



Theories of Change for UN Women's Thematic Priorities: Achieving Transformative Results for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



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UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 - Integrated Results and Resources Framework

The goal of UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights. The Strategic Plan prioritizes 5 development outcomes and a set of 15 development outputs, including 12 thematic outputs reflecting globally agreed thematic priorities to break trends and accelerate efforts towards gender equality and women's empowerment (see figure below). Each thematic output is designed to assist Member States, upon their request, in translating global norms and

resolutions into national policies to both achieve transformative results for women and girls and address multiple Sustainable Development Goals in a synergistic manner.

This booklet provides methodological guidance (in the form of generic theories of change) for programming under each thematic output of UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021. These generic theories of change provide an initial platform for

national, CSO, private sector, ODA and UN partners to: assess required initiatives to effect transformative change in line with unique country contexts and capacities; identify on-going activities and gaps; and support a division of responsibilities amongst partners on how to best address these gaps. Activities to achieve the thematic changes can be undertaken by partners individually within a localized and common programming framework, or collaboratively through joint programmes and other pooled financing mechanisms.

Impact: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights

Development results

Outcome 1: (\$29.2 million USD) A comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is strengthened and implemented

- Output 1:** The capacity of governments and stakeholders is strengthened to assess progress in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and other global normative and policy frameworks;
- Output 2:** Evidence-based dialogue is facilitated amongst governments and with civil society and other relevant actors in the context of intergovernmental processes;
- Output 3:** Knowledge on gender perspectives is expanded through provision of substantive inputs and dialogues to global intergovernmental processes.

Indicative multi-year budget for Outcome 1: \$29.2 million (USD)

Outcome 2:
Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems

Outcome 3:
Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy

Outcome 4:
All women and girls live a life free of violence

Outcome 5:
Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and from humanitarian action

- Output 4:** More women of all ages fully participate, lead and engage in political institutions and processes
- Output 5:** More national and local plans and budgets are gender-responsive
- Output 6:** More and better quality data and statistics are available to promote and track progress of gender equality and women's empowerment
- Output 7:** More justice institutions are accessible to and deliver for women and girls

- Output 8:** More policies promote decent work and social protection for women
- Output 9:** More women own, launch and/or better manage small and medium and large enterprises
- Output 10:** More rural women secure access to productive resources and engage in sustainable agriculture

- Output 11:** More countries and stakeholders are better able to prevent violence against women and girls and deliver essential services to victims and survivors
- Output 12:** More cities have safe and empowering public spaces for women and girls

- Output 13:** More commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by Member States and the UN system, and more gender equality advocates influence peace and security processes
- Output 14:** More women play a greater role and are better served by humanitarian response and recovery efforts
- Output 15:** More women play a greater role in and are better served by disaster risk reduction and recovery processes

Indicative multi-year budget for Outcome 2: \$249 million USD

Indicative multi-year budget for Outcome 3: \$292.8 million USD

Indicative multi-year budget for Outcome 4: \$424.6 million USD

Indicative multi-year budget for Outcome 5: \$468.6 million USD

Organizational effectiveness and efficiency results

- Output 1:** Enhanced coordination, coherence and accountability of the UN system for commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment **\$27.2 million (USD)**
- Output 2:** Increased engagement of partners in support of UN-Women's mandate **\$19.6 million (USD)**
- Output 3:** High quality of programmes through knowledge, innovation, results-based management and evaluation **\$84.6 million (USD)**
- Output 4:** Improved management of financial and human resources in pursuit of results **\$72.3 million (USD)**

Thematic priority 1 More women of all ages fully participate, lead and engage in political institutions and processes (Output 4)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Women are significantly under-represented in political and electoral processes – be it as voters, candidates, elected representatives or electoral administrators. As of January 2017, only 23.4 percent of all national parliamentarians were women and 19.1 percent of all parliamentary speakers were women.¹ Women are also largely excluded from the most senior decision-making positions of executive government. As of January 2017, 7.9 percent of all heads of state were women; 4.7 percent of all heads of government were women; and women represented 18.3 percent of all ministers, only a small increase from the 14.2 percent they represented almost a decade earlier, in 2005. This level of political participation falls well short of the aspirational target of 30 percent set in 1990,² and of ‘gender balance’ set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.³ While these figures are concerning, a knowledge gap exists in a range of other areas of women’s political participation, including as candidates and voters, and as elected representatives at local level, where the global baseline does not yet exist.⁴

This political under-representation occurs despite women’s right to participate equally in democratic governance, and their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change. Women’s right to participate, express, assemble and be elected are stipulated in numerous human rights instruments including the UDHR, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as several regional instruments. These international and regional accords have been frequently translated at the national level: women are entitled to hold positions of political authority, as provided in almost every national constitution and 189 Member States of the United Nations are Parties to CEDAW. Years of experience and research have also shown that women’s inclusion in political processes improves them.⁵ Women consistently show political leadership by working across party lines through parliamentary women’s caucuses – even in the most politically combative environments – and by championing issues of gender equality such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws and electoral reform.⁶

Analysis

Women’s political under-representation is due to the combined effect of institutional and structural constraints, as well as cultural and attitudinal barriers that suggest women should not have a role in public life.

Structural constraints manifest in: political parties that resist the inclusion of women and do not nominate them in winnable positions; certain kinds of electoral systems that, for example, elect one person per district and reduce the opportunity for women to compete with men on an equal footing; women candidates’ lack of access to financial resources to run electoral campaigns; and practical difficulties for women to participate, such as lack of access to identity documentation or the high incidence of violence, which preclude women from registering, nominating or voting. In addition, electorates and media organisations perpetuate negative gender-based stereotypes rather than showcasing positive examples or the benefits of participation for all. Furthermore, political institutions – political parties, parliaments, electoral management bodies – are steeped in norms, practices and policies that discriminate against women, making it difficult for women to be promoted and effect change, including policy change.

Cultural and attitudinal barriers also constrain women’s voice and political agency. In addition to the limited endowments of women and girls (in terms of health, education and assets), social norms about gender roles limit women’s participation. These norms keep women largely responsible for domestic work and child care even when they work outside the home; reduce women’s mobility and ability to network; reinforce inequality through gender-based violence and a restriction of women’s choices; and perpetuate legal discrimination. These same norms limit women’s representation in politics and government. They devalue the important contributions that women can make to decision-making and in setting the policy direction of a country and hamper democratic development.

Action

Advancing women’s political participation and leadership requires action on multiple fronts. Research shows that women’s increased political participation and leadership results from a confluence of factors, including removal of legal and logistical barriers; implementation of supportive frameworks; promotion of women’s leadership through political party reform; support of CSOs; and a positive shift in societal gender norms. Taking action to ensure women’s full and effective leadership at all levels of decision-making requires a four-pronged strategy:

1. **Support development and implementation of robust legal frameworks and administrative arrangements** that facilitate women’s participation. This includes relevant reforms to constitutions, gender equality laws or party statutes, and policy actions such as setting numerical targets for women in leadership positions with temporary special measures (TSMs) and reforming party statutes.
2. **Expand the pool of qualified and capable women** to run for election, including through initiating programmes that boost women’s confidence and capacity to lead, enhancing their campaign strategies and techniques and promoting linkages with supportive CSOs.
3. **Transform gender norms so that women are accepted as legitimate and effective leaders** including through developing campaigns that sensitize the media and electorate on the need for women in public life at all levels.
4. **Support women leaders in gender-sensitive political institutions**, including parliament, political parties and EMBs, to attract, promote and retain women leaders, and highlight the constructive contribution they make to decision-making.

1. UN Women-IPU Map of *Women in Politics*: 2017.
2. ECOSOC Resolution, E/RES/1990/15
3. Critical Area G ‘Women, Power and Decision-Making’
4. SG Report on Beijing + 20.
5. UN Women ‘In Brief: Women’s Leadership and Political Participation.’

6. IPU, 2008, *Equality in Politics: A Survey of Men and Women in Parliaments*
7. World Bank Group 2014 *Voice and Agency: Empowering women and girls for shared prosperity*.

8. SG Report on Women and Political Participation. 2013. *Measures taken and progress achieved in the promotion of women and political participation*, A/68/184.

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women Lead in Political Decision-Making Key indicators: % women in local governments; % women in national parliaments			
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) electoral frameworks and arrangements promote gender balance in elections; if a cadre of interested, diverse and capable women political leaders is formed; if women are perceived as equally legitimate political leaders as men in society; and if women are promoted as leaders in gender sensitive political institutions, then (2) women will be politically empowered and realize their rights, because (3) women will have political agency and lead in decision-making.			
Outcomes	1. Electoral frameworks and arrangements promote gender balance in elections and decision-making bodies. Key indicator: # of legislative frameworks that promote gender balance in elections and decision making-bodies.	2. A cadre of interested, diverse and capable women political leaders is formed. Key indicator: share of women among leaders of political parties.	3. Women are perceived as equally legitimate and effective political leaders as men. Key indicator: % of women ministers appointed to cabinet.	4. Women are promoted as leaders in gender sensitive political institutions. Key indicator: % of women speakers of parliament.
Outcome TOC	If (1) women's participation is enabled through policy and legal frameworks, electoral arrangements and selection processes, and if VAW is mitigated, then (2) women will run for election because (3) there is a more level playing field	If (1) women from diverse groups have enhanced capacity to seek leadership and have skills to mobilize resources, then (2) more women will be nominated as political contestants because (3) there are sufficient numbers of skilled women for gatekeepers to select from	If (1) communities, civil society, the media and political leaders support women's role in public life then (2) the number of women will increase because (3) discriminatory attitudes will be removed and women will be accepted as legitimate political leaders.	If (1) elected women are empowered by institutional reforms and women's leadership is promoted then (2) women will encourage more women into leadership because (3) they are role models.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Legislative frameworks are strengthened to promote gender balance (reforms to constitutions, electoral frameworks-voters, candidates, party members; promotion of GE/parity; political finance & campaign expenditure caps; quotas with sanctions legislated and enforced; violence criminalized).</p> <p>1.2. Enhanced capacities and awareness of political parties to promote gender balance (campaigns target gate-keepers to select women; voluntary reforms to party statutes; women nominated in winnable positions; codes of conduct, accountability of women leaders).</p> <p>1.3. Strengthened capacities of key stakeholders to design and implement initiatives to mitigate Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) (capacity building of security forces; data collection; CSO monitoring mechanisms; gender observatories in place).</p> <p>1.4. Strengthened capacities of electoral stakeholders to promote gender balance (EMBs guarantee women can register and vote; women have access to ID documents; measures put in place to encourage participation in elections; voter outreach; women lead in electoral management).</p>	<p>2.1. Increased technical capacity of women to engage in leadership contests (capacity development of women aspirants; public speaking; constituency engagement; transformative leadership training, including of young and marginalized women).</p> <p>2.2. Enhanced capacity of women to mobilize resources to run competitive, well-resourced and innovative campaigns (capacity development of women candidates on campaign messaging, outreach, using ICT and social media campaigns; access to women's fundraising networks).</p> <p>2.3. Diverse networks of support for women leaders created and sustained (e.g. working with professional networks, CSO networks, social media networks, political parties, youth groups).</p>	<p>3.1. Increased community and civic understanding of gender equality and women's right to political participation is promoted through advocacy and social mobilization (provision of outreach; community dialogues; women & gender advocates articulate demands).</p> <p>3.2 Enhanced capacity of the media to report positive portrayals of women leaders and gender equality as a social goal (media awareness raising, targeted campaigns, media code of conduct, social media).</p> <p>3.3. More political leaders publicly promote gender equality and women's leadership (stakeholders like traditional leaders, political party leaders publicly support women; public statements; male political leaders support HeForShe campaign).</p>	<p>4.1. Elected women apply leadership skills (mentoring; capacity building of newly elected leaders, forums for women leaders, women's caucuses; legislative drafting expertise; leadership training; peer-to-peer learning).</p> <p>4.1. Institutions are receptive to women leaders (family-friendly policies; child care; hours of operation; unwritten rules of debate/decorum; accountability for gender equality commitments).</p> <p>4.3. Political institutions promote and monitor a violence-free culture (political parties adopt codes of conduct; parliaments reform standing orders (i.e. to combat harassment)).</p> <p>4.4. Women serve as role models to inspire a new generation of leaders (role-model effect, showcase positive examples through iKNOW Politics, retention of women leaders; outreach to young women and women from marginalized groups).</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is political will to adopt reforms; – Some technical knowledge already exists among key national stakeholders; – Providing technical support will result in reformed legal frameworks; – Political party nomination procedures discriminate against women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A select group of women are willing to enter politics and lead; – Most women are outside moneyed networks; – Political parties will nominate skilled and resourced women candidates; – National stakeholders and donors willing to support women's networks and GE advocates; – The capacities of women to run innovative and well-resourced campaigns can be strengthened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Media shapes public perceptions; – Lack of understanding of gender equality leads to discriminatory behavior; – Raising awareness about gender discrimination will lead to transformation in attitudes; – Leading my example has positive effect in communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Institutions are historically gendered but open to change; – Newly elected leaders require capacity building/skills development; – Creating forums for women aids in creating a supportive environment; – Women are interested in supporting other women.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political upheavals stall parliamentary and legislative processes; – Gender equality not considered a priority in electoral administration; – Legislation not enforced; – National partners have limited capacities to apply knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Parties may nominate women but voters don't elect them; – Male incumbents are able to raise more money than women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deeply ingrained mentalities impossible to change; – Men benefit from, and perpetuate, status quo; – Combating discriminatory attitudes is insufficient without additional structural changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Limited capacity of partners to put in place systems for gender responsive planning and policy making; – Institutions are slow to reform.

Thematic priority 2 More national and local plans and budgets are gender responsive (Output 5)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Integrating new and existing commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment into long-term development strategies and financing these commitments are central to implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As the financing framework for the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda reaffirms the commitment to empower all women and girls through necessary policy and financing actions. This includes significantly increasing the scale and scope of investments for gender equality and women's empowerment to accelerate implementation of existing and new commitments.

The twenty-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action found that chronic and persistent underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment has contributed to slow and uneven progress in all 12 critical areas of concern.¹ Costing of national action plans on gender equality provide clear evidence of this underinvestment with identified financing gaps as high as 90%.² This lack of investment has hindered the implementation of gender responsive laws and policies which is costly to society both in terms of realizing women's political, economic and social rights and achieving inclusive economic growth. For example, more than 1.3 billion women worldwide lack access to financial services limiting their participation in economic activity and deepening poverty and exclusion. In terms of economic costs, it is estimated that USD\$80 billion a year is lost in Asia and the Pacific primarily due to gender gaps in employment and education.^{3,4} The overall lack of investment can also be seen in Official Development Assistance (ODA). For example, in 2014-2015 only 5% of the screened aid of the DAC Members targeted gender equality as its principal objective.

Conversely, ensuring strong alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies builds an enabling policy environment with a strong focus on gender equality. Further, investing in gender equality and women's empowerment taps into positive externalities and yields efficiency gains, such as enhanced productivity and greater participation in economic and political life. A 2015 McKinsey Global Institute study found that USD 12 trillion could be added to global GDP by 2025 by advancing gender equality.⁵ Targeted investment in gender equality produces positive outcomes for women and girls. For example, in Uganda, gender budgeting led to an increased allocation in the budget to strengthen participation and retention of girls' secondary school.⁶

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda called on Member States to adopt integrated financing frameworks as key enablers of national sustainable development strategies. The development of holistic and long-term fiscal policies are key elements of these frameworks as they entail the estimation of costs and types of investments required to implement their SDG-based national plans. Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) can provide an important entry point for ensuring that these frameworks clearly identify the necessary actions and corresponding resource allocations to advance gender equality objectives.

Analysis

Strengthening the gender responsiveness of national plans and budgets is challenged by (1) insufficient integration of gender equality priorities in national development strategies ; (2) lack of prioritization of gender equality budgets; and (3) lack of accountability for the full implementation of gender equality commitments.

- 1. Lack of integration of gender equality priorities in national development strategies.** This is often due to a lack of high quality national action plans on gender equality and corresponding costing of these plans. Further, there is insufficient advocacy by political leaders for strengthened alignment between national action plans for gender equality and national development strategies, which results in gender-blind national development strategies.
- 2. Lack of prioritization of gender equality in budgets.** This lack of prioritization is due to limited capacity to assess the gender impact of fiscal laws and policies and advocate for policy solutions in support of gender-responsive revenue and budgetary allocations. Further, it is due to limited capacity of ministries of finance to integrate GRB into public finance management systems. There are also significant capacity gaps for integrating gender equality into sectoral and local planning and budgeting. Finally, gender advocates are often not included in fiscal policy processes.
- 3. Lack of oversight and accountability for the full implementation of gender equality commitments.** This is often due to inadequate monitoring capacity to track budget allocations and expenditures and oversight mechanisms. Multi-stakeholder coordination bodies often do not have the requisite capacity to analyze the impact of their investments on gender equality. Further, civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, often lack adequate capacity for budgetary oversight and access and resources to influence budgetary decision making and exercise oversight.

Action

The ambitious and comprehensive vision of the SDGs to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls requires gender responsive national development plans buttressed by transformative financing frameworks that significantly increases the scale and scope of resources and investments. This will require:

- 1. Gender-responsive national development strategies.** This work will strengthen evidence on gender equality priorities and corresponding financing gaps by supporting the development and costing of national action plans on gender equality. The availability of this data will inform dialogue among policy makers and support evidence-based advocacy for strengthened alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies.
- 2. Promote gender responsive budgets.** These efforts will support governments to assess fiscal laws and policies and advocate for policy solutions that increase their gender responsiveness.. It will strengthen the capacity of ministries of finance to implement GRB in the public finance management system – in both the revenue and expenditure dimensions. Further, the capacities of line ministries and local government on GRB will also be enhanced to enable strategic budget allocations for gender equality. This work will also support participation and leadership of gender advocates in fiscal policy processes.
- 3. Strengthen gender responsiveness of oversight and accountability mechanisms.** Strengthening the capacity of ministries of finance to develop and implement transparent tracking systems for gender equality allocations will contribute to increased accountability. Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships will ensure comprehensive responses to address financing gaps. The capacities of multi-stakeholder partners to analyze the impact of their investments will be strengthened. Gender advocates and women's organizations will be enabled to demand greater accountability for and transparency on government expenditures through enhanced capacity on gender analysis of budgets and advocacy.

1. See E/CN.6/2015/3 at: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/sg%report_synthesis-en_web.pdf
2. UN Women, Handbook on Costing Gender Equality, 2015. New York, USA.

3. "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific," UNESCAP (2007).
4. World Bank 2011.

5. "The power of parity: How advancing women's equality can add \$12 trillion to global growth," McKinsey Global Institute (2015).
6. Stotsky et al. (2016). IMF Working Paper WP/16/152.

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	New and existing internationally agreed commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment are prioritized and implemented at national and local levels.		
Goal TOC Statement	if (1) national development strategies are gender-responsive; if budgets are gender responsive; and if (3) there is increased accountability on spending for results; then (4) commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment are prioritized and implemented at national and local levels; because (5) gender equality considerations have been effectively mainstreamed into planning, financing and oversight mechanisms.		
Outcomes	1. National development strategies are gender responsive	2. More budgets are gender responsive	3. Oversight and accountability systems are gender responsive
Outcome TOC	If 1) high-quality national action plans on gender equality are developed and costed; and if political leaders and stakeholders advocate for alignment with national development strategies; then (2) national development strategies will be gender responsive; because (3) evidence has been created about the financing gap for gender equality priorities which contributes to building the political will required for integrating costed national gender equality actions into national development strategies.	If 1) government capacities to assess fiscal laws and policies and advocate for policy solutions in support of gender-responsive revenue and budget allocation; if ministries of finance, sectoral ministries and local governments have the capacity to implement gender responsive budgeting (GRB); ² and if gender advocates participate in fiscal policy decisions; then (2) revenue and budgetary allocations will prioritize gender equality; because (3) an enabling policy environment is in place and supported by the required capacities.	If 1) government designs and implements transparent budget tracking systems; if multi-stakeholder oversight mechanisms are established and have the capacity to analyze the impact of their investments on gender equality; then 2) accountability on spending for results will increase; because 3) the capacities and institutional mechanisms exist for monitoring impacts of investments on gender equality and advocating for improved performance.
Outputs	<p>1.1. High-quality¹ national action plans (NAPs) on gender equality are developed Example activities: Conduct needs assessments; support capacity development; convene multiple stakeholders.</p> <p>1.2. National action plans on gender equality are costed Example activities: Gender gap analyses of national/sectoral/local budgets; capacity strengthening of government and civil society in costing methodologies; produce reports of costing results.</p> <p>1.3. Political leaders and stakeholders advocate for alignment of national development strategies (NDSs) with national action plans on gender equality Example activities: Capacity development of national women's machineries, planning ministries and civil society; dissemination of data and analysis on costing of national action plans on gender equality; foster dialogue among policy makers and other stakeholders on institutional and policy options to better align NDSs and NAPs., including economic strategies, sectoral strategies and cross-cutting strategies such as HIV/AIDS or climate strategies.</p>	<p>2.1. Strengthened capacity of governments to assess fiscal laws and policies and advocate for policy solutions in support of gender responsive revenue and budgetary allocations Example activities: Capacity strengthening to assess the gender impact of fiscal laws and policies; capacity strengthening of leaders to advocate for policy solutions to increase gender responsiveness of fiscal laws and policies; capacity strengthening to formulate progressive tax policy.</p> <p>2.2. Strengthened capacity of ministries of finance to implement gender responsive budgeting (GRB) in public finance management (PFM) systems³ Example activities: Capacity strengthening of public officials on GRB tools; issuance of gender budget statements and budget call circulars; integrate GRB into Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks; integrate GRB into classification systems/chart of accounts; support GRB centers of excellence and curricula.</p> <p>2.3. Strengthened capacity of line ministries and local governments to implement GRB in their plans and budgets Example activities: Capacity development and technical assistance to line ministries and local governments on GRB, including conducting gender analysis and costing of sectoral plans, programmes and budgets.</p> <p>2.4. Strengthened leadership by gender equality advocates in fiscal policy decisions Example activities: Capacity strengthening and technical support of gender equality advocates to conduct gender gap analysis of plans and budgets, conduct evidence-based advocacy and participate as lead members of decision making bodies on public revenue-raising and spending.</p>	<p>3.1. Strengthened capacity of Ministries of Finance to develop and implement transparent tracking systems for allocations on gender equality Example activities: Capacity development to develop and/or refine budget tracking systems to measure gender equality allocations; technical support to make tracking data publicly available.</p> <p>3.2. Multi-stakeholder coordination bodies for oversight of spending on gender equality established Example activities: Technical support for the establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination bodies and development of action oriented work plans of these bodies to address gaps in GEWE funding; support to national AIDS coordinating bodies and/or sectoral ministries responding to HIV to ensure incorporate gender-responsive actions and budgets.</p> <p>3.3. Strengthened capacity of multi-stakeholder partners to analyze the impact of their investments on gender Example activities: Technical training on impact assessments, sex-disaggregated beneficiary assessments, gender responsive programmes and Performance Assessment Framework; support for gender-responsive national M&E frameworks of HIV Strategies and Plan.</p> <p>3.4. Strengthened capacity of gender advocates and women's groups to demand accountability and transparency on spending Example activities: Advocacy campaigns, gender analysis of budgets and aid, preparation and dissemination of data on donor practices and financing for gender equality, gender audits of local budgets, gender score card.</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political openness to develop national action plans for gender equality – Political consensus can be built through data and evidence – Opportunities exist for GEWE stakeholders to engage in the development of new or in the revision of existing National Development Strategies – Gender-responsive data and statistics are available to assess and cost GEWE gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will to adopt legislative and/or policy reforms and increase allocations for GEWE – Line ministries adopt MoF directives on budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MoF interest in developing systems to track gender equality allocations – Oversight committees and coordination mechanisms are formed – Development partners actively participate in coordination mechanisms on key decisions on gender spendin
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Data generated not used to inform political priority setting – Limited women's political participation and lack of women's access to development policy making forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Changes in global macroeconomic environment and impact on national budget priorities – Political instability – Gender responsive budget laws and policies are not approved or implemented – Tax reforms are not implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Irregularities in the oversight and monitoring of implementation – Information on actual spending is not made available – No regular impact assessments are conducted to analyze results

1. High-quality national action plans (NAP) on gender equality and women's empowerment will include a gender situation analysis, a clear goal, strategic objectives, alignment with national development strategy priority areas, and monitoring and evaluation plan.

2. Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) involves strategies for changing policies and budgetary processes so expenditures and revenues reduce inequalities between women and men (Sharp and Elson 2010).

3. Public Financial Management includes all components of a country's budget process - both upstream (including strategic planning, medium term expenditure framework, annual budgeting) and downstream (including revenue management, procurement, control, accounting, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, audits and oversight).

Thematic priority 3 More and better quality data and statistics are available to promote and track progress of gender equality and women's empowerment (Output 6)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Data and statistics are important tools for devising policies to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, assessing their impact, and ensuring accountability. At the international level there have been important advances in normative and technical standards related to gender statistics.

In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action included a strong call "for generating and disseminating gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation".¹ More recently, in 2013 the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a minimum set of gender indicators to serve as a guide for data compilation, and following a request from the General Assembly, adopted a set of violence against women indicators.² Many of the indicators proposed for monitoring the gender-related targets in SDGs build on these advances.

However, despite these developments, there are data gaps in many areas of gender equality. Out of the 52 outcomes indicators in the minimum set, there are only 35 for which internationally accepted standards for measurement exist and for which data are regularly collected by countries (**referred to hereafter as Tier I indicators**). Out of the remaining indicators, many have accepted standards but data collection by countries is irregular (**Tier II**); while for others international standards do not exist and countries do not regularly collect the data (**Tier III**).³

In the post-2015 agenda, localization of the SDGs will be critical to ensure their implementation at the national level. As with MDGs, targets that are not monitored due to lack of data are likely to receive less priority.⁴ Given these monitoring requirements the need to produce more and better data, including gender-sensitive indicators, is now greater than ever. This will increase the importance of, and demand for quality statistics by national governments.

Without significant technical and financial support to tackle these challenges, there will be important gaps in our ability to adequately monitor the implementation of the SDGs.

Analysis

These challenges for gender statistics are linked to at least three distinct but inter-related problems: (1) Weak policy space and legal environment due to the lack of political will and understanding of the importance of quality gender statistics; (2) Technical challenges within National Statistical Systems (NSS), particularly with regard to sensitive, methodologically demanding or emerging areas; and (3) A confluence of limited data dissemination capacity by the NSS and limited ability by governments and other stakeholders to use gender statistics to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes.

- 1. Weak policy space and legal and financial environment.** Lack of political will and limited awareness of the importance of data on gender equality are critical barriers to progress.⁵ As recent reviews have shown, in many countries, the production of gender statistics is not specified in statistics laws and policies, often resulting in an under-prioritization of the sector in terms of budget allocations. Out of 126 countries with data, only 15% have specific legislation requiring the NSS to conduct specialized gender-based surveys, 37% have a coordinating body for gender statistics and only 13% have a regular dedicated budget for it.⁶
- 2. Technical challenges limit the production of gender statistics.** Due to financial and technical constraints, in most developing countries, the production of gender statistics is still quite limited and gender data gaps are pervasive.⁷ This is particularly true in areas that are sensitive such as violence against women, or where the technical and financial requirements are significant (e.g. time use), or in areas where methodological work is needed to develop internationally accepted standards (e.g. asset ownership). For example, currently only about 40 per cent of countries produce data for unpaid work and violence against women.
- 3. Lack of access to data and limited capacity on the part of users to analyse them.** Gaps in gender statistics are compounded by low dissemination capabilities on the part of the NSS and the failure to build the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders to use the data. There is strong evidence of a vicious cycle whereby low use of data to inform policies and advocacy leads to low demand, which in turn reduces the incentive for their production.⁸

Action

Improving the availability, accessibility and use of gender statistics to inform policies, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women's empowerment requires action on three fronts: (1) Promoting an enabling environment by putting in place a supportive and well-coordinated national strategy to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs; (2) Increasing data production by removing barriers and constraints to ensure that regular quality and comparable gender statistics are produced; and (3) Improving data accessibility and promoting use by different players with sufficient capacities to understand, analyse and use them to inform policies and to monitor progress on the SDGs.

- 1. Supportive policy environment in place to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs:** An assessment will be conducted to look at the national legal framework, policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics. Legal, institutional and financial constraints will be addressed and partnerships put in place to ensure that plans for the production of gender statistics to monitor SDGs locally are developed and financed. A participatory national plan is developed with inputs from actors to localize gender-related SDGs, using the globally agreed SDGs indicators as a basis.
- 2. Improve the regular production of gender statistics:** The technical capacity of the NSS to produce quality gender statistics will be strengthened through: (i) direct technical support to compile Tier I indicators; (ii) identification of suitable data sources and technical and financial support to collect Tier II indicators; and (iii) methodological work to develop standards to enable NSS to produce Tier III indicators.
- 3. Ensure greater accessibility and use of data:** Data sharing protocols will be strengthened and dissemination tools provided. The capacity of all users will be strengthened through training and technical assistance. User-producer dialogues will be institutionalized, including by creating forums for the NSS to engage with policymakers to improve their understanding of statistical information and identify data gaps to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics.

1. United Nations. 1995. Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 27 October 1995.
2. United Nations. 2013. *Report of the Secretary-General on Gender Statistics*, prepared for the Forty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission.
3. Violence against women and time use indicators would for instance fall under Tier

II while asset ownership and entrepreneurship would fall under Tier III. Through EDGE, UN-Women and the UN Statistics Division are developing and testing international standards for measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship.
4. Fukuda-Parr and Yamin. 2013. The Power of Numbers: A critical review of MDG targets for human development and human rights. *Development* 56, 58-65 (March 2013)

5. Report of the Secretary-General on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly.
6. *Ibid.*
7. *United Nations 2013. op-cited*
8. UN Women 2015. Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016.

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Gender statistics are available, accessible and analyzed to inform policy making, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment.		
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) political consensus to address the financing gap in gender equality is created; fiscal laws, policies and national action plans prioritize revenue and budgetary allocations in favor of gender equality; additional financing is mobilized for gender equality; and if there is increased accountability on spending for results; then 2) new and existing internationally agreed commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment adequately and effectively financed; because 3) the amount of financing for gender equality and women’s empowerment will be increased and available financing for gender equality and women’s empowerment will be effectively targeted and used.		
Outcomes	1. Supportive policy environment in place to ensure gender-responsive localization and effective monitoring of the SDGs	2. Quality, comparable and regular gender statistics are available to address national data gaps and meet policy and reporting commitments under the SDGs, CEDAW and Beijing	3. Gender statistics are accessible to all users (including governments, civil society, academia and private sector) and can be analysed to inform research, advocacy, policies and programmes, and promote accountability
Outcome TOC	If (1) the data gaps are identified, and if enabling policy frameworks, backed by required resources are in place; then (2) national statistic systems will be able to produce and publish quality gender statistics to monitor localized SDGs; because (3) political, structural and financial barriers will have been addressed	If (1) national statistic systems have the required technical capacity; then (2) quality, comparable, regular and accessible gender statistics will be produced; because (3) national statistic systems will meet international standards	If (1) data are widely disseminated and accessible to the public, if regular dialogue between producers and users is institutionalized, and if users have the capacity to analyze data; (2) then civil society, government agencies and all other actors will be able to transform data into information for decision-making; because (3) they will have the required statistical tools, resources and capabilities
Outputs	<p>1.1 An assessment of gender statistics and identification of gaps is conducted at the national level (The assessment will look at the national legal framework, policies and practices governing the regular production of gender statistics; the extent to which gender is mainstreamed into the national statistical plan; financial and human resources, including technical capacity, available at national level; national protocols for publishing statistical data; inventory of available data, existing data sources and gaps in gender data production; assessment of cost-recovery policies; and costing of engendering data collection).</p> <p>1.2. Enabling legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, and adequate resources for gender statistics are in place (National statistics laws and policies are amended and practices are transformed to include strong mandates and conditions for the NSS to regularly produce quality gender statistics; adequate institutional arrangements are put in place to ensure that gender statistics are systematically included in National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); adequate resources, including specific budgets are dedicated to the production of gender statistics; and partnerships with relevant institutions are established).</p>	<p>2.1. Capacity of the national statistical system (NSS) strengthened to compile Tier I indicators in the minimum set and SDGs (Based on output 1.1 and 1.2, direct technical support is provided to enable the compilation of Tier I indicators (i.e. indicators for which definitions are internationally).</p> <p>2.2. Capacity of the NSS strengthened to collect Tier II indicators in the minimum set and SDGs (Based on outputs 1.1 and 1.2, suitable data sources are identified and direct technical and financial support are provided to enable the collection of Tier II indicators (i.e. indicators for which definitions are internationally accepted but data are not regularly collected by most countries).</p> <p>2.3. Capacity of the NSS strengthened to produce Tier III indicators in the minimum set and SDGs (Methodological work to develop concepts and internationally accepted standards for Tier III indicators is conducted and testing is done in pilot countries to provide tools to NSS to start producing comparable Tier III indicators—i.e. indicators for which definitions are no internationally accepted and data are not regularly collected by countries).</p>	<p>3.1. Increased dissemination of data at national, regional and global levels (Development of data sharing protocols, including working with relevant actors to ensure data are anonymized; regular publication of data by NSS on the status of women compared to men at the national and local level; use of web-based platforms, data dissemination and visualization tools for a broad audience at national, regional and global levels).</p> <p>3.2. User-producer dialogues institutionalized to increase accessibility, quality and demand for gender statistics (create forums for national statistical offices to engage with policy and decision-makers to improve their understanding of statistical information & identify data gaps, including the strengthening global, regional and national knowledge sharing networks).</p> <p>3.3. Capacity of civil society, government and other actors to use and analyse and use gender statistics to inform decision-making is strengthened (training is regularly provided to data users to use and analyze statistical information to translate data into evidence to inform policies; and ensure accountability).</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The agreed SDGs provide space for national statistical systems to improve data production, including data on gender related-targets. There is political will to localize SDGs and translate these globally agreed goals to the national context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SDGs provide an impetus for national statistical systems to improve their production of gender statistics, including in areas where data are not traditionally produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Freedom of information is respected and governments are increasingly open to sharing data with all stakeholders; - Gender statistics will be used in various sectors to inform policy making and budgeting (notably gender-responsive budgeting See TOC on Transformative Financing of GE).
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of political will and weakness of institutional and governance structures inhibit efforts leading to the inclusion of a gender approach to statistics; – Lack of resources/funds allocated to the production of gender statistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weak support to NSOs, lack of funding and technical skills resulting from frequent rotation of personnel or insufficient human resources for national statistical offices reduce their ability to produce and publish timely and periodic data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Restricted political freedoms, absence of a culture of political dialogue and public engagement do not enable civil society organizations and other actors to participate fully in the monitoring process, reducing accountability; – General lack of access to modern technologies reduce the scope for information sharing, including data availability and use.

