

HIGHLIGHT STORY

EMPOWERMENT HOW?



**Development policy and funding for
gender equality and women's empowerment
across 14 donors**

About the Donor Tracker

The Donor Tracker seeks to advance and support progress in global development by providing advocates with easy access to high-quality quantitative and qualitative strategic information to support their work. The Donor Tracker is a free, independent website for development professionals that provides relevant information and analysis on 14 major OECD donors, as well as ‘Highlight Stories’ on timely issues in global development.

For more in-depth information on the development trends covered in this analysis and to find out more about strategic priorities, funding trends, decision-making, and key opportunities, please visit donortracker.org and follow us on Twitter @DonorTracker.

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- This Highlight Story has been updated since its original publication to reflect an update to the OECD CRS 2016 data on July 4, 2018.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Highlight Story looks at 14 OECD DAC donors and analyzes their strategic priorities and funding in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. The 14 donors covered are: Australia, Canada, EU institutions, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (UK), and United States (US).

What are donors' priorities?

- Donors are increasingly prioritizing gender equality in their development policies. 12 out of the 14 donors profiled have a gender equality strategy in place, and all have launched initiatives targeting women's empowerment in recent years. However, only two donors – Sweden and Canada – have put gender equality at the heart of their development policies within an overarching 'feminist' approach.
- Donors focus on advancing gender equality in similar areas. All 14 donors specify economic empowerment of women and ending gender-based violence as focus areas. Women's participation in decision making (11 donors), peace and security (11 donors), and sexual and reproductive health and rights (10 donors) are other priorities.
- Gender mainstreaming, i.e. the integration of a gender perspective into all aspects of policy making and programming, is listed as a priority in the strategies of 11 out of 14 donors. A few donors (e.g. France, Japan, and Sweden) have established processes to better track progress in gender mainstreaming. This is a step in the right direction, but more donors need to follow to make gender mainstreaming a reality in all development programs.

How much do donors spend and on what?

- Collectively, the 14 donors spent US\$34.6 billion in 2016 on projects that target gender equality as a 'significant' or 'principal' objective (see pg. 6 for more details on methodology). This corresponds to 28% of their total bilateral ODA (US\$124.5 billion; see Figure 1). The largest donors were the US (US\$6.6 billion), Germany (US\$5.6 billion), the UK (US\$5.4 billion), and the EU institutions (US\$4.7 billion).
- Considering only ODA that has gender equality as the principal objective, donors spent considerably less: US\$4.6 billion in 2016, or 4% of their collective bilateral ODA. The US spent the most (US\$2.0 billion) in 2016, followed by the UK (US\$603 million), Sweden (US\$411 million), and the

Netherlands (US\$396 million). Italy spent the least in absolute terms (US\$16 million), according to the OECD gender marker.

- Donors also differ widely when comparing gender equality spending to their overall ODA budgets. The Netherlands spent the greatest share of its total ODA on activities with gender equality as principal objective (12%), followed by Sweden (11%) and Australia (9%). Three donors (Norway, the UK, the US) spent 5% to 7%, while four donors (Canada, EU Institutions, Korea, Spain, Korea) spent between 2% and 3%. Four donors (France, Germany, Italy, Japan) spent less than 1% of their bilateral ODA on these activities.
- Funding concentrates on a few sectors. Health and population (17%, US\$5.9 billion), government and civil society (14%, US\$5.0 billion), and education (13%, US\$4.3 billion) received most gender-equality targeted funding in 2016 (see Figure 2). Funding trends tend to align with donors' strategic priorities. For all donors but one, at least two of the three highest-funded sectors were also priorities according to strategy documents.
- Some priorities, such as gender-based violence and economic empowerment cut across sectors. This makes it difficult to accurately track spending. For example, initiatives to eliminate gender-based violence are found within humanitarian aid, as well as within health projects. Tracking could be improved if donors systematically formulated strategic priorities that are also backed by transparent data reporting mechanisms.

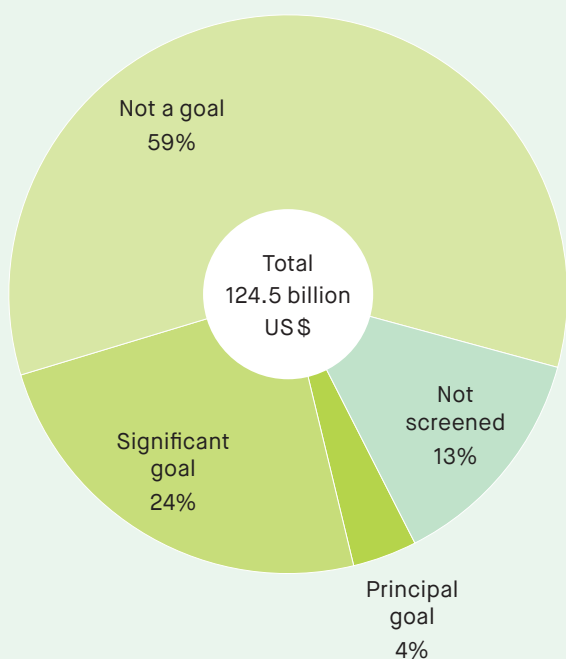
How is funding tracked?

- All 14 donors use the OECD gender equality policy marker to some extent to assess their bilateral ODA. On aggregate, 87% of the donors' ODA in 2016 was screened against the gender equality marker. This is positive, as the use of the marker is the basis for comparing gender equality-targeted spending across donors.
- However, application of the gender equality marker varies between donors. Seven donors (Canada, EU Institutions, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, UK, US) screen all bilateral ODA against the marker. Four donors screen between 70% and 96% of their ODA (Australia, France, Japan, Spain); three donors (Italy, Germany, Sweden) screen only 70% or less. These differences create an incomplete picture of how much funding is available.

- Inconsistent reporting practices are another challenge. For example, the US originally reported very low figures on gender equality-related spending to the OECD for 2016 (US\$48 million). This data was updated in July 2018 to reflect much higher numbers (US\$6.6 billion), making it challenging for advocates to use reliable data.
- Discrepancies in the way the marker is interpreted also make it difficult to compare donors. For example, South

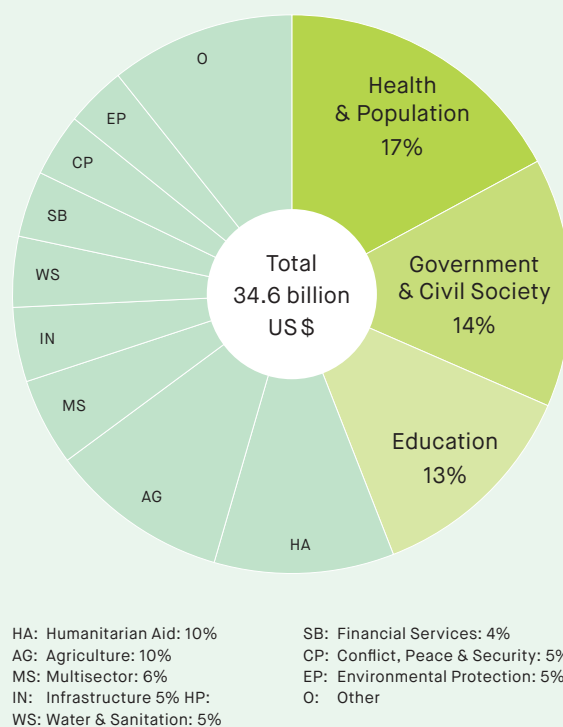
Korea screens all its bilateral ODA against the gender marker but finds that 89% of ODA goes to projects that have no goals related to gender equality, and that only 11% of projects are gender-equality related. This contrasts with Australia, which screens only 81% of its ODA but determines that 58% of it goes to projects that are gender-equality related. More consistent application of the gender equality marker is urgently needed to advance tracking of SDG 5 on gender equality.

