Gender and Aid Effectiveness
Glossary
UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Using a rights-based approach, UNIFEM focuses on strengthening women's economic security and rights; combating violence and HIV and AIDS among women and girls; promoting gender equality in governance in both conflict and non-conflict situations. It is the executing agency for the EC/UN Partnership at the country level.

The European Commission promotes the general interest of the European Union, in particular by presenting proposals for European law, by overseeing the correct implementation of the Treaties and European law, and by carrying out common policies and managing funds. The Commission chairs the Programme Steering Committee for the EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace.

The International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization contributes to the ILO goal of decent work for women and men by providing training and related services that develop human resources and institutional capabilities. The ITC/ILO manages the www.gendermatters.eu website and on-line learning modules, and makes its practical approach to capacity development for gender mainstreaming available to all EC/UN Partnership partners and stakeholders.
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Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)

Document endorsed at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness by Ministers and agency heads, to deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration and respond to emerging aid effectiveness issues.

The AAA was prepared through a broad-based process of dialogue at both country and international levels: through the work of Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and its joint ventures, regional preparatory consultations, the partner country contact group, the Consensus Group, the Advisory Group on Civil Society, and the non-DAC donor group. The views of more than 80 partner countries, some 60 CSOs, all DAC donors, and many non-traditional providers of development assistance informed the AAA. The investment of time, energy, and financial resources by all participants in this process resulted in an action oriented agenda that can support accelerated progress in aid effectiveness.


Aid

The words "aid" and "assistance" refer to flows which qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA) or Official Aid (OA).


Aid modalities

Aid is provided through a mix of modalities including project, sector and budget support. Within each of these modalities there are many possible aid instruments – e.g. poverty reduction support credits (PRSCs) and poverty reduction and growth facilities (PRGFs) are two instruments of budget support.


Alignment principle

Donors base their overall support on partner countries’ national development strategies, institutions and procedures.


Alignment requires that donors who have gender equality policies and who have made international commitments align with the gender equality policies, systems and commitments of partner governments and strengthen capacity for coordinated action;

Basket funding

Basket Funding is a joint funding modality by several donors towards a programme, sector or budget support. It may entail agreement of donors on harmonized procedures.


Budget support, direct budget support

Direct budget support is defined as a method of financing a partner country’s budget through a transfer of resources from a donor to the partner government’s national treasury. The funds thus transferred are managed in accordance with the recipient’s budgetary procedures. Funds transferred to the national treasury for financing programmes or projects managed according to different budgetary procedures from those of the partner country, with the intention or earmarking the resources for specific uses, are therefore excluded from this definition of budget support.


Development agencies increasingly provide financial support to macro-level policies and to government budgets to assist the recipient through a programme of policy and institutional reform and implementation that promote growth and achieve sustainable reductions in poverty.

Direct Budget Support Agreements are the formal DBS instruments negotiated between the development agency and recipient government. The support may include a mix of general budget support and policy and institutional actions (including economy-wide reforms such as tax reforms, privatization, decentralization and trade liberalization).


Budget support, general budget support

Budget Support covers financial assistance as a contribution to the overall budget. Within this category, funds may be nominally accounted for against certain sectors, but there is no formal limitation on where funds may actually be spent.


Budget support can contribute to the achievement of Gender Equality by linking the disbursement of variable tranches to improvements in gender disaggregated indicators; by strengthening public finance management systems, and by stimulating a wider dialogue on partner countries’ policy priorities.


Financial support from a donor that is channelled into the general treasury account of a recipient country where, as an integral part of the resources herein, it co-funds the national budget. The support is thus not earmarked, and it is used according to the national public expenditure management rules and procedures.

Budget support, sector budget support, sector wide approach

Sector wide approaches to development co-operation involve donor support to the development of an entire sector in a given country. The sector wide approach is contrasted with a project-based approach in which individual donors each support a particular set of activities within the sector (for example, building schools or roads). Budget support, programme aid, sector investment programme are other terms that can be used to mean a sector wide approach.


Financial support from a donor that is channelled into the general treasury account of a recipient country where, as an integral part of the resources herein, it co-funds the national budget of a particular sector. The support is thus nominally earmarked, and it is used according to the national public expenditure management rules and procedures


(Increased) Coherence

Budget support, by bringing "on-budget" what was often "off-budget", increases the potential for achieving a more coherent mix between sectors; between capital and recurrent spending; and within recurrent spending between salaries, and non-salary costs. In contrast with a multiplicity of donor projects, those managing public expenditure often do not have information on expenditures taking place and the liabilities being created.


