



Donor Policies on Inclusion

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Questions

What are the policy commitments on inclusion in development of the G7 countries since 2015?

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1. Summary

This rapid review synthesises the literature from government documents of G7 countries on inclusion in development since the launch of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Documents were found using the following search terms in Google: 'inclusion and development', 'gender and development', 'LGBT and development', and 'disability and development'. Documents were also collected from the country pages on the UN Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, as well as from the individual countries' development organisations' websites. Documents for summary in this report were then chosen based on their relevance to inclusion. It is important to note that as only English language documents were used in this report, a full picture of the positions of France, Germany, Italy, and Japan cannot be given.

Below is a brief overview of the G7 countries' specific positions with regards to inclusion in development, as well as a table that summarises the core policy areas and highlights the main documents (Table 1):

Canada

Canada places particular attention on promoting human rights related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and is co-chair of the Equal Rights Coalition. The Coalition promotes and protects human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people around the world. Canada also places building inclusive and sustainable economic growth as a priority, and is advancing a trade agenda that seeks to ensure that all segments of society can take advantage of, and benefit from, the opportunities that flow from trade and investment. Canada places achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of its approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. It prioritises actions to increase representation of women at all levels of decision-making, increasing women's economic prosperity and security, addressing gender-based violence, and advancing a feminist foreign policy. As a result, Canada launched a Feminist International Assistance Policy in June 2017. Canada also works to narrow the economic gaps between groups internationally, and focuses on 'growth that works for everyone' (one of the core principles of the Feminist International Assistance Policy), which is based on the principle that inclusive and sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women as economic actors.

France

France places particular importance on environmental and climate sustainability, gender equality (especially sexual and reproductive health and rights), universal health coverage, transparency, with a governance and rule of law objective, and sustainable cities. Geographically, France prioritises African countries, particularly the Sahel; two-thirds of French Agency for Development grants are earmarked for 16 priority poor countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Government of France, 2016: 9-10). France's Gender and Development Strategy aims for at least 50% of projects financed to significantly or comprehensively target the reduction of gender inequalities, with programmes working towards the economic empowerment of women, as well as their employability, leadership, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. France has also made sexual and reproductive health one of its priorities. Finally, France has a focus on reducing exclusion among those who live in impoverished neighbourhoods in cities by integrating these neighbourhoods into the urban fabric. It is important to note that France has many documents that specifically address their progress in the SDGs, however these are only published in French.

Germany

Germany focuses on combating the structural causes of hunger and malnutrition; ending extreme poverty; creating sustainable opportunities for the future; as well as promoting fair trade and incomes, and job opportunities that ensure sustainable livelihoods. Promoting good governance and gender equality are cross-cutting themes within its core focus areas. Germany aims to address gender equality within all of its development work. It is also working to strengthen corporate social responsibility, and foster respect for (and realisation of) internationally accepted human rights responsibilities, which addresses some of the most vulnerable people. Germany also supports programmes that aim to reduce inequality, such as employment promotion activities that target the bottom 40% of the income scale, and measures that target fiscal policy in partner countries and help establish social security systems. Finally, Germany places importance on the promotion of human rights, as it sees this as a way of addressing all vulnerable communities. Germany realises its extended human rights-based approach through human rights and equal opportunities strategies, and action plans on gender equality and the rights of children and youth. Germany also has a development policy action plan on the inclusion of disabled people.

Italy

As Italy is a gateway for migration from Africa, Italy has a strong focus on the inclusion of vulnerable communities in Africa in order to tackle the structural issues that cause migration. Italy also focuses on health, particularly women's health, with programmes addressing reproductive and sexual health and rights, as well as the response of healthcare systems to gender violence. In health, mental health is also important in Italy's programmes, which focus on strengthening community mental health services; integrating them with the systems of primary care; expanding action in the area of psycho-social rehabilitation, and increasing population awareness about the problems of stigmatisation and discrimination. Italian Cooperation works with partner countries to promote women's rights and female empowerment and it aims to gender mainstream all of its activities, whilst also investing directly in specific programmes to promote women's rights and female empowerment. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) has a long tradition of focusing developmental support on disabilities, which predate the SDGs with an action plan launched in 2013. The focus is on support for institutional enhancement and the empowerment of civil society organisations, and is active in a number of countries. AICS initiatives with regards to disabilities support the recognition of rights and access to infrastructure, healthcare services, education, training, jobs, and new technologies.

Japan

On 20 May 2016 the Government of Japan established a Cabinet body, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister. It is composed of ministers from all parties, in order to ensure a whole-of-government approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive and effective manner. Japan focuses on women's empowerment, however, this particularly concentrates on economic equality, which focuses on policies of employment and education. Another priority area for Japan is to create affordable health care for all internationally, building on its own success. Japan also uses its knowledge, experience, and technologies to help provide safe drinking water and basic sanitation to all globally, as well as developing gender responsive infrastructure ensuring safety for women and girls, and improving maternal and child health services.

UK

The United Kingdom (UK) has clear documentation that puts forward its position with regards to inclusion in relation to development, and specifically lays out its plans with regards to gender and disabilities. Although the UK's focus is on the poorest and most unstable countries across the world, its main investment is in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with South Asia and Africa also being of importance. The UK government has also promised to lead the world in implementing the Leave No One Behind Promise made in 2015. Its core promises are to: 1- strive to end violence against girls and women, including ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage, and 2- tackling sexual violence in conflict. Additionally, it will prioritise work that targets the most vulnerable and disadvantaged; the most excluded; those caught in crises, and those most at risk of violence and discrimination. The UK also has strong policies on the inclusion of those with disabilities, and is working to mainstream disability inclusion, as well as utilise specific programmes that aim to include those with disabilities.

US

USAID has not updated its Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy since 2012,¹ or its Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Vision since 2014.² Policies on disabilities are also dated and the independent National Council on Disability laments the shortage of funding spent on programmes relating to disability in development, as well as the lack of a consistent approach.³ Since the policies on gender, LGBT, and disability were officially launched the administration has changed, as have policies on the ground – with US assistance being denied to any foreign-based organisation that performs, promotes or offers information on abortion being the most visible. However, the US still does have a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment (particularly economic) and addressing gender-based violence.

¹ <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment>

² https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1874/LGBT_Vision.pdf

³ https://ncd.gov/sites/default/files/US%20Foreign%20Policy%20and%20Disability_Accessible_0.pdf

Table 1: Summary of the core G7 documents

Country	Inclusion Focus	Core Documents
Canada	<p>Promoting human rights related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.</p> <p>Building inclusive and sustainable economic growth with the full participation of women as economic actors.</p> <p>Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, particularly increasing representation of women at all levels of decision-making, increasing women's economic prosperity and security, addressing gender-based violence and advancing a feminist foreign policy</p>	<p>Canada's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Voluntary National Review</p> <p>Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy</p> <p>Gender Equality: A Foundation for Peace</p>
France	<p>Reduction of gender inequalities with programmes working towards the economic empowerment of women, their employability, their leadership, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.</p> <p>Sexual and reproductive health;</p> <p>Reducing exclusion among those who live in impoverished neighbourhoods in cities by integrating these neighbourhoods into the</p>	<p>Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>France's International Strategy on Gender Equality (2018–2022)</p>

	urban fabric.	
Germany	<p>Promoting fair trade and income and job opportunities that ensure sustainable livelihoods, strengthen corporate social responsibility and foster respect for and realisation of internationally accepted human rights responsibilities.</p> <p>Address gender equality within all of its development work.</p> <p>Promotion of human rights, including the inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Report of the German Federal Government to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2016</p> <p>Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016 – 2020</p>
Italy	<p>Inclusion of vulnerable communities in Africa in order to tackle the structural issues that cause migration.</p> <p>Inclusion in health: particularly addressing mental health and women’s health;</p> <p>Inclusive developmental support on disabilities, focusing on institutional enhancement and the empowerment of civil society organisations.</p>	<p>Three-year Programming and Policy Planning Document 2017-2019</p> <p>AICS Annual Report 2017</p> <p>GUIDELINES for mainstreaming disability and social inclusion in aid projects: 2018</p>
Japan	<p>Women’s empowerment, particularly focusing on economic and education equality.</p> <p>Inclusive affordable health care and improve maternal & child health services.</p> <p>Provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation</p>	<p>JAPAN: The SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Japan’s Implementation</p> <p>Japan's Voluntary National</p>

	<p>to all.</p> <p>Gender responsive infrastructure</p>	<p>Review: Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</p>
UK	<p>Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: ensure that women and girls are not left behind, with a focus on those living in extreme poverty and fragile and conflict affected states. Mainstream gender across all 17 SDGs.</p> <p>Prioritise work that targets the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, the most excluded, those caught in crises, and those most at risk of violence and discrimination.</p> <p>DFID aims to fund disability inclusive development and set a minimum standard on disability across all of its existing work by mainstreaming disability inclusion.</p>	<p>UK aid: Tackling global challenges in the national interest</p> <p>DFID Strategic Vision for Gender Equality</p> <p>DFID’s Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development 2018-23</p>
US	<p>Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, particularly economic empowerment by achieving parity in the participation between women and men in programmes that are designed to increase access to economic resources by 2022.</p> <p>Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence: increase its systematic response to gender-based violence and increase projects that include dedicated activities to prevent and/or respond to gender-</p>	<p>Joint Strategic Plan of the U.S. Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): 2018-2022</p> <p>United States Department of State United States Agency for International Development</p> <p>FY 2017 Annual Performance Report</p> <p>FY 2019 Annual Performance Plan</p>

2. Canada

In Canada's 2018 national review of its implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development it lays out its vision and policies so far with relation to inclusive development amongst others. Canada places particular attention on promoting human rights related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and is co-chair of the Equal Rights Coalition. The Coalition promotes and protects human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people around the world. Canada also places building inclusive and sustainable economic growth as a priority and is advancing a trade agenda that seeks to ensure that all segments of society can take advantage of and benefit from the opportunities that flow from trade and investment (Government of Canada, 2018: 4). Canada places achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of its approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. It prioritises actions to increase representation of women at all levels of decision-making, increasing women's economic prosperity and security, addressing GBV and advancing a feminist foreign policy. As a result, Canada launched a Feminist International Assistance Policy in June 2017 (Government of Canada, 2018: 6). Of the seventeen SDGs, Canada's main focus is on five key areas, which demonstrates its focus on inclusion – these are: eliminate poverty; **advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; grow the economy and narrow the socio-economic gaps that exist between different groups; advance self-determination and improve relationships with Indigenous peoples; foster inclusion;** and advance action on climate change and clean growth (Government of Canada, 2018: 7). In order to advance gender equality abroad Canada launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy, which will be discussed in greater detail later.

