

STRATEGY

2013



Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017

Directorate-General
of Global Affairs,
Development
and Partnerships



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE
DES
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2013-2017

July 2013

All rights reserved for all countries. No part of this publication may be translated or reproduced in any form or by any means, photocopying, microfilm or otherwise.

Cover photograph: Woman raises hand to speak during a community meeting in Aurangabad, India.

© Simone D. McCourtie / World Bank.

Back cover photograph: Woman receiving a professional training at the Non-Formal Basic Education Center (CEBNF), located in Yonko II, on the outskirts of the city of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This project is supported, especially by the French Development Agency (AFD). © Bruno Barbey / Magnum Photos for the *Agence française de développement*.

Execution: DGM

Printed by: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Reprographic Department

©Ministère des Affaires étrangères, 2013

CONTENTS

Preface	5
Introduction	7
1. Gender and development	9
2. The equality compass	10
3. Background and issues	12
3.1 Women's rights and gender equality: top of the French foreign action agenda in keeping with France's international commitments	12
3.2 Women and girls do not always benefit equally from development policies	13
3.3 Rallying against rising conservatism: a key focus of forthcoming international conferences	13
4. Consistency and stakeholder involvement	14
4.1 Consistency with European and international approaches	14
5. Alignment with national priorities and dialogue with civil society	15
6. Objectives and principles for action	17
6.1 Our objectives	17
6.2 Our principles for action	18
6.3 Areas of action: improve gender mainstreaming in all development interventions	20
7. Actions by sector	26
7.1 Women's sexual rights and reproductive health	26
7.2 Economic empowerment, access to economic and productive resources, and food security	27
7.3 Rights to a quality comprehensive education and vocational training	28
7.4 Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and secure access to justice and rights	30
7.5 Democratic governance and political participation	31

7.6 Environment and global warming	32
7.7 Cultural rights and access to media	33
7.8 Access to water and sanitation services and infrastructures	34
8. Monitoring, evaluation and the logical framework	36
8.1 Strategy monitoring and evaluation	36
8.2 The logical framework	37
List of abbreviations	44

PREFACE

A step change for equality

➔ The promotion of women's rights and gender equality is at the top of the Government's agenda. At the first meeting of the Interministerial Committee for Equality on 30 November 2012, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined with all the French ministries to adopt a road map for equality. This road map covers gender equality at work and equal pay for government employees and makes changes to France's foreign policy. The new *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* is one of the tracks of this road map.

On my appointment as Minister Delegate for Development, Laurent Fabius and I made the promotion of gender equality and women's rights a strategic cornerstone of the development policy.

Supporting gender mainstreaming in development policies calls first for a clear focus on the world. It means understanding that gender inequalities are a structural component of poverty. In addition to reading the statistics in this document, it involves giving voice to those in the North and the South who will tell you what it's really like living with the violence, taboos and broken lives, but who will also share their success stories and hopes. It involves listening to grim words from Julienne Lusenge, head of an NGO working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, when she tells you, "Here, women's bodies are men's battlefields". It involves helping Malian girls get onto mechanical engineering courses, and not just needlework and cookery courses, in centres funded by the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD). And it is about attending a speech by the President of the French Republic to the Senegalese National Assembly where 50% of the members are women.

Supporting gender and equality mainstreaming in development policies involves improving our aid effectiveness, because access by women and girls is clearly key to the success of all our actions, bilateral and multilateral.

Supporting gender and equality mainstreaming in development policies involves standing behind our French tradition of defending universal human rights in the international bodies and with our partners.

Supporting gender and equality mainstreaming in development policies involves getting to a point where the very design of any development project is equality sensitive.

Supporting gender mainstreaming and equality in development policies involves finding answers upstream to the questions of transport for girls, separate toilets and preventing school gender-based violence wherever schools are funded by French aid. And it involves ensuring that women and girls can easily access healthcare centres funded by French aid.

The new gender strategy has been developed following broad-based consultations with civil society. It is the result of the previous agenda's evaluation coordinated by the High Council for Gender Equality and the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights. It heralds a political step change for equality. We are creating the means for change in support of our convictions by launching an ambitious process to reform our funding procedures to improve the mainstreaming of gender and equality, by training Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff in this area, by supporting research, by getting all the operators on board in this step change, and by renewing dialogue with civil society and partners in the North and South. This change will be measured each year to sustain and make equality an instinctive part of all our development actions.

This is a huge challenge to which we are all totally committed.

Pascal Canfin,
French Minister Delegate for Development
to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

INTRODUCTION

➔ In December 2007, France published its first strategic *Gender and Development* agenda, laying down the guidelines for French action for gender equality and women's rights in its development policy.

In 2011-2012, the High Council for Gender Equality¹ and the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH) conducted an evaluation of the implementation of the strategy in association with a working group of experts, civil society representatives and members of parliament.

The evaluation report was submitted to the Minister Delegate for Development on 10 January 2013. It recognises France's action to defend women's rights and gender equality in international bodies. It points up the value of special programmes to reduce inequalities such as the project on the economic empowerment of women in Africa financed by the Priority Solidarity Fund (FSP), the school enrolment programmes for girls supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in West Africa, the partnership with UN Women on violence against women, and the sexual rights and reproductive health programmes conducted following the G8 commitments in Muskoka (2010) to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality.

Yet the report also finds inadequate gender mainstreaming across the French development policy and highlights a lack of resources and visibility. It points out the importance of training staff, providing suitable methodological tools and

reforming the project and programme appraisal, monitoring and evaluation procedures to ensure that gender equality objectives are properly catered for in the French development policy.

In addition, it stresses that France needs to make better use of the gender marker produced by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to evaluate the share of French official development assistance (ODA) spent on reducing gender inequalities.

The evaluation echoes the conclusions of the peer review conducted by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2013, which recommends that France adopt a new strategy to build staff capacities, reform project appraisal and monitoring procedures, and provide suitable methodological tools and financial resources.²

Pascal Canfin, the Minister Delegate for Development, launched the French gender and development strategy updating process in response to these points.

All development stakeholders took part in the process: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its operators, the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD), *France Expertise Internationale* (FEI), the *Institut français*, Canal France International (CFI), the Agency for French Education Overseas (AEFE), Campus France, French NGOs mainly in their Coordination Sud coordination format, and decentralised cooperation and research representatives.

1- Formerly the Gender Parity Watchdog (OPFH).

2- DAC-OECD, *Review of the Development Cooperation Policies and Programmes of France*, main findings and DAC's recommendations, 27 May 2013.

Discussions were held over two working days on 30 April and 7 June 2013 to develop the different strategic strands taking on board everyone's agendas and priorities for action.

This *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* is the result of this consultation work. It defines France's gender equality promotion priorities and forms guidelines for action by all development partners.

The *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* was adopted by the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) on 31 July 2013 and will take effect in August 2013 for four years. It will be evaluated annually by the High Council for Gender Equality between Women and Men.

1. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

“One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.”
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, 1949

➔ The gender approach takes as its starting point the observation that inequalities between women and men are created by societies. These inequalities originate in the male and female roles assigned on the basis of biological differences. The gender approach challenges the process of ranking individuals by sex and the discrimination that comes from this.

The overarching objective of the gender approach is equal rights between women and men and a fair distribution of resources and responsibilities between women and men. In methodological terms, this approach produces a comparative analysis of women and men’s situations and makes all development sectors more responsive to inequalities.

The gender approach defends the universality of rights and equal access to justice. The gender and development approach works to empower women individually and collectively. This means that women gain independence and the ability to make their own choices and decisions in their lives and in society.

It is ultimately a factor for fair, equitable and sustainable development assistance.

2. THE “EQUALITY COMPASS”

Objective

Mainstream gender equality across the French development policy.

	Goals	Outputs	Performance indicators	Timeline
GOAL 1	Mainstream gender into all development funding instruments	All development funding instruments include gender awareness in their procedures. Half of all projects are appraised, conducted, monitored and evaluated in a gender-responsive manner.	In 2017, 100% of ODA is evaluated using the OECD gender marker. At least 50% of funded projects and programmes score G-1 or G-2, with the exception of funding provided in the form of general budget support, sector budget support and unallocated budget lines.	30% in 2014, 40% in 2015, 45% in 2016, 50% in 2017, Score G-1 or G-2.
GOAL 2	Build staff gender and development capacities	Gender awareness education and training for development staff.	By 2017, 90% of DGM drafters, division heads and department heads and AFD project heads and managers have received gender awareness education or training.	30% in 2014, 50% in 2015, 75% in 2016, 90% in 2017.

	Goals	Outputs	Performance indicators	Timeline
GOAL 3	Launch and support gender and development research in order to define common objectives and indicators by development sector	Research on gender and development expands into new development areas.	A national symposium is held in 2015. Common MAE and AFD objectives and indicators are defined in each of the cooperation sectors in 2017.	Progressive.
GOAL 4	Make gender equality and women's rights a focus of bilateral dialogue	Improve policy dialogue on gender equality with ministries for women and civil society organisations in partner countries.	An annual meeting is held with ministers and civil society organisations.	Every year.
GOAL 5	Continue to promote equality in European and multilateral forums	France plays a leading role in the defence and promotion of women's rights and gender equality.	France has high-level representation on the UN Commission on the Status of Women and actively participates in negotiations.	Every year.
GOAL 6	Guarantee accountability for the <i>Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017</i> commitments	ODA for gender equality is available and measured, and implementation of the <i>Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017</i> is supported and evaluated annually.	Annual publication of data on French development assistance for gender equality, including the evaluation of the <i>Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017</i> .	Every year.

