



THE 'PARTNERSHIP GOAL'

Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

Target 12 Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system, includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally

Target 13 Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff and quota-free access for least-developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC countries and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

Target 14 Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States

Target 15 Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Indicators Net ODA, total and to least developed countries, as a percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income

Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their gross national incomes

ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their gross national incomes

Market access

Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and from the least developed countries, admitted free of duties

Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries

Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Debt sustainability

Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

Debt relief committed under HIPC Debt Initiative 14

Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services 18

Target 16 In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Indicators *Unemployment rate of 15- to 24-year-olds, male and female and total*

Target 17 **In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries**

Indicators *Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis*

Target 18 **In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications**

Indicators *Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 people*

Personal computers in use per 100 people

Internet users per 100 people

Trade and aid are not gender neutral

In the last few years, more and more evidence has been emerging to contest the assumption that trade policies and development aid inflows are gender neutral and always have the same impacts and implications for women and men.

In fact, both trade liberalisation and aid policies have serious implications for gender equality.

- Trade liberalisation involves **reduction or elimination of tariffs** and licensing fees resulting in significant decreases in revenue. Governments usually seek to make up the gap by **increasing taxes, cutting social sector spending** and introducing or increasing **user fees for public services** such as health and transport. The burden of adjustment to these measures is shifted onto women, who have to put more time and energy into unpaid and care work at the expense of their economic productivity, health and well-being.
- International trade agreements may **challenge national legislation** that works to protect the **rights and interests of the domestic labour force**. Many countries have dismantled or diluted protective legislation, or set up **export processing zones** where national legislation does not apply. Women constitute the bulk of the labour force in export processing zones, and are generally **overworked, underpaid** and **vulnerable** to violations of their rights.
- Trade liberalisation and the pressure to keep costs low has fuelled a process of **'informalisation'**, with production processes moving out of factories and into homes through subcontracting, part-time work and home-based work. Women are ready to accept **low quality employment**, with little or no labour protection and social security, because these give them the flexibility they need to fulfil their domestic responsibilities. Often, this is accompanied by an increase in **child labour**, with girls being pulled out of school to take on domestic chores and both girls and boys joining the production process.
- Trade liberalisation in **agriculture** has had enormous impacts on women in many developing countries. The shift to **export-oriented high-input crops** has depleted water resources and increased the load of chemicals and pollutants in the environment, increasing **women's time poverty** and affecting their health. At the same time, the pressure on land has curtailed women's involvement in traditional low-input **'survival agriculture'** which contributes to meeting a major share of the family's food needs, particularly in lean seasons.

- **Development aid**, whether in the form of grants or technical assistance, does not always take into account **gender biases** within development institutions and is not necessarily targeted to addressing women's needs and priorities. Benefits and **opportunities for capacity-building and income enhancement** are therefore not equally accessible to women and men. In some cases, development programmes have actually exacerbated gender inequality.
- Analyses of **global aid flows** reveals that they are skewed in favour of large projects in 'hard' sectors such as infrastructure and industry, with social sector projects at low priority.
- Despite the evidence that debt relief is a far more effective strategy for poverty alleviation than development grants or loans, **debt cancellation initiatives** are moving very slowly. Most highly indebted countries have been forced to make drastic **cuts in social sector spending**, with the inevitable impacts on women's and girls' health, education and well-being.

OECD-DAC analysis of aid in support of gender equality

Key findings

- *Two thirds of aid focused on support for gender equality and empowerment of women was in the social sectors, especially basic education and basic health (including population and reproductive health).*
- *About one half of aid to basic education and basic health targeted gender-specific concerns. A tenth of aid in these sectors was for the main purpose of promoting gender equality. Improvements in basic education and basic health are critical to achieving the MDGs.*
- *While several DAC members are implementing a mainstreaming strategy, several others promote gender equality through a relatively small number of activities targeted to women and girls.*
- *While aid for transport, communications and energy infrastructure accounted for a third of bilateral aid, little was reported as focused on gender equality. Nevertheless, well-designed infrastructure projects can bring significant positive benefits for women and girls by improving access to markets, schools and health services or by increasing women's safety.*
- *Aid to agriculture is currently down to a tenth of all aid. Gender equality focused aid to this sector may indicate donors' recognition of the high level of women's participation in food production and agriculture in many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.*

From OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System on Aid Activities: Aid Activities in Support of Gender Equality 1999-2003

How gendered is reporting on Goal 8?

It is ironic that Goal 8, which has the most wide-ranging targets and has serious implications for the ability of aid-dependent countries to achieve any of the MDGs, should receive the least attention in terms of gender. **Only eight of the reviewed reports make any mention of gender issues or concerns in reporting under Goal 8.**

Interestingly, MDG reports produced by some of the donor countries underline their commitment and support to gender equality in their own countries as well as in development aid.

Gender concerns reported under Goal 8

- **Land and housing rights for women** (Brazil)
- **Partnerships with women's groups for gender equality** (Gambia)
- **Unemployment and its consequences for young women** (Panama, Paraguay, Honduras, Syria, Slovakia)
- **Male domination in international agencies** (Bosnia)
- **Stereotypical perceptions of women's roles in peace process** (Bosnia)
- **Resources for gender under HIPC** (Burkina Faso)

Donor countries and the MDGs

Finland

- Highlights the role of gender equality and equal participation of men and women in all spheres as factors contributing to high levels of human development in Finland.
- Gender equality identified as cross-cutting theme in Finnish development aid. Acknowledges that despite this, the number of projects with gender equality as a primary objective is low.
- Focus of aid is on sexual and reproductive health and rights for young people and women.
- Points out that there are data and classification problems related to projects for gender equality.
- Prioritises the development of mechanisms to monitor aid for gender equality.

Denmark

- Underlines obligation of donor countries to report on progress.
- Aid is closely aligned to MDGs with a high priority for HIV/AIDS and women's reproductive health.
- Notes that apart from being a human rights objective, gender equality can lead to development benefits in all sectors.
- New aid strategy focuses on women's rights, political participation and gender equality in access to and control of resources.
- Notes that Denmark attempts to ensure that all its financial allocations to different bodies are supportive of Goal 3 and inclusion of gender into all MDGs.

A gender perspective would add value to reporting on Goal 8

Some countries have taken the view that reporting on Goal 8 should be the responsibility of donor countries rather than of aid recipients. While it is true that developing countries have limited say in allocation of resources by donors, they can nevertheless use the opportunity provided by reporting on Goal 8 to put some non-negotiable principles on the table.

Gendered reporting on the implications of trade and aid measures for gender equality, and information on measures being taken to protect human rights and women's rights will make a strong statement about the political commitment of the national government to human development.

How can reporting on Goal 8 be strengthened?

- Providing **sex-disaggregated data** on recommended indicators such as youth unemployment, internet use and access to medicines.
- Reporting on the **impacts of trade liberalisation** on key indicators of gender equality, women's access to economic and technical resources, labour force participation rates, patterns of labour market discrimination and access to education, health and other public services.
- Reporting on the **amount of ODA allocated to women-specific projects** and **projects for women's empowerment**.
- Making the **'money trail'** visible by reporting on the **quantum of development aid** that is allocated to gender equality and empowerment of women.

Women at the centre of Goal 8 in the Afghanistan MDGR

'Focusing too narrowly on meeting the MDG targets can defeat the purpose of the exercise. The point is to make a serious and concerted effort towards meeting the Goals. What, however, constitutes 'serious effort'? In the Afghan context, it is plausible to argue that public spending priorities around the needs of poor women would be an excellent indicator. This implies monitoring health and education spending patterns.'

From Afghanistan MDGR