



Australia in Vietnam Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020

13 January 2017



Global DFAT Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy



- Launched in February 2016 by the first female Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Julie Bishop
- First integrated strategy covering aid program, foreign policy, and economic diplomacy
- First performance target: 80% of programs, regardless of their objectives, will effectively address gender issues in the implementation
- 3 pillars:
 - Enhancing women's economic empowerment
 - Promoting women in leadership and decision making
 - Ending Violence against Women and Girls



The Australia in Vietnam GE Strategy 2016-2020



- Launched in November 2016 during the Gender Month by DFAT Deputy Secretary Gary Quinlan
- Supports the VN National GE Strategy 2011-2020
- Covers 'Australia in Vietnam' (Ha Noi and HCMC posts)
- Aligned to DFAT Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment Strategy:
 - 3 pillars:
 - Enhancing Women's Economic Empowerment
 - Promoting Women in Leadership and Decision Making
 - Ending Violence against Women and Girls
 - Twin track approach: targeted & mainstream





The gender equality 'change state' that Australia is committed to supporting

- **Removal of gender barriers** to participation in economy (such as differential retirement age and the list of proscribed occupations for women on the basis of their sex) and reforms to support it (including subsidised quality child care).
- **Increased share of women-headed businesses** and a reduction in gender-based labour productivity gaps.
- **More women are economically secure** and have savings, and have increased control over productive assets.
- **Increased representation of women** in political leadership and decision making positions at all levels.



“Change state” (cont.)



- Introduction and expansion of **better policies and financial incentives for women-led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** and other women-led groups (such as rural credit and agricultural cooperatives).
- **Foundations established** for growth of tourism and agriculture markets in North West, including vocational training and access to finance and technology for women to excel.
- Government of Vietnam **allocates budgets** to the National Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence plans.
- Increased **non-stereotyped access to Technical Vocational Education and Training**.
- Increase in % of PhD and Master Degrees held by women.
- Equal rights for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people.



Australia in Vietnam Gender Equality Action Plan 2016-2020



- HOM chairing the external Steering Committee
- Concrete priorities actions under 3 pillars with lead role/responsibility
- Rigorous M&E including annual review chaired by Deputy Head of Mission



WEE: Remove barriers and increase opportunities for women's better employment in the labour markets



- Carry out the **gendered Job Diagnostics** to provide in-depth analysis of women's opportunities and constraints in the evolving labour force and related advocacy for equal employment and livelihood opportunities for women
- Support the development of policies that **remove barriers to women's economic empowerment** and facilitate the movement of women from lower productivity employment to higher productivity employment, including movement from informal to formal employment.
- Support business coalition's member firms **to implement and monitor gender equitable practices** at work places



WEE: Remove barriers and increase opportunities for women's better employment in the labour markets (cont.)



- Providing technical assistance **to remove gender barriers** such as the unequal retirement age, the list of jobs prohibited for women on the basis of their sex, as requested by the GOV
- Carry out **the time use survey** to develop key data for advocacy for the care economy
- Advocate for strengthened provisions for **the supply of child care and related services** in Vietnam's revision of the Labour Code;
- Commission annual studies on **the impacts of economic reforms and trade agreements on women**, with a focus on the agricultural sector, and propose clear recommendations to mitigate adverse impacts.



WEE: Increase the share of women owned businesses in the economy



- Support advocacy for and implement **better policies and financial incentives for women led SMEs** including impact investing, innovative credit measures to reduce barriers to credit, trade promotion and linkages to global value chains
- Support advocacy to **simplify administrative procedures** relating to business that have particularly adverse impacts on women and other groups less connected to power structures
- Carry out **the Investment Climate Assessment** with a special focus on women owned businesses
- Advocate for women's economic roles and contribution to be explicitly noted in Socio-Economic Development Plans, and for **gender targets to be included and regularly monitored**.
- Support the chairmanship of Vietnam in the Women-Led SMEs forum and the Policies Partnership for Women and Economy in APEC in 2017
- Encourage meaningful participation by women in Vietnamese trade delegations to Australia.





WEE: Increase women's access to, control over and use of productive resources and markets

- Advocate for and support implementation of **policies to increase women's access to productive assets**, including for ethnic minorities women, and to ensure more transparent and competitive markets for agriculture land use rights to increase economic opportunities for women and men.
- Advocate for and implement **agribusiness and tourism policies that are inclusive** and advancing of women's economic empowerment
- Advocate for and implement **better policies and financial incentives for women-led groups** such as credit groups or "Farmers Interests Groups " groups





WEE: Increase women's access to, control over and use of productive resources and markets (cont.)

- Improve awareness on climate change issues and support **climate smart agricultural and aqua cultural practices** for both women and men
- Advocate for more **gender responsive transport infrastructure projects** which respond to women's needs and increase their access to transport systems
- Advocate for better application of **safeguards measures to minimise adverse impacts** of transport infrastructure development projects to women
- Improve **access to clean water** for women
- Increase the number of agriculture research for development projects that foreground gender research questions and issues



Proposed Actions under RCV 2/AUS4REFORM



- Support the **removal of gender barriers** including the unequal retirement age in the revision of the Labour Code in 2017
- Support the development of policies that **remove barriers** to women's economic empowerment and facilitate the movement of women from lower productivity employment to higher productivity employment, including movement from informal to formal employment.
- Commission annual studies on the **impacts of economic reforms and trade agreements on women**, with a focus on the agricultural sector, and propose clear recommendations to mitigate adverse impacts.
- Support advocacy for and implement **better policies and financial incentives for women-led SMEs** including impact investing, innovative credit measures to reduce barriers to credit, trade promotion and linkages to global value chains.
- Promote **easier business registration** to facilitate formalisation of women-led SMEs and women workers.



Planned Actions under RCV 2/AUS4REFORM (cont.)



- Advocate for **women's economic roles and contribution to be explicitly noted** in Socio-Economic Development Plans, and for gender targets to be included and regularly monitored.
- Advocate for and support implementation of policies to **increase women's land title registration**, including for ethnic minorities women, and to ensure more transparent and competitive markets for agriculture land use rights to increase economic opportunities for women and men.
- Supporting **the operationalization of the National Action Plan for Gender Statistics 2016-2020** for policy making and monitoring
- Ensuring **better representation of female officials** on delegations to Australia and in dialogues and other interactions with the Government of Vietnam

