



Department
for International
Development



The Strategic Vision for Girls and Women: Three Years On



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1. The Strategic Vision for Girls and Women

Introduction

The Department for International Development's (DFID) Strategic Vision for Girls and Women was launched on the centenary of International Women's Day in March 2011 and refreshed in 2013. It aims to unlock the potential of girls and women, to stop poverty before it starts.

This means girls and women having:

- **Voice** in decision-making in their household, community and country; in politics, business, the media and civil society; through their participation, leadership and collective action
- **Choice** to complete education and to benefit from paid work and opportunities to make sufficient income; over whether, when and with whom to have sex, marry and/or have children, ending child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)
- **Control** over their own bodies and mobility, including their safety from violence; over income, productive assets and other resources (including food, water and energy); with equal legal rights and access to justice; and freedom from discriminatory social norms such as female genital mutilation (FGM).

Achieving this requires an **enabling environment** of strong, open and inclusive economies, societies and political institutions which harness the leadership, participation, skills and innovation of girls and women as leaders and active citizens. This includes addressing the social norms and relationships that underpin how girls and women are valued in society, and which influence the opportunities they can seize.

Progress against four interlinked 'game-changing' outcomes, set out in the Vision, is also critical for empowering girls and women to have voice, choice and control:

1. Universal **sexual and reproductive health and rights**.
2. **Economic empowerment**
3. Girls' completion of **primary and secondary education**
4. Ability to live **free from violence**

Achieving the aims of the Strategic Vision and reducing gender inequality can only be done by taking action through a combination of interventions that support these outcomes and the enabling environment, and by working with a broad range of partners.

What changed when the Strategic Vision was refreshed?

The Strategic Vision refresh placed a new emphasis on:

- Increasing international momentum and investment for girls and women, **leveraging new players and partnerships**, including the private sector and foundations to empower girls and women to have voice, choice and control over their lives
- **Accelerating progress** against the above four outcomes for girls and women
- **Transforming the enabling environment** to shift discriminatory social norms particularly around CEFM, FGM, violence and sexual violence in conflict

- **Broadening economic empowerment of girls and women** from control of key assets, to removing barriers that prevent girls and women from contributing to and benefiting from economic development, including through business, jobs and incomes
- Ensuring that **humanitarian** responses prioritise and protect girls and women with a particular focus on preventing and tackling violence against girls and women.

Read the **refreshed strategic vision** here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stepping-up-a-gear-for-girls-and-women-updates-to-dfids-strategic-vision-for-girls-and-women-to-2020-and-beyond>

Further information is provided below on how the Strategic Vision is implemented in DFID.

International achievements 2013 - 2014

The international **Call to Action on violence against girls and women in emergencies** in November 2013 achieved a landmark global agreement on prioritising the needs of girls and women in humanitarian responses. In 2014, as part of the UK's **Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI)**, the UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, hosted the **Global Summit to end Sexual Violence in Conflict**. The Summit brought together governments, civil society, academia and survivors to help change the culture of impunity around rape and other violence in conflict. At the Summit, the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict was launched, to help increase convictions and deter future perpetrators.

In July 2014, the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for International Development and Home Secretary, together with UNICEF, hosted **Girl Summit 2014**, which achieved unprecedented levels of public engagement and support to end CEFM and FGM. The event created nearly 1 billion opportunities to see messages on ending these harmful practices through social media and secured over 450 signatories for the Girl Summit Charter ('An Agenda for Change'), including from key countries such as Brazil, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, France, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Over 130 commitments were made from governments and civil society.

The UK helped ensure that **international processes and engagements** resulted in strong outcomes for girls and women, laying the foundations for achieving a standalone gender goal and integration of gender within the future **post 2015 development framework**.

During the 58th session of the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58)** in March 2014, the UK co-hosted a side event on challenging discriminatory norms with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The Secretary of State for International Development and the Ethiopian Minister for Women delivered pioneering speeches stressing their commitment and plans for supporting an end to discriminatory social norms such as CEFM. The Secretary of State for International Development also co-hosted with the Canadian Minister of Status of Women a roundtable to discuss partnership approaches and scaling-up support to end CEFM. Senior representatives from UN agencies, the Girls not Brides network, and the governments of the Netherlands, Italy, Yemen and Somalia attended. The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Lynne Featherstone, spoke at a number of high-level events on UK commitments to eliminate violence against women and girls. Consensus was reached at CSW58, reflecting many of the issues that are crucial in advancing the economic, social and political empowerment of girls and women in the post 2015 development framework.

