

Financing UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Aid in support of gender equality and women's rights in fragile contexts



This brief is a contribution to the 15th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and an input to the Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325. It provides an overview of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members' aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies, and identifies financing gaps which need to close if ambitious commitments are to be realised in practice.¹

KEY MESSAGES

How much aid targets gender equality in fragile contexts?

- DAC members' aid in support of gender equality and women's rights in fragile states and economies has **increased fourfold** over the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to a **current high of USD 10.3 billion** in 2012-13.
- Aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies has **grown at a rapid rate of 10%** annually since 2008, while overall aid to fragile states and economies has generally remained flat.
- Gender equality is **rarely the primary focus** of DAC members' aid in fragile contexts. In 2012-13, only 6% of aid to fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as the principal objective, suggesting that financing for gender-specific programmes is insufficient.

Who are the main donors and recipients?

- **Canada** reports the largest share of aid to fragile states and economies targeting gender equality as a principal objective (43% in 2012-13). The largest increases in aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies since 2008 were reported by **Portugal, Korea and Japan**.
- The **priority** given to gender equality varies enormously across fragile contexts. **67%** of aid to **Nepal** targeted gender equality in 2012-13 compared with **14%** of aid to **Iraq**. **More than 50%** of aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies is **concentrated in just 8 fragile countries**.
- Significant **shifts over time** in the fragile recipients of gender equality focused aid suggest a lack of long-term support for gender equality at the country level. **Nigeria**, the fifth largest fragile recipient of gender equality focused aid in 2007-08, was no longer among the top 10 recipients in 2012-13.

Which sectors are prioritised?

- Most aid in support of gender equality in fragile states and economies goes to social sectors such as education and health. **Significant financing gaps** remain in the **economic and productive sectors**, and the peace and security sector. In 2012-13, **only 2%** of all aid to peace and security in fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as a principal objective.
- Women's organisations in fragile contexts lack access to sustainable funding despite their vital role in building peace. In 2012-13, **USD 130 million** went to women's equality organisations and institutions – a tiny amount compared with the USD 31.8 billion of total aid to fragile states and economies.

1. The present study is a joint publication of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT). It is based on the latest data collected using the DAC gender equality policy marker covering the period 2012-13, and on the discussions held at a joint workshop in November 2014 on gender and statebuilding organised by the DAC Networks on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and Governance (GOVNET).

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY 15 YEARS ON

In October 2015, the international community will mark 15 years since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. This was the first landmark decision to place women's interests and concerns at the centre of the international peace and security agenda. UNSCR 1325 and its six subsequent Resolutions (Box 1) have highlighted the distinct experiences and roles of women in conflict, and affirmed the importance of women's equal participation in peace and security efforts.

Greater political attention at the international level has contributed to a rise in aid in support of gender equality in fragile states and economies. However, financial resources fall short of political commitments and the translation of commitments into progress on the ground remains a challenge. Fragile states and economies lag far behind other developing countries in achieving the MDGs and their gender-related targets.² Women represent less than 4% of the participants in peace negotiations,³ and discriminatory norms and institutions continue to curtail women's effective participation in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes.⁴ Further analysis is needed to determine the extent to which larger volumes of aid are having a positive impact on gender equality in specific fragile contexts.

2015 represents a momentous year for accelerating progress towards the full implementation of global commitments on women, peace and security, with:

- the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the reviews of the UN peacebuilding and peace operations architecture;
- the twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which identified the effects of armed conflict on women as one of 12 critical areas of concern;
- the high priority placed on gender equality in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is expected to agree an ambitious financing strategy for implementation of the SDGs.

Governments must seize the opportunities opened up by the convergence of these global processes to redouble their efforts to deliver on this agenda. This requires scaling up dedicated, sustainable and predictable financing for the urgent implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Box 1: The 7 Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on women, peace and security

- **UNSCR 1325 (2000)**: addresses for the first time the **disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict** on women, stresses the importance of **women's equal and full participation** in peace and security, and calls for the **incorporation of a gender perspective** in all areas of peacebuilding.
- **UNSCR 1820 (2008)**: recognises that **sexual violence in conflict** exacerbates armed conflict and impedes international peace and security, notes that it can constitute a **war crime**, a **crime against humanity**, or a **constitutive act with respect to genocide**, and calls on all parties to armed conflict to **prevent sexual violence against women and girls**.
- **UNSCR 1888 (2009)**: calls for an **end to impunity for sexual violence in conflict**.
- **UNSCR 1889 (2009)**: calls for strengthening women's participation in peace processes and the development of **indicators to measure progress** in the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- **UNSCR 1960 (2010)**: requests the Secretary-General to provide the UNSC with **information on suspected perpetrators of sexual violence** during armed conflict as a basis for action.
- **UNSCR 2106 (2013)**: calls for further deployment of **gender advisors** and **training of personnel** to combat sexual violence.
- **UNSCR 2122 (2013)**: calls for efforts to improve **women's leadership and participation** in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding and for renewed efforts to ensure women's **access to justice**.