Comparative advantage, added value

A donor's comparative advantage can be determined by: its added value, where it relatively performs the best - without necessarily having an absolute advantage, where it performs the best - amongst all of its activities - , including in terms of results and impact on poverty eradication, where it has a lower cost compared to other donors. A donor's added value can be determined by any combination of the following criteria: presence in the field, experience in the country, sector or context, possession of technical expertise and specialization of the donor, volume of aid, at global, country or sector level, trust and confidence of partner governments and other donors, capacity to enter into new or forward looking policies or sectors, capacity to react quickly and/or long term predictability, efficiency of working methodologies, procedures, and quality of human resources, in certain exceptional circumstances the sole fact to take action. Ideally, the comparative advantage of a given donor should be: self assessed, endorsed by the partner government-recognized by other donors and non state actors.


Complementarity

Complementarity is a concept of an organisational nature. It must be seen in terms of donors acting in complete and balanced unison, rather than being merely an additional planning exercise. Complementarity starts with co-ordination, but goes much further: it implies that each actor is focusing its assistance on areas where it can add most value, given what others are doing. Hence, complementarity is the optimal division of labour between various actors in order to achieve optimum use of human and financial resources. Complementarity can take
place in the five following dimensions which, all interact with each other and must be seen as a whole.


**Debt relief**

Debt relief is any form of debt reorganization which relieves the overall burden of debt. Debt relief results where there is a reduction in the present value of these debt-service obligations and/or a deferral of the payments due, thus providing smaller near-term debt service obligations. This can be measured, in most cases, by an increase in the duration of these obligations; that is, payments become weighted more toward the latter part of the debt instrument’s life.


**Development Policy Lending**

A World Bank instrument focusing on issues such as governance, public sector management and reform of social sectors – such as health and education. Replaces Structural Adjustment Programmes as from 2004.


**Direct investment**

Direct investment is a category of international investment made by a resident entity in one economy (direct investor) with the objective of establishing a lasting interest in an enterprise resident in an economy other than that of the investor (direct investment enterprise). "Lasting interest" implies the existence of a long-term relationship between the direct investor and the enterprise and a significant degree of influence by the direct investor on the management of the direct investment enterprise.

Direct investment involves both the initial transaction between the two entities and all subsequent capital transactions between them and among affiliated enterprises, both incorporated and unincorporated.


**Division of labour**

Specialisation in work, which may be effected by breaking an activity into component tasks, or by assigning specific groups of persons to certain jobs or outputs.


Division of labour by gender is the division of paid and unpaid work between women and men in private and public sphere.

**Effectiveness**

The extent to which the development intervention’s objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance. Note: Also used as an aggregate measure of (or judgment about) the merit or worth of an activity, i.e. the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives efficiently in a sustainable fashion and with a positive institutional development impact.


**Efficiency**

A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results.


**Engendering development**

Development policies that do not take gender relations into account and do not address gender disparities will have limited effectiveness. To promote gender equality and development effectiveness, the World Bank report "Engendering Development" proposes combining a long-term strategy based on reforming institutions to establish equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men and on fostering economic development that will provide incentives for more equal resources and participation, with active measures to redress persistent disparities in resources and political voice. State, civil society groups, and the international community all have critical roles to play in fighting gender discrimination and enabling societies to reap considerable benefits.


**Evaluation**

The systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making process of both recipients and donors. Evaluation also refers to the process of determining the worth or significance of an activity, policy or program. An assessment, as systematic and objective as possible, of a planned, on-going, or completed development intervention. Note: Evaluation in some instances involves the definition of appropriate standards, the examination of performance against those standards, an assessment of actual and expected results and the identification of relevant lessons.

Foreign direct investment

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is the category of international investment that reflects the objective of a resident entity in one economy to obtain a lasting interest in an enterprise resident in another economy.


Gender analysis

The study of differences in the conditions, needs, participation rates, access to resources and development, control of assets, decision making powers, etc. between women and men and their assigned gender roles.


Gender budgeting

An application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditure in order to promote gender equality.


Gender mainstreaming

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.


Gender-sensitive indicators

Indicators are necessary to measure the outcomes of gender mainstreaming and gender specific actions. Most indicators currently used tend to reflect Gender Equality concerns in the social sectors. There are few reliable indicators available in most developing countries to measure changes in female employment, the unpaid care economy, civil rights, incidence/prevalence of violence against women, right to inheritance/property and land use, women’s representation and participation in decision-making.

Harmonisation principle
Donors’ actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective.