Thematic priority 4 More justice institutions are accessible to and deliver for women and girls (Output 7)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Gender gaps in justice delivery exist in all legal systems and country contexts. To ensure accountability for violations of women's and girls' human rights, gender-responsive justice and security services must be provided consistently across conflict, post-conflict, humanitarian and development contexts.

The absence of gender-responsive laws and constitutions are a primary barrier to justice-seeking among women and girls. For example, in some legal settings, the testimony of a woman is not accorded the same weight as that of a man, and women do not possess equal rights to free movement out of the home. Over 30 States have entered reservations to one or more Articles of CEDAW, dealing with equality in contractual arrangements, family relations and nationality. The latter results in the inability of women who marry foreign nationals to pass on their citizenship to their spouses or children and can lead to statelessness.¹

Justice planning, implementation and monitoring do not address the justice continuum across all the above contexts. Where they exist, justice policies and planning also tend to be gender-blind and the vast majority of national justice and security sector planning processes do not always ensure women's participation.²

Limited institutional capacity leads to delays and a breakdown in justice delivery. In some countries, increased caseloads have pushed the courts beyond their technical and operational capacities, negatively impacting their performance and reducing their ability to ensure a fair trial.³

While informal justice institutions are noted to deliver over 80% of disputes globally, they often do not proceed in accordance with human rights and gender equality principles.⁴

The CEDAW Committee has issued comprehensive guidance through its mutually reinforcing General Recommendations 30 and 33 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations (2013) and Women's Access to Justice (2015) on legislative, policy and institutional measures to address discrimination in access to justice and services for women and girls.

Analysis

Women's access to justice is often impeded by discriminatory attitudes and bias in the delivery of justice among justice providers. The failure of justice and security sector institutions to respond to violations of women's rights tend to result in high levels of under-reporting and attrition of violence cases, which means that only a fraction of cases that are initiated in the formal system result in a court decision.⁵

The capacities of formal justice institutions and mechanisms to deliver on their mandates is severely constrained due to limited budgetary support and awareness of women's rights.

Corruption impacts on the ability of the State to render effective judicial accountability to women, including the creation of specialized institutions that could reduce delays in the hearing of cases. In addition, failure to systematically ensure that justice institutions are physically, economically, socially and culturally accessible to all women results in higher levels of impunity, particularly impacting vulnerable and excluded women such as refugee women, women with disabilities, rural women and those of indigenous and minority background. The indirect costs of accessing justice—e.g. time burdens and opportunity costs associated with delays are as prohibitive as the direct costs—e.g. filing fees and expenses for witnesses.

Action

To ensure continuity across all country contexts Programming priority 7 will be implemented in coordination with the UN system. Achieving this will require the following three pillars of engagement:

Upstream reforms (legal, policies and budgets): sound justice administration is reliant upon the elimination of discrimination in law, policy and practice, as well financial investments in the justice and security sector. Tapping into SDG indicator 5.1.1.,⁶ the review of laws will entail the repeal of existing discriminatory laws and constitutional provisions, the passage of new legislation and continuous analysis of impediments to the implementation of those already in place. National situation analysis on the structural barriers to women's access to justice will be undertaken to inform justice and security sector policy design, implementation and monitoring.

Enhance the capacities of national and international justice institutions and mechanisms to respond to women's justice needs: national and international accountability mechanisms such as justice and security sector institutions, human rights treaty bodies such as the CEDAW Committee, international and national criminal courts and tribunals and post-conflict rule of law processes will be supported to effectively respond to women's justice needs in all the above country contexts. Channels of support will include training, coaching and mentoring on sustained elimination of institutional and cultural biases in justice delivery, sensitization on the formulation and implementation of recommendations which address impunity in relation to violations of the rights of women and girls in the aftermath of conflict and natural disasters.

Women will be provided with relevant information on their rights, including institutions that have been created to enforce them: relevant national laws and CEDAW will be simplified and translated into different local languages and women's community based organizations will be supported to provide women with free legal counselling and other quality essential support services. Information campaigns on women's rights will target women, girls, men and boys and traditional and faith leaders, and efforts will be made to collectively identify and address discriminatory social norms which hinder the advancement of women's rights and gender equality.

1. World Bank, 2016, UNHCR, 2015.

2. UN Women, 2015.

3. UN Women, 2017.

4. UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, 2012.

5. This is especially a problem in rape cases.

6. This indicator reads: "whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex".

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women have access to impartial formal and informal justice institutions and services and receive appropriate remedies based on relevant global norms and standards across all country contexts		
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) laws, justice and security sector policies and budgets are strengthened in line with global norms and standards; if justice and security sector institutions as well as national and international mechanisms are gender responsive and accountable; if women are aware of and understand their rights and can exercise and claim them, then (2) women will have access to impartial formal and informal justice institutions and services and receive appropriate remedies based on relevant global norms and standards across all country contexts; (3) because laws, policies, systems and capacities are in place to address women's justice needs across all country contexts.		
Outcomes	1. Laws, justice and security sector policies and budgets are strengthened in line with global norms and standards	2. National and international justice institutions and mechanisms are gender responsive and accountable	3. Women are aware of and understand their rights and can exercise and claim them
Outcome TOC	If (1) existing discriminatory laws and constitutional provisions are repealed and new laws are adopted in line with global norms and standards to address gaps in women's legal protection; if justice and security sector policies identify and address gaps and barriers to women's access to justice; if national and sub-national budgets include lines to finance the capacity gaps of duty bearers and rights holders, then (2) laws, justice and security sector policies and budgets are strengthened in line with global norms and standards; (3) because they will address discrimination against women in accessing justice and remedies.	If (1) formal and informal justice personnel are trained in women's rights and provided coaching and mentoring in the elimination of discrimination, bias and stereotyping in justice delivery; if national and international justice mechanisms, including transitional justice and post-natural disaster mechanisms, are sensitized on women's justice needs, and issue appropriate recommendations and decisions which are implemented; if justice and security sector institutions ensure women's access to diverse forms of integrated and specialized services, including dedicated spaces for addressing women's justice needs; and if women participate in justice delivery; then (2) national and international justice institutions and mechanisms will be gender responsive and accountable; (3) because capacities of justice institutions and mechanisms are enhanced, and women claimants of rights violations, including survivors of violence can rely on dedicated safe spaces and an increased presence of women in justice and security sector institutions.	If (1) women are provided with relevant information on their rights, including institutions that have been created to enforce them; if women, girls, men and boys at community and individual levels and traditional and religious leaders are effectively sensitized in women's rights; if communities enter into agreements to reform gender discriminatory social norms, then (2) women will be aware of and understand their rights and can exercise and claim them; because (3) they have been provided with information on their rights and know where to seek help.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Discriminatory laws and constitutional provisions are repealed and new laws are adopted in line with international standards Example activities: Technical support to ministries of justice, Parliaments, Law Reform Commissions and CSOs, to assess the legal environment and in designing and implementing national law reform roadmaps.</p> <p>1.2. Justice and Security Sector Policies identify and address gaps and barriers to women's access to justice Example activities: Capacity gap analysis of rights holders and duty bearers undertaken (separately or as part of Common Country Assessments or fragility assessments), to determine capacity development priorities of justice and security sector institutions and service providers as well as women's justice needs and priorities for justice and security sector policy development and implementation.</p> <p>1.3. National and sub-national budgets address capacity gaps of duty bearers and rights holders Example activities: Budget Officers of the administrative units of justice and security sector institutions; members of Parliamentary budget approving committees, relevant staff of ministries of finance are trained on capacity gaps facing duty bearers and rights holders (c.ref OP 1.2 capacity gap analysis); provide technical support to justice and security sector institutions in budget preparation and related advocacy messaging to be used for defending budget lines that promote women's access to justice before ministries of finance and relevant Parliamentary Committees.</p>	<p>2.1. Formal and informal justice personnel are trained in women's rights and provided coaching and mentoring in the elimination of discrimination, bias and stereotyping in justice delivery Example activities: Support the development/revision of curriculum on women's rights and justice delivery; undertake training, including training of trainers and integrate training modules into the curriculum of security and justice training institutions; identify mentors for coaching on the use of global norms and standards in justice delivery; enhance coordination between formal and informal institutions in justice delivery.</p> <p>2.2. National and international justice mechanisms, including transitional justice and post-natural disaster mechanisms are sensitized on women's justice needs and issue appropriate recommendations and decisions which are implemented Example activities: integrate women's rights and women's experiences of rights violations in orientation and training support programmes for national and international mechanisms, and support implementation of recommendations and decisions which address impunity in relation to violations of the rights of women and girls in the aftermath of conflict and natural disasters through a continuation of legal, policy and institutional capacity enhancement (Cross Reference to Thematic Priorities 10 and 12).</p> <p>2.3. Advocacy is undertaken for the creation of diverse forms of integrated and specialized services to serve as dedicated spaces for addressing women's justice needs Example activities: Support the development of inter-ministerial protocols on women's access to justice; produce simplified versions of protocols for staff in different languages; and through south-south cooperation, identify models of good practice for the successful establishment structures to serve as dedicated spaces for justice delivery for women and girls (Cross Reference to thematic priority 8).</p> <p>2.4. Women participate in justice delivery Example activities: Advocate for the equal participation of women in justice delivery through gender responsive human resource policies and affirmative action in legal and law enforcement training and promotion at all levels.</p>	<p>3.1. Women are provided with relevant information on their rights, including institutions that have been created to enforce them Example activities: relevant laws related to women's rights and CEDAW will be simplified and translated into different local languages, women's community based organizations will be supported to provide women with free legal counselling and other quality essential support services, technology (e.g. SMS texting) will be used to raise awareness on the mandates and location of institutions and services that deal with women's rights.</p> <p>3.2. Women, girls, men and boys at community and individual levels and traditional and religious leaders are effectively sensitized in women's rights Example activities: Develop information campaigns on women's rights through different media channels; community mobilization targeting both women and men, boys and girls, and other stakeholders, including traditional and faith leaders, with a specific focus on groups of women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination in the reform of social norms which prevent women from reporting rights violations.</p> <p>3.3. Communities enter into agreements to reform gender discriminatory social norms Example activities: Support communities and community based organizations to undertake a mapping of both positive and negative elements of harmful social norms which promote or impede the effective implementation of women's rights; convene town hall meetings with the support of community leaders to discuss the results and facilitate agreements on addressing relevant norms, with set time frames and strategies</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will exists to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repeal discriminatory legal frameworks; invest in infrastructure and expansion of facilities; interpretation services, legal services and fee waivers and ministries of finance accept the importance of these priorities and create appropriate budget lines budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National governments and partners are willing to: invest in capacity building of justice and security sector staff, address corruption in the delivery of justice, integrate justice and security sector issues into national systems of data collection, address discrimination faced by different categories of women in their efforts to access justice; Scholarships are afforded to women legal trainees and cadets of security agencies, women benefit equally from promotion opportunities; National and international justice mechanisms appreciate and acknowledge the danger of persisting impunity in relation to violations of the rights of women and girls in the aftermath of conflict and natural disasters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and religious leaders will be willing to acknowledge the need to address gender discriminatory social norms and lead by example through behavior change, pave the way for women to participate in community leadership and adopt and disseminate messages on the benefits of gender equality to community development.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political instability; Limited or no political will and capacity to undertake legal, policy and fiscal reforms at national and local levels and address social norms which discriminate against women and which may thrive and negate gains in reforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attitudinal and behavior change among justice and security sector staff are difficult to change and monitor; National and international mechanisms may not prioritize women's justice needs and social norms may inhibit women's participation in decision-making, including justice delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community attitudinal and behavior change are difficult to change and monitor; community pressure and social norms generate a culture of silence on gender-related crime reporting and inhibit women from exercising their rights; gender-discriminatory social norms are even more difficult to address during periods of political transition.

**Definitions: Women includes girls; justice institutions encompass formal and informal dispute mechanisms; formal justice and security sector institutions include police, prisons/corrections, prosecution services, judiciary and the military; country contexts refer to situations of conflict, post-conflict and natural disasters; national and international mechanisms include human rights treaty bodies such as the CEDAW Committee, justice deployments for COIs, international and national war crimes courts and post-conflict rule of law responses (Cross reference to Strategic Plan Outputs 13 and 15).*

Thematic priority 5 More policies promote decent work and social protection for women (Output 8)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

At its core, the economic empowerment of women – to succeed and advance economically and to make and act on economic decisions – depends on the quantity and quality of paid employment, the provision or absence of public services, the amount of unpaid care work borne by women, as well as coverage or lack thereof of core social and labor protections.

However, in far too many developing countries, productive employment creation has been a key challenge. With job-less growth, low-income households have ended up in low-productivity sectors with inadequate earnings, lacking job security or safe working conditions. And in this employment landscape, women workers tend to predominate in the bottom tiers.

Women, especially young women are also more likely to be unemployed than men.¹ And a larger share of their paid work is informal compared to men's. Persistent occupational segregation, which exists across all countries and regions, is a major driver of the gender pay gap, which stands at 24 per cent globally.²

It is estimated that 73 per cent of the world's population still has no or only partial access to social protection.³ Without income security, either from earnings or social transfers, women and their families risk falling into poverty, depleting assets in response to shocks, and engaging in distress sales of labor to meet immediate subsistence needs.

Worldwide, women tend to assume greater responsibility for unpaid care work.⁴ Unpaid care work contributes to their greater time burdens, and substantially limits their participation in economic spheres. When care services are not available or accessible, women can be pushed into the most vulnerable forms of nonstandard employment and informal work in attempts to reconcile care needs with the imperative to earn.⁵

Analysis

The lack of decent employment reflects the dampening effects of economic growth and macroeconomic policies, which typically have been skewed towards a narrow set of targets such as reducing inflation to extremely low levels, rather than ensuring that the pattern of growth is inclusive and employment-rich, and creating fiscal space that scales up public investment for social protection or for social care and physical infrastructure. Furthermore, macroeconomic policies are usually considered gender neutral. However, the effects of such policies on specific sectors affect men and women differently. Despite their critical implications, there is limited awareness of the impact of macroeconomic policies on gender equality and women's rights.

Discriminatory social norms, the stigmatization of feminized occupations, as well as weak and inadequate legal and regulatory reforms, including in labor markets, further constrain women's employment opportunities. In the absence of transfers and services to reduce women's unpaid care work – for example child/family benefits, and investments in water and sanitation, and childcare services – women are often forced to take low-paid, part-time, informal and home-based work as a means of reconciling unpaid care work and paid employment.

90 per cent of economies have at least one gender-differentiated law, and 943 gender-differentiated laws have been documented across 170 countries.⁶ Legal instruments and conventions can be important mechanisms to tackle adverse norms, discriminatory laws, and gaps in legal protection. International labor standards can also set the framework for the application of rights at the national level thereby bringing women without organization or protection into the mainstream of economic life.

The extension of social protection, including social insurance for women working in the informal economy is a key policy element that makes work decent. But globally, less than 40 per cent of women who are employed are covered under mandatory maternity cash benefit schemes. They are also less likely than men to receive a pension, which translates into large income inequalities throughout their lives.

Action

Generating income and improving women's income security requires action on 3 fronts:

- 1. Creating a political consensus for economic growth and macroeconomic policies that support employment creation opportunities for women:** This will require building capacity and raising awareness about the gender implications of economic growth and macroeconomic policies. The capacity of civil society to assess the gender impacts of policies and engage with policy makers for gender-sensitive macroeconomic policies will also be strengthened.
- 2. Promoting decent employment for women through the adoption and implementation of legal and labor market reforms, and expansion of social protection coverage:** This will require supporting legal and regulatory frameworks that recognize the rights of women working in all forms of informal employment to safe working conditions, minimum wages, and other protective measures in the workplace that improve the terms and conditions of their employment, and extending social protection, especially social insurance, maternal and health insurance.
- 3. Recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work through investments in social care and physical infrastructure and the adoption of gender-equitable policies that support the reconciliation of unpaid care work with paid work.** This action will require policy analysis to assess and cost care deficits, and estimate the potential employment creation of increasing public investments in social and physical infrastructure. It will also require support for policy reforms such as care leave legislation, care insurance schemes, and flexible work-place practices.

1. Ibid, p.103
2. Ibid, p. 98
3. ILO 2014. *World Social Protection Report*. ILO, Geneva.

4. ILO (2016) *Women at Work: Trends 2016*, Geneva.
5. UN (2017) *Leave No One Behind: Report of the UN SG's High-Level panel on Women's Economic Empowerment*, New York.

6. UN, 2016. *Leave No One Behind: A Call to Action for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment: First Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment*. New York: UN.

