ODW’s Women Candidate Training Strategy - Fact Sheet

Home Grown Response to Poor Women’s Representation

- Women’s groups around the country expressed interest in supporting local candidates, building on experience of 2007 elections
- ODW sought assistance from UNDP and CDI to encourage development and sharing of consistent good practice in training and advice
- ODW’s WCT Strategy developed in consultation with regional and national women’s groups (including consultations in Lae in Mar 2011 and Goroka in Jul 2011)
- ODW’s WCT Strategy endorsed by Joint Technical Working Group, to target contestants at open seats to complement the reserved seats campaign

Unique Elements of WCT Strategy

- Informed by findings of 2007 Post-Election Diagnostic in PNG and 2010 Post-Election Diagnostic in Solomon Islands (which recommended early and repeat events and regional not just national events)
- Relies on local civil society partners for delivery, ensuring local relevance and enhancing local capacity
  - women’s groups/coalitions as implementation partners in each of PNG’s four regions
  - regional partners nominate 4 facilitators (training of trainers workshop, Port Moresby Aug 2011)
  - regional partners organise and deliver WCT training and advisory services (with support from ODW, UNDP & CDI)
- Not a one-off training, it is a sequence of training and advisory events in the 12 months before the election
  - 4 x candidate & campaign manager regional workshops (Alatou, Mt Hagen, Madang, Kavieng Oct-Dec 2011)
  - 4 x progress check workshops (Alatou, Mt Hagen, Madang, Kavieng Feb-Apr 2012)
  - 4 x feedback sessions (two locations in each region, 2 days immediately after writs issued in July 2012)
- Regional partners provided with skills and resources to build enduring capacity

What will success look like?

- 80 women candidates (and their campaign managers) more prepared than ever before to contest the national election, with greater understanding and confidence in
  - campaign strategies & tactics, campaign messages & public speaking, campaign dynamics, media relations, campaign planning & logistics, electoral rules (including LPV), financing & team management
- civil society organisations and coalitions in each region with skills and materials to support and advise candidates at 2012 elections and at other elections (LLG, by-elections and future national elections)
• different dynamics in election campaigning, women candidates offering an alternative to male-dominated money politics
• different element in the debate about women in politics (to complement the push for reserved seats), noting that reserved seats are unlikely to be in place for the 2012 elections

WCT Strategy Partners

• ODW, Strategy leader & focal point for implementation
• UNDP, implementation & funding coordinator
• CDI, technical advisor (program & materials design, workshop management & delivery advice). NOTE: services provided at no-cost.
• Southern Region: Papua Hahine Social Action Forum
• Highlands Region: Provincial Women’s Council Resource Centre, focal point for coalition of women’s organisations
• Momase Region: Soroptomists International, focal point for coalition of women’s organisations
• New Guinea Islands Region: Namatanai District Council of Women, focal point for coalition of women’s organisations
• PNG Electoral Commission, providing presenters and content on candidate registration and electoral processes