

# Trends in donor spending on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

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## Key findings from the report include:

- The top three government donors on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)-related projects are the US, Sweden and Norway. Yet, for most donors, funding to SGBV-related projects is only a very small proportion of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the top country-level recipient of funding to SGBV-related projects.
- Spending on SGBV-related projects in the 'emergency response' and 'conflict, peace and security' sectors is surprisingly low.
- A larger proportion of SGBV-related projects 'mainstream' SGBV as opposed to targeting it explicitly.
- Some donors are better at reporting spending to address SGBV using the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker (GEM) than others. There is a pressing need for better data on international resource flows for addressing SGBV and a more standardised and systematic approach to donor reporting.

## Financing an international response to SGBV in conflict

The international community has given increased recognition to the importance of addressing sexual violence in conflict zones over recent years.<sup>1</sup> This week, governments of conflict-affected countries, donors, UN and other multilateral organisations, and civil society will be meeting to discuss and agree on a coordinated international action plan for addressing sexual violence in conflict zones at the End Sexual Violence in Conflict Global Summit<sup>2</sup> organised by the UK Government. (This will be the largest international event held on this issue to date.)

The UK Government, particularly the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) established by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2012, has been a driver of international attention on this issue. In addition to organising the forthcoming Global Summit, the UK Foreign Secretary William Hague launched the UN Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in New York in September 2013 during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA),<sup>3</sup> which has to date been signed by over two-thirds of UN member states.

<sup>1</sup> In June 2013, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106 (UNSCR 2106) on Women, Peace and Security was passed by unanimous vote at the UN headquarters in New York – reaffirming commitments made in previous resolutions (UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960).

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/sexual-violence-in-conflict](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/sexual-violence-in-conflict).

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-declaration-of-commitment-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-declaration-of-commitment-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict).

**Contact:** Sarah Dalrymple, Advocacy and Engagement Adviser +44 (0) 7887522053  
sarah.dalrymple@devinit.org

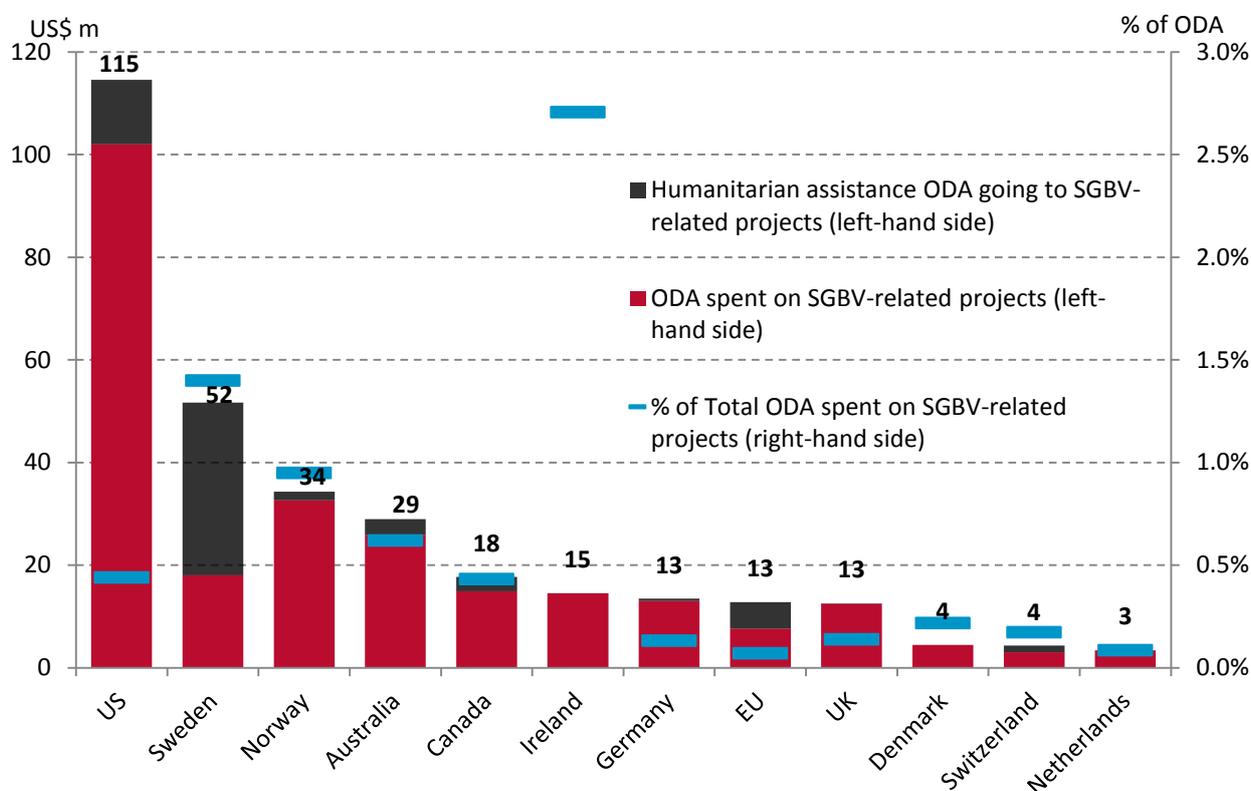
The elevation of SGBV to be a key government priority for the members of the G8 and Security Council represents a very positive step in ensuring that women’s status, capacity and contribution are given greater recognition in the context not only of conflict, but also the setting of global goals post 2015.

