

DFID RESEARCH STRATEGY 2008-2013

Working Paper Series: Mainstreaming Gender in Research



DFID Department for
International
Development

R4D Research for
Development

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THIS WORKING PAPER ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER ANALYSIS INTO RESEARCH IS ONE OF A SERIES OF 10 PAPERS PUBLISHED ALONGSIDE DFID'S RESEARCH STRATEGY 2008-2013. IT PRESENTS THE CASE FOR DFID-FUNDED RESEARCH ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER ANALYSIS INTO RESEARCH – DRAWING ON THE RESPONSES GIVEN DURING A GLOBAL CONSULTATION THAT DFID CONVENED IN 2007 ABOUT ITS FUTURE RESEARCH.

The purpose of the Working Papers is two fold: to record the key issues raised during the consultation; and to spell out DFID's decisions on new directions, as informed by the consultation. As such, they constitute an important part of the feedback process, and provide an opportunity to clearly articulate DFID's strategic response to the consultations and to other global drivers of research. They also provide guidance to those implementing DFID's research strategy in the future.

Each Working Paper reviews the current state of DFID's research on a given theme, highlights the key questions asked during the consultation process, and documents the main feedback received. The Papers then tease out the implications of the consultation findings on DFID's work, and end by spelling out DFID's future directions on each priority theme. Where possible, each Paper makes clear how DFID has drawn upon the consultation responses to shape its plans.

Other titles in the series are: Economic Growth, including Infrastructure; Sustainable Agriculture; Climate Change; Better Health: Education; Political and Social Science Research; Stimulating Demand for Research; Research Communication and Capacity Building. Note that issues which are not directly addressed under this paper may appear in others (for example the impact of agriculture on climate change is largely addressed in the paper on Agriculture).

More information on DFID funded research can be found on the website www.Research4Development.info. This also offers the facility to sign up for e-mail alerts covering different sectors.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

1. DFID recognises that eliminating gender inequality and achieving women's empowerment are essential to the achievement of all the MDGs; and that poverty elimination can only be achieved by addressing the disproportionate burden of poverty, lack of access to education and health services and lack of economic opportunities which are borne by women.
2. Solid evidence of the causes and impacts of gender inequality is essential, but a lack of gender-specific information and statistics makes it difficult to assemble an accurate picture of progress towards gender equality. Gender specific research and gathering and analysing sex disaggregated data in all research are key to understanding challenges and developing solutions.
3. The Central Research Department is currently funding two Research Partnership Consortia (RPCs) on women's empowerment. A number of other programmes are addressing gender equality issues within their research, including looking at reproductive health, child poverty and migration.

4. DFID's Gender Equality Action Plan has specific commitments to a) improving our results – producing better evidence on the impact of gender equality and women's empowerment in achieving development goals; b) committing its human, financial and policy resources in support of gender equality and women's empowerment; c) developing partnerships that make significant contributions nationally and internationally to gender equality and women's empowerment; and d) building commitment, competence and capacity for the future on gender equality and women's empowerment.
5. The Central Research Department has a gender champion in each team, responsible for monitoring progress on the Gender Equality Action Plan.

WHAT THE CONSULTATION ASKED

6. Given the cross-cutting nature of gender the consultation did not ask any specific questions about gender equality. However, responses did include researchable problems around gender inequality under a number of the themes.

WHAT WE HEARD

7. Participants in the country consultations in both Ethiopia and Bangladesh raised the causes of gender inequality in economic, social and political arenas as a key area for research, particularly how women can be better empowered in these arenas.
8. **Climate change:** The majority of climate change adaptation strategies currently do not incorporate a gender perspective and there is currently a lack of research and technical capacity to incorporate gender perspectives. What are the implications of climate change for access to assets and livelihoods for both men and women? What role do men and women play in climate change mitigation strategies at the community level?

One of the key issues in [climate change] is how gender inequality determines who is most impacted by swift environmental change... women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men are during a disaster... gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights. E-Consultation Respondent¹.

¹ Climate change contributor: Women's Environmental Development Organisations

9. **Agriculture/Growth:** What are the barriers to women's economic participation and what policies support women as workers in the labour market? How do different strategies (for growth/agriculture) affect the distribution of resources across men and women? There is a lack of empirical research into the observed association between growth and gender equality in education (and other forms of human capital)? Research is also needed into technologies that can reduce women's domestic workload to allow them to participate in other economic activities

Distributional issues are critical. I would add how different strategies affect distribution across groups, across income classes and across gender. E-Consultation Respondent².

10. **Health:** There are untested assumptions relating to HIV stigma and discrimination and the factors that lead to behaviour change – research is needed into the structural drivers of the epidemic, such as gender inequality. Research is needed into what needs to be done to accelerate changes that can support safer childbirth.

More research is needed to evaluate potentially effective interventions [safer childbirth], the organisation and delivery of health care and policies rather than descriptive research. E-Consultation Respondent³.

11. Social Development and **Governance:** Research is needed into the male dominance in formal politics. What role does male identity and unemployment, for example, play in conflict/fragile states? Research should also be conducted into the costs of women's exclusion from the labour market.

It would be bold and innovative if DFID were to support a stream of work focusing in particular on men and masculinities in formal politics – in political parties, in legislatures and parliaments, as well as at the local level. E-Consultation Respondent⁴.

IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

12. We will continue supporting research programmes with explicit gender equality objectives – such as the two women's empowerment RPCs currently being supported. We will mainstream gender analysis into all of our research programmes and encourage and build the capacity of our partners to do likewise.

² Growth contributor: Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity, University of Oxford

³ Health contributor: London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine

⁴ Social Development and Governance contributor: Pathways for Women's Empowerment Research Partnership Consortium

13. **Producing evidence:** CRD-funded research will produce evidence on the impact of gender equality on development outcomes through to identifying where the evidence gaps on the impact of gender equality are in specific fields of research; and how research can address these gaps. This will include research programmes with explicit gender equality objectives. We will draw out evidence on gender equality from within our research programmes and ensure this is disseminated widely.
14. **Building capacity:** CRD will support its research partners to ensure they have the capacity to undertake gender analysis in their research. CRD will also ensure men and women are able to equally benefit from capacity building opportunities.
15. **Communication:** CRD will support its research partners to ensure that sound gender analysis informs all communication strategies to ensure research findings reach all audiences – both men and women.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will spend up to £1 billion on research between 2008-2013. DFID's Research Strategy describes how the money will be used for maximum impact on reducing poverty in developing countries.

This paper is one of ten Working Papers which were produced to accompany the Strategy. Their purpose was twofold: first to record the key issues raised during a global consultation that DFID convened in 2007 about its future research; and second to spell out DFID's decisions on new directions, as informed by the consultation.

Each Working Paper reviews the current state of DFID's research on a given theme, highlights the key questions asked during the consultation process, and documents the main feedback received. The Papers then tease out the implications of the consultation findings on DFID's work, and end by spelling out DFID's future directions on each priority theme. Where possible, each Paper makes clear how DFID has drawn upon the consultation responses to shape its plans.

The full series of Working Papers are: Economic Growth, including Infrastructure; Health; Sustainable Agriculture; Climate Change; Education; Political and Social Science Research; Stimulating Demand for Research; Research Communication; Capacity Building; and Mainstreaming Gender in Research.

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