project Viola were enrolled at continuing and tertiary education institutions. Students advancing to further education may receive additional financial support and benefit from scholarships. Project Viola is recognised by UNICEF as a best practice model in the Caribbean region.

Since the Prison Programme was restarted in 2017 there have been no repeated offences by the women. Upon release some women are faced with unemployment challenges, but with the assistance from the Department employment has been secured. One example includes one woman who owns a Day Care Centre which operates successfully. In 2018, provision was made for all (8) incarcerated females to spend quality family time with their children/relatives. Barriers to education were removed through the provision of educational materials for school children of incarcerated mothers.

Older Women

Aims and Scope: Provision of care to senior citizens to facilitate healthy ageing

Target Population: Older residents

Scope of Measures: The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services has a dedicated officer with responsibility to work with persons with disabilities and older persons. Older residents are served at community level by home care officers who deliver care in the home to senior citizens as an alternative to care home provision. A number of activities are organised throughout the year providing seniors with opportunities to facilitate healthy ageing, for example, health education, socialisation and physical activity. The Golden Years Club will be revived in 2019 with the purpose of providing activities and learning, including interfacing with the younger generations and mentoring opportunities.

The Ministry's Ageing Policy is expected to be completed in 2019. This project is being led by the Social Protection Implementation Unit.

4. Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?

YES/NO

5. Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories)

- Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)

Laws

St. Christopher and Nevis Social Protection Bill (2018)

Policies

Education Sector Plan (2017-2021)

Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol (launched 2018)

National Multi-Sectoral Plan for Prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2018-2022)

Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative to promote health benefits of breastfeeding (2019)

National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (launched 2018)

Green Paper on Universal Healthcare for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (2018)

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Policy

Programmes

Educational programmes facilitated by the Department of Gender Affairs

Introduction of debit cards for food voucher recipients

Launch of intervention programme aimed at detecting and identifying children at risk of abuse and neglect

Expansion of vaccination programme (to include Influenza and HPV)

USAID ASSIST Project (2017-2019)

Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

The Education Sector Plan (2017-2021) seeks improved and more equitable access, participation and learning outcomes at all levels. Key performance indicators will be measured to enable annual goal setting (see Appendix 4). Mid-term and final evaluations will be conducted in 2019 and 2021, respectively.

Department of Gender Affairs Programming 2019 facilitated by the Department of Gender Affairs include Women's Self Defence Training classes, Sign Language Programme, Women in Political Leadership Programme; Public Awareness on Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Parental Empowerment and Gender Sensitization Awareness; Domestic Violence Protocol Training; Prison Programme and Teen Mothers Programmes.

Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

The Government continues to improve social protection measures for all of its citizens, particularly women and girls. Further developments will directly impact the quality of life for persons who face structural discrimination. For example, the **Government's Green paper on Universal Health Care for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (2018)**, highlights renewed policy attention and focuses on the need for more accessible, sustainable and efficient health care services. Participation in the planning and implementation process was fostered through public consultations which were recently concluded.

The **St. Christopher and Nevis Social Protection Bill, 2018** seeks to formally secure social protection for persons in St. Kitts and Nevis and alleviate poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. Its purpose is to establish an appropriate institutional framework and administrative mechanism to improve efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, in addition to enabling good governance. Under this Bill, an Inter-Agency Commission for Social Protection will be established with responsibility for portfolios which include social development, housing, finance, education, health, labour etc. The main duties of the Commission are to advise the Minister on the social protection floor, taking into account the objectives and priorities of the state, social policy needs, economic constraints, and fiscal space. It is intended to extend social protection cover based on eligibility criteria that will enable those in need to access:

essential health care; and the minimum income to enable access to nutrition, education, care and other necessary goods and services for a child; income security for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income in case of sickness, maternity, disability and employment; and income security for adults over retirement age or disabled persons of whatever age.

The Bill had its first reading in Parliament in 2018 and passage of the legislation is expected in 2019.

The Government's Social Protection Programme continues its reforms. The **introduction of debit cards for food voucher recipients** is intended to provide greater flexibility in vendor choice. Further plans to improve the lives of families and to protect the vulnerable include the collaboration between the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services, and the Child Welfare Board to launch an intervention programme aimed at detecting and identifying children at risk of abuse and neglect. The Social Protection Implementation Unit will also review the National Social Protection Strategy and Action Plan in 2019.

Eliminating violence against women and girls

The launch of the **St. Kitts and Nevis Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol** in November 2018 will be followed by the implementation process, scheduled in May 2019. The **St. Christopher and Nevis Domestic Violence Act 2014** is central to the protocol and provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence and makes provision for the granting of protection orders and for other incidental connected matters. Efforts are ongoing to formally bring St. Christopher and Nevis Domestic Violence Act 2014 into force. The Department of Gender Affairs will facilitate training for relevant stakeholders across the Federation.

Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Total life expectancy at birth is 75.2 years, with 73.3 years for males and 78.2 for females. There is a high incidence of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension in both the male and female population. Women are affected in greater numbers than men from such non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and obesity. Ministry of Health data shows that in 2015 women represented 74% of the persons living with diabetes and 71.4% of the persons living with hypertension. Over 80% of annual mortality is due to NCDs such as heart disease, diabetes and cancers. As at 2018, NCDs accounted for 83% of all deaths in the Federation.

The Ministry of Health continues to take proactive steps to address the increasing threat and burden of NCDs which has a profound effect on both personal and national budgets i.e. disability which adversely affects the local labour force in terms of economic productivity and household income.

Two key health specialists will be added to help in the Government's response to NCDs; a speech therapist who will assist patients recovering from speech defects following a stroke; and a cardiologist who will work with cardiac patients and help to prevent cardiac attacks through life saving interventions. Several NCD-related initiatives are in place, including the development of a **National Multi-Sectoral Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in St. Christopher and Nevis (2018-2022)** with the assistance of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The plan aims to achieve a 10% (ten percent) reduction in preventable, premature deaths as a result of NCDs by 2021. In order to ensure efficient use of human and financial resources and to avoid duplication of effort, these will be accomplished through collaborative working with the public and private sector and civil society organisations. The plan was strengthened through the reinstatement of the NCD Commission in November 2018. The Commission will undertake a co-ordinating role to create an enabling environment for health promotion and as a priority raise public awareness through the dissemination of information to prevent, control and manage NCDs.

St. Kitts and Nevis marked a major achievement in 2017 with the eradication of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis, as validated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In order to maintain the **Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis (EMTCT)** status global and regional validation is required biennially, to evaluate the country's EMTCT

programme. The Ministry of Health facilitates the EMTCT Committee and has recently concluded the validation exercise which considers the quality and accuracy of data collection mechanisms, human rights and evaluation of women living with HIV and their involvement in decision making processes.

Immunisation coverage enjoys high uptake, with figures ranging from 93-99% (as at 2014). In 2018 work began to implement an **Electronic Immunization Registry**; which is a PAHO commitment. It is intended to add two further vaccines to the Federation. In May 2018 Cabinet approved the policy to introduce the **Influenza Vaccine (IV)** and the Ministry of Health completed a **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Policy** which is before Cabinet for approval. The HPV vaccine is intended to be administered to 11-12 year olds; and the Influenza vaccine aimed at vulnerable groups, for example, pregnant women, healthcare workers and older adults with multiple long term conditions.

In July 2018 the Ministry of Health embarked on the implementation of the **USAID ASSIST Project** designed to improve and strengthen health services to all pregnant women. The one-year programme includes those affected by the Zika virus, newborns and young children an addition to the Early Childhood Development Programme. St. Kitts and Nevis is included in the current extension period (2017-2019) to Zika affected Caribbean countries.

The Government has commenced the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding. In St. Kitts and Nevis a high proportion of babies (86%) are not exclusively breastfed for the recommended six month period. In its quest for healthier babies and communities in the Federation, the Ministry of Health continues to progress the **Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative** to protect, promote and support breastfeeding over the use of breast milk substitutes. Work commenced in 2018 with a Baby Friendly Hospital Training of Trainers Workshop. A **National Breastfeeding Committee** will be commissioned in 2019, whose responsibilities will include advising, drafting guidelines and recommendations, and providing support to initiatives to overcome obstacles and halt the declining rate of exclusive breastfeeding.

Access to quality health services will be further improved with the construction of two modern health care centres in St. Kitts.

Development of National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan

Following the launch of the **Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan** in November 2018 widespread consultations, public awareness and advocacy activities have commenced, including the collection of qualitative stakeholder data through discussions, focus groups and roundtable meetings which form a significant component of the process. The target groups include women's and men's organisations, public and private sectors, non-governmental, community, and faith-based organisations; civil society, the media, and female-headed families. A number of opportunities will be created to invite stakeholders and the general public to contribute and have a voice in shaping the national policy. All participating agencies and the wider community are encouraged to become involved and take ownership of this very important national initiative. The initiative will conclude in December 2019 with a written gender policy.

Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

This section covers progress across the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To facilitate the analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been clustered into six overarching dimensions that highlight the alignment of the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda. This approach is aimed at facilitating reflections about the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.

Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- F. Women and the economy
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?

- ✓ Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation
- ✓ Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women
- ✓ Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)
- ✓ Supported the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and policy measures that benefit women in informal employment
- ✓ Devised mechanisms for women's equal participation in economic decision-making bodies (e.g. in ministries of trade and finance, central banks, national economic commissions)

Data from the St. Kitts Nevis Social Security Board reveal little change in gendered patterns of employment over the period 2010 to 2017. For example, 60% of women were employed in the manufacturing sector, 60-61% in hotel and restaurant occupations, 70-73% in health and social work; and 70% in financial intermediary roles. Transport, storage and communications occupations have a gender balance (see Appendix 5). Generally, equal salaries are paid to men and women doing comparable work. Vulnerable workers were granted protection following a minimum wage revision in November 2014 which increased wages to XCD \$9 (from XCD \$8) an hour or XCD \$360 per week; an 11% increase. Negotiations are ongoing for a further increase in the minimum wage.

Women in Non-Traditional Occupations/Business

Aims and Scope of Measures Taken: To improve opportunities for women in non-traditional occupations, and to create an environment for women to feel more comfortable with breaking cultural barriers in the job market

Target Population: Women

Women represent less than 25% employed in the area of non-traditional occupations. Positive steps were taken to move female employment beyond cultural barriers. In March 2016, the Gender Affairs Division in Nevis launched the Non-traditional Occupations for Women (NOW) Programme. It was envisaged that as the female labour force participation rate increases, the gross domestic product of the country will also be positively impacted. Women with the prerequisite skills are able to work beyond retirement should they choose to do so. Training is delivered on the job or through training seminars in areas such as truck driving, construction work and engine maintenance. Impact is formally recognised during the annual International Women’s Day celebrations in Nevis, where women are awarded for their contribution to the community, their strength and courage in doing, and promoting non-traditional jobs. In 2018, three women in non-traditional occupations received awards; other honourees included women who demonstrated entrepreneurship skills by starting small businesses in existence for over five years, while providing gainful employment for other individuals. Women in non-traditional occupations in St. Kitts are also recognised.

