

POLICY BRIEF

Advancing Gender Equality  
in Australia's International  
Development Program



AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



ACFID welcomes the International Gender Equality Strategy (IGES) and steps taken by the Australian Government to promote and protect gender equality from increasing threat. ACFID calls upon Australia to ensure that the IGES implementation is both inclusive and practical - grounded in rights-based frameworks and evidence, and responsive to diverse needs. While the IGES outlines ambitious goals, its success will depend on how well it embeds gender equality into program design, delivery, and evaluation. ACFID also welcomes the central role Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) considerations have played in shaping the Development Partnership Plans (DPPs), which are key to translating these ambitions into practice. By grounding development initiatives in gender-transformative approaches, investing in learning and accountability, and engaging all members of society, Australia can deliver lasting and inclusive progress on gender equality.

# Recommendations

1. Re-establish the best practice of setting targets for gender equality across the development cooperation programs by committing 15 per cent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to initiatives with gender equality as the principal objective.
2. Design and deliver an initial \$300 million gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience funding window to ensure Australia's climate finance is accessible to NGOs and local civil society organisations (CSOs) working at the intersection of gender equality and climate justice.
3. Increase the Indo-Pacific Gender Equality Fund by \$35 million per annum to \$100 million per annum to bolster investments in programs that advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.
4. Sustain long-term investment in Pacific Women Lead by allocating \$250 million over five years from 2026-27, and setting a target for bilateral spending allocation on gender equality, to ensure gains over the past 15 years can be maintained, and Australia's flagship gender program in the Pacific can continue.
5. Increase Australia's LGBTQIA+ funding by \$11.5 million annually, including by increasing the Inclusion and Equality Fund.
6. Publish the LGBTQIA+ Human Rights Engagement Strategy.
7. Use all diplomatic tools available to work with like-minded governments to:
  - a) address anti-rights movements and their use of online spaces to spread extremism, disinformation and misinformation across the globe; and
  - b) increase support for women's rights organisations to attend discussions in multilateral spaces, including funding for tracking backlash, coordination, and mobilising joint responses.
8. Provide reliable funding and support countries to strengthen their ability to collect and report reliable, inclusive and intersectional data to inform policies, programming and resource allocation. This data:
  - a) should build on Australia's leading initiatives with local communities to collect data that protect peoples' rights, by revealing their circumstances while protecting them from persecution and sensitively addressing their needs;
  - b) could include, but is not limited to, data on diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, race/ethnicity, and disability status.

# Global Context

## Importance of gender equality for development

Gender equality is essential for realising human rights and is not only a matter of fairness, but also a powerful driver of sustainable development, lasting peace, and poverty reduction.<sup>1</sup> It underpins progress across health, social, economic, and environmental domains and is central to humanitarian action. This impact is evident in the leadership of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people worldwide, who are driving transformative change in their communities—advancing health, education, environmental protection, economic growth, and inclusive governance. Their lived experiences and perspectives offer innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges.

