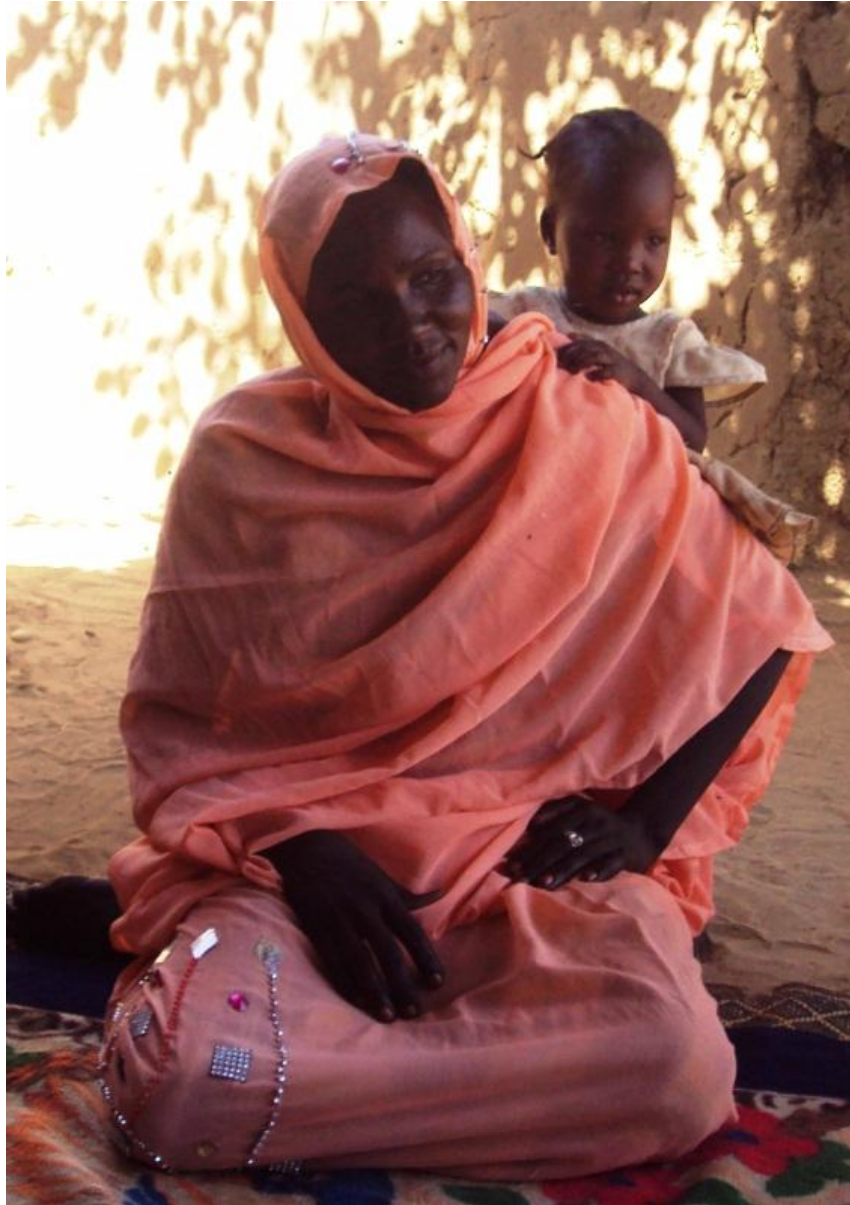


Annual Monitoring Report on Gender Equality 2012



Mariam with her daughter, Ardamata IDP Camp, West Darfur, Sudan. Concern Worldwide Mother's Groups project. Photograph: Sinead McGrath- November, 2011

Report from Irish Aid's Gender Network

2013

ACRONYMS

CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education (Uganda)
CEDOVIP	Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCD	Development Cooperation Division, DFAT (Ireland)
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ireland)
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DECSS	Development Education and Civil Society Section, Irish Aid
E&R	Emergency and Recovery Section, Irish Aid
FGC/FGM	Female Genital Cutting/Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
HRC	Human Rights Council (of the United Nations)
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ICGBV	Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MTR	Mid Term Review
NAP	National Action Plan (on UNSCR 1325)
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SADD	Sex and age disaggregated data
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
UNSCR 1325	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
UWONET	Uganda Women's Network
VAW	Violence against women
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa (Tanzania)
WHO	World Health Organisation

1. CONTENTS

2. SUMMARY.....	3
Box 1: Irish Aid contributed to the following selection of gender equality results in 2012	5
3. INTRODUCTION - THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT IN 2012.....	6
Box 2 - New research in 2012 – “What works for women – proven approaches for empowering women small holders and achieving food security.”	6
Global Gender Equality Indices in 2012	8
Box 3 - UNDP Global Inequality Index 2012	8
Box 4- Global Gender Gap Index 2012	8
4. CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY OBJECTIVES.....	9
Objective 1 – ‘to advance equal rights for men and women’	9
Gender Based Violence- Prevention and Response	9
Objective 2 – ‘to eliminate gender inequality in access to, control of, and benefit from resources and services’	10
Global Health.	10
HIV & AIDS	11
Education.....	11
Agriculture	12
Nutrition	13
Climate Change	13
Social Protection.....	14
Box 5 -Case Study – Social Protection in Uganda	14
Objective 3- ‘to support women’s equal participation with men in political and economic decision-making’	15
5. PARTNERS AND STRATEGIES.....	16
Working with Government.....	16
Multilateral engagement.....	16
Box 6 - Case study: Ireland and Malawi bring a gender dimension to international advocacy on nutrition ..	17
Civil Society Organisations.	18
Supporting research and knowledge sharing.....	18
Policy Dialogue and Co-ordination – national and international	19
6. LEARNING FROM EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS.....	19
7. LINKING WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF DFAT	20
8. INTERNAL MAINSTREAMING.	20
9. EXPENDITURE ON GENDER EQUALITY IN 2012.....	21
10. CONCLUSIONS AND PRIORITIES IN 2013/2014.....	23

2. Summary

In 2012, the inter-relationships between gender inequality, food insecurity and under-nourishment continued to impact as uncertainty in global markets combined with increased poverty, climate change and natural disasters. Other reports in 2012 provided evidence of the impact of the economic crisis on women and girls, highlighting that family poverty has more of an impact on girls survival than that of boys.¹ New conflicts emerged and others re-emerged during 2012, but the implementation UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security remained difficult with “a striking absence’ of women from formal peace negotiations”.² Several high profile incidences of violence against women shocked the world, such as the gang rape and murder of a young medical student in India and the shooting of the young school girl Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan. The negotiating environment around gender equality issues at UN Level was challenging, with the 56th Commission on the Status of Women unable to reach agreement on the empowerment of rural women, and even attempts being made by some delegations to undermine broadly ratified treaties on women’s rights.

There was some good news. The 2012 Millennium Development Goals report³ states that the world has now achieved parity in primary education between girls and boys. Women’s share of paid employment outside of the agriculture sector has continued to increase slowly from 35% in 1990 to 40% 20 years later. Women continue to gain representation in parliaments but the pace is slow.

Progress was evident in 2012 in meeting Irish Aid’s gender equality objectives, in particular in increasing access to health and education, agricultural inputs and extension services as well as caring for the survivors of GBV. Evidence is more limited on how Irish Aid support is addressing more strategic gender needs such as access to land and other resources, women’s roles in decision-making and women’s collective action.

Ireland supported partner governments to combat GBV in Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa, Timor Leste, Sierra Leone and Liberia, particularly around services delivery, capacity building and the roll out of legislation. We supported national and international NGOs and multilateral organisations such as the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, in their work to prevent and respond to GBV. Examples during 2012 include projects to engage men in GBV prevention and healthcare projects targeting survivors. Irish Aid’s support to combat GBV is estimated to have increased from €3.7 million in 2007 to €8.4 million in 2012.

In 2012, Ireland continued to support improved access to quality education by working with partner governments in Uganda, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia as well as through CSO partners and the ‘Global Partnership for Education’ (GPE). In 2012 Ireland gave €4 million to the GPE which works to deliver education for children in low income and fragile states and includes a key focus on gender equality.