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

3.1 Women's rights and gender equality: top of the French foreign action agenda in keeping with France's international commitments

➔ In 1983, France ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In 1994, France signed up to the Cairo programme of action on population and development and, in 1995, it adopted the Beijing platform for action at the World Conference on Women.

The Beijing conference drove the transition from a “women in development” approach, geared to meeting women's practical needs without addressing gender inequalities, to a “gender and development” approach with the prime objective of reducing inequalities and greater empowerment for women. This goal can be achieved by shifting the balance of power and domination between men and women and providing access to rights for all.

France actively defends and promotes women's rights in the international bodies and sits on the UN Commission on the Status of Women every year. Since 2006, France and the Netherlands have presented the UN General Assembly with a resolution every two years on stepping up action to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

France has contributed to the adoption of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security (resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960) which call on States to do more

to protect women in conflict situations and involve women more in peace talks and decision-making processes. In October 2010, France adopted a national action plan to implement these resolutions. It supports the action taken by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the appointment of women's protection advisors in peace-keeping operations.

France supported the creation of UN Women. In May 2012, France stepped up its partnership with the signing of a framework agreement for cooperation based on seven joint action tracks: women's participation in decision-making processes, especially in political transitions; eliminating all forms of violence against women; ending discrimination against women in law and in practice; the economic empowerment of women; involving women in peace and security processes; national planning and budgeting; and sexual and reproductive health. This agreement also provides for high-level annual consultations.

France was actively engaged in drawing up the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. It was also one of the first to sign the convention (May 2011), and the ratification procedure is underway.

The first meeting of the Interministerial Committee for Equality on 30 November 2012 saw all government ministries adopting road maps for equality covering equality at work, equal pay and public policies. The new *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* is one of the elements of the road map adopted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3.2 Women and girls do not always benefit equally from development policies

➔ Twelve years on from the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, women and girls face specific gender discrimination problems in all development areas.

- The majority of the world's poor are women. Women work mainly in the unpaid informal sector, especially when they live in rural areas. They do two-thirds of the unpaid household tasks not counted in the calculation of gross domestic product.
- 33 million girls do not go to school. Although the share of girls not in school has decreased from 58% to 53% in the developing countries in ten years, a full 32% still do not complete primary school. Many obstacles stand in their way: poverty, school fees and other related costs, insecurity, and early marriage and pregnancy.
- 800 women die from pregnancy and childbirth complications every day. In sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of dying in childbirth is 1 in 39, compared with 1 in 3,800 in developed countries. It is the number one cause of death among adolescent girls in most of developing countries.
- Nearly 17 million women live with HIV worldwide. Young women aged 15 to 24 are particularly vulnerable, with infection rates double those for young men.
- Women are the first victims of diminishing natural resources. Their lack of inclusion in local decision-making bodies means that their needs are not really considered.
- Women are underrepresented in decision-making processes. They represent just 19.3% of seats, far from parity, in all single and lower houses of parliament worldwide.
- One in six women in the world is a victim of violence, 60 million girls are married before the age of 15, and 100 million are victims of female genital mutilation.

3.3 Rallying against rising conservatism: a key focus of forthcoming international conferences

➔ Current international debate is concerned with rising conservatism and its impact on international women's rights achievements.

Controversy surrounds the recognition of sexual and reproductive rights, access to family planning services, sex education, harmful cultural practices and the concept of gender. More broadly speaking, the universality of women's rights is being challenged in the name of cultural relativism.

This lends particular strategic importance to the celebrations of the 20th anniversaries of the Cairo programme of action on population and development in 2014 and the Beijing platform for action on women and development in 2015.

In these forums, France defends women's rights over their own bodies and the universality of rights.

Gender in the new post-2015 development agenda

Gender equality is also a core focus of discussions on the new development agenda, called the post-2015 agenda, **following the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the objectives of the Rio conference on sustainable development in 2012.**

Here, France supports the inclusion of gender as a guiding principle for sustainable development. **Only a stand-alone gender equality goal across all development areas, especially the elimination of all forms of violence against women, can drive equality forward. Special cross-cutting targets and indicators need to be defined for this.**

4. CONSISTENCY AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

➔ This *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* is consistent with the European and international commitments. It meets partner countries' national gender equality priorities and furthers partnership and dialogue with civil society organisations.

4.1 Consistency with European and international approaches

➔ France supported the adoption of the **European Union (EU) plan of action on gender and development** presented under the Spanish Presidency of the EU in 2010. The plan of action encourages EU Member States to improve their gender practices in policy advocacy, staff training and gender mainstreaming in all areas of development. It also calls for the improved traceability of funds used to promote equality.

Every year, the Member States and the Commission report on the implementation of the European plan of action. Their contributions are published in a report produced by the European Commission.

France supports work by the **OECD's DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)**, a forum of gender and development experts from DAC member development agencies and ministries. France sat on the network's board from 2011 to 2013 and has taken forward work in many areas such as women's economic empowerment, especially in rural areas, the aid effectiveness agenda, monitoring gender equality funding and, more recently, gender mainstreaming in the new post-2015 development agenda.

GENDERNET is working on a series of initiatives concerning the implementation of the Paris

Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2011). The network played a part in the inclusion of gender equality commitments in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the inclusion of a gender indicator in the Busan commitments monitoring framework.

Belgian Technical Cooperation, BTC

BTC, the Belgian development agency, has adopted a 2010-2014 gender strategy to mainstream gender into the agency's internal operations and all cooperation actions. The agenda provides for all staff to contribute to gender promotion and to be structurally and systematically gender responsive in their day-to-day work by 2015. BTC has accordingly launched a reform of funding procedures, set up in-house training and is providing methodological assistance to project promoters.

In Benin, for example, in its sector cooperation with the agriculture and education ministries, BTC supported the development of joint programming based on a diagnosis that highlighted the different situations experienced by women and men. BTC fostered the building of a partnership with Benin's Ministry for Gender, which will be scaled up and will provide gender-relevant technical assistance to other ministries. Building ministries' resources and skills in gender and equality promotion is an efficient way to support national expertise in this area.

5. ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

and dialogue with civil society

➔ The *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* supports the national equality promotion policies. It is conducted in partnership with the ministries responsible for gender equality, women's rights and gender issues.

It meets the priorities of women's organisations' and is underpinned by close cooperation with all civil society organisations.

France is already working in partnership with the ministries responsible for gender issues, gender equality and women's rights in each of the partner countries. **The new strategy provides for annual dialogue between these ministries and French ambassadors to strengthen the partnership.**

An annual meeting will likewise be held with the local women's rights defence associations in each partner country. Locally, French ambassadors and the cooperation and cultural action offices (SCACs) are responsive to the associations' actions. Many projects receive support from the SCACs and the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD).

In France, partner associations are supported by the Gender Commission at Coordination Sud, the French development NGO coordinating body. The Gender Commission is set up to:

- Facilitate exchanges of gender equality at work practices and experiences and use of the gender approach in development projects, development education and advocacy by French NGOs;
- Educate French NGOs in the gender approach;
- Propose advocacy actions to mainstream gender into development policies and opinion campaigns conducted by French NGOs.

Using the gender approach to help street children in DRC

From 2008 to 2013, a French Social Development Fund (FSD) supported by the French Embassy financed 20 associations to develop women's agricultural development initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for a total of €1 million. A new FSD will put €500,000 into projects to help street children, using a gender approach. A partnership has already been signed for this with the Ministry of Gender, Family Affairs and Children, which is fully associated with the process.

Initiatives are also carried out in partnership with the international migration solidarity organisations (OSIMs).

Decentralised cooperation bodies will also be briefed to mainstream gender into the preparation, appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of their own cooperation projects. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' calls for decentralised cooperation projects will accordingly include a special focus on gender equality and women's rights. Gender will be mainstreamed as an evaluation and scoreboard criterion right from the project preparation and appraisal stages. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also encourage local government bodies to work the gender approach more into their international action. A working group of central and local government body representatives will be set up to prepare a best practices guide.

Partnership with the International Migration Solidarity Organisations (IMSOs)

France supports the unique nature and value-added of diasporas in women's empowerment projects.

In 2012, a call for projects was launched to support initiatives to empower women economically and socially. Sixteen projects in 13 countries are investing a total of €600,000 in improving women's living conditions and women's empowerment. These projects systematically promote free and equal access

to education, training, employment, business, land, resources, the public arena and decision-making processes.

In 2013, a new call for projects was launched for girls and young women aged 10 to 25. These projects are working in areas such as ending gender-based violence, including forced marriages, school enrolment for girls, and access to family planning and reproductive health services.

6. OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

6.1 Our objectives

➔ The gender approach identifies inequalities created by the balance of power between women and men. Applying the gender approach upstream of policy design focuses our development strategy on gender equality so that we can meet women's particular needs at all ages of life.

The main aim of the *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* is to change the ways we work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that women and men can benefit equally from the rewards of development in every French development assistance action.

The introduction of the gender approach will improve the quality, effectiveness and relevance of development projects and programmes since it makes for a broader and more detailed understanding of the structural determinants of poverty.

Our objectives:

- The emancipation of women and girls and building their capacities to make choices **in their private lives (access to contraceptives, choice of spouse, etc.) and in their professional and public lives;**
- **Free and equal access by women and children to rights and justice and to protection against all forms of violence;**
- **Free and equal access to services, especially basic social services such as education, healthcare, and sexual rights and reproductive health;**
- **Access to and control over productive and economic resources, access to decent work, equality at work and equal pay;**
- **Female participation in economic, political and social decision-making processes.**

For example, the “Gender and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Africa” Priority Solidarity Fund launched in 2009 and closed in 2013 transformed economic assistance projects into economic empowerment projects. By adopting a gender approach, the partner NGOs expanded out from their purely economic and technical profit- and earnings-based activities to encompass women’s environments and returns to work.

