

GENDER EQUALITY:

The BUILDING BLOCKS for an effective, just aid program



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

“...{E}nabling women to participate in and benefit from development requires a focus on women and their status and rights. {It also requires}... men and women working together towards mutual goals and greater equality, and address{ing} the wider social, economic, cultural and political factors that perpetuate women’s inequality”.¹⁰

The organisations of the ACFID Gender Equity Working Group consist of gender experts in Australia’s aid and development non-government organisations and academic expertise. The Working Group seeks to work collaboratively within the NGO community, between Government departments and with international partners in order to build a just and sustainable Australian aid program. **As such, we want to see clear leadership on gender equality and women’s empowerment by:**

1. **Promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment as one goal but also reflected in all goals of the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goal Framework.** While MDG 3, Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, was crucial in recognising that ending global poverty would not be achieved without a focus on gender, the goal itself did not capture the many areas where a focus on gender equality is needed.
2. **Requiring the collection and use of sex and age disaggregated data.** All agencies delivering Australian aid should plan and demonstrate how their programs will impact on women and girls, and men and boys, as well as how much they are spending on reducing gender inequality.
3. **Enhancing women’s leadership** in Indonesia, South and East Asia by funding new development partnerships.
4. **Requiring both men and women to be involved in conflict resolution mechanisms, peace processes and post-conflict planning.** Where this is difficult through mainstream mechanisms, parallel processes should be supported to ensure that women and men shape agendas and decisions, and that women’s concerns and priorities are included.
5. **Ensuring Australian aid efforts focus on engaging women and girls in all stages of programming.** This is best achieved through long term and flexible programs that are designed to incorporate women and girls’ empowerment as an explicit program goal across the board.
6. **Focusing education programs on removing barriers to girls education** to ensure gender equality in enrolment and completion rates at school.
7. **Fully funding the position of Australia’s Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.** This position must have a full supporting budget in order for it to be effective in drawing diplomatic attention to gender equality in our region and for it to serve as a statement of values for Australia’s foreign policy.

For more information about why gender equality matters and what you can do to promote it through a gender equitable and just aid program, please contact the ACFID Gender Equity Working Group through:

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united against poverty

ACFID unites Australia’s non-government aid and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty

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3. Development Assistance Committee OECD (2008) Guiding Principles for Aid Effectiveness, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

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5. World Health Organization (2005) WHO Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women.

6. UN Women (2013) Study reveals shocking new evidence of men’s use of violence against women and girls in Asia Pacific. News item 12 March 2013.

7. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (no date) Unpaid work, poverty and women’s human rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/UnpaidWork.aspx>

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9. UNESCAP (2007) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and Pacific 2007: Surging Ahead in Uncertain Times.

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11. UN Women (2013) Towards a Transformative Goal on Gender Equality, Women’s Rights and Women’s Empowerment. UN Women Note on Gender Equality Goal.