¹ Stravropoulou, M and Jones, N (2013) *Off the balance sheet: the impact of the economic crisis on girls and young women. A review of the evidence.* ODI and Plan International.

² UN Women ‘Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence’ <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Media/Publications/en/03AWomenPeaceNeg.pdf>

³ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/mdg-report-2012.html>

Ireland continued to support governments in Ethiopia and Tanzania to strengthen their health systems and provide better services to their citizens including maternal and reproductive health care services as well as supporting increased access to vital vaccines for women and children.

In relation to HIV prevention and response, in 2012 Irish Aid supported two new interventions to support the gender equality dimension of the work of UN AIDs.

We aimed to strengthen how gender equality is addressed in agricultural programming working with governments in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Tanzania and Malawi as well as, NGOs, researchers and multilateral organisations to support women farmer's access to land, financial services, new technologies, agricultural extension services and markets. Irish Aid's work on nutrition included our support to the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement which has a particular focus on pregnant women and children under two years of age.

Irish Aid supported partner governments to integrate a gender equality approach in their work to provide social protection in Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia in 2012.

In order to advance women's political participation, Irish Aid continued to work with other parts of DFAT to advance implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and provided support to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Gender Programme and the Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association.

Key priorities for 2013/2014 will be:

- Ensuring that the strong focus on gender equality in "One World, One Future" is fully reflected in the roll out of the policy, in particular in the development of Country Strategy Papers.
- Reflecting our strong commitments to gender equality issues in our dialogue on the post 2015 development framework. Also working closely with HRU in reflecting our shared gender equality commitments in our global dialogue on human rights, in particular during our membership of the Human Rights Council.
- Continuing to reflect our commitments within Ireland's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in our engagements with fragile states and humanitarian situations.
- Internally, continuing to engage across the organisation with the organisational gender network at HQ and embassies to advance commitments made during the November 2011 meeting of gender advisors.
- Progressing the new policy commitment to "devoting more resources to gender equality".
- Developing a research agenda on gender equality in line with policy commitments on "One World, One Future".

Box 1: Irish Aid contributed to the following selection of gender equality results in 2012

- In the Busoga region of Uganda, Irish Aid has supported the implementation of a multi-sectoral GBV programme since 2010. During 2012 community activists raised awareness amongst 11,520 people which led to 576 cases being referred to the police and a further 990 cases being resolved at community level.
- In Ethiopia, Irish Aid has been contributing to the Government Health MDG fund over a number of years providing €1.9 million in 2012. Progress is being made. The most recent data available indicates an increase from 16.6% (2009/10) to 20.4% (2011/2012) in the numbers of births attended by skilled health professionals.
- Support is being provided to the International Rescue Committee to implement a GBV programme in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Between October 2011 and October 2012, the IRC provided care to 585 GBV survivors. All GBV incidents reported were referred to medical, (including psycho-social) legal or any other support services within 72 hours of reporting
- The Irish Aid supported Trócaire programme made significant progress on water accessibility in 2012. Tasks such as water collection are often delegated to women due to social gender norms. In Ethiopia, 25,950 households now enjoy access to safe water within 30 minutes which was 2-3 hours at baseline. In Kenya, the average distance to water for 81,000 households was reduced to 5.33km from an average of 9km at baseline stage earlier in 2012.
- By the end of 2012, Global Fund supported programmes have provided 1.7million HIV-positive pregnant women with treatment to prevent transmission to their children. Irish Aid has been supporting the Global Fund since 2001.
- The 2012 Education for All Global Monitoring Report highlights progress in Uganda on gender parity in primary schools. This progress demonstrates what can be done when strategies are put in place to improve girls' participation such as mobilising communities, targeting financial support for girls, ensuring the gender-sensitive teaching materials are used and providing safe, healthy environments. The net enrolment rate for girls in primary school in Uganda was 92% in 2010. Education has been a key focus of the Irish Aid programme support in Uganda.
- In 2012, with support from Irish Aid and other donors, over a half a million farmers in Tanzania were assisted by the public extension services, 253,613 of these farmers were women. In Mozambique, Irish Aid has been contributing to a significant expansion in agricultural extension services from 222,300 farmers in 2007 to 561,573 farmers in 2012, 45% of whom are women.
- Self Help Africa in Zambia organised a series of consultative meetings with traditional leaders on the issue of land tenure. This led to a resolution to start allocating land to women. By September 2012, approximately 600 women (mainly widows, divorcees and elderly) had been allocated land by chiefs in 5 districts.
- Following the provision of capacity development and technical support from the Irish Aid supported gender programme within the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), new legislation on GBV was passed or current legislation reformed in the Maldives, Togo, Burkina Faso and Cameroon.
- In 2012, as a result of training, lobbying and advocacy work by Action Aid in Nepal, 130 women are now represented on local decision-making bodies such as School Management Committees and Health Service Management Committees. These bodies have also succeeded in accessing government budgets from Village Development Committees and District Development Committees for women's programmes in their communities.
- Concern's 2012 annual report stated that surveys conducted on the Conservation Agriculture (CA) programme in Malawi showed that it reduced the labour demands on women by an average 35 days and improved their food security by an average of one month. Crucially women also reported an increased role in decision-making both in the household and community and 95% of respondents reported greater self-confidence and an elevated status in their communities
- 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. Of the 70,150 senior citizens and vulnerable families receiving grants, 64% are female.

3. Introduction- the external environment in 2012.

A number of key events in 2012 and 2013 impacted on progress in implementing Irish Aid gender equality goals and objectives. New research emerging also had implications for Irish Aid programming on gender equality.

The inter-relationships between gender inequality, food insecurity and under-nourishment continued to impact as uncertainty in global markets combined with increased poverty, climate change and natural disasters. In Africa, rapid economic growth in some areas did not have a positive impact on food security. Rather it highlighted and exacerbated uneven access to food as the “silent crisis of chronic malnourishment and seasonal hunger” (UNDP 2012). The 2012 African Human Development Report found that in sub-Saharan Africa women have far less control of land than in any other global region, a key issue in building food security, good nutrition and gender equality.

In January 2013, ODI and Plan International launched a review of evidence of the impact of the ongoing economic crisis on women and girls. The review considers the impacts on the survival, development, protection and participation of women and girls. Some of the reports key findings are that family poverty has had more impacts on girls’ survival than boys, primary school completion rates for girls decline during economic contractions and girls and young women are more likely to take on riskier employment in order to help the family budget.⁴

Box 2 - New research in 2012 – “What works for women – proven approaches for empowering women small holders and achieving food security.”

During 2012, 9 international development agencies working on food security, nutrition and disaster resilience produced a report to share the lessons they have learnt through decades of promoting gender equality and working with women farmers. 4 key lessons were identified:

- Women’s collective action is a powerful means for women to increase productivity and access to markets whilst sharing knowledge, information and productive assets including land, livestock and credit.
- Smallholder women farmers need secure and stable access to productive resources including land, water, forests and fisheries, as well as inputs and appropriate financial services (including social transfers).
- Economic empowerment is not enough, underlying gender inequalities must be challenged such as through measures to address broader gender issues including decision-making, power imbalances, gender stereotypes and discrimination against women.
- Disaster resilience and risk management approaches must be gender sensitive and integrated with development interventions. In a climate-constrained world, addressing the structural causes of poverty and vulnerability, including gender inequalities in access to secure and sustainable livelihoods, is essential.

⁴ Stravropoulou, M and Jones, N (2013) *Off the balance sheet: the impact of the economic crisis on girls and young women. A review of the evidence.* ODI and Plan International.

Despite widespread acknowledgement that women's empowerment is a powerful engine for peace, more than a decade after UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was passed, UN Women reported in 2012 that there was a *"striking absence of women from formal peace negotiations which reveals a troubling gap between the aspirations of countless global and regional commitments and the reality of peace processes"*.

