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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

# Status Report on Gender Equality 2017 **Closing the Gender Gap**





# Foreword

This first edition of the Status Report on Gender Equality of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) presents our efforts in closing the gender gap as a key obstacle to sustainable development.

2017 has been a year full of challenges and success, both globally and locally. Through the rise of global campaigns, like #metoo and SheDecides, we saw the deplorably vast extent of gender-based violence worldwide and the legitimisation of discrimination based on political, cultural or religious arguments. Political trends around the world have put into jeopardy the realisation of women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights. However, it also reinforced our conviction that a close collaboration with diverse stakeholders and a common objective is necessary to remedy structural gender inequalities.

The Agenda 2030 with its goal 5 on gender equality is the cornerstone of our engagement. In 2017, we committed more than 676'000'000 Swiss Francs to gender-responsive interventions in 46 partner countries. Our projects included humanitarian and development cooperation actions in the priority areas of sexual and gender-based violence, women's economic and political empowerment.

Our work with local organisations and authorities enabled us to respond quickly to the essential and specific needs of women in situations of fragility and conflict, as our humanitarian aid programme in Myanmar shows, for instance. In Nepal, women and men worked together towards strengthening their resilience to earthquake while creating new opportunities to empower women economically. Increased income and leadership positions were achieved in Honduras through the Procacao activities. Through gender-responsive budgeting, Kyrgyz women's voices were buttressed in decision-making processes. Women are not victims. They are survivors, actors, leaders and change-makers.

Reaching gender equality is a slow and difficult process. Monitoring and assessing our work goes along with our sustainable actions for gender equality. Furthermore, in order to achieve transformative change, we engage and work with men and boys. Men are supporters and allies in our joint action for gender equality. In 2018, we are looking forward to hosting the first Conference in Switzerland on engaging men and boys in the field of gender and international cooperation. Furthermore, learning from the good practices in Tajikistan, Bolivia or southern Africa, to give just a few examples, our efforts towards male inclusion will continue to be reinforced.

Our vision is living in a world where gender equality is a reality, not just a dream, a conviction or an ambition. It is a world we can shape and build. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation is committed to put a brick in the building. Action is the key. Yet, a constant monitoring and assessment is required to measure our results and achievements, to be held accountable and to be able to learn from the good practices. With this report, we aim to contribute to this goal.

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# Main Messages

## 1 Successful efforts to narrow the gender gap but still need for action

Gender equality is the base to reach the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Inequality between women and men has decreased, albeit unevenly and slowly. The gender gap has narrowed in the areas of education and health during the last decades. However, action is still needed, especially with regard to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), sexual and reproductive health and rights, labour market participation and access to decent work, land rights, food security, climate change and the participation in political and decision-making processes.

## 2 The SDC's active contribution to gender equality

Since decades, the SDC is committed to strengthen gender equality. The SDC's gender equality policy – through mainstreamed and gender-specific interventions – contributes to three strategic areas: Eliminating SGBV, and strengthening women's economic empowerment and women's political participation. Through the Gender Policy Marker, the SDC also tracks its financial contribution to close the gender gap. In 2017, out of the total commitments, 676'014'101 CHF were assessed as gender-responsive interventions (equivalent to 10% gender-principal and 56% gender-significant interventions)<sup>1</sup>. Measuring progress and delivering sustainable results are important aims of the SDC. The revised monitoring and reporting system is thus a step in the right direction.

## 3 Sexual and gender-based violence – a critical issue especially in fragile contexts

SGBV negatively affects both women's and men's health and wellbeing. In conflicts and fragile contexts, existing gender inequalities and violence against women often increase. Strengthening and supporting women's rights and lives free of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence is one goal of the SDC and its partners. For the Humanitarian Aid Department, SGBV has become one of the priority topics in the current framework credit. In 2017, in 16 countries, more than 54'000 persons, who were subjected to physical, sexual

or psychological violence, received psychological, medical or legal support through the SDC and its partner organisations.

## 4 Women's economic empowerment – good approaches but still a long way to go

Investing in women's economic empowerment is a further goal of the SDC and its partners. Women are more affected by poverty, and their labour market participation is still lower compared to men. In contrast, women carry the bulk of unpaid care work, which leads to women's time-poverty. Results show that the SDC's and its partners' interventions substantially reduce women's time for unpaid care work and support their economic empowerment through access to land, income, vocational training and financial services.

## 5 Women's political participation – persistence is needed

The SDC also focuses on women's political participation. Women participate less in politics and are underrepresented as voters, as well as in leading positions. The political participation and representation of women in local governance and political bodies has been increasingly addressed by the SDC and its partners through governance programmes. Results show that women's participation in regions where the SDC and its partners are active is higher than the national average.

## 6 The SDC actively contributes to close the gender gap

The report shows that the SDC and its partners jointly work to narrow the gender gap with a broad range of instruments at different levels. In the areas of SGBV, women's economic empowerment and women's political empowerment, the SDC's interventions deliver sustainable gender results and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. The report also emphasises the need to strengthen results-based monitoring and reporting and to collect gender-disaggregated quality data. This is essential in order to track progress towards the goals, but also to hold actors accountable for their results and promises. To strengthen the results-based monitoring and reporting system, capacity development will need to be intensified.

<sup>1</sup> Data assessed according to the OECD DAC criteria for the Gender Policy Marker (see Chapter 3). The numbers are based on the SDC's internal statistics.

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# 1 Gender Equality in the Global Context

The guiding principal of the new Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights, adopted in 2017, is "more equality: more opportunities". The theme encompasses the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) and many other key stakeholders' understanding that achieving the 2030 Agendas' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is only possible with gender equality. Due to constant efforts of various actors from all over the world advocating and raising awareness on women's and girls'<sup>2</sup> rights, gender equality is not only a stand-alone goal, but also a comprehensive and cross-cutting issue throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG 5 with its targets and indicators builds on human rights standards and international agreements enshrined by Switzerland, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

During the period 2005–2015 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), significant progress in gender equality was reached in many areas, such as the reduction of the number of people living in extreme poverty and the decrease of gender disadvantages in education. However, gender equality has progressed unevenly and slowly.

According to the SDG monitoring report from UN Women, "Turning Promises into Action"<sup>3</sup>, women face various forms of discrimination based on gender or other inequalities. They are those left furthest behind in society. There are more women living in extreme poverty than men and boys. Statistics further show that every fifth woman and girl has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Yet, 25 percent of the UN member countries do not have a particular national policy to protect women from such violence. While girls are gradually progressing in schools and universities, compared to boys, the same cannot be stated for equal opportunities in the labour market. Once women enter the labour market they tend to find themselves in insecure, unprotected

or under-protected situations and earn 23 percent less than men. Globally, women do more than twice as much care work than men, which often is non-remunerated work. The report also indicates that women have less agricultural land rights than men; and if they have land rights, they are generally more insecure, the quality of the land is lower and their parcel is often smaller compared to that of male landholders. Additionally, in two thirds of the countries worldwide, more women than men face food insecurity. Even though women have increased their participation in political bodies and decision-making processes, globally they are still underrepresented, filling only one fifth of the national parliament seats<sup>4</sup>.

## Gender Gap Report 2017

Gender inequality is an issue for developing and developed countries alike. The Gender Gap Report 2017<sup>5</sup> shows that the gender gap has been narrowed in a number of countries over the last years. Nevertheless, the gender gap persists – even in developed countries. Therefore, the universal 2030 Agenda and, in particular, its SDG 5 on gender equality is a step forward and an agenda to be translated by all UN Member States into their respective national policies and effective implementation.

2 Henceforth in this report, the expression women is used and understood as including girls.

3 [UN Women \(2018\): Turning Promises into Action. Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.](#)

4 Figures are quoted from the SDG monitoring report 2018.

5 [WEF \(2017\): The Global Gender Gap Report 2017.](#)

The 2030 Agenda requires global, national and local actors to jointly advance gender equality because many important challenges lie ahead on this pathway: Political and economic shifts in many regions of the world are increasingly placing gender equality and women's rights in precarious and often regressive positions. Ambitious financing will therefore be needed to reach the SDGs. While the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) statistics<sup>6</sup> show that over the last six years the Official Development Assistance (ODA) has increased resources on gender related projects and programmes, the figures decreased slightly in 2016 compared to 2015. The UN Women SDG monitoring report (2018) urges the need to mobilise and allocate sufficient resources for gender-responsive policies and interventions, in accordance with the Addis Abbeba Action Agenda (AAAA) and the 2030 Agenda goals. A further challenge is quality data on gender equality. Without such data, tracking progress on critical issues is not possible, impacts of policies and interventions are not visible, and actors cannot be held accountable for their promises and results.

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6 [OECD \(2016\): Gender-related aid data at a glance.](#)

To strengthen its commitment on gender equality and make its results visible, the SDC publishes this Status Report on Gender Equality for the first time. The report summarises how the SDC and its partners contributed to gender equality in 2017<sup>7</sup> and analyses the effects of these accomplishments on women and men and their lives. Based on the SDC gender equality policy objectives, the report focuses on selected results of SDC interventions in the areas of sexual and gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment and women's political participation.

The report is divided in five chapters. After this introduction, Chapter 2 describes the SDC's contribution to strengthen gender equality on different levels. Chapter 3 presents the financial contribution of the SDC in 2017 on gendered interventions. In Chapter 4, achieved results in the three thematic fields are presented by means of concrete project examples. The report closes with a summary and an outlook.

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7 The focus of this report lies on gender results in 2017. However, the report may also include accumulated results from other years.

## 2 “More Equality: More Opportunities” – The SDC’s Contribution to Gender Equality

Since decades, gender equality, women’s rights and the elimination of all forms of gender-based discrimination are enshrined in the Swiss legal and constitutional framework as well as in guiding principles in the Swiss foreign policy and in the work of the SDC.

Switzerland has strengthened its engagement over the last years and reaffirms its commitment, drawing on its experiences with the SDC Gender Equality Policy (2003), by defining clear priorities in the Dispatch on Switzerland’s International Cooperation 2017–2020<sup>8</sup>. It is the first time that the dispatch includes a strategic objective on gender equality, outlining three strategic areas, in accordance with the gender goals of the 2030 Agenda:

- 1 Strengthening and supporting women’s rights and a life free of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, with a particular focus on fragile and conflict situations, and the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- 2 Strengthening and supporting women’s economic empowerment, with a focus on access to natural resources and land, skills and training, financial services, markets, and income.
- 3 Strengthening and supporting women’s political participation, and gender-responsive approaches in local and national governance processes.

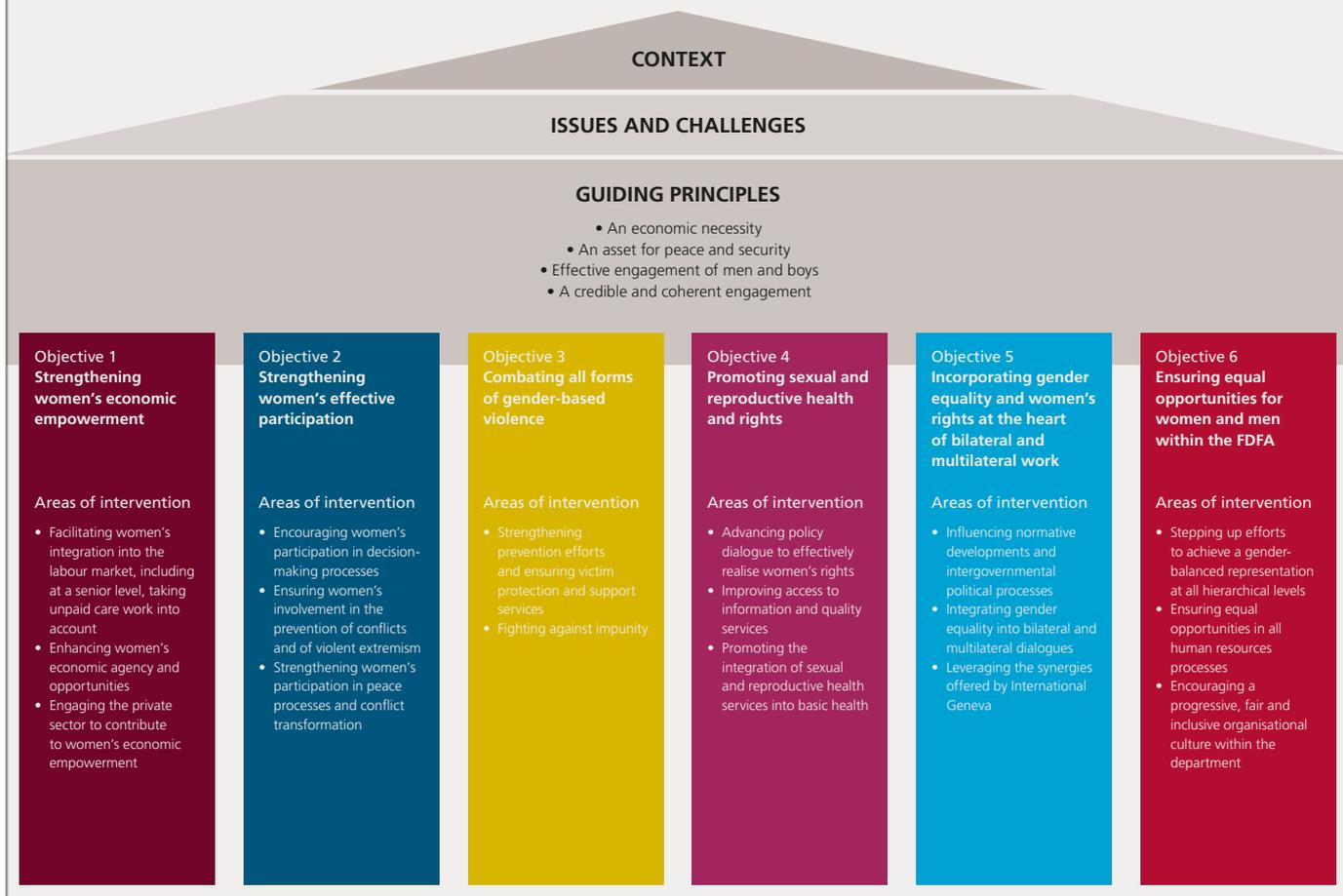
The new FDFA Strategy on Gender equality and Women’s Rights (see FDFA Strategy on Gender Equality and Women’s Rights, p. 9) fully incorporates this objective while setting a course for a visible, substantial and decisive commitment promoting gender equality in and through the Swiss foreign policy as a whole.

