This study advances our understanding of the role of international cooperation in improving women’s economic rights in non-OECD countries. We empirically assess whether aid given for gender equality objectives is associated with women’s legal empowerment in recipient countries. Based on the recently compiled Women, Business and Law (WBL) database of legislative rules and regulations affecting gender equality, we show that gender-marked aid transfers are followed by legal reforms for gender equality in the sample of over 100 recipient countries from 1990 to 2019. We use a two-way panel fixed effects estimation strategy augmented with a recipient-specific temporal unobserved heterogeneity term and, alternatively, an instrumental variable approach to identify the effects of gender-marked aid on women’s legal empowerment. Our findings show that women’s legal empowerment improves, not only with funding that is targeted specifically at promoting women’s rights, but also when gender equality is mainstreamed in projects and programs targeted at all sectors of the economy. This study also has implications for the broader literature on globalization and women’s economic rights.