



EMPOWERING WOMEN REDUCES POVERTY

...towards a safe and just world



New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

EMPOWERING WOMEN REDUCES POVERTY

NZ AID | Nga Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti | The paddles that bring growth from afar



***Te mana wahine
hei ara whakatupu***

***Recognition of women's mana
is the pathway to development***

Empowering

Worldwide, 70% of those living in "extreme poverty" are women and children. One third of all women and girls experience physical and sexual violence and girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable diseases. And regrettably there are plenty more statistics like this.

Empowering women is essential if those caught up in this cycle of poverty, violence, hunger and inequality are to be able to fulfil their role in society.

New Zealand has long been a committed campaigner for the promotion of women's rights. Ensuring that women and men, girls and boys, are equally able to contribute fully to their own social and economic development, and that development benefits are fairly shared, are essential cornerstones to achieving NZAID's vision of *A Safe and Just World Free of Poverty*.

Gender equality is a human right

While disparities vary from county to country and from region to region, no country or region is free from gender inequality.

Gender equality is not only a women's issue, but should concern and fully engage men and boys who can and do contribute to advancing gender equality, as individuals, within the family, community and in all spheres of society. Men and boys also face discriminatory barriers and practices themselves which may need to be addressed. However gender analysis points to the need to focus on women and girls because of the systemic discrimination that they continue to face.

This policy draws attention and focuses action on the **structural and systemic factors** that have caused poverty and gender inequality to arise. It also recognises the importance of taking a **human rights approach** and engaging women and men, girls and boys and their **communities** to develop their own strategies to address poverty.

Strengthening and expanding the capabilities, resources, opportunities, voice and rights of all people will increase human well-being, accelerate economic growth, **reduce poverty and enhance development effectiveness**.

Gender equality is essential for development

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the international “roadmap” for global action to eliminate poverty by 2015. Goal 3 is “to promote gender equality and empower women”. It is now widely recognised that achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment is vital to fulfilling **all** the MDGs.

women reduces poverty

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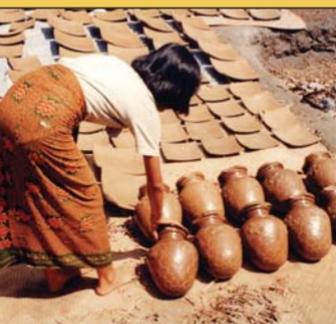
CASE STUDIES

Gender inequality in the Pacific

New Zealand has a special relationship with the Pacific. Women are often responsible for most of the agriculture and food production in Melanesia and, with the move to cash economies, are increasingly becoming important contributors of household income.

Across the region, women remain severely under-represented in parliaments and continue to be disadvantaged in terms of employment, wages, and working conditions. Women’s access to health and education continues to be limited and maternal mortality rates remain high in a number of countries. HIV and tuberculosis infection rates continue to rise. Domestic, family and sexual violence against women is on the increase.

NZAID is committed to working with its Pacific partners to accelerate implementation of commitments towards addressing gender inequalities.



“Study after study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing +10 Review, 2005

Gender equality

NZAID aims to increase overall human wellbeing by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through pursuing three strategic outcomes:

- **Enhanced capacity of the poor, particularly women and girls, to realise their capabilities and fulfil their potential.**
- **Reduction of gender disparities in access to, control of and benefit from resources, opportunities and services – economic, social, cultural and political.**
- **Reduction of violence and conflict and protection of human rights, so that all people, particularly women and girls, can live free of fear and with dignity.**

NZAID will place priority on three groups:

- poor women
- young women
- women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

NZAID’s commitment to gender equality

When NZAID was established in 2002, Cabinet directed the Agency to “mainstream human rights issues along with gender and environment, throughout its operations”. This means women’s and men’s needs, priorities and experiences are to be explicitly taken into account and addressed in all development planning, policies, and programming, from appraisal to evaluation.

NZAID will actively pursue a dual strategy combining gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment, ensuring gender equality is made explicit and visible in all development programmes; and supporting activities that specifically address gender disparities and empower women, economically, socially and politically.

NZAID’s core evaluation criteria are: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Greater emphasis will be placed on gender sensitive evaluation to assess differential impact on women and men, boys and girls, and gender relations.