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<sup>8</sup> [FDFA \(2016\): Dispatch on Switzerland’s International Cooperation 2017-2020.](#)

## FDFA Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights

A milestone in 2017 was the adoption of the first FDFA Gender Strategy<sup>9</sup>. In line with the dispatch, the strategy reinforces gender equality and women's rights as a key topic in international cooperation and the Swiss foreign policy. Based on guiding principles, the strategy establishes a set of strategic objectives and priority areas to which Switzerland can make a substantial contribution.



## Gender mainstreaming in practice

To implement the gender equality policy, the SDC applies a gender mainstreaming strategy including a broad range of instruments at different levels in its work:

*Policy dialogue:* The SDC actively participates in national, international and multilateral processes to promote dialogue and to influence global gender policies. It contributes to developing standards and guiding principles by sharing its experiences and expertise. For example, the SDC is an active member and co-chair of the OECD-DAC's Gendernet, which brings together the gender focal points of donor agencies. The SDC has an influential role in this network, contributing to its strategic directions and developing standards, for example by developing the new criteria for the Gender Policy Marker. The SDC also supports its partner countries in their

efforts to strengthen gender equality and women's rights, combining policy dialogues with programme work, which enhances the effectiveness of the interventions.

*Programmatic work:* In its operational interventions, the SDC and its partners apply a twin-track gender mainstreaming approach. First, the SDC conducts and supports interventions in which gender is mainstreamed as a transversal theme (gender-significant interventions, according to the Gender Policy Marker). This means that gender is integrated in all steps of the project cycle management. Second, the SDC conducts and supports gender-principal interventions. These are interventions that address specific gender gaps and issues and that are necessary when other interventions are insufficient to reduce gender disparities (see also SDC Gender Policy Marker, p. 14).

9 FDFA (2017): FDFA Strategy on Gender equality and Women's rights.

*Institutional measures and capacity development:*

To strengthen gender equality, knowledge management is essential. The SDC fosters capacity development and exchange on gender equality through capitalisation processes, joint learning events and virtual shareweb platforms such as the SDC Gender Equality Network Platform for its staff and partner organisations.

### **Strengthening monitoring and reporting on gender equality**

The SDC aims to deliver sustainable results with high effectiveness. In this context, the SDC has reviewed and strengthened its results-based monitoring and reporting system, including on gender equality. The gender monitoring system entails 1) the SDC Gender Policy Marker, a statistical tool that measures the resources committed for interventions that target gender equality as a policy objective (see SDC Gender Policy Marker, p. 14) and 2) the monitoring and reporting of gender results, as part of the cooperation strategy management, in particular through the annual reports of the country cooperation strategies. The reported results are mostly on outcome level and thus focus on achieved changes. In 2017, the SDC introduced a set of Aggregated Reference Indicators (ARI) and Thematic Reference Indicators (TRI) to strengthen accountability and steering towards the strategic goals of the current dispatch and to assure the linkages to the 2030 Agenda indicators. The Gender Reference Indicators<sup>11</sup> are aligned with the three thematic priorities of the strategic goal on gender equality of the dispatch. They form the backbone of this Status Report on Gender Equality.

#### **Gender Toolbox**

In 2017, the SDC Gender Focal Point launched a toolbox on the SDC Gender Equality Network Platform<sup>10</sup>. The toolbox offers practical guidance on thematic and methodological topics to support the implementation of gender mainstreaming. For example, two guidance sheets on “How to do a gender analysis” and “How to integrate gender in Project Cycle Management” were published. The thematic guidance sheets address topics such as gender and local governance, gender and food security, gender and economic development, gender and migration, gender and vocational skills development, or gender and unpaid care work.

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10 [See GenderNet Toolbox.](#)

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11 [See the list of the Gender Reference Indicators.](#)

## Some methodological notes on this report

Measuring gender results remains challenging – not just for the SDC. First of all, changing attitudes, social norms, practices and customs in a complex environment with different actors and initiatives are hard to measure. In addition, it is not always easy to identify why particular changes have happened and which factors have contributed positively or negatively to specific changes (attribution gap), especially if resources prioritising data collection are limited.

For this report, the gender results data were drawn from the Annual Reports<sup>12</sup>. As the system of Reference Indicators is new, the data were of different quality. Also, the aggregation of data across the regions and over time is often not possible due to different contexts, indicators and monitoring systems. Therefore, the SDC decided to illustrate the gender results through exemplary projects in this report.

These projects were selected covering the following criteria: 1) thematic focus (according to the Gender Reference Indicators), 2) geographic region, 3) gender-principal and gender-significant projects and 4) development, humanitarian and global programmes. For the selected projects, further data on the context, the gender gap and the activities were collected by means of a questionnaire and literature review. The data were analysed, and case studies elaborated. The case studies are presented in Chapter 4. They give in-depth information on how the SDC and its partner worked and what they achieved in terms of gender equality.

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<sup>12</sup> On an annual basis, the Annual Reports report the results of the Cooperation Strategies.

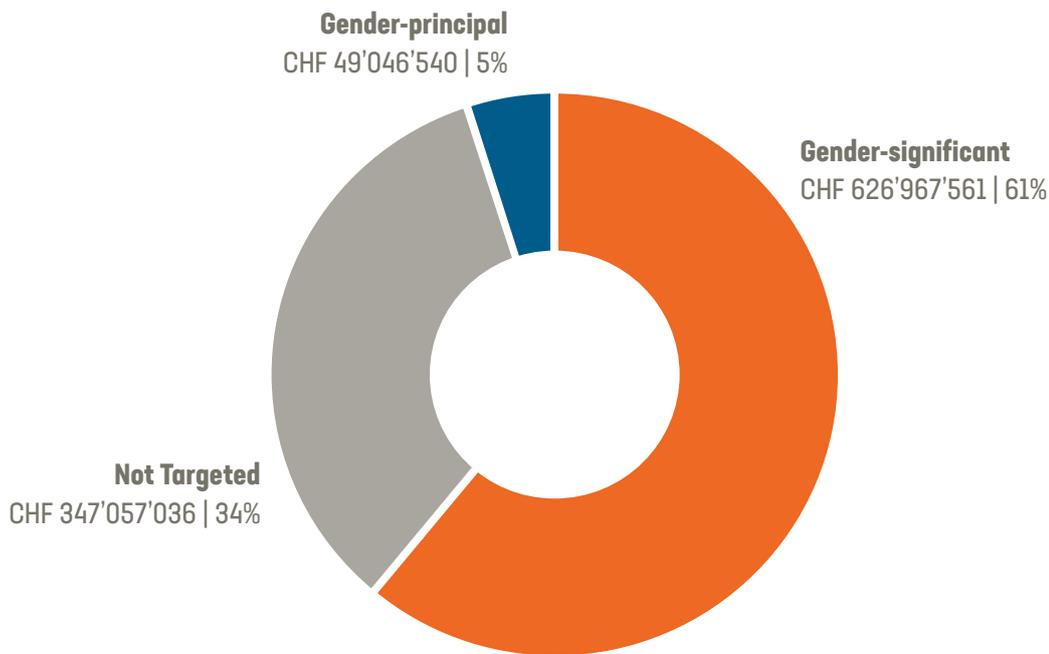
### **Report on Effectiveness of the SDC's Engagement in the Field of Gender Equality**

In 2017, the SDC decided to dedicate their sixth report on the effectiveness of the SDC's efforts in international cooperation on the topic of gender equality. The Report on Effectiveness on Gender Equality is an instrument of accountability addressing the Swiss parliament and wider public, an opportunity for institutional learning and capacity building, as well as an opportunity to develop lessons for the future. The main objective of this study was the assessment of the effectiveness of the SDC's engagement in gender equality, highlighting areas of success and needs for improvement. Therefore, the study assessed gender-principal and -significant projects and gender-relevant policy dialogues of SDC engagements. During the review period, the enabling environment within the SDC for integrating gender in its interventions further improved. This contributed to more effective gender mainstreaming in SDC programming, especially towards the end of the review period. The results of the study show that interventions with gender equality as the principal objective (gender-principal projects) tend to be more effective for reducing structural inequalities than those with gender as a transversal theme (gender-significant projects). There is still room for improvement, especially in the latter portfolio. In general, the SDC's engagements in policy dialogues have proven to be strategic and well effective, with clear links between the dialogues and the programming.

# 3 The SDC's Financial Commitments to Gender Equality

In 2017, the SDC committed a total of 1'023'071'137 CHF to bilateral interventions, including the SDC's global programmes and humanitarian interventions. 676'014'101 CHF (66%) were channelled to gender-responsive interventions, while 347'057'036 (34%) of all bilateral funds did not target gender. In more detail, 49'046'540 CHF (5%) were committed to interventions for which gender equality is a main objective (gender-principal interventions). 626'967'561 CHF (61%) of all funds were committed to gender-significant interventions. These interventions target gender equality as a transversal issue (see Figure 1). Additionally, the SDC contributed 16 million CHF as multilateral aid to UN Women.

**Figure 1:** Allocation of the SDC's committed bilateral funds in CHF in 2017



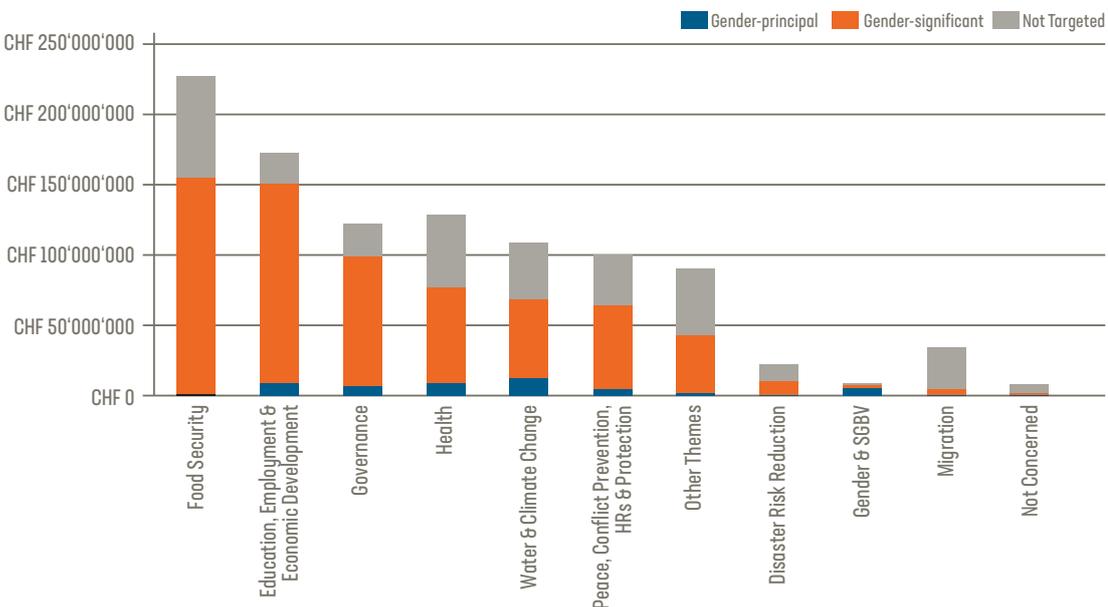
Considering the years 2013–2016, the SDC’s bilateral funds to gender equality have generally slightly increased and in 2016, the goal of allocating 10 percent of all bilateral funds for gender-principal interventions and 75 percent for gender-significant interventions was almost reached (see Figure 2). In 2017 however, there was a significant decrease of the funds committed to gender-principal interventions (4.8%) and gender-significant funds to 61 percent. The main reason for the decrease can be attributed to the adjustment of the SDC Gender Policy Marker to the DAC Gender Policy Marker and, therefore, to the implementation of the new minimum criteria. SDC is therefore challenged to further increase the commitment of funds to gender-principal and gender-significant interventions.

**Figure 2:** Trends in bilateral funds committed to gender-responsive interventions



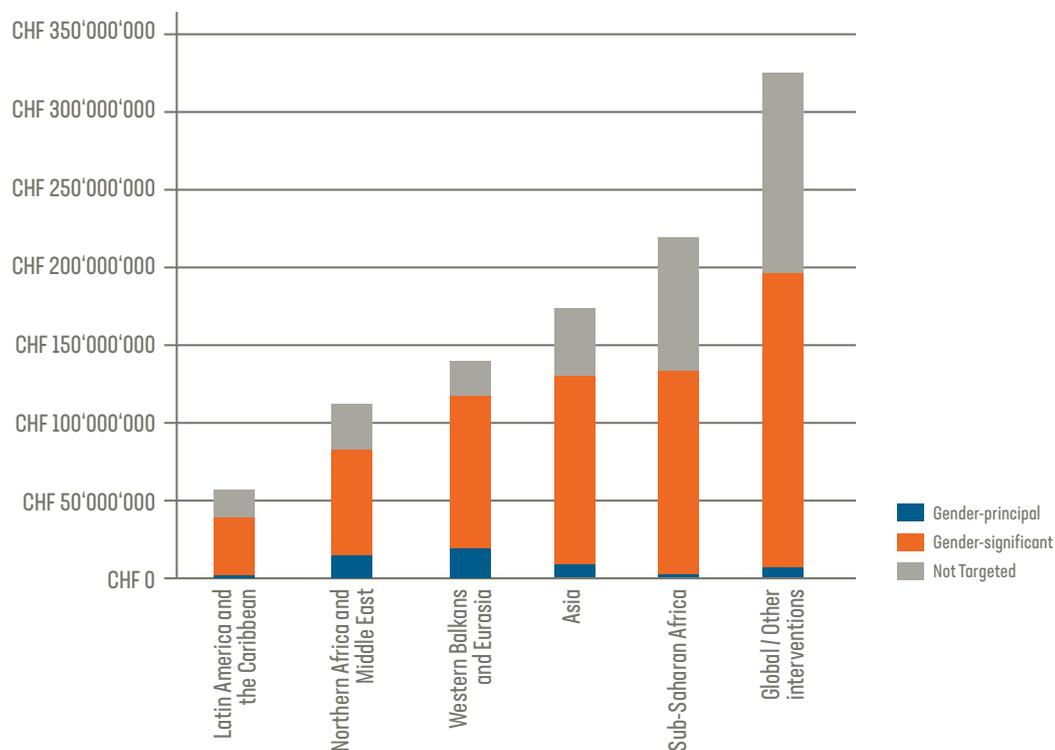
Having a glance at the thematic distribution of the bilateral funds 2017, Figure 3 demonstrates that funds for gender-responsive interventions were committed in every thematic area. Most funds to gender-principal interventions were awarded in the area water & climate change, followed by the area health and the area education, employment & economic development. In the area of food security, most funds were committed to gender-significant interventions, followed by education, employment & economic development. Food security, followed by health is the theme with the highest share of funds that does not target gender equality.

