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Resilient nations.*



UNDP SUPPORT TO THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER EQUALITY **ACROSS THE SDGs **INCLUDING GOAL 5****

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



*This is a living document, which will be updated periodically.
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A path towards global prosperity, human well-being and a healthy planet

The world has achieved remarkable gains in human development over the past two decades. Extreme poverty has significantly reduced, access to primary education and health outcomes has improved, and substantial inroads have been made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The pursuit of the eight Millennium Development Goals has contributed to this progress and enabled people across the world to improve their lives and future prospects. Yet, despite these significant gains, extreme poverty remains a key challenge, with more than 700 million people globally living on less than US\$ 1.90 PPP (purchasing power parity) per day. Inequalities are either high or widening, especially within countries. Unemployment and vulnerable employment levels are high in many countries, particularly among youth. Unsustainable consumption and production are pushing ecosystems beyond their limits—undermining their ability to provide services vital to life, development, and their own regeneration. Shocks associated with macroeconomic instability, disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and socio-political unrest impact negatively on the lives of millions. In many cases, these shocks hold back, if not reverse, progress already achieved in meeting national and internally agreed development goals. Preserving the gains that have been made and addressing the current development challenges the world faces cannot be solved by tinkering at the margins.

There is an imperative today to foster sustainable development. A vision for what this encapsulates is laid out in the new sustainable development agenda that aims to end poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment by 2030. As the UN's Development arm, UNDP has a key role to play in supporting countries to make this vision a reality—putting societies on a sustainable development pathway, managing risk and enhancing resilience, and advancing prosperity and wellbeing.

Building on its core strengths—a large country network in more than 170 countries and territories, a principal coordination role within the UN Development System, and the proven ability in supporting efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion, and protect vital ecosystems—UNDP has outlined a vision in its Strategic Plan 2014-17 focused on making the next big breakthrough in development: to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. While ambitious, this vision is within reach and significant inroads can be made in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and exclusion, and safeguarding the environment.

In line with this vision, UNDP has worked with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in developing a strategy for effective and coherent implementation support of the new sustainable development agenda under the acronym 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support). The Mainstreaming component of MAPS aims to generate awareness amongst all relevant actors and help governments land the agenda at national and local levels; and ultimately to mainstream the agenda into their national plans, strategies and budgets. The Acceleration component focuses on helping governments accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, by providing tools that will help identify critical constraints to faster progress and focus on those development objectives that are more relevant to the country context. The Policy Support component aims to provide coordinated and pooled policy support to countries working to meet their SDG targets. In this regard, UNDP offers an integrated package of policy support services that align with its programming priorities. These services, as outlined in the prospectus, cover a wide range of areas: poverty reduction, inclusive growth and productive employment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, HIV and health, access to water and sanitation, climate change adaptation, access to sustainable energy, sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, oceans governance, and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Well-equipped with this integrated package of policy support services, UNDP stands ready to support country partners to effectively implement the new development agenda and make long-term economic prosperity.



GENDER EQUALITY

Why does this matter?

Gender equality is vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which envisions a world of “universal respect for human rights and human dignity” and a world in which “every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed.” The 2030 Agenda asserts gender equality not only as a fundamental human right, but as a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

As such, gender equality is not just the focus of Sustainable Development Goal 5; it is also integrated throughout the Sustainable Development Goals. **This reflects the growing body of evidence that gender equality has multiplier effects across the spectrum of development.** Empowering women and reducing gender gaps in health, education, labour markets and other areas results in lower poverty, higher economic growth, greater agricultural productivity, more resilient communities, better nutrition and better education of children. Conversely, failing to address gender inequalities and discrimination against women will hinder, if not derail, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In short, **there can be no sustainable development if the tangible and intangible barriers that hold back half the population are not addressed.**

Unfortunately, despite increasing recognition that gender equality is catalytic to sustainable development, gender inequalities persist throughout the world. They include:

- Women’s unequal access to economic resources and assets, including land and property rights; financial credit; technology development and transfer; natural resources and environmental/climate finance;
- Discrimination against women in the workforce, manifesting in unequal pay and opportunity, and vulnerable employment;
- Women’s disproportionate burden of unpaid work, such as caring for children, the elderly and the sick and, particularly in developing countries, gathering water and fuel for cooking and heating;

- Low levels of female participation in decision-making;
- Persistent and widespread violence against women and girls, including early and forced marriage and harmful practices;
- A disproportionate impact on women of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation.

These and other challenges have implications for women’s lives, and they also hold back progress for families, communities and nations. **Addressing them requires both targeted efforts focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment and multi-dimensional approaches that take into consideration the experiences, needs and contributions of women as part of all development efforts.**

For example, **recognizing and reducing women’s unpaid work is essential both for reducing poverty (Goal 1) and for promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth (Goal 8).** In most developing countries, women spend at least twice as much time as men on unpaid work. This deprives women of time for earning income, getting an education, acquiring new skills and participating in public life. Investing in the public provision of care services will create more and better jobs for women, and reduce gender and socioeconomic inequalities.