Improved financial inclusion and access to credit

The Human Rights Report of 2015 for St. Kitts and Nevis noted that “women did not experience discrimination in areas such as obtaining credit or owning or managing businesses”. However, it should be recognised that much lending is collateral based, therefore alternative gender-sensitive forms of lending need to be available to economically disadvantaged households who own few assets in order to provide equitable access to entrepreneurship opportunities.

Scope of Measures: There are a number of organisations from which credit may be obtained. The St Kitts. Co-operative Credit Union offers consumer loans, mortgages and credit for small business activities. Credit Union report that there is a gender balance in the applications. The St. Kitts Investment Promotion Agency (SKIPPA) is a government agency which supports the expansion of local investment and provides assistance with starting projects. As at January 2017, data indicated that 201 males (65.25%) and 107 females (34.74%) applied for, and received loans under the Small Enterprises Assistant Fund programme (SEAF). The Foundation for National Development (FND) is an independent, community based, non-profit institution which provides credit to the small scale sector. Data at 2017 suggests that approximately 30% of loans have been made to women who have a better repayment history than men. The loans that women apply for tend to be for hairdressing and retail operations. The Development Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis takes a socially conscious position and report that they do not allow collateral to be an impediment to the granting of loans. The vast majority of Development Bank student loans are to females, as are mortgages; whereas males tend to apply for business loans.

Educational Programmes conducted by Department of Gender Affairs (2018)

Aims: Advancement of gender equality through education.

Target populations: Government employees, private and public sector workers aged 18 to 60 years

Scope of Measures: The home ownership educational seminar was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and Nevis Housing & Land Development

Corporation (NHLDC) under the theme “Making the Dream a Reality”. The seminar provided information and inspiration to attendees on the goal of home ownership. Topics covered advantages and disadvantages of home ownership, money management principles, understanding mortgages, insurance, management and maintenance. Hosted over a day and a half the seminar was attended by 46 persons (61% female, 39% male) on day one, and 26 persons (78% female, 23% male) on day two.

A two day seminar for Retirement Planning, sponsored by the Department provided information on preparation, entrepreneurship, second careers, social protection investment and banking amongst others. Hosted in a community setting benefited 41 persons (68% female, 32% male) on day one, and 34 persons (76% female, 23% male) on day two.

The Gender in the Workplace Programme, launched in 2014 was repeated in 2018 to address concerns of discrimination, gender inequity and harassment in the workplace. Targeted at private and public sector workers aged 18 to 60 years, the program, approximately 93 persons attended representing 27 organisations. The project is an ongoing initiative to be held bi-annually.

Impacts: Sexual harassment in the workplace is recognised by the Gender in the Workplace programme as a priority issue.

7. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

- ✓ Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave

Provision of care and strengthened parental leave

Aims: Provision of quality childcare, paternity leave and care for seniors

Target Population: Children from birth to 16 years old, fathers, older persons

Scope of Measures: Women’s economic enhancement is assisted by the government-run island-wide network of Early Childhood Development Centres. Originally established to assist low income women, they have evolved and now cater to middle income residents and enable women to enter the workforce. Serving children from birth to five years old; the centres operate between the hours of 8am to 5:30pm and provide high quality early childhood care and education and prepare children for school. Within the Federation there are 19 public centres and 95 private centres, with over 100 practitioners licenced to run such facilities. These services assist women to balance work, caregiving responsibilities, and participate in public life. Under the Education Sector Plan 2017-2021 the number of early childhood spaces have been increased. Private provision is regulated and monitored by the Child Welfare Board. Parents and Guardians of children registered at Government centres are charged a weekly nominal fee of XCD \$15.00 per child compared with XCD \$25.00 to XCD \$45.00 charged per child in private childcare centres. There is a subvention given by Government and Government run facilities are fully utilised. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with health centres, works closely with early childcare centres to provide immunisation and address any health problems. There is no mandatory requirement for children to be enrolled, therefore some children may not be exposed to a

stimulating environment or trained childcare staff. To address this issue, basic training in childcare is delivered by an officer to caregivers within the family home under the 'Reaching the Unreached' and 'Pre-School Expansion' programmes. Government training is available to public and private centres.

The Department of Youth Empowerment runs an annual two week residential summer camp for children aged between 8-16 years providing opportunities for skills training, personal development and the promotion of good citizenship.

The St. Christopher and Nevis Statutory Rules and Orders No 11 of 2014, Public Service Standing Orders entitles male officers with two years' service to five working days' paid leave per confinement up to a maximum of two confinements during his term of service. The introduction of **paternity leave** will ease the burden of care for mothers.

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services has a dedicated officer with responsibility to work with persons with disabilities and **older persons**. Personnel within the Ministry alongside a network of homecare officers to deliver in-home care to older persons who have limited means for self-care.

8. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

YES/NO

No data available.

If YES, have assessments on their impact on women and men, respectively, been conducted?

- Yes, their impact on women/men was estimated before measures were put in place.
- Yes, the impact was assessed after measures were put in place.
- No, the impact on women/men has not been assessed.

If YES, please describe the findings (1-2 pages).

Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- B. Education and training of women
- C. Women and health
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

- ✓ Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- ✓ Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)

Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Projects

Aims: Established in 1979, the BNTF aims to reduce the vulnerability of poor communities in a sustainable and gender-sensitive manner.

Target Population: Vulnerable and poor

Scope of Measures Taken: The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) is a regional poverty alleviation programme jointly funded by the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of St Kitts and Nevis. The BNTF provided funding for projects which benefit women, including childcare centres, health facilities, schools, employment training and parenting skills programmes. BNTF direct skills training included gerontology training which equipped participants (majority female) with skills to care for elders and provided an employment path. The BNTF programme was in its final stage in 2017.

Impact: On completion the candidates were registered with the Department of Social and Community Development as home aides. The BNTF tried to achieve a gender balance, but recognised that some areas are female dominated; for example, capacity building for early childhood educators. Under the TVET programme 35 female nursery workers received training and certification and 30 female new pre-school teachers received orientation training. Training in entrepreneurial development and employment skills enhancement was targeted at 100 females and 65 males (including factory workers) with grant funding provided to start up business; this proved very successful.

Lessons Learned:

Links to Further Information:

Training Initiatives

Aims: Empowering participants and facilitating their transition into the work-force

Target Population: Unemployed individuals

Budget: XCD \$214 million

Scope of Measures: Many women have benefited from poverty alleviation measures in the form of entrepreneurial and employment training opportunities. In February 2017, the government's People's Employment Programme (PEP); originally instituted to address unemployed individuals, was re-branded as the Skills Training Empowerment Programme (STEP) at a cost of XCD \$214 million. The programme now has an element of certification and delivers transferrable skills training intended to provide upward mobility. STEP contributes to national social and economic transformation through projects by

empowering participants and facilitating their transition into the work-force; in addition, the payment of a weekly stipend or provision of micro-financing for small entrepreneurs contributes to household disposable income. The Women in Small Enterprise program (WISE), part of the STEP programme, seeks to facilitate employment opportunities to empower prospective and existing women in small enterprises through the provision of funding for enterprise development and training.

Impact: No information available. Currently ongoing.

Women's Business and Entrepreneurial Activities

Aims: Advancement and empowerment of women

Target Populations: Women in middle management/female prisoners/general public

Scope of Measures: As part of their focus on the advancement and empowerment of women, the Department of Gender Affairs conducted a workshop in 2016, entitled "Women in Middle Management" for women in the public and private sector with the goal of career and personal development. The Women's Prison Programme teaches life and technical skills to female residents of Her Majesty's Prison. The "Engaging, Empowering and Advancing Women" Entrepreneurship Workshop was delivered to a group of six women at the prison in September 2017.

Entrepreneurs are given help with start-up, growth and development. The National Entrepreneurial Development Division (NEDD) falls under the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs of St. Kitts and Nevis. NEDD serves the needs of micro, small, and medium-size businesses with access to training, funding and loans through the Fresh Start Programme. Businesses that benefited under the scheme include food and beverage, light manufacturing and agricultural related activities. In 2017 NEDD conducted a series of community based business meetings (open to the general public) to support and engage with potential and existing entrepreneurs.

Impact Evaluations: The women received intensive training to develop business ideas and business plans and learned skills to start their own businesses upon their reintegration into society. The Department also provides entrepreneurial training for low income women.

Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty

Aims: Increase access to legal services in rural areas

Scope of Measure: In 2016 the Legal Aid Advice Centre in St. Kitts began a thrust towards Legal Aid Clinics in rural areas and services were made more accessible to persons living in those areas. Organised clinics covered a range of legal areas. (There is no legal aid provision in Nevis).

Target Population: Persons unable to afford an attorney at the private bar

Impact: 36 Legal Clinics were conducted by the Legal Aid and Advice Centre in 2016.

10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened conditional cash transfers

Improved Social Assistance Mechanisms

Aims: To strengthen the social protection sector

Target Population: Vulnerable and indigent

Scope of Measure: The implementation of the National Household Registry (NHR) was part of the revamping of the social safety net to strengthen the social protection sector. The Department of Community Development and Social Services undertook this project in with technical assistance from Ayala Consulting Group; a management consultancy firm specializing in national registries and proxy means test. The data collection exercise comprised confidential surveys conducted with heads of households in 2015. The NHR management information system (MIS) measures levels of poverty and enhances the decision-making process for government public assistance programmes.

Mechanisms are also in place for recipients of social protection measures to receive payment by cheque or direct bank deposit, e.g. maternity benefits and Poverty Alleviation Programme. The Government's Social Protection Programme continues its reforms. The introduction of debit cards for food voucher recipients is intended to provide greater flexibility in vendor choice. Persons in need may also directly contact the Department of Social Services where requests for assistance are assessed, e.g. medical.

Impact: Qualifying households are provided with a basic standard of living in order to alleviate poverty. Households registered also benefit through the ability of the NHR to link families to other government provided social assistance programmes. As at the end of 2018, 6,215 households were registered which allows the Government to target persons for social protection programmes.

Education Programme Provision

Aims: Removal of barriers to education

Target Population: Vulnerable families

Scope of Measure: Families continue to benefit from the Ministry of Education programme provision to remove barriers to education. These include the School Transport System, which provides a fleet of buses to take children to and from school at no cost to parents and guardians. The Student Education Learning Fund (SELF) Project assists low-income families by providing textbooks at no cost, and covers the cost of examination fees. Programmes for uniform assistance and school are also provided. The Support for Advancement in Further Education (SAFE) programme is available to citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis and offers assistance with course registration, tuition and examination fees. Under the SAFE programme scholarships are available to students in the social bracket:

indigent, vulnerable and poor. In addition a special incentive allowance equivalent to XCD \$1,000 is available to students who attain grade 1 passes in two or more specified subjects.

Migrant Women

Aims: To equip migrants with language skills

Target Population: Speakers of other languages

Scope of Measure: The Federation has a migrant Spanish community. Members of the community benefit from English language classes taught by a facilitator on a voluntary basis. It is important to equip migrant communities with the language skills necessary to help them assimilate into the society. The majority of class attendees are women.

Links to further Information: Short courses on English for Speakers of Other Languages and functional Spanish are available at the local college.

