Addressing gender dimensions of HSS

Donor financing for gender equity in the health workforce

Berlin, Christina Schrade
14 October 2018
Making sense of OECD DAC gender marker and purpose codes

OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy marker

- Allows DAC members to track bilateral ODA in support of gender equality
- Key shared monitoring and accountability tool for development assistance
- Three possible scores: gender as a principal goal (2), gender as a significant goal (1), and no focus on gender equality (0)
- All activities marked ‘principal’ or ‘significant’ considered to be gender-equality related in this analysis

OECD DAC sector and purpose codes

- Code lists used by donors to report on their aid flows to the DAC databases
We structured our analysis around three key questions:

1. What proportion of OECD DAC donors’ health funding went to workforce support from 2009-2016, and how much targeted gender equality?

2. Who were the top donors to gender equality in the healthcare workforce?

3. Which areas of workforce support receive the most gender-targeted funding?
Gender equality is emphasized within health workforce funding

Funding for health and the health workforce, DAC members, screened by gender policy marker, 2009-2016

Total health funding: US$103.5 billion (11% not screened, 46% not gender-related, 43% gender-related)

Health workforce funding: US$9.1 billion (6% not screened, 43% not gender-related, 51% gender-related)

- Gender equality emphasized more within health workforce (51%) than health sector as a whole (43%)

→ Suggests that within funding for health workforce, promoting gender equality is a goal of many donors

Source: OECD DAC
Over half of funding to health workforce targets gender equality; UK is largest donor in absolute terms

Funding for the health workforce by DAC members, screened by gender policy marker, 2009-2016

- Gender-equality related funding to healthcare workforce = **US$4.6 billion**
- In absolute terms, UK is largest funder, followed by Germany, and Canada
- In relative terms, small donors, like Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand, and Finland give large shares of workforce funding to gender equality

Source: OECD DAC
Majority of gender-focused funding to the workforce goes to macro-level support, but emphasis is on developing ground-level personnel

Funding for workforce-related purpose codes, DAC donors, 2016

- Health policy/administration received 81% of workforce-related funding in 2016, and highest amount of gender-related funding (US$441 million)
- Suggests funding goes to macro-level system change
- However, in relative terms, health personnel development receives greatest share of gender funding, followed by reproductive health personnel

→ Emphasis largely concentrated on developing ground-level workers, rather than influencing policy?