OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE – GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

ODA-GAD NETWORK
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1. WHAT IS ODA-GAD NETWORK?

The Official Development Assistance – Gender and Development (ODA-GAD) network is a working group composed of the gender focal persons of bilateral and multilateral development agencies in the country. It was organized in 2001 with the aim of improving coordination of GAD efforts in the Philippines. It meets regularly to discuss, share lessons, and harmonize approaches to gender equality-related issues with key Philippine government partners and international non-governmental organizations.

The Philippine Government is represented in the network with the participation of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), which are the entities overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the ODA and local GAD budget of all government agencies.

The network members meet every two months in order to exchange information and resources towards enhancing and advancing GAD policies, programs and strategies. Discussions have focused, among other things, on: i) monitoring implementation of RA 7192 (Women in Development and Nation Building Act) and the Magna Carta of Women; ii) harmonization of GAD guidelines; iii) sharing of best practices in gender integration in programs and projects, gender equality in judicial reform projects, codification of Muslim personal laws, mapping of ODA-funded GAD projects, donor-specific activities such as gender audits, evaluation of country programs vis-à-vis gender equality and gender mainstreaming strategies within country programs and organizations.

Within the network there is a convener that rotates every two years and whose main role is to keep the network active, arrange meetings, and make sure that the agenda is organized. Chairing and hosting of meetings of the network are done on a rotation basis.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2001, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) convened a meeting of donors to establish consensus on the usefulness of an informal network on Gender Equality. The meeting was attended by eight agencies that included four bilateral members (United States Agency for International Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and CIDA) and four multilateral members (The World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women and United Nations Population Fund). After the first meeting, the invitation was extended to other development partners including international NGOs. Since then, several others have joined the network which is now composed of 23 members.

The conveners so far have been:

1. 2001 to 2002: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
2. 2003 to 2006: World Bank
3. 2006 to 2007: UN Gender Mainstreaming Committee / UNICEF

4. 2008 to 2009: UN Gender Mainstreaming Committee / ILO

5. 2010 to 2012: Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

6. 2012 to 2014: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) now Global Affairs Canada

7. 2014 to 2016: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

National:

- RA 7192 (1991), the Women in Development and Nation Building Act, which promotes the integration of women as full and equal partners of men in development and nation building and for other purposes.

- RA 9710 (2009), the Magna Carta of Women, which is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women, especially those in marginalized sectors of society.

- Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016), which recognizes that "women are in a disadvantaged position due to differences in gender roles limiting their access to productive resources and basic services".

International:

- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW 1979).
- Monterrey Consensus (2002). In promoting a comprehensive approach to financing for development, the Monterrey Consensus encouraged a gender-sensitive development approach, calling for gender-sensitive investments in social and economic infrastructure, microfinance directed towards women, and gender sensitive business approaches. The outcome document also encouraged the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into development policies at all levels and across all sectors. Moreover, it highlighted the need for building national capacity for gender budget policies.
- Paris Declaration (2005) and Accra Action Agenda (2008). Both provide the frameworks and good practice principles for fostering gender equality as a priority development issue.

- Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (2008). This conference provides a strategic opportunity for the international community to advance concrete action-oriented gender-sensitive policy recommendations.
- UNSCR 1820 (2008). Recognizes sexual violence as a self-standing issue that is linked to reconciliation and durable peace.
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2010). Addresses the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women. Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2011). Recognizes equality between women and men and women´s empowerment as key to achieving economic growth and poverty reduction, and enjoins donors to increase their efforts to fulfill their commitments.

World Conferences on Women:

- Ciudad de México (1975). The conference defined a World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, which offered a comprehensive set of guidelines for the advancement of women through 1985.
- Copenhagen (1980). It aimed to review progress in implementing the goals of the first world conference, focusing on employment, health and education. A Programme of Action called for stronger national measures to ensure women's ownership and control of property, as well as improvements in protecting women's rights to inheritance, child custody and nationality.
- Nairobi (1985). The conference's mandate was to establish concrete measures to overcome obstacles to achieving the Decade's goals. Governments adopted the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which outlined measures for achieving gender equality at the national level and for promoting women's participation in peace and development efforts.
- Beijing (1995). Considered the key global policy document on gender equality. The Beijing conference built on political agreements reached at the three previous global conferences on women and consolidated five decades of legal advances aimed at securing the equality of women with men in law and in practice.
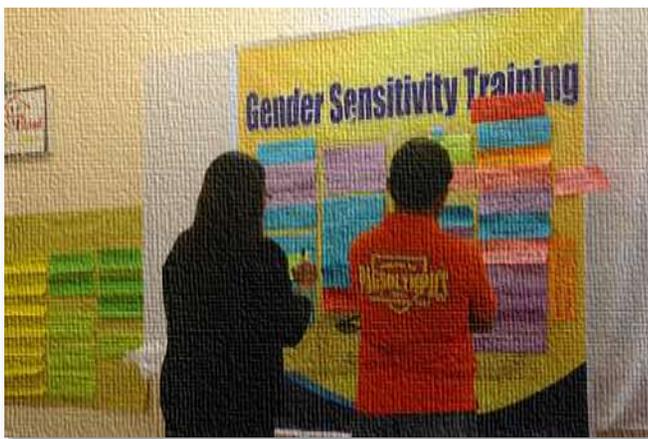
4. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The main objective of ODA-GAD Network is to serve as a forum for sharing information, experiences and useful practices on GAD, to explore possible collaborations and to enhance complementation of ODA programs as well as develop the capacities of members in the application of gender equality perspectives and tools. Since 2001, the ODA-GAD Network

has served as the main policy dialogue and donor coordination mechanism between the government and the donor community and has contributed to more harmonized interventions.