11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

- ✓ Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- ✓ Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services
- ✓ Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns

AIDS/HIV

Aims:

Target Population: Vulnerable, Persons Living with HIV

Scope of Measures: The National AIDS Programme has developed a working relationship with vulnerable groups and delivers services to educate on human rights, tolerance and choices. Sex workers and females who exchange sex for money receive education about HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and condom use, and also benefit from the distribution of condoms and lubricants. The Sister Programme looks at AIDS and STIs and is geared towards women in a vulnerable position and who engage in transactional sex. The Programme identifies and works with peers, adopting an 'each one, reach one' approach where 'sisters inform sisters'.

Screening for HIV/AIDS is provided on an optional basis at ante-natal clinics. Individuals with HIV/AIDS have access to care and provision of anti-retrovirals is free, but due to stigma there is some reluctance to take advantage of these services.

To address the issue and move towards the provision of stigma free HIV services, the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Programme, with support of the USAID Health Policy Project, conducted a survey administered by the University of the West Indies in 2013 with all levels of workers (89%) in both private and public health facilities.

The National AIDS Programme on St. Kitts, and the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit on Nevis observes global, regional and national health promotion activities, e.g. HIV Regional Testing

Day where persons may receive free, confidential rapid testing and counselling at identified sites throughout the Federation.

Impacts: The Health Policy Project Survey results informed training to ensure that staff were adequately trained in identifying, addressing and reducing stigma and discrimination in health facilities. Post-training evaluation indicated that participants felt better able to understand, identify, address and challenge stigma and discrimination.

Figures from the National AIDS Programme Progress Report (2014) reveal that in 2013 more women than men, particularly in the age brackets 15-19 (89%), 20-24 (89%) and 25-29 (81%) accessed the voluntary testing and counselling service. In 2016, 582 persons were tested for their HIV status. Other agencies which promote awareness and provide services include the Red Cross and Pathfinders.

12. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

- ✓ Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes
- ✓ Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education
- ✓ Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls
- ✓ Strengthened measures to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to enable adolescent girls to continue their education in the case of pregnancy and/or motherhood

TVET

Aims: TVET is a vehicle for sustainable development which aims to contribute to an enhanced, certified, skilled, and employable labour force; recognised at national and regional level.

Target Population: Males and females

Budget: XCD \$30 million

Scope of Measure: TVET provides formal and non-formal programmes from school to tertiary level (no formal programmes are offered in Nevis at post-secondary level). TVET has been reformed to empower young women to take advantage of economic fields traditionally occupied by males, e.g., engineering and construction trades. Such trade skills are in high demand, and for which employers pay higher salaries.

The Prime Minister's Budget Address of 2017 revealed the Government's plans to restructure the TVET project at a cost of XCD \$30 million over a five year period with financial assistance from the CDB. Facilities will be upgraded and the quality of instruction improved. Enhanced support systems to help reduce gender disparities will include gender-responsive career counselling in secondary schools to support skill selection and

the retention and completion of programmes. National consultations on the St. Kitts and Nevis TVET and Gender Policy commenced with stakeholders, including education planners and policy makers in 2018. Work is ongoing in collaboration with the CARICOM Education for Employment Programme to create strategies to mainstream gender in workforce training and development.

Impact Evaluations: Information not available. Project is ongoing.

Lessons Learned: TVET is not without its challenges, and low participation and high drop-out rates were attributed to a variety of reasons. These included accessibility (programmes available in city areas only); lack of financial support; and a limited perception of the programme's value. Basic training restricts individuals to entry level employment with little upward progression; the consequence of which is an inability of women to break the cycle of poverty.

Links to further Information: -

[The Education Sector Plan \(2017-2021\)](#)

Aims: (1) To improve equitable access to and participation in education at all levels

(2) To strengthen quality and relevant of education at all levels.

(3) Enhance governance, planning and management to improve efficiency and effectiveness throughout the sector.

Target Population: Students and teachers

Budget: XCD \$571,858 (2017-2021) (recurrent and capital costs only, programme costs excluded).

Scope of Measure: launched in November 2017 under the theme 'Education for all: embracing change, securing the future' set out a plan of action for widespread improvements including teacher training, curriculum reform, equitable access; and quality of education. The plan illustrates the Government's vision and its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal number 4 to achieve quality education for all.

Impact: Ongoing. Evaluations will take place in 2019 and 2021

Lessons Learned: -

Links to further Information: <https://view.joomag.com/education-sector-plan-education-for-all-embracing-change-securing-finale/0785278001511185206?short>

[STEM \(Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths\)](#)

Aims: To train teachers to teach STEM subjects and encourage students to take STEM subjects

Target Population: Teachers and students

Scope of Measures: Stakeholders recognise that STEM⁷ (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects lead to jobs that pay higher salaries. Although not specifically targeted towards female students, the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education is working towards embracing STEM education within the Federation. In March 2017 delegated primary school teaching staff (78% female) attended regional STEM Teacher Training Workshops⁸ designed to train teachers in the use of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) and Problem Based Learning (PBL) with the goal of encouraging students to pursue careers in science and engineering. Fifteen schools in the Federation are involved in a sponsored project⁹ which aims to popularise science, with a view to increasing the number of students subscribing to the sciences at secondary level. Although not gender focused, the initiatives will, by extension, benefit females.

Budget: Information not available.

Impact: The project will be monitored over the next 3-5 years to ascertain the increase in student numbers.

Lessons Learned: -

Links to further Information: -

Programmes for Teen Mothers

Aim: To provide an enabling environment in which teen mothers can complete their education.

Target Population: School girls who become pregnant while in education/Girls identified as at high risk of social influences.

Budget: No information available

Scope of Measure: With support from the Basic Needs Trust Programme, a project was implemented in 2016 to 2017 which sought to enhance the structures and programming of the Project Viola. As a result, a project manual and handbook was developed and has been issued to school principals to ensure that they are guided by the process. Assistance is provided to remove financial barriers to education, e.g. cost of day care for babies, extra tuition, books and uniforms.

In Nevis, the Ministry of Social Services and the Division of Gender Affairs also runs programmes that support women. In 2007 a similar programme to Project Viola was implemented in Nevis; the “Second Chance” Project caters to teenage mothers and aims to reintegrate them into school. “Baby Think It Over” is a program aimed at teens to build awareness of the difficulties of pregnancy and the responsibilities of parenthood. Nevisian Pearls is a closed group, counselling and social activities programme for female students in

⁷ STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. An approach to teaching and learning which integrates the skills of STEM subjects and inquiry based learning to educate and equip students with the skills needed for the modern workforce.

⁸ The Caribbean Science Foundation and Caribbean Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math hosted one workshop on St. Kitts in March 2017 (<http://caribbeanscience.org/csf-and-cas-host-stem-teacher-training-workshops-in-st-kitts-and-nevis/>) [accessed 15.09.17]

⁹ Sponsored by the Caribbean Development Bank and Basic Needs Trust Fund

secondary schools who are deemed at high risk of social influences. Evolving problems are met with early intervention and the girls are able express themselves freely and build confidence in a supportive environment.

Impacts: The project enjoys success with many teenage mothers going on to tertiary education; in 2018., 3 of the 13 programme participants were enrolled in post-secondary studies and represented 38%. Students advancing to further education may receive additional financial support and benefit from scholarships. Project Viola is recognised by UNICEF as a best practice model in the Caribbean region.

Lessons Learned: -

Links to further Information: -

Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

Critical areas of concern:

- D. Violence against women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

13. In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

- ✓ Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- ✓ Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment
- ✓ Trafficking in women and girls

Aims: Protection for victims of gender domestic violence/raising awareness

Target Population: Complainants of domestic violence

Scope of Measures: In the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis legislation is in place to address intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence. For example, the Domestic Violence Act, 2014 defines various forms of domestic violence. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol was formally launched in November 2018. The forms of domestic violence contained within the Protocol include:

Violence (physical harm, sexual or psychological suffering), threats of violence, coercion, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, molestation, conduct of an offensive or harassing nature, conduct which amounts to psychological abuse, intimidation or persecution; and financial abuse.

There are several entry points for the reporting of domestic and sexual violence. The institutions, agencies and service providers include but are not limited to:

The Department of Gender Affairs, Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, Magistrate Court (Special Victims Unit), Ministry of Health, Ministry with responsibility for Social Services, Private Sector, Civil Society (faith and community based organisations, NGOs); and Ministry of Education

Each institution has its own system (or lack therefore) of dealing with sexual violence and domestic violence reports and recording such incidents as “domestic violence incident”. Data can be requested from the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force who collect domestic violence statistics disaggregated by sex. Statistics for the period 2013-2017 show that females are predominantly affected in reporting, at 83% compared to 17% for men (See Appendix 2).

The Protocol streamlines the process and formally documents the roles and responsibilities of institutions, agencies and service providers involved. Training with relevant stakeholders is part of the implementation process scheduled in 2019.

Furthermore, the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2008¹⁰ prescribes measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, with particular regard to victims who are women and children. The Saint Christopher and Nevis Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act , Chapter 4.40 states it is ‘AN ACT to prescribe measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons with particular regard to victims who are women and children, and to provide for related or incidental matters’. Under section 3 of this Act trafficking in persons is a criminal offence and persons committing this offence are liable to imprisonment for a period of 20 years, a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; or both a fine and imprisonment.

The law prohibits rape but it does not specifically address spousal rape. There is anecdotal evidence of this problem which is often under-reported. The subject is a controversial and cultural argument; and there is not broad public support for legislation so public education and awareness is necessary.

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) within the Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force works closely with the Department of Social Services and deals with issues including domestic violence and child abuse. Officers are specially trained to identify and investigate allegations that occur within the family. The SVU is headed by a female officer, and staffed by six officers in total; five of which are female (83%). Established in 2012, the unit relocated from the Police Headquarters in Basseterre in 2018 and now operates from independent premises. Since the establishment of the Unit there has been a significant increase in the reporting of cases of rape due to greater awareness.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25 November to 10 December) is observed with a campaign and public awareness events and activities; for example, the alliance with media to deliver the reality of domestic violence in the homes and minds of the

¹⁰ Amended in 2009

nation using a series of animations to portray various scenarios. During this period the message is also delivered in schools via educational talks and the involvement of secondary school children in public awareness raising activities. Gender sensitization programmes relating to gender based violence are ongoing in Nevis; facilitated by the Gender Affairs Division in a variety of formats; they include seminars, dramas, interviews etc. Topics presented and discussed include addressing generational attitudes, understanding economic impacts on society, gaining power to change; abuse of men, and empowering communities.

Budget: -

Impact: Public awareness raised / Streamlined service provision by agencies, guided by the protocol

Lesson Learnt: -

Links to further Information: -

14. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation
- ✓ Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)

Reported cases of child abuse have increased steadily. The gender profile of abused children indicate that greater numbers of girls than boys experience abuse. The main reported cases of child abuse are neglect, physical and sexual abuse.

The Social Survey on Violence against Children and Women: 'Attitudes to Corporal Punishment, Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence in St. Kitts' (UNICEF, 2014) examined local attitudes towards abuse. The findings revealed respondents had major concerns about child sexual abuse (49%) and domestic violence (44%) but much under-reporting. Factors that prevent women coming forward include fear of reprisals, embarrassment, economic and emotional dependence upon the abuser, stigma, belief that reports of child abuse would not be acted upon, and the length of the judicial process.

