

GOOD

Gender Orientation On Development

Project Report - 2001

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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 as a 3 year project budget line, funded by the majority of the Aprodev agencies. This is the second year of the project. A review is to be carried out early in 2002 to determine how best to integrate the position fully into the Aprodev Secretariat after the 3 year period.

Following the Review of Aprodev carried out in 2001 and subsequent decisions taken at the 2001 Aprodev Annual Meeting, the Gender Advisory Group was renamed the Gender Reference Group, in line with the Reference Groups which relate to other special projects. The task of the Group remains to advise 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, the main activities are included in the Annual Activities Report of Aprodev, presented to the Annual Meeting of the Aprodev Board. A more detailed report of work during 2001, which was presented to the Gender Reference Group in December 2001, is attached as Annex 2.

The Gender project income and expenditure is included in the general audit of the Aprodev Accounts and these 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 and the details of both income and expenditure are included as Note 8 in the audited accounts.

Governance

The Gender Advisory Group was renamed after the 2001 Review and is now called the Gender Reference Group (GRG). Its membership was officially approved by the Executive Committee and its chair is Dienneke de Groot of ICCO.

The GRG met three times: in April, September and December 2001. Major items discussed were the policy reference document on gender, the GOOD 2001 and 2002 Annual Conferences, the draft Strategic Plan of Aprodev for 2003-2005, and the evaluation of phase III of the GOOD (Gender Orientation on Development) project.

In its April meeting the group studied the overview of gender policies in the Aprodev agencies and worked on the policy reference document on gender, to be presented to the Aprodev 2001 Annual Meeting. The Gender Reference Group (GRG) met in September to prepare and evaluate the GOOD Annual Conference. It discussed the results of the Review of Aprodev and proposed that the evaluation of GOOD should be formulated to contribute to the strategic planning process. In its December 2001 meeting, the GRG worked on a revised policy reference paper on gender, for the Annual Meeting 2002, and started preparing the 2002 GOOD conference on food security and trade.

The GRG drafted terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of GOOD Phase III as agreed at the Annual Meeting in 1999. The results of the evaluation will be presented to the Annual Meeting in 2002 and will include recommendations on how to integrate gender work more fully into the Aprodev work programme.

Gender as a cross-cutting theme

In line with the aim of promoting gender perspectives and analyses as a crosscutting issue, the integration of gender in Aprodev's work has continued to be applied in a more consistent way and gender has maintained a higher profile in the work of Aprodev.

Gender Work in the Agencies

The Gender Officer prepared an overview of gender policies of Aprodev agencies. This overview presents the current status and served as input into the policy reference document on gender. Drafts of the Policy Reference Document on Gender were discussed by the Gender Advisory Group and the Policy Advisory Group. The paper was then presented to the Annual Meeting of the Aprodev Board, which discussed the document, made a number of comments and suggestions and asked that it be revised and brought back to the following Annual Meeting. Work on completely revising the document was undertaken by the Gender Officer and the Gender Reference Group.

The Annual Conferences

Gender and Violent Conflict

The 2001 GOOD (Gender Orientation On Development) Annual Conference on gender and violent conflict was held in September 2001, in Uppsala, Sweden, with wide interest in participation from within the Aprodev agencies and beyond. The importance and necessity of working with both men and women on gender norms and power relations for effective interventions in conflict situations was emphasised. The need for more explicit and gender-sensitive peace building and conflict prevention approaches for the work of the Aprodev agencies was recognized and recommended. The Conference Report is to be published as an *epd* document, for wide dissemination among the agencies and participants, as well as to the European Parliament, European Commission, Joint Parliamentary Assembly, national Ministries, the WCC, NGOs and the media.

Gender and HIV/AIDS

The results of the 2000 GOOD Conference on Gender and HIV/AIDS were promoted at the WCC consultation on AIDS in Nairobi and the report was widely distributed. Joint efforts on gender advocacy during the meeting resulted in a draft action plan

which clearly admits the devastating effects of discrimination and stigma, recognises the need for gender-specific approaches and measures, and calls for an inclusive theology and liturgy for an efficient, effective and ecumenical commitment to work on care and prevention.

