

**CIDA Philippine Program
GENDER EQUALITY MONITORING REPORT
Governance Projects
November 2006 (Revised as of 3 August 2007)**

BACKGROUND

The CIDA Interim Strategy for the Philippines aims to “contribute to poverty reduction in the Philippines through equitable, sustainable development.” It pursues this goal through its focus on governance and private sector development (PSD). Its governance projects seek to achieve the strategic objective of fostering “efficient, responsive, transparent and accountable governance at all levels.” The realization of this objective rests on the attainment of four results, namely:

“To foster efficient, responsive, transparent and accountable governance at all levels.”

- 1.1. Improved capacity of national and local governments to become more accountable and undertake more transparent decision-making processes;
- 1.2. Greater participation of civil society, especially women, in decision-making and ensuring greater government accountability;
- 1.3. Enhanced capacity to promote human rights, rule of law and peaceful approaches to conflict resolution; and
- 1.4. Improved access of rural and urban poor to government services.

Gender and environment are crosscutting themes that should be integrated into planning and management in all CIDA programs and projects, including governance projects. The CIDA gender equality policy aims to (1) advance women’s equal participation with men as decision-makers, (2) support women and girls in realizing their full human rights, and (3) reduce gender inequalities in access to, and control over the resources and benefits of development.

This monitoring report covers the CIDA-supported projects that were ongoing in November 2006 and those that were completed between April and October 2006. It is based on a combination of methods and sources: reports submitted by projects, interviews with the gender equality consultant or focal person and other key implementers in the project, and, in participation and observation of key activities. An earlier draft of the report was circulated among the CIDA partners for their comments.

The present version of the report has been expanded to incorporate the results of monitoring visits with two projects that have barely begun in November 2006: the Electronic Governance for Efficiency and Effectiveness Project (E3), and the Gender Responsive Actions for the Transformation of Women Project (or GREAT Women). Two sections of the November 2006 report have been revised to include E3 and GREAT Women: the description of the current projects and the matrix that appears at the end of this report.

CIDA GOVERNANCE PROJECTS

Current Projects

By November 2006, CIDA had six on-going governance projects. Of these, two projects, both of which would run for five years (2006-2011), had barely started implementation. The Project Implementation Plan (PIP) of the E3 Project was being prepared while the PIP of the GREAT Women Project was approved on 13 November 2006. (The E3 PIP was submitted to CIDA in December 2006 and approved in January 2007). The six projects are as follows:¹

- *Justice Reform Initiatives Support (JURIS) Project*, a five-year project (2003-2008) that seeks to support the implementation of the Action Program for Judicial Reform (APJR 2001-2006) of the Supreme Court. In particular, JURIS aims to support access to justice by the poor, the fifth of the six components of the APJR, through helping solve the critical problem of case congestion and delay. JURIS is managed by the National Judicial Institute (NJI) as Canadian Executing Agency (CEA), and implemented by the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), the Supreme Court Program Management Office (PMO), and the Alternative Law Groups, Inc. (ALG).
- *Local Governance Support Program in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (LGSPA)*, a five-year project (2005-2010) that aims to enhance local governance capacity in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and complements the World Bank-Financed ARMM Social Fund Project (ASFP). LGSPA is managed by the CEA Agriteam Canada Consulting Ltd., in association with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The Office of the Regional Governor, ARMM Regional Government serves as the implementing agency.
- *Child-Friendly Movement (CFM) Project*, a three-year project (2005-2007) implemented by the UNICEF. The project adopts the community-based CFM approach for enlisting multi-stakeholder support for realizing the Convention on the Rights of the Child through local partnerships. Specifically, the project seeks to (1) strengthen the comprehensive CFM approach in five provinces and one highly urbanized city in the Visayas, and (2) improve and expand the application of child participation as a key strategy at national and local levels.
- *Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF): Reconstruction and Development Program*, a three-year (2005-2007), World Bank-led multi-donor support to Mindanao during the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) ongoing peace negotiations and after a peace agreement is signed. The Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Peace Process (OPAPP), the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) and other development partners in Mindanao serve as implementing agencies.
- *GREAT Women Project*, a five-year project (2006-2011) of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), which is the project's local executing agency. It is a capacity development initiative that aims to support and promote the economic empowerment of women, especially those in micro-enterprises, by contributing to the