## Rising anti-rights movements

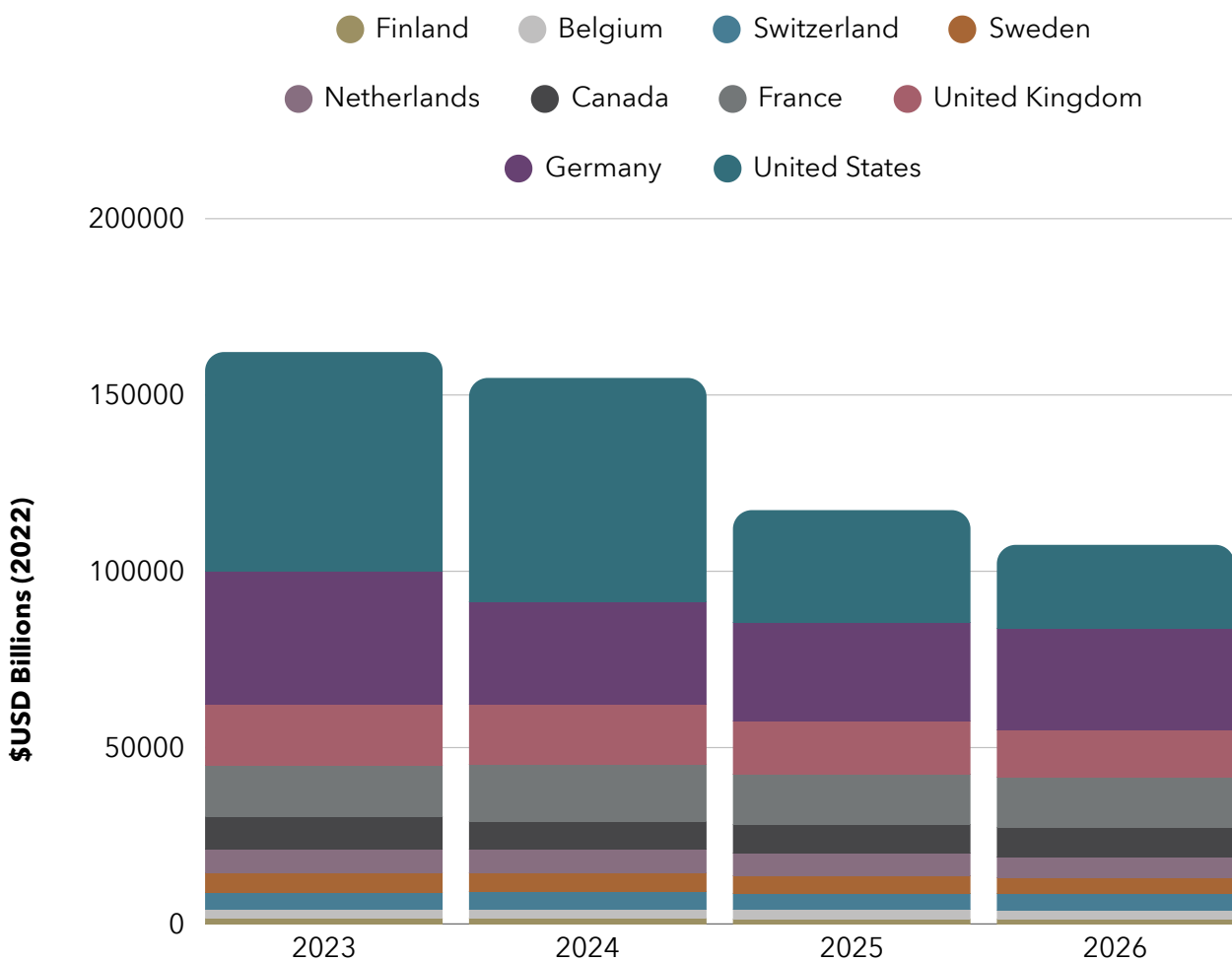
The rise of the anti-rights agenda, misinformation, and regressive policy decisions is undermining hard-won gender equality gains and threatening the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people.<sup>2</sup> These threats are compounded by intersecting global crises, rising conflict and escalating climate impacts, which hit women and LGBTQIA+ people the hardest - worsening inequality and further threatening their rights.

With just five years left until the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), no country is on track to achieve gender equality by 2030, and nearly 40 per cent of countries either stagnated or regressed on key gender indicators between 2019 and 2022.<sup>3</sup> Despite their aspiration to “leave no one behind”, the SDGs and supporting frameworks contain no mention of LGBTQIA+ people, who are rendered invisible in goals supposed to protect them. Structural barriers, criminalisation, discriminatory norms, gender-based violence, and unequal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity continue to marginalise women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people.

## Global aid trends

Progress towards gender equality is being further undermined by aid cuts by several of the world's largest donors; including the United States, which had been the world's largest aid donor in nominal terms, and the Netherlands, which was the largest donor to women's rights organisations [see figure 1 below].<sup>4</sup>

