

An Update on Donor Trends

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Introduction

In November 2012, WIEGO commissioned a consultant to conduct research on donor trends, “...to inform WIEGO and MBO partner strategy and decision making with regards to addressing future funding needs” (Achtell, 2012). The discussion paper examined trends in private and official donor funding (through provision of Official Development Assistance (ODA), funding flows to a selection of regions/countries where WIEGO had concentrated work (Latin America, India and South Africa) and to particular sectors (climate change, urbanization, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture and gender equality, women’s rights and women’s economic empowerment). Some of the key issues identified in the discussion paper included:

1. **Funding from official donors is becoming more difficult to access for NGOs & INGOs:** “the number of official donors providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) is increasing, funding from official donors is decreasing or inadequate and, with the exception of those working in humanitarian aid, becoming more difficult for international and national NGOs to access, especially for sectors whereby it is difficult to demonstrate quantitative results” (Achtell, 2012).
2. **Decreased levels of aid to “middle income” countries and regions:** “ODA to emerging “middle income” countries and regions like India, South Africa and Latin America is diminishing rapidly and it is likely that this trend will continue. However, there are increasing opportunities to raise funds from private sources, including from within and between these countries and regions” (Ibid)
3. **The global economic recession caused fiscal restraint, decreases in ODA:** Achtell (2012) noted that though net ODA reached its peak (in terms of real USD) in 2010, it fell by almost 3% in 2011. This came as a result of the after-effects of the global recession and resulting fiscal constraints in several Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries (Ibid).
4. **Increased funding for climate change mitigation, humanitarian aid & other sectors, “insufficient” funds dedicated to gender equality, women’s rights:** the discussion paper noted that while funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation, humanitarian aid and sectors like WASH have been on the rise. By contrast, bilateral donors were found to be “de-emphasizing” activities related to housing and slum upgrading. Similarly, “there [was] seen to be insufficient ODA dedicated to making progress towards the gender dimensions of the MDGs”. Achtell (2012) noted that women’s organizations also cited accessibility and conditions on funding as major challenges.
5. **The emerging importance of private donors:** There appeared to be growing opportunities for raising funds from private donors, and while there are associated risks and challenges, MBOs were well-placed to continue to embrace this trend.

Purpose & Context

In light of recent events such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), this report aims to provide an update to some of the findings in the 2012 discussion paper. It will discuss current funding trends by official donors, the new funding context inspired by the SDGs and NUA and donor trends related to gender equality/women’s economic

empowerment. There will also be a brief discussion on trends related to private donors. Country-specific trends and sector-specific trends other than those stated above are outside the scope of this update.

Trends in Official Donor Funding

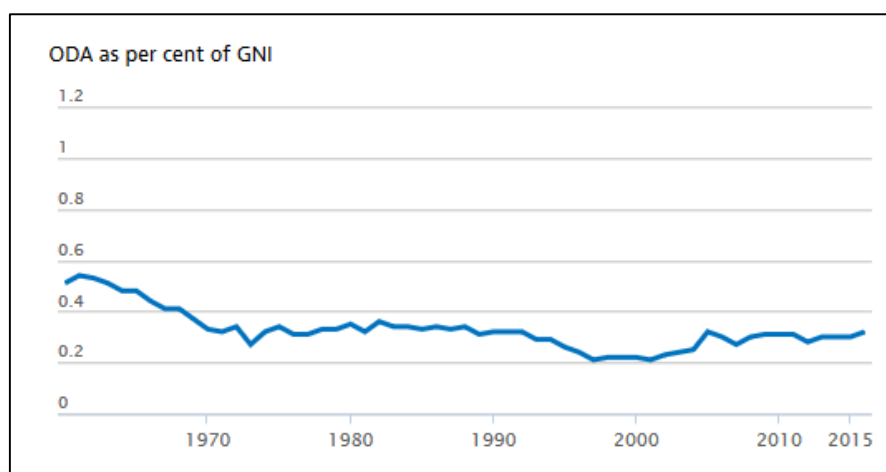
a) Official Development Assistance from OECD DAC countries

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD is an international forum of thirty countries whose joint mandate is to promote development co-operation and policies which contribute to sustainable development (OECD, 2017). DAC members submit annual statistics on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and reporting on their aid efforts to the OECD. Information in this section reflects 2016 ODA preliminary data (which is the most recent year with data available).

In 2016, net ODA flows from DAC member countries reached USD 142.6 billion, representing an 8.9% increase from the previous year when adjusted for exchange rates and inflation (OECD, 2017). In real dollar terms, the ODA flows recorded in 2016 represent the highest levels ever achieved (Ibid). In fact, net ODA contributions rose in 22 countries with Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain recording the largest increases¹ (Ibid). The 2016 increase in ODA flows follows a long-term trend which has seen overall ODA levels double in real terms since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration² in 2000 (Ibid).

By contrast, when DAC member aid contributions are examined as a percentage of countries' Gross National Income (GNI), ODA levels continue to fall short of DAC member commitments to allocate 0.7% of GNI to ODA. In 2016, ODA levels represented 0.32% of donor GNI (OECD, 2017), representing a slight increase from 2015 levels (0.30%). The trends above are summarized by the OECD (2017) in the graph below:

Net Official Development Assistance as per cent of GNI (1960-2016)



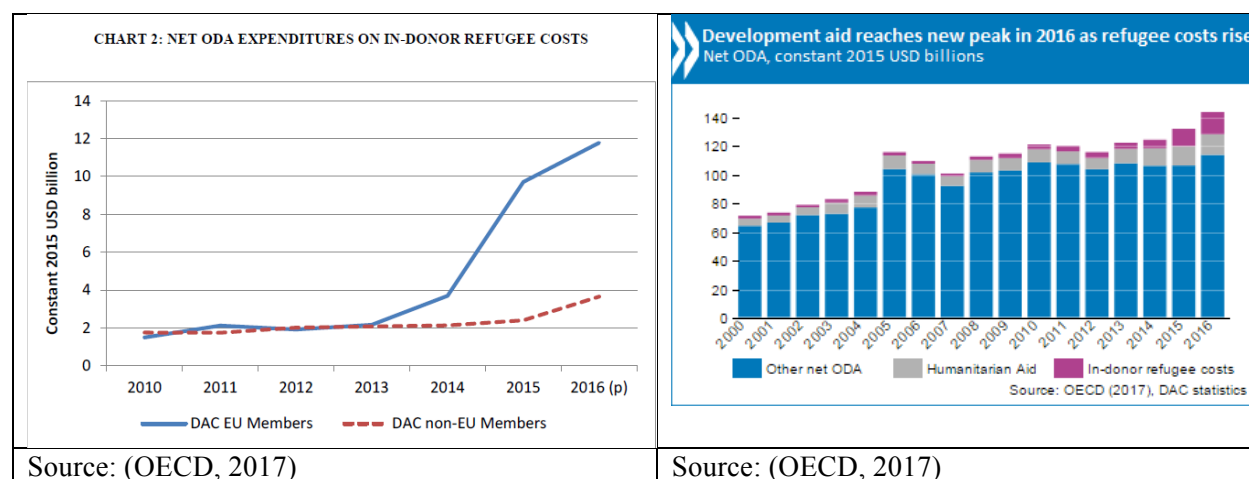
¹ Some of these increases can be attributed to in-country refugee costs (discussed later).

² The Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000 at the Millennium Summit, set out time-bound targets for reducing poverty and later became known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Millennium Project, 2006)

Though on average DAC countries failed to reach the United Nations' ODA target, six countries (Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom) managed to meet or exceed the 0.7% GNI target for ODA in 2016 (OECD, 2017). While Denmark, Norway and Sweden have met the target continuously since the 1970s, meeting the GNI target is a newer achievement for Germany (which reached the target for the first time in 2016) and Luxembourg and the United Kingdom (which attained the 0.7% target in 2000 and 2013 respectively) (OECD & FFDO/UNDESA, 2016). It is notable that though the Netherlands has regularly met the ODA/GNI target since the 1970s, in 2016 it slipped below the 0.7% target for only the third time since 1974 (OECD, 2017). Though the countries listed above met their GNI target for ODA, they are not necessarily the largest DAC ODA contributors in terms of dollar value. When viewed from the perspective of total ODA contributions in real terms, the largest contributors include the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and France (Ibid).

b) The impact of the refugee crisis on ODA levels

A portion of the increase in official development assistance in 2016 can be attributed to the need to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis. As the OECD (2017) notes, "Between 2015 and 2016, ODA for in-donor refugee costs rose by 27.5% in real terms, from USD 12.1 billion to USD 15.4 billion and its share of total net ODA increased from 9.2% to 10.8%" (p. 1). On average, DAC EU member countries were harder hit by the crisis than non-EU DAC members. In Austria, Germany, Greece, and Italy, in-donor refugee costs accounted for more than 20% of ODA while in eleven other DAC countries, these costs represented more than 10% of ODA in 2016 (OECD, 2017). Despite the additional pressures placed on DAC members, even when refugee costs are excluded, net ODA still grew by 7.1% in real terms between 2015 and 2016 (Ibid). The crisis has had mixed impacts on development programmes (further discussed in the section on migration).