Figure 1: Bilateral ODA, by gender equality focus*



*% of total bilateral ODA by 14 donors, 2016

Figure 2: Bilateral ODA to projects with gender equality as significant or principal goal, by sector*



*% of total gender-focused ODA, 14 donors, 2016

Glossary

Acronym	Description
CSO	Civil society organization
DFI	Development Finance Institution
G20	Group of 20 countries
G7	Group of seven countries
GFF	Global Financing Facility
ICT	Information and communications technology
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
NGO	Non-governmental organization

ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPIC	Overseas Private Investment Corporation
STEM	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	UN Refugee Agency
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WHO	World Health Organization

What are donors' priorities for gender equality?

Country	Priority focus areas articulated in government strategies								
	SRHR	MNCH	Peace and security	Decision making and governance	Ending GBV	Economic empowerment	Education	Data	Other areas of interest
Australia			x	x	x	x		x	
Canada	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Climate change, LGBTQ2 rights
EU				x	x	x		x	
France	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Germany	x		x	x	x	x	x		Agriculture, WASH, climate change
Italy	x			x	x	x	x		Rural development, climate change
Japan		x	x	x	x	x	x		
Netherlands	x	x	x	x	x	x			Water diplomacy, vocational training
Norway	x		x	x	x	x	x		
South Korea	x			x	x	x	x		Rural development
Spain			x	x	x	x			Empowering smallholder women farmers
Sweden	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	Protecting women's rights organizations
UK	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Promoting inclusion of women with disabilities
US		x	x	x	x	x	x		Strengthening women's property rights

Funding for gender equality

Donor	OECD DAC gender equality marker*	
	Gender equality as a significant goal (US \$ millions)	Gender equality as a principal goal (US \$ millions)
Australia	1118	215
Canada	1331	50
EU	4373	309
France	1687	42
Germany	5440	160
Italy	211	16
Japan	2999	99
Netherlands	129	52
Norway	1013	396
South Korea	173	182
Spain	1622	99
Sweden	4772	411
UK	29	603
US	4595	2008

* For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6).

Share of ODA that targets gender equality



● Not a goal ● Significant goal ● Principal goal ● Not screened

INTRODUCTION

Gender equality and women and girl's empowerment is a key focus in the global conversation around development. With the launch of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, gender equality and empowering women and girls everywhere (SDG 5) became a stand-alone development goal. Initiatives such as 'She Decides' and 'Family Planning 2020' have taken the spotlight at conferences around the world. Platforms such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) provide key spaces to discuss progress in the area.

However, as noted in the conclusions from the 2018 CSW session, gender equality and the empowerment of women are being held back due to structural barriers in education, health care, and power relations; gender-based violence; discrimination; and unequal sharing of unpaid care work, among other issues.

Some donors are increasingly addressing these barriers. For example, Sweden places gender equality at the heart of its entire foreign policy, with development policy as a key tool. Canada is leading a paradigm shift by launching a 'feminist' development policy and declaring gender equality as its only priority. Other donors specifically target the empowerment of women and girls in areas like health or education. Many donors have started 'gender-mainstreaming' (see box) their development policies more strongly.

Currently, there is limited information available summarizing donors' priorities and funding efforts for gender equality. This Highlight Story fills a gap for the global development community by providing a brief comparison of a) how 14 major OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment in their development policies, and b) how much they spend on gender-equality related official development assistance (ODA). With this, we hope to help advocates gain a better understanding of current trends and enable them to better contribute with their advocacy to reaching SDG 5.

This Highlight Story has two parts. First, we provide a cross-donor summary of development policy approaches and funding to gender equality and women's empowerment. Second, we highlight each donor's strategy and financing trends in individual country profiles on the 14 donors covered by the Donor Tracker. The profiles offer more in-depth insights, including an analysis of how they use the OECD DAC gender marker (see box) and specific examples of gender-equality related activities that donors are funding.

The OECD DAC gender marker: a quick guide

The DAC gender equality policy marker is a key monitoring and accountability tool in the context of 2030 Agenda. It is the only common tool available to DAC members to track bilateral ODA in support of SDG commitments on gender equality. The marker has three possible scores:

- **Principal** (marked 2) means that gender equality is the main objective of the project/program and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/program 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 project/program.
- **Not targeted** (marked 0) means that the project/program has been screened against the gender marker but has not been found to target gender equality.
- **Not screened** (blank)

All activities marked as '1' and '2' are considered gender-equality focused assistance in this Highlight Story.

Source: OECD DAC, Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality, 2016

What is gender mainstreaming?

Gender mainstreaming is the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programs, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination.

Source: European Institute for Gender Equality, 2018

AUSTRALIA

What are Australia's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality and women's empowerment is enshrined as one of six priorities of Australia's development policy, adopted in 2014. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy' identifies three main priorities for Australia's development engagement:

- Strengthening women's participation in decision-making, leadership, and peace-building: advocating for equal representation in leadership and peace building processes
- Promoting the economic empowerment of women incl. improving wages and conditions, and innovations to enhance agricultural productivity
- Ending gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls incl. implementing laws and improving access to the legal system and knowledge of rights

Australia has an Ambassador for Women and Girls, currently Dr. Sharman Stone, who advocates for women's rights and the empowerment of women and girls internationally.

How is Australia's strategy implemented?

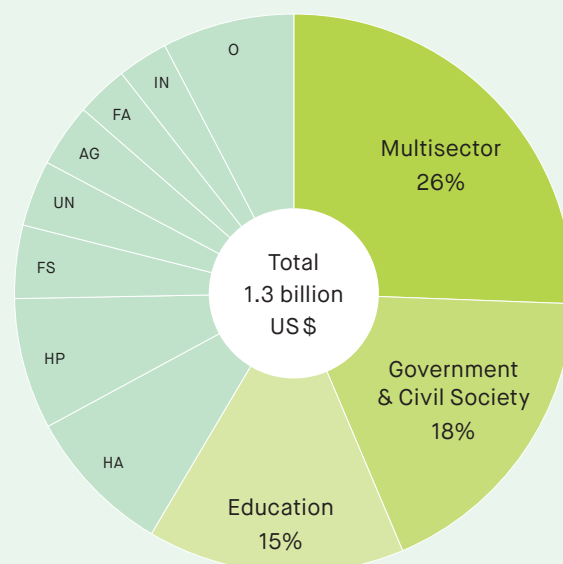
DFAT leads implementation of Australia's gender equality strategy. Since 2014, DFAT has targeted that 80% of all projects will "address gender equality issues". However, it is not clear how close they are to meeting this goal.

Australia established the 'Gender Equality Fund' in FY2015-16 to finance gender-focused initiatives. Administered by the Gender Equity Branch of DFAT, it is allocated A\$55 million (US\$41 million) in FY2018-19. It supports projects in collaboration with multilateral organizations, for example funding for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and support for the IPPF's sexual and reproductive health in crisis and post-crisis situations ('SPRINT') initiative.

The fund has also invested in bilateral initiatives such as support for women candidates in elections in Papua New Guinea and financing for women's agribusiness in Pakistan.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Government & civil society and education are key recipients of ODA for gender equality*



HA: Humanitarian Aid: 9%
 HP: Health & Population: 8%
 FS: Financial Services: 4%
 UN: Unspecified: 4%
 AG: Agriculture 2%
 FA: Food Aid: 3%
 IN: Infrastructure 3%
 O: Other 5%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Australia spent US\$1.3 billion on gender-equality focused activities in 2016. This was 58% of total bilateral ODA, the highest share of the 14 donors assessed in this Highlight Story. US\$1.1 billion (49% of bilateral ODA, DAC average: 25%) was for projects with gender equality as a significant goal, and US\$215 million (9%, DAC average: 3%) for projects where it was the principal goal.

