The objective of Sida’s research cooperation is to contribute to strengthened research of high quality and of relevance to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Gender equality, including women’s rights and empowerment, is a priority for Swedish development cooperation. Gender equality is mainstreamed in all Sida’s contributions, including research cooperation. It is an important goal in itself, as well as an instrument for sustainable development. Sida also supports specific research on gender issues.

Gender in research

In research cooperation gender is addressed through four different approaches: (1) targeted measures aiming to ensure equal, or at least increased, participation of women in different Sida supported programmes; (2) integrated measures with focus on structures and systems, where research cooperation is designed in a way that systematically reduces the gender gap and empowers women within the program; (3) policy dialogue on opportunities/challenges for men and for women to participate, lead, manage and benefit from the research cooperation; and (4) supporting research on gender.

Some examples of how gender is incorporated into Sida’s research support are presented in this leaflet.

Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

OWSD, a non-governmental body based in Trieste, Italy, provides research training, career development and networking opportunities for women scientists in the developing world. With Sida’s support, OWSD has fully funded 335 PhD fellowships for women from sub-Saharan Africa and least developed countries to study in middle-income countries. These scholarships cover living expenses and costs related to research activities in the host country. The funding also covers career development opportunities, such as tailor-made workshops on thesis and grant-writing, and publishing and presentation skills. In addition, OWSD has a large network of alumnae and members. This support ensures that women scientists in the developing world have a fair opportunity to compete successfully in the international scientific arena.

In 2013, a program specifically targeting female MSc and PhD students at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, provided a monthly scholarship to 220 female graduate students. The proportion of female graduate students is increasing at the university, currently amounting to approximately 28%.

GenderInSITE

GenderInSITE is an international initiative, hosted by OWSD, to raise awareness of the importance of the role of women in Science, Innovation, Technology and...
Engineering (SITE). GenderInSITE also aims to demonstrate how applying a gender lens – taking into account the perspective from both women and men – can provide deeper insights and more effective programmes in the context of development. The initiative targets policy- and decision makers to increase the representation and leadership of female scientists and enhance the visibility of women’s contributions for sustainable development.

In the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA), women are given support so that they can bring their infants along with a care giver. This ensures the participation of mothers at the one month long joint advanced seminars.

Outcomes of UNRISD research are fed into global policy debate within and beyond the UN system. For example UNRISD’s pioneering work on care and its impact on economic development has contributed to an increased global awareness of unpaid care work.

Swedish research cooperation with the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, encompassed support to the Centre for Gender Studies which contributed to the formulation of the first gender and anti-sexual harassment policies at university level in the country in 2006.

UNESCO Science
There is a large imbalance in the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), in particular at the more advanced career levels. Key to dealing with this imbalance is a better understanding of the underlying reasons behind it, and how it can effectively be addressed. Through UNESCO Science, Sida supports improved measurement of gender equality in STEM. The aim of this project is to reduce the gender gap in STEM fields in education and research in all countries. This is done by determining, measuring and assessing gender-disaggregated data, and by undertaking an inventory of policy instruments that affect gender equality in STEM. The development of better indicators to provide tools for evidence-based policy-making, as well as analysis of how policies affect the gender balance in STEM, will hopefully lead to effective measures to reduce the gender gap.

One of CGIARs ultimate goals is to empower poor women and men to benefit tangibly from the adoption and sustained use of CGIAR innovations, leading to a more gender-equitable distribution of food and income.

GENNOVATE - a global comparative research initiative of CGIAR- analyses how gender norms and agency influence men, women and youth to adopt innovation in agriculture and natural resource management. The study is carried out across 125 rural communities in 26 countries. The initiative’s inclusive research process strives to give rural women and men a voice by providing contextually-grounded evidence on how gender interacts with agricultural innovations. In addition, it strengthens the capacities of CGIAR Research Programmes to know the target beneficiaries, design for them, and be accountable to them.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
UNRISD, is an autonomous research space within the UN system for the conduct of policy-relevant, cutting-edge research on social development. UNRISD’s current research program on Gender and Development focuses on the drivers of change in gender relations – including the understanding of how norms of femininity and masculinity undergo transformation – in different contexts. Research projects examine the implications of the feminization of agriculture, paths for the redistribution of care, politics of claims making for gender-egalitarian policies etc.

'When I got my OWSD fellowship, it was an amazing feeling. Before getting the letter, my academic career was a dream, the letter made it possible. Now I work in Khartoum as an Assistant Professor.'
– Nashwa Eassa, Physics, Sudan.