In November 2017 Canada launched a 5-year plan entitled Gender Equality: A Foundation for Peace, which contains five objectives:

1. increasing the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, and post-conflict state- and peacebuilding;
2. promoting and protecting women's and girls' human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in fragile, conflict and post-conflict settings;
3. preventing and responding to sexual and GBV;
4. meeting the specific needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings; and
5. strengthening the capacity of peace operations to advance the WPS agenda (Government of Canada, 2017a: 10).

Moreover, during Canada's 2018 G7 presidency it prioritised gender equality and women's empowerment and integrated it across all G7 themes, activities and initiatives. Canada also established the Gender Equality Advisory Council, co-chaired by Ambassador Isabelle Hudon and Melinda Gates.

In order to narrow the economic gaps between groups internationally Canada focuses on 'growth that works for everyone' (one of the core principles of the Feminist International Assistance Policy), which is based on the principle that inclusive and sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women as economic actors. As part of this initiative Canada established the Development Finance Institute (FinDev Canada) to support sustainable development by providing financial services to the private sector in developing countries with a particular focus on supporting investments in business activities that benefit women (Government of Canada, 2018: 10). With regards to indigenous people Canada has a large focus at home, but is also working to advance the rights of indigenous populations internationally. It bases its policies on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: to promote and protect Indigenous rights, to create prosperity and to foster sustainable development. Additionally, the Feminist International Assistance Policy takes an intersectional, human-rights based approach to reaching the poorest and most vulnerable, including Indigenous peoples, to better ensure that no one is left behind. Moreover, Canada is an active member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Canada advocates for meaningful inclusion and enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples in multilateral, regional and national organisations and processes (Government of Canada, 2018: 12).

Feminist International Assistance Policy

In 2017, Canada launched the Feminist International Assistance Policy, which refocuses Canada's development, humanitarian, and peace and security assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable and supporting fragile states. The core action area for the policy is promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, which will be implemented across all action areas. Inasmuch that Canada will ensure that 95% of its bilateral international development assistance will advance gender equality, whilst 15% will specifically target gender equality by 2021-2022. The other action areas are:

- Human dignity (covering humanitarian action, health and nutrition, and education)
- Growth that works for everyone
- Environment and climate action
- Inclusive governance
- Peace and security

Rather than focusing on specific countries, as previously done, Canada will address conflicts and climate change in fragile states and contexts, while continuing to foster economic development and growth that works for everyone in the poorest countries and supporting middle-income countries that face particular challenges, notably with respect to governance (Government of Canada, 2017b: III).

Canada has announced several initiatives to advance implementation of the Feminist International Assistance Policy, including \$650 million (USD 492 million) for sexual and reproductive health and rights; \$150 million (USD 114 million) to support local women's organisations and movements in developing countries through a new Women's Voice and

Leadership Programme; and up to \$300 million (USD 228 million) for leveraging new investments and partnership with the private sector, investors and philanthropic organisations to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in developing countries.

Canada's feminist international assistance is based on four core principles:

1. **Human rights-based and inclusive.** All people must enjoy the same fundamental human rights, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, or any other aspect of identity.
2. **Strategic and focused.** Assistance will be directed toward those initiatives that best support the empowerment of women and girls and have the greatest potential to reduce gender inequalities.
3. **Transformative and activist.** Unequal power relations and systemic discrimination, as well as harmful norms and practices, will be challenged, and a broad range of stakeholders - including men and boys - will be engaged.
4. **Evidence-based and accountable.** Our assistance will be informed by gender-based analysis and will rely on clear accountabilities for planning, achieving, tracking and reporting on gender equality results (Government of Canada, 2017b: 11).

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

For Canada it is essential that men and boys be engaged in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Government of Canada, 2017b). For this reason Canada will support the development of gender-responsive curricula in schools, work to address and transform harmful behaviours that can have negative consequences for all genders and implement programming to better support fathers so that they gain the skills and confidence needed to care for their children on an equal basis with their partners.

Canada will also:

- **Address the high rates of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) experienced by women and girls** – including domestic violence; intimate-partner violence; trafficking and exploitation; child, early and forced marriage; and female genital mutilation/cutting.
- **Provide better support for local women's organisations and movements that advance women's rights** – between 2018-2023 Canada is dedicating \$150 million (USD 114 million) over five years to support local women's organisations and movements that advance women's rights in developing countries.
- **Help governments in developing countries address the differential needs of women and men through policies and services** – Canada will work with the governments of developing countries to improve their ability to deliver programmes that support gender equality at all levels of government and in all sectors.
- **Step up its commitment to evidence-based decision making** – Canada will strengthen the evidence base by investing in policy research, better data collection and evaluation for gender equality across all its international assistance efforts, and its partners will be expected to do the same (Government of Canada, 2017b: 19).

Human dignity

This action area covers humanitarian action, health and nutrition, and education. It focuses on ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable populations have gain access to essential services such as health care, including sexual and reproductive care, as well as drinking water, nutritious food and quality education.

To support positive health outcomes for women and girls in developing countries, Canada will:

- **Work to close persistent gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls** – Canada will support increased access to a full range of health services, including family planning and modern contraception; comprehensive sexuality education; safe and legal abortion, and post-abortion care; and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. This work will be supported by an investment of \$650 million (USD 492 million) over three years.
- **Join global partnerships that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls** – initiatives such as Family Planning 2020 and the Ouagadougou Partnership will make it possible for 120 million more women and girls in West and Central Africa to use family planning between 2018-2021.
- **Focus efforts on programmes and projects that put gender at the heart of efforts to improve health care** – through equity-based approaches and a focus on diseases, such as HIV, that particularly affect women and girls, that empower community health care workers and that address the ongoing challenge of sexual and gender-based violence.
- **Make it easier for women, girls and all young children to access nutritious foods and supplements** – increase the provision of micronutrient supplements and advocate internationally for the importance of more gender-responsive nutrition policies (Government of Canada, 2017b: 25).

To better support equal educational opportunities for women and girls in developing countries Canada will:

- **Support programmes and advocacy efforts that help women and girls get the skills training and education they need to succeed** – Canada will also actively promote awareness of the benefits of education for women and girls and of the need for curricula free of gender stereotypes.
- **Work to ensure that school facilities are welcoming spaces that respond to the specific needs of girls** – Canada will ensure that investments in education include provisions for separate and appropriate washroom facilities, as well as systems to help manage menstrual hygiene, and that support is given to programmes that help prevent and respond to school-related GBV.
- **Support programmes and partners that help those who have missed out on the opportunity to complete a quality education** – Canada will support programmes and partners that provide life skills, and technical and vocational education and training, with an emphasis on assisting women and marginalized youth find work, including in non-traditional and better-paying fields (Government of Canada, 2017b: 27).

To provide better support to those in need during humanitarian crises and to better address the unique needs of women and girls, Canada will:

- **Strengthen sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response strategies in humanitarian settings** – Canada will fund counselling and psychosocial support to

those in need and will increase its leadership in the Global Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies.

- **Advocate for humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law, including unique challenges for women and girls** – Canada will promote the use of gender- and age-disaggregated data by humanitarian partners and will defend unfettered and safe access for humanitarian workers.
- **Support the full range of women and girls' sexual and reproductive health needs during humanitarian responses** – Canada will ensure that its humanitarian funding includes provisions for supporting women and girls' sexual and reproductive health needs and will campaign for such internationally.
- **Help strengthen the capacity of local and national women's groups to assist in humanitarian emergencies and help address the particular unmet needs of women** – Canada will work with local and national women's groups to involve women and girls in programme design, delivery and monitoring of humanitarian initiatives (Government of Canada, 2017b: 31).

Growth that works for everyone

In this action area Canada aims for the full participation of women in economic decision-making and is committed to helping improve opportunities for women. This includes assistance for rural women in the area of climate-smart agriculture and support for initiatives that deliver technical and vocational training and encourage women's entrepreneurship. Additionally, Canada will work to support greater financial inclusion, better access to good, well-paying work, and enhanced labour and property rights for women. Finally, Canada aims to help local governments develop the policy reforms needed to address issues such as unpaid work and care.

To help more women in developing countries realise more opportunities to contribute to their own economic success and the economic success of their communities, Canada will:

- **Focus its international assistance more on increasing economic leadership and empowerment of women at all levels** – Canada will work to include women in the economic decisions that shape their households and their communities and will promote the importance of women's economic participation internationally.
- **Help improve economic opportunities for and the resilience of rural women** – Canada will help to improve women's incomes and productivity through greater adoption of climate-smart methods of food production and will support local woman-led agricultural businesses, including local women's cooperatives and associations.
- **Promote greater financial inclusion for women, and equal access to capital, markets, digital technology and business development services** – Canada will target initiatives that improve women's access to and awareness of market opportunities and will encourage lending to woman entrepreneurs through Canada's Development Finance Institute.
- **Promote women's economic rights and access to decent work** – through promoting labour, land, inheritance and property rights for women by supporting the reform of restrictive laws and regulations and ensuring economic programming addresses these

root causes of women's economic marginalisation and exclusion and promotes access to employment.