After 'multisector', which mostly comprises funding for international students in Australia, Australia's gender-focused bilateral ODA is directed to 'government and civil society' (18%, US\$241 million), e.g., support to Indonesia for strengthening women's leadership to address GBV. The next-largest sector was education (15%, US\$198 million), e.g., support for Save the Children to provide education to girls in Afghanistan. This was followed by 'humanitarian aid' (9%, US\$115 million). This funding pattern broadly reflects the priorities of Australia's gender equality strategy.

CANADA

What are Canada's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality and women's empowerment is at the core of Canada's development policy. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) launched its 'Feminist International Assistance Policy' in 2017. The strategy has six action areas:

- Supporting women's rights; ending gender-based violence
- Human dignity, focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH)
- Inclusive economic growth, incl. financial inclusion
- Environment and climate action policy and planning
- Inclusive governance; gender equality in public services
- Peace and security, incl. greater participation in peace processes and preventing sexual violence in conflict

The strategy commits that 80% of Canada's bilateral ODA will be directed to projects with gender as a significant objective, and 15% will target gender equality as a principal objective by 2021-2022 (up from 2% in 2015-2016).

How is Canada's strategy implemented?

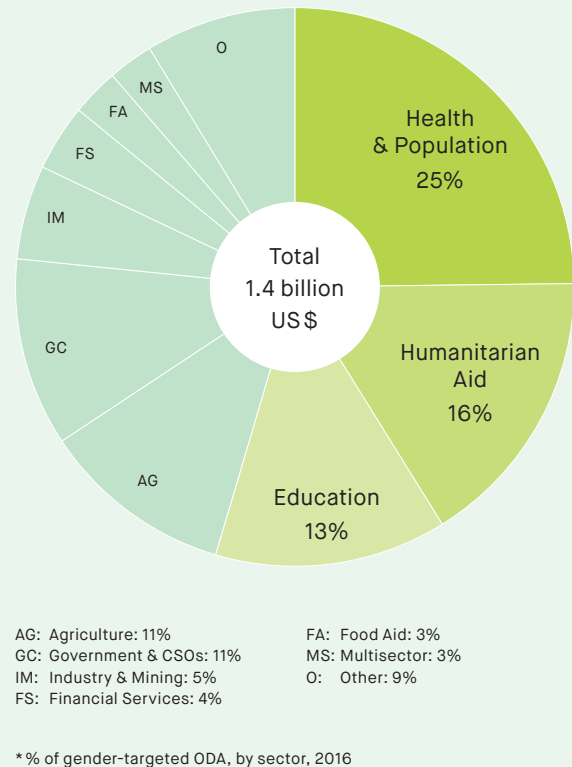
GAC leads on implementation of the feminist assistance policy. Of the action areas outlined, SRHR and MNCH have been a key focus of funding: Canada pledged CAD3.5 billion (US\$2.6 billion) to MNCH and CAD 650 million (US\$490 million) for strengthening access to SRHR, including support for the multilateral initiative 'She Decides'.

Canada has made the issue a key theme of its 2018 G7 presidency, creating a Gender Equality Advisory Council to ensure that gender equality is integrated across its leadership. In May 2018, GAC announced CAD300 million (US\$226 million) for a gender equality 'partnership' between the private sector, philanthropic community, and civil society.

Canada committed CAD150 million (US\$113 million) over five years to its 'Women's Voice and Leadership Program', which supports women's organizations in recipient countries.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Global health, including sexual health, is a core focus of Canada's strategy*



What sectors are being funded?

Canada's bilateral ODA stood at US\$2.7 billion in 2016. All of it was screened against the OECD DAC gender equality marker. US\$1.3 billion (49% of bilateral ODA, DAC average: 25%) went to projects that incorporated gender equality as one of their significant objectives. US\$50 million (2%, DAC average: 3%) went to projects with gender equality as their principal objective. This will need to increase significantly to meet the feminist development policy's pledge to channel 80% of ODA to projects with gender equality as a significant goal and 15% to projects with gender equality as a principal objective by 2012-2022.

Funding was largely directed to global health (25%, US\$343 million), e.g., MNCH projects to prevent pre-term births in sub-Saharan Africa. Health was followed by 'humanitarian aid' (16%, US\$226 million) and education (13%, US\$186 million). This is broadly in line with Canada's strategic priorities.

EU INSTITUTIONS

What are the EU's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality is considered by the EU in its Consensus on Development as one of ten cross-cutting principals. The European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) adopted the EU's second Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the period 2016 to 2020. The three core themes are:

- Ensuring women and girls are free from violence and discrimination incl. improving access to justice, increasing access to healthcare
- Economic and social empowerment of women and girls incl. improving access to education and training, ensuring equal access to productive resources
- Ensuring voice and participation of women and girls in decision-making incl. in policy, governance, and elections

Gender mainstreaming and the use of sex-disaggregated data are additional objectives. The EU institutions also have a specific strategy, 'Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance' focusing on nutritional support and gender-based violence.

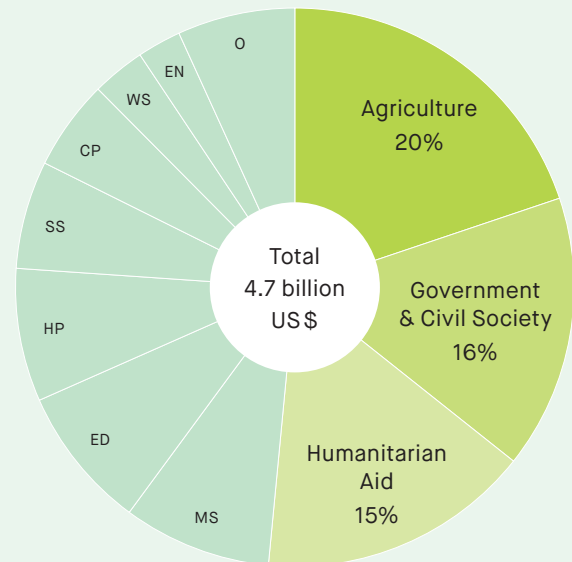
How is the EU's strategy implemented?

The EC, EEAS, and EU delegations are responsible for the bilateral and multilateral implementation of the GAP. On the multilateral level, the EU launched the 'Spotlight Initiative' in 2017 to end violence against women and girls. It will be implemented by the UN and has an initial multi-year investment of €500 million (US\$553 million), with the EU as the main contributor. In 2017-2018, the EU will lead the global initiative 'Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies'. The EC also acts as an agenda-setter, e.g., through hosting the annual 'European Development Days' event, which brings development actors together around a common theme.

The EU supports initiatives for gender equality bilaterally with partner countries. An example was a €10 million (US\$11 million) investment to promote women's engagement in peace and security in Nigeria, which was implemented by UN women and ran from 2014 to 2017.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Economic empowerment for women through agriculture and CSO support is a focus *



MS: Multisector: 9%
 ED: Education: 8%
 HP: Health & Population: 8%
 SS: Other Social Services: 6%
 CP: Conflict, Peace & Security: 5%
 WS: Water & Sanitation: 3%
 EN: Energy: 3%
 O: Other: 5%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

EU institutions spent US\$4.7 billion (25% of bilateral ODA) in 2016 on projects that had gender equality as a goal. US\$4.4 billion (23%, DAC average: 25%) was for projects with gender equality as a significant goal and US\$309 million (2%, DAC average: 3%) for projects where it was the principal goal. The remaining 75% (DAC average: 53%) did not have gender equality as a goal.

Of those projects in 2016 that did consider gender issues, agriculture received the largest share of funding (20%, US\$929 million). This included funding for WFP and FAO for nutritional support. This sector was followed by 'government and civil society' (16%, US\$742 million), reflecting the focus on promoting EU norms regarding human rights. The sector with the third-largest gender-targeted funding was 'humanitarian aid' (16%, US\$741 million). This division of funding is in line with the GAP's goals to support women's economic empowerment and the political participation of women.