¹The details about the projects were mostly based on the "Canadian Official Development Assistance to the Philippines, November 2006."

creation of a gender-responsive enabling environment for micro-enterprise development. It has three components: (1) capacity development for NCRFW, (2) national enabling environment for women's economic empowerment (WEE), and (3) local enabling environment for WEE. Hence, the project aims to assist and develop capacities of the NCRFW as well as its national and local partners in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation gender-responsive economic legislation, policies and programs especially those related to the development of micro and small enterprises.

- *Electronic Governance for Efficiency and Effectiveness Project*, a nation-wide five-year project (2006-2011) that aims to strengthen the human resources of the Philippine government at the national and local levels to support more effective delivery of government services through the use of ICT, thus contributing to poverty reduction and promote of peace and security. Its purpose is to build sustainable capacity in the GOP for the continuing improvement of service delivery for poor women and men, focusing on ICT as a delivery mechanism. The project consists of four components: (1) strategic ICT capacity development, developing a shared vision, strategic knowledge and skills within government; (2) ICT capacity development in social service agencies; (3) ICT projects in social services; and (4) project management. E3 is implemented by BearingPoint as Canadian Executing Agency.

In addition, there are two mission-administered funds:

- *Building Unity and Integrating Local Efforts towards Democratic Development (BUILD) Project*, a two year (January 2005-March 2007), mission-administered, quick-disbursing fund. BUILD aims to support initiatives of local civil or social organizations and networks, and government agencies that promote democratic institutions and practices, enhance civil society's policy role and strengthen political will of governments.
- *Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)*, which was launched in 1983 and is renewed annually.

Completed Projects during Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Three projects ended between April and September 2006. These are:

- *Philippines-Canada Environmental and Economic Management (PCEEM) Project*, an eight-year project that ended in March 2006, which had SNC-Lavalin International, Inc. as CEA, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and stakeholders in Metro Cebu and Davao City as implementing agencies;
- *Policy, Training and Technical Assistance Facility (PTTAF), Phase II*, a seven-year project that ended in June 2006, with Bearing Point as CEA, and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as implementing agency; and
- *Local Government Support Program (LGSP), Phase II*, a five-year project (1999-2004) that has been extended to September 2006; with Agriteam Canada Consulting, Inc., in association with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, as CEA, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Economic and NEDA as implementing agencies.

GENDER ISSUES IN GOVERNANCE AND CIDA RESPONSE

The CIDA governance projects are implemented in a socio-political environment that influences the achievement of the three goal areas of the CIDA gender equality policy (decision-making, rights and resources) that CIDA shares with the Philippine government. Part of the socio-political environment is a host of gender issues that are relevant to CIDA programming in the Philippines and the achievement of the expected results of the governance program. Many of the gender equality concerns are being addressed, albeit partly, by ongoing CIDA projects, or have been the focus of completed CIDA projects.

Participation in Decision Making

The Philippines may have had two women presidents in the past two decades and may have better female/male ratio in government bureaucracy, but women's chances in electoral politics continue to be much lower than those faced by men. Women also still need to be consistently represented in peace-building bodies and peace negotiation panels.

There are Philippine laws ensuring women's representation in local legislative councils and other decision-making bodies. However, these laws need to be fully implemented. The NCRFW notes in its *Report on the State of the Filipino Women, 2001-2003* that the "women sector" has a seat in the National Anti-Poverty Council (NAPC), and two of the seven commissioners of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) are women. In 2001, women occupied more than the allotted seats in agricultural and fishery councils at different levels, but accounted for a much smaller percentage (no more than 29 percent) of the membership of agrarian reform governing units or councils, and a yet much smaller share in protected areas management boards. At the local level, there is no enabling law that would strengthen the sector-representation provision of the Local Government Code. Meanwhile, a related bill continues to languish in Congress.

RELEVANCE TO THE CIDA PROGRAM: *Expected Results 1.1 and 1.2 of the CIDA Strategy for the Philippines. It was addressed by the two Institutional Strengthening Projects of CIDA with the NCRFW and several Gender Equality Fund projects, as well as by PCEEM and LGSP2. It is also one of the focus areas of the legislative advocacy of the ALG component of JURIS. The BUILD subprojects with IID and PLRC actively support the involvement of women in ceasefire monitoring and in the Sharia courts, respectively.*

Human Rights of Women and Girls

There are three rights-related issues that are relevant to current CIDA projects. One pertains to the neglect to interrogate the gender gaps among children with respect to education, health, protection, and participation. The second issue concerns high maternal mortality rate that is related to a host of reproductive health and rights issues, including access to contraceptives and safe, affordable health services. The third pertains to persistent gender-based violence.

- ***Persistent notion that "gender equality" is exclusively an adult issue.*** This issue probably stems from the fact that two separate government agencies have been mandated to oversee women and gender equality issues (NCRFW) and children's welfare (Council for the Welfare of Children). Thus, when projects on children's rights are being designed

or implemented, “gender issues” are often applied solely to “women and men” instead of also extending the analysis to disparities and vulnerabilities among “girls and boys.”

RELEVANCE TO THE CIDA PROGRAM: *Expected Results 1.3 and 1.4. The issue is being addressed now by the UNICEF-CIDA project and, through it, by the UNICEF-CPC6 program. It has also been addressed by the BUILD Fund vis-à-vis the DMRP for child soldiers’ subproject.*

- **High (and increasing) maternal mortality rate.** The Philippine maternal mortality rate presently stands at about 200 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. This is lower than in Indonesia (230) but much higher than other medium human development countries, such as Malaysia and Thailand. This high rate is associated with the poor quality of health services, high fertility (total fertility rate of 3.2, which is much higher than the country’s closest neighbors), and the limited availability of contraceptives. The last has been a highly contested area, and a continuing CEDAW issue.

RELEVANCE TO THE CIDA PROGRAM: *Expected Results 1.3 and 1.4. The issue is being addressed by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. Meanwhile, LGSPA encourages and assists local government units (LGUs) to improve the delivery of social services, among them health services, particularly those that meet the needs of women, children, the aged, and the specially-abled.*

- **Persistent violence against women and girls.** Both the 2006 CEDAW report of the Philippine government and the NGO shadow report stress the persistence of different forms of violence against women and girls. The passage of the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children (Anti-VAWCC) law in 2004 and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2005 have been noted. Implementation resources and mechanisms, however, have yet to be put in place for both laws.

RELEVANCE TO THE CIDA PROGRAM: *Expected Results 1.3. A PTTAF subproject with the Supreme Court (CAMIS) can track VAW cases with the Family Courts, while an ongoing BUILD subproject with Womenlead seeks to prevent trafficking in women and girls from certain places in the Visayas and to provide legal counsel to trafficking victims. A number of Gender Equality Fund subprojects also dealt with various aspects of the VAW issue, including the use of the battered wife syndrome as a legal and psychological defense.*

Access to Resources

The *fourth* expected result of CIDA’s governance strategic objective in the Philippines pertains to improved access of rural and urban poor to government services. It also concerns creating an enabling environment for improved delivery of services by government, national and local. The gender issues related to access to resources and services are: (1) low allocations by local government units and national government agencies for services and facilities that address women’s gender needs; (2) justice system that are biased against the poor, particularly women; and (3) lack of a coherent policy and program environment that would facilitate women’s equal access to economic resources.

- ***Absence of gender and development (GAD) plans and budgets.*** To lend muscle to the GAD mainstreaming efforts, the Philippine government instituted the GAD Budget Policy, which is enshrined in the annual budget law (or the General Appropriations Act). The policy requires the use of at least 5% of every agency's budget to implement its plans under the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD) and the Framework Plan for Women (FPW). This GAD budget is expected to influence the rest of the budget so that they could respond to gender issues better. NCRFW monitors the implementation of the FPW and the budget policy, together with NEDA and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Compliance with the GAD budget policy has been low. Of the 381 agencies, only 96 (or 26%) submitted their GAD plan and budget in 2006. The highest compliance rate is 39.6%, when 151 agencies handed their GAD plan and budget in 2005. At the local level, 37% of the LGUs covered by LGSP2 in 2003 had a GAD plan, but only 8% had a GAD budget. Whether at the national or local level, commitment to GAD mainstreaming is not always matched with budgetary allocations. The three-year election cycle at the local government level requires an unending awareness-raising campaign among and advocacy with LGU officials to secure their commitment for both the GAD planning process and the financing of GAD plans.

RELEVANCE TO THE CIDA PROGRAM: *Primarily Expected Result 1.4, but also Expected Result 1.1. GAD planning and budgeting had been among the focus areas of ISP2. At the local level, LGSP2 had facilitated technical assistance to LGUs, while the Gender Equality Fund had supported local groups and governments that were engaged in gender mainstreaming, including the preparation of GAD plans and budgets. Among current projects, LGSPA is working with LGUs that are ready to promote gender-fair governance, assisting them with GAD planning and budgeting, among others.*

- ***Limited access to justice by the poor, especially poor women.*** This issue is among those identified in the Supreme Court's APJR. Among the gender issues that have been identified by the Committee for Gender-Responsive Judiciary (CGRJ) and the Supreme Court Program Management Office in 2005 were: women's lack of resources or economic independence, women- and child-insensitive judicial procedures and justice system, lack of awareness of women and children of their rights, absence of effective information on the nature and workings of the justice system, and delay in delivery of justice to poor/marginalized areas

RELEVANCE TO THE CIDA PROGRAM: *Primarily Expected Result 1.4, but also Expected Results 1.2 and 1.3. A Gender Equality Fund subproject (Women and Transformative Justice) began a movement of women advocates to make the judiciary and the justice system more accountable to women and more responsive to the situation and needs of women. Two of the ongoing CIDA projects are directly addressing this access issue. One is the JURIS project; the other is the BUILD subproject (CADReS) with SALIGAN, a legal NGO. The CADReS subproject has trained paralegals in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and in land and gender laws, which is an important first step to accessing justice in under-served areas.*

- ***Lack of a coherent policy and program environment for women's economic empowerment.*** Filipino women are, as a group, more educated than men, but female unemployment rate has traditionally been higher than the male unemployment rate. Although the trend has been reversed in some years during the past decade, the following continues to mark women's economic participation: (1) a large majority of women

workers are in the informal (non-agricultural) sector, often as self-employed entrepreneurs; (2) women's enterprises are generally very micro, with very limited capitalization; and (3) poor women's access to capital is highly constrained by real-estate collateral requirements of banks and other financial institutions.

Access to economic resources has been hampered by micro-enterprise and economic national and local policies that are gender blind and are not able to connect to empowerment; and policies that rarely consider the social constraints to women's economic participation, such as multiple burdens at home, exposure to risks and hazards including violence and sexual abuse, and lack of safety nets and social protection. Women are affected by these issues differently, depending on their status and roles in society, their consciousness of their rights, and their capability to assert their rights.

At the local level, the issue concerns *the limited coverage of GAD plans*. In 2003, some 88% of the LGUs supported by LGSP2 reportedly had programs and services specifically targeting women, and 79% had women and children's desks. All these are geared towards addressing welfare issues. LGUs have not been able to provide women-entrepreneurs equal or equitable access to productive resources, women workers protection from gender-based violence and other labor law violations, and informal-sector producers and workers support mechanisms (such as social protection, child-minding centers, and the like). The focus on welfare alone could be partly due to the inability of LGUs to analyze and address gender issues in the local development plans, and the disassociation of the GAD plan from the local development plan.

RELEVANCE TO CIDA PROGRAM: *Primarily Expected Result 1.4, but also Expected Result 1.3. To some extent, LGSP2 responded to this issue through its local economic development (LED) technical assistance to local governments, although GAD plans continued to be disconnected to both LED and the comprehensive local development plan. The newly-launched GREAT Women Project is designed to address both national and local level issues that affect women entrepreneurs and workers in micro-enterprises.*

A problem that besets the government is its inadequate monitoring of gender-differentiated effects of programs and services. Existing performance monitoring systems, such as the LGPMS, include indicators of gender equality, but some are embedded in complex indices where gender equality is just one element. Moreover, many of the economic indicators (employment or jobs generated, entrepreneurs assisted, and the like) are not disaggregated by sex, thereby rendering it difficult to ascertain how local economic development is affecting women and men. Before LGSP2 ended, however, it has initiated the incorporation of key indicators from the NCRFW-ISP II output, *GeRL ka na ba?*, which is a self-assessment tool to determine the gender responsiveness of LGUs.

GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVES AND RESULTS OF CIDA PROJECTS

The gender equality monitoring conducted in 2006 focused on projects that had at least one year of implementation and that had initiatives that were responding to key gender equality issues in the Philippines. These projects were JURIS, LGSPA, UNICEF-CFM, BUILD, and the Mindanao Trust Fund. The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives would be included in the next monitoring report.

Efforts in Mindanao were highlighted during a roundtable discussion in October 2006 with Hau Sing Tse, CIDA Vice President for Asia Branch. A number of these initiatives had important gender equality dimension. For instance, the human security framework that replaced the state security framework used in the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) presents enormous possibilities for protecting women's human rights, promoting their interests, and incorporating gender-related peace-building concerns of women and men. Moreover, the objectives of reducing the level of violence in conflict areas and removing the sources of grievances—if realized—bode well for justice and peace and a socially just peace regime. Finally, there was recognition among the presenters of the critical roles women play in negotiating, building, monitoring, and keeping the peace. The IID-BUILD project, for instance, involves about 400 Bantay Ceasefire volunteers, many of whom are women. The IID deputy director stressed the following points. Women tend to be more effective than men in ceasefire monitoring. They are better at engaging male field commanders, as the latter do not see women as threatening. Women are also reportedly more facilitative and more concerned with their community and in keeping the peace there.

In connection with the Mindanao Trust Fund, the following have been noted vis-à-vis the MTF-RDP (Mindanao Trust Fund-Reconstruction and Development Program).

- It has as an overall aim: “build capacity for participatory, gender-sensitive, reconstruction and development activities that promote economic and social recovery in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.”
- It follows a community development approach that stresses gender equity, along with participation, inclusion, direct fund flow (block grants), empowerment, transparency, and good governance.
- While GE initiatives reportedly have made dramatic progress, more work is needed in connection with coordination with LGSPA, other projects, donors, NGOs and groups that are focusing on the governance aspect of peace-building, including bringing gender equality into governance in ARMM.

Progress made in the gender equality strategy or agenda of four on-going projects is summarized in the matrix, below. The first column in the matrix indicates not only the project name (or acronym) but also the quality at entry rating, or the score that the project got when the PIP was assessed using the project design checklist of the *Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines*. The second column describes project initiatives to integrate gender equality, address gender issues, and/or create a project management that is committed to producing gender equality results. The last column (3) reflects initial gender equality results and lessons that the project has learned so far, as well as lessons that are evident from the progress (or lack of it) made by the project.

Among the lessons learned are: (1) the importance of having a gender equality consultant or focal person who is able to network with the NCRFW, resource persons, women's groups and civil society organizations that are involved in promoting women's human rights, including gender equality; (2) the value of a graduated gender equality strategy, which allows for the progression from raising awareness and building commitment to gender equality, enhancing technical competence, and establishing mechanisms for producing and reporting gender equality results; and (3) the need to link monitoring to project management, which could allow managers and coordinators to identify technical gender equality inputs that the project may require at different points of project implementation.

In addition to the lessons identified in the matrix, a review of the completed projects and the ongoing projects suggest several factors that have helped ensure that gender equality are promoted in the CIDA projects in the Philippines. These include:

1. Commitment of the project team leader (PTL) to pursue gender equality issues with the CEAs and the project management offices. Periodic queries about how the project is doing on gender equality issues as part of the PTL's monitoring questions have made projects aware of the importance of promoting gender equality and/or addressing gender issues relevant to their projects.
2. Instructions from the Country Program Manager for PTLs and other officers from HQ to touch base with the Gender Equality Adviser. This has kept gender equality in the agenda of missions from HQ, and has guided the missions on issues that need to be discussed with the projects.
3. Support to gender equality by the Post, as Post officers are the ones who are in constant and direct contact with the projects.
4. Translation of the project's gender equality strategy into operational terms by the CEAs and their field representatives and consultants.