- **Support technical and vocational training for women** – through supporting training that opens up new opportunities, encourages greater entrepreneurship and gives women the financial literacy they need to succeed
- **Help address unpaid work and the disproportionate burden of care shouldered by women** – through supporting policy reforms, improved social protection and shared responsibility for domestic and care work (Government of Canada, 2017b: 38-39).

Environment and climate action

In this action area Canada is committed to helping the most vulnerable communities adapt to climate change, mitigate its impacts and facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy. Canada supports women in order to increase the resilience of their crops and their access to water and other natural resources, as well as their participation in environmental decision-making and in the renewable energy sector.

Recognising that women and girls are uniquely affected by the damaging effects of climate change, Canada will:

- **Support women's leadership and decision-making in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, resilience-building and sustainable natural resource management** – through ensuring that women participate actively in the design and implementation of any climate adaptation or mitigation initiatives that are funded wholly or in part by the Government of Canada.
- **Ensure that the government's climate-related planning, policy-making and financing acknowledge the particular challenges faced by women and girls** – through applying this to all climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, including those developed through partnerships with local governments, civil society, the private sector and financial institutions
- **Support employment and business opportunities for women in the renewable energy sector** – through supporting greater use of renewable energy, creating opportunities for women within that sector, and helping ensure that climate financing is equally accessible to woman-led initiatives and enterprises (Government of Canada, 2017b: 45).

Inclusive governance

In this action point Canada aims to support inclusive governance by investing in the rights of women, their participation in politics, their legal authority and their access to justice, as well as by helping create an enabling environment for civil society.

To support governance that better serves all citizens, respects human rights, strengthens the rule of law and encourages greater political participation by women and girls in developing countries, Canada will:

- **Help advance women's leadership and decision making in governance and public sector management at all levels** – through supporting greater political participation by

women, including young and marginalized women, by establishing training programmes for woman candidates and through support for gender-sensitive civic education.

- **Help strengthen legal systems and promote reforms that eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls** – through supporting advocacy and programming that address discriminatory laws that prevent women from realising their economic, political and social rights.
- **Improve access to justice for women and girls** – through supporting initiatives that help women better understand their legal rights and improve their access to justice and through increasing the capacity of governments to strengthen laws and services and better hold to account perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes.
- **Support the protection of women’s human rights defenders** – through advocating for their safety and security, as well as their ability to continue their vital work in support of greater gender equality.
- **Support the efforts and capacity of governments at all levels to ensure public services respond better to the needs and potential of women and girls** – through helping governments and public servants to collect and analyse disaggregated data and evidence to support better decision-making and helping to design and implement initiatives that address the differential needs and opportunities of women and girls (Government of Canada, 2017b: 52-53).

Peace and security

As part of this action area Canada is committed to reducing threats and to facilitating stability and development in fragile states and states affected by armed conflict. Canada encourages greater participation by women in peace processes and, as part of its National Action Plan, works to advance the global women, peace and security agenda.

To promote stabilisation, maintain security in conflict zones, and encourage women and girls to be active participants in peacebuilding, Canada will:

- **Support the meaningful participation of women and women’s rights organisations in peace negotiations and conflict-prevention efforts** – through targeting support, and advocating, for local women’s organisations and programming to help women strengthen their mediation and negotiation skills and expertise so that they can more fully participate in and influence peace negotiations.
- **Help advance women’s rights in post-conflict state-building** – through working with government and civil society to ensure that commitments to gender equality are reflected in reform efforts. Canada will also advocate for the respect and protection of the human rights of women and girls in its international and multilateral engagements and will train police to be better prepared to respond to sexual and gender-based violence and help increase the employment of women in the security sector.
- **Help prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict zones and enforce its zero-tolerance policy for abuse perpetrated by peacekeepers** – through strengthening accountability mechanisms, backed up by greater support for local women’s organisations and movements, and developing and facilitating training and pre-

deployment courses on gender equality and context-specific gender norms (Government of Canada, 2017: 59).

3. France

In relation to the 2030 Agenda, France places particular importance on environmental and climate sustainability, gender equality (especially sexual and reproductive health and rights), universal health coverage, transparency, with a governance and rule of law objective, and sustainable cities. Geographically, France prioritises African countries, particularly the Sahel; two-thirds of French Agency for Development grants are earmarked for 16 priority poor countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Government of France, 2016: 9-10). France's Gender and Development Strategy aims for at least 50% of projects financed to significantly or comprehensively target the reduction of gender inequalities with programmes working towards the economic empowerment of women, their employability, their leadership, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. France has also made sexual and reproductive health one of its priorities. Finally, France has a focus on reducing exclusion among those who live in impoverished neighbourhoods in cities by integrating these neighbourhoods into the urban fabric.

Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals

France's focus with regards to inclusion and the 2030 SDGs is:

No Poverty

France has taken a rights-based approach to the theme 'no poverty', focusing on areas like sexual and reproductive rights and the right to food, water and sanitation, education, and housing. France sees the violation of these rights as both the cause and effect of poverty. For France, securing rights to access land and natural resources is a pillar of poverty eradication and they have thus committed to implement the voluntary guidelines on the governance of land tenure (Government of France, 2016: 14).

Zero Hunger

France promotes family farming with the aim of increasing food and nutrition security, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. France also focuses on the eradication of malnourishment where it takes a multisector approach to further nutrition-smart humanitarian and development programmes and is working to mainstream the elimination of hunger and malnutrition (Government of France, 2016: 16).

Good Health and Wellbeing

France has made sexual and reproductive health one of its priorities, and has actively funded the Muskoka Initiative aimed at reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality in developing countries (Government of France, 2016: 18).

Quality Education

France has made a focus of 'access for all' to a skills base and training support and in Sub-Saharan Africa. France is scaling up access to quality basic education for all (Government of France, 2016: 20).

Gender Equality

France's Gender and Development Strategy makes foreign policy on women's rights a central pillar of its foreign affairs action. France currently aims for at least 50% of projects financed to significantly or comprehensively target the reduction of gender inequalities. France is working on the economic empowerment of women (in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia), their employability (in association with French multinationals) and their leadership (with the Women of the Mediterranean: Next Generation of Leaders programme). France also has an international cooperation strategy on population and sexual and reproductive health and rights challenges for 2016-2020. This concentrates on West Africa to achieve three priority targets:

- 1) Improve international, regional and national legislative frameworks for sexual and reproductive rights;
- 2) Improve access to modern contraception methods, and
- 3) Facilitate access by adolescents and young people to sexual and reproductive health services, and reduce harmful practices (Government of France, 2016: 22).

Affordable and Clean Energy

France has pledged over 2 billion euros (USD 2.3 billion) through to 2020 for the development of renewable energies in Africa, where the Sub-Saharan region has the lowest regional electrification rate in the world at 31%. France is also supporting rural electrification, with projects for isolated systems and grid extension and densification (Government of France, 2016: 26).

Decent Work and Economic Growth

To address marginalised and underemployed young people France places an emphasis on vocational training and labour-intensive public work programmes that encourage workforce integration. In partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), France also works to promote the principles and fundamental rights to work, the fight against child labour, formalisation of the informal economy, the foundations of social protection and corporate social responsibility (Government of France, 2016: 28).

Reduced Inequalities

France is an active participant in the fight against discrimination, violence and breaches of human rights perpetrated against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans and/or intersex people (LGBTI) all over the world and works towards the universal decriminalisation of homosexuality (Government of France, 2016: 32).

Sustainable Cities and Communities

France aims to reduce exclusion among those who live in impoverished neighbourhoods in cities by integrating these neighbourhoods into the urban fabric. For example, France has been helping the Dominican Republic to extend the metro, establish a waterway transport system and rationalise the urbanisation of waterside areas (Government of France, 2016: 34).

Peace and Justice

Strengthening the rule of law and the protection of vulnerable populations are central to the work of France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. For example, France is supporting Tunisian civil society and the Tunisian government in a process to strengthen guarantees for the protection of human rights and freedoms. France is also working in the fight against human trafficking and is working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and is committed to national capacity-building and consolidating cross-border cooperation mechanisms between the Gulf of Guinea countries (Government of France, 2016: 44).

France's International Strategy on Gender

The main objective of France's International Strategy on Gender (2018-2022) is to systematically mainstream gender equality and the consideration of gender issues in France's external action.

France's approach is based on three main principles:

1. **A comprehensive approach:** the aim is to include gender throughout all of France's external action so that gender is also included in all French diplomatic priorities and all political, economic, soft diplomacy, cultural, educational, and development cooperation actions.
2. **A rights-based approach:** France's external action and development policy are built on the respect of women's rights, gender equality and the rejection of any gender discrimination. The rights-based approach integrates the norms, rules and international principles of human rights into the humanitarian and development policies and processes on violence against women. A rights-based approach increases the responsibility of humanitarian aid stakeholders to promote participation and inclusion, which encourages them to adopt a response that takes cultural differences into consideration and is free of discrimination in emergency situations.
3. **Gender-based approach (gender mainstreaming):** this is based on making gender equality central to all policy processes so that equality between women and men in society part of all public policies. This policy applies to all external action areas in all phases of the policy cycle as well as developing specific actions that promote gender equality and improve women's rights (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 13-14).