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women's access to decent employment and a secure income is achieved through the adoption of gender-responsive economic, labor-market and social protection policies, as well as public investments in social care and physical infrastructure		
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) inclusive growth and employment policies are engendered to create more productive employment; legislative and policy reforms facilitate the transition from informal to decent employment; and if unpaid care work is recognized, reduced and redistributed through a gender-equitable reform of the care economy, then (2) women's access to more productive employment and income security will increase; because (3) the critical structural constraints that impede the access of women to decent employment and income security have been addressed.		
Outcomes	1. Economic policies that support inclusive growth and productive employment opportunities for women are adopted.	2. Labor market and social protection policies to enhance women's access to more decent employment and income security are adopted.	3. Gender-equitable policies to reconcile unpaid domestic and care work with paid employment are adopted.
Outcome TOC	If (1) awareness of the gendered implications of macroeconomic policies and the centrality of employment goals in macroeconomic policies is created, if the capacity of Governments to design macro-economic policies that promote employment creation, curb informality, and economic resilience, and if the capacity of governments and development partners to diagnose, assess, and monitor the impact of economic growth, macroeconomic, and sector policies on women's labor market and employment outcomes is strengthened, then (2) economic policies that support inclusive growth and productive employment opportunities for women are adopted because (3) a political consensus on the gender differentiated impact of macroeconomic policies has been created.	If (1) the capacity of Governments to design and cost legal and regulatory frameworks that recognize the rights of women and men workers in all forms of informal employment to labor legislation, safe working conditions, minimum wages, and other protective measures in the work-place (including C189 and C177) is strengthened, if the capacity of Governments to design and cost gender responsive social protection policies is strengthened, and if the organization and representation of women in informal employment to promote labor market and social security reforms are strengthened, then (2) Labor and social protection policies to enhance women's access to more decent employment and income security will be adopted because (3) the costing of policy reforms will have enabled decision-makers to assess the fiscal implications.	If (1) the national capacity to estimate the value of unpaid work, its contribution to national income (household satellite accounts) and its linkages to poverty (time and income poverty studies) is strengthened, the capacity of Governments to assess the needs of the care economy and to estimate the potential economic returns of public investments in social care and physical infrastructure in terms of gender-equitable employment creation, poverty alleviation and unpaid work time reduction is strengthened, if the capacity of Governments to formulate and introduce gender-equitable legislative reforms for reconciliation of unpaid care work and employment (such as parental leave and other care leave legislation, care insurance schemes, flexible workplace practices for work-life balance, and decent work hours) is strengthened, and if the capacity of Governments to undertake labor market reforms to eliminate gender discrimination in recruitment and pay in horizontal and vertical job segregation to equalize labor market incentives in the time-allocation between unpaid work and employment is strengthened, then (2) gender-equitable policies to reconcile unpaid domestic and care work with paid employment will be adopted because (3) unpaid domestic and care burden will be recognized and the societal return of investing of reducing and redistributing domestic and care work assessed.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Awareness of the gendered implications of macroeconomic policies and the centrality of employment goals in macroeconomic policies is created. Example activities: Support policy dialogues to share good practices among national stake-holders, development of a macro-economic gender inclusiveness index to convey progress in a synthetic and media rich manner.</p> <p>1.2. Capacity of Governments to promote employment creation, curb informality, and build economic resilience is strengthened. Example activities: Support the adoption of gender-responsive macro-economic policies through policy and technical support and promoting South-South learning exchanges.</p> <p>1.3. Capacity of Governments and development partners to diagnose, assess, and monitor the impact of economic growth, macroeconomic, and sector policies on women's labor market and employment outcomes is strengthened. Example activities: Training and technical support (ex: Gender Impact Assessments and Gender Audits).</p>	<p>2.1. The capacity of Governments to design and cost legal and regulatory frameworks that recognize the rights of workers in all forms of informal employment to labor legislation, safe working conditions, minimum wages, and other protective measures in the work-place (including C189 and C177) is strengthened. Example activities: Policy advocacy and policy/technical advice, research, etc.</p> <p>2.2. The capacity of Governments to design and cost and implement gender-responsive social protection policies is strengthened. Example activities: Building on the work of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) co-led by the ILO and WB (ex: costing of social protection needs), research and development of assessment tools, etc.</p> <p>2.3. The organization and representation of women in informal employment are strengthened. Example activities: Advocacy efforts and technical support to promote collective bargaining and social dialogue so that informal economy actors can organize, articulate their needs, and negotiate their interests with national and local policy-makers.</p>	<p>3.1. The capacity of NSOs to conduct periodic Time-Use surveys (TUS) and of national stakeholders to use TUS, Household Labor-Force Surveys (HLFS) and Surveys on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) to estimate the value of unpaid work, its contribution to national income (household satellite accounts) and its linkages to poverty (time and income poverty studies) is strengthened. Example activities: Capacity development, advocacy, research, policy/technical support linking unpaid care work to poverty.</p> <p>3.2. The capacity of Governments to assess the needs of the care economy and to estimate the potential economic returns of public investments in social care and physical infrastructure, in terms of gender-equitable employment creation, poverty alleviation and unpaid work time reduction is strengthened. Example activities: Capacity development, advocacy, research, policy/technical support.</p> <p>3.3. The capacity of Governments to formulate and introduce gender-equitable legislative reforms for reconciliation of unpaid care work and employment is strengthened. Example activities: Capacity development, advocacy, research, policy/technical support, development of policy toolkits, provide technical assistance to governments to undertake gender audits of legal frameworks governing the reconciliation of unpaid care work and employment.</p> <p>3.4. The capacity of Governments to undertake labor market reforms to eliminate gender discrimination in recruitment and pay; in horizontal and vertical job segregation to equalize labor market incentives in the time-allocation between unpaid work and employment is strengthened. Example activities: Provide technical assistance to governments to undertake gender audit of legal frameworks and labour markets to assess the extent and different forms of gender discrimination in employment.</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will exists to put gender equality and social justice at the center of macroeconomic policy; National stakeholders want to engage on macroeconomic policy; Policy makers want to engage in the production of knowledge and evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will exists to expand decent work commitments; Data are available to design and cost policies and programs; Women and labor unions are organized and engaged; Costing of proposed policies educate fiscal policies and gender-responsive budgeting efforts; And adequate fiscal space can be created to finance scaled-up public investments in social insurance and assistance (link to output on GEWE financing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will and supportive social norms to recognize the importance of unpaid care work, resources are available to finance investments in social protection and infrastructure.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief in gender neutral macroeconomic policy continues to dominate policy making; Credibility of the policy analysis is weak; social dialogue does not gain traction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement of non-discriminatory laws is challenging; raising adequate resources to finance expanded social protection and labor friendly policies takes time; results will be difficult to monitor in the short term and support may dwindle accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite increased investment, women are still held responsible for a disproportionate share of child and elder care.

Thematic priority 6 More women own, launch and/or better manage small and medium and large enterprises (Output 9)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Women's rights to economic equality and opportunities and their critical importance for sustainable development are enshrined in a number of multilateral normative frameworks, including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Corporations are also assuming responsibility for action within their purview through the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) promulgated by UN Women and the UN Global Compact. Money in the hands of women fosters development through women's higher spending on the family - in the health and education of their children, contributing to breaking inter-generational poverty.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone economic empowerment accounting for about 90% of businesses and more than 50% of employment worldwide. They are key engines of job creation and economic growth in developing countries, particularly following the global financial crisis.¹

However, women do not currently have equal entrepreneurial opportunities. For example, the rate of participation in entrepreneurship is 4 times greater for men than for women in the MENA/Mid-Asia.² Further, while it is estimated that SMEs with full or partial female ownership represent 31-38% of formal SMEs in developing countries, women's entrepreneurship is skewed towards smaller firms.³ They make up 32 to 39% of the very small segment of firms, compared with 17 to 21% of medium size companies, and a disproportionate share of women's business fail to grow. Women entrepreneurs are also more likely to be in the informal sector, mainly in lower value added services.

Yet women entrepreneurs in developed countries have demonstrated their ability to start and grow businesses more quickly than their male counterparts.⁴ In the United States, women-owned firms are growing at more than double the rate of all other firms and have done so for nearly three decades.⁵

Analysis

Women entrepreneurs face enormous structural barriers, which limit their growth and development. These barriers include the lack of access to productive assets, finance and ICTs; insufficient entrepreneurial and management skills; and limited opportunities to access markets and distribution networks. Procurement policies rarely consider gender equality as a selection criteria, negatively affecting women owned businesses' ability to sell to large buyers. Discriminatory social norms also result in their disproportionate responsibilities for unpaid domestic care and work.

As a result of these structural barriers, women entrepreneurs and business owners have been largely unable to capitalize on government spending and international sourcing. A multi-trillion dollar industry accounting for 15-30 percent of GDP in countries, public procurement represents an enormous share of global demand for goods and services.⁶ However, Women-Owned Enterprises (WOE) only access 1% of public procurement.⁷

There is also a lack of data for procuring entities and corporations to analyze the gender impact of their decisions. The fact that women owned businesses are smaller and more dispersed makes it more expensive for procuring entities to identify female suppliers. These higher transaction costs create a low incentives for procuring entities to invest and source goods from women entrepreneurs. Furthermore, asymmetric power relations between buyers and suppliers along global value chains marginalize smallholders, who are often disproportionately women.⁸

Similarly, although women-owned enterprises have been the target of microfinance interventions, there has been a dearth of activity supporting "the missing middle," or SMEs with high growth potential. For example, only about 14-19 percent of IFC loans are issued to women-owned SME clients, despite evidence that they perform just as well those owned by men.⁹

Women entrepreneurs also face a lack access to information and networks in order to respond to procurement calls. This reinforces a negative cycle and prevents them accessing markets, developing their supply capacity.

Action

Addressing the structural barriers faced by women entrepreneurs will require sustained engagement on a sectoral basis. However, affirmative procurement, investment and supply chain policies have the potential to create economic opportunities for women by creating incentives to invest in and source from women-owned enterprises. Hence, action in this area will require:

- i. **Gender-responsive public procurement:** Procurement policies can stimulate demand for goods and services produced by women-owned enterprises (WOEs) by setting specific targets and quotas for sourcing goods and services from companies owned by women. This practice is already in place in Kenya, where procuring entities are required to allocate at least 30% of their procurement spend on procuring goods, services and works from micro and small enterprises owned by youth, women and persons with disabilities.
- ii. **Gender-responsive corporate procurement:** By implementing the Women's Empowerment Principles, and adopting gender responsive procurement policies that promote supplier diversity and collect gender-disaggregated supply chain data, companies can stay accountable and create opportunities for women.
- iii. **Skills development and access to information:** This includes capacity building of WOE to lobby for changes in procurement policies and investment and hold governments and corporations to account. It will also include strengthening their capacity to respond to procurement calls, including through better leveraging of ICTs. On a sector basis, the capacity of WOE will be strengthened to move up the supply chain (Thematic priority 10).
- iv. **Access to finance:** strengthening the capacity of financial institutions to invest and lend in a more gender-responsive manner and improving the financial literacy and management skills of WOE.

1. IFC (2012) IFC and Small and Medium Enterprises, Issue brief http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/277d1680486a831abec2fff995bd23db/AM11IFC+IssueBrief_SME.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

2. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2012 Report on Women and Entrepreneurship, Babson College, and London Business School.

3. IFC (2011). Strengthening access to finance for women-owned SMEs in developing countries.

4. IFC (2011).

5. IFC (2011).

6. The Commonwealth Secretariat (2014). "Gender, Trade and Public Procurement Policy"

7. Valikai, K. October 2013. "Why bringing women-owned business into the supply chain makes business sense". USAID (2015). "Public Private Partnership in Global Value Chains: Can they Actually Benefit the Poor?"

8. IFC (2014). Women-Owned SMEs: A Business Opportunity for Financial Institutions"

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women entrepreneurs have equal economic opportunities and outcomes			
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) domestic and international public and private procurement policies and practices are gender-responsive, and if the capacity of women entrepreneurs and their access to finance, networks, information, and local infrastructure is strengthened to enable them to grow their businesses; then (2) the gender gap in economic opportunities will be reduced; because (3) women entrepreneurs will benefit more equally from value chains.			
Outcomes	1. Public procurement is gender-responsive.	2. Corporate procurement policies engendered to unlock new economic opportunities for women.	3. WOE’s and women entrepreneurs’ capacity, skills and access to information to benefit from procurement is strengthened.	4. WOE access to appropriate finance is improved.
Outcome TOC	If (1) women’s associations are meaningfully engaged in reforming public procurement policies, if public procurement systems are more inclusive of women-owned enterprises (WOE) and if the public sector is held accountable for implementation of these policies; then (2) WOE will benefit from domestic public procurement; because (3) a more level playing field has been created for WOE to compete for and secure public contracts.	If (1) Corporations and private investors transform their procurement policies and practices to be gender equitable then (2) they will create new economic opportunities for women; because (3) a more level playing field has been created for WOE to compete for private contracts.	If (1) the voice, agency and capacity of women associations and WOE are strengthened, if their access to information and skills is improved; then (2) WOE will be able grow and take up new economic opportunities; because (3) the key supply side capacity barriers have been addressed.	If (1) WOE have access to finance and gender-responsive financial services and products then (2) they will have increased capacity to invest in procurement enterprises because (3) the key barriers to women’s access to finance have been addressed.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Increased awareness, engagement & advocacy for favourable public procurement policies for WOE. Example activities: capacity development of women’s associations to engage and advocate for favourable public procurement provisions for WOE; linking women to policy makers; awareness raising and lobbying with local and national government and organizing informal and formal multi-stakeholder forums that convene government, business and civil society.</p> <p>1.2. Public procurement & related laws and policies reviewed and capacity strengthened for reform. Example activities: Gender audits of existing policies. training of procuring entities; recommendations for targeted sourcing and quota provisions for WOE; recommendations to simplify tendering procedures and expand strategic sourcing practices from WOE; recommendations to improve information dissemination to WOE.</p> <p>1.3. Evidence base and awareness created to ensure that the public sector is held accountable for implementing gender-responsive public procurement policies. Example activities: sex-disaggregated data collected on expenditure to WOE, monitoring and tracking system put in place; support business registration systems; awareness raising of the importance of their oversight; capacity development of women’s associations to hold governments accountable.</p>	<p>2.1. Increased awareness among senior corporate leadership to favour gender-responsive procurement policies. Example activities: advocacy campaign on adherence to private sector preferential procurement provisions; outreach to senior top level corporate leadership.</p> <p>2.2. Corporate sourcing policies reviewed and capacity strengthened for reforms. Example activities: gender audit of corporate policies; recommendation for corporates to adopt policies and practices targeting sourcing from WOE (WEP 5); recommendations for corporates to simplify tendering procedures and provide capacity building for women entrepreneurs.</p> <p>2.3. Increased awareness and capacity for corporations to implement and report on their commitments to the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) & preferential procurement policies. Example activities: create awareness and reach out to corporates to sign up to the WEPs; support corporates to put in place mechanisms for collection of sex-disaggregated tracking of corporate expenditures on WOE (WEP 7); tools for benchmarking and tracking procurement from WOE developed; technical assistance for implementation of the WEPs provided.</p>	<p>3.1. WOE have access to registration opportunities and to procurement information and skills support formal business registration and certification. Example activities: training on e-procurement, competitive bidding, procurement processes etc.; develop market information platforms and central procurement databases.</p> <p>3.2. Statement: Strengthened digital, technical and business capacity and skills of WOE. Example activities: training courses/skills development on digital literacy, business management, using ICTs to grow their businesses etc.; strengthen the capacity of business incubators to service WOE; link WOE to value chain actors within target sectors; engage with supply-chain actors to increase access to technical trainings for WOE within target sector; build communities of practice and facilitate learning.</p> <p>3.3. Digital platform “Buy From Women” designed and operational for WOE. Example activities: Business process and ecosystem mapping; translation into flow for system design; system development, testing, training and rollout; KPIs measured and monitored.</p>	<p>4.1. Increased engagement and strengthened capacity of financial institutions and private investors for gender-responsive lending and investments. Example activities: capacity development of women’s associations to engage and advocate for gender-responsive investment and lending provisions for WOE; awareness raising and lobbying with local and national government, public and private financing institutions, and international organizations for more gender-responsive financing; training for financial institutions on developing gender-responsive financing products and services.</p> <p>4.2. Increased engagement and strengthened capacity of financial institutions and private investors for gender-responsive lending and investments. Example activities: development of appropriate curriculum; training and mentorship of women.</p> <p>4.3. Entrepreneurship funds and other innovative financing sources targeting women are explored and capacity to access such mechanisms are strengthened. Example activities: identify potential innovative sources of financing for WBS (e.g. incubator / start up grants; social impact investment); training for WOE to access such mechanisms.</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will and social norms supportive of fostering WEE; – Gender responsive migrant and labour policies are in place; – Availability of public resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Corporations are committed to implementation of the Women’s Empowerment Principles; – Social norms that favour women as entrepreneurs and business owners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WOE want to leverage procurement as a model to access markets and grow; – WOE have the time to expand in light of their domestic work and unpaid care responsibilities; – Availability of affordable child care facilities; – Access to ICTs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Innovative sources of finance are available; – Social norms favour women as entrepreneurs and business owners.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WOE do not have the capacity to meet public procurement demands; – Gender-responsive procurement policies are not transparent and not fully implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Backlash from male owned business within the value chain; – Long-term relationships between corporates and male own business are hard to change; – Social/cultural/political/trade barriers to women having preferential access to markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social, cultural, political barriers limit women entrepreneurship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Systems to overcome the lack of information about credit worthiness of borrowers are not adequate; – Legal barriers prevent women from accessing appropriate finance; – Sources of finance are not sustainable.