c) Geographical distribution of ODA

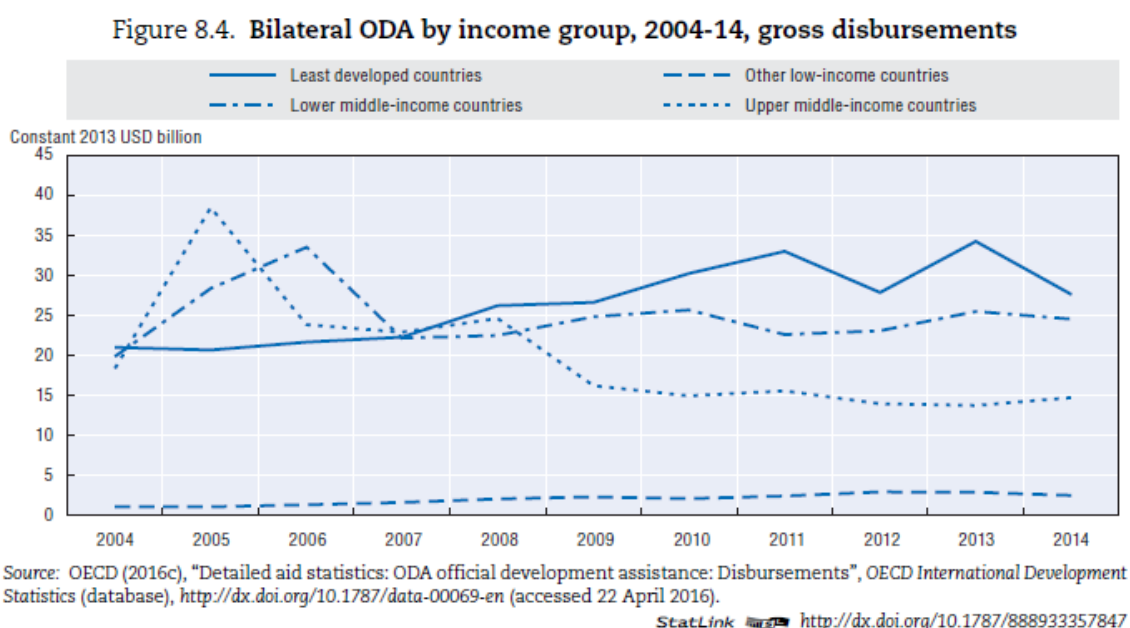
While the OECD notes that countries in all income groups have benefitted from aid, net ODA going to least developed countries (LDCs) has fallen since 2011:

The majority of DAC countries still fell short of the United Nations target of allocating 0.15% of their GNI as net ODA to least developed countries. In 2014, only eight member countries reached this target (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United

Kingdom). In total, DAC countries provided 0.09% of their GNI as ODA to least developed countries in 2014, down from 0.10% in 2013 (OECD, 2016, p. 155).

Preliminary data from 2016 seems to confirm this trend: bilateral net ODA to LDCs fell by 3.9% in real terms compared to 2015 levels (OECD, 2017). The same data indicate that bilateral aid to Africa also decreased – albeit by a smaller amount - between 2015 and 2016: “Net ODA to Africa was USD 27 billion in 2016 of which USD 24 billion was for sub-Saharan Africa, representing falls in real terms of 0.5% for Africa and 0.7% for sub-Saharan Africa” (OECD, 2017, p. 2).

By contrast, bilateral ODA to other low, lower middle, and upper-middle income countries has remained relatively steady (see graph below). Given that the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action (the global framework for financing the post-2015 agenda) contains renewed commitments to dedicate 0.15-0.20% of ODA/GNI to LDCs, the amount of aid directed to LDCs is expected to increase going forward (United Nations, 2015). Specific references are also made in the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action to the special needs of landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, African countries and the needs of middle-income countries.



Source: OECD (2016)

The New Development Agenda: SDGs & New Urban Agenda

In September 2015, member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which seeks to eradicate poverty in all its forms (United Nations, 2015a). The Agenda is universally applicable to all countries and builds upon the Millennium Development Goals. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which can be classified along three dimensions: economic, social and environmental development. The SDGs, taken together with the conclusions reached at the COP21 climate summit and the Habitat III conference (through the New Urban Agenda) are known as the “Post-2015 Agenda” which along with the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action outline the means of implementation and financing for the SDGs. Both documents emphasize:

- Reaching the most vulnerable and leaving no one behind, including African countries, LDCs, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, conflict and post-conflict countries and middle-income countries;
- Implementation of the SDGs through a new Global Partnership (which includes governments, the private sector, civil society, the UN system, and other actors) characterized by shared responsibility, mutual accountability and engagement;
- The need to mobilize financial resources from a variety of sources: by raising domestic revenues, through official development assistance, and through the private sector;
- Recognition of international trade and domestic and international business as “engines of inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, drivers of productivity, and job creation”; and
- The need to support developing countries through improved partnerships, knowledge sharing and capacity building to promote sustainable development through science, technology and innovation.

Compared to the MDGs, the SDGs place far greater importance on, “...financing through the global private sector and through developing countries’ own revenue-raising mechanisms” (Gebreselassie & Biron, 2015). Therefore, it can be expected that NGOs will see higher rates of private sector involvement – particularly in the implementation of SDGs which relate to infrastructure (Ibid). This is part and parcel of a larger trend which has seen the private sector increasingly involved in development co-operation (a trend which was explored in Achteell (2012)).

a) How are the SDGs being implemented so far?

One of the mechanisms established to monitor the implementation of the SDGs is the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) – a platform managed by the United Nations which is tasked with reviewing and following up on the SDGs. The HLPF meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council to review global, national & regional progress towards implementation of the SDGs, in-depth reviews of specific areas and subsets of the goals, (among other topics) (United Nations, 2016). Feeding into the HLPF annual meetings are Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) which are regular reviews of national and sub-national progress towards achieving the SDGs. As the name suggests, the reviews are voluntary and are to be country-led, country-driven, and are to be undertaken by both developed and developing countries (Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2017).

Based on a synthesis of the 22 VNR presented during the HLPF in 2016³, many countries have engaged with stakeholders, have undertaken technical analyses and are evaluating how to integrate the SDGs into national strategies and policies (United Nations, 2016). OECD DAC countries who have participated in the VNR process so far include Finland, France, Germany, and Norway. The boxes below provide a short summary of the SDGs each country will focus on, countries/regions of focus and any other relevant information. A web search was also conducted to attempt to gain an understanding of how Canada, the EU, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK would implement the SDGs⁴, the findings of which are summarized as follows:

³ Participating countries included: China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, and Venezuela.

⁴ These countries were selected on the basis of their potential (given past experience) to fund worker organizing activities.

Canada: The Government of Canada began a comprehensive review of its international development assistance in 2016. The new policy framework on international development – to be released in mid-2017 - will focus on assisting the poorest and most vulnerable and will help promote the goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Government of Canada, 2017). The Canadian government has already indicated that funds committed to support sexual and reproductive health (discussed in the gender equality section below) will form part of its efforts to promote the SDGs.

EU: In November 2016, the EU released a proposal on a new “European Consensus on Development” which proposes a shared vision and common approach for EU and member countries on development cooperation policy. The proposal includes a list of common priorities for EU Actions including commitments for the EU and its Member States to pursue universal health coverage (para 25), adequate and sustainable social protection and decent work for all (para 25), the protection and fulfilment of women’s and girls’ rights (para 31), prevention of human rights abuses and promotion of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (para 43), promotion of labour standards that ensure decent employment conditions for formal and informal workers (para 43), and supporting the transition from the informal to the formal economy (para 43) (European Commission, 2016). However, the document is very high level in nature and contains “...no clear sectoral priorities as the 17 SDGs are treated with equal importance” (Faure & Maxwell, 2017, p. 4). In addition, while broad commitments are made to focus aid on the most vulnerable, fragile and conflict-affected countries, the document lacks a geographical focus (Ibid). Because the document is a “proposal”, it is possible that the text of the Consensus could change when it is debated by the European Parliament in the first half of 2017. Membership-based organizations (MBOs) should monitor these developments as additional clarification could be given in terms of how the EU will implement the SDGs in its international development cooperation.

Finland

Finland's Development Policy - adopted in 2016 - has a specific focus on 4 priorities: 1) enhancing the rights and status of women and girls; 2) improving the economies of developing countries to ensure more jobs, livelihood opportunities and well-being; 3) democratic and better-functioning societies; and 4) increased food security and better access to water and energy; and the sustainability of natural resources. Its policy emphasizes a rights-based approach.

Focus SDGs: Finland has identified SDGs 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 as priorities. Of relevance to partner MBOs are SDGs 5 and 8. Among others, Finnish actions on SDG 5 will strive to promote actions such that, "women and girls have better opportunities to influence political decision-making and participate in economic activity" and "women and girls have better access to high-quality basic services". To achieve these priorities Finland will work with the local private sector and international partners to help women find employment, work as entrepreneurs, own property and participate in the economy. Finnish actions on SDG 8 will promote actions to ensure, "everyone, including women, young people and the poorest, have better access to decent work, livelihoods and income". Efforts on SDG 8 will focus on helping developing countries improve their business environments and "economic foundations" and advocacy to influence international corporate taxation and corporate social responsibility (CSR) rules.