Strengthening of Services

Aim: Increased protection

Target Population: Victims of domestic violence, abuse, and trafficking

Scope of Measures: Legislation been strengthened. The Domestic Violence Act, 2000 was replaced by the Domestic Violence Act, 2014 which provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence and to makes provision for the granting of protection orders and for incidental and connected matters. Legislation which prohibits the commercial exploitation of children includes the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2008; and Electronic Crimes Act, 2009.

There is no official toll-free hotline service for reporting domestic violence incidents, nor is there an established shelter for women fleeing abuse as anonymity and safety cannot be guaranteed on a small island. The Department of Gender Affairs does however manage an on-call cell phone which members of the public can call to receive advice or assistance. The telephone number is published on the department's public relations material and on the department's social media platform. Complaints may be made to the Department who have an obligation to listen and explain the services and options available. Discussions are also ongoing between the government and NGOs towards the provision of a safe house involving private public partnership. In the interim, a temporary safe home may be obtained within private residences, or in exceptional circumstances, in hotels. The Department of Gender Affairs can offer some support to families in terms of assistance with rent, provision of a mattress etc. Protection orders for victims may be obtained under the Domestic Violence Act, 2014. Resources available to victims include the Police (Special Victims Unit), the Counselling Unit (St. Kitts); and the Social Services Department which offer a variety of services for care and protection including counselling for individuals, families and male perpetrators of domestic abuse. The counselling service is offered by the Government but is not available in Nevis.

The Probation and Child Welfare Board Act, 1994 makes provision for the care and protection of children, and places a duty on professionals to report all, and suspected cases of abuse. The functions and powers of the Child Welfare Board are defined under the Act and include receiving and investigating reports of abuse and, where relevant, providing to the Attorney General, Police Commissioner and Director of Public Prosecutions copies of those reports and investigations. Services are also provided for juvenile delinquency and residential care. The technical responsibilities bestowed upon the Board to execute child protection services under the Children (Care and Adoption) Act, 2013, is an anomaly compared to other models of practice in the region. The Act permits the Board to seek the assistance of child protection agencies, and in reality Probation and Child Protection Services executes service delivery.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis affirmed its commitment to address issues related to the sexual abuse and incest of children by launching the Blue Bear Campaign in October

2013. As part of a regional initiative, and sponsored by UNICEF, the local campaign officially dubbed 'Break the Silence: Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Blue Bear Campaign,' calls for empowerment through education. Public awareness programs include Child Abuse Prevention Week which are used as opportunities to raise public awareness of issues faced.

The National Child Protection Protocol provides guidance to agencies and professionals involved in child abuse cases. Counsellors are duty bound to report issues affecting children.

Budget: Information not available

Impact: Awareness raising activities were conducted in schools, churches and the media; and training delivered to teaching staff equipping them with skills to identify signs of abuse.

Lessons Learnt: Human resource and structural issues hampered the ability of the Child Welfare Board to fulfil its mandate which resulted in delays for children in need of care and protection.

Despite mechanisms in place to bring offenders to justice, lack of co-operation from parents sometimes thwarts the process. The custom of some parents, by acceptance of a bribe, results in cases against pedophiles not facing prosecution in court. The Ministry of Gender Affairs has lobbied unsuccessfully for measures to outlaw this practice.

Links to further Information: -

15. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

- Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours
- Work in primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education
- Grassroots and community-level mobilization
- Working with men and boys
- Perpetrator programmes

Preventative Steps

Aim: To tackle and reduce the incidents of domestic violence

Target Population: Young women in schools/general public

Scope of Measure: The Department of Gender Affairs targeted young women in schools for personal development training intended to raise self-esteem and self-worth. A holistic approach has been adopted and strategic partnerships made with civic groups, churches, organisations and the Ministry of Health. The Department of Gender Affairs, in partnership with the National Women's Council and National Men's Council works with men and women

inside and outside of prisons, delivering training sessions aimed at changing the mindsets and behaviours of men and women to eradicate gender based violence in society. One such example is the Department of Gender Affairs collaboration in 2018 with the Ministries of National Security and Education to use serving prisoners convicted of domestic violence to speak at public events and in schools to share their experience and encourage individuals not to follow the path into incarceration. Furthermore, the Men's Programme at the Department of Gender Affairs includes a relationship skills programme, the components of which include negotiation and effective communication skills. A violence intervention programme, aimed at batterers, covering alternatives to violence, gender stereotypes discussions, the law, and anger management. The Health and Family Life Education curriculum delivered in schools covers domestic/gender-based violence.

Many complainants of domestic violence and domestic disputes present to the Department of Gender Affairs. The department has a duty to listen and provide information and options; referring to relevant services where necessary, e.g. counselling and social services.

Observances in the international calendar are harnessed as opportunities to disseminate information to the public. The annual '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence' campaign runs from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). The Departments of Gender Affairs observe the campaign with a series of events intended to raise public awareness of the different forms of gender based violence, the violation of human rights, and consequences on society. Relevant examples from 2018 include:

- Strong government support with a statement delivered by the Minister to mark the beginning of the 16 Day Campaign.
- Church service (ministers were asked to craft and deliver a sermon with the focus on all types of violence, particularly against women and girls; drawing links to human rights) to deliver key messages to established audiences at community level.
- Broadcast of a series of animations featuring various scenarios depicting financial abuse and elder abuse on national television during the evening peak viewing hours.
- Use of social media to publicise information and points of contact for assistance.
- Documentary which delivered the reality of domestic violence in the homes and minds of the nation. The sobering documentary featured victims and relatives of deceased victims speaking of the circumstances, experience, and behaviours exhibited by the perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Contracting the services of a popular local performer to write and produce a song specifically targeted at ending gender based violence, performed at the launch of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol; and St. Kitts and Nevis National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (28 and 29 November 2018 respectively).

- Collaboration with the Ministry of Education for the involvement of fifth form secondary school students in street theatre activities promoting human rights, performed in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic.
- Dissemination of publicity material in public places, e.g. businesses, workplaces.
- Ongoing gender sensitisation programmes relating to gender based violence in Nevis; facilitated by the Gender Affairs Division in a variety of formats. They include seminars, dramas, interviews etc. Topics presented and discussed include addressing generational attitudes, understanding economic the impacts on society, gaining power to change; abuse of men, and empowering communities.
- Conversations take place throughout the Federation to keep the topic at the forefront with visits to male dominated workplaces to discuss for example, “The Effects of Domestic Violence on the Family”, and panel discussions with representatives from the various agencies available to educate the public about the agencies where help can be sought from.

Budget: -

Impact: Public education is key to raising awareness of the causes and effects of domestic violence and ways to reduce and eradicate violence against women and girls. All forms of media are utilised and, where possible, the broaden reach of the message is maximised by using established public figures with an established following, in order to capture existing audiences.

Lessons Learnt: -

Links to further Information: -

16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?

- Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions
- Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings
- Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices

Aim: Prevent and respond to violence facilitated by technology

Target Population: Girls and women, parents, general public

Scope of Measure: The Electronic Crimes Act, 2009 has penalties for persons committing the offence of child pornography which include fines and imprisonment.

Currently public service announcements are broadcast on national radio depicting scenarios featuring the voices of young girls with regard to the serious consequences of cyber bullying which spreads awareness and educates the public of cyber violence

facilitated by the use of technology. In addition the Ministry of Education website provides comprehensive information and advice to parents and children on internet safety.

St. Kitts and Nevis is one of ten Caribbean countries participating in the Get Safe Online which commenced in April 2019 and will conclude in March 2020. Fully funded through the UK's Commonwealth Cyber Security Programme, the project seeks to promote online safety for citizens. Elements of the project include a free, public, locally hosted website with comprehensive information on users may protect themselves; and promotional campaigns to raise awareness of risks and safe use of the internet. Contents of the website cover safeguarding children, cyber bullying, cyber stalking, texting and sexting, online abuse and webcam blackmail amongst others.

Budget: Public Service Announcements – no information available
Get Safe Online is fully funded through Commonwealth Cyber Security Programme

Impact: No information available. Current ongoing initiative.

Lessons Learnt: No information available.

Links to further Information: <https://caribbean.getsafeonline.org/> (prototype website)

17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?

- Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media

Portrayal in the Media (St. Kitts Nevis Government Information Service (SKNIS))

Aims: To raise awareness

Target Population: Women, general public

Scope of Measures: Local media and social media are used to publicise forthcoming events and for broader public awareness arising activities; and mark events in the international calendar such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (from 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10 December, Human Rights Day) with a series of activities to engage the public. For example, the St. Kitts and Nevis Government Information Service (SKNIS) radio programme is filmed live and rebroadcast at later dates. Programmes with guest panellists to discuss pertinent gender related topics, for example, gender based violence featured representatives from agencies who offer support, i.e. Special Victims Unit, Counselling Unit and Department of Gender Affairs. Jingles designed to educate the public to recognise forms of abuse such as grooming of minors and child abuse are also avenues to raise awareness. The Department of Gender Affairs has contributed to educating communities through the commissioning of animations highlighting the abuse of the elderly and disabled, a documentary on domestic violence featuring families and victims (re-broadcast during prime time viewing hours), pre-recorded minister's official address to mark the occasion, publicising forthcoming events and contact information of agencies where help for victims may be obtained.

A further example, is the celebration of International Women's Day (8 March 2018) which focused on the theme 'Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change' and which featured female guests from the University of the West Indies, an Educator, and local Social Commentator to speak on women in the economy and education etc. The Government Information Service digital platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Sound Cloud). The St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service (SKNIS) also cover local activities and events which are broadcast as news items.

Budget: No charge to Government Ministries

Impact: Key messages reach established audiences through all forms of media.

Lesson Learnt: -

Links to further Information: -

18. Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

YES/NO

Teenage Mothers

Teenage mothers in particular face multiple forms of discrimination. They are negatively impacted by social and economic risks, e.g. lack of sexual education, early exposure to sexual activity and lack of life skills. Early pregnancy often disrupts education and entry to the labour market, and minimal skills limit earning potential. Data suggests that early pregnancy is often the start of a cycle of poverty. Pregnant teenagers are a cohort who have been identified as an at risk group requiring support. During the period 2014 to 2018 there were a total of 389 births to teenage mothers. The birth rate to teenage mothers has steadily declined; and has fallen from 94 births in 2014 (24%) to 55 births in 2018 (14%) (See Tables 1 and 2 at Appendix 6).

Aim: Support for teenage mothers

Target Population: School girls who become pregnant

Scope of Measures: Support for teenage mothers through the Project Viola and Second Chance Teen Mothers Programmes, run by the Department of Gender Affairs, St. Kitts and Nevis, respectively, are two of the most significant poverty reduction initiatives, which have had long lasting and far reaching effects. The programmes facilitate completion of secondary education; this includes provision of social assistance required in order to fulfil this goal.

Impact: Personal development of the young mothers is a priority and they are equipped with life skills, receive training for employment readiness, are exposed job attachments to gain work experience, and education in sexual health and reproduction in an attempt to reduce repeat pregnancies.

