

9th Annual General Meeting



Saturday 22nd April 2006

2 Nassim Road
Singapore 258370

Annual Report 2006/2007

The National Committee for UNIFEM, Singapore (NC UNIFEM, Singapore) was established as a society in January 1998. The organisation functions as a National Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), headquartered in New York.

Since its inception, NC UNIFEM Singapore has been actively involved in helping many women in the region to improve their lives by increasing access to education, health and economic empowerment. We support the general mission of UNIFEM in the developing nations around the region by –

- Economic Empowerment Programmes – to enable women to develop business and entrepreneurial skills to access local, national and global markets. Projects also assist women to gain access to finance, technology and information.
- Governance and Leadership Programmes – to give women a voice and visibility by encouraging their leadership in decision making processes that shape their lives.
- Conflict Area Programmes – to provide services for women violated during war and armed conflict. The projects also promote the role of women in peace building.
- The UNIFEM Trust Fund to Support Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women. The Trust supports projects in the areas including HIV/AIDS, female infanticide, trafficking, forced prostitution, domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape.

In order to achieve our mission we at NC UNIFEM Singapore perform fundraising activities, membership drives and advocacy work/public education.

NC UNIFEM Singapore has in the past 8 years carried out various programmes, advocacy work/public education programme, fundraising events and events to reach out to more women and men in Singapore and around the region.

1. UNIFEM Singapore Management

NC UNIFEM Singapore operates from a rented office at 2 Nassim Road Singapore 258370. The office has one staff, the General Manager, who oversees the daily operations.

The direction, strategy and management of UNIFEM Singapore is guided by :

Executive Committee for 2006-2008

• Office Bearers

- President Saleemah Ismail
- Vice-President Claudine Lim
- Hon Secretary Michael Ewing-Chow
- Treasurer Sarah Mavrillac

• Members

- Amy Allen (resigned Dec 2006)
- Karen Ho
- Ivy Ong-Wood
- Jacqueline Loh
- Nancy Frohman

The Patron

Dr Aline Wong

The Advisors

- Dr Kanwaljit Soin (ex-president of UNIFEM Singapore)
- Professor Koh Tai Ann (ex-officio)
- Dr Jennifer Lee (ex-officio)
- Ms Tisa Ng (ex-officio)
- Ambassador Chan Heng Chee
- Ms Anne King Markey Mahbubani
- Professor Tommy Koh
- Ms Melissa Kwee (Immediate Past President)

Special Advisor

Ms Leigh Pasqual

General Manager

Fazlin Abdullah

As in the constitution, office bearers can run for two terms except for the treasurer. Each term is two years and elections are held after each term.

2. Fundraising Events/Projects

2.1 Gala Film Premier Screening of Take My Eyes

In November 2006, The Embassy of Spain, UNIFEM Singapore and The Substation co-organised a film premier screening of a Spanish film entitled 'Take My Eyes'. The film is about domestic abuse and how a woman trapped in the situation can find her way out. The film won several awards for best director, best film and best actors as well as has been shown to many shelters around the world to educate woman on domestic abuse. The organising committee had provided twenty complimentary seats to women from shelters.

It was a full house event, we raised \$27,991 from the event and proceeds were divided equally between the The Substation and UNIFEM Singapore. Main donors for the event was Lee Foundation, Hong Leong Foundation, Lee Hwa Jewellery and goodie bags provided by The Body Shop.

2.2 Financial Women Association Dinner

Financial Women Association contributed half of their funds raised from their annual dinner to UNIFEM Singapore. The other half went to MINDS. The amount they raised for us was \$13,520. The funds were directed to the campaign to end violence against women.

2.2 SNOW Dinner Benefit

The 2006 SNOW Benefit was held on 20th November. The evening commemorates the UN declared International Day to End Violence Against Women, the 25th of November.

This is our second annual SNOW Benefit fundraiser and with generous support from both repeat and new table sponsors and partners, we raised approximately S\$131,167 for the Aceh Sustainable Livelihood Fund. Due to Singapore regulations, 20% of the funds will remain in Singapore and will be directed to our local campaigns to end violence against women and administration. The remaining 80% will be going directly to the Aceh Sustainable Livelihood Fund (ASLF).

