

## DONOR PRACTICES

### a) Country and Sectoral Programming

- *These questions are to be used as a guide only. It is not expected that every question will be relevant to all activities, countries or sectors.*
- *These questions are designed to assist activity managers to incorporate a gender perspective into country and sectoral programming.*

Key Guiding Questions	Auxiliary Guiding Questions
Does the Government of the developing or transition country you are working in have a gender policy, a women's policy, statement or plan of action?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the country's strategy for incorporating gender issues into different sectors?</li> <li>• What commitments did the country make to gender equality during the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995)?</li> <li>• What opportunities exist to meet practical gender needs and strategic gender interests, to advance women's status?</li> <li>• Have high level consultations addressed the most effective means of incorporating gender perspectives into current country and sectoral programming?</li> </ul>
Which major institutions and NGOs are dedicated to addressing social and gender issues in the country?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there "national women's machineries" tasked with addressing gender issues and setting priorities for action? (<i>e.g., a Ministry of Women's Affairs, or departments/bureaux located in sectoral ministries</i>)</li> <li>• What other institutions and NGOs are dedicated to promoting gender equality?</li> <li>• What mandate do these agencies/institutions have?</li> <li>• What are their institutional strengths and weaknesses? (<i>e.g., do they have gender training, advocacy, gender analysis, gender planning or implementation capacity and experience that project planners and implementers may draw upon</i>)</li> <li>• How can these agencies be strengthened or utilised in your planning and programming to effectively address gender and development objectives?</li> <li>• How can your development assistance most effectively strengthen women's participation in leadership and decision making in the country or sector?</li> </ul>
Which counterpart agencies are most likely to be receptive to your agency's policy on gender and development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which counterpart agencies will be most receptive to considering gender issues in project planning and implementation? (<i>which agencies will be open to assistance with strengthening capacity in this area</i>)</li> <li>• What relationship does the national women's machinery have to counterpart agencies which may receive development assistance in future?</li> <li>• What is the likelihood that these counterparts will have the capacity and commitment to ensure that men and women participate equally in project planning and implementation?</li> <li>• What lessons have been learned from other projects with these counterparts?</li> </ul>

<p>How will the country or sector program meet your institution's gender and development policy goal and objectives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key social indicators in the country or sector?</li> <li>• Does the country/sector strategy identify disadvantaged and marginalised groups? (<i>who are the poor, and where do they live</i>)</li> <li>• Is all data in country and sectoral programme documents disaggregated by sex?</li> <li>• What priority is given to gender and development policy objectives in setting country and sector priorities?</li> <li>• How can women's practical gender needs and strategic gender interests be best addressed in the country program or sector?</li> <li>• Which of your institution's gender policy objectives are explicitly addressed in the country or sector? (<i>improving access to education and health care, improving access to economic resources, promoting participation and leadership, promoting the human rights of women and assisting efforts to eliminate discrimination</i>)</li> </ul>
<p>What are the major obstacles and opportunities for promoting equal opportunities and benefits for women in each major sector of assistance?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are men's and women's greatest needs in the sector?</li> <li>• What is the likelihood that projects in this sector will provide equal opportunities and benefits to women and men?</li> <li>• What are the greatest obstacles to men's and women's participation in the sector?</li> <li>• What are the greatest constraints to providing equal benefits to men and women in the sector?</li> <li>• Have sectoral-level strategies been identified and evaluated for addressing these obstacles and constraints?</li> <li>• How can women's practical gender needs and strategic interests be best addressed in this sector?</li> <li>• What lessons have been learned from other projects in this sector?</li> </ul>

### ***Key documents and tasks***

Ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated into:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country strategy formulation and revisions</li> <li>• Development Frameworks</li> <li>• Country strategy paper</li> <li>• Poverty reduction strategy papers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sector studies and strategies</li> <li>• Programming missions</li> <li>• High level consultations</li> </ul> |
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