Budget: To be confirmed

Lesson Learnt: -

Links to further Information: -

Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol

Aim: Improve domestic violence programmes and enhance support for them by identifying and promoting best practice. Provision of information to complainants and reduce duplication of effort between agencies.

Target population: Agencies involved in dealing with cases of abuse and complainants

Scope of Measure: The Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol was formally launched in November 2018. The protocol is a reference and resource document detailing the roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in dealing with cases of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. Training for relevant stakeholders and state actors in the use of the Protocol is scheduled.

Budget: No information available.

Lesson Learnt: No information available. Ongoing initiative.

Link to other information: -

Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Aim: To support victims and survivors of sexual abuse and raise public awareness

Target population: Victims and survivors of sexual abuse

Scope of Measure: The Special Victims Unit (SVU) within the Royal Saint Christopher and Nevis Police Force works closely with the Department of Social Services and deals with issues including domestic violence and child abuse. Officers are specially trained to identify and investigate allegations that occur within the family.

NGO provision also supports to victims and survivors of sexual abuse. One such group, No Judgment SKN is involved in public awareness activities for example, International Sexual Assault Awareness Month, social media presence and collaborates in training sessions with stakeholders.

Impact: Since the establishment of the Unit the SVU has reported a significant increase in the reporting of cases of rape due to greater awareness.

Budget: No information available

Lessons Learnt: -

Links to further Information: -

Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

Critical areas of concern:

- G. Women in power and decision-making
- H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

19. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?

- ✓ Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures
- ✓ Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes
- ✓ Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning

More women are ascending to leadership positions. In the public sector more women are occupying senior leadership positions and are particularly dominant at the level of Permanent Secretary in St. Kitts (see Appendix 7). Women also hold leadership roles in non-government organisations, schools and faith based institutions. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs females represent 50% of ambassador and commissioner positions in embassies overseas. Other examples of female senior leadership within the Federation include, human resource management, Chief Medical Officer and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister. Approximately 80% of the government's legal representation is female. In 2016 the first female Assistant Commissioner of Police was appointed (who was also the first female superintendent in 2013). In September 2017, the first female Acting Deputy Governor General was sworn in on Nevis; and Deputy Governor General for Nevis (2018). Great progress is evident but some challenges remain; it is noted that a gender pay gap exists where salaries are not regulated by statute.

Women are under-represented in decision-making posts and in political bodies, particularly in parliament. Attempts to address this imbalance involve the introduction of interventions to improve the access and participation of women, including measures to encourage women to enter diplomatic careers. Female representation accounts for 20% of the Federal Government of St Kitts and Nevis comprising a single National Assembly with 11 elected representatives of Parliament (one female) and four senators (two female). The Cabinet in St. Kitts is made up of nine ministers; including one female (11%). Of the six Cabinet members in the Nevis Island Administration, one is female (17%). Changes are being realised and political positions occupied by women include, party chair, first female Cabinet Secretary (2015), Deputy Speaker of the St. Kitts and Nevis National Assembly (2016); and first elected deputy leader of a major political party (2017).

Encouragement

Aim: To explore involvement of, and to inspire women in politics

Target Population: Women

Scope of Measures: There has been much dialogue about the seeming lack of women's interest in involvement in politics. This subject receives attention through national and

As part of the 2018 International Women's Day celebration activities a motivational seminar was held on Nevis under the locally selected theme "Press for Progress: Transforming Women's Lives". Topics address included "Pride in Yourself" delivered by the Hon. Akilah Byron-Nisbett (Senator) and "Confidence, Carriage and Courage: Inspiring a new generation of women in political representation and leadership" delivered by the Hon. Marcella Liburd (Member of Parliament, National Assembly). The seminar was attended by 69 females (96%) and 3 males (4%). There are plans in 2019 to roll out a 'Women in Political Leadership Programme', facilitated by the Department of Gender Affairs on Nevis.

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Lesson Learnt: Recognised contributory factors to the difficulties encountered by women entering political life include cultural reasons, time-poverty resulting from time expended in unpaid work; lack of finance and resources to sustain political campaigns, and gendered harassment. However, no temporary special measures are intended to address this issue at this time.

Links to further Information: -

Research

Aim: To explore challenges women face, and to understand why so few are involved in politics.

Scope of Action: The discourse about the participation and involvement of women in political life is ongoing. In November 2016, the Nevis Premier, met with representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat as part of a Commonwealth initiative to advance women's political leadership in the Caribbean. The purpose of the visit to Nevis was to consult with the political parties and explore the challenges women face in political life with a view to understanding why so few women are involved in politics.

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Lessons Learnt: The subsequent Commonwealth Secretariat report 'Women and Political Parties in Five Small States of the Caribbean', published in 2018 identified challenges and proposed a number of solutions to patronising attitudes towards women parliamentarians, negative campaigning, limited economic resources, gender biased infrastructure, time constraints associated with the multi-faceted role of women.

Link to other information: Commonwealth Secretariat (2018), Women and Political Parties in Five Small States of the Caribbean, Research Report

20. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

- Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership

- Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free wifi hubs, community technology centers)
- Other

Use of Government Information Service

Aim: To employ media platforms to promote gender equality.

Target population: Women

Scope of Measures: Specifically, the St. Kitts and Nevis Government Information Service (SKNIS) is fully utilised to reach a wider audience. The SKNIS radio programme, 'Working for You' features permanent secretaries, government officials and heads of department and is used to provide timely information as pertains to the economic, social, political, human and sustainable development of St. Kitts and Nevis. For example, to mark International Women's Day 2019 the Department of Gender Affairs celebrated women's achievements with selected female guest panellists who focused on unwaged work and women's contribution to the reproductive sphere; access to life changing learning within the context of women's continuing contribution to economic development; and women's contribution to the economy and their participation. The 'Working for You' programme has a wide listenership and is broadcast live on three local radio stations; re-broadcast at different times via further three radio stations on Thursday; and is also streamed live on the SKNIS Facebook.

Budget: No charge to Government Ministries

Impact: No information available.

Lessons Learnt: No information available

Link to other information: <https://www.sknis.kn>

ICT Training for Seniors

Aim: To provide computing skills training for seniors

Scope of Measure: The Adult and Continuing Education Division of the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College offers short courses on computers aimed at seniors (aged over 50 years) which each semester. ACE classes are conveniently scheduled in the evenings (5pm-9pm) or on Saturdays. The Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College is committed to keeping education affordable. Nationals of St. Kitts and Nevis are not required to pay tuition fees. Non-national students are required to provide proof of citizenship in order to acquire exemption. Fees are applicable for registration and examinations. Assistance with fees may be obtained from the Support for Advancement of Further Education (SAFE) Programme available to citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Budget: No information available.

Impact: No information available.

Link to other information:

<https://cfbc.edu.kn/CFBC-WP/departments/adult-and-continuing-education/>

Use of Social Media

Aim: To raise awareness of gender equality issues and ongoing projects

Target Audience: General public

Scope of Measure: Social media is also used to raise public awareness on matters of gender equality and women's empowerment, for example the Facebook page and YouTube channel of Department of Gender Affairs.

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Lessons learnt: -

Link to other information:

<https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentOfGenderAffairsStKitts/>

21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

YES/NO

If YES, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

Please provide information on the specific areas in which these resources have been invested as well as reflections on achievements and challenges encountered in making budgets gender-responsive.

-

22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

YES/NO

Not applicable

If YES, please provide further information on the methodology, the scope of tracking, past trends and current proportion of investments.

-

23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?

YES/NO

Not yet. However, the Federation is currently working on the development of a National Gender Policy and Action Plan. The St. Kitts and Nevis National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan project was formally launched on 29 November 2018. The project, funded by UNESCO is of 12 months duration and will conclude by 31 December 2019 with a written gender policy. The implementing agency is the Department of Gender Affairs. It is envisaged that the national Gender Policy will be shaped by the Sustainable Development Goals framework and fulfil the country's obligations to regional and international commitments.

If YES, please list the name of the plan and the period it covers, its priorities, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG 5.

If YES, has the national action plan been costed and have sufficient resources been allocated to its achievement in the current budget?

24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?

YES/NO

The CEDAW report for St. Kitts and Nevis (combined Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Periodic reports) covers the period 2002 to 2018 has been prepared and is awaiting a call for its submission.

If YES, please provide some highlights of the action plans and timeline for implementation.

25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

YES/ NO

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has created a national Mechanism for Follow up and Review of Human Rights, a government mandated process for human rights and implementation and “advocacy”. The Committee interacts with various line ministries.

If YES, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or discrimination based on sex/gender?

If YES, please provide up to three examples of how the NHRI has promoted gender equality. (2 pages max.)

From 2014, collaborative work in partnership with Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, a Youth for Human Rights Training (UNESCO funded) aimed at persons aged between 12 and 25 years. UNESCO provided funding for further projects in 2018.

In December 2018, the Department of Culture and Sports in the Nevis Island Administration launched the ‘UNESCO Youth for Human Rights NGO St. Kitts-Nevis Organization’. Aimed at educating and sensitising youth about their

human rights; the NGO comprises stakeholder representation from the St. Kitts National Youth Parliament, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors and Queen's Youth Representative. The group is focused on laws and policies implemented are in line with human rights, as pertains to youth.

Peaceful and inclusive societies

Critical areas of concern:

- E. Women and armed conflict
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

Other

No information available.

27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

Other

Armed, and other conflicts are not a concern for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis at the present time.

28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

Other

As a UN member state the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is actively involved in the agenda for the advancement of women. In January 2006, St. Kitts and Nevis signed the Optional Protocol to CEDAW cementing its commitment to women's issues. No individual complaints have been made under the Protocol.

The Human Rights Report for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis of 2018 records that there were no reported requests for asylum. While the law makes provision for granting asylum and refugee status, there is no Government established system for providing protection to refugees.

29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

- Taken measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children
- Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training
- Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices

Combat negative social norms and practices and to raise awareness

Aim: To tackle and reduce the incidents of domestic violence

Target Population: School girls

Scope of Measures: the Department of Gender Affairs targeted young women in schools for personal development training intended to raise self-esteem and self-worth.

Budget: No information available.

Impact: No information available

Link to other information: -

Awareness raising

Aim: To raise awareness of forms of abuse

Target Audience: General public

Scope of Measure: Public service announcements on national radio are used to raise public awareness, through the use of role play and scenarios using young people; the public are educated on the potential signs of abuse of minors, i.e. grooming of minors by adults, and the reporting of physical abuse.

Budget: No information available.

Impact: No information available.

Link to other information: -

A National Child Protection Protocol has been drafted. The purpose of the protocol is to provide an effective and efficient framework to protect children who are, or who are likely to be, victims of abuse and neglect. The protocol provides minimum standards for prevention, reporting, investigation and management of child abuse.

Impact: Nothing further to report as the Protocol is still in draft.

Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Critical areas of concern:

- I. Human rights of women
- K. Women and the environment
- L. The girl child

30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?

- ✓ Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- ✓ Monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls

Aim: Management of environmental resources

Target population: Women's agricultural cooperative in collaboration with local primary school.