The ASLF provides seed money for women in Aceh, whose lives had been devastated by the Tsunami, to start their own business. To date, through 10 local Aceh banks, we have awarded 450 women small loans to start their business and they have in turn used what they earn to support their children's education, health and family. Many of the women we support are also supporting the children of their relatives who lost their lives to the Tsunami. We hope to expand

on the success of this fund as by helping one woman, in the process, we help four children.

Funds raised in 2006 exceeded our inaugural event by almost 30%. Expense ratio for the event however, crept up slightly from 15% in 2005 to about 18% for 2006. Whilst still a good parameter by charity-industry standards and well within the 30% expense ration guidelines set by the authorities; given the SNOW framework of partnerships/sponsors; UNIFEM Singapore should trim the expense ratio back to 15% for future events moving forward. This will be the aim so as to maximize funds raised for the beneficiaries.

The Conrad International Centennial Hotel, together with seven of Singapore's top award-winning chefs and jointly with six fine wines and beverage partners came together and collaborated in aid of our 2nd UNIFEM Singapore SNOW Benefit. A wonderful team of local galleries and artists also supported our event with generous contributions of artwork for auction and Christie's ran the auction for us.

The evening was an indulgence of the senses encompassing a gastronomic 8-course feast, entertainment by young local talent, dinner with high profile individuals including our Guest-Of-Honour Mrs Lim Hwee Hua (Minister-of-State for Finance and Transport) and an Art Auction themed: Women; Guardians of Heritage & Culture.

Each guest went home with a wonderful memento; the 2006 SNOW Recipe Book, our signature gift that caps off every UNIFEM SNOW event. Our table sponsors and F&B partners were further thanked with a CD compilation of candid shots from the evening. Post event press was received by Tatler & Prestige.

<u>2006 F&B Partners</u>				<u>Beverage Partners</u>
			<i>Pre-Dinner Cocktail</i> >>	Riche Monde Pte Ltd
			<i>Exclusive Mineral Water</i> >>	Fiji Water
<u>Dégustation Course Sequence</u>	<u>Chefs</u>	<u>Restaurants Represented</u>	<i>2006 WGS Award</i>	<u>Wine Partners</u>
1	Dorin Schuster	Executive Chef, Iggy's	New Restaurant of the Year	Culina Pte Ltd

2	Emmanuel Stroobant	Owner / Executive Chef, Saint Pierre	S.Pellegrino Chef of the Year	Booze Wine Shop
3	Sam Leong	Director of Kitchens Tung Lok Restaurants (2000) Ltd My Humble House	Eu Yan Sang Asian Ethnic Restaurant of the Year	Riche Monde Pte Ltd
4	Julien Bompard	Owner / Executive Chef, Saint Julien Le Restaurant	Restaurant of the Year	J&D Burleigh Pte Ltd
5	Chan Kwok	Master Chef, Hua Ting Chinese Restaurant, Orchard Hotel	Asian Ethnic Chef of the Year	n/a
6	Günther Hubrechen	Resident Chef, Les Amis	Meat & Livestock Australia Rising Chef of the Year	Vinum Fine Wine Merchants
7	Steven Ong	Executive Pastry Chef, Conrad Hotel	n/a	Conrad

2.3 Gala Film Premier Screening of Cages

The producers of *Cages*, a Singapore made film approached UNIFEM Singapore to be a benefit and co-organise their film premier screening. We worked together with AWARE on this charity gala event. The internationally-acclaimed cast and crew of *Cages* attended this red carpet premier event. *Cages* is set in the forgotten suburbs of modern Singapore, Ali's attempt to escape repeated bad relationships ironically puts her before the man she resents most – her father, Tan. But, the truth is not always easy to face when her father reveals a dark secret of 20 years past; a past that may cost a lifetime of relationship.

Cages is a powerful and poetic family love story about the intricacies of life. Set against the backdrop of Singapore songbirds, this eloquent journey of a woman, her blind son and her father, captures the unique and eloquent portrait of family, tradition, and the universal dialect of love and hope.

The event was a sold-out event with all tickets snapped up. We are currently auditing the event but the estimate amount raised is \$14,000 to be divided 70% to UNIFEM Singapore and 30% to AWARE as agreed by both organisations.

2.4 Gala Film Premier Screening of Pink Paddlers

Breast Cancer Foundation, Singapore Council of Women Organisations and UNIFEM Singapore co-organised a documentary premier fundraiser of the film Pink Paddlers.

