

Annual Monitoring Report on Gender Equality 2013



Cover image:

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Abbreviations & Acronyms

CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CAR	Central African Republic
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHS	District Health Survey
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	European Union
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HQ	Headquarters
INCAF	International Network on Conflict and Fragility
KPCs	Key Partner Countries
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MTR	Mid-Term Review
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WEOI	Women's Empowerment Organisations and Institutions
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WRI	World Resources Institute

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Irish Aid's Work on Gender Equality in 2013

Gender equality is a human right and a prerequisite for sustainable development and economic growth. Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys have equal rights, access to opportunities and power to influence their own lives, contribute to and shape societies. This report provides an illustrative overview of Irish Aid's contribution towards gender equality and highlights key examples of results achieved in 2013.

This report is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of the entirety of Irish Aid's work on gender equality and women's empowerment over the course of 2013. Instead, the report provides an illustrative overview of programming in the area, highlighting key successes and challenges and showcasing important lesson learning opportunities during 2013.

2013 saw a strong reaffirmation of Irish Aid's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment with the launch of Ireland's Policy for International Development '*One World, One Future*'. The policy identifies gender equality as a powerful driver for ensuring the reduction of hunger, building resilience and promoting sustainable development.

Recognising women as important agents of change, '*One World, One Future*' commits Ireland to continue supporting and strengthening women's voice and leadership in decision-making at all levels. The policy also recommits Ireland to promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and men, placing particular focus on efforts to combat gender-based violence and to ensure equal access to quality essential services, including education and health care. The mainstreaming of gender equality throughout Irish Aid's work was also identified as a core priority.

This Report begins with an analysis of global and national contexts, capturing key macroeconomic and developmental trends in Irish Aid's Key Partner Countries, as well as highlighting key areas in which Ireland has actively engaged with multilateral processes relating to gender equality during 2013, including Ireland's membership of the Human Rights Council and during Ireland's EU Presidency.

Section 2 sets out some of the key results achieved during 2013, in accordance with the relevant *Key Result Areas* identified in the *One World, One Future* Framework for Action.

Section 3 details how Irish Aid has worked with its partners during 2013, including national governments, multilateral organisations, civil society organisations and research institutes.

Section 4 reviews efforts made to generate better data and evidence on gender equality, including a reflection on the mid-term review of Vietnam conducted in 2013.

Finally, *section 5* concludes by providing an overview of Irish Aid's expenditure in the area of Gender Equality including expenditure in specific areas such as sexual and gender based violence.

Key Results 2013

High Level/Multilateral Results

- During the course of its membership of the Human Rights Council, Ireland co-sponsored two key resolutions on the creation of a high-level panel on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and on the strengthening of efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage;
- At the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ireland (on behalf of the EU) negotiated a landmark resolution to protect women human rights defenders, which was presented by Norway and adopted by consensus;
- During Ireland's Presidency of the European Union in 2013, significant achievements were made in mainstreaming gender equality into adopted Council Conclusions on Food and Nutrition Security in External Assistance;

Programme Level Results

- In Zambia, support to the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) resulted in the endorsement of Child Protection Guidelines by the Ministry of Education. 850 girls have also been supported under a Bursary Programme resulting in a significant improvement in attendance rates and performance;
- In Tanzania, Irish Aid partnered with Women in Law and Development Africa, leading to 75 health management team members being trained to implement GBV management guidelines. As a result, all hospitals in the eighteen health centres in the region now have established registry books for recording GBV cases reported in the health facilities;
- In Uganda, Irish Aid supported the establishment of shelters for survivors of GBV where early results show an 18 per cent increase in the number of cases reported to legal authorities since the shelters began;
- In Malawi, Irish Aid supported the oversight mechanism for the election management process; early results demonstrate that voter registration in December 2013 had reached over 7.5 million citizens registered, of which 54 per cent were women;
- Irish Aid supported Trócaire's programmes to reduce women's vulnerability to GBV and address impunity in Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone. Early programme results are showing a substantial increase in knowledge and awareness of women's rights and the law, and the number of GBV survivors accessing health services and legal aid has increased significantly;
- In Tanzania, Irish Aid's support to the Centre for Agriculture Bioscience International (CABI) facilitated women contractors in gaining an entry point into the Tanzanian seed sector resulting in seed companies agreeing to contract more women, thus improving the incomes and livelihoods of many families;

- In Eritrea, Irish Aid support to Vita's Fuel Efficiency, Forestry Nutrition and Enterprise Development Project has ensured the installation of over 12,000 fuel efficient stoves in rural households and trained over 20,000 women on the use/cooking of Moringa and other nutritious forest products, thus improving their lives;
- Irish Aid is supporting efforts across its programmes to improve data quality and evidence. Support provided to the UN EDGE programme in 2013 has built the capacity of countries to collect sex, age and disability disaggregated data in 10 countries;
- Irish Aid support to the Inter Parliamentary Union in 2013 has resulted in the production of robust data for monitoring women's political participation worldwide and the drafting of laws on violence against women in Togo, Burkina Faso and the Maldives, and the review and amendment of a Government bill on gender-based violence in Burundi;

Internal Gender Mainstreaming Results

- A strengthened approach to knowledge management and sharing of expertise has been developed, including improved coherence between our multilateral engagements and our Partner Countries;
- A guidance note on mainstreaming gender equality and nutrition programmes was developed to strengthen the links between gender equality, women's empowerment and nutrition to support programming decisions;
- Gender equality and GBV are now integral criteria of all Irish Aid humanitarian funding appraisals, demonstrating further progress on mainstreaming within the Division.

Section 1: Setting the Context

2013 saw continued challenges in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. Statistics continued to show that alarming numbers of women were affected by gender-based violence (GBV), with 35% of women worldwide having experienced either physical and/or sexual violence (WHO, 2013). In fragile contexts, the prevalence is significantly higher, with rape being used systematically to destabilise communities. Engaging in research on attitudes, perceptions and behaviour in relation to GBV and impunity in addition to involving men and boys as strategic partners in the fight against GBV is now recognised as being core to an effective response.

Regarding girls' completion of quality education, there have been significant improvements globally. 25 countries have made progress in reducing gender gaps at both primary and secondary level. Nevertheless, many countries are failing to capitalise on the investment in girls' education due to continuing gender gaps in formal employment and political representation. Despite strong evidence of the benefits of education both to the girls themselves and to their families and communities, there remain many deep-rooted disadvantages concerning girls' education that must remain in focus.

The environment for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on human rights, including gender equality, women's empowerment and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex (LGBTI) rights remained challenging in many parts of the world in 2013. Women human rights defenders continue to experience assault, harassment, detention and, in some cases, assassination.

Legal barriers and cultural norms continued to impede women's equal access to productive and economic assets. This is despite clear evidence that such access for women is a prerequisite for sustainable development, pro-poor growth and the achievement of the MDGs. One of these cultural barriers is women's primary responsibility for unpaid care work which significantly limits their access to health care services, education and formal employment. Unpaid care work is often not sufficiently valued by men,

women and communities, nor is it adequately considered by public policy. Despite its key importance for gender equality and sustainable development, unpaid care work has not been adequately addressed by the MDGs.

There was, however, substantial progress in the area of women's political participation in 2013, with 86 out of 133 countries having increased the proportion of women represented in parliament. Nevertheless, no region has achieved the 30% target for the proportion of women in parliament and women continue to be disadvantaged in household decision-making. Further, despite women's vital role at the grassroots level, they remain side-lined in conflict prevention and resolution initiatives. A high-level review of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2015 presents an opportunity for advancing women's representation in this respect.

