



Gender Equality

Mainstreaming gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment

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 equality perspective shall permeate all Sida's work.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sweden has a longstanding commitment to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. This commitment has been strengthened with the Government's Policy Framework (2016); the Feminist Foreign Policy and Sida's action plan for strengthening mainstreaming of gender equality (2016–2018).

A new global development cooperation strategy for gender equality and women's and girls' rights (2018–2022) was adopted in 2018. The strategy complements the comprehensive work for gender equality that Sweden is supporting through bilateral, regional and other global development cooperation strategies by supporting global catalytic and innovative efforts.

Sida uses a three-pronged approach for gender mainstreaming with targeted support to gender equality *interventions*, by integrating a gender *perspective* in all operations and sectors and by highlighting gender equality and women's rights in the *dialogue* with partner organizations and other stakeholders.

Gender equality is featured in most of Sida's strategies covering areas such as women's and girls' human rights, women's economic and political participation, ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, promoting girls' education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, women, peace and security and integrating gender equality in development programmes and humanitarian assistance.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are based on 17 goals including a standalone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5). Empowering women challenging stereotypes and unequal power relations and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development. Gender equality also requires the engagement of men and boys.

Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it also has a multiplier effect across all other development areas.

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENT TO CONTRIBUTIONS WITH GENDER AS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE 2015–2019 PER MAIN SECTOR, %



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

Despite progress made in reducing maternal mortality, closing the gender gap in education, and increasing the numbers of women in the world's parliament, challenges remain for achieving gender equality by 2030.

Increased polarisation, conservative values and push-back for advancing women's and girls' rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights and LGBTI rights, as well as a shrinking space for civil society organisations and women's rights organisations is challenging the advancement of gender equality. Women and girls, as well as non-binary persons are exposed to a much higher degree of discrimination and gender-based violence than men and boys. Following the #metoo movement, governments, donors and non-governmental organisations have increased their attention to prevent and address sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. Greater attention is also made to the impact of multiple forms of discrimination on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

SIDA'S SUPPORT

Sida has strengthened its work on gender equality. Support to targeted interventions where gender equality is the principal objective has increased from 17% in 2015 to 20% by the end of 2019.

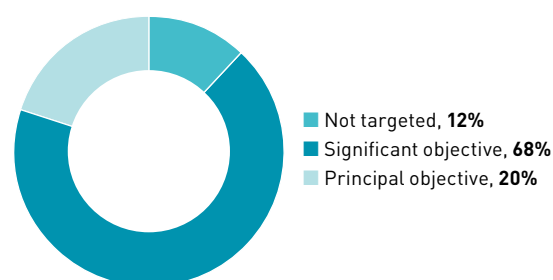
The proportion of support where gender equality is an important and deliberate but not the main objective decreased from 73% to 68% partly due to reclassification, while the share of support not targeted to gender equality increased from 10% to 12% in the same period.

The integration of a gender perspective has been particularly strong in the human rights and democracy sector as well as in social sectors such as education and health.

Continued efforts are made in strengthening integration of a gender equality perspective and in including gender equality as a significant objective in economic and produc-

tive sectors, loans and guarantees, as well as in environment and climate change and humanitarian assistance.

SIDA'S GENDER POLICY MARKER 2019, %



Examples of results 2019 includes:

- Sida has contributed towards the adoption of laws that promote gender equality in 25 countries. For example, in Bolivia a law was adopted requesting all political parties to promote gender equality. In Sierra Leone a law prohibiting child marriage was adopted.
- A percentage of guarantees supported by Sida are earmarked for women who leads or owns companies and these women are also provided with capacity building in business skills. For example through Sida's collaboration with the Bank of Africa in Mali, 94% of the borrowers were women (the target was a minimum of 25%).
- In the Middle East men's attitudes towards gender equality have changed as a result of a regional programme challenging social norm and engaging men and boys in gender equality. These men are also sharing child care and household tasks.
- Women who has experienced gender-based violence are receiving more effective treatment as a result of capacity building programmes with the police, local authorities, health workers and civil society actors in Albania, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine.

STORY OF CHANGE

In Bangladesh, 18% of girls get married before the age of 16. With support of a youth group Rumpa Jannatul Rupa convinced her mother not to marriage her off and she is now planning to study at the university. *"I have learned about leadership and women's rights through the youth group. My self confidence has also been strengthened."*

Through this Sida supported programme, implemented by Plan International through Rangpur-Dinaipur Rehabilitation Services (RDRS), are religious leaders, teachers and fathers also visit families where a child marriage is planned and they have managed to stop many marriages. *"When men and boys are convinced how dangerous it is, they spread the word to other fathers."* Engaged father.