METHODOLOGY

The list of fragile states and economies used in this report includes:⁵ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

2. OECD (2015), *States of Fragility 2015: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions*, OECD Publishing: Paris.

3. UN Women (2012), *Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections Between Presence and Influence*.

4. GIZ (2014), *Promoting Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and Peace Processes*.

5. The Fragile States List used in this report is produced by combining the World Bank/Asian Development Bank/African Development Bank Harmonized List of Fragile Situations, with countries scoring 90 or above on the Fragile States Index of the Fund for Peace. There are 50 countries and territories in the 2015 Fragile States List.

The figures in this paper are based on DAC members' aid that has been screened using the *gender equality policy marker* – a statistical tool to measure whether aid activities target gender equality as a policy objective.⁶ Aid activities can be classified as targeting gender equality as a “principal” or “significant” objective, or as “not targeted”. “Principal” means that gender equality was an explicit objective of the activity. “Significant” means that gender equality was an important but secondary objective. “Not targeted” means that the activity was screened using the gender equality policy marker but was found to have no focus on gender equality. In 2012-13, 92% of all bilateral “sector-allocable” aid was screened against the gender equality marker.⁷

I) HOW MUCH AID GOES TO GENDER EQUALITY IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS?

In spite of a flat trend in DAC members' aid to fragile states and economies in recent years,⁸ support for gender equality and women's rights has increased rapidly. Since the GENDERNET's previous study in 2008 on *Aid in support of gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected states*, aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies has consistently increased, growing by 10% on average per year (Figure 1). Over the lifetime of the MDGs, aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies has quadrupled, from USD 2.6 billion per year in 2002-03 to USD 10.3 billion in 2012-13 (Figure 2).

Aid to fragile states and economies has a stronger focus on gender equality than aid to other developing countries. In 2012-13, **35%** of DAC members' aid to fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as a primary or secondary objective, compared with **27%** in other developing countries.⁹ The higher priority placed on gender equality in fragile contexts may reflect the reality that many fragile states and economies have the furthest to go to achieve the gender-related targets of the MDGs.¹⁰ It may also reflect improved implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its associated resolutions.

Figure 1: Rate of growth in aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies (2008-2013)

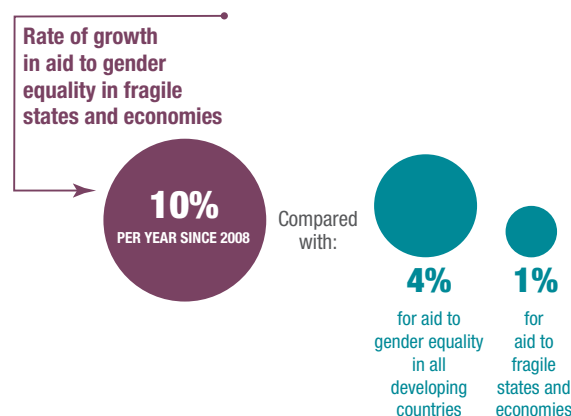
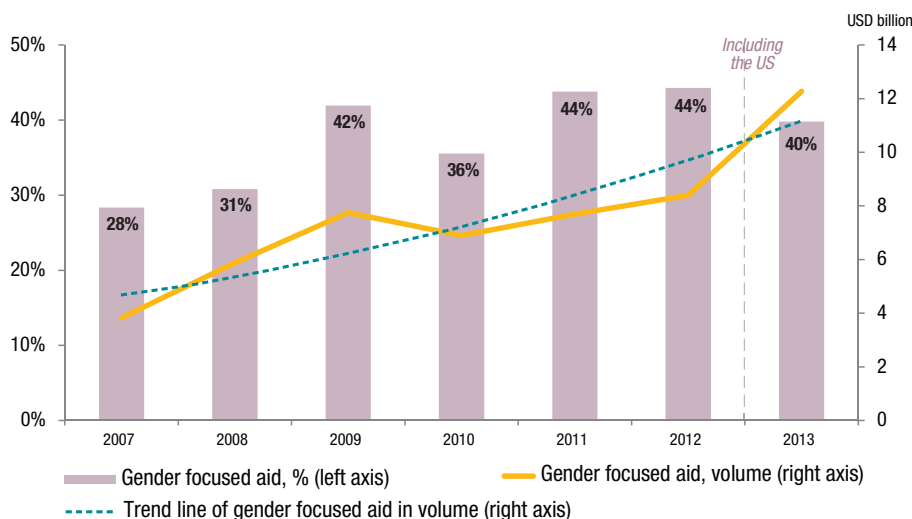