Despite continuing challenges associated with the global economic crisis, 2013 provided a unique opportunity to advance progress globally on gender equality as the international community strove to achieve the MDGs. Significant steps were taken to begin the process of defining a post-2015 development agenda. 2013 also saw the UN Commission on the Status of Women laying the foundation for a transformative global development agenda that tackles structural gender inequality in 2014. Member States assessed, for the first time, progress for women and girls on all eight MDGs and identified key factors constraining achievement. As a result the Commission called on all Member States to take a transformative and comprehensive approach to resolving the remaining challenges; endorsing a stand-alone gender equality goal in the post-2015 agenda and the integration of gender equality considerations across each of the other goals and targets¹

¹ UN Women Annual Report 2013-14

1.1 Global Gender Equality Indices 2013/14

UNDP Gender Inequality Index 2013/14:

The UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII) is designed to show the extent to which progress on human development is hindered by gender inequality and is published annually in the UNDP Human Development Report.

Trends in human development and gender equality are shown to be strongly positively correlated indicating a mutually supportive relationship between human development and equality between women and men across the 150 countries analysed.



The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is a composite measure of gender inequality using three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and labour market participation. Reproductive health is measured by two indicators: the maternal mortality ratio and the adolescent birth rate. Empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and the share of population with at least some secondary education. Labour market activity is measured by participation in the labour force. A low GII value indicates low inequality between women and men, and vice-versa.

Figure 1 presents the GII ranking and overall score attributed to the Irish Aid Key Partner Countries

(KPCs) in the 2014 Human Development Report. Significantly, the GII ranking for the KPCs has varied from the HDR 2013. With the exception of Sierra Leone and Zambia, all other KPCs have fallen by 5-10 places. This decrease can, in part, be explained by the improved availability of data for all countries at the global level which has contributed to the changes in aggregate GII figures. However, the data for many of the KPCs has not varied significantly which suggests that progress on gender equality remains challenging in many contexts and reinforces the need for improved quality and frequency of data collection and analysis relating to gender equality.

Figure 1: UNDP Gender Inequality Index Irish Aid KPCs 2014

GII 2013 ranking	Irish Aid key partner countries	Overall score	Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths to live births per 100,000)	Adolescent fertility rate (annual average per 1000 women ages 15-19, 2010-15)	Seats in parliament held by women (% female)	Population with at least secondary education (% age 25 or over)		Labour force participation rate (%)	
						Women	Men	Women	Men
58	Viet Nam	0.322	59	29.0	24.4	59.4	71.2	72.8	81.9
115	Uganda	0.529	310	126.6	35.0	22.9	33.5	75.9	79.3
124	Tanzania	0.553	460	122.7	36.0	5.6	9.2	88.1	90.2
126	Lesotho	0.557	620	89.4	26.8	21.9	19.8	58.8	73.3
131	Malawi	0.591	460	144.8	22.3	10.4	20.4	84.7	81.3
135	Zambia	0.617	440	125.4	11.5	25.7	44.2	85.7	73.2
141	Sierra Leone	0.643	890	100.7	12.4	9.5	20.4	65.7	68.9
146	Mozambique	0.657	490	137.8	39.2	1.5	6.0	76.3	75.8

*Ethiopia is not included due to incomplete data sets

The Global Gender Gap Index, introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006, is an index tracking trends in levels of gender-based disparities.

The Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health-based criteria, and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups, and over time.

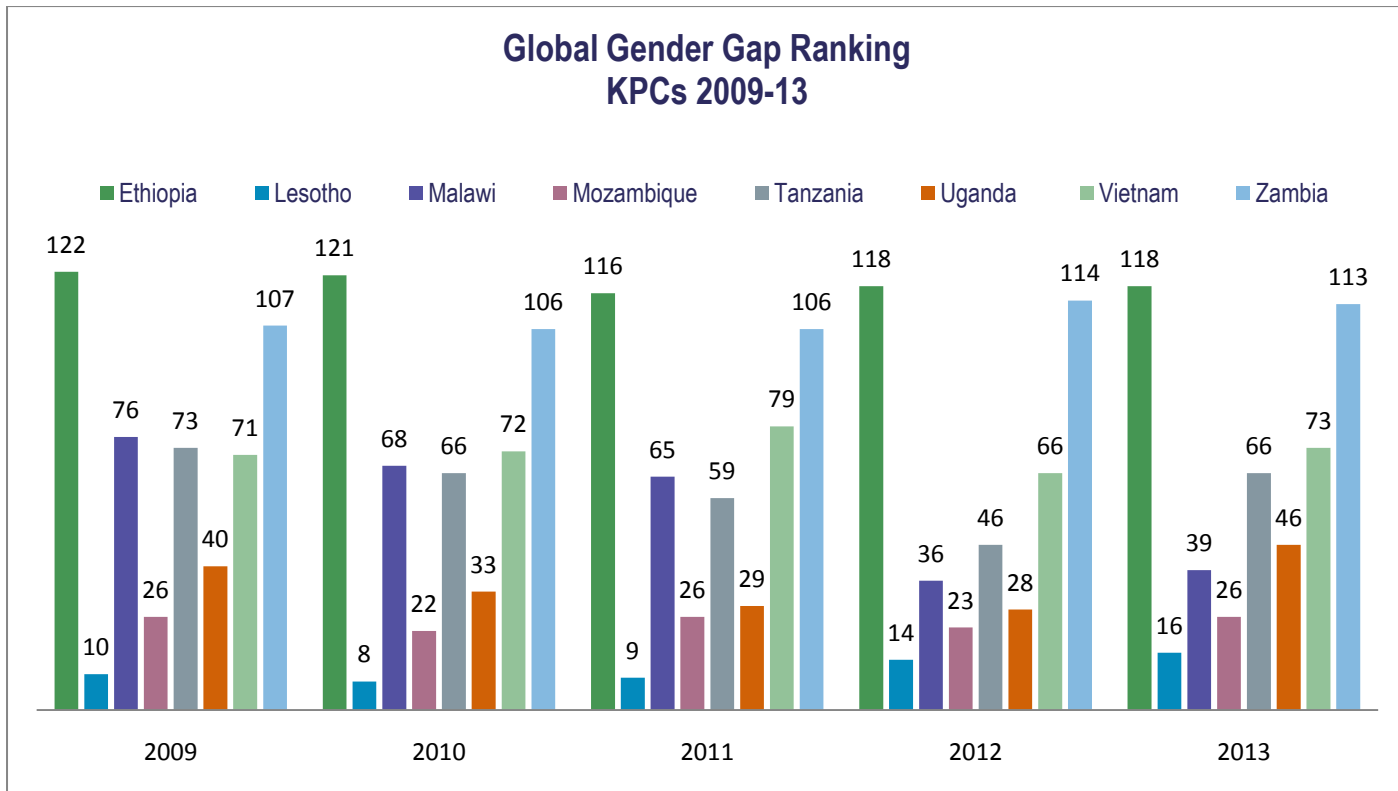
The rankings are designed to promote awareness among a global audience of the challenges posed by gender gaps and the opportunities created by reducing them.



The Gender Gap Index assesses 135 countries based on resource and opportunity distribution among male and female populations. The index measures the extent of gender inequality in four principle areas; political empowerment, economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment and health and

survival. **Figure 2** illustrates the Gender Gap Ranking of Irish Aid KPCs in the period 2009-13. Ethiopia, Malawi and Tanzania showed improvement in the year period, with Mozambique and Vietnam remaining largely unchanged; while Lesotho, Uganda and Zambia have fallen in ranking.