Central to the discussions taking place at the Global Summit this week around the development of an action plan is the question of finance: *How will the action plan be financed? What resources are needed? What funding targets on SGBV are required? How should resources be allocated to meet needs and have the greatest impact?*

This briefing seeks to inform these discussions by providing a summary of **current trends in donor spending on SGBV**.<sup>4</sup> It is hoped that this information will assist in identifying gaps in spending to be addressed through the action plan emerging from the Global Summit.

## Top three government donors on SGBV-related projects are the US, Sweden and Norway

### Top 12 government donors funding SGBV-related projects, 2012



Source: OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS).<sup>5</sup>

The above chart identifies the three largest donors funding SGBV-related projects in 2012 to be the US (US\$114.5 million), Sweden (US\$51.7 million), and Norway (US\$34.3 million).

For most donors, funding to SGBV-related projects is only a very small proportion of total ODA spending for 2012. The UK – which in 2012 launched a series of high-profile unilateral and multilateral initiatives to address sexual violence in conflict – reported just US\$12.5 million that year - which is only 0.1% of total ODA spending (US\$9 billion).

<sup>4</sup> Data in this briefing is taken from OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System data (CRS) for 2012. CRS data for 2013 is not yet released. Figures only include projects reported to the CRS by donors, and as such relevant projects may not be included due to inaccuracies in donor reporting. Figures include spending on SGBV in all countries (conflict/post-conflict and non-conflict) and capture all projects using terminology related to SGBV (including in various languages). Figures also include projects that explicitly focus on SGBV as well as those that ‘mainstream’ it and/or focus on it as a sub-objective.

