

Sida's Portfolio within Gender Equality 2012

Gender equality is a human right and a prerequisite for long-term democratic development, as well as for 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. This overview shows Sida's disbursements to Gender Equality in 2012 with a special focus on the support to the reduction of gender-based violence.

Main areas of support

Gender equality and the rights and role of women in development are one of three thematic priorities in Swedish development cooperation. Sida's work with gender equality is guided by Sweden's international policy for gender equality "On equal footing" with the overall objective of greater influence for women, and greater respect for women's rights in developing countries. The policy has four main areas:

- Women's Political Participation and Influence
- Women's Economic Empowerment and Working Conditions
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Women's Security, including Combating All Forms of Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking.

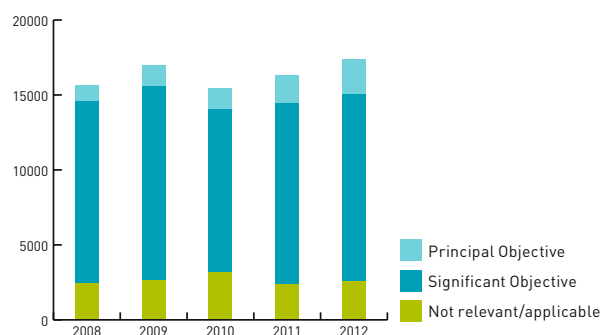
Gender mainstreaming should furthermore be applied as a method in all Sweden's development cooperation.

Increased support to gender equality

Sida uses OECDs policy markers to grade and track thematic priorities in all contributions. Out of the total disbursements in 2012 made by Sida, 72% were marked as having gender equality as a significant objective, meaning that gender equality is mainstreamed in the contribution. 14% of contributions were marked as having gender equality as the principal objective, meaning that it is the main reason for the supported intervention. Gender equality was marked as not relevant or not applicable in 15% of the contributions. See chart 1.

During the period 2008-2012, the share of contributions with gender equality as principal objective doubled from 7% to 14%. During the same period, the amount disbursed to contributions with gender equality as principal objective increased from 1.1 billion SEK to 2.4 billion SEK. The amount disbursed with gender equality as a significant objective remained at around 12 billion SEK.

Chart 1: Disbursements 2008–2012 (MSEK)



An important factor, for the increase in support to gender equality during the period, was the 2008 political decision to make it a thematic priority in all Sweden's development cooperation. This has had an impact on Sweden's development cooperation strategies, where the trend is clear; gender equality is now a priority. The commitment of Sida and embassy management has also been instrumental for the strengthened focus on gender equality. However, Sida still has unfinished business in regards to the relatively constant percentage of contributions (around 15%), which staff grade as not relevant. Whether this relates to lack of awareness, or that it is difficult to apply a gender equality perspective to various interventions, needs to be analysed and addressed.

Reducing gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict areas

Sweden's support in so-called conflict and post-conflict countries has, during recent years, increasingly focused on women's security and combating all forms of gender based violence (GBV). This was the result of a management decision at the Department for Conflict and Post-Conflict Cooperation. The amount disbursed to interventions with gender equality as a principal objective, has increased from 119 million SEK in 2008 to 771 million SEK in 2012. This is 22% of the total disbursements in this country category.

Furthermore, 65% of all contributions to conflict and post-conflict settings were marked as having gender equality as a significant objective in 2012. See chart 2.

GBV is also addressed generally within Sweden's development cooperation. The highlights below give two examples of Sida's current partnerships. One takes up the important work with men and boys against GBV, achieved through the MenEngage Global Alliance. The other example is from Liberia, which shows how efforts against GBV can be mainstreamed into development cooperation.

Prevention of gender-based violence

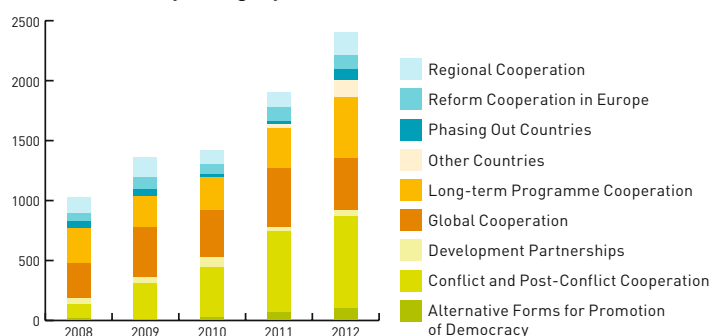
GBV is an extreme outcome of the lack of gender equality. Development cooperation has until now largely focused on addressing the needs of survivors of violence and supporting governmental responses to GBV. For example, through provision of care and psychosocial support, training for police and judiciary, partnering with countries in implementing policies, legal frameworks and international commitments. From 2013, Sida is focusing efforts to a greater extent on the challenging area of primary prevention of GBV. This is in line with the recommendations from the 2013 meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

For Sida this entails:

- A focus on women as change agents rather than victims
- Linkages to women's political participation, women's economic empowerment and education
- Strengthening women's and girl's rights to physical integrity and decision-making over own sexuality and reproductive capacity
- Work with men and boys on gender equality and against gender based violence
- Transformation of social norms and attitudes that underlie gender based violence

It also means that preventing gender-based violence will be a priority across Sweden's development cooperation.

Chart 2: Gender Equality as Principle Objective per Country Category 2008-2012 (MSEK)



Highlights

MEN ENGAGE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Sida is supporting MenEngage, a global alliance of NGOs and UN agencies (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO) established in 2006. MenEngage works with men and boys to support gender equality, reduce gender based violence and promote the health and well-being of women, men, and children.

The MenEngage approach is to encourage a positive and caring manhood. It seeks to build on examples of men already acting in more gender-equitable and non-violent ways. MenEngage activities include research and method development, training on work with men and boys, as well as policy development and advocacy. The two main areas of focus are working against gender based violence and sexual exploitation, and, secondly, male involvement and responsibility in sexual and reproductive health and rights. A recent major campaign, MenCare, has focused on men as equal partners and fathers. It encourages male involvement and responsibility in maternal and child health.

The MenEngage alliance stretches from global and regional organizational levels to over 400 NGOs that work at national and community levels worldwide, including Sweden's organisations Men for Gender Equality, Rädda Barnen and RFSU.

PREVENTION OF GBV IN ROAD PROJECT IN LIBERIA

Sida is partnering with the Liberian government to construct new feeder roads and rehabilitate the roads damaged after almost 14 years of conflict.

From the start in 2009, the Swedish Embassy and the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) focused on integrating gender equality into the programme. Men and women's different transport needs and concerns were analysed and women's participation in the community consultations was ensured. The MoPW also collaborated with Liberia's Gender and Development Office in the planning and implementation of the programme.

The influx of the male road crews in poor communities, as well as employment of local men, was thought likely to increase sexual exploitation, alcohol consumption and gender-based violence. The Embassy therefore in its dialogue with MoPW pushed for life skill issues in awareness education for communities and workers. The education covered women's rights, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights, including protection against HIV and STI transmission. Prevention of gender-based violence was also incorporated in the contractors' code of conduct. The MoPW has employed a specific officer to coordinate these activities and to follow-up on their implementation.