



Gender focus

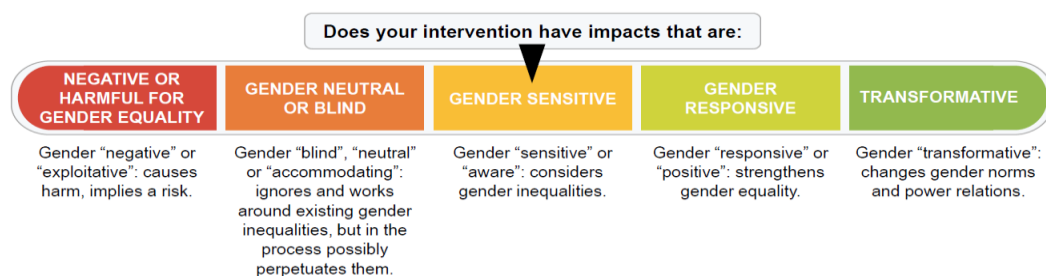
March 2023

Transforming International Cooperation – that’s what the feminist development and foreign policy shall stand for and accomplish according to announcements of the BMZ and the German Foreign Office. Gender norms and stereotypes determine and shape our lives, they are anchored in legislation, in traditions, in formal and informal institutions, in religious, cultural and social structures, in the prevailing dress code and ... They influence and shape power relations and our behaviour, access to and control over resources in private and public life. Thus identifying, addressing and dismantling structural causes of inequalities and disadvantages - first and foremost gender-specific disadvantages, exclusions and discrimination shall pave the way for a more just, equal, inclusive and sustainable development and future for all.

The German government's feminist development and foreign policy is guided by the following core principles:

- a **human rights-based** approach based on the principles of: (1) non-discrimination and equal opportunities, (2) participation and empowerment, (3) transparency and accountability
- a **power-critical** and **gender-transformative** approach that does not stop at symptoms but works to change discriminatory social norms, gender inequalities, and behaviours
- an **inclusive** and **non-binary** understanding of gender
- an **intersectional** approach that analyses and addresses the interplay of **different dimensions** of discrimination
- enhancing a **multilateral** approach
- closer collaboration with (feminist) **civil society**.

With the events in March, around the International Women's Day on March 8th and the expected launch of the BMZ Feminist Development Strategy and the Guidelines for Feminist Foreign Policy of the Federal Foreign Office, we want to enter into an intensive exchange with each other and with our partners on feminist development and foreign policy and the above outlined guiding principles.



Source: OECD (2022), *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Guidance for Development Partners*.

We want to show and demonstrate how our work and structures contribute to feminist development and foreign policy. We also want to reflect and discuss what we might want and can do differently and even better in the future in order to promote gender justice and equal opportunities and rights of all people regardless of their gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Inform your colleagues and get timely information about all planned events and activities in your country and abroad: <https://gender-works.giz.de/gender-week-2023-events/>