In April 2014, the Secretary of State for International Development attended the first **High level Meeting (HLM) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)** in Mexico City. As Co-Chair of the GPEDC, the Secretary of State delivered a speech to build political commitment to increase financing for gender equality and to ensure developing countries have systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. The HLM Communique emphasises the

importance of tracking and making public resource allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The UK has been actively involved in the twentieth anniversary review process of **the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)**, including participating in the regional review conferences, thematic conferences and in this year's intergovernmental **Commission on Population and Development** where the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State delivered a plenary address on the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights for gender equality. The UK coordinated and spoke on behalf of the EU position. In our national capacity we strongly supported the findings of the review report on areas of progress and remaining gaps in implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and emerging challenges. In particular with regard to upholding and promoting the reproductive rights of women and girls and addressing discriminatory social norms.

The UK negotiated for the inclusion of a dedicated goal on girls and women and for gender sensitive targets across the goals in the **Open Working Group (OWG) Report on the Sustainable Development Goals**. The final report includes a gender goal encompassing equality and empowerment, actions on violence against girls and women, CEFM, FGM, women's participation and leadership and unpaid care. Other goals integrate targets on women's economic empowerment, girls' education and reducing maternal mortality.

The UK will continue to advocate for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 process. We continue support the High Level Panel commitments to **"leave no one behind"** and for **data disaggregation**, including ensuring targets are met for both sexes and all relevant age, social and income groups, including people with disabilities.

We are continuing to **work with all partners** throughout the process leading up to the agreement of the post 2015 framework. With a year of negotiations to come, we want to build a transformative sustainable development agenda that drives action and is manageable, measurable and implementable in its entirety by all countries. The framework must inspire action, participation and accountability on gender equality, the empowerment and the human rights of girls and women. The upcoming twenty year review of the **Beijing Platform for Action in 2015** is an important milestone and highlights the continuing need for progress.

International Development (Gender Equality) Act

The International Development (Gender Equality) Act was passed in the UK on 13th May 2014. The Act makes it law to consider, before providing development assistance and alongside other considerations, how the assistance will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Similarly, gender-related differences in needs must be taken into account before humanitarian assistance is provided. The Act puts DFID's existing commitment to gender equality on a statutory footing. It will ensure that gender equality remains at the heart of DFID's work.

How is the Strategic Vision for Girls and Women implemented by DFID?

The Strategic Vision for Girls and Women is integrated within DFID's overall reporting process. It is a key indicator of one of the six Structural Reform Priority (SRP) commitments in DFID's Business Plan for 2011-2015, to: "lead international action to improve the lives of girls and women". The DFID Results Framework monitors implementation of the Business Plan and includes indicators which correlate directly to the Strategic Vision.

All DFID divisions and country offices develop Operational Plans, setting out how they will deliver the DFID Results Framework and Business Plan, including on girls and women. Business cases are developed for each programme or intervention and coordinated at country and division level to deliver the Operational Plan. DFID compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act requires all business cases to provide due regard to the impact of the intervention on gender equality.

The Gender Team in DFID's Policy Division oversees the implementation of the Strategic Vision across DFID and facilitates communication between the 'Pillar Leads' – technical experts appointed for each of the Vision's four outcome pillars and the enabling environment. Pillar leads work closely with regional and

country colleagues to maintain a strategic overview of DFID's work; develop new policy resources and evidence; share evidence, innovation and best practice; provide technical support and peer review for business case development.

The Girls' and Women Senior Strategy Group meets bi-annually to review progress and address any barriers to implementing the Vision. The Group brings together Regional Directors, Heads of Profession, Pillar Leads and is chaired by the Director General for Country Programmes, a member of DFID's Executive Management Committee.

2. The Results

To mark progress in implementing the Strategic Vision, we committed that by 2015 we will have:

- Helped to save the lives of at least 50,000 women during pregnancy and childbirth
- Enabled 10 million more women to use modern methods of family planning (of which 1 million will be girls aged 15-19)
- Supported 2 million births attended by a skilled birth attendant
- Improved access to financial services for over 18 million women
- Secured access to land for over 4.5 million women
- Supported over 9 million children in primary school by 2014, of which at least half will be girls
- Supported 700,000 girls in secondary education
- Helped 10 million women to access justice through the courts, police and legal assistance.