Figure 2: Tracking the Global Gender Gap Ranking Irish Aid KPCs 2009-13 (World Economic Forum)

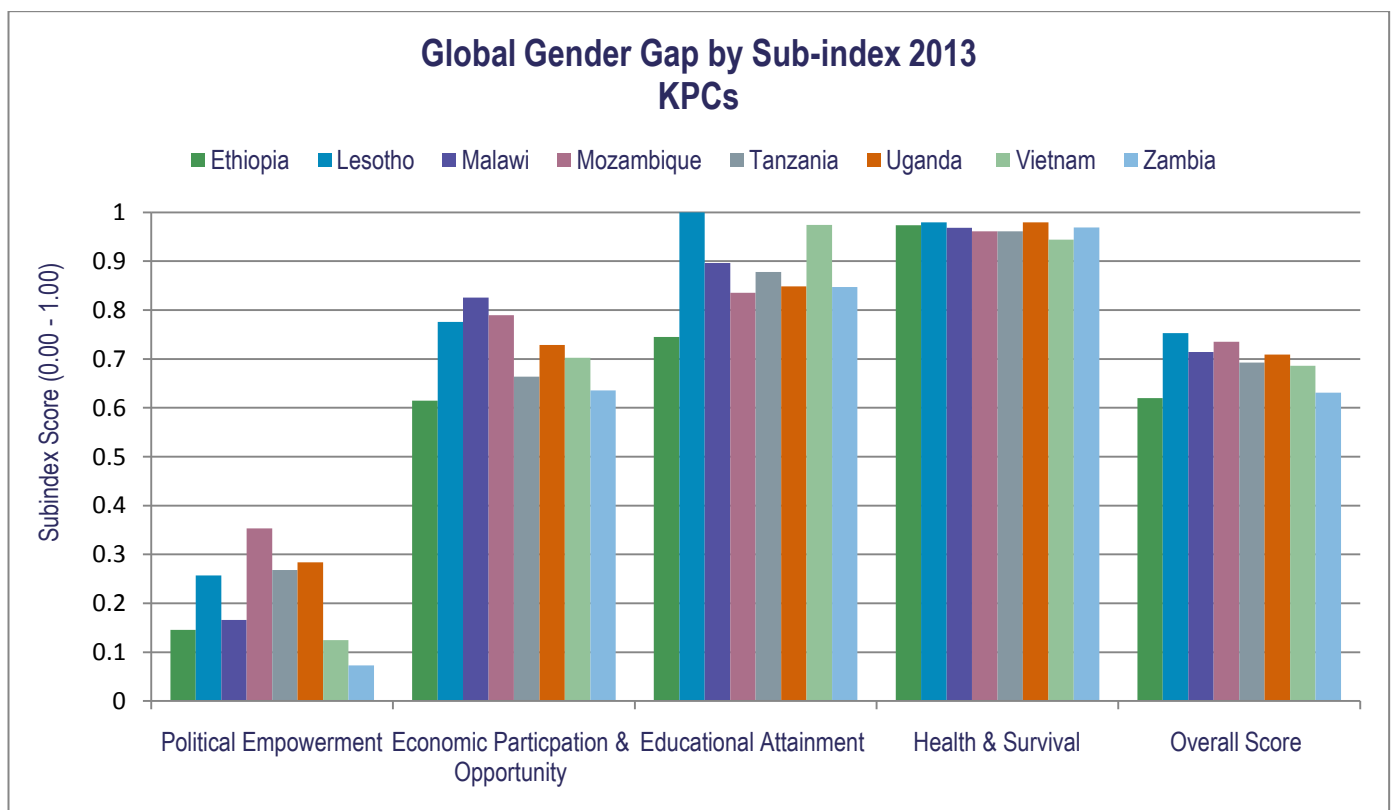


*Sierra Leone is not included due to incomplete data sets

The four sub-indexes which the Gender Gap assesses are captured in **Figure 3** by KPC for 2013. Progress for 2013 was mainly concentrated in the areas of educational attainment and health, with economic participation and political empowerment following behind. This data indicates that the progress on gender equality has been primarily concentrated in access to essential services, suggesting, perhaps, a need for stronger focus on women’s political and

economic empowerment and decision-making across the KPCs. In terms of educational attainment for example, Vietnam, Tanzania, Lesotho and Malawi have all shown strong progress in educational attainment, while progress has been slower in Ethiopia and Mozambique. By contrast, progress on health and survival has been more balanced across KPCs.

Figure 3: Global Gender Gap by Sub-index Irish Aid KPCs 2013 (World Economic Forum)



**Sierra Leone is not included due to incomplete data*

1.2 Irish Aid's policy framework and Ireland's multilateral engagement on gender equality.

Ireland's New Policy for International Development – *One World, One Future* (2013)

Strengthening gender equality and promoting women's empowerment are central elements of Ireland's Policy for International Development '*One World, One Future*'. The Policy, which was launched in 2013, states that Ireland will devote additional resources to supporting specific gender equality initiatives as well as ensuring that gender equality continues to be integrated across the Irish Aid programme.

Ireland's work on gender equality is rooted in a commitment to human rights and accountability. The new Policy recognises that gender equality is a key element of democratic accountability and that women are important agents of change, underlining the need to support and strengthen their voices in decision-making at all levels.

One World, One Future also places a focus on combating gender-based violence; ensuring equal access to, control of and benefit from quality essential services; further mainstreaming gender equality across agricultural programming and targeting vulnerable women through social protection programmes.

Internal Gender Mainstreaming

Irish Aid's approach to mainstreaming follows a 'twin-track' approach, involving building internal capacity and strengthening accountability on gender equality alongside supporting specific programmes and interventions on women's empowerment. The gender network at Headquarters and the field continued to provide a useful and strategic platform to advance mainstreaming efforts.

Training is an important component of building institutional capacity on gender equality. In 2013, thirteen staff from what was then the Emergency and Recovery section received training on Gender

Mainstreaming in Emergencies. *Gender Equality and Mainstreaming* training also took place in Embassy Pretoria, South Africa which was attended by Irish Aid colleagues from Tanzania, Ethiopia and Vietnam. Embassy Ethiopia, Governance and Social Protection Officers also participated in a "Training of Trainers" to address Gender Based Violence.

2013 also saw the development a guidance note on mainstreaming Gender Equality in nutrition programmes which will be an important tool in improving the quality of programming and ensuring that a mainstreaming approach is applied. Another important aspect of mainstreaming in 2013 has been active engagement from HQ with international networks including the EU Gender Expert Network and the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Network (GENDERNET).

Ireland's National Action Plan: UNSCR 1325

In July 2013 a Mid-Term Progress Report on the implementation of Ireland's first National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was published.

The findings showed particular successes in relation to gender mainstreaming; the protection and prevention of gender-based violence; and international lobbying and advocacy. Key actors involved in delivering these successes are Irish Aid, the Conflict Resolution Unit, DFAT and the Defence Forces.

Some areas of incoherence in the NAP were also identified including a lack of baseline data in some cases. However, it was also noted that the Mid-Term Progress Report would serve as a baseline for future monitoring and evaluation.

The main recommendations include deepening the focus on participation and representation of women, particularly concerning the empowerment of women. A need for greater co-ordination and leadership across Government Departments was identified, along with the effective harnessing of the expertise of CSOs.

Key progress made since the report was launched includes an increase in funding; strengthening of monitoring (by revised Terms of Reference) increased engagement with appropriate Joint Oireachtas Committees and a conference held in Iveagh House in November 2013 to discuss the findings of the report, and how these could be implemented.

1.3 Ireland's Engagement on Gender Equality in Multilateral Fora:

In 2013, Ireland was actively engaged in the promotion of issues relating to gender equality and women's rights through the work of the United Nations, including strong engagement in the context of negotiations at the UN Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the early stages of the development of the post-2015 agenda.

UN Human Rights Council 2013-15

Ireland assumed membership of the Human Rights Council in January 2013 for a three year period. During its membership, Ireland made a number of national statements and interventions on gender equality, in particular, through the Universal Periodic Review, including recommendations regarding gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.