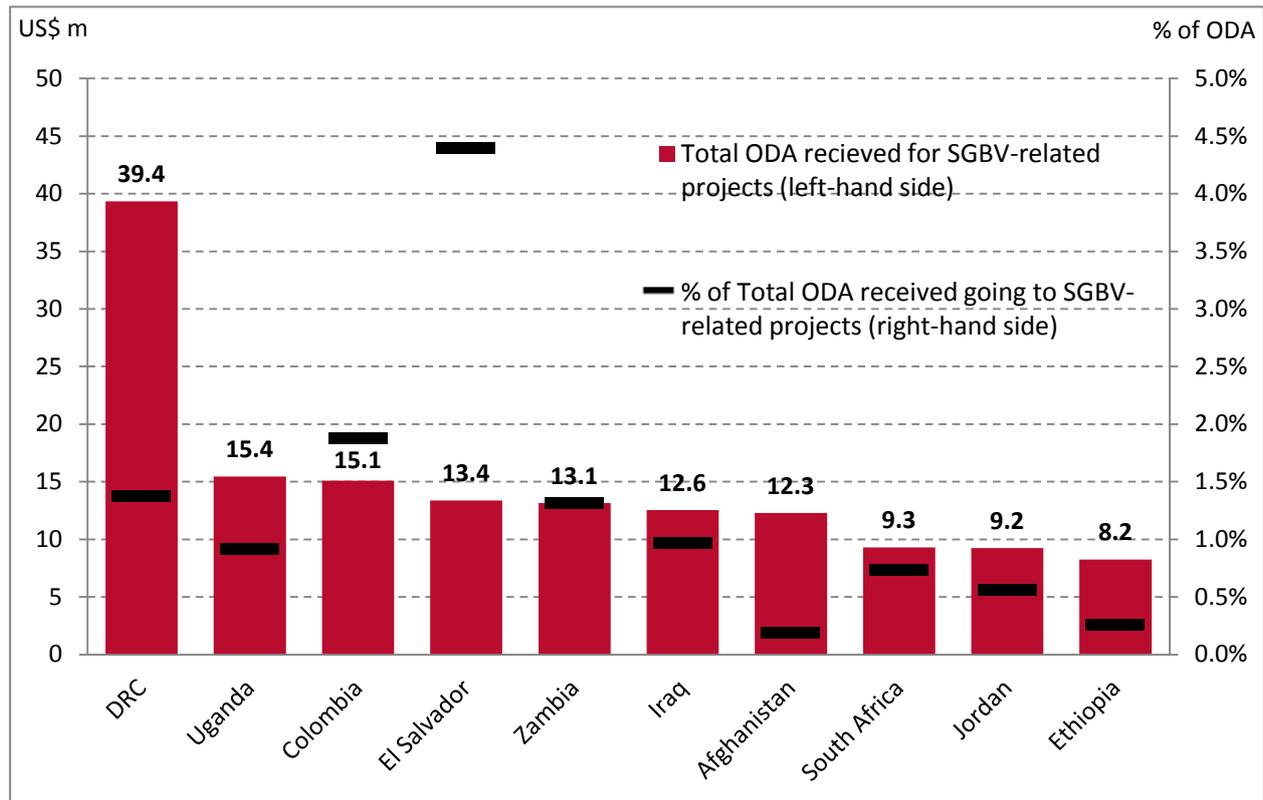
<sup>5</sup> Total ODA refers to total gross bilateral ODA as recorded in the CRS database.

Although Ireland’s total spending on SGBV-related projects is lower than that of some other countries (US\$14.5 million), it reported the highest proportion of total ODA spending on SGBV-related projects in 2012 (2.7%).

The extent that donors channel spending to address SGBV through humanitarian assistance varies. Almost two-thirds (65.2%) of Sweden’s spending on SGBV-related projects is reported as humanitarian assistance (US\$33.7 million out of a total US\$51.7 million). In contrast, only 0.04% of the UK’s spending on SGBV-related projects is reported to be channelled through humanitarian assistance.

### DRC is the top country- level recipient of funding to SGBV-related projects

Top ten country recipients of funding on SGBV-related projects, 2012



Source: OECD DAC CRS.<sup>6</sup>

As illustrated in the above chart, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was the top country-level recipient of SGBV-related funding in 2012 (US\$39.4 million), followed by Uganda (US\$15.4 million) and closely by Colombia (US\$15.1 million). The fact that the DRC received more than double of what was received for SGBV-related projects by any other country in 2012 is likely to reflect the depth of the issue faced by the country and the media attention it has received – including being dubbed the “rape capital of the world” by UN officials in 2010.<sup>7</sup>