Developments, Lessons and Results from Several On-going CIDA Projects

(The GAD rating for the project pertains to the “quality at entry,” which is derived by applying the project design checklist of the Philippines’ *Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines* to the Project Implementation Plans of the projects)

Project (quality at entry rating (col.1))	Developments during the monitoring period (col. 2)	Comments re. results/lessons (col. 3)
<p>JURIS (gender sensitive)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project had gender equality strategy at entry, which served as the basis for the gender mainstreaming plan that was prepared and later revised. 2. A lawyer and women’s rights advocate was named as part-time gender adviser/consultant (E. Conda), but the project took at least half a year before it replaced the first adviser. The absence of a gender adviser was one of the points raised by the project mid-term evaluators. 3. Under the ADR component, a workshop on Socially (and Gender-) Responsive ADR curriculum was held in August 2006 as a venue for preliminary discussion on enhancing the integration of gender equality in ADR trainings and generating suggestions for the resource materials. 4. The ALG component has completed a gender assessment of the ALG members and, on the basis of the results, training and other activities were scheduled (see 4a below); the ALG continues its legislative advocacy that includes an enabling law for women’s sectoral representation in local legislative bodies. Specifically, the component has undertaken <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Skills enhancement of coalition members for integration of gender equality through a piloting program involving six organizations; b. Continuous discussions within the coalition and its gender cluster on themes related to gender equality and gender equality integration, in separate sessions or as part of other activities; and publication of a material on gender justice; c. Setting up of gender equality policy, mechanisms (such as gender cluster) and a policy requiring indication of gender equality integration in project proposals. 5. Other issues raised by the evaluators are gradually being addressed by the project, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Integration of gender equality in the various training modules or programs offered under the different components—ADR training modules were 	<p>Emerging results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved clarity in how to promote gender equality in the project • Acceptability of the project’s gender equality strategy enhanced by the presence of a credible gender consultant • There is a growing number of internal resource pool of mediator and JDR-trainers who can conduct gender equality sessions during ADR trainings • Enhanced commitment among the ALG partners to promote gender equality <p>What remains to be done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dialogue among project stakeholders of the gender equality aspects of the LFA and their implications for the project ▪ Follow-up activities to #3 in col. 2: module enhancement and materials development on social context and gender ▪ Skills-based and materials development on promoting gender equality in the court system

Project (quality at entry rating (col.1))	Developments during the monitoring period (col. 2)	Comments re. results/lessons (col. 3)
	<p>enhanced to include gender equality messages (see #3, above); gender sensitization modules prepared and delivered; gender equality was one of the focus of a mission to Canada in October 2006; and training in gender mainstreaming is being planned under the ALG component.</p> <p>b. Ascertaining access to alternative dispute resolution by sex and class, that is access by poor women vs. other groups—data are being collected, but qualitative information on gender-related constraints to successful mediation and success rates of alternative dispute resolution have yet to be collected. A research is being planned to track the gender effects of the project.</p> <p>6. Re 4b, research on the differential impact of mediation on women in BP22 (bouncing checks law) cases is currently underway.</p> <p>7. JURIS Partners’ Forum in October 2006 covered gender equality in a separate session and in the reports of the different components.</p>	
<p>LGSPA (gender responsive)</p>	<p>1. The Project Implementation Plan includes a gender mainstreaming strategy. LGSPA incorporated gender equality in all projects by identifying mainstreaming strategies per project. LGSPA staff and Local Resource Partners (or consultants) are expected to translate the strategies into specific activities that are then monitored and reported. The gender equality mainstreaming strategies serve as basic “screens” for sifting out practices that violate gender equality at the same time that they provide practical ideas to project implementers to concretely integrate gender equality.</p> <p>2. Gender equality activities, however, did not begin until the second year of the project. As part of program management efforts to practice gender equality in program processes, the LGSPA staff participated in a GAD training held in July 2006. During the activity, LGSPA managers and program officers agreed to a set of key practices for gender mainstreaming, <i>including</i> stop using sexist jokes and statements, and designing and implementing complicated and stand-alone gender projects, except gender sensitivity training (GST); start applying gender concepts and values learned and start prioritizing clients that have the readiness to promote gender-focused governance, and celebrating gender events and victories; and continue reviewing the operations manual and look into policies that may not be gender sensitive, and having follow-up sessions among staff on gender awareness and mainstreaming, etc.</p>	<p><i>Lessons:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting the project’s gender equality strategy in concrete, operational terms is a crucial step in mainstreaming or promoting gender equality in the project.

Project (quality at entry rating (col.1))	Developments during the monitoring period (col. 2)	Comments re. results/lessons (col. 3)
	<p>3. After assessing the planning, budgeting and other capacities of LGUs in ARRM, the project decided to focus its technical assistance in gender mainstreaming on five LGUs that have reasonable planning and budgeting capacities. To date, TA to LGUs has been classified into two levels, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1, focusing on GST, including preparation of re-entry plans that LGSPA project officers need to look at • Level 2, TA, training workshops and onsite coaching of LGU women and men officials or Technical Working Groups on identification of gender issues and how these can be addressed; an example is the identification of gender issues in the shelter program of the Datu Paglas LGU <p>4. A program manager (M. Maglana) was made responsible for crosscutting themes, which include gender equality, at the same time that she is manages the service delivery component of the project.</p> <p>5. M. Maglana coordinated with NCRFW and other organizations, particularly in LGSPA's work with the regional government and the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW).</p> <p>6. The project and LRP have advocated for women's equal representation in LGU bodies and structures; and information dissemination re CEDAW in various forums.</p> <p>7. LGSPA also recognizes women and other civil society organizations as key agencies for promoting gender equality in ARMM. It has supported the strategic planning of the Bangamoro Women Solidarity Forum (BWSF), and continues to engage groups like the Mujadillah Development Foundation, and SALIGAN that promote women's human rights and gender equality in the region.</p> <p>8. The project coordinated with NCRFW, the Mindanao Working Group on Gender, Reproductive Health and Sexuality and other groups with gender equality programs in ARMM; and worked with NCRFW and other agencies on such issues as gender and Islam (NCRFW, UNFPA), and gender and peace building (NCRFW and The World Bank).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAD planning and budgeting can and should only be pushed where LGUs have the basic planning and budgeting capacities. • Gender sensitivity training is important because there is a need clarify assumptions of LGU officials, particularly the local chief executive. • Having a gender equality focal person who is able to network with government, civil society organizations and resource persons that are engaged in gender advocacy keeps the project connected with critical events that promote gender equality; and has enabled LGSPA to expand its gender equality resource base.