"We also resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable"

– the United Nations Millennium Declaration, September 2000

helps eliminate poverty

GENDER EQUALITY HELPS ELIMINATE POVERTY



CASE STUDIES

Pacific prevention of domestic violence

Domestic violence imposes devastating costs on families and communities. Incidents of domestic violence are on the rise within the Pacific region.

NZAID is working in partnership with NZ Police and the Pacific Island Chiefs of Police towards a safer Pacific by supporting the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence programme (PPDVP). The programme aims to reduce domestic violence through increased police capacity and strengthened legislative and policy environments.

It's a five year initiative that will be implemented by the New Zealand police and it will be critical to establish strong partnerships with other relevant government agencies and NGOs to encourage a coordinated approach across the board.

The programme will initially target Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati at a national level and all Pacific Island Forum countries at a regional level.



"The human race is a two winged bird – one wing is female, the other is male. Unless both wings are equally developed the human race will not be able to fly"

Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the writings of Abdu'l-Baha sec 227

a focus on

Key focus areas will be identified through policy dialogue with partner countries, other donors, regional organisations, international agencies, and through NZAID's regional and country programme strategies. While remaining responsive to the needs of our partners, NZAID's documented focus areas are:

(i) Capabilities

- *Education*: eliminate gender disparities in access to education at all levels; broaden and strengthen the opportunities of women and girls for post primary education and training including literacy and numeracy skills.
- *Health*: increase access to primary health care including sexual and reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care for women, girls and youth.

(ii) Resources, opportunities, and services

- *Leadership*: increase adolescent and adult women's participation and representation at all levels of decision-making, within political, economic and social processes.
- *Livelihoods*: enable poor women and girls to secure sustainable livelihoods by increasing and improving their access to, control of, and benefits from economic and natural resources, opportunities and services including housing, employment, land, credit, markets, trade, and information communication technologies (ICTs).

(iii) Human security

- *Gender based violence*: reduce all forms of violence, particularly against women and girls including domestic, family, sexual, and workplace violence and harassment, as well as trafficking, and sexual exploitation.
- *Conflict and post conflict*: address the differential impact on and the particular needs of women and girls; and support the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

*"Forget China, India and the Internet:
Economic growth is driven by women"*

The Economist, 15 April 2006

gender equality

A FOCUS ON GENDER EQUALITY



CASE STUDIES

Job opportunities for women after the tsunami

The 2004 tsunami caused widespread devastation across Asia. In Indonesia's Aceh province alone, an estimated 600,000 men and women were left without a job. With the help of NZAID and other donors, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has set up a programme designed to get women employed.

Women are often the invisible driving force that lifts families out of poverty. The booming construction sector in Aceh does not automatically generate jobs for women. Women often lack some of skills and knowledge and are constrained by their domestic responsibilities. To broaden job opportunities, the ILO developed women-specific training activities on manufacturing concrete products and basic business management. The project has now moved into its second phase, focusing on building the capacity of local business development service providers to deliver gender responsive services and marketing support to women entrepreneurs.

We gratefully acknowledge the photographers including Steven Nowakowski, and the copyright holders



If you want to know more...

...about NZAID's gender policy, *Empowering women reduces poverty*, please contact NZAID's communications team on communications@nzaid.govt.nz or at our postal address: **Private Bag 18-901, Wellington 5054.**

For a copy of the policy or any other NZAID policies visit our website: www.nzaid.govt.nz

Other useful web addresses are:

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) – www.awid.org

Australian Government's overseas aid programme (AusAID) – www.ausaid.gov.au

Briefings on Development and Gender (BRIDGE) – www.bridge.ids.ac.uk

Council for International Development (CID), New Zealand – www.cid.org.nz

Dev-Zone (Development Resource Centre) – www.dev-zone.org

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) – www.forumsec.org.fj

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Human Development Programme – www.spc.int/hdp

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – www.unifem.org

United Nations Development Programme, Millenium Development Goals – www.undp.org/mdgs

United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UN DAW) – www.un.org/womenwatch/daw

United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANGWE) – www.un.org/womenwatch

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women – www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi

