



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.

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.

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**. The implementation of the plan during 2016 has focused on quality assurance, steering and knowledge management. The results of the implementation are further described in Sida's annual report.

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

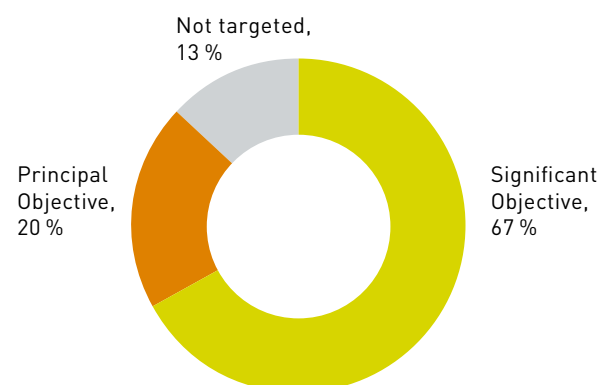
The strong commitments for gender equality in Agenda 2030, building on CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action challenges Sida to put gender equality at the core of interventions, in keeping an holistic approach and addressing intersecting forms of discriminations. Gender equality is both a stand along 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

Based on consistent gender equality work, Sida believes that interventions where gender equality is the main objective achieve the most explicit results. The implementation of Sida's three-year plan (2016-2018) for strengthened work on gender equality has initially resulted in an increased support to interventions where gender equality is the principal objective from 17% in 2015 to 20% by the end of 2016. The proportion of support where gender equality is an important and deliberate but not the main objective, decreased from 73% to 67% while the share of support not targeted to gender equality increased from 10% to 13% in the same period. The shift should be understood as a result of quality assurance efforts during 2016, also part of the plan for gender mainstreaming.

At the first ever **World Humanitarian Summit**, held in Istanbul in May 2016 it was confirmed that gender equality, fulfilment of women's and girls' human rights and their empowerment in humanitarian contexts is a universal responsibility. Moreover, it was emphasized that the skills and experience of women of all ages and their role as leaders and agents of change are pivotal to sustaining conflict prevention and resolution, to peacebuilding and to building resilient communities.

FIGURE 1: DISBURSEMENTS GENDER EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING, %



PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

Women's exclusion from decision-making and limited access to and control over resources impedes their rights. In the case of climate change, this means that women's voices are absent from decisions about environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, all issues with long-term consequences for the wellbeing of women, their families and the sustainability of their communities. Sida is supporting Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development that promotes women's human rights and feminist climate justice. They have over 211 members in 27 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific Islands. APWLD works mainly with women grass root organisations to strengthen their capacity to voice women's human rights challenges and to strengthen participation on regional and global level. The aim is to achieve structural change in society for men and women in Asia. By continuously taking a prominent role in the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change processes, APWLD increases its members' capacity to conduct high level advocacy and are ensuring that women's voices and their rights are imbedded in language, outcomes and follow-up plans.