They found that women work 17 hours a day as opposed to 10 hours for the men, they do not have access to the best land, they do not have any control over the machines they use, the farmers’ organisations and trade associations are generally run by men and do not take women’s priorities into account, women are at the bottom of the pay scale, and an increase in a woman’s earnings can trigger a decrease in her spouse’s earnings. The NGOs drew on these findings to define and drive new activities conducive to a better distribution of tasks, resources and returns.

6.2 Our principles for action

➔ France’s gender mainstreaming approach contains four key principles for action.

6.2.1 The human rights-based approach

*“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. [...] Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, **sex**, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. [...] All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.”*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 1948

➔ Respect for women’s rights, gender equality and the rejection of all forms of gender-based discrimination are key principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These principles form a cornerstone of France’s foreign policy and development policy.

The human rights-based approach is also a powerful driver for development. OECD Development Center studies have found a **close correlation between a reduction in gender discrimination and an improvement in the main development indicators**. For example, female participation in formal employment increases with the elimination of legal discrimination and the decrease in early marriages.

Another example, as the chart shows, is that adolescent girls are twice as likely as boys to be infected with HIV in countries where there is no legislation against domestic violence.

The priority areas for sustainable action on a country’s development are the reform of discriminatory family codes, the elimination of gender-based violence, the reduction of inequalities in access to economic resources and support for female participation in decision-making processes.

The rights approach also means that the populations concerned, including women, know their rights. In this, the rights approach ties in with the principle of empowerment.

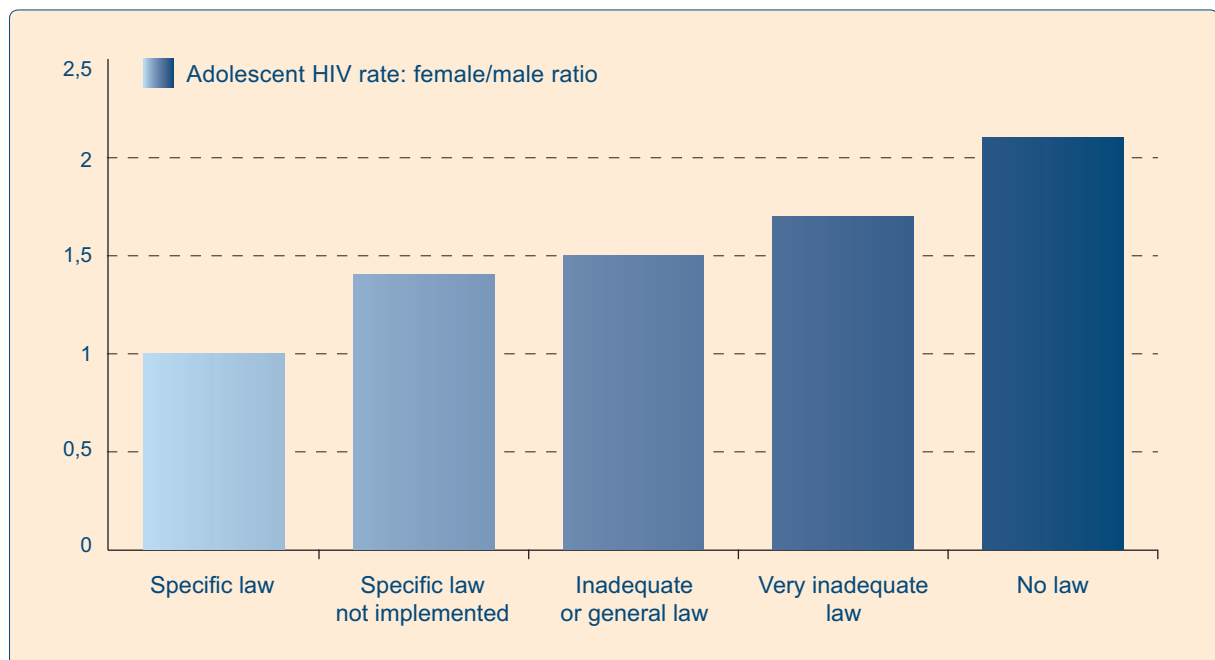
Repeatedly, disparities are found between “formal rights” and “actual rights”. Although the principles of equality are written into the constitution and national and international legislation, they are often not really enforced as social standards undercut the law. This is why it is important to work on religious customs and traditions as well.

This calls for action in three areas for change – individual level, socioeconomic or community level (family, school and community) and institutional level – to make lasting changes to women’s living conditions and social status.

6.2.2 The principle of effectiveness

➔ Gender mainstreaming improves development policy outcomes. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)³ believes that if women had the same access as men to productive resources (land, inputs, credit, training and technology), they would produce 20%

Illustration 1 : **Correlation between HIV infection and the existence of legislation against gender-based violence**



Source : DAC-OECD

3- FAO, Annual Report 2011, *Women – key to food security*.

to 30% more, which would be enough to pull 100 to 150 million people out of hunger in the world. Similarly, access by women to jobs as teachers, doctors and police officers has a positive impact on school enrolment of girls, health-care centre attendance and the number of police reports of sexual violence.⁴

Girls, in particular, are a powerful, key driver for development.⁵ As shown by many studies, especially the World Bank's 2012 World Development Report,⁶ investing in the potential of girls and young women has a beneficial effect on poverty eradication – not only for the girls themselves, but also for their communities and entire countries. An educated girl will generally marry later and have fewer children, and her children will be in better health and be better educated. For example, it has been found that one additional year of primary school raises girls' future earnings by 10% to 20% and that one additional year of secondary school raises their earnings by 15% to 25%.⁷

The gender approach is a condition for development action effectiveness and viability. However, its ambition for political and social change goes so much further than just economic utilitarianism. The gender approach and analysis open the door to empowerment.

6.2.3 Women's empowerment

➔ The concept of empowerment refers to giving people, women, more power over their own lives and their environment. It entails the idea of changing the balance of power.

It is a power-building process that takes in the **individual level** – in terms of the power that individuals can gain over their own lives, their decision-making capacity, perceived status, self-confidence and individual skills – and the **group level** – in terms of the individual's relationship within the group in a collective vision of social and political change.

Women's empowerment is a cross-cutting notion running through all areas including sexual and reproductive rights (birth control, choice of spouse, saying "no" to violence, etc.), economics (financial

autonomy and access to and control of resources), and the legal and political sphere (access to rights, participation in decision-making processes, public speaking, etc.).⁸

This dynamic and interactive process between the individual and group aspects of empowerment builds real awareness, improves the status of women and reduces inequalities.

6.2.4 Target adolescent girls and adopt a life cycle approach

➔ Today, over one-quarter of the population of developing countries are adolescent girls and young women aged 10 to 24, representing a total of 600 million people. Risk factors are concentrated in adolescence: school-related gender-based violence, school-aged girls not in school, early marriage and pregnancy, household tasks, etc. Particular attention should therefore be paid to adolescent girls. Development programmes should help them acquire and develop the assets they need to make a successful transition to their adult lives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set up a working group on this issue to set in motion French thinking on the subject.

The Adolescentes, jeunes femmes et développement (Adolescent girls, young women and development) report published by this working group stresses the importance of taking a life cycle approach to be able to identify each age group's risks, opportunities, needs and priorities. For example, the risks for a girl at birth are not the same as at 10 to 14 years old. These 10-14 year olds face a number of risks (risk of not being in school, being married, migrating, being pregnant at a very young age, being infected with HIV, etc.), which need to be addressed by the solutions proposed. The risks at birth concern more the risks of malnutrition and infanticide, for which the responses are not going to be the same.

4- UN Women report on progress of the world's women, *In Pursuit of Justice*, 2011-2012.

5- Report from the working group, Plan and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Adolescentes, jeunes femmes et développement* (Adolescent girls, young women and development), 2013.

6- World Bank, *World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development*, 2012.

7- George Psacharopoulos & Harry Anthony Patrinos, World Bank, *Returns to Investment in Education*, 2002.

8- "Genre et Empowerment", *Les essentiels du genre No. 10*, Le monde selon les femmes, 2009.

A snapshot of figures on the extent of the problem

- Girls face discrimination even before birth: an estimated 100 million girls are not born due to female foeticide practices, mainly in India and China.
- 75 million girls do not have access to primary and lower secondary school.
- One in three girls in the world has no access to secondary education.
- One in five girls of lower secondary school age does not go to school.
- 50% of sexual assault victims are minors under 15 years old.
- One in seven girls in the developing countries is married before 15 years old and 38% before 18 years old.
- 14 million girls aged 15 to 19 give birth in the world every year. Yet pregnancy complications are the leading cause of death among 15-to-19 year old girls worldwide.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, new HIV infections among 15-to-24 year olds concern an average of eight girls for every one boy.

Source : plan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs *Adolescentes, jeunes femmes et développement* (Adolescent girls, young women and development), report from the working group, 2013.

6.3 Areas of action: improve gender mainstreaming in all development interventions

➔ The main areas of action in the new *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* are to build resources and capacities to **improve gender mainstreaming in all cooperation actions and sectors**.

6.3.1 Improve gender mainstreaming in all development funding instruments

➔ More gender equality in our official development assistance calls for a change in practices and the way projects and programmes funded by France are designed, monitored and evaluated.

