

GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

2015-16 Activities Report

GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
CORE PARTNER OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

Gender and Development Network (GADN), UK
Women's Economic Justice Group

November 2015

Why National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights must integrate and prioritise gender equality and women's human rights



Women shop owners threatened by relocation from a Diamond mine, Zimbabwe. Risk Rating: High. Photo credit: Miko Schurk, Progress.

November 2015 - GADN Economic Justice working group briefing



December 2015 - Jessica Woodroffe, GADN Director, gives evidence to the International Development Committee. Image: Parliamentary copyright



March 2016 - Luz Macahilos Bador, National Rural Women's Coalition, Philippines, speaks at ActionAid event supported by GADN. Image: Luz Macahilos Bador

GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK Briefings

Making Financing for Development Work for Gender Equality: What is needed at Addis and beyond

Summary

Throughout the 2015 process, many governments have successfully developed gender equality into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is now vital that sufficient funding is secured and that, crucially, this is of high quality and based on a clear, but primarily, gender, equality and women's rights. The final International Conference on Financing for Development (ICFD) provides a final opportunity, although there has been significant volatility of gender equality issues within the ICFD process, and there has been a degree of neglect of different issues in financing that offering impacts on gender equality that gender issues within the economy continue to influence development quality and jobs.

In the briefing, the benefits and pitfalls of financing from these sources are explored. Gender equality through women in the workforce is a key development outcome for gender equality, but the way it is funded is not just gender neutral. The regular report of quality measures on women and girls is the main focus for the Gender Equality, official development assistance seminar on progress made in financing in and needs to be for all who deliver and are dependent, high quality and well targeted, with its impact carefully measured. Private financing is increasingly seen as a key source of finance, but it is important to ensure that the development impact of unregulated foreign direct investment can be effectively offset the benefits of increased investment. Improving the legal basis for regulation also requires an understanding of the experience of women's rights organisations that are a vital resource for making gender equality and women's rights and their impact visible, accountable, leading from both official and private sources if the SDGs, and existing commitments, are to be achieved.

In the final section of the briefing, we call upon governments to continue to champion gender equality and women's rights throughout the ICFD process. Specific recommendations are made on the need for strong commitments on sufficient and accountable high quality financing and on recognition of the need to address widening gender inequalities in the economy.

June 2015 - GADN briefing



March 2016 - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60). Image: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, New York Office



November 2015 - Sandra Ramos, Maria Elena Cuadra's Movement of Employed and Unemployed Women (MEC), addressed event cohosted by GADN. Image: CAWN

1. Introduction

Who we are

GADN is a diverse, effective and inclusive membership network made up of leading UK-based non-governmental organisations' (NGO) staff, practitioners, consultants and academics working on gender, development and women's rights issues.

GADN enables members to share information and expertise, effectively lobby government and international bodies on gender and development issues and provide expert advice and comment on policies and projects.

Our members work in partnership with development and advocacy organisations throughout the world.

Vision, mission and strategic aims

Our vision is of a world where social justice and gender equality prevail and where all women and girls are able to realise their rights free from discrimination.

Our mission is to relieve poverty and promote well-being by ensuring that international development policy and practice promotes gender equality and women and girls' rights. Our role is to improve the impact that UK development and donor organisations have on the lives of women and girls in developing countries by ensuring that their international development work promotes gender equality and women and girls' rights.

Our **strategic aims** are:

- to support and increase the **capacity** of members to deliver effectively on gender equality and women's and girls' rights in development
- to deepen the **understanding** of, and commitment to, women's and girls' rights and gender equality throughout the UK international development sector
- to strengthen the UK Government's **commitment**, policy and practice on women's and girls' rights and gender equality in its international work
- to promote **alternatives** to current international development agendas
- to maintain a strong, effective and inclusive **network** in order to achieve our mission and objectives

What we do

- **support** our members to be more effective in their own work on gender and development through networking with others.
- **share** information and analysis and create space for discussions amongst members on issues central to gender and development to facilitate joint learning.
- **coordinate** advocacy on our core issues to improve our collective impact.
- make **proposals** to DFID and other donors on policy and practice
- provide **analysis** on areas identified as 'gaps' within the network, and develop alternative solutions.

