

# **Gender Inequalities in Asia Overview and Reducing Inequality to Measure the Cost subjected to Violence Asia Regional Evaluation Summit I-Pager September 11, 2013**

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**Summary:** The first presentation points out that Asia-Pacific has one of the world's worst gender gaps as evidence shows very few laws prohibiting violence against women, lack of education and paid work for women. Policy needs to advance gender equality, so that women as well as men can benefit from job creation and investments in social infrastructure. The second presentation provides example and lesson learnt from the recent study to measure the cost of response services for women and girls subjected to violence. The cost covers direct, indirect and pain and suffering costs. The findings suggest that three main aspects are contributed to gender based violence issues: legislative and policy, budget and implementation which are necessary to identify which services to prioritize and highlight the need for budgeting capacity-building at the national level. This can build evidence-based advocacy.

## **Highlights:**

- Gender equality is moral, good economics, strategic, deepens democracy, true social stability. Bringing gender equality can boost economic control, harness democratic dividends and enforce rights. To move forward, institutions will need to make international commitments into a reality, boost political participation and women's role in government and craft economic policies to support gender equality. This needs to continuously monitor changes and strengthen capacity for gender analysis. Most importantly, new attitudes must be fostered.
- The cost measurement of gender based violence is helpful in making the case for investing in prevention and response, identifying which services to prioritize and highlighting the need for budgeting capacity-building at national level. It needs multidisciplinary approaches including legislative and policy analysis, evidence support through research and indicators, referrals and protocols from survivors and analyzing the budget.

**Synthesis and Reflection:** Asia-Pacific is at a cross road by putting the right policies in place now so that countries in the region can achieve positive change. Equality is based on fairness in term of freedoms, choices and equal access to capabilities. Three strategic windows are open to deal with this issue including *economic power* by ensuring equal rights to property and earnings through laws, policies and political backing, *political voice* by boosting the number and quality of female representation to deepen democracy) and *legal rights* by ensuring equitable laws and translating into equality in practice.

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