

Annual Monitoring Report on Gender Equality 2011



Farmer Rosemary Kadzitche with maize plant, Mchingi, Malawi

Report from Irish Aid's Gender Network

September 2012.

Summary

In 2011, and into 2012, gender equality and women's empowerment in many countries was impacted by the global economic crisis, ongoing food and fuel price increases, climate change and conflict. Women were active participants in uprisings and demonstrations across the Arab world, the challenge now being to ensure their fair representation in transitional councils, new governments and parliaments across the region. A key achievement was the launch of UN-women during 2011. A Joint Action Plan for Gender Equality was agreed during the 4th High level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in South Korea in November. COP 17 took place in Durban in December representing an important step forward in gender aware climate change thinking and policies. The impact of religious conservatism at a global level has become increasingly apparent, evident in the failure to reach agreement at the 2012 Commission on the Status of Women. There is evidence of a growing backlash against the already agreed international position on gender equality, women's empowerment and reproductive rights such as set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

The first objective of Irish Aid's gender equality policy is 'to advance equal rights for men and women'. A rights based approach is fundamental to Irish Aid's work on gender equality. An essential part of this objective is Ireland's work to combat gender based violence (GBV). During 2011, Irish Aid continued to support partner governments' responses to GBV in Uganda, Zambia, Timor Leste, South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mozambique. Civil society and multilateral organisations continue to be important partners in this work including our support to the UN Trust Fund to Combat Violence Against Women. This included capacity building for responses to GBV, supporting the development and implementation of legislation on GBV, engaging men in GBV prevention, and community awareness building. Irish Aid's expenditure on combating GBV in 2011 increased to approximately €5.9 million.

Irish Aid's second objective in our Gender Equality Policy is 'Eliminating gender inequalities in access to, control of and benefit from resources and services'. During 2011, Ireland supported education for girls and boys in four programme countries: Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia and Lesotho as well as South Africa and the Palestinian Authority. In addition, support was given to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in 2011 (€3.9 mi). The number of girls finishing primary school in GPE member countries has increased from 56% in 2002 to 68% in 2009.

During 2011, Irish Aid supported governments in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Mozambique to strengthen their health systems and provide better services to their citizens including maternal and reproductive health services. Progress is evident in a number of Irish Aid partner countries in declining maternal mortality rates and increasing access to contraception.

Gender inequality is a key driver of the HIV pandemic and we continue to work with governments and CSOs working to prevent, treat, care and support women and men affected by or living with HIV/AIDs. In 2011, €11.7 million was allocated to support the work of the Clinton Foundation in Mozambique.

Irish Aid is committed to mainstreaming gender equality across agricultural programming, engaging in policy dialogue with Ministries of Agriculture and supporting CSOs working on gender equality and agriculture. In 2011, Irish Aid supported agriculture and livelihoods interventions in Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia and Sierra Leone targeting female as well as male farmers and supporting women's access to critical resources such as land.

A key focus of Irish Aid's work on nutrition is supporting the Scaling up Nutrition Framework which prioritises the nutritional needs of pregnant women and children up to their second birthday. 7 of Irish Aid partner countries are now signed up.

Irish Aid supports social protection programmes in Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia and Uganda all of which actively target women in vulnerable circumstances. Irish Aid is engaged in the design, implementation and monitoring of the programmes of social protection it supports, and works with partners to integrate a gender perspective in programming.

Irish Aid supported increased women's political participation including the 2011 Uganda General Elections and preparations for the 2012 elections in Sierra Leone. Support to women's equal participation in political decision making included the launch of Ireland's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security in 2011.

Irish Aid advocated for the formation of a single UN gender entity and welcomed the launch of UN Women, allocating €1.2 million in 2011. We also contribute to international policy dialogue, especially through our engagement with the OECD DAC GENDERNET, which Ireland co-chaired in 2011 and is nominated to continue as co-chair in 2012.

A key challenge for 2012/2013 will be ensuring that the review of the White Paper demonstrates the linkages and coherence between gender equality and other priority areas such as hunger and resilience. An important priority for 2012/2013 will be continuing to strengthen the results focus of our work on gender equality, improving results frameworks as well as reporting and evaluation mechanisms. Contributing to the implementation of the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and continuing to co-chair OECD DAC GENDERNET are other important priorities.

2012-13 will be an important and sensitive year for women's rights globally with the 56th Commission on the Status of Women focusing on gender-based violence, the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, the implementation of the Post-Busan aid effectiveness agenda, discussions underway on a post-MDG world and the 2013 MDG Review as well as proposals for a fifth world conference on women in 2015. As noted, there are risks emerging of a rowing back on some long existing agreements reached at global level on gender equality such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. Our policy dialogue at UN and EU level, and in particular our EU Presidency, should provide opportunities for us to communicate clearly on the importance we attach to gender equality and women's empowerment within the aid programme.

1. Introduction- the external environment in 2011.

In 2011 into 2012, a convergence of global crises has continued and worsened: progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment was undermined by food and fuel price hikes, the ongoing global financial crisis, environmental degradation and climate change and global security issues. In East Africa, chronic food insecurity exacerbated by drought created severe food shortages affecting millions, in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region popular uprisings were met with repression and human rights abuses, and troubled and collapsing economies across the globe have resulted in widening public sector cuts, austerity measures and their ensuing adverse impact on the poorest people.

A key achievement of 2011 was the formal launch of the UN Entity for Gender equality and the Empowerment of Women – 'UN Women' in February. In its first full year of operation UN-Women made significant progress in consolidating the four previous entities into a coherent, unified organisation. Its Executive Board approved a strategic plan and budget for 2011-2013. Capacity strengthening of country offices will begin with 17 country offices including Mozambique, OPT, Tanzania and Timor-Leste. However the ability of UN-Women to deliver on its mandate and strategic plan is hugely dependent on financing. While donor contributions to UN Women increased by one third in 2011, at \$235 million, contributions were well below the 2011 resource target of US\$500 million.¹

The environment for CSOs, including women's organisations, in many countries is becoming more restrictive.² In addition to prohibitive political, administrative and financing measures limiting CSO effectiveness, representatives of these organisations in many parts of the world also face challenges such as harassment.³ However, some progress has been made at a policy level, in June 2011 the Siem Reap CSO Consensus⁴ on the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness was finalised. Developed through a consultation process involving thousands of CSOs, it is the first global civil society statement on the effectiveness of the civil society sector development work, and is a long term reference for improving CSO development efforts at national, regional and international levels.