Thematic priority 7 More rural women secure access to productive resources and engage in sustainable agriculture (Output 10)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Women comprise some 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and play a critical role in supporting food and nutrition security, improving rural livelihoods and generating income and overall wellbeing, while performing most of the unpaid care and domestic work.

Even though they are the main producers of food in many developing countries, women in agriculture have less access than men to land across regions. According to the OECD SIGI database, in 37 percent of 161 countries analyzed do women and men have equal rights to own, use and control land.¹ Women's access to other productive resources is also restricted (energy, water, pasture, forests, agricultural inputs, credit and savings, agricultural extension services, information, technology and markets), limiting their rights, potential and wellbeing – as well as their capacities to build climate resilience.

Women farmers are at the forefront of coping with the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and post-conflict situations. When alternative sources of food and income need to be found, for example during droughts, floods and other extreme or chronic weather events, the additional workload often falls on women and further adds to their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work. Lack of appropriate infrastructure, technologies and financial services further restricts their ability to adapt to shifting agricultural constraints and opportunities in a changing climate. Women farmers are at risk of being trapped in a downward spiral as they confront climate change given insufficient public and private investment in building community and productive resilience.²

Closing the gender gap in agriculture in the context of a changing climate would benefit women farmers and increase the wellbeing and resilience of society as a whole.

Analysis

Women's lack of land tenure security is historically related to inadequate or discriminatory legal and policy frameworks and social and cultural norms, such as male preference in inheritance, male privilege in marriage and so-called secondary land rights through male family members. When the law guarantees women and men the same rights to own, use and control land, customary, traditional and religious practices discriminate against women and undermine the full implementation of national legal codes; this is the case in the majority of countries in the OECD SIGI database.

Insecure land tenure is directly linked to other barriers, such as lack of civil registration, lack of collateral, and poor security in conflict-prone areas, which in turn jeopardize women's access to other productive resources. Limited access to finance, green technologies and agricultural extension services is also a significant barrier to building women farmers' capacities to attain sustainable livelihoods and adapt climate-smart agricultural practices.

Most agricultural policies and investments still fail to consider differences in the resources available to men and women, their roles, labour burdens and the constraints they face – and how these gender differences might be relevant to the proposed interventions. It is often assumed that interventions to facilitate access to finance, technology or markets will have the same impacts on men and women; however, a growing body of evidence indicates that most likely they will not.

Furthermore, policy-makers, development practitioners and the private sector usually lack essential information and analysis about the diversity of women in agriculture and their rural environments in order to make gender-responsive decisions about the sector or measures to improve resilience. Women in rural areas vary widely by location, age, ethnicity, culture and social class – as do their agricultural contexts in a rapidly changing climate.

Action

The gender gap in agriculture can be reduced and the climate resilience of women farmers increased through decisive and informed public and private investments and interventions. Policy reforms aimed at removing structural barriers to access to finance, time and labour-saving technology, and information and to promoting equal rights and access to land and productive resources (such as energy, water and forests) can help ensure that women are better prepared to cope with the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities arising from increased climate variability and concomitant structural changes in agriculture.

Priority areas for policy action include:

- i. engendering climate-smart agricultural policies and increasing women's land tenure security and access to productive resources (energy, water, forests, etc.);
- ii. improving women's capacity to invest in climate-smart and time- and labour-saving technologies and tools;
- iii. increasing women smallholder farmers' access to climate-smart information;
- iv. promoting opportunities for women farmers to move up sustainable food and agriculture value chains and markets.

Supporting women in agriculture to fully and equally participate in decision-making at all levels will be necessary for the development of appropriate policy interventions; deployment of more effective tools, technologies, infrastructure and institutions to implement measures to build resilience; and the achievement of sustainable resource management for resilient green value chains. At the same time, improving sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators on access to and control over land and resources, assets and income, agricultural production, time use, leadership and participation will be essential for monitoring progress on closing the gender gap in agriculture and building resilience.

1. OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), 2014.

2. United Nations, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development*, 2014 (A/69/156).

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women farmers are economically empowered and resilient in a changing climate			
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) agricultural policies are gender-responsive and women farmers realize rights to land and secure land tenure; if they have the financial capacity to invest in climate-smart assets, tools and technologies; if they have access to climate-smart information; and if they participate fully in green value chains and markets; then (2) women farmers are economically empowered and resilient in a changing climate; because (3) the root causes and drivers of gender gaps in agriculture have been addressed.			
Outcomes	1. Climate-smart agricultural (CSA) policies are engendered and women's land tenure security increased.	2. Women's capacity to invest in climate-smart and time-saving assets, tools and technologies is increased.	3. Women smallholder farmers' access to CSA information is increased	4. Opportunities for women farmers to move up sustainable food and agriculture value chains promoted
Outcome TOC	If (1) gender-differentiated CSA barriers are recognized; if women farmers' voice and influence on CSA policies, plans and programmes is enhanced; and if women's equal rights and access to land and property are strengthened; then (2) CSA policies will be engendered and women's land tenure security will increase; because (3) policy and regulatory barriers and discrimination against women have been addressed.	If (1) women have access to affordable and appropriate financing services, products, financial skills, and insurance; then (2) women will have increased capacity to invest in climate-smart and time-saving assets, tools and technologies; because (3) they can meet the higher CSA capital cost.	If (1) agricultural extension and climate information services are accessible for women, and if women have the capacity to use such services in an enabling social environment; then (2) women's adoption of CSA practices and technologies will increase; because (3) women will have acquired the means, skills and social support.	If (1) the agency and decision-making capacity of women farmers is strengthened; and if they have access to connectivity and electricity; and if they have equitable access to markets; then (2) women will have opportunities to move up the sustainable food and agriculture value chain; because (3) the market and infrastructure barriers will have been removed.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Capacity of government institutions and policy makers to assess gender differentiated CSA barriers and integrate remedial interventions into budgeting, planning, programming and monitoring is increased. Example activities: Technical support to build capacities and awareness of relevant government ministries, national statistical offices, members of parliament, and civil society organizations to monitor and measure gender-based discrimination in access to land and productive resources (energy, water, forests, etc.) and women's land tenure security in accordance with SDGs 1.4.2, 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 and the IAEG-SDG.</p> <p>1.2. Women farmers' voice and influence on CSA policies and strategies enhanced, notably within farmers' associations. Example activities: Partnering with governments, civil society organizations and farmer associations to encourage women's full, effective and informed participation and leadership in local and national farmer organizations.</p> <p>1.3. Gender-based statutory and customary land tenure and resource access frameworks, laws and policies reformed. Example activities: Build evidence and data for enforcing and/or reforming legal and policy frameworks from a gender perspective, and apply proxy indicators of SDG 5.a.2 at the national level, with FAO (custodian UN Agency) relevant national authorities.</p> <p>1.4. Strengthened capacity of land registry institutions to improve systems and ease access. Partner with local governments and relevant stakeholders to improve the registration of women's individual, joint or collective land holdings, and the recognition of women's rights to communal lands.</p>	<p>2.1. Improved regulatory and economic incentives for public and private financial institutions to provide credit to women farmers. Example activities: Work with financial institutions to develop affordable financial solutions for women's enterprises and cooperatives to engage in climate-smart agriculture; identify traditional and innovative sources of finance, financing instruments, services, products, and public/private financing models; and facilitate access to upfront capital through concessionary financing from microfinance institutions, development finance institutions, and commercial banks.</p> <p>2.2. Development of financial intermediary services for women farmers including through digital finance at the local level. Example activities: Partner with broadband and mobile phone service providers to enhance women's access to digital financial services, including bank accounts, business transactions, and access to credit, saving and insurance.</p> <p>2.3. Improved and targeted access to financial training, peer to peer learning, and skills development. Example activities: Partnering with relevant stakeholders, including national vocational training institutions and UN Women's Virtual Skills School, to design capacity building programmes for women of all ages to enhance their financial literacy.</p>	<p>3.1. Improved access to climate-smart agricultural extension and climate information services for women. Example activities: Partnering with local governments, research institutions, non-governmental and civil society organizations, and farmer associations to advocate for and create equal access to quality agricultural extension and climate information services for women and men.</p> <p>3.2. Improved access to digitally enabled agricultural and climate information for women farmers. Example activities: Partner with broadband and mobile service providers to facilitate climate, weather and agricultural information for women farmers, including through UN Women's Buy from Women Platform.</p> <p>3.3. Increased women farmers' voice and agency to promote their engagement in the design and dissemination of CSA information services, technologies and practices. Example activities: Work with women farmers' organizations and gender advocates to integrate gender equality considerations in the design and use of CSA information services and technologies.</p>	<p>4.1. The business development skills of women farmers' cooperatives and women enterprises are strengthened. Example activities: Train women cooperatives and enterprises in business development and management so that they can better identify opportunities and negotiate with suppliers, customers and financiers.</p> <p>4.2. Dedicated production and procurement platforms for women farmers to link them to national, regional and international supply chains. Example activities: Partner with governments and private sector to roll out the Buy from Women Platform; secure preferential access to markets (market quotas, forward contracts, etc.).</p> <p>4.3. Connectivity and electricity access are improved to support market infrastructure (processing and storage facilities; cold chain, etc.) and women entrepreneurship. Example activities: Work with local and national private and public sector partners to improve access of women farmers and farmer cooperatives to ICT and electricity; reduce unpaid care and domestic work; and promote women entrepreneurship in sustainable energy (solar home systems; mini-grids; etc.) and other commercial activities.</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSA policies tend to be gender-blind and lack of women's land and property rights is a structural cause of gender inequality; gender responsive CSA policies and secured land tenure can facilitate women's access to finance, information and markets as women's demonstrated land tenure security or ownership is important collateral for access to finance and agricultural extension services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender gap exists in access to affordable finance and insurance; Women are in weaker intra-household bargaining positioning, which reduces their ability to save and invest; New technologies and tools will save women time and be less physically intensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender gaps in women's participation and access to innovative agricultural practices, information and digital technologies; Women's use of technologies is not always supported by enabling social norms and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender gaps exist in women's access to markets and value chains (aggregation, processing, distribution, decision-making); Greater access to markets and moving higher in the value chain will increase incomes. Connectivity and electricity are vital to facilitate agricultural and food production, processing, storage and inclusion in supply chains in remote rural areas; Women cooperative and entrepreneurs are key to accelerate decentralized electricity access.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social, cultural and political attitudes are resistant to change in favour of equal land and resource rights; equal rights in laws and policies are not translated into practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social, cultural and political attitudes are resistant to change in favour of increasing women's equal access to finance; Macroeconomic policies do not support micro-lending and financial services to the poor; Local financial institutions are under-capitalized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertain social acceptance of new technologies and practices; Women's unpaid care and domestic work responsibilities limit time for learning new technologies; Men resent women having access to new technologies if they do not have the same. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social/political/trade barriers to women moving up the value chain, having preferential access to markets and creating enterprises; Private sector unwilling to pay slightly more for products from women smallholders or engage with new women distributors; Macroeconomic policies do not support women farmers in national/global value chains.

Thematic priority 8 More countries and stakeholders are better able to prevent violence against women and girls and deliver essential services to survivors (Output 11)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality. Global estimates show that over 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime,¹ with this figure being as high as 7 in 10 in some countries. Research shows that violence against women leads to a wide range of physical, mental and sexual health problems, including death, and it affects families and whole communities.² Violence against women also has a significant economic impact and impedes the achievement of any global development goals.

Over the past two decades there has been a growing momentum to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women, mainly due to the sustained efforts of the women's rights movement. Governments have demonstrated their obligations and commitments to address VAWG through the further elaboration of international and regional policy and legal agreements. General Recommendation No. 19 of the CEDAW Committee affirmed that violence against women was a form of discrimination, confirming that States have to address violence through this Convention. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) identified violence against women as one of the 12 critical areas of concern that required urgent action to achieve the goals of equality, development and peace. The recently agreed agenda on the SDGs included ending VAWG and harmful practices, as target areas, confirming that they need to be urgently addressed in order to achieve gender equality.

An increasing number of initiatives to prevent and address VAWG have been undertaken in numerous countries. Progress has been mainly on the adoption of laws and policies; improving justice and service responses for survivors; raising awareness and data collection. Whilst services have been established in some countries however, the availability and accessibility of these services is limited and the quality of services varies.

Analysis

Despite progress, the level of VAWG remains alarmingly high, and many challenges still persist, including lack of strong political will; insufficient enforcement of legislation and allocation of adequate resources to implement laws, policies and programmes; insufficient monitoring and evaluation of their impact; and lack of coordination among different stakeholders.

Essential multisectoral and coordinated services to adequately respond to survivors of VAWG (such as health, police, justice and social services) are often lacking in countries, or only available in capitals/urban areas, resulting in limited access for women who need them. Even where services and responses have been established, survivors are not aware of their availability and their rights in reference to these services. The quality and consistency varies which also limits accessibility, especially for adolescent girls, women with children and women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those from indigenous communities and migrant groups, those living with HIV and those with disabilities.

The most significant challenge for eliminating and preventing violence, however, remains the persistence of attitudes and behaviours of men and women in society, including politicians, decision-makers, service providers (police/health workers), community leaders etc. that perpetuate negative stereotypes, discrimination and gender inequality, as root causes of VAWG, and addressing this challenge, including structural causes, lies at the core of prevention work.

Despite some promising practices, prevention of violence against women and girls remains a relatively new area of work without a critical mass of data and clear evidence of "what works". Prevention initiatives are often small-scale, fragmented and stand-alone activities, limited to awareness-raising events, and are under-resourced and lacking impact evaluation. In addition, prevention of VAWG is not often a part of comprehensive EAWG strategies and programmes, which is advisable, as prevention should be part of the continuum of EAWG work, including provision of services for survivors.

Action

This area of work is designed to implement the normative framework on EAWG, including the agreed conclusions of CSW 57 (2013), which stressed the need for a comprehensive approach by adopting laws and policies and collecting data, and emphasised the role of prevention by addressing the root causes of VAWG as well as the need to enhance accessibility of survivors to quality services. The main lesson learned, substantiated by evidence, is that in order to effectively address VAWG, a comprehensive, transformative approach towards gender equality and women's empowerment is required, which needs to result in comprehensive EAWG laws and policies, prevention, provision of essential services and VAWG data collection (see Gender Statistics), where capacity-building of national statistics offices in order to collect VAWG data – in line with SDGs - is incorporated).³

The adoption of comprehensive laws addressing VAWG and gender-based inequality and discrimination (e.g. family law, access to resources) (outcome 1) are important to address impunity, convey the message that VAWG is not tolerated, help women leave an abusive relationship and take their lives into their own hands. Implementation of such laws remains, however, a challenge. Strengthening women's organizations, including through capacity-building, to hold governments accountable, advocate for effective implementation and building the capacity of institutions (police, justice, health and education sectors), through codes of conduct, reporting mechanisms and awareness-raising programmes, to prevent and respond to VAWG, is therefore crucial.

Laws and policies can provide a comprehensive framework for addressing VAWG, but they need to be complemented by adequately funded strategies. VAWG is a complex phenomenon and an effective prevention strategy needs to include mutually reinforcing interventions in order to facilitate transformative change in society by addressing the root and structural causes of violence. It should focus on women's empowerment and women's rights, include community mobilization and educational programmes and engage multiple stakeholders, including men and boys, media and women's organizations (outcome 2).

Prevention of VAWG is closely interlinked with services/responses to VAWG. Awareness-raising can result in increased demand from survivors for support, although survivors around the world substantially underuse existing VAWG services for many different reasons. Women-centred quality essential services should be available to all survivors to ensure support and protection and to prevent violence from re-occurring (outcome 3). Awareness-raising of rights of survivors and availability of services need to be strengthened. Capacity-building of a wide range of service providers, development of clear protocols and guidelines for providing quality VAWG services, including coordination and accountability mechanisms, are essential aspects of this proposed work. Having these services in place also sends a strong message to the community that VAWG is not accepted.

This priority builds on existing work carried out and led by UN Women together with other partners, including implementing the outcomes of CSW 57, by bridging research with policy recommendations; formulating global guidelines for the provision of services; and strengthening inter-agency understanding and collaboration in new areas such as prevention.