Figure 2: Aid in support of gender equality and women's rights in fragile states and economies¹¹ 2007-13, annual commitments, USD billion, constant 2012 prices



While aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies is on an upward trajectory (Figure 2), the amounts remain insufficient to implement the commitments that governments have made, and only a small proportion of aid to fragile states and economies addresses women's specific needs.¹² In 2012-13, just **6% of all aid to fragile states and economies** targeted gender equality as the **main objective**, while 29% targeted gender equality as a secondary objective. This suggests that while DAC members are making efforts to integrate gender equality into their development programming in fragile contexts, **few are investing substantially in dedicated programmes** to advance gender equality and women's rights.

6. The DAC has 29 members as of March 2015. The statistics in this paper are based on data reported by all DAC members except for Poland which is one of the newer DAC members and has not yet reported on the gender equality policy marker. For a complete definition of the DAC gender equality policy marker, see: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/gender.

7. The United States, which did not report against the gender equality policy marker from 2010 to 2012, has implemented a new data collection methodology for the gender equality marker and is included in the data for 2013. The screening for 2011 and 2012 is being conducted retrospectively by the United States and data for these years will be provided in the coming months.

8. Total aid to fragile states amounted to USD 29.2 billion per year in 2007-08 and USD 31.8 billion in 2012-13. Excluding the three biggest fragile recipients (Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar), aid to fragile states has stagnated between 2007-08 and 2012-13 (USD 23.5 billion on average per year over this period).

9. In 2012-13, 29% of aid to fragile states targeted gender equality as a secondary objective and 6% targeted gender equality as a primary objective. In other developing countries, 23% of aid targeted gender equality as a secondary objective and 4% targeted gender equality as a primary objective.

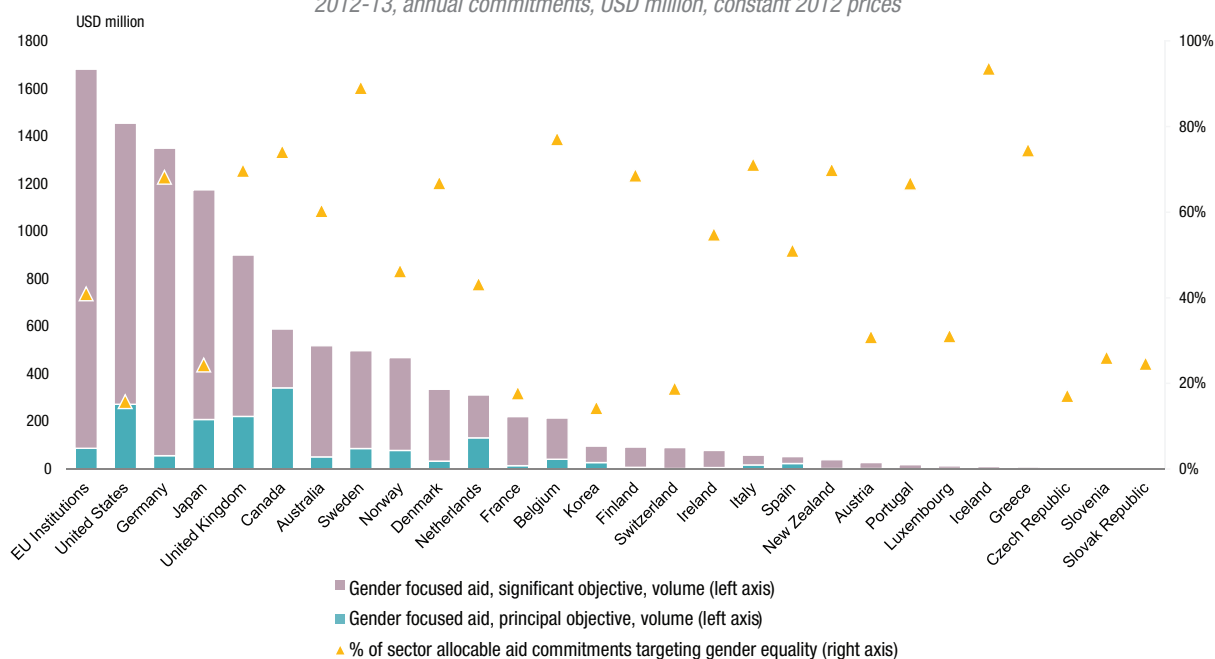
10. OECD (2015), *States of Fragility 2015: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions*, OECD Publishing: Paris.

