



Gender Equality 2014

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 four thematic priorities for Swedish development cooperation, a gender perspective shall permeate all Sida's work. 87 percent of Sida's total portfolio has gender equality as principal or significant objective, of which 17 percent targets specific gender equality efforts.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sida's support to 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, 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 sectors like education, health and peace and security. Important work is also being done in sectors like for instance agriculture and water and sanitation. Gender equality needs to be strengthened in non-social/productive sectors.

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 men are the key agents of change.



FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENTS GENDER EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING, MILLION SEK

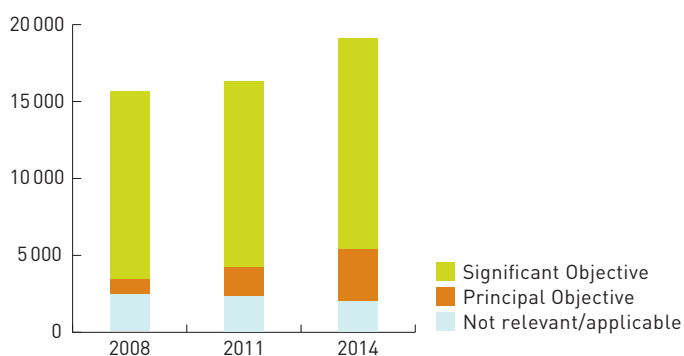
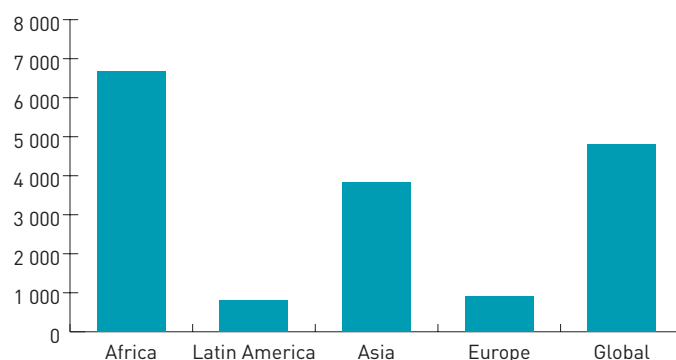


FIGURE 2: DISBURSEMENTS GENDER EQUALITY AS A MAIN OBJECTIVE, MILLION SEK



RESULTS

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

During the last years we have seen substantial global progress in some areas. 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 national parliament has increased from 14 to 22 percent since 2000, and a study by the World Bank shows that laws discriminating women has decreased by half since 1960.

Progress has, however, been slow and varied, and we also see stagnation and regression. Rising extremism and conservatism has had a negative effect for women and girls at all arenas, and women's rights defenders are increasingly subjected to restrictions and violence. The number of laws against violence against women has risen but violence is still widespread; a global estimate is 35 %. Women's sexual rights and control over their bodies remains a global dividend, and access to economic and political power is a challenge. Women rarely have top positions, gender gaps in employment has grown, and women's responsibility for unpaid care work restricts their ability to participate in pol-

itics. More girls than ever are in schools, but the quality of the education, gender based violence in schools, and sanitation and hygiene needs to be addressed. 47 000 women die each year as a result of unsafe abortion, accounting for 13 percent of all maternal deaths. Development has been particularly slow for women and girls who are discriminated also on other grounds; being poor, living on the countryside or in urban slum, belonging to ethnic minorities, with HIV or disabilities. The existence of an independent women's movement is the single most important factor for the implementation of gender equality policies, and we see the best results in countries where the women's movement have been cooperating with other advocates.

Today gender equality is undoubtedly on the global agenda. The inclusion of a goal on gender equality in the Millennium Development Goals, strengthened in 2015 through the Global Goals and the Financing for Development agenda, have had significant impact. The challenge ahead is the implementation.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida's gender equality portfolio is broad. During the period of 2009–2013 an overview of gender results was made, showing that 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

Around the world women human rights defenders risk their lives, and in contexts of extremism and repression the situation is acute. Contrary to a worrying global trend of less support to women's organisations, Sida's contribution has tripled since 2008. Through global women's rights organisations such as AWID and Mama Cash, Sida support reaches the local level. One example is the Meso-american Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders. In a context of insecurity, militarisation and failure of state institutions, Mexico and Central America are witnessing a spike in violence against women and women human rights defenders. In 2010 the initiative was founded by women leaders and activists from local, regional and international

organisations, aiming to fight impunity, increase public recognition and ensure protection where the state had proven inadequate. As a result the constituency of women human rights defenders has grown stronger in the region through wide networks and increased visibility, credibility, legitimacy and support.



Indigenous woman gives testimony at the proceedings against former Guatemalan President Efraín Ríos Montt when he was on trial for genocide in 2013.