2002 Conference

Preparations for the next Annual Conference, to be held in September 2002 in Switzerland, started soon after the 2001 Conference. This conference will address the issues of gender, food security and trade, in line with the policy and advocacy work being undertaken in the core programme of Aprodev.

European Union development policies and EU-oriented work on Gender Issues

According to the evaluation of GOOD Phase III, which was carried out early in 2002, the integration of the Gender Officer in the Aprodev Secretariat in Brussels has allowed Aprodev to fill a niche on the topic of European Union development policies and gender, which has enhanced the visibility of the organisation. Increasingly, Aprodev has become recognised as very active on gender and upon request has provided information and briefings to Council, Commission and Parliament on the assessment and progress of EU gender mainstreaming.

Aprodev played a key role in the launching of a lobby action regarding the European Commission Communication on the Programme of Action for the Mainstreaming of Gender Equality in Community Development Policy. Together with One World Action, WIDE and Eurostep, Aprodev drafted a lobby paper, which was endorsed by a broad coalition of development NGOs, including CIDSE and the Liaison Committee. Subsequently, Aprodev intervened on various occasions at crucial moments in the drafting process of the Council Conclusion and the meeting of the Council which took place prior to the Development Council meeting on 8 November 2001. Further input was made to the drafting process of the European Parliament report on the Commission's Programme of Action. The main lobby issues for Aprodev were a coherent and systematic approach to gender mainstreaming in all of the 6 priority areas of development policy (including trade and emergency), sufficient financial and human resources, and integration of monitoring of its progress into the Annual Report on Development Cooperation Policies. As follow up, (regular) lobby group meetings were initiated with Brussels-based NGOs and the DG Development Gender Desk.

A question on the follow up and implementation of the EC Programme for Action on Gender mainstreaming was raised at the six monthly policy dialogue meeting, which is held between Development Commissioner Poul Nielson and senior staff of the European Commission and various Brussels-based NGDO networks.

Aprodev was among the few NGOs invited to a conference on gender-responsive budgeting, hosted by the Belgian Presidency in co-operation with, among others, UNIFEM and the Commonwealth. Gender-responsive budgeting has been taken up successfully in mainly Southern countries and offers a tool for increased accountability and transparency. Interest in a gender-budgeting exercise of the EU aid budget was generated and its potential will be further explored for future lobbying

strategies on European Community gender mainstreaming. Aprodev produced a concept paper for this purpose.

As part of Aprodev's work to promote meaningful participation of civil society organisations in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, a gender based impact assessment study was commissioned on the possible effects of free trade between the ACP and the European Union on poor women and men. The principle objective of any future ACP-EU development co-operation and trade arrangements should be to promote sustainable forms of development and the reduction of poverty in the ACP countries. With 70% of the world's poor being women, any measures aiming at the reduction of poverty have to take account of the likely positive or negative effects for poor women as compared with men.

In order to address this issue in the context of the upcoming trade negotiations between the European Union and the ACP states, the gender based impact assessment study will be carried out by the Zimbabwe Non-State Actors Forum (NSAF). The research project will be conducted in three phases to provide for opportunities for monitoring and advice. Aprodev and the European Research Office are on the Steering Committee, which was formed by the NSAF for the purpose of this research initiative. The research will focus on assessing the level and nature of participation and benefits received by poor women and men in the current EU-Zimbabwe trade activities. It is expected that the study will equip Aprodev, non-state actors in Zimbabwe and other stakeholders with information which will enable them to advocate for sound trade policies which will enhance the capacity of women to participate meaningfully and benefit from trade preferences or opportunities. The results of this study will become available in the course of 2002 and will be used in the context of the forthcoming trade negotiations.