Ireland led the negotiations on behalf of the EU on the resolution on discrimination against women at the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council in June 2013. At the 24th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2013, Ireland co-sponsored a resolution on the creation of a high-level panel on Female Genital Mutilation which took place during the 26th session in March of 2014. Ireland also co-sponsored a resolution on strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

UN General Assembly 68th Session (Third Committee)

In October 2013, Ireland actively engaged in the negotiation of resolutions relating to the advancement of women and girls, co-sponsoring resolutions on the promotion of rights of rural women, the girl child and female migrant workers.

In line with its focus on civil society space and human rights defenders, Ireland also negotiated on behalf of the EU on a landmark resolution to protect women human rights defenders, which was presented by Norway and adopted by the Committee by consensus.

57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Ireland, as part of its Presidency of the EU in 2013, actively participated in the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The priority theme of the CSW was 'the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)'. Ireland acted as co-negotiators for the Agreed Conclusions on behalf of the EU, delivering the EU statement and co-sponsoring seven side events on violence against women.

The Commission reached a successful conclusion with the adoption by consensus of Agreed Conclusions which were widely welcomed as positive and reflecting national and EU priorities, including:

- A strong human rights approach and reaffirmation of the international commitments on gender equality;
- A strong definition of VAWG and the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and discrimination;
- A preamble and operational language on women, peace and security, particularly on sexual violence and women's participation;
- The role of civil society and female human rights defenders.

Post 2015 Agenda

In 2013, Ireland was actively engaged in the initial stages of discussions on the development of the Post 2015 framework. In line with *One World, One Future*, Ireland advocated for the new development agenda to be rooted in the principles of human rights including the full realisation of women's and girls' rights and their participation in decision-making at all levels. In 2013, Ireland advocated strongly for both a standalone goal on gender equality and its mainstreaming across all other areas of the post-2015 agenda.

In 2013 Ireland, along with South Africa, acted as co-facilitator for a UN Special Event in September. This event brought together global leaders to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to discuss the development of a new set of goals and targets for the post 2015 period.

Ireland's EU Presidency (January – June 2013)

During its European Union Presidency in the first six months of 2013, Ireland had a number of significant achievements including the mainstreaming of gender equality into adopted Council Conclusions on Food and Nutrition Security. The Council recognised that women are severely affected by malnutrition throughout their life cycle and that women are key drivers of positive change in the fight against food and nutrition insecurity. The Council emphasised the need to mainstream gender equality into all hunger reduction and nutrition efforts.

A new Nutrition Policy was also adopted by the Council, which focuses on Member States' efforts to address maternal and child malnutrition in both development and humanitarian contexts. The policy aims to reduce the number of children under five who are stunted, thus contributing to reaching the global nutrition targets agreed by the World Health Assembly. An *EU Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan* was also adopted, aimed at ensuring that the EU and its Member States are held to account in delivering on agreed policy

commitments in the area of food and nutrition security. The Plan includes specific interventions on empowering women; strengthening women's decision-making roles; supporting women farmers and addressing maternal under-nutrition.

In April 2013, the Irish Government, in partnership with the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice hosted a major international conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice in Dublin. The conference facilitated the interaction of small food producers and high-level policy makers on the links between hunger, under-nutrition and climate change. Over 40 per cent of participants in attendance were women, with many of these from grassroots groups that rarely have the opportunity to input to such policy debates. A number of recommendations from the conference were specifically targeted at improving gender equality, including recommendations on improving women's land rights, reducing women's workloads, and including women's knowledge in the design of interventions.

Section 2: Gender Equality Results 2013

Equal access to, control over, and ownership of assets and resources²:

Women face a range of legal and societal barriers which limit their access to and control of assets and resources such as land, access to markets, financial services and information flows. While these challenges exist globally, they are particularly acute in a number of Irish Aid's Key Partner Countries and can be exacerbated during times of conflict, leaving women further disadvantaged. For these reasons, ensuring equal access to resources is a key priority of Irish Aid's work.

Providing support to empower small-holder women farmers remains an integral part of Irish Aid's approach to combating hunger and under-nutrition. Throughout 2013, Irish Aid supported a range of partners including; governments; CSOs; research institutions and multilateral organisations to improve women's access to resources, extension services and agricultural value chains.

In **Tanzania**, Irish Aid supported the Centre for Agriculture Bioscience International (CABI) to implement the Good Seed Initiative. The project focuses on the production and consumption of African indigenous vegetables, which are traditionally produced and sold by women. CABI has assisted in gaining an entry point for women contractors in the Tanzanian seed value chain sector. The project feedback from the seed companies infers that overall companies are pleased with women contractors and their ability to produce high quality products. It was also noted that women contractors are less likely to side-sell to other buyers.

Irish Aid continues to support *Farm Radio International* to develop participatory, farmer-led, gender sensitive farm radio programmes across four countries in East Africa. The radio programmes help

to share knowledge with small farmers on climate smart and/or nutrition sensitive agricultural innovations that respond to the interests and demands of small-scale farming women. The design of the programmes is heavily influenced by the needs of women farmers and aims to empower them through knowledge sharing. In 2013, a community profiling initiative empowered partners to understand the communities and their different traits in relation to agriculture, gender roles and differences and how these affect small scale farming; the community structure in relation to power, decision making and the sources of income that promote and or subsidize community and household income.

Positive results have also been achieved in Goal's Irish Aid supported programmes in **Ethiopia, Sudan** and **South Sudan** on women's income generation. The programmes are aimed at empowering women and decreasing vulnerability through increasing basic literacy and numeracy skills and then ultimately, income generation facilitated through business skills training and the provision of small grants. In **South Sudan** the percentage of targeted female headed households accessing individual loans in 2013 reached 100 per cent in Twic, 58 per cent in Agok and 44 per cent in Juba (low due to the outbreak of hostilities). In Sudan, 100 per cent of all the participants accessed cash transfers/start up grants for income generating activities.

In **Ethiopia**, Ireland's Country Programme Strategy promotes an integrated gender sensitive policy and programme approach that combines social protection measures, in particular cash/food safety nets, with livelihood diversification strategies that broaden income streams and allow households in rural areas to manage risk, increase their resilience to shocks and creates opportunities for increased food and nutrition security.

Irish Aid works with the Ethiopian Government on the Protective Safety Net Programme (PSNP), Africa's second largest social cash transfers programme and it has continued to rally for greater emphasis on gender issues within the PSNP in 2013.

² *One World, One Future, Framework for Action Outcome 8, Key Result Area 1*

Internally, Irish Aid provided five days of Training of Trainers to Social Protection Officers aimed at addressing Gender Based Violence in the household. In **Mozambique**, Ireland established a partnership with UNICEF to support gender sensitive social protection programmes, working closely with the Ministry of Women and Social action. In 2013, The Ministry of Women and Social Action launched a proposal for the regulation of the implementation of Basic Social Security by Non-Governmental Organisations and Institutions.

In **Uganda**, as part of the Joint Financing Agreement, Irish Aid released €2.4 m to DFID as its contribution to the *Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESPP)*. The Programme has so far developed a draft Social Protection Policy and is piloting a cash transfer scheme targeting vulnerable households – the *Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment Programme (SAGE)*. During this period the Ministry of Gender was allocated 2 bn shillings for Social Protection by the Ministry of Finance as co-funding to the ESPP. This is an important achievement/output of the Programme as it increases the chances of embedding a gender sensitive social protection system within Uganda’s policy, planning, and institutional, political and fiscal framework.

Equal access to quality essential services³

Education:

‘*One World, One Future*’ highlights the importance of girls’ **education** at primary level and beyond. Education gives girls and young women the confidence and knowledge to challenge societal norms which limit their ability to achieve their potential. While education is not the only means by which to address social norms and legislation; evidence indicates that it has a positive effect. For example, demographic and household surveys in over 54 countries⁴ show a strong positive correlation between girls’ level of education and their ability to

avoid three key infringements of their rights: domestic violence, prohibition from owning land and child marriage.

