

National implementation of the Platform for Action of
Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in

Introduction

Political objective and purposes of the National Women's Office

The Panamanian State is committed to following up the goals established in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action through the National Women's Office (DINAMU) of the Ministry of Children, Women, the Family and Youth. As an executing agency, DINAMU coordinates with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in order to "crystallize" the follow-up mechanisms which will follow up the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. DINAMU-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the main follow-up mechanism.

the aim of this DINAMU follow-up project is to:

1. Establish a preliminary basis for the construction of a national sectoral mechanism for the advancement of women and organization of civil society.

2. Establish follow-up and coordination mechanisms that make optimum use of the available resources and services available to the public and private sectors in order to advance the implementation of the sectoral mechanisms incorporated and

to ensure the institutional strengthening of the newly created sectoral mechanisms and initiatives which do not have sufficient human or financial resources to carry out their respective mandates.

The purpose is to establish a linkage between the proposals contained in the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide information on the status and situation of women in Panama.

Background, objectives and results

It was agreed that the organizational and preparatory phases of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, were character-

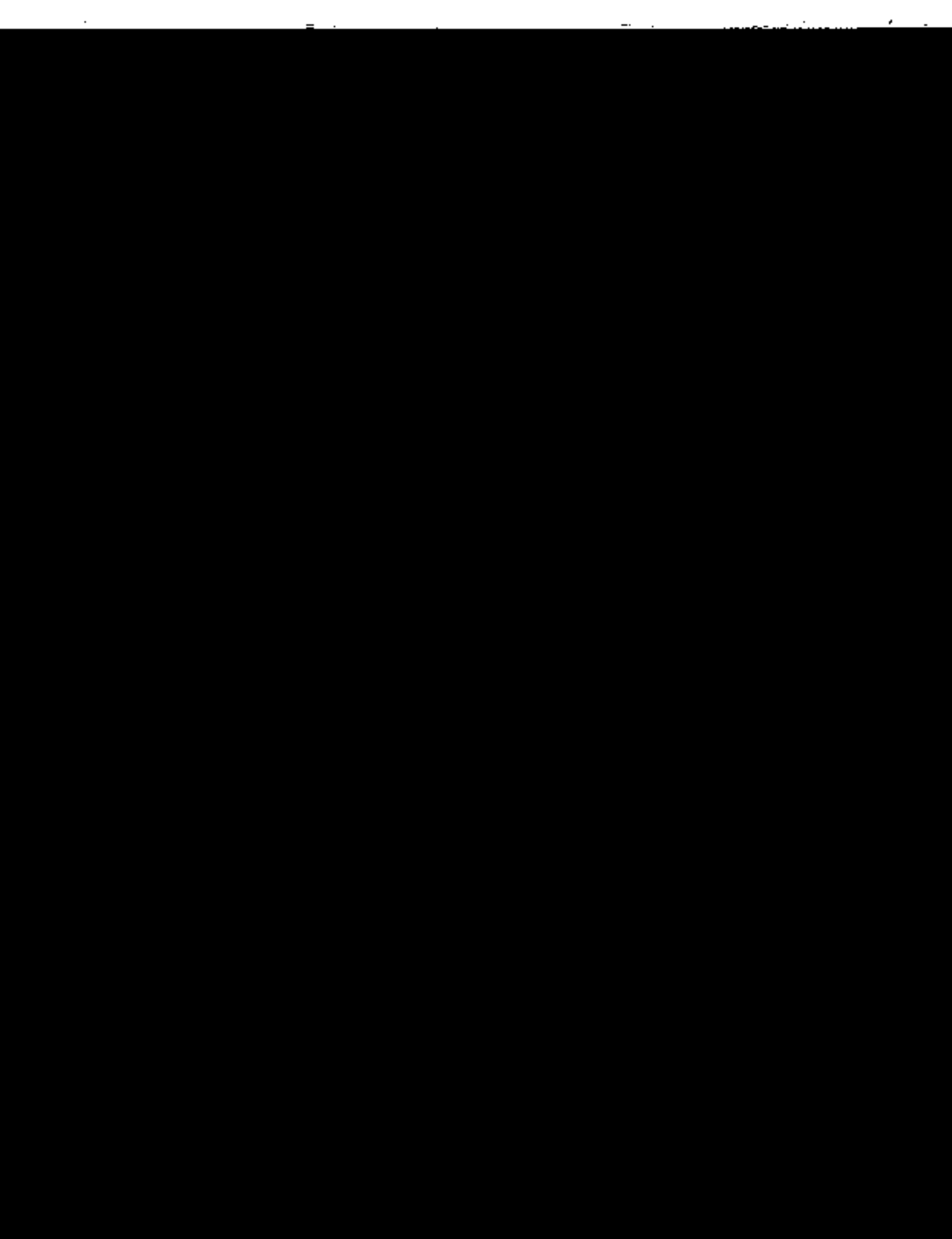
ized by the participation of representatives of women and men from various countries, both national and international, in various forums, events and activities of the Women and Development Action Plan.

the women's movement obtained the adoption of Law 27 on the characterization of crimes of violence, its enforcement by the judicial authorities is limited. The law constitutes a major stride, however, which has increased the number of complaints about such incidents.

