

Outcomes Statement

ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshop, October 2016

Ending Violence Against Women

The October 2016 ACFID-DFAT Gender Equality Workshop focussed on ending violence against women (EVAW). The intended outcomes of the workshop were to provide participants with a deepened understanding of current studies on violence against women (VAW) to inform policy and practice, explore opportunities for collaboration and learning from current initiatives in the region, and examine ways of strengthening design and measuring EVAW programs.

This Outcomes Statement summarises the priority areas for action which emerged through discussions on the day, and makes concrete propositions that ACFID, Gender Equality Community of Practice members, and DFAT can take to further progress in ending violence against women.

Summary of discussions at workshop	Recommendations for all actors working on EVAW
<p>The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a strong framework to take a holistic approach to gender equality. The SDGs are an opportunity to strengthen work on EVAW, including dedicated resources, but more attention is needed for tracking the SDGs.</p>	<p>Conduct sound action research and build evidence base, including longitudinal evidence base for programming on EVAW.</p>
<p>Build capacity to collect and understand data on VAW: data collection on the prevalence of VAW is weak, and in many places national and regional technical capacity on data collection, interpretation and use is very limited. Additionally, contextualisation is critical to understand the story that data reveals, and women’s organisations on the ground are critical partners who have the expertise and nuanced understanding to help interpret GBV data.</p>	<p>Build technical capacity on gender equality, including on interpretation of VAW data, and establish partnerships with women’s organisations who have the expertise and nuanced understanding to interpret VAW data.</p>
<p>Women with disabilities are at very high risk of gender based violence (GBV) and face unique challenges, yet data is not yet being systematically collected. This data gap needs to be filled in order to better understand the needs and requirements for improving services and support for women with disabilities.</p>	<p>Ensure research and data collection incorporates intersectionalities such as women with disabilities.</p>
<p>Implementation of EVAW legislation: There has been tremendous progress in building an enabling legislative environment against VAW but implementation is not consistent and needs to be encouraged and supported.</p>	<p>Advocate for and support implementation of EVAW policies, legislation and action plans.</p>
<p>Ending violence against women requires complementary, integrated programming on women’s rights and gender equality. Understanding and constructively challenging harmful gender</p>	<p>Design and ensure sufficient resourcing for programming that includes an integrated,</p>

<p>norms, including through training on women’s rights and gender equality, should be a minimum standard for all programming, including economic development interventions.</p>	<p>complementary focus on challenging harmful norms and women’s rights.</p>
<p>Women’s economic empowerment (WEE) can be transformative for women, the household and broader community but there needs to be greater recognition and understanding that WEE can also have harmful consequences, such as increasing violence against women, and creating additional financial and workload burdens on women. More intersectional research is needed to understand the connections between WEE and VAW, and all actors need to think more proactively about the risks in project design and implementation and build-in risk mitigation strategies from the start to ensure a do no harm approach.</p>	<p>Build VAW risk mitigation strategies in to economic empowerment programming from the design stage in order to acknowledge the intersections between women’s economic empowerment and violence and to ensure a do no harm approach, and improve collaboration and information-sharing between organisations working on women’s economic empowerment</p>

Practical steps ACFID, Gender Equality Community of Practice (CoP) members, and DFAT can take to further progress the issues raised at the October workshop

- 1. ACFID Gender Equality CoP-led practical learning event on women’s economic empowerment programming**
 The workshop session on the intersections between ending violence against women and women’s economic empowerment highlighted the continued learning needed on this issue. The Gender Equality CoP proposes to organise a practical learning event on women’s economic empowerment programming, as an opportunity for NGOs who implement economic empowerment programming to share practical strategies, guidance and tools, recent research findings and key lessons, and challenges on multiple dimensions of WEE programming, including M&E, violence against women, and the care economy, among others.
- 2. DFAT and ACFID members can highlight interlinkages of violence against women and women’s economic empowerment ahead of the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women**
 The priority theme for the 61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (13 to 24 March 2017) is ‘Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work’. The Office for Women has invited submissions to inform the Australian Government’s position during negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions and related resolutions during the 61st Session. DFAT and ACFID members can use this and other pre-CSW forums to further explore the interlinkages of violence against women and economic empowerment.
- 3a. ACFID Gender Equality CoP joint submission on the Foreign Policy White Paper**
3b. DFAT to ensure development of the Foreign Policy White Paper takes a gender lens
 The Australian Government’s recently announced Foreign Policy White Paper is an opportunity to progress workshop outcomes around women’s economic empowerment, linked to Australia’s focus on supporting the role of women in the economy. The process presents an opportunity to inform development of Australia’s international engagement agenda over the next five to ten years. The ACFID Gender Equality CoP could develop a joint submission, drawing on research presented at the workshop. Additionally, DFAT should ensure that a gender lens is applied across all aspects of the White Paper process.
- 4. Share information via Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development portal**
 Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development has developed a portal that enables individuals and organisations working on gender activities in the Pacific region to contribute related images, stories, news, events, projects or resources to the *Pacific Women* website. This portal represents a simple platform for information-sharing on gender programming including leadership and decision-making, economic

empowerment, ending violence against women, education, health and M&E.

<http://www.pacificwomen.org/>

5. Publicise the kNOwVAWdata initiative

kNOwVAWdata is an initiative by UNFPA and DFAT in the Asia-Pacific region to support/strengthen regional and national capacity to measure violence against women. Building on the workshop discussion, ACFID COP members are encouraged to inform their relevant country partners about the initiative and the support it offers to train researchers and field workers to collect and analyze data on the extent and the nature of violence that women experience, using robust and reliable methodologies. The initiative can also help countries use the collected data to bring about policy and behaviour change to stop violence against women. https://www.facebook.com/kNOwVAWdata/?ref=page_internal

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 work together towards gender equality.