The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) held in November 2011 recognised the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as key components of effective aid and development. A Joint Action Plan lead by the US, Korea, UN-women and the OECD aims to bolster implementation of these commitments and provide specific support to strengthening the availability of data on gender equality (the EDGE initiative)⁵.

The 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17) took place in Durban, South Africa, in December 2011 and represented an important step for gender aware climate change thinking and policies, with a far greater number of references to gender than at previous conventions, over 30 side events on gender and climate change issues, a UNFCCC organised 'Gender Day' at the digital lounge in the conference centre, and references to gender in the decision texts.

1 CSW 2012b

2 Better Aid 2011, Taylor 2011

3 Barcia 2011, Open Forum 2012

4 The Siem Reap CSO Consensus on the International Framework For CSO Development Effectiveness, http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/final_framework_for_cso_dev_eff_07_2011-3.pdf, accessed 26.07.12

5 The EDGE initiative, <http://www.unwomen.org/2012/03/partnering-to-close-data-and-evidence-gaps-for-women/>, accessed 26.07.12

The 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held in March 2011, the priority theme was access to and participation of women and girls in education and the promotion of women's equal access to full and decent employment. Of significant concern during the negotiations on the agreed conclusions was a concerted effort by some delegations to systematically delete or qualify all references to gender throughout the text (for example, in the context of gender equality, gender stereotypes, gender perspectives, gender mainstreaming, and gender studies). The EU, together with a large number of other non-EU States, strongly opposed these efforts. Ireland co-hosted/co-sponsored two side-events during the 2011 CSW on "Gender, technology and Peace-building- bridging the Israeli-Palestinian divide" and 'Elimination of discrimination and violence against the girl child'.

Women were active participants in demonstrations and uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain, and other countries in the MENA region during 2011. However, gender segregation and discrimination was evident, for example, in Egypt women demonstrators were subjected to gender based violence. Women's representation in transitional councils, new governments and parliaments across the region is extremely low. Ireland acknowledged the important role that women played in the Arab Spring and called for the full participation of women in post Arab-Spring developments in a number of statements at the United Nations.

During 2011 and into 2012, the impact of religious conservative movements at a global level became increasingly apparent. This was particularly evident in the difficulties, and in some cases failures, to reach agreement in a number of key multilateral fora, including the 2012 Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the rowing back on agreed language in relation to gender equality in fora such as the 2012 Rio Summit. There is evidence of growing backlash against already agreed international agreements on gender equality, women's empowerment, and reproductive rights such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development

UNDP's Gender Inequality Index (GII) measures maternal mortality ratio, adolescent fertility rates, seats in parliament, population with at least secondary education and the labour force participation rates. According to the 2011 Index, Vietnam, South Africa and Lesotho perform best amongst the 9 Irish Aid programme countries. The Global Gap Index 2011 measures progress in closing the gaps in access to resources and opportunities, with those making the most progress at the top. Interestingly, out of the 135 countries surveyed, Lesotho came 9th, South Africa 14th and Mozambique 26th but Vietnam was far down the list at 79th. A new development index from the OECD called the Social Institutions and Gender (SIGI) Index looks at issues such as family code (e.g. inheritance rights), physical integrity (e.g. prevalence of FGM), son bias, civil liberties, resources and entitlements, to measure the underlying drivers of gender inequality. In the 2012 SIGI rankings, Sub Saharan Africa has the poorest performance but South Africa ranks first in the region and 4th overall out of the 86 countries surveyed. Malawi was ranked 38 and Mozambique 39, with Sierra Leone at 66 and Uganda at 73 coming towards the end of the list (Lesotho and Timor Leste are not covered in this index). For more information on these indexes see appendix 2

Box 1 - Irish Aid contributed to the following gender equality results in 2011:

- GBV legislation was enacted in Zambia during 2011, Ireland actively supported CSOs lobbying for the passing of the Act as well as supporting the capacity development of Government and other key stakeholders to implement the Act.
- Ireland's National Action Plan to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was approved by Cabinet and launched in November 2011.
- Ireland allocated €3.95 million to the Global Partnership for Education during 2011. Thanks to the GPE, 68% of girls in GPE member countries finished primary school in 2009 compared to 56% in 2002.
- The 2011 Multi-Annual Programme Scheme evaluation notes that Irish Aid partner Trocaire spent €4.7m on gender programming from 2007-2010; this included a GBV programme in Kenya. The Kenyan Demographic Health Survey in 2010 has indicated a reduction of GBV in the area. Given that Trócaire worked with partners who are leaders on GBV prevention activities in the country, an evaluation conducted by Trocaire concluded that it is plausible that the programme made a contribution to this reduction.
- The results of 2010 Demographic and Health Survey in Ethiopia during 2011 showed remarkable progress around a number of health indicators, including access to reproductive health services. Between 2005 and 2010, the contraceptive prevalence rates increased from 14% to 29%, the total fertility rates declined from 5.4 children to 4.8 children and the rate of unmet contraceptive need declined from 34% to 25%. Irish Aid support is provided through a number of different mechanisms including the provision of €2.5 million to the Government's Health MDG Fund.
- In Vietnam during 2011, a small grant was provided to an NGO 'APHEDA' for a project aiming to build capacity and to raise awareness of the importance of female representation and leadership in local 'people's councils'. During the project, 300 women candidates for the 2011 elections to the people's council were trained, the majority of whom were subsequently elected.
- €1 million was provided in 2011 to the International Partnership for Microbicides. For the first time in history, a microbicide trial achieved 'proof of concept' of an effective product. Although only 30% effective, this prototype paves the way for a more effective product, which, if achieved, will have a major impact on women's empowerment and their capacity to negotiate safe sex.
- In Mozambique, Ireland supported the Government's Agriculture Support Programme (PROAGRI) with €750,000 allocated in 2011. Access to agricultural extension services have increased significantly from 222,300 in 2007 to 432,234, 45% of whom were female.
- Christian Aid Ireland received funding to provide emergency assistance and support for vulnerable households in South Kivu, DRC a component of which was addressing GBV. During 2011, 1081 cases of sexual violence were identified (5 of whom were male) and provided with medical and psycho-social care as well as economic support.