Current countries of focus: Almost all of the countries which receive bilateral aid from Finland are LDCs. Partner countries include: Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar. Other countries which receive support include Ukraine, Middle East & North Africa (refugee), Palestine, Central Asia, Eritrea, Vietnam.

Form of support: Finland will support selected international NGOs who promote Finnish goals and local civil society through Finnish embassies.

Source: (Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 2016)

France

France has earmarked an additional €4 billion per year to fund development by 2020 (including €2 billion for climate change action), bringing the volume of development funding to €12.5 billion per year. France also aims to allocate an additional €400 million more in grants (compared to current levels) by 2020.

SDG 5: Per France's NVR, actions on SDG 5 appear to be geared towards sexual health and reproductive rights.

SDG 8: Action under this goal appears to be focused on access to banking, lines of credit, vocational training and public works programmes. France also renewed a partnership with the ILO in 2015 to roll out programmes related to formalizing the informal economy, social protection, child labour and CSR (among other areas).

SDG 11: The New Urban Agenda has not yet been approved so France provided limited information about how support under Goal 11 would take shape.

Current countries of focus: the French Development Agency currently operates in over 70 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Sources: (Republic of France, 2016), (Agence Française de Développement, 2017)

Germany

SDG 5, 8, 11: Germany's Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 details several actions to promote gender equality and decent work including commissioning projects that, "focus on promoting political participation by women and self-advocacy organizations" and "aimed principally at gender equality in order to improve women's economic participation and benefit gender impacts". It will also mainstream efforts to promote women's access to gainful employment in developing countries. Another strategy of the plan involves strengthening gender-sensitive design, implementation and monitoring impact of women's participation in sustainable development and urban/municipal development. MBOs should monitor implementation of Germany's Action Plan on Gender Equality and relevant calls for proposals from Germany as priorities seem to align with partner activities.

Germany's NVR indicates it is implementing SDG11 through existing programmes such as its Research for Sustainable Development Framework Programme (FONA) and International Climate Initiative (IKI) and Urbanisation Partnerships. References to SDG 8 focus on dismantling trade barriers, promoting vocational training and low-carbon consumption.

Current countries of focus: Over 50 countries from Asia, Southern Europe/Caucasus, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and Africa receive bilateral development cooperation support.

Source: (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2016), (Federal Government of Germany, 2016), (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2017)

Netherlands: As part of its efforts to implement the SDGs in its international cooperation strategy, the Dutch government has created three funds: Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women (focused on women's leadership and economic empowerment), Leading from the South (focused on funding feminist organizations in the global South) and She Decides (a fund set up by multiple donors to fund reproductive health and family planning). The Dutch development cooperation policy framework ends in 2017. The new policy framework is likely to provide further information on how the Netherlands will respond to the SDGs. However, if continued emphasis is placed on its current priorities – security and the rule of law, water management, food security, and sexual and reproductive health and rights – this likely means a focus on SDG 2, 5, 6, and 16.

Norway

In Norway's presentation to the HLPF, it outlines how it is taking action on each SDG at the national and international level (through development cooperation).

SDG 5: Norway recently adopted a new action plan on gender equality and women's rights and plans to establish a new gender equality for development programme which will support its work towards implementing SDG5. Norway's priorities under SDG5 will include: access to quality education, women's political and economic rights and participation, prevention of violence and harmful practices against women and girls, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

SDG 8: Aid-related actions under this goal appear limited. Based on Norway's 2016 NVR, the country promotes actions under this goal through engagement and support to the IMF, multilateral development banks and the UN and through free trade. It also indicates it contributes to SDG 8 through an education initiative on reducing child labour and a national action plan on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

SDG 11: Action on this goal emphasizes Norway's engagement in the Habitat III process.

Current countries of focus: 109 countries received development aid from Norway in 2015. The ten largest recipient countries were: Afghanistan, Brazil, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nepal, Palestine, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda.

Forms of support: Much of Norway's support to women's economic empowerment (SDG5) appears to be through support channeled to initiatives led by multilateral institutions (i.e. the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)). Exceptions include plans to support national legal reform to allow women to take on paid work, and reducing legal obstacles for women.

Sources: (Government of Norway, 2016), (Norad, 2017)

Sweden: Sweden's 2014 Aid Policy Framework outlines three thematic priorities which guide Swedish aid: democracy and human rights, environment and climate and gender equality. The priorities cut across six sub-objectives which the country has prioritized in its development cooperation activities:

- Strengthened democracy and gender equality, greater respect for human rights and freedom from oppression
- Better opportunities for people living in poverty to contribute to and benefit from economic growth and obtain a good education
- A better environment, limited climate impact and greater resilience to environmental impact, climate change and natural disasters
- Improved basic health
- Safeguarding human security and freedom from violence
- Saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity (Government Offices of Sweden, 2014)

Though there appear to be linkages between Sweden's development policy framework and the SDGs, the Swedish government is undertaking several efforts to ensure coherency between its strategy and the SDGs. In May 2016, it set up a delegation on implementing the SDGs tasked with conducting a survey and assessment to understand the extent to which Sweden fulfills the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The delegation is to propose an action plan to implement the 2030 Agenda which will include

commitments at the national and international level in March 2017 (Government Offices of Sweden, 2016). At the same time, the Government of Sweden is in the process of updating the above-mentioned Aid Policy Framework so that it takes into account the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, COP21 and Sweden's new Feminist Foreign Policy⁵ (Government Offices of Sweden, undated). Given the adoption of its Feminist Foreign Policy, it is likely that there will be emphasis placed on implementing SDG 5. If Swedish Sida maintains its current development priorities in the update of its policy framework, it is possible that some efforts may focus on SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). MBOs should monitor Swedish Sida and review the new Aid Policy Framework once it is published.

UK: The SDGs have been mainstreamed across Government work and act as the framework for the current UK Aid Strategy. Each Department will report progress on their contribution to the SDGs through Single Department Plans (SDP) (Department for International Development, 2016). A recent report titled, "Agenda 2030: The UK Government's approach to delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development at home and around the world" provides an overview of how current activities contribute to the SDGs. Per the report, work at the international level on SDG 5 involves tackling violence against women through support to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, supporting efforts to ensure women's land rights are respected, and promoting gender equality through participation in the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, the Commission on the Status of Women and other high level events. Efforts to promote SDG 8 at the international level include encouraging private sector investment in developing countries through the UK's Development Finance Institution (DFI), eradicating modern slavery through promoting implementation of the UK Modern Slavery Act and working with multilateral and other development partners to deliver "shared economic development priorities". Lastly, the UK plans to support implementation of SDG 11 at the international level by expanding research on urban transport in low and middle income countries and supporting cities in Sub-Saharan and Southern Africa with improved finance, investments in infrastructure, creating jobs for the urban poor and promoting planning and design which is responsive to climate change. Efforts will also focus on generating research and knowledge on inclusive and sustainable urban development, and designing urban infrastructure programmes aimed at promoting economic development through the Infrastructure and Cities for Economic Development (ICED) facility (Department for International Development, 2017).

Global: The United Nations recently announced the launch of the Partnership Platform to Generate Finance Solutions for SDGs which aims to "scale up innovative finance solutions" (UN, 2016). It will also provide a platform for engagement between different development actors (governments, philanthropic organizations, private sector, multilateral organizations and civil society). Partner MBOs could explore this platform to monitor stakeholder commitments and funding opportunities related to the SDGs.

b) How are countries implementing the New Urban Agenda?

As indicated in the analysis above, many OECD DAC members are still grappling with how to integrate the SDGs (and the New Urban Agenda) in their development policy frameworks. Indeed, in examining

⁵ Sweden's feminist foreign policy for 2015-2018 outlines policy actions to be undertaken by the Foreign Service towards six long-term objectives. Long-term objectives relevant to MBOs include: 1) Promoting women's and girls' participation as a strategy against the shrinking democratic space and the double vulnerability of women and girls; and 2) Strengthening women's and girls' economic empowerment and influence, including by working towards non-discriminatory legislation. The policy requires the Foreign Service to mainstream gender throughout its activities, operations and policies (Government Offices of Sweden, undated).

the list of commitments in the online Quito Implementation Plan platform which was designed to monitor commitments to the New Urban Agenda, Scruggs (2016) indicates that most countries and multilateral institutions who posted commitments have tied already-existing programmes/initiatives to their “implementation” efforts rather than announcing new initiatives.

Since the Habitat III conference, the OECD has noted a slight increase in interest in the development of national urban policies which could be linked to countries’ understanding of urban policies as a means of implementing the New Urban Agenda and elements of the SDGs. Scruggs (2017) reports that Argentina, Australia, Hungary, Netherlands, New Zealand and almost 30 countries are in the process of developing national urban plans. It is suggested that MBOs monitor news coming out of the International Conference on National Urban Policy hosted by the OECD in May 2017 for additional information on how countries are seeking to develop national urban plans – and thereby implement the New Urban Agenda.

Impact of External Events on Donor Funding

a) Brexit

In early March 2017, the Brexit bill passed through both Houses of the British Parliament, received Royal Assent and Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty to withdraw from the European Union was triggered by the Prime Minister. The UK and the EU have two years to negotiate the terms of the withdrawal from the date that Article 50 was triggered.