Figure 1: Projected ODA Contribution by OECD donor cutters



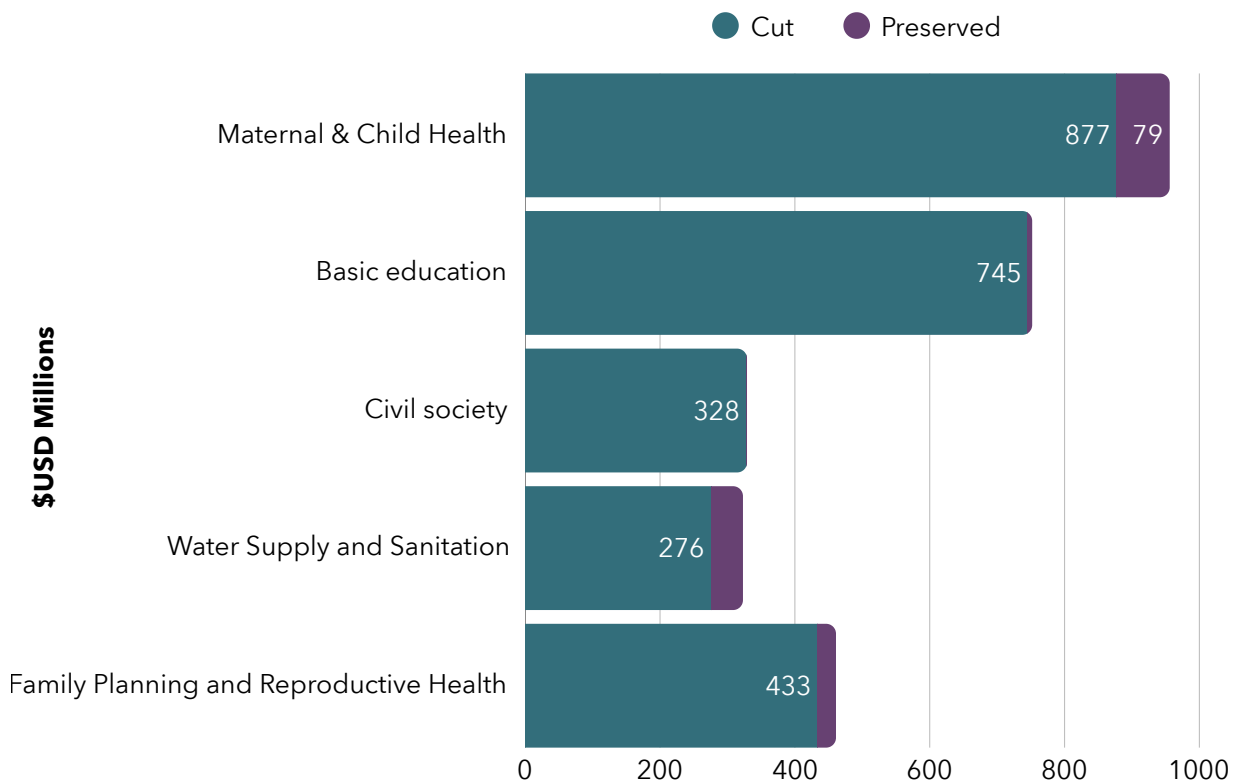
Source: DevPolicyBlog, Robin Davies, "Burden-shedding: the unravelling of the OECD aid consensus"

## Global aid trends

Women-led and women’s rights organisations have been devastated by the funding cuts, with UN Women reporting **almost half of 411 surveyed organisations across 44 humanitarian and crisis settings expected to shut down within six months** if current funding levels persist.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, Gender-related development finance is facing several challenges. ODA for gender initiatives has stagnated, new priorities have emerged, and anti-gender finance has grown.<sup>6</sup> At the same time, USAID cuts by sector have had significant impacts for women and LGBTQIA+ people, particularly affecting health programming [see figure 2 below].<sup>7</sup>

Figure 2: Proposed USAID cut by sector



Source: Charles Kenny and Justin Sandefur, Center for Global Development

Note: Dollar values are based on total obligations in FY24-25 under specified contracts from [foreignassistance.gov](https://foreignassistance.gov).

# Building on Australia's Strategy

Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy<sup>8</sup>, released in February 2025, provides a strong foundation for Australia's leadership on gender equality. This policy brief provides recommendations on the implementation of the IGES, focused on supporting and catalysing best practice approaches to gender equality and LGBTQIA+ programming.



Source: Transform Aid International 2023

# Priority one: Ending sexual and gender-based violence and advancing sexual and reproductive health rights

The world's largest nominal aid donor has cut programs globally, and global pressure to restrict SRHR and SGBV funding is rising in settings where democratic institutions are already under strain. Commitments to SRHR – life-saving healthcare that underpins human rights and sustains public health systems – are declining, even among former champions and investors, including Sweden<sup>9</sup> and the Netherlands.<sup>10</sup> The IGES arrives in a context where Australia has a strategic opportunity to reaffirm its global leadership on SRHR and SGBV and take a strong and proactive stance to protect and advance gender equality. ACFID proposes the following avenues for delivering on priority one of the IGES.