Irish Aid spent €35.8m on education in 2013. €16m of this figure relates to Ireland’s partner country expenditure in **Ethiopia, Tanzania, Vietnam, Mozambique, Zambia** and **Uganda**. Work with national partner governments in 2013 supported the recruitment and deployment of female teachers to areas where girls’ attendance rate is low. The impact of increasing female teacher deployments plays an important role in influencing and mentoring young female students.

In **Zambia**, support was provided to the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) to increase educational opportunities for vulnerable children and to focus on promotion of the safety of children in schools through advocacy for a policy on child protection.

Key results include:

- Endorsement of and authorisation to implement Child Protection Guidelines by the Ministry of Education.
- The Bursary Programme supported 850 girls from Irish Aid funds; impact evaluations note improvements in performance as a result of improved attendance rates.

In **Mozambique**, the education programme continues to focus on reforming practices which prevent girls from remaining in primary and transitioning to secondary school. Ireland continues to advocate for gender equality in education, and has given particular emphasis to the training and hiring of female teachers for primary, secondary, technical, and vocational education. Unfortunately, the ministry’s projections for the 2014 intake are that the percentage of women will drop to only 35 per cent, down from 49.3 per cent in 2013. The reason behind this is that there are insufficient female applicants with the required qualifications. This illustrates the low rate of girls moving into and through secondary school.

³ *One World, One Future, Framework for Action Outcome 8, Key Result Area 2:*

⁴ World Bank (2014) *Voices and Agency – Empowering Women and girls for shared prosperity.*

There is no doubt that significant progress has been made on bridging the gap between girls and boys enrolment rates at both primary and secondary level. However, the global trend still shows girls falling behind. Higher drop out of girls in late primary level (not captured by enrolment rates) and lower transition to secondary level shows that there is a lot of progress to be made in addressing barriers to girls' equal access to school services.

Irish Aid's Civil Society Programme Grant supports **Plan Ireland's** education work in four countries in West Africa. The programme's key focus is on inclusive girls' education and is currently in year two of implementation. Activities include raising awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health, hygiene and sanitation, and supporting village saving and loans groups as a means to improve the economic capacity of the community.

This project indicates that Gender parity has largely been achieved in lower grades, while data shows a widening gap between boys and girls in transition years. Plan Ireland commissioned a key piece of research, "Outside the Circle" on **the inclusion of disabled children** in education in the four countries. It was noted that the severity, type of impairment and gender impacted on the degree to which children with disabilities were subject to multiple forms of abuse and neglect.

In 2013, Irish Aid provided €5m to the **Global Partnership for Education** which focuses on addressing the barriers to girls' education in low income and fragile states. Irish Aid supported the research, publication and distribution of the Global Monitoring Report on Education for 2013. The report is the seminal data source informing progress on education. It analyses data on girls, explores the underlying causes of girls lagging behind and recommends policy and programmes which address these challenges.

Healthcare:

In 2012, Irish Aid began supporting a new UNAIDS programme⁵ entitled 'Gender Transformative HIV Responses' with an overall goal of ensuring that HIV responses promote gender equality and social transformation for the health and rights of women and girls. The goal will be achieved by strengthening the evidence base for more effective programming on HIV and gender; reinforcing political advocacy for policy change for women and girls' health and rights and strengthening accountability for results.

The programme began in January 2013 and will be implemented over a two year period in collaboration with the Global Fund for AIDs, TB and Malaria, with a total funding commitment of \$994,192 (\$465,000 in 2013).

The **Gender Assessment Tool for National HIV Responses** has been completed by 20 countries:

- Facilitating the leveraging of existing mechanisms to increase funding for comprehensive gender equality interventions
- Plans are in place to develop a gender sensitive National Aids Spending Assessment for tracking and allocating resources
- These tools will contribute to improved data by allowing for triangulation analysis.

In March 2013, UNAIDS convened a High Level Consultation on gender-based violence and HIV in the Post 2015 Framework. This event was co-sponsored by Ireland and attended by the then Minister of State, Kathleen Lynch T.D. The meeting concluded that 'violence against women and girls in all their diversity is a violation of human rights and a reflection of gender inequality, directly contributing to HIV acquisition and undermining an effective HIV response'. The meeting resulted in key messages for political advocacy and negotiation in the context of the Post 2015 framework.

⁵ Countries supported through the programme include Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Sierra Leone.

Irish Aid continued to strengthen HIV/AIDs responses during humanitarian emergencies through UNAIDS in 2013⁶. A total of €720,000 was provided towards implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1983 on HIV/AIDs and GBV; strengthening women's coalitions and supporting Inter-Agency Working Groups on HIV and GBV.

In **Ethiopia**, Irish Aid's Civil Society Programme Grant to GOAL has supported a new approach that promotes and facilitates institutional maternal delivery by increasing awareness among male community members through Male Support Groups. Nineteen such groups have been established in Borena and West Hararghe. The approach compliments the Care Group approach, which encourages male behavioural change in support of females. As a result of this integrated approach in West Hararghe, skilled birth attendance has increased 9 per cent from the baseline of 1.7 per cent. While overall levels of institutional delivery remain extremely low, the behavioural change activities and the support provided to health institutions will be scaled-up to improve attended deliveries.

Discrimination against women and girls is reduced⁷

The elimination of Gender Based Violence (GBV) including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage remains a key priority of the Irish Aid programme.

At the multilateral level, Ireland supported the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and Girls in 2013. The impact of the trust fund in 2013 has been remarkably high, with 3 million people (including more than 30,000 survivors of violence) benefitting from the work of its grantees. Recognising the importance of engaging adolescent and young girls with tailored programmes, a third of

all new funding from the Trust Fund in 2013 went to organisations working directly with this target group. Ireland's support to the Trust Fund has benefitted partners such as the Physicians for Human Rights, who developed a medical and legal system for managing forensic evidence in rape cases in the **DRC, CAR, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda**. Evaluations found that the Trust Fund Grantees have made substantial and innovative contributions in preventing VAWG, expanding survivor access to services and creating an institutional response to VAWG at the country level.

Following a successful first phase of the UNICEF-UNFPA Joint Programme to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Ireland continued to support the second phase of the programme in 2013. An evaluation of the Joint Programme confirmed that the programme has accelerated the abandonment of FGM/C in 15 countries and has helped to strengthen the momentum for change at the global level. In July 2013, UNICEF published a report 'Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Statistical Overview and Exploration of the Dynamics of Change', providing a comprehensive analysis of FGM/C and exploring data from a social norms perspective. The second phase of the programme is now underway covering 16 African Countries and Yemen.

Ireland continues to be a strong advocate and supporter of efforts to protect women and girls from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in emergencies. In September 2013, Ireland endorsed the UN Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. Ireland also made commitments to support the protection of women and girls from violence in Emergencies in the form of the **Call to Action Campaign** in November 2013. Irish Aid has committed to:

- Ensuring the protection of women and girls in emergencies is prioritised in Ireland's development and humanitarian policy commitments;
- Allocating specific human resource capacity and technical specialist expertise in order to support

⁶ Funding was provided to partners in the DRC; South Sudan; Western and Central Africa Region; Economic Commission of Africa; Mozambique and LAC Region.

⁷ *One World, One Future, Framework for Action Outcome 8, Key Result Area 3:*

- effective humanitarian response to GBV in emergency and recovery contexts;
- Ensuring the protection of women and girls in emergencies is part of the criteria for all recipients of Irish Aid humanitarian funding;
- Maintaining Ireland's commitment to active engagement in the Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence;
- Continued support to the implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security;
- Progressively increasing funding to the protection of women and girls in emergency and recovery contexts over the coming three years.