How we work

- **Working groups** lead on issue areas, bringing together members active in that area to develop analysis and best practice and where appropriate undertake joint advocacy.
- **Members meetings** act as a forum for debate and information sharing on key topics in the sector, and allow members to network with one another.
- **Publications** - produced by the working groups or Secretariat - provide information and analysis and are used in advocacy.
- **Newsletters and communications** keep members up to date with the latest news on gender and development, and publicise member's activities and resources.

2. Summary of activities and achievements 2015-16

Highlights of 2015-16

Supporting our members

Over the year, we have supported our members to deliver on gender equality and women's and girls' rights in development. The three GADN Members Meetings over the course of the year also brought our members together and allowed for knowledge-sharing and alliance-building, while the working group outputs were extensive (see below).

We have also strived to provide a platform for members' partner organisations. In November 2015, we hosted a talk by Sandra Ramos, co-founder and Executive

Director of the Movement of Working and Unemployed Women Maria Elena Cuadra (MEC), and a prominent member of the women's rights movement in Nicaragua. In March 2016, Luz Macahilos Bador, the First Vice President of the National Rural Women's Coalition in the Philippines, also spoke.

Influencing the post-2015 agenda

In alliance internationally with women's rights organisations, we successfully influenced DFID's negotiating positions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through lobby meetings and [briefings](#). Feedback from UK government officials highlighted the important role GADN played in mobilising support for a standalone gender goal and an unpaid care target at the UK level.

Debating feminist development alternatives

Much of our work is constrained by current development policy, which is often donor-led and focused on immediate practical needs. New funding enabled us to focus on understanding and debating the kinds of alternative feminist visions that promise more transformative potential.

Exposing the links between macroeconomics and gender equality

Working with the [Bretton Woods Project](#), we launched a new project to look at the way that current macroeconomic policies, particularly those promoted by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, undermine gender equality. Working with allies globally, the project will also encourage decision-makers to promote better alternative policy.

Working group activities and achievements

Violence against Women and Girls working group

Our Violence against Women and Girls working group has continued to develop strong relationships with the DFID VAWG team and key ministers including Seema Maholtra, MP, and Baroness Verma in her new role as VAWG Champion.

The group has sought to consider and address multiple forms of VAWG, including sexual violence in conflict, through a submission to the sexual violence inquiry drawing on a survey of 11 conflict-affected countries. The group also considered other forms of violence that are often excluded from policy agendas, including violence against disabled women and girls. A speaker from the International Commission for Aid Impact was invited to present on a review currently underway of

DFID's VAWG work. Finally, the group is also exploring new areas of work around the private sector and VAWG.

The group hosted an event called "Emerging findings on preventing violence against women and girls", where members discussed the latest findings from the DFID-funded What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls programme and other studies, as well as providing reflections from different perspectives (practitioners, programmes, policy) on VAWG issues.

The VAWG and Humanitarian working groups submitted [written evidence](#) in the form of a joint briefing for the House of Lords' Sexual Violence in Conflict Select Committee.

Girls' Education working group

The Girls' Education working group continues to share, develop and promote knowledge and learning on programming and policy for girls' education rights in international development contexts.

This year, areas covered include work around the Girls Education Challenge and analysis of projects being implemented. The working group also organised a workshop at the bi-annual UKFIET conference on education and development in September 2015. The workshop was entitled "Exploring the best approach to support girls' learning". The session brought together researchers and practitioners working to support some of the most marginalised girls in developing countries to access quality education.

Programmes working group

A new Programmes group was set up this year to create a forum for individuals implementing, supporting or assessing programmatic work on gender equality, development and girls and women's rights. Initial meetings of the group have focused on a theory of change for gender equality and M&E approaches to measuring gender transformative change.

A recent meeting between the Programmes working group and the Programme Partnership Arrangement (PPA) Gender Learning Group focused on M&E approaches to measuring gender transformative change, and involved presentations from IDS-BRIDGE, Gender Links, Womankind Worldwide, ActionAid and Fairtrade International.

Gender Mainstreaming working group

Our Gender Mainstreaming group released a briefing called [Untangling gender mainstreaming: a theory of change](#), which was distributed to a wide audience of NGOs, donors and academics. The briefing was very well received and generated high levels of traffic on the GADN website and on Facebook. Due to high demand, GADN plans to translate the briefing into Spanish.

Post-2015 working group

Our Post-2015 working group has met frequently and produced multiple [briefings and position papers](#) during the key period of the SDG negotiations. Effective multi-disciplinary working meant that GADN members working across a wide range of issues, including economic empowerment, political participation and sexual and reproductive health and rights, could coordinate and produce strong joint advocacy positions. Working group members and the GADN Secretariat attended the Financing for Development conference in July, responded to the zero drafts of the SDGs circulated in June and July, and responded to national and global consultations on indicators. Members also called for changes in financing for gender equality and, in preparation for the Addis Ababa conference, the group collaborated on a piece called [Key messages on financing for development](#).

Following the adoption of the SDGs in September, the GADN Secretariat produced a [reflection on the 2030 Agenda](#). Since then, we have continued to engage with DFID on implementation of the SDGs. Our director was [invited to give evidence](#) to the parliamentary International Development Committee inquiry on the SDGs, highlighting the need to address the underlying causes of gender inequality, including the unpaid care burden and influence of social norms.

Women's Economic Justice working group

Our Women's Economic Justice working group has continued to develop and promote policy recommendations towards the achievement of women's economic rights and justice. This covers work on international financial institutions, including [a submission to the World Bank gender strategy consultation](#) and contributions to the gender and macroeconomics project. At the UK level, the group has carried out [advocacy around the Business and Human Rights agenda](#), outlining why gender equality and women's human rights must be prioritised within this process.

Humanitarian working group

Our Humanitarian working group has hosted recent meetings on the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian

Settings. The group has focused on the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), and worked with the WHS Gender Adviser. It also produced a [joint briefing](#) calling for a pledge to empower women at the WHS signed by over 20 organisations including a number of southern women's rights organisations.

In August 2015, GADN, GAPS UK and InterAction issued a [position paper](#) on the WHS. The group also produced a [position paper](#) for the UK-hosted Supporting Syria and the Region conference in early 2016. The Humanitarian group works closely with the GAPS network on women, peace and security.

Women's Participation and Leadership working group

The Women's Participation and Leadership (WPL) working group has hosted speakers including Dr Purna Sen (LSE and UN Women) on women's leadership pathways and Mariz Tadros (IDS) on her recent book *Women in politics: gender, power and development*. The group produced a [paper](#) on global SDG indicators on women's participation and leadership, accompanied by external blogs and other organisational communications. The group recently met with DFID to discuss DFID's ongoing Working Politically review.

The WPL working group recently conducted a mapping of eight members' in-country work, finding that the organisations are supporting WPL programming in 45 countries with a network of 139 partners. These findings will be used to support greater programmes collaboration at country level and to help make the case for increased, evidence-based investments in this programme area.

Gender and Disability in Development working group

The Gender and Disability in Development working group has continued to share resources and develop plans for increasing the knowledge in the sector on the specific disadvantages facing disabled women and girls. Specifically, members share resources and information on the progress of DFID's disability strategy. In the year 2015-16, the working group made a [joint submission](#) with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on the Draft General Comment on Women with Disabilities. They also met with the Making it Work Initiative, supported by Handicap International France.

Secretariat and Advisory Group activities

Gender Equality and Macroeconomics project

Within the GEM project, GADN has contributed work on the interrelationship between gender and macroeconomics, and leads the project's interface work with DFID. This aligns with the work of our Women's Economic Justice working group (see below) and DFID's own increasing focus on women's economic empowerment. GADN coordinated the DFID Reference Group on Women's Economic Empowerment and, through this engagement, has contributed to DFID's consultation on the UN High-Level Panel, including a briefing paper on the framing of the panel's report.

Alternatives project

A package of materials on feminist visions of alternative development approaches was written by women around the world, and will be shared for discussion and information with GADN members in July 2016.

Linking DFID with members

The Advisory Group met with the new DFID gender team and the Secretariat has now agreed new ways of working that include regular meetings with the team and an annual meeting between DFID and the wider GADN membership. The Advisory Group also contributed to both the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews.

The Director of GADN attended meetings with Secretary of State Justine Greening as part of the women's leadership group, comprising the women CEOs of GADN, Plan UK, Womankind Worldwide, International Alert and Christian Aid in October and March.

