



# **WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

With many thanks to the following for the analysis;

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the agreed framework for international development. It is the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, unlike the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda presents a much wider scope by deliberately and more fully incorporating economic and environmental sustainability, as well as the aspiration of many countries for peaceful and inclusive societies. The agenda also applies to all countries rather than just the developing countries. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is more ambitious envisaging the eradication of poverty, the systematic tackling of climate change and building peaceful, resilient, equitable and inclusive societies. The Agenda, unlike the MDGs, has a stand-alone Goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In addition, there are gender equality targets in other Goals, and a more consistent call for sex disaggregation of data across many indicators.

UN Women Communications and Advocacy Section in New York conducted an analysis of what the 17 SDGs adopted mean to women in order to inform strategic interventions building on the efforts of localization at country and regional levels. This analysis has been collated in this publication and linked to UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional and Country Office priorities. Concrete examples programming interventions by UN Women country offices in the region are provided in relation to specific SDGs and how those streams of interventions could lead to localization efforts. This has been done through an analysis of all annual reports submitted by regional/ multi/country offices to identify work streams feeding into the localization of sustainable development goals. The team comprising UN Women's consultant on SDGs, Knowledge Management and Research Specialist and UN Women's Regional Communications Assistant, under the leadership of the Deputy Regional Director, linked to existing analysis provided by UN Women on Women and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The publication showcases how women are affected by each of the 17 proposed SDGs, as well as how women and girls can — and will — be key to achieving each of these goals. Data and stories of the impact of each SDG on women and girls is illustrated. UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa region's efforts and interventions as they relate to SDGs are also discussed under each SDG, including our programmes, intergovernmental work and advocacy for policy change.

This publication is intended to help countries in Eastern and Southern Africa understand and appreciate the linkages between SDGs and women and girls in their localization efforts and in establishing various partnerships and networks that feed into the vision of localizing SDGs at the country and regional levels.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



# SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Photo: World Bank/Shehzad Noorani

The end of poverty can only be achieved with the end of gender-based discrimination. All over the world, gender inequality makes and keeps women poor, depriving them of basic rights and opportunities for well-being.

Women make significant contributions every day from bringing an income to her household as an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders. However, a woman farmer, for instance, may not be able to make her crops thrive like a man can because she doesn't have the same access to seeds, credit, technology and extension services. She is very unlikely to own her land—only 20 per cent of landowners globally are women. If she hopes to someday inherit family property, the law may deprive her of an equal share, or social convention may simply favor her male relatives.

Poverty comes with many risks; discrimination leaves women less resilient to these. In an economic downturn, poor women are less likely to have savings and abilities to make up for lost income. Poor girls are more than twice as likely to marry in

childhood as those who are wealthy. They then face potentially life-threatening risks from early pregnancy, and often lost hopes for an education and a better income.

Women have a right to equal access to all avenues to end poverty, from social protection safety nets to use of the latest technology. Fully realizing that right will be key to achieving the first SDG.

UN Women acts to end poverty through programmes to provide training, loans and practical skills to empower poor women economically, give them a voice, strengthen social services and increase awareness of women's rights. We also work to ensure women's access to basic services, control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services.

**FINANCE**

More than  
**1.3 billion**  
women don't have an account  
at a **formal financial institution**

This includes banks, cooperatives, credit unions, post offices, or microfinance institutions.

An infographic with a white background. At the top, the word 'FINANCE' is written in blue. Below it is a blue house-shaped icon with a green circle containing a white dollar sign inside. Underneath the icon, the text reads 'More than 1.3 billion women don't have an account at a formal financial institution'. At the bottom, in smaller blue text, it says 'This includes banks, cooperatives, credit unions, post offices, or microfinance institutions.'

## UN Women Country Initiatives on SDG 1 on Ending Poverty in All its Forms

UN Women Ethiopia is supporting the Government of Ethiopia to accelerate rural women's economic empowerment. The Rural Women Economic Empowerment program which was launched in 2012 at global level and 2014 in Ethiopia, aims to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs. The programme is being implemented in Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda and now in Ethiopia. Each country has defined its specific detail programme implementation plan based on the local context, in partnership with government and other national stakeholders in line with government priorities. The Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment aims at accelerating rural women economic empowerment in the context of the country national policy priorities, as defined by Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan 2011-2015, and in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as, to the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



# SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Photo: UN Women/Janarbek Amankulov

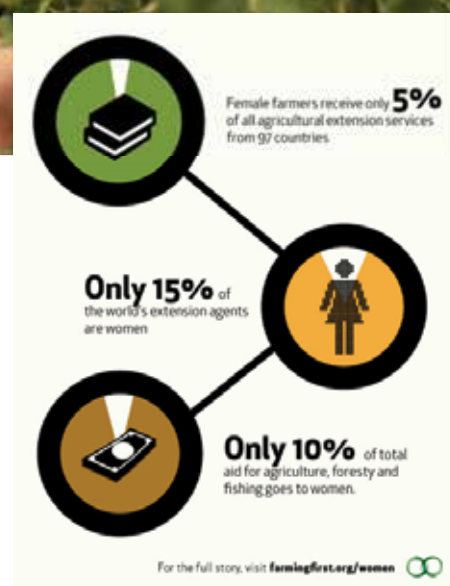
Women prepare up to 90 per cent of meals in households around the world, yet when times are tough, women and girls may be the first to eat less. Households headed by women may not eat enough simply because women earn at lower levels, and are less prepared to cope with sudden crisis.

Nourishment is not just about the quantity of food, but its quality. In poor households, women can be less likely to get the nutrients they need, including to manage the physical demands of pregnancy and breastfeeding. Gender inequality intersects with inadequate health care, insufficient education and limited income to drive these deprivations. Inequities in food consumption stand in contrast to women's significant role in agricultural production. They comprise on average 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and over 50 per cent in parts of Asia and Africa. Yet their potential contribution to food security remains constrained by unequal access to land and other productive assets.

Ending hunger means that all women can consume enough food with adequate nutrients. All women working in agriculture, if unshackled from

discrimination, can contribute to greater global food security.

UN Women acts to stop hunger by supporting women's role in food security, as the cornerstones of food production and utilization. We provide training for women farmers and access to information and technology, to help women can achieve significantly higher agricultural productivity. UN Women also raises awareness among rural women and decision-makers alike, on the need for legal changes to allow more equitable distribution of assets, such as land and credit. The entity also steers the online global knowledge hub Empower.org, where women can share practical knowledge around food production and technology.