Gender equality and GBV are now integral criteria in all Irish Aid humanitarian funding appraisals. A recent increase in the volume of funding proposals from CSO partners which focus on GBV programming in emergencies suggests improved capacity among Irish humanitarian organisations.

In 2013, the **Irish Aid Rapid Response Corps** prioritised gender-related profiles for recruitment to the Standby Roster in order to increase the capacity of the Corps to respond to the growing demand for gender specialists in Emergencies. Also in 2013, Irish Aid supported the deployment of a Gender Advisor to Pakistan.

In **Zambia**, Irish Aid committed to supporting the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) – UN Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence in early 2013. Key results beginning to emerge include:

- Training of frontline responders in GBV First Response Management;
- Rules of Court drafted; ensuring that the Anti-GBV Act 2011 can be implemented on an individual level;
- Pilot fast-track courts have been established in Lusaka and Kabwe with access to forensic resources which will increase convictions using credible evidence;

- Guidelines for Minimum Standards of Shelters for GBV Survivors have been developed; will ensure safe houses are actually safe.

In **Tanzania**, Irish Aid partnered with Women in Law and Development Africa (WiLDAF) in the Shinyanga region. Seventy-five health management team members were trained to implement GBV management guidelines. As a result, all hospitals and eighteen health centres now have established registry books for recording GBV cases reported in the health facilities.

In **Uganda**, Irish Aid supported both GBV prevention and response initiatives in 2013. Through the GBV Joint Programme in the Busoga Sub-region and partnerships with Faith Based Organisations, activities aimed at empowering communities and religious leaders with information and skills to prevent, respond to and mitigate effects of GBV were rolled-out. As a result of the Irish Aid funded feasibility study on GBV Shelters in 2012, the Government of Uganda and Irish Aid Joint Programme will establish shelters for GBV survivors in the districts of Busoga, Namutumba and Kamuli by 2015. To date, two shelters are in operation and the Government has disseminated Guidelines for the establishment and management of Gender Based Violence Shelters.

Irish Aid's Civil Society Programme Grant is supporting many CSOs working on interventions on or related to gender based violence. For example, Trócaire's Programme Grant focuses on reducing women's vulnerability to GBV and addressing impunity in a range of countries. Some key results for 2013 include:

- Substantial increases in knowledge and awareness of women's rights and the law in Kenya, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Central America;
- In Uganda, a mid-term review is showing an increase from 3 per cent to 15 per cent of women and from 5 per cent to 78 per cent of men agreeing that violence in the home affects children also;

- Number of GBV survivors who accessed health services and legal aid in Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Uganda has increased significantly.

Irish Aid continued to support the **Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (ICGBV)** in 2013. The ICGBV continues to provide a unique forum to share and learn from the experiences of others in the sector; as well as supporting capacity development and thematic research.

Equality of participation in politics and political decision-making⁸

From HQ, Irish Aid continued its support for the Gender Partnership Programme within the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2013. The Programme aims to increase and strengthen the role of parliaments in promoting gender equality as well as strengthening the participation of women in Parliaments.

Key results from this programme included;

- Improved data for monitoring women’s political participation worldwide was generated;
- A quota database was established, providing greater access to information on good practices to support women’s access to parliaments;
- Strategies to enhance women’s contribution to the work of parliament were developed by the women’s caucuses in Burundi, Cote d’Ivoire and Rwanda;
- The IPU directly supported the drafting of four laws on violence against women in Togo, Burkina Faso and the Maldives, and the review and amendment of a Government bill on gender-based violence in Burundi

In **Malawi**, the tripartite elections were held in May 2014. Irish Aid engaged in the oversight mechanism for the election management process and provided €1m for the Joint Basket Fund for the Organisation of the Elections. Early results demonstrate that voter

registration in December 2013 had reached over 7.5 million citizens registered, of which 54 per cent were women. Further analysis of the data indicates that more males are registered in urban areas, while at the district level the number of females registering exceeds males.

Civil Society Organisations play a critical role in supporting women to engage in decision-making at household, community, local and national levels. The Irish Aid Civil Society Programme Grant supports many partners to encourage and promote women’s economic and political empowerment.

Trócaire’s programmes promote women’s participation in leadership positions as a key priority. A focus on results based management across the programmes is placing more attention on gender mainstreaming, to the extent that tangible improvements in the situation of women are clearly emerging. In 2013, women’s political participation was advanced through the adoption of quotas in the **DRC** and the National Strategic Plan for the advancement of women in **Myanmar**.

Concern made significant progress on engaging men and women on gender equality in **Liberia** which culminated in a training of trainers of Concern staff and community level change makers. Men’s Resources International was engaged to provide additional technical support in the area of engaging men on issues of gender equality and gender-based violence. The approach is now being integrated within the **Liberia** programme. The team are utilising an ‘Equality Scale’ as a mechanism for monitoring progress. Engaging men on gender equality has also begun in **Sierra Leone**, and has led to the development of an awareness campaign that promotes positive role models amongst men within the community, in terms of their role as a supportive husband and father.

⁸ *One World, One Future, Framework for Action Outcome 8, Key Result Area 4*

Case Study: Trócaire Myanmar Gender Programme



Law Pa Keo, leading Women's participation training in Mao State, Myanmar. Source: Trócaire Annual Report 2013

Trócaire's Myanmar Gender Programme aims to increase awareness among women and men of their rights as a key first step to empowering citizens. The programme has identified the right to land and women's right to participate as key focus areas at the community level. Men have been engaged in activities in an effort to transform attitudes towards women; women have been trained to prepare for and enter political office.

Although the programme is still at an early stage of implementation, a high level forum attended by over 200 participants from civil society, private sector, media and politics has resulted in the development of action plans for enhancing women's participation in leadership. Anecdotal evidence is suggesting that the presence of women in leadership positions is motivation for other community level women.

Strengthened capacity of poor individuals, families and communities to improve food and nutrition security⁹

In 2013, Irish Aid continued to prioritise support to increase women's access to nutrient supplements; health education and information; knowledge on dietary diversity and supplementary feeding. This key priority is reflected across all of Irish Aid's Key Partner Country programmes and through our Civil Society partnerships.

Irish Aid's continued support to the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in **Vietnam** is aimed at improving the nutrition status of mothers, infants and young children in four provinces. The programme is focussed on improving access for pregnant women and children from vulnerable populations to micronutrient supplements and better infant nutrition practices. Although it is only in the early stages of implementation, a key result for Irish Aid in 2013 was the adaptation of micronutrient powder packaging for improved understanding in communities by the National Institute of Nutrition.

Irish Aid also supports GAIN at the global level to develop strategies to improve access to and quality of affordable complementary feeding products in **Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia**. In 2013, the GAIN programme in South Africa implemented a successful provincial pilot campaign on maternal care, dietary diversity, complementary feeding and home fortification. The campaign reached 1.7m households (an estimated 46 per cent of which are female headed households). As a result, the National Department of Health have endorsed the campaign materials for the government clinics community activation programme. Three effectiveness studies are currently underway to determine the impact of home fortification and maternal, infant and young child programming in South Africa.

In **Cambodia**, Irish Aid supported Helen Keller International seeks to increase the use of Micro

⁹ *One World, One Future, Framework for Action. Outcome 3, Key Result Area 2:*

Nutrient Powders, reducing rates of anaemia and improving infant feeding practices in 44,000 households. Other key results in 2013 include the provision of Micro Nutrient Powders to an estimated 53,000 children and the training of 1,770 village health volunteers to educate households on gender roles and child feeding. This initiative provided male and female caregivers with the knowledge and social support to take more responsibility for household nutrition and childcare.

In **Mozambique**, Helen Keller International is demonstrating the importance of linking nutrition and agriculture interventions to reduce malnutrition. In 2013, with support from Irish Aid, the Tete-based project trained 337 mothers to deliver behaviour change messages in their communities.