**Figure 3:** Allocation of the SDC’s committed bilateral funds 2017 per thematic area



Looking at the geographical distribution of the bilateral funds in 2017, figure 4 demonstrates that the highest amount of the total of gender-responsive funds were committed to global and other interventions. These programmes and interventions do not have a specific regional focus. It further includes core contributions to institutional partners. Most gender-principal funds were awarded to the region Western Balkans and Eurasia, followed by the region Northern Africa and Middle East. Most gender-significant funds were committed to global and other interventions and the region Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, the region Sub-Saharan Africa and global and other interventions are the categories with the highest share of funds that do not target gender equality.

**Figure 4:** Allocation of the SDC's committed bilateral funds 2017 per geographical region<sup>13</sup>



#### Gender Policy Marker

All Swiss bilateral development assistance interventions must be marked with the SDC Gender Policy Marker. The SDC Gender Policy Marker<sup>14</sup> complies with the criteria of the OECD DAC Gender Policy Marker. The gender marker is based on donor spending commitments at design stage and not on disbursements. The marker distinguishes between gender-principal, gender-significant and not targeted interventions. The marker is assessed on project level in the planning stage, as part of financing decisions on credit proposals. An intervention is **gender-principal**, when gender equality and women's rights are fundamental in its design and its expected results. The intervention would not have been undertaken without this gender equality objective. An intervention is **gender-significant** when gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking. Not targeted interventions, in contrast, do not target gender equality in any specific way. The total amount of interventions marked as principal and significant are counted as gender equality focused aid by the DAC (or in this report as gender-responsive interventions).

DAC experiences<sup>15</sup> indicate that there is only a very little difference over time between commitment and disbursement, but there can be some lags in the case of pluri-annual disbursements. The marker records the commitments in total at the time they are made, even if they are multi-year commitments, and irrespective of when they are disbursed.

<sup>13</sup> Funds to European countries, Switzerland and "not specified" countries are not included into this diagram.

<sup>14</sup> For further information, see [OECD DAC \(2016\): Definition and minimum recommended criteria for the DAC gender equality policy marker.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [OECD DAC \(2016\): Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker.](#)

# 4 The SDC's Gender Results

What results have the SDC's and its partners' interventions achieved? How did the interventions change the lives of women and men? What have the actors done to narrow the gender gap? In the following, a selection of gender-responsive interventions of the SDC's bilateral portfolio and their results are presented. In accordance with the gender equality policy priorities, the report demonstrates selected examples that supported the strengthening of gender equality in the last year in three thematic areas: 1. sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), 2. women's economic empowerment (WEE) and 3. women's political participation (WPP). The examples cover the topics of the different Gender Reference Indicators and serve the purpose of showing results from the entire range of the SDC's efforts – geographically, thematically and with different partners from civil society and authorities. The examples present large and small interventions, some of which directly address gender equality, while others comprise gender mainstreaming.

# Examples of the SDC's gender-responsive interventions

The map provides an overview of the examples of the SDC's gender-responsive interventions, which figure as case studies in this report.<sup>16</sup>

## Ukraine

The SDC supports the HALO Trust project which ensures that women and men benefit equally from demining activities (see Example 12, p. 47).

## Albania

The "Programme for Local Development and Decentralization" aims to improve the quality of services provided by municipalities in northern Albania for women and men citizens through capacity building. It promotes the representation of women and their involvement in political functions at all levels (see Example 9, p. 40).

## Honduras

To achieve the purpose of poverty reduction, the "Cocoa Value Chain Project" applies a social inclusion approach with the aim of equally involving women, men and young people in production and management processes of Cocoa (see Example 10, p. 43).

## Colombia

The SDC was involved in a project that works on improving health conditions of communities in three departments affected by the armed conflict in Colombia through access to safe water and sanitation, livelihood recovery and strengthened institutions and communities. The inclusive approach led to changes in gender roles and relations (see Example 8, p. 37).

## Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo

The "Land Governance Support Programme" focused strategically on securing equal rights in rural areas. The programme developed and implemented land policies with a view to ensuring better governance in this area and reducing conflicts in communities (see Example 3, p. 25).

<sup>16</sup> The data used for this map are based on the SDC gender monitoring 2017. Further results of interventions are presented in the Annex I, p. 53.



**Kyrgyzstan**

The overall objective of the "Voice and Accountability Project" is to raise the transparency and efficiency of public finances of local self-governments through citizen participation in decision-making processes. Strengthening women's voices on grass-root level contributes to the achievement of this goal (see Example 11, p. 45).

**Afghanistan**

Vulnerable families in the provinces Paktia and Khost in southeast Afghanistan are supported in poultry farming and goats rearing. The main goal of this project is to increase the households' income by equally diversifying economic opportunities for women and men (see Example 4, p. 28).

**Nepal**

The "Skills for Reconstruction" project works on increasing women's labour market participation and improving the living condition of economically and socially excluded youth. Skills regarding earthquake resilient construction for young women and men are provided (see Example 5, p. 30).

**Mozambique**

The "InovAgro" project aimed to increase the income and wealth of the rural population in Northern Mozambique. The predominance of women in agricultural activities and the tendency for men to control marketing activities made gender an important transversal theme (see Example 6, p. 32).

**Myanmar**

The SGBV project "Strengthening Gender-based Violence Response" in the conflict-affected Rakhine State operates Women and Girls Centres that provide case management services to women and girls who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence, as well as psycho-educational activities (see Example 2, p. 21).

**Great Lakes Region (Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo)**

The "Psychosocial Programme in the Great Lakes Region" promotes the rights of women, supports women victims of conflict, and improves their mental and physical health. The programme responds to the concrete needs of the population and initiates dynamics of change for a sustainable impact (see Example 1, p. 19).

**Multi-regional (twenty-five countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia)**

As part of the global programme Climate Change and Environment, the SDC contributes to the implementation of sustainable, modern and climate friendly energy services as a partner of the "Energising Development" project. Unexpectedly, the implementation of a new technology led to the reduction of women's unpaid domestic work (see Example 7, p. 34).

# 4.1 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

## Why action is needed

SGBV is a priority area of the SDC gender policy. As facts and figures show, SGBV against women and men is a major public health problem and a severe violation of human rights. Global estimates published by the World Health Organization<sup>17</sup> indicate that about one in three (35%) women worldwide experience either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Additionally, the latest figures from UN Women<sup>18</sup> show, that one in five women and girls at the age of 19–49 years are affected by intimate partner violence. The report also shows that in 2012, almost 44'000 women and 20'000 men were victims of intentional homicide by an intimate partner. Men are also targeted by SGBV. Violence can negatively affect women's and men's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, and may increase vulnerability to HIV. In conflicts and fragile contexts, existing gender inequalities usually exacerbate and SGBV increases (both conflict-related and domestic violence). According to UN Women<sup>19</sup>, the globally highest sexual violence rate is found in conflict and post-conflict countries such as Uganda, Nepal and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## The SDC's achievements

In its work, the SDC focuses to reduce SGBV by strengthening support and response capacities, access to justice and the prevention SGBV. In addition, for the Humanitarian Aid Department, SGBV has become one of four priority topics<sup>20</sup>. Respectful results have already been achieved. In 2017, more than 54'000 persons subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence in 16 countries have received psychosocial, medical or legal support due to the SDC's and its partners' effort. Justice services delivery capacities were strengthened and legal aid to vulnerable people was increased, which contributes to fighting the widespread impunity surrounding SGBV violations. With the support of the SDC and its partners, more than 1'650 persons subjected to violence claimed their rights through a justice system and there were 1'303 mediation cases in Nepal. Efforts in working with perpetrators for violence prevention and in engaging men and boys as allies have been increased, and targeted prevention and awareness activities, both at community and national level have been conducted. These prevention and awareness activities have reached over 258'000 persons.

17 WHO (2016): Violence against women. Intimate partner and sexual violence against women. Fact Sheet.

18 UN Women (2018): Turning Promises Into Action. Gender Equality in the 2013 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

19 UN Women (2018): Turning Promises Into Action. Gender Equality in the 2013 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

20 See SGBV in Humanitarian Context, p. 23.

## Gender Reference Indicators:

### Support and Response Capacity

Access to comprehensive quality support services, including psychosocial, medical, legal and economic support, are the basis to improve the wellbeing of persons having experienced violence. This indicator also responds to response capacities of governments and civil society.

### Access to Justice

Access to functional and gender-responsive justice systems (informal and formal) contributes to claim rights and combatting impunity.

### Prevention and Reduction of Violence

To reduce acceptance of SGBV, sensitisation and awareness on SGBV and women's and human's rights are crucial.

## Example 1

# Psychosocial Programme in the Great Lakes Region

During phase II (July 2014 – December 2017), SDC supported the “Psychosocial Programme in the Great Lakes Region” that applies a psychosocial and community-based approach. The focus of this programme is to decrease stigmatisation and exclusion of women, who experienced violence, and to carry out awareness-raising and prevention work within communities. Special attention is given to the integration of men and local authorities in the programme. Additionally, the regional programme also promotes the rights of women, supports women who faced violence due to conflict and improved their mental and physical health. This intervention responds to the concrete needs of the population and initiated dynamics for a sustainable change.

## Beneficiaries

In 2017, in total 16'273 individuals directly benefited of this intervention.

Women: 11'476

Men: 4'797

## Finances

The “Psychosocial Programme” covers Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The programme is planned for twelve years, divided into four phases. The first phase (April 2011 – June 2014) as well as the second phase (July 2014 – December 2017) were carried out successfully with a budget of about three million CHF per year. The current phase (January 2018 – December 2020) has a value of nine million CHF.

## Gender analysis

### Violence as a demonstration of power

In the 1990's, the Great Lakes region (Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo) was affected by a series of conflicts and left

people traumatised. The majority of sexual and gender-based violence survivors were and still are women. On the one hand, during the conflict, rape was used as a weapon of war against the enemy communities. On the other hand, women and men are set back to their traditional roles. Men are expected to be physically strong and often demonstrate their role using violence against women. Once women experience SGBV, they are often stigmatised and rejected by community members. Therefore, victims of SGBV hesitate to share the negative experience, and the cycle of violence is being reinforced.

## Activities

### Improvement of women's status and reduction of SGBV

The programme responds to the concrete needs of the population and promotes women's rights, supports women who experience violence due to conflict and improves their mental and physical health. The goal of the intervention is the reintegration of women who faced violence into the local commu-

nity. The programme follows, on the one side, a community-based psychosocial approach in order to combat the stigmatisation and exclusion of women, who experienced violence. On the other side, the programme carries out awareness-raising and prevention work. Importantly, men and local authorities are actively included in these processes. The programme provides qualified socio-medical services, legal assistance and support in mediation.

## Results

### **Raised awareness on SGBV within community members and decrease of physical violence**

The programme works with active group meetings and this intervention has raised the awareness of the seriousness of SGBV. The inclusion of men in these group meetings is successful. In 2016, 30 percent of the group members were men and boys. In Burundi, community members expressed their experience with SGBV in meetings organised by the local authorities. This shows that awareness was raised and trust spaces were built. Additionally, the stigmatisation of victims has also declined. However, there are still challenges in strengthening actions focusing on the prevention of SGBV, in particular in fragile contexts. Medical and individual care is essentially provided by state services, but the partners contribute to the quality of care. Even though cases of physical violence have declined, psychological violence has increased from

15 percent in 2015 to 31 percent in 2016 for both men and women. In 2016, the collected data of the programme shows that 33 percent of the persons affected by violence (excluding rape) were men. A major outcome of the third regional conference of “The Organization of women’s groupings and associations in the Great Lakes Region” (COCAFEM-GL) was the joint communiqué. Various actors, such as governmental bodies, UN agencies and civil society organisations, agreed on a political commitment to have a national action plan and prioritise actions to eradicate SGBV.

Even though improvements can be shown, challenges in the fragile context persist. For instance, physical violence committed by armed men (in the case of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo) has increased. Prosecution of perpetrators of SGBV and access to justice are still an obstacle. Data on SGBV at national level is either not accessible, weak or not existent. Additionally, access to care is still not covering all parts of the countries. Change of social norms takes a lot of time and, therefore, retrograde customs persist, which reinforce stereotypes and stigmatisation.

### **Sources**

[FDFA \(2014\): Factsheet Democracy without Borders. Psychosocial Programme in the Great Lakes Region.](#)

SDC (2018): Questionnaire Annual Report on Gender Equality 2017. SDC Cooperation Office Bujumbura, Burundi.



# Improved Access to SGBV-Response and -Prevention Activities in Conflict-Affected Communities in Myanmar

Reports and needs assessments revealed that SGBV is a serious concern in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps in Myanmar. Since two years, the SDC supports the SGBV programme “Strengthening Gender-based Violence Response” of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Rakhine State. The DRC is running “Women and Girls Centres” in Rakhine and Muslim villages. In these centres, the DRC provides case management services to women who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence as well as psycho-educational activities.

## Beneficiaries

Over the current project phase, in total, 53'901 individuals directly benefit from this intervention.