Ranging from a 65 year old grandmother to a Singapore Girl air stewardess to a biker, half the ladies couldn't even swim, but still picked up the paddles: They all have fought the same battle against breast cancer and found support from being in the same boat.

In September 2006, these ladies came together to compete against other fellow survivors from all over the world, in the first-ever Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat World Championship – right here in Singapore.

This documentary tells their shared stories, sisters in their fights against breast cancer and their upstream battle to win the dragon boat race.

This event again was a sold-out event. Tickets were snapped up fast. 40 seats were donated to breast cancer survivors and women from shelters. We raised an approximate \$15,000 from this event. UNIFEM Singapore would receive 20% of the funds raised.

2.5 This and That Bazaar

This and That Bazaar had adopted UNIFEM Singapore as their charity for 2006. They had offered space at their bazaar in July, August, November and December for UNIFEM Singapore to disseminate materials about our cause and also to raise funds by selling UNIFEM Singapore t-shirts and umbrellas. They had also funded the space and stage for our Not A Minute More Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

2.6 Daisy Milk e-Christmas Cards

Daisy Milk created an e-Christmas Card for UNIFEM Singapore. They contributed 10 cents each for every e-Christmas card that was sent. We received \$2000 from this.

2.7 Women Mean Business Lunch

On International Women's Day UNIFEM Singapore together with the Australian High Commission held a Women Mean Business Lunch. The lunch was attended

by several prominent women movers and shakers as well as professional women who came to learn and listen to Dr Susan Lim.

Dr Susan Lim is one of Australia's most prominent university graduates – and one of Singapore's most loved citizens. A pioneer and leader in her field, Dr Lim performed Asia's first successful liver transplant in 1990, and has since introduced a minimally invasive breast surgery and, most recently, robotic general surgery in Singapore. In 2000 she was named 'Spirit of the Century' in a public contest to identify Singapore's role model for the 21st century. Her hands are immortalised at Singapore's Madame Tussaud's. A successful businesswoman, Dr Lim is founder and manager of Susan Lim Surgery and several other research and surgery centres in Singapore. She is also a volunteer SAF Captain and is actively involved in community work, having jointly established, with her husband, Indiapore Trust, which supports e-learning and information technology education for children.

Dr Lim shared with the audience about succeeding in the business world, playing an active role in community work and how as a woman we can make a difference.

The event was held at The Regent Hotel and raise an estimate of \$6000.

3. UOB Global UNIFEM Singapore Fund

The UOB Global UNIFEM Singapore fund is an open-ended unit trust whose objective is long term capital appreciation. The Fund invests in global securities that show a commitment to the empowerment of women. A portion of the management fee of the fund is donated by UOBAM to UNIFEM Singapore. In Fiscal Year 2006, this amounted to \$ 27056.41

As of 31/12/06, the fund had SGD\$4.7 million under management. Redemptions and management fees have brought the total to its current level, a drop from \$5.7 million as of 31/12/05. UOBAM sees the fund as part of its corporate social responsibility platform, and remains committed to the fund, although it does not currently actively market the fund.

The fund performed on par with its benchmark, the MSCI World Index, returning 1.71% on a bid-bid basis. UOBAM continues its investment strategy, with the fund primarily invested in equities. UOBAM expects the macro environment and valuations to continue to be supportive of global equity markets. Fund's country allocation is primarily in US (29%), Switzerland (16%) and the UK (13%) , focusing on both top financial and ethical performers in those markets. The other countries in the top 6 invested markets are France, Japan, and China. Other markets constitute 17% of the investments.

The Fund currently has 25% of its investments in the banking and financial sector and 15% in consumer products. Other major industries include Industrials, Healthcare, Materials, and IT. Its top stock holdings are Roche, McDonalds, ABB, Royal Bank of Scotland, Sanofi Aventis, Conoco Phillips, State Street, Nine Dragons Paper, and Koninklijke.

In assessing whether the securities in the fund show a commitment to the empowerment of women, the UNIFEM Singapore Chapter's oversight committee provides UOB asset management with specific criteria for stock selection. The UNIFEM Singapore Chapter's oversight committee implemented its revised selection criteria process in mid-year 2004.

The process includes two steps:

First, companies which derive more than 50% of their revenues from the five sectors deemed unacceptable by UNIFEM New York's policy for engagement with the private sector are eliminated. These sectors are armaments, pornography, tobacco, alcohol, and gambling.

