

Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment: A snapshot

This brief was prepared by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate as part of the work programme of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) • 2019*

Key messages

- In 2016-2017, the 30 members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) committed an average of **USD 44.8 billion** per year, corresponding to 38% of bilateral allocable aid, focused on gender equality and women's empowerment as either a significant or principal objective.¹ This is higher than ever before. However, 62% of aid remains gender blind.
- In 2017, the 26 private foundations reporting their activities to OECD Development Co-operation Directorate for the first time committed **USD 1.2 billion** to gender equality and women's empowerment, corresponding to 16% of the total development flows by these foundations.

Achieving strong gender equality outcomes requires adequate, sustained financing in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, stakeholders committed to working "for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap".²

Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated by members of the OECD DAC is one important contribution to funding gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries.³ In addition, private philanthropy focus some of their support for development on gender equality and women's empowerment. This document provides a snapshot of the preliminary data on bilateral allocable aid committed by DAC members in 2016-2017 and of private foundations' financing for gender equality and women's empowerment in 2016. The OECD Development Co-operation Directorate tracks development finance that focusses on gender equality and women's empowerment as either a principal (primary) or significant (secondary) policy objective using the DAC gender equality policy marker – a qualitative statistical tool to record activities.⁴ This is the first time that a sufficient number of private foundations (26) reported against the marker to publish aggregate numbers.

In 2019, the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate will publish in-depth analysis of data on development financing for gender equality, including on sectoral and geographical allocations, to support policy action. Focus areas will include women's economic empowerment and gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. For previous analysis and more information, see: www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development

¹ Preliminary figures for 2017

² Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 (A/RES/70/1)

³ DAC members also provide core support to multilateral organisations. Some of the outflows from these multilateral organisations target gender equality and women's empowerment. In addition, developing countries' public spending, as well as remittances, flows from civil society and from private actors can all contribute financial resources for gender equality in developing countries.

⁴ Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, December 2016)

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Official development assistance focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment in 2016-2017

DAC members have consistently increased bilateral aid for programmes that integrate gender equality and women's empowerment as a significant objective since 2010. However, funding for dedicated programmes that target gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal (main) objective⁵ remains low at 4% and 62% of aid remains gender blind.

Chart 1: Aid focussed on gender equality 2016-2017

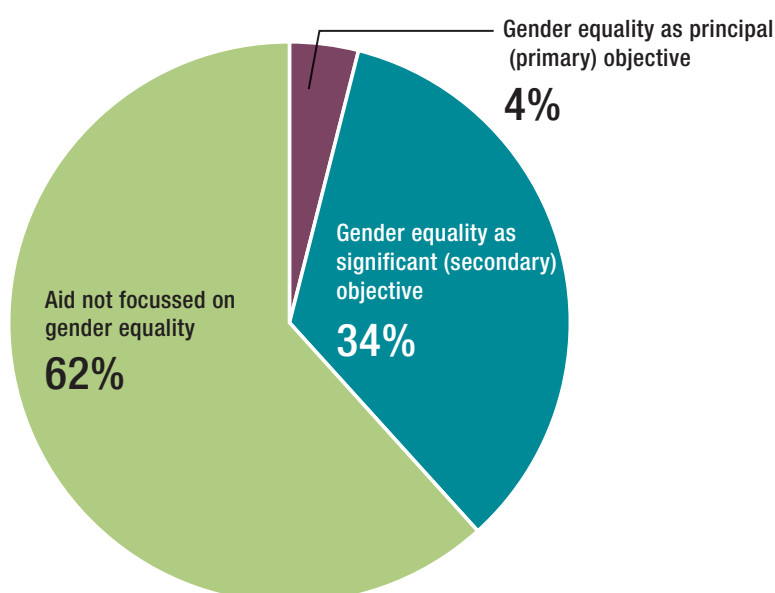


Chart 2: Bilateral ODA to gender equality and women's empowerment, trends 2006-2017