Women: 27'119

Men: 26'782

## Finances

The project is ongoing (June 2016 to May 2018) and the SDC has contributed an amount of 770'000 CHF.

## Gender analysis

### Urgent need for SGBV-response in conflict regions

Since the 2012 inter-communal conflict between Buddhists and minority Muslims in Rakhine State, hundred thousand of people had to flee. In 2016, the conflict intensified again, and 70'000 more Muslims fled to neighbouring Bangladesh and 30'000 more were internally displaced<sup>21</sup>. The majority of the 120'800 refugees in Rakhine State (status as of June 2017) lives in congested IDP camps<sup>22</sup>. Reports and need assessments revealed that SGBV is a serious concern in IDP camps in Myanmar.

Military operations conducted after the renewed outburst of the conflict in 2016 were accompanied by widespread rape and sexual assault perpetrated against Muslim women, leaving an acute need for high quality SGBV services. Furthermore, since 2012, government orders prevent Muslim communities

from leaving IDP camps and villages. Humanitarian actors have limited access to provide assistance, which leads to major gaps in emergency protection, and in SGBV and health services in the region. Health services are limited or non-existent, which leaves survivors with no access to clinical care nor any clear pathway for referral to services outside the area. The acute precarious humanitarian situation, along with a general low awareness of SGBV and little knowledge on how to adequately prevent and respond to it amongst communities, places women at particular risk of increased violence.

## Activities

### Women and Girls Centres offer activities and support

The DRC runs five “Women and Girls Centres” in Rakhine and Muslim villages, the construction of which was funded by the SDC grant. In these centres, women are provided with information about reproductive health and have the opportunity to discuss issues such as breast-feeding, menstrual hygiene and access to contraception. Additionally, the DRC provides recreational and psycho-educational activities to encourage women to practice positive coping mechanisms and develop help-seeking behaviour. Participants talk about coping skills and discuss types of gender-based violence present in their communities. The goal of the intervention is to provide women affected by SGBV with a long-term support. Apart from these intentions, the DRC offers literacy classes, which would have otherwise been unavailable or unaffordable for women living in the villages. Furthermore, men and boys have been invited to village-level sensitisation sessions about services available in their communities and to awareness sessions about gender equality. In 2018, the DRC will start programmes specifically involving men and boys.

21 SDC (2017): Credit Proposal no. 7F-09819.01. Bern, Switzerland.

22 ReliefWeb (2017): Myanmar: Myanmar National and Rakhine Shelter Cluster Factsheet, June 2017.

## Results

### Women's group meetings allow the sharing of knowledge

This programme is ongoing. The intervention has so far succeeded in reaching women who are facing SGBV. The centres allow beneficiaries to build and strengthen networks of support, learn skills and obtain and discuss information about sexual and reproductive health. In 2017, more than 700 women have attended activities in the "Women and Girls Centres", including women's peer support groups, young mothers parenting groups, recreational activities, reproductive health awareness sessions and gender-based violence prevention activities. These classes contribute to their overall empowerment and enable women to participate in the public sphere and make decisions about their health and their bodies. Women's group meeting participants report that they find these classes positive as they can share the knowledge they gain with other family members. More than 100 women have attended literacy classes. The classes have been well received by beneficiaries. In a satisfaction survey, one participant reported: *"This class has been useful for me and I am happy that this is provided by women centre because I cannot go to school"*.

### Sources

[Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar \(2015\): Operational Concept on Protection for Myanmar 2015–2017.](#)

[ReliefWeb \(2017\): Myanmar: Myanmar National and Rakhine Shelter Cluster Factsheet, June 2017.](#)

SDC (2017): Credit Proposal No. 7F-09819.01. Bern, Switzerland.

[SDC \(2017\): Strengthening the Gender Based Violence \(GBV\) Response for internally displaced Persons \(IDPs\) and conflict affected communities in Rakhine State, Myanmar.](#)

SDC (2018): Questionnaire Annual Report on Gender Equality 2017. SDC Cooperation Office Myanmar.

[UNHCR \(2018\): Planning Summary, Operation Myanmar.](#)

Support group session  
© Danish Refugee Council



### **SGBV in Humanitarian Context**

The Swiss Humanitarian Aid Department (SHA) defined SGBV as a new priority topic of humanitarian aid. For the first time, a strategic goal on gender equality with addressing SGBV was included in the federal dispatch for international cooperation 2017-2020. Addressing SGBV is not a new step for SHA, as the SDC's support programmes have been directly addressing SGBV with a focus on fragile and conflict areas for decades. This strategic orientation is in line with the "Call to Action on the Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (Call to Action)", a multi-stakeholder initiative to transform the way gender-based violence is addressed in cases of emergency. The Call to Action's goal is to mitigate SGBV risks from the beginning of the crises and to provide safe and comprehensive services for victims of SGBV by driving change and fostering accountability. Switzerland is a partner of the Call to Action and co-chairing the states and donors working group. Many core partners of the SDC are also partners of the Call to Action and have made commitments towards the realisation of the Call to Action roadmap: UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, OCHA, WFP, UNRWA, GBV AoR, IPPF, IFRC.

#### **Sources**

[Gender Based Violence AOR \(2015\): Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. Gender Based Violence AOR, Geneva, Switzerland.](#)

[EDFA \(2013\): Women, Peace and Security. National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern, Switzerland.](#)

### **SDC Supports Active Evidence-Based Policy on SGBV**

Mongolia has undergone an economic and political transformation. These changes influence the social norms, gender equality and the phenomenon of gender-based violence. The SDC supports Mongolia in this transformation and contributes to equitable and sustainable social and economic development in Mongolia. Combating gender-based violence by strengthening national capacity is one goal of the SDC. In 2017, together with UNFPA, Switzerland funded the first national survey on gender-based violence. The results of this study point the way to evidence-based policy development, raise awareness of gender-based violence and increase public sensitivity.

#### **Sources**

[SDC \(2017\): Combating Gender-Based Violence in Mongolia: Factsheet.](#)

[Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Mongolia.](#)

## 4.2 Women's Economic Empowerment

### Why action is needed

The SDC and its partners are investing in women's economic empowerment<sup>23</sup> as it sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Evidence shows, that women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. However, women face specific constraints in their economic empowerment: unequal rights and access to land, unequal access to vocational skills development, difficulties to find employment after vocational training, unequal access to financial services and the burden of unpaid care and domestic work. The data presented by UN Women<sup>24</sup> illustrate that women are more affected by poverty, especially at the age of 25–34 years. Worldwide, 122 women and 100 men in this age group live in extreme poverty. This particular period in life often goes hand in hand with starting a family and, consequently, an increase of unpaid care work. The high burden and unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work is a structural constraint and the main factor for women's unequal economic as well as political participation. On average, men spend 7 percent of their day for unpaid care work and domestic work, for which women allocate 18 percent of their daytime. Recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work is a precondition to enable women to benefit from economic opportunities.

Due to the constraints mentioned above, women's labour force participation globally stands at 63 percent compared to 94 percent among men. Women often end up in insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. Women are not benefitting from their labour force participation at an equal level to men. From a global perspective, women earn on average 77 percent of what men earn. Furthermore, self-controlled income is key for women's autonomy in financial decisions and improving their overall social and economic status within the family and the community.

### The SDC's achievements

The SDC's efforts in strengthening women's economic empowerment have led to commendable results. While access to land remains a thorny and highly controversial topic, the SDC's and its partners' interventions have been able to show some promising results through land titling, joint ownership and communal land use. Regarding vocational training, several interventions have promoted women's enrolment in non-traditional female jobs. While these jobs have the potential for higher income, it appears to be difficult to recruit women and hard for female graduates to get and retain jobs. The transition from skills training to employment and income contains many gender-specific obstacles. In their interventions, the SDC and its partners contributed substantially to reduce time for domestic chores that are performed mostly by women and girls. Most of the rural economy interventions of the SDC showed significant results regarding the creation of jobs and income in agricultural production. On average, women constituted around 40 percent of the beneficiaries of these interventions.

The following examples of interventions demonstrate what the SDC and its partner have done and what results they have achieved.

23 UNHLP (2017): [Leave No One Behind: Taking Action for Transformational Change on Women's Economic Empowerment](#).

24 UN Women (2018): [Turning Promises Into Action. Gender Equality in the 2013 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

## Gender Reference Indicator: Access to Natural Resources

Women and men have equal access, ownership and rights to natural resources such as land and water to improve their income and livelihood.

### Example 3

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# Securing Land Rights as a Prevention and Reduction of Rural Land Conflicts in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo

The SDC has been working on land issues in the Great Lakes for over ten years. The “Land Governance Support Programme” was launched in Burundi in 2008 and in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2011. The programme strategically focused on securing land rights, developing land policies and their implementation. A goal of this intervention is to ensure better governance in this area and to reduce conflicts in communities by strengthening and expanding land services, recognising rural land rights and improving the legal and policy framework.

## Beneficiaries

The programme covered six communes out of nine in Ngozi Province in the north of Burundi, representing a total population of approximately one million inhabitants (no gender-segregated data available).

## Finances

The programme in Burundi lasted from July 2008 to April 2014. It was funded by the SDC with 7'985'000 CHF and has also benefited from the contribution of the Netherlands, in the form of a delegated cooperation of 3.1 Million CHF.

## Gender analysis

### Family law and customary law affect land rights

In Burundi, women often cultivate the land but do not own it. By law both men and women have the same property and usufruct rights, but the weight of tradition weighs heavily on women in the exercise of their rights. A woman's right of usufruct is bound with both her parents and her husband. Women do not frequently buy land themselves because of their low purchasing power. And if they do, the land is often still registered in the name of their husband or their adult children. Community and political roles belong to men, while reproductive roles are assigned to rural women. Very often,

men are in gainful occupations, while the women's work is rather low remunerated. Also, control is exercised by men, including the control over resources generated by women. Thus, women play a participatory role whereas men take part in decision-making processes.

## Activities

### Securing the land rights and improving the legal framework

The programme focused on two objectives. First, the programme concentrated on the development and implementation of new policies and legislative reforms to promote land rights, particularly for women. Secondly, it focused on assuring land rights of men and women on a large scale by institutions that deliver quality services through transparent, inclusive and accessible procedures. Activities particularly designed to close the gender gap were undertaken by the programme. Awareness campaigns on gender sensitivity in relation to access to land were organised at the community level. The programme also focused on raising awareness of communal land agents and “Hillside Recognition Commissions” (HRC) to validate women's land rights and to mediate in cases of conflict. Moreover, good practises existing in the community in relation to women's access to land were identified. Furthermore, a study was carried out in the context of the programme on the causes and consequences of the lack of equitable access to land of women and men.

## Results

### A more equal land governance

The results imply the importance of raising awareness and gender sensitivity by communities on land certificates, because in decentralised land management, it is important to hold a land certificate to secure land rights and as a collateral to obtain a micro-credit. Through awareness campaigns on gender equality more women have signed up for the certification of their land rights, in the targeted communities. Now, women also demand that their name appears in the transaction documents when they sell or buy land. The programme was also successful in supporting local commissions in assuming the role of validating land rights to be secured and in the mediation of land conflicts.

Many good practices were gathered and illustrated, such as the case of a father deciding to share his land equally between his sons and daughters. In other cases, boys decided to share their inherited land with their sisters. Other boys spontaneously gave usufruct rights to their sisters.

#### Sources

SDC (2018): Questionnaire Annual Report on Gender Equality 2017. SDC Cooperation Office Bujumbura, Burundi.

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## Land Governance

There are major disparities between women and men in most parts of the world when it comes to land ownership and access to decision-making processes about land use<sup>25</sup>. In Niger, the SDC is engaged in supporting in particular women and women's groups to claim spaces in land governance and decision-making bodies in agricultural organisations. The SDC's interventions support land governance institutions, including customary institutions. For example, the project "Support to farmers' organisations for better food and nutritional security" (1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021, 17'600'000 CHF for four phases), aims also at reducing gender inequalities in farmers organisations and raise financial autonomy and participation in associative life and local public management. The baseline study of 2017<sup>26</sup> indicates that even though almost half of the members of the farmer's organisations are women, only few of them are represented in decision-making bodies. The project will focus on strengthening women's leadership and capacities in production and marketing through the support of initiatives developed by farmers' organisations and other civil society actors. This step empowers women and gives them a voice in decision-making processes in agriculture and over land.

## Access to Market and Women's Economic Empowerment

Access to food value chains and markets offers commercial opportunities for women and increases their economic empowerment. In Benin, the SDC's "Economic Infrastructure and Trade Development Programme" (P-DIEM) (1<sup>st</sup> October 2013-30 September 2017, 9'385'000 CHF) plans to mainstream the gender dimension throughout the P-DIEM. The project aims to empower women and men in order to reduce inequalities in access to public work and market infrastructures, to the management of the economic infrastructure and markets as well as to ensure their civic awareness. The activities include encouraging and supporting the participation of women in decision-making bodies related to the construction of local infrastructures and the strengthening of women's economic and commercial activities around these facilities. Great account has been taken of the qualitative presence of women in these teams. To this end, awareness-raising, advocacy, lobbying and training actions were carried out for the various actors, opinion leaders, communal actors and others linked with the economic infrastructure and markets.

Korogne Bibata, a female gravel producer and beneficiary of the project, explains: *"We now have many customers thanks to the training and equipment that the P-DIEM has given us; because we can produce much more gravel. Among the large customers, there is the company INEO which makes the extension of the high voltage called akossombo. INEO orders at least 10 truck trips per day. All this is thanks to the training and support of the P-DIEM which has allowed us to know the different categories of gravel (5/15, small grain, large grain, mixture and others). Thanks to this support all members have their card benefit from group ordering. But before that, everyone was on their own. We thank P-DIEM for allowing us to make our activity profitable. For example, I am a widow and it is with this work that I support my children at school."*

25 SDC (2017): Guidance Sheet on Gender and Land Governance.

26 Executed by the consortium Initiatives Conseil International and Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale.

## Gender Reference Indicator: Self-Controlled Income

Women have access and control over an increased income form agriculture, wage employment or through entrepreneurship to improve their economic empowerment.