Pillar	Indicator	Targets by 2015	Results achieved by 2013/14			
			Total	Female	Male	Male/female breakdown not identified
Wealth Creation	Number of people with access to financial services as a result of DFID support	18,000,000 women	54,450,000	26,912,000	27,073,000	464,000
	Number of people supported through DFID programmes to improve their rights to land and property ¹	4,500,000 women	1,570,000	739,000	765,000	66,000
Education	Number of children supported by DFID in primary and lower secondary education ²	5,200,000 girls	10,195,000	4,874,000	5,321,000	0
	Number of children completing primary education supported by DFID	No target	1,417,000	712,000	705,000	0
Reproductive, maternal and neo-natal health	Number of births delivered with the help of nurses, midwives or doctors through DFID support	2,000,000	3,582,000	Not applicable		
	Number of additional women using modern methods of family planning through DFID support ³	10,000,000	4,966,000			
	Number of maternal lives saved through DFID support	50,000	36,000			
Governance and Security	Number of women and girls with improved access to security and justice through DFID support	10,000,000	10,778,000			

¹ The programmes contributing to this indicator are tackling a number of challenges including: the lack of up to date and collectable land use and ownership information; the lack of delimitation or registration of communal land; and the lack of recognition of women's user and ownership rights.

² Previously DFID had a separate commitment for supporting children in primary schools and a separate commitment for lower secondary school.

³ This target includes 1 million young women aged 15-19 years. Data is not fully available for the 15-19 age group.

3. The stories behind the results

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

DFID continues to be a leader in **promoting, protecting and supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights internationally**. We have bilateral programmes on sexual and reproductive health in 16 focus countries. We also work regionally, through the **Prevention of Maternal Deaths programme** in 14 African countries. We work with civil society, other governments and multilaterally with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

During 2013 Ministers approved a seven year commitment of £340 million to the **UNFPA Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security**. This commitment will ensure that the medicines and modern contraceptives essential for the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services are available when and where they are needed.

Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) is a global partnership that was formed after the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning to enable 120 million more girls and women to use contraceptives by 2020. FP2020's first progress report was launched at the International Family Planning Conference in Ethiopia in November 2013. At the conference, DFID Minister Lynne Featherstone announced funding from the UK to strengthen monitoring and accountability efforts to make sure women have access to voluntary family planning and promises are delivered. £27 million over five years was committed as part of the UK's family planning commitment.

DFID's £35 million **flagship programme on ending female genital mutilation (FGM)**, announced in 2013, is underway. This includes support to the UNICEF-UNFPA Joint Programme on FGM which is working in 17 countries. In January a consortium of leading campaigners was appointed to deliver the End FGM Social Change

Campaign. The campaign will work in ten African countries, at the Africa-regional level and internationally.

Girls and women are disproportionately affected by HIV. It is the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age worldwide. Reducing the unmet need for family planning is critical to reducing the number of unintended pregnancies in HIV positive women of childbearing age, reducing the number of AIDS-related maternal deaths and reducing the number of HIV infections among children through the prevention of mother to child transmission. In November 2013 DFID published the **review of its 2011 HIV position paper: 'Towards Zero New Infections; Two Years On'** which highlighted the increased vulnerability of girls and women to HIV and the importance of integration of HIV within sexual and reproductive health services. The paper underlined DFID's increased focus on girls and women as one of three HIV policy priorities going forward.

Contraception, prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and safe abortion are life-saving services, yet they are often ignored in humanitarian responses. The highest maternal mortality and worst reproductive health is in countries experiencing crisis, where girls and women are more vulnerable to rape and transactional sex. DFID is therefore developing a new programme to enable women and adolescent girls to access and use voluntary family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services in **humanitarian emergencies, protracted crises and recovery contexts**. The programme will aim to: influence policy making; fund direct services; sustain the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services in crisis situations and strengthen the evidence base. This will complement our support to UNFPA to provide reproductive health kits for humanitarian emergencies so lifesaving drugs, basic equipment and supplies are ready to be dispatched at the onset of a crisis.

DFID has continued to be a leading voice for supporting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women worldwide through international engagement, including at the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)**. We continue to advocate for recognition of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 development agenda as part of our broader commitment to ensuring a transformative agenda for girls and women.

Case Study: Scaling up Family Planning in Zambia

Scaling Up Family Planning (SUFP) is a four-year programme funded by DFID, which aims to increase contraceptive prevalence and reduce maternal mortality in Zambia through expanding access to family planning (FP) services. In 26 districts across Zambia, and in close partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health and the Ministry of Health, SUFP is:

- Expanding the choice of FP methods available, especially long-term reversible methods
- Increasing access to FP services for under-served areas and populations
- Increasing community support for family planning
- Increasing capacity of government health facilities to provide high-quality, comprehensive family planning services

Beatrice Ngonga lives in Kampinda Village in Kaputa District. A mother of ten children, she recently decided, with her husband's support, to begin using a birth control implant, Jadelle. When asked why she chose this long-acting method, she said, "I am not working, so I am afraid I won't be able to look after my children very well if I continue having more children and my husband doesn't make enough money. We also want our children to get an education – so we will concentrate on the children we have now." Beatrice received family planning counselling and the implant at her local health clinic from health care workers trained through the SUFP programme. "My life has now changed," said Mrs. Ngonga. "Now my husband and I are able to take our children for early childhood education at our nearby village, and also the hygiene standards in our home have steadily improved."