This means updating all project and programme appraisal and monitoring instruments to meet these challenges. Updating concerns the accounting and appraisal procedures for the different types of Priority Solidarity Funds (including the social development funds) managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More broadly, it relates to all the funding procedures used by the AFD (projects, subsidies to NGOs and loans), procedures used by other operators (Canal France International, the *Institut français*, Campus France, the Agency for French Education Overseas (AEFE) and *France expertise internationale*), and the subsidy award procedures used in calls for projects

for decentralised cooperation partners (local government bodies and associations, and regional multistakeholder networks). It also concerns financing for projects initiated by international migration solidarity organisations (OSIMs).

The new procedures call for each new project to present an analysis of the gender issues in its area of action based on disaggregated (gender-specific) data and elements on status, women's rights and/or girls' rights in this area, the distribution of tasks and resources between women and men, and access to and participation in decision-making processes.

Projects should be gender-responsive and take into account women's strategic needs by implementing women's empowerment approach. They are expected to present, wherever possible, specific activities that will provide food for thought and further awareness of gender stereotypes and the inequalities they produce.

Projects need indicators to paint as clear a picture as possible of their different impacts on women and men and special indicators on improvements to women's status and the reduction in gender inequalities.

Projects may draw on international or local gender and development expertise to define the most relevant gender strategy possible. It is recommended to earmark a special budget for gender-specific activities.

The committees responsible for project selection and awarding funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all its operators now use gender evaluation and scoreboard grids to assess the mainstreaming of gender criteria. The project selection committees make recommendations to improve practices. By 2017, greater gender equality will be the specific or secondary goal of half of all funded projects and programmes⁹ (with the exception of assistance provided in the form of general budget support and unallocated budget lines).

This development will be underpinned by methodological tools for each instrument developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its operators in the form of a manual and frequently asked questions. These new tools will be available to all.

The Harvard Analytical Framework

The framework developed by the Harvard Institute for International Development is used to define women and men's activity profiles at each stage in the life cycle in order to identify differences in access to and control of resources. The first analytical table on social roles answers the question, "Who does what?" in the three areas of reproductive activities (care and household tasks), production activities (paid economic activity) and community activities (public action, cultural action and social action such as marriage). Men generally take the visible productive and public roles while women combine the three roles less visibly. Time budget surveys find how much time each person spends on what. The second table identifies who has access to and who controls the economic resources (land, equipment, techniques and manpower) and socio-political resources (orders, decision-making representation and credibility-authority) and who controls the benefits of the use of these resources (income, assets, political power, social and legal status, etc.). The third table identifies the factors that influence the gender-based division of labour and the distribution of resources, and identifies opportunities for action.

6.3.2 Hold in-house gender and development training and coordinate gender focal points

➔ Staff capacity building in gender and development theory and practice is key to improving practices.

The new gender strategy scales up staff training in gender and development issues. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) and each of its operators and partners are responsible for providing sustainable, shared training geared to staff needs and their levels of gender-relevant knowledge at headquarters and in the partner countries. By 2017, 90% of drafters, department heads and directors working for the Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships (DGM) and AFD project heads and managers will have received gender awareness education and/or training. Technical and/or sector-based training will also be developed. Gender modules will be introduced for in-house training programmes and training for new postings overseas. Gender and development training will also be available to development partners (French NGOs, OSIMs, local government bodies, etc.).

The creation of a network of gender and development focal points working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and each of its operators and partners introduces a real cross-cutting think tank across all sectors. Gender focal points are appointed in all relevant departments and sector and technical divisions. Special timetables are put together for them to work on their collectively defined tasks.

The gender focal points are given technical training on gender issues so that they can act as interfaces in their area of expertise. They play a monitoring and advisory role to ensure that gender is mainstreamed across all their team's activities.

The network of gender focal points is coordinated in-house by staff responsible for gender and development issues. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds annual working and best practices meetings.

9- For the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD), this concerns only projects and programmes financed abroad.

6.3.3 Develop and support research work, especially operational research, and support French and French-speaking expertise in gender and development

➔ Gender and development research is vital to advance with French planning in this area, but research is thin on the ground and little use is made of the few low-profile studies there are.

The new strategy responds to this concern with provisions to disseminate and develop the use of existing research and support the launch of new sector-based research in relatively uncharted territory such as gender and the environment, climate change, food security and agricultural development, governance, crisis and post-crisis management, women's health, and sexual and reproductive health.

This work is conducted in partnership with French research institutes specialised in development such as the *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD), the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), the French National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), the Foundation for International Development Study and Research (FERDI), the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), the AFD Research Department, Paris School of Economics (PSE) and the 27 French Research Institutes Abroad (IFREs) whose network is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. New partnerships could be considered with specialised research programmes on gender and gender equality issues such as the Sciences Po Research and Academic Programme on Gender Thinking (PRESAGE) and the Centre for Education, Documentation and Research on Women's Studies (CEDREF).

The strategy also supports research and action on the implementation of operational projects. This grassroots technique collects qualitative information and capitalises on innovative experiences. It complements conventional research work and brings on board civil society organisation expertise.

French and French-speaking gender and development expertise is growing. The strategy will improve information on these experts, draw on this expertise for project bids and set up a documentary and methodological database to meet the needs of French and French-speaking stakeholders.

Work is underway in the different development sectors to define common objectives and indicators for each sector by 2017.

The Observatory on Social Change in the Arab World

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' three-year "Gender, Generation and Social Cohesion" Priority Solidarity Fund, which comes into effect in September 2013, is funding the launch of the Observatory on Social Change in the Arab World (OTMA) coordinated by the IRD and INED in partnership with the Centre Jacques Berque research institute in Morocco, the Institute of Maghreb Contemporary Research in Tunisia and the Centre for Social, Judicial and Economic Documentation and Study (CEDEJ) in Egypt. The project will back the production of data and research for a better understanding of the social changes underway in the Arab world, with a particular focus on the development of the status of women and girls and the balance of power between women and men in their society, particularly among young people.

The *Genre en Action* association

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs set up the *Genre en Action* (Gender in Action) association in 2003 to:

- Collect and disseminate information on gender and development issues in French and within the French-speaking world;
- Identify and network experts;
- Scale up the inclusion of French-speaking experiences and expertise in development processes and policies, especially at international level.

The association has an information portal and a pool of experts based in the North and South.

Find out more at: www.genreenaction.net

6.3.4 Defend gender equality in bilateral dialogue, European and international forums, and our multilateral undertakings

➔ Gender equality and women's rights should be a focus of bilateral and multilateral policy dialogue.

The strategy encourages more systematic bilateral dialogue with development partners, particularly with ministers responsible for women's rights and equality and civil society organisations in partner countries. It upholds the inclusion of an item on this subject in the discussion agendas of other political meetings. Gender equality will therefore be systematically addressed in French embassy action plans and in directives for new ambassadors.

The AFD offices will also hold discussions on gender issues with their institutional partners.

The Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017 reaffirms France's leading role in the defence of women's rights and sexual and reproductive rights in international forums, especially at sessions of the UN Commission on Population and Development and the UN Commission on the Status of Women, where France has ministerial representation and actively participates in international negotiations.

France works with civil society organisations. It defends women's rights and gender equality in all the other international and European bodies, such as the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, the Council of Europe and other forums such as the G8 and the G20, as well as in the debate on the new post-2015 development agenda.

It is particularly important to reaffirm this commitment in the lead-up to the celebration of the 20th anniversaries of the adoption of the Cairo programme of action on population and development in 2014 and the Beijing platform for action on gender and development in 2015. It is also important in the current international environment of rising conservatism.

In 2014, the strategy recommends that France really drive more gender mainstreaming in the multilateral funds we finance and manage.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women

The delegation to the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 2013) was headed by the French Minister Delegate for Women's Rights and Government Spokesperson. Preparatory meetings were held with foreign affairs and women's rights ministries, European and French-speaking partners, and French civil society representatives to develop a strategy to negotiate the defence of women's rights and sexual and reproductive rights. Work with UN Women, which provides the secretariat for the UN Commission on the Status of Women, also paved the way for the adoption of a text containing ambitious conclusions.

French representatives advocate gender mainstreaming in meetings with the boards, governing bodies and/or financial, budget and administrative technical committees of the international organisations that France supports. In partner countries, French representatives promote gender mainstreaming in the drafting of country requests and in the appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Global Partnership for Education.

As number two contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France is playing a driving role in the adoption of the Fund's new strategy on gender and reducing inequalities. It will do the same for the other multilateral funds.

France supports the World Bank's gender work. Following the World Bank's implementation of its Gender Action Plan (2007-2012), the Bank published its World Development Report 2012 on Gender Equality and Development. The World Bank then adopted a five-track action plan to put the report's recommendations into action:

- 1) Disseminate information on gender and political dialogue in partner countries;
- 2) Support gender diagnoses in each country in the World Bank's areas of intervention;
- 3) Increase resources allocated to the sectors of healthcare for women and children, school enrolment for girls, and women's access to employment and business;

- 4) Support the collection of disaggregated gender data and best gender practices;
- 5) Set up partnerships with UN Women, the private sector and civil society organisations.

6.3.5 Improve gender equality assistance accountability and traceability

➔ In 2020, France started publishing the percentage of official development assistance that it puts into gender equality using the gender marker produced by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

The strategy commits France to improving the use of the OECD-DAC gender marker in order to more specifically report on action taken to reduce gender inequalities.

It encourages a review of scoring methods and production of a manual to improve the use of the marker. The gender marker will also evaluate gender mainstreaming in new sectors such as the private sector, agricultural development, water and sanitation, infrastructures, and climate change.

In keeping with the directives of the Interministerial Committee for Equality on 30 November 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will start reporting on equality actions in 2014 and will use gender performance indicators in the cross-cutting policy document on equality appended to the draft Budget Act.

