

## ADRAS research theme: Gender Equality

Total funding available: Up to AUD 6 million over three years

Gender equality is a critical cross cutting theme for AusAID's programming, and is central to economic and human development. Yet there is no country in the world where gender inequality does not exist. For example two thirds of illiterate adults worldwide are women; women make up just over 19 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide, and only 2.3 per cent in Pacific countries; one in three women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

The Gender Equality theme has been developed in accordance with the four pillars of the AusAID Gender Thematic Strategy - *Promoting opportunities for all: Gender equality and women's empowerment*:

1. Advancing equal access to gender-responsive health and education services
2. Increasing women's voice in decision-making, leadership, and peace-building
3. Empowering women economically and improving their livelihood security
4. Ending violence against women and girls at home, in their communities, and in disaster and conflict situations

Please see the AusAID Gender Equality webpage for further information:

[Gender Equality Web Page](#)

### Eligibility criteria

Applications for funding for up to three years will be considered. Applicants are eligible to receive between AUD 200,000 and AUD 400,000 in funding per year.

Applicants must address one of the sub-themes below. Applicants must clearly articulate the relevance of their proposal to the selected theme.

Research should have an application to the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Sub-theme: Women's Economic Empowerment**

Women's economic empowerment supports economic growth and helps reduce poverty.

Women make up more than 40 per cent of the global labour force and 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force. If this valuable resource is not used effectively it places a heavy cost burden on a national economy.

*Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:*

- Improving women's access to financial services including microfinance.
- Investing in adolescent girls, including identifying the barriers and opportunities for adolescent girls in the informal and formal economies.
- Opening employment opportunities for women outside of the agriculture sector.
- Supporting social protection measures that specifically meet the needs of women and children.

### **Sub-theme: Women, Peace and Security**

Since 1980, almost half of the world's poorest countries have experienced armed conflict. Because of gender inequalities and the lack of structures to protect women and girls, they are often more vulnerable to conflict.

A number of partner countries are working on women, peace and security and it is a priority issue for UNWomen. Furthermore Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-2018 was released in March 2012. The plan directly responds to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and reaffirms the Australian Government's commitment to integrate gender equality in peace and security efforts.

*Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:*

- The impact of women's exclusion from peace building and conflict resolution.
- Improving and supporting women's participation in restoring peace and maintaining stability.
- The role women play in preventing violence and resolving on-going conflict and rebuilding societies.