



Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys, have equal rights, life prospects and opportunities, and the power to shape their own lives and contribute to society.

The Gender Tool Box gathers knowledge material and method support on gender equality in the form of Tools, Briefs and Thematic Overviews.

[TOOL]

Gender Equality Policy Marker

WHAT IS THE GENDER EQUALITY POLICY MARKER?

The Gender Equality Policy Marker is used by Sida and other OECD-DAC members to provide a measure of aid allocated in support of gender equality.¹ The Gender Equality Policy Marker gives an overview of:

- The proportion of aid focused on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The proportion of aid where gender equality is a principal or significant objective.
- The sectors where gender equality is prioritised.
- The investments within the individual sectors.
- The countries where gender equality is prioritised.

All contributions should be screened against the gender equality marker.

Why is the Gender Equality Policy Marker important?

The present tool aims at explaining how to use the Gender Equality Policy Marker. The marker tracks Sida's financial flows that target gender equality. Therefore it is important to ensure that the Gender Equality Policy Marker is used in a coherent and relevant way.

HOW TO USE THE GENDER EQUALITY POLICY MARKER

A contribution should be classified as gender equality focused (policy marker 1 or 2) if it is *intended to advance gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls, reducing gender discrimination or inequalities, or meeting gender-specific*

*needs.*² The contribution can also concern aspects such as previous discrimination and the compensation for such actions, and target either women/girls or men/boys or both groups.

- **Principal** (*marked 2*) means that gender equality is the main objective of the contribution and is fundamental to its design and expected results. The contribution would not have been undertaken without this objective.
- **Significant** (*marked 1*) means that gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the contribution.

If the contribution does not target gender equality it should be marked with (0), which means that the contribution has been screened against the gender marker but has not been found to target gender equality.

The Gender Equality Policy Marker shows commitment to gender equality and should be applied at an early stage of a contribution and it is based on Sida's assessment at the design stage. However, during the course of a contribution the marker may be modified from 0 to 1 or from 1 to 2. It may also be changed in the opposite direction (from 1 to 0 and 2 to 1) if the contribution changes and gender equality is no longer a principal or significant objective; or as a result of quality assurance carried out internally at Sida or if OECD DAC changes its classification system.

Two of the OECD/DAC purpose codes complement the gender equality policy marker and have direct relevance for gender equality: These two codes should always be marked as gender equality policy marker 2.

¹ OECD-DAC is the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is an international forum of thirty of the largest providers of aid, among them Sweden. In depth information about the OECD-DAC policy markers including the gender equality policy marker can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

² <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Minimum-recommended-criteria-for-DAC-gender-marker.pdf>

- “Women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions” (15170) covers support for feminist movements, organisations and institutions working for women’s rights (re-named in 2019 from “women’s equality organisations and institutions).
- The “violence against women and girls” (15180) covers support to ending violence against women and girls.
- The information related to statistical coding is found in [Sida’s Statistical Handbook](#)

Sida also uses policy makers for other policy areas such as Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health; Trade development; Democracy and human rights; Environment; Inclusion and empowerment of persons with disability; Disaster risk reduction); (Rio markers) Desertification; Climate Change mitigation; Climate Change adaptation; Biodiversity; (Sida’s policy markers) Conflict prevention, peace and security; Employment.

The policy markers are not mutually excluding, which means that a contribution may have more than one

principal and/or significant objective. When a contribution qualifies for more than one policy marker as a principal or significant objective it has to be clearly described and motivated in the appraisal.³

MINIMUM CRITERIA

A gender analysis and a “do no harm” approach is necessary for all development cooperation to ensure at minimum that the contribution does not perpetuate or exacerbate gender inequalities. The gender analysis identifies the difference between and among women, men, girls and boys regarding differences in distribution of resources, opportunities and choice, power and voice and human security in a given context. See the other minimum criteria’s in the box below.

All contributions must be screened against the Gender Equality Policy Marker.

³ Sida Statistical Handbook June 3 2020

Policy marker	Description	Minimum Criteria
2-1-0		
Policy marker 2		
Gender equality as a principal objective	Principal objective: Gender equality is the main objective of the contributions approach and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The contributions would not have been undertaken without this gender equality objective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gender analysis of the contributions has been conducted. • Findings from this gender analysis have informed the design of the contributions and the intervention adopts a ‘do no harm’. • The top-level ambition of the contributions is to advance gender equality and/or women’s empowerment. • The results framework measures progress towards the contributions gender equality objectives through gender-specific indicators to track outcome/impact. • Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable. • Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results achieved by the project in the evaluation phase.
Policy marker 1		
Gender equality as a significant objective	Significant objective: Gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gender analysis of the contributions has been conducted. • Findings from this gender analysis have informed the design of the contributions and the intervention adopts a ‘do no harm’ approach. • Presence of at least one explicit gender equality objective backed by at least one gender-specific indicator (or a firm commitment to do this if the results framework has not been elaborated at the time of making the project). • The results framework measures progress towards the contributions gender equality objectives through gender-specific indicators to track outcome/impact. • Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable. • Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results achieved by the project in the evaluation phase.
Policy marker 0		
Not targeted to gender equality	Not targeted: The contributions has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target gender equality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gender analysis is mandatory for all projects/programmes, even if gender equality is not a principal or significant objective. • Findings from the gender analysis should be used to ensure at minimum that the contributions does no harm an does not perpetuate or exacerbate gender inequalities.

EXAMPLES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Gender equality as a principal objective (2):

- Women's access to and use of contraceptives, and right to safe abortion.
- A project aiming at raising awareness against Female Genital Mutilation.
- Network for men against gender-based violence (GBV).
- Social protection project focusing on empowering women and girls.
- Support to women's rights organisations.
- Productive employment for women.
- Increase women's access to finance.

More than one principal objective:

- Increase agricultural production and women's economic empowerment, focusing on specific obstacles facing women farmers.
- Promotion of women's meaningful involvement in environment/climate negotiations.

Gender equality as a significant objective (1):

- Social protection project which focuses on the community as a whole and ensures that women and girls benefit equally with men and boys.
- Capacity building of a human rights institute with a special program for women's rights, which considers equal opportunities in the organisation.
- Institutional cooperation between governmental authorities on improvement on statistical bureaus, which includes improvement of sex disaggregated data and to collect data on gender based violence.
- A contribution which has as its principal objective to provide drinking water to a district or community while at the same time ensuring that women and girls have safe and easy access to the facilities.

Not targeted to gender equality (0):

- An environmental project for which a gender analysis has been conducted, but where gender equality is not an objective and which does not include activities to reduce gender inequality or empower women.
- A basic education program designed to benefit both boys and girls for which a gender analysis has been conducted, but with no objectives or activities to address gender-specific barriers to education.

For further reading and more examples, see [OECD-DAC Definition and minimum recommended criteria for the DAC gender equality policy marker](#), [OECD-DACs Handbook on the Gender Equality Policy Marker](#) and [Sida's Statistical Handbook](#), which includes information on statistical coding