Of the Platform for
updated results and



In connection with the critical areas of concern
Action, the National Women's Office has analyzed
National Mechanisms for the
strategic and practical crime prevention and criminal justice
the elimination of violence against women and support for the
Panama's periodic report for the Committee on the Elimination of
preparation



various parts of the Panama City Metropolitan Area (see Methodological steps... the province of Veraguas for the rural area and three, Panama City Metropolitan Area (see Methodological steps...)

described included an initial... regarding the promotion and consolidation of entities such as, inter alia, the... regards the... advancement... of programmes for the advancement of women in governmental organizations and... to promote

The information provided in this initial phase constituted an input for the preparation of the evaluation instrument consisting of a questionnaire (see annex A) based on the strategic objectives and actions established in the... individually and collectively.

In order to achieve the desired objectives and results, fundamental criteria, quantitative and qualitative following indicators and a follow-up and evaluation model that is, inasmuch as possible, simple and feasible to administer are being recommended to the National Women's Office through the evaluation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION 1995

The aim of the following questionnaire is to obtain:

- Your assessment of the implementation in Panama of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.
- Your comments, which will contribute to the design of an instrument to facilitate the follow-up of the implementation of the Platform by governmental and non-governmental organizations dedicated to the advancement of Panamanian women and the attainment of equality.

The strategic objectives of each of the 12 critical areas of the Platform are given below, followed by questions and/or statements according to the following scale, to be placed in the number next to each question or statement:

Extremely satisfactory

...ory, with some positive elements

Unsatisfactory

...ory

Unsatisfactory

_____ Reallocation of public spending to increase economic opportunities for the poorest women.

_____ Specific economic, social and agricultural policies in support of female-

headed households.

_____ Mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the design and implementation of ongoing programmes.

_____ Policies for the promotion of equal access by women to productive resources.

_____ Basic family shopping basket accessible to female heads of households.

_____ Policies for the promotion of the equitable distribution of food in the

_____ administrative laws and practices to guarantee women equal rights and

_____ access to economic resources.

of girl children and numbers who remain in school by scholarships

Increase in enrolment offering incentives and so

Climate free of impediments to school attendance by mothers

Promotion of a school pregnant teenagers and you

Illiteracy

Elimination of femal

Access to vocational training, science and technology

Increase in women's and continuing education

training and retraining of women with a view to lives

Policies on education improving their job oppor

materials and positive action to guarantee women al and scientific sectors

Lesson plans teachi greater access to the tech

Technical and technical training for girl children and to mathematics, engineering, high technology and

Diversification of women in the fields of 881 management

Promotion of women's role in research, extension and educational programmes in the rural and agricultural sectors

Establishment of non-discriminatory education and learning systems

Non-sexist lesson plans and textbooks

Non-sexist language in teacher-student interaction

and reaching especially the poorest of the poorest and upwardly mobile urban poor girl children.

Lesson plans individuals

action and promotion of training in leadership and conflict through peaceful means

Incr resolution

at all

Positive action to address the percentage of female teachers

Human rights education programmes

ricula

Incorporation of sex and reproductive health education in

Gender-sensitive recreational and sports facilities

Allocation of resources for educational reform

Indicators:

(1) Please rate the indicators on a scale of 1 to 4 (see s

e above)

(2) Please review and change the indicators and/or propose new ones.

_____ School enrolment of rural, indigenous and upwardly mobile urban poor girl children.

_____ Participation of adolescent women in vocational school at the secondary level.

Methodological strategies:

The Platform for Action is an instrument which, by establishing guidelines for action for the advancement of the status of women, helps the Government and the women's movement to undertake follow-up and evaluation. Thus, the Platform is a gauge of the local plans of action and programmes being implemented.

Since women's experience shows that neither protective nor restrictive legislation is sufficient to ensure the realization of their rights, other than that we must organize in order to disseminate and secure the

but

Indicators

The questionnaire was further improved by the inclusion of a number of indicators taken from the documents consulted. It was completed individually and in focus groups.

Conceptually, a monitoring and evaluation plan is advisable, since it results in greater progress and overall achievement of the desired objectives.

of the answers to the following
various critical areas of
beneficiaries of the
Platform?
objectives being achieved?

The indicators were elaborated on the basis of the following questions:

- what are the objectives or main concerns?
- who are the target groups and the direct programme; what are their needs and expectations?
- What changes are expected as a result of the programme?
- To what extent and how effectively are the objectives being achieved?

information on the interviewees' general perception of the problems and situations addressed by the Platform. The second part consists of questions elaborated on the basis of strategic actions identified in the Platform under each critical area of concern with the aim of quantifying the relevance and impact of the Platform's components. The questionnaire includes indicators which were evaluated by the interviewees and can be changed, reformulated or replaced by new indicators.

Evaluation report

In the evaluation report, relevance, success and impact were discussed in terms of the answers to the following questions:

- (a) Which factors had a positive impact on the implementation of the programs and which ones had a negative impact? (b) Results and impact for target groups and male beneficiaries and administrators.

Thus, it must be taken into account that the recommendations contained in this report constitute a proposal for specific action to be undertaken in the future. The parties responsible for the action should be indicated.