1. WHO, 2013
2. Preventing Violence (WHO), 2010.

3. Heisse, 2011
4. Htun and Weldon, 2012.

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Violence against women and girls is prevented and quality essential services are available and accessible to victims and survivors		
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on EVAWG, including for ending impunity and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into action; if policies and programmes are informed by the evidence of what works and quality and comparable data on violence against women and girls; if favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours are promoted at institutional, community and individual levels to prevent VAWG; if women and girls who experience violence can use available, accessible and quality essential services so the impacts of violence are addressed and perpetrators of VAWG are duly prosecuted; then (2) there will be a substantial reduction in violence against women and girls; because (3) better responses to VAWG are available, violence is being prevented before it happens, or before it re-occurs, and those experiencing violence, as well as their dependents, can recover and rebuild their lives with appropriate assistance and support.		
Outcomes	An enabling legislation and policy environment in line with international standards on EVAWG and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into action	2. Favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours are promoted at community and individual levels to prevent VAWG	3. Women and girls who experience violence can use available, accessible and quality essential services so the impacts of violence are addressed and perpetrators are held accountable
Outcome TOC	If women are engaged in developing and implementing legislation and policies on EVAWG; if the implementation of legislation and policy is monitored, and if institutions and relevant stakeholders have the capacity (including financial capacity) to implement legislative and policy frameworks; then (2) an enabling legislative and policy environment on EVAWG and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into action, guaranteeing the rights of women and girls and their access to justice and addressing the impunity of perpetrators; because (3) effectively implemented legislative and policy frameworks address impunity and offer the foundation of coordinated action, including in the areas of prevention, essential services and data collection.	If multiple strategies such as community mobilization, key stakeholders' engagement and education strategies are carried out in an integrated and coordinated manner based on a shared understanding and integrated approach in line with international standards and evidence on preventing VAWG then (2) favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours will be promoted at community and individual levels to prevent VAWG because (3) multi-pronged prevention initiatives that mutually reinforce each other can effectively shift individual and social norms	If (1) service providers (health, police and justice, social services) are aware of global standards and guidelines on quality essential services that are culturally-aware and age- and linguistically-appropriate, as well as how to integrate these in service delivery, and if service providers have the capacity to deliver these services in line with global standards, including holding perpetrators accountable, and if these quality services are made available and accessible to women, and if women understand and can exercise their rights to these services (including sexual reproductive health rights); then (2); women who experience violence can use quality essential services and the impacts of violence are addressed; because (3) underlying barriers to women's access to services have been removed.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Women's voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies on EVAWG. Example activities: Capacity development, awareness raising and mobilization of women's organizations, parliamentarians, women's health, education and justice ministries.</p> <p>1.2. Laws and policies are regularly reviewed, reformed and resourced to confirm with international human rights standards and evidence Example activities: Technical assistance to review/reform laws, adequate budget allocations, oversight mechanisms to monitor implementation.</p> <p>1.3. Capacity of institutions to implement legislation on EVAWG and other forms of discrimination strengthened Example activities: Support to institutions, notably in the police, justice, health and education sectors to translate laws and policies into practice through codes of conduct, risk assessment processes and other tools, reporting mechanisms, awareness-raising programmes etc.</p>	<p>2.1. Prevention strategies and action plans in line with international human rights standards developed and implemented by UN and national actors in a coordinated manner. Example activities: Global framework on the prevention of VAWG is developed and publicized and adapted for implementation at country level based on national context.</p> <p>2.2. Statement: Women, girls, men and boys at community and individual levels are mobilized in favour of respectful relationships and gender equality. Example activities: Community mobilization targeting both men and women, boys and girls, and other stakeholders, including traditional and faith leaders; specific focus on groups of women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination, use of the media, theatre and other forms of entertainment, outreach by civil society, set of peer-to-peer groups, finding influential 'champions'.</p> <p>2.3. Educational curricula and programmes addressing gender equality and VAWG are developed and integrated into formal and non-formal education. Example activities: Development of educational curricula and programmes that promote gender equality and human rights, respectful relationships and non-violent communication skills, technical assistance to ministries of education)and affirmative action in legal training at all levels.</p>	<p>3.1. Capacity of service providers to adapt and integrate global standards and guidelines for essential services into service delivery is enhanced. Example activities: Standards and guidelines on service provision across sectors developed and made available, including ensuring women have access to the range of comprehensive services that address physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health.</p> <p>3.2. Capacity of service providers to deliver quality, coordinated essential services, to hold perpetrators to account, and the collection and use of data in an ethical manner are strengthened. Example activities: Training to meet level of quality service, and technical areas (including gender equality and data collection and analysis), peer-to-peer learning, and exchanges across countries.</p> <p>3.3. Availability and accessibility of quality essential services for women and girls who have been subject to violence improved, and in the case of gender-related killings, support to victims' families is strengthened. Example activities: Geographic, including in urban and remote areas, linguistic and financial accessibility of essential services, particularly for vulnerable/marginalized women, including indigenous, women living with HIV/AIDS etc. see Women's Access to Justice TOC).</p> <p>3.4. Women understand and can exercise their rights to quality essential services. Example activities: Awareness-raising and outreach efforts on laws, access to essential services, and recourse mechanisms through grassroots women and women's organizations, media campaigns, public information available at police, justice, health, social services and education facilities).</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will and commitment to EVAWG as a national priority; – Understanding of the linkages between migration, poverty, education, overall violence and conflict, differential power relations, and other issues in relation to VAWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An integrated/multi-pronged approach to prevention is effective to change social norms and attitudes; – Changes in attitudes and beliefs will result in changes in behaviours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality essential services will increase women's confidence in seeking support and increasing their access to such services; – Commitment and sufficient resources to collect data and coordinate quality essential services; – There is political will to address impunity and hold perpetrators accountable.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political instability; – Political statements are not translated into action; – Legislation not implemented due to lack of capacity and budget allocations; – Harmful social norms and attitudes limit women from advocating for laws on EVAWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lack of political will; – Lack of technical and financial resources; – Limited evidence on what works for preventing VAWG; – Deeply entrenched harmful social norms resistant to change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Non-existent or limited Government and Non-Government essential services (health, police and justice and social services) available in countries; – Lack of technical and financial resources to improve essential service delivery; – Frequent rotation of personnel or insufficient human resources reduce capacity to provide quality essential services; – Harmful social norms / fear prevent women from seeking essential services.

Thematic priority 9 More cities and other settings have safe and empowering public spaces for women and girls (Output 12)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence (SV) against women and girls (SVAWG) in public spaces is a universal issue. Women and girls experience and fear various types of SV in public spaces ranging from unwanted sexual remarks and groping, to rape and gender-related killings. It occurs on streets, on buses and trains, near schools, in parks, public toilets, fields, at markets, at water and food distribution sites, and in diverse settings (urban, peri-urban, rural, conflict or post conflict, etc.).

In London, a study conducted in 2012 reveals that 43% of young women have experienced some form of street harassment in the past year.¹ In Port Moresby, a scoping study² reveals that over 90% of women and girls have experienced some form of SV when accessing public transportation. In Kigali, baseline study³ shows that 55% of women reported that they were concerned about going to educational institutions after dark.

The reality of SVAWG in public spaces infringes upon the rights and freedoms of women and girls as equal citizens. It reduces women's and girls' ability to participate in school, work and in public life. It limits their access to essential services and enjoyment of cultural and recreational opportunities. It negatively impacts their health and well-being, and the economic and social viability of cities and countries. Women and girls living in poverty or from socially excluded and stigmatised groups (indigenous, migrants, living with a disability, displaced women and girls, etc.) are at greater risk of SVAWG and more vulnerable to its negative effects.

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) distinguished VAWG as one of the 12 critical areas for achievement of GEWE. In 2013, CSW57 specifically identified various forms of sexual harassment and other forms SVAWG in public spaces as a distinct area of concern, and called on governments to prevent it through various measures and programmes. This call should be further affirmed in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, specifically under goal 5 (gender equality) and 11 (making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). In 2016, the New Urban Agenda committed to promote a safe, healthy, inclusive, and secure environment in cities and human settlements for all to live, work, and participate in urban life without fear of violence and intimidation.

Analysis

Despite affecting millions of women and girls in every country of the world, SVAWG in public spaces has been long tolerated and perceived as a "normal" part of social life. This reflects discriminatory attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate gender stereotypes and inequality and acts as a structural barrier to the recognition, prevention and adequate response to SVAWG. As a result, SVAWG, especially sexual harassment in public spaces, remains a largely neglected issue.

The under-recognition of SVAWG in public spaces is reinforced by the universal gap in availability of specific, valid, comparable, systematically and ethically collected data and the limited capacity of local governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to produce it.

This contributes to a legal environment that simply does not have the legislation and policies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces. While some promising initiatives have been developed to address women's safety in public spaces in the past 40 years, they have been limited in scale and scope. These initiatives have often consisted of stand-alone, fragmented activities (such as women's safety audits,⁴ and awareness-raising campaigns). The lack of a holistic, multi-sectoral approach has exacerbated the already existing lack of cooperation among different stakeholders (local authorities, grassroots women's, men's and youth groups, the private sector, media, etc.) to design and implement safe city and safe public spaces (SPS) programmes.

Limited capacity and the lack of dedicated measures to strengthen the capacities of the main stakeholders to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces, is another key challenge.⁵

Unsurprisingly, the lack of recognition and cooperation as well as unsupportive policies and limited capacities have translated into an underinvestment in the planning (both physical and social) and management of public spaces, urban development, and safety and security strategies, resulting in public infrastructure that is unsafe for women and girls.

As a result of these deficiencies, the global normative framework is also limited and does not provide required guidance for programming, policy development and monitoring.

Action

For participating cities, transformative change towards increased recognition of SVAWG in public spaces and its impact, and willingness to end it through multi-stakeholder partnership is achieved through the four outcomes below.

- 1. Gender-responsive locally relevant and owned interventions identified:** Local ownership is the cornerstone for this area of work. This outcome focuses on building this ownership by creating multi-stakeholder partnerships and providing the evidence-base for stakeholders to identify solutions. The scoping study is an essential component. It is designed to provide valid and specific data to ensure a deep understanding of local forms of SVAWG in public spaces and the context in which it occurs. Programme design workshops are used to engage key stakeholders in active reflections on the findings of the scoping study, and to enable them to develop programmes with a specific set of results, based on the local context, vision, and joint stakeholders' accountability.
- 2. Comprehensive legislation and policies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces:** The capacity of local stakeholders will be assessed and enhanced to ensure that comprehensive legislation and policies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces are developed, and effectively implemented including strengthening the capacity of services providers and institutions.
- 3. Investments in the safety and economic viability of public spaces:** including public infrastructure and economic development and with special concern for creating economic opportunities for women in the renewed public spaces. This includes building capacity of local governments to invest in gender responsive urban planning, including public infrastructure, such as markets, public transport, street lighting, social services and sanitation, that provide safety, and economic empowerment for women and girls and benefits for the communities.
- 4. Social and cultural transformation. – to ensure that attitudes and behaviours related to women's and girls' rights to enjoy public spaces free from SV improved, including through activities at community, institutional and individual level, engaging girls and boys and other influential champions in transformative activities in schools, and other venues that promote respectful gender relationships, gender equality and safety in public spaces, etc.**

1. Ending Violence Against Women Coalition (2012)
2. UN Women (2014) Safe Public Transport Scoping Study
3. UN Women (2013)

4. Women in Cities International (WICI), Red Mujer y Hábitat de América Latina and Huairou Commission. (2008) The Global Assessment on Women's Safety. Kenya: UN Habitat

5. UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (2012)

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women and girls are socially, economically and politically empowered in public spaces which are free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence.			
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) Women are engaged in developing and implementing legislation and policies on EVAW, if the implementation of legislation and policy is monitored, and if institutions and relevant stakeholders have the capacity (including financial capacity) to implement legislative and policy frameworks; then (2) an enabling legislative and policy environment on EVAWG and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into action, guaranteeing the rights of women and girls and their access to justice and addressing the impunity of perpetrators; because (3) effectively implemented legislative and policy frameworks address impunity and offer the foundation of coordinated action, including in the areas of prevention, essential services and data collection.			
Outcomes	1. Gender responsive locally relevant and owned interventions identified.	2. Comprehensive legislation and policies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces in place and effectively implemented.	3. Investments in the safety and economic viability of public spaces, including public infrastructure/ economic development are effective	4. Attitudes and behavior related to women’s and girls’ rights to enjoy public spaces free from SVAWG improved.
Outcome TOC	If (1) local authorities and community stakeholders have the capacity to engage in evidence based programming; if multi-stakeholder partnerships are established; and if data about SVAWG in public spaces is locally generated and gender expertise is available; then (2) gender responsive locally relevant, owned and sustainable solutions will be identified; (3) because evidence and the views of all stakeholders will have been leveraged	If (1) local authorities, women’s and community groups have the capacity to engage in policy reform to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces; if adequate financing and oversight mechanisms are in place; and if the capacity of service providers to implement policies is enhanced; then (2) policies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces will be effective; because (3) they will be locally owned and supported by the required human and financial resources.	If local authorities, women’s and community groups have the capacity to engage in the formulation of gender inclusive national and local plans to improve safety; if adequate financing and oversight mechanisms are in place; and if the capacity of service providers to implement gender inclusive plans is enhanced; then (2) investments in the safety, and economic viability of public spaces will be effective; because (3) they will be informed by designs that are gender sensitive and supported by the required human and financial resources.	If 1) women and girls and men and boys participate in community mobilization strategies; if they are empowered to assert their rights; and if messages on preventing SVAWG are considered and amplified by education, the media and other sectors; then (2) transformative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that prevent SVAWG are promoted at community and individual level; because (3) evidence shows that multi-pronged prevention initiatives reinforce each other.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Capacity of local authorities, women’s and community groups, especially those groups most at risk of SVAWG, to develop comprehensive interventions for prevention and response to SVAWG in public spaces in coordination with other stakeholders enhanced. Example activities: conceptual approaches, key steps in integrated evidence-based policy and programme action on SC/SPS, women’s safety audits, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Multi-stakeholder SC/SPS partnerships established. Example activities: Vertical and horizontal partnerships established with mayors’ offices, women’s organizations, local and national authorities, private sector, media, civil society etc., consultations conducted; consensus building.</p> <p>1.3. Local data collected, analyzed and informed participatory programme design shared with multi-stakeholder partners. Example activities: scoping study/local diagnosis informed programme document, baseline, RBM and M&E frameworks; access to good practices, gender experts in diverse fields such as urban planning, climate change, architecture, evaluation, etc.).</p>	<p>2.1. Capacity and engagement of women’s and community groups on model SVAWG legislation and policy enhanced Example activities: Capacity assessments conducted, training conducted in response to capacity assessment, awareness raising, community mobilization.</p> <p>2.2. Capacity and engagement of local authorities and service providers on model SVAWG legislation and policy enhanced Example activities (capacity assessments, training that responds to capacity gaps identified)</p> <p>2.3 Laws and policies adopted to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces based on local evidence and international good practice with accompanying financing and oversight mechanisms Example activities (assessment and adoption of laws and policies, budgets allocated, financing and M&E in place)</p> <p>2.4 Capacity and engagement of service providers to implement legislation and policies strengthened Example activities (capacity assessments to identify capacity gaps of local service providers (police, justice, health, education sectors) training provided)</p>	<p>3.1 Capacity and engagement of women’s and community groups, especially those most at risk of SVAWG, in gender inclusive site-planning and income generation enhanced. Example activities: Capacity assessments, women’s safety audits, business plans development training, financial skills training.</p> <p>3.2 Capacity of authorities and other stakeholders to develop and implement gender responsive public infrastructure/economic development plans is enhanced. Example activities: Capacity assessments, training that responds to capacity gaps, including on women’s economic empowerment, and women’s political participation in safe, empowering, and resilient cities and public spaces.</p> <p>3.3 Gender inclusive plans that include public infrastructure/ economic development, inclusive of women’s economic empowerment in public spaces, and other measures in place with accompanying financing, and oversight mechanisms Example activities: Capacity assessments conducted to identify gaps; budgets allocated, incentives & leveraging of partnerships with the private sector, M&E mechanism).</p>	<p>4.1 Capacity of women and girls and men and boys to recognise SVAWG in public spaces as violation of women’s rights, to respond and prevent it, enhanced. Example activities: Capacity gap analysis on understanding the causes of SVAWG in public spaces, bystander role; training by women’s organisations of civil society, government, etc., focus on groups facing multiple discrimination).</p> <p>4.2 Women, girls, men and boys at community level are mobilised in favour of respectful relationships, gender equality and safety in public spaces. Example activities: Community mobilisation activities engaging men and women, boys and girls, especially those most at risk of violence, and other stakeholders such as faith leaders, media, businesses, etc.).</p> <p>4.3 Transformative initiatives developed and integrated into formal and non-formal education, media and other sectors to address SVAWG. Example activities: Development of curricula and arts-based strategies that promote gender equality and human rights, technical assistance on how to incorporate the prevention of SVAWG in different sectors).</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stakeholders will be committed to work continuously in a collaborative manner in policy and programme action because of an engagement in partnership building and learning about the impact of SVAWG on their lives, and on the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustained commitment from duty bearers to improving laws and policies and implementation framework for EVAWG; – Local authority and other main partners continuously committed to learning from global good practice, ensuring gender equality and committing to EVAW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implementation partners have time and versatile expertise to raise awareness and train stakeholders; – Local and national government leadership ensures that staff complete training; – Turnover of staff does not affect the implementation of programmes; and strategies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An integrated/multi-pronged approach to prevention is effective to change social norms and attitudes; – Men and boys and women and girls interested in understanding their rights and entitlements.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acquired capacity and knowledge not translated in transformative action; – Action adopted is not women’s rights and human-rights based; – Data on SH/SVAWG created negative publicity for a city which could affect the level stakeholder commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Changes in local authorities that may affect the degree of political will and commitment, as well as turnover of technical-level counterparts in the civil service; – Depending on the context and degree of decentralization in the country, the lack of budgetary authority of local governments. This can hamper efforts to support local government leadership on the issue, and building to scale, and sustainability of the initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Positive changes and investments in the physical environment and overall safety of the areas of programme intervention may increase the value of land and housing, especially in the long-term. This can trigger gentrification and consequent out-pricing of the marginalized and the poor with a wealthy population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social and cultural attitudes, and political will cannot be changed in favor of equal rights; – Equal rights are not translated into practice; – Changes that advance the right to enjoy public spaces for some groups of women may negatively and inadvertently affect the same rights for other disadvantaged/socially excluded women and men.

