

Fact sheet

Gender mainstreaming in the Sweden/ILO Partnership Programme

The project aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the world of work. It operates within the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) - ILO Partnership Programme, which runs from 2009 to 2011. The ILO's Bureau for Gender Equality (GENDER) offers technical support and collaborates with other ILO units to strategically mainstream gender into the policy the following areas:

- Inclusive job-rich growth
- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- Occupational safety and health

1. Job-rich growth (in collaboration with EMPLOYMENT)

Gender inequality acts as a significant constraint to economic growth. Removing gender-based barriers to growth can make a substantial contribution to realising countries' economic potential. The project aims to provide concrete guidance and support to governments, employers and workers on how to mainstream gender into employment policies and programmes. It is working with the Employment Sector to develop, pilot and disseminate gender sensitive tools on employment creation. The chief tool in this regard is the 'Employment Diagnostic Analysis' methodology, which assesses a country's strengths and weaknesses in creating decent work.

2. Freedom of association and collective bargaining (in collaboration with DECLARATION and SOCIAL DIALOGUE)

Freedom of association and collective bargaining is a principal means of determining terms and conditions of employment, including all aspects of gender equality at work. The project works with DECLARATION to mainstream gender into their work on building the capacity of constituents on freedom of association and collective bargaining in rural areas and Export Processing Zones, and works to build the capacity of constituents on women workers' rights to freedom of association. The project also collaborates with Social Dialogue to enhance the knowledge base on how gender issues are represented in social dialogue by commissioning a number of studies in this regard.

3. Occupational safety and health (in collaboration with SAFEWORK)

Women and men experience safety and health threats at the work place differently, and recognition of the diversity of the workforce is essential in promoting safer workplaces and healthier outcomes for all workers. The project works with SAFEWORK to compile a bibliography on OSH and gender, and to develop gender sensitive policy guidelines for member states.

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