According to Bond (the UK membership body for NGOs working in international development), UK NGOs received €186m in funding from the EU in 2015 (Bond, 2017). As an EU member, in 2014, the UK channelled £1.144 billion of its £11.726 billion aid budget through the European Commission (House of Commons Library, 2016). Brexit therefore raises questions about the consequences for UK development policy and UK NGOs.

In a February 2017 report by the British Prime Minister to the Parliament, several clarifications are made about how the new partnership between the UK and the EU might take shape. While only passing references are made to the UK’s “pro-trade” and “pro-development” policy, the report re-affirms the UK’s commitment to foreign aid and willingness to continue working in partnership with the EU towards those goals:

“[...] We are one of only a handful of countries in the G20 that has pledged to and delivered on spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on overseas aid. We will continue to be a leading actor, working with European and other international partners, in global efforts to tackle major challenges, including climate change” (HM Government, 2017).

The UK’s 2016 Bilateral Development Review (BDR) provides a more concrete emphasis on international development. In a section titled, “The Government’s commitments to international development”, the government pledges 0.7% of GNI on international development and to maintain an independent DFID.

In looking at how funding for UK NGOs might evolve under the current government, the BDR and Civil Society Review both conducted in 2016 provide indications:

- *Emphasis on “value for money” & maximizing impact:* DFID will increasingly make funding decisions and base their funding criteria on CSOs’ ability to demonstrate value for money, cost

effective programme delivery, and in achieving results for the poorest (Department for International Development, 2016). “When evaluating bids for funding, we will consider the number of beneficiaries served, and the degree to which they will benefit” (Ibid).

- *Moving away from upfront, unrestricted core funding*: DFID will move away from this approach to funding the largest NGOs and to a more “open, competitive and outcome-focused model of funding” which it hopes will open up funds for small and medium-sized CSOs and increase opportunities for engagement between local NGOs and DFID country offices (Ibid).
- *Increased focus on work in fragile states and Africa’s “arc of instability”*: DFID will spend at least 50% of its budget in fragile states and regions (among the countries of focus listed are Chad, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Turkey).

The Civil Society Review also describes how funding to CSOs will be consolidated into 4 new windows:

- UK Aid Match: DFID plans to provide up to £30 million in the 2017 round of Aid Match funding (which closed in January 2017). Through Aid Match, DFID matches public donations made to CSO funding appeals.
- UK Aid Direct: This window (which also closed in January 2017) is dubbed as the “main competitive fund for small and medium CSOs”. DFID will make up to £40 million available to bids which demonstrate cost-effectiveness, how they directly tackle poverty and link to a core priority in the UK Aid Strategy.
- UK Aid Connect: a new programme which will support multi-stakeholder initiatives of CSOs, think-tanks, public and private actors, and third sector organizations. It will, “help find solutions to current complex situations whilst tackling tomorrow’s challenges” (Department for International Development, 2016). The window is expected to open in March 2017.
- UK Aid Volunteers: this will likely help fund the International Citizen Service and future relationships between DFID and other volunteering agencies.

In March 2017, DFID announced an additional initiative to support small UK-registered charities. The Small Charities Challenge Fund is an additional funding window which will support charities with a budget less than £250,000 who undertake humanitarian and development projects (Department for International Development, 2017)

For organizations without active grants, it is useful to understand how Brexit would affect future eligibility for EU grants. Lawyers from the global law firm, DLA Piper provide the following guidance:

“To be entitled to receive EU funds, NGOs must fulfil certain eligibility criteria, including the nationality rule. NGOs that are registered and have their decision-making centre in a Member State of the EU automatically fulfil the nationality rule. However, the nationality rule varies depending on the instrument pursuant to which the subsidy will be granted. Under certain instruments, only NGOs effectively established in the EU would be eligible to EU funds, and under others, NGOs of third countries might also see their activities subsidised by the EU” (Martens & Maczkovics, 2016).

Therefore, while some UK charities would not be eligible for some EU grants, instruments such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) follows different eligibility criteria. For example, a recent EIDHR global call had no nationality restrictions for lead applicants. While this bodes well for UK NGOs, it likely means that a larger number of NGOs will be competing for an even smaller pot of EU funds, generating more competition in an already competitive proposal environment.

A secondary impact could be the economic uncertainty generated by Brexit leading to potential depreciation of the British pound sterling. The exchange rate losses could negatively affect the financial position of some UK-based NGOs should they hold significant funds in pounds.

b) *The Development Environment under President Trump*

In March 2017, the new U.S. President, Donald Trump released his 2018 budget proposal. The budget, which still must be debated in Congress and would take effect in October 2018, proposes major cuts to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department and funding to the United Nations (Edwards, 2017). As Al Jazeera (2017) indicates, the reasoning behind the Trump administration's plans is to, "[...] reduce or end funding for international organisations whose missions do not substantially advance US foreign policy interests." Some of the proposed cuts include:

- Cutting the USAID and State Department budget by 28%. The new budget proposes USD 25.6 billion in funding for the State Department and USAID, a reduction of USD 10.1 billion from the previous year (Edwards, 2017);
- A 35% reduction in funding to Treasury International Programs which include funding to multilateral institutions and international funds and funding cuts of USD 650 million to multilateral development banks (including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and others) (Saldinger & Igoe, 2017).
- Eliminating the Global Climate Change Initiative (which offered foreign aid for climate change) and halting payments to the UN Green Climate Fund and Climate Investment Funds (Lieberman, 2017).

If approved, agencies such as the African Development Foundation (an independent agency with a USD 28 million budget which funds over 500 ongoing projects throughout Africa) and the Inter-American Foundation (an agency with a USD 22 million budget which funds grassroots groups and NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean) would be eliminated entirely (Tepper, 2017). The proposed cuts could have a profound impact on the UN given that the United States pays close to 25% of its total operating costs and funds more than 28 percent of its peacekeeping operations (Lieberman, 2017). Specific cuts to UN agencies have not yet been announced but a UN lobbyist speculated that both UN-Habitat and the UN Environmental Programme could see their funding from the U.S. cut based on government priorities outlined in the budget⁶ (Scruggs, 2017).

Some have speculated that the proposed budget could have several knock-on effects. For example, a senior fellow from the Center for Global Development predicted that the cutbacks by the U.S. could trigger other countries to decrease their funding of UN institutions (Saldinger & Igoe, 2017). Other experts have speculated that cuts to the State Department and USAID may come out of administrative and overhead costs rather than program support. As Alonzi (2017) explains, this could be done by closing offices (resulting in fewer opportunities to engage and network with USAID staff), cutting staff (resulting in greater pressure on remaining staff and likely slower processing times for application and questions) and combining programs (which could result in fewer funding opportunities and the scaling back or elimination of USAID operations and programs in certain countries). Because the US governments funds several large organizations including multilateral organizations, other governments, development banks and INGOs who then sub-grant or provide services to national and grassroots NGOs, funding cuts are

⁶ According to Scruggs (2017), the U.S. government contributed approximately USD 5.4 million to UN-Habitat in 2015 and USD 6.1 million to UNEP in 2016.

likely to have a negative trickle-down effect whereby there is a smaller pot of funds for both large and small NGOs (Alonzi, 2017). The cuts will also be associated with increased competition: between US NGOs for the remaining US government funding and internationally as even organizations who did not rely on funds from the US experience greater competition for international funding opportunities from US-based NGOs (Ibid).

c) Migration

In 2015, the proportion of people living outside their countries of birth reached 3.3% of the world population, an increase from 2.7% in 1995 (OECD, 2017). Though the total percentage of migrants from developing countries in the world total increased by just 1% in the last twenty years (from 79% to 80%), the proportion of migrants destined for high-income countries has increased substantially: from 36% to 51% (Ibid). Due to persistent gaps between developing and developed countries related to well-being and economic opportunity and continued conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and other areas, the OECD (2017) projects that between now and 2030, migration from developing countries is likely to continue growing.

Currently, no framework exists which systematically tracks ODA expenditures related to migration, making it difficult to gauge funding trends (Knoll & Sherriff, 2017). Though there is significant variation in how DAC countries report in-donor refugee costs⁷ as a proportion of ODA, it is still a useful proxy to identify funding trends related to migration.

The share of ODA dedicated to in-donor refugee costs has doubled between 2014 and 2016: rising from 4.8% in 2014 to 9.2% in 2015 to 10.8% of total net ODA in 2016 (OECD, 2017). Despite the additional pressures placed on DAC members, even when refugee costs are excluded, net ODA grew 7.1% in real terms between 2015 and 2016 (OECD, 2017). But, significant variation exists between countries when looking at how the refugee crisis has affected their ODA spending. In Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy refugee costs accounted for more than 20% of their ODA in 2015 (OECD, 2016b). This represents a stark difference compared to 2010 when, for example, Germany spent just 0.63% of total ODA on in-donor refugee costs (Knoll & Sherriff, 2017).