There are several priority areas:

- Promote a stronger institutional culture of gender equality and the consideration of gender issues within the Ministry and its agencies.
- Bolster France's policy advocacy efforts on gender issues.
- Increase and improve the inclusion of gender in all development financing instruments.
- Enhance and reinforce the accountability, transparency and qualitative impact of gender-focused official development assistance (ODA).
- Strengthen the ties between civil society, the private sector and research stakeholders to fight gender inequality (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 13-14).

As well as a number of sectoral priorities:

Ensure free and equal access to services, especially basic social services such as education and sexual and reproductive health

In its 2017–2021 Strategy on Education, Vocational Training and Employment in Developing Countries, France has set itself the goal of helping to expand access to primary and secondary school, with a particular emphasis on strengthening actions to promote girls' education. France also commits to ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning. Additionally, France supports regional initiatives to operationalise policies for vocational training, teacher training and early learning programmes. Priority is given to key topics such as fighting school-related GBV and supporting girls' education (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 17-18).

France is working for universal access to quality healthcare and for sexual and reproductive health and rights in alignment with its 2016–2020 Strategy on Population and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. This strategy aims to improve normative frameworks on sexual and reproductive health and rights, increase contraceptive prevalence rates, improve young people and adolescents' access to sexual and reproductive health services that address their specific needs, and eliminate harmful practices - including early, child and forced marriage (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 17-18).

Promote access to - and monitoring of - productive and economic resources, and access to decent work

France aims to promote sustained, shared and lasting economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all. Specifically through targeting:

- Free and equal access of women to the labour market; vocational training; basic social services and welfare systems; financial services; the use, ownership and control of land; the control of drinking water; energy; information and communication technologies and transport infrastructure; means and resources of production and training; and legal advice.
- Helping women to set up businesses.
- Bolstering women's means of subsistence through economic recovery initiatives in crisis and post-crisis countries.
- Reinforcing measures for social change in employment policies.
- Ensuring that funding for climate related issues benefit men and women equally and focus on women's empowerment.
- Increasing the number of women leaders in climate funding governance bodies.
- Mobilising the expertise of women for environmental conservation and fighting climate change.
- Promoting the contribution of women and women's organisations to implement national public policies to fight climate change (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 18-19).

Guarantee women and girls' free and equal access to rights and justice as well as their protection against all forms of violence

France is committed to eliminating all forms of violence against girls and women, and its strategy focuses on:

- The fight against all forms of violence against girls and women and to defend the universal nature of women's rights. With a particular focus to end female genital mutilation and support associations and medical services that repair and protect victims, as well as provide support to women looking to escape FGM for themselves or their daughters.
- Political recognition of femicide and the fight against its various forms.
- The creation of national legislation that condemns the different types of violence against girls and women and protects victims from violence
- Equal rights and access to the justice system as part of the fight against gender-based violence.
- The protection of those who defend women's rights and gender equality, as they are often the targets of acts of violence, intimidation and threats on their lives.
- The involvement of men and boys in rehabilitation and prevention (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 20-21).

Ensure meaningful participation of women in economic, political and social decision-making forums

France is committed to helping women and girls be heard and ensuring their meaningful participation in the public sphere, and its strategy focuses on:

- Equal participation of women, girls, boys and men in local, national, regional and global political life.
- Allowing the voices of women and girls to be heard in the public sphere.
- Increasing meaningful participation of women and girls in governance policies and electoral processes.
- Encouraging women's effective participation in decision-making processes.
- Improving access to positions of responsibility and breaking down sexist stereotypes related to decision-making by women (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 21-22).

Ensure equal participation of women in peace and security processes

France aims to better protect women in conflict situations, as well as ensure their participation in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. Its strategy focuses on:

- Increased participation of women in peace negotiations and all public decision-making processes concerning the re-establishment and consolidation of peace.
- Protecting women's rights and addressing GBV in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- The consideration of gender issues within truth and reconciliation commissions.
- Actions to bolster women's means of subsistence and empowerment through economic recovery initiatives in crisis and post-crisis countries.
- The consideration and inclusion of women's viewpoints in rapid alert mechanisms and procedures to prosecute those committing women's rights violations in conflict countries.
- Training programmes to sensitise more judicial personnel and security services to threats faced by women; and the promotion of better access to the justice system and effective

investigations of gender-based crimes during conflicts (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 2018: 22).

4. Germany

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, German policy is oriented towards five core areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership:

1. People: Combating the structural causes of hunger and malnutrition and ending extreme poverty;
2. Peace: Creating sustainable opportunities for the future, particularly for young people, and tackling the root causes of displacement (especially through education/training, employment and investments in the green economy, social infrastructure and good statehood);
3. Prosperity: Making globalisation equitable, in particular by promoting fair trade and income and job opportunities that ensure sustainable livelihoods (with particular emphasis on promoting responsible supply chains and minimum social and environmental standards);
4. Partnership: Promoting sustainable development in the private sector, private investment and the ability of the partner countries to contribute financially to their own development;
5. Planet: Climate change mitigation and adaptation and conservation of natural resources (German Federal Government, 2016: 9).

Promoting good governance and gender equality are cross-cutting themes within the five core areas. Germany places a large emphasis on protecting the environment and entrepreneurial activities. In relation to inclusion, Germany is working to strengthen corporate social responsibility and foster respect for, and realisation of, internationally accepted human rights responsibilities, which addresses some of the most vulnerable people (The German Federal Government, 2016: 14). Germany also places importance on the promotion of human rights, as it sees this as a way of addressing all vulnerable communities. Germany realises its extended human rights-based approach through human rights and equal opportunities strategies, as well as action plans on gender equality and the rights of children and youth. Germany also has a development policy action plan on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.⁴ Germany places significant importance on the **disaggregation of data** to a number of relevant factors, including gender and age, as this provides the necessary information on how measures affect different people to a different degree and in a different way, providing a basis for well-founded decisions that ensure no one is left behind. Germany also supports programmes that aim to reduce inequality, such as employment promotion activities that target the bottom 40% of the income scale, and measures that target fiscal policy in partner countries and help establish social security systems. Germany also promotes equal opportunities by facilitating access to and improving the quality of services in a

⁴ The 2017 version of this policy has not been translated to English yet.

number of sectors, including health, education, water, social welfare and energy, as well as promoting gender equality directly and indirectly (German Federal Government, 2016: 18-19).

Specifically Germany aims to assist the following:

- Poverty reduction - support partner countries in promoting inclusive economic growth and employment, improving access to education and health services, and building social welfare systems. Special attention is paid to rural regions and to promoting agriculture to strengthen the resilience of poor people and countries to the consequences of climate change and environmental destruction (The German Federal Government, 2016: 21).
- Ending hunger – Germany places significant importance on addressing malnutrition and hunger globally and supports the international human rights-based approach to the right to food. Germany earmarks around 1.5 billion euros (USD 1.7 billion) every year for development activities in the fields of agriculture, rural development and food security. Additionally, 70 million euros (USD 80 million) were dedicated to fighting malnutrition in women and young children in 11 countries (under the special initiative One Word, No Hunger). Finally, Germany works to improve property rights and equal access to resources and financial services for all (German Federal Government, 2016: 21-23).
- Good health – Germany is involved in efforts to promote a rights-based approach to family planning and maternal health, comprehensive sexuality education and access, especially for young people, to sexual and reproductive health services, to better link sexual and reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS work, and in the field of sexual orientation and gender identity. Comprehensive sexuality education (including human rights, sexuality, gender equity, partnerships and sexual and reproductive health) is a central concern of the German Government (German Federal Government, 2016: 25).
- Education – Along with increasing the number of students from developing countries studying in Germany, Germany has also committed to investing a minimum of 400 million (USD 460 million) euros a year in education measures with a regional focus on Africa, specifically areas affected by fragile statehood and conflict (German Federal Government, 2016: 27).
- Gender equality – In 2016 Germany launched the Gender Equality in German Development Policy, which is binding for the design of all German state development cooperation activities. Of particular concern for Germany is to give women access to the law and to the courts, to ensure their political participation, give them a say and ensure they are represented, as well as overcoming and preventing gender-based violence. Additionally, Germany focuses on supporting gender equality in the fields of economic promotion, rural development and food security, peace and security, education, health and climate change (German Federal Government, 2016: 29).
- Decent work – Germany is working with ILO to eliminate **child labour**, on social protection (Social Protection Floor), on the promotion of youth employment and on the promotion of labour standards in global supply chains, as well as ensuring parents participate in the labour force and receive fair pay. Germany also promotes **vocational training** and the establishment of **job placement systems** in developing countries and facilitates access for disadvantaged groups, especially women, young people and disabled persons (German Federal Government, 2016: 36-37).
- Reduced inequalities - Germany assists its partners to promote pro-poor growth and progressive fiscal policies and establish social security systems in order to reduce income and wealth inequality (German Federal Government, 2016: 41).

- Peace and Justice – Germany attaches particular importance to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, including its follow-up resolutions, as a cross-cutting issue in foreign, security and development policy. Human rights are a guiding principle of German development policy. Promoting equality and non-discrimination, e.g. by strengthening the rights of marginalised and persecuted groups, is a priority for the German Government (German Federal Government, 2016: 55-56).

Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched its Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 [Gender Action Plan (GAP II)], which focuses on gender mainstreaming, empowerment and policy dialogue in German development cooperation. The aim of the Gender Action Plan (GAP II) is to:

- enforce women’s rights and achieve gender equality in collaboration with cooperation partners, the EU and the international community;
- make sustained and inclusive advances through close cooperation and intensive dialogue with all actors and stakeholders;
- promote women’s economic empowerment;
- give fresh impetus to efforts to involve men as change agents in promoting gender equality and tackling multiple discrimination;
- strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women;
- continue to develop gender-responsive development financing approaches at all levels;
- build gender competence and address current needs with innovative interventions and methods;
- make measurable progress in achieving gender equality, measuring the impacts of interventions and optimising their impact orientation, and
- contribute to rolling out the human rights-based approach in development cooperation (BMZ, 2016: 5).