The OECD-DAC gender marker

The gender marker rates development projects and programmes with the following scores:

- G-0: the project does not target gender equality;
- G-1: improving gender equality or reducing gender inequalities is a significant or secondary objective of the project;
- G-2: improving gender equality or reducing gender inequalities is a main objective of the project.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD) award these scores based on the information provided by project and programme managers.

The latest report shows that aid to improve gender equality (G-1 and G-2 markers) represented 31% of total aid, or \$25.3 billion, in 2009-2010 and that more than 50% of this aid went to the education and healthcare sectors.

In 2011, France reported that 39%, or \$1.9 billion, of its aid was spent on reducing gender inequalities. No projects had gender as their main objective.*

Objective: In 2017, at least 50% of funded projects and programmes score G-1 or G-2.

* DAC-OECD, *Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – Donor Charts*, March 2013.

7. ACTIONS BY SECTOR

➔ Each development sector has its own gender issues. **The new strategy advocates the introduction of sector-based strategic planning in association with research centres and development partners.** In 2017, common objectives and indicators will be defined in all development sectors.

7.1 Women's sexual and reproductive health and rights

➔ “Despite considerable progress in the past decades, societies continue to fail to meet the health care needs of women at key moments of their lives, particularly in their adolescent years.” Such is the observation made by the 2009 World Health Organization (WHO) report on Women and Health.

Although women have a longer life expectancy than men in most of the world's countries, women have a lower quality of life due to a number of health and social factors. Among these factors,

Muskoka: France's commitments for women and children's health

At the G8 Summit in Muskoka in 2010, France pledged to contribute an extra €500 million to reducing maternal, infant and child mortality for the 2011-2015 period. This new contribution is being channelled through various UN agencies and the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD) for use in 16 priority countries in West Africa, Haiti and Afghanistan.

restrictions on access to healthcare services and restrictions on access to education, income and decision-making power weigh on women's health. For example, poor women in rural areas are overexposed to the risk of maternal mortality (the risk is 450 times higher in the Sahelian countries than in developed countries). **Early marriages and pregnancies** have catastrophic repercussions on the health of young women, quadrupling the risk of obstetric complications and maternal mortality and causing vaginal fistulas, which lead to forms of social exclusion. **Family planning** needs, including access to contraception and abortion, come up against cultural and societal taboos. Violence against women in the community and at home affects both their reproductive health (mutilation and sexual abuse) and their mental health (depression and suicide). This gender-related violence is exacerbated in **conflict situations**.

Women account for 53% of people living with HIV worldwide, and nearly 80% of these women live in sub-Saharan Africa. Behind these overall figures lie considerable differences in terms of what the disease means to women and men. Women are biologically more vulnerable to HIV transmission. Yet they are also at risk because of gender inequalities and standards defined by society, which affect their ability to protect themselves against or say “No” to violence and forced sexual relations.

Women are also more vulnerable to other sexually transmitted infections such as syphilis and papillomavirus (associated with cervical cancer). Some **chronic diseases** affect poor women disproportionately: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease due to indoor air pollution, hypertension due to being overweight, etc.

AMREF's *Stand Up for African Mothers* campaign

In 2011, the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) launched an international campaign, backed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to train African midwives. This *Stand Up for African Mothers* campaign is the NGO's active contribution to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) No. 5 to reduce maternal mortality. The aim is to train 15,000 African midwives to reduce maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa by 25%.

The localised programme is training midwives to handle difficult births and complications. A combination of e-learning and practical courses means that health workers can up-skill as they work.

Although development is generally associated with a decrease in excess female mortality in infancy and early childhood, it also goes hand in hand with **an increase in high-risk behaviour** among young girls (smoking, binge drinking, poor diet, physical inactivity, etc.) And because women generally live longer than men, they represent a growing proportion of **seniors**. The failure of the healthcare systems to adjust to this demographic trend places women more at risk later in life.

→ Actions:

- **Advocacy in each of the international organisations and vertical funds in the health sector for the systematic inclusion of a gender equality approach in their programmes and activities combined with suitable resources to train staff and measure impacts on women's health;**
- **Introduce the gender approach as an evaluation criterion for funding requests in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's new funding model.**
- **Support the project for a warning network on violations of women's rights run by the leading global health governance partners;**
- **Step up the number of women in the decision-making bodies of the international health organisations with a target of parity in positions of responsibility by 2015.**

7.2 Economic empowerment, access to economic and productive resources, and food security

→ Returns on female labour, female participation in economic activities and women's access to financial autonomy are all key to growth and development. Yet in most countries, women suffer discrimination in access to the labour market and work mainly in the lowest paid sectors. In sub-Saharan Africa, 56.9% of women work compared with 79.7% of men. Eight in ten of these women are in vulnerable employment,¹⁰ i.e. working as unpaid contributing family workers or as own-account workers for little or no pay, without social protection or a formal contract. Only 21% of women in North Africa and the Middle East have access to the labour market as opposed to 76% of men.¹¹

Women and men have different roles in agriculture. Rural women have many responsibilities in crop growing, livestock, fishing, timber production and food processing. Yet they are more often than not at the bottom of the pay scale. In Togo, for example, women breed pigs while men take the pigs to market. Women are also concentrated more in the informal food trade (food transport, processing and retail). And they are largely responsible for the food production required for the family's daily meals, which means that they tend another field in addition to the family field. Once all these activities are added to the household tasks (cooking and fetching wood and water), **women are frequently found to work twice as much as men.**

Women make a key contribution to the rural economy in all developing countries and account for 43% of the agricultural workforce. The FAO¹² believes that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields by 20% to 30%, enough to bring the number of undernourished people down by 100 to 150 million.

Nevertheless, they still have fewer rights than men. They have less access to resources such as land, livestock, inputs and agricultural manpower, but also education, extension services, credit and

10- Vulnerable employment is a concept developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to calculate the sum of workers in insecure employment (low remuneration, absence of formal contracts, welfare benefits, social protection, etc.) like contributing family workers.

11- World Bank figures, 2012.

12- FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture, Closing the gender gap for development*, 2011.

A pilot test for the economic empowerment of women in sub-Saharan Africa

The “Gender and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Africa” Priority Solidarity Fund works with 14 French NGOs and their 30 Southern partners in seven West African countries. The programme has set up a Gender Experts Unit in the North and South to improve the practices of partner associations and recipients. This unit has introduced organisational gender audits, surveys and training workshops that have challenged the balance of power between men and women in the economic sphere, shed light on aspects such as the distribution of household tasks, access to land, machines

and markets, the management of earnings, and access to decision-making processes, and steered certain activities toward greater equality.

The Priority Solidarity Fund has defined new working methodologies to mainstream gender into programmes, which are available in a capitalisation document concerning economic empowerment of women. A documentary film, *La Part des Femmes*, produced by Imageo, reports on five women assisted by the project.

technology. Without land tenure, farmers do not have the guarantees they need for loans. Last but not least, the underrepresentation of women in farming and trade organisations restricts their ability to make their voice heard in decision-making.

So the issues here concern **land tenure and inheritance laws, access to credit, access to agricultural inputs, access to education, training and extension services, and access to decision-making processes.**

→ Actions:

- Continue with the programme in support of women’s economic empowerment;
 - Focus programmed food aid on the most vulnerable, including women and children;
 - Advocate the equality of land tenure, especially in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May 2012;
 - Inform and galvanise the Interministerial Group on Food Security (GISA) made up of French stakeholders working in this area (NGOs, administrations, research bodies and operators) to improve gender mainstreaming.
-

7.3 Rights to a quality comprehensive education and vocational training

→ The 2000 Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 set the goal to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 and achieve gender equality at all levels of education by 2015. Yet in 2012, still too many girls in developing countries were shut out of school and deprived of their fundamental right to education. A full 32% of girls do not finish primary school, 39 million 11-15 year olds are not enrolled in school and two-thirds of the world’s illiterate are women.

Participation of girls in school decreases as they progress through the education system. Many risk factors are found in adolescence: school non-attendance, violence, early marriages and pregnancies, and household tasks. Yet studies show that school attendance by girls has a positive impact on their health, especially maternal, reduces the number of early and forced marriages, and curbs the spread of HIV. Adolescent girls who complete secondary school have four times fewer children than girls who do not go to school.

From an economic point of view, education opens the door for women to work paid jobs and acquire economic and social autonomy. One additional year of school can raise a woman’s earnings by 15% to 20%.

Educated girls can make informed personal choices and improve the health and welfare of the next generation, benefitting the economic and social well-being of an entire country.

France taking action to prevent school-related gender-based violence

The data show that girls in many countries are victims of forms of violence in and around their school. This undermines their education and sometimes forces them to drop out of school. School-related gender-based violence covers a range of issues: economic, sociocultural (sex taboo, no sex education and gender inequalities) and health. It is perpetrated by teaching staff, school staff, adults around the school and male pupils. This widespread violence frequently remains a taboo subject, making it hard to pinpoint, recognise and handle.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' special working group on this subject has published a report on school-related gender-based violence and its

impact on girls' education entitled "*Les violences de genre en milieu scolaire : comprendre leur impact sur la scolarisation des filles pour mieux les combattre*" (School-related gender-based violence in French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa: Understanding its impact on girls' school attendance so as to combat it more effectively).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' work in this area can be seen on the ground in its support to four United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programmes to promote school enrolment by girls and combat gender-based violence in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger (€3.3 million in 2012-2014).