2. Contribution to policy objectives.

Irish Aid Gender Equality Policy Goal.

To support the achievement of gender equality as an essential component of sustainable human development.

2.1 Objective 1 – to advance equal rights for men and women.

A rights based approach is fundamental to all of Irish Aid’s work on gender equality. The Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), is an international bill of rights for women. This Convention provides the basis for realising equality between men and women including equal access to political and public life as well as the right to access quality education, health care and employment opportunities.

A key part of Ireland’s work under this objective is combating gender-based violence. During 2011, we continued to support partner government responses to GBV both nationally and locally in Uganda, Zambia, Timor Leste, South Africa, Liberia, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

Over the last number of years, Irish Aid has actively supported CSOs calling for the enactment of legislation against various forms of GBV such as the Anti-GBV Act in Zambia in 2011 and the Domestic Violence Act in Uganda in 2010. GBV legislation, addressing some or all forms of GBV, has now been enacted in the majority of Irish Aid programme countries. The next challenge is implementation; CSOs are key partners in monitoring this implementation and strengthening accountability for commitments made. In Tanzania, Irish Aid supports Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) to enhance accountability systems in relation to GBV, in particular the development and implementation of the “National Policy and Management Guidelines for GBV in the Health Sector” WILDAF has been appointed to represent CSOs in the newly established National Steering Committee for GBV in the country.

In Timor Leste, Irish Aid supported the expansion of a GBV referral network from 8 to 13 districts. These networks provide legal advice, counselling, awareness raising and a shelter for women and children affected by GBV.

Irish Aid has supported the roll out of the new GBV legislation in Uganda in 2011 through the “Joint Programme on GBV” in the Busoga region of Uganda. This programme, funded by Irish Aid, is being jointly implemented by Government at central and local level, with civil society and a media production company. During 2011, work was undertaken to build a baseline, a range of community mobilisation interventions were undertaken and community activists were recruited. The production and airing of GBV prevention radio spots in the local language was also carried out. Faith-based organisations are important partners in the implementation of this programme. During 2011, the Irish Ambassador participated in the Inter Religious Council of Uganda launch of the programme along with faith leaders from a number of religions.

Engaging men in combating GBV is a critical part of developing effective GBV prevention strategies. In Liberia, Irish Aid has supported the International Rescue Committee and a local NGO to engage with men around entrenched attitudes and behaviours in relation to gender equality and gender-based violence. The process involves the establishment of “Men’s Dialogue Groups” to explore and challenge the roots of their attitudes and behaviour. Although evidence of behaviour change is not yet available, testimonies from both participants and their partners indicate a significant shift in individual attitudes and behaviours towards women. Concern Worldwide in Sierra Leone has

developed a manual on 'challenging masculinities' which is being piloted in 2012. The Concern Worldwide Kenya programme has incorporated modules on promoting positive masculinity into life skills courses provided to adolescents. In 2011, Concern Worldwide also commissioned research to review institutional understanding and progress on engaging with men and boys. The study developed a set of recommendations for Concern to advance approaches to engaging men and boys in addressing gender inequality.

CSOs continue to be key partners in providing services to survivors of GBV in particular during emergency responses and in post-conflict countries. There has been a significant increase in funding provided by the E&R Section to GBV projects such as funding provided in 2011 to the International Rescue Committee to significantly scale up GBV programming in the Dadaab refugee camps in Northern Kenya. Christian Aid Ireland received funding to provide emergency assistance and support for vulnerable households in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo a component of which was addressing GBV. During the first year of the project in 2011, 1081 cases of sexual violence were identified (5 of whom were male) and these people were provided with medical and psycho-social care as well as economic support.

Multi-lateral organisations continue to be key partners in responding to GBV. In 2011, €275,000 was allocated to the UN Trust Fund to Combat Violence Against Women, we also continued to support the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/cutting.

2.2 Objective 2 – to eliminate gender inequality in access to, control of and benefit from resources and services.

Health

Providing access to quality health services, in particular maternal and reproductive health, is a critical dimension of Irish Aid's work on gender equality and women's empowerment. During 2011 Irish Aid supported governments in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Mozambique to strengthen their health systems and provide better services to their citizens. Addressing maternal and reproductive health is a key element of these health programmes.

In Mozambique, where €1.8 was spent supporting health sector reform during 2011, there has been a steady increase in functional health facilities as well as more equitable access to services. Maternal mortality rates have declined from 692 to 500 per 100,000 deaths between 1997 and 2007.

The results of 2010 Demographic and Health Survey in Ethiopia during 2011 showed remarkable progress around a number of health indicators, including access to reproductive health services. Between 2005 and 2010 the contraceptive prevalence rates increased from 14% to 29%. Irish Aid support is provided through a number of different mechanisms including the provision of €2.5 million to the Government's Health MDG Fund. CSOs continue to be important partners in health service delivery in Ethiopia such as the Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia which supports the delivery of sexual and reproductive health and HIV & AIDs services through a network of outlets across the country.

Supporting the health needs of women during and post emergencies is an important area of our work. For example, providing health care to pregnant and lactating women through a project being implemented by "Medical Aid for Palestinians" led to a significant drop in peri-natal mortality in the target areas in Lebanon.

HIV

Central to Irish Aid's HIV programme is a recognition that gender inequality and gender-based violence are key drivers of the HIV/AIDs pandemic. We support government and/or civil society

responses to HIV across nearly all of our programme countries, as well as CSOs and a number of global initiatives.

