

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Gender Equality and UNDP

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is central to the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme. Gender equality, centered in human rights, is critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development. By advancing gender equality and empowering women as agents of change and leaders in the development processes that shape their lives, UNDP envisages a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient world. In addition to improving the lives of individual women and girls, gender equality improves the prospects of families, communities and nations. When gender inequalities are reduced, more children go to school, families are healthier, agricultural productivity improves and incomes increase. UNDP is working closely with partners across the UN system and throughout the world to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are included in the post-2015 development agenda.

UNDP focuses directly on gender equality and women's empowerment and also integrates it into the organization's three key thematic areas: **sustainable development pathways; inclusive and effective governance systems; and resilience building.**

Sustainable Development Pathways

The equal participation, rights and opportunities of women are essential to eradicating poverty and promoting growth that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable. Women, particularly poor and rural women whose lives are inextricably tied to the environment, have valuable knowledge and experiences and can be leaders in shaping inclusive national environmental policies. UNDP supports national partners to:

- Reduce or eliminate the barriers to women's economic empowerment, including by addressing women's unpaid care and promoting women's decent work and equal access to credit and productive resources;

MATTERS OF FACT

- It is estimated that 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women and girls.
 - Women hold only 21.4 percent of the world's parliamentary seats.
 - In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, 80 percent of all jobs for women are in the informal work sector.
 - Globally, three out of every 10 women report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner.
 - Despite progress in some countries and regions, approximately 800 women die every day from preventable causes during pregnancy and childbirth.
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- Support the integration of gender considerations in social protection measures to enable women as well as men to participate in the economy;
 - Ensure gender-responsive governance of natural resource management; and,
 - Support efforts to increase women's access to, ownership and sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services, including through climate finance.

Inclusive and Effective Governance Systems

For governance to be inclusive and effective, women must participate equally in both processes and institutions and benefit equally from services. UNDP supports national partners to:

- Promote women's participation as voters and candidates and their equal representation in constitutional committees, parliaments, public administrations and the judiciary;
- Strengthen women's legal rights and access to justice;
- Engage women equitably in the prioritization and provision of local services, including health and security services;
- Enhance national capacities to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence and provide support services and access to justice for victims.

Resilience Building

Gender equality and women's empowerment are integral to building resilient societies and nations. Despite the devastation caused by crisis, post-crisis rebuilding periods offer opportunities to create more inclusive governance institutions and transform societies, including by advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. UNDP supports national partners to:

- Promote women's equal participation and leadership in conflict prevention, mitigation, mediation and peace building;
- Ensure women's equal participation in decision-making processes on climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction;
- Mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in disaster and climate risk reduction policies and plans; and,
- Ensure that women benefit equally from local development, employment creation, front-line service delivery and reintegration programmes in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.

Inside UNDP: Institutional transformation

To achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, UNDP believes it essential to bring about a cultural transformation in the way the organization conducts its own business. UNDP aims to initiate change from within by staffing equal numbers of women and men at all levels and by ensuring that the needs of women and men are addressed in the workplace and in programming. Stronger accountability frameworks are being put in place to track progress in advancing gender equality both in our programming work and across the organization. UNDP has adopted the Gender Marker, an accountability tool that enables the organization to better track gender investments. The Secretary-General has cited UNDP's Gender Marker experiences as a "good practice" and other UN agencies are following UNDP's example in this area. To increase capacity and accountability for gender mainstreaming, UNDP also has introduced a Gender Equality Seal, a corporate certification process that recognizes good performance of UNDP offices to deliver gender equality results, awarding exemplary performance with a Gold, Silver or Bronze certification.

UNDP in action

- In **Vietnam**, UNDP supported capacity building and advocacy for increased participation of women and girls in disaster management and decision-making. UNDP rolled out a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Program covering 6,000 communes and villages, which has trained 350 women instructors.
- In **Burundi**, UNDP and partners supported the establishment of a "one-stop-shop" providing survivors of gender-based violence with medical, psychosocial and legal assistance.
- In **Azerbaijan**, UNDP supported a labour force survey that generated sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics on employment that provides a basis for the government to make equitable policy decisions.
- In **El Salvador**, UNDP supported the women's group in Parliament to design a 30 percent gender quota law for popular elections.
- In **Senegal**, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP trained women on planting and caring for mangroves, enabling them to earn money and play a critical role in the restoration of over 2,000 hectares of rare mangroves in northern Senegal.
- In **Cambodia**, UNDP provided support to government, civil society networks and networks of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS. For the first time, the new National Action Plan on Violence Against Women has a special focus on violence faced by women and girls living with HIV and AIDs, including sex workers.
- In **Egypt**, UNDP is working with UN Women to support the "Women Citizenship Initiative," which is issuing national ID cards that will enable women to vote, seek membership in political parties and access such services as processing a property title or deed.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.undp.org/women>

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