### Example 4

# Women's Economic Inclusion through Poultry Farming and Goat Rearing in Rural Afghanistan

The SDC supports vulnerable families in the provinces Paktia and Khost in southeast Afghanistan in poultry farming and goats rearing. The main goal of this project is to increase the households' income by diversifying economic opportunities for women and men. During the current, second project phase, mainly female-headed households benefit from poultry backyard kits or goat rearing. Additionally, both women and men have extended their knowledge in livestock breeding and improved their business skills. This fully SDC-funded project has been running since 2013. It is a part of the "Sustainable Livelihood and Social Development Project" and contributes to an inclusive socio-economic development of rural communities.

## Beneficiaries

The current project phase targets 6'000 households (approximately 42'000 individuals). In 2017, in total 2'600 individuals directly benefited from this intervention.

Women: 650  
Men: 1'950

## Finances

The annual budget in the second phase (2016–2019) is 1,4 million CHF.

## Gender analysis

### Strong social norms lead to women's low self-controlled income

Strong gender norms structure a strict division of labour for women and men in Afghanistan. The roles and responsibilities of men and women are clearly separated, with women focusing on the domestic sphere and men being active in the public sphere. Cultural restrictions limit women's mobility outside the home. Also, their economic inclusion and their education level are still low. Only 19% of women participate in the labour market and only 31% of young women are able to read and write. In the Afghanise patriarchal family system, men also have a larger control over land and agricultural production and women remain largely excluded.

## Activities

### Open up context sensitive spaces for women's economic empowerment

The main activities of the project are the provision of poultry backyard kits, veterinary services and market linkages for selling the produced eggs and purchasing balanced feed. Additionally, the beneficiaries attend a six-day capacity-building course to improve skills in poultry and livestock farming. These trainings focus on balanced food preparation, vaccinations, disease prevention, hygiene and business skills.

The project is implemented in one of the most conservative regions of the country, where women remain largely excluded from the public sphere, including education, economic activities and political decision-making. The project strives to include women in all activities to the extent possible, thereby strengthening their position within the households and the community while taking into account prevalent social norms. It has identified activities deemed suitable for women, which do not require working in public spaces. It further promotes women's inclusion in decision-making, for example through parallel meetings for participatory planning of the interventions. From a context-sensitive perspective, explicitly "combating discrimination" is not possible and would jeopardise the project and the security of the staff. This lead to a project implementation which implicitly tackles gender discriminations.

## Results

### Expectations exceeded

The project is ongoing, but the available results are so far promising. In August 2017, 500 families had increased their monthly income by 43 percent from poultry production. This led to an economic change on the household level. The female beneficiaries who received poultry or livestock were mainly from women-headed households, and most of them were older than 50 years old. In its second phase, the project clearly benefited from the experience of the first phase. The activities were designed in a way to ensure acceptance in the local communities. The implementation of the activities was supported by the context-sensitive approach of the umbrella project. Not only did the project focus on activities, which are deemed in line with the prevailing social norms, but it also ensured that both men and women are involved in activities that target women (for example trainings on poultry or hygiene).

### Sources

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SDC (2017): Sustainable Livelihood and Social Development (SLSD). SLSD Phase 2, Annual Operational Report 01 June 2016 – 31 May 2017. Bern, Switzerland.

SDC (2017): Sustainable Livelihood and Social Development (SLSD). SLSD Phase 2, third Sub-project under Credit Proposal No. 7F-90009.02.01. Supporting Vulnerable Families through Poultry Farming and Goat Rearing.

Tavva, Srinivas; Abdelali-Martini, Malika; Aw-Hassan, Aden; Rischkowsky, Barbara; Tibbo, Markos; Rizvi, Javed (2013): Gender Roles in Agriculture. The Case of Afghanistan. In: Indian Journal of Gender Studies 20 (1), pp. 111–134.

The World Bank (2018): Gender Data Portal. Afghanistan.

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### Gender Reference Indicator: Vocational Skills Development

Women have access to and attend vocational training and, as a result, gain an income. However, there are gender-specific obstacles in the transition from vocational skills training to job and income.

#### Example 5

## Skilled Female and Male Masons Apply Earthquake Resilient Technology in Nepal with Different Outcomes

Together with its implementing partner HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, the SDC increases women's labour market participation and improves the living condition of economically and socially excluded youth through vocational training in Nepal. The Employment Fund was established after the devastating earthquakes in 2015 and launched the "Skills for Reconstruction" project. The goal of the project is to provide skills regarding earthquake resilient construction for young women and men, especially those belonging to disadvantaged groups. On the one hand, this capacity-building project supports earthquake-affected households in rebuilding their homes; on the other hand, it enables the graduates to enter into the paid labour market. Around a third of the participants are women, who enter a male-dominated sector with this professional training. There are generally more obstacles for women to get paid work than for men. Finding paid employment costs women more effort and time, and they have to accept lower wages than men for the same work.

### Beneficiaries

In 2017, in total 7'908 individuals directly benefited of this intervention.

Women: 2'530

Men: 5'378

### Finances

The project is co-financed by the SDC and the Department for International Development (DIFID). The SDC financed the second phase of the project from 2015 to 2017 with 2.95 million CHF and the DIFID supports the project from 2016 to January 2018 with 5.22 million CHF.

### Gender analysis

#### Gendered out-migration and labour market

In comparison with other countries in the world, there is a need to catch up with regard to gender equality in Nepal. According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2017, Nepal ranks in place 111 out of 144 countries. Nevertheless, Nepal closed the gender gap regarding enrolment in tertiary education for the first time in 2017. Nepal is turning into a

labour-exporting country. In 2009, roughly one household out of three sent a member into another country for work purposes. This out-migration is male dominated. Women usually stay back home in the agriculture sector. This increases the work burden for women and leads them into time poverty, also because the traditional division of labour, with women being mainly responsible for unpaid care work and domestic work, is still prevalent.

### Activities

#### Skills in resilient construction

The project is active on two different levels: On the one side, the project provides quality vocational training for masons and construction carpenters in six disaster-affected districts in Nepal. This skills development programme includes 50 days of workplace training with the possibility to obtain a certification of the National Skills Testing Board. After the completion of the training, graduates receive support for six months, to answer questions regarding house constructions. The project enables participants to reconstruct their own house and improve their employability in the construction sector. On the other side, the project integrates earthquake resilient technology and supports the government

to include this technology into national wide skills training curricula. To increase women's attendance in trainings, day care facilities were provided, and additional allowance and food support was given to women.

## Results

### Do women fit into the construction sector?

The successful project trained 7'908 youth in 2017 and increased their employability. Two types of trainings were given: masons and construction carpenters. Over 30 percent of the trainees are women. 86 percent from disadvantaged groups took part in mason vocational training. After the training, 85 percent of the graduate masons were gainfully employed. However, becoming successfully employed includes more barriers for women than for men. The construction sector is perceived as a men's field and women often doubt their ability to work as a mason, carpenter or plumber. At the beginning of the programme, women did not register for the training because they did not dare to work in the construction sector: either because they had no role models or because of the burden of house-keeping and child care. The work at home also affects women's participation during the training and lowers their final set of skills. After completing the training, women need one more month than men to find a paid employment. Unmarried women are more likely to find an employment than married ones. Often, women first have to demonstrate their skills and are only employed for unskilled work, like

fetching materials. Also, due to the perception that women work less than men in the same time, they have to accept 19 percent lower wages. Nevertheless, access to financial means and the increase of self-dependence and empowerment, especially regarding mobility, were the main positive output for women who were gainfully employed.

### Sources

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Women graduates in  
Molung © Kriti Bhujju



## Gender Reference Indicator: Financial Inclusion

Formal financial services such as a saving, insurance, loans and bank account etc. are key elements for sustainable economic empowerment and asset building.

### Example 6

# Women's Empowerment through Increased Access to Agricultural Market and Saving Options

Innovation for Agribusiness (InovAgro) is a pro-poor, private-sector development project funded by the SDC and implemented by Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI) and COWI Holding A/S. The "InovAgro" project aimed at increasing the income and wealth of the rural population in Northern Mozambique using a market system development approach. The predominance of women in agricultural activities and the tendency for men to control marketing activities made gender an important transversal theme. The intervention in which the role of women emerged most strongly was that of the "Village Savings and Loans Association" (VSLAs), which had the greatest scope for strengthening the position of women in production and markets.

## Beneficiaries

In 2017, in total 16'000 individuals directly benefited from this intervention.

Women: 5'446

Men: 10'554

## Finances

The InovAgro Phase II, financed by the SDC with a budget of 7.6 million CHF took place during the period of January 2014 to December 2017.

## Gender analysis

### Limited access to and control over land as well as access to financial resources

Even though in the last two decades, Mozambique had a rapid economic growth, the country continues to be one of the poorest countries worldwide. This is due to the decline of growth in industry and services and low productivity in subsistence agriculture, where 80 percent of the economically active population are employed. Rural poverty persists and because alternative sources of income are rare in times of scarcity, rural people suffer from food insecurity. In particular, rural women are disadvantaged even though they play an important role in generating income for their families. They often do not have access to land and finances. Additionally, women's participation in agribusiness value chain activities remains weak and, therefore, their income is often very low. In the northern geographic

region of Mozambique, where the project is active, three main obstacles were identified. First, women have less access to and control over land and its production resources compared to men. Secondly, female smallholders are often deprived from financial access to purchase products and services required to enhance their competitive / beneficial market participation in agricultural markets. Third, women often have less access to education and therefore face difficulties in management and technical know-how to develop (and grow) entrepreneurial business activities in the agribusiness sector.

## Activities

### Access to certified seeds and strengthened participation of rural women in Village Savings and Lending Associations

To overcome such socio-economic shortcomings in the Mozambican agricultural sector, which suffers not only from the general political unrest in the country but also from the negative trends regarding cultural acceptance of women participation in businesses, InovAgro II supported over 5'400 female farmers in five value chains – maize, groundnuts, pigeon peas, sesame and soybeans. The project established "Village Savings and Lending Associations" with strong women's participation to allow for individual savings towards financing production inputs, particularly seeds. Additionally, the project strengthened women's participation in "Community Land Management Committees", to ensure representation of women in community structures which govern the use of the communi-

ties' productive assets and traincommunity members in inclusive and sustainable land management.

## Results

### Inclusive markets and access to financial resources for rural women

The InovAgro II project focused on market interventions which provided increased market opportunities for farmers, 34 percent of which were female smallholders. Female-headed households increased land allocation for pigeon pea production from 2016 to 2017 on average from 0.6 hectares to 1.70 hectares. The revenue per hectare secured by female farmers in groundnuts value chains increased impressively. Additionally, female groundnut farmers' revenue per hectare was much higher compared to their male counterparts in 2017. Furthermore, 2'956 women participated in "Village Savings and Lending Associations" which enabled them to save money which they were investing to purchase agricultural inputs for the future season.

Four "Community Land Management Committees" were established with 40–50 percent women representation. These committees play a critical role in the development and operationalisation of their communities' "Natural Resource Management Plans". The communities have now secured delimitation certificates to protect their land rights. Additionally, a total of 1'820 community members (1'076 female and 744 male) participated in various trainings on sustainable land management and obtained information on gender rights in relation to the access and use of land in communities as defined by the Mozambican law.

The project has led to positive results. However, private sector work plans and approaches are often not gender-sensitive, which can be an obstacle for rural women. Although the project has set milestones towards increasing female farmer's revenues and incomes, female's control over their income at the household level remains challenging.

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© InovAgro II



### Gender Reference Indicator: Unpaid Care Work and Domestic Work

Women's and men's unpaid care and domestic work load is reduced and redistributed due to rural infrastructure development, i.e. water, electricity, energy efficiency, climate adaptation, labour saving technologies or child care services. This indicator addresses time poverty of women as critical for better access to education, economic activities and political engagement.

#### Example 7

## Reduction of Women's Unpaid Work through Access to Sustainable Energy Technologies – an Unintended Result

New cooking technology saves firewood and reduces women's unpaid time to collect firewood for over 370 million hours per year. Energy is a key requirement to reduce poverty and foster sustainable development. As a part of the global programme Climate Change and Environment, SDC is active in the implementation of sustainable, modern and climate friendly energy services as a partner of the "Energising Development" (EnDev) project. This multi-regional project implements technologies and services in twenty-five countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The interventions include photovoltaic energy, grid densification, micro hydropower, energy-efficient cooking stoves and biogas. Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emission and indoor pollution, women's and men's economic empowerment, and improvement of the households' wellbeing are the key outputs and outcomes of the programme. Unexpectedly, this programme has positively affected time resources for women. Specifically, the consumption of firewood was reduced by 30 to 40 percent by means of improved cooking systems, which led to a reduction of women's unpaid, domestic work.

### Beneficiaries

In the first half year of 2017, in total 940'000 individuals (no gender-segregated data available) directly benefited from this intervention.

### Finances

The total project duration of EnDev is from 2012 to 2023. In addition to the SDC, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of International Development and the Swedish International Development Agency are the main donors. The SDC contributes 6 million CHF to EnDev activities over the years 2018 to 2020.

### Gender analysis

#### Gendered division of labour and time spent on unpaid work are strongly linked

Gender equality, affordable clean energy, good health and wellbeing are included in the Sustainable Development Goals and are addressed by the "Energising Development" programme. The daily life of women and men is still structured by a gendered division of labour. Women carry the main bulk of unpaid domestic and care work, and men are more active in paid activities. For example, collecting firewood and water are women's and girls' duties. Men spend less time on domestic work and paid care than women. This leads women into time poverty and decreases the possibility of them participating in the paid labour market. Furthermore, worldwide approximately 3 billion people rely on unsafe and inefficient energy for cooking and lighting. Women are responsible for cooking and they are more exposed than men to the smoke of the fire. Thus, the use of biomass fuel is linked to respiratory health problems and contributes to deforestation and regional climate change. Every year, around three to four million early deaths are caused by indoor air pollution, with women accounting for six out of every ten.

## Activities

### Make energy-efficient cooking stoves affordable for energy poor households

EnDev provides access to modern and low carbon energy services to low-income households, social institutions, and small enterprises. It also combats climate change through the mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub>. One means to reach this goal are energy-efficient cooking stoves. This new cooking energy system needs 30 to 40 percent less firewood than a traditional three-stone fire cooking system. To increase the affordability of this high-quality stove, EnDev supports local stove-producers.