During 2012, new conflicts erupted and old ones reoccurred. In the Democratic Republic of Congo there were new eruptions of violent clashes, civilian displacements and the use of rape as a weapon of war, especially in the North Kivu province. The conflict continued in Syria throughout 2012, with concerns for the safety of women and girls escalating amid the mounting humanitarian crisis. Reports from the International Rescue Committee in 2012 highlighted incidences of rape and kidnapping and a severe lack of medical treatment and counselling support for refugees. Women human rights defenders continued to be targeted in Afghanistan. There are strong fears that women's rights will be de-prioritised as NATO troops withdraw and negotiations take place with members of the Taliban (Amnesty 2011).

Several high profile incidences of violence against women shocked the world during 2012. In December 2012, the gang rape and murder of a 23 year old girl on a bus in Delhi highlighted the extremely high rates of gender-based violence being experienced by women in India. In Pakistan, in October 2012, 14 year old school girl and activist Malala Yousufzai was shot on a school bus by Pakistani Taliban. Malala had been promoting education for girls and women in her home province. In December 2012, Pakistan and UNESCO unveiled the Malala Plan, which aims to get all girls in the world into school by the end of 2015.

There is some good news. The 2012 MDG report states that the world has now achieved parity in primary education between girls and boys. Women's share of paid employment outside of the agriculture sector has continued to increase slowly from 35% in 1990 to 40% 20 years later. Women continue to gain representation in parliaments but the pace is slow.

The negotiating environment on gender issues at a UN level remained challenging. This was demonstrated by the failure to reach an agreement at the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in March 2012 on the issue of empowering rural women and their role in poverty reduction and hunger eradication. References to broadly ratified treaties, which constitute the global human rights framework, were opposed by some delegations. Particularly sensitive issues included harmful traditional practices, LGBTI⁵ rights and sexual and reproductive health. The 57th CSW held in March 2013, addressed the issue of elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women, and faced similar challenges, but a concerted effort by UN Women and other key stakeholders ensured that a consensus was reached.

The environment for NGOs working on human rights including gender equality and women's empowerment remained difficult. Women human rights defenders experienced assault, harassment and detention and in some cases assassination.

⁵ Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex

Global Gender Equality Indices in 2012

The UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII) is designed to show the extent to which national human development achievements are hindered by gender inequality. All Irish Aid key partner countries are included in the index in 2012, with the exception of Ethiopia where the data is incomplete.

Box 3 - UNDP Global Inequality Index 2012

GII 2012 ranking (out of 148 countries)	Irish Aid key partner countries	Overall score	Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths to the number of live births per 100,000 live births)	Adolescent fertility rate (annual average per 1000 women ages 15-19, 2010-15)	Seats in parliament held by women (%)	Population with at least secondary education (% age 25 or over)		Labour force participation rate (%)	
						Women	Men	Women	Men
48	Viet Nam	0.299	59	22.7	24.4	24.7	28.0	73.2	81.2
110	Uganda	0.517	310	126.4	35	23	23.9	76	79.5
113	Lesotho	0.534	620	60.8	26.1	21.9	19.8	58.9	73.4
119	Tanzania	0.556	460	128.7	36	5.6	9.2	88.2	90.3
124	Malawi	0.573	460	105.6	22.3	10.4	20.4	84.8	81.3
125	Mozambique	0.582	490	124.4	39.2	1.5	6	86	82.9
136	Zambia	0.623	440	138.5	11.5	25.7	44.2	73.2	85.6
139	Sierra Leone	0.643	8890	104.2	12.9	9.5	20.4	66.3	69.1

The World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index assesses 135 countries on how well resources and opportunities are divided among male and female populations.⁶ The index measures the size of the gender inequality gaps in four areas: economic participation and opportunity, education, health and survival, and political empowerment.

Box 4 - Global Gender Gap Index 2012

Ranking (135 countries)	IA Key partner Countries	Overall score	Economic participation and opportunity	Educational attainment	Health survival and	Political empowerment
14	Lesotho	0.761	0.816	1.000	0.980	0.247
23	Mozambique	0.735	0.799	0.827	0.961	0.353
28	Uganda	0.723	0.722	0.906	0.980	0.284
36	Malawi	0.717	0.822	0.919	0.968	0.157
46	Tanzania	0.709	0.669	0.937	0.961	0.268
66	Viet Nam	0.687	0.710	0.968	0.944	0.125
68	Timor Leste	0.685	0.613	0.928	0.979	0.222
114	Zambia	0.628	0.614	0.855	0.969	0.073
118	Ethiopia	0.620	0.622	0.739	0.974	0.146

⁶ See: <http://www.weforum.org/issues/global-gender-gap>

4. 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.

Objective 1 – ‘to advance equal rights for men and women’

Gender Based Violence- Prevention and Response

A rights based approach is fundamental to all of Irish Aid’s work on gender equality.

A key part of Ireland’s work under this objective is combating gender-based violence. During 2012, Ireland continued to work with national and local governments in Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa, Timor Leste, Sierra Leone and Liberia supporting service delivery, building capacity and lobbying for the development and roll out of GBV laws and policies.

For example, in the Busoga region of Uganda Irish Aid has supported the implementation of a multi-sectoral programme since 2010. The programme is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, district government, civil society organisations and a multi-media production company. During 2012, community activists raised awareness amongst 11,520 people which led to 576 cases being referred to the police and a further 990 cases being resolved at community level. In one district, police reported an increase in the number of GBV cases being reported from 5 cases to 14 cases per week. Training for health providers on clinical responses to GBV was provided in 6 main hospitals in Busoga.

During 2012, Irish Aid was closing down its programme in Timor Leste. Part of this process was to ensure the sustainability of the GBV Referral Network in Timor Leste which Irish Aid has actively supported over a number of years. The Timorese government has demonstrated a strong commitment to the Referral Network. The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) has committed to funding some of the operation costs and to taking on leading the overall management of the network which is now active in all 13 districts of Timor Leste.

Significant support continued to be provided to civil society organisations working to respond to and prevent GBV. CSOs are supported both from head office through CSO support schemes and directly at partner country level. From HQ, support was provided to a number of partners working on gender equality and GBV programmes. For example, Oxfam’s Gender Justice Programme in Tanzania supported the establishment of gender desks within police stations in the Tanga region. Since the establishment of these desks, there has been a significant increase in cases of GBV being reported from 43 cases during 2011 to 135 cases in 2012.

In South Africa, several CSO partners who have been supported by Irish Aid over a number of years, including ‘Gender Links’ and ‘People Opposing Women Abuse’ (POWA) have been selected to sit on the new National GBV Council which was established in December 2012 and will be chaired by the Deputy President. This demonstrates that Irish Aid CSO partners in South Africa working on GBV are strategically positioned. The Council will be a critical entry point for Irish Aid supported partners to bring their experience and evidence gathered to bear on national policy and programming.

Implementation of Ireland’s National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 continued during 2012. Emergency and Recovery Section supported GBV projects in Kenya, Liberia,

Ethiopia, Jordan & Lebanon (targeting Syrian refugees), Sudan, South Sudan, Pakistan, DRC. GBV projects being implemented by IRC in Sierra Leone and Liberia also contribute to the implementation of our 1325 National Action Plan. For example, supported is being provided to the International Rescue Committee to implement a GBV programme in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Between October 2011 and October 2012, the IRC provided care to 585 GBV survivors.

Engaging men continues to be an important prevention strategy in Irish Aid's support to GBV programming. In a project being supported by Trocaire in Kenya, 1,344 men and boys were directly engaged in the programme during 2012. In one area, a 'perceptions of masculinity' attitude questionnaire indicated that, of those trained, 56% showed positive gender equitable attitudes and stated that there is no justification for violence against women. In addition, 63% of the men trained are now change agents in two target districts.⁷

In addition, as part of our efforts to advance equal rights for men and women, Irish Aid continues to fund an international women's organisation, Mama Cash, to support women's rights organisations focusing on women's economic empowerment and combating GBV. With Irish Aid support, Mama Cash has funded 12 organisations in 2012. In Tanzania a domestic workers rights group (*WoteSawa*) tackled 83 cases of domestic abuse by employers, successfully addressing 72 of these cases through intervention and negotiation.

