



## Issue 12 – October 2008

### Introduction

The key to poverty reduction and sustainable growth, according to Danny Leipziger, World Bank Vice President for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, is gender equality. With growing evidence that progress towards achieving gender equality translates to progress in all other aspects of development, a shared political commitment to reducing gender disparity, as detailed in Millennium Development Goal 3, is unsurprising.

In this thematic edition of the eBulletin we look at progress towards achieving gender equality and empowering women and look at gender as a cross-cutting issue in livelihoods.

### Gender and Development



[Equality for Women: Where Do We Stand on Millennium Development Goal 3?](#) Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG3) details the global commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women. With the 2015 MDG deadline impending, what progress has been made in achieving equitable access to education and health and equal economic opportunities for men and women?

With a focus on both the official MDG3 benchmarks and on an expanded set of indicators, this volume, published by the [World Bank](#) and [OECD/DAC](#), reports positive trends in equality for women in areas such as education, yet little progress in ensuring equal economic opportunities. In addition to following developments in gender equality, the report provides estimates of the financial commitment required to achieve MDG3 and the need to align increased financial commitment with appropriately designed policies.

### News Stories:

[Investing in Women](#) – Women in Bangladesh are often excluded from the process of capital accumulation, with fewer than 4% of women owning cultivable land. Systemic discrimination of women in Bangladesh is fuelled by the logic that women are neither bread winners nor future successors of the family. While poor men are able to provide labour for cash, this is not an option for poor women in the majority of cases. Women who do have access to the labour market are subject to wage discrimination and harassment. As a result, 25% of landless households are headed by females. Furthermore, among female headed households there is a higher incidence of ultra-poor and extreme-poor households when compared with male headed households. In this news story the author, Shamima Pervin, highlights the discrepancies between women's and men's rights in Bangladesh and how this keeps women in poverty. Including women in the development process, recognising the gender dimensions of poverty and transferring assets and income to women are actions that would have a positive impact on women and their ability to support themselves and their families.

### [Africa: The Climate Change Threat, Women's Livelihoods at Stake](#)

Despite contributing minimally to the problem, Africa is one of the regions most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. With many women relying on ecosystems for food, water, energy and medicine, any disruption to these systems has a great impact on women's livelihoods. This article highlights events at the [United Nations Talks on Climate Change](#) conference held in Accra on the 21-27<sup>th</sup> of August, including the publication of a book titled "Ghana Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments", which includes a study highlighting the affects of climate change on women in Ghana.

### Articles:

[Justice for women: seeking accountability for sexual crimes in post-conflict situations](#)

This paper discusses the key points of a seminar held in Brussels on 13-14<sup>th</sup> of May, 2008 hosted by [FRIDE](#), an independent think-tank focused on issues related to democracy, human rights, peace and development, in collaboration with the [WorldCom Foundation](#). The paper explores the continued use of extreme violence, in particular sexual violence, in conflict and post-conflict situations and the need for continued and increased support from international and local actors to ensure access to justice.

[HIV/AIDS and home-based health care: The socio-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS on women in Kenya](#)

With more than 2.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya, public health services are becoming progressively more important. Published in the [International Journal for Equity in Health](#), this paper highlights the socio-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS on women. With socio-cultural beliefs that place different values on the lives of men and women, the authors of the paper argue that women experience inequitable access to healthcare in Western Kenya. In addition, women often bear the burden of AIDS as they are seen as primary caregivers at household level. The authors propose interventions that would mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS on women and also ensure equitable access to healthcare.

[Gender in local government: a sourcebook for trainers. How to mainstream gender in local governance](#)

A sourcebook for trainers that provides gender-sensitive materials and resources to develop local government capacity for sustainable, equitable and inclusive human settlements.

[Indigenous Women and Violence](#)

[Quebec Native Women](#) is a non-profit organisation that supports and encourages local initiatives that aim to ameliorate the living conditions of women and their families. It is the only organisation that dedicates its work to Native women in Quebec. This article focuses on the high rate of domestic violence experienced by this group.

[Because I am a Girl: The State of the World's Girls 2008. Special Focus: In the Shadow of War](#)

[Plan International's](#) report brings global attention to progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how that progress is being hampered by a continued lack of investment in girls and young women. The report shows how conflict affects girls differently from boys and how their rights are ignored, their responsibilities changed, and their lives altered by war. It describes how discrimination against girls is in place before the fighting begins and remains after it is over. The report also examines the implications of conflict for girls' health, education, gender roles, and relationship dynamics.

## Events and Trainings

### Events

[The International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) being held in **Mumbai, India, in February 2008** aims to develop knowledge about the magnitude and determinants of gender-based violence (GBV), the public health impacts of GBV in addition to sharing experiences of interventions and programmes for the prevention of GBV and reviewing relevant policies.

### Trainings

[Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction Strategies](#) – This four day course aims to provide participants with an understanding of the key concepts of the “Livelihoods” approach to poverty reduction. The course will be held on **28 – 31 October, 2008** in Dublin, Ireland.

### Call for Papers

Call for Papers: [Workshop on Gender Dimensions of Rural Employment](#) - This technical expert workshop on “Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty” will be held in **Rome, Italy, on 30 March – 3 April, 2009** (dates to be confirmed). Deadline for submission of abstracts is **15 October, 2008**

## The LRC: The Bigger Picture and Contacts

The [Livelihoods Resource Centre](#) is managed by [HTSPE](#) in association with [IDS](#), [ODG](#) and [Coffey](#). The LRC provides services in two areas: **commissioned services** available to DFID Advisers and **core resources**, including resources posted on the website and the eBulletin.

### Contacts

We hope that you have found the content of previous eBulletins informative and useful and welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions. Please contact [Matt Roberts](#) or [Bernadette Hensen](#) with your feedback and ideas for further reading and resources.

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