Thematic priority 10 More commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by Member States and the UN system, and more gender equality advocates influence peace and security processes (Output 13)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

The evolving nature of peace and security threats today are of a different scale and nature than in the past. The numbers of displaced globally are higher than they have been since WWII, the spread of violent extremism globally means that no region is safe from the threat of violence, and large numbers of countries continue to lapse from momentary stability back into conflict.

In the past decade, research and practice has built an unquestionable evidence base that women's participation and inclusion makes humanitarian assistance more effective, strengthens the protection efforts of peacekeepers, improves prevention efforts against radicalization and the spread of extremism, and accelerates economic recovery through more diverse peace dividends.¹ Evidence also shows that women's participation in peace and security processes results in a more sustainable peace, including through the conclusion of peace talks and implementation of peace agreements.² Research has also found a correlation between inclusion and prevention of relapse into conflict. Specifically, peace agreements are 64 percent less likely to fail when civil society representatives participate.³

The right of women to full participation in all areas of peace and security decision making has been recognized by the UN Security Council since resolution 1325 was passed in 2000. This normative framework has since grown, with six successive resolutions reiterating the importance of women's leadership as well as protection needs in relation to conflict prevention, resolution and recovery.⁴ Despite the establishment of a robust policy and accountability framework, women's participation continues to be minimal in relevant forums. Only 3% of peacekeepers and 10% of UN police are women,⁵ and as of 2012 fewer than 3% of signatories to peace agreements are women.⁶ While crisis and post-conflict transitions can offer new opportunities for profound social change, the contribution of women and girls to peacebuilding and consolidation of peace is often undervalued, under-utilized and under-resourced, leaving untapped an incredible tool for transformative change and sustainable peace.

Analysis

The women, peace and security agenda provides a comprehensive agenda of commitments, which if implemented would have transformative impacts as evidence on women's participation shows. Obstacles to its implementation however include social and cultural norms and attitudes; violence and insecurity; political will and leadership; capacity and expertise; and financing.

Attitudinal barriers are among the greatest obstacles to women's full participation. In the absence of a strong accountability framework, evidence shows that it will not be possible to accelerate the WPS agenda. The strong normative framework and growing evidence base of the positive impacts of women's participation on building inclusive and peaceful societies are important foundations, greater accountability, political will and leadership is needed to address attitudinal barriers.

Physical insecurity - Even after the end of political conflict, women and girls continue to face significant threats to their physical security, including as a result of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, hampering their ability to fully participate in recovery. In just one example, female voters are four times as likely as men to be targeted for intimidation in elections in fragile and transitional states. This insecurity is exacerbated in a number of contexts by a rise in violent extremism and the specific targeting of women's rights to public life, over their own bodies, to education and to representation. Women's access to comprehensive justice is one important contributor to protection concerns.

Capacity and expertise – evidence and good practice has found that targeted deployment of gender and technical expertise can catalyze transformative outcomes from peace and security decision making forums and secure more gender equal outcomes.

Financing - Aid flows tend to halt during conflict and are slow to materialize in the post-conflict transition when resources are most in need, in particular to build immediate peace dividends in areas such as women's access to justice and early recovery. OECD data shows less than 2% of conflict context aid goes to meeting women's needs.⁷ Women's work on advocacy and service delivery in crisis response is rarely leveraged or financially supported by national and international humanitarian actors, despite evidence that they are often the only actors filling this role.

Action

The gap in harnessing the capacities of women towards the goals of sustainable peace and security can be reduced through strengthened accountability frameworks, the creation of an enabling environment for participation, dedicated financing, building of capacity of all actors – both women as well as gatekeepers, protection from violence, and targeted measures to benefit women during peacebuilding and recovery.

- **An enabling environment** for implementation of WPS commitments is created – addressing **attitudinal and cultural biases** through strong accountability frameworks and continued building of evidence based advocacy will create an enabling environment for implementation of commitments. These frameworks, which include national action plans, and the key actors in their implementation, in particular women's organizations, must be adequately resourced and appropriate **financing** instruments put in place (including the GAI).
- Women participate in and inform decision-making processes & responses related to conflict prevention – through **provision of expertise, capacity strengthening** both of women as well as those involved as gatekeepers and supporters to processes.
- Women and girls' safety, physical and mental health and security are assured and their human rights respected through in particular the strengthening of **accountability mechanisms** and justice and security responses which protect and redress women's rights and allow for their full participation.
- The socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls are promoted in post-conflict situations including through **capacity strengthening of women** and **provision of technical expertise** to ensure institutions and processes are **gender responsive** and adopt early recovery policies that further women's protection, participation and equal benefits.

1. See, forthcoming Global Study on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)

2. Thania Paffenholz, Nick Ross, Steven Dixon, Anna-Lena Schluchter, Jacqui True, "Making Women Count: Assessing Women's Inclusion and Influence on the Quality and Sustainability of Peace Negotiations and Implementation" (Graduate Institute of Geneva, 2015).

3. Desirée Nilsson (2014). See also Paffenholz, et al.

4. Resolution 1325 (2000) was followed by resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013).

5. United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/women/womeninpk.shtml>

6. UN Women Sourcebook on Women, Peace and Security (2012)

7. Brief prepared by the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality as a contribution to the global study and the High-level Review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	More peaceful and gender equal societies				
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) an enabling environment for implementation of WPS commitments is created; if women participate in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflict in a quality manner; and if the safety, physical and mental health and economic security of women and girls are assured, their human rights respected, and their specific needs met in the peacebuilding and recovery process; then (2) societies will be more peaceful & gender equal; because (3) evidence shows that women are drivers of peace and security, inclusive societies are more likely to be stable & post-conflict settings are opportunities to address underlying gender inequality barriers.				
Outcomes	1. An enabling environment for implementation of WPS commitments is created	2. Conflict Prevention: Women participate in and inform decision-making processes & responses related to conflict prevention	3. Conflict Resolution: Representation and leadership of women is increased in formal and informal peace negotiations	4. Protection: Women and girls' safety, physical and mental health and security are assured and their human rights respected	5. Peacebuilding & Recovery: The socio-economic recovery & political participation of women and girls are promoted in post-conflict situations
Outcome TOC	If (1) quality accountability frameworks to meet WPS commitments are in place; and if these frameworks are adequately financed and monitored; then (2) implementation of WPS commitments will improve; because (3) the necessary conditions required for implementation of WPS commitments will be in place	If (1) favourable attitudes towards women's participation in conflict prevention is promoted; if women are empowered to lead early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms, and if these mechanisms are connected to national and international reporting and response systems; then (2) conflict prevention efforts will be more successful; because (3) evidence shows that women have access to unique sources of information which can improve both conflict prevention and response.	If (1) mediators and parties to the conflict favour women's participation in the peace negotiations, if gender expertise is made available, and if the capacity and influence of women to engage in the negotiation process is strengthened; then (2) peace agreements are more likely to be successful; because (3) women's participation is proven to shift power dynamics towards peace, inclusiveness and equality.	If (1) there are mechanisms in place, informed by women's participation, to increase the physical security of women and girls; if perpetrators of SGBV are held to account; and if survivors have access to comprehensive redress; then (2) women and girls will be safer and their human rights respected; because (3) security, justice, and support services reduce the likelihood of conflict-related crimes	If (1) women participate in and benefit from peacebuilding & recovery efforts; and if post-conflict institutions and processes are gender-responsive; then (2); peace dividends will be more inclusive; security reforms will benefit all, and economic recovery will be accelerated; because (3) including women in the recovery brings broader benefits to communities and nations
Outputs	<p>1.1 Gender equality advocates have the resources and capacity to promote evidence based advocacy (support to women's civil society capacity building, ongoing research and evidence base to underpin WPS commitments).</p> <p>1.2. UN system empowered to meet WPS commitments (lead coordination & implementation of UN accountability frameworks on WPS) (Seven Point Action Plan, Strategic Results Framework and Indicators to Track Progress on 1325; develop evidence and knowledge to guide UN system implementation of WPS).</p> <p>1.3. Member States adopt quality accountability frameworks, which are locally contextualized, including to meet emerging threats and challenges development of SMART National Action Plans on resolution 1325; lobby Member States to make concrete commitments on WPS implementation, commitments adapted to emerging threats such as countering violent extremism.</p> <p>1.4. Accountability frameworks are adequately financed, monitored & adapting to changing circumstances (resource mobilization, development of monitoring frameworks and reporting, revisions when necessary).</p>	<p>2.1. Favourable attitudes of parties to the conflict & communities towards women's participation in conflict prevention is promoted (awareness raising and on the important role played by women conflict prevention).</p> <p>2.2. Women participate and lead in effective early-warning and conflict prevention mechanisms (capacity development of women and women's organizations to identify and respond to new and emerging threats, including on countering violent extremism through women's networks, & engaging with the media; inclusion of gender in existing early-warning systems, develop women early-warning networks, mobilize women's organizations for early warnings including through mobile phones, conduct early warning trainings for women in communities susceptible to violent extremism; establish peace huts).</p> <p>2.3. Women's early-warning mechanisms are connected to national and international reporting and response systems (awareness raising of national and international actors on women's early warning mechanisms; linking women with response and reporting systems).</p>	<p>3.1. Favourable attitudes of mediators and parties to the conflict towards women's participation is promoted (awareness raising and on the important role played by women in creating and sustaining peace, access to neutral experts) offered through UN Women Santo Domingo Centre and UN Women's e-campus).</p> <p>3.2. Availability of gender expertise in the negotiations increased (deployment of gender advisors to mediator office; gender training of mediation experts, technical training of women, development of networks of women mediators).</p> <p>3.3. Increased leadership capacity and influence of women to engage in formal and informal peace negotiations (support to women's organizations, creating platforms for women's engagement, consensus building).</p>	<p>4.1. Operational mechanisms and structures in place for strengthening physical security and safety for women and girls (training peacekeepers and national security forces; develop strategies on implementation of 1820; new technology and prevention responses for SGBV, build capacity of women's organizations for identifying & reporting on SGBV, including in relation to violent extremism; linking women's organizations to operational mechanisms).</p> <p>4.2. Women and girls at risk and SGBV survivors have access to comprehensive redress, including justice, appropriate health & psycho-social support services (provision of safe spaces and services, capacity development of CSOs to manage referral networks; strengthening the justice supply side: training judges and prosecutors, legal reform on SGBV; support the demand side: legal aid).</p> <p>4.3. International, national and non-state actors are responsive and held to account for any violations of the rights of women and girls in line with international standards (justice deployments for COIs, international and national war crimes courts, post-conflict rule of law responses prioritize women's access to justice).</p>	<p>5.1. Women participate in peacebuilding & recovery planning (capacity development and engagement of women in peacebuilding and recovery planning).</p> <p>5.2. Women benefit from peacebuilding and recovery efforts (engagement with civil society, livelihood support, support to extension services, identification of partnerships with buyers/employers; transfer of productive assets, micro-finance, vocational training, entrepreneurial developing, business/finance skills).</p> <p>5.3. Post-conflict institutions and processes (including security, justice, reconciliation & governance) and are gender-responsive (engagement with women's machinery, support constitution-making, electoral processes; social cohesion; gender-responsive and transformative truth seeking and reparations and DDR; gender policies for police, training, community policing, security action in relation to countering violent extremism; quotas in security sectors; decentralization and capacity of local governments to provide basic social services, including child care and services to GBV survivors (in close consultation with Output 7).</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political will to develop accountability frameworks and be held to account. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information women have on early warning and conflict prevention can be linked with national and international reporting & response systems; Sufficient security in place for women to participate in conflict prevention mechanisms; Attitudes can be changed in favour of women's participation in CP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a willingness from key international actors and conflicting parties to include women in conflict resolution processes; There is a minimum level of women' participation in public life; Availability of financial resources; Transfer mechanisms exist between informal and formal negotiation processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security & justice will facilitate women's participation in peacebuilding & recovery; Mechanisms to strengthen women's physical safety & ensure perpetrators are held to account will prevent conflict-related sexual violence; Survivor require access to quality services in order to rebuild their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's participation in the security sector leads to more gender-responsive security outcomes for the whole of society; Economic recovery is accelerated by women's targeted inclusion.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality accountability frameworks adopted; Implementation is impeded by social, political & financial barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early warning information will not be acted upon by authorities; Women who are most in need – cannot be accessed/protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural resistance to women's participation is difficult to change in the short-term; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive redress does not translate into security; Enforcement of redress mechanisms are challenging; Under reporting of incidence of SGBV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-conflict states are unwilling to adopt temporary special measures for governance and elections.

Thematic priority 11 More women play a greater role and are better served by humanitarian response and recovery efforts (Output 14)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

A record 65 million people were displaced by conflict and violence in 2015, along with 19.2 million internally displaced by natural disasters.¹⁻² Of the estimated 128.6 million people currently in need of humanitarian assistance, over three-quarters are women and children.³⁻⁴ In addition to being most affected, women and adolescent girls are also the main caregivers and among the first responders in crisis, holding their families and communities together.

Despite the fact that women and girls experience different and higher risks and vulnerabilities, only a fraction of financial assistance received for humanitarian action targets the needs and capacities of women and girls. In 2016, only 1.7% of the projects in OCHA's Financial Tracking System that applied the IASC Gender Marker included targeted action for women and girls. In 2015, only 0.5% of humanitarian funding went to gender-based violence support.⁵

At the same time, crises are becoming more protracted. The average length of time that people worldwide are being displaced by crisis has increased to a staggering 17 to 25 years.⁶ However, aid in protracted crises tends to offer only short-term solutions to long-term problems and provides few options for women to rebuild their lives and become providers for their households.

The reality of crisis is that women play leadership roles at family, community and national levels. Supporting women's capacity to carry out these roles is at the heart of resilient societies, and is central to the humanitarian development nexus. Humanitarian action cannot be effective without the protection and empowerment of women and girls.

Analysis

Despite the plethora of international commitments calling for gender equality and ensuring women's leadership in crisis and humanitarian settings, such as the landmark resolutions on Women Peace and Security, commitments made during the World Humanitarian Summit and stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030, significant gaps remain in translating these commitments into action. The following gaps continue to impede the realization of effective and gender-responsive policies and programmes in humanitarian and crisis response.

1. Lack of data and understanding on the gendered impacts of crisis

Despite the recognized importance of collecting sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) to understand and respond to the differing different needs of women, girls, men and boys, a 2011 research showed almost none of the lead agencies in humanitarian response collected and analysed SADD to inform humanitarian programming. Furthermore, UN Women's review of the 26 strategic response plans developed for the world's major humanitarian crises in 2015 demonstrated that only 23% did some form of gender analysis.⁷

2. Lack of substantive women's participation and leadership in humanitarian and crisis response

There is a growing body of evidence and practice that demonstrates women's crucial contributions to peace and security processes, and women's groups' unique ability to contribute to promoting social cohesion, resilience and contribute to prevention of violent extremism (PVE). Similarly, evidence shows that their inclusion as leaders and participants in the planning and programming of humanitarian action leads to more effective responses and a more rapid transition to recovery. However, women continue to be considered as victims, and their roles as leaders and transformative agents of change for community resilience and cohesion are overlooked and underestimated.

3. Lack of targeted livelihoods opportunities for women

In conflict situations, there is a significant increase in female-headed households, which are often the most impoverished. Research and evidence shows that providing targeted livelihood and protection support to women in crisis-affected countries will not only support their empowerment but will have a ripple effect on the wellbeing of their families and communities. Women's active participation in economic life makes peacebuilding and recovery efforts more sustainable, particularly since women are more likely to invest their income in family and community welfare. However, lack of targeted livelihood support for women renders them subject to impoverishment and exploitation. In 2013, in the context of early recovery programmes, only 22 per cent of cash contributions were directly disbursed to women.⁸

Action

This area of work improves the gender-responsiveness of humanitarian action by:

- i. **Ensuring that humanitarian/crisis response planning, frameworks and programming are gender inclusive and responsive:** This will include providing tools and guidance on gender analysis and on strengthening the agency, voice and capacities of women's machineries, civil society and gender advocates to engage effectively in humanitarian planning and programming. It will also leverage UN Women's coordination mandate in favour of ensuring women and girls' needs and priorities are fully integrated into humanitarian assistance.
- ii. **Increasing access to protection and economic opportunities for vulnerable and displaced women affected by sudden onset emergencies** through empowerment hubs that provide access to multi-sectoral services, including referral mechanisms for prevention and response to SGBV, women support groups, and child-care services. The empowerment hubs also provide skills training, leveraging virtual and online platforms, cash-for-work and livelihoods support and promote participation and leadership opportunities for women.
- iii. **Bridging the humanitarian/ development divide in protracted & slow onset crises by promoting positive coping mechanisms, and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized women.** The empowerment hubs strengthen women's access to productive assets and skills, provide second chance education, support their leadership in community life and decision making, and target gender-specific structural barriers and discrimination rooted in prevailing social norms and attitudes. Providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to women in situations of protracted displaced settings strengthens their resilience and empowerment.