Objective 2 - 'to eliminate gender inequality in access to, control of, and benefit from resources and services'

Under this objective, Irish Aid works with partners to support improved access to quality health, HIV and education services. In addition, given the focus on global hunger in the Irish Aid programme, supporting access to nutrition programming and agricultural resources is a particular priority.

Global Health.

During 2012 Ireland continued to support maternal and reproductive health programmes in Ethiopia and Tanzania. In Ethiopia Irish Aid has been contributing to the Health MDG fund over a number of years providing €1.9 million in 2012. Progress is being made. The most recent data available indicates an increase from 16.6% (2009/10) to 20.4% (2011/2012) in the numbers of births attended by skilled health professionals. Maternal mortality rates have declined in Ethiopia but still remain at an unacceptably high level of 676 death per 100,000 live births. Also during 2012 injectable contraceptives were distributed to 5 million Ethiopian women.

CSOs continue to be key partners in the delivery of health services and health education during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises. For example, during the cholera outbreak in Haiti in 2012, GOAL worked in 11 communities supporting mothers to improve hygiene knowledge and practices, leading to a drop in the number of cases of cholera.

NGOs also provide support to reproductive health care service such as the Irish Family Planning Association supported partner the Centre for Investigation, Education and Services (CIES) in Bolivia which works with youth in especially difficult circumstances. In 2012 they reported the provision of 47,827 medical services to adolescents and youth in five regional centres. Approximately 65% of those accessing services were female.

⁷ Evidence presented at the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine indicates that engaging men is an important strategy within prevention programming increasing the long term impact of the intervention.

Global funds and multilateral organisations also continue to be key partners in supporting women's access to quality health care. For example in 2012, €2.3 million was provided to the GAVI alliance which aims to expand the delivery and uptake of vital vaccines for women and children worldwide and to widen access to new and underused vaccines. The GAVI alliance is working to ensure that by 2020, over 30 million girls in more than 40 countries will be immunised with HPV vaccines.

HIV & AIDS

Gender inequality and the subordination of women are a major driving force behind the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In sub-Saharan Africa 60% of people living with HIV are women. During 2012, as well as providing core funding to UN-AIDS, Irish Aid supported 2 new initiatives aiming to strengthen the gender equality dimension of UN-AIDS work. A new UN-AIDS programme entitled '*Gender Transformative HIV Responses*' aims to build the evidence base on the links between gender inequality and HIV, strengthen political advocacy and advance accountability. Irish Aid is also supporting a UNAIDS project which aims to strengthen HIV and AIDS responses during humanitarian emergencies. Responding to and preventing GBV is a key part of this programme.

We continue to fund the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria which we have supported since 2001. By the end of 2012, Global Fund supported programmes have provided 1.7million HIV-positive pregnant women with treatment to prevent transmission to their children.

CSOs are also important partners in the fight against HIV. For example, the Irish Aid supported Oxfam HIV programme in Zimbabwe has also made significant changes in mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS. At a national policy level, the Women's Action Group has, as part of a strong Women's Coalition, contributed towards the policy changes that have removed user fees for pregnant women in rural facilities.

Education

Quality education for girls and women is essential for the achievement all three of Irish Aid's Gender Equality Objectives. Irish Aid supports education for girls and boy through support to partner country governments in Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, through support to civil society partners and through the Global Partnership for Education.

In Uganda, Irish Aid's longstanding partnership with the Ministry of Education in tackling gender inequality in the sector is making a difference. The 2012 Education for All Global Monitoring Report highlights progress in Uganda on gender parity. This progress demonstrates what can be done when strategies are put in place to improve girl's participation such as mobilising communities, targeting financial support for girls, ensuring the gender-sensitive teaching materials are used and providing safe, healthy schools environments. National enrolment rates for Ugandan girls in primary school were 92% in 2010. However, only 58% of girls transition to secondary school.

Gender equality was a key policy priority for Irish Aid Mozambique's sector level dialogue. This dialogue focused on teacher training, particularly in pursuing adherence to female teacher training quotas. As a result it is anticipated that from 2013 specific targets will be in place for female participation in teacher training colleges. In Niassa province, the Embassy has been working with the Gender Unit of the Provincial Directorate of Education to promote a girl's education strategy.

In Zambia, as well as supporting the Government, Irish Aid works with a number of CSOs to build public awareness of the importance of girls education and to build support and capacity to make schools safe places. Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), with support from Irish Aid, works with the Ministry of Education to finalise and adopt child protection guidelines. The Guidelines were delivered and operationalised in 646 schools working in partnership with CAMFED.

In 2012, over €4 million was provided to the Global Partnership for Education which is an important partner in the delivery of education in low income and fragile states. The GPE's new strategy launched in 2011 has a strong focus on improving gender equality. A report from the GPE in 2012 demonstrates the continuing challenges of achieving equality in access to education and the importance of disaggregating global and national level data. For example, in 2011 almost all of the poorest young women in Karamoja region of Uganda have not completed primary school, compared with 12% of the richest young men in the capital, Kampala.

Agriculture

Supporting and empowering small-holder women farmers is a key part of Irish Aid's hunger agenda. During 2012, Irish Aid worked with partner government, NGOs, research institutions, and multilateral organisations to improve women farmer's access to land, financial services, new technologies, agricultural extension services and markets.

In Ethiopia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Tanzania and Malawi, mainstreaming gender equality is an important issue in hunger programmes. A review of Tanzania's Agriculture Sector Development Plan in 2012 noted the increased attention to gender equality issue within the agriculture sector which has been an important focus of Ireland's policy dialogue over a number of years. In 2012, with support from Irish Aid and other donors, over a half a million farmers in Tanzania were assisted by the public extension services, 253,613 of these farmers were women. In Mozambique, through general budget support, Irish Aid has been contributing to a significant expansion in agricultural extensions services from 222,300 farmers in 2007 to 561,573 farmers in 2012, 45% of whom are women.

Access to high quality inputs is another critical issue for all farmers. In Malawi, 1.544 million smallholder farmers, of which 47% are women, were targeted by the Farm Input Subsidy Programme in 2012. Also Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) vines were distributed to 62,425 farmers, of whom 63% were women.

The Hunger Unit has been supporting the International Land Coalitions women's rights programme since 2012. The ILC is a global alliance of civil society organisations, intergovernmental organisations and research organisations, which works 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 funding enables the ILC to strengthen and increase their engagement with women's organisations and to strengthen their research and advocacy.

NGOs play an important role in supporting women's access to land. For example, Self Help Africa in Zambia organised a series of consultative meetings with traditional leaders on the issue of land tenure. This led to a resolution to start allocating land to women and by September 2012 approximately 600 women (mainly widows, divorcees and elderly) had been allocated land by the chiefs in 5 districts.

Concern's 2012 annual report stated that surveys conducted on the Conservation Agriculture (CA)⁸ programme in Malawi showed that it reduced the labour demands on women by an average 35 days and improved their food security by an average of one month. Crucially, women also reported an increased role in decision-making both in the household and community and 95% of respondents reported greater self-confidence and an elevated status in their communities.⁹

⁸ Conservation Agriculture is founded on 3 principles- minimal soil disturbance, crop rotation, and maximum soil cover.

⁹ Empowering women through conservation agriculture – rhetoric or reality-evidence from Malawi Jane Maher 2013.

A number of NGOs supported from HQ or embassy level are working to strengthen women's access to financial services. For example, from HQ support is provided to Women's World Banking which distributed 2,205 new loans through partner institutions in Peru, Colombia and Paraguay, 47% of whom were women.

Nutrition

A key priority of Irish Aid's work on nutrition is to support access by women to nutrient supplements, health education and information, knowledge on dietary diversity and supplementary feeding.

The Irish Government has been an active supporter of the SUN movement both globally and at a partner country level since its launch in 2010. SUN bring together government, CSOs, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors and the private sector in support of government own efforts to address under-nutrition. 41 countries are now members of the movement including Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. The SUN strategy clearly sets out that women's empowerment is core to nutrition sensitive approaches. In 2012, Uganda launched its nutrition action plan which includes a key strategy to "Address gender and socio-cultural issues that affect maternal, infant and young child nutrition". In 2012 there was an increased engagement by national civil society platforms including women's organisations, in the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement.