Credit: Farming First and FAO.

## **UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Country Initiatives on SDG 2 on Ending Hunger, Achieving Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture**

To accelerate rural women's access to agricultural technologies, UN Women, in partnership with the African Union (AU), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) hosted a regional Sharefair for Rural Women's Technologies in ESA coinciding with the International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day 2014.

The Sharefair gathered more than 100 innovators from 14 countries showcasing their technologies displaying affordable ways to accelerate productivity, enhance value addition and income, improve nutrition, save women's time, and reduce postharvest losses. In addition, more than 300 registered participants attended the event. The Sharefair promoted technologies and innovations that support rural female smallholder farmers in the ESA region and brought together rural women farmers/innovators, policymakers, academics, food producers, investors, financial service providers, and other technology innovators.

Specific results included creation of a permanent technology repository comprising a menu of technology options that meet the needs of female farmers that is being finalized; establishment of a Technologies Promotion Group to devise a strategy for upscaling the technologies demonstrated at the Sharefair, with expected reach up to 2 million beneficiaries; through four high-level policy dialogues enabling farming women and innovators to convey their voice and concerns to influence high-level policy-makers; and youth innovators were awarded for innovations in agricultural technologies, hence mobilizing young men and women for profitable engagement in agriculture. In 2015, ESARO scaled its efforts from the results of the Sharefair in 2014 and focused on upscaling innovative technologies for rural women through the establishment of African Women in Technology (AWIT) initiative, and an Edutainment initiative with several partners (Kenya CO, FAO and IFAD) targeting about 6 million viewers primarily in Kenya, but also in Uganda and Tanzania on issues such as post-harvest losses, women's land rights, women's economic empowerment.

The African/Alliance Women in Technology (AWIT) initiative was launched at the World Economic Forum in Cape Town in June 2015. Initially a website has been developed and hosted by UN Women and it gathers all the information associated with and emerging from this initiative [www.empowerwomen.org/cop/awit](http://www.empowerwomen.org/cop/awit).

Through this initiative, UN Women is establishing a global alliance to promote upscaling of rural technologies for women. The initiative expands on the Sharefair on Rural Women's Technologies held in October 2014 in Nairobi and builds on the shared intent to upscale some of the great innovations to meet robustly identified critical needs of rural women in line with the sustainable development goals.



# SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



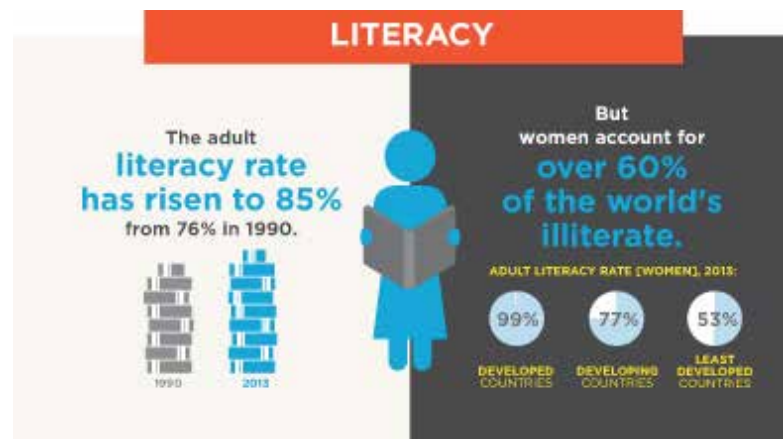
Photo: UNICEF/Sokol

The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every person. Gender-based discrimination, however, undercuts this right. It can render women more susceptible to sickness and less likely to obtain care, for reasons ranging from affordability to social conventions keeping them at home.

Among women of reproductive age worldwide, AIDS is now the leading cause of death. Not only are women biologically more susceptible to HIV transmission, but their unequal social and economic status undercuts abilities to protect themselves and make empowered choices.

Countries have committed to universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, but many gaps have slowed progress so far. More than 225 million women have an unmet need for contraceptive methods. In developing regions, where maternal mortality rates are 14 times higher than in developed ones, only half of pregnant women receive the minimum standard for antenatal care.

Fulfilling the right to health requires health systems to become fully responsive to women and girls, offering higher quality, more comprehensive and readily accessible services. Societies at large must end practices that critically endanger women's



health and well-being—among them, all forms of gender-based violence.

UN Women advances women's well-being and health by working with governments to improve the provision of health services for women and girls, including survivors of violence, and backing non-governmental partners in filling gaps. The entity strives to end practices that endanger women and girls, such as child marriage, female genital cutting, dietary restrictions and others. The programmes help meet women's health needs during medical humanitarian crises, restoring confidence in maternal and child health services in the wake of Ebola virus disease in West Africa. We also support and empower women living with HIV and AIDS.



## UN Women Country initiatives to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

In August 2014, UN Women ESARO in partnership with its regional partner “LVCT Health” and other capacity building institutions working in the health sector, collaborated in the development of training materials and in the facilitation of a training programme which utilized capacity-building, peer-to-peer and mentorship models and tools, towards strengthening the leadership, management and advocacy skills of networks and associations of WLHIV and HIV/AIDS Caregivers. The training materials borrowed from existing training models and tools, and the in-puts of experts within the region. The training also borrowed from the lessons the successes of the global HIV and AIDS movement which successfully advocated for the development of national HIV/AIDS policies and strategies, and HIV-responsive business practices. The overarching aim was to build the capacities of women leaders within these networks and associations to influence national and regional frameworks and policies to respond to gender issues within the context of efforts to control and manage HIV and AIDS. Currently, the module is undergoing review and revision to align it with the SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promotion of wellbeing for all at all ages.

# SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



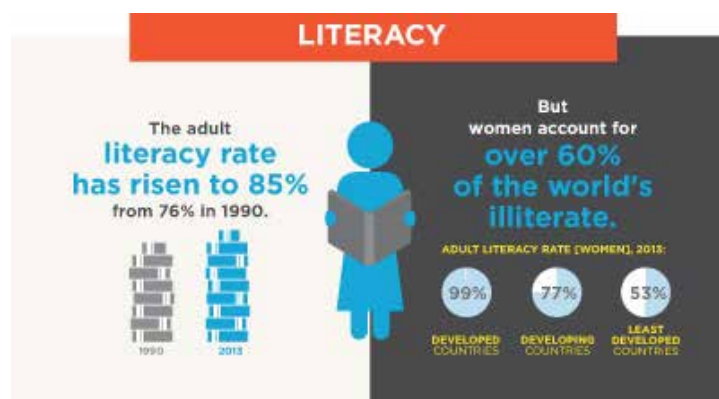
Photo: UNICEF/LeMoyné

All developing regions of the world have achieved – or almost achieved – equal enrolment of boys and girls in primary school. This is an historic accomplishment, but far from complete. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 23 per cent of poor rural girls finish primary school. Gender gaps widen significantly in many countries in secondary and tertiary schools.

