

Sri Lanka-Australia: Building Better Networks for Gendered Economic Development

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The Sri Lanka Australia: Building Better Networks for Gendered Economic Development Initiative is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by Australia Aid



Background

- The Australian APEC Study Centre and the Centre for International Development at RMIT University will host a two-year Gender Policy Dialogue initiative with counterparts from Sri Lanka and Australia to exchange perspectives, insights and experiences on the development of women's economic empowerment policies.
- Both countries recognise the importance of gender equality and have implemented a range of policies aimed at further accelerating gender parity within each country. But challenges remain for Sri Lanka and Australia.
- This project is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and organised and administered by the Australian APEC Study Centre at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (AASC-RMIT) with support from DFAT's Sri Lanka Support Unit.

Project Design

- This two-year initiative is an opportunity to share best practices and consider policy ideas going forward.
- It will combine **capacity building and research components** to build a suite of interconnected and complementary activities which will deliver outcomes designed to support women's economic empowerment and labour force participation in Sri Lanka.
- The long term goal of the program is develop enduring networks and linkages between Sri Lanka and Australia to share g experience, policy approaches and conduct collaborative research on this topic.

Intended outcomes

Increase understanding of good policy and advocacy practice for government, private sector and civil society to support women's labour force participation and women's economic empowerment

Improve capacity and linkages of Australian and Sri Lankan public sector, private sector and civil society to support training and research related to women's labour force participation and women's economic empowerment

Goals for the Network

- **Establish linkages between domain experts and across policy issues**
- **Understand the interdependencies between structural, social, cultural, political and economic factors that impinge on women's economic participation in Sri Lanka**
- **Identify points of leverage across identified issues**
- **Co-create policies, research or interventions that drive Sri Lanka towards greater women's economic participation**

LONG TERM GOAL

Developing ongoing linkages between Australian and Sri Lankan experts that supports women's economic empowerment and labour force participation

OUTCOMES

Increased understanding of good policy and advocacy practice for government, private sector and civil society to support women's labour force participation and women's economic empowerment

Improved capacity and linkages of Australian and Sri Lankan public sector, private sector and civil society to support training and research related to women's labour force participation and women's economic empowerment

OUTPUTS

Face to face and virtual networking

A literature review and policy recommendation report

Best practice sharing, training materials & online resources

INPUT / ACTIVITIES

Preliminary Online Roundtable Stakeholder Consultation

Online Pre-Study tour workshop

Australian Study Tour / Virtual Study Tour

Two-day In-country Roundtable

Collaborative Research

Online Training Program

Stakeholder Consultation and review process

Website and communications



Activities

- **Preliminary Online Roundtable Stakeholder consultation (Dec 2021)**
- **Collaborative Research and capacity building (2022)**
- **Online Pre-Study tour workshop (April 2022)**
- **Australian Study Tour / Virtual Study Tour (July 2022)**
- **Two-day research Roundtable in Sri Lanka (November 2022)**
- **Online Training Program (March 2023)**
- **Online Stakeholder review and future planning (April 2023)**
- **Website and communications (ongoing)**



Policy Roundtable:

- This roundtable is the first of the scheduled activities. It is an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to how we develop the themes that will be addressed across the project.
- Women's economic empowerment and labour force participation are broad topics and we hope to identify key areas to focus on that will be pertinent and topical to the challenges faced today in both Sri Lanka and Australia.
- Identify themes can then be common across the networking, research, capacity building and training activities.