

Sida's Portfolio within Gender Equality and the Rights and Role of Women 2009-2011

Gender equality and the role of women in development is one of the thematic priorities in Swedish development cooperation. The focus has been on the following four areas – Women's Political Participation & Influence, Women's Economic Empowerment & Working Conditions, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights, and Women's Security, including Combating all Forms of Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking. Gender equality is targeted in approximately 10% of Sida's support while almost 60% of all contributions have mainstreamed gender equality.

Gender equality is a human right and a prerequisite for long-term democratic development as well as just and sustainable economic growth. Gender equality is reached when women and men, girls and boys have equal rights, opportunities and power to shape their own lives, contribute to and influence our societies. Sida's work with gender equality and the rights and role of women is directed by the Swedish policy *On equal footing* which applies for the period 2010-2015. To achieve the objectives of the policy, gender mainstreaming shall be applied as the basic approach and be an integral part of all development cooperation. The overall objective of Sweden's work is: gender equality, greater influence for women, and greater respect for women's rights in developing countries.

Increased support to Gender Equality

During the period 2009-2011 the share of the contributions with gender equality as principal objective has been quite stable at around 10% of Sida's entire support. However, the total cost of the contributions with gender equality as principal objective has increased, from SEK 1 356 Million in 2009 to SEK 1 922 Million two years later. Simultaneously the number of contributions within the same category has marginally decreased, from 453 contributions in 2009 to 413 in 2011. This in accordance with Sweden's development cooperation policy to decrease numbers of contributions, whilst increasing funding amounts. The statistics also show that in more than half of all the contributions, which corresponded to a total of SEK 12 106 Million in 2011, gender equality is a significant objective (i.e. mainstreamed). One third of all contributions with a cost of approximately SEK 2 700 Million per year are classified as not relevant to the goals related to gender equality and the roles and rights of women. This shows a need for improvements in staff capacity for gender analysis and mainstreaming.

Chart 1: The share of contributions with gender equality as principal objective, significant objective and not relevant 2011 in percentage

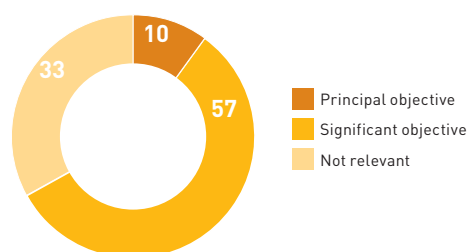
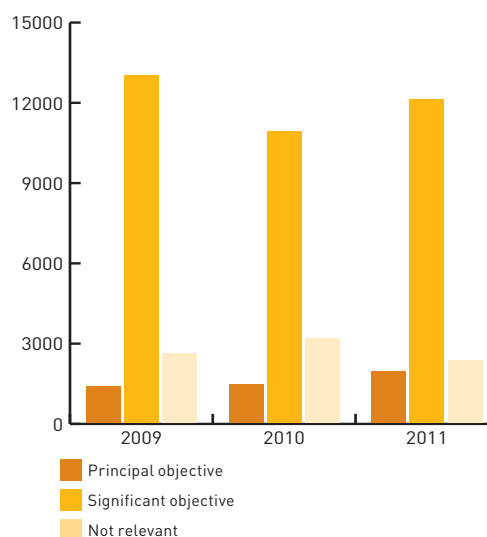


Chart 2: The total cost of contributions with gender equality as principal objective, significant objective and not relevant (MSEK)

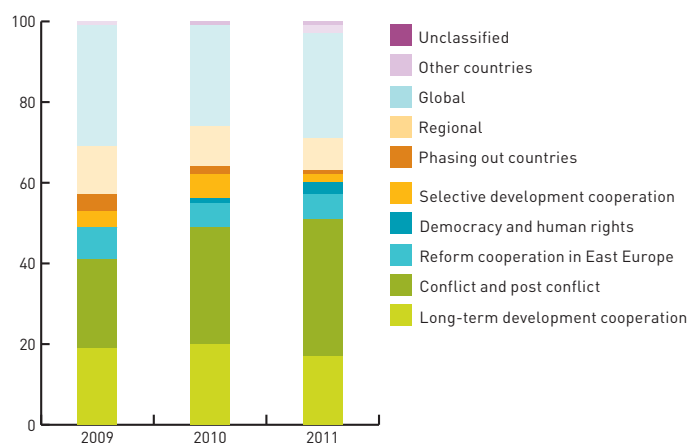


Geographical distribution

Chart 3 shows the distribution per country category as a share of the total costs for contributions with gender equality as the principal objective. The categories Conflict and Post Conflict, as well as Global, have the largest share

of support. While the share of the costs for contributions within the category Global has decreased marginally during the period 2009-2011, the support where gender equality is the principal objective in the context of Conflict and Post Conflict situations has steadily increased. This is partly a result of strategic targeting since 2009 in relation to UN Security Resolutions 1325 and 1820 with a special focus on women's participation and reducing gender based violence. The category Global includes projects or programmes carried out by multilateral actors such as the different UN agencies. The share of support to the country categories Selective Development Cooperation, Phasing Out Countries and Regional has decreased during the investigated period.

Chart 3: Share of cost for contributions with gender equality as principal objective by country category, in percentage



Implementation channels

Chart 4 shows that the largest share of the costs for contributions with gender equality as the principal objective is disbursed through multilateral organizations and Swedish organizations. Both categories has increased since 2009, the share of total costs channeled through multilateral organizations increased from 30 to 37 percent in 2011, and the share canalized through Swedish organizations from 28 to 32 percent during the period. The share of the disbursements with gender equality as the principal objective channeled through organizations in our partner countries has decreased during the period, from 18 to only 11 percent.

Chart 4: Share of cost for contributions with gender equality as principal objective by implementation channel, in percentage



Highlights

– Since the government introduced gender equality as a thematic priority, the roles and rights of women have increasingly permeated cooperation strategies, interventions and methods for implementation.

– Sida has an extensive track-record in support to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Women's Political Participation. Therefore, in operationalizing the Policy for Gender Equality, Sida has specially prioritized knowledge development within Women's Economic Empowerment and Gender Based Violence.

– In 2010 The Black Box on Gender Equality was launched, containing a broad range of Sida developed gender mainstreaming material. It includes a manual for gender mainstreaming, as well as policy, background and toolkit documents on gender equality. The box was produced to meet demands from country teams and desk officers.

– Sida produced an especial results report on gender equality work within Sweden's development cooperation as an enclosure to its Annual Report for 2010.

– Gender equality and women's rights is a dialogue priority with Sida's partners, both in regards to the bilateral cooperation and in the multilateral cooperation. A salient example is the dialogue with the World Bank. Sida has played a key role in the acceptance of Women's Economic Empowerment as a special theme for the World Bank International Development Association (IDA) lending conditions.

– Sida has increased its support related to contributions that seek to eliminate gender-based violence in Conflict and Post Conflict situations. A future challenge is to increase the number of contributions where gender equality is mainstreamed in order to improve results further in these complex situations of fragility and emergency. Important steps to strengthen the gender assessments in Humanitarian Support were taken during 2011 through the support to Gen Cap and the use of Gender Marker as a tool to inform decisions on humanitarian interventions to ensure that supported projects have at least a basic level of gender perspective integrated.