

United Nations

Nations Unies

This background paper deals with two inter-related themes:

Tracking bilateral donor aid focused on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, and

Implementing the aid effectiveness agenda to accelerate the achievement of MDG3, through the *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation*.

OECD DAC gender equality policy marker

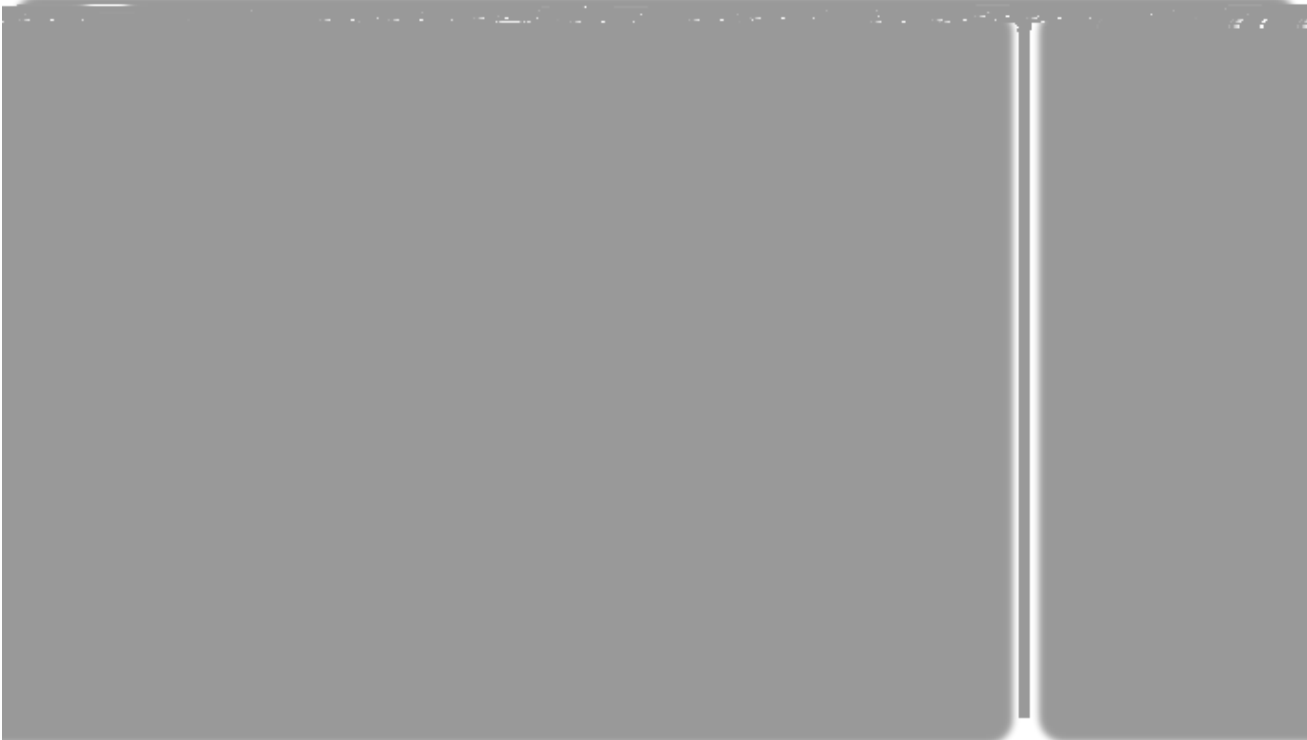
When countries become members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), they are required to provide the DAC with statistical data on their aid activities. Common reporting rules and standards ensure data homogeneity and comparability for all DAC member countries and the EU institutions.

Measurement of aid focused on achieving gender equality has been an integral part of the DAC's reporting requirements for twenty years. The gender equality policy marker is the statistical instrument that captures aid in support of gender equality ty h bists mei sha

Principal (primary) policy objectives are those which can be identified as being fundamental in the design and impact of the activity and which are an explicit objective of the activity. They may be selected by answering the question “would the activity have been undertaken without this objective?”.

Significant

Chart: Bilateral aid focussed on gender equality by sector (Average in 2009-10, in %)



years since we started publishing the data. From 2007 the Directorate has been regularly publishing *Aid in support of gender equality and women's empowerment* – a summary of aid focused on gender equality and women's empowerment for each DAC member. The latest report was produced in February 2012 for the years 2009-2010 (see <http://www.oecd.org/stats/gender>).

At present we are also publishing several in-depth studies on specific topics. The first two are on *Aid in support of women's economic empowerment* and *Aid in support of gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected states*. Others will be published soon on education and health spending and on aid in humanitarian situations.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Conference in 2005, the DAC published *CRS Aid activities in support of gender equality, 1999-2003*. At that time:

9 DAC members were fully using the gender equality marker
20% of sector-allocable aid was screened
gender equality aid amounted to USD\$3.1 billion per year.

Today....

all 24 DAC members are using the marker
75%¹ of sector-allocable aid is screened
gender equality aid amounts to US\$24.9 billion a year.

As more and more members reported their data – and we published it – those who had not been reporting responded to the peer pressure to address any deficiencies in their collection and reporting of aid data. At the same time, we used the Development Assistance Committee's regular peer review process of each donor's management and implementation of their aid programmes to draw attention to the lack of reporting or the inadequacy of the data reported.

Publishing has other impacts too. As the data have been collected for some years, the reports show the “ups and downs” of the individual donor's focus over time. No donor wants to see their aid to gender equality tracking downwards or appearing to be volatile.

Publishing this data is an example of transparency in action - a key principle for achieving development effectiveness.

How the data are used

Collecting these data over time has been important. The Committee is able to use the data in peer reviews to identify gaps between political commitments and statements and individual donor financing of particular sectors or countries – or even within sectors. Two examples:

1. For technical reasons this percentage excludes the United States in 2010. The other 23 DAC members

been coded as education only. The focus on girls had not been captured – even though this was the **principal** focus of the programme.

In one small donor agency the gender equality advisor is responsible for reviewing and checking every single project for its gender equality focus – probably not a good use of her time.

And in another large donor with several delivery agencies, the agencies are required to explain why individual projects or programmes are **not targeted** towards gender equality. If not, why not?

The gender equality marker is under continuous review. The original Women in Development marker was revised in 1997 and renamed the Gender Equality marker. In 2006, both the marker definition and the Women in Development purpose code (now defined as *Support to women's*

3 How have the focus and impact of development assistance specifically targeting gender equality and women's empowerment been strengthened in recent years?

This question goes well beyond tracking and monitoring development assistance – although

Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development

At the same time a number of **complementary international agreements** on core development challenges were launched including the *Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development*. The joint action plan has been designed to help us implement the Busan commitments at country level.

What does it mean at country level?

strengthening country capacity to collect and use data disaggregated by sex – in partnership with the Busan Action Plan on Statistics – one of the other initiatives

whilst donors align to partner countries' gender equality priorities, **they do not allocate sufficient resources** to implement their commitments on gender equality

data disaggregated by sex are very rarely collected systematically and are not necessarily used in decision making

when sex disaggregated data are used as a basis for decision making, this leads to an increased focus on and budget allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. This is a critical finding.

donors tend to use data disaggregated by sex, when available, but their support for collecting sex-disaggregated d

Ministries of Women's Affairs need to become better informed and more engaged in across-government processes. Even though it seems daunting at first, I know from my own experience