11. To ensure consistency with previous publications, this chart excludes the United States until 2012. The United States is included in the 2013 figure.

12. The 2009 report of the UN Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict stresses that the needs of women and girls require more attention and highlights five recurring needs in post-conflict situations: (a) safety and security, including justice and respect for the rule of law; (b) confidence in the political process through inclusive dialogue, reconciliation and elections; (c) access to basic services such as water and sanitation, health, and education; (d) a functioning public administration; and (e) economic recovery and employment generation.

II) WHO ARE THE LEADING DONORS?

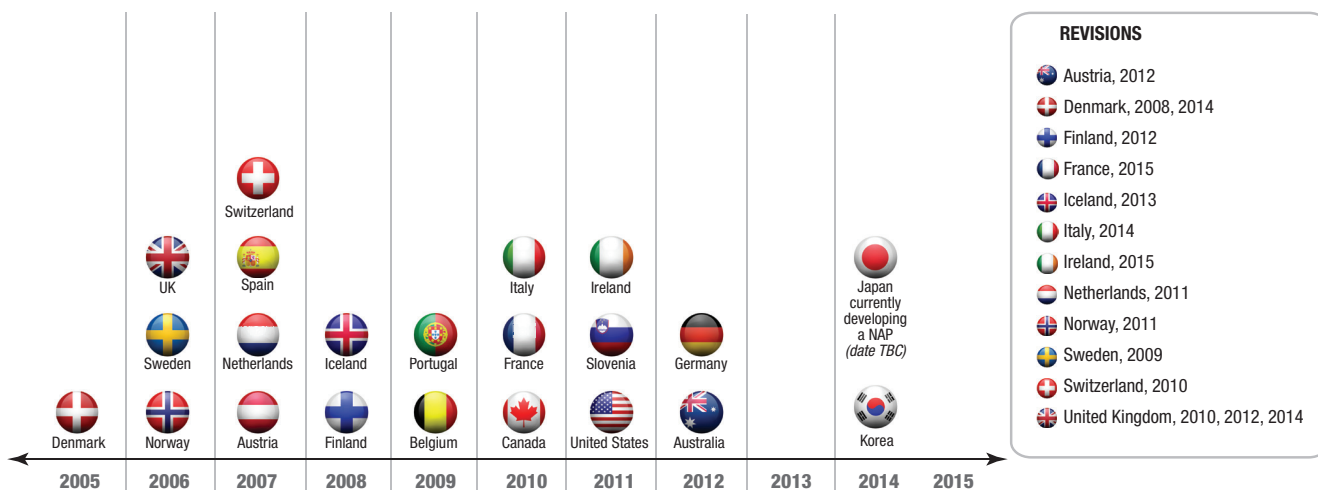
Figure 3: Gender equality focused aid by DAC member in fragile states and economies
2012-13, annual commitments, USD million, constant 2012 prices



Canada reports the largest share of aid to fragile states and economies targeting gender equality as a principal objective – 43% in 2012-13 (Figure 3). The largest increases in aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies since 2008 were reported by **Portugal, Korea and Japan**.

To date, 21 DAC members have adopted a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (Figure 4). Denmark was the first country in the world to adopt an Action Plan in 2005 and has recently adopted its third revised Action Plan for 2014-18. Many other DAC members have undertaken review exercises and impact evaluations of their Actions Plans, which have in some cases led to revisions.

Figure 4: DAC members' National Action Plans on women, peace and security¹³



The adoption of National Action Plans has had a positive impact overall in mobilising resources in support of UNSCR 1325. However, while some Action Plans do contain vague commitments to increase financial and staff resources in support of the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda,¹⁴ almost none commit to dedicated budget allocations.¹⁵ The Netherlands' Action Plan for 2012-15 is an example of good practice, specifying concrete human and financial resources.¹⁶ Many National Action Plans also lack a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to evaluate impact on the ground.

13. Based on data from the Women's International League For Peace and Freedom: www.peacewomen.org

14. Miller, Pournik & Swaine (2014), *Women in Peace and Security through United Nations Security Resolution 1325: Literature Review, Content Analysis of National Action Plans, and Implementation*.

15. UN Women (2012), *Women, Peace and Security: Guidelines for National Implementation*.

16. *Women: Powerful Agents for Peace and Security. Dutch National Action Plan (2012-2015)*.

III) WHO ARE THE MAIN RECIPIENTS?

Figure 5. Ten largest fragile recipients of aid
2012-13 average commitments, 2012 prices

		Total aid, USD million	Total sector allocable aid, USD million	Gender equality focused aid, %	Total aid volume compared with 2007-08
1	Afghanistan	5941	5251	31	↑
2	Myanmar	3984	981	19	NEW
3	Bangladesh	2157	2025	36	NEW
4	Kenya	2085	1723	32	NEW
5	Ethiopia	2049	1528	49	↑
6	Pakistan	1937	1541	35	↑
7	South Sudan	1747	1020	39	NEW
8	Egypt	1653	1563	34	NEW
9	Iraq	1269	988	14	↓
10	Uganda	1098	1026	34	↑

Figure 6.1: Ten largest fragile recipients of gender equality focused aid, in volume
2012-13 average commitments, 2012 prices

GENDER EQUALITY FOCUSED AID				Volume compared with 2007-08
		USD million	%	
1	Afghanistan	1578	31	↑
2	Ethiopia	721	49	↑
3	Bangladesh	697	36	NEW
4	Pakistan	513	35	↓
5	Kenya	501	32	↑
6	Nepal	459	67	↑
7	Democratic Republic of the Congo	414	57	↑
8	South Sudan	392	39	NEW
9	Malawi	363	45	NEW
10	Egypt	359	34	NEW

Figure 6.2: Ten largest fragile recipients of gender equality focused, in %
2012-13 average commitments, 2012 prices

GENDER EQUALITY FOCUSED AID				
		USD million	%	% of gender equality focused aid compared with 2007-08
1	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	10	68	=
2	Nepal	459	67	NEW
3	Solomon Islands	116	66	↑
4	Guinea-Bissau	21	61	NEW
5	Niger	189	61	NEW
6	Chad	87	60	NEW
7	Yemen	159	58	NEW
8	Congo, Dem. Rep.	414	57	NEW
9	Mali	337	56	NEW
10	Timor-Leste	125	50	NEW

For the data for 2007-2008, please see: OECD (2008), *Aid in Support of Gender Equality in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*, OECD Publishing: Paris.

The priority given to gender equality differs enormously among fragile states and economies. **Eight recipients receive more than 50% of the aid going to gender equality in fragile situations.**¹⁷ Aid in support of gender equality in **Afghanistan** has more than doubled since 2007-08 to reach USD 1.5 billion in 2012-13 – more than for any other fragile recipient. This is a positive finding in light of the immense challenges that women face in Afghanistan and the need to support women's participation and leadership in the peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts.¹⁸ However, concerns have been raised about a potential decline in aid following the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan in December 2014.¹⁹ Like Afghanistan, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** receives some of the largest amounts of gender equality focused aid of all fragile countries. This is not surprising given the scale of human rights violations against women and girls, including systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.²⁰ However, when population size is taken into account, the DRC fares poorly – receiving just USD 8 per capita of aid to gender equality compared to an average of USD 15 per capita across all fragile states and economies (Figure 7).

17. Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kenya, Nepal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan.

18. World Bank (2014), *Women's role in Afghanistan's future - taking stock of achievements and continued challenges*, Washington DC: World Bank Group.

19. World Bank (2012), *Afghanistan in Transition: Looking Beyond 2014. Volume 1: Overview*, Washington DC: World Bank Group.

20. UN Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC (April 2014), *Progress and Obstacles in the Fight Against Impunity for Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo*.