## a) Resourcing and health infrastructure

Health infrastructure remains underfunded and fragmented, with critical shortages in skilled workers, such as midwives, nurses, and health educators;<sup>11</sup> particularly in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>12</sup> Many health systems lack the capacity to offer integrated care that addresses both SRHR and SGBV, particularly in rural and remote areas. Without strong referral pathways, cross-sector coordination, and trained personnel, survivors of violence face significant delays, retraumatisation, and in some cases, complete denial of care.

A lack of accurate, age-appropriate, and culturally relevant information prevents young people from making informed decisions about their bodies, relationships, and futures. This increases vulnerability to early pregnancy, child marriage, HIV, and sexual abuse. Scaling up investment in gender-responsive initiatives within broader health systems can help address persistent funding gaps in areas such as SGBV, SRHR, and maternal healthcare. By committing 15 per cent of ODA to initiatives with gender equality as the principal objective (see recommendation 1) the Australian Government can help strengthen health systems to deliver integrated, gender-responsive services.

## **b) Invest in individual-level, gender-sensitive data**

In countries such as the United States, data related to contraception, abortion, maternal mortality, fertility, and SGBV is being withdrawn or politically suppressed.<sup>13</sup> This undermines the ability of governments and donors to understand population trends, plan services, and respond to unmet needs. The erosion of data not only weakens health systems, but jeopardises intergenerational planning, economic forecasting, and national development. Individual-level data that covers a range of factors, including those that are important to women - such as access to contraception and menstrual hygiene management - is critical to ensuring that Australia's support to gender equality creates progress across health programming. The Australian Government has been a leader in investing in individual-level, gender-sensitive and multidimensional approaches to measurement at scale since 2008, including support to gender data program Equality Insights. Maintaining this leading role in gender data innovation is vital, and there remains ample scope to increase resourcing to grow the accessibility of this disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive data across the region to drive action, and improve programming and resource allocation. Robust data and research are pivotal for the development of evidence-based interventions and strengthening health services (see recommendation 8).

## **c) Champion inclusive, rights-based approaches and protection**

The IGES presents Australia with a strategic opportunity to reaffirm its global leadership on SRHR and SGBV. Meeting this opportunity, however, requires high-level ministerial engagement at international forums where Australia can champion inclusive, rights-based approaches, such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development.

Australia must take a strong and proactive stance to protect and advance gender equality by investing in strategic, coordinated, and cross-sectoral monitoring of anti-rights actions and discourse. It must also recognise the growing threat that anti-rights agendas pose to democratic processes and regional security, and use its diplomatic and political influence to advocate for the greater protection of SRHR, as well as the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ communities (see recommendation 7).

Progress depends on sustained commitment. By investing in long-term responsive, inclusive, and survivor-centred systems, Australia can help build a future where reproductive autonomy is protected, young people have access to accurate information, and health systems deliver integrated services informed by data.

## Priority two: Pursue gender-responsive peace and security efforts

Amid rising global conflict, gender-responsive approaches to peace and security have never been more urgent. At the end of 2024, over 120 million people worldwide were forced to flee conflict, violence, human rights violations and persecution.<sup>14</sup>

Internal and protracted conflicts in places including Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan and the escalating gender apartheid in Afghanistan have highlighted how women's rights are often targeted and undermined in times of crisis. In addition, Israel's invasion of Gaza and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have displaced millions of people, raised very real threats to global peace and stability, and again highlighted the continued use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war.<sup>15</sup>

Women and LGBTIQ+ people suffer most under conflict, yet are integral to building peace – and this context demonstrates the urgent need for coordinated and sustained action on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (the NAP)<sup>16</sup> provides a framework for coordinated engagement on the WPS agenda. ACFID proposes the following avenues for delivering on priority two of the IGES.

### a) Strengthen policy coherence

Improved coordination is needed to better align the implementation of the NAP at the domestic and international level. This should include the integration of First Nations women into Australia's WPS agenda, by taking action to address the legacy of colonial violence against First Nations peoples, and embedding a commitment to justice and ongoing peacebuilding within Australian borders, which is critical for the holistic and effective implementation of the WPS agenda.

### b) Strengthen knowledge on under-prioritised and multifaceted WPS issues

While the WPS Agenda at the UN Security Council recognises that gender is central to conflict prevention and response, and is a useful entry point for addressing violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals in armed conflict, these factors are largely still ignored at the multilateral level. LGBTIQ+ -led organisations must be included in national WPS processes, in recognition of anti-LGBTIQ+ violence as a form of gender-based violence.<sup>17</sup> (see recommendation 7).

