



Gender Equality 2013

Mainstreaming gender equality and women's rights

Gender equality is a human right and a prerequisite for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys, have equal rights, conditions, opportunities and power to shape their own lives and affect society. As one of three thematic priorities for Swedish development cooperation, a gender perspective shall permeate all Sida's work. In 2013, 85 percent of Sida's total portfolio had gender equality as principal or significant objective, of which 15 percent of the support targeted specific gender equality efforts.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sida's support to targeted interventions on women's rights and gender equality focus mainly on five aspects of the gender equality agenda:

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

Sida uses a three pronged strategy with targeted support to gender equality efforts per se, integration of a gender perspective in all operations and highlighting gender equality and women's rights in the dialogue with partner countries and stakeholders.

Sida aims to integrate a gender perspective in all sectors of the portfolio. The gender perspective is particularly

strong in the human rights and democracy sector as well as in social sectors like education and health. Important work is also being done in sectors like agriculture, research, water and sanitation and private sector development.

Sweden strategically uses dialogue as an advocacy tool for promoting gender equality within multiple co-operation partners at global, regional, and country levels. Sida often takes the lead in the dialogue on controversial issues related for instance to sexual and reproductive health and right.

Sida's experience is that men's engagement is important in the work towards gender equality. Sida pushes for taking the agenda with men and boys for gender equality forward by supporting organisations that work for gender equality where the men are the key agents of change.



FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENTS GENDER EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING, MILLION SEK

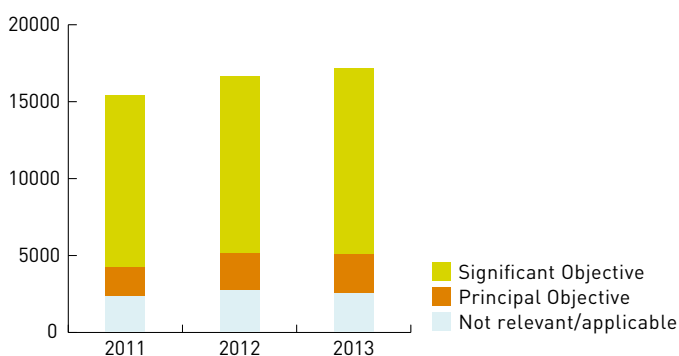
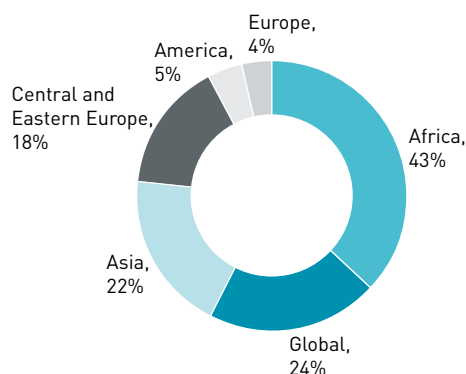


FIGURE 2: DISBURSEMENTS GENDER EQUALITY AS A MAIN OBJECTIV



RESULTS

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

Despite alarming statistics on women's and girls situation the overall trend is positive. Overall, gender equality is undoubtedly on the global agenda. The inclusion of a goal on gender equality in the Millennium Development Goals has had significant impact on the support to gender equality efforts, with strongest results as regards girl's enrolment in primary school. Today 97 girls per 100 boys are enrolled in primary school, compared to 91 per 100 ten years ago. The number of women in the world's parliament has increased from 14 percent to 21 percent since 2000. The number of laws discriminating women has decreased by half since 1960 according to a recent study by the World Bank.

However, women continue to face discrimination across economic, social and political spheres. Women's access to economic and political power remains a challenge as women still only own a tiny part of the world's financial assets, and many women do not even have their own bank account. Gender gaps in employment have grown in many

regions since the 2008 financial crisis, and women are disproportionately affected by vulnerable forms of employment. Women's overwhelming responsibility for unpaid care work restrict their ability to earn income from paid work, undermine girls and women's education, and prevent their full participation in politics and public affairs. 47 000 women die each year as a result of unsafe abortion, accounting for 13 percent of all maternal deaths worldwide.

It is estimated that 7 out of 10 women globally will be beaten, raped, abused, or mutilated in their lifetimes, and most of this violence takes place in intimate relationships. 603 million women and girls live in countries where domestic violence is not prohibited. Yet, the 2013 agreed session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women has given a major boost to increasing efforts against gender based violence and specifically to address its root causes.

Politically the most difficult issue for governments to agree on relates to women's control over the own body, where particularly sexual rights remain a global dividend.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida's gender equality portfolio is broad. Some indicative results during the period 2009–2013 are as follows.

Swedish support has:

- Enabled 8,3 million girls' access to education, primarily at primary level.
- Contributed to a more equitable access to assets and services by providing financial services to more than 1 million women worldwide.
- Ensured that more than 130 000 women have had access to safe abortion.

- Given more than 1 million men the opportunity to engage in gender equality work.
- Provided 1 500 non-governmental organizations working with gender equality with economic funds. Many of the organisations furthermore forward the support to local organisations.



Has contributed to the adoption of 166 laws, draft laws and policies that aim to improvements in gender equality in 22 countries.

STORY OF CHANGE

The Swedish Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, has combined diplomatic dialogue with development cooperation to support women's participation in the peace process. In addition to financial support to the UN (UN Women and UNDP) and women's rights organisations, the Embassy holds a high level policy dialog on women as agents for peace in the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the guerrilla (FARC). The message on women as peace agents has been highlighted by the Embassy on strategic occasions related to peacebuilding, political participation, reconciliation and victims' rights and has been widely disseminated through social media and TV. The financial support has among others resulted in that the government's delegation for the peace negotiations pres-

ently consist of two women and four men from previously including men only. Furthermore the realisation of a "Peace Meeting for Women" in October 2013, with 450 representatives from women's organisations, which resulted in agreed specific recommendations to the peace negotiations.



– Women are needed in peace negotiations. We are often more tolerant, we can discuss, draw conclusions, dialogue, make clear the difference of opinion and find solutions. It's only if all different points of view are included, that we can find ways to create peace.

Danny Vieco Jiménez, Colombia