Other fragile states and economies also receive low amounts of gender equality focused aid despite high levels of gender inequality. Gender equality focused aid to Pakistan has fallen since 2007-08, despite ranking as the second worst country in the world for women's rights according to the World Economic Forum's 2014 Global Gender Gap Report.²¹ **Pakistan** received among the lowest amounts of per capita aid to gender equality of all fragile states and economies in 2012-13 (USD 4 per capita) (Figure 7). Support to gender equality in **Iraq** is also strikingly low given the scale of the challenges. In 2012-13, it received only USD 5 of per capita aid to gender equality.

Overall, just 14% (USD 135 million) of aid to Iraq targeted gender equality in this period. This is despite the continuing deterioration of women's rights in the country, in particular in the North where women face severe discrimination, forced marriage, sexual assault, and slavery.²² Better coordination of DAC donors' aid activities in support of gender equality in fragile states and economies would enable a

more even distribution of gender equality focused aid and ensure that development programmes are responsive to the needs and priorities of women and girls in *all* fragile situations.

There have also been significant shifts in the fragile recipients of gender equality focused aid over the past six years.²³ **Bangladesh**, which was not ranked among the top 10 fragile recipients of gender equality focused aid in 2007-08, has become the third largest recipient. **Nigeria**, the fifth largest fragile recipient of gender equality focused aid in 2007-08, is no longer among the top 10 recipients. This is despite the fact that Nigeria is among the lowest ranked countries in the world in terms of gender inequality – 94 out of 108 countries measured by the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) in 2014.²⁴ **Egypt**, which was not in the list of fragile states and economies before the 2011 revolution, has become one of the top ten recipients of gender equality focused aid in 2012-13. This volatility suggests that long-term support to women, peace and security at the country level is often lacking.

IV) WHICH SECTORS ARE PRIORITISED?

A sectoral breakdown²⁵ of aid in support of gender equality in fragile states and economies (Figure 8) reveals a number of financing gaps which mirror those in support for gender equality in developing countries in general.²⁶ Much of the aid to gender equality in fragile contexts goes to traditional social sectors – notably education and health²⁷ – in line with the priorities set by the MDGs. Significant financing shortfalls exist in “hard sectors” such as security and the economy.

Figure 7: Per capita aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies

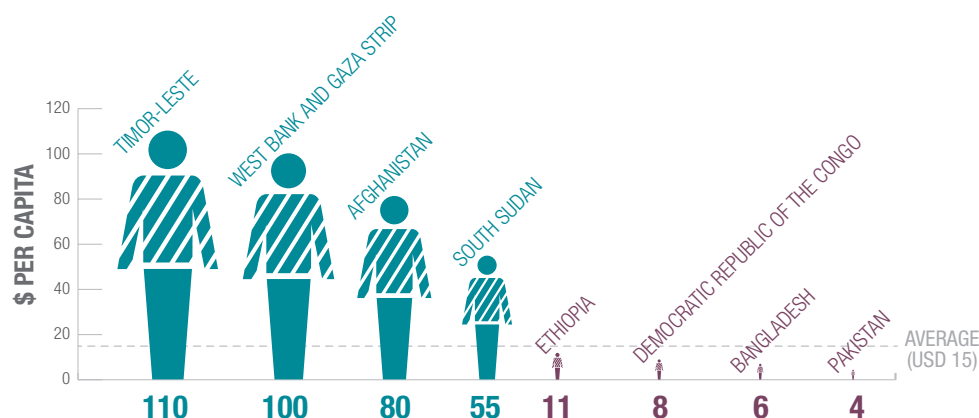
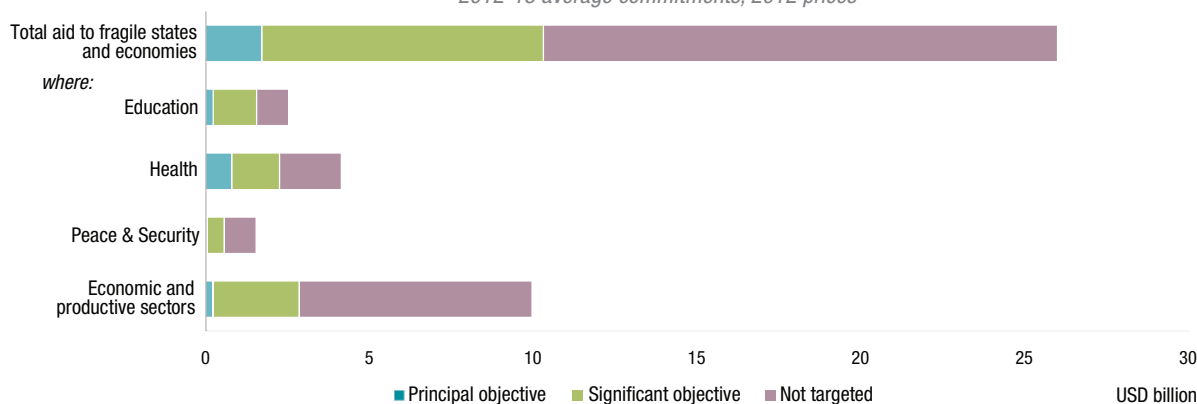


