

# GOOD

## Gender Orientation On Development

### Project Report - 2000

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## Introduction

At the Aprodev Annual Meeting in May 1999 it was agreed that the work of the GOOD Project would be integrated into the Aprodev Secretariat. It was agreed as a 3 year project budget line, funded by the majority of the Aprodev agencies. A review will be carried out to determine the future of the position after the 3 year period.

Recruitment for the position of Gender Officer was undertaken and Karin Ulmer was appointed and took up the position on 10 April 2000.

The GOOD Core Group became the Gender Advisory Group, with the task of advising the Board through the Executive Committee and the General Secretary on the work of the Gender Officer and the use of the budget.

## Reporting

In addition to this specific report on the activities of the Gender Officer, her main activities are included in the Annual Activities Report of Aprodev, presented to the Annual Meeting of the Aprodev Board. The detailed report of her work from April to December 2000, which was presented to the GAG in December 2000, is attached as Annex 1.

The Gender project income and expenditure is included in the general audit of the Aprodev Accounts and the general audited accounts are also presented to the Annual Meeting of the Aprodev Board. An additional 'project' audit was carried out to confirm the accuracy of the Gender project accounts which form part of this report.

## Gender as a cross-cutting theme

After the Gender Officer joined the Secretariat in April 2000, the integration of gender was applied in a more consistent way and gender as a crosscutting theme acquired a higher profile in the work of Aprodev. It was agreed that 25% of the Gender Officer's time would be spent on EU-oriented gender issues, with 75% being devoted to organisation of the Annual Conference and agency-related gender work.

The early part of the year was spent by the Gender Officer in familiarising herself with the Aprodev agencies and their work on gender issues. She visited CA, CSA, Diakonia, EZE and NCA, presenting the GOOD process and objectives, promoting gender awareness in discussions and meeting with agency staff, to identify difficulties and opportunities in the agencies.

She prepared an overview of gender policies of Aprodev agencies. This overview presents the current status and will serve as input into the policy reference document on gender which will be prepared for discussion at the 2001 Annual Meeting.

## The Annual Conference

A good deal of time was spent on the preparation and follow-up to the Annual Conference. In August 2000, the GOOD Annual Conference was held in Norway. The topic, gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, drew much interest from agency staff and others. The report of the Conference, *HIV/AIDS. Grasping the Reality of its Gender Dimensions*, has been widely disseminated among the agencies, European Parliament, European Commission, Joint Parliamentary Assembly, national Ministries, the WCC, NGOs and the media.

Preparations for the next Annual Conference, to be held in September 2001 in Sweden on the topic *Gender and Violent Conflict*, started almost immediately after the 2000 Conference.

## Information and advocacy work

The Gender Officer produced news and articles for inclusion in the quarterly Aprodev Bulletin in May, August and November 2000.

In October 2000, the Gender Officer participated in the "Women to women solidarity visit" to Sierra Leone, organised by the WCC in co-operation with the Council of Churches of Sierra Leone

The Gender Officer attended a meeting in Sweden, 25-27 October 2000, on "Power, Resources and Culture in a Gender Perspective", organised by the Council of Development Assistance in close cooperation with SIDA. She presented a paper on AIDS from a gendered perspective, which was broadly welcomed and considered for publication by SIDA due to its very comprehensive and inclusive approach.

In November 2000, the Gender Officer attended a meeting in the Netherlands, organised by ECSIEP (European Centre on Pacific Issues), on the role of women in conflict situations in the Pacific region.

## EU-oriented work on Gender Issues

Input to the Aprodev Position Paper on the Review and Future of Humanitarian Activities and a lobby letter to MEPs on gender and emergency aid resulted in revised amendments to the EP Report on the Review and Future of Humanitarian Activities.

During the annual EP discussions of the budget for the coming year, comments on the gender budget line were included in the CLONG policy paper on the budget. The position was supported by MEPs and this resulted in the maintenance of the gender budget line and amount.

In September 2000, Aprodev facilitated a visit of the ACT Executive Committee to ECHO. The Gender Officer provided a paper on gender and emergencies.

Aprodev participated in the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in October 2000, in Brussels. The Gender Officer prepared a briefing paper on the subject of the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS and Aprodev was successful in efforts to revise the Resolution on HIV/AIDS along the lines of the outcome of the GOOD Annual Conference on this topic, held in Oslo in September.

Aprodev initiated and hosted a meeting with Eurostep, WIDE and staff of the Gender Desk in the European Commission to present comments on the Draft Gender Action Plan of the Commission. The Gender Action Plan will be the basis for a Communication and the aim is that this should be adopted under the Swedish Presidency. It outlines an internal Commission strategy for mainstreaming gender at the institutional level. Aprodev serves as the focal point for informal networking on the Action Plan between the Gender Desk of the Commission and other NGOs.

### Gender Advisory Group

The Gender Advisory Group (GAG), which advises Aprodev on the gender dimensions of its work, met three times, twice in Brussels, April and December 2000, and once in Norway, September 2000. Dienneke de Groot of ICCO serves as the chair of the GAG. Among the major items on the agenda of the GAG were the planning and then follow up to the Annual Conference 2000 on HIV/AIDS, the planning of the 2001 Annual Conference (to be held in Sweden, September 2001, on the topic of gender and violent conflict,) and the preparation of a policy reference document on gender for the Aprodev 2001 Annual Meeting.

# **Financial Report 2000**