Research and Evidence

DFID's research programmes generate high quality evidence with the primary aim of improving the lives of girls and women by improving their health. DFID's Research and Evidence Division (RED) funds several programmes including the **Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy (STEP UP)** programme that supports increasing access to quality family planning and safe abortion services. In 2013, STEP UP engaged in a study in Bangladesh to explore the sexual and reproductive health needs of married adolescent girls living in slum areas of Dhaka. Important gaps were revealed between husbands' and wives' fertility intentions, intendedness of pregnancies, and decision-making on family planning. STEP UP has also generated important evidence about when girls marry (86% of girls were married underage) and the socio-demographic factors contributing to unintended pregnancy. Workplaces were found to have an important impact on girls' livelihoods and reproductive health, particularly in the garment industry, indicating the need for interventions to reach adolescents in the factories where they work.

The **Saving Lives at Birth** programme supports prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant women and their new-borns. Jointly funded by RED and a number of organisations, it is developing a new low cost instrument (Odon device) to deliver a foetus when complications occur, avoiding potential fatal maternal complications (haemorrhage, infection) and new-born complications (birth, asphyxia and trauma). It has the potential to transform women's and new-born's health, and reduce deaths and poor birth outcomes for millions of women and new-borns in hard to reach communities

Economic Empowerment of girls and women

Economic empowerment is a process that increases girls' and women's access to and control over economic resources and opportunities in the context of supportive norms and institutions. It includes increasing women's opportunities for employment in decent jobs, access and retention of economic assets, including land, and, tackling discriminatory laws and regulations that prevent women from working and doing business.

DFID is working to scale up economic development programming. Our new **Economic Development Strategic Framework** commits DFID to focus on the needs of girls and women in economic development, through both mainstreamed and targeted initiatives. The **refresh of the Strategic Vision for Girls and Women** also led to a reshaping of our economic empowerment work, to include a focus on tackling the barriers that prevent girls and women from accessing economic opportunities as well as provision of assets. We are developing new interventions and continuing our investments in research to establish effective approaches. Over the last year, a number of new DFID programmes have been launched with significant focus on women's economic empowerment, including:

We have recently announced a **partnership with Women's World Banking**, through our Skills and Innovation for Micro Banking in Africa programme. Through this partnership, we will provide over one million women with financial services. The programme will focus in Nigeria, Malawi, and Tanzania to create financial services specifically tailored to the unique needs of women, including innovative savings products and rural credit.

The **Private Enterprise Development Programme for Ethiopia (PEPE)**, which works to improve access to finance and catalyse growth in key sectors that create employment, especially for women. One of the areas PEPE is providing support is technical assistance to micro-finance institutions and the Development Bank of Ethiopia

to scale up loans to women owned enterprises. So far, £0.1 million has been disbursed, helping a range of female run businesses including a school, a brick manufacturer and a vehicle parts shop. This component of support is now expected to accelerate quickly, with an additional £10 million of lending under the facility anticipated over the next six to nine months.

The first round of projects that are part of the **Trade in Global Value Chains Initiative (TGVCI)** have started work in Kenya, South Africa and Bangladesh. TGVCI works in partnership with global businesses to improve social and economic outcomes for workers in their supply chains. Many of the projects, especially in Bangladesh, have a strong focus on improving working conditions for women employees, for example through increased access to health information and services in the workplace.

SPRING – the assets to adolescent girls initiative – is a joint programme with Nike Foundation and USAID, announced by the Secretary of State in October. SPRING will transform the lives of adolescent girls by creating sustainable markets for life-enhancing products and services. It will work as a business accelerator, identifying and supporting early to mid-stage ventures with products that help girls to learn, earn, protect their earnings and be safe from harm. A five-year programme, SPRING will kick off first in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda in the coming year, before rolling out to five more countries across Africa and Asia.

We are also **using our influence and communications** to encourage the international community and our multilateral partners to scale up their activities on women's economic empowerment. We are doing this by working to secure ambitious targets on women's economic empowerment in the **post-2015 framework**. The economic empowerment of women and girls is also a priority focus of many of our **relationships with private sector and corporate partners**, for example, in our new partnership with Unilever.

Case Study: PropCom Mai-Karfi

Results from the first year of implementation of the PropCom Mai-Karfi programme show promising results for economic outcomes of rural women in Northern Nigeria. The programme aims to increase the incomes of 650,000 poor men and women in northern Nigeria through a range of interventions to improve rural markets.

