



Gender Equality

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, life prospects and opportunities and power to shape their own lives and contribute to society. As one of the main thematic priorities for Swedish development cooperation, a gender perspective shall permeate all Sida's work.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sweden's longstanding commitment to gender equality in development cooperation has been strengthened with the launch of the Feminist Foreign Policy.

Sida uses a three pronged approach 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's support to targeted interventions on gender equality and women's rights 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

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. Sida recognizes that women's rights organisations are crucial for gender equality in all areas of society, and

is a leading donor in terms of championing women's rights organisations as well as global financial support.

In 2015 Sida presented a three year plan for strengthened work on gender mainstreaming. The plan has three goals: 1) **Increased support to interventions where gender equality is a principal objective** in all sectors, but specifically in the productive sectors, in environment and climate, in the humanitarian support and through new forms of financing; 2) **Enhanced quality of gender mainstreaming**, achieved through increased focus on follow-up and monitoring, strengthened gender analysis in strategy processes and in interventions management including evaluation, knowledge development, and gender equality as a priority in dialogue; 3) **Strengthened gender equality work at Sida as an organisation and employer**.

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

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.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone – and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.



Results

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

The strong commitments for gender equality in Agenda 2030, building on CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action challenges Sida to put gender equality at the core of interventions, in keeping an holistic approach and addressing intersecting forms of discriminations. Gender equality is both a stand along goal (Goal 5) and integrated through out the Agenda 2030. Important global trends include focus on women and girls in peace and security, humanitarian action, economic empowerment and as actors in a changing climate. The shrinking space for women's rights organisations in terms of funding as well as intimidation and violence is urgent, as is the lack of data and need for accountability mechanisms.

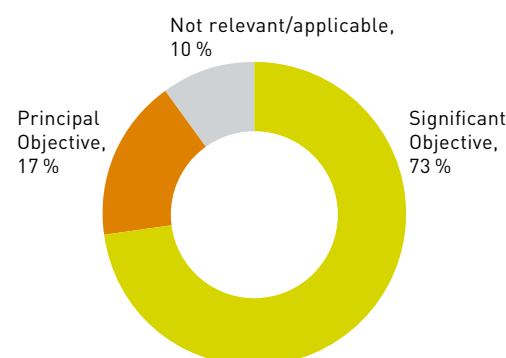
SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida's support to gender equality is measured through the OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker, which shows commitment to gender equality. In 2015 17% of the total portfolio was marked as principal, which means gender equality was the main objective. This can be compared to 2008 when the same number was 8%. Moreover 73% was marked as significant, i.e. with gender equality as an important and deliberate but not main objective, and 10% was marked as not relevant to gender equality.

PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

Women's economic empowerment is underfinanced worldwide; in 2012–2013 only 2% of the ODA in economic sectors had gender equality as a main objective. Sida is committed to reduce this gap. One example is the project "Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" implemented by UN-Women, WFP, IFAD and FAO, reaching 70 000 rural women in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. Main outcomes of the program is improved food and nutrition security, increased income, enhanced participation in decision-making and gender-responsive policy environment.

FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENTS GENDER EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING, %

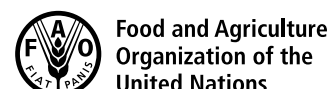


In the last years Swedish support has contributed to the adoption of 166 laws, draft laws and policies that aim to improvements in gender equality in 22 countries.

Also the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Financing for Development Conference** in 2015 provides a strong message on gender equality.

"This Joint Programme is not only supporting women's empowerment, but is also creating communities free from violence and economic deprivation."

José Alberto Antonio Sandoval Cojulún, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, in his closing remarks at a side event during the Commission of the Status of Women in New York 2016



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Address: SE-105 25 Stockholm, Sweden. Office: Valhallavägen 199, Stockholm
 Telephone: +46 (0)8-698 50 00. Telefax: +46 (0)8-20 88 64
 E-mail: info@sida.se. Homepage: <http://www.sida.se>