#### Case Study: Women under threat keep their communities safe

In Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, women leaders, with the support of Act for Peace, are providing educational and livelihood training, raising awareness about domestic violence and trafficking, while promoting women's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes. Despite their vital contributions, these leaders often face threats of violence and criticism from community members suspicious of women's leadership, underscoring the ongoing risks faced by women working on the front lines of peacebuilding and protection.<sup>14</sup>

# Priority three: Deliver gender-equitable climate action and humanitarian assistance

Climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities and disproportionately impacts women and other marginalised groups. The UN's 2023 Gender Snapshot found that under a worst-case climate scenario, more women than men will be pushed into poverty by a worst-case climate scenario, with nearly 160 million women and girls affected.<sup>19</sup>

Women's widespread marginalisation from decision-making results in their needs being overlooked in national plans to respond to climate and disaster risk. Women's rights organisations also face exclusion from climate change funding: only 2.9 per cent of global climate finance identified gender equality as a principal focus.<sup>20</sup>

Australia has demonstrated a strong commitment to respond to the gendered impacts of climate change. The Australian Government can step up through the IGES as a champion for gender-transformative climate action by prioritising the following areas.

## **a) Design and deliver an initial \$300 million gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience funding window**

Women and girls currently experience widespread exclusion from climate change decision-making.

This results in climate responses across all sectors that overlook their needs, and creates barriers to accessing climate funding.

The Government should design and deliver a \$300 million gender-responsive climate adaptation and resilience fund over four years to ensure Australia's climate finance is accessible to NGOs and local CSOs working at the intersection of gender equality and climate justice. The fund would drive gender and climate principal programming that enables diverse women and girl leaders to engage in climate decision-making and drive gender-transformative climate change programming and advocacy at all levels (see recommendation 2).

## **b) Catalysing women's climate change leadership**

Women's leadership in climate decision-making at all levels is critical in ensuring that climate change policy is designed to meet the needs of diverse women and other marginalised groups. Research into climate change policies across Asia and the Pacific shows that gender considerations continue to be widely overlooked,<sup>21</sup> while women remain vastly underrepresented in global climate change negotiations. Australia can catalyse transformative action on gender and climate policy and practice by fostering leadership in climate change decision-making across our region and globally.

### **c) Driving integrated gender and climate change programming**

Australia has a key opportunity to lead gender-transformative climate solutions that advance both gender equality and climate goals. ActionAid's Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change framework<sup>18</sup> provides a methodology for integrating gender equality and climate action.

This includes the valuing of women's Indigenous and experiential knowledge, alongside scientific and technical knowledge; support for diverse women's representation at all levels of climate decision-making and implementation; resourcing for women's networks, collectives and organisations to respond to climate impacts; and placing a targeted focus on shifting harmful gender norms and reforming the underlying systems that are driving gender inequality and climate change.



## Priority four: Promote women's economic equality and inclusive trade

Women's economic empowerment is essential to achieving gender equity, unlocking inclusive economic growth, and achieving the SDGs. Yet more than 10 per cent of women globally are trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty with discrimination and systemic barriers limiting women's participation in education, employment, and restricting their access to resources, credit and financial assets.<sup>19</sup>

Employment is a critical pathway out of poverty and a cornerstone of economic empowerment. Despite its importance, many women remain locked in precarious jobs, with limited access to decent work due to entrenched structural and social barriers. Currently, only 60 per cent of working age women are in the labour force, compared with almost 91 per cent of men. Nearly 60 per cent of women worldwide work in the informal economy, rising to almost 90 per cent in low-income countries.<sup>19</sup>

Women worldwide also undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, further limiting their economic opportunities.<sup>23</sup> It is important to note that LGBTIQ+ people also face significant barriers to economic participation; however, due to limited data, it is difficult to accurately assess the scale of their economic exclusion.

ACFID proposes the following avenues for delivering on priority four of the IGES.

### **a) Locally led economic empowerment design**

Further priority should be given to investment in social protection systems and expanding women's access to social welfare programs such as healthcare and pensions systems that recognise unpaid care work. Community-based solutions that support and strengthen collective power for wider social transformation will additionally be essential. These approaches help challenge structural barriers and enable women's participation in local economies.