From HQ, support is being provided to a number of NGO nutrition and food security projects. For example, Self Help Africa in Zambia completed a two-year Food Security and Nutrition Support Project for Vulnerable Households in 2 districts. At the project end, 75% of the population were eating three meals per day while the percentage of population eating a balanced diet increased from 32% to 49%. The evaluation also found changes in attitudes with elimination of food taboos that excluded women and girls from consumption of certain foods e.g. eggs and an increase in the number of men willing to participate in food preparation.

In Vietnam, a new partnership with Save the Children Fund and the Department of Health in Thanh Hoa province aims to improve infant and young child feeding in poor communes where high levels of stunting and acute malnutrition have been observed among ethnic minority populations in remote mountainous districts, especially among the Thai minority group. A key issue that prevents mothers from being able to breastfeed exclusively for the first six months is that they have to return to work in the fields when their infants are 2-3 months old. The project will establish community support groups to provide a platform to raise this issue and help to identify solutions that will enable women to fulfil their role both as caregivers and providers.

Improved access to clean water is a key dimension of both improved nutrition security and gender equality. The HQ supported Trócaire programme made significant progress on water accessibility in 2012. In Ethiopia, 25,950 households now enjoy access to safe water within 30 minutes which was 2-3 hours at baseline. In Kenya the average distance to water for 81,000 Households was reduced to 5.33km from an average of 9km at baseline stage earlier in 2012.

Climate Change

The Irish Aid programme is placing an increased emphasis on the importance of building resilience to plan for and cope with the increased vulnerability and risks which often results from climate change. Many NGOs programmes being supported have a strong emphasis on building resilience within vulnerable households many of which may be female headed. For example, in 2012 in Mozambique, Irish Aid began supporting a new 5 year partnership with CARE food security, nutrition and climate change adaptation project targeting 30,000 people in 2 districts, 80% of whom are women. At HQ level, during 2012 Irish Aid continued to support the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice which has a strong focus on women's empowerment as a key dimension of climate justice.

Social Protection

During 2012 Irish Aid worked with partner Government in Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia to integrate a gender perspective into social protection from the first steps of designing a programme to programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In Uganda, for example, Irish Aid is supporting the Government in implementing a social assistance grants scheme for the most vulnerable and labour constrained households in 14 districts. Of the 70,150 senior citizens and vulnerable families receiving grants, 64% are female. Irish Aid has been a key advocate for ensuring that a gender sensitive approach is upheld in the programme.

Box 5 -Case Study – Social Protection in Uganda

In Uganda, Irish Aid is supporting a pilot social protection programme in 14 districts, 4 of which are in Karamoja, the poorest area of Uganda and an area of focus for Irish Aid. The programme targets the poorest and most vulnerable by providing a monthly grant, akin to an old-age pension, of around €7 and the preliminary results show real positive impacts in the lives of beneficiaries. The support has provided strong relief especially to elderly women who find themselves widowed and having orphans to take care. Sixty five year old Sipola Asio has been restricted to a wheel chair for a long time. With no husband and the death of her two children, Sipola is living with a grandchild who helps her to get food from neighbours in exchange for providing labour on their gardens. A resident of Getom village, in Katakwi Sub county, Katakwi district, Sipola's life in old age, worsened by disability, has been full of misery. But since she started receiving the Senior Citizens Grants, her life is beginning to change. "When I got the money I bought two basins of groundnuts which I planted, from which I harvested two bags.' She says, "I have also been able to buy a mattress, a mosquito net and a pair of bed sheets," adding that her nutrition has greatly improved, "if we eat meat today, the next day fish and the other day greens".



Sipola is just one of the thousands of older persons whose lives have been changed by the grants under the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE).

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

Supporting women's role in decision-making is a key part of meeting Irish Aid's gender equality objective as well as implementing Ireland's National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 in fragile and conflict affected states.

Support has been provided to the gender programme within the Inter-Parliamentary Union since 2007. The overall goal of this programme is to support increased and enhanced participation of women in parliaments and more gender-sensitive parliamentary institutions. The gender programme has a particular focus on supporting parliamentary action on GBV. Following the provision of capacity development and technical support from the IPU, new legislation on GBV was passed or current legislation reformed in the Maldives, Togo, Burkina Faso and Cameroon.

Irish Aid in Uganda is supporting the Ugandan Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) and in 2012 participated in a review of the organisation. In 2012 UWOPA launched its Common Women Legislative Agenda setting out priorities in relation to legislation on gender equality issues. Irish Aid also supported the development of a new strategic plan and training of newly elected MPs. Within Parliament, UWOPA was able to influence various issues including the 2012/2013 health budget, petroleum bills and executive appointments. Also in 2012, the Irish ambassador hosted a high profile forum for newly elected Ugandan women ministers.

Civil Society Organisations have a critical role to play in supporting women to engage in decision-making processes at community, local and national level. For example in 2012, as a result of training, lobbying and advocacy work by Action Aid in Nepal, 130 women are now represented on local decision-making bodies such as School Management Committees and Health Service Management Committees. These bodies have also succeeded in accessing government budgets from Village Development Committees and District Development Committees for women's programmes in their communities. Through our support to MVIWATA, a Tanzanian Network of Smallholder Farmers, training was delivered to 1,337 farmers groups leaders 55% of whom were female, in order to build the capacity of these groups to engage in local development and accountability processes.

Social Accountability processes can also be an important mechanism for ensuring that women's voices are heard at a local level in relation to government service delivery. In Ethiopia, Ireland has been supporting a social accountability mechanism as part of "Protection of Basic Services" programmes. The aim of this mechanism is to support CSOs and local communities to engage with their local government service providers. The 30 CSOs selected to implement the process received training in 2012 which included a module on gender responsive budgets. The 2012 Annual Report from Ethiopia notes that a key contribution of Irish Aid to the social accountability programme to date has been strengthening the focus on gender equality.

During 2012, Timor Leste held the third presidential and parliamentary elections since the restoration of independence. Irish Aid worked with UN Women and UNDP in strengthening the engagement of women in the electoral process by supporting local media and civil society organisations. An electoral law passed in June 2011 stipulated that one in every three candidates on party lists must be a woman. Following the 2012 elections, 38% of MPs within the Timorese national parliament are female.

5. PARTNERS AND STRATEGIES

Working with Government.

As set out in Section 3 government are key partners in our work on gender equality. Although we no longer directly support national gender machineries in any of our key partner countries, we do provide support through intermediary partners and work with other parts of Government.

For example, our support to IRC in both Sierra Leone and Liberia includes an element of capacity building support to national government. Local government gender equality programmes in Uganda and Mozambique are being supported¹⁰. In Zambia discussions took place during 2012 on support to a new Joint UN GBV programme being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of Gender and Child Development.¹¹

Irish Aid Uganda in 2012 continued to support the Gender and Equity budgeting programme being implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development which aims to build skills in gender analysis and budgeting within the education sector and within local government in Karamoja. As a result of capacity development and training provided, there was a marked increase in 2012 in budget allocations for maternal and reproductive health services in Karamoja.

In Sierra Leone, Ireland supported the mainstreaming of gender in the new PRSP “The Agenda for Prosperity” providing a detailed analysis of gender equality issues across the AfP, proposing possible action and indicators, a number of which are now reflected in the AfP. A number of technical seminars were organised bringing together sectoral and gender equality specialists.

During 2012 Ireland continued to prioritise gender equality in sector level dialogue, such as in the education sectors in Mozambique, Zambia and Uganda. In Ethiopia, gender equality is a key issue for Ireland in relation to policy dialogue on the Protection of Basic Service programme and the Protective Safety Nets Programme.

Multilateral engagement

Ireland’s core funding to UN-Women increased to €1.5 million in 2012 (from €1.2 million in 2011) and Ireland continued to express strong political support for UN-Women through statements at the Executive Board meeting, Commission on the Status of Women and UN General Assembly meetings. During 2012, UN Women finalised its regional architecture, increased its country level and its regional presence. Significant progress was made in leading and coordinating the UN Development Group on gender equality and women’s empowerment including the finalisation of UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP). However, significant challenges remain in building capacity at a country level.

