



Findings from the Gender Equality Module of the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey

AN OVERVIEW

Gender equality is one of the “cornerstones for achieving enduring impacts on the lives and potential of poor women, men and children”.

(Accra Agenda for Action, 2008)

Countries and donors committed to making aid and development more effective in Paris and Accra.¹ **So to what extent has gender equality and women’s empowerment been addressed in these efforts?** The gender equality module of the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey provided an opportunity to find some of the answers to this question, by measuring ownership of gender equality, gender equality results, and mutual accountability for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Ownership of gender equality

Gender equality and women’s empowerment are quite well integrated into countries’ national development strategies. The most common approach is to ‘mainstream’ gender equality in national strategies, most often in the areas of social or human development. This implies that there is some country ownership of gender equality. But on the other hand, neither countries nor donors match resources for gender equality with their policies and commitments, which hampers implementation.

24 of the 78 countries that did the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey chose to also test the gender equality module:

Albania, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia.

“Gender units in ministries equal maximum effort, minimum budgets.”

(Honduras)

The gender equality module of the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey comprised three indicators, each linked to one of the 12 indicators of the Paris Declaration Survey:

1. Ownership: gender equality and women’s empowerment are grounded in a systematic manner in national development strategies (linked to Paris Declaration indicator 1, ownership)
2. Results: data is disaggregated by sex (linked to Paris Declaration indicator 11, results)
3. Mutual accountability for gender equality and women’s empowerment (linked to Paris Declaration indicator 12, mutual accountability)

1. Through the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008).

Gender equality results

Data disaggregated by sex are rarely collected or used by countries. When disaggregated data are available, it is in the sectors of health and education and almost never in the economic sectors. At the same time, examples from several countries show that where data disaggregated by sex are used to take decisions, this leads to an increased focus and budgets for gender equality and women's empowerment. **When you track gender equality results, resources follow.**

Donors are very likely to use, at least partly, data disaggregated by sex in their decision making when these data are available.

Gender-specific outcome indicators are also needed to measure gender equality results. That is why an international initiative is being launched at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan to identify and use a harmonised list of around 15 gender-specific outcome indicators in the sectors of Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship.

Accountability for gender equality

In half of the countries where 'broad based dialogue' on development is in place,² gender equality is addressed in this dialogue. At the same time, **several countries call for a stronger accountability framework on gender equality and women's empowerment.** For example, Zambia argues that donors are not held accountable for the performance of the gender equality programmes they support but that "poor performance is always explained by poor country systems".

Gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected countries

Four of the countries that tested the gender equality module also undertook the 2011 survey of the *Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations*: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo. In fragile contexts, both **donors and countries need to recognise that gender equality and the protection of women are means to support effective peace and statebuilding**, rather than competing objectives.

A proposal for the road ahead

Many of the 24 countries which tested the gender equality module call for mandatory monitoring of how gender equality is addressed in efforts to make aid and development effective, after the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011. **Any monitoring framework on aid and development effectiveness after Busan should fully integrate gender equality dimensions in the key monitoring indicators.**

In Cameroon, the analysis of a survey on women and men's living conditions led to the implementation of an anti-poverty project specifically focused on women.

For more information, see *Findings from the Gender Equality Module of the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey*, available at www.oecd.org/dac/gender

2. According to the 2011 Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey.