



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 OECD DAC members to provide a measure of aid allocated in support of gender equality.¹ The Gender Equality Policy Marker shows commitment to gender equality and does not say anything about implementation or results. It gives an overview of:

- The proportion of DAC members' aid focused on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The sectors where gender equality is prioritized.
- The investments within the individual sectors.
- The countries where gender equality is prioritized.

HOW TO USE THE GENDER EQUALITY POLICY MARKER

According to OECD DACs definition a contribution should be classified as gender equality focused if it is *intended to advance gender equality and women's empowerment or reduce discrimination and inequalities based on sex.*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.

Apart from Gender Equality the following policy markers are used by Sida: Trade Development; Democracy and Human Rights; Peace and Security; Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; Environment; Biodiversity; Climate Change – adaptation; Climate Change – mitigation; Desertification.

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

Why is the Gender Equality Policy Marker important?

The present tool aims at explaining how to use the Gender Equality Policy Marker. The marker provides the only way to measure and overview Sida's commitment to gender equality. Therefore it is important to ensure that the Gender Equality Policy Marker is used in a coherent and relevant way.

¹ 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/stats/37461060.pdf>

³ Sida Statistical Handbook 2015

DEFINITION AND CHECKLIST

Policy marker	Definition	Checklist
2-1-0	(Sida Statistical Handbook 2015)	
Policy marker 2		
Gender equality as a principal objective	Principal objective: The contribution directly aims at advancing gender equality; it <i>would not</i> have been implemented without the gender equality policy objective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the main and explicit objective of the contribution to promote gender equality? • Is gender equality fundamental in the design of the contribution? • Are the expected results of the contribution to promote gender equality?
Policy marker 1		
Gender equality as a significant objective	Significant objective: The contribution partly aims at advancing gender equality; however it would have been implemented even without the gender equality policy objective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is gender equality not the main objective of the contribution, but relevant and important in achieving the expected results? • Is gender equality reflected in the project/program design as a secondary objective or through e.g. activities, budget, indicators and/or expected results?
Policy marker 0		
Not relevant¹ to gender equality	Not relevant: The contribution is not relevant for the gender equality policy objective.	The contribution has been screened against but not found relevant as regards to gender equality. This should relate to very few contributions at Sida.

1 DAC uses "not targeted" and Sida uses "not relevant".

Examples

Contributions with gender equality as a **principal objective (2)**:

- Schooling for girls
- Network for men against gender-based violence (GBV)
- Social safety net project focusing on empowering women and girls
- Support to women's organisations
- Capacity building of the gender machinery
- Productive employment for women
- Ending discrimination of women traders
- Maternal health programmes
- Increase women's access to finance

NOTE: Contributions to **women's organisations and institutions** (DAC sector code 15170) should always be marked as gender equality policy marker 2

Contributions with **more than one principal objective**:

- A contribution with the goals to 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.

- Improved health indicators and gender equality among young people by reaching out with information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) mainly to young men.
- A contribution with the goal to increase women's access to finance and thereby improving economic development in a region/country.

Contributions with gender equality as a **significant objective (1)**:

- 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.
- Social safety net project which focuses on the community as a whole and ensures that women and girls benefit equally with men and boys.
- Enhanced agricultural productivity where training and access to productive resources reach women.
- Capacity building of a human rights institute with a special program for women's rights.
- Support to institutional cooperation between governmental authorities on improvement on statistical bureaus where one component of the project is to improve sex disaggregated data and to collect data on GBV.