

Integrating Gender Equality into Financing for Development

Making gender equality a reality and realising women's and girls' human rights is critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Equally, achieving the SDGs will not happen without thorough and accountable Financing for Development (FfD) and Methods of Implementation (Mol). Therefore, FfD and Post-2015 processes must be recognised as complementary and steps must be taken to ensure that the transformative nature of the SDGs is supported practically by FfD; the means of implementing and financing the Sustainable Development Goals is not gender-neutral. All countries hold the same responsibility to ensure the full implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda within their own borders, and to support other countries in achieving the SDGs which includes reaffirming and contributing to the fulfilment of gender equality. These commitments should be made with the acknowledgement that no country has achieved gender equality and that there is a critical need to expedite processes and programmes to that end, even in development countries.

Implementation Responsibility:

No country has achieved the principles, goals and targets of the MDGs. The SDGs seek to further the legacy of the MDGs through a transformative agenda that aims to address the fundamental inequalities between people that perpetuate discrimination. Therefore all countries have a responsibility to implement the SDGs, as a minimum; they are not *only* goals for developing countries. The role developed countries have to play in implementing the SDGs is more than just funding the development of other countries - they must also look at implementing the SDGs internally. For example, implementing 'nationally appropriate social protection systems' and 'nationally appropriate spending targets on essential public services, including health, education, and water and sanitation, consistent with national sustainable development strategies'¹ applies equally to developed countries as to developing countries. This should be considered a constituent part of 'global partnership' as it promotes solidarity, cooperation, human rights and gender equality and engages a wider range of stakeholders.

Gender Mainstreaming:

Women and girls comprise the majority of people living in poverty, and experience persistent and multidimensional inequalities. Persistent and chronic underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment has exacerbated development limitations. Therefore, FfD must reinforce the consideration that women and girls are at a higher risk of being left behind. Gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and the full realisation of their human rights is critical to sustainable development across all countries. This is clearly stated in the Doha Declaration on Financing and Development².

Paragraph 6 of the Addis Ababa Accord Zero Draft (as of 6 May 2015) reiterates this and reads:

"We reaffirm that achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is essential to achieve equitable sustainable growth and development. We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, and social policies

¹ Paragraph 11 of the Addis Ababa Accord Zero Draft (Revised Draft, 6 May 2015).

² For the full document please see: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/documents/Doha_Declaration_FFD.pdf

and agree to take concrete policy actions to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy."

It should be emphasised that every country will need to enact transformative measures in line with the above commitments.

- Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment must be included throughout the Addis Ababa Accord. This will contribute to ensure that women and girls are included as agents and drivers of change.
- Women and marginalised groups continue to be excluded from participating fully in the economy; women have an employment rate 26% less than men. Socio-economic policies and legal frameworks must be strengthened so that women and men can fully and equally participate in the workforce. For example, around 830 million women workers are not adequately covered in practice by maternity leave, including women workers in the United States.³ Whilst there are international guidelines on maternity leave (not always followed) there are no international guidelines on paternity leave. These sorts of socio-economic policies have a direct impact on the ability of women to fulfil their potential to contribute to a society's economic and social wellbeing.
- Traditionally, a low value has been placed on work sectors dominated by women. This includes caregiving, education, and other services within the home. A shift in the value of these working areas, and a more gender-neutral division of household labour must be seen in order to promote gender equality. Furthermore, these changes would promote women's ability to fully participate in the economy, and access to decent work.
- Dedicated resources should be provisioned to advance gender equality as part of FfD. A lack of practical action on realising the economic empowerment of women and girls, as well as other marginalised groups, in all countries will greatly inhibit the success of FfD and subsequently the SDGs.

Social Development and Financing for Development:

Financing for Development must contribute to the achievement of social development, and so requires unbiased monitoring and evaluation that prioritises citizens. Social development is a key strand of development that significantly contributes to the achievement of gender equality and previously established principles and actions necessary for social development (in accordance with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁴, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action⁵, the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action⁶ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁷) have been integrated throughout the SDGs. Therefore, FfD cannot extricate itself from those previously

³ According to the International Labour Organisation, as of 14 May 2014: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_242325/lang--en/index.htm

⁴ Agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. For the full document and UNEP information and resources, please see: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>

⁵ Agreed at the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995 in Copenhagen. For the full document please see: <http://undesadspd.org/Home/WorldSummitforSocialDevelopment1995.aspx>

⁶ Agreed at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo. For the full document please see: <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-conference-population-and-development-programme-action>

⁷ Agreed at the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995. For the full document please see: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

established principles and agreed actions, and should directly contribute to their achievement. FfD must therefore be grounded in human-rights based and gender-sensitive approaches.