Education is a right. It empowers individuals to increase their well-being and contributes to broader social and economic gains. Improved education accounts for about 50 per cent of economic growth in Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development countries over the past five decades. About half is due to more women entering higher levels of education, and greater equality as to the years men and women spend in school.

For education to deliver, it must be inclusive and high-quality. Active efforts to end gender stereotypes must tackle those that limit schooling or channel women and girls into 'acceptable' areas of study or work.

For all girls and boys, men and women, education must be available across their lifetimes. Pre-primary education establishes a foundation on which all later



schooling can build. Ongoing learning for adults broadens choices for productive and fulfilling lives. UN Women acts to promote education – a core pre-requisite for gender equality and women's rights – through the revision of school curricula and policies to counteract gender discrimination, improving access to information technologies, and training for teachers, students and parents. Along with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, UN Women has developed a non-formal educational curriculum to prevent violence against women and girls, which educators and youth leaders are being trained to deliver in more than a dozen countries.

## **UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Country Office Selected Initiatives on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all**

Malawi Country Office is working with the Ministry of Education in Malawi and Girls and not Brides to influence the implementation of the girls' education strategy in Malawi. UN Women also supported the National Girls Education Network in implementing the National Girls Education Strategy in the country. UN Women helped develop an advocacy plan focusing on ending child marriage and early pregnancies in Malawi which will then contribute to access, retention and completion of schooling by girls in Malawi.

Traditional and religious leaders have been consulted, trained and lobbied to implement and monitor action plans to engage traditional leaders in support of girls' education as well. Best practices in the support of the development and implementation of bylaws promoting girls' education have been documented, shared and disseminated with communities for future replication. A National Girls' Education Conference was also held in 2015. Advocacy activities included the organization of a film premier, Mercy's Blessing, and that touched issues of inequality between girls and boys, especially in education. Overall, the advocacy activities focused on empowering children and youth to enable their voices to be heard and to promote a more participatory approach to find solutions and address the root causes of violence while addressing inequalities evident in the education system in Malawi and contributing to the implementation of sustainable development goal 4 on Education.



# SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Photo: UNPhoto/Sylvain Lietchi

The sustainable development goals seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women.

## Women's empowerment is a pre-condition for this

Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as the stand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving these ends.

Deep legal and legislative changes are needed to ensure women's rights around the world. While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2014, another 52 had not taken this step. In many nations, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms.

Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women in the labour market still earn 24 per cent less than men globally. As of August 2015, only 22 per cent of all national parliamentarians were female, a slow rise from 11.3 per cent in 1995.

Meanwhile, violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide, 35

per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. UN Women joined the voices of many global actors in pointing out that violence was absent from the Millennium Development Goals.

Women have a right to equality in all areas. It must be embedded across legal systems, upheld in both laws and legal practices, including proactive measures such as quotas. Since all areas of life relate to gender equality, efforts must be made to



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1993, the UN General Assembly **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** provided a framework for action on the pandemic.



But more than 20 years later, **1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.**






cut the roots of gender discrimination wherever they appear.

UN Women works to empower women and girls in all of its programmes. Advancing women’s political participation and leadership and economic empowerment are two of the entity’s central goals. UN Women supports more women to get on ballots, attain political office and go to polls to vote. We assist women to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies, while underlining the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden on

women for unpaid care. We promote women’s role and leadership in humanitarian action, including in conflict-prevention and efforts to ensure peace and security. We advocate for ending violence, raise awareness of its causes and consequences and boost efforts to prevent and respond, including ensuring the rights of women living with HIV. We also work to ensure that governments reflect the needs of women and girls in their planning and budgeting, and engage men and boys, urging them to become champions of gender equality, including through our HeForShe initiative.

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



**133 million** girls and women have experienced female genital mutilation in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the harmful practice is most common

**Impact**

Severe emotional and physical trauma; potential health risks, including reproductive and sexual health complications, and possible death through loss of blood or sepsis.

## LAND & OTHER RESOURCES



**In 26 of 143 countries** statutory inheritance laws (i.e. written laws passed by legislature) differentiate between women and men

**Impact**

Increased vulnerability to poverty and food insecurity; limited or no access to resources and credit; dependency on men to secure livelihood.

### UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Country Office Selected Initiatives on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

This directly falls within our ambit. UN Women is grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women and girls; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women’s Regional focus varies in different countries depending on country specific needs but are not limited to (i) expanding women’s leadership and participation; (ii) enhancing women’s economic empowerment; and (iii) ending violence against women. In addition, UN Women in Eastern and Southern Africa also actively participates and contributes to various UN inter-agency processes and collaborates with UN organizations around specific programme areas and governments within the UNCT frameworks to support and build development interventions feeding into the localization of SDGs at country and regional levels. In 2015, for example, UN Women in Kenya supported the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) in improving the ability of the Commission to carry out its mandated role to allow a transformative gender equality in Kenya to take place, UN Women and NGEC entered into a partnership to work together on a programme for public and private sector. The cooperation yielded many diverse and complimentary results. For example, a tool to measure inclusivity at the county level and capacity development on gender responsive budgeting (GRB) at the counties in Kenya was developed. The capacity of NGEC was also strengthened to lead the monitoring of compliance on planned inclusivity in the final national budget in Kenya. UN Women’s analysis showed that the financial year 2015/16 budget was prepared with a focus on pro-poor growth and sustainable development and the emphasis was on strategic intervention areas.



# SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

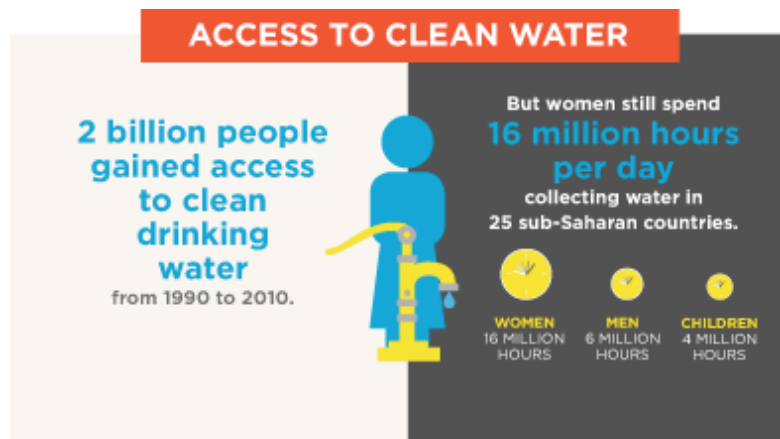


Photo: UN Photo/Martine Perret

A drink of water sustains human life, but only if it is safe and affordable. From 1990 to 2015, 2.6 billion people gained access to improved drinking water, but 663 million still rely on unimproved sources like unprotected wells and springs. Water quality has deteriorated through pollution, and worsening scarcity pressures over 40 per cent of the global population.

For women, inadequate water supplies pose additional burdens. In a single day in 25 sub-Saharan African countries, women spend 16 million hours collecting water, often to the detriment of schooling or paid work, and with potential health risks from repeatedly carrying heavy burdens over long distances.

Poor quality sanitation—including open defecation—can pollute water and spread disease. Sanitation has improved for 2.1 billion people between 1990 and 2015, and open defecation has fallen by nearly half, yet 2.4 billion people still rely on unimproved sanitation facilities. In schools, a lack of separate facilities for girls can be a major reason for parents keeping them at home.



Ensuring water and sanitation for all is the goal; achieving it must take all dimensions specific to women and girls on board, and involve them directly in the process.

UN Women acts to provide water and sanitation to all by helping governments craft policies and programmes that respond to women’s needs and underpin sustainable services. Gender-responsive budgeting, for instance, can channel funds towards measures to improve easy access to safe drinking water so that women have more time to earn an income, girls are more likely to attend school, and family health and hygiene improve.



# SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

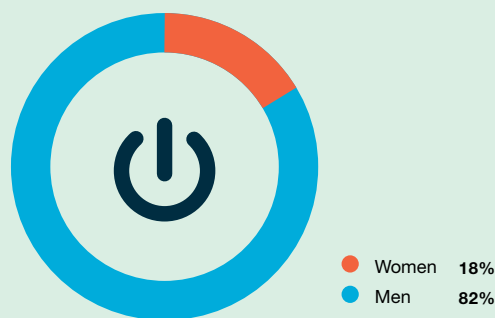
Sustainable modern energy fuels development, from the light that allows a child to do her homework to streetlamps allowing women to travel safely home at night. Universal access requires energy to be affordable and reliable. Generating it must not irreversibly harm the environment.

In households, women are often the primary energy managers. When modern sources are not available, they spend hours each day collecting fuel to cook and heat their homes. Many suffer poor health through indoor air pollution generated, for example, by a rudimentary stove that smokes heavily as it burns wood or animal dung.

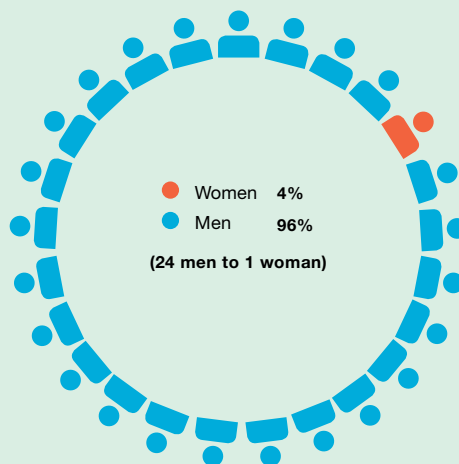
Some indications suggest that women are more likely than men to conserve energy—using up to 22 per cent less, including through a greater willingness to alter everyday behaviours. However, women are largely absent in the industries that produce modern sources of renewable energy, comprising only 20 per cent of the workforce.

As primary energy managers in households, women could play powerful roles in extending sustainable modern energy. All elements of energy planning and policy-making need to factor in gender dimensions and actively advance women's leadership. Within the energy industry itself, barriers to women executives, entrepreneurs and employees must fall.

## WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL SECRETARIES



## WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL CHAIRS



And their representation on national and global energy council must grow.

UN Women's efforts extend energy access and enable women to electrify their communities. Through the Barefoot College in India, the entity has helped train illiterate older women from rural communities in various geographic regions as solar engineers. UN Women is also part of the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves, which advocates for a global market for clean and

efficient household cooking devices. In Ghana, UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality has introduced green cook stoves. And since 2011, UN Women has sponsored the Gender Equality Award granted by the SEED Initiative, a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy, which has prized many clean energy initiatives involving women. And new green energy programmes are in the pipeline.

## **UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa country office selected initiatives on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

In partnership with the UN Foundation, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, UN Women Uganda country office systematically engaged the media in raising awareness of policy makers on women's health and energy service provision in health institutions. The project was aimed at bringing to light the challenges that women face in accessing health services, especially maternal and child health services in light of inadequate power and energy supply to health centres in Uganda. The media with support from UN Women visited health centres in selected districts and produced many moving challenges experienced by women especially during pregnancy.

The documented challenges have continued running in different media, with the result that Government has adopted several resolutions to improve energy services in health centres for the benefit of women and children. A multi-stakeholder consultation workshop was also held which helped in forming thematic networks for collaboration, partnerships and advocacy for action. UN Women organized consultations were meant to mobilize and advocate to gender, health and energy stakeholders in the public and private sectors, CSOs, the UN system, and other partners to ensure electricity provision to health facilities through sustainable energy improves health outcomes for women and girls, and also for men and boys.

It was also used to identify and share best practices on health facility electrification, including through renewable and efficient energy options, and ones that specifically address women's and children's health by emphasizing gender concerns and involving gender stakeholders. It explored the extent to which the policy environment is gender-responsive and supportive to providing energy access across the health system and ways to induce progress and discussed means for inclusion of health facility electrification in national energy and health planning and programming, especially low-carbon, climate-resilient options. UN Women also used the consultations to identify funding opportunities – in national budgets, via regional cooperation mechanisms, private financing or donor funding – that could support expanded and reliable sustainable energy provision for health facilities that integrate gender dimensions. UN Women Tanzania and South Sudan country offices have also been involved in interventions around solar energy targeting women and contributing to the implementation of SDG 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all as well.



# SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Photo: AFP/Luis Acosta

An inclusive, sustainable economy fosters growth with benefits for all. It does not harm the environment, and uses resources judiciously so they will remain for generations to come. For many people, employment is the entry point for economic well-being. In an inclusive economy, decent work means a living wage, workplace safety and protection against discrimination.

There has been some progress. Twenty years ago 40 per cent of women were engaged in wage and salaried employment; today 48 per cent of women are being paid wages. Yet, globally, women still work at lower rates than men. Gender stereotypes often define what 'women's work' is, and can channel women into some of the worst jobs. Among 143 countries, at least 90 per cent have some legal restriction on women's employment.

When economies are geared towards achieving



women's rights and gender equality, the benefits, such as fairer societies and greater economic dynamism, accrue to everyone. Women must have equal access to decent work, productive resources and financial services, as well as an equal voice in economic decisions.

## **UN Women prioritizes economic rights and growth for all.**

This includes advocating for legislation on equal pay for equal work, better access to employment opportunities, safety from sexual harassment in the workplace, and other critical rights. The organization promotes women's ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and

development. It seeks to measure and redistribute women's unpaid care work, and to take actions so women and men can more readily combine it with paid employment. UN Women also engages the private sector to create equal opportunities for women at work, in the marketplace, and in the board rooms, through the Women's Empowerment Principles.

## **UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa country office selected initiatives on decent work and economic growth for women**

Since 2012, UN Women has invested heavily in building the capacity of women entrepreneurs in the area of public procurement so that they have the practical skills and knowledge to submit winning bids for government tenders. In 2015, UN Women in Kenya continued working in this area with a deeper focus at the county level. Redirecting capacity building forums to the county level was needed due to lower awareness levels than in Nairobi. In addition to working with MSE suppliers, UN Women also supported dialogue platforms that brought together the buyers (i.e. Procurement Officers from Public entities) in order to sensitize them on their role in the implementation of Preference and Reservations Scheme (2011 and subsequent amendment regulations) as well as Financial Institutions to discuss the critical issue of access to trade finance. Trade finance continues to be a big barrier for disadvantaged groups who need access to affordable capital in order for them to service government contracts within the stipulated time. This unique three pronged approach was effective and contributed towards achieving UN Women's goals of decent and economic growth for women which subsequently leads to the implementation of SDG 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Several countries in the region are working on gender responsive budgeting as well.



## SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Photo: World Bank/Lakshman Nadaraja

Economic development builds on infrastructure – the roads, bridges and facilities that allow businesses to operate and people to obtain essential services. Infrastructure needs to be sustainable in its construction and use – including through environmentally sound technologies – and resilient to future risks.

All elements of planning, building and financing must take gender dimensions into account, so that women have facilities and services essential to their needs and rights.

For many countries, particularly those less developed, shifting from agriculture and towards industry is the route to better-paying jobs and higher standards of living. New and existing industries must pursue sustainable paths, including through innovation and upgraded technology.

Investments in research and development will be key, but most researchers are still men – women account for only 25 per cent in more advanced Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. Similarly, the construction, manufacturing and energy businesses, with few

### WOMEN IN SCIENCE



**Just 1/5 countries** have achieved gender parity, meaning **45% to 55%** of researchers are **women**

women employees and decision-makers, fall far short of gender balance. From the factory floor to the high-tech lab, women must have equal opportunities in building a shared, sustainable future.

# SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

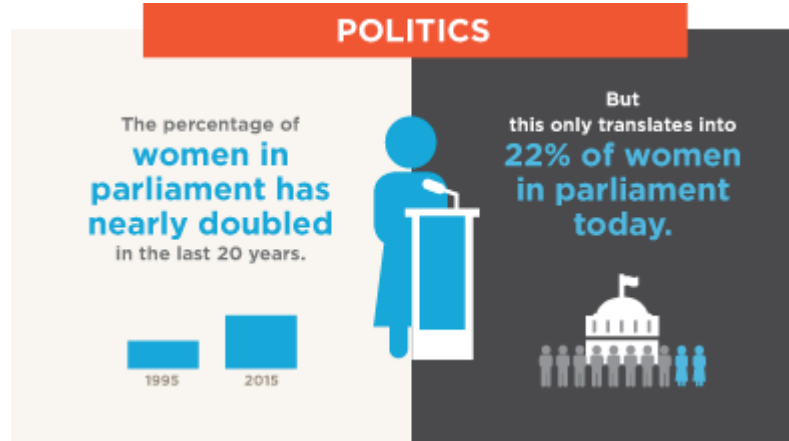


Photo: UN Women/Fatma Elzahraa Yassin

Inequalities have widened across and within many countries, even amid high rates of economic growth. Disparities, caused by practices within countries and in the global economy, are unjust and weaken the social fabric.

Today, more women are in the workforce, in politics, in leadership roles, breaking stereotypes and societal taboos. Yet, gender discrimination makes women prone to deeper disparities. Globally women earn 24 per cent less than men, with varied gaps between countries. They are also more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment, with up to 75 per cent of women's jobs being informal or unprotected in developing countries. Worldwide, 83 per cent of domestic workers are women—most are not legally entitled to a minimum wage.

Further, gender discrimination can intersect with other types, such as regarding age, disability ethnicity, economic status and so on, multiplying the burden of inequalities many times over. Social norms that treat women as second-class citizens in many cases translate into structural obstacles to progress, such as laws that fail to punish perpetrators of gender-based violence. Or budgets that do not fund the services women need most.



Whether the issue is fiscal policy or safe migration or improved regulation of global financial markets, different and potentially unequal outcomes for women and men must be recognized. Only then can deliberate actions be taken to correct them, within and across countries.

UN Women works to reduce inequality within and among countries through advocacy for decent work, social protection and gender-sensitive economic policies around the world. The entity's mandate is focused on empowering women and reducing gender inequality in all spheres, whether



by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices or promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions. UN Women advocates for employment policies that improve labour market

conditions and advance decent work for women, as well as making sure domestic workers can migrate safely and receive social protection.

## **UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Country Office/ Regional Initiatives on Reducing Inequalities among Countries**

In 2015, UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa significantly contributed to generating credible evidence and knowledge on the positive impacts of investing in gender equality and women's empowerment and to building capacity for development impact. This led to successful advocacy that influenced the development discourse, policies and actions in the region specifically, in agriculture and extractive industries (EI).