As the refugee crisis deepened in 2015-16, several NGOs voiced concern that ODA funds meant for development co-operation would be diverted to account for refugee costs at home (Gotev, 2015). The extent to which this is true depends on countries' budgeting processes for the crisis⁸. For example, the European Commission has increased its humanitarian aid budget in the last few years by using existing reserves and drawing down on funds which were not earmarked for ODA (Knoll & Sherriff, 2017). By contrast, the Dutch drew from future appropriations in the budget (instead of drawing on present funds for development cooperation) to top up funds for humanitarian aid in 2015 and 2016 (Ibid). Some countries –

⁷ "In-donor refugee costs" are costs associated with refugees in the donor's home country. DAC countries can currently report in-donor refugee costs for the first 12 months of a refugee's stay as part of their ODA. There is significant variation between DAC countries in the types of expenses included as "in-donor refugee costs" (i.e. temporary accommodation, resettling refugees in municipalities, administrative costs, voluntary resettlement in developing countries, etc) (OECD DAC, 2016b). There is also variation in when the 12-month reporting period starts: from application for asylum, from decision on asylum or the period from application to asylum decision.

⁸ As Knoll & Sherriff (2017) explain, "In the cases where ODA frameworks are pre-defined and in-donor refugee costs are deducted (such as in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark), trade-offs between in-donor refugee costs and current or future resources development cooperation are more visible. Where there is no pre-defined contingent for ODA resources from which in-donor refugee costs are deducted, e.g. in Germany, such trade-offs do not emerge directly" (p. 20).

such as Denmark and Sweden – have had to make trade-offs between funding the hosting of refugees and funding international development co-operation. In Denmark, along with budget cuts overall, rising refugee costs have caused reductions to ODA available for bilateral and multilateral assistance in 2015 and 2016. Knoll & Sherriff (2017) note a 46% drop in bilateral long-term assistance from Denmark when comparing the planned 2016 budget to the previous year. Sweden has had to make similar trade-offs: in Sweden's initial budget proposals for 2016, funding for multilaterals (development banks) was put on hold, funding for sustainable development, human rights and democratization activities decreased by close to 20% between 2015 and 2016, and funds were increased for in-donor refugees and refugee hosting communities abroad (particularly in the Middle East) (Knoll & Sherriff, 2017). Despite the trade-offs, Sweden has attempted to put in place safeguards to maintain commitments to development cooperation: in 2015, the government decided to cap in-donor refugee costs at a maximum of 30% of its total ODA (Government Offices of Sweden, 2016).

Another lens of analyzing trends related to migration and the refugee crisis is to assess whether there has been any geographical shift in priorities. In their review of Denmark, European Commission, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, Knoll & Sherriff (2017) note a general shift from support for humanitarian actions related to conflicts happening close to Europe to a stronger focus on supporting humanitarian actions in countries with migration/refugee links to Europe. Similarly, the authors find an increase in the share of humanitarian aid commitments to the Middle East (to address the Syrian refugee crisis) in recent years: in Denmark (from 3.3% in 2010 to 23.2% in 2014), in Germany (from 5.5% to 46%), in the Netherlands (from 9% to 28.6%) and in Sweden (from 11% in 2010 to 21.1% in 2014). Migration and the refugee crisis is likely to continue to influence the selection of priority countries in the future: Denmark and the Netherlands are debating focusing more aid based on migration levels or selecting priority partner countries from a migration perspective. Development policy documents from Finland and the UK also contain explicit mention of channeling additional funds to the Middle East and addressing “root causes” of migration.

Lastly, with rising refugee costs, DAC members have been under mounting pressure and scrutiny (see: (Clark & Solheim, 2015), (Jones, 2016) (Gotev, 2015)) to ensure that ODA for overseas development cooperation is not diverted or cut. Activists have also leveled criticisms over the consistency of reporting on refugee costs between DAC countries. This has led the OECD DAC to begin work on improving guidelines for reporting refugee costs, “[...] to reduce the room for interpretation and improve the consistency of the reporting across members” (Knoll & Sherriff, 2017). This is likely to improve comparability of the data and facilitate trends analysis in the future.

Overall, migration and refugee flows are likely to continue to create uncertainty related to ODA funding. Given the language in the SDGs over “addressing root causes” of migration, it is likely that in the coming years, we will see more ODA flows (both for humanitarian and programmatic work) to countries with larger “migrant” populations by members of the DAC.

Gender Equality Funding Trends

In 2014, aid for gender equality reached an all-time high; OECD-DAC countries dedicated USD 35.5 billion to gender-focused aid⁹ (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016). This follows a trend which has seen gender-focused aid levels rise (in real terms) steadily since 2010. However, analysis of allocation patterns reveals that a small proportion reaches organizations in developing countries. While

⁹ “Gender-focused aid” is defined as funding for projects where gender equality is targeted as a principal (primary/main) objective or significant (secondary) objective.

approximately 28% (close to USD 10 billion) of gender-focused aid went to civil society organizations (CSOs), the majority was allocated to support for international NGOs or CSOs based in-country with just 8% of gender focused aid reaching CSOs in developing countries (Ibid). This is largely in line with how ODA is channeled to and through CSOs¹⁰ by DAC members: in 2013, USD 12.6 billion worth of ODA was channeled to CSOs based in the donor country while USD 1.6 billion was channeled to or through CSOs in developing countries (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, 2015). In fact, when examining the amount of ODA reaching women's rights organizations, the picture is even more bleak: in 2014, USD 192 million or 0.5% of the total aid to gender equality was targeted at women's rights organizations (Ibid).

Though gender-focused aid is increasing, most of this increase can be attributed to aid for projects where gender is mainstreamed rather than a principal objective. In its analysis of gender funding for 2013-14, the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality finds that less than one-fifth of gender-focused aid has gender equality as a principal objective rather than a secondary objective (OECD, 2016b).

a) Sectors

In examining broader trends related to funding for gender equality, it is useful to understand what type of sectors donors are focusing on. The OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality which tracks aid in support of women's rights and gender equality indicates that while there is an upward trend in gender-focused aid (as discussed above), significant funding gaps exist for priority areas under SDG 5: women's economic empowerment, family planning, women's participation & leadership and women, peace and security (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2014). This can likely be attributed to the transition from the MDGs where, between 2002-12, the majority of aid in support of gender equality and women's empowerment were allocated to education and health (Ibid).

Although several governments have re-affirmed their commitments to funding gender equality initiatives (as mentioned in the section on SDGs), it is worth acknowledging that additional uncertainty has been created about the gender-related sectoral priorities of donors as a result of the January 2017 re-instatement of the Mexico City Policy by the President of the United States. The Mexico City Policy – known as the Global Gag Rule – places a ban on federal funding to foreign NGOs, family planning programmes and US-funded health programmes that offer advice and counselling on abortion (among other services) (Shepherd, 2017). The action has the potential to put millions of women's lives at risk, by limiting their access to potentially life-saving access to family planning, maternal and child healthcare services (Ford, 2017). In response, the Dutch international development minister announced the launch of the SheDecides - an initiative to raise funds for family planning programmes and help address the shortfall in healthcare services that the Global Gag Rule will create. So far, pledges were received from Belgium, Denmark, Canada, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden (Rankin & Elgot, 2017). In particular, on Women's Day, the Canadian Prime Minister announced Canada would spend \$650 million on sexual and reproductive health over 3 years representing the largest pledge so far by a single government (Desjardins, 2017). While Canada's recently released federal budget indicates the initiative is part of Canada's new approach to international development, it is unclear whether or how future aid funds will be re-allocated as the country is in the midst of revising its development policy (Department of Finance Canada, 2017). The latter countries listed above pledged comparatively smaller amounts to SheDecides (between 10 and 22 million USD), therefore it is expected that country sectoral priorities for gender

¹⁰ Aid channeled "through" CSOs represents financing that is earmarked for donors' projects whereas aid channeled "to" CSOs represents core aid (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, 2015).

equality will not shift substantially in light of their SheDecides pledges.

b) General trends in funding environment:

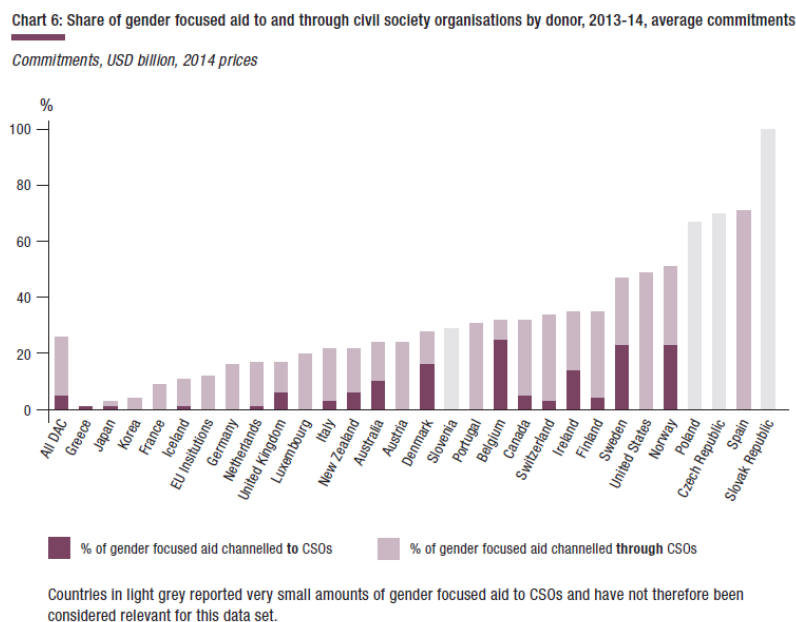
Research conducted by the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the Association for Women's International Development (AWID) indicates several trends in the funding environment for gender equality:

- *Inadequate funds allocated for core support:* In analyzing the USD 35.5 billion gender-focused aid from DAC countries in 2014, “Very little [less than 6%] of this is funding to CSOs as core support rather than funding through CSOs to implement specific projects. This suggests that gender focused organizations are being incentivised to act primarily as implementing agencies rather than to pursue their own agendas” (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016, p. 11). This is echoed in the findings of an AWID survey of over 1,100 women's rights organizations: 48% of organizations surveyed had never received core, flexible funding for their work (Arutyunova & Clark, 2013).
- *Disconnect between donor priorities and women's organizations' strategies:* In comparing the top 10 strategies prioritized by women's organizations and the top 10 strategies for which they receive support, AWID found that there was alignment between NGO strategies and donor priorities in funding capacity building, women's empowerment programs, awareness raising and campaigning/lobbying. However, strategic NGO priorities - such as leadership development, networking/alliance building, organization of convenings and dialogues, and movement building – were not frequently supported by most donors. “This aligns with what many women's rights activists have said over the years: that it is becoming increasingly difficult to convince donors to support crucial mobilization and movement-building work such as networking, meetings, and communications, which are strategies that are difficult to quantify and/or link to direct impacts “on the ground” (Arutyunova & Clark, 2013).
- *Significant competition for sometimes limited funds:* Two examples illustrate this point: the UN Women Fund on Gender Equality (FGE) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW). Since its launch in 2009, the FGE has funded 120 grantee programmes worth USD 64 million (UN Women, 2017). Due to the high volume of proposals received, estimates indicate FGE could only fund 1.25% of proposals received (Arutyunova & Clark, 2013). A second example is the FLOW Fund (previously MDG3) funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA): the MDG3 Fund (2008-2011) invested €77 million to 45 projects, the FLOW Fund (2012-2015) awarded € 80.5 million to 34 projects and the FLOW2 Fund (2016-2020) awarded 9 programmes worth an estimated €95 million (Ploumen, 2016). The highly competitive process was acknowledged by the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: “The high number of applications we received for FLOW show that there is a global funding gap for gender equality[...]" (Ploumen, 2016).
- *Funding fewer, larger organizations:* As mentioned above, gender-focused ODA which reaches CSOs is often allocated to INGOs or NGOs in the donor country. In its research, GENDERNET describes several trends which might be encouraging donors to focus gender-related aid on supporting fewer, larger organizations (rather than smaller, local organizations): pressures to keep costs low (meaning more money is managed by fewer people), lack of gender expertise and budgets, pressure to

demonstrate impact or the need to re-route funds due to refugee costs and the resulting squeeze on gender budgets (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016).

c) Sources of funding

Gender equality programmes are funded by a diverse range of actors. An AWID survey of over 1,100 women's organizations finds that the top sources of multi-year support to women's organizations include bilateral and multilateral donors, private philanthropy and women's funds. Top funders providing multi-year support to women's organizations included the EU, national governments, Oxfam-Novib, Ford Foundation, Global Fund for Women and UN Women. By contrast, it found the major sources of core support included the Global Fund for Women, the Mediterranean Women's Fund, individuals, and local and national governments (Arutyunova & Clark, 2013). In analyzing bilateral aid to CSOs, GENDERNET (the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality) found that Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Norway and Sweden reported a "[...] significant percentage of their gender-focused aid goes to CSOs as core support" (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016, p. 11). The graph below shows which countries allocate the greatest portions of gender-focused aid through core funding for CSOs:



Source: OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (2016)

Interestingly, surveys conducted in 2005 and 2010 by AWID noted a significant decrease in the share of income that women's organizations reported receiving from INGOs (from 14% to 7%). Arutyunova & Clark (2013) attribute this change to challenges faced by INGOs in the face of the 2008 economic crisis. They further note that in some cases, INGOs may be moving away from an "intermediary" role (where they sub-grant to local NGOs for implementation) to a new role which sees them implement their own programmes, establishing new country offices (allowing them to take advantage of funding from local institutions, embassies, etc.) and sometimes competing for funding with other women's organizations.

d) *New Funds/Policies on Gender Equality*

The following are a non-exhaustive list of recent policy positions

- *Leading from the South*: A funding initiative launched by the Dutch government to strengthen feminist organizations in the South from 2016-2020 as part of its efforts to implement SDG 5. The Fund includes three regional funds (African Women's Development Fund, Fondo Mujeres del Sur, South Asia Women's Fund) and a global fund for Indigenous Women.
- *EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020*: Under the new plan, the EU is focusing its external action on four priority areas: 1) Ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity; 2) Promoting the economic and social rights / empowerment of girls and women; 3) Strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation; 4) Shifting the Commission services' and the EEAS' institutional culture to more effectively deliver on EU commitments. The policy commits around EUR 100 million to improve the lives of girls and women through targeted activities funded through the Global Public Goods and Challenges programme of the EU Development Cooperation Instrument. Gender equality has also been previously mainstreamed through thematic instruments such as "Investing in People" and the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.
- *Work and Opportunities for Women*: WOW is a DFID programme launched in September 2016 which partners with UK and international business to help women of the poorest countries into higher skilled and better paid jobs. It aims to work with garment companies to incentivize factories to promote women's leadership and skills and to improve data on where women work in supply chains in order to identify barriers to women being part of the supply chains.

e) *Current geographical focus*

Gender-focused aid which is channeled to civil society organizations in developing countries largely mirrors the regional distribution of gender focused aid in general: about 39% goes to CSOs in sub-Saharan Africa, 22% to South and Central Asia, 10% to East Asia and the Pacific, 9% to the Middle East and North Africa, 7% to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 4% to Eastern Europe (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016).

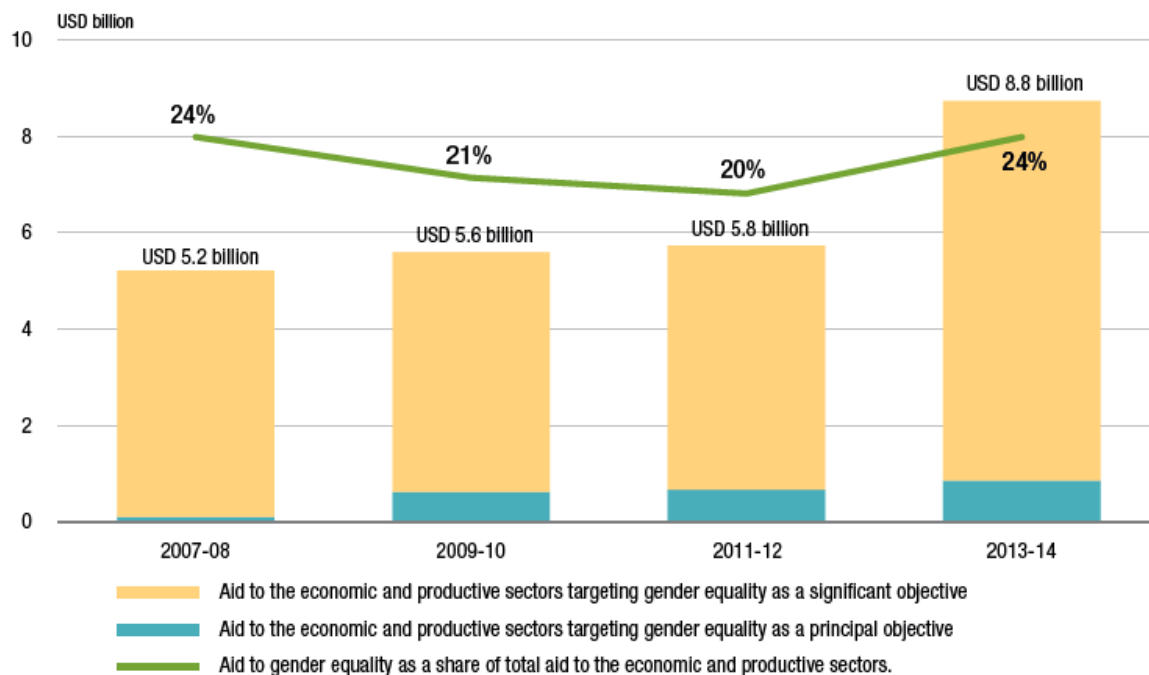
Funding Trends in Women's Economic Empowerment

In 2013-14 (the most recent year with data available) aid committed by DAC members to women's economic empowerment (WEE)¹¹ reached approximately USD 8.8 billion (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016). This represented the first increase in aid for gender equality in the economic and productive sectors since 2007 (Ibid). However, when measured as a proportion of the total aid to the economic and productive sectors, gender focused aid represents only 24% of the total – the same level as in 2007. "This means that more than three-quarters of the aid to the economic and productive sectors is still not responsive to women's gender-specific constraints and interests" (Ibid). As mentioned in the section on funding for gender equality, most gender-focused aid continues to be concentrated in "social sectors" such as health and education with "underinvestment" in the economic and productive sectors.

¹¹ GENDERNET calculates aid to WEE by analyzing DAC aid to the economic and productive sectors that targets gender equality as a principle or significant (secondary) objective.