## **b) Gender-responsiveness of trade policy**

On the global stage, women are similarly excluded from economic participation: current trade agreements reinforce and deepen discriminatory economic structures. Women are particularly disadvantaged where trade rules stifle workers' rights, disadvantage small-scale farmers, facilitate the privatisation of public services and reduce access to affordable medicines. These rules are exacerbating gender inequities within the economy, limiting women's access to dignified work, increasing the burden of unpaid care work, and deepening poverty among women.

Australia has taken important steps to improve the gender-responsiveness of its trade policy, including transitioning towards the inclusion of gender chapters in trade agreements, as well as the decision to join the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement. ACFID understands that DFAT is considering conducting gender impact assessments for all trade agreements.

ACFID welcomes these steps and urges the Australian Government to ensure that gender chapters are fully enforceable under dispute resolution processes. Gender impact assessments must be independent and conducted alongside wider human rights, labour rights and environmental impact assessments. Provisions that harm women must be eliminated, and the Government must embed gender analysis into the design of trade rules, to reorient trade agreements towards inclusive economic alternatives.



## Priority five: Support locally led approaches to women's leadership

Women are powerful leaders – in their communities, organisations, and governments. However, due to historical, cultural and structural factors, as well as overt discrimination, women are often prevented from equally exercising leadership or influencing decisions on the issues that affect their lives. Discriminatory social norms widen this inequality: for example, women's representation in political leadership in the Pacific stands at just 8.2 per cent.<sup>24</sup> Advancing women's leadership requires locally led approaches that address the culturally specific barriers to women's participation in leadership.

Women's participation matters for equality and fairness, and because women's leadership is shown to improve solutions to persistent problems and positively influence policy and legislation.<sup>25</sup>

Locally led development recognises, respects and strengthens the leadership and decision-making of local actors who are best-placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities.

There are concrete ways that the Australian Government can support women's leadership and access to decision-making. ACFID proposes the following avenues for delivering on priority five of the IGES.

### **a) Increasing core, flexible, and long-term funding**

The IGES commits to “increasing support for women's rights organisations, institutions and movements, including in humanitarian contexts”<sup>8</sup> yet further core, flexible, and long-term funding is needed for these organisations. In 2023-24, these groups received just \$49.5 million per year, representing one per cent of ODA.<sup>26</sup>

DFAT's commitment that all programs over \$3 million must have a gender equality objective has been a significant lever for strengthening Australia's efforts on gender equality across the aid program. However, the bulk of the improvement has been in increasing the proportion of investments with gender equality as a significant objective (from 29 per cent in 2020-21 to 44 per cent in 2023-24), with the proportion of funding to investments with gender as the principal objective dropping from six per cent to four per cent of bilateral allocable ODA over that period.<sup>27</sup> ACFID acknowledges that the figures presented are drawn from different data sets, which may affect comparability across reporting periods. DFAT data was not available for 2020-2021; however, we anticipate incorporating the forthcoming 2025-2026 data once it becomes available.

Introducing a target that requires 15 per cent of ODA to be allocated to investments with gender equality as the principal objective (see recommendation 1) would strengthen performance in line with commitments made by other leading donors to gender equality. Increasing DFAT's Indo-Pacific Gender Equality Fund by \$35 million per year would be an important first step to increasing the pool of funding available for principally focused gender programming (see recommendation 2).

### **b) Continued support for women's political leadership**

Progress towards this target could be further enabled by funding the next phase of Pacific Women Lead (see recommendation 4). The Australian Government has provided significant support for women's political leadership in the Pacific over many years. To build on the achievements of past work, the next phase of Pacific Women Lead should allocate \$250 million over five years from 2026-2031, increasing investment on the previous phase by \$16 million per year (32 per cent). This increase should include a bilateral allocation target in addition to the regional program, to ensure that DFAT Posts continue to prioritise funding to gender equality programs and women's rights organisations. The new allocation to Pacific Women Lead should also specifically include expansion of the Pacific Girl program to \$25 million over five years.

### **c) Increase support for women's rights organisations**

The IGES notes Australia's commitment to "amplifying the voices of women's rights organisations in regional and global forums, including the UN".<sup>8</sup> This commitment is particularly important in a global context where increasingly influential anti-rights actors target any and all references to gender in multilateral forums as part of a coordinated effort to undermine gender equality and weaken human rights.<sup>28</sup> Australia must step up its leadership and support for gender equality, including in collaboration with like-minded governments, to defend established norms and rights (see recommendation 7). Australia should also increase support for WROs to join multilateral spaces, including funding for tracking backlash, greater coordination, and mobilising joint responses.