## Results

### Substantial time savings thanks to new technologies

New technologies can contribute to gender equality. EnDev massively reduced the need for collected firewood and, consequently, also time use for women. It thus contributed to reduce women's time poverty and unpaid domestic work. Across all project countries, in one year, over 1.2 billion kilograms of firewood were saved and time to collect firewood was reduced for over 370 million hours. From 2012 to 2017, EnDev facilitated sustainable access to modern energy services for 18.2 million people. 1.9 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> were saved per year, the exposition to indoor air pollution was reduced for 6.7 million women, men and children, and 40'000 women and men were trained as stove producers, sale agents or technicians.

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Cooking on clean stove in Benin. © Olivier Girard



### **What is unpaid care work?**

Care work refers to work that contributes to meeting the basic physical and emotional needs of individuals, families and communities. It includes caring for children, elderly people and people who have fallen ill, as well as housework, preparing and cooking food, collecting firewood, fuel and water, etc. Care work is central to human and social wellbeing. In many contexts, care is perceived as being women's work, whether it is paid or unpaid. Paid care work is often perceived to be unskilled work and conditions are insecure, informal and relatively poorly remunerated. Paid care work is often being carried out by nurses, domestic workers, nannies, or caregivers in homes for elderly people.

Furthermore, unpaid care work tends to be perceived as purely reproduction-oriented and is mostly not visible and valued. The disproportionate share of unpaid care work by women leads to time poverty. Due to the double work burden, women are hindered in actively participating in income-generating activities and in the public sphere.

### **How to address it**

A way to address unpaid care work in development interventions is the **Triples R framework**. This framework distinguishes the following categories:

**Recognition** of unpaid care work means that this work is "seen" and valued by women and men, and by communities, governments and private sector actors. Recognition ranges from a very simple accounting of how women and men spend their time with time use surveys to the inclusion of such data and analysis in national statistics and social security systems at different levels.

**Reduction** of unpaid care work means that the time spent on unpaid care work is reduced for individual women and for the society more generally. The reduction of unpaid care work is often addressed through technological improvements and infrastructural development.

**Redistribution** of unpaid care work means that the responsibilities for unpaid care work are more fairly shared between women and men within families, among different people in communities and between families, government and private institutions. The key to redistribution is changing gender roles and stereotypes.

### **SDC gender equality network products**

[SDC \(2017\): Gender and Unpaid Care Work. Guidance Sheet.](#)

This guidance sheet is one of a series written to support SDC staff in ensuring that gender is taken into account transversally in different thematic domains.

[SDC \(2017\): Unpaid care work: practical guidance on analysis and intervention design.](#)

This note aims to provide practical guidance on how development actors can work on this topic. It provides suggestions on acknowledging and addressing unpaid care work, linking academic research, policy discourse and practice.

[SDC \(2017\): SDC Gender Equality Network Newsletter Gender and Unpaid Care Work, No 1.2017.](#)

# Changing Roles and Responsibilities in Colombia lead to Redistribution of Household Tasks

From 2014 to 2017, the SDC supported the Fundación Acción Contra El Hambre (ACH) in its work to improve health conditions of communities in three departments affected by the armed conflict in Colombia through access to safe water and sanitation, livelihood recovery and strengthened institutions and communities. The project integrated gender as a transversal theme into every activity to improve the effectiveness of its intervention.

## Beneficiaries

In 2017 in total 41'150 individuals directly benefited from this intervention.

Women: 20'278

Men: 20'872

## Finances

The SDC contributed an amount of 1'982'000 CHF.

## Gender analysis

### Prevailing traditional gender roles

After several decades of armed conflict in Colombia, the country is in a transition process to peace. The conflict has caused thousands of deaths, forced disappearances and it has displaced 5.8 million people. The rural population has been adversely affected. Almost half of the rural population lives in poverty; especially women are affected. The armed conflict has made access to basic services such as water, sanitation, health care and education difficult, especially in remote areas.

In rural areas, traditional gender roles and divisions of labour prevail. Women are responsible for the household chores, such as the provision of water, the cleaning of the house, and caring for children as well as for elderly and sick family members. Their employment opportunities are limited. Rural women usually work as domestic workers or in non-formal employments without proper remuneration. Farming activities as well as activities as daily labourers in farms and off-farm realms are typically men's tasks. Women on the other hand are responsible for the garden or the production of self-sustaining goods. In the community and in the public, women face the obstacle of not having time to actively participate in public advocacy spaces and in decision-making since this requires reconciling with household chores and the caring

of children. Because of this unpaid care work and long ways to the next school, women are hindered in accessing basic education. Therefore, the illiteracy rate among rural women is high.

## Activities

### Changing roles and responsibilities through capacity building and practical help

The project supported target communities by promoting and implementing several activities, in order to, firstly, improve access to safe water and sanitation, and, secondly, to improve food security, nutrition and access and control over resources and, thirdly, to strengthen institutions and communities.

The project has done a lot of sensitisation work on gender roles and responsibilities with targeted women and men as well as with boys and girls. By means of several workshops a reflexion process on different roles of women and men in the household was started. Men started to appreciate the work women do in the household, such as providing safe water, preparing food and caring for the family, and they became aware of the important role women play in the household.

In its work, the project also provided productive support to women and their families in generating new opportunities to improve their income. Additionally, the project offered psychological support to women and men to strengthen their self-esteem. Additionally, special trainings promoted the inclusion of women and youths in community participation and decision-making positions.

## Results

### Inclusive approach led to changes in gender roles

By 2017, results showed changes in gender roles and gender relations as well as in the gendered division of labour. For example, progress was made in the target communities in the interfamilial communication, the couple's relationship and in parenting patterns. Women have achieved greater voice in making decisions in the household. And men participated more in food security activities by taking care of the vegetable garden, while women were more engaged in marketing activities. The redistribution of household tasks made it possible to share responsibilities and opportunities more equally. Arturo Diaz (El Pinal, Samaniego) mentioned: *"As husband I feel that I have to support in the household chores, we realized that if we work together we can achieve more and I feel that we as a family are closer than before. I went to work at the mine and came back to rest, I did not help in the household. Now when I come back I'm looking out for what's needed and we're distributing tasks for everyone"*.

The inclusive approach in engaging women and men equally, led to community processes in which women and men demonstrated openness and willingness to actively participate in strategic planning and concrete actions. Compromises in several activities as for example in the water and the school sanitation system could be negotiated. Also, a more equal participation in communal committees was achieved. Today, in most committees women held leader positions. Additionally, young women and men began to actively participate and show interest in skills for organisational work.

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## 4.3 Women's Political Participation

### Why action is needed

Women's political participation is a key priority for the SDC and its partners to strengthen gender equality. Women still face several obstacles in participating and decision-making in political life. Structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions still limit their options to run for office. According to UN Women<sup>27</sup>, women's representation in national parliaments has increased by 10 percent points since the year 2000. From a global perspective, 23.7 percent of the members of parliament are women. Only in two countries around the world, in Rwanda and Bolivia, do women hold the majority of seats in parliament. Reliable, globally comparable figures about women's representation in local government are not available at the moment. Nevertheless, in several countries electoral gender quotas have increased women's participation in decision-making organs.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 points out the important role of women in conflicts and post-conflict contexts, especially their equal participation in peace negotiations, peace-building and peacekeeping. Women's structural exclusion from peace negotiations is documented. A publication of UN Women<sup>28</sup> of 2012 highlights that less than 10 percent of negotiators at peace tables were women and 96 percent of signatories to peace agreements were men. Recent research<sup>29</sup> points out that gender-specific language in peace agreements generates sustainable peace and shows a strong link between gender equality and peaceful societies.

### The SDC's achievements

The SDC's effort in supporting and strengthening women's political empowerment has showed commendable results. The political participation and representation of women in local governance and political bodies has been increasingly addressed by the SDC through governance programmes, often as part and in support of national reforms for decentralisation and democratisation processes. In several instances, results show that women's participation in regions where the SDC is active is higher than the national average. However, such processes take time and require resources to change the mind-sets and institutions. This explains why often the numeric results are not as high as expected but display, nevertheless, very promising trends at the local level, slowly influencing the national level (and sometimes vice versa). In addition, the percentage of women in decision-making functions in the management of resources and services has grown in several countries supported by the SDC, which has contributed to better and more gender-sensitive service provision. Moreover, such leadership experience strengthens the recognition and social status and can be an entry point for political careers of women. Finally, the promotion of gender-responsive management of public finances at local level had positive impacts on the services provided for the whole community and strengthened women's influence in local decision-making.

27 UN Women (2018): *Turning Promises Into Action. Gender Equality in the 2013 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

28 UN Women (2012): *Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence*

29 See Aggestam, Karin; Svensson, Isak (2017): *Where Are the Women in Peace Mediation?* In: *Gendering Diplomacy and International Negotiation*. Springer.

## Gender Reference Indicator: Participation and Decision-Making

Women equally participate and have equal influence in local governance and politics to have their voice heard. 30 percent representation is an indication for having voice and influence.

### Example 9

# Democratic Transition through Increased Women's Participation and Voice in Politics

Switzerland supports Albania's transition to a democratic society. Since 2006, the SDC and its implementing partner HELVETAS Intercooperation run the Programme for Local Development and Decentralisation (dl dp). The programme aims to improve the quality of services provided by municipalities in northern Albania for women and men citizens through capacity building. It has introduced new models for local government functioning in areas such as waste management, public finance management, and e-governance. To contribute to this objective, the programme promotes the representation of women and their involvement in political functions at all levels through the support of the Network Women in Politics (WiPN) since 2011.

## Beneficiaries

In 2017, 715'737 individuals indirectly benefited from this intervention.

Women: 357'153

Men: 358'584

## Finances

The SDC contributed 17.67 Mio CHF for the period of 2006–2017.

## Gender analysis

### Women are kept away from politics

In the last two decades, Albania has pledged to decentralise its administrative system and delegate more power and functions to the local government. The decentralisation process requires support and capacity development at municipality level. A territorial and administration reform took place in 2015 and merged the former 373 local government units into 61 municipalities. The mayors and local councils as well as the councils of the regions are responsible for the provision of local services to their inhabitants and the development between the communes and municipalities.

In Albania, local realities showed that the participation of women in politics was very low. The low level was manifested within the political parties, but also in the decision-making bodies, in

the parliament, government and local governance institutions. The mentality regarding gender roles in society kept women away from politics. In 2008, the Electoral Code underwent an important amendment, introducing, for the first time, the gender quota principle: 30 percent in the lists of candidates by political parties should be of the other gender. The effects of this amendment brought an evident improvement in the number of female members in parliament in 2009, as it was approximately 2.5 times higher than in the previous elections. However, the objective of 30 percent women in the parliament was not achieved. Several local organisations began to analyse what went wrong with the quota.

## Activities

### Empowering women, engendering policies and budgets

The aim of the decentralisation and local development programme (dl dp) is to improve local government services at the municipal level, to make the use of public resources transparent, effective and appropriate, and to increase civic participation. The programme strengthens the municipalities' capacities to manage their functions in order to improve the services for citizens. The programme promotes the representation of women and their involvement in political functions at all levels to engender local and national government policies and public resources. The programme chose to establish a network instead of classically mainstreaming gender. "We

dared to implement our social inclusion and gender mainstreaming objectives beyond classical models (e.g. gender budgeting, leadership programmes, etc.): dldp empowered women and afterwards they were engaged in engendering public resources and politics with social inclusion as a final goal” explains Valbona Karakaçi (Programme Manager of dldp).

The Women in Politics Network (WiPN) is an informal network of female politicians at all levels. Since 2015, the Network has expanded to the regions of Durres, Kukes and Diber, and currently comprises 468 members. The support is guided by the principles of parity and neutrality, making sure every political party represented in the network receives the same support. The programme offered trainings and coaching in order to strengthen the capacities of local councillors in different issues such as local governance functioning, decision-making, budgeting and social inclusion. Furthermore, the dldp supported members of the WiPN to follow studies in the Academy of Political Studies. Additionally, the WiPN started to draft a common platform for women in the general elections through regional forums and published catalogues of women candidates to enhance the visibility of women in politics.

## Results

### Increased women’s participation and voice in politics leads to inclusive policy implementation

In 2017, a capitalisation demonstrated that the innovative gender mainstreaming approach, the support of the WiP network and its members, has achieved commendable results. These results show that the WiP network became a space where women could develop their potential and increase their self-con-

fidence: “Now, after about a year and a half in this position, I feel better, stronger and more prepared to carry out all the projects mainly at the benefit of women. I feel part of every step we have undertaken together” (Zana Elezi, Head of Municipal Council, Klos, 2016).

With the support of WiPN and the enhancing of their public profile, five women were included in party lists for national elections in 2017. One woman was selected and upgraded as a deputy Prime Minister of Albania. Members of the network were also able to engender policies and public resources at national and local level. Two socially inclusive fiscal packages have been approved with consensus in Klos and Shkodra. “In 2016, the Municipality undertook some initiatives focused on women, families in need. We reduced the fiscal load for women head of families taking into consideration their difficult economic situation. I personally think that these initiatives which had positive impact in the community, were made possible by the fact that in the Municipal Council, we have women who are sensitive, experienced and know very well their duty. The WiP Network has been very active offering arguments and support for these initiatives” (Voltana Ademi, Mayor of Shkodra Municipality, 2017).

In 2017, the WiP network and its members ensured a gender-sensitive formulation in the elaboration and implementation of the New Law on Local Finances. The network has brought a new political culture based on cooperation and solidarity contrasting with the conflicting climate of politics during transition. In March 2017, the Alliance of Women Councillors of Shkodra municipality was established, where women constitute 43 percent of the Council’s members. Two of 14 country-wide Women’s Alliances have been formalised in 2017.

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### **Women's Caucus - a Promising Strategy**

Women's caucus means the establishing of networks of women's politicians of different parties at all levels. The women's caucus provides space for politicians to exchange and support each other, but also to plan joint initiatives and increase their influence. It is a gender mainstreaming strategy applied in the field of women's political participation.

