

Over the last six months, Gender Action has taken on some major projects, including capacity building and producing important new publications that strengthen our goal of holding the IFIs accountable on their promises to empower women. Our fifth bi-annual update focuses on some of these exciting new developments and advocacy work!

### **Capacity Building**

#### **Gender Analysis Training in China**

Gender Action has embarked on a capacity building project which aims to transfer skills to Chinese civil society organizations on how to hold IFIs (World Bank, IFC and ADB) accountable for the gender impacts of their investments in China. In spring of 2008, Gender Action's consultant, Suzanna Denis, traveled to China to train the staff of a Chinese NGO, Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Center (WLSLAC), in how to undertake gender audits of IFI projects. The objective of this training was to transfer skills to WLSLAC in how to analyze the gender impacts of IFI investments and conduct future advocacy to hold IFIs accountable on their promises to promote gender equality in all their investments.

#### **Engendering International Finance-Watcher Workshop**

During the 2008 World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings, on October 6-7<sup>th</sup>, Gender Action held a two-day workshop for fellow international finance (IF)-watchers. At the workshop, speakers presented on the links between gender, international finance, and key issues like climate change, macroeconomic policy and legal accountability mechanisms. Some participants shared previous experiences with 'engendering' their organizations, and all participants left with concrete ideas for writing Gender Action Plans. This workshop was just the beginning of much gender capacity building work to come over the next two years, during which Gender Action hopes to multiply its impact by engendering a larger part of the IF-watcher community.

## **Publications**

### **Tsunami Publication**

In September 2008, GenderAction produced an important new publication titled, *Empty Promises: Gender Scorecard of World Bank-Managed Post-Tsunami Reconstruction in Indonesia* by Suzanna Dennis and Warisha Yunus in order to assess public funding to assist Tsunami victims, the majority of whom were women. This report demonstrated the failure of the World Bank administered Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDF) for Indonesia's tsunami and earthquake reconstruction to systematically address gender concerns in the design of its projects despite MDF promises to do so. GenderAction developed a scorecard system to rate the integration of gender issues into the project design. Ultimately, the overwhelming majority of MDF projects earned failing grades on their scorecards. We concluded that the MDF and World Bank failed to fulfill their promises to ensure that MDF projects address women's and gender concerns despite ample opportunity to do so. Gender Action recommended that the MDF improve their track record by enhancing the gender integration of existing MDF projects and ensuring that subsequent projects address gender issues.

### **HIV/AIDS Mapping**

A summary of Gender Action's publication, "Mapping multilateral development banks' (MDBs) spending on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS", has been published in the July 2008 edition of *Gender & Development*. The article draws on Gender Action's research which demonstrated a decline in the World Bank's loans and grants for reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, little contribution to the sector by the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank or the Inter American Development Bank, harmful loan conditions and unmet MDB commitments to reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

### **Gender Action Link: Gender, International Finance and Climate Change**

This fall, Gender Action published its first "Gender Action Link" connecting gender, international finance and climate change issues. This brief, reader-friendly resource is the first in a new series of Gender Action Links to come, including Links of gender, international finance and critical issues like extractive industries, indigenous rights, accountability, commercial banks, debt, the food crisis and more. This inaugural Gender Action Link introduces the gender impacts of International Financial Institution (IFI) and commercial bank investments in sectors heavily impacted by climate change: agriculture, health, reproduction, post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction. The Gender Action Link is not just a briefing; it is a tool that includes key thematic points, concrete case examples, useful action resources and partnership opportunities for linking gender justice groups with international-finance watchers. Look for more Gender Action Links to come soon!

## **Your Help!**

Individual donations help us carry on our vital work. To make a donation, please send a check to Gender Action or click Donate Here at [www.genderaction.org](http://www.genderaction.org).

With continued appreciation for your support,

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