Second, the Singapore Chapter has entered into a contract with EIRIS Ltd, a social responsibility screening firm based in the UK, to obtain a subset of the "most women friendly" companies within the investment universe. This is achieved by giving the companies negative scores if they are engaged in women-unfriendly practices like discrimination and sexual harassment and positive scores if they are engaged in women-friendly practices, for example, being engaged in equal opportunity or having women on their boards. The companies with scores in the top 50% in each country are then chosen for inclusion into the UOBAM UNIFEM fund's investable universe. It is believed that this "best of class" approach is both in line with industry practice while providing a wide range of investment options for the fund.

It should be noted that while the ethical research covers most of the developed global markets and has been applied to most of the investments in the fund currently, there are certain markets in Asia that are not covered by this research. Investment in these markets is permitted, as long as the targeted company does not derive a majority of its revenues from the five "taboo" industries.

4. Public Education Events

4.1 Not A Minute More – International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women

Not a Minute More is our annual campaign to raise awareness about eliminating violence against women. This year with the assistance of David Communications Group we organised a campaign called Help Anna. The campaign is an online interactive campaign www.helpanna.com

Anna is a generic name used for 4 women living with some form of gender-based violence – domestic abuse, domestic worker abuse, sex trafficking and labour trafficking.

Her condition would get better or worsen depending on the number of visitors to the site for the month of November. The more visitors log on the better she would get and her story and picture would change weekly. Once they log in they would immediately be shown statistics and a help page offering places and number where they can direct women who are abused or should they themselves be abused to contact.

The website's main aim is to highlight to people to take action should they know of any forms of violence. Through talks and newspaper reports we had identified that most Singaporeans are not keen to take action should they know of some form of domestic violence. They feel that it is not their responsibility to do so. However the website shows that if they do not report the violence or stop the violence they are as bad as the abusers. The website also highlights how and where they can report or seek assistance from organisations that provide direct services such as counselling by Paves and legal assistance from Legal Aid. It is also one of our main objectives to support direct services organisations in their outreach and publicity of their services.

To date there are over 6,000 visitors to the website. Many have reported that they the website was good in creating awareness and avenue where people can go as a one stop place to get phone numbers and contact details of places where they can receive assistance.

The campaign was also ran consecutively with a school tour and talk. We visited these schools to highlight violence against women and how we all can play a role in eliminating it –

- Katong Convent
- St Theresa's Convent
- ITE (West)
- ITE (East)
- Pioneer Secondary
- National University of Singapore
- Singapore Management University
- Nanyang Technological University
- Raffles Junior College

There was also a roadshow at Clarke Quay and newspaper reports, advertisements on blogs to highlight the website.

The fate of Anna was revealed in a concert to commemorate International Day to End Violence Against Women on November 25th at Clarke Quay. Celebrities such as Aaron Aziz, Annabelle Francis, Andrea D’Cruz, Desmond Koh and Nadya Hutagalung lent their support on the day by performing on stage or making announcements on stage about the importance of that day. Local bands also contributed by performing pro-bono for us.

Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports attended the event to unveil the fate of Anna. Due to the support the website received all the Anna’s except for the domestic worker was saved or saved themselves from their abusive situation.



4.2 Media Coverage

We continue to receive coverage of our campaigns particularly Unifem Not A Minute More Campaign which was covered in all main media.

- International Women’s Day – Channel News Asia
- Women and HIV/AIDS – TCS 5 News and Suria News
- News Radio 93.8
- Straits Times
- Berita Harian
- Lianhe ZaoBao
- WKRZ 91.3
- Warna (Current Affairs Program)
- Radio Singapore International
- The New Paper
- Her World

- Simply Her
- The Edge
- Suria Detik (Current Affair Program)
- Suria Akhir Kata
- Business Times
- Icon
- Prestige
- Tatler
- TODAY

4.3 Screening of Film Moolade

We screened a film about female genital mutilation, Moolade and held a discussion after to discuss about harmful traditional practices. Religious leaders were asked to attend the event to talk and discuss about how culture, tradition and religion can play a role in giving women their rights.

4.4 Youth/School Participation

With the aim to continually engage youths UNIFEM Singapore had volunteered to mentor several students from Temasek Junior College and Katong Convent over a period of one month. The students assisted in running some of the events as well as to create a project of their own.

