

AusAID-ACFID Workshop on addressing gender equality and ending violence against women in development 22 February 2012

The Australian Council for International Development's Gender Equity Working Group and AusAID are hosting the 6th workshop on addressing gender equality and violence against women in development. The workshop provides an opportunity for development practitioners to share and learn from their experiences and strategies for integrating gender equality and women's economic empowerment in development work.

The workshop will focus on the issue of women's economic empowerment and what this means for development. Issues to be discussed at the workshop will include:

- **Women's active financial lives**

Ruth Goodwin-Groen, AusAID's Adviser for Financial Services for the Poor, will lead a discussion on the active financial lives of poor women. The discussion will be based on the "Portfolios of the poor" financial diaries work conducted by researchers at the Financial Access Initiative¹. Ruth will then explore what this means when designing financial products for poor women as tools for economic empowerment.

Christine Bowers, Investment Climate Policy Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC), will discuss achieving sustainable economic empowerment for women through addressing regulatory barriers and improving the business environment to encourage women to participate in the formal economy. Her discussion will focus on some of the results and outcomes of IFC's work in this area including the development of a Business Registration Guide for women in Vanuatu. (IFC is the private sector arm of the World Bank Group).

- **Measuring women's economic empowerment**

Dr Michelle Carnegie, Lecturer, Macquarie University, will speak about progress made with the Australian Development Research Awards (ADRA) funded research "Measuring gender equality outcomes of economic growth in the Pacific: working with communities to develop indicators that monitor change."

- **The role of social protection in supporting women's economic empowerment**

Susan Ferguson, AusAID's Gender Adviser will discuss how social protection efforts can support women's economic empowerment using the BRAC experience as a case study.

- **Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls**

Penny Williams, Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls will discuss progress in her role in raising awareness of gender issues internationally.

The workshop will be held from 9-5pm on 22 February 2012 at the Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Ave, Canberra and numbers are limited. Please register by 15 February 2012 to RSVP@acfid.asn.au. AusAID staff should register through Learning Connect <https://learningconnect.ausaidservices.gov.au/>.



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¹ <http://financialaccess.org/> <http://www.portfoliosofthepoor.com/>