In 2013 Ireland continued its active support for the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement which brings together government, CSOs, bilateral, multilateral donors and the private sector in support of the host governments' own efforts to address under-nutrition. The SUN strategy clearly sets out that women's empowerment is core to nutrition sensitive approaches. There are now 50 member countries signed up to the movement, including eight of Irish Aid's Key Partner Countries.

Increased Environmental sustainability of the food production system¹⁰

The effects of climate change disproportionately affect women and girls. In particular, it affects rural women in developing countries, who are still largely responsible for securing food, water, and energy for cooking and heating. The Irish Aid programme places an increased emphasis on the importance of strengthening climate resilience to plan for and cope with the increased vulnerability and risks from climate change, particularly when dealing with food security, fuel for cooking and sourcing clean water for drinking.

In Malawi in 2013, Irish Aid supported the National Smallholder Farmer's Association of Malawi to spread conservation agriculture knowledge among 37,589 farmers, 53 per cent of which are women. Not only does this build women's knowledge on climate resilience, it also provides advice on how to achieve better prices in domestic & global markets.

In **Eritrea**, Irish Aid supported Vita's Fuel Efficiency, Forestry Nutrition and Enterprise Development Project in 2013, which aims to provide women with the means to enhance food security and livelihoods from their forestry resources. In order to ensure a positive mitigating impact on climate change, Vita installed 12,177 fuel efficient stoves in rural households and trained 20,000 women on the use/cooking of Moringa and other nutritious forest products, improving their lives.

As part of Irish Aid's commitment to climate change adaptation, we continue to support the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Meteorological Organisation in their 2013-14 programmes. The WRI's Adaptation Finance Accountability Initiative operates on the premise that development pathways must succeed in spite of climate change, enabling even the poorest, most marginalized people to rise from poverty.

Realizing this vision requires financial resources for adaptation, and those resources must be deployed in ways that reach local communities and benefit vulnerable groups, particularly women. The WRI believe that reducing vulnerability will require a particular focus on gender equality to ensure that adaptation activities do not exacerbate inequalities, fulfil the needs of women and girls who are often the most vulnerable, and support women's roles as agents of change in the adaptation process.

¹⁰ *One World, One Future, Framework for Action. Outcome 4, Key Result Area 4*

The Global Framework for Climate Services programme is designed to build on the well tested application of Agricultural Meteorology Services for the agricultural sector in Ethiopia and in particular for subsistence and small scale farmers, of which women make up the majority. This programme aims to achieve this through the development of national drought policies, a drought early warning system and the establishment of farm level innovation with well tested agro-weather risk management tools and services.

Case Study: Climate Smart Agriculture Malawi



Stoves Production Group in Kachindamoto TA
Source: Malawi Annual Report 2013

Irish Aid supported the Accelerated Uptake of Improved Cookstoves Programme implemented by Concern Universal in Malawi on behalf of the National Cookstove Task Force in 2013.

To date about 140,000 principally ceramic stoves have been made locally, mainly by women's groups. These fuel efficient stoves not only empower women within the household and the community but also reduce emissions, respiratory and eye diseases and the number of hours spent collecting firewood by women and children.

This work is combined with improvement in agriculture designed principally for women. The Local Development Support Programme includes Climate Smart Agriculture, small scale irrigation and the building of boreholes to provide clean water near to their homes.

Section 3: Working with our Partners

3.1 Working with Government

National governments are key partners in Irish Aid's work on gender equality and women's political and economic empowerment.

In **Zambia**, Irish Aid continues to be a member of the Gender Co-operating Partners Troika, supporting the development of the National Gender Policy; gender responsive planning and budgeting in government and supporting the drafting of a Gender Equality Bill by the Ministry of Gender and Child Development.

In **Tanzania**, Irish Aid completed its three year tenure as Chair of the Donor Partner Group on Gender in 2013. Key gender inputs were captured in the original Joint Assistance Strategy Tanzania (2012) and carried forward to the Development Cooperation Framework 2014; a closer collaboration with the national gender machinery, in particular with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, was realised through intensive advocacy work by the group, and especially the Chair; and the highest gender forum, the Gender Mainstreaming Working Group-Macro Policy (GMWG-MP).

Irish Aid, as the chair of the group, coordinated a joint initiative to support a network of civil society organisations - the Gender Constitutional Review Forum – that has been advocating for addressing gender concerns in the National Constitutional Review. The Forum presented a position paper to the Constitution Review Commission that led to the articulation of gender issues in the first and second drafts of the Constitution. In 2014, the Embassy will continue to advocate for the gender agenda and provide technical support to the Ministry for the development of the Gender Profile and to conduct a review on gender responsive budgeting.

In **Uganda**, Irish Aid has been actively engaged in policy dialogue with the Government on gender equality. As Chair of the Gender Development Partner Group 2012-13, the group was active on a number of legislative Reforms (including progress

with the Marriage and Divorce Bill, Sexual Offences Bill, Petroleum bills and support to the Common Women's Legislative Agenda in Parliament). The Group also advocated on maternal mortality issues through engagement with Ministry of Health and supported male involvement in maternal and reproductive health services. Other significant successes related to reaching agreement on a set of five gender priorities with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and finalization of GBV Shelter guidelines.

In **Sierra Leone**, Irish Aid continued to act as lead donor on gender in 2013, convening gender donor meetings; organising a seminar presenting research on FGM; representing donors on a taskforce on FGM; supporting a major conference on women's land rights; co-ordinating stakeholder inputs into gender mainstreaming for the Agenda for Prosperity; and representing donors on a taskforce for teenage pregnancy.

In Liberia, Irish Aid began a new project with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in 2013 which aims to create safer communities by strengthening the ability of government, civil society and local community structures to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. The current project builds on previous funding provided to IRC in Liberia and directly targets 3,470 beneficiaries.

3.2 Working with multilateral Partners

In 2013, Ireland pursued a strong gender dimension in the Strategic Plans of key UN partners to advance equal rights for men and women. As a member of the UN Women Executive Board and Bureau in 2013, Ireland supported the development and finalisation of the UN Women Strategic Plan (2014-17) which provides a robust framework for pursuing the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, the empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men.

Ireland also supported the development of the UN Women Humanitarian Strategy, the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, and UNDP Gender Equality Strategy.

3.3 Working with Civil Society Partners

Irish Aid has two principal funding mechanisms that provide support to Civil Society Organisations, the Irish Aid Programme Grant 2012-15 and the Civil Society Project Fund. Gender equality remains a priority in both of these funding streams.

In 2013, the Irish Aid Programme Grant partners submitted their first Annual Reports and interim results are beginning to emerge, many of which are highlighted throughout this report. Though many of the civil society partners allocate gender equality and women's economic empowerment as cross cutting initiatives, the total estimated gender equality spend for 2013 is in excess of €2.2m.

Irish Aid also provides support to Southern-Based Civil Society Organisations through its missions in many of its Key Partner Countries.

3.4 Working with Research Partners

The Institute of Development Studies and Irish Aid have a partnership in place which is focussed on Hunger Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. This agreement involves the provision of €1.5m over three years through a programme which brings together research and capacity development with policy and influencing know-how to support action that more effectively reduces poverty and injustice. Now in year two of the programme, success is based on the ability to reach key audiences and more specifically the impact on amplifying women's voices in hunger and climate adaptation decision-making fora.

The Institute implements its strategy through a platform of joint work with BRIDGE (gender knowledge mobilisation programme), the Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index field level learning and the Capacity Collective. BRIDGE explores the linkages between gender and food security, with an

emphasis on gender inequalities in access to resources both for production and consumption. It is also exploring ways to ensure that food security interventions empower women.