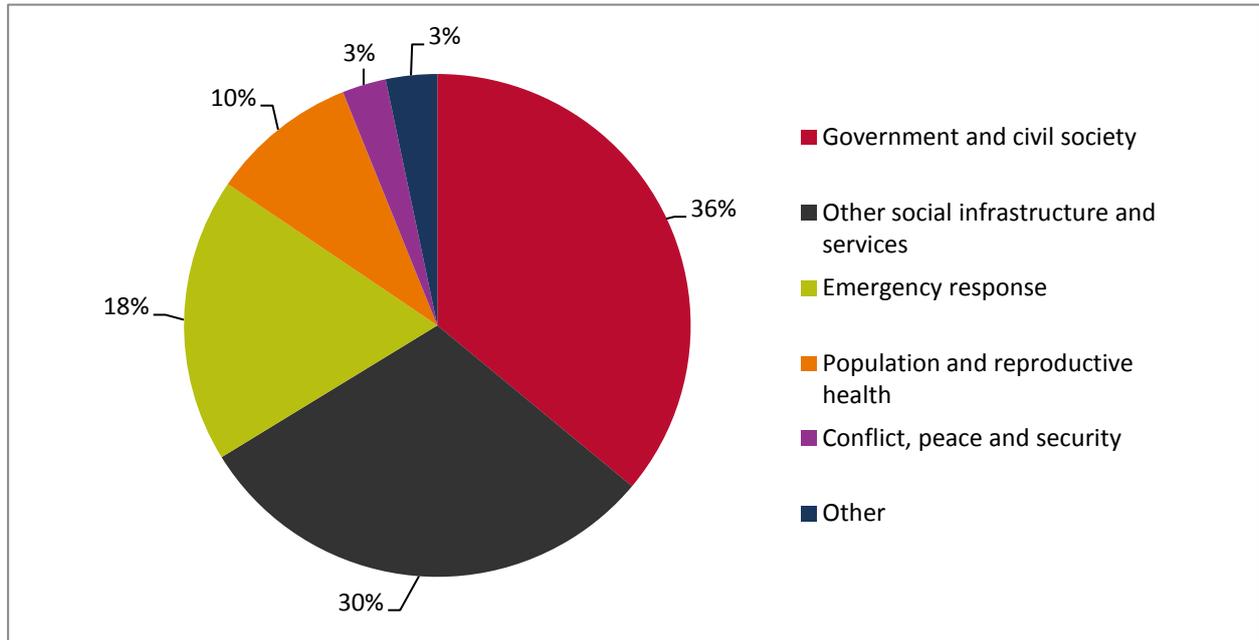
The extent to which donors prioritise spending to address SGBV varies across recipient countries, but in general appears to be substantially low. Of the countries listed in the above chart, El Salvador receives the highest proportion of ODA spending on SGBV-related projects (4.4%). In contrast and at the lowest end of the scale, the proportion received by Afghanistan is minuscule (0.19%), despite the prevalence of SGBV experienced in the country.

<sup>6</sup> Total ODA received refers to total gross ODA from both bilateral and multilateral donors.

<sup>7</sup> [news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8650112.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/8650112.stm).

## Spending on SGBV-related projects in the ‘emergency response’ and ‘conflict, peace and security sectors’ is surprisingly low

Funding to SGBV-related projects by sector, 2012



Source: OECD DAC CRS.

