

New Zealand's aid helps to eliminate poverty and create a safe and just world.

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Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

ENSURING A FAIR CHANCE FOR WOMEN & MEN, GIRLS & BOYS

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's agency for international development.
- In 2008/09 NZAID will spend \$460.6 million on overseas development assistance.
- NZAID is mandated by Cabinet to mainstream a gender perspective into all its programmes and agency operations.
- In 2007/08 3.9 percent of NZAID's funding was allocated to initiatives which were implemented with gender equality as the **primary** objective; and gender equality was a **significant** objective in more than 40 percent of NZAID-funded activities.

Gender terms

Gender: The social attributes, opportunities and roles associated with being female and male, as opposed to sex which refers to biologically-determined difference between women and men, girls and boys

Gender mainstreaming: Ensures that both women's and men's needs, priorities, and experiences are taken into account in all development planning, policies and programming. For NZAID, this means that for every activity that is undertaken, due consideration will be given to assessing the differential impact on women and men, girls and boys, to ensure that outcomes are equitably shared.

Gender issues

- 70 percent of the world's 'extreme poor' are women and children.
- One-third of all women and girls experience physical and sexual abuse in their lifetime.
- Girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable diseases.
- Gender inequality has effects across all aspects of life including economic, social, cultural and political areas.
- Empowering women so they are able to fulfil their role in society is essential to break the poverty cycle of violence, hunger and inequality.
- Although men and boys face discriminatory barriers and practices which need to be considered, the discrimination women face is systemic and needs priority attention.
- Achieving gender equality needs to be a goal that the whole of a society participates in, from individuals and families, through to government level.



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...towards a safe and just world


nzaid

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

The NZAID Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy focuses on three key areas.

Enhancing the capability and potential of women and girls, through health and education

NZAID aims to ensure that women and girls have equal access to education at all levels as well as equal access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health services and HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, and care.

Education increases opportunities in life, and higher quality health care means that women are in better position to take up these opportunities.

Reduction of gender disparities in access to, control of, and benefit from resources, opportunities, and services

NZAID programmes focus on promoting women in leadership roles by providing training and support and ensuring women's representation at all levels of decision-making.

Assisting women to secure sustainable livelihoods is a core part of poverty reduction. NZAID advocates equal access to, control of, and benefits from economic and natural resources and services, including employment, land, credit, markets and housing.

Reduction of violence and conflict, to ensure human security for women and girls

This area of work aims to reduce gender-based violence, especially domestic, family, sexual, and workplace violence and harassment, as well as trafficking and sexual exploitation.

NZAID programmes also address the particular needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The NZAID Mainstreaming Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment Action Plan 2007-12 ensures that agency policies, strategies, programmes, and organisational processes address gender equality in a systematic way.

Examples of NZAID support:

❖ **Regional Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme**

Aims to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence through increased police capacity and strengthened legislative and policy environments.

❖ **Centre for Women and Children, Tonga**

Provides counselling, advisory, training and other services for women who are victims of violence.

❖ **Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Bougainville, PNG**

Works to strengthen families and communities to address domestic violence, rape and child abuse through a network of village counsellors.

❖ **Gender Mainstreaming Project, Mekong River Commission**

Develops systems and capacity to ensure that water resource management projects recognise critical gender roles and meet the needs and

interests of both men and women.



Ensuring women have equal access to sustainable livelihood is a priority for NZAID