Work to prevent girls from dropping out of school needs to take into account a number of barriers:

- **Cultural:** cultural stereotypes that place the responsibility for household tasks on the shoulders of women and girls; and early marriages and pregnancies;
- **Financial:** cost of schooling, which prompts a trade-off often at the expense of the girls;
- **Infrastructure:** distance from home to school, which entails an additional risk to girls' safety,

and the absence of separate toilets as a guarantee of a healthy, safe environment;

- **School-related:** the quality of education, the content of text books presenting gender stereotypes, education on equality, sex education, violence and sexual harassment by certain teachers.

Proficiency in the French language is part and parcel of the factors required to improve the education systems, especially in countries where French is spoken. The French language opens the door to knowledge, higher education, research and employment.

The French language as a language of emancipation: the role of the Education and French Language Unit

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Education and French Language Unit is making its contribution to equal access to education and employability by gearing French language learning and education dispensed in the French language to the world of work and its needs. The unit also supports the production of educational content tailored to local circumstances (teaching in a multilingual environment, female school dropouts and literacy catch-up needs). It pays close attention to the values conveyed by its French language teaching and diffusion tools, especially when it comes to gender stereotypes. It supports a French training programme in popular neighbourhoods in Tunisia for young women who are not in school and are subject to pressures due to their insecure situation.

→ Actions:

- Increase the female school enrolment rate and improve equality with boys, especially in secondary education;
 - Provide strong incentives to partner developing countries to include gender equality promotion strategies in their education plans and give them the technical assistance they need to do so;
 - Appoint an international technical expert on gender issues to the secretariat of the Global Partnership for Education in Washington;
 - Promote the mainstreaming of vocational training needs for underprivileged young women;
 - Make school-related gender-based violence a flagship focus of work on education for girls in the international agenda in 2013-2015;
 - Encourage thinking on gender stereotypes in educational content.
-

7.4 Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and secure access to justice and rights

➔ Violence against women is defined as “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”¹³ Violence against women comes in many forms and is found as much in private life (domestic violence, spousal abuse, early and forced marriages, and female genital mutilation) as in public life (rape, sexual harassment, trafficking and prostitution). In some situations, sexual violence becomes a weapon of war and women’s bodies a political pawn.

The prevention and elimination of violence against women is one of the twelve areas of action in the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995. Despite considerable efforts by many countries to end violence against women, this fundamental violation of women’s rights persists. One in seven of the world’s women is a victim of violence,¹⁴ 100 million girls are victims of female genital mutilation and 60 million girls are married before the age of 15. A number of nations have posted an increase in the number of reported cases of violence against women since 2005. Certain groups of women, especially indigenous women, young women, rural women and women belonging to an ethnic minority remain at risk of particularly severe forms of violence.

Violence against women is propelled by the endemic persistence of attitudes and behaviour that perpetuate gender stereotypes and gender inequalities. Victims and survivors are often stigmatised, especially by their families.

In addition to combating stereotypes, there are other needs:

- Access to rights, law enforcement and victim protection: international laws providing for punitive action for gender-based violence are rarely enforced and form the first step in preventing and ending this violence;

Action to end violence against women in Bamako and Kayes in Mali

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked on a project funded by the “Prevention of Violence Against Women” Priority Solidarity Fund, investing €1.5 million in six countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Jordan, Mali, Morocco and Niger) from 2011 to 2013.

In Mali, the project was conducted in association with the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family (MPFEF), UN Women and local civil society players. It backed female genital mutilation information and education campaigns based on documentary films, radio programmes, plays and national television broadcasts. Additional actions were conducted on female participation in political life with training in leadership, lobbying and election preparations for 40 female leaders (members of parliament, former ministers and managers of the women’s advisory framework to the political parties).

- Access to justice: the legal system is a slow-moving web of complicated, expensive proceedings that are a real obstacle course to victims of violence;
- Victim care and assistance: gender stereotypes run through our societies, sparing neither police bodies nor hospital services. Women are stigmatised by the very people who are supposed to be helping them;
- School-related violence: this violence is often treated with impunity and is perpetuated in schools and educational establishments between teachers and students/pupils, but also between pupils themselves;
- Violence using information and communication technology (ICT) is now a real concern (on the Internet and using mobile phones).

→ Actions:

- Support the repeal of discriminatory legislation, amendments to national legislation to bring it into line with ratified international provisions, and the introduction of implementing decrees;

13- “Plan d’action francophone sur les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles” (French-speaking action plan on violence against women and girls), March 2013.

14- Report of the UN Secretary-General on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls to the 57th UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 2013.

- Improve the local justice system and free legal aid for female victims;
- Train professionals, especially those who deal with this violence: doctors, police officers, judges, teachers and social workers;
- Conduct awareness campaigns on gender-based violence in the local language: schools, elected representatives, community leaders, women's groups, etc.

7.5 Democratic governance and political participation

➔ How can we talk about democratic representation when over half of the population is underrepresented in the decision-making processes? Political participation by women in governance processes concerns all levels of governance: local, national, regional and global. MDG 3 targets an increase in the number of seats held by women in national parliaments. The United Nations sets the minimum proportion of women required to really incorporate their needs into public policymaking at 30%.

By the end of January 2011, women held 19.7% of the seats in parliaments worldwide, representing a 75% increase over 1995. Women occupy 20% of the seats in parliaments in sub-Saharan Africa and 11% in North Africa. The number of women in parliament plummeted from 12.7% to 2%¹⁵ in Egypt under the last government.

The underrepresentation of women in decision-making processes is due to many factors associated with women's sociocultural roles, which confine them to the private sphere, and certain parliamentary cultures, political party customs and operating rules in decision-making arenas (cooptation systems).

Progress has been made in recent years by the introduction of quota policies, which have proved their worth in countries such as Senegal, for example, where women hold 43% of the seats in the National Assembly. Female participation could be supported by reforms of voting systems and policies to encourage them to get involved. The press has a role to play in portraying a positive image of women in politics and decision-making processes.

The French National School of Public Administration (ENA) course on Leadership and Management by and for Women

The Specialised International Cycles in Public Administration (CISAP) organised by the ENA provide courses on female leadership and management for women in positions of responsibility. This annual course builds capacities in management, communication, negotiations and networking. The course also challenges the gender inequalities and stereotypes that hinder women's access to decision-making processes and encourages public awareness of these issues.

Female participation in governance also calls for more women in positions in the justice system and the police.

UN Women's latest report¹⁶ reports that women account for 9% of police and 27% of the judges in the world. There is a correlation between women's representation in the justice system and improvements in the handling of women's reports of offences, especially gender-based violence.

In conflict countries, too, women are underrepresented in the official peace processes even though they make an informal contribution to conflict resolution. No woman has ever been appointed chief negotiator or even head of mission in UN-brokered peace talks. This exclusion invariably means that women's concerns are not properly taken into consideration in post-conflict reconstruction.

→ Actions:

- Support the reform of voting systems, the inclusion of parity in the constitution, the adoption of quotas and sanctions for parties that do not respect them;
- Build women's capacities for voice and confidence;
- Support the participation of women in the police force and justice system.

15- The United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report, 2012.

16- UN Women, Progress of the World's Women report, 2011-2012.

7.6 Environment and climate change

➔ Women are hit directly by climate change because of the role they play in family management and food security. When basic food needs (food, water and firewood) are not met, women face an additional workload and having to adopt coping strategies.

The example of the timber and farming economy speaks volumes. Women play a central role in the management of biodiversity and food security. In Africa, 80% of smallholders are women and they generally work the smallest and poorer plots of land.¹⁷ This activity is highly sensitive to climate variability, changes in rainfall and soil erosion. The impacts of climate change add to their productive burden even as their domestic tasks continue to have them working a double day.

Studies show that women are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of cultural standards that restrict their mobility and their decision-making capacity and hence their capability to respond to climate crises.

Although women are also stakeholders in the drive for a sustainable environment, their participation in climate change decisions remains patchy. Yet examples abound of the role women have played in combating deforestation, developing organic farming¹⁸, protecting local biodiversity and farming adapted crops such as drought-resistant rice varieties. They use their traditional and technical know-how to devise suitable strategies.

→ Actions:

- **Promote women's representation in the governance bodies of the three environmental conventions¹⁹ [the Doha Conference sets the target of a gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change];**
 - **Adjust climate change policies more to women's needs with a drive for a common understanding of the gender approach;**
 - **Promote women's farming associations and networks;**
 - **Train women to adapt to the impacts of climate change.**
-

17- Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

18- *Gender & Climate Change*, Bridge Bulletin Issue 22, 2011.

19- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

7.7 Cultural rights and access to media

7.7.1 Culture

➔ Gender mainstreaming in the cultural field is a strategic issue since it is a powerful vehicle for representation.

In France, women account for 47% of employees in the cultural sector, but less than 20% of management positions. Data needs to be collected on France's cultural cooperation work to find out more about the promotion of female artists and gender-relevant activities.

Inequalities of opportunity and unequal pay in this sector have an impact in terms of image and representation. When female artists are absent from the stage, art galleries and screens and when women have no voice as experts or spokespeople for gender equality, the spotlight goes out on the role they play in their own society. These inequalities exist in both the North and the South. Strong political action is needed in our national and international action to raise the curtain on the importance of this issue.

UNESCO proposes reducing these disparities by working on intangible cultural heritage conservation policies and practices and by raising the number of women managing museums and the cultural and creative industries by means of training courses and special projects on gender issues.

Likewise, the French cultural network needs to continue to focus closely on the mainstreaming and representation of women in cultural actions and projects in terms of promoting female artists, exhibition curators, authors, intellectuals and directors of cultural institutions and discussing gender issues in debates and at exhibitions and film screenings.

7.7.2 Media

➔ In general, gender equality in the media concerns two issues. First, there is the **representation of women in the content produced** by the media and action to end stereotypes. Second, there is the **representation of women as media professionals** in media companies and the prevention of discrimination.

Women and Media in the Arab World Project backed by Canal France International

Canal France international (CFI) is backing the development of a Network of Female Syrian Journalists from different media operations working within and outside of the country. The network is set up to promote the place and careers of female journalists in Syria and to champion a new media handling of gender issues. To this end, CFI is supporting the network to develop an Internet platform and a multimedia blog. It holds training workshops on how to end gender stereotypes in the media and on promoting women's rights.

The media plays a key role in shaping society's perceptions, ideas, attitudes and behaviour: it is a powerful driver for structural change, especially in gender equality. Action in this sector is therefore particularly important in terms of the impact it can have across the entire society.

Ten years after the Beijing conference, the UN Commission on the Status of Women reported that the targets set for equality in the media had not been fully met. Reports spotlighting women are very thin on the ground (3% of reports on the economy and 8% of political reports, 10% worldwide, but 17% of "light entertainment" such as news on celebrities, sports and social topics). In December 2012, UNESCO published a framework of useful indicators called Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media.

7.7.3 Information and communication technology (ICT)

→ ICT and the Internet have revolutionised the world of information and communication. Access to these technologies is blatantly imbalanced, barring primarily rural populations in the Southern countries and especially women who are less literate and have no information technology training.

→ Actions:

- Introduce systematic statistical data collection on inequalities and use and improve upon existing indicators;
- Promote gender equality: develop and promote the place of female artists, writers, intellectuals, exhibition curators, directors of cultural establishments, journalists and media managers;
- Educate public, elected representatives and government officials;
- Incorporate this aspect into vocational training in the cultural and broadcasting sectors;
- Develop ICT capacity-building workshops and the possibility of lifelong learning.

7.8 Access to water and sanitation, to services and infrastructure

→ Gender is a particularly relevant issue in the water and sanitation sector, especially in rural areas where the onus is mainly on women and girls to draw, carry, store and use water. A study²⁰ shows that a woman on average carries the equivalent, depending on the country, of 10 to 40 tonnes of water and firewood over a distance of one kilometre every year. This is three to seven times more than the load carried by men. Women also handle most of the sanitation maintenance and hygiene education tasks. Yet although their role is now largely acknowledged as users, they are still not sufficiently involved in the decision-making processes and the management of facilities. It is therefore vital to promote their full participation in water and sanitation projects.

Here too, girls' education is affected by two factors: the use of girls for domestic chores, especially carrying water and fuel, and the lack of suitable, separate toilets.

20- Éditions du GRET, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD, *Eau, genre and développement durable, expériences de la coopération française en Afrique subsaharienne* (Water, gender and sustainable development, French cooperation network experiences in sub-Saharan Africa) collection *Études et Travaux*.

The AFD involves women in water and sanitation projects

The AFD's experience in drinking water supply and sanitation has shown that involving different population groups in projects increases the chances of project success and sustainability. Mainstreaming a gender approach in water and sanitation projects involves taking account of the needs and interests of the different social groups. This often means pairing up women and men (gender mix) in coordinator teams. They work together or share the work on the ground,

depending on the nature of the activities. Female coordinators are more readily accepted in family compounds and can therefore discuss sensitive subjects more freely with women, such as health, hygiene and sources of income. This approach is used in all village water projects funded by the AFD (e.g. drinking water and sanitation project in the Centre-North region of Burkina Faso, €7 million).

→ Actions:

- Ensure that water supply points are not too far from homes (less than 30 minutes return trip, including queuing at the point) and/or provide services to the home (MDG 7C);
 - Systematically separate public toilets (schools, healthcare centres, etc.) by gender;
 - Systematically involve women in user associations and consider social and age differences;
 - Build women's capacities in the water and sanitation sectors;
 - Include the gender approach in international solidarity projects.
-

8. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND THE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

8.1 Strategy monitoring and evaluation

8.1.1 Annual monitoring by the High Council for Gender Equality

➔ The High Council for Gender Equality (HCE) was set up by decree of the President of the French Republic on 3 January 2013 to, “Consult with civil society and coordinate the public debate on the main guidelines for the policy on women’s rights and equality.”

This new advisory body is **chaired by Danielle Bousquet** and is made up of 72 key figures, representatives of public and private law associations and firms, national and local elected representatives, experts, researchers and specialists, central government representatives and *ex officio* members, including 14 senior civil servants responsible for equal rights and reporting to ministers.

The High Council for Gender Equality works on **evaluating public policies** that concern gender equality. It **evaluates impact studies** on legislation, regulations and appraisal documents on budget acts and social security financing acts. It **collects and disseminates French, European and international analyses, studies and research** on gender equality. It **draws up recommendations and opinions and submits reform proposals to the Prime Minister**.

The Prime Minister and the Minister for Women’s Rights may refer any matter to the High Council for Gender Equality and the Council may take up any matter liable to help it fulfil its duties.

The HCE’s Commission on Women’s Rights and International and European Issues will conduct the annual evaluation of the implementation of the *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017*.

Once a year, on the anniversary of the adoption of the strategy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will submit a strategy implementation monitoring report using the logical framework appended to the strategy. The High Council for Gender Equality will hear high-level representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its operators – including the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD) and *France expertise internationale* – and from the Ministry for the Economy and Finance and members of the Gender and Development platform. It will then publish an annual evaluation report, which will be disseminated to all members of the Gender and Development platform, to Parliament, central administrations, and the diplomatic missions and AFD agencies.

It may, where appropriate, issue an opinion and recommendations on *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* monitoring.

8.1.2 The role of the Gender and Development platform

➔ The Gender and Development platform was set up in 2006 with representatives of civil society, institutions, research bodies and members of parliament. It is a unique platform for cooperation with all the stakeholders working on gender and development issues.

The platform's role has been reviewed to work on the new strategy. Its main brief will be to assist and monitor the implementation of the new *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* with the High Council for Gender Equality.

It will hold the working groups and meetings it feels necessary to exchange experiences and best practices over the year. It will also provide the High Council for Gender Equality with information for its evaluations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will supply the platform's secretariat in liaison with representatives appointed by civil society, the research sector, ministries, international institutions and members of parliament. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will assign and manage a budget to coordinate the working groups and publish technical and methodological reports.

8.1.3 The National Council for Development and International Solidarity

→ The National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI), with its gender parity composition, will be informed annually of the findings of the evaluation of the outputs of this strategy. Gender will form an integral part of the subjects addressed by the CNDSI.

8.2 The logical framework

→ The logical framework takes the form of a table covering goals, activities, outputs and indicators. It also lists who is to take the action and the relevant timeline. This matrix will be used as tool in the evaluation of the implementation of the *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017*.

8.2.1 The detailed logical framework

→ The logical framework defines activities and output indicators for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, operators and development partners: the *Agence française de développement* (French Development Agency, AFD), *France expertise internationale*, Canal France International, the *Institut français*, Campus France, the Agency for French Education Overseas (AEFE), Coordination Sud, and decentralised cooperation and research bodies.

GOAL 1
→ Mainstream gender into all development funding instruments
Goal

Introduce gender mainstreaming mechanisms into project development, monitoring and evaluation procedures so that all French official development assistance projects and programmes include gender analysis at all stages – preparation, appraisal, implementation and evaluation – by 2017.

Indicator

In 2017, 100% of funded projects and programmes are evaluated using the OECD gender marker (foreign States only for AFD) and at least 50% score G-1 or G-2 (improving gender equality is respectively a secondary or main objective), with the exception of financing provided in the form of general or sector budget support or unallocated budget lines.

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
1	Develop a gender mainstreaming assistance tool for project promoters for each development funding instrument (FSP/FSD, SCAC programming, AFD, NGO funding and decentralised cooperation projects).	All gender mainstreaming assistance tools are published as of 2014.	DGM/DBM/SAH, DGM/DPR/RES, DGM/DAECT, National Commission for Decentralised Cooperation (CNCD), MAE operators: AFD, FEI.	2014.
2	Revise project appraisal procedures to mainstream gender issues.	Accounting and appraisal procedures for each development funding instrument and relevant procedures used by operators and decentralised cooperation partners are revised in 2014. The new procedures include gender analysis, definition of specific cross-cutting activities and use of gender indicators. Gender is also mainstreamed across all new calls for projects.	DGM/DPR, DGM/DAECT, CNCD, MAE operators: AFD, FEI.	2014.
3	Make gender mainstreaming a criterion for awarding funds.	A gender evaluation table and scoreboard is developed for each development funding instrument and used by the project appraisal and selection committees.	DGM/DPR, DGM/DAECT, CNCD, operators.	2014.
4	Scale up and improve use of the OECD gender marker.	A detailed gender marker manual is produced to assist project managers.	AFD, MAE (DGM/DBM/DEV).	2014.
5	Mainstream gender into the main operators' service level and resources contracts as they are revised.	By 2017, all revised service level and resources contracts include a gender approach (French Development Agency, <i>France expertise internationale</i> , Canal France International, <i>Institut français</i> , Agency for French Education Overseas (AEFE), Campus France, <i>Fondation Alliance Française</i>).	Operator oversight services: DGM/DBM/DEV, DGM/DCUR, DGM/DPR, ministers' private offices.	Finalisation in 2017.