In 2011, Ireland provided €11.7 million to the Clinton Foundation in Mozambique to provide financial and technical support to the implementation of Mozambique's National health strategy and the national plan for the prevention, treatment, care and support of people affected by, or living with HIV & AIDs. Although the MDG target of universal access to treatment by 2010 has not been achieved, nonetheless there have been some impressive results. For example the number of HIV positive mothers who received PMCT⁶ increased almost 100 fold between 2003 and 2009. The total number of people now on ARVS stands at 250, 508, of whom 163, 230 are women.

Civil Society Organisations working to empower women living with HIV are key partners. For example in Zambia "Pride Community Health Organisation" provides a range of services for people Living with HIV (PLHA) including livelihood support for HIV positive women. In South Africa, Irish Aid has supported 'Positive Women's Network' a grass roots women's organisation providing information on HIV, resources and training on home and community-based palliative care, income generation activities and GBV services. Trócaire implement a Gender and HIV programme in Malawi which includes strategies to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV. For example, Trócaire's partner CCJP trained 130 religious and traditional leaders (125 males/5 female) on issues of masculinity, culture and HIV and have created 'Man to Man' clubs to promote positive attitudinal changes towards gender equality and understanding of HIV.⁷

Ireland continues to provide significant funding through global mechanisms including the Global Fund to fight AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria which received €9.3 million in 2011. €1 million was provided in 2011 to the International Partnership for Microbicides. Ireland has long advocated for increased investment in the research and development of microbicides which women apply to protect themselves from HIV. For the first time in history, a microbicide trial achieved proof of concept of an effective product. Although only 30% effective, this prototype paves the way for a more effective product, which if achieved will have a major impact on women's empowerment and their capacity to negotiate safe sex.

Education

Education is vital to the attainment of all three of the Irish Aid Gender Equality Policy Objectives.

Ireland allocated €3.95 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) during 2011. The GPE strategy from 2011 to 2014 focuses on achieving three objectives: increase support to fragile states, improve learning outcomes and quality of education and support girls' education. In sub-Saharan Africa, girls account for 62% of all new children entering school in GPE developing country partners. Thanks to the GPE in 2009, 68% of girls in its member countries now finish primary school compared to 56% in 2002.

Ireland supported education for girls and boys in four programme countries: Uganda (€7.5m); Mozambique (€3.76m); Zambia (€10.1m); Lesotho (€2.05m) and also provided funding for education in the Limpopo province in South Africa and to the Palestinian Authorities. Progress is being made. In Mozambique, the net enrolment of girls in primary education rose from 40% in 1998 to 69% in 2010.

Concern Worldwide is currently developing and piloting a 'School Related Gender Based Violence' model, with pilots planned in Sierra Leone and Liberia, to test the model. The Sierra Leone

⁶ Prevention of mother to child transmission treatment.

⁷ Pg. 51, Trócaire Multi-Annual Programme Scheme Report, 2011 (May 2012)

programme has successfully established community-based reporting channels for incidents of GBV in 66 schools. The establishment of these mechanisms has resulted in the reporting and recording of 130 incidents of GBV which have been referred on by the reporting mechanisms to appropriate response services.⁸

Agriculture and livelihoods

In line with the recommendations of the Hunger Task Force Report, Ireland has scaled up its support for initiatives focused on boosting the agricultural productivity of women farmers. Increasing women's access and control over agricultural resources and services is a key part of Ireland's work on hunger.

Irish Aid is active on agriculture and livelihoods interventions in most of our programme countries – Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zambia as well as Sierra Leone. All programmes are committed to mainstreaming gender equality across their agriculture interventions using a number of strategies including policy dialogue with Ministries of Agriculture and supporting CSOs working on gender equality, agriculture and livelihoods. We have worked with partners to improve women's access to extension services, markets, land and agricultural inputs (eg. seeds, seedlings, irrigation water, fertilizers and pesticides, capital, agricultural equipment etc.).

In Mozambique, Ireland supported the Government's Agriculture Support Programme (PROAGRI) with €750,000 allocated in 2011. Access to agricultural extension services have increased significantly from reaching 222,300 farmers in 2007 to reaching 423,234 farmers in 2010, 45% of whom were female. In Malawi, Ireland supports the Government's Farm Input Subsidy programme which targets 1.6 million farmers each year with improved maize seeds and certified legumes in order to improve crop productivity, soil fertility and nutrition. In 2010/2011 42% of the households targeted were female headed.

In Rwanda, Trócaire supported the training of 440 women and 370 men in addressing land dispute issues; 294 of these (60% of whom are women) initiated action to recover land rights of which 10% were solved.⁹

From HQ, a number of global initiatives are supported on agriculture which have, or should have, a strong gender equality dimension. During 2011, Irish Aid entered into a new funding partnership with the International Land Rights Coalition. The ILC is a global alliance of CSOs, intergovernmental and research organisations, which work at the global, regional and national levels to promote secure and equitable access to land for women and men through capacity building, dialogue and advocacy. Irish Aid's funding is specifically focused on supporting ILC to strengthen their engagement with women's organisations, to enhance their research on women's land rights and access and to make linkages between local and national experiences and international negotiations on land access and rights.

Irish Aid also supports the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). CGIAR underwent a major reform in 2011, with the aim of developing more coherence across its broad research portfolio and becoming more focused on the needs of smallholder farmers. Irish Aid consistently advocated for the needs of women smallholder farmers to be reflected in the new Strategy and Results Framework and new CGIAR Research proposals (CRPs). All 15 of the major CRPs are now obliged to have a Gender Strategy and a new Gender Strategy team has been established to coordinate and monitor gender commitments across the CGIAR system.

⁸ pg. 148, Concern worldwide, Annex 2: Programme Results Frameworks

⁹ pg. 17, Trócaire MAPs Report Part 2: Indicative Portfolio Results Framework

Nutrition

A key focus of Irish Aid's work on nutrition is support to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Framework which prioritises the nutritional needs of pregnant women and children up to their second birthday. The SUN movement brings together governments, civil society organisations, development partners, the United Nation and the private sector to support governments' own efforts to address under nutrition. 27 countries are now signed up to SUN including Irish Aid programme countries, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Uganda and Mozambique as well as Sierra Leone. The SUN movement aims to build political will and momentum and ensure that financial and technical resources are accessible, coordinated and predictable.

The SUN framework in Tanzania which was launched during 2011 sets out a number of key steps including finalising the National Nutrition Strategy, integrating nutrition into the Tanzanian Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan and establishing a new national budget line for nutrition. As Chair of the Development Partners Group and donor convenor for SUN, Ireland has facilitated and supported progress including by fostering cross-sectoral linkages between various technical and sector working groups, including on gender equality.

In order to build internal capacity and understanding of the gender equality dimension of our work on nutrition, work began in the last quarter of 2011 on the development of internal guidelines on gender and nutrition.

Climate Change

During 2010/2011 Irish Aid began supporting the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice which presented its strategic plan in 2011. MRFCJ sets out gender equality as one of the 7 key principles of climate justice stating *"the impacts of climate change are different for women and men with women likely to bear the greater burden in situations of poverty. Women's voices must be heard and their priorities supported as part of climate justice"*.

Social Protection

The 2008 Hunger Task Force stated that social protection programmes play an important role in reducing hunger amongst vulnerable households and recommends that Ireland should support their implementation. As a result, there has been an increasing focus on social protection over the last 5 years with programmes now being supported in Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, and Uganda and more recently in Mozambique where Irish Aid has been actively engaged in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection programmes.

In Zambia, Irish Aid continued to support the Ministry of Community Development, Maternal and Child Health to roll out the child grant scheme in 3 districts. A total of 10,593 mothers benefitted from regular cash transfers of \$25 every two months and \$50 for mothers with disabled children. While more evidence is still required to assess the programme's ability to strengthen women's empowerment, some evidence of female empowerment has been recorded: in Shangombo, one of the district women reported that receipt of the grant has permitted empowerment through asset ownership, greater community participation by women, and greater decision making across the household. A case study from the Zambia annual report demonstrates the empowering impact social protection can have for women living in vulnerable circumstances (see Box 2).

In Uganda, Irish Aid is supporting the Government in implementing a social assistance grants scheme for the most vulnerable and labour constrained households in 14 districts. Irish Aid has been a key advocate for ensuring that a gender sensitive approach is upheld in the programme. Through a carefully designed targeting methodology, 65% of the direct recipients are female, with female

headed households, including those in polygamous unions, equally targeted. The use of a mobile money electronic payment system has greatly strengthened women control over resources at household level.



Box 2 -Irish Aid Zambia- Tackling Poverty through Public Welfare Assistance Scheme

Irish Aid supports Alliance Zambia and the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH) in the Partnership Framework aimed at strengthening government systems to support vulnerable groups, especially women and children in Zambia.

The project aims at strengthening Government led coordination and support structures under MCDMCH through complementing the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS); and provides comprehensive care and support packages for OVCs, women and vulnerable children in Ndola and Masaiti Districts of Copperbelt province. The project is implemented through partner Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

This story is about Elizabeth Mumba, a 45 year-old HIV positive widow with four children and one grandson. Her two youngest children are also HIV positive.

Elizabeth was identified by the Community Welfare Assistance Committee (CWAC) and was recommended to **Good Hope**, one of Alliance Zambia's implementing partners. The project has provided Elizabeth with a total cash grant of K300,000, an economic empowerment grant of K500,000, animal grants of pigs and goats, and school fees for her children. Asked how she accessed help, Elizabeth explained:

“An area CWAC paid me a visit and asked me a few questions about how I live and how I provide for my family. I explained to her that I was going through financial hardships and was barely providing for my family”

It was as a result of this meeting with a named CWAC that Elizabeth became a beneficiary of the project. In 2011, Elizabeth was given cash grants for three consecutive months which she used to buy seeds and fertiliser farming inputs through the Government fertilizer input program. This enabled her to harvest 12 bags of maize and eventually to sell some of the excess she produced to the Food Reserve Agency.

So, Elizabeth is now growing vegetables as an income generating activity. She has found the means to survive and to provide for her family in her new selling skills and is able to provide at least 3 meals a day. To her relief, her HIV positive children have access to the nutritional support they need to remain as healthy as possible.

Gender dynamics play a key role in shaping the effectiveness of social protection programmes while social protection can also potentially play a transformative role in relation to gender equality. The gender impacts of social protection programmes, as well as its transformative potential, are important mainstreaming challenges for Irish Aid as we build our focus and competence in this important sector.

2.3 Objective 3- to support women's equal participation with men political and economic decision-making.

Advancing women's political rights and their role in peace and security is a key element of implementing both CEDAW and the UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security.

During 2011, Christian Aid, and its partner SEND, worked with all three political parties in Sierra Leone to promote women's political participation in the 2012 elections. A Memorandum of Understanding by parties to increase the number of female candidates in the upcoming elections was secured. This was complemented by the creation of a 'Women in Governance Network' of 5000 women at community levels who have been trained to promote political rights and maintenance of peace in advance of the elections.¹⁰

The introduction of gender quotas has significantly increased the number of women in Parliament in several Irish Aid programme countries. For example, 39% of seats in the Mozambican Parliament are held by women and 25% in Ethiopia. Ireland has actively supported the increased participation of women in parliament such as during the 2011 elections in Uganda where female political participation is now over 30%. However, evidence suggests that when women enter the political arena, they tend to remain in the lower ranks and to cluster into sectors perceived as 'female'. In order to build the profile and momentum from the increased numbers of women in the Ugandan Parliament, the Embassy hosted a high profile forum in June to discuss how these leadership opportunities can be capitalised on to promote greater gender equality and women's empowerment. Irish Aid continues to support "The Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association" whose stated mission is to "ensure engendered laws, policies, political processes and equity in resource allocation to improve the quality of life of women through effective representation, capacity building, political support and networking".

Supporting women to become more engaged at local government and community level is another important component of meeting this objective. In Vietnam during 2011 a small grant was provided to an NGO 'APHEDA' for a project aiming to build capacity and to raise awareness of the importance of female representation and leadership in local 'people's councils'. During the project, 300 women candidates for the 2011 elections to the people's council were trained, the majority of whom were subsequently elected.

We also work with the Inter Parliamentary Union, a global voice and forum for parliamentarians from 155 countries around the world. Specifically we support the IPU's Gender Programme which aims to build more representative and accountable parliaments through the increased and enhanced participation of women in politics and to strengthen the work of Parliaments in relation to gender equality.

An important dimension of Irish Aid's work in this area is in relation to economic decision-making. The Hunger Task Force states that we will support the strengthening of farmers' organisations, particularly those which actively target poorer farmers and women as members. Annual reports from Malawi and Tanzania note support in 2011 to the Farmers Union of Malawi and the National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi as well as MVIWATA and ANSAF in Tanzania, all organisations which lobby and advocate on farmers interests. References as to how women farmers are engaged in these organisations are not provided.

3. PARTNERS AND STRATEGIES

Working with Government

¹⁰ pg. 15, Christian Irish Aid's Multi Annual Programme Scheme (MAPS) II, Annual Report, January-December 2011

As has been outlined in Section 2, governments are key partners in our work on gender equality. During 2011, we continued to directly support partner government responses to GBV both nationally and locally in Uganda, Zambia, Timor Leste, South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

Irish Aid also works with line ministries to support them to more effectively mainstream gender equality. For a number of years in Timor Leste, Ireland has been working with the State Secretariat for Women's Affairs to support the mainstreaming of gender equality across line ministries. During 2011, an inter-Ministerial working group was established as well as the establishment of a 'Cabinet for Gender Equality', within the Ministry of Economy and Development. In Uganda, Irish Aid has continued to support the Budget Monitoring Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to strengthen gender budgeting. There are numerous examples of other such engagements such as our membership of the social development working group within the Productive Safety Nets Programme in Ethiopia which has a strong focus on gender equality and our engagement with Women's Committees within National AIDs Councils in South Africa and Zambia.

In Mozambique, through dialogue in the Gender Coordination Group, Irish Aid, participated in the development of the gender equality component and indicators for the Republic of Mozambique: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PARP).

Multilaterals

Ireland's core funding to UN-Women increased significantly from €400,000 in 2010 to €1.2 million in 2011 showing a strong commitment to new entity and its strategic plan. Irish Aid attended all of the Executive Board (EB) meetings with 'observer' status and participated in the negotiations on EB decisions. During informal negotiations there were significant blockages on decisions reflecting the resistance of some UN Member States to UN-Women and concerns that its operations at country level should be determined by its host country. Ireland was consistent in its support for UN Women and Ireland's Ambassador to the UN delivered statements at all three EB meetings in 2011. At the Annual EB Meeting she stated *"Ireland strongly promoted the creation of UN-Women and we aim to be among its most reliable supporters"*.

During 2011, 34 UN-Women field offices were upgraded and their capacity strengthened including UN-Women offices in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Irish Aid also continued to support and engage with other UN agencies with a strong gender equality remit such as UNICEF and UNFPA.

Civil Society Organisations

During 2011, support was provided directly and through joint funding arrangements to CSOs in programme countries on a range of gender equality and women's empowerment issues such as advocacy on the roll out of new GBV legislation in Zambia, women's economic empowerment in Ethiopia and political empowerment in the run up to election in Uganda. In South Africa, Ireland led on the establishment of a basket fund for CSOs working on gender equality, HIV, and women's economic empowerment. 5 donors contribute to the Fund and 22 organisations have been supported through the Fund to date.

The Civil Society Funding Round in 2011 included a specific call for proposals on gender equality with an emphasis on responses to, and prevention of GBV (in particular projects which contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 1325) and rural women's economic empowerment. Of the 14 projects supported in 2011 through the CSF, 4 were focused specifically on gender equality and women's empowerment including projects to strengthen women's participation, agency and decision-making power through social and economic empowerment in Eastern Congo and micro- credit programmes

targeting women such as Women's World Banking. In total, 34% of the total funding approved under the CSF 2011 project fund was for gender projects.

Supporting research and knowledge sharing

Irish Aid supports government and civil society partners to conduct research on gender equality, which is important to building an evidence base in-country and internationally.

The following are some selected examples of work in this area in 2011:

Lesotho: Irish Aid supported a study by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, with the collaboration of Lesotho Mounted Police, aimed at establishing the link between Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the spread of HIV, assessing the effectiveness of the Lesotho Sexual Offences Act of 2003. A majority of key informants felt that the Sexual Offences Act of 2003 had made prosecution and conviction of sexual offenders easier; however the sentencing rates as noted from available records remain low

South Africa: HEARD and Project Empower, funded by Irish Aid, developed a gender mainstreaming process to be used within support for home-based care organisations in South Africa. The study explored how home based care programmes offer a potential pathway through which gender inequalities can be tackled, containing several recommendations for the area.

From HQ: Irish Aid is supporting a study which aims to measure the impact and effectiveness of a programme called *SASA! An activist Kit for Preventing Domestic Violence against Women and HIV*, developed by Raising Voices, implemented by the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) in Uganda. The study will not be complete until December 2012 but in 2011 a Rapid Assessment Survey indicated significant positive shifts in knowledge and attitudes among men and women in intervention communities. For example, when asked 'If a husband tells his friends that he makes decisions jointly with his wife, his friends respect him.' 34% of women and 69.4% of men in the control community agreed with the statement but in the intervention communities 63.9% of women and 94.4% of men agreed.

Policy Dialogue and Co-ordination

As high-lighted in the 2010 review of the Irish Aid Gender Equality Policy, Ireland has become increasingly active at national and inter-national policy fora. We have played a leadership role on gender equality in a number of countries. In Tanzania, Ireland continued to chair the development partners working group on gender equality which focused during 2011 on mainstreaming gender equality in 3 key sectors – agriculture, legal and health. In Timor Leste, Ireland continued to chair the donor gender co-ordination mechanisms which Ireland led on establishing during 2010.¹¹ During 2011, the group successfully lobbied with a number of other stakeholders, to have a small but ring-fenced allocation within the state budget to support initiatives to combat gender-based violence.

At international level, in June Ireland took over as Co-Chair of the OECD DAC GENDERNET which aims to promote capacity building and policy dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment amongst member states and other partners. A key focus of the GENDERNET during 2011 was on preparing for the Higher Level Forum in Busan in November 2011 and engaging with the World Bank on the development of the 2012 World Development Report on Gender Equality.

4. LEARNING FROM EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS

During 2011, evaluations of country strategy papers in Mozambique and Zambia were conducted.

The Zambia evaluation notes that success has been mixed in mainstreaming gender and HIV in government policy. Irish Aid Zambia has supported the Gender and Development Division (GIDD) for a number of years in partnership with UNDP, NORAD and USAID. The findings of the evaluation in relation to this work point to clear challenges around capacity and resourcing. These findings resonate with our support to national gender machineries in a number of other programme countries. More positively, Irish Aid's support to CSOs such as WILDAF was influential in the passing of the GBV Bill during 2011. Gender mainstreaming was also evident in the education programme as well as the local development programme. Some success was achieved in the local development programme in getting increased engagement from women on district councils, area and regional development committees however the evaluation notes that this has not translated into an increased focus on gender equality in the District Annual Investment Plans produced.

The Mozambique evaluation found that gender mainstreaming was an established strategy, and one of its Maputo staff was assigned as a gender focal point. Gender issues were prominent across all components of the Irish Aid programme, not least in the human capital and provincial engagements. Irish Aid has participated actively in various gender working groups and on related issues such as girls' education. Planning, implementation and reporting across all pillars demonstrated attention to gender issues. Nonetheless the evaluation does not present evidence of gender equality results.

A final evaluation of the Multi-Annual Programme Scheme was conducted in 2011. A key policy objective of the scheme was to promote justice and equality, especially gender equality, while a process objective was to support the development of structures and processes to embed mainstreaming as an organisational strategy. The ToR posed a specific question on the extent to which cross-cutting issues were effectively mainstreamed in partner programmes and whether participation in MAPs helped partners become more effective in mainstreaming. The evaluation concludes that MAPs funding has led to an increased appreciation of the importance of cross-cutting issues such as gender and a renewed emphasis on strengthening analysis in order to build a greater understanding of the importance of poverty and vulnerability. There is, however a need for more of a focus on monitoring outcome level change. Only one organisation was able to identify a specific allocation to gender equality

Mid-Term Reviews are another opportunity to reflect on progress and challenges in implementing the gender equality policy and two were carried out during 2011. A light touch review of the Timor Leste programme was conducted in order to begin planning an exit strategy. Gender equality has always been an important component of the Timor Leste programme and the MTR highlight both specific programming on Gender-Based Violence and support provided to the State Secretariat for Women's Affairs to mainstream gender equality across line ministries. The MTR conducted in Lesotho during 2011 made no reference to gender equality apart from noting that small funding is provided to 'Women in Law in South Africa' (WILSA) to conduct awareness raising during the 16 Days of Activism on Gender-based Violence.

In 2011, the Evaluation and Audit Unit conducted an evaluation of the Irish Consortium on Gender-based Violence. Irish Aid is a member of this consortium which supports capacity development and shared learning across member agencies. The evaluation states that *"the unusual diversity in the membership of the Consortium is both a great asset and a challenge. This diversity has many benefits in enabling members to learn from each other and to share with individuals and organisations they would not normally engage with. The challenges come from trying to accommodate the needs and views of such a diverse group, particularly on advocacy"*. The role of Mary Robinson, as Patron, has been central to its success.

5. LINKING WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF DFAT

During 2011, DCD worked closely with other Sections of DFAT in particular as part of the Consultative Group on developing Ireland's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 which was led by the Conflict Resolution Unit.

BOX 3- IRELAND'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325.

Ireland's National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was approved by Cabinet in September 2011 and launched in November 2011. This resolution calls for the recognition of the role of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution and calls on the international community to take specific steps to enhance women's meaningful participation in these processes as well as protecting women and girls from gender-based violence during conflict.

The NAP has 5 pillars:

Pillar 1 – prevention of conflict.

Pillar 2 – participation and representation of women in decision-making.

Pillar 3 – protection from GBV and other violations of women's human rights and international humanitarian law.

Pillar 4 – relief, recovery and rehabilitation.

Pillar 5 – promotion of UNSCR 1325 and other UN obligations on women, peace and security in international, regional and national arenas.

The development of the NAP was led by the Conflict Resolution Unit within the Political Division but includes a range of actions relevant to DCD and other parts of Political Division as well as Anglo-Irish and Corporate Services. The Department of Defence/Defence Forces, the Department of Justice and Equality and An Garda Síochana have also made commitments in the NAP.

Ireland has been an active advocate within the OSCE for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325, including during Ireland's tenure as Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation. The FCS meets weekly to discuss military aspects of security in the OSCE area and, in particular, confidence and security-building measures. In January 2012, Lt Colonel Martin McInerney of the Irish Defence Forces was appointed as the FSC Chair's co-ordinator on UNSCR 1325.

Ireland continued to advocate strongly for full implementation of the 1325 and related resolutions. We are members of the EU Informal Task Force on 1325 and the New York based "Groups of Friends of Women, Peace and Security". Ireland made statements at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly debates on UNSCR held during 2011.

Ireland's Ambassador to the African Union was also active in relation to UNSCR 1325 during 2011, participating in a delegation of women ambassadors visiting Sudan to meet with a cross-section of women peace-builders, legislators and displaced people. The aim of the visit was to build awareness and knowledge in order to promote the inclusion of gender equality within the process of state-building.