The Gender Action Plan (GAP II) is based on four core fundamentals:

1. **Women’s rights are human rights**
2. **Human rights-based approach**
3. **Non-discrimination** (reducing gender-based discrimination)
4. **Transformative gender approach** (focus on dismantling existing structural inequalities) (BMZ, 2016: 7).

The Gender Action Plan (GAP II) also has **nine priority issues** for promoting gender equality and strengthening the rights of women:

1. **Access to justice and legal services for women and girls, political participation, voice and leadership**

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Strengthen access to justice and legal services for women and girls.

- Ensure women's political participation, voice and leadership.
- Support civil society advocacy of women's rights and protect human rights defenders (BMZ, 2016: 10).

2. Rural development, agriculture and food security

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Strengthen the rights of women and girls of all ages in rural development, agriculture and food security.
- Ensure women's participation in systems of agriculture and food production and promote their active involvement in value chains.
- Enhance the gender-sensitive design, implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation of projects in the fields of rural development, agriculture and food security (BMZ, 2016: 10).

3. Violence against women and girls

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Strengthen cooperation between government, civil society and the private sector on action to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Promote effective efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Advance the active commitment of German development cooperation to combatting FGM, early and forced marriage and other harmful traditional practices and promote these efforts internationally (BMZ, 2016: 11).

4. Armed conflicts, peacekeeping and displacement

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Ensure the needs of women and girls, especially as refugees, are considered in reintegration activities and involve women in reconstruction measures.
- Demand and support women's participation in conflict prevention and management and in peace processes and negotiations.
- Assist, promote and strengthen survivors of sexual violence through psychosocial intervention strategies to facilitate their active role in reconstruction.

Pay wider attention to protecting and safeguarding women and girls who have been displaced from their homes (BMZ, 2016: 12).

5. Education

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Target efforts to give girls and women of all ages equal access to high-quality and culturally acceptable education and help them continue attending education facilities in all stages of life.

- Substantially increase the proportion of girls and women technically and vocationally educated and trained.
- Design educational programmes to be gender-sensitive and work to dismantle discriminatory gender stereotypes.
- Make comprehensive sex education an integral component of curricula, including information that builds respect for people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (BMZ, 2016: 12).

6. Gainful employment and economic empowerment

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Engage in policy dialogue aimed at strengthening efforts to give women equal participation in economic and working life.
- Promote social security and the rights of working women.
- Campaign for companies to make the UN Women's Empowerment Principles part of their business strategy.
- Promote efforts to make global supply chains responsive to gender equality.

Make a demonstrable improvement in women's access to, and control over, economic resources and financial services (BMZ, 2016: 13).

7. Health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Design healthcare systems to be gender-sensitive.
- Strengthen the right of access to affordable, acceptable and high-quality health services, health information and health education for women of all ages.

Support measures to prevent and treat the consequences of FGM and other harmful traditional practices. Build capacity in social security systems to ensure that women are given social protection and have access to health services (BMZ, 2016: 14).

8. Water and sanitation

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Promote equal access by women and girls to safe and secure water supplies and sanitation.
- Support measures to improve sanitation in education facilities.
- Strengthen women's participation in the fields of water resource management and water supply and sanitation (BMZ, 2016: 14).

9. Climate change, disaster risk management, sustainable development, urban and municipal development

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Support gender-sensitive climate, environmental and sustainable development policies.
- Integrate gender-sensitive strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change into German development cooperation projects and ensure they are put into practice.
- Strengthen gender-sensitivity in the design, implementation, monitoring and impact assessment of projects in the fields of climate change, disaster risk management, sustainable development and urban and municipal development and increase women's participation in those projects (BMZ, 2016: 15).

Additionally, the Gender Action Plan (GAP II) has **seven cross-sectoral activities**:

1. Cooperation with Female and Male Stakeholders

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Promote gender equality through stronger cooperation with male and female stakeholders acting as change agents and role models.
- Work with civil society to dismantle gender stereotypes and discriminatory socio-cultural norms.
- Foster gender equality in the division of labour across society, in the home, and in the family (BMZ, 2016: 16).

2. Tackling Multiple Discrimination

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Tackle multiple discrimination against women, girls, and LGBTI persons.
- Make more and better information on discrimination issues available in partner countries.
- Work in cooperation with civil society to confront multiple discrimination (BMZ, 2016: 17).

3. Gender Equality in Development Financing

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Further strengthen approaches that foster gender equality in development.
- Contribute to achieving gender equality in development by means of gender-responsive financing.
- Improve gender mainstreaming in BMZ financing programmes (BMZ, 2016: 17).

4. Empowering Women and Girls Through Sport

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Empower girls and women in and through sport, including educational opportunities to practice sports in schools and resource centres (BMZ, 2016: 18).

5. Gender Competence/Knowledge Management

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Institutionalise gender-responsive development policies and organisational processes.
- Improve the availability, quality, and use of gender-disaggregated data.
- Continuously collate and make accessible relevant and up-to-date information (BMZ, 2016: 18).

6. Measures to Implement the Gender Approach

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Ensure that all the instruments of the three-pronged gender approach are bindingly established in German development cooperation.
- Increase measures aimed principally at gender equality in order to systematically promote equality between men and women, actively support women's and girls' empowerment and strengthen women's rights (BMZ, 2016: 19).

7. Strengthening Women's Organisations

By 2020 BMZ will:

- Support the participation and voice of independent civil society actors and national human rights institutions to make them an effective driver for forward-looking, innovative policies on women's rights and gender equality.
- Provide focused training for representatives of women's organisations and capacity building measures to strengthen their organisations (BMZ, 2016: 19).

5. Italy

Italy conducted a voluntary national review of the UN sustainable development goals in 2017. However, unlike other G7 countries that have undertaken this review, Italy focused solely on their national policies and included no information on international development (Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, 2017). As Italy is a gateway for migration from Africa, much of the work of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) focuses on the inclusion of vulnerable communities in Africa in order to tackle the structural issues that cause migration. Italy also focuses on health, particularly women's health, with programmes addressing reproductive and sexual health and rights, as well as the response of healthcare systems to GBV. In health, mental health is also important in Italy's programmes, which focus on strengthening community mental health services, integrating them with the systems of primary care, expanding action in the area of psycho-social rehabilitation and increasing population awareness about the problems of stigmatisation and discrimination. AICS works with partner countries to promote women's rights and female empowerment and it aims to gender mainstream all of its activities, whilst also investing directly in specific programmes to promote women's rights and female empowerment. AICS has a long tradition of focusing developmental support on disabilities, which predate the SDG's with an action plan launched in 2013.⁵ The focus is on support for institutional enhancement and the empowerment of civil society organisations and is active in a number of countries. AICS' initiatives support the recognition of rights and access to infrastructure, healthcare services, education, training, jobs and new technologies.

Three-year Programming and Policy Planning Document 2017-2019

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation's Three-Year Programming And Policy Planning Document: 2017–2019 lays out Italy's priority areas for development:

Migration and Development

Italy puts a lot of developmental focus on migration from Africa and parts of its policies include the inclusion of marginalised people. For Italy migration policies must be consistent with development policies and tackle the structural causes in the countries of origin that lie at the root of the migratory flows. Therefore, Italy focuses on welfare, especially in the healthcare and education sectors, in order to improve access to services to those who would otherwise consider migration. The areas of development Italy focuses on in African countries with high migration is:

- Improving job market conditions in the countries of origin, to discourage unplanned emigration and facilitate the matching of migrants in the jobs market of their destination country;
- Developing information programmes to inform potential migrants - especially unaccompanied minors - about the risks of illegal migration channels, which are often linked with smuggling and trafficking of human beings;

⁵ https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2016/07/b_01_piano_azione_eng.pdf

- Increasing the employment opportunities, especially for young people, by investing in education and professional training in order to create a technically-qualified workforce and guide young people towards skills sought by the jobs market;
- Facilitating two-way movements (circular migration) of migrants, knowledge, skills and accumulated capital;
- Encouraging the involvement of the migrant communities, to stimulate entrepreneurship and promote commercial and cultural exchanges;
- Assisting informed, voluntary return with the prospect of reintegration in the country of origin, and
- Upgrading the systems for the protection of minors abandoned in the countries of origin and transit (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018a: 10-11).

Health

AICS adopts an approach focused on strengthening healthcare systems, improving access to services for the weakest members of the population who live in the poorest urban areas (urban health) and in rural areas, and protecting mother-infant health. Italy's main focus is on:

- **Early child development:** AICS intends to promote multi-sector projects that address both maternal nutrition (during pregnancy and after), with a particular focus on adolescent girls, and child nutrition including breast feeding during the first six months of life, while also tackling postnatal depression, domestic violence, and early learning.
- **Non-transmissible chronic diseases:** Italy will focus on supporting the national healthcare systems of developing countries with technical assistance programmes, giving priority to primary prevention work, both in support of the policies that address social causes and to tackle the various risk factors at individual and community level, as well as to secondary prevention via screening programmes.
- **Transmissible diseases:** In the fight against fight against HIV, malaria and tuberculosis Italy commits to a considerable cooperative effort, for the joint development of public healthcare programmes and healthcare training and education programmes, designed to identify innovative strategies and implement pure and operational research programmes.
- **Mental health:** Italy's focus is on strengthening community mental health services, integrating them with the systems of primary care, expanding action in the area of psycho-social rehabilitation and increasing population awareness about the problems of stigmatisation and discrimination (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018a: 16-18).