Other actions of the network are:

- Compliance with the provisions of the RA 7192 (Women in Development and Nation Building Act).
- Support for members in gender equality programming and mainstreaming efforts.

5. MAJOR ODA-GAD NETWORK PROJECTS

- Harmonized GAD Guidelines (HGDG).
  This initiative started in 2003 under the leadership of NEDA, but PCW, ADB, AusAID, CIDA, EU, JICA, The

- Thematic discussions on emerging gender equality issues, such as: gender and local governance, judicial reform, Mindanao programming, violence against women, reproductive health, women's economic empowerment, disaster risk reduction and climate change, gender and the environment.
- Sharing sessions on project results (IPs, Land administration and management, etc.).
- Task groups (GAD indicators, developing checklists, etc.).
- Collaboration and Synergy among related projects.

World Bank, the UN Country Team and Voluntary Service Overseas-Philippines were actively involved in the design of the project, preparing several draft

versions and pre-testing the semifinal draft in 2004. Two years later, NEDA, PCW and the network reviewed the guidelines and suggested ways of improving and making it more user-friendly. They agreed on separate GAD checklists for several sectors of subsectors. Nowadays there are 21 checklists in the HGDG.

1. Tourism
2. Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
3. Natural Resources Management
4. Infrastructure
5. Private Sector Development
6. Social Sector: Education
7. Fisheries
8. Social Sector: Health
9. Social Sector: Housing and Settlement
10. Social Sector: Women in Areas Under Conflict
11. Project Implementation and Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation
12. Justice
13. Information and Communication Technologies
14. Microfinance
15. Labor and Employment
16. Child Labor
17. Migration
18. Funding Facilities
19. Energy
20. Disaste Risk Reduction
21. Planning

PCW is responsible for promoting the Guidelines with national government agencies, while NEDA is responsible for the application of the Guidelines in foreign-assisted projects.

- Capacity development in the use of guidelines.

  In order to promote the Guidelines within their respective agencies, the World Bank funded capacity development sessions for the network in 2004. A few months after the launching of the Guidelines, NEDA presented the Guidelines to the donor community. As technical officers and staff needed to be trained in the Guidelines, some ODA agencies (UNICEF, The World Bank, ILO, AusAID, CIDA and GIZ) invested resources in these capacity-building activities. NEDA also

embarked on developing the capacity of its officers and technical staff at the central and regional offices.

Three national government agencies pursued the roll-out of the training: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development).

- Monitoring Gender Responsiveness of ODA Projects and Portfolios.

  Since 2005, efforts have been made to harmonize the gender initiatives of the network's members.

  As an initiative of NEDA, the HGDG were used to monitor the compliance of projects with the RA 7192, with additional questions on what gender issues have been identified in the project design document and how these are being addressed at the implementation stage. Even though the number of donors that submitted the GAD report was very low within the first year, participation has increased significantly.

- Joint Country Gender Assessment.

In 2008, ADB presented their plan to conduct a Country Gender Assessment (CGA). A number of organizations contributed (CIDA, EC, UNFPA, UNICEF, PCW, UNIFEM and ILO), supplying documents and materials that the designated writers could use. The main Philippine government partner for the project was PCW.

Part of the CGA process were consultations with various stakeholders. Four consultations were conducted in different locations across the country as part of the preparation; and another consultation was conducted for the presentation and validation of the CGA draft. All the consultations were funded by the European Commission.

In 2013 there was another Country Gender Assessment led by WB. The organizations that contributed were ADB, AECID, AusAID, CIDA, EUD, GIZ, USAID, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWomen, WHO and NEDA. In this case the project's main Philippine government partner was also the PCW.

- Advocacy with the Philippine Development Forum (PDF).
  In 2006, the network began to advocate for the inclusion of the gender dimension within the various thematic areas of discussion of the Philippine Development Forum (PDF). Every year, the network constitutes a small group to draft the statement to the PDF, based on broad agreements on the focus of the statement agreed by the network. The final version is circulated to secure the official support of network member organizations. The focus of Statements varies according to the PDF theme.

- Learning sessions.
  In order to share experiences and useful practices, the network members scheduled a learning session every so often. Learning good practices and strategies has broadened the knowledge of each member of the Network and helped inform the implementation of plans and strategies.

Throughout the years the network has collaborated in a coordinated and integrated manner, with great motivation and rich interaction between the agencies. All of the contributions and shared experiences from the ODA-GAD Network can move the advocacy forward for more substantive gender equality and women's empowerment results in the future.

6. CURRENT MEMBERS

Bilateral and multilateral partners

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Embassy - Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines
- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- The Netherlands Embassy
- Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
- The World Bank
- United Kingdom Embassy
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Philippine Government Partners:

- National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
- Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)

International NGO Partners:

- OXFAM International
- Paz y Desarrollo

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