GOAL 2

→ Ownership of gender issues by MAE staff and services

Goal	Build a culture of gender and development awareness among French ministry of Foreign Affairs staff and operators and develop gender modules in the in-house training plans and guides.
-------------	---

Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 30% of DGM drafters, division heads and department heads and AFD project heads and managers receive gender awareness education or training in 2014, 50% in 2015, 75% in 2016, 90% in 2017; ■ The indicator is gradually extended to other operators.
-------------------	---

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
6	Educate MAE and AFD staff in positions of responsibility in gender and development issues.	<p>Gender education programmes are held for MAE central administration and network managers and AFD managers concerned by gender issues.</p> <p>AFD could undertake to educate 50% of managers by 2015 and 90% by 2017.</p> <p>A gender module is programmed in the course for new DGM network postings overseas and in the training syllabus for new MAE Grade A staff at the Diplomatic and Consular Training Institute (IDC).</p>	<p>MAE: DGA/DRH.</p> <p>AFD.</p> <p>DGM/DPR and <i>Institut français</i> (for the course for new DGM network postings overseas).</p>	2014.
7	Train staff in charge of project monitoring and development funding at the MAE and AFD.	A one-day course with the aim of training 90% of project heads by 2017.	MAE: DGA/DRH, AFD.	2014.
8	Introduce gender modules into all MAE and AFD in-house training guides.	Gender modules are included in the in-house training guide and in training for new postings overseas.	MAE: DGA/DRH AFD	2014.
9	Appoint gender focal points in all relevant MAE departments and divisions and define their brief.	Gender focal points are given a clearly defined mandate and brief and special training. They submit a short activity report annually.	MAE: DGM/DBM/SAH and all departments, MAE operators.	2013.
10	Appoint gender focal points in the diplomatic network and define their brief.	Gender focal points are appointed in all the diplomatic missions. They are trained before their departure for their posting. They submit an annual report on their activities. A gender focal point seminar is held during the Network Meetings (<i>Journées du réseau</i>).	Diplomatic missions (coordination: DGM/DBM/SAH).	2014.

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
11	Appoint gender focal points in all relevant operator departments and define their brief.	The gender focal points are given a clearly defined mandate and brief. They are given special training by the operators.	All operators.	2014.
12	Coordinate, in addition to the existing Gender and Development platform, an "extended" network of gender focal points (MAE, network, operators, other ministries, decentralised cooperation and research).	Annual meeting of the network of main players in the <i>Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017</i> .	MAE: DGM/DBM/SAH.	2014.

GOAL 3

→ Scale up research on gender and development

Goal

Encourage a substantial increase in research projects on gender in order to improve development practices.

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
13	Take stock of existing research on gender and development by French research bodies, especially IRD, CIRAD, CNRS, INSERM and INED. Identify gender and development experts in French institutions.	A list is provided of existing research on gender and development, identifying the most recent publications. A network of gender and development researchers is created.	DGM/DCUR, DGM/DBM.	2014.
14	Encourage, support and develop gender and development research.	Ask the government research institutes (e.g. CIRAD) and research institutes under the authority of the MAE (e.g. the French Research Institutes abroad) to develop gender and development research programmes. Encourage the research world to work on this focus. Hold a general symposium hosted by the MAE followed by sector-based seminars (environment, infrastructures, health, etc.).	DGM/DCUR, DGM/DBM.	2014.
15	Promote sector-based dialogue on gender with all development partners.	Working meetings are held regularly with all stakeholders in each sector. Common objectives and indicators are defined by 2017.	DGM, AFD.	2014.

GOAL 4
→ Mainstream gender into France's bilateral foreign policy

Goal	Place gender equality and women's rights more systematically on the agenda.
-------------	--

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
16	Make equality a component of embassy action plans.	Encourage ambassadors to mainstream gender issues in a way that is contextual to the country.	Diplomatic missions.	2014.
17	Dialogue with the minister in charge of gender equality, women's rights and the status of women or the authority (government or otherwise) responsible for these matters in partner countries.	At least one annual meeting is held with the minister or relevant authority's senior official in partner countries.	Ambassador.	2014.
18	Consult the associations working in defence of women's rights and equality.	A file of contacts is provided listing associations and organisations that defend women's rights and promote equality. The organisations and associations concerned attend meetings with civil society. At least one gender meeting is held a year.	Chanceries, SCAC, gender focal points, AFD agencies.	As of 2014.
19	Take part in gender dialogue in partner countries.	The embassies take part in gender dialogue in the countries in association with the European Union delegation.	Chanceries, SCAC, gender focal points.	As of 2014.
20	Mainstream gender into the joint programming documents (specifically or as a cross-cutting element).	France takes action in support of gender mainstreaming in joint programming (partnership framework documents, framework agreements, etc.).	SCAC, ambassador.	As of 2014.

GOAL 5
→ Mainstream gender into France's multilateral foreign policy
Goal
Maintain and support France's leading role in the defence and promotion of women's rights and gender equality.

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
21	Take forward the implementation of the European Commission's gender action plan.	The MAE assists with the monitoring of the implementation of the European Plan of Action. The findings are published in the monitoring report.	DGM/DBM/DEV, DGM/DBM/SAH, PR Brussels.	2014.
22	Continue to play a leading role on the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) every year.	France has high-level representation on the CSW. A consultative meeting is held with the NGOs every year. France actively participates in constructive international negotiations.	DGP/NUOI/H, DGM/DBM/SAH, Ministry for Women's Rights, PR New York.	2014.
23	Defend gender equality in the other international forums.	Advocacy for gender mainstreaming in the different negotiating forums (G8 and G20), UN Security Council, UN Human Rights Council, UNGA) and in discussions on the post-2015 agenda (MDG-SDGs).	DGP/NUOI/H, DGM/DEEI/AEI, DGM/DBM/SAH.	2014.
24	Call on the international development organisations (World Bank, development banks, multilateral funds and UN agencies) to improve their gender mainstreaming.	The French representative supports gender mainstreaming in meetings of the boards, governing bodies and/or technical committees (financial, budget, administrative, etc.). French representatives on the ground (SCAC, chanceries, regional health advisors, etc.) promote gender mainstreaming when drafting country requests and in project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation.	DGM/DBM/SAH, DGM/DEEI/AEI, SCAC, sector and regional focal points, etc.	2014.

GOAL 6

→ Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017 monitoring and traceability of French development assistance for gender equality

Goal

Guarantee the accountability of Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017 commitments.

Indicator

Annual publication of data on French development assistance for gender equality, including the evaluation of the Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017.

	Activities	Outputs/Indicators	Action to be taken by	Timeline
25	Raise the profile of official development assistance (ODA) for gender equality.	The percentage of ODA spent on gender issues is published by the OECD-DAC. Actions are reported in the cross-cutting policy document on equality. France uses the gender performance indicators in the cross-cutting policy document on equality.	AFD.	As of 2014.
26	Appoint the High Council for Gender Equality (HCE) to evaluate the Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017.	An annual report is produced on strategy implementation. The HCE conducts hearings. The HCE drafts an opinion, which is presented to the members of the Gender and Development platform.	High Council for Gender Equality.	As of 2014.
27	The Gender and Development platform is a forum for gender strategy cooperation, exchanges and implementation support.	The platform meets two to three times a year. It holds workshops to exchange best practices and methodologies. Meeting reports are sent to the HCE.	MAE: DGM/DBM/SAH.	As of 2014.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AEFE	Agency for French Education Overseas
AFD	<i>Agence française de développement</i> (French Development Agency)
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation (African NGO)
BTC	Belgian Technical Cooperation
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFI	Canal France International
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CICID	Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development
CIRAD	Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
CNCD	National Commission for Decentralised Cooperation
CNCDH	National Advisory Commission on Human Rights
CNDSI	National Council for Development and International Solidarity
CSW	UN Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
DG Trésor	Directorate-General of the Treasury, French Ministry for the Economy and Finance
DGA/DRH	Human Resources Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGA	Administration Directorate-General, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM	Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DAECT	Delegation for Local Government Action Abroad, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DBM	Development and Global Public Goods Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DBM/SAH	Health, Food Security and Human Development Department, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DCUR	Cultural, Academic and Research Cooperation Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DEEI/AEI	International Economic Affairs Department, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DEEI	Business and Global Economy Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DPR/RES	Network Coordination Unit, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGM/DPR	Budget and Network Coordination Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DGP/NUOI/H	Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Department, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DGP	Directorate-General for Political and Security Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ENA	French National School of Public Administration
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI	<i>France expertise internationale</i>
FERDI	Foundation for International Development Study and Research
FSD	French Social Development Fund
FSP	Priority Solidarity Fund
GENDERNET	OECD's DAC Network on Gender Equality
GISA	Interministerial Group on Food Security
HCE	High Council for Gender Equality
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDC	Diplomatic and Consular Training Institute
IDDRI	Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations
IF	<i>Institut français</i>
IFRE	French Research Institute Abroad
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMSO	International Migration Solidarity Organisation
INED	French National Institute for Demographic Studies
INSERM	French National Institute of Health and Medical Research
IRD	<i>Institut de recherche pour le développement</i> (French development research institute)
MAE	French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MPFEF	Malian Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPFH	Gender Parity Watchdog
OTMA	Observatory on Social Change in the Arab World
PR	Permanent Representation of France to another institution
PRESAGE	Research and Academic Programme on Gender Thinking
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SCAC	Cooperation and Cultural Action Office
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization



The *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* is a priority track of the French development assistance policy. It makes gender equality an ethical and political imperative, a fully fledged development objective and a guarantee of fairer and more effective aid.

The strategy's content is the outcome of an evaluation of the first gender strategy in 2007 and consultations with all French institutional and civil society development stakeholders. It was adopted by the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) on 31 July 2013.

This strategy provides an operational equality navigator that sets specific targets to be met by 2017: stakeholder education and training, research support, promotion of dialogue with civil society, and accountability for official development assistance effectiveness.

The *Gender and Development Strategy 2013-2017* mainstreams gender into all French foreign policy action across funding instruments, development project implementation and bilateral, European and multilateral policy advocacy.