Education

AICS supports initiatives designed to guarantee the availability of quality education services on an inclusive basis, covering all levels from pre-school and primary education, to university and post-graduate studies. Its approach aims to address the social dimension that seeks the all-round development of individuals and the communities to which they belong. In addition to providing adequate education, the aim is to include the most disadvantaged levels of society and support the democratisation and peace-building processes. Italy places particular attention to categories at greatest risk of exclusion, such as children, adolescents, students with disabilities, and minorities (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018a: 18-19).

Juvenile justice

Italy will leverage its experience and focus on juvenile justice. The projects will include institutional support for the harmonisation of justice systems with international standards, and community action to support and strengthen social protection systems for prevention at all levels and the full inclusion of juveniles in trouble with the law. The programmes will be based on the principle access to justice and full respect for human rights are fundamental for the construction of security and peace-keeping systems, as well as for democratisation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018a: 20).

AICS Annual Report 2017

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation's 2017 annual report examines their work against the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It lays out its main priority areas as health, gender equality, as well as the rights of minors and persons with disabilities. There is also a particularly strong focus on Africa. Italy's work on inclusion in development includes:

Health

Italy supports partner countries in the pursuit of universal healthcare and the enhancement of people-centric health systems, with particular reference to primary care and family health services, as well as to improvement of the hospital networks in Sudan, Palestine, Bolivia and Afghanistan. Additionally, there is a strong focus on women's health, particularly programmes addressing reproductive and sexual health and rights, as well as the response of healthcare systems to GBV in the context of multi-agency action. AICS is also involved in multi-sector activities to fight malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa countries, such as Sudan and Burkina Faso, and supports UNICEF in a regional programme to tackle child malnutrition in Western Africa (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 10).

Education

The strategy adopted by AICS is to offer inclusive, quality education services at all levels - from primary schools to Universities - using student-centric teaching methods. The adoption of an inclusive approach is intended to safeguard equal opportunities and the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, programmes under way in Salvador pay attention to the education of boys and girls with disabilities, who are at greater risk of exclusion and often victims of social stigma (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 11).

Protection and promotion of the right's of minors and juvenile justice

Italian Cooperation's integrated action to protect and promote the rights of minors takes into account overarching areas such as gender and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Its efforts work to ensure that boys, girls and adolescents can grow in a secure environment, with access to equitable education and free from all forms of exploitation (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 11).

Promoting and safeguarding women's rights

Italian Cooperation works with partner countries to promote women's rights and female empowerment. Its approach seeks to gender mainstream all of its activities, whilst also investing directly in specific programmes to promote women's rights and female empowerment. Such initiatives have been launched in such priority countries as Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia and Palestine, with the objective of making gender topics central and improving the living conditions of women.

This includes facilitating their access to micro-credit and income-generating activities, as well as tackling all forms of violence against women. Italian Cooperation is especially committed to enhancing the presence of women in government institutions and promoting laws that protect them. Examples of Italian Cooperation's work in this regard include: implementing a programme that supports the system for devising, monitoring and evaluating gender-aware public policies in Senegal; the development of national policies for the elimination of GBV and the promotion of gender equality in Palestine; and GEMAISA II an important regional gender mainstreaming initiative in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia. Italian Cooperation is also working to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls, paying especial attention to such practices as female genital mutilation and early marriage (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 13).

Disabilities

Italian Cooperation has a long tradition of focusing developmental support on disabilities. It focuses on support for institutional enhancement and the empowerment of civil society organisations and is active in a number of countries: Sudan, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Tunisia, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Albania and Peru. Italian Cooperation's initiatives support the recognition of rights and access to infrastructure, healthcare services, education, training, jobs and new technologies. Together with Spain, Austria and two international civil society organisations, Italian Cooperation is part of the Bridging the Gap II – Inclusive Policies and Services for Equal Rights of persons with Disabilities project funded by the European Commission. This project aims for socio-economic inclusion, the promotion of equality and non-discrimination against persons with disabilities in Burkina Faso, Sudan, Ethiopia, Ecuador and Paraguay (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 13).

Women empowerment in agriculture

Italian Cooperation aims to develop inclusive and sustainable value chains in agriculture that are also profitable. In order for inclusive business models to benefit both male and female small rural producers all the actors involved - governments, investors, local and international organisations - must take proper account of gender issues and the context in which their models are implemented, not least by leaving room for political dialogue that enables women to participate and put forward their proposals. In 2017 Italian Cooperation allocated about 7 million euros (USD 8 million) to projects relating to Gender and Food Security in Myanmar, Palestine, the Mediterranean Area, the Central America Region and the Syrian Region. Additionally, in its coffee programme in Latin America about 25% of the direct beneficiaries are women (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 22).

Peace and Security

Italy is heavily involved in EU projects focusing on the reconstruction of infrastructure and the rehabilitation of social services in countries hit by the Syrian crisis (Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Serbia, Macedonia and Armenia). These projects also help with the inclusion of refugees and take long-term action for the benefit of refugees and their host communities, to strengthen their resilience and provide basic services, especially in the education sector to enhance primary teaching, professional training and secondary education (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 28).

In Libya Italian Cooperation offers a reconciliation and dialogue tool to the communities in conflict, including the Misurata/ Tawergha communities and provides psychological support for the families involved in conflict caused by the 2011 revolution (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, 2018b: 29).

6. Japan

On 20 May 2016 the Government of Japan established a Cabinet body, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all ministers. This was in order to ensure a whole-of-government approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive and effective manner (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017). Japan's core documentation focuses on women's empowerment, however, this particularly focuses on economic equality, which focuses on policies of employment and education. Another priority area for Japan is to create affordable health care for all internationally, building on its own success. Japan also uses its knowledge, experience and technologies to help provide safe drinking water and basic sanitation to all globally, as well as developing gender responsive infrastructure ensuring safety for women and girls, and improving maternal and child health services.

In implementing the sustainable development goals Japan has decided to focus on eight priority areas:

1. Empowerment of All People
2. Achievement of Good Health and Longevity
3. Creating Growth Markets, Revitalisation of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation
4. Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure
5. Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures, and Sound Material-Cycle Society
6. Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and the Oceans
7. Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies
8. Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017: 5).

The aforementioned goals with a *clear focus on inclusion* are discussed in further detail below:

1. Empowerment of All People

Japan is working towards women's empowerment and is assisting developing countries toward the realisation of "a society in which all women shine". In 2016, Japan announced the "Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" and as part of this has been training female administrative officers and assisting in the education of female students.

Between 2016-2019 Japan spent USD 3 billion in assistance for women in developing countries. With regard to eliminating gender disparities and the empowerment of women Japan has placed a particular focus on ASEAN countries.⁶ The "JAPAN-ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund" was established with USD 120 million to contribute to the empowerment of women in ASEAN countries by improving access to financial services among underserved groups in the region such as women in poverty through investment in and/or loans to micro finance institutions, which support women's empowerment (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017: 24-25).

Japan also plans to support developing countries in attaining Sustainable Development Goal 5 with a focus on: (1) promoting women's and girls' rights; (2) improving an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potentials; and (3) advancing women's leadership in politics, economy and other public fields. Based on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (formulated in 2015), Japan aims to promote the participation of women in decision-making processes both in Japan and abroad, and give consideration to the human rights of women and gender perspective when tackling challenges for peace and security (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017: 13).

2. Achievement of Good Health and Longevity

Japan places particular importance internationally on creating affordable health care for all (universal health care, UHC), correcting health inequalities and responding to the basic health needs of all the people. Geographically in this regard Japan focuses particularly on Africa; in partnership with the World Bank and WHO, jointly announced a policy framework for action named "UHC in Africa". In order to further promote UHC Japan and the World Bank launched the "Japan-World Bank UHC Initiative" in January 2017 (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017: 27).

4.Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure

Japan claims that its ODA disbursements for the fields of water and sanitation are the largest in the world. Japan uses its knowledge, experience and technologies to help provide safe drinking water and basic sanitation to those without (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017: 34).

Japan will aim to develop gender responsive infrastructure ensuring safety for women and girls, improve maternal and child health services, and to promote girls' education and encourage women to take active roles in science fields, as well as to support women's participation and leadership in various fields, including disaster risk reduction. In India, for example, Japan has supported the development of subway systems that ensure women's safety, with women-only passenger cars and security provisions (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, 2017: 7).

7.Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies

Japan puts emphasis on addressing the root causes of conflict such as poverty and disparity. Specifically, focuses on assistance for refugees and internally displaced people, support for women and socially vulnerable people, restoration of infrastructure, training of industrial human

⁶ Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Brunei, Laos

resources and administrative officials, security and governance capacity, landmine removal and support for legal systems (Japan SDGs Promotion Headquarters, 2017: 45).

7. UK

The Conservative Party has been in sole power since 2015, and in their manifesto with relation to inclusion and development they have committed to:

- Push for new global goals to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and promote human development, gender equality and good governance.
- Help at least 11 million children in the poorest countries gain a decent education.
- Promote girls' education, encourage equal access to property rights and work, and to achieve access to family planning for everyone who wants it.
- Continue to lead efforts to tackle violence against women and girls, end FGM and combat early and forced marriage, both at home and abroad.
- Lead the world in tackling sexual violence in conflict.
- Help women and children who have fled violence in Syria (DFID, 2015: 11-12).

Although the UK's focus is on the poorest and most unstable countries across the world its main investment is in the MENA region, with South Asia and Africa also being of importance. The UK government has also promised to lead the world in implementing the Leave No One Behind Promise made in 2015. Its core promises are to strive to end violence against girls and women, including ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage, and tackling sexual violence in conflict. Additionally, the government will prioritise work that targets the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, the most excluded, those caught in crises, and those most at risk of violence and discrimination (DFID, 2015: 17). The UK also has strong policies on the inclusion of those with disabilities and is working to mainstream disability inclusion, as well as utilise specific programmes that aim to include those with disabilities (DFID, 2018b).