Scope of Measure: Investment in rural development is evident. Within the farming sector women tend to be involved in retail marketing and agro processing. One such group, the Fahie Agricultural Women Co-operative Society (FAWCS) is a voluntary co-operative, capitalised by shares. Established to improve the livelihoods of its members, it comprises 15 women who have day employment commitments but meet regularly to engage in farming and agro-processing activities using local products. Funding support has been obtained from overseas organisations such as the GEF Small Grants Programme. The first green energy school in the Federation is an example of the Federation's commitment to sustainable infrastructure, combined with women's collective action and leadership.

Impact: Utilising an 11.4 kilowatt solar panel system, the corporate partnership between a women's farming cooperative and rural primary school enables both parties to benefit from renewable energy technologies. The co-operative was established to improve the livelihoods of its members; and provides nutritious, agro-processed foods using local produce. The initiative works towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 7, to end hunger and access to modern energy respectively.

Budget: XCD \$54,000

Lessons Learnt: No information available.

Link to other information: -

[Links to Agricultural Resources](#)

Aim: Increase capacity for food and nutrition security

Target Population: Farming community

Scope of Measure: Capacity for food and nutrition security, and income generating activities is strengthened through linkages to agricultural resources and services, in addition to international funding opportunities from agencies such as the Food and

Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA).

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Link to other information: -

Protection of Environment

Aims: Educating and empowering youth to protect the environment.

Target audience: Youth aged 8-16 years.

Scope of Measure: An annual residential youth camp is run by the Department of Youth Empowerment. The 2018 theme 'Protecting our Land of Beauty' focused on educating, empowering and facilitating the 150 campers between the ages of 8-16 years to become actively involved in protecting the environment. The project received sponsorship from the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) in addition to donations from private and public sector establishments.

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Lessons Learnt:

Link to other information: -

31. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?

- Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

It is noted that obstacles to the full implementation of objectives can be the impact of natural disasters which can devastate the country, destroy housing stock and affect economic progression. Specifically, although St. Kitts and Nevis was spared the full brunt of Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017, the country sustained power failures and significant damage to infrastructure and property.

Aim: Enhance community resilience to disasters

Target Population: General public, young persons

Scope of Measures: The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has a team of eight full-time employees (37.5% male and 62.5% female). Enhancing community

resilience to disasters is a priority for NEMA, evidenced in the training of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in 2013, and Student Emergency Response Teams (SERT) in 2017. In St. Kitts, NEMA has 16 district managers and a group of 16 volunteers; females represent 12.5% for each group respectively. In November 2017 a group of thirty (30) young adults comprising of from St. Kitts and Nevis, were inducted into the St. Kitts-Nevis Comprehensive Disaster Management Youth Ambassadors Group, committed to sharing ideas and experiences to further strengthen efforts of preparedness and awareness. Disaster preparedness information published on the NEMA website highlights the vulnerability faced by the elderly e.g. chronic health conditions and poverty.

Impact: 12 males (40%) and 18 females (60%) inducted to St. Kitts-Nevis Comprehensive Disaster Management Youth Ambassadors Group.

Budget: No information available.

Lessons Learnt: No information available.

Link to other information: -

Model Safe School Programme

Aim: Enhance capacity, incorporate and mainstream comprehensive risk and disaster management in education sector policies

Target Population: Education sector

Scope of Measure: St. Kitts and Nevis is one of four Caribbean countries to begin implementation of the Model Safe School Programme in the Caribbean (MSSP) in 2017. The two year project, funded by the Caribbean Development Bank is designed to enhance capacity, incorporate, and mainstream comprehensive risk and disaster management considerations in education sector policies, planning and operations. One of the elements of this project was the development and enhancement of national socially and gender-inclusive policies on school safety, delivering training of trainers/assessors on the tools and standards for school safety, conducting hazard risk assessments in selected schools, and the preparation of action plans to reduce or eliminate the risks identified.

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Links to further Information: -

Hurricane Repair Housing Assistance Programme

Aim: To improve socio-economic housing conditions of those in need.

Target Population: Economically challenged affected by Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017.

The National Housing Corporation (NHC) is committed through its mandate to assist the economically challenged with their housing needs thereby improving socio-economic conditions. The Hurricane Repair Housing Assistance Programme is a substantial component of this mandate, particularly given the Government's pledge to build sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

Impact: The impact of natural disasters was mitigated by expeditious recovery through government-assisted hurricane relief funding. As at March 2019 over 2,000 households benefited from the hurricane roof repair programme.

Budget: No information available.

Lesson Learnt: No information available.

Links to further information: -

Section Three: National institutions and processes

32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.

The Department of Gender Affairs is a unit within the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs & Social Services. It was first established in 1986, as 'The Department of Women's Affairs' in the Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs'. In 2000, the Department assumed its new name 'Department of Gender Affairs' in keeping with the state's commitment to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all of its policies and programmes, as well as to ensure specific impact on men and women. The Department has major responsibilities for raising awareness; monitoring and improving the status of women and girls in the country through the implementation of a number of International Conventions and declarations; as well as the Constitution of Saint Christopher and Nevis which speaks to equality between National Gender Policy, the empowerment of women and girls, the reduction of all forms of gender based violence, poverty elimination, governance and democracy, and programmes for men and boys.

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services is dedicated to serving vulnerable populations through advocacy, education and empowerment; and enhancement of individuals, families and communities through evidence-based and customer-oriented programmes that promote equality, growth and development, regardless of race and culture.

33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?

YES/NO

There is no national process for SDG implementation

If YES, please provide further information

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services sets annual aims and objectives. A number of international conventions and commitments guide the policies of the Ministry; the Sustainable Development Goals is one of these. The global objective of the Department of Gender Affairs is to ensure that the policies and programmes of the state take into consideration the impact of men and women sharing equally in society. In this regard, the head of the Department of Gender Affairs actively participates in the setting of annual work plan which takes into account the SDG goals; and in particular SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

34. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

YES/NO

If YES,

a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Beijing Declaration and PfA	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
✓ Civil society organizations	✓ Civil society organizations
✓ Women’s rights organizations	✓ Women’s rights organizations
✓ Faith-based organizations	✓ Faith-based organizations
✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees	✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
✓ Private sector	✓ Private sector

b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

YES/NO

Invitations to collaborate and contribute are routinely extended to, and attended by relevant private sector, faith based organizations, NGOS and civil society organizations. For example representatives from the above sectors attended consultations on the development of the National Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol and the development of the CEDAW report in 2017 e.g. youth ambassadors, representatives from the National Men’s Council and youth parliament. Stakeholders involved in previous consultations were also invited to the launch of the Domestic Violence Protocol and the National Gender Policy Equality Policy and Action Plan in November 2018. These partnerships will continue to be fostered through the consultative process for the Gender Policy, which involve the participation of marginalised groups in stakeholder and focus groups that will precede the preparation of the policy i.e. representation from women’s groups, St. Kitts Nevis Association of Persons with Disabilities, colleges, faith based groups, community based groups.

c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.

Information has been gleaned from previous consultations (as mentioned above) has contributed to the compilation of this report. Data from stakeholders has also been sourced and captured from stakeholder websites, published statistics and reports relevant to this review.

Protocol directs that the report is reviewed by the Minister responsible for the Ministry and is also be submitted Cabinet for approval.

35. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

- Yes
- No
- There is no national plan/strategy for SDG implementation

36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

- ✓ Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- ✓ Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)

Aims: Gather information on living conditions / Data collection to inform policy

Target Population: General Public

Scope of Measures: The last Country Poverty Assessment for the Federation was conducted in 2007/08. In 2018, officials from the Department of Statistics began an updating exercise to gather information on the living conditions of persons in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. In this regard a further Country Poverty Assessment took place from May to December 2018. Information was captured via a Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey. The survey sought to collect important information on income, education, health and living standards in order to establish the global multidimensional poverty index and related sustainable development goal indicators, as a means of achieving national development objectives. Data collection was carried out through the use of questionnaires administered through face-to-face interviews

The St. Kitts and Nevis National Gender Equality and Action Plan Project has utilised extensive desk research including the National Gender Assessment of 2014. The data collection component commenced at the launch of the project with a stakeholder workshop on 29 November 2018. Additional fresh data to inform the policy will be generated through widespread consultations to be held with a range of stakeholders from public sector, the private sector and civil society, e.g. gender and health, youth, religion, the law, labour and education, the aged and differently abled.

Other national sources where statistics are available, disaggregated by sex, include the national Statistics Department, the St. Kitts and Nevis Social Security Board, Special Victims Social Security Unit of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education.

Impact: No information available.

Budget: No information available.

Link to further information: -

37. Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

- ✓ Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- ✓ Re-processing of existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- ✓ Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)

The data gathered through the consultation process for the national Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan will produce valuable data for the development of the Policy, and which can be capitalized upon for other projects. The consultation process is currently ongoing and to date, qualitative data has been gathered in focus groups and stakeholder meetings and includes data on gender in relation to health, employment, religion, the differently abled, education etc.

Data on reported domestic violence cases is collated by the Department of Gender Affairs and the Special Victims Unit of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force. This information is available and can be disaggregated by sex, age, type and location.

The updated Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) captured data from the general public via a Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey, conducted by the Department of Statistics between June and December 2018. The data will produce national baseline information as important information was collected on income, education, health and living standards in order to establish the global multidimensional poverty index and related sustainable development goal indicators, as a means of achieving national development objectives. The survey was an important component of the CPA as it measured levels of poverty. The data will give indicators of multidimensional progress, as well as look at the economic environment within St. Kitts and Nevis.

38. Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?

Yes

No

Government Ministers undertake a planning exercise annually to set Ministry aims and objectives for the forthcoming year. This planning exercise is followed by formally published budget estimates. This document takes into account international, regional and national obligations and commitments such as the SDGs. Individual Government ministries and departments formulate work plans in accordance with these guidelines.

If YES, how many indicators does it include and how many of those are gender-specific¹¹?

¹¹ The term 'gender-specific indicators' is used to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as the underlying objective. For example, SDG indicator 5.c.1 captures the percentage of countries with systems to track public allocations that are directed towards policies and programmes that promote gender equality—the underlying objective is the promotion of gender equality. The term is also used for indicators where women and girls are specified within the indicator as the targeted population (see UN Women. 2018. *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York).

If YES, how many of the gender-specific indicators are additional country indicators (i.e., not part of the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework)?

Please provide the indicators in an annex

If NO, how many global gender-specific SDG indicators (list provided in Annex 1) are available in your country?

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is guided by international and regional agencies commitments e.g. Gender Equality Observatory, Montevideo Strategy on Gender, CEDAW, Educational Review, Domestic Violence Statistics.

39. Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?

Yes

No

If YES, please describe which indicators have been prioritized

Under SDG 5 the Department of Gender Affairs has specifically prioritised the following:

Formation of a National Gender Policy
Empowerment of women and girls
Reduction of all forms of gender based violence
Poverty elimination
Governance and democracy
Programmes for men and boys

The Department of Gender Affairs collects data on all of its programmes.

