Outcomes Statement

ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshop, 12 October 2017

Gender and the 2030 Agenda

Hosted by DFAT and ACFID's Gender Equality Community of Practice

---

October 2017's ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality workshop worked to support shared understanding and action on gender equality and the 2030 Agenda, by engaging participants with a range of government and NGO speakers including Dr Sharman Stone, Ambassador for Women and Girls, Amy Haddad, Principal Gender Specialist and Assistant Secretary Gender Equality Branch and Malayah Harper, Secretary General, World YWCA.

Participants also contributed to initial thinking on how to report on gender and women's empowerment ahead of Australia's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN's High Political Forum in July 2018.

This Statement summarises key workshop themes, alongside practical steps ACFID, NGOs and DFAT will consider as part of development-sector wide approaches to galvanise action on gender in the 2030 Agenda.

Progress to date: Examples of action on implementing Goal 5 across sectors

Examples from Government:	*Examples drawn from NGO projects:*
- Gender equality will strongly feature in **Australia's first VNR**, with a chapter on goal five and mainstreaming gender equality throughout. Stakeholders will contribute to this whole-of-government process in various ways including an ACFID submissions call and PM&C's Office for Women's online call.	- Marie Stopes International (MSI) provides **sexual and reproductive health services** for 25 million women globally, balancing for-profit and based-on-need services. MSI is also working to **strengthen partnerships** – local partnership, strategic international partnerships, multi-sectoral programming, and WASH programming.
- In 16/17 DFAT's Gender Equality Fund provided $10 million for the Australian NGO **Gender Action Platform (GAP)** to strengthen gender equality programming in the Indo-Pacific.	- Evidence of change with a gender lens include the **CARE PNG Highlands**, sexual, reproductive and maternal health project, the **Safe Families** project in the Solomon Islands implemented by Oxfam and other partners, the **Fiji Women's Crisis Centre**, and the ACIAR and University of Canberra **Family Teams** project in PNG.
- DFAT highlighted the ways in which the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** has considered gender across its key action areas and is seeking examples from key stakeholders of implementation of AAAA action items including those that address gender issues in the VNR.	- **Support for local women's rights organisations** such as IWDA's Women's Action for Voice and Empowerment (WAVE) program, and **culturally relevant learning tools** like the [floating coconut tool](#) which assists in understanding women's and men's roles in economies in Melanesia.
- DFAT partners with **The Girl Effect**'s TEGA (Technology Enabled Girl Ambassador's) Program- a girl-centred, mobile-enabled innovative data collection methodology providing training, certification, and economic opportunities for researchers aged 18-24.	

Other collaborative research projects and investment:

- DFAT, IWDA and ANU are collectively investing in the [Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM),](#) aiming to generate a new gender sensitive, multidimensional measure of poverty.
- ACFID is working with Collaboration for Impact and CSIRO to develop a [toolkit for systems approaches and collaboration](#) to help members align their work to the SDGS.

- The **Do No Harm** research collaboration between IWDA and ANU's SSGM program, with DFAT's Pacific Women program seeks to empower women economically and improve their livelihood security without detriment to their safety and wellbeing.

Challenges for Australia's progress in implementing the SDGs	Opportunities for Australia's international work on the SDGs
- The **difficulty in measuring** both *indicators* under Goal 5 like empowerment, violence against women, and discrimination and *enablers* such as *'equal pay for equal work of equal value'* - The need to increase **public awareness**, understanding of and engagement with the SDGs and the AAAA. - The need to challenge methods of operation to make iterative and adaptive programming the norm - The need to acknowledge the important role women play in transmitting remittances - A shrinking space for **civil society's voice** - Rising **nationalism**, and **protectionist/isolationist** sentiments - **The erosion of** human rights of women and girls, especially their sexual and reproductive rights - The interpretation of Goal 10 as income inequality, and the resulting **loss of the rights message**	- The incredible **power of young women**– they are at the centre of the SDG response driving bold transformative change. - The opportunity for **innovation** around social movements in the context of the SDGs. - The ability to encourage self-organisation at the **community** level and work for systems change - Harnessing the vast capacity **of civil society** to connect action from local to global levels - **Filling the data gaps**, with Australia focusing on assistance to the Asia Pacific region where requested to collect and measure data - Capitalising on the momentum of the VNR for the Australian community, and moving towards an **'implementation mindset'** on the SDGs - **Shared values** between NGOs and partner organisations enhancing opportunities for success using the SDG's as a road map. - Moving away from contractual models of cooperation to a more networked system, integrated and collaborating for systemic change.

Towards 2030 –potential to support systems thinking & multi-stakeholder partnerships

*"If you marry system and program interventions we are more likely to create population level change. The only way to achieve this is through **collaboration"** – Kerry Graham, Collaboration for Impact*

- **Create open and engaged processes that bring multiple perspectives to the table** through inter-departmental committees and working groups, and between government and the NGO community.
- Align approaches and monitoring towards common objectives using frameworks such as **CSIRO's RAPTA Framework** (Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment).
- **Share information** via Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development portal
- Continue the focus on **data** – draw on existing systems where they are fit for purpose, and consider innovative solutions to the capacity constraints in developing countries.
- Support and amplify the voice of local movements, and create connections between women's rights organisations
- Further **education** and **promotion** of systems thinking though ACFID's systems thinking and collaboration toolkit
- **Create opportunities** for partnerships to leverage funding to meet the estimated USD 2.5 trillion financing gap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshops are held twice-yearly. Through shared learning around a topic of mutual interest, the workshops provide an opportunity for DFAT and NGOs to gain a better understanding of their respective priorities and the opportunities to collaborate on issues of gender equality.