Chart 1: Aid in support of women's economic empowerment, 2007-2014

Commitments, USD billion, 2014 prices



Source: OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (2016)

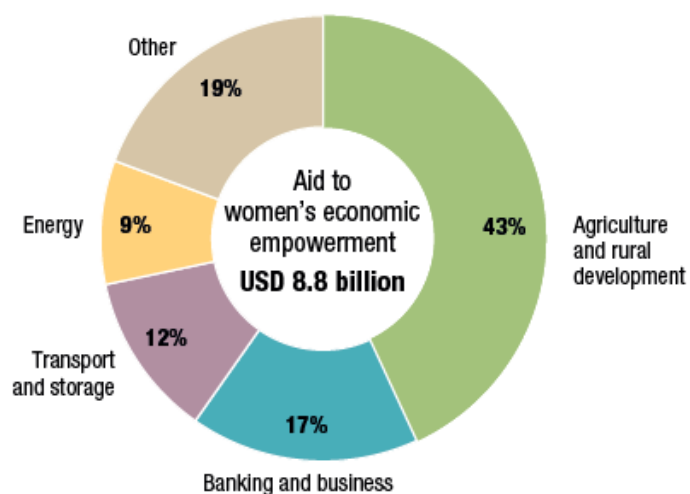
The GENDERNET analysis also finds that only 2% of aid dedicated to the economic and productive sectors has gender equality as its principal objective. This means that in most cases, gender equality is merely mainstreamed as an objective in aid dedicated to the economic and productive sectors as opposed to being a principal objective. As shown in the graph above, this percentage has remained largely unchanged since 2009-10 which reveals, “a chronic underinvestment in dedicated programmes to advance women’s economic empowerment” (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016).

a) Sectors

Examining the sector break-down of how WEE initiatives are funded within the economic and productive sectors provides some interesting insights. The largest portion of sectoral aid for WEE initiatives goes to agriculture and rural development (43%), followed by banking and business (17%), transport and storage (12%), energy (9%) and other (19%)¹² (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016). The breakdown of funding has remained largely unchanged since 2007-08. See graph below:

¹² The “Other” category includes aid to urban development, trade, industry, employment policy, public finance management, mining and construction, and communications

Chart 3: Sectoral distribution of gender equality focused aid to the economic and productive sectors
% of total bilateral aid commitments, 2013-14, constant 2014 prices



Source: OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (2016)

GENDERNET further describes the types of sector-based WEE initiatives which receive aid. Of interest to partner MBOs are how gender-focused aid targets “employment” and “social infrastructure and services”:

- *Employment*: Initiatives in this area include income generation programmes, employment generation and support programmes for the unemployed. Though initiatives focused on “employment” receive relatively less funding than other economic or productive sectors, a relatively large proportion of aid to employment policy – 44% - targeted gender equality in 2013-14. This represents a significant increase compared to 2007-08 levels when only one quarter of aid to employment policy was gender-focused (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016).
- *Social infrastructure and services*: Initiatives under this sector include aid to basic social services, early childhood education and social welfare/services. GENDERNET (2016) notes that in 2013-14, “[...] 68% of aid to early childhood education, 44% of aid to basic social services,²⁹ and 37% of aid to social/welfare services” targeted gender equality. However, funding to these initiatives appears to be insufficient: the authors indicate that donors committed just USD 51 million to early childhood education facilities (Ibid).

Private Philanthropy

Quantifying the contribution of philanthropy to development is difficult (OECD, 2014a). However, preliminary results of a recent survey of over 70 private foundations from the United States, the UK, Netherlands, India, Brazil, Mexico and other European countries provide an indication of its size. The survey found that between 2013-15, philanthropic giving for development¹³ amounted to USD 19.5 billion in total – or USD 6.5 billion per year on average (OECD DAC, 2017). Similarly, an exploratory research study of 145 European foundations sponsored by Mama Cash found that collectively, the foundations surveyed controlled over €9.2 billion in assets in 2009 (Shah, McGill, & Weisblatt, 2011).

¹³ The survey characterizes philanthropic giving as funds flowing directly to developing countries or through implementing intermediaries such as multilateral institutions, NGOs and research institutes.

Though funds from private philanthropy to development initiatives are significant and have increased in real terms in the last 10 years, they are unlikely to outpace ODA levels in the near future (Missika & Romon, 2014).

a) Top donors

Between 2013-15, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was the largest philanthropic donor in the world, disbursing over USD 11.6 billion (or 60% of total philanthropic giving for development recorded in the survey sample) (OECD DAC, 2017). Other top private donors included the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) (4%), the Dutch Postcode Lottery (3%), the Ford Foundation (3%) and the IKEA Foundation (2%) (Ibid).

When considering the countries of origin of the largest foundations (measured by the size of philanthropic giving), the majority were located in the United States. European foundations also provide considerable philanthropic giving (19%) while foundations from India, Latin America, Africa, Middle East and Japan provided a smaller share of the total funds for development (5%). The authors note that foundations from these latter regions/countries are under-represented in the sample and that figures may shift once data collection is completed for China. This is expected to be completed later in 2017. MBOs should monitor reports from the OECD DAC for the comprehensive analysis of private philanthropy for development.

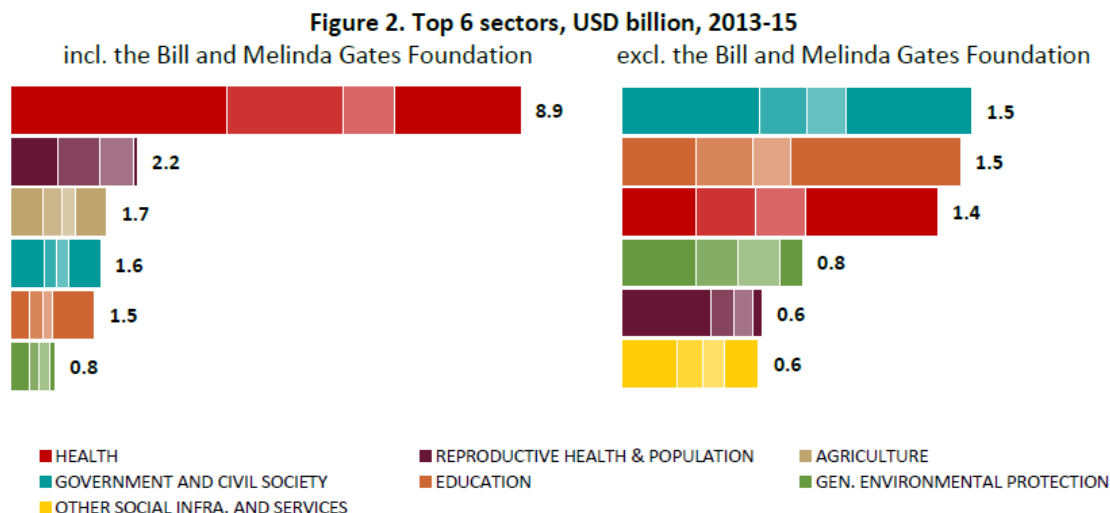
b) Geographical focus

African (28%) and multi-continent or global initiatives¹⁴ (46%) received the majority of funds from private philanthropy between 2013-15. Countries in Asia, the Americas and Europe received lower levels of support with each region receiving 16%, 8% and 2% of total funds recorded from private philanthropy (OECD DAC, 2017). Viewed from a country-specific lens, the largest recipient of funds from private philanthropy was India (due to strong support from the Gates Foundations, IKEA Foundation and Tata Trusts). Other top recipient countries included Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda who received USD 2.4 billion in funds from private philanthropy between 2013-15. In Latin America and Europe, foundations seemed to target upper-middle income countries: Brazil, Mexico and Turkey were the largest recipient countries (Ibid).

c) Sectoral focus

There is significant variation in the activities and strategic priorities of private foundations. In its survey of private foundations, the OECD DAC finds that most funds were targeted for initiatives related to health and reproductive health & population (which covers infectious disease control, basic healthcare provision, malaria control, sexually-transmitted disease (STD) control, medical research and reproductive health care. However, when the activities of the Gates Foundation are excluded, the top three sectors include government and civil society, education and health (see graphical representation below):

¹⁴ Funds for global or multi-continent initiatives largely supported programmes for global public goods such as health research, climate change or other research.



Source: (OECD DAC, 2017)

d) Funding the SDGs

“In 2012, the 1000 largest US foundations provided international support totalling USD 5.9 billion. Of this total, 44%, or USD 2.6 billion, focused on priorities consistent with the MDGs” (Missika & Romon, 2014). This seems to indicate that in the past there has been a mismatch between the priorities of private foundations and the priorities outlined in the global development agenda. This is likely to change given the prominent role private foundations have had in discussions towards the 2030 Agenda. As Missikia & Romon (2014) note, several private foundations including the Ford Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Aga Khan Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, the Macarthur Foundation, the Mott Foundation, the MasterCard Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation participated in some of the major international events in New York, Paris and Addis Ababa related to the adoption of the SDGs (Missika, 2016). Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs also include specific references to the role of private philanthropy in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Preliminary results from the OECD DAC survey with private foundations indicate that though it requested information on foundations’ activities related to the SDGs, “this information proved to be difficult to collect” and was not easily available (OECD DAC, 2017). But, it notes that based on the sectoral analysis, one could assume that private foundations may play an important role in funding and implementing SDG3 (“ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”), SDG 4 (“inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning”), and SDG 16 (“peace, justice and strong institutions”) (Ibid).