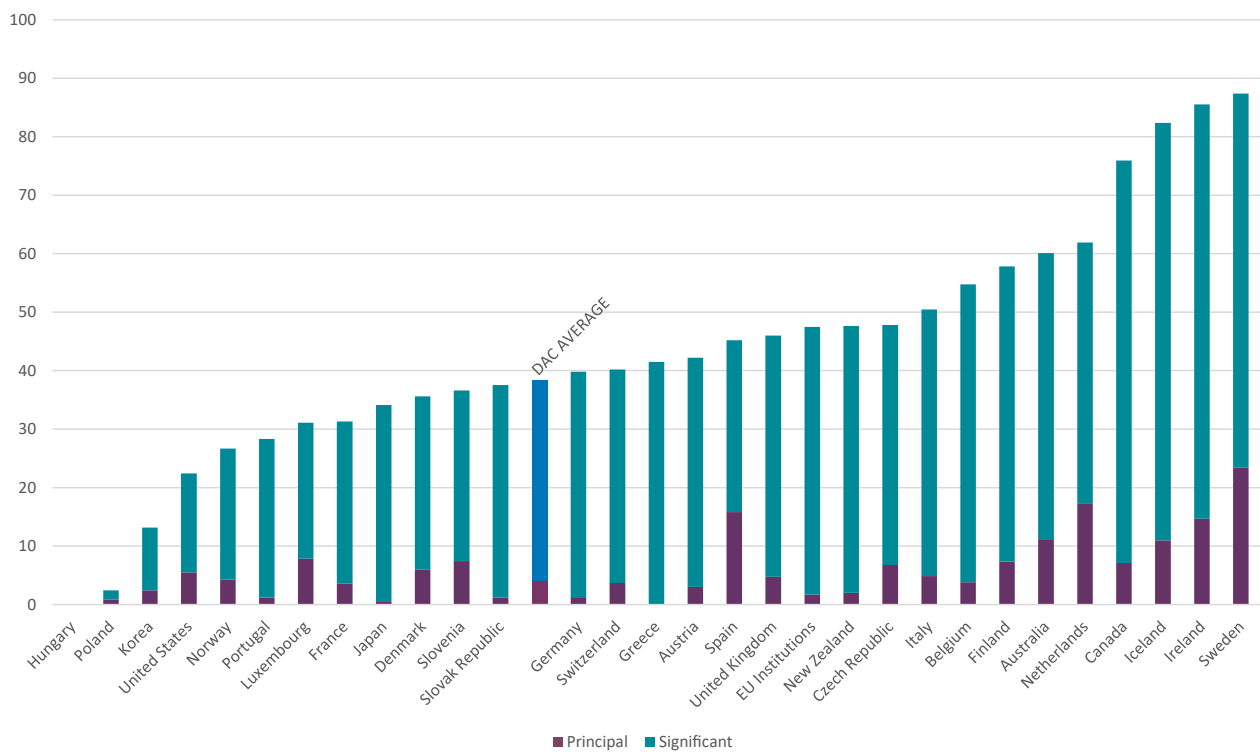


⁵ For examples of programmes that focus on gender equality as a "principal" or "significant" objective, see the Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender equality Policy Marker (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, December 2016): <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

Individual DAC members' support for gender equality and women's empowerment

Nine DAC members focussed 50% or more of their aid on gender equality as either a principal or significant objective: Sweden, Ireland, Iceland, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, Finland, Belgium and Italy.