# Conclusion

The IGES is a welcome step to promote and protect gender equality from increasing threat. Its ambition must be matched by inclusive, practical, rights-based and evidence-grounded implementation.

Australia must embed robust mechanisms for learning, transparency and accountability in gender equality. This includes investing in robust gender- and disability- disaggregated data collection, participatory monitoring, evaluation and applied research to inform policy and programming. Evaluations should go beyond measuring outputs to assess how programs shift power dynamics, challenge harmful norms, and contribute to gender-transformative change. There is a need for structured learning exchanges and listening to the voices of people with lived experience; particularly those facing intersecting forms of discrimination. This evidence will help shape responsive and locally led interventions.

Evidence shows that gender equality benefits all members of society, including men - through improved wellbeing, healthier relationships, and more inclusive economies.<sup>29</sup> Programs that promote positive masculinities can be embedded within existing health, education, community development and security initiatives.

Finally, gender equality efforts should be embedded across all sectors, not just in targeted gender programs. This includes integrating gender-transformative principles<sup>30</sup> into work to end sexual and gender-based violence, protect women's sexual and reproductive health and rights; and in climate action, humanitarian assistance, economic development, and peacebuilding efforts. By embedding a gender-transformative approach into development initiatives, investing in learning and accountability, and engaging all members of society, Australia can deliver lasting and inclusive progress on gender equality.



