

EMERGING EVIDENCE FROM IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS DECLARATION

Gender, rights and inclusion

How to make aid more effective

One Two Three



READ THE FULL REPORT AND CASE STUDIES

‘Making Aid More Effective through Gender, Rights and Inclusion: Evidence from Implementing the Paris Declaration,’ June 2008.

Visit www.opml.co.uk or www.oecd.org/dac/gender

Aims

The study set out to:

- create an evidence base to demonstrate how gender equality, human rights and social inclusion have been integrated into current approaches to Aid Effectiveness, and what the benefits are;
- illustrate innovative approaches;
- provide ideas on what donors and international organisations, partner governments and civil society organisations can do differently;
- feed into the progress review of implementing the Paris Declaration for the Third High Level Forum in Accra in September 2008.

Research

The research draws on:

- in-depth case studies from six countries – Bangladesh, Bolivia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Vietnam;
- thematic studies from a range of countries including Nepal, Cambodia, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The UK, Ireland, Norway and the Netherlands jointly commissioned Oxford Policy Management, Social Development Direct and Working Together to undertake this research. The study represents the views of the consultants.

Conclusion

The study concluded:

Overall the Paris Declaration has improved aid management by emphasising operational efficiency. This is important, but it risks losing sight of wider considerations of development effectiveness and social justice – improving the lives of poor people.

Progress

We are seeing greatest progress in addressing gender, rights and inclusion when implementing the Paris Declaration:

- where strong government leadership – by Ministries of Finance and Planning with Ministries of Women Affairs – sets out and implements aid management frameworks for gender equality mainstreaming;
- where social goals in national plans are accompanied by monitoring and evaluation systems using disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data and analysis. But this tends to be the exception rather than the rule;
- where government and donors have supported civil society to play an active role throughout the policy process to sharpen the focus and accountability for gender equality, equity and human rights;
- where there has been effective collaboration between different levels of government, civil society organisations and academia to advance gender responsive budgeting, disaggregated monitoring and capacity development in social analysis.



A girl at school in Kathmandu, Nepal.
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BOLIVIA

Bolivia

Harmonisation & Alignment

Basket funding to the education sector was particularly successful because it was linked to a clear results framework with gender-disaggregated indicators, and technical support to the Ministry of Education. This provided a significant opportunity to address gender equality and rights issues.

Nepal

Managing for Development Results & Mutual Accountability

The country is improving its results based management. Disaggregated monitoring by sex, ethnicity and caste is helping to improve the health and education outcomes for poor and excluded women, children and men. Good social analysis and research by donors and civil society helped to tell the stories behind the numbers. This convinced the Government to increase its budget to the poorest districts and to tackle the social and cultural barriers to accessing basic services.

Vietnam and Tanzania

Harmonisation & Alignment

Jointly commissioned social research and analysis by donors and government as part of Mid Term Reviews and evaluations is helping to make programmes focus on better results for poor women, children and men. This is providing a timely opportunity to strengthen national capacity in social analysis in a collaborative way, with long term financial and technical support.

Uganda

Managing for Development Results

Uganda has strengthened its budget management to take account of the effect budget decisions have on poor men, women and girls. In local government, performance incentives have been introduced to improve budget allocation and delivery on gender equality commitments. Departments get a 20% increase on the previous year's grant when they make clear links between their budget, their plans and gender equality goals. Civil society and academic institutions have helped strengthen government capacity where performance has been weak.

Kenya

Ownership & Mutual Accountability

NGOs and networks that have real contact and legitimacy with communities and are well organised, like the HIV Aids coalition, can influence national policy and aid instruments such as SWAps (Sector Wide Approaches), JASs (Joint Assistance Strategies) and PAFs (Performance Assessment Frameworks) when donors and government encourage a participatory approach. The evidence underlines how important strong NGO networks can be to hold government and donors accountable and ensure an effective lobby for social issues in national policymaking.

A daughter looks in at her mother through the window of their home in Bolivia.
© Adam Hinton/Panos



“Aid can only be judged truly effective if it achieves good development results and good development results are not possible if gender inequalities persist, environmental damage is accepted or human rights are abused.”

Mary Robinson, President of Realizing Rights – the Ethical Globalization Initiative (New York) and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders. March 2008 London.

Missed opportunities

A number of challenges stand out, and the findings show that:

- in implementing the Paris Declaration there has been progress in attention to gender equality, human rights and equity issues at the policy level. The extent of implementation and monitoring of these commitments is less advanced and has not been given the sustained attention by partner governments or donors. This is where efforts should now be focused;
- donors have not always been consistent or effective in mainstreaming gender, rights and inclusion when putting the Paris Declaration into action. This can lead to a ‘lowest common denominator’ approach, potentially marginalising organisations with expertise and interest in social issues;
- less attention has been paid to building capacity for achieving gender equality and poverty reduction goals eg; through gender responsive budgeting in public financial management reforms;
- in implementing the Paris Declaration, dialogue between donors and central ministries can undermine broad based ownership by excluding other branches of government and civil society. It can also weaken accountability on gender equality and human rights by being overly focused on aid management and inputs and less on outcomes and impacts;
- when donors channel resources through government systems, there is a risk that civil society organisations lose funding for their advocacy and service delivery roles. This can narrow the opportunity to address social goals.

The emerging findings from this work were showcased at the OECD DAC GenderNet workshop “Strengthening the Development Results and Impacts of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness through Work on Gender Equality, Social Exclusion and Human Rights” – hosted by DFID in London March 2008.

For case studies from the workshop visit
www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/resultsandimpacts



Community members in Chitukula Village use fruit to measure progress and give their perspective on MDGs 14.
© Emma Judge/DFID

Evidence from implementing the Paris Declaration demonstrates...

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Synthesis Report – Making Aid More Effective through Gender, Rights and Inclusion: Evidence from Implementing the Paris Declaration, June 2008.