Support was also provided to the UN Trust Fund to Combat Violence Against Women, the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting as well as core funding to UNICEF and UNFPA both of which have a strong gender equality dimension.

The theme of the 2012 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was ‘*the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, development and current challenges*’. During the negotiations Ireland supported the EU negotiator and also led on negotiations on the resolution on Women, the Girl Child and HIV and AIDS on behalf of the EU group. However, the Commission was characterised by difficult discussions on a number of issues

¹⁰ Although it should be noted that in October 2012 following allegation of corruption and misappropriation all funding from Ireland being directed through government systems was suspended.

¹¹ The first financial allocation was provided in 2013.

and, despite extending the negotiations beyond the scheduled session, the Commission failed to adopt agreed conclusions on the theme.

Ireland and Malawi co-hosted a very successful side event at the 2012 CSW on 'Gender and Nutrition: supporting rural women to improve nutrition' (see box 6). The side-event contributed to the increased attention to nutrition in the resolutions, in particular the resolution on Maternal Mortality which contained the first reference to the global *Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement* in a negotiated United Nations document as proposed by Ireland through the EU Delegation.

Box 6 - Case study: Ireland and Malawi bring a gender dimension to international advocacy on nutrition

In March 2012, Ireland and Malawi co-hosted an event during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). High level panellists were brought together to discuss supporting rural women to improve nutrition. **The key overarching messages of the session were that:**

1. Women can play a crucial role in tackling under-nutrition in poor households, especially as the majority of smallholder farmers in developing countries are female, and women also bear primary responsibility for feeding their families.
2. Women are severely impacted by under-nutrition throughout their lives, which means that a gendered understanding of nutrition is essential.
3. The Malawian panellists gave examples of the ways that programmes are targeting and supporting rural women in the country. These programmes to increase girls' school attendance, improve nutrition education or provide cash transfers, all aim to build the resilience of poor Malawian households, making them better nourished, more food secure and less vulnerable to poverty. Supporting farmers' associations and women's collectives to train women in sustainable farming methods and the production of food rich in micronutrients was another key area highlighted. The panellists gave concrete examples not only of the farming challenges faced by rural women in Malawi, such as deforestation and soil erosion, but also the extra challenges arising from women's multiple roles in food production and processing, reproduction and the wider community.
4. **Some of the key priorities and strategies promoted during the session were:**
 - Empowering women through education and literacy, & strengthening their decision making role at household level.
 - Giving women opportunities to boost their agricultural productivity & enhancing their ability to diversify production into micronutrient rich foods.
 - Enhancing women's access to markets & assisting them to reduce post harvest losses.
 - Training field extension workers & households in basic nutrition & food preparation skills.
 - Supporting farmers' organisations & associations to ensure their voices are heard & heeded in decision making processes. Increasing women's voices within such organisations and processes.
 - Using gender sensitive targets & indicators when monitoring the impact of programmes.

Adapted from event report: Gender and Nutrition: Supporting Rural Women to Improve Nutrition

Civil Society Organisations.

Civil Society continues to be key partners in advancing gender equality issues. The HQ Civil Society Fund Call for proposals in 2012 included gender equality as a priority, in particular prevention and responses to GBV and rural women's economic empowerment. Of the 17 projects awarded through the CSF, 9 had a strong focus on gender equality. Efforts to track the impact of NGO-supported interventions on both women and men were strengthened in 2012, with the development by many HQ partners of sex-disaggregated baselines.

In KPCs during 2012, support was provided to CSOs directly and through joint funding arrangements/basket funds on a range of gender equality and women's empowerment issues. The Joint Gender Fund in South Africa, which Ireland was directly involved in establishing, made 25 grants in 2012 to projects such as "Women on Farms in the Western Province" and HEARD - an innovative intervention which aims to support livelihoods, empower women and reduce HIV/AIDS risk behaviour and gender-based violence in communities in urban South Africa .

Efforts were also made to ensure a strong gender equality focus in other civil society support funds. For example, the Democratic Governance Facility in Uganda was provided with support in 2012 to develop a gender mainstreaming strategy. In Ethiopia the Irish Aid supported 'Civil Society Support Programme' provided funding to specific programmes on Gender Based Violence. In Mozambique, a new provincial level civil society fund with a strong focus on gender equality and women's empowerment was set up in 2012.

Supporting research and knowledge sharing

Irish Aid supports government and civil society partners to conduct research on gender equality, which is critical to strengthening learning and building an evidence base in-country and internationally. There is currently a strong focus on GBV in research being supported.

The following are some selected examples of work in this area in 2012:

- Irish Aid supported Raising Voices, a Uganda based CSO, to implement their qualitative research project on GBV prevention, the results of which were launched at CSW 2013.
- Irish Aid supported the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to include a module on GBV in the 2011 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) which was published in 2012. Results show that there has been a general reduction in the percentage of GBV cases.¹²
- Irish Aid funded Gender Links at the University of Kwazulu Natal in South Africa to undertake research on issues of gender, GBV and care as well as assessments of GBV in 2 provinces of South Africa.
- Irish Aid funded the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Lesotho to undertake a study on the links between HIV and GBV in Lesotho, published in 2012.
- During 2012, Irish Aid in Mozambique began supporting a research project, including the production of a documentary, on the impact of initiation rites on gender equality in Niassa province. The project is being led by UN-Women and Swedish Cooperation.

Copies of all these research documents can be found on the intranet. GBV guidelines will be developed during 2013 which will include findings from these research projects as appropriate.

¹² According to the Ugandan Demographic and Health Survey 2011 there has been a decrease in the numbers of ever-married women who have experienced any kind of violence by a husband or intimate partner from 68% to 60%. The survey also indicated that physical violence against women aged 15-49 reduced slightly from 59.9% to 56.1% while sexual violence reduced from 39% to 27.7% between 2006 and 2011.

Policy Dialogue and Co-ordination – national and international

Ireland actively contributes to international policy dialogue on gender equality, especially through our engagement with the OECD DAC GENDERNET, which Ireland has co-chaired since 2011 and throughout 2012. GENDERNET 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 2012 was working to ensure a strong gender equality dimension to post-Busan implementation and the development of a post-2015 development framework.

In a number of our KPCs, Ireland has played a leadership role on gender within donor working groups. In Uganda, Ireland took on the Chair of the Gender Development Partners Group from July 2012 to June 2013. In Tanzania, Ireland chaired the Development Partners Working Group on Gender for a second year. Irish Aid ensured inputs from the DPG gender were included in the Terms of Reference for the development of the second phase of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme, a gender analysis of the legal sector and the national budget guidelines.

In Sierra Leone, Irish Aid has also played the role of lead donor on gender although the structures are not as formalised as in other key partner countries. Steps will be taken in 2013 to learn from the experience of the 3 Irish Aid offices that were lead donor on gender in 2012.

6. LEARNING FROM EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS

During 2012, key partner country programme evaluations were conducted in Ethiopia, South Africa and Lesotho.

The Irish Aid Ethiopia evaluation concludes that *“Irish Aid has successfully supported gender through mainstreaming”* noting that gender is seen as a comparative advantage. Other donors consulted during the evaluation highlighted gender equality as an area of strength for Irish Aid. This can be seen in the emphasis Irish Aid has given to gender equality issues in policy dialogue with Government and other donors in relation to the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP) and the Protection of Basic Services programme as well as support to NGOs working specifically on gender quality such as the Farm Africa *“Rural Women's Economic Empowerment programme”*. However, the Ethiopia evaluation also notes the importance of ensuring that a strong gender analysis will underpin the next CSP as well as the need for a clear strategy for mainstreaming and ensuring strong technical expertise on the staff. A key learning in relation to gender is the need to move beyond just disaggregating results to including gender specific indicators.

In relation to South Africa, the evaluation was mainly positive about having a stand-alone pillar on GBV, although it notes that this did not lead to strengthened mainstreaming and coherence across the programme:

“The Irish Aid programme is distinctive in the way it has positioned an initiative against gender based violence at the pillar level. This has enabled the allocation of dedicated human and financial resources to direct interventions, although on a relatively modest scale. It set specific targets on gender (albeit in the area of gender based violence only rather than more broad based gender equality and women's empowerment). While having this as a pillar raised the profile and policy attention to the issue within the Irish Aid programme, there is no evidence that it led to more comprehensive mainstreaming of gender across other areas of the programme. The message for country programmes generally is that having a dedicated gender pillar or programme and mainstreaming gender across the whole programme requires human and financial resources and a clear results-focused strategy.”

During 2013 a learning brief will be compiled on lessons learned from the implementation of the GBV programme in Irish Aid South Africa.

The focus on gender equality in the Lesotho evaluation is less explicit. The evaluation does note the importance that training on cross-cutting issues is followed by clear action plans to apply learning to programmes.

Two Mid-Term Reviews were conducted in 2012. The MTR in Sierra Leone noted that addressing gender equality is highly relevant and should remain core to the programme. The possibility of supporting research to inform policy and practice was proposed.

The Malawi MTR notes that in line with Irish Aid's policy, gender equality is mainstreamed across the programme through a "vulnerabilities approach" with targets and indicators disaggregated by gender in all programmes. The paper concludes that, although a vulnerability framework contributes to mainstreaming these issues, their visibility is sometimes not sufficiently prominent and that specific indicators on the policy priority issues need to be included in the CSP performance framework along with measures to develop staff competency in order to demonstrate results.

7. LINKING WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF DFAT

During 2012, DCD continued to work closely with the Conflict Resolution Unit which leads on the implementation of the Ireland's National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, launched in November 2012. DCD contribution to the implementation of the NAP is reflected across this report, in particular in our strengthened focus on gender equality issues within the Emergency and Recovery Section and our strong focus on GBV and women's empowerment projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

DCD is an active member of the monitoring committee for the NAP which met for the first time in November 2012. The group, which has 50/50 representation of government and civil society organisations, agreed its terms of reference in 2012 which states that the role of the group is to keep up to date on emerging issues in relation to women, peace and security and to oversee progress towards the NAP's objectives. A terms of reference for the progress report on the implementation of the first 18 months of the NAP was also agreed, to be drafted in early 2013.

PPE was an active member of the DFAT Mac sub-committee on Gender Equality which met for first time in September 2012. The aim of the sub-committee is to develop a gender equality strategy for the Department. The DCD gender advisor has chaired a sub-group of the Committee which drafted a report on good practice and lessons learnt from the public and private sectors on promoting gender equality in the work place in order to inform the work of the Committee during 2013.

DCD also continued to engage with the HRU to ensure a strong gender equality dimension to DFAT's international dialogue and diplomacy on human rights in particular in preparations for the 2012 CSW (see Box 6).

8. INTERNAL MAINSTREAMING.

The institutional gender network continued to be active, meeting 3 times during 2012 and overseeing a number of key outputs.

The network, including field based gender advisors along with social protection advisors, met for the first time in 4 years in November 2012. The 5 day workshop aimed to strengthen coherence, learning and a results focus across our gender equality work. An action plan was developed to follow up on

key actions from the workshop¹³ which focused on actions in a number of key result areas: knowledge management and learning, policy frameworks and guidelines, managing for development results, coherence between multi-lateral and programme countries, training and leadership.

A review of Irish Aid's Emergency and Recovery (E&R) section's approach to advancing gender equality was undertaken in 2012. The purpose of the review was to produce a 'programme of work' through which the E&R section could further its approach to gender equality including through supporting civil society partners, as well as advance implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (NAP UNSCR 1325).

In March 2012, a two day gender equality training course was held for HQ based staff. 14 people attended day one, which was a basic introduction to gender concepts and tools. 21 people attended day two, which focused on the issue of preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

The Irish embassy in South Africa organised gender mainstreaming training for staff and partners during 2012 delivered by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. Staff from Irish Aid missions in South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho and Uganda took part in the training.

Work began during 2012 on the development of a Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Nutrition programming which included input from advisors in Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi. This guidance note was finalised in May 2013.

The gender advisor HQ carried out a programme support visit to Ethiopia.

9. EXPENDITURE ON GENDER EQUALITY IN 2012

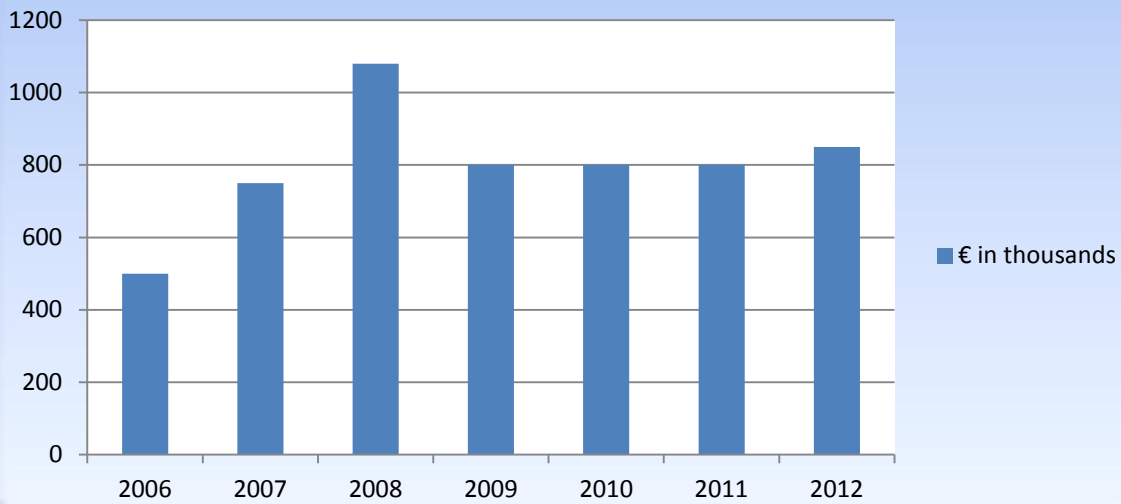
The OECD DAC Gender Equality policy marker provides a tool to measure the extent to which a programme is intended to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. A programme can target gender equality as either a principle or a significant objective.¹⁴ The OECD DAC Report "*Aid in support of gender equality and women's empowerment*" (February 2013) states that 35% of our aid in 2011 is 'gender-focused' i.e. has gender equality as either a principal or significant objective. This represents a significant decline from 57% in 2010, mainly in the allocation of funding marked as "significant". This can be explained to some extent by an increased rigour in the application of the marker, but also by inconsistencies in the application of the marker which can lead to some significant fluctuations from year to year. Some of these inconsistencies are due to the fact that the application of marker is not embedded in the current coding system.

Within the Policy and Planning Unit, the gender equality budget supports research, learning, knowledge dissemination and capacity building from HQ (see box 7). During 2012 this funding supported, inter alia, a research project being implemented by Raising Voices in Uganda in relation to GBV programming, the international women's fund Mama Cash, the UN Trust fund to Combat Violence Against Women, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Irish Consortium on Gender-based Violence.

¹³ Annex 4

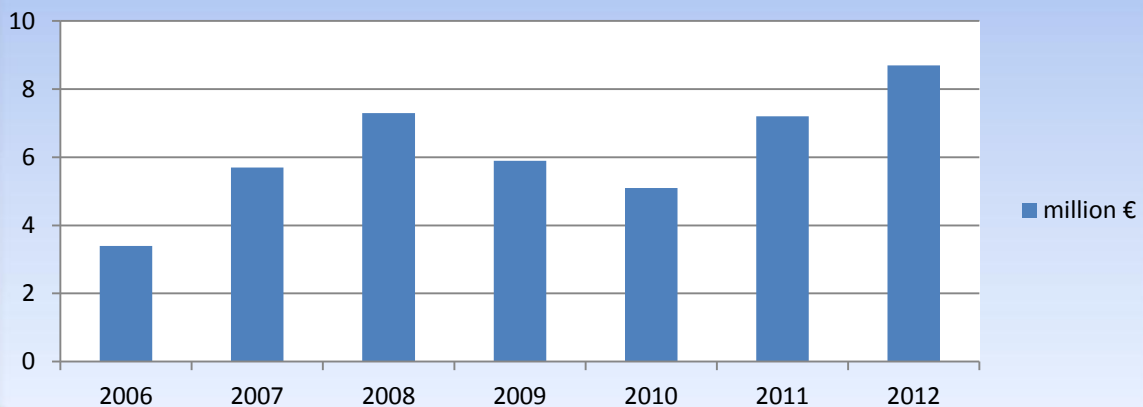
¹⁴ 'Principal' implies that gender equality is an explicit objective of the project or programme and fundamental in its design. 'Significant' means that gender equality was an important but secondary objective.