4.5 Women Best of Management

INSEAD in association with Financial Women's Association and UNIFEM Singapore ran a best of management series to support women leaders in Singapore. The event was well attended by women from all walks of life. INSEAD had organised the event featuring top speakers from different industries and professors of INSEAD.

Another event held at INSEAD was the Women and Money talk co-organised by ipaq, UNIFEM Singapore and INSEAD. The talk was aimed at getting women to take control of their finances.

4.6 Participation at SCWO International Women's Day

Annually the Singapore Council of Women's Organisation run a collective event among all the women organisations in Singapore for International Women's Day. For 2006 and 2007 UNIFEM Singapore had participated in their event.

4.7 Film Screening of Osama and Documentary Trafficked

Hosted by INSEAD, UNIFEM Singapore together with INSEAD ran a film screening of Osama, a film about the life of a girl who was living under the Taliban regime and an Australian documentary Trafficked. The film had won several awards and was a good showcase of how gender inequality affects us

all. The producer of the film Ms Julia Fraser was present at the event for a discussion session with the audience after the film.

4.8 UNIFEM Website

We had publicised all of UNIFEM NY's press releases and events through the website, e-newsletter and e-mail database as well as released an of our e-newsletter UNIFEM Affairs. The website has also been revamped to allow for ease of updates whilst maintaining the framework of the website. Good feedback has been received with the latest website structure.

4.9 Stellar Awards – Singapore Jewel Fest

Stellar Awards is an award to honour women who made great strides in women's causes in Singapore. Jointly held with Singapore Jewel Fest the award was a night of fun, honour and glitter. 4 awards were presented -

- a. Most Successful Woman who contributes to Society presented to Dr Geh Min
- b. Couple of the Year Award – Mr and Mrs Lee
- c. Most Stylish Achiever – Ms Ivy Singh-Lim
- d. Lifetime Achievement Award - Dr Kanwaljit Soin

The works of the women were highlighted on screen. Gracing the event was also UNIFEM Singapore's advisor Dr Aline Wong. We also raised some funds from jewellery that was sold that evening.

The achievements of these outstanding women were published in the media.

5. Projects

5. 1. UNIFEM Aceh Sustainable Livelihood Programme

In line with our commitment to the Recognition Agreement signed with UNIFEM we adopted a project of UNIFEM in the region to support and raise funds for. Immediate assistance was needed for Aceh redevelopment programmes that UNIFEM initiated after the relief efforts of the tsunami of December 2004. Lives of the women that were shattered needed rebuilding.

“We don't need any more free food. Give us the land and some tools; I want to grow some healthy food for my family.”

—Woman from IDP shelter in Aceh

Programme

Sustainable Livelihood Programme

To leverage the UN's cash-for-work programmes clearing debris and rubble to make way for reconstruction, UNIFEM provided immediate assistance to women craft makers, such as bangkuang weavers, to restart their economic activity and stimulate the local economy — bangkuang hats found a ready domestic market among workers in the cash-for-work programmes as protection against the sun. To-date, through vocational and business skills training and revolving credit facilities, nearly 450 women in IDP shelters in Aceh have resumed businesses such as pottery production, fish processing, garment trading and selling of traditional cakes. A mobile training unit is also teaching computer literacy and administrative skills to young people in remote locations to help them enter the job market. A UNIFEM microcredit fund — the UNIFEM Livelihood Facility Fund — will soon be launched allowing 10 local financial institutions to provide funds to small businesses run by women.

Building of Women Friendly Shelters

In Aceh, an important initiative is underway to re-establish Balai Inong, or 'women's houses', in the affected areas as a safe space for women to gather, work together, build livelihood skills, and get information on their rights. Traditionally, many villages in Aceh had a Balai Inong before these were destroyed by the tsunami. UNIFEM is working with NGOs and international organizations such as IOM and UN Habitat to include these structures in shelter planning programmes, and is supporting local groups to run them and conduct activities once they have been set up. The first Balai Inong, set up by NGO partner, Building Bridges to the Future, will open in December 2005 in Rumpet village.

Women's Participation in Decision Making

To amplify women's voices to influence recovery policies and agendas, UNIFEM is building the capacity and leadership of women's organizations to advocate for the promotion of women's rights in all reconstruction processes. They are also being supported to mobilize women to participate in grassroots activities through forums and mobile discussions.

Background

The Indian Ocean tsunami that hit Eastern Africa and several countries of South and Southeast Asia on 26 December 2004 not only destroyed lives and property but decimated communities. Within two days of the tragedy, UNIFEM's partner

organizations in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Somalia began sending information on women affected by the disaster. Women who survived were left with nothing to support themselves and their remaining family members after their homes and livelihoods washed away. Where relief operations were taking place amidst continuing civil tensions, women reported incidents of discrimination, harassment and intimidation of women and girls in rescue and distribution areas and in temporary shelters.

Through numerous consultations with women survivors, NGOs, and local leaders, and through quantitative studies to measure the tsunami's psychological, physical and socio-economic impact on women, it was discovered that as the affected communities moved from the immediate emergency phase to the longer-term reconstruction period, women's participation was noticeably lacking in the planning and implementation of recovery and rebuilding processes. Sex-disaggregated data was extremely limited, so that gender concerns were either being buried or left out in the recovery efforts of international agencies and government task forces.

UNIFEM identified seven priority areas for its efforts in the tsunami-affected areas:

- a. **Leadership:** Supporting local women's leadership and the mobilization of women's networks to give them a voice in relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts; and providing financial assistance to women's organizations to respond to women's needs quickly.
- b. **Livelihoods:** Helping revive women's destroyed livelihoods, including restoring their productive assets, processes and supply chains, strengthening market links, and helping them to access reconstruction assistance.
- c. **Protection:** Working with other UN, government and civil society partners to assist women's groups in advocating for greater protection for women and girls from human rights violations in the relief, recovery and reconstruction period and beyond.
- d. **Female-headed households:** The tsunami left many women heads of households, often widowed or divorced, without food, shelter or productive assets to support their families. Furthermore, many were taking in orphaned children or elderly relatives whose families did not survive. As relief distribution was targeted, in many areas, at male heads of households, many women found it difficult to access aid. Sri Lankan and Acehnese women described many instances where they received relief supplies in the form of goods, but were not able to access recovery grants which only went to men as heads of households. Without cash to start over, it would be difficult for them to re-build their livelihoods.

- e. **Legal rights:** Many women raised fears of losing inheritance, land or property rights given the loss of deeds and personal documents during the tsunami. This was complicated further by the fact that before the tsunami only a small number of land owners held properly registered titles in the first place. In Aceh and Somalia, homelessness among female survivors was particularly acute, as women traditionally have severe difficulties claiming ownership rights to land or property registered under their husbands or fathers' names. In the eastern part of Sri Lanka, women were especially concerned that customary laws that give women a one-third share in land and inheritance would be lost in the new legal processes being designed in the recovery period. Many women in Aceh were found not to know they had guardianship rights of their children or the right to savings in bank accounts of their deceased husbands — this was discovered only through meetings with religious leaders, as both issues are traditionally covered only in Shari'a courts.
- f. **Violence and intimidation:** Women reported that competition for relief food and other commodities often turned into physical confrontation. In Somalia and Aceh, women told of shying away from distribution areas to avoid potentially violent situations. Sexual harassment in temporary shelters and spikes in domestic violence cases in Sri Lanka, Aceh and Somalia were also reported.
- g. **Shelters and temporary settlements:** Shelters being constructed to house populations displaced by the tsunami did not adequately take gender and cultural concerns into account. Women in Aceh and Sri Lanka complained of discrimination, a lack of adequate sanitation, clean water, and health services, as well as poor lighting and insensitive latrine design which heightened insecurity and impinged on their dignity and cultural beliefs. Women were also not being included in shelter management decision-making processes to make their concerns known.

The National Committee for UNIFEM, Singapore looked through the proposals and agreed to support the Sustainable Livelihood Programme which provides micro-financing to women to start their own small businesses.

6. Membership

Membership subscription has been steadily growing over the past eight years. With the removal of the membership box in 2004 from the Coffee Club Express outlets, new subscriptions dropped to 37 new members in 2005 as opposed to 2004 where there were 44 new members. However due to more events and effort to reach out to members the subscription for 2006 till April 2007 rose to 73 new members for the year which bypasses the rate of new subscription in 2004. However, overall membership saw a fall to 207 as the membership database was

cleaned up in late 2005 and beginning of 2006. Members that were due were sent an email and should there be no response they were called.

In total 125 members since the year 2000 were removed from the membership database. A huge majority of those that dropped out was due to relocation to overseas and a minority was because they felt that they were not able to actively be involved in UNIFEM Singapore's activities.