FRANCE

What are France's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality was announced as the major cross-cutting focus of President Emmanuel Macron's development policy in February 2018. In line with this, France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted its 'Strategy on Gender and the Reduction of Gender Inequalities' for the period 2018 to 2022. The strategy articulates five focus areas:

- Free and equal access to services, incl. education and sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Access to and control of productive and economic resources, and access to decent jobs
- Free and equal access for women and girls to justice, and to protection against violence
- Effective participation of women in decision-making spaces: economic, political, or social
- Participation of women in peace processes and security

The strategy includes a commitment to gender mainstreaming, and that 50% of all ODA investments will feature gender equality as a significant or principal goal.

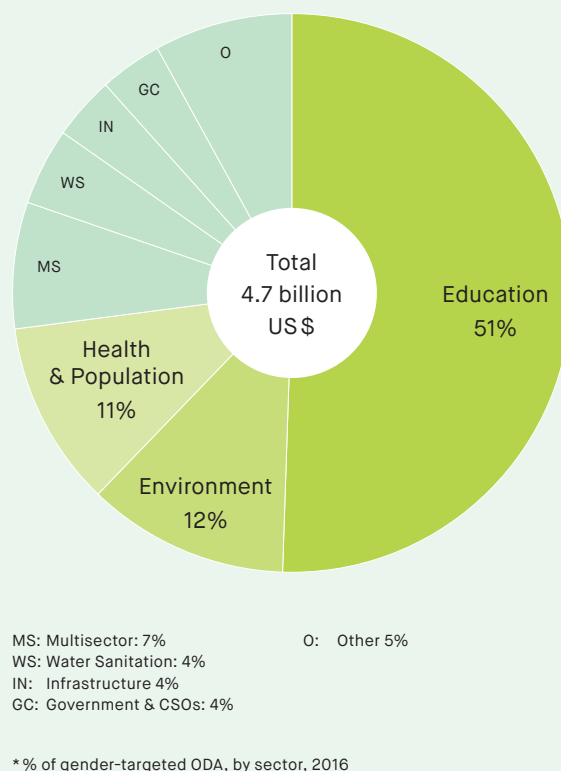
How is France's strategy implemented?

France has announced several activities to implement its strategy. A 'Gender and Sustainable Development' working group, composed of the French Development Agency (AFD) and Expertise France, the French agency for international technical expertise, will be set up to monitor progress. In February 2018, France announced up to €10 million (US \$11 million) to the French Muskoka Fund, which aims to reduce maternal, neonatal, and infantile mortality, in collaboration with the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women.

France also implements bilateral initiatives such as a €226 million (US\$250 million) program in Côte D'Ivoire providing training for women in fields that are currently male dominated. A further example is a partnership between AFD and the NGO 'Équilibres et Populations' campaigning to establish laws prohibiting female genital mutilation and early marriage in African countries.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Education receives the majority of gender-focused funding *



What sectors are being funded?

France contributed US\$1.7 billion (23% of bilateral ODA) to activities that had gender equality as an objective in 2016, almost all of which was for projects with gender equality as a significant objective. US\$3.6 billion (48%, DAC average: 53%) was for projects that did not have gender equality as a goal, and US\$2.1 billion (29%, DAC average: 18%) was not screened against the OECD gender marker.

Of those projects that had a gender focus, over half of funding (51%, US\$874 million) went to the education sector. However, this distorts the picture, as most of this funding (US\$777 million) were ODA-eligible costs of students from developing countries studying in France. Environmental protection (12%, US\$202 million) and health and population (11%, US\$186 million) were other key sectors. Global health projects that target gender equality included, for example, support for family planning and reducing maternal and infant mortality in Madagascar.

GERMANY

What are Germany's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality is a basic principle and cross-cutting issue of Germany's development cooperation. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) adopted the cross-sectoral strategy 'Gender Equality in German Development Policy' in 2014. Concrete measures are set out by a Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the period 2016 to 2020. It covers nine priority sectors:

- Access to justice and strengthened political participation
- Rural development, agriculture, and food security, participation in value chains
- Elimination of gender-based violence (GBV)
- Protection of women and girls in conflict
- Education, particularly sex education
- Strengthening labor-force participation, and economic empowerment, incl. promoting ILO and UN standards
- Health, incl. sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Water and sanitation
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

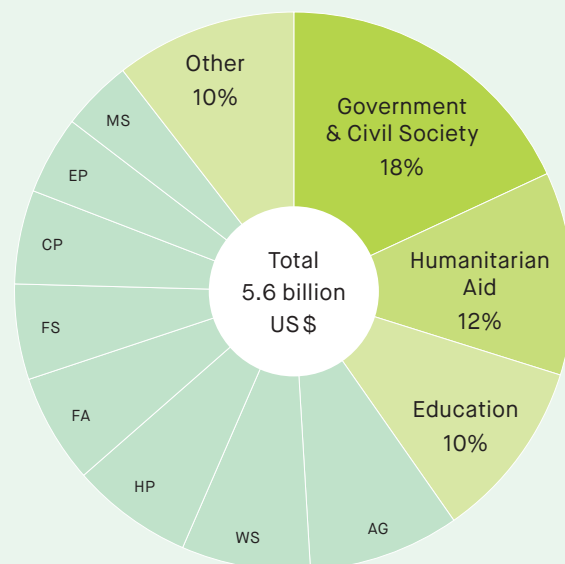
How is Germany's strategy implemented?

Germany implements its gender equality strategy and the GAP through multilateral engagement by the BMZ and bilateral activities undertaken by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the KfW Development Bank. On the multilateral level, Germany used its leadership of the G7 in 2015 and the G20 in 2017 to champion issues of gender equality, violence against women, and barriers to women's economic participation. Germany launched a multilateral initiative in 2015 targeting participation of women and girls in vocational education and training and hosted the G20 women's dialogue (W20) summit in 2017.

'Strengthening Women in Decision Making in the Middle East' was one of the bilateral programs highlighted in the 2018 GIZ Gender Awards that incorporated gender equality as its main objective. The project helped support the political participation of women in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Funding is shared across many sectors, in line with the multiple priorities of the GAP*



AG: Agriculture: 9%
 WS: Water & Sanitation: 7%
 HP: Health & Population: 7%
 FA: Food Aid: 6%
 FS: Financial Services: 6%
 CP: Conflict, Peace & Security: 5%
 EP: Environmental Protection: 5%
 M: Multisector: 4%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Germany spent US\$5.6 billion (26% of bilateral ODA) in 2016 on projects with gender equality as a goal. US\$5.4 billion (25%, equal to the DAC average) was for activities where gender equality was a significant objective and US\$160 million (1%, DAC average: 3%) for activities where it was the principal objective. US\$7.3 billion in ODA (33%) did not address gender equality, and US\$8.9 billion (41%) was not screened against the OECD gender marker.

Reflecting the multiple sectors that Germany's GAP prioritizes, its bilateral ODA was spread across many sectors in 2016. The sectors that received the most gender-focused funding were: 'government and civil society' (18% of bilateral ODA, US\$1.0 billion) and 'humanitarian aid' (12%, US\$659 million). These include activities such as support for victims of GBV among internally displaced women in Iraq. The third biggest sector in terms of funding received was education (10%, US\$585 million).