One of the interventions supported by the programme is the distribution of low-cost vaccines for poultry to small farmers. Most of Nigeria's poultry is reared in backyard farming and in over 90% of cases these poultry farmers are women in rural northern households with an average of fewer than 20 birds. Every year farmers lose over 50% of this poultry flock due to Newcastle disease, which is most prevalent during the harmattan season. A low cost vaccine exists, but distributors focus on the large commercial poultry farmers with thousands of birds. The programme has partnered with a veterinary services company and the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) to develop a sales, distribution and village level vaccinator model to reach small scale farmers. Between September 2012 and November 2013, the company reached 1,551 customers, of which 33% were women (and 58% were described as 'households' in which men and women both benefited through joint ownership of poultry), with an average income increase per consumer of N5,004.

The programme has also succeeded in improving access to inputs, services and innovative products (e.g. seeds, fertiliser, agricultural advice services and low-cost soaps) for poor farmers and small-scale rural entrepreneurs, reaching over 66,000 women to date.

Research and Innovation

DFID's Research and Evidence Division (RED) supports research into the social, economic, and legal barriers that girls and women face in accessing markets and in controlling the sustained use of economic assets. Policy-relevant research is generating evidence on how to increase economic opportunities for girls and women; close the gender gap in productivity, earnings and assets; and make markets work for poor women.

The **Africa Gender Innovation Lab** (£11 million 2013-17) is evaluating new interventions to close the gender gap in earnings, assets and productivity. It looks at interventions in areas such as business skills training, market linkages and unpaid care work across a number of productive economic sectors in Africa. This is the second phase of the Lab's work during which time it has commissioned 15 new impact evaluations (12 DFID-funded, three with USAID funds) focusing on issues of agricultural productivity, non-agricultural entrepreneurship and employment, and property rights. It has also published a synthesis paper on gender and agriculture in Africa, jointly with the ONE campaign.

The **Women, Business and the Law project**, run by the World Bank and International Finance Commission (IFC), with support from DFID's Research and Evidence Division, examines laws

and regulations differentiating between men and women in ways that may affect women's opportunities and incentives to work. It pioneers the measurement of the gender gap in policy variables using quantitative and objective data. Read the report 'Women, Business and the Law 2014' here: <http://wbl.worldbank.org/reports>

Further **evidence** is also needed on the barriers that lock women out of economic opportunities, policy options to address these barriers; how women's economic empowerment enhances growth; how growth delivers sustainable economic benefits for girls and women and how rapid growth might help erode gender-based constraints on girls and women. In May 2013, DFID funding (£7 million) was approved alongside support from IDRC and the Hewlett Foundation for the **Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW)** project. So far the project has commissioned nine major research grants, conducted reviews on the projects themes and published a [background paper](#) and two [literature reviews](#)

Girls' completion of primary and secondary education

Supporting gender equality in education remains a key international development priority for the UK government, with an increasing focus on marginalised girls. DFID's support to girls' education continues to be provided through our country programmes, alongside the UK's £355 million flagship Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) programme. For example, DFID Zambia has designed a new Skills Improvement Programme (SKIP), which will include a specific element on girls' education. There will be 1,000 scholarships – 800 for girls/women and 200 for disabled learners (half of whom should be female). This will be for completing a technical vocational certification ranging from simple trade testing (which takes 6 months) to a diploma in a specific area (which takes 3 years). The scholarships are expected to include fees, boarding accommodation, and a stipend for food, clothes, and learning materials. On-going programmes, funded through our country programmes in Ghana, Malawi, South Sudan and Pakistan are continuing to deliver improvements in education opportunities for marginalised girls.

Over the last year, the **Girls' Education Challenge** has awarded grants or matched-funds through a competitive process across the Innovation and Strategic Partnership funding windows. In April 2014, 19 innovative projects to support marginalised girls to succeed in their education were approved across 12 countries⁴. This makes a total of 36 projects supported by the GEC across the three funding windows to date.

For example, in Kenya, the GEC is supporting **Leonard Cheshire Disability** to improve learning for 2,350 marginalised girls, by addressing discrimination and stigma around education for girls with disabilities. The psychosocial barriers to education for girls with disabilities are often under-emphasised. The project will therefore include building awareness and capacity of service-

providers on the rights of children with disabilities, establishing parent groups, establishing child-to-child clubs, training teachers in inclusive strategies, making schools physically accessible and researching barriers to secondary school for girls with disabilities.

In October 2013, the first GEC Strategic Partnership between DFID and **Discovery Communications** was announced. The project will reach over 13,000 teachers and 500,000 students, including 53,760 marginalised girls in 1,500 schools across Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. It aims to overcome barriers to quality education by bringing together media in the classroom, teacher training and professional development. Project activities include delivering teacher training on child-centered learning, gender-responsive teaching skills and media, providing compelling educational videos (including on girls' needs), supporting communities to implement action plans to address gender equality, including formation of clubs and "safe spaces" to improve educational opportunities for girls in and out of school. Additionally, the project will produce national television programmes broadcast to over ten million people, which will change knowledge, attitudes and practices around education, especially for girls and women.

