

Addendum to ODA Handbook

Part 1: Introduction

The Government of Tuvalu (GoT) has been endeavouring to mainstream gender and social dimensions and objectives into all of its frameworks and major policy reforms which will take into account and address risks faced by its Institutions and address and mitigate strategies to address these risks in line with standards, regulations and guidelines both internationally as well as regionally and nationally within Tuvalu. In line with already existing laws and soft laws including streamlined policies, this has been strengthened by the GoT adopting in implementing the various legal and associated frameworks such as the enactment of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act (2014), National Human Rights Institution of Tuvalu Act 2017, Tuvalu Social Development Policy 2016; Tuvalu National Gender Policy (2014 – 2019) and Gender Equality Roadmap (2016 -2020) to maintain Government's commitment to mainstreaming and addressing gender and social inclusion aspects, taking into account International Protection Standards under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other human rights obligations. Tuvalu is one of the few countries in the Pacific that has fully established a fully operational and functioning Gender Affairs Department under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). In addition, its national policies are also factored in key country's Strategic National Plan the Te Kakeega III (TKIII) 2016-2020¹.

This addendum is the link to mitigate response by the Government of Tuvalu in mainstreaming gender objectives into its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Handbook as recommended by the Adaptation Fund (AF) Reviewers on Tuvalu's NIE Application to access AF which requires the issuance of a Supplemental Guidance to the ODA Handbook which will ensure gender objectives and risks are considered in all stages of Project Management and Project Life Cycle Process². In the process the GoT will ensure and where relevant throughout the rest of the project lifecycle including empowering project staff will be equipped with the much needed resources to maintain this.

Every project assessments shall refer to cross-cutting and gender risks to be taken into account including factoring and addressing risk mitigation measures which respond to gender, social and environmental risks. The GoT throughout initiating all project Management Frameworks will ensure all relevant risks and factors pertaining to gender equality and empowerment of women are in all Project Management Cycle of Tuvalu.

The addendum is to be understood as an interim solution to ensure direct application of gender and social inclusion considerations at project level in line with existing standards and norms while the GoT is committed to undertake a review of the ODA Handbook aiming at mainstreaming gender and social inclusion into the ODA Handbook by March-2019.

Part 2: Alignment with Policies and Plans

Tuvalu's various commitments towards gender equality are outlined in national laws and policies, in the Pacific Leader's Gender Equality Declaration (2012; re-affirmed in 2015) at regional level and at international level as signatory party to CEDAW. These varies commitments have been translated into concrete actions. The list below shall provide an overview of the most relevant and important gender

¹ Table 1 Appendix 1 is a Summary of the Gender mechanisms already existing in Tuvalu.

² Project Management & Life Cycle is defined in 5 Stages – Conception & Initiation; definition/Planning;-Launch-Execution;Perfromance/Control/Reporting;-Completion/Close-up

equality priority areas, objectives, outputs and indicators to be taken into account by ODA Handbook users:

- 1) TKIII is the overarching national sustainable development plan under Strategic Area 4 where *Health and Social Development* includes the advancement of gender equality and outlines gender relevant goals, milestones and indicators.
- 2) The National Gender Policy (NGP) identifies 5 key priority areas, for example the Economic Empowerment of Women and Promotion of Women in Leadership and Decision-Making processes which will provide supplemental guidance to ODA Handbook users. Gender objectives at project level must align with the National Gender Policy priorities and this Addendum is the linking mechanism to effect adoption in all Project Management and Project Life Cycle. All projects shall take into account gender and social components and aspects where deemed necessary, meaningful and relevant to the project while projects shall promote gender equality principles. These can be addressed through the Gender Action Plans (GAP).³
- 3) The National Gender Policy in its policy outcome 1 identifies gender mainstreaming, institutional strengthening and capacity building as main strategies to achieve gender equality goals.
- 4) Pertaining to this, the policy identifies key actions for relevant line ministries/departments in the field of environment, infrastructures, climate change and disaster risk reduction and natural resources that must serve as project enablers for gender components across project activities.
 - a) *Natural Resources:*

Most relevantly gender analysis in agriculture, fisheries and natural resources management is being promoted to increase a better understanding of women's roles and needs and how women's specific knowledge on e.g. food security can be utilized.

The recognition of women's roles in agriculture, fisheries and natural resource management is imperative hence will be promoted and mirrored herein to allow women's equal access and participation in all levels of decision-making.
 - b) *Environment:*

To take account the TKIII commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment as outlined in the National Strategic Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, including gender relevant aspects addressed in the Te Kaniva – the current Tuvalu's Climate Change Policy.

Women's equal representation in decision making in relation to disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and natural resources management at the community and national levels is imperative. Capacity building and/or training opportunities should promote equal access for women, men and youth.
- 5) The cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the on-going efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming processes across sectors must be supported at all project level for improved coordination and strategic development. Where applicable all development projects will endeavor to integrate sector policy and gender cross-cutting issues. For example projects with educational elements should aim at integrating gender in the specific education context, hence the relevance of education policies and plans and their gender cross-cutting nature must be considered within and throughout key project cycles. Or Infrastructure Projects such as an Airport Terminal Extension must consider elements of gender having access to markets to enhance avenues to sell their art and crafts.

³ GoT in all its country affairs and project management has been complying with and adopting ADB's best practices, standards and guidelines.

- 6) Where feasible and relevant, projects must include the collection of sex/age disaggregated data to enable gender analysis and enhance evidence base for informed interventions in line with the NGP goals and objectives.
- 7) All projects must incorporate provisions in civil work contracts that contractors shall (i) comply with Tuvalu's and International applicable labor laws and related international treaty obligations and not employ child labor, (ii) provide safe work conditions and separate sanitation facilities for male and female workers, (iii) provide equal wage to male and female workers for work of equal value, (iv) provide employment opportunities for women, and (v) carry out programs of HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.
- 8) At the project implementation, all Projects Implementing Agencies and Departments will ensure public consultation and participation with the primary stakeholders has identified consisting of local governments, Kaupules, Communities and Island Leaders including women's rights movements, Infrastructure Committees and Finance teams at all levels and surrounding villages and local industries. Secondary stakeholders including women groups, youth groups, and NGOs will also be consulted.
- 9) A Gender Action Plan (GAP) is necessary and be prepared for all projects and investment programs, which will be built upon and used to incorporate increased gender mainstreaming activities and indicators to measure and report on progress

This list is not an exhausted list; it is a living document as polices and plans may change over time. In addition relevant gender aspects can be found in GoT sector policies due to the cross-cutting nature of gender and social inclusion. These need to be considered by ODA Handbook users where relevant to the nature of their projects.

Part 3: Role of the Gender Affairs Department (GAD)

- 1) GAD is the GoT's central advisory agency on gender equality. As part of the Office of the Prime Minister GAD provides advice, recommendations and guidance to the GoT at the highest executive level.
- 2) GAD provides technical assistance on gender mainstreaming processes to governmental line ministries and departments and non-governmental partners
- 3) GAD will continue to support and facilitate consultative processes with women's groups and the broader women's machinery to ensure active involvement and participation of women, including rural women will be factored in all Project Management Cycle in the Country.
- 4) GAD is the Secretariat of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) that oversees the gender equality process across GoT and monitors the CEDAW which is the elimination mechanism of all forms of discrimination against women implementation progress. Director for Environment is one of its members, thus NCC is a national platform that will continue to address and highlight challenges, gaps and needs as well as entry points for gender mainstreaming in the Environment sector and used as the coordination point by every project management teams in the country.
- 5) GAD has a strong advocacy and awareness raising role and responsibility which can support project managers and ODA users to include activities on awareness & advocacy and is expected to be adhered and followed through.
- 6) Projects which include policy/law reviews or the development of new plans/policies/laws will be assisted and guided by GAD to ensure meaningful mainstreaming of gender equality at all levels are maintained and where needed awareness and dissemination of information and data is maintained and reported and where applicable, effect corrective measures in project deliverables.

- 7) As part of GAD's assistive role GAD staff will support project managers through gender relevant research tasks, sharing of relevant documents and/ or tool kits; GAD provides gender sensitization training to line ministries and social partners such as the Tuvalu Red Cross in which capacity Building Mechanisms will also be built in and enhanced as an enabling mechanisms for equitable gender mainstreaming process.
- 8) Inclusion of GAD as project stakeholder to support and strengthen gender relevant components remains imperative to the GoT.

Appendix 1 - Tuvalu's Policy Strategic Approach

Table 1

Goal	Importance	Existing document	Type of document
Eliminating violence against women	Key priority	National Gender Policy	National Policy
Eliminate all forms of violence against women	Key objective	TKIII	National Strategic Plan
Eliminate domestic violence and protect DV victims	Main purpose	Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act	National Law
Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women	Main purpose	CEDAW	International Law
Child Protection	Main purpose	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	International Law
Maintain reciprocity, equality and transparency	Main purpose	Tuvalu Social Development Policy	National Policy