UN Women has been able to demonstrate with evidence and data the substantive losses from inequality through its study in the 'Cost of the Gender Gap in Agriculture in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda'. The study documented that the gap between male and female farmers is large: 28-31% and represents a significant amount of money: \$67-105 million which can only be closed through smart(er) interventions and subsequently take up to 400,000 people out of poverty in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. Africa needs to close the gap premised on the fact that for Africa to achieve its 2063 vision and SDGs, it is important to bring women to the heart of Africa's development and transformation and address inequalities affecting women in diverse sectors of the economy.

Three countries participated in the Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity Study including Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania. The evidence documented on the loss in GDP due to the inequalities documented shall form a basis for diverse interventions contributing to reduction of inequalities among countries in Africa.

# SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Photo: UN Women/Fatma Elzahraa Yassin

The world today is urbanizing at rates unprecedented in history. For many men and women, the chance to move to a city is a chance for a better life—a larger income, more interesting employment, a more comfortable residence and ready access to modern amenities.

Yet cities are also places of deep inequality and despair. New migrants, many of them women, can end up in overbuilt slums, poorly connected to public transport or essential services such as clean water. Life becomes dangerous and unhealthy, with many obstacles to gaining a secure foothold in the urban economy.

For women, gender discrimination magnifies and adds to the risks. Not being able to take a bus to a clinic to deliver a child can result in permanent disability or death. In general, natural disasters kill more women than men and kill women at a younger age than men. If she survives a disaster such as a flood or earthquake, a woman will likely have fewer options to recover.

Cities and human settlements can be safe, prosperous, equitable and pleasant places to live. But not without including every citizen in their development. All elements of urban governance, planning and finance need to actively embed

Disasters such as droughts, floods and storms  
**kill more women than men due to structural gender inequalities**



gender equality measures. And women deserve equal roles in making decisions about an ever more urban world.

UN Women's efforts ensure urban public spaces are safe and that women and girls can enjoy them without being assaulted or harassed. UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative has generated a number of innovative results through partnerships with mayors' offices, national Governments, women's groups and other community partners. To reduce

the number of women impacted by disasters, the entity also promotes disaster-risk reduction planning and training to help women become more resilient and to mitigate the effects of climate change.

## UN Women Country Office Initiative on Safe Cities

In line with the implementation of the Kigali Safe Cities programme, UN Women Rwanda and the City of Kigali municipality has identified and implemented priority physical improvements on 14 mini-markets. This activity which aimed at boosting employment in the informal sector allowed access of women hawkers to safer and more productive markets. In general, women dominate the informal street vending activities and are more prone to sexual and gender based violence and harassment in public spaces. In collaboration with the City of Kigali, UN Women Rwanda has also contributed to the construction of a mini market for City of Kigali hawkers.

The construction is at its initial stage and the layout and architectural designs indicate that the mini market will have infrastructure and services such as storage facilities, running water, electricity, refuse collection, sanitary and storage facilities, display space, toilets, and rubbish bays including exterior fencing, car park for the clients and day care center for children for breastfeeding mothers. Street women hawkers are optimistic that their livelihoods will improve and their safety will be guaranteed. The approach of constructing safe mini markets for women and girls taken by the City of Kigali will solve the problem of Illegal Street hawking, and serves the city's hygienic and environmental purposes, as well as the problem of tax evasion.

UN Women also sponsored the participation of five delegates to the Safe Cities Global Leaders' Forum held in New Delhi, India from 10 to 12 June 2015. The global meeting shared and discussed evidence-based approaches, practices, tools, and learnings to advance the international knowledge base on safe cities for women and girls. Participants from Rwanda were able to provide up-to-date knowledge and good practices from the implementation of Kigali Safe city Programme that aims to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. Delegates were also able to discuss priority areas for safe city policy and programme actions focusing on sustainability and national accountability which links to SDG 11 on Safe Cities.



## SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Photo: UNDP/Dilip Lokre

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, historically concentrated in countries and groups with the highest standards of living, have pushed the world against its planetary boundaries. Surpassing these limits poses the risk of resources being lost forever. Climate change, impacted by greenhouse gas emissions, poses escalating threats. At the high end of consumption and production, patterns can be wasteful. Food losses occur at every stage, from field to table. Forests are cut down and minerals mined for products used one year and thrown away the next.

The world of waste coexists with a world of want. There, people consume barely enough to survive. A safe and sustainable future depends on reducing

extremes. Women in consumption and production must have equal access to means such as land and technology that can boost their standard of living. Women at large must assume equal leadership in striking a better balance—in parliaments and boardrooms, in their communities and families.

UN Women acts to redress imbalanced consumption and production by advocating for policy reforms that back equitable ownership and use of property and resources. Property titles are one area of focus, since these remain out of reach for many women, due to legal or social barriers. Without them, women typically lose access to the technologies and resources they need to achieve sustainable levels of consumption and production.

### UN Women Selected Country Initiatives on sustainable consumption and production patterns

UN Women in collaboration with key partners – held a Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries from 13-15 October 2015 at the United Nations Complex in Nairobi, Kenya. Focusing on the overarching theme of Building on Good Practices, the three-day Sharefair served as an inspiring platform for sharing knowledge and experience, establishing partnerships, and developing solutions to stimulate interest and collaborative efforts in engendering the extractive industries in Africa. Over 400 participants – including researchers, policymakers, development agencies, United Nations agencies, regional economic commissions, the African Union, civil society organizations, women in the extractive industries, business leaders, investors, private sector representatives and practitioners – gathered at the Sharefair to discuss innovations, best practices, evidence from research and documented data, and legal frameworks and policies. The Sharefair also provided opportunities for networking, advocacy and capacity-building in support of women in the extractive sector. Through a series of plenary and interactive group discussions, challenges, solutions and opportunities were identified for gender equality and women's empowerment and active participation in the extractive industries. Trends in the sector were discussed, and feasible interventions to amplify the impact of gender equality in the extractive industries were identified. Through the proposed regional programme on extractive industries, women shall have improved livelihoods and their production patterns through the extractive industries shall increase. Throughout the Sharefair, special attention was given to the role of women in the extractive industries in the post-2015 development agenda.



# SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



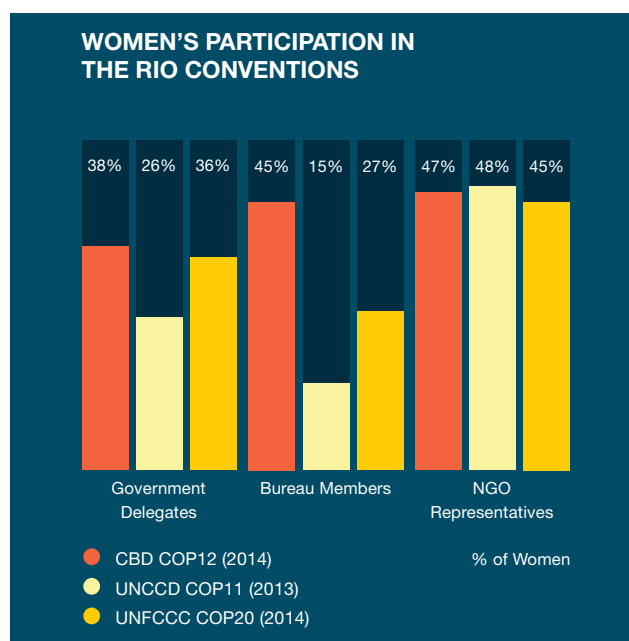
Photo: UNDP/Mohammad Rakibul Hasan

Climate change poses growing risks. Catastrophic storms destroy lives and homes. Droughts pressure rural livelihoods. Sea level rise threatens low-lying areas.

Slowing a dangerous rise in global temperatures depends on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since some level of climate change is now inexorable, other actions must help people adapt and become more resilient. Adequate education and employment, for example, help build safety nets against disaster.

The most vulnerable people are most at risk from climate change, including many poor women. For them, the impacts are already a daily reality. Many spend increasingly long hours hunting for food, fuel and water, or struggling to grow crops. When disasters strike, women are far more likely to perish.

Through their experiences and traditional knowledge



Credit: IUCN, EGI and UN Women

as stewards of many natural resources, women can offer valuable insights into better managing the climate and its risks. They also have a right to all capacities needed to protect themselves, and to participate in decisions with profound implications for people and the planet.

UN Women works to combat climate change by advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment in mitigating and adapting to

climate change, against the backdrop of achieving equitable and inclusive sustainable development. The organization calls for women to be heard at all levels of decision-making, from households to political arenas. In global climate change negotiations, UN Women actively promotes commitments to gender equality and women's rights as well as women's contributions to all aspects of mitigation and adaptation.

## UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Initiatives on Climate Change

UN Women has recognized that more knowledge is needed on successful ways to enhance women's resilience in the region, and on how to integrate a gender perspective in the resilience agenda and work. To redress this gap, UN Women, in partnership with a wide variety of other actors, propose to hold a Sharefair on 'Gender and Resilience' in 2016. The event will facilitate a long-term collaboration amongst the regional stakeholders. Key institutions and stakeholders will be gathered together with the aim of identifying problems, using data and predictive methods, and mobilizing support and resources to incubate, accelerate, and scale effective solutions. A strong networks will be created in order to amplify resilience solutions beyond the Resilience Sharefair, sustaining change in policy and practice while also contributing to the implementation of SDGs at regional and country levels.



# SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

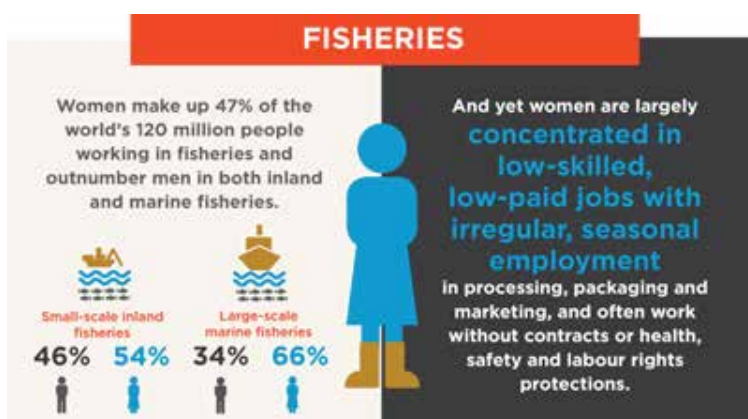


Photo: UN Photo/Christopher Herwig

The world's oceans—spreading over 70 per cent of the planet—are in crisis. Destructive fishing has decimated fish stocks and thrown marine ecosystems out of balance, as have pollution and ocean acidification. As temperatures warm from climate change, melting ice caps are raising sea levels, threatening homes everywhere.

Over the longer term, oceanic changes can result in globally significant climate shifts. For now, the most immediate impacts are felt in coastal communities and among those who depend on oceans for livelihoods.

Women make up 47 per cent of the world's 120 million people working in fisheries and outnumber men in both large-scale marine fisheries (66 per cent) and small-scale inland fisheries (54 per cent). And yet, women are largely concentrated in low-skilled, low-paid jobs with irregular, seasonal employment in processing, packaging and marketing. They often work without contracts or health, safety and labour rights protections. Women also earn approximately 64 per cent of men's wages for the same work in aquaculture.



Women face the risks of ocean degradation with fewer assets and alternatives for livelihoods, and less resilience against the loss of natural resources. All strategies for conservation and sustainable use need to respond to these vulnerabilities. Women's limited representation in marine science must be corrected towards tapping all perspectives for fair and durable solutions.



# SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

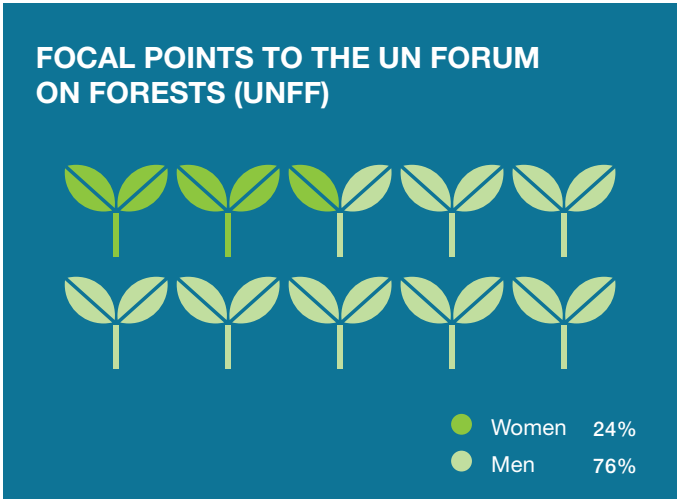


Photo: UN Photo/Logan Abassi

Globally, forests have been cut at devastatingly fast rates, often for profits that bypass local communities. The felling of trees reduces carbon dioxide absorption and biodiversity, cutting links in the intricate web of life. Land use practices have led to land degradation and desertification, as have droughts, including those linked to climate change.