Figure 8: Proportion of overall aid to fragile states and economies targeting gender equality, by sector
2012-13 average commitments, 2012 prices



21. World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2014: <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/>

22. Human Rights Watch (2015), *World Report 2015*.

23. For the 2008 data, please see: OECD (2008), *Aid in Support of Gender Equality in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*, OECD Publishing: Paris.

24. OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index 2014 (SIGI): <http://genderindex.org/>

25. For a full definition of the coverage of the different sectors, see the list of CRS purpose codes: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/2012%20CRS%20purpose%20codes%20EN.pdf>

26. OECD (2014), *Financing the Unfinished Business of Gender Equality and Women's Rights: Priorities for the Post-2015 Framework*, OECD Publishing: Paris.

27. The DAC Creditor Reporting System does not currently include a tool to measure aid in support of ending violence against women and girls. This is currently being developed.

ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

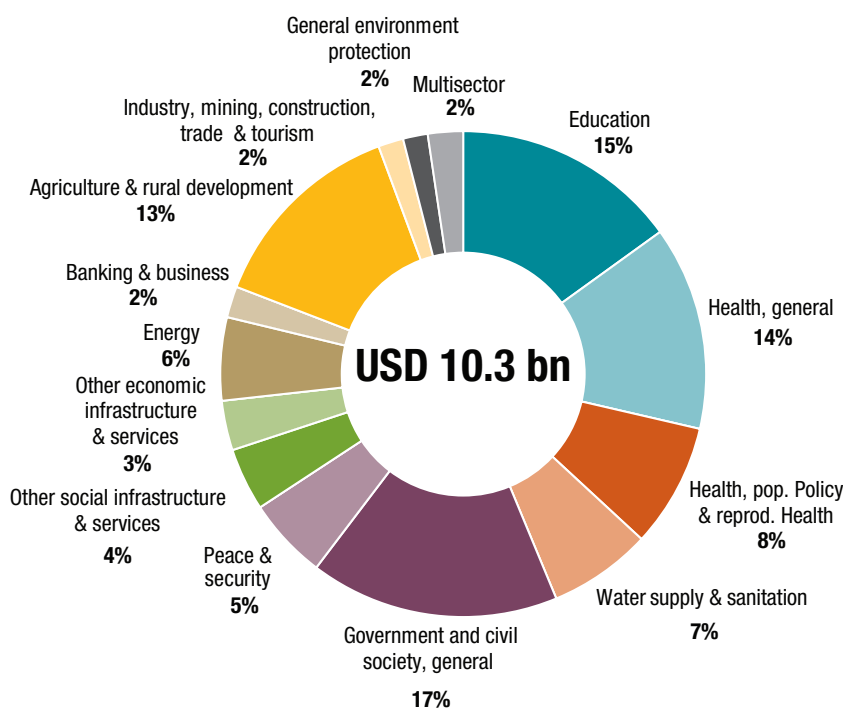
Getting people back into work is a critical step towards sustainable peace. Yet, gains in women's employment and income-generation are often lost after conflict due to economic restructuring, resettlement of displaced populations and demobilisation and reintegration of male ex-combatants.²⁸ This has a detrimental impact for women and their families, and for the effectiveness of peacebuilding and post-conflict economic recovery processes.²⁹

While DAC donors invest large amounts in the economic and productive sectors in fragile states and economies – USD 10 billion per year in 2012-13 – only USD 439 million (2%) of this targeted gender equality as a principal objective (Figure 8). This is particularly low when compared with the UN target to dedicate at least 30% of funding to economic recovery in conflict and post-conflict situations to programmes specifically targeting gender equality.³⁰ Underinvestment is especially severe in sectors such as industry, mining and construction; energy; and banking and business (Figure 9).