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** PPPs should demonstrate competencies in contributing to the achievement of agreed sustainable and social development principles and goals as outlined in the declarations referenced above. PPPs have the ability to benefit all, but they may also promote the outsourcing of social development to the private sector, with its own interests resulting in development programmes that do not prioritise the needs of vulnerable and marginalised people. Not only must PPPs “not replace or compromise state responsibilities” but they must complement and support state responsibilities. Given that PPPs are likely to involve partners from different countries at various stages of development, it is essential that parties from developed countries do not prioritise their needs at the expense of the needs of the most vulnerable. Strong policy and accountable regulatory frameworks must be developed to ensure that PPPs fulfil any role they are afforded within the Post-2015 agenda.
- Unbiased and accountable monitoring and evaluation is essential to promote full compliance with previously agreed declarations.
- NGOs, as accountable stakeholder organisations, have a specific role to play in ensuring that financing for development mechanisms produce the results needed for an inclusive post-2015 agenda to be successful in all countries.

Data Collection:

FfD must reflect the needs of implementation in order to achieve the SDGs. Given that women and girls are currently disadvantaged disproportionately, specific financing needs to be allocated to programmes which promote the achievement of gender equality. Gender-differentiated statistics and indicators should be collected nationally, regionally and globally in order to measure gender gaps and consequently adjust development programmes to rectify inequalities. Therefore, not only are thorough and transparent gender-differentiated statistics and indicators vital as an accountability methodology, they are also fundamental as a means to develop appropriate financing strategies and for the fulfilment of human rights and gender equality commitments.

- **Gender-differentiated statistics:** In order to take into account gender-specific disadvantages and needs, it is important to compile gender disaggregated data in many other areas, e.g. data about the time use and the division of labour, the distribution of property and assets between women and men, as well as sensitive issues like gender-based violence. Simply disaggregating data according to sex (mere “sex-counting”) is not sufficient.
- **Gender-differentiated indicators:** These will specify whether inequality between the sexes has increased or decreased over time, e.g. in the employment sector, indicators measure access to productive resources or wage ratios.⁸

If and how financial resources are mobilised has clear implications for women’s human rights and the achievement of gender equality; gender equality must be considered as a means to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and as a critical policy measure for all countries. Therefore, gender budgeting should be an integral part of FfD and the Post-2015 MoI strategy.

⁸ These definitions and explanations of gender-differentiated statistics and indicators can be found at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/44896238.pdf>

Role of NGOs

A number of stakeholders are included in the Financing for Development Zero Draft; however, NGOs are noticeably absent from the list of acknowledged stakeholders. As accountable organisations that represent the views of marginalised groups and develop specified expertise in successful methods of implementation, NGOs are well placed to develop and ‘target policy innovations and programs’ as referenced in paragraph 116. NGOs are also well placed to gather data, and to “identify gaps and constraints, particularly for countries and sectors that are often overlooked”. That an organisational base that has developed relevant and targeted expertise that could significantly benefit the implementation of Financing for Development, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals has been overlooked in the Zero Draft stakeholder lists is inappropriate and objectionable.

Additional Points on Language:

- The development and inclusion of strong language in the Zero Draft on ensuring that Financing for Development provides for the needs of women and girls is welcomed. It is essential that the language about women (not girls) used in paragraphs 6, 18, 27, 38 40, 70, 77 and 100 is retained and considered as the minimum standard of language. However, referring to ‘all women and girls’ could further strengthen this language.
- That the Zero Draft mandates the collection of gender disaggregated data (paragraph 115) is a positive step towards ensuring that all FfD policies account for the differing economic realities of men and women, and facilitate the economic empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality more broadly.
- It should be of concern that ‘rights’ are not referenced in the Financing for Development Zero Draft until paragraph 33 and this paragraph refers to property rights. Human rights are not referenced until paragraph 35, and this refers to “address[ing] business’ role in ... human rights”. The human rights of all people, let alone marginalised groups including women, are never mentioned directly in the Zero Draft. Given the critical relationship between Financing for Development, the Post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, this is unacceptable.
- Current references to rights (in paragraphs 33 and 35), and the focus on businesses in the Zero Draft, provides substance to the concern that the private sector is being prioritised over the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- All women and girls should also be included as a group requiring ensured social protection and essential public services, as outlined in paragraph 28 of the Zero Draft. It is worrying that the Zero Draft does not reference the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development⁹, despite alluding to the role of Financing for Development in realising social development, including social protection floors.

⁹ Agreed at the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995 in Copenhagen. For the full document please see: <http://undesadspd.org/Home/WorldSummitforSocialDevelopment1995.aspx>