All of these patterns undercut resources that sustain environmental health and human well-being. Women can be among the first and most affected, often charged with making up shortfalls in food and fuel. Their limited ownership of land reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or make decisions about how land is used—for the benefit of themselves and the environment.

Despite these constraints, women play a critical role as stewards of the land, comprising much of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. They may be primary collectors of resources such as wood for fuel, as well as wild foods and herbs for medicines. Their knowledge about traditional practices that are inherently sustainable, however, is often excluded from decisions about sustainable ecosystems.



Credit: IUCN, EGI and UN Women

This is a loss in terms of prospects for sustainable ecosystem use, which also depends on gender equality in all other dimensions—access to land, livelihoods and natural resources, and a say in how they are shared. Women, and indigenous women in particular, need to be included in decision-making on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.

# SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Photo: UN Women/Ina Riaskov

Peaceful and inclusive societies uphold the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice. They protect people from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, and control corruption and organized crime. Decision-making at all levels is inclusive and responsive, and fundamental freedoms are upheld. Laws and policies apply without discrimination. During wars or conflict, women often have fewer resources to protect themselves and, with children, frequently make up the majority of displaced and refugee populations. War tactics such as sexual violence specifically target them.

Women have made strides in representation in decision-making, in some peace processes as well as governance more broadly. Still, the numbers reflect persistent inequality. From 1992 to 2011, only 9 per cent of negotiators at peace tables were women, despite the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 in 2000, which recognized that women must play central roles. Only 22 per cent of all national parliamentarians were female as of August 2015.

For women in many societies, prospects for peace are undermined by gender-based violence. Women



comprise 98 per cent of the estimated 4.5 million people forced into sexual exploitation, for instance. Gender discrimination in legal systems includes the failure to punish perpetrators of gender-based violence.

By fully protecting all of women's rights, without exception, in all laws and practices, peaceful and inclusive societies will be within reach.

UN Women advances peace and inclusion by backing the engagement of women in all aspects of peace negotiations, peacebuilding and reconstruction for inclusive societies. The entity





trains peacekeepers to detect, address and stop conflict-related sexual violence. Other efforts support the gender-responsive reform of justice and security institutions, universal access to justice,

the introduction or implementation of laws against violence against women, and provision of public services that fully meet women's needs.

## UN Women Initiatives on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

UN Women in Zimbabwe, under Gender, Peace and Security program, partnered with Peace-Building and Capacity Development Foundation (PACDEF), a CSO, which successfully established a women led community early warning system for EAW, electoral processes and other peace building initiatives in rural areas.

This will be utilized to influence gender sensitive electoral processes in preparation for elections in 2018. Furthermore collaboration with the partner enabled UN Women to increase awareness among rural communities on gender, peace and security issues and this has led in creation of safe spaces for women to come together and discuss peacebuilding issues without fear and hesitation.

UN Women sought to increase spaces of dialogue and peaceful exchanges between security sector actors and women's organizations at national level and this is the first output under outcome through the support provided to Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe. Community dialogues were held among the six Women for Peace Committees established in three provinces of Manicaland (Tsvingwe, Penhalonga), Masvingo (urban and rural communities) and Mashonaland West (Chinhoyi), Bindura and security sector actors.

UN Women in Zimbabwe also carried out an assessment of the curricula of the security sector state institutions and private church-owned institutions for gender-sensitivity. The findings were used to develop gender-sensitive modules for each respective institution that is applied by security sector, peacebuilding and governance academic institutions as compulsory and examinable curricula, accompanied by a Training of Trainers user guide for personnel of academic security sector institutions.

The revised curricula have so far been accepted by 3 institutions which are Africa University, Institute of Correctional Services, Solusi University and Bindura University. On a different note, UN Women ESAR has positioned a gender expert within the office of the special envoy of the great lakes region to support with various gender issues in regard to peace and security in the region and contribute to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in this regard.

# SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

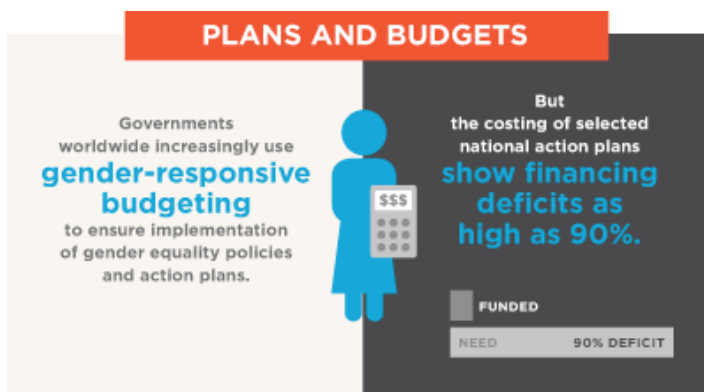


Photo: UN Women/Fernando Bocanegra

The SDGs will mean little without the means to implement them. Finance, technology, capacities, partnerships and data are among the primary tools. Success also depends on a stable global economy and the ability of each country to make policy choices aimed at achieving all of the goals.

Gender equality is central to all of the SDGs, but often, women end up on the short end of the means of implementation, in whatever form. While governments increasingly use gender-responsive budgeting to direct funds to programmes that benefit women, these exercises have revealed huge funding gaps in what women need—up to 90 per cent. Only 5 per cent of foreign aid funds had gender equality as a principle objective in 2012-2013. Just around a third of countries have an office for gender statistics, even though data distinguished according to gender is critical to defining the best ways to achieve gender equality. Many countries simply do not know, for instance, how many women lack clean water or face abuse within their homes.

Women have the right to equal access to and benefits from each of the means of implementation. They also need to lead decisions being made — whether in ministries of finance, companies that produce technologies, statistical offices or institutions charged with global economic oversight.



UN Women's efforts put women at the centre of the means of implementation through global leadership of the drive to adopt gender-responsive budgeting, a tool to realize commitments to women's rights. Globally, regionally and nationally, the organization backs innovations extending the collection of data that make women's issues visible and influence policies delivering on gender equality. UN Women helps women access technology, including to achieve the double dividend of empowerment and environmental sustainability.

At country office level, UN Women works with the resident coordinator system to host and coordinates the donor coordination group on gender in Ethiopia and Rwanda.

**UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action, and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnership with civil society and other relevant actors.**



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