Another indication of how private foundations may fund SDG-related initiatives can be gleaned from a new online platform. The Foundation Center is currently developing the SDG Philanthropy Platform which aims to provide comprehensive information on foundation giving which is aligned to the SDGs. The platform gathers information from 2010-2015 on philanthropic giving by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations, a subset of other U.S. foundations and foundations outside the U.S. who provide reports to

the Foundation Center¹⁵. Grant information is then mapped by the Foundation Center to each SDG to provide an indication of how different funders may prioritize funding related to the SDGs in the future.

Though the Foundation Center has not completed data collection for 2015, the SDG Philanthropy Platform provides an indication of the largest funders for each SDG and the relative size of funds being allocated to activities related to each SDG. From 2010-2015, activities related to improving health and education (SDG 3 and SDG 4) received the most private funds overall: over USD 44 billion and USD 52 billion of funding respectively. By comparison, funding for activities related to gender equality, decent work and sustainable cities received relatively less funding during the period: SDG 5 received close to USD 12 billion, SDG 8 received USD 9.2 billion while SDG 11 received just over USD 11 billion during the period (Foundation Center, 2017).

In examining which private foundations provide the most grants for activities related to particular SDGs, the SDG Philanthropy Platform developed an algorithm to identify foundation grants that were consistent with the seventeen SDGs. Below is its list of the top 25 private foundations funders for SDGs 5, 8 and 11 during 2010-2015¹⁶:

Table 1 - Distribution of Top Foundation Funders & their Funding by SDG for 2010-15

SDG 5			SDG 8		SDG 11	
	Funder	Amount	Funder	Amount	Funder	Amount
1	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$2.22 B	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$1.45 B	The Kresge Foundation	\$355.50 M
2	The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	\$1.72 B	Ford Foundation	\$646.13 M	Ford Foundation	\$343.01 M
3	Ford Foundation	\$498.83 M	W. K. Kellogg Foundation	\$330.69 M	Wells Fargo Foundation	\$341.74 M
4	Big Lottery Fund	\$229.56 M	The MasterCard Foundation	\$289.83 M	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$336.13 M
5	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$211.45 M	Citi Foundation	\$217.04 M	The Rockefeller Foundation	\$273.88 M
6	NoVo Foundation	\$204.74 M	The Kresge Foundation	\$208.38 M	W. K. Kellogg Foundation	\$272.36 M
7	The David and Lucile Packard Foundation	\$194.86 M	The Rockefeller Foundation	\$208.09 M	Nationale Postcode Loterij	\$268.85 M
8	Comic Relief	\$174.55 M	The JPMorgan Chase Foundation	\$150.40 M	BP America Corporate Giving Program	\$246.10 M
9	Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program	\$138.89 M	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	\$145.30 M	The JPMorgan Chase Foundation	\$214.83 M
10	W. K. Kellogg Foundation	\$127.83 M	The James Irvine Foundation	\$143.43 M	The California Endowment	\$160.89 M

¹⁵ Though the SDG Funders platform provides some of the most comprehensive information on the distribution of philanthropic giving, it under-represents foundation giving (due to more limited information from organizations outside the U.S.). See <http://sdgfunders.org/methodology/> for a complete discussion of methodological considerations.

¹⁶ Note that the figures represented include grants made between funders presented in the data.

11	The Oak Foundation	\$113.71 M	Big Lottery Fund	\$136.43 M	Lilly Endowment Inc.	\$158.02 M
12	The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	\$86.47 M	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	\$120.43 M	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$147.26 M
13	National Endowment for Democracy	\$82.28 M	National Endowment for Democracy	\$118.08 M	The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.	\$147.24 M
14	The MasterCard Foundation	\$77.07 M	Lilly Endowment Inc.	\$118.07 M	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$143.45 M
15	Cordaid	\$75.26 M	Comic Relief	\$100.53 M	Richard King Mellon Foundation	\$131.42 M
16	UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality	\$65.10 M	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$99.68 M	The McKnight Foundation	\$113.98 M
17	NIKE Foundation	\$63.47 M	The Wal-Mart Foundation, Inc.	\$94.07 M	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	\$108.91 M
18	American Jewish World Service	\$62.48 M	Cordaid	\$93.06 M	The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	\$103.25 M
19	The Wal-Mart Foundation, Inc.	\$62.12 M	Foundation to Promote Open Society	\$91.44 M	The William Penn Foundation	\$101.21 M
20	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	\$59.90 M	The Annie E. Casey Foundation	\$87.66 M	The Oak Foundation	\$100.20 M
21	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$57.87 M	The Goldman Sachs Foundation	\$77.36 M	Donald W. Reynolds Foundation	\$84.27 M
22	The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust	\$54.85 M	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$72.86 M	The Annie E. Casey Foundation	\$83.30 M
23	The Goldman Sachs Foundation	\$54.30 M	BP America Corporate Giving Program	\$70.00 M	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$80.81 M
24	Foundation to Promote Open Society	\$53.69 M	Nationale Postcode Loterij	\$67.39 M	Big Lottery Fund	\$78.94 M
25	The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.	\$53.64 M	The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.	\$62.93 M	Citi Foundation	\$76.18 M

Though the list above is not an exhaustive representation of private foundations, it provides MBOs with a useful indication of the private foundations who have prioritizing grants related to particular SDGs. It could be used as a starting point for additional donor research on those private foundations listed above.

e) *Funding to gender equality initiatives*

In a 2011 survey of over 1000 women's organizations, AWID found that for 740 organizations, grants from private foundations represented their second largest source of income: "[...] private foundations represented 15% of the income of 740 organizations from the sample, second only to bilateral and multilateral agencies" (Arutyunova & Clark, 2013). However, the same study notes that income from private foundations has not grown substantially in the last few years: in 2008, women's organizations reported that 13% of their income came from private foundations (Ibid).

The 2011 AWID survey also found that the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Oak Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation were among those most frequently-mentioned as supporters of women's organizations (Arutyunova & Clark, 2013). Though some of the largest private foundations are based in the U.S., the AWID study notes that private philanthropy is expanding in the global South. Arutyunova & Clark (2013) cite studies which indicate that in Brazil, the number of private foundations has grown by 300% in the last 20 years and that private giving by wealthy individuals in India is on the rise – reflecting the potential growth of the sector in the coming years.

f) *General trends*

A seemingly positive trend in private philanthropy is the form of giving channeled by private foundations. Preliminary analysis from the OECD's survey of private philanthropy for development found that:

- 77% of funds from private foundations were allocated to third parties (multilaterals, NGOs or research institutes) to implement or administer specific programmes;
- 17% of total giving was allocated as core contributions to multilaterals, NGOs or research institutes
- 5% of funds were for foundations' own operations;
- 2 % were for "other" interventions including scholarships and programme-related investments (OECD DAC, 2017).

Though the figures represent philanthropic giving as a whole, they paint an interesting contrast to core support for gender-focused aid channeled to CSOs via ODA: in 2014, DAC countries channeled less than 6% of gender-focused aid to CSOs as core support (OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, 2016). Therefore, MBOs could consider placing increased importance on fundraising from a broader range of private philanthropy as a means of obtaining additional core funding.

Another trend identified by Missike & Romon (2014) is the rise of the importance on "innovative operational approaches" to funding development including emphasis on "venture philanthropy" or "impact investment". This is partly linked to the fact that some founders of private foundations include entrepreneurs from the information and communications technology sector who are keen to apply business approaches to create "innovative" development solutions. As (Henon, Randel, & Stirk, 2014) note, as funding from private philanthropy increases in terms of size and importance, NGOs may begin to shift advocacy strategies from a pure focus on government accountability to lobbying private philanthropy and the private sector. MBOs may consider expanding their advocacy/lobbying efforts to include a broader range of actors in private philanthropy and other spaces.

Recommendations

Based on these trends, partner MBOs could consider the following recommendations in their fundraising efforts:

1. Monitor forthcoming development policy documents including the “European Consensus on Development” and new development policy frameworks from Canada and the Netherlands.
2. Monitor the online Partnership Platform to Generate Finance Solutions for SDGs and the outcomes of the International Conference on National Urban Policy hosted by the OECD in May 2017 for additional information on potential funding mechanisms to implement the SDGs, to understand how countries are seeking to develop national urban plans, and for additional information on country-level implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
3. Review the OECD DAC’s comprehensive analysis of private philanthropy for development (to be released later in 2017) for additional insights on sectoral priorities, funders, etc.
4. Explore further opportunities to connect with donors (such as DFID) and other stakeholders to better understand what “value for money” and “maximizing impact” mean in practice and the implications for proposal writing efforts.
5. Refine and systematize efforts to track and measure the “difficult to quantify” direct impact of networking/alliance building, organizing dialogues, and movement building – all of which are of strategic interest to MBOs but which donors are less likely to fund.
6. Consider focusing increased efforts on fundraising from a broader range of private philanthropy donors as a means of obtaining additional core and programmatic funding.

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