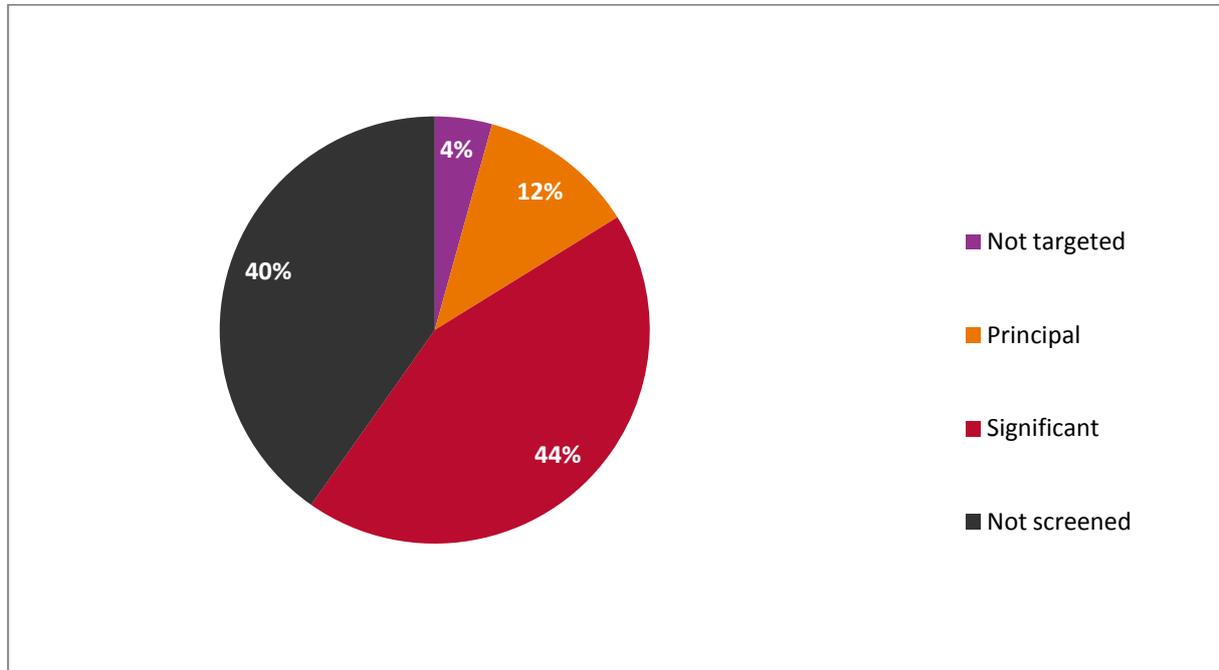
As illustrated in the above chart, the largest proportion of SGBV-related projects were funded through the ‘government and civil society’ sector in 2012 (US\$124.6 million), followed by the ‘social infrastructure and services’ sector (US\$104.3 million). Spending through the ‘emergency response’ sector was comparably low (US\$63.2 million), and even more so with regards to the ‘conflict, peace and security’ sector (US\$9.7 million).

Low proportional spending in these sectors is particularly surprising given that the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set a target that the primary purpose of 15% of all UN-managed funds implemented in post-conflict contexts should “address women’s specific needs, advance gender equality and empower women”,<sup>8</sup> including the prevention and responses to SGBV.

<sup>8</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women (2012).

## A larger proportion of SGBV-related projects ‘mainstream’ SGBV as opposed to targeting it explicitly

Allocation of SGBV-related project expenditure using the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker, 2012



Source: OECD DAC CRS.

As illustrated in the above chart, 44% (US\$150.8 million) of total donor expenditure on SGBV-related projects (US\$345.7 million) was coded by donors using the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker (GEM)<sup>9</sup> as making a ‘significant contribution’ to gender equality. In contrast, only 12% of projects (US\$40.9 million) were coded as making a ‘principal contribution’ to gender equality. This indicates that most projects ‘mainstream’ SGBV as opposed to focussing on it explicitly as the primary objective of the project.

A significantly large proportion of SGBV-related projects (40%) were categorised as ‘gender blind’ in that they were coded as ‘unscreened’ (left blank) and do not deliberately account for how they understand gender or will address gender equality (US\$139.2 million).