During the annual EP discussions of the budget for 2002, 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.

Visibility and Information

The Gender Officer produced news and articles for inclusion in the last Aprodev Bulletin in May 2001. The production of the Aprodev Bulletin has been stopped following the recommendation made in the Review and has been replaced by occasional briefing papers (e.g. on gender and violent conflicts, EU gender policy, gender and food security, gender budgeting).

On a number of occasions, the secretariat facilitated the quick circulation of statements of Aprodev agencies inside the network as well as interventions made vis-à-vis European Union institutions and these included statements on the mainstreaming of gender equality in EU development co-operation and the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS.

In order to enhance the visibility of Aprodev's work, the German church-related press agency *epd* was approached by the Gender Officer to help with the design of

formats for Aprodev publications, letterhead and visiting cards and an agreement has been reached to publish Aprodev documents in their series from time to time. The report of the GOOD Annual Conference on Gender and Conflict Resolution was the first publication under this arrangement.

Joint Advocacy Project

With a view to both enhancing the visibility of Aprodev and strengthening cooperation between its associated agencies, the 2001 Annual Meeting discussed a proposal made in the Review that Aprodev should try to engage in a major joint campaign on a specific issue. The Board suggested that efforts should be made to explore the possibilities for such a joint campaign.

This proposal was discussed respectively by the September 2001 meetings of the PAG and the Executive Committee. The PAG preferred the term 'joint advocacy project' (JAP) over the term 'campaign' as it considered it wise to start with a small, rather specific issue and project in order to get the necessary co-operation and co-ordination up and going. The PAG compared the work areas of the various Aprodev agencies and observed that quite a few are active in the field of trade and food security. In addition, most agencies have a professed goal of gender equality. Therefore, the PAG suggested that a theme related to these areas of work might provide a good opportunity for a joint advocacy project. This was endorsed by the Executive Committee.

The chair of the GRG is a member of the PAG and the Gender Officer participates in PAG meetings to ensure that the gender perspective is fully integrated in the policy work.

Under the auspices of the PAG, and with Odile Ruijs in the chair, a first meeting of agency experts in the field of trade, food security and gender (the 'JAP Group') was held in December 2001. The results of that meeting were discussed at the joint meeting of the Executive Committee and representatives of the PAG, in London, later in December 2001.

The 2002 GOOD Annual Conference will concentrate on these issues.

Meetings and Visits

Aprodev staff attend many meetings in Brussels and further afield, as well as visiting the Aprodev agencies. The secretariat regularly facilitates visits to EU officials for agency staff and gives presentations to visiting groups. The Gender Officer plays an active role in these events.

During 2001, the Gender Officer paid several visits, gave a number of presentations, and participated in various meetings. Among these were the following:

- The Gender Officer visited Church of Sweden in January 2001 in order to prepare for the 2001 Annual Conference of GOOD.

- The Gender Officer gave a presentation about EU development co-operation policies to a group of German pastors from Bad Godesberg, Germany, who visited Brussels in March.
- The Gender Officer visited Christian Aid in March to discuss the Cotonou trade project.
- In May, the Gender Officer visited FinnChurchAid.
- She also visited Brot für die Welt in May and attended a gender training for the staff of that organisation.
- With other staff, she gave both logistical support and an input into the review process which was carried out by Jenny Borden.
- The Gender Officer attended a course in the Netherlands on Gender and Development.
- The Gender Officer participated in the annual WIDE (Women in Development Europe) conference in Madrid in October 2001, which took account of successes and failures of gender mainstreaming approaches at national and international level. Participants from the international women's movement from government and civil society engaged in rethinking strategies on gender-just development.
- In December 2001, the Gender Officer gave a presentation to the European Parliament on the European Union Programme of Action regarding the Mainstreaming of Gender.
- The Gender Officer wrote an article for EPD Entwicklungspolitik on gender mainstreaming.
- The Gender Officer also wrote an article on gender and conflict for a book to be published by the WCC.