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Women's engagement in peacebuilding and statebuilding contributes to effective and lasting peacebuilding and statebuilding outcomes, encourages more inclusive governance, and strengthens the legitimacy of the new institutions.³¹ DAC donors are placing a relatively strong focus on gender equality in their aid to the government and civil society sector in fragile states and economies, which includes support for institution-building and citizen's democratic participation. This reflects the priorities agreed in the women, peace and security resolutions, which call for greater participation of women at all decision-making levels in post-conflict situations. In 2012-13, 63% of aid to democratic participation and civil society (USD 282 million) and 58% of aid to elections (USD 160 million) in fragile states and economies had a focus on gender equality.

Figure 9: Sectoral distribution of aid targeting gender equality in fragile states and economies
2012-13 average commitments, 2012 prices



PEACE AND SECURITY

Peacebuilding and statebuilding processes offer a critical window of opportunity to address gender inequalities and build states that are responsive and accountable to all.³² Despite this, DAC members' aid to peace and security³³ in fragile states and economies has a low priority on gender equality. In 2012-13, 28% of aid to the peace and security sector in fragile states and economies addressed gender equality, and only 2% targeted gender equality as a principal objective.³⁴ The gender equality focus of aid to "hard" security issues is particularly low. In the area of security system management and reform, only 27% of aid (USD 96 million) had a gender equality focus in 2012-13. Yet, the integration of gender equality in security sector reform leads to better outcomes by enhancing local ownership, improving public confidence, and helping to ensure that justice and security services are responsive to the needs of all citizens.³⁵

28. Action Aid, Institute of Development Studies, and Womankind (2012), *From the ground up. Women's roles in local peacebuilding in Afghanistan, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sierra Leone*.
29. Declaration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (2013), *Women's Economic Empowerment for Statebuilding*; and Households in Conflict Network (2012), *Quantifying the Impact of Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Economic Recovery*.

30. UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security: 2011-2020.

31. Report of the UN Secretary General (2010), *Women's Participation in Peacebuilding*.

32. Summary record of the DAC workshop on gender and statebuilding, 5 November 2014.

33. According to the DAC definition, the category "conflict prevention and resolution, peace and security" includes: security system management and reform; civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution; participation in international peacekeeping operations; reintegration and small arms and light weapons control; removal of land mines and explosive remnants of war; and child soldiers (prevention and demobilisation).

34. USD 1.9 billion was pledged to peace and security programming in fragile states by DAC donors in 2012 and 2013. USD 559 million of this targeted gender equality, and just USD 40 million targeted gender equality as the principal objective.

35. Kristin Valasek (2008), *Security Sector Reform and Gender. Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit*.

SUPPORT TO WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

The crucial contribution of women's organisations to conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts has been explicitly recognised in UNSCR 2122 (2013), which calls on Member States to develop dedicated funding mechanisms and increase their contributions to women's organisations at the local level. Yet, women's organisations continue to lack sustainable funding beyond short-term project support.³⁶ In 2012-13, **women's equality organisations and institutions** in fragile states received **USD 130 million**,³⁷ which represents 1% of gender equality focused aid to fragile states and economies. Multi-year, flexible, accessible, core funding is critical to support women's organisations in their efforts to build lasting peace.

UPHOLDING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY COMMITMENTS

While DAC members' aid in support of gender equality and women's rights in fragile states and economies has increased rapidly, it falls far short of the political commitments that governments have made. The 15th anniversary and high-level review of UNSCR 1325 offer a critical opportunity to ensure that ambitious commitments are matched by ambitious investments. This will require that governments:

- **Ensure that women, peace and security principles are at the heart of the new peace and security architecture**, by seizing the opportunities opened up by the convergence of global processes in 2015, in particular the three UN policy reviews (peacebuilding architecture; peace operations; and implementation of UNSCR 1325).
- **Address areas of underinvestment** in DAC donor support for gender equality in fragile states and economies, particularly in the **economic and productive sectors** and the **peace and security** sector.
- Increase **dedicated efforts** and **targeted funding** in addition to gender mainstreaming.
- Increase predictable, accessible and flexible **funding for women's organisations** working on peace and security at all levels.
- **Improve monitoring and coordination** of DAC donors' aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies to encourage a more even distribution of this aid and address the needs of women in all fragile situations.
- Strengthen efforts to monitor and evaluate the **quality and practice** of DAC donor aid in support of gender equality in fragile states and economies, and its **impact** on women and girls.

36. AWID (2013), *Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots. The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality*.

37. Includes support for both governmental and non-governmental organisations working for gender equality and women's rights.