The baseline studies from all of the projects supported through the GEC are now being finalised. The GEC includes a significant investment in evaluation and research. Information on the educational experiences of over 70,000 girls across 20 countries will be available as the programme progresses through to 2017. Findings from this work will be used to support better investment in girls' education at national system level, and inform the work of other international development partners.

Picture: DFID



⁴ The 19 projects approved for funding in the Girls' Education Challenge Innovation Window are: Equal Access to Education for Nomadic Populations (Afghanistan), Link Community Development Ethiopia (Ethiopia), GEMS Education Solutions Ltd (Ghana), Leonard Cheshire Disability (Kenya), I Choose Life (Kenya), Theatre for a Change UK (Malawi), Voluntary Services Overseas (Mozambique), Voluntary Services Overseas (Nepal), Mercy Corps (Nepal), Health Poverty Action (Rwanda), Red Eem Kind (South Sudan), BRAC Maendeleo (Tanzania), Cheshire Services (Uganda), Raising Voices (Uganda), Viva (Uganda), Eco-Fuel Africa (Uganda), Opportunity International UK, Promoting Equality in African Schools (Uganda), Camfed (Zambia)

Case Study: Empowering Young Female Teachers in Malawi

Thandi is 25, and started teaching in 2012. She is an 'Agent of Change' teacher in the Theatre for a Change GEC project. The project identifies 350 outstanding young female teachers and trains them to support girls at risk of dropping out or who have left school, to improve their sexual and reproductive health, self-confidence, literacy and numeracy. Supported by School Management, they will lead extra-curricular activities including girls' clubs and radio listening clubs, alongside working in their communities to reach out-of-school girls and encourage parents' involvement in education.

As a female teacher living in a rural area, Thandi initially felt uncomfortable speaking in public, and was unfamiliar with issues around girls growing up. Since participating in training through the project, she has "learnt about assertiveness", and gained courage to speak in public and approach girls and parents from the community. With her knowledge acquired about HIV/AIDS, puberty, gender and child protection, she states that "I am already a hero in my community and school. I have started gathering girls who dropped out of school from around the villages to go back to school."

Research and Evidence

While advancements have been made in improving girls' education, more research and evidence is needed about how to strengthen attendance, completion and quality of education of girls in primary and secondary school. DFID has supported a series of evidence papers on what works to strengthen girls' education, including learning outcomes and the impact of education on multiple aspects of girls' lives.

These papers have informed the design of new programming on education, including a DFID-Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Joint Research Fund on Raising Learning Outcomes (2014-22, £15 million DFID; £5 million ESRC).

The new project will support research on "what works" to improve teacher effectiveness, with a specific focus on education for girls and other marginal groups.

Ability to live free from violence

The UK has played an important leadership role in promoting girls' and women's empowerment and rights. We have seen growing international commitment to address violence against women and girls (VAWG) but huge challenges remain.

In November 2013, the Secretary of State co-hosted the “**Keep her Safe**” event in London to mobilise global leadership to ensure girls and women are protected in emergencies. The event secured a ground-breaking communiqué, setting out that keeping girls and women safe in emergencies is a life-saving priority from the first phase of an emergency. The UK announced £21.6 million in new funding to help protect girls and women in emergencies and 13 donors, 10 multi-laterals and over 20 of the world's leading NGOs made commitments to prioritise tackling violence against women and girls as a life-saving intervention in emergencies.

The **International Development (Gender Equality) Act** requires that in all countries where DFID provides humanitarian support, we assess the risks that girls and women face and consider how UK assistance can help address these.

The FCO-led Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, part of the **Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative**, also demonstrates the UK Government's continued leadership and commitment to ending all forms of violence against women and girls. DFID played an active part in the Summit, driving greater action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in emergencies, including conflict. Six more countries: Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Senegal, and South Korea, signed up to DFID's Call to Action in emergencies as a result.



Picture: Jessica Lea/DFID

At the Summit the Secretary of State for International Development, alongside the Foreign and Defence Secretaries, jointly launched the UK's new **National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**. This puts girls and women at the centre of cross-government efforts to prevent, resolve and respond to conflict.

DFID launched ‘**What Works to Prevent Violence**’, a £25 million flagship research and innovation programme to help better understand and address the root causes and social norms that underpin many forms of violence, both in times of peace and in conflict.