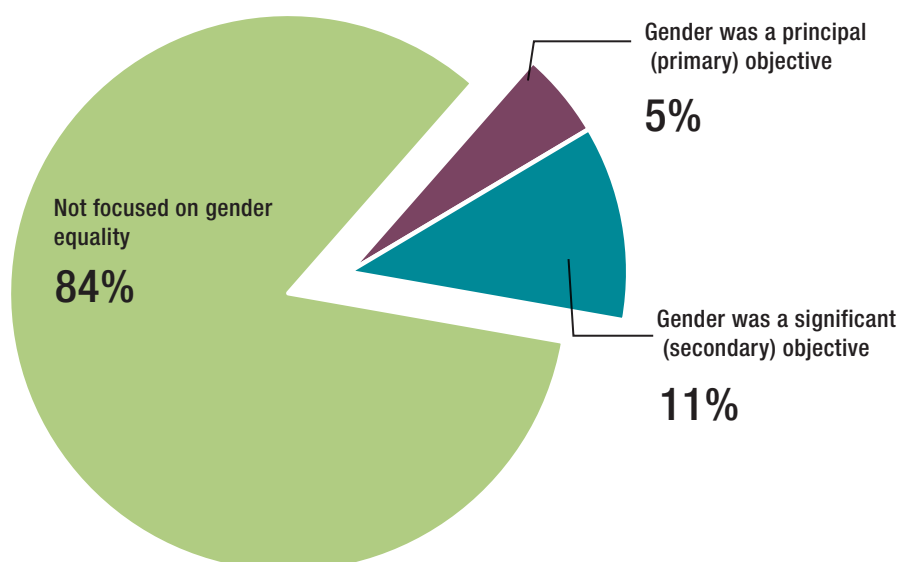
Chart 3: Average share of aid focussed on gender equality per year in 2016-2017



Private foundations' flows in support of gender equality and women's empowerment

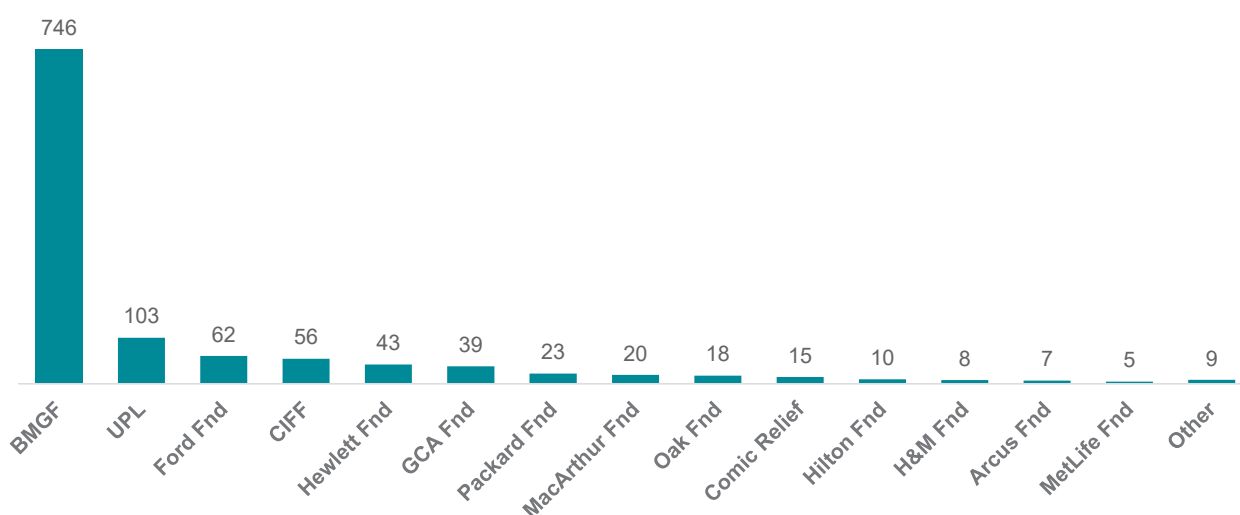
In 2017, the 26 private foundations reporting their activities to the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate committed USD 1.2 billion to gender equality and women's empowerment, corresponding to 16% of the total development flows by these foundations. 5% of these flows focussed on gender equality as a dedicated (principal) objective. USD 807 million were allocated in the health and reproductive health sectors.

Chart 4: Average share of funding focussed on gender equality per year in 2017



This is the first time that a sufficient number of private foundations (26) report their development flows against the DAC gender equality policy marker to publish aggregate numbers.

Chart 5: Individual foundations' support for gender equality and women's empowerment⁶ (USD millions in 2016)



BMGF: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

UPL: Dutch Postcode Lottery

CIFF: Children's Investment Fund Foundation

GCA: Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation

⁶ In the case of the Gates Foundation, marking for gender equality was made based on a keyword search