



Irish Aid

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality through support for NGOs

DAC Network on Gender Equality



IA Civil Society Policy (draft)

Civil Society Policy Goal

To strengthen and widen the space for men and women to act collectively and to participate in sustainable development processes.

Specific Objectives

1. *To support an enabling environment for civil society to organise and engage with government and its own broader constituencies; and*
2. *To support the role of civil society:*
 - *in promoting participation and good governance;*
 - *in ensuring better service delivery and economic development; and*
 - *globally and nationally, to build a constituency for development, human rights and social justice.*



IA Support to Civil Society

- HQ based funding schemes
 - Multi Annual Programme Scheme
 - Civil Society Fund
- CSO funding schemes in bilateral programmes
- Emergency and Relief
- Multilateral support



Multi Annual Programme Scheme (MAPS)

- A supportive framework of funding
- Poverty focused development outcomes and impacts
- Programmatic approach linked to an organisational strategic plan
- Targeted at Irish-based NGOs with a track record
- Five strategic partners
- Predictable, long-term (5-year) funding



MAPS – Gender Equality

Through Policy Level Objectives...

- To address the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and vulnerability
- To promote justice and equality, especially gender equality;
- The development of autonomous civil society organisations and communities
- Human rights

Through Process Level Objectives...

- To develop structures and processes that support and embed mainstreaming;
- To promote innovation and lesson-learning
- To demonstrate outcome and impact at a strategic level;



MAPS – Gender Equality

- Gender Equality
 - Cross cutting Issue
 - Mainstreamed
- Gender Based Violence
 - Institutionalising prevention and responses to GBV in programme




Civil Society Fund (CSF)

- CSF replaced 8 different civil society funding schemes
- Designed to be flexible
 - broad range of applications, from small micro-projects to 3-year programme proposals
- The overall objective of the CSF is
 - ❖ *to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by improving the livelihoods of disadvantaged communities in developing countries.*



CSF thematic priorities

- Four thematic priorities (Gender Equality, HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Environment & Sustainable Development)
- Gender Equality
 - Cross-cutting issue/mainstreamed
 - The CSF prioritises interventions aimed at the empowerment of women and/or tackling gender inequality.
 - Specific support for interventions aimed at tackling gender-based violence at an institutional and programme level.



Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence

- Irish Aid, Irish Development, Humanitarian and Human Rights NGOs and the Defence Force came together to form a consortium with a focus on tackling GBV
- The consortium is funded by the membership and has:
 - Produced guidelines on developing a strategy for preventing and responding to GBV
 - Produced guidelines on institutionalising GBV within organisations
 - Undertaken joint advocacy work on GBV