

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN NGO GENDER ACTION PLAN MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The three-year (2016-17 – 2019-20) [Australian Non-Government Organisation \(NGO\) Gender Action Platform \(GAP\)](#) was a \$10.5 million program aiming to strengthen gender equality programming in the Indo-Pacific. Funded by the Gender Equality Fund (GEF), it was a competitive grant process for Australian NGOs accredited under the [Australian NGO Cooperation Program](#) (ANCP). The GAP was a partnership between DFAT's Gender Equality Branch (GEB) and the NGO Program and Partnerships Section (NPQ), with GEB providing technical expertise and NPQ managing the program's delivery.

The objective of the GAP was to strengthen Australian NGO projects to enhance gender equality outcomes in developing countries through:

1. the delivery of innovative or transformational NGO projects that reduce violence against women, increase women's economic opportunities and improve leadership for and by women through collective action;
2. shared learning on good gender equality practice and lessons from trialling new approaches with GAP NGOs and the broader ANCP;
3. increased collaboration on gender equality development challenges, including between NGOs and DFAT bilateral and regional programs.

Six Australian NGOs delivered GAP projects in nine countries for up to three years with grants ranging between \$1.25 million and \$2.25 million.

Projects, Participating NGOs and Locations

Lead NGOs	Project	Location
Marie Stopes International Australia, WaterAid Australia	Keeping girls in school through improved reproductive and menstrual health	Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste
Act for Peace	'I'm Prepared' Equality for refugee women in the return-reintegration context	Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Myanmar
ActionAid Australia	Gender Responsive Alternatives on Climate Change	Cambodia, Kenya, Vanuatu
CARE Australia	Enhancing Women's Voice to Stop Sexual Harassment (STOP)	Cambodia, Myanmar
ChildFund Australia	Rights, Respect, Resilience: skills for safe, equitable and respectful relationships	Papua New Guinea
World Vision Australia	Action Against Gender Violence: Engaging Men, Youth and Children	Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu

A final two-phased Review of the GAP was completed in July 2021. The purpose of the review was to document and consolidate learning, challenges and promising approaches in gender equality programs and assess the GAP aid modality.

Recommendations

As the GAP was a partnership with ANCP accredited Australian NGOs, with the objective to strengthen gender equality outcomes in developing countries through innovation, shared learning and collaboration, most of the recommendations are targeted at Australian NGOs to improve gender programming of their future programs. See pages 10 – 11 of the Review of the GAP.

Several recommendations were targeted at DFAT for consideration in programming of future joint NGO gender equality programs through the ANCP. This management response addresses only the DFAT-targeted recommendations.

Management response to DFAT-targeted recommendations

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action plan	Timeframe
<p>For future joint NGO gender equality programs, DFAT should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to require ANGOs to use gender analysis to inform project designs• Developing an overarching M&E system or learning agenda¹ to facilitate program wide learning in future joint gender equality programs. Learning processes need to be supported by additional funding and human resources to support learning processes.• Continuing to fund multi-country projects with funding to facilitate learning across diverse contexts• Continuing to innovate and support diverse approaches to gender equality within ANCP• Promoting university partnerships to support learning within ANGOs and dissemination to the development sector• Incentivising partnerships between ANGOs by including separate budget lines to cover additional transactional costs of partnerships.	Agree	DFAT agrees that all the following recommendations will be considered in future joint gender equality programming through the ANCP..	GEB and NPQ will work together to ensure the recommendations are considered in any future joint gender equality programming through the ANCP. ..	Ongoing