ITALY

What are Italy's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality and women's empowerment is included in Italy's overarching development cooperation guidelines as a cross-cutting priority. Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) has adopted 'Guidelines for gender equality and empowerment of women'. The guidelines outline seven focus areas:

- Women's rights, ending gender-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Rural development and food security, incl. gender-disaggregated data collection in rural development programs
- Climate change incl. women's representation in climate change mitigation
- Health, incl. high-quality reproductive health services
- Education, especially providing vocational training in ICT
- Governance and political participation of women, esp. at community level
- Economic empowerment of women incl. through gender-sensitive budgeting

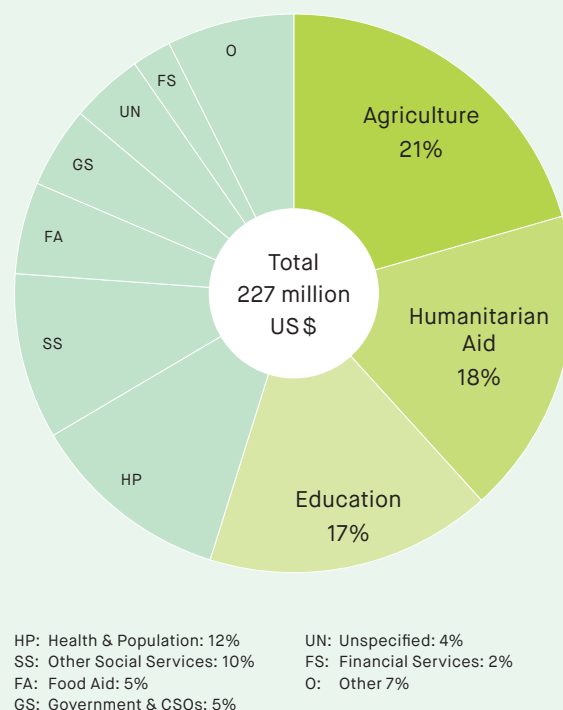
How is Italy's strategy implemented?

Italy made 'women's and girls' economic empowerment' a target area for its 2017 G7 presidency and developed the Taormina road map towards achieving a 'gender-responsive economic environment', which was adopted by the leaders of the G7 nations. The road map focuses on equal participation of women in society, e.g., increasing women's labor-force participation. The work done in Taormina is being pursued in the framework of the Canadian G7 in 2018.

AICS funds multilateral initiatives focused on ending FGM and child, early, and forced marriage. It pledged new resources of €50 million (US\$55 million) between 2015 and 2017 to support gender equality and women's rights and €1.8 million (US\$2 million) to UNFPA/UNICEF for a program to end FGM in 2018. Family planning remains a sensitive topic due to Italy's close relationship with the Vatican; no bilateral funding is provided to the issue.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Support for rural development and food security through agriculture is a key focus *



*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Italy spent US\$227 million (9% of bilateral ODA) on activities in 2016 that had a gender focus. US\$211 million (14%, DAC average: 25%) was for projects with gender equality as a significant goal, and US\$16 million (1%, DAC average: 3%) for projects where it was the principal goal. 14% of Italy's ODA funded projects that did not have gender equality as a goal, and 77% was not screened against the gender marker.

Italy's funding to gender-focused ODA in 2016 broadly reflects the focus areas in its gender equality guidelines. The largest sector to receive financing was agriculture (21%, US\$47 million). This included projects such as education programs for women to support the development of agriculture supply chains in Benin. This was followed by 'humanitarian aid' (18%, US\$40 million), which included support for the Jordanian Women's Union, providing classes, recreational activities, and hygiene kits for women affected by conflict. Education was the third-largest sector (17%, US\$38 million).

JAPAN

What are Japan's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Japan considers gender equality as important to achieving the SDGs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) adopted a 'Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment' in 2016. The strategy lists three focus areas:

- Women and girls' rights incl. eliminating gender-based violence and strengthening women's health services
- Capacity building for women incl. education, vocational training, and promotion of women's involvement in STEM fields of study and work
- Women's leadership in politics, economics, and other public fields

MOFA established a 'Gender Mainstreaming Division' to promote consideration of issues that impact gender equality in development assistance. MOFA also adopted a 'National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security' in 2015 to integrate women in peace-keeping activities and protect women from human rights violations in conflict.

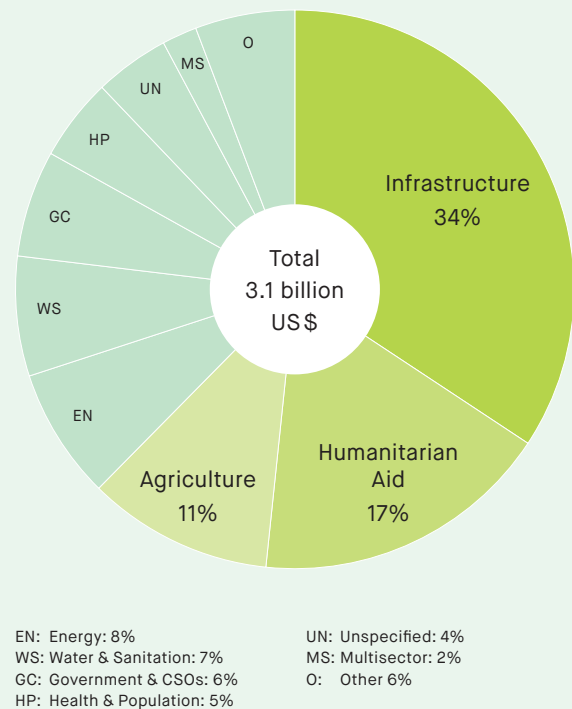
How is Japan's strategy implemented?

Japan has shown international leadership in women's empowerment in recent years. During its G7 presidency in 2016, Japan hosted the launch of the Women's Initiative in Developing STEM Careers (WINDS) to promote women's involvement in these fields. Japan also hosted the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) in 2016, during which it pledged over US\$3 billion in support for women's empowerment to 2018. This includes US\$50 million for the World Bank in support of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) and US\$28 million to UNFPA and IPPF for emergency assistance in reproductive health. It is not clear how much of the US\$3 billion total has been disbursed to date.

Bilaterally, Japan promotes women's rights and the elimination of GBV through 'gender-responsive infrastructure', for example in its 'Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project' in which women-only train carriages and emergency communication equipment were installed.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Infrastructure and humanitarian aid are focus areas of strategy and funding *



*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Japan spent US\$3.1 billion in ODA on gender-targeted activities in 2016. US\$3.0 billion (22% of bilateral ODA) had gender equality as a significant goal and US\$99 million (1%) had it as the principal goal of the activity, just under the respective DAC averages of 25% and 3%.

Over half of Japan's ODA in 2016 went to investments in infrastructure (34%, US\$1.1 billion) and 'humanitarian aid' (17%, US\$538 million). Agriculture received the third-largest amount of funding (11%, US\$333 million). While neither infrastructure nor agriculture are in Japan's gender equality strategy, most ODA investments with gender equality as the principal goal fell under health and population and 'government and civil society', which are in the strategy. Japan has been a strong and growing supporter of maternal, newborn, and child health in recent years. Japan's largest ODA investment with gender as the principal goal in 2016 was US\$7 million in funding for IPPF.

NETHERLANDS

What are the Netherlands' priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

The Netherlands has long been a champion of gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In May 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) released its new strategy, 'Investing in Global Prospects: For the World, for the Netherlands', which makes gender equality a cross-cutting goal in all areas. Priorities include:

- SRHR and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH)
- Gender-responsive humanitarian assistance
- Women's financial inclusion, incl. technical assistance
- Women's economic and political empowerment, incl. leadership opportunities
- Eradicating gender-based violence
- Promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and peace processes
- Investing in women's professional education programs

How is the Netherlands' strategy implemented?

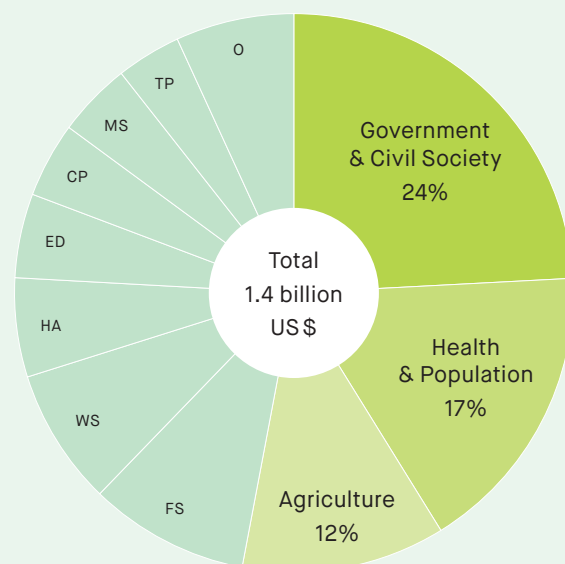
The Netherlands has specific budget lines for health and SRHR (US\$460 million in 2018) and women's rights (US\$58 million in 2018), disbursing over US\$400 million to SRHR alone since 2012.