DFID Strategic Vision for Gender Equality

In 2018 DFID launched its strategic vision for gender equality. With a focus of not leaving any women or girls behind, DFID (2018a: 3) calls for actions to:

- **Challenge and change unequal power relations** between men and women, and negative attitudes and discriminatory practices that hold women and girls back. DFID aims to tackle discrimination against girls and women.
- **Build the inter-linked foundations which will have a transformational impact for girls and women.** DFID aims for the elimination of violence against women and girls; access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; girls' education; and women's economic and political empowerment, including an increase in women's participation and leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes, at community and national levels.
- **Protect and empower girls and women in conflict, protracted crises and humanitarian emergencies,** to rebuild their lives and societies, by listening to their needs and by increasing the meaningful and representative participation and leadership of women.

- **Leave no girl or woman behind-** to include and empower the most excluded and vulnerable girls and women, particularly those facing multiple exclusions on the basis of their disability, age, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexuality, location or other characteristic; or simply because they are the very poorest in society.
- **Integrate gender equality in all our work across the board and track delivery through to results** - on jobs, trade, tax systems and the world economy; new technologies; modern slavery; climate change; nutrition; tackling AIDS; infrastructure; and peace agreements.
- **Work across girls' and women's lifecycles and on multiple areas simultaneously, with particular attention to adolescence**, so that the gains in one area create opportunities elsewhere, and results are achieved at scale.
- **Build evidence and disaggregate data** by sex, age and disability, to track who is reached and who is left behind, and how best to achieve gender equality at scale. Make this information publically available.

In the aforementioned list, DFID aims to focus on women and girls living in extreme poverty and fragile and conflict affected states – where women and girls are at the biggest risk of being left behind. In this regard the focus needs to be at a local level, and local religious and traditional leaders need to be engaged. The challenges that women and girls face are complex and often interlinked, thus DFID argues that combinations of interventions are needed to respond to these inter-linked challenges.

Opportunities for DFID (2018a: 9-10) to respond to:

- With conflict and fragility being seen as the main causes for extreme poverty and with women and girls being the worst affected, DFID aims to **tackle the root causes of gender inequalities** in these contexts to ensure girls and women are not to be left behind. DFID aims to ensure that girls and women can access the skills, networks and assets they need to engage in new economic opportunities through jobs and trade.
- With 1.2 billion people entering the workforce in the next decade, DFID aims to **ensure that women and men have a level playing field** to benefit from economic opportunities in order to help ensure gender equality.
- **Use new technological innovations** to link women and girls to jobs, finance and markets; and to improve access to services previously out of reach, including for women and girls with disabilities. At the same time, new technologies can be used to ensure women's voices are heard and that women role models are accessible.
- DFID aims to ensure that the process of rebuilding and reforming formal and informal institutions in post-conflict contexts is done in a way that **tackles gender-based inequalities**. It aims to support local partners to break down barriers to women's effective entry into community leadership and decision-making roles, and supporting women parliamentarians to be more effective in their roles.
- In order to put gender inequality in the past, DFID aims to focus on gender equality throughout all of the 17 SDGs.
- The 2014 International Development (Gender Equality) Act puts forward DFID's commitment to considering gender equality through all UK aid spending.
- The UK has put a focus on gender equality abroad throughout its various departments, resulting in a number of positions focusing on this area, such as the Prime Minister's

Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict; the Ministry of Defence's Gender Champion, the Vice Chief of Defence Staff; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Special Envoy for Gender Equality; and the Department for International Trade's Trade and Gender Committee. Moreover, the *UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2018 - 2022*⁷ and the UK Government's *Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 - 2020*⁸ further demonstrate the UK's focus on this agenda.

DFID's Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development 2018-23⁹

DFID has made the inclusion of those with disabilities a core policy and aims to lead the world stage and influence others on disability inclusive development. DFID aims to fund disability inclusive development and set a minimum standard on disability across all of its existing work by mainstreaming disability inclusion, as it did gender before. DFID acknowledges that people with disabilities face intersecting and compounding forms of discrimination based on gender, sexuality, impairment type, age, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, and location which all contribute to disability-related exclusion and have developed a theory of change that takes this into account (Figure 1). Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disability, which acts to further their exclusion.

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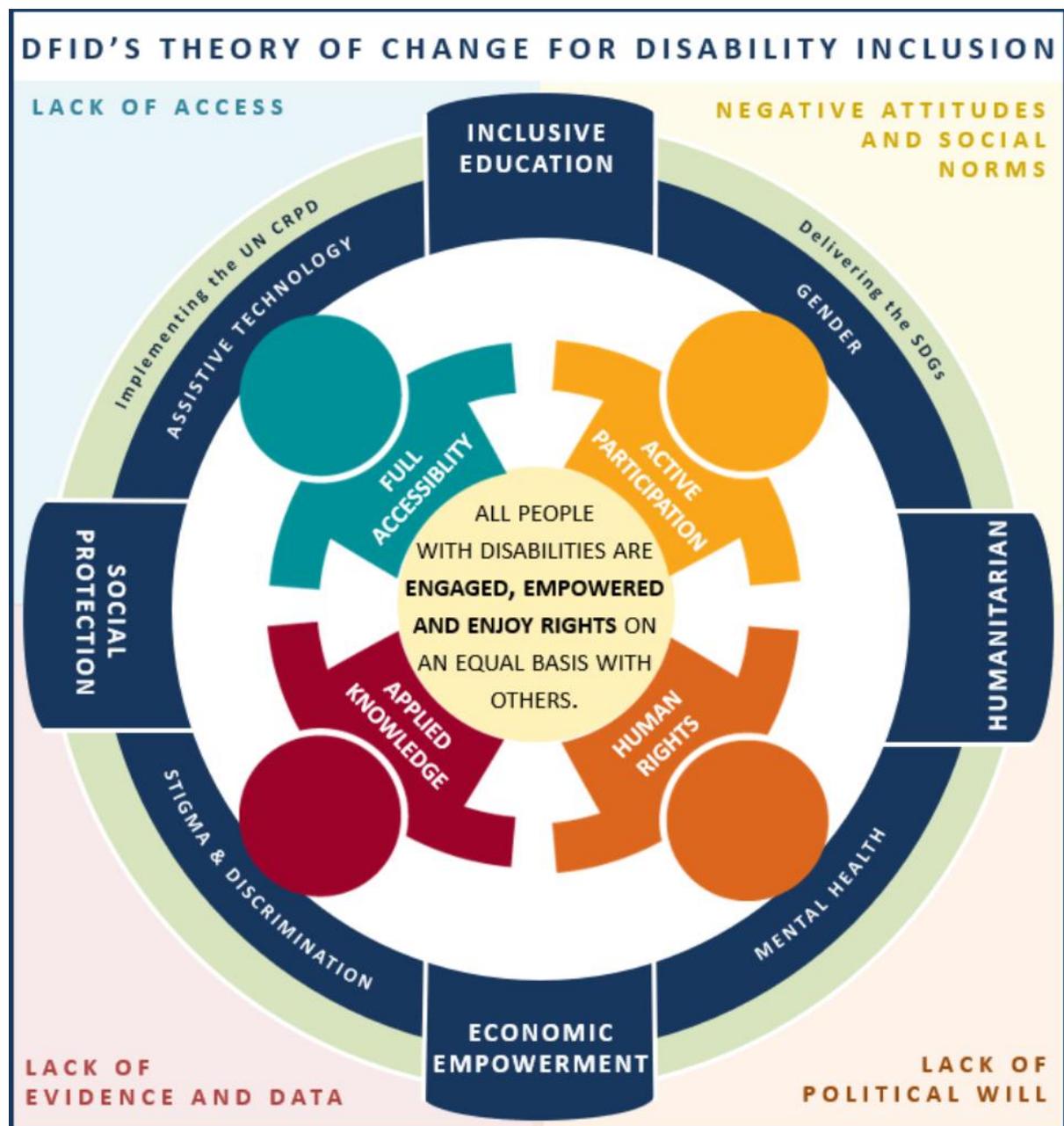
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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF

⁹ Approximately 15% of the world's population have some form of disability and 80% of these live in developing countries and one in five of the world's poorest people have a disability. The lives of the majority of people with disabilities have not improved over the past 20 years and in low and middle-income countries, people with disabilities and their families are poorer than the rest of society in nearly all socio-economic indicators.

Figure 1: DFID Theory of Change for Disability Inclusion



(DFID, 2018b: 12)

DFID's (2018b: 8-9) disability inclusive development programme aims for four core outcomes:

1. All human rights of all people with disabilities are fully recognised, respected and fulfilled.
2. Full and active participation, representation and leadership of all people with disabilities in society and in all policies and programmes.

3. Equal access to opportunities and outcomes for all people with disabilities.
4. Evidence-based understanding of the scale and nature of disability-related exclusion and what works to improve outcomes for people with disabilities.