Attending CSW

The Director attended CSW and spoke on a panel about the SDGs and future of Leave No One Behind from a gender perspective. With members of the Advisory Group, she met with the Secretariat of the UN HLP on WEE and built strategic alliances with international women's rights networks, NGOs and trade union representatives.

EU-level advocacy

Members of the Advisory Group represented GADN at a policy roundtable on the EU's new Gender Action Plan.

Connecting members and working groups

The Secretariat continues to act as a hub for the network, facilitating communication between members and sharing information. In January 2016, the first meeting of all working group chairs was held. These will be held every six months.

3. GADN communications and resources

Members meetings

Our members meetings provide vital networking and advocacy opportunities, as well as enabling members to share their experiences and make a real difference to gender and development issues. Each meeting focuses on a particular issue area and invites expert speakers to present the latest research and learnings. During 2015-16 the network held three members meetings, on the following topics:

- **Gender and social movements** (June 2015)

This meeting looked at how change towards gender equality and realising women's rights happens through social movements. It covered both movements that are focused on feminism, women's rights and gender equality, and also wider social movements, asking how they have addressed gender equality and women's rights, and what challenges they face. Speakers considered the implications of these experiences for GADN members in their roles as international development organisations or consultants, and also as individuals who are engaged in social movements themselves. Speakers included Jessica Horn (author of a cutting-edge BRIDGE pack on gender and social movements), Daphne Jayasinghe (ActionAid), Rachel Noble (ActionAid) and Abigail Hunt (Womankind Worldwide).

- **Sustainable Development Goals** (October 2015)

This members meeting was focused on the question, *What next after the SDGs/Leave No One Behind agenda?* Speakers and members discussed how gender was clearly a priority area of the SDGs, but the question of implementation remains. What Leave No One Behind looks like in practice when applied to women and girls was also discussed. There was consensus that better, deeper and disaggregated data is required. Speakers included Heather Barclay (IPPF), Priya Nath (VSO), Chiara Capraro (Christian Aid) and Elizabeth Stuart (ODI).

- **World Humanitarian Summit** (January 2016)

Howard Mollett (Care International UK) and Francisco Yermo (ActionAid UK) presented on the then-upcoming (May 2016) WHS and the importance of including gender in the Summit and its outcomes. The speakers and the ensuing discussion highlighted the need for bringing local women's rights organisations into the process.

Communications

GADN communicates with members and the wider sector through:

- the GADN website: www.gadnetwork.org
- social media: [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- a monthly [newsletter](#) collating gender and development news, job opportunities, events and publications.
- weekly updates to members
- [events](#)
- publications, including briefings and position papers

GADN's 2015-16 publications included:

- [position paper](#) – Key messages on financing for development from GADN
- [briefing](#) – Making financing for development work for gender equality: what is needed at Addis and beyond
- [briefing](#) – proposed indicators for SDG Goal 5
- [position paper](#) – Position on the World Humanitarian Summit
- [paper](#) -- Measuring progress on women's participation and influence in decision-making in the SDGs: recommendations to the inter-agency and expert group and UN member states
- [summary of positions](#) – Summary of positions on negotiations for the post-2015 framework
- [position paper](#) – Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development – a reflection from the Gender & Development Network
- [blog post](#) (Oxfam) – Do we need to think in new ways about gender and inequality?
- [blog post](#) (BOND) – How did gender equality fare in the SDGs?
- [briefing](#) -- Gender and national action plans on business and human rights
- [letter](#) – VAWG and Post-2015 working groups call for removal of age caps in SDG indicators
- [position paper](#) – Supporting Syria and the Region 2016 conference: GAPS and GADN joint position paper
- [position paper](#) – IDC inquiry into the Sustainable Development Goals: response by the UK Gender & Development Network
- [position paper](#) – VAWG and Humanitarian working groups provide evidence to Lords Sexual Violence in Conflict Committee
- [briefing](#) – GADN and WaterAid release new briefing on gender equality and WASH

Communications highlights in 2015-16 include:

- our audience on Facebook increased by 17% from 7,784 to 9,131 in 2015-16
- our most popular Facebook post, sharing a call for papers on gender-based and sexual violence, received 240 likes, comments and shares, and reached an audience of 10,046
- our website attracted over 31,000 visits this year and over 58,000 page views
- our number of Twitter followers increased to 3,353
- our monthly newsletter subscription rose by 13 per cent from 2,181 to 2,461 and we maintained high open and click-through rates

4. GADN membership

Members

In 2015-16, GADN has continued to update our governance and management procedures to ensure we are effectively and efficiently supporting our members to work on gender equality in development. We now have over 100 members and we are delighted that there is a strong interest in the sector in realising women and girl's rights. The network is currently made up of 57 organisations and 59 individuals who believe ensuring women's rights and gender equality is central to international development.

