

# Stepping-up a gear for Girls and Women: Updates to DFID's Strategic Vision for Girls and Women, to 2020 and beyond

## A Revised Framework and Narrative

DFID's Strategic Vision for Girls and Women aims to unlock the potential of girls and women, to stop poverty before it starts. **It empowers girls and women, enabling them to have voice, choice and control.** Leaving no-one behind.

This means girls and women having:

- **Voice** in decision-making in their household, community and country, in politics, business, the media and civil society, through their participation, leadership and collective action;
- **Choice** to complete education and to benefit from paid work and opportunities to make sufficient income; over whether, when and with whom to have sex, marry and/or have children, ending early and forced marriage;
- **Control** over their own bodies and mobility, including their safety from violence; over income, productive assets and other resources (including food, water, energy); with equal legal rights and access to justice; and freedom from discriminatory social norms such as female genital mutilation/cutting.

Achieving this requires an **enabling environment** of strong, open and inclusive economies, societies and political institutions which harness the leadership, participation, skills and innovation of girls and women as leaders and active citizens. This includes addressing the social norms and relationships that underpin how girls and women are valued in society, and which influence the opportunities they can seize.

Progress against four, interlinked 'game-changing' outcomes, pillars of the Vision, is critical for empowering girls and women to have voice, choice and control:

1. Girls' completion of primary and secondary education
2. Economic empowerment
3. Ability to live free from violence
4. Universal sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Achieving the aims of the Vision and reducing gender inequality can only be done by taking action through a combination of interventions that support these outcomes and the enabling environment, and by working with and through a broad range of partners.

DFID's Strategic Vision will make a strong contribution to global ambitions of achieving gender equality, as expressed in the High Level Panel report on the post 2015 framework.

### **Stepping up a gear for girls and women: what DFID will do differently**

DFID will build increased international momentum and investment for girls and women, leveraging new players and partnerships, including the private sector and foundations, in support of nationally led and owned country strategies on voice, choice and control for girls and women. Accelerate investment in girls, to stop poverty before it starts.

#### ***Transform the enabling environment***

- Drive social transformation and shift discriminatory norms and institutions that lock girls and women out of progress, including early & forced marriage, FGM/C and other forms of violence.
- Strengthen effective social, political and economic institutions that work for girls and women, including the most vulnerable. Engaging boys and men as active citizens for gender equality.
- Promote girls and women as leaders in politics, peace processes, business and public life, and as active citizens with a voice in society.

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### ***Accelerate delivery of the Strategic Vision across sectors and priorities***

A step up requires greater **leadership and leverage** internationally and across DFID to:

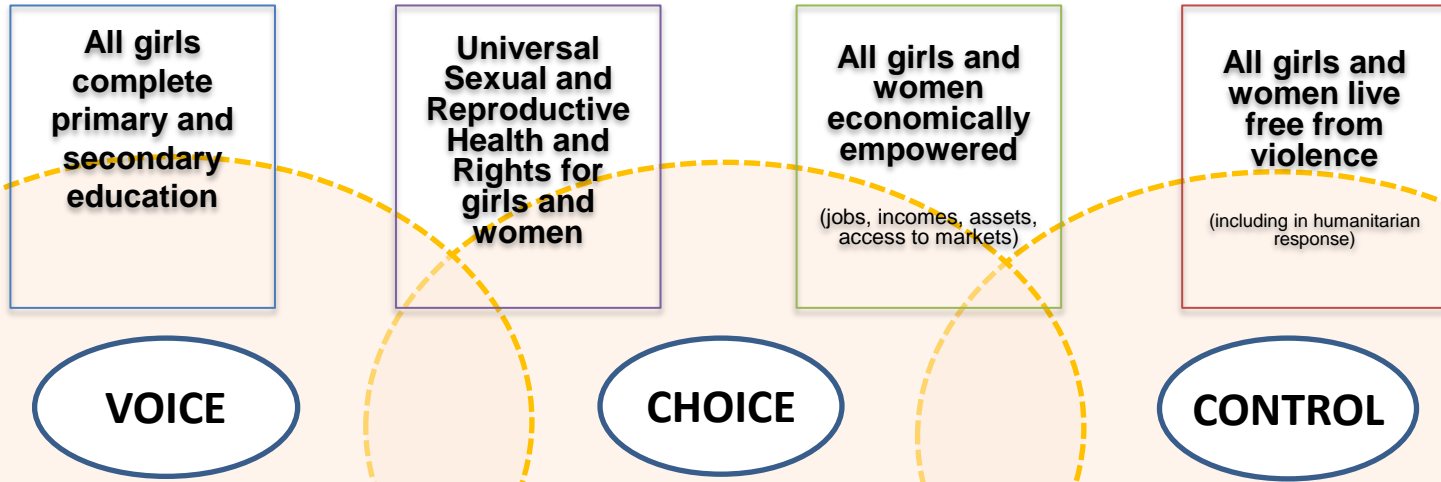
- Broaden work on the economic empowerment of girls and women - from control of key assets, to removing barriers that prevent girls and women from contributing to and benefiting from economic development, including through business, jobs and incomes.
- Accelerate delivery across the Strategic Vision to prevent violence against women and girls, ensure all girls complete primary and secondary school education, , and realise universal sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Accelerate action across all programmes and priorities. Increase interventions that enhance the returns for girls and women and their societies: in post conflict contexts, as states and societies rebuild; in cities and urban contexts that offer pathways out of poverty; with new technology enabling access to markets, information and accountability; for girls' and women's sustainable and equitable access to food, nutrition, water and energy.
- Ensure that humanitarian responses prioritise and protect girls and women with a particular focus on preventing/tackling violence against girls and women.
- Ensure those with disabilities, living in remote areas, excluded by age, ethnicity or religion are not left behind, in line with the High Level Panel Report.

### **Actions will include:**

- DFID Country Offices deliver the results they have committed to, looking for possibilities to leverage further outcomes across all programmes to 2020.
- Political leadership and campaigns, building on CSW 2013 and High Level Panel successes to agree a Post-2015 framework that delivers for girls and women, and to protect the gains and advance progress in girls' and women's rights across the world.
- Greater leveraging of multilateral spending and action to drive results in countries beyond DFID's presence and in the international system, including for humanitarian response.
- Leverage through new strategic partnerships, including with the private sector and new players such as Foundations.
- Continued investment in research and evidence on how to maximise impact to advance knowledge on what works in different contexts and why.
- Ensuring that DFID has regard to Gender Equality across all its development assistance.
- Effective cross HMG effort for maximum international influence, conflict pool leveraging, delivering the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative.
- Tracking and improving girl data through the age pipeline to see where they slip off the radar and address the reasons why.
- Benchmarking how much DFID spends on improving the lives of girls and women, where it is spent, and results achieved.
- Increased external communications to UK public and the global community to inform and galvanise action to unlock the potential of girls and women, to stop poverty before it starts.

# VISION

Unlock the potential of girls and women to stop poverty before it starts  
Empower girls and women to have **voice, choice and control**. Leaving no one behind.



Increased collective action for change

Participation and leadership in politics, peace negotiations, business and civil society

Legal rights and access to justice for all women

Discriminatory social norms ended e.g. FGM/C, early and forced marriage

Sustainable access to food, water and energy for all girls and women

**Enabling environment of open economies and societies that unlock girls' and women's potential**

Boys and men engage as active citizens for change

Equitable, accountable public services

Inclusive political settlements

Accessible new technologies

Infrastructure that benefits women

Responsible business provide safe, quality employment

Legal frameworks & systems uphold women's rights

Natural resource management

Markets that enable women to trade