In 2017, Dutch Foreign Minister Lilianne Ploumen launched 'She Decides', a global movement to promote SRHR in response to planned funding cuts by the US to organizations that support access to or provide information on safe abortion. The Netherlands is also a key supporter of the UNFPA, contributing US\$127 million in core contributions from 2014 to 2016.

Bilaterally, the Netherlands is contributing €43 million (US\$48 million) annually from 2016 to 2020 to the 'SRHR Partnership Fund' between the MFA and seven Dutch CSOs. Additionally, the new development strategy commits €60 million annually to professional education programs for youth and women in the Middle East and Africa.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Government and civil society receives nearly one-quarter of funding *



FS: Financial Services: 9%
 WS: Water & Sanitation: 8%
 HA: Humanitarian Aid: 6%
 ED: Education: 5%
 CP: Conflict, Peace & Security: 4%
 MS: Multisector: 4%
 TP: Trade Policy: 4%
 O: Other: 7%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

The Netherlands' bilateral ODA stood at US\$3.3 billion in 2016. All of it was screened with the OECD DAC gender equality marker. US\$1.0 billion went to projects with gender equality as one of their significant objectives (30% of bilateral ODA, above the DAC average of 25%). US\$396 million (12%, DAC average 3%) went to projects with gender equality as the principal objective.

The largest recipient of gender-equality related funding was 'government and civil society' (24%, US\$340 million), incl. support to women's equality organizations in countries such as Afghanistan and Sudan. This is in line with the Netherlands' continued emphasis on women's empowerment and political and economic participation. Following the strategic focus on SRHR, a significant portion (17%, US\$240 million) of the Netherlands' gender equality-related funding was channelled through the health and population budget line.

NORWAY

What are Norway's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Women's rights and gender equality are cross-cutting issues in Norway's development strategy. Norway has aligned its development policy with the SDGs, including SDG 5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MFA) 'Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Foreign and Development Policy 2016-2020' guides Norwegian development cooperation. There are five priority areas:

- Education for girls and prevention of violence in school
- Equal participation in political life, incl. implementation of Norway's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015-2018) to support women in peace processes
- Economic rights, incl. through engagement with multilateral development banks
- Ending gender-based violence
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights

How is Norway's strategy implemented?

MFA and Norway's embassies administer most development assistance. Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, leads on global health and education policy.

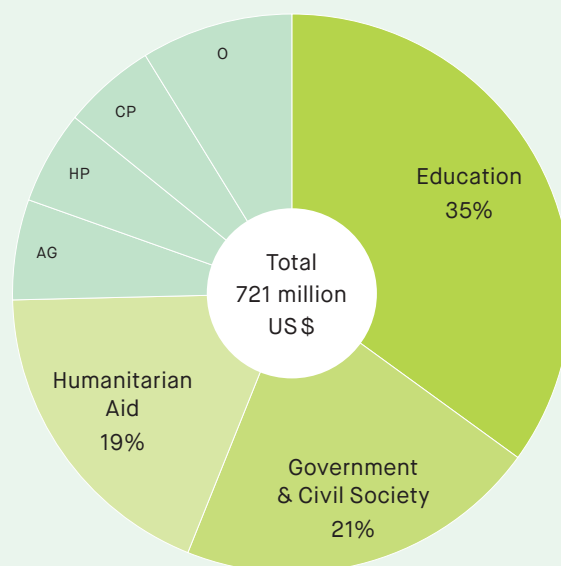
MFA has a budget line dedicated to bilateral and multilateral spending for gender equality. Funding has increased from NOK314 million (US\$37 million) in 2015 to NOK347 million (US\$41 million) in 2018, largely driven by increases to SRHR.

Norway emphasizes gender equality in its support for multi-lateral initiatives too. In 2014, Norway co-launched the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of the 'Every Woman Every Child' initiative with a commitment of US\$600 million for 2016 to 2020. It will co-host the GFF's replenishment in November 2018. Norway is a founding donor to 'Education Cannot Wait', the first fund dedicated to gender equality in education in emergencies. Norway is also one of the largest donors to UNFPA (US\$172 million for 2014-2016) and UN Women (US\$46 million for 2014-2017).

Within Norad, a 'knowledge bank' on gender equality provides technical advice to embassies on bilateral programs.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Education for girls is a key element of Norway's cooperation *



AG: Agriculture: 6%
 HP: Health & Population: 5%
 CP: Conflict, Peace & Security: 5%
 O: Other: 9%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Norway's bilateral ODA stood at US\$3.5 billion in 2016. All of it was screened with the OECD DAC gender equality marker. US\$538 million (16% of bilateral ODA, DAC average: 25%) went to projects with gender as a significant objective. US\$182 million (5%, nearly double the DAC average of 3%) went to projects with gender equality as the principal objective.

In line with its global leadership on education for girls, education (35%, US\$252 million) received the largest share of gender-equality related funding. This included funding to the Global Partnership to Education Fund, as well as support to Save The Children for inclusive education in Malawi. 'Government and civil society' received the second-largest share (21%, US\$152 million), reflecting Norway's strong focus on women's economic and political participation.

Health received a smaller share (5%, US\$39 million), although this is likely to increase given additional SRHR spending.

SOUTH KOREA

What are South Korea's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Gender equality is one of six goals of South Korea's development assistance. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), responsible for implementation of grants and technical assistance, adopted a 'Gender Equality Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2020'. The strategy highlights three areas:

- Strengthening women's participation in decision-making, leadership, and peace-building
- Economic empowerment, incl. vocational training and rural community development, a central component of South Korea's overall ODA framework
- Social status, incl. political and decision-making participation, and access to education and health
- Basic rights, esp. sexual and reproductive health and rights, and preventing gender-based violence

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) oversees most development assistance around gender equality, and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) engages with UN Women. The 2015 'Guidance on Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives' guides agencies in promoting gender equality as a cross-cutting priority.

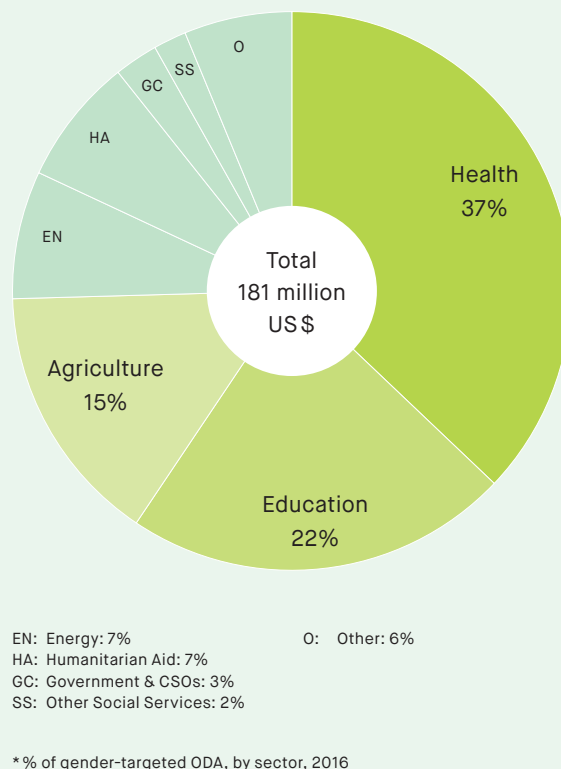
How is South Korea's strategy implemented?