1. <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>

2. 2016 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2016)

3. <http://www.unfpa.org/resources/protecting-women-emergency-situations#st-hash.yskdqqa.dpuf>

4. https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO_2017.pdf

5. http://interactive.unocha.org/publication/2016_datatrends/WHDT2016.pdf

6. United Nations Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Person (2015)

7. ACAPS (2016). ACAPS (2016). https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/resources/files/acaps_report

8. UN Security Council (2014). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, p. 23.

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	Women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate in, and benefit from response and recovery		
Goal TOC Statement	If (1) humanitarian planning and programming are gender responsive; if relief efforts prioritize the participation, safety and economic wellbeing of women displaced by sudden onset emergencies; and if the response promotes positive coping strategies for marginalized women who continue to be affected by protracted crises; then (2) women and girls affected by crisis will play a leadership role and benefit from relief and response efforts; because (3) their rights and needs will be at the center of humanitarian assistance.		
Outcomes	1. Humanitarian/crisis response planning, frameworks and programming are gender inclusive & responsive	2. Protection and economic opportunities for women in temporary shelters & in host communities displaced by sudden onset emergencies (conflict /disease outbreak / disaster) is promoted	3. Positive coping mechanisms are promoted for marginalized women and girls affected by protracted & slow onset crises (conflict/disaster, temporary shelters & host communities)
Outcome TOC	If (1) women's needs inform humanitarian planning and programming; and national, UN, and civil society organizations have the capacity and opportunity to integrate gender equality into planning and programming; then (2) humanitarian planning and programming will be gender inclusive, responsive and promote women's empowerment; because (3) experience shows that explicit involvement of women in the design and implementation of humanitarian assistance facilitates meeting their needs	If (1) women who have been displaced by sudden onset emergencies are meaningfully engaged in the humanitarian response; if they have access to skills, productive and financial assets, protection mechanisms, and effective support services; then (2) their safety and economic wellbeing will be promoted; because (3) the relief effort will have been engendered.	If (1) marginalized women and girls affected by protracted and slow onset crises have access to the required assets, skills and partnerships; and if social services and practices are supportive; then (2) marginalized women and girls will be able to cope positively with protracted and slow onset crises; because (3) their absorptive capacity has been strengthened.
Outputs	<p>1.1. Gender analysis and assessments conducted to inform multi-sectoral humanitarian/crisis response planning and programming Example activities: guidance & tools on gender analysis and assessments made available to UN and governments; analysis / assessments conducted, budgetary allocations assessed; disaggregated data collected.</p> <p>1.2. Increased leadership, capacity and effective engagement of women & gender machineries in humanitarian planning, response frameworks and programming Example activities: organizational mapping, capacity development, engagement with women, networking and coalition building, increasing access and participation of affected women to planning and programming.</p> <p>1.3. National, UN & aid coordination mechanisms strengthened to identify, address and monitor the needs of women and girls Example activities: technical assistance, trainings, surge support, disaggregated data collected.</p>	<p>2.1. Increased leadership and engagement by displaced women in community mobilization, social cohesion and decision making Example activities: Promote participation and leadership opportunities for women in relief distribution, monitoring & coordination committees, second chance education.</p> <p>2.2. Increased access to effective services & protection mechanisms through empowerment hubs in temporary shelters and in host communities Example activities: Establish empowerment hubs/centers in temporary settings; extend information, referral mechanisms, including prevention and response to SGBV, promote existing referral mechanisms, create women support groups, provide child-care services.</p> <p>2.3. New sources of income and economic opportunities created through targeted cash for work & development of capacities and skills Example activities: identify and create partnerships with potential buyers/employers in camps/temporary settings and host communities, provide targeted cash for work in return for relevant services/products provided, transfer productive assets to women cooperatives in camps/temporary settings and host communities, vocational training based on identified market needs, business development skills leveraging virtual and online platforms.</p>	<p>3.1. Marginalized women (including displaced and host) have increased access to the required assets, skills, second chance education and partnerships Example activities: identify and create partnerships with potential buyers/employers, transfer start-up packages, including productive assets and micro-finance, vocational training based on identified market needs, business / entrepreneurship development, finance / accounting skills leveraging online and virtual platforms and second chance education.</p> <p>3.2. Capacity of service providers to offer support services to marginalized women and girls strengthened Example activities: capacity development of service providers to offer support services including child-care, safe/social spaces for survivors of GBV, mental and psycho-social services etc. Services providers may include civil society and local government.</p> <p>3.3. Promoting positive attitudes and behaviours of men and boys towards gender equality Example activities: assess the root causes of attitudes & behaviours; develop advocacy strategies; awareness raising; outreach to community/religious leaders, capacity development of CSOs to engage men and boys; use of media.</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will amongst government, UN, and international actors to support and promote planning, response frameworks and programming that integrate gender equality and women's empowerment; – Supportive social and cultural norms and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Host governments permit displaced women to immediately access income generation schemes and social spaces in camp and non-camp settings when there has been an onset of a sudden emergency, without balancing the need to invest in host communities in the short-term; – UNW able to leverage its coordination mandate and convening role to mobilize service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Host governments/communities require investments in host communities when the crisis becomes protracted and return of displaced women is not possible; – Service providers are supportive of gender-responsive service delivery.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recommendations from gender assessments are not adopted or prioritized due to political, social or financial barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Income generation schemes do not translate into higher incomes due to intra-household imbalances; – Tension between men and women increase due to lack of opportunities for men and boys; – Social and cultural attitudes and behaviours towards ending GBV cannot be changed. Insecurity limits movement; – Stigma / cultural barriers limit survivors from coming forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Income generation schemes do not translate into higher incomes due to intra-household imbalances and limited local markets; – Tension between men and women increase due to lack of opportunities for men and boys; – Social, cultural, political barriers towards promoting positive coping mechanisms for marginalized women. Insecurity limits movement; – Stigma / cultural barriers limit survivors from coming forward.

Thematic priority 12 More women play a greater role and are better served by disaster risk reduction and recovery processes (Output 15)

I. BACKGROUND

Assessment

The risks associated with natural disasters, food price hikes, pandemics, protracted crises are increasing faster than attempts to prevent, mitigate and reduce them. Since 1970, the number of people exposed to floods and tropical cyclones has doubled.¹ In the past decade, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll across the world with over 700 thousand lives lost, 1.7 billion people affected and economic losses of US\$ 1.4 trillion.² The increasing effects of climate change exacerbates disaster risks and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable. UNISDR assessed that in the past 10 years 87% of disasters have been climate related, and this number is expected to grow.

Women and girls will be particularly affected by this expected increase in extreme weather events. The multiple discriminations that women face – in education, health care, employment, and control of property – are key underlying drivers that inevitably make women more vulnerable in crises and post disasters situations. Research shows that women are more at risk of being affected by disasters and their aftermaths. In 1991 the cyclone in Bangladesh killed 140,000 people. Within the age group 20-44, the female death rate was 71 per 1000, compared to 15 per 1000 for men.

Little progress has been made in addressing this dramatic gender inequality of risks over the past 25 years. More than 70% of the fatalities from the 2004 Asian tsunami were women. Similarly, when Cyclone Nargis hit the Ayeyarwaddy Delta in Myanmar in 2008, the death rate of those aged 18 to 60 for women was double that of men, and an estimated 87% of unmarried women and 100% of married women lost their main source of income.³ The death toll for women and girls following the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015 was 55%.

This lack of progress on addressing the underlying risk drivers has been recognized by the international community through new normative frameworks. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 calls for a paradigm shift through dedicated action to tackle underlying disaster risk drivers and as a matter of principle including gender in all policies and practices.

Analysis

Four key factors explain the persistence of the gender inequalities of risk over the past two and half decades. First, the gender dimensions of disaster risk are still not well understood. Limited technical capacity at the national and local level has resulted in lack of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) and gender analysis of disaster risks. This continues to impede proper understanding and accurate response and development strategies. 62 of 70 reporting countries within the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework of Action did not collect gender-disaggregated vulnerability and capacity information from 2009-2011. There is also no systematic collection of SADD in the analysis on damages and losses caused by disasters. These are usually recorded in terms of productive resources, which tend to be owned by men. Losses in the informal sector and subsistence farming where women are over represented are not often recorded, which leads to substantial under valuation of the impact and opportunity cost for women.⁴

Second and partly as a result, little political attention is given to the development and implementation of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies. There is also a disconnect between institutions promoting gender equality and national disaster risk management mechanisms. Ambiguity in terms of accountability⁵ is another reason leading to gender equality becoming an “add on” effort largely isolated from general development efforts. This undermines a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that is needed to support the most marginalize.

Third, there’s insufficient attention to building women’s resilience, which also leads to weakened community resilience. Alternative and resilient livelihood options are seldom targeted at disaster - affected women. Early warning systems do not take into account gender differences and have proven ineffective in past disaster experiences. And women’s losses are undervalued and therefore not sufficiently compensated, leaving women worse off comparatively to men after disasters.

Finally, women’s lack of participation and leadership in DRR perpetuates inequalities and renders DRR overall less effective.

Action

The Sendai Framework offers an opportunity to address the underlying causes of the gender inequalities of risk. The following actions are required in this regard:

- 1. Assess the gender dimensions of disaster risk in a changing climate by:** (i) undertaking gender-responsive risk assessments in a changing climate; (ii) rendering data collection instruments and tools gender-responsive; (iii) consolidating and disseminating the evidence base of the gender inequality of risk.
- 2. Ensure DRR policy and risk governance are gender-responsive and well-resourced by:** (i) ensuring DRR laws, strategies, policies, plans and budgets are gender-responsive; (ii) institutionalizing the capacity of DRR bodies to mainstream gender equality considerations into disaster management; (iii) monitoring and tracking gender commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 3. Strengthen women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for, and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate by:** (i) promoting and supporting gender-responsive social protection and disaster compensation; (ii) promoting and supporting resilient and alternative livelihood options targeted at disaster affected women; (iii) supporting the development and implementation of inclusive and gender-responsive early warning, early action and protection mechanisms, systems and services.
- 4. Strengthen women’s participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience building by:** (i) strengthening capacity of gender machineries and civil society organizations (CSOs) to mobilize, lead and shape DRR decision making processes; (ii) increasing women’s engagement in disaster preparedness and response at the community level.

1. UN ISDR (2011) „Global Assessment Report“, p.32.

2. Care =: talking emergencies in an era of climate disruption: reducing risk and building resilience for the poor and vulnerable.

3. Climate Change Connections :Women at the Forefront UNFPA, WEDO 2009, www.preventionweb.net/files/12053_climateconnections1overview1.pdf

4. Women, girls and Disasters , A review for DFID by Sarah Bradshaw and Maureen Fordham, 2013, Angeles Arenas Ferriz (2001) The Relevance of Considering a Gender Perspective in Damage Assessment and Recovery Strategies: A Case Study in El Salvador, Central America.

5. Towards the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Women as a force in resilience building, gender equality in disaster risk reduction, April 2014, A background Paper on gender inclusion in HFA2

II. THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal	<p>The gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods is mitigated and the resilience of communities to natural hazards is enhanced in a changing climate.</p>			
Goal TOC Statement	<p>If (1) the gender dimension of risk is understood, if (2) the governance and framework for disaster risk reduction is gender responsive; if (3) women’s capacity and leadership to prevent, prepare for and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate is strengthened; then (4) the gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods will be mitigated and the resilience of communities to natural hazards will be enhanced in a changing climate; because (5) the gender inequality of risk is a root cause of vulnerability at the community level.</p>			
Outcomes	<p>1 Gender dimensions of disaster risk, particularly in terms of women’s exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity are understood and assessed.</p>	<p>2. DRM policy and risk governance are gender-responsive and well resourced.</p>	<p>3. Women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate is strengthened.</p>	<p>4. Women’s participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience building is strengthened.</p>
Outcome TOC	<p>If (1) social protection and financial products are promoted and supported; if livelihood options are promoted and supported; if early-warning and early action systems are inclusive and gender-responsive; then (2) women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate is strengthened.</p>	<p>If (1) DRR strategies, plans and budgets are gender responsive; if capacity of DRR actors to mainstream gender equality considerations into disaster management is institutionalized; if gender commitments of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction are monitored and tracked; then (2) DRM policy and risk governance is gender responsive and well resourced.</p>	<p>If (1) social protection and financial products are promoted and supported; if livelihood options are promoted and supported; if early-warning and early action systems are inclusive and gender-responsive; then (2) women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate is strengthened.</p>	<p>If (1) the capacity of Gender Machineries, CSOs to mobilize, lead and shape DRR decision making processes is strengthened; if (2) women’s participation and engagement in disaster preparedness, risk and recovery assessments and planning is enhanced; then (3) women’s participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience building is strengthened.</p>
Outputs	<p>1.1. Gender-responsive risk assessments in a changing climate are undertaken. Example activities: Conduct gender-responsive disaster and climate risk assessments. Develop materials tools for gender-responsive risk assessments.</p> <p>1.2. Data collection instruments and tools are gender responsive (sex and age disaggregated data is collected, analyzed and used to inform decision making). Example activities: Technical support and advocacy for development/revision of methodologies, instruments, tools, templates, guidance notes for information management, assessments, collection and use of SADD and gender analysis.</p> <p>1.3. The evidence base of the gender inequality of risk is consolidated and disseminated. Example activities: Facilitate existing networks and dialogue on gender and DRR through regular multi-stakeholder events linking academia, policy makers, practitioners and civil society. Establishment of scientific platform on gender and DRR with south/north academic institutions, expert meetings and research outputs.</p>	<p>2.1. DRR strategies, plans and budgets are gender responsive. Example activities: Global advocacy and normative and technical support to DRR governance and investment, development of new approaches, mechanisms and guidance through strategic partnerships and, engagement in relevant forums and intergovernmental processes.</p> <p>2.2. Capacity of DRR actors to mainstream gender equality considerations into disaster management is institutionalized. Example activities: Develop Word into Action Guide on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to support Governments with the development of national and local DRR policies and plans by 2020. Support capacity development of DRR bodies to mainstream gender equality considerations into disaster management.</p> <p>2.3 Gender commitments of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction are monitored and tracked. Example activities: Contribute to the development and enhancement of the Sendai Monitor, review country reporting, provide technical support and recommendations, develop monitoring guidance for country level.</p>	<p>3.1. Social protection and financial products, including micro finance, targeted at disaster affected women, are promoted and supported. Example activities: Development and promotion of global guidance on social protection and disaster compensation. Review compensation, insurance, loans and social protection policies and practices related to disaster to ensure gender-responsiveness.</p> <p>3.2. Resilient and alternative livelihood options targeted at disaster affected women promoted and supported. Example activities: Development and promotion of global guidance on gender dimensions of resilient livelihoods. Conduct research on best practices for alternative livelihood options targeted at disaster affected women. Increase capacities on alternative livelihood options targeted at disaster affected women. Increase women’s access to disaster related financing.</p> <p>3.3 The development and implementation of early-warning and early action systems are inclusive and gender-responsive. Example activities: Development and promotion of global guidance on early warning and action, preparedness and recovery. Support the establishment of multi-stakeholder processes for gender sensitive early-warning and early action.</p>	<p>4.1. Capacity of Gender Machineries, CSOs to mobilize, lead and shape DRR decision making processes strengthened. Example activities: Convene various actors into umbrella network with identified common priorities on gender and DRR for knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices, and joint advocacy on gender equality and DRR. Provide technical capacity of women’s grassroots and civil society organizations through training and knowledge sharing on DRR decision making and climate resilience.</p> <p>4.2. Women’s participation and engagement in disaster risk governance, planning and assessments enhanced. Example activities: Facilitate engagement of representatives from women’s organisations and academia from communities at national, regional and global level in technical and substantive work streams on DRR. Develop guidelines for women’s engagement and leadership in disaster preparedness and response at the community level.</p>
Key Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will prioritizes understanding the gender dimensions of risk; – Supportive social and cultural norms and practices that enable women to engage in disaster risk assessments and DRR processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Broader efforts on improving DRR are ongoing; Political will to allocate resources to gender-responsive policies and plans; Domestic public resources are available for allocation towards prevention, preparedness and recovery; – Flexibility exists for local governments to allocate resources towards local prevention, preparedness and recovery; Culture of compliance with regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Broader efforts to improve women’s access to basic infrastructure and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Political will amongst government, UN, and international actors to support and promote planning, response frameworks and programming that integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment; – Supportive social and cultural norms and practices.
Risks & Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Appropriate responses to gender-specific risks are not adopted and implemented due to political, social or financial barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Appropriate responses to gender-specific risks are not adopted and implemented due to political, social or financial barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Harmful social norms limit women from participating in early warning systems and accessing financial, social protection and livelihood services and products; – Illiteracy amongst women limit their ability to read public information on disaster preparedness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Harmful social norms limit women from participating and taking leadership; – Illiteracy amongst women limit their ability to read public information on participation and leadership.

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

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