

## **Background information**

- Tuvalu National Council of Women was established in 1980 during separation from the Gilbert and Ellice island colony.
- Formed by women who came from Gilbert ( Kiribati) working under the umbrella of the Women Ekalesia ( Church institution)
- Group of empowered women strongly came together to form women organisations from the 8 island communities including outer islands, administered by selected officials from island communities to manage and run the council now became an umbrella body for all women organizations Tuvalu National council of women was first established in 1980.

## **Requirements**

1. If a woman wants to apply she has to go through her island community representative in the executive committee
2. She will then submit the names to the Committee for final screening and approval
3. Once approved the coordinator will then write letters to the recipients to come at that particular time to the office to fill up a form that requires them to comply to conditions spelled out in the form with the amount approved by the committee.

The coordinator is yet to design a new form once the credit scheme loan is again open for applicants.

## **Credit Scheme project**

This initiative was initiated in 2001 allowing only women who actively participated in island communities activities and as members as well to loan. The scheme went on well from the beginning and unfortunately women gradually failed to pay up their loans. Only projects such as poultry farm, piggery, side road food selling were allowed hence the loan only limited to \$300 or \$500 depend on the cost of the business, and also to make sure more women could access to the allocated fund of \$5000.00 only.

The 8 outer islands were each given \$5000 with the aim to assist women in their business endeavours and of course to make more money to enable more women to access to loan. Some islands did quite well in their credit scheme and are benefitting from it, whilst some islands still on the recovery process. It has been a very beneficial initiative to the women of Tuvalu and has helped them a lot with their children in schools. Especially women that do not have any other means of income at all really appreciate the assistance provided by TNCW.