GADN has also continued to partner or work with the following networks based in the UK: Bond, Beyond 2015 UK, ABColombia, the Bretton Woods Project (BWP), Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS UK), Girls Not Brides, National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), Population and Sustainability Network (PSN), Restored, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), the UK Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Network, StopAids and Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML).

We have also worked and liaised with international networks and organisations, including Women and Development Europe (WIDE+), the Beyond 2015 Global Coalition, the Post 2015 Women's Coalition, Gender Links, the OECD's DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).

Membership evaluation

This year, we conducted an evaluation of member support and engagement. A majority of GADN members agreed or strongly agreed that:

- GADN membership enables members to develop joint strategies and advocacy
- GADN membership challenges members to improve work on gender
- GADN promotes and demonstrates best practices on gender to the development sector as a whole
- GADN is structured and managed in an efficient, appropriate and effective way

As a result of the evaluation, GADN will continue holding semi-annual meetings of the working group chairs to coordinate activities and avoid duplication and silo-ing; work to increase visibility of GADN resources and improve dissemination to non-gender audiences; provide opportunities for members to encounter new ideas and challenge their thinking on gender and development, particularly through the Alternatives project; and endeavour to offer more proactive and transformative input to the development sector, especially through the Alternatives project and the GEM project.

5. GADN structure

Board of Trustees

GADN's trustees are Kanwal Ahluwalia (co-chair), Daphne Jayasinghe (co-chair), Catherine Klirodotakou (treasurer), Samantha Diouf (resigned July 2015), Anne Quesney, Hawah Bunduka, Beverley Duckworth, Antonella Mancini and Radha Wickremasinghe (appointed January 2016).

This year, the Board of Trustees met on 3 June 2015, 15 July 2015, 14 October 2015 and 3 February 2016 (strategy day).

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group works with the Secretariat to implement GADN's annual workplan and to lead on those issues not covered by a working group.

Members in 2015-16 were Bethan Cansfield, Womankind Worldwide; Daphne Jayasinghe, ActionAid UK; Francesca Rhodes, Oxfam GB; Priya Nath, VSO; Chiara Capraro, Christian Aid; Ines Smyth, independent; Kate Bishop, independent.

Secretariat

Jessica Woodroffe, Director

Kady Billington-Murphy, Coordinator

Megan Daigle, Research Officer

Marion Sharples, Communications and Research Volunteer

Parisa Crockett, Membership and Events Volunteer

2015-16 funding

GADN received core funding from ActionAid, Christian Aid and Oxfam. Additionally, GADN received funding from the Network for Social Change, the G.W. Cadbury Trust and the Bretton Woods Project, as part of a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

For more information on GADN's funding and finances, please see our 2015-16 financial report available on our [website](#).

If you would like any further information about GADN please contact:

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June 2016

Annex 1

GADN member organisations 2015-16

28 too many
Acid Survivors Trust International
ActionAid UK
ADD
African Initiatives
Amnesty International
BRIDGE
British Council
CAFOD
CARE International UK
CAWN
CBM UK
Cherie Blair Foundation for Women
ChildHope
Child Unite
Christian Aid
Concern Worldwide
Development Planning Unit
Every Child
FORWARD
Girl Hub
HelpAge International
Integrity Action
IRC
Islamic Relief Worldwide
IPPF
Leonard Cheshire
Marie Stopes
Minority Rights Group International
Microloan Foundation
Mother's Union Worldwide
NFWI
ODI
One Woman a Year International
(OWYI)
Orchid Project
Oxfam
PADEAP
Plan
Progressio
Saferworld
Save the Children
SDDirect
Self Help Africa
Sense International
Stonewall
Tearfund
The Brooke
The GREAT Initiative
Theatre for Change
Traidcraft Exchange
Trocaire
United Nations Association -UK
UN Women UK
VSO
WaterAid
WILPF
WISE
Womankind Worldwide
Women for Women International
World Vision
WWF