South Korea implements its Gender Equality Strategy through multilateral and bilateral initiatives. At the multilateral level, MFA supports programs through UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank e.g., funding for the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), to which President Moon Jae-in pledged US\$10 million. MOGEF contributes funding to UN Women, with planned spending of KRW5.4 billion (US\$5 million) in 2018.

Bilaterally, KOICA partners with civil society to deliver projects, e.g., the 2011 to 2014 Water and Sanitation (WASH) Project in Ghana that promoted women's participation on a regional committee and located wells for safe use by women. KOICA also provides technical and academic training to public officials of partner countries on how to incorporate gender issues into policy design.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Health, especially maternal health, is a core theme of South Korea's gender strategy *



What sectors are being funded?

South Korea spent US\$181 million (11% of bilateral ODA) on activities with gender equality as a goal. US\$129 million (8%, DAC average: 25%) was for projects with gender equality as a significant goal, and US\$52 million (3%, equal to the DAC average) for projects where it was the principal goal. US\$1.4 billion (89%, DAC average: 53%) went to projects that did not have gender equality as a goal.

The top sectors reflect the key sectors of South Korea's Gender Strategy, with rural development captured in the 'agriculture' category. The sector that received the most funding was health and population (37%, US\$67 million), e.g., support to reduce maternal mortality in Côte d'Ivoire. This sector was followed by education (22%, US\$40 million), e.g., vocational skills training for women in Afghanistan. Agriculture was the third-largest sector (15%, US\$27 million) which included an investment in rural community development for women in Nigeria.

SPAIN

What are Spain's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Spain's development strategy places gender equality as a cross-cutting principle and a strategic goal. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC) sets the orientation of development policy. The 'Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2018-2021' integrates gender equality into Spain's six overall objectives (zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; decent work and economic growth; peace, security, and strong institutions). It emphasizes:

- Employing a gender perspective in conflict and post-conflict situations
- Fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence
- Empowering women in decision-making and democratic governance
- Enhancing women's access to economic resources
- Empowering smallholder women farmers
- Supporting gender mainstreaming in development

How is Spain's strategy implemented?

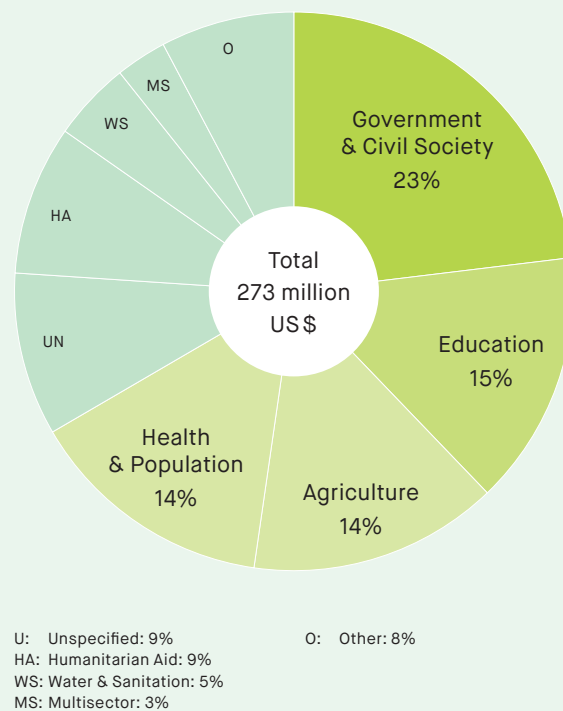
MAEC oversees Spain's development agency (AECID), which is responsible for implementing bilateral programs and funding CSOs.

In 2007, Spain launched a trust fund in collaboration with the African Union's New Partnership for African Development to promote women's civic participation, disbursing €20 million (US\$22 million) between 2007 to 2017. In 2015, MAEC signed partnerships with UN Women and the UNFPA. Both organizations are highlighted as priority instruments in the new Master Plan. The same year, the Spanish (non-permanent) UNSC presidency adopted a resolution to promote the leadership of women in peace processes.

Key bilateral initiatives include AECID's 'MASAR' program, which aims to strengthen women's civil and political empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa. Spain also executes bilateral projects to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) in countries such as Guatemala and India.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Women's political and economic empowerment is key recipient of funding *



*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Spain's bilateral ODA stood at US\$3.0 billion in 2016. Of this, US\$173 million (6% of bilateral ODA, DAC average: 25%) went to projects that integrated gender equality as one of their significant objectives. US\$99 million (3%, equal to the DAC average) went to projects with gender equality as the principal objective. 87% of bilateral ODA went to projects without a focus on gender equality (DAC average: 53%), and 4% was not screened against the OECD DAC gender equality marker.

The sector receiving the most gender-equality related funding was 'government and civil society' (23%, US\$63 million), e.g., a project to promote gender equality and LGBTI rights in Cuscatlán, El Salvador. Education received the second-largest share (15%, US\$40 million), closely followed by agriculture (14%, US\$39 million), e.g., a project to support women's food sovereignty, also in El Salvador. These funding trends closely align with the priority action areas for gender equality outlined in the Master Plan.

SWEDEN

What are Sweden's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

A 'feminist foreign policy' (2015-2018) guides Sweden's entire foreign policy strategy. In May 2018, Sweden released its first-ever global strategy on gender equality within development assistance for 2018-2022, emphasizing:

- Gender equality and full enjoyment of human rights
- Strengthened global and regional capacity to implement normative frameworks for gender equality
- Support for women's rights organizations for women's rights organizations, feminist movements, and female human-rights defenders
- Increased security for actors promoting gender equality
- Increased access to and use of gender-disaggregated statistics and gender-equality research.

How is Sweden's strategy implemented?

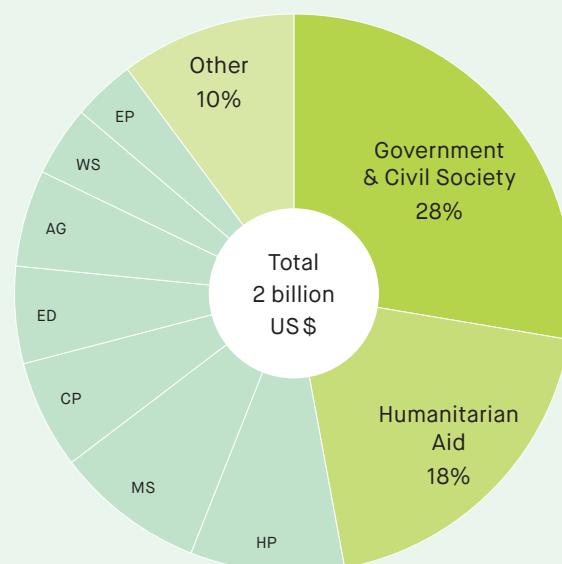
Sweden has the world's first self-proclaimed 'feminist government', meaning that the government applies a gender-equality perspective to all policy-making. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency supports the government to implement the global strategy within development cooperation.

Sweden leads on multilateral initiatives related to gender equality. In 2016, it co-launched the global 'SheDecides' movement to promote global sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in response to planned US funding cuts. It strongly pushed for gender mainstreaming and better efforts on women, peace, and security during its UNSC presidency (2017-2018). Under the new global gender equality strategy, Sweden has allocated SEK1 billion (US\$117 million) in multilateral and bilateral funding to activities including better access to sex-disaggregated data.

Sweden's development agency Sida, which operates under the MFA, manages bilateral implementation. The 2018 Global Health 50/50 report ranked Sida's gender equality policies as some of the most effective among a range of development organizations.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Funding focuses on women's political and economic participation *



HP: Health & Population: 9% AG: Agriculture: 6%
 MS: Multisector: 9% WS: Water & Sanitation: 4%
 CP: Conflict, Peace & Security: 6% EP: Environment: 4%
 ED: Education: 6%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

Sweden's bilateral ODA totaled US\$3.6 billion in 2016. Of this, US\$1.6 billion (45.4% of bilateral ODA, DAC average: 25%) went to projects that incorporated gender as one of their significant objectives. US\$411 million (11.5%, DAC average: 3%) of funding went to projects that had gender equality as the principal objective. Taken together, 56.9% of funding (US\$2.0 billion) went to gender-targeted projects, the second-highest percentage of all 14 donors assessed in this Highlight Story. However, 32% of bilateral ODA was not screened against the OECD DAC gender equality marker.