DFID country offices continue to scale up programming to address VAWG across a range of contexts. We are developing new targeted programmes as well as mainstreaming interventions in other sector programmes, such as security and justice, health and education. A recent mapping exercise (October 2014) reported an estimated 63% increase in the number of DFID supported programmes since 2012. The UK now funds a total of 103 programmes, including 54 new programmes that have a VAWG component and 10 new programmes focusing solely on addressing VAWG. UK-funded programmes (bilateral and multilateral) are implemented in 29 countries compared to 20 in 2012. The full report can be viewed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368932/Map-DFID-VAWG-prog-2014b.pdf

To support the scale up of programming, the **Violence Against Women and Girls Helpdesk** was set up in spring 2013. It provides tailored support to DFID country offices and policy teams and has responded to over 50 queries.

To further support UK Government staff and wider international partners in policy and programming, DFID published guidance notes on:

- Addressing Violence against Women through Security and Justice Programming:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-chase-guidance-note-series-guidance-note-4>
- Addressing Violence against Women and Girls in Education Programming:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/318899/Education-guidance-note-partA.pdf

Research and Evidence

The first component of the '**What Works to Prevent Violence**' programme (consortium led by South Africa Medical Research Council) has concluded its inception phase. The second component: how to address violence against women and girls in conflict and humanitarian settings (consortium led by the International Rescue Committee) is in its inception phase; and procurement of the third component on the economic and social costs of violence against women and girls, is currently being finalised.

DFID'S Research and Evidence Division (RED) also funds the **Tackling the Structural Drivers of HIV (STRIVE)** programme based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. STRIVE has carried out an overview of the evidence into what works to prevent partner violence and early results show that childhood exposure to violence and alcohol use are likely to be most important. The research has already been highly influential in guiding policy development to tackle these issues

within DFID and at the United Nations. STRIVE's SASA! Programme (SASA! means 'now!' in Kiswahili) in Kampala, Uganda, is an innovative approach to mobilising communities to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence against women and transmission of HIV. A randomised control trial of the programme showed that the programme was effective in reducing violence against women at population level.

As part of DFID's £35 million initiative on ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), procurement of a new five year, £8 million research programme has been concluded. It will build the evidence base on the causes and prevalence of FGM/C, what works to end the practice and on the wider impacts of action to end the practice on social norms and gender inequality. The inception phase will start in the autumn of 2014.

Case Study: DFID India's work on Violence Against Women and Girls

We are in transition to a new development relationship with India. Financial grant aid to India will complete by 2015. After 2015, our partnership will focus on sharing skills and expertise, and investing in private sector projects which create opportunities for the poor while generating a return. We will also work to strengthen our partnership with India on global development issues, such as violence against women.

The National Family Health Survey in 2006 provided data on violence in India, and helped DFID India to review and recast our programming for violence against women and girls. As a result, we have focused on the prevention of violence, particularly domestic violence.

We have worked to address the lack of evidence of what works to prevent violence against women and girls both inside the home and in public spaces. Impact Evaluations in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh test different approaches including: change in men's attitudes and behaviour; use of women's self-help groups; role of alcohol as a catalyst for violence; and safe transport. The evidence will be useful for government policies and programmes in India and internationally.

Recently, we have supported 'SAFETIPIN' which adapts the well-established safety audit tool onto a smart phone and 'pins' audits onto an open source map. These create a heat map of safety and risk, which is especially useful to women (when moving round the city) and authorities (for example, police deployment of patrols, municipalities providing street lighting and urban planners designing infrastructure). Targeted interventions ensure that low income communities are covered. It has been launched in Delhi, Gurgaon, and Bangalore. Discussions with other cities, including Dhaka, Kathmandu and Nairobi, are underway. In this way, DFID is helping Indian innovations on violence against women to go global.

The Enabling Environment

Social norms and the relationships that underpin how girls and women are valued in society are fundamental to influencing the opportunities they can seize. The **refresh of the Strategic Vision in 2013** put a renewed emphasis on understanding and addressing discriminatory social norms and the enabling environment for girls and women in our policies and programmes.

The UK has demonstrated **international leadership** including on tackling some of the most challenging and taboo issues. This includes advocating for the inclusion of critical issues such as CEFM, FGM and women's participation and leadership in decision-making in the **post-2015 framework**. These areas were reflected in the Agreed Conclusions of **CSW58**, where the Secretary of State co-hosted a side event on challenging discriminatory norms with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and development (OECD) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI). They have also been included as actions under the proposed gender goal in the **Post 2015 Open Working Group** outcome document.

In July 2014, The UK Prime Minister alongside DFID's Secretary of State, the Home Secretary and UNICEF hosted the **Girl Summit** to end CEFM and FGM for all girls everywhere within a generation. Tackling both practices requires multi-sectoral approaches, encompassing national as well as international action; an enabling environment including legislation and enforcement, opportunities and skills, effective services and systems that work for girls and women, support for those affected and normative changes. Progress will not be possible without working together – building on the leadership of countries whose governments and communities are standing up against these practices.

The Summit was an important milestone in rallying such a global movement. The Girl Summit Charter (an agenda for change), was agreed by more than 450 signatories, including 36 governments – and more are still signing. Over 130 governments, organisations and individuals made commitments to end FGM and CEFM. The Girl Summit social media campaign generated more than 11,000 online pledges to end the practices and more than 130,000 social media

posts – creating close to one billion chances to see Girl Summit messages.

Evaluation feedback from our Girl Summit youth event – **#YouthforChange** – showed 95% of respondents were inspired to take action on girls' rights after attending the event. Thirty-five spin-off events took place. India, Uganda, Yemen and Kenya hosted events in country. There were also nearly 50 million opportunities to see **#YouthForChange** messages via social media.

At the Girl Summit the Secretary of State announced DFID's commitment of up to £25 million for a **new UN multi-country programme in 12 countries to end CEFM**. This is under development.

DFID is also supporting a number of initiatives to support the generation and use of gender data. DFID are supporting the **World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity building (TFSCB)** to strengthen countries national capacity to generate and use statistics including a focus on gender statistics. DFID is also supporting the World Bank to develop a **Gender Data Navigator** – which can help identify how well gender issues are measured in surveys and censuses and make existing gender data more accessible to policy makers and researchers.



Fifteen-year-old Mantegbosh (far left) is now in school – and unmarried - thanks to DFID support.

Picture: Sheena Ariyapala/Department for International Development

The **Leadership for Change** programme is in its second year and the Vital Voices and Women Win components are showing results:

- The **Vital Voices Lead Fellowship Programme** provides capacity building and networking opportunities to emerging and established female leaders across the Global South, who are working on issues related to the economic empowerment of girls and women, gender based violence and challenging cultural practices harmful to girls and women (such as CEFM and FGM). In the first year, 80% of participants reported improvement in at least one of three key leadership skills and behaviours and 47% reported improvement in at least two. 71% of participants reported an increase in capacity relevant to their respective professional mission and/or work and 94% reported growth in their professional network, with an average of ten new connections.
- The **Women Win Building Young Women's Leadership through Sports** programme has shown the combination of participation in sports and life skills training to be effective at enhancing the knowledge and confidence of adolescent girls. 74% of participants in the first year demonstrated increased knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), 64% on content related to gender based violence and 66% on content related to economic empowerment.

Through our support to the **Girl Hub** (a strategic collaboration between DFID and the Nike Foundation) we have continued to supporting an innovative approach to driving change in behaviours and attitudes towards girls, through branded communications products. This approach uses the power of brands and media to project a new and progressive image of girlhood into society, helping build self-esteem and a sense of value amongst girls while also changing the way that their community perceives them.

In Rwanda, Girl Hub's Ni Nyampinga⁵ brand provides platforms for Rwandan girls' voices through a radio show and magazine, which explore topics from how to build confidence to successful strategies for passing exams. The Ni

Nyampinga brand is expanding the way girls perceive their future in Rwanda, which in turn raises the visibility of their distinct value within society at large.

Girl Hub's research shows that girls feel that the magazine and radio show speak directly to them and empower them with new knowledge, a vision for the future and positive guidance. Results show that 68% of people who have read Ni Nyampinga magazine have discussed the content with other people; and 70% of girls report the magazine "greatly influenced" their self-confidence. There is evidence of increased knowledge and new conversations around girls' sexual and reproductive health – both amongst girls and their parents.

Research and Evidence

Poor girls in developing countries face extreme challenges and inequities which keep them trapped in poverty. These persist due to a multitude of factors, including social norms that discriminate against and de-value girls. DFID's Research and Evidence Division has just launched a **Global Girls Research Initiative (GGRI)** (up to £31 million 2014-23) that will generate new evidence on what works to transform the lives of poor adolescent girls to enable them to move out of poverty. This new programme will generate operationally relevant and longitudinal research on what multi-sectoral interventions work to improve the lives of adolescent girls, what approaches are effective to shift the 'enabling environment' to reduce discrimination against girls and what are the medium and long term impacts of investments on girls, communities, and the state over time.

The programme also has a component with UNICEF (£4.6 million) to support its programme of work on "structural determinants of adolescent wellbeing". It will produce new evidence on how policies and programmes in health, education and social protection can improve adolescent girls' -- and boys' -- development outcomes, including delaying child and early marriage and improving sexual and reproductive health.

⁵ Ni Nyampinga means 'the beautiful girl – inside and out – who makes good decisions'