Project (quality at entry rating (col.1))	Developments during the monitoring period (col. 2)	Comments re. results/lessons (col. 3)
<p>UNICEF-CFM (With GAD potentials; revised LFA rated gender sensitive)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assigned the gender equality agenda/portfolio to the UNICEF’s GAD focal person, but responsibility for integrating gender equality in each sector rests on the sector’s technical team 2. As a result of a workshop on gender analysis and the <i>Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines</i> in September 2005, the technical team members were able to contribute to the preparation of the gender equality strategy and the revision of the project’s LFA to take into account gender equality issues and concerns. These documents were submitted to CIDA, together with the Annual Report and Annual Work Plan for 2006/2007. 3. Among the issues reported vis-à-vis the new LFA was the difficulty of collecting sex-disaggregated data particularly in the health component, as the national government is not keen on this level of detail in reports 	<p>Lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender awareness and sensitivity should be accompanied by technical skills or competence in gender analysis and planning • The importance that the project places on gender equality initiatives and results can be seen in the way it reports these. Reporting gender equality results, however, can be constrained by data availability, particularly sex-disaggregated data, that would allow a monitoring of reduction in gender gaps in key CRC areas.
<p>BUILD (Gender responsive)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The PCCO/CIDA Gender Equality Adviser sits in the Project Advisory Committee 2. BUILD has approved eight (8) subprojects that tackle a variety of gender issues identified in their gender mainstreaming plan (as part of their proposal), to wit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trafficking in women and girls ▪ Use of child-soldiers, boys and girls ▪ Lack of women Sharia lawyers ▪ In many areas, more limited access of women than men to justice and information and paralegal skills training ▪ Absence of discussion of gender issues in environmental training programs ▪ Lower level of representation or participation of women in peace-building bodies and/or local governance special bodies 3. Two workshops were held to help BUILD partners with the implementation of their gender mainstreaming plan, and with the monitoring and reporting against the plan. The first took place in September 2006 for three Manila-based partners (TK, Womenlead and SALIGAN); the second, in October 2006 for the five Mindanao-based partners (IID, PLRC, Balaod Mindanao, BIRTH-DEV, PDAP). 4. Three subprojects ended in November 2006. The Gender Equality Adviser has yet to review the reports. 	<p>Lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring a gender mainstreaming plan at the proposal stage enables the proponent to consider the gender equality issues or dimension of the planned subproject. However, there is a need to focus on key gender equality outputs that can be delivered at the end of the project. • Monitoring of the subprojects can and do help partners identify critical technical assistance that they need to enhance their implementation and reporting of gender equality results. <p>Comment:</p> <p>Based on preliminary discussions with the BUILD partners, the subprojects could claim to have realized their expected results. A review of the reports should indicate how much of the expected results have indeed been delivered.</p>

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<p>GREAT Women (Gender-responsive)</p>	<p>For the period November 2006 to June 2007, the project has begun all three components and progress has been noted in the various components, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Component 1, initial learning sessions took place for NCRFW staff and/or national and local partners in gender and economics (26 April 2007), social marketing (28 May), results-based management, or RBM (4 June), and gender and entrepreneurship (18-22 June). Mapping of experts will be done as part of TNA and CD Plan contract of the Development Academy of the Philippines. The contract of the project’s stakeholder communication plan has been drafted. Moreover, the project has established the Project Management Office (PMO) and mechanisms for project implementation at the local level (such as Local Coordinating Committee and Local Teams for Project Implementation). 2. Component 2 highlights include the creation and meetings of the National Technical Working Group that will ensure inter-agency coordination and linkage, completion of a strategic planning workshop (5-6 June), and NCRFW participation in the DTI harmonization and localization workshop in the Cordillera Administrative Region (25 June). 3. Component 3 was formally launched in Metro Naga and PALMA on 12 March and 16 March 2007 respectively, but Memoranda of Agreement were signed in early 2007 and preparatory activities started in November 2006. The area coordinators have been hired and the instruments for the baseline studies are being finalized. There was a slowdown of project implementation during the elections campaign period, but activities are picking up again. 	<p>Initial results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some staff of NCRFW oriented or trained in key CD areas: 37 on the basics of gender and economics, 27 in social marketing, 16 in RBM, and the project manager in gender and entrepreneurship • Key national and local partners oriented in key CD areas: 4 national partners and 9 local partners in RBM; and DTI local counterparts from Metro Naga and PALMA in gender and entrepreneurship • “Mind map” for the project—that locates all GREAT Women partners—finalized • Possible entry points for integration of women’s economic empowerment (WEE) in mainstream or flagship policies, programs and services of national partners identified • Proposals for the baseline studies submitted by local resource partners; survey instrument developed by Metro Naga partner • Some local partners oriented on RMB and/or gender and entrepreneurship
<p>E3 (Gender-responsive, based on revised PIP)</p>	<p>The project faces some challenges in the aftermath of the elections, including re-organization of its major government agency partner. In connection with gender equality, however, progress has been noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hired a part-time Gender Specialist from the start, indicating the project’s commitment to the achievement of gender equality results; 2. Developed a gender equality checklist for different stages of the project and subproject life cycle, and beginning to build gender equality into checklists and guidelines; and 3. Prepared briefing kit for all in-house and joining consultants. 	<p>Initial results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline information on preparedness of partner-agencies to develop and implement gender-responsive ICT policies established (from OTRA) • In-house consultants and other consultants briefed on gender equality issues in the project as they join E3