



## Questions & Answers on the SDC Gender Policy Marker

Webinar of 25 April 2018

### **Q: What is the Gender Policy Marker (also referred to as PM Gender)?**

The Gender Policy Marker is a tool to monitor the integration of and track resources allocated to gender equality. The checklist is a guidance and defines minimum criteria to score the PM Gender in the SAP data sheet. As gender is a transversal theme that has to be integrated in every intervention, the PM Gender is not a competitive marker to other themes or domains. In the SAP Handbook you find the minimum criteria to score the PM Gender. The completed checklist is a compulsory annex to all entry and credit proposals.

### **Q: When do I apply the Gender Policy Marker?**

The Gender Policy Marker has the most impact when it is used as a “live tool” during the early stages of the project design, when substantial amendments are still possible. Therefore: **Share it with partners!** As early as possible.

### **Q: Who is responsible for applying the Gender Policy Marker?**

The Gender Policy Marker is a self-assessment tool. The main responsibility for applying the marker is with the responsible program manager. It should be checked by all at the internal OpCom and at HQ.

### **Q: Is humanitarian aid included in the Gender Policy Marker?**

Contributions to humanitarian interventions are included in the Gender Policy Marker. But the DAC Gender Policy Marker does not include contributions to humanitarian interventions.

### **Q: Do I apply the marker for the entire intervention?**

The Gender Policy Marker has to be applied to entire projects and programmes, based on an assessment of the overall intentions of the activity and the overall budget.

### **Q: Do I have to add the checklist for all entry and credit proposals?**

Yes, the checklist has to be added to all entry and credit proposals. Whenever you mark the PM Gender in the SAP data sheet, you add the checklist.

### **Q: What is new about the Gender Policy Marker?**

New is the definition of minimum criteria for gender-principal and gender-significant interventions. The new criteria are more specific in order to have better quality data and better comparability. Therefore, be specific on how gender is integrated! If gender is not mentioned in the credit proposal, gender is not visible and valued, neither measured nor reported.

### **Q: The overall projects goal is not gender equality. It is a gender-significant project. But within the project one of several partners works specifically to reduce SGBV. Which checklist do I use for multi donor interventions respectively basket fund contributions? And do I tick the sector code?**

For a multi-donor resp. basket fund contribution, the Checklist for core contributions is preferable. To assess the policy marker one has to look at the overall aim and how gender is integrated in the fund mechanisms (and not a single action). Regarding the sector code for SGBV, if a substantial contribution is made to a partner who implements SGBV projects, an earmarking and partial action on this contribution might be considered. In that case, the sector code for SGBV can be ticked. If the contribution is made without any earmarking, the sector code should not be ticked.

### **Q: Is it a principal intervention, if most beneficiaries are women?**

Not necessarily. If gender equality is the main objective of the intervention and the intervention would not have been undertaken without this gender equality objective, it is a gender-principal intervention. If gender equality is not the main objective, but most beneficiaries are women and girls, it is a gender-significant intervention.

**Q: What is the sector code Gender?**

In the Gender Policy Marker checklist, the sector code Gender is mostly applied for gender-principal interventions. There are two sector codes Gender: support to SGBV and to women's equality organizations (based on the DAC). The aim of this code is to track resources spent for these type of support. As SGBV is a key topic in the Message and in the 2030 Agenda it is important to also be accountable for the resources invested. The SGBV sector code allows tracking resources dedicated explicitly to combat and prevent SGBV.. .

**Q: What counts as a gender analysis?**

In general, a gender analysis is of key importance. The analysis defines the gender disparities respectively the key issues the intervention wants to address. These reflections have to be explicit and must be integrated into the credit proposal, in its annex or as a comment in the checklist. A gender analysis can be done in different ways:

1. A specific gender analysis: Such an analysis is needed if not enough information on gender can be found.
2. An integrated gender analysis: Gender is integrated as a part of country, sectoral, community analysis, etc.
3. Or you find specific information on gender in other analysis or documents.

Be pragmatic but make information on gender visible in the documents!

**Q: Is scoring “gender-principal” better than “gender-significant”?**

No. The SDC Gender Policy as well as the 2030 Agenda follows a twin-track approach what means that gender-principal and gender-significant interventions are complementary to contribute to achieve gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Q: For scoring gender-significant, is it enough to have at least one output (criteria 3)?**

Yes, it is enough. The criteria demands at least one explicit gender objective at output or outcome level.

**Q: If the interventions does not meet all the criteria of a gender-significant intervention, what do I do?**

If the intervention does not meet all the criteria at the planning stage, but you can ensure that gender will be implemented, you score gender-significant. If the intervention will never meet the criteria, the intervention must be marked as not targeted.

**Q: How do I apply the Gender Policy Marker, if gender equality is not targeted in the intervention?**

If gender equality is not targeted in the intervention, you take the significant checklist, and tick the criteria that can be applied. In the comments, you explain why the intervention cannot fulfill the other criteria and you explain what you are doing with your partners to better integrate a gender perspective (e.g. partner dialogue). If you are confident that the project will be able to implement these steps, you may tick the *significant* marker assumption. However, if you are doubtful that the project can make these adaptations, you tick the box *not targeted*.

**Q: How can I ensure that the documentation for contribution to UN projects have well integrated their gender strategies? (Multi-B programs)**

As most UN projects and programmes have very good gender strategies, they can be scored as gender-significant interventions. If information on gender is not explicitly integrated in the documentation, you should enter in a dialogue with the partner on how gender can be made more explicitly and remember them on their gender policy. If the documentation does not meet the criteria, the project is a not targeted project.

**Q: The Gender Policy Marker I apply for projects and programmes at the planning stage. Is there a checklist or guidance for the integration of gender into Cooperation Strategies?**

A guidance sheet on the integration of gender into Cooperation Strategies is in process. However, there is no Policy Marker for Gender in Cooperation Strategies. The monitoring and reporting is ensured through the Annual Reports.



**Q: How do I monitor gender results?**

The Gender Policy Marker tracks the resources committed to an intervention. The implementing partner has to report to you the gender results. If they do not so, you have to remember them on their duty. The gender results will be aggregated and reported in the Annual Reports.

**Q: Who do I contact, if I have specific questions on the Gender Policy Marker?**

If you have specific questions, please contact [Ursula Keller](#), SDC Gender Focal Point.