Box 7 - PPE Gender equality budget line - research, learning and capacity development.

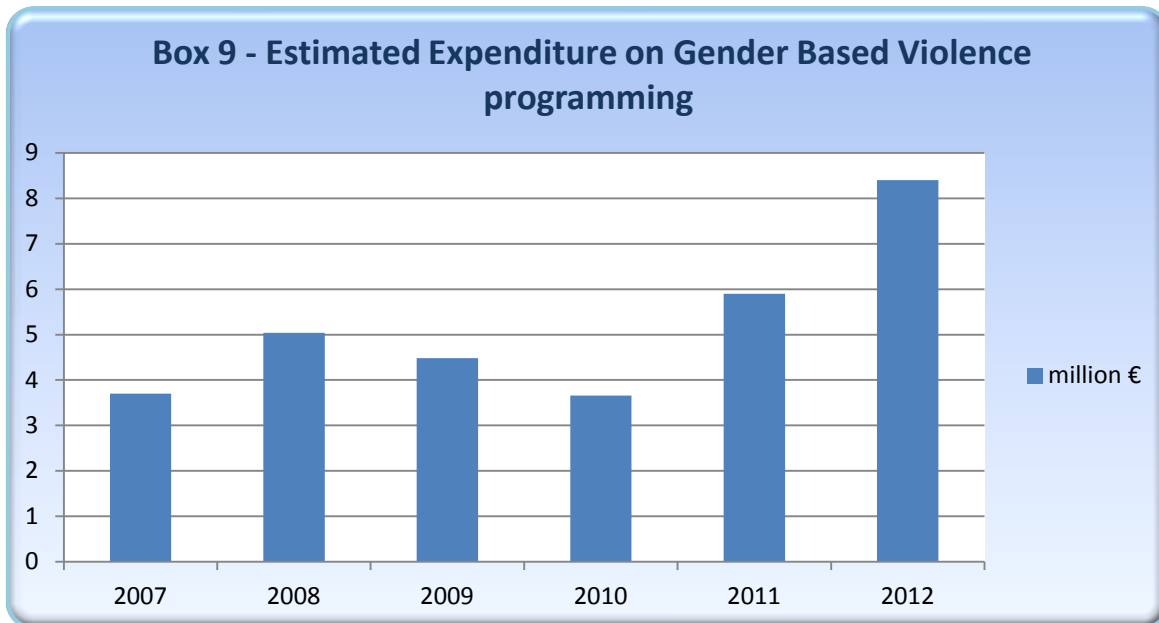


The application of the DAC Sector Code “Women’s Equality Organisations and Institutions” demonstrates a steadily increasing level of funding over the last 8 years rising to €8.7 million in 2012 (see box 8).

Box 8- Expenditure on women's equality organisations and institutions



Preventing and responding to GBV is a policy priority for Irish Aid. The 2011 figures showed a significant increase in estimated expenditure on specific GBV programming due mainly to increased expenditure within the Emergency and Recovery Section, in line with our commitments under UNSCR 1325 and within the Development Education and Civil Society Section. In 2012, the figure increased again to an estimated €8.4 (see box 9).



10. CONCLUSIONS AND PRIORITIES IN 2013/2014

Progress was evident in meeting Irish Aid’s gender equality objectives in 2012, in particular in increasing access to health and education, agricultural inputs and extension services as well as caring for the survivors of GBV. Evidence is more limited on how Irish Aid support is addressing more strategic gender needs such as access to land and other resources, women’s roles in decision-making and women’s collective action.

There is strong focus in Ireland’s new policy for international development on women’s empowerment, as opposed to simply addressing perceived needs. The policy states that:

- We will place a particular focus on advancing gender equality and empowering women smallholder women farmers.
- We will support access to quality maternal and reproductive health care. Supporting safe motherhood and allowing women to control their fertility, within the context of national legislation, is central to women’s empowerments and the health of nations.
- Gender equality is a key element of democratic accountability. Women are important agents of change, and supporting and strengthening their voices in decision making at all levels will continue to be prioritised in our developing efforts.

These are powerful statements and the challenge will be to ensure that these commitments are reflected at the core of the programme. These messages need to be reflected in our global policy dialogue including in relation to the post-2015 development agenda. Results frameworks developed both at an institutional level and in CSPs should include gender equality indicators which measure empowerment, as well as the consistent application of sex disaggregated data.

There is a strengthened engagement across DFAT in relation to our work on gender equality, in particular our work with the Conflict Resolution Unit on implementing the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. The strong focus in the new policy on supporting fragile states should provide a strengthened impetus within DCD to ensure 1325 commitments are reflected in our programme. The Emergency and Recovery Section has made significant progress in this regard which has been

recognised in the progress report on the 1325 National Action Plan completed in 2013.¹⁵ The E&R gender equality review conducted in 2012, and the actions which were subsequently agreed, will need to be reflected in future business plans and role profiles.

DCD will need to continue to work closely with HRU in reflecting our shared gender equality commitments in our global dialogue on human rights, in particular during our membership of the Human Rights Council.

The trend in declining support to national gender machineries is continuing. The decision to support national gender machineries can only be made at key partner country level but it is nonetheless important that we continue to engage with Government on gender equality issues through sector level support and/or policy dialogue. UN Women continues to “bed-down” at country level and challenges are apparent. Again, decisions to support UN women, above and beyond the core funding given from HQ, can only be made at country level in line with priorities, capacities etc. But there is a need for some coherence between our strong support for UN-Women from the early stages at a PMUN level and our engagement at partner country level.

Irish Aid continues to support civil society organisations working on gender equality, in particular in relation to GBV. In fact, our funding in 2012 for gender based violence programming is now over €8 million.

The organisational gender network continues to be an important focal point for shared learning and dialogue. The meeting of the gender advisors in November 2012 was an important opportunity to strengthen the role of the network at an embassy level. Notwithstanding staff changes, in particular at head quarters level, it will be important to ensure continued commitment to implement the 2013 Actions Plan for the network.¹⁶

This report outlines a range of research supported in 2012 which are predominantly GBV related. Consideration should be given to what strategic research could be supported in 2014, in line with priorities as set out in the new policy.

The annual monitoring report on gender equality is an important mechanism to track our expenditure on gender equality. The 2012 report demonstrates that, following a dip in 2010 expenditure, is continuing to rise. In this regard, it would be important to note that the new policy commits to “devoting more resources” to gender equality. The new coding system, when it is implemented, will allow us to embed the OECD DAC gender equality marker within our system, which should facilitate more accurate and consistent reporting on the full extent of Irish Aid expenditure in support of gender equality.

This is the 3rd Annual Monitoring Report on Gender Equality. The 2008 DAC Peer Review recommended that Irish Aid should “*share good practice with other donors and to capture and document lessons and outcomes on mainstreaming through reporting systems, using key indicators to measure impact*”. These reports will be an important mechanism for demonstrating progress made on this recommendation during the 2014 DAC Peer Review.

¹⁵ http://www.dfa.ie/uploads/documents/jdf26_irishaid_nap_web.pdf

¹⁶ Annex 4

Annex 1 –BRIDGE report

Annex 2- Gender indices tables.

Annex 3- Terms of Reference

Annex 4 –2013 Action Plan for Gender Equality Network