Harmonisation is likely to lead to new programme mechanisms and rationalisation of donor support. Safeguards will be necessary to retain a gender perspective in jointly undertaken processes.

High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 3)
The Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 3) will be hosted in Accra by the Government of Ghana on 2-4 September 2008. The HLF 3 builds on several previous high level international meetings, most notably the 2003 Rome HLF which highlighted the issue of harmonisation and alignment, and the 2005 Paris HLF which culminated with the endorsement of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness by over 100 signatories from partner governments, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, regional development banks, and international agencies. (...) The primary intention of the HLF 3 is to take stock and review the progress made in implementing the Paris Declaration, also broaden and deepen the dialogue on aid effectiveness by giving ample space and voice to partner countries and newer actors (such as Civil Society Organisations and emerging donors). It is also a forward-looking event which will identify the action needed and bottlenecks to overcome in order to make progress in improving aid effectiveness for 2010 and beyond.

Human development
Human development is a process of enlarging people’s choices. (...) It includes three essential individual choices i.e., for people to live a long healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. If these essential choices are not available, many other opportunities remain inaccessible. Additional choices, highly valued by many people, range from political, economic and social freedom to opportunities for being creative or productive, and enjoying personal self-respect and guaranteed human rights.

Impact on aid flows
It is essential that division of labour is not implemented at the expense of global aid volumes or aid predictability. Increased volatility can pose major challenges for the recipient country’s economy. The scheduled scaling up of aid provides an opportunity in this context but EU donors should avoid sudden aid disruption. Policy changes should be introduced in collaboration with the partner countries.
**International trade**

The two main data items used in the concept of international trade are imports and exports. Imports of goods measures the value of goods that enter the domestic territory of a country irrespective of their final destination. Exports of goods similarly measures the value of goods which leave the domestic territory of a country, irrespective of whether they have been processed in the domestic territory or not. Imports (and exports) of services reflect the value of services provided to residents of other countries (or received by residents of the domestic territory).


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**Joint Assistance Strategies (JAS)**

Some countries are moving towards a joint assistance strategy whereby donors align behind national development plans/PRS and harmonise their support to government. (...) The intention under a JAS is generally to have lead donors, silent/delegated partnerships and a more efficient allocation of workload among donors. Many efficiency and effectiveness benefits are expected once the process is underway. So far evidence suggests a relative neglect of cross-cutting/horizontal issues in favour of sectoral issues, with inadequate space for discussing and assessing gender equality relevance in different contexts. And while lead donors emerge and all partners prioritise, adequate safeguards to ensure capacity for gender analysis and mainstreaming have not been developed.


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**Least developed countries (LDCs)**

Least Developed Countries. Group established by the United Nations. To be classified as an LDC, countries must fall below thresholds established for income, economic diversification and social development. The DAC list of Aid Recipients is updated immediately to reflect any change in this group.


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**Managing for results, principle**

Managing for results means managing and implementing aid in a way that focuses on the desired results and uses information to improve decision-making.


Managing for Results cannot be comprehensive unless gender equality is captured in all performance assessment frameworks.

**Monitoring**

A continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing development intervention with indications of the extent of progress and achievement of objectives and progress in the use of allocated funds.


**Mutual accountability principle**

Donors and partners are accountable for development results (...) A major priority for partner countries and donors is to enhance mutual accountability and transparency in the use of development resources. This also helps strengthen public support for national policies and development assistance.


Strong national accountability mechanisms must include women and accountability must be monitored with gender responsive indicators. Gender equality goals need to be included in central and line ministry plans and results-based frameworks. The accountability roles of national stakeholders and donors agencies in relation to gender equality need to be clarified and monitored.


**National Development Strategies**

The term 'national development strategies' includes poverty reduction and similar overarching strategies as well as sector and thematic strategies.

According to the Paris Declaration, partner countries commit to exercise leadership in developing and implementing their national development strategies through broad consultative processes. Translate these national development strategies into prioritised results-oriented operational programmes as expressed in medium-term expenditure frameworks and annual budgets and take the lead in co-ordinating aid at all levels in conjunction with other development resources in dialogue with donors and encouraging the participation of civil society and the private sector.


A critique from the UN Human Rights Council/ Working Group on the Right to Development states that: “Operational Development Strategies”, as defined by the Paris Declaration, do not include government plans, national legislation or any other nationally generated policy, legislative and other measures as required by the Declaration on the Right to Development in its article 10, but are internationally negotiated documents between the recipient countries and its donors and creditors.