Funding focused mainly on government and civil society (28%, US\$562 million), e.g., a project to strengthen women's political participation in Bolivia, followed by 'humanitarian aid' (19%, US\$395 million). This is broadly in line with the goals of the previous feminist foreign policy, which emphasized women's political and economic participation and the protection of women in crises.

UNITED KINGDOM

What are the UK's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

Enacted in 2014, the UK's Gender Equality Act places a statutory obligation on the government to consider gender equality in all development activities. The Department for International Development (DFID) leads on strategy-setting and funding decisions. DFID's '2018-2030 Strategic Vision for Gender Equality: A call to action for her potential, our future' highlights priorities including:

- Addressing gender-specific barriers to inclusive economic growth
- Increasing the number of women in informal and formal decision-making structures, incl. conflict prevention and peacekeeping
- Girl's education, particularly girls with disabilities
- Promoting universal sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Eliminating gender-based violence

The strategic vision also calls for disaggregated data collection on recipients of UK development assistance.

How is the UK's strategy implemented?

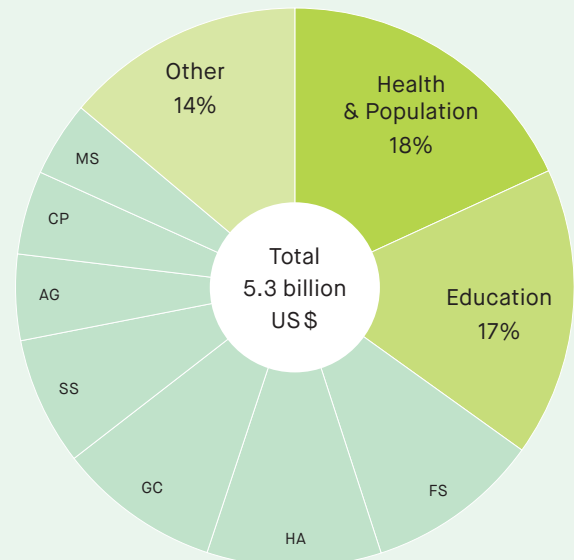
DFID manages most of the UK's ODA and leads on implementation, working closely with the UK government to strengthen cross-cutting work on women's empowerment.

The UK's multilateral contributions focus on reproductive health and education. The UK has committed an average £225 million (US\$304 million) per year to family planning from 2017 to 2022. In 2012, the UK launched the 'Girls' Education Challenge' (GEC), the largest-ever fund devoted to girls' education. At the 2018 G7 Summit, the UK pledged US\$250 million to fund girls' education in crises.

DFID also supports gender equality and women's empowerment through bilateral programs. Girls' education is an important focus, with DFID committing, for example, £106 million (US\$143 million) to a project in Nigeria from 2012-2020.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Health, particularly sexual health, and education are key sectors for funding *



FS: Financial Services: 10%
 HA: Humanitarian Aid: 10%
 GC: Government & CSOs: 9%
 SS: Other Social Services: 7%
 AG: Agriculture 5%
 CP: Conflict, Peace & Security: 5%
 MS: Multisector: 4%

*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

In 2016, the UK's funding to gender-targeted projects totalled US\$5.4 billion, the third-highest absolute amount of all donors profiled. US\$4.8 billion (41% of total ODA, DAC average: 25%) went to projects that integrated gender equality as one of their significant objectives. US\$603 million (5%, nearly double the DAC average of 3%) went to projects with gender equality as their principal objective.

The largest share of funding went to health and population, including reproductive health (18%, US\$975 million), such as a project to promote SRHR and HIV infection in Zimbabwe. Education received the second-largest share (17%, US\$900 million), followed by financial services and business support (10%, US\$543 million). This closely follows the UK's strategic objectives of universal SRHR, girls' education, and women's financial inclusion.

UNITED STATES

What are the US's priorities for gender equality and women's empowerment?

The US frames gender equality and women's empowerment within the greater objective of supporting national security and economic interests. Under the Trump administration, funding to women's rights has declined. The 'Mexico City' policy, instated by President Trump in 2017, blocks US federal funding to overseas health organizations providing information on or access to abortion services (even if they use non-US funding to do so).

The Department of State and US Agency for International Development (USAID) Joint Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022 guides US development assistance, along with the president's budget. Priorities include:

- Women's civic and economic empowerment
- Maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), particularly immunization and nutrition
- Protection of women in conflict situations (incl. against gender-based violence) and the engagement of women in peacebuilding and stabilization
- Girls' education, incl. gender gaps in attainment

How is the US's strategy implemented?

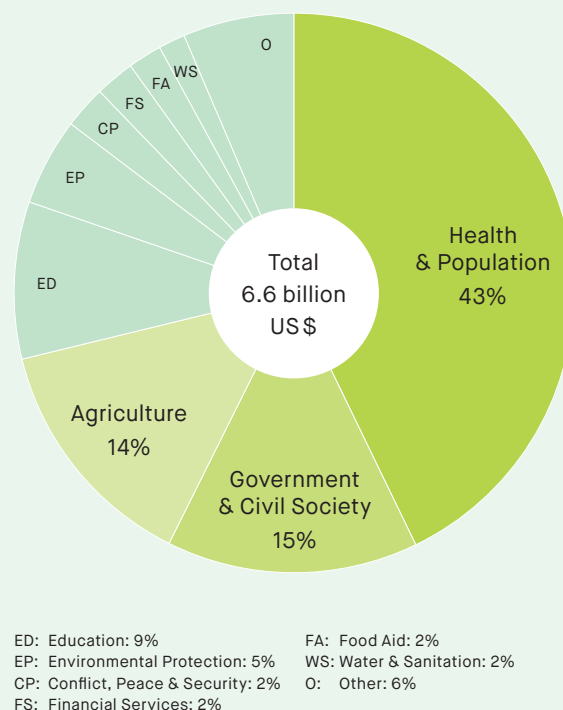
The State Department manages or co-manages bilateral development programs and funding to international organizations. USAID leads implementation.

Within multilateral initiatives, the US emphasizes economic development. In 2018, the US' development finance institution (DFI) launched and invested US\$250 million in the '2x Women's Initiative', which calls for G7 countries and DFIs to mobilize US\$3 billion for women's financial inclusion. Bilateral activities include the interagency 'Let Girls Learn' initiative, launched in 2015 by the Obamas, which provided US\$1.0 billion to promote adolescent girls' education.

Family planning organizations such as IPPF and Marie Stopes International have lost significant US funding (US\$100 million and \$80 million, respectively) by refusing to comply with the Mexico City policy.

- For more information on the OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and how it is applied, please see the introduction (p.6)

Health and population receives almost half of gender-related funding*



*% of gender-targeted ODA, by sector, 2016

What sectors are being funded?

The US' total gender-equality related funding totaled US\$6.6 billion (23% of bilateral ODA) in 2016. US\$4.6 billion (16%, DAC average: 25%) went to projects with gender equality as a significant goal, and US\$2.0 billion (7%, DAC average: 3%) had gender equality as the principal goal. This makes the US the largest donor in absolute terms to gender-equality related projects out of the 14 surveyed for this Highlight Story.

Health and population (43% of bilateral ODA, US\$2.8 billion) was the largest recipient of gender-equality related funding. This was followed by 'government and civil society' (15%, US\$959 million), mirroring the policy focus on MNCH and women's political and economic empowerment. Education received 9% of gender-targeted funding (US\$599 million), reflecting a focus of the Obama administration on girls' education.

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