



Gender and Politics  
in Practice

# From Silos to Synergy

learning from politically informed,  
gender aware programs

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[dlprog.org/gapp](http://dlprog.org/gapp)

 [#genderpp](https://twitter.com/genderpp)



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# What I am going to talk about...

- The reason for the GAPP research programme
- Common ground between gender aware and politically informed approaches
- Our evidence base
- Five lessons from experience
  - A framework linking the lessons together
  - A short summary of each

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# The reason...

- Development programs are commonly tasked with 'mainstreaming gender'
- Increasingly they are also urged to be politically smart and adaptive...
- ... but the thinking behind these more recent approaches is criticised for being somewhat gender blind
- Practice is outstripping analysis in bringing gender aware and politically informed approaches together

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# Common ground

- Gender aware and politically informed approaches both aim to engage with and ultimately reform unequal power relationships
- There is much to be learned from the decades long experience of successful women's campaigns
- Both approaches are challenging to implement – easily reduced to top-down, donor-driven, technical inputs
- Bringing these approaches together creates the potential for mutual learning, better and deeper analysis, strengthened practice and improved results

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# Our evidence base

- 15 development programs seeking to be both gender aware and to understand and engage with power and politics
- Diverse sample – targeted and “mainstream” initiatives; sectors including women’s rights, governance, economic development and peace building; DFAT funded and DFID funded
- Includes 2 of the programmes already presented

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# Five lessons from experience

- Support inclusive local leadership...
- ... to bring political and gender analysis together and use it
- ... to shape and implement politically informed, gender aware action to promote change
- ... to plan for uncertainty and learn through adaptation
- Shape management systems to support these ways of working



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# Support inclusive local leadership

Being politically informed and gender aware means supporting a mix of local actors to support promote change, including greater gender equality.

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... to bring political and gender analysis together and use it

Combined political and gender analysis can give a fuller picture of pathways to change. It needs to involve front-line staff and partners and be continuously updated – and, of course, it needs to be used

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## ... to shape and implement politically informed, gender aware action to promote change

Politically informed, gender aware approaches work with the shifting political landscape, balancing pragmatism and ambition. They use locally identified entry points, networks and experience, and frame objectives in locally appropriate ways.

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## ... to plan for uncertainty and learn through adaption

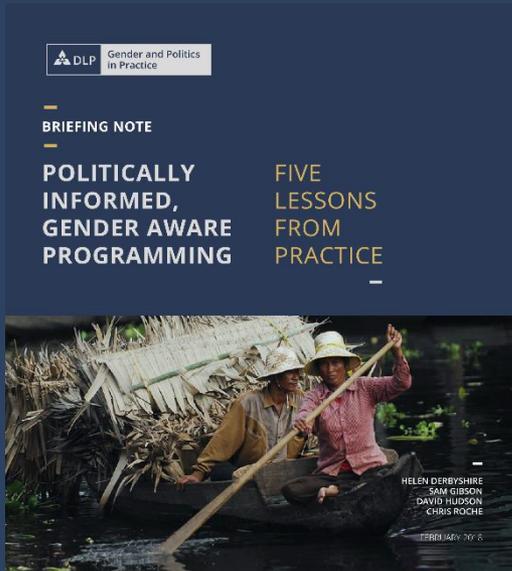
Politically informed and gender aware ways of working mean engaging with a constantly changing context. This involves learning by doing and through adaptation, collecting appropriate data and working to realistic timeframes.

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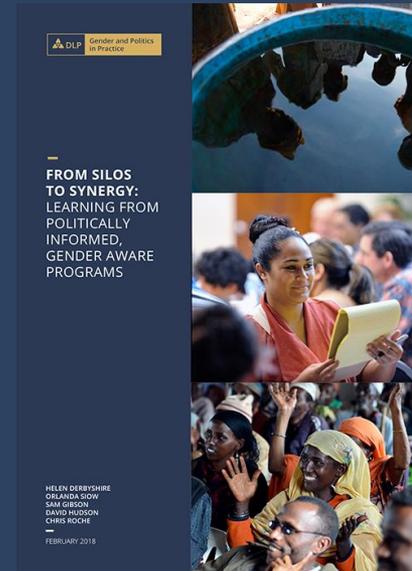
# Shape management systems to support these ways of working

Donors and program management teams together need to help provide an environment that encourages staff and local partners to work in politically informed, gender aware ways.

# Briefing note



# From Silos to Synergy



Explore the Gender and Politics in Practice series at [dlprog.org/gapp](https://dlprog.org/gapp)

Thank you for listening

GAPP is led by the Developmental Leadership Program, which involves the University of Birmingham and La Trobe University, in collaboration with the Australian Government. Partner organisations include The Asia Foundation, Palladium, RMIT, Kings College London, UCL and the University of Southampton.

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