SDC projects in Albania (see Example 9), Serbia and Pakistan support women's caucus at communal, provincial and national level. Results demonstrate that women's caucus is an effective support mechanism to promote women's political empowerment. For instance, since 2016 ten local women-councillor networks were established and advocated for gender issues in Serbia, resulting in 34 local governments allocating 1.4 million CHF for gender projects. In 2017, in the local government of the province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, 22 (18%) out of 124 seats were reserved for women, and 3 (2.5%) seats for minorities. Even reserved seats lack the electoral legitimacy, the presence through reserved seats allows women to be visible and influence legislation.

## **Gender Reference Indicator: Decision-Making in the Management of Services and Resources**

Women equally participate and have equal influence in decision-making functions in the management of resources and services such as water, health and education to have their voice heard.

### Example 10

# Women Making Decisions in Leadership Positions in Cocoa Value Chain in Honduras

The SDC supports the Cocoa Value Chain (PROCACAHO) project, a consortium of various organisations, in Honduras. The purpose of the PROCACAHO project in Honduras is to contribute to poverty reduction among rural people by increasing income and food security through the sustainable production of quality cocoa from agro forestry. The project applies a social inclusion approach with the aim of equally involving women, men and young people in production and management processes.

## **Beneficiaries**

In 2017, in total 1'901 small scale cacao farmer families benefited from additional income.

Women: 532

Men: 1'367

## **Finances**

The project runs from August 2014 to January 2018 and is supported with 5'902'000 CHF.

## **Gender analysis**

### **Women without access to land**

In Honduras, agroforestry systems in cocoa cultivation are the alternative to generate rural income in harmony with the environment. The government, through different secretariats of state, cooperating partners, private companies and development programmes, is allocating considerable resources to strengthen the value chain in this area. Cocoa is an agricultural export good that is resurgent, with great prospects for growth as well as social and economic impact. For this reason, the PROCACAHO project reflected on how the reality affects women and men in the cocoa sector. The gender analysis revealed that because of cultural and political facts, women do not have access to land, which made it impossible for them to be direct beneficiaries of the project as originally designed. The analysis showed that most women do not work directly in the production of cacao; they are engaged in post-harvest activities. Women do

not receive an adequate salary according to the law for their work. Because of the gendered division of work, women often do not profit from the technical assistance the projects offers. Furthermore, the PROCACAHO projects offers rural saving banks credits. The analysis revealed that women are often afraid to apply for these credits because they think that they do not meet the requirements for access, mainly due to the lack of guarantees. And when women apply they do so individually to meet the needs of their families. Most women do not see in the rural fund a financial tool to promote their own business activities. Additionally, the participation of women in the cooperatives is limited and leadership possibilities of women are often not recognised. In general, reproductive tasks and the distances from their homes to the cooperative centres prevents them from taking active roles in the cooperatives.

## **Activities**

### **From a gender to a social inclusion approach**

In 2017, the project decided to move away from a pure gender equality approach to a social inclusion approach and elaborated a new social inclusion strategy. The strategy combines gender equality, generation relief and a psychosocial approach and is implemented in the following projects areas:

In the cocoa value chain, the goal is to improve equal access to credit and land and foster alliances with academia and municipalities. In the governance of the cacao sector, the focus is to strengthen strategic alliances with the National Women's In-

stitute, the Ministry of Education and civil society organisations to promote the inclusion of women and youth. In the project area enterprises, the strategy aims to strengthen the organisations through the promotion of women and youth in leading positions with specific trainings and mediations, the revision of internal regulations and business strategies as well as the building of social inclusion committees and an own strategy. Also, working with farmer families, the strategy's goal is the sensitisation of the cacao farmer families.

## Results

### Increased participation of women and youth in management positions

The project supported 32 women and 125 men in the application process to get their land right from the national land institute. In general, the overall participation of women, demonstrated in their participation in production cooperatives and the accessing of credits, has increased from 10 percent at the beginning of the project to currently 39 percent. Today, an average of 28 percent of women are in different management positions, waiting for changes in the management to take over an executive function. The implementation of the new strategy supported the empowerment and strengthened especially women and youth to recognise

their capacity to contribute to the organisation. Most of the participating enterprises in the project developed a social inclusion strategy or revised their rules to incorporate such a strategy.

Through different alliances with educational institutions, 849 female and 2'922 male students, producers, and researchers participated in specific trainings and educational courses on different issues around cacao.

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## Gender Reference Indicator: Gender-Responsive Public Finance Management

Measuring resources available for gender equality and the participation of women in public finance management to improve gender-responsive planning, decision-making and public spending (gender budgeting initiatives).

### Example 11

# Small Grants Strengthen Women's Voices in Kyrgyz Local Decision-Making and Leadership Organs

Switzerland supports Kyrgyz's transition to a democratic society. In 2011, the "Voice and Accountability Project" (VAP) was launched. The overall objective of VAP is to raise the transparency and efficiency of public finances of local self-governments through citizen participation in decision-making processes. Strengthening women's voices on grass-root level contributes to the goal achievement and to narrow down the gender gap in Kyrgyz's unequal political participation. Additionally, the project promotes gender equality in local decision-making organs through trainings, gender-responsive budgeting through small grants competition and the publication of manuals. On the one hand, the "Small Grant Program" was a success in terms of women's promotion and gender-responsive budgeting. On the other hand, despite activities aimed to increase women's engagement, there was a slight decrease of women's participation in decision-making processes during the first half year of 2017. The same phenomenon is also visible at the national level.

## Beneficiaries

This overall project aims to reach 170'000 beneficiaries. For the whole project, there are no complete, segregated data available. In the first half year of 2017, 52'597 individuals directly benefited from the "Small Grant Program" (sub-project).

Women: 25'655

Men: 26'942

## Finances

The second project phase of the overall "Voice and Accountability Project" is ongoing (2016–2019) and the SDC's budget for this current phase is 4.72 million CHF.

## Gender analysis

### Social process widens the gender gap

A major gender issue is that women and men do not participate equally in decision-making processes. The representation of men in the national and local parliaments is much higher than that of women, and there are rural municipalities where women are not present in local parliaments at all. In 2017, only 19 percent of the members of parliament were women, and women occupy only 14 percent of ministerial positions. Social processes which widen

the gender gap are ongoing in Kyrgyz. The number of women in decision-making has been decreasing in the recent years. This results from the strengthening of patriarchal values and attitudes, pervasive gender stereotypes, harmful social norms and the lack of political will to promote gender equality at the highest governance level. Women and men have the same rights for participation in community life. However, due to cultural norms and broader domestic responsibilities of women, they are less active in participating and voicing their opinions in public. There are also age differences in women's participation: Elder women, especially those who were active during the Soviet period, tend to be more active now, while younger women, especially newly married ones and those with children, are blamed for getting distracted from domestic chores.

## Activities

### Promoting gender-sensitive budgeting through small grants competition

Equal participation of women and men on the local level is the focus of the sub-project. In the project period from 2016 to 2017, four main activities were carried out to reach this goal. First, there was training of the "Voice and Accountability" project staff. The aim of this training was to build capacity in the project team about gender mainstreaming

and gender equality in Kyrgyz. Second, the manual “Gender aspects of the organisation of social events” was developed and distributed to target municipalities, and trainings were held. Third, the importance of ensuring the participation of women at all levels of the decision-making process was highlighted through the “Small Grant Program 2017”. Selected municipalities had the possibility to apply, in a competitive way, for a small grant. The project idea and proposal had to be developed together with the community and a gender-responsive budget had to be a part of the project. Fourth, the project staff conducted a gender analysis in the target municipalities.

## Results

### Positive results from the Small Grant Program

In April 2017, fifteen Small Grant Projects were selected. Women lead eight of these fifteen selected projects; this is an increase of 23 percent compared with the year 2015–2016. Nine out of the fifteen projects can be categorised as gender sensitive. Around 53’000 people are going to benefit from these projects and nearly half of them are women. Despite the effort made through the project, women’s participation in decision-making meetings has decreased by 5 percent compared to the year 2015–2016. The reason for this lower participation is unclear, but in line with the processes appearing on the national level.

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## Gender Reference Indicator: Participation in Peacebuilding and State-Building

Women and men equally participate in peacebuilding and state-building processes to have their voice heard.

### Example 12

# Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Mine Action in Eastern Ukraine

The SDC supported the HALO Trust, a British organisation specialising in the gender-sensitive removal of the debris of war, especially humanitarian mine clearance. The use of landmines has been well documented throughout the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Many communities in the region of Donbas remain unsafe and the use of arable land to cover people's livelihood is not possible yet. The SDC supported, together with other donors, the idea to include a gender dimension on all levels as a principle of the project to ensure that women and men benefit equally from demining activities. The project specifically trains and employs women as humanitarian bomb disposal experts, in a male dominated working area. During this second project phase, eight female humanitarian bomb disposal experts were employed. This is a novelty for Ukraine.

## Beneficiaries

Around 200'000 people live in the project area. Around 2'200 inhabitants are direct beneficiaries of the SDC support. For the whole project, there are no completely segregated data available.

## Finances

The overall budget of the project amounts to 4.4 million CHF. The SDC contributed 210'000 CHF for the second phase from April to October 2017.

## Gender analysis

### Gender gap of civilian mine victims

The conflict in the Ukraine is prevalent since 2014 and it is going hand in hand with significant humanitarian crises with at least 1.7 million internally displaced persons. According to the Gender Gap Index 2017, Ukraine ranked 61st out of 144 countries, having dropped from 48th place in 2005. Women's political participation and decision-making is low compared to the women's participation in higher education and in the labour market. This fact reflects the traditional gender roles of women and men, which define the distribution of unpaid and domestic work and power relations in the household. On the one hand, the conflict opened up the opportunities for women to move away from these traditional roles, and on the other and, the conflict tended to reinforce conservative gender roles. The civilian mine statistics show that men are more often victims of civilian mines, and this

fact roots in the gender roles as well as the division of labour. Men are more engaged with agricultural production and collecting scrap metal, which involves a higher risk to get in contact with explosive remnants of war.

## Activities

### Women and men in mine-affected communities benefit equally from demining activities

From the start of the conflict in 2014 until spring 2017, accidents caused by unexploded ordnances and mines have resulted in 1'524 casualties, that is roughly 48 people per month. The main goal of the project was to protect civilians, to facilitate the safe return of internally displaced persons and to improve the socio-economic opportunities for mine affected communities. The activities of the project were structured in four main tasks: rapid assessment and technical survey in hazardous areas to collect data about mine-threat settlements, mapping of hazardous areas, mine risk education sessions and removal of explosive remnants of war.

## Results

### Turn contaminated land into productive use and increase the wellbeing of women and men

The project worked with gender mixed teams. This improves research activities, opens-up the perspectives of mine-affected communities and allows to

assess the different needs of women and men. The surveys attempted to reach all members of an affected community, especially to estimate the social and economic impact of the contamination on women, men, girls and boys. Around 1'500 people benefited from mine risk education sessions. Women and men, boys and girls participated equally in the 21 mine risk education sessions in Donetsk and Luhansk. The implementing partner "HALO Trust Humanitarian Mine Action" is an equal employer and seeks to employ female bomb disposal experts in Ukraine. During the second phase of the project, eight female humanitarian bomb disposal experts were included in the team. Even though the percentage of female humanitarian bomb disposal experts in the Ukraine is still small, it is a step to increase female economic participation in this male-dominated sector.

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Assistant Team Leader  
Ryta Mazankova and  
Project Assistant Maryna  
Lantukh meet HALO  
CEO James Cowan on  
his visit to Ukraine © Asya  
Bolotova, The HALO Trust



# 5 Conclusion and Outlook

The report shows that the SDC and its partners jointly work to narrow the gender gap and have achieved commendable results. From the local to the global level and in all three thematic areas of the SDC gender equality strategy (SGBV, women's economic empowerment, and women's political participation), gender inequalities are found that require actions.

The examples in the area of SGBV, women's economic empowerment and women's political empowerment show that the SDC's and its partners' interventions deliver sustainable gender results and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Evidence demonstrates that women are still more affected by SGBV, especially in fragile states. The SDC, especially the Humanitarian Aid, supports interventions to respond to and to prevent SGBV. The cases from the Great Lakes and Myanmar show positive changes but also difficulties in working in conflict or post-conflict regions.

To contribute to gender equality and poverty eradication, women's economic empowerment is key. The SDC's project contribute to this through different approaches. The example "Energising Development" demonstrates that through technical innovations women's unpaid care work can be successfully reduced. The project in Colombia showed how unpaid care work can be better distributed in the family. Nepal and Ukraine are cases that demonstrate well the importance but also the challenge of the inclusion of women in the male dominated labour market.

As women are still underrepresented in political and decision-making processes, the SDC contributes to women's political participation in different projects. The examples of Albania and Kyrgyz show that increased participation of women and increased voice of women in politics and local governments lead to more gender-responsive policies and public resources. In this regard, women's caucus, the establishing of women's networks in politics, tend to be an effective strategy.

In the last years, the SDC has strengthened its monitoring and reporting system on gender equality to foster evidence-based policy making. Nevertheless, the report also emphasises the need to strengthen results-based monitoring and reporting and the need for gender-disaggregated quality data, which are essential to track progress and to hold actors accountable for their results and promises. To strengthen the results-based monitoring and reporting system, further capacity building and joint learning should be on the agenda.

To fully reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda and to close the gender gap, further effort is needed. Sustainable development without gender equality is not possible. The SDC and its interventions are essential and on the right track – keep-up the good work.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

FDFA	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
GBV AoR	Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility cluster
IDP	Internally displaced people
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WEE	Women’s Economic Empowerment
WFP	World Food Programm
WPP	Women’s Political Participation

# Annex I

## Additional Results

### AFRICA

**Benin/WEE/** The SDC's intervention raised the monthly income of women producing local materials. The income increased by 128 percent from 2015 to 2017.

**Burkina Faso/SGBV/** Through the SDC intervention 1'655'393 women were sensitised on gender-based violence.

**Burundi/WEE/** The SDC supported a programme for a systematic registration of usufruct and widow's name on land certificates.

**Chad/WEE/** Around 19'000 family farms, (48% women headed), have benefited from the support of the SDC in groundnut and shea sectors, in the form of training, support and advice or access to financial services.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo/SGBV/** Through the SDC's intervention 1'030 persons (37% women), who were subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence, received medical and / or legal psychosocial support.

**Egypt/SGBV/** Collecting information and addressing protection issues were significantly improved through the initiating of the Refugee Information Processing System (RIPS), which is supported by the SDC. The RIPS led to better and efficient legal support services, referral and resettlement adjustments for 4'821 beneficiaries (53% women).

**Egypt/WEE/** 562 women retailers participated in the "Village Savings and Loans" programme supported by the SDC, which led to their economic independence. 750 Syrian refugees in Egypt received cash grants. 563 migrants (77% women) received career guidance sessions.

**Ethiopia/WEE/** Two MSc students (1 woman/1 man) defended their thesis in Basel in spring 2017 and thus finalised their studies.

**Great Lakes Region/SGBV/** More than 54'000 victims of SGBV in the region received psychosocial assistance between 2014 and 2017 from SDC supported projects.

**Great Lakes Region/WEE/** 264 beneficiaries (46% women) attended short-term training and 69 percent were employed (27% self-employed) in 2017.

**Kenya/WEE/** Due to SDC contribution 590 young refugees and host community members (53% women) gained practical and market-oriented skills in baking, computer repair, electrical wiring and installation, hairdressing, motorcycle repair and tailoring. A total of 574 beneficiaries (310 women) benefited from life skills trainings.

**Mali/SGBV/** The SDC supported more than 52'000 IDPs (Internally Displaced People), 60 percent of whom are women, in getting socioeconomically integrated, and more than 11'700 women received psychosocial support.

**Mali/WEE/** 2'200 women benefited from the marketing of their agricultural products in a total of 5'500 businesses. 734 women (48%) out of 1'530 economically excluded young people received a training from the SDC.

**Morocco/SGBV/** 38 individuals were trained with the support of the SDC on human rights and prevention in Morocco. 273 (24% women) national and local decision makers were sensitised to the problems of risk assessment and prevention.

**Mozambique/WEE/** 4'697 smallholder farmers (61% women) gained access to financial services or participated in saving groups supported by the SDC.

**Mozambique/WPE/** The proportion of women within the 140 "Community Consultation Bodies" (2'036 people) in the SDC intervention region has been increased from 26 percent to 28.1 percent (which is still below the national quota of 30 percent).

**Niger/SGBV/** Due to SDC contribution 189 cases of SGBV were identified and supported (through psychosocial support and initial training). 114 unaccompanied and separated children (50% girls) were identified and supported.

**Rwanda/WEE/** 264 (46% women) attended short-term training, 69 percent were employed (27% self-employed) in 2017.

**Somalia/SGBV/** 1'071 male and female survivors of various SGBV cases received medical assistance within 72 hours through the SDC intervention. 4'270 pregnant or lactating women were treated in therapeutic nutrition programmes. 700'000 people had access to consultations, mother-and-child care and other health services.

**South Sudan/SGBV/** Due to SDC support, 15'706 individuals (4'070 men; 11'636 women) benefited from SGBV prevention and response activities. 1'585 people have been reached through SGBV awareness raising activities.

**South Sudan/WEE/** The SDC supported an intervention in which 427 farmers (291 women; 136 men) received seeds, tools and trainings to improve food production. Moreover, an urban livelihoods project provided 63 farmer groups (1'058 men; 944 women) with seeds and tools and 200 youth and women with producer kits.

**Sudan/SGBV/** 386 community-based structures such as community centres, committees and networks were supported (including 12 women centres).

**Tanzania/SGBV/** SDC supported the forum for “Civil Society” (FCS). This forum provided grants to more than 30 civil society organisations engaged in the fight against gender-based violence.

**Tanzania/WEE/** The SDC supported interventions to improve women’s labour market participation. 820 youth women and 925 men who have been trained have entered self-employment mostly through 141 established youth led enterprises. 32 women and 60 men have accessed wage employment.

**Tanzania/WPP/** Some governance partners of the SDC have moved beyond the collection of gender disaggregated data. For example, “Policy Forum” is advocating for gender-sensitive budgeting with members of parliament.

**Tunisia/WEE/** 100 producers (75 women) were trained on good production practices, traceability and management. 40 women (women’s development group) were supported and trained in aromatic and medicinal plant distillation and have improved their income.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

**Cuba/SGBV/** The SDC contributed to a programme which supports 15 municipalities, that now have establishments offering support to victims. An educational campaign on homophobic and transphobic bullying was set up for the first time. A “National Action Plan for the Prevention and Confrontation of Trafficking in Persons and the Protection of Victims” (2017–2020) was prepared.

**Cuba/WPP/** In 15 municipalities a sustained yearly increase in women’s participation in governments was observed.

**Haiti/SGBV/** With the SDC’s support, the national SGBV plan was finalised and presented by the Ministry. Support was also given to a victims-accommodation centre in the southeast that can accommodate 100 women per year.

**Haiti/WEE/** At least 4’000 women (out of a total of 14,500) received access to agricultural credit until 2017. By the end of 2017, 5’260 women (out of a total of 15’700 persons) (cumulatively) achieved improved income from agricultural production.

**Honduras/WEE/** Due to SDC contribution 3’000 jobs were created for women.

**Honduras/WPP/** The SDC was active in a women’s political empowerment project in Honduras. 10’000 women took part in value creation committees and hold 30 percent of the leadership functions in this committees (historically occupied by men).

**Nicaragua/SGBV/** Under the “Civil Society Support Fund”, five small-scale projects on “Equality and Violence Prevention” and five others on “Sexual and Reproductive Rights” were supported by the SDC.

**Nicaragua/WEE/** 10’824 women were trained in a vocational training programme (between 2014 and 2017). The programme was supported by the SDC.

## SOUTH AMERICA

**Bolivia/SGBV/** The SDC contributed to a SGBV programme in Bolivia. More than 23’000 low-income women received comprehensive care (psychological, social and legal) in “Servicios Legales Integrales Municipales” and in anti-violence networks. 2’200 women subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence received psychosocial, medical and/or legal support.

**Colombia/SGBV/** 258 communities living in risk areas and nearly 16’000 children (49% girls) and adolescents participated in the development of mechanisms for the prevention and protection of people at risk, including on the topic of SGBV. 84 women’s organisations have been strengthened to support victims of SGBV and to adopt measures for prevention in conflict areas.

**Colombia/WEE/** Livelihoods projects open-up spaces for reflection in communities around roles and responsibilities assumed by women and men and children (in water / sanitation tasks, food security, income generation, household chores, care of family members, etc.).

## ASIA

**Afghanistan/SGBV/** The SDC contributed to the pilot “Elimination of Violence Against Women” (EVAW) court in Kabul. This court is partially functional and contributed to solve 158 cases. Additionally, trainings on the trauma-sensitive approach to medical staff of health care services were provided. With this intervention up to 300’000 female patients benefit from trained staff.

**Afghanistan/WPP/** 830 female police officers were trained with SDC support and graduated from the “Sivas Police Academy” in Turkey. 80 percent of them were deployed upon return. More than 9’000 children (54% girls) attended 94 outreach sessions with “community-oriented policing” officers.

**Armenia/WEE/** 57 full-time jobs for women (out of 214) were created in the livestock and horticulture sectors due to improved sales and enterprise development in these sectors. 294 men and 56 women farmers have gained access to formal financial services.

**Armenia/WPP/** Out of 750 candidates running for local elections in the project area, 99 (13%) women were elected. 73 percent of them are project beneficiaries.

**Azerbaijan/WEE/** A total of 132 disadvantaged rural entrepreneurs (100 women) in fragile rural areas improved their financial and business skills, allowing them to increase their income. 18 vulnerable women started or further expanded their small businesses using project funds.

**Bangladesh/WPP/** More than 10’000 public and private service providers (co-operation strategy target: 5’000) adopted business models addressing the needs of the poor, women and disadvantaged people. The number of improved services reached 242 (Cooperation Strategy target: 300); out of which 52 were women-oriented, 52 were DRR-relevant and 93 targeted the disadvantaged.

**Cambodia/WEE/** The SDC supported community forestry approved management plans. 5’200 community members were covered of which 52 percent are women.

The capacity of 43’320 women farmers in Cambodia in agricultural extension was enhanced.

**Cambodia/WPP/** Cambodian citizens have improved access to public information on local governance, education and health care due to the implementation of the social accountability framework, supported by the SDC. As a result, the local development priorities better reflect the needs of the citizens, in particular those of women.

**Georgia/WEE/** A Swiss programme supported the creation of 174 jobs for women (out of 695) with small and medium-sized enterprises and agribusinesses. 3’596 women-headed households in the four project regions could improve their income.

**Georgia/WPP/** Institutional mechanisms of gender equality were enhanced in 14 municipalities (e.g. promotion of gender-sensitive local policy-making). 14 municipalities (out of 43) have gender-sensitive “Municipal Development Documents” and one municipality manages public finances in line with the results-oriented and gender-responsive budgeting.

**India/WEE/** 30’000 individuals (including 61% women) were enrolled under health insurance. One third of them (10’000 individuals of which 2’500 are women) have benefited from implementing crop risk resilience measures and insurance covering 380 hectares of crop land. 600 cattle rearers (540 women) reduced the loss of their cattle from 30 percent to 1.5 percent.

**Laos/SGBV/** About 90 percent of the projects covered by the “Poverty Reduction Fund” to which the SDC contributes, address women priorities.

**Mekong/SGBV/** 263 victims from Khmer Rouge crimes received psychological support.

**Mekong/WEE/** The capacity of 43’320 women farmers was enhanced in agricultural extension. 18 communities established enterprises based on natural resources. 1’200 community members (51% women) have improved their incomes. 46 percent of beneficiaries of TVET and hospitality training were women.

**Mongolia/SGBV/** Due to SDC support, six One-Stop Service Centres and two shelters received a total of 1’226 visits by SGBV victims in 2017. 485 cases were handled and followed up by multidisciplinary teams. 112’254 youth in education facilities were involved in SGBV prevention activities. The SGBV survey conducted nationwide for the first time generated important evidence on SGBV. Awareness was raised on SGBV issues reaching 25’000 people through a 16-days campaign.

**Mongolia/WEE/** Impact of graduating TVET in Mongolia was shown as highly rewarding for women: compared to men, women who graduate from a TVET school are about 100 percent more likely to be ever employed after 3 or 4 years and have 80 percent higher earnings per month after 3 years and 140 percent higher earnings per month after 4 years.

**Mongolia/WPP/** The number of women heading “Pasture User Groups” (PUGs) and “Aimag” PUGs (APUGs) increased to 168, but further effort is needed to achieve the target of 40 percent. A first women-only cooperative with 60 members was formed in Bogd sum of Bayankhongor province. Women’s access to leadership and decision-making positions improved. About 139 women are working as PUG leaders, 29 as APUG leaders and three women are working as an executive director for Aimag Federations (plus 60 compared to last year).

**Nepal/SGBV/** With SDC support, 261 SGBV watch groups were formed in the three focus districts of Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli and Udayapur. 508 SGBV survivors (against the baseline of 383) were identified and received psychosocial and/or medical care in those three districts.

**Nepal/WEE/** The SDC invests in women’s economic inclusion in Nepal. More than 744 trained people (42% female) found jobs abroad, earning a minimum of CHF 200 per month.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory/SGBV/** “The Arab Human Rights Association” prepared trainings for 150–200 women and 200–250 youth to start at the beginning of 2018, in order to follow up on the findings of the CEDAW.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory/WEE/**

Due to the support of the SDC, the first women shareholder company (consisting of 41 women processors) for palm date products in Gaza has been established and created short-term jobs for 75 women and 20 men. 140 jobs and income opportunities for women processors were created.

**Tajikistan/SGBV/** The SDC contributed to a SGBV programmes: more than 1'800 victims of domestic violence (15% men) received social and legal support; there were 90 percent positive court results; 24 women with children were accepted in the shelter. More than 45'000 people (24% female) gained better understanding of legal issues and awareness on domestic violence related issues. More than 600 police officers, hospitals and social workers are trained on domestic violence in Khatlon region and Dushanbe.

**Tajikistan/WEE/** 303'500 adults (44% female) across the country gained knowledge on how to manage a household's budget and responsible borrowing/financial planning via the Financial Literacy Program.

**WESTERN BALKAN**

**Albania/WEE/** With SDC support, 900 new jobs for young people were created (53% women) and 5'376 young people (52% women) found a job through improved public and private job matching systems. 186 start-ups and growth-oriented entrepreneurs (54% women) received state-of-the-art services.

**Albania/WPP/** The "Decentralisation Strategy" has contributed to a higher women representation in local councils (30%) and, indirectly, in the national parliament (28%).

**Bosnia and Herzegovina/WEE/** 678 women (out of 1'304) are employed thanks to improved job counselling of the public employment services and increasing job offers in the IT sector. 178 women got a job (out of 535) through business incubators and start-ups.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina/WPP/** 1'300 socially-excluded rural woman, elderly and disabled youth, have been included in local community initiatives.

**Kosovo/SGBV/** 58 health professionals (42 women, 16 men) were trained on gender awareness and social inclusion. This programme is supported by the SDC.

**Kosovo/WEE/** Due to SDC contribution, 100 girls in Podujeva and Mitrovica were supported in completing "Women Online" at the American University of Kosovo.

**Macedonia/WEE/** 506 new jobs were created for women, out of a total of 1'446.

**Macedonia/WPP/** 130 elected officials/municipal councillors improved their knowledge and understanding of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). 1'700 women were directly involved in outreach actions aimed at GRB information.

**Serbia/WPP/** With SDC support, local gender mechanisms are operational in 34 municipalities. Ten local women councillor networks were established and advocated for gender issues since 2016.

**Ukraine/WPP/** The SDC contributed to strengthening the leadership skills of female managers in health system and supporting the Ministry of Health staff members in networking and sharing the best practices on the inclusion of gender in development of national health policies.



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