Other indicators which are gender-specific relate to:

SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere
SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
SDG3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages.
SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

If NO, explain the main challenges for collecting and compiling data on these indicators

40. Which of the following disaggregations¹² is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

- ✓ Geographic location
- ✓ Income
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Age
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Marital status
- ✓ Race/ethnicity

* * *

¹² As specified in A/RES/70/1, with the addition of education and marital status.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Table 1:

Population By Age Group and Sex St Kitts and Nevis (Census 2011)			
AGE GROUP	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
0 - 4	1512	1596	3,108
5 - 9	1698	1774	3,472
10 - 14	2048	2063	4,111
15 - 19	1883	1944	3,827
20 - 24	2042	2044	4,086
25 - 29	1880	2134	4,014
30 - 34	1745	1905	3,650
35 - 39	1788	1792	3,580
40 - 44	1657	1611	3,268
45 - 49	1693	1685	3,378
50 - 54	1593	1737	3,330
55 - 59	1211	1154	2,365
60 - 64	690	656	1,346
65 - 69	496	565	1,061
70 - 74	382	449	831
75 - 79	324	393	717
80 - 84	191	335	526
85 - 89	90	223	313
90+	89	124	213
Total	23,012	24,184	47,196

Source: Ministry of Sustainable Development

Table 2:

Percentage distribution of Population of SKN St Kitts and Nevis (Census 2011)			
AGE GROUP	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
0 - 4	3.20	3.38	6.59
5 - 9	3.60	3.76	7.36
10 - 14	4.34	4.37	8.71
15 - 19	3.99	4.12	8.11
20 - 24	4.33	4.33	8.66
25 - 29	3.98	4.52	8.50
30 - 34	3.70	4.04	7.73
35 - 39	3.79	3.80	7.59
40 - 44	3.51	3.41	6.92
45 - 49	3.59	3.57	7.16
50 - 54	3.38	3.68	7.06
55 - 59	2.57	2.45	5.01
60 - 64	1.46	1.39	2.85
65 - 69	1.05	1.20	2.25
70 - 74	0.81	0.95	1.76
75 - 79	0.69	0.83	1.52
80 - 84	0.40	0.71	1.11
85 - 89	0.19	0.47	0.66
90+	0.19	0.26	0.45
Total	48.76	51.24	

All percentages are relative to total population

Source: Ministry of Sustainable Development

Table 3: Households Registered with National Household Registry (by Sex) – By Island

Island	Sex	Household Head	Household Members
St. Kitts	Female	3024	8274
	Male	1881	7198
Total St. Kitts		4905	15472
Nevis	Female	790	2135
	Male	644	1755
Total Nevis		1434	3890
TOTAL		6339	19362

Source: Ministry of Community Development

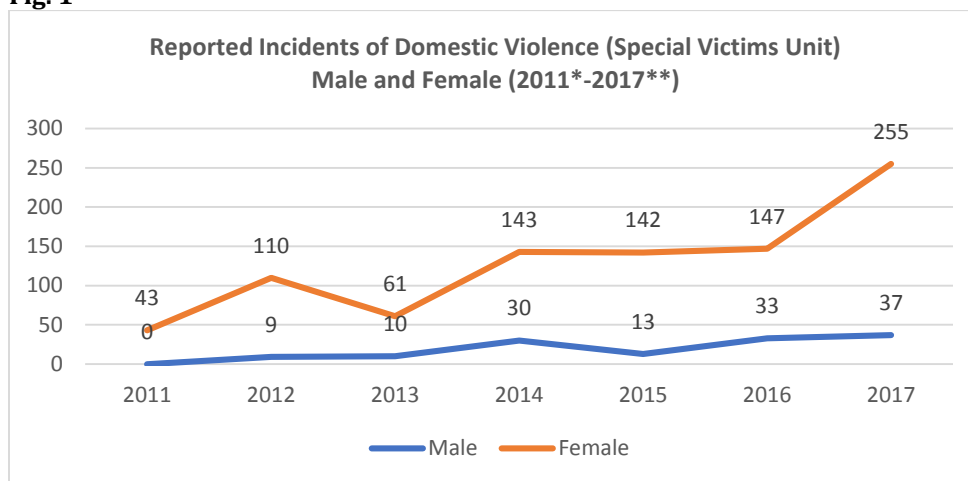
Table 4: Households Registered with National Household Registry (by Sex) – St. Kitts and Nevis

Sex	No of Household Heads		No of Household Members	
Female	3814	60.2%	10409	53.8%
Male	2525	39.8%	8953	46.2%
Total	6339		19362	

Source: Extracted from data provided by Ministry of Community Development

APPENDIX 2

Fig. 1



Special Victims Unit was coined in the 1st April 2011 by Commissioner Dr. CG Walwyn. All statistics before were reported as Battery or Abusive Language

* 2011 data from 1st April 2011 when SVU opened. ** 2017 data is a partial year; from January to November 2017

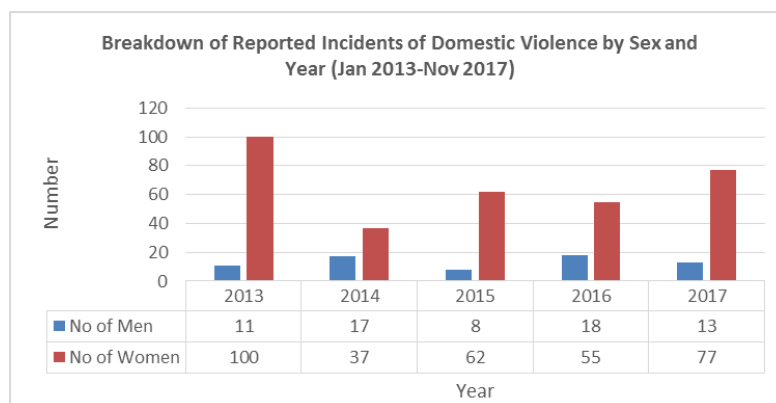
Source: Special Victims Unit

Table 1:

Year	Men			Women		
	No of Men	Above 18, less than 30	Over 30	No. of Women	Above 18, less than 30	Over 30
2013	11	0%	100%	100	79%	21%
2014	17	63%	37%	37	53%	47%
2015	8	38%	62%	62	68%	32%
2016	18	45%	55%	55	78%	22%
2017	13	23%	77%	77	55%	45%

Source: Special Victims Unit (Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force)

Table 2:



Source: Special Victims Unit (Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force)

The table above shows that 17% of men and 83% of women reported incidents of domestic violence over the period 2013-2017.

Appendix 3

St. Kitts and Nevis – Board of Social Security Short Term Benefits Expenditure

Type of Benefit	2013		2014		2015	
	No of Claims	Amount (XCD)	No of Claims	Amount (XCD)	No of Claims	Amount (XCD)
Sickness	9,170	6,070,513	12,111	7,648,030	11,246	8,213,303
Funeral	238	568,591	269	641,206	300	723,906
Maternity Allowance	383	1,652,182	469	1,936,418	537	2,342,172
Maternity Grant	402	183,150	482	220,050	541	244,800
Total	10,193	8,474,436	13,331	10,445,704	12,624	11,524,181

Source: Extracted from St. Christopher and Nevis Social Security Board Annual Accounts (2015)

APPENDIX 4

Ministry of Education Policy Goals and Key Performance Indicators (by sex)

Policy Goals	Key Performance Indicators	Gender	Baseline 2013	Target 2021
Improved and more equitable access and participation at all levels	Gross Enrolment Rate 4 years old	M	101%	95%
		F	92%	95%
	Gross Intake Rate (KG) primary	M	78%	105%
		F	83%	105%
	Transition rate from Grade 6	M	101%	100%
		F	101%	100%
	Dropout rate: Form 4	M	30%	14%
		F	17%	8%
	Gross Enrolment Rate Post-secondary 17-20	M	20%	35%
		F	38%	43%
Improved and more equitable learning outcomes at all levels	Average score on Grade 6 Test of Standards	M	51%	60%
		F	54%	60%
	% of secondary school students sitting CSEC exams in Forms 4 and 5	M	TBD	TBD
		F	TBD	TBD
	% of secondary students sitting exams that achieve five or more CSEC passes, including mathematics & English	M	24%	30%
		F	23%	30%
	Number of persons certified at CVQ Levels I, II and III	M	0%	22%
		F	0%	20%

Source: Ministry of Education (Education Sector Plan - 2017-2021)

APPENDIX 5

The table below compares figures for 2010 and 2017 and show traditional gendered segregation of occupation and reveal a slight increase in the number of women employed in the construction industry.

Annual employment by sex and sector - Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (2010 and 2017)

Industry Sector	Females (2010)		Males (2010)		Females (2017)		Males (2017)	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry	85	27%	234	73%	89	22%	318	78%
Fishing	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	7	100%
Mining & Quarrying	1	25%	3	75%	1	50%	1	50%
Manufacturing	1,492	60%	1,013	40%	1,125	60%	750	40%
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	59	34%	116	66%	121	34%	231	66%
Construction	311	10%	2,878	90%	408	12%	3,080	88%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,920	55%	1,594	45%	2,235	55%	1,860	45%
Hotels & Restaurants	2,016	61%	1,310	39%	2,518	60%	1,659	40%
Transport, Storage & Communications	1,022	50%	1,020	50%	843	49%	887	51%
Financial Intermediation	851	70%	371	30%	927	70%	393	30%
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	940	53%	847	47%	838	50%	854	50%
Public Administration & Defence	4,804	56%	3,793	44%	5,821	57%	4,410	43%
Education	510	63%	294	37%	507	58%	367	42%
Health & Social Work	185	73%	70	27%	204	70%	86	30%
Other Community, Social & Personal Services	769	44%	998	56%	826	50%	842	50%
Private Household with Employed Persons	289	69%	131	31%	253	69%	112	31%
Extra-Territorial Organization & Bodies	16	55%	13	45%	16	64%	9	36%
TOTAL	15,270		14,690		16,732		15,866	

Source: St. Christopher and Nevis Social Security Board

APPENDIX 6

Table 1: Births to Teenage Mothers by age and year - Combined Hospitals, St. Kitts

Year	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years	Total No. of mothers
2014	0	1	0	4	5	19	17	30	76
2015	1	0	1	1	6	9	16	31	65
2016	0	0	1	5	5	13	26	31	81
2017	0	0	1	0	2	10	14	28	55
2018	0	0	0	2	2	4	16	20	44
Total	1*	1	3	12	20	55	89	140	321

*One 12 year old gave birth

Source: Ministry of Health

Table 2: Births to Teenage Mothers by age and year - Alexandra Hospital, Nevis

Year	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years	Total No. of mothers
2014	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	9	18
2015	0	0	1	0	1	3	3	6	14
2016	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	6	14
2017	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	4	12
2018	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	5	10
Total	0	0	2	0	5	13	18	30	68

Source: Ministry of Health

Table 3: Live Births by Age of Mother (St. Kitts and Nevis 2013-2017)

Age of Mother	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total No.	%
10 - 14	0	1	3	1	1	6	0.19%
15 - 19	76	83	75	93	66	393	12.50%
20 - 24	135	161	157	167	155	775	24.60%
25 - 29	158	165	180	156	164	823	26.10%
30 - 34	114	140	123	154	152	683	21.70%
35 - 39	48	69	76	75	86	354	11.20%
40 - 44	14	22	18	25	27	106	3.36%
45+	2	0	0	6	0	8	0.25%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	547	641	632	677	651	3148	99.90%

Source: Statistics Department

APPENDIX 7

Number of Permanent Secretaries (by Government Ministry and Sex)