6. INTERNAL MAINSTREAMING

During 2011, a number of capacity building events took place at headquarters including seminars on gender equality and climate change delivered by the Institute of Development Studies and a seminar

from Irish Aid partner Mama Cash on supporting grass roots women’s organisations. A guidance note on gender and agriculture was produced and work commenced on developing a guidance note on gender and nutrition. The gender network remained active meeting 3 times during the year to oversee the development of the first annual monitoring report on gender equality and the DCD input to the National Action plan in UNSCR 1325.

At field level, the Zambia gender advisor undertook a learning visit to the Uganda programme. In South Africa, a training programme was organised for staff and partners on gender mainstreaming. Staff from the Zambia office also attended this training. The HQ based gender advisor carried out a programme support visit to Zambia.

7. EXPENDITURE ON GENDER EQUALITY IN 2011

The review of Irish Aid’s gender equality policy conducted in 2009/2010 noted that funding on gender equality and women’s empowerment is often under-reported due to some limitations in structures of the coding systems. Work to review and strengthen our coding systems is currently under-way. A new coding system will be in place from January 2013 which will facilitate more accurate reporting on Irish Aid gender equality expenditure.

The OECD DAC Gender Equality policy marker, which is now being implemented by Irish Aid, provides a criteria for reporting the extent to which a programme is intended to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. A programme can target gender equality as either a principle or a significant objective. ‘Principal’ implies that gender equality is an explicit objective of the project or programme and fundamental in its design. ‘Significant’ means that gender equality was an important but secondary objective. The OECD DAC Report “Aid in support of gender equality and women’s empowerment” (February 2012) states that 57% of our aid is ‘gender-focused’ i.e has gender equality as either a principal or significant objective.

Within the Policy and Planning Unit, the gender equality budget supports research, learning, knowledge dissemination and capacity building (see box 4)

Box 4 - PPE Gender Equality Budget line – research, learning and capacity development.					
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
€500,000	€750,000	€1.08 m	€800,000	€800,000	€800,000

The application of the DAC Sector Code “Women’s Equality Organisations” demonstrates an increasing level of funding from a baseline of €3.3 million in 2003 but with expenditure peaking in 2008 at €7.3 million.

Box 5 - Gender Equality Expenditure (using DAC Sector Codes “Women’s Equality Organisations and Institutions”)							
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
€1.6m	€2.4m	€3.4	€5.7	€7.3	€5.9	€5.1	€7.2

As Irish Aid has a strong commitment to implementing GBV programmes, it is important that we monitor expenditure levels. 2011 figures show a significant increase in expenditure on specific GBV programming due mainly to increased expenditure within the Emergency and Recovery Section in line with our commitments under UNSCR 1325.

Box 6 - estimated expenditure on gender-based violence programming.				
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
€3.7 m	€5.04 m	€4.48 m	€3.66m	€5.9m

8. CONCLUSIONS AND PRIORITIES IN 2012/2013

Progress was evident in meeting Irish Aid's gender equality objectives during 2011, in particular in increasing gender equitable access to health and education.

Our specific work on gender equality continues to focus strongly on gender-based violence programming where we can demonstrate some contribution to results at output and outcome level. However, given the long term and complex nature of the work, providing evidence of impact remains elusive.

A key gap identified in the 2010 Annual Monitoring Report on Gender Equality was the weakness in reporting the gender dimension of Irish Aid's work on hunger. Programme country reports are now somewhat stronger in this regard and this report communicates a number of gender-disaggregated results in particular in the agriculture sector.

A key challenge in 2012/2013 will be to ensure that the review of the White Paper demonstrates the linkages and coherence between gender equality and priorities within the hunger agenda such as agriculture, nutrition, social protection and climate change. It will be important to ensure that gender equality is seen not just as a mainstreaming issues but also that our specific support to women's organisations as well as GBV programming are seen as important dimensions of making progress across all of our objectives. Empowering women, strengthening their role in decision-making and challenging gender-based violence is a critical dimension of economic and human development.

One trend which is noticeable from the 2011 report is some decline in our support to national women's machineries (although we continue to engage with line ministries in a number countries on gender equality). In 2012, we will stop directly supporting government structures working on gender equality in Timor Leste and South Africa. There is no doubt that there is some disillusionment and frustration regarding the role and capacities of these ministries as well as the political will underpinning them. As UN-Women builds its capacity to engage at country level, this might provide opportunities for a more effective engagement with national gender machineries.

Our support to civil society organisations working on gender equality remains constant. One key trend which we need to consider is the increasing numbers of women in Parliament across many of our Irish Aid programme countries. This should provide a strong motivation to support the critical role that the indigenous women's movements should play in building accountability for commitments made by government in relation to gender equality.

What we are learning from evaluations and reviews on gender equality is somewhat patchy as there is not a consistent approach to the issue across monitoring and evaluation processes. Where gender equality is a strong focus of the programme learning is emerging, but the lack of a focus within particular country programmes or sectors or weaknesses in mainstreaming are often not commented on during evaluations or MTRs. The quality of the results frameworks and the extent to which gender equality is mainstreamed across these frameworks is a key factor.

There has been a significant increase in 2011 in our expenditure on GBV programmes to €5.9 million mainly due to increased support to projects within the Emergency and Recovery section. This is most

welcome and reflects a strengthened commitment to supporting GBV responses in line with our commitments under Ireland's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.

Within Irish Aid, implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 will involve strengthening how we mainstream gender equality in our work in conflict and post-conflict environment with a specific focus on GBV programming and women's role in decision-making. An internal action plan to advance our commitments will be developed.

2012-13 will be an important and sensitive year for women's rights globally with the 56th Commission on the Status of Women, the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012; the implementation of the Post-Busan aid effectiveness agenda, discussions underway on a post-MDG development framework beginning with the 2013 MDG review as well as discussions on proposals for a fifth world conference on women in 2015. There are risks emerging of a rowing back on some long existing agreements reached at global level on gender equality such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. Our policy dialogue at UN and EU level, and in particular our EU Presidency, should provide opportunities for us to communicate clearly on the importance we attach to gender equality and women's empowerment within the aid programme.

Annex 1 –BRIDGE report

Annex 2- Gender indices tables.

Annex 3- ToR.