**National Women’s Machinery (NWM)**

A national machinery for the advancement of women is the central policy-coordinating unit inside government. Its main task is to support government-wide mainstreaming of a gender-equality perspective in all policy areas.


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**Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

Grants or loans to countries and territories on Part I of the DAC List of Aid Recipients (developing countries) which are: (a) undertaken by the official sector; (b) with promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective; (c) at concessional financial terms [if a loan, having a grant element of at least 25%]. In addition to financial flows, technical co-operation is included in aid. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded.


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**Official Development Finance (ODF)**

Used in measuring the inflow of resources to recipient countries: includes (a) bilateral ODA; (b) grants and concessional and non concessional development lending by multilateral financial institutions; and (c) those Other Official Flows which are considered developmental (including refinancing loans) but which have too low a grant element to qualify as ODA.


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**Ownership principle**

Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies, and strategies and co-ordinate development actions.


Ownership implies that women’s as well as men’s voices and concerns must be central to national development plans and processes;


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**Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**

The Paris Declaration is an expression of the general consensus amongst the international community on the direction for reform on aid delivery and management and for improved effectiveness and results. Grounded on the five mutually reinforcing principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability, the Paris Declaration enshrines 56 partnership commitments to improve the quality of aid. It lays down 12 indicators to provide a measurable and evidence-based way to track progress against aid effectiveness objectives and sets targets for 11 of the indicators for the year 2010.

Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)

The abbreviation “PRS” stands for Poverty Reduction Strategy, which is a concept developed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1999. The idea behind this was that low-income, highly indebted countries should develop and formulate a national plan on how to reduce poverty in their country and improve the living situation of their citizens. The abbreviation PRS refers to the whole process and strategy of poverty reduction, whereas PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) stands for the paper itself.


Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

PRSPs were introduced by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as a prerequisite for borrowing by its poorest and most indebted country clients. They are intended to outline the country’s main problems relating to poverty and its strategy to overcome them. PRSPs are meant to be drafted by the recipient government through a national participatory process in consultation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.


Results based management (performance management)

A management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of outputs, outcomes and impacts.


Performance management, also referred to as results based management, can be defined as a broad management strategy aimed at achieving important changes in the way government agencies operate, with improving performance (achieving better results) as the central orientation.

Performance measurement is concerned more narrowly with the production or supply of performance information, and is focused on technical aspects of clarifying objectives, developing indicators, collecting and analyzing data on results. Performance management encompasses performance measurement, but is broader. It is equally concerned with generating management demand for performance information - that is, with its uses in program, policy, and budget decision-making processes and with establishing organizational procedures, mechanisms and incentives that actively encourage its use. In an effective performance management system, achieving results and continuous improvement based on performance information is central to the management process.

**Sector wide approach (SWAp)**

Sector Wide Approaches involve donor support to the development of an entire sector in a given country, such as health, education or agriculture, rather than specific project support.


**Sex-disaggregated statistics**

The collection and separation of data and statistical information by sex to enable comparative analysis, sometime referred to as gender disaggregated statistics.


**Structural Adjustment Programmes**

A World Bank instrument prevalent in the 1980s that focused on correcting the major macroeconomic distortions hindering development. Replaced by Development Policy Lending in 2004.


Structural adjustment policies initiated by the World Bank and the IMF in developing countries in the 1980s and 1990s emphasized liberalization of trade and financial markets, a shift in taxes away from business to labour (including a shift in the tax base from direct to indirect taxes), and privatization of public services. The latter shifted a number of costs to the private sphere thus increasing the unpaid work that needed to be performed by women.


**Transaction costs**

Transaction costs may be defined as the extra costs – beyond that of the aid itself – of delivering aid. These costs may be born by the recipient, the donor, or by both. It may cover, for example, the money, time, inconvenience of identifying, negotiating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating aid delivery.


**United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN SCR 1325)**

Women continue to be excluded from positions of decision-making in the sphere of peace and security. In response to this reality, many calls to action have been issued. Women’s full and equal participation and gender mainstreaming in all peace and security initiatives are two of the central demands. Alternatively, the call for implementation of the three “Ps”: conflict Prevention, the Participation of women in peace and security, and the Protection of civilians with consideration of the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys is
increasingly gaining ground. In this realm, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) is one of the most important international mandates. This ground-breaking resolution calls for the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security initiatives, along with the mainstreaming of gender issues.


**Untied aid**

Official Development Assistance for which the associated goods and services may be fully and freely procured in substantially all countries.

The global development agenda: tools for gender sensitive planning and implementation

References