St. Kitts	Male	Female
Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs & Social Services		✓
Ministry of Education	✓	
Ministry of Finance		✓
Ministry of Foreign Affairs		✓
Ministry of Health		✓
Ministry of Justice, Legal Affairs and Communication		✓
Office of the Prime Minister	✓	
Ministry of National Security	✓	
Ministry of International Trade, Industry & Commerce		✓
Ministry of Agriculture, Human Settlement, Cooperatives & Environment	✓	
Ministry of Tourism		✓
Ministry of Public Infrastructure		✓
Ministry of Post, Urban Development & Transport		✓
Ministry of Sustainable Development		✓
Nevis	Male	Female
Ministry of Agriculture	✓	
Premier's Ministry	✓	
Ministry of Finance	✓	
Ministry of Communication	✓	
Ministry of Health		✓
Ministry of Education	✓	
Ministry of Human Resources	✓	
Ministry of Social Development	✓	
Ministry of Tourism	✓	

APPENDIX 8

Beijing Platform for Action – Critical Areas of Concern

	BPfA Critical Area of Concern	Strategic Objective
1.	Women and Poverty	A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources A.3. Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions A.4. Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty
2.	Education and Training of Women	B.1. Ensure equal access to education B.2. Eradicate illiteracy among women B.3. Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education B.4. Develop non-discriminatory education and training B.5. Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms B.6. Promote life-long education and training for girls and women
3.	Women and Health	C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health C.3. Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues C.4. Promote research and disseminate information on women's health C.5. Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health
4.	Violence Against Women	D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking
5.	Women and Armed Conflicts	E.1. Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories
6.	Women and the Economy	F.1. Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources F.2. Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade F.3. Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women

		<p>F.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks</p> <p>F.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination</p> <p>F.6. Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men</p>
7.	<p>Women in Power and Decision-Making</p> <p>G.1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making</p> <p>G.2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership</p>	<p>G.1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making</p> <p>G.2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership</p>
8.	<p>Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women</p>	<p>H.1. Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies</p> <p>H.2. Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects</p> <p>H.3. Generate and disseminate gender disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation</p>
9.	<p>Human Rights of Women</p>	<p>I.1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</p> <p>I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice</p> <p>I.3. Achieve legal literacy</p>
10.	<p>Women and the Media</p>	<p>J.1. Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and new technologies of communication</p> <p>J.2. Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media</p>
11.	<p>Women and the Environment</p>	<p>K.1. Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels</p> <p>K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development</p> <p>K.3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women</p>
12.	<p>The Girl Child</p>	<p>L.1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child</p> <p>L.2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls</p> <p>L.3. Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential</p> <p>L.4. Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training</p> <p>L.5. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition</p> <p>L.6. Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work</p> <p>L.7. Eradicate violence against the girl child</p> <p>L.8. Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life</p> <p>L.9. Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child</p>

APPENDIX 9

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
- Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

APPENDIX 10

CEDAW ARTICLES

Article 1 - Definition of 'discrimination against women'

Discrimination against women includes any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex that has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying women's enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. This is irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women.

Article 2 - Duty of States

States agree to pursue by all appropriate means a policy of eliminating discrimination against women, undertaking to take concrete steps to eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices in the national legal framework.

Article 3 - Equality

States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development and advancement of women so as to guarantee them the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men. This is in all fields but in particular the political, social, economic and cultural fields.

Article 4 - Special measures

States are allowed to adopt temporary special measures to accelerate de facto equality for women until the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved. States are allowed to adopt special measures aimed at protecting maternity.

Article 5 - Stereotyping and cultural prejudices

States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate stereotyping, prejudices and discriminatory cultural practices. States shall also ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the roles of men and women in the upbringing of their children.

Article 6 - Trafficking and prostitution

States shall take all measures to stop all forms of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women.

Article 7 - Political and public life

States shall ensure that women have equal rights with men to vote, hold public office and participate in civil society.

Article 8 - Participation at the international level

States shall ensure that women are allowed to represent their governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organisations.

Article 9 - Nationality

States shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality and also equal rights in respect of their children's nationality.

Article 10 - Education

States shall ensure that women have equal rights with men in education, including equal access to schools, vocational training, curricula and educational resources. States shall eliminate stereotypes of the roles of women and men through revising school materials and teaching methods.

Article 11 - Employment

States shall ensure that women the same opportunities as men in employment, promotion, training, equal remuneration, social security and safe working conditions. Women must also be protected in respect of pregnancy, maternity and marital status.

Article 12 - Health

States shall ensure that women have equal rights with men to access to health care services, including reproductive health services.

Article 13 - Economic and social benefits

States shall ensure that women have equal rights with men to family benefits, bank loans and other forms of financial credit. Women must also be allowed to participate equally in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

Article 14 - Rural women

States shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas so that they can participate in and benefit from health care, education, social security, development planning etc equally with men.

Article 15 - Equality before the law

States shall ensure that women and men are treated equally before the law. Women have the same legal right to enter contracts, own property and choose their place of residence.

Article 16 - Marriage and family life

States shall ensure that women have equal rights with men in relation to marriage and as parents, as well as in respect of other aspects of family life.

APPENDIX 11

Beijing Platform for Action – Synergies and Linkages between the BPfA, SDGs, CEDAW and Government of St. Christopher and Nevis National Development Priorities

	BPfA Critical Area of Concern	SDGs	CEDAW Articles	Progress	National Development Priorities/Future Plans
1.	Women and Poverty	1 No Poverty. 2 Zero Hunger. 4 Quality Education 5 Gender Equality 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth 10 Reduced Inequality	2 State interventions 3 Equality 10 Education 11 Employment 13 Economic and Social Benefits 14 Rural Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Social Protection Strategy (2012-2017) • Hurricane Repair Housing Assistance (2018) • Poverty Alleviation Programme (2018) • Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Survey (2018) • Skills Training Programme (STEP) (2017) • Minimum wage increase (2014) • Social Protection Bill introduced • Basic Needs Trust Fund Projects eg parenting • Legal Aid Clinics in rural areas (2016) • Support with Educational Expenses • Women’s Prison Programme (2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing Policy (2019) • Minimum Wage Increase (2019) • Passage of Social Protection Bill (2019) • Introduction of debit cards for food voucher recipients
2.	Education and Training of Women	4 Quality Education 5 Gender Equality 10 Reduced Inequality	3 Equality 10 Education 13 Economic and Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Sector Plan (2017-2021) • Introduction of STEM curricula • TVET Reforms • Development of Project Manual and Handbook for teen mothers’ programme (Project Viola) • Women’s Prison Programme – Entrepreneurship workshop (2016) and ongoing skills training • ESOL classes to migrant community (voluntary) • Women in Non-traditional Occupations (NOW) Programme (2016) • Gender Affairs programming on gender sensitization, retirement, home ownership, gender in the workplace • BNTF training programmes, gerontology, nursery workers and teachers orientation • People’s Employment Programme (PEP) • Skills Training Empowerment Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Education Sector Plan in 2019 and 2021 • Continuation of TVET reforms • Monitoring of STEM project in schools

	BPfA Critical Area of Concern	SDGs	CEDAW Articles	Progress	National Development Priorities/Future Plans
				(STEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in Middle Management Training (2016) 	
3.	Women and Health	3 Good Health and Well-being 5 Gender Equality	12 Health 13 Economic and Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis (EMTCT) (2017) • Introduction of Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative with Training of Trainers Workshop • Survey & Training for HIV Stigma Free Services • Women's Health Improvement Plan (2017) • National AIDS Programme work with vulnerable • Chronic Disease Self Management Programme (facilitators trained 2018) • Reinstatement of NCD Commission (2018) • Universal Health Care Green Paper (2018) • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cabinet approved and training for Government officials in 2018) • Cabinet approval for introduction of HPV and Influenza vaccines (2018) • Women with Disabilities Network launched (2013) • Dial-A-Ride bus service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Healthcare for the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis • Submission of validation for EMTCT • Continue Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative to promote exclusive Breastfeeding • Construction of two health centres in St. Kitts (2019) • Continue USAID Assist Project (2017-2019) for pregnant women • Development of National Multi-Sectoral Plan for Prevention and Control of NCDs (2019) • Expansion of Immunisation Programme • Sign Language Programme
4.	Violence Against Women	5 Gender Equality 10 Reduced Inequality	2 Duty of State to eliminate discrimination 4 Special Measures 6 Trafficking and Prostitution 15 Equality Before the Law 16 Marriage and Family Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Victims Unit (2012) • Classification of Domestic Violence incidents • Launch of national Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol (2018) • Blue Bear Campaign/Break the Silence (2013) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Domestic Violence Protocol with stakeholder training • Formally bring into force the Domestic Violence Act, 2014
5.	Women and Armed Conflicts	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information available
6.	Women and the Economy	4 Quality Education 5 Gender Equality 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth 10 Reduced Inequalities	7 Political and Public Life 11 Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Development Centres • Residential Summer Camp (Youth 8-16 years) • St. Kitts Nevis Social Security Board • Paternity Leave • National Entrepreneurial Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Gender Affairs Programming for 2019

	BPfA Critical Area of Concern	SDGs	CEDAW Articles	Progress	National Development Priorities/Future Plans
				Division – community based business meetings (2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Prison Programme 	
7.	Women in Power and Decision-Making	5 Gender Equality 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	7 Political and Public Life 8 Participation at the international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions at regional and national level re lack of women in politics • Increase in female leadership in the public sector, particularly at level of Permanent Secretary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in Political Leadership Programme (2019)
8.	Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women	5 Gender Equality 17 Partnerships to Achieve the Goal	2 Duty of State to Eliminate Discrimination 3 Equality 5 Stereotyping and Cultural Prejudices 6 Trafficking and Prostitution 12 Health 15 Equality Before the Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Domestic and Sexual Violence Complaints and Response Protocol. • Launch of National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of DV Protocol • Completion of National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan • Gender Affairs Programmes
9.	Human Rights of Women	5 Gender Equality 17 Partnerships to Achieve the Goal	All Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Legal Aid Clinics to rural areas (2016) • Youth Human Rights Project (2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Affairs programmes, e.g. Public Awareness on Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Gender Sensitisation • Special Needs Policy and Action Plan
10.	Women and the Media	5 Gender Equality	3 Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilisation of St. Kitts Nevis Government Information Service (SKNIS) • Use of traditional and digital media platforms 	
11.	Women and the Environment	5 Gender Equality 7 Affordable and Clean Energy 15 Life on Land	14 Rural Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Farming Cooperative collaboration with primary school to become first green energy school • International funding opportunities, e.g. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA). • Mitigation of the impact of natural disasters through government-assisted hurricane relief funding 	

	BPfA Critical Area of Concern	SDGs	CEDAW Articles	Progress	National Development Priorities/Future Plans
12.	The Girl Child	3 Good Health and Well Being 4 Quality Education 5 Gender Equality	10 Education 12 Health 13 Economic and Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Bear Campaign/Break the Silence (2013) • STEM education • Education Sector Plan (2017-2021) • Expansion of immunization programme • Parenting programmes • Social assistance (uniform, books, meals, school transport) • Drafted Child Protection Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Protocol