Some key results emerging in the 2013/14 period:

- The establishment of a global community of practice on gender and food security. Professionals working on these issues across the world will have opportunities to share experiences, good practice and concerns, while informing a new BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack on the issues.
- The development of plans for a global roundtable on gender and food security will be in place. Preparations will be informed by the global community of practice on gender and food security and driven by collaboration across the programme to identify key participants and issues. This and other activities will play an important role in the greater embedding of gender issues throughout the programme.

Irish Aid supports agricultural research for development through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Research supported must be gender-sensitive; mainstreaming remains a priority issue within the CGIAR system. In 2013, the CGIAR Consortium published its first *Gender and Diversity Performance Report* and a Gender Action Plan which serves as a comprehensive framework for gender and diversity. The Report focussed on gender in actual research activity and gender in the workplace.

Key findings from this study have resulted in:

- The establishment of baselines in the gendered composition of strategic management;
- The identification of gender imbalances;
- The measurement of budgetary indicators on gender;
- The recognition that gender equalisation actions need to be scaled up within CGIAR and that there is a need for greater accountability for gender research outputs.

Section 4: Learning from Evaluations and Improving Data Quality on Gender Equality

Irish Aid carried out a Mid-Term review of the Vietnam programme in March 2013. The Review team included the Gender Advisor from the Irish Aid programme in South Africa, in an effort to share cross-programme learning focussing on how gender mainstreaming in the Vietnam programme could be further strengthened.

Vietnam has had some significant achievements in gender equality in recent years and is considered as one of the most successful countries in South Eastern Asia in this regard. However, Vietnam has experienced a sharp increase in the sex ratio at birth, similar to other countries in the region. The 2009 Census found that the SRB was 110.6 male births per 100 female births. This demographic imbalance has resulted in a situation whereby women and girls are often discriminated against, even before birth. Prevalence rates are higher in the North of Vietnam and discrimination is widespread among the majority Kinh population. The Irish Aid programme is supporting the UN One Plan in Vietnam. Policy changes relative to the objectives of the CSP are being closely monitored in areas such as social protection and governance. The Review found that there is a need to track specific gender policy changes through the UN One Plan with a focus on inequalities.

The commitment to mainstreaming in the Embassy team has also been intensified. Key entry points for scaling up gender mainstreaming efforts include the Vietnam Civil Society Facility; the National Targeted Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and in the broader area of nutrition.

In addition to maintaining a core funding level of €1.5m to UN Women in 2013, Ireland supported the UN Women '**Evidence and Data for Gender Equality**' project (EDGE), a 3 year programme which aims to increase the availability and use of gender equality statistics in relation to education, employment, and asset ownership.

The aim of the programme is to build a cost-effective and sustainable model to integrate gender issues into regular statistical production and to build the capacity of countries to produce gender data. Early 2013 results include the collection of data in 10 pilot countries and the development of standards and methods for indicators for which data coverage is insufficient.

The Irish Aid Civil Society Programme Fund encourages all partners to have sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADD) where possible, to meet the minimum programme approval standards. Most Programme Partners treat gender as a cross-cutting issue and the improvements in data disaggregation are becoming evident across the partners.

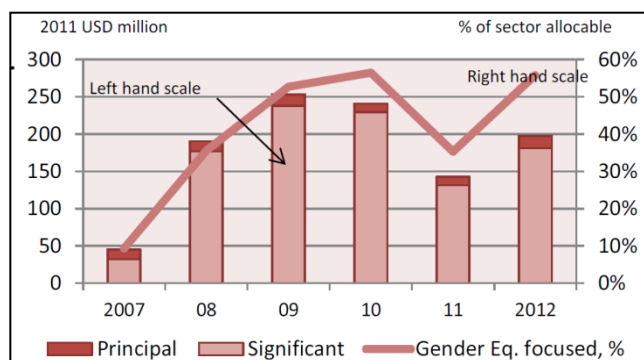
Irish Aid also supports a programme by *HelpAge*, which includes a specific outcome around advocating for governments to gather and use data disaggregated by age and sex. The HelpAge Annual Report for 2013 indicates that there is increasing evidence of the feminisation of old age poverty. As a result, it is critical that approaches give recognition to the different experiences of older men and women. It notes, however, that more effort needs to be devoted to the generation of data which is disaggregated by age and gender. The HelpAge **Tanzania** programme developed an 'Age and Gender' checklist to train implementing partners across all countries.

Sightsavers is also an Irish Aid Civil Society Programme Grant recipient. Treating gender as a cross-cutting issue, Sightsavers advocate with governments to gather and use data disaggregated by sex. The 2013 Annual Report notes that all countries are on track with gender disaggregation regarding first point of contact with the patient, except for Senegal. The Sightsavers **Senegal** country office is in on-going discussions with the Ministry to ensure that gender disaggregation is recorded systematically.

Section 5: Gender Equality Expenditure 2013

Based on DAC members' reporting on the Gender Equality Policy Marker¹¹ in the period 2011-12, the data shows that Ireland's ODA commitments for activities in which gender equality and women's empowerment are principal or significant objectives¹² have been stable since 2009. Although the share dipped to 35 per cent in 2011, this can be explained by inconsistencies in the application of the Gender Equality marker rather than a shift in policy.

Figure 4: Gender Equality Focus of Ireland's Aid



Aid in Support of Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (OECD/DAC, 2014)
 Figures in USD

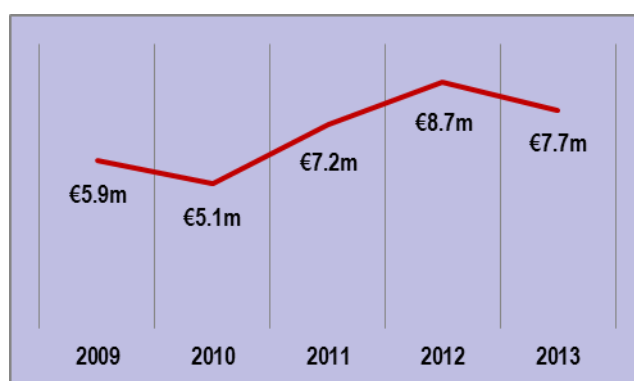
The Report further disaggregates the total amount of Ireland's sector allocable aid by recipient country. Sector allocable aid excludes general budget support, emergency aid and debt relief as most members do not apply the Gender Marker on these forms of assistance. Figure 5 presents Ireland's Top 10 recipient countries (based on 2011 data).

Figure 5: Ireland's top 10 recipients of gender equality focused ODA

Top ten recipients of gender equality focused aid			
2011 USD million			
	Total sector allocable aid	Gender equality focused aid (2)	
Mozambique	40	28	70%
Uganda	43	23	54%
Tanzania	30	17	58%
Zambia	24	17	70%
Ethiopia	30	16	54%
Lesotho	11	7	61%
Malawi	22	7	31%
Vietnam	16	6	36%
Liberia	8	5	67%
Zimbabwe	8	5	65%

Irish Aid also captures gender equality expenditure more broadly through the application of the DAC Sector Code 'Women's Equality Organisations and Institutions'. Figure 6 illustrates the trend in expenditure as captured by the coding system. The data is showing a decline in 2013 expenditure, this is largely attributed to the inconsistency in the application of the code, as evidenced by correlating other data that indicates increases and challenges on reporting.

Figure 6: DAC Women's Equality Organisations and Institutions Expenditure (2009-13)



IA Expenditure Report DAC/WEOI 2013

¹¹ OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker is a tool to measure the extent to which a programme is intended to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

¹² An activity can target gender equality as a principal or significant objective. Principal means gender equality was an explicit objective of the activity and fundamental in its design. Significant means gender equality was an important, but secondary objective of the activity. Not targeted means that the activity was screened for promoting gender equality, but was found to not be targeted to it. (Source: OECD DAC Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Report, 2014)