Between 2018-2023 DFID (2018b: 12-19) aims to prioritise four strategic pillars for action:

1. **Inclusive education:** ensure that all children with disabilities can access a quality education that enables them to learn and thrive, including children who are currently out of school. DFID aims to deliver targeted interventions to increase the number of children with disabilities accessing inclusive and equitable quality education, and improve their learning outcomes.
2. **Social protection:** ensure social protection systems are inclusive of, and deliver better outcomes for, people with disabilities and their families. DFID will support the delivery of inclusive social protection systems and increase the global and national focus on, and support for, disability inclusive social protection. DFID aims to support governments to increase the coverage, adequacy and quality of social protection systems so that they are more inclusive of women and men with disabilities, and their families, throughout an individual's life. Finally, DFID will build the evidence base around inclusive social protection and push for improved disaggregated data on people with disabilities.
3. **Economic Empowerment:** empower people with disabilities (particularly women) to access and have choice and control over economic opportunities. DFID aims to address the systemic and attitudinal barriers to economic empowerment, enhance economic and social participation, increase programming to support people with disabilities to access decent jobs and livelihoods, and promote accessibility and usability for people with disabilities so that they access economic opportunities.
4. **Humanitarian Action:** to promote a fully inclusive humanitarian response, within DFID and across the broader system, which is evidence-based, equitable, inclusive in design, and founded on the principles of dignity, safety, empowerment and protection. DFID aims to promote the routine, systematic collection and use of disaggregated data, and improve the evidence base, create equitable access to essential humanitarian services for all people with disabilities, place a greater focus on mental health and psychosocial support including for people with disabilities, advocate for the safety and protection of girls, women, boys and men with disabilities in humanitarian crises, pursue reform of the international humanitarian system to ensure disability inclusion is effectively and comprehensively addressed.

In addition, DFID (2018b: 19-23) has adopted three cross-cutting areas which are vital to disability inclusion:

1. **Tackling stigma and discrimination:** in order to achieve inclusive societies DFID aims to tackle the negative assumptions and discriminatory beliefs that exist at all levels.
2. **Empowering girls and women with disabilities:** as women and girls with disabilities are often disadvantaged on multiple levels, chronically under-represented and excluded from both gender equality and disability inclusion initiatives, DFID aims to pay particular attention to achieving inclusion for this marginalised group.
3. **Access to appropriate, accessible, assistive technology:** wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids and glasses, are a key enabler for change and can be transformative and

life changing for people with disabilities. Thus, access will be a focus across DFID's work and play a vital role in supporting inclusion.

Finally, DFID aims to step up as a global leader and support and enable the full rights, inclusion and empowerment of people with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities. DFID thus aims to get disability-inclusive development and humanitarian responses to deliver change for *all* people with disabilities, whilst also targeting the specific barriers facing people with psychosocial disabilities. DFID also aims to provide inclusive and accessible mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in conflict and emergencies.

8. US

USAID has not updated its Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy since 2012,¹⁰ or its Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Vision since 2014.¹¹ Policies on disabilities are also dated, and the independent National Council on Disability laments the lack of funding spent on programmes relating to disability in development, as well as the lack of a consistent approach.¹² Since the policies on gender, LGBT and disability were officially launched the administration has changed, as have policies on the ground – with U.S. assistance being denied to any foreign-based organisation that performs, promotes or offers information on abortion being the most visible. However, the U.S. still does have a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment (particularly economic) and addressing gender-based violence.

The new vision (2018-2022) for USAID focuses on the 'Journey to Self-Reliance' with the aim of working towards the country's ability to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges. Moreover, the strategic goals developed with the State Department for 2018-2022 are centred around the US, rather than on development:

1. Protect America's Security at Home and Abroad
2. Renew America's Competitive Advantage for Sustained Economic Growth and Job Creation
3. Promote American Leadership through Balanced Engagement
4. Ensure Effectiveness and Accountability to the American Taxpayer (USAID, 2018: 13).

State Department/USAID's 2019 Annual Performance Plan

For the State Department/USAID's 2019 Annual Performance Plan there are a number of strategic goals for its 2019 actions related to inclusion, such as:

¹⁰ <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment>

¹¹ https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1874/LGBT_Vision.pdf

¹² https://ncd.gov/sites/default/files/US%20Foreign%20Policy%20and%20Disability_Accessible_0.pdf

Promote healthy, educated and productive populations in partner countries to drive inclusive and sustainable development, open new markets and support US prosperity and security objectives

USAID will fund programmes to ensure crisis-affected children and youth have access to quality education that is safe, relevant, and promotes social cohesion. USAID will also fund programmes to ensure children are reading and gaining basic skills that are foundational to future learning and success. Finally, USAID will remain champions of girls' education and target the underlying causes of gender gaps in education attainment. USAID will foster inclusive economic growth to reduce poverty, build resilience, and expand opportunity. It will help developing and transitional countries improve their policies, laws, regulations, entrepreneurial skills, and professional networks to ensure equal opportunities for women and marginalised groups. Through implementing the US Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) the US will advance inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, strengthen resilience among people and systems, and improve nutrition, especially among women and children. Through strengthening property rights and land/resource tenure, U.S. engagement will support women's economic empowerment, youth employment, conflict prevention, and other development objectives (State Department, 2018: 85-86).

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

By 2022 USAID and the State Department aim to achieve parity in the participation between women and men in programmes that are designed to increase access to economic resources. USAID's strategy focuses on bringing women directly to the table for access to credit, engaging in international trade, using business networks, and other techniques. To measure progress, USAID and the State Department will track two performance indicators:

1. Percentage of female participants in US government-assisted programmes designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment).
2. Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities (State Department, 2018: 88-90).

Gender-Based Violence

By 2022 USAID and the State Department aim to increase the number of people reached by US Government-funded interventions providing gender-based violence (GBV) services (with 2016 as the baseline). Alongside its work on women's economic empowerment USAID and the State Department are working to ensure GBV does not interrupt or diminish their opportunities. To measure progress, USAID and the State Department will track two performance indicators:

1. Number of people reached by a U.S. Government-funded intervention providing GBV services (e.g., health, legal, psycho-social counselling, shelters, hotlines, other).
2. Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed, or adopted with USG assistance designed to improve prevention of or response to sexual and GBV at the national or sub-national level (State Department, 2018: 91-92).

Improved Learning in Primary Grades

By 2022 USAID aims to increase the percentage of children and young people at the end of primary school achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and math in at least 10 countries. USAID partners with governments and education stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to provide safe access to inclusive learning environments, trained educators, quality instructional materials in languages children understand, and other conditions necessary for learning (State Department, 2018: 93).

Sustainable Environmental Practices

By 2022, USAID and the State Department aim to enable partner institutions and individuals to adopt sustainable environmental practices, resulting in improved health and economic outcomes. To address the challenge of poor water and sanitation that threaten the health of individuals across the globe the U.S. will work to support a water-secure world in which people have sustainable supplies of water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet human, economic, and ecosystem needs while managing risks from floods and droughts. The U.S. Global Water Strategy (GWS), launched in 2017 coordinates and catalyses U.S. Government water and sanitation efforts across foreign assistance, diplomacy, science, and technology, and in partnership with civil society and the private sector around the vision of building a more water-secure world. USAID's contribution is to increase the availability and sustainable management of safe water and sanitation for the underserved and most vulnerable (State Department, 2018: 97).

Child and Maternal Health

By 30 September 2019 USAID aims to prevent child and maternal deaths will annually reduce under-five year mortality in 25 maternal and child health US Government-priority countries by an average of 2 deaths per 1,000 live births per year as compared to 2017. The 25 priority countries for maternal and child health for the USG are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia (State Department, 2018: 129-130).

Reaching HIV/AIDS Epidemic Control

By 30 September 2019 USAID and the State Department aim for new infections to be fewer than deaths from all causes in HIV-positive patients in up to 13 high-HIV burden countries. The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is investing in more than 50 countries with three concrete goals in mind:

1. To maintain life-saving treatment for those currently in care, while making essential services like testing and linkage to treatment more accessible.
2. To provide more services for orphans and vulnerable children — those who are immediately and permanently affected when a parent or caretaker is lost to this disease.
3. To accelerate progress toward controlling the pandemic in a subset of 13 countries, which represent the most vulnerable communities to HIV/AIDS and have the potential to achieve control by 2020 (State Department, 2018: 132-133).

Prevent and Respond to GBV

By 2022 the State Department aims to increase its systematic response to gender-based violence in new and evolving emergencies by maintaining or increasing the percentage of non-government organisation (NGO) or other international organisation projects that include

dedicated activities to prevent and/or respond to GBV. The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) focuses programming and efforts on ensuring that women and girls are safe, can meet their basic needs, and are active participants in influencing the decisions that will affect them. The Call to Action on Protection of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Emergencies is an inter-agency, inter-governmental effort meant to change the way the humanitarian community responds to GBV at the outset of a crisis. The State Department funds international organisations that conduct GBV training for their staff and deploy experts to high-level emergencies for leadership and coordination purposes, as well as to advocate for gender-based needs in the earliest stages of a response (State Department, 2018: 135-136).

By 2022 USAID aims to increase its systematic response to GBV in emergencies by increasing the percentage of proposals it receives from NGOs that include protection mainstreaming to 95%. Addressing GBV is an integral part of its disaster response strategy and funding. USAID ensures each proposal received from a NGO mainstreams protection principles and practices (State Department, 2018: 137).

Timely Humanitarian Response

Through 2022, the US commits to maintaining the percentage of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Supplementary Appeals and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Budget Extension Appeals the U.S. commits funding to within three months. A goal of the U.S. Government's emergency response is to support partners to provide populations of concern with protection and life-saving assistance according to international standards from the outset of a crisis. The State Department's humanitarian assistance programmes aim to save lives and ease the suffering of refugees, stateless persons, vulnerable migrants, conflict victims, and internally displaced persons. The assistance programmes are designed to identify and protect the most-vulnerable within affected populations, such as single heads of households, children, the elderly, and the disabled, to ensure they have equal access to life-sustaining goods and services (State Department, 2018: 138).

Humanitarian Assistance

By 2022 USAID will increase the timeliness and effectiveness of responses to U.S. government-declared international disasters, responding to 95% of disaster declarations within 72 hours and reporting on results. Collaboration with donors and host countries will help identify solutions to displacement, protect populations at risk, reduce the risk of disasters, and foster resilience (State Department, 2018: 139).

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