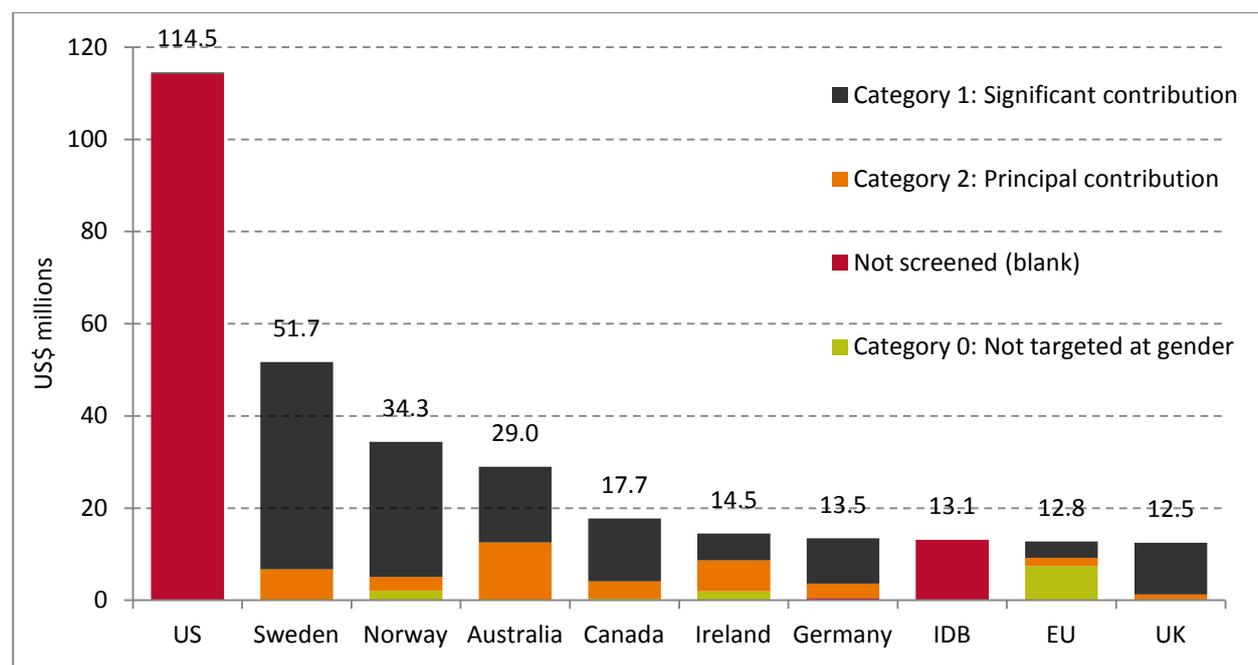
This figure can largely be explained by the fact that almost all of the SGBV-related projects reported by the US and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) were not coded using the GEM and left ‘blank’ (see below chart).

The use of these types of markers is important. They ensure greater accountability by enabling people to monitor the priority being given by donors to issues such as gender and whether statements of commitment are being translated into action and spending.

<sup>9</sup> The OECD DAC Gender Marker includes the following categories: 2 (principal contribution); 1 (significant contribution); 0 (gender not targeted); and not screened (i.e. left blank).

## Some donors are better at using the Gender Equality Marker than others

### Breakdown of Gender Equality Marker for top ten donors, 2012



Source: OECD DAC CRS.

The country supporting the largest proportion of total spending on SGBV-related projects with a 'principal' focus on gender equality is Ireland (46.9%), followed by Australia (43.1%).

### The way forward

**The need for better data:** The availability of data on international resource flows for addressing SGBV is poor. This briefing has highlighted weaknesses amongst some donors with regards to reporting using the GEM, particularly on SGBV. In order to track whether donor spending on gender – and SGBV in particular – is meeting policy targets; strengthen donor accountability; and better allocate resources on the basis of need, a more standardised and systematic approach to donor reporting on funding to address SGBV is required.

Donors should discuss and agree on a new mechanism for capturing data on funding to SGBV-related initiatives, potentially through building a new stand-alone category on SGBV into the current Gender Marker reporting system.

Generating gender-disaggregated data is a key part of wider action to deliver on a "Data Revolution" as called for in the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The hosting of this conference by the UK FCO sends a strong signal that SGBV needs to be given high-level political attention that will lead to determined action by donors, governments, law-enforcement agencies and civil society. Getting adequate funding in place is critical – not as a substitute for action but as a necessary part of ensuring a level of security, especially for women, that is a prerequisite for promoting development and ending poverty.

**The need to mobilise more and ALL available resources:** Spending on SGBV as a proportion of overall ODA is surprisingly low given the international attention the issue has received and the scale of the problem. As a solid outcome of the Global Summit and as an integral aspect of the post-2015 development agenda, all donors need to set clear and measurable funding targets for supporting an effective international response to SGBV in conflict. All available resources must be mobilised – including international and domestic (where possible), public and private.