# Endnotes

1. United Nations. UN Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. United Nations, 2025. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>.
2. International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium. The Global Anti-Rights Agenda and Threats to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Policy Brief. 21 March 2025. [https://srhrconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/policy\\_brief\\_anti-rights\\_agenda\\_march2025.pdf](https://srhrconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/policy_brief_anti-rights_agenda_march2025.pdf).
3. UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024. United Nations, 2024. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2024>.
4. Davies, Robin. Burden-Shedding: The Unravelling of the OECD Aid Consensus. Devpolicy, 7 March 2025. <https://devpolicy.org/burden-shedding-the-unravelling-of-the-oecd-aid-consensus-20250307/>.
5. UN Women. At a Breaking Point: The Impact of Foreign Aid Cuts on Women's Organizations in Humanitarian Crises Worldwide. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2025. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/at-a-breaking-point-the-impact-of-foreign-aid-cuts-on-womens-organizations-in-humanitarian-crises-worldwide-en.pdf>.
6. Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Trends in Development Finance for Gender: Mapping Risks and Opportunities for Funders. ODI, 2023. <https://odi.org/en/publications/trends-in-development-finance-for-gender-mapping-risks-and-opportunities-for-funders/>.
7. Center for Global Development (CGDEV). "USAID Cuts: New Estimates at the Country Level." CGDEV Blog, March 26, 2025. <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/usaid-cuts-new-estimates-country-level>.
8. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy: Contributing to a Safer, More Prosperous Indo-Pacific and World. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra. Published February 2025. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/australias-international-gender-equality-strategy.pdf>.
9. Countdown 2030 Europe. Country Profile: Sweden. Countdown 2030 Europe Country Profiles, 2025. Accessed August 27, 2025. <https://www.countdown2030europe.org/sweden/>.
10. Guttmacher Institute. Just the Numbers: The Impact of Dutch International Assistance for Family Planning and HIV, 2024. Policy Analysis, October 3, 2024. Accessed August 27, 2025.
11. McKinsey Health Institute. Heartbeat of Health: Reimagining the Healthcare Workforce of the Future. McKinsey Health Institute Report, May 14, 2025. <https://www.mckinsey.com/mhi/our-insights/heartbeat-of-health-reimagining-the-healthcare-workforce-of-the-future>.
12. United Nations Population Fund. Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People in Asia and the Pacific. Bangkok: UNFPA, 2015. Accessed June 4, 2025. [https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20SHR%20YP%20AP\\_2015%20for%20web-final.pdf](https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20SHR%20YP%20AP_2015%20for%20web-final.pdf).
13. Nagtalon-Ramos, Jamille, and Komkwuan Paruchabutr. "Vanishing Vital Data: The Impact of Erasing Women's Health Information." The Journal for Nurse Practitioners 21, no. 7 (2025): 105404. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2025.105404>.
14. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2024. Geneva: UNHCR, 2025.
15. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. "More Than a Human Can Bear: Israel's Systematic Use of Sexual, Reproductive and Other Forms of Gender-Based Violence Since 7 October 2023." A/HRC/58/CRP.6. March 13 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcounil/sessions-regular/session58/a-hrc-58-crp-6.pdf>.
16. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia). Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2021-2031. Canberra: Australian Government, 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/australias-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2021-2031.pdf>.
17. Outright International. "LGBTQ Lives in Conflict and Crisis: A Queer Agenda for Peace, Security, and Accountability." Briefing Paper, February 2023. <https://outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LGBTQLivesConflictCrisis-2.pdf>.
18. Act for Peace. "Insecurity, Risk, and Resilience: The Contributions and Challenges of Refugee-Led Initiatives in the Rohingya Refugee Camps, Bangladesh." March 2025. <https://actforpeace.org.au/app/uploads/2025/03/Bangladesh-Report-Insecurity-Risk-and-Resilience.pdf>.
19. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023. New York: UN Women and UN DESA, September 2023. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023>.
20. Oxfam International. Climate Finance Shadow Report 2023: Assessing the Delivery of the \$100 Billion Commitment. Briefing Paper, June 5, 2023.
21. ClimateAid Australia. Transforming Disaster Response: Women-Led Climate Solutions in Asia and the Pacific. Published 11 October 2024. PDF file. <https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ActionAid-Report-Transforming-Disaster-Response-Women-Led-Climate-Solutions-in-Asia-and-the-Pacific-2024.pdf>.
22. Tanyag, Maria, and Jacqui True. Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change: A Global Research Report. ActionAid Australia. Published 26 November 2019. PDF file. <https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Monash-GRACC-Report-Global-.pdf>.
23. UN Women. Forecasting Time Spent in Unpaid Care and Domestic Work: Technical Brief. UN Women, 2023. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/technical-brief-forecasting-time-spent-in-unpaid-care-and-domestic-work-en.pdf>.
24. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). 2025. Women in National Parliaments: World and Regional Averages. Accessed July 27, 2025. <https://data.ipu.org/women-averages/>.
25. Domingo, Pilar, Rebecca Holmes, Tam O'Neil, Nicola Jones, Kate Bird, Anna Larson, Elizabeth Presler-Marshall, and Craig Valters. Women's Voice and Leadership in Decision-Making: Assessing the Evidence. Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Published 2015.
26. Calculated from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Performance of Australian Development Cooperation 2023-24: Official Development Assistance Performance Report, published 2024, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/performance-of-australian-development-cooperation-report-2023-2024>; and DFAT, Australia's Development Budget and Statistical Information, accessed 4 September 2025, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/australias-development-budget-and-statistical-information>.
27. Calculated from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Performance of Australian Development Cooperation 2023-24: Official Development Assistance Performance Report, published March 2025, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/performance-of-australian-development-cooperation-report-2023-2024> and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Finance for Gender Equality Dashboard <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/dashboards/development-finance-for-gender-equality.html>.
28. Holmes, Rebecca. Feminist Responses to 'Norm-Spoiling' at the United Nations. ODI Briefing Note. London: ODI. Published April 2024.
29. Gibbs, Andrew, Cathy Vaughan, and Peter Aggleton. Beyond 'Working with Men and Boys': (Re)defining, Challenging and Transforming Masculinities in Sexuality and Health Programmes and Policy. Culture, Health & Sexuality 17, no. sup2 (2015). Published 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2015.1092260>.
30. MacArthur et al. Gender-transformative Approaches in International Development: A Brief History and Five Uniting Principles. Women's Studies International Forum 95 (2022): 102635. Published 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2022.102635>.




AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

**Author:** ACFID

**Published:** December 2025

 <https://acfid.asn.au/>

 [main@acfid.asn.au](mailto:main@acfid.asn.au)


 +61 2 6285 1816

 ACFID

 ACFID

 ACFID

 ACFID.AUS

 ACFID, 14 Napier Close, Deakin,  
ACT 2600

**Cover photo credit:** Kahfy Yudha/SurfAid

**Caption:** A farmer planting seedlings in the Mentawai Islands. SurfAid has helped establish a series of seed nurseries that provide a source for seeding local horticultural crops, so farmers no longer need to depend on purchasing packaged seeds.

**Inside back cover photo credit:** AVI /Matthew Willman

**Caption:** Classic Wallabies Exchange Volunteers in Hoedspruit, South Africa. Working with Makwetse Primary School in building food gardens and improving classrooms with art murals. In partnership with Eco Children and AVI.