Gender disparities in labour force participation must also be a key part of poverty reduction and growth strategies as they not only hinder human development, but also represent a substantial loss of economic potential. Many more women than men are in vulnerable and precarious forms of employment, which are characterized by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers’ fundamental rights. Approximately 73 percent of the global jobs gap in 2014 was due to a shortfall in employment among women, who comprise only about 40 percent of the global work force. **In 2013, the estimated wages lost due to the global gap in female labour force participation stood at \$589 billion.**¹

Evidence shows that **ensuring women’s equal access to agricultural resources would contribute substantially toward ending hunger and achieving food security** and improved nutrition (Goal 2). While women account for an average of 50 percent of the agricultural work force in East and Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and much more in some individual countries, women have less access than men to productive resources, such as seeds and tools, and opportunities. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, with the same access to productive resources, such as fertilizers, seeds and tools as men, rural women could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent. This could increase agricultural output in developing countries by between 2.5 and 4 percent, which could in turn reduce the number of undernourished people in the world by 12–17 percent.²

Ensuring that girls and women have access to clean water and sanitation facilities (Goal 6) also has multiplier effects given the significant impacts of poor sanitation on the safety, well-being and educational prospects of women. Women and girls

often bear the primary responsibility for gathering water. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, women and girls cumulatively spend 40 billion hours a year (up to six hours every day) collecting water, which deprives them of time for earning money, learning new skills, getting an education and participating in public life.³ Safe and convenient access to water and sanitation facilities also increases privacy and reduces risk to women and girls of sexual harassment/assault while gathering water. Recent data shows that, in 2011, only 45 percent of schools in least developed and low-income countries had adequate sanitation facilities.⁴ The lack of such facilities often keeps girls out of school, which has a long-term impact on their future prospects.

Achieving sustainable development requires recognizing women’s contributions and ensuring their equal and meaningful participation in the decisions that affect their lives and communities. When inequalities are addressed and policies reshaped, women and girls can become catalytic agents of change and equal partners with men in the quest to promote growth that is inclusive, just, equitable and sustainable.



Gender Equality - Key Facts



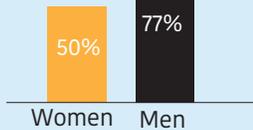
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For every dollar earned by men, women earn between 70 and 90 cents



103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and **more than 60%** of them are women

Global labour force participation



Time spent on unpaid work by sex, developing and developed countries, 2005 - 2013

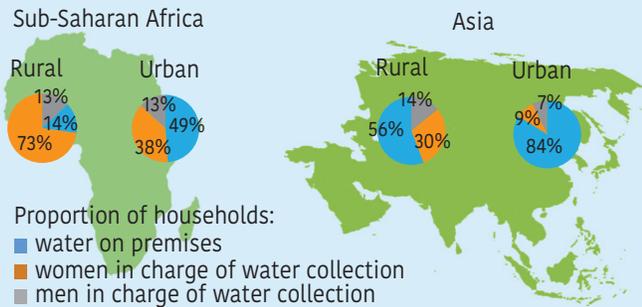


About 830 women die each day due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth

This is despite a 44% reduction in maternal deaths between 1990 and 2015



Women and girls spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water (up to 6 hrs/day)



Women make up an average of **43%** of the agriculture workforce in developing countries.

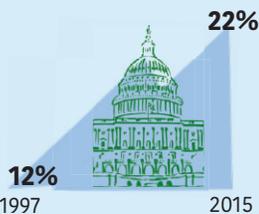


If women had equal access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by as much as **20% - 30%**

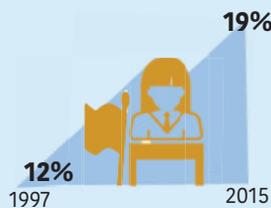


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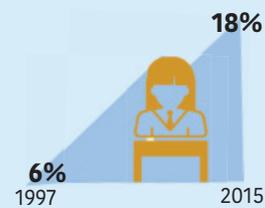
women has experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in her life



Women's representation in lower or single houses of parliament



Number of female Heads of State or Government



Women's representation among cabinet ministers

What do we offer?

UNDP takes a multidimensional approach to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment as essential aspects of sustainable development. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), we support partner countries in focusing directly on advancing gender equality, which includes eliminating all forms of violence against women, recognizing the value of women's unpaid work and promoting women's participation in decision-making. We also work to ensure the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in initiatives to achieve all the other SDGs. In partnership with a wide range of actors, we offer the following services to countries:

In line with SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), we assist in the formulation of pro-poor policies and strategies that focus on the empowerment of women and girls and address the barriers women face in accessing and controlling assets, resources and services.

We offer policy advice, tools and capacity-building for the implementation of gender-responsive social protection systems as well as measures to reduce women's unpaid work and ensure their access to decent employment opportunities.

We offer policy advice, tools and capacity-building to government and private companies and public enterprises to develop measures to reduce gender gaps and promote equality in the workplace.

In line with SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), we support policy and legislative reforms to ensure women's equal access to and control over productive assets, including land, credit and agricultural extension services.

We also support initiatives that enable women farmers to access market opportunities as well as information and technology to increase their agricultural productivity and promote food security.

In line with SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), we support partners

in integrating gender concerns into national health strategies and initiatives, including those for HIV and AIDS.

We advocate to improve women's access to health services and increase investments in addressing maternal mortality.

Along with other partners within the UN system, we work to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including harmful practices.

In line with SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), we provide policy support to ensure that national development strategies address the challenges of gender parity at all levels of education. This includes research and advocacy on the linkages between girls' education and broader development outcomes. We assist partners in identifying the bottlenecks to progress in this area, and provide technical support for eliminating them.

We support the development of social awareness campaigns to change social norms and customary practices, such as early and forced marriage, that block girls and women from accessing education and lifelong learning opportunities.



In line with SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), we invest in research to identify discriminatory practices, advocate for their removal and support national partners to create policies and laws that comply with international commitments on gender equality such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. We also support partners in conducting initiatives to transform gender stereotypes and raise public awareness about gender discrimination.

Along with other UN entities, UNDP works with national partners to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as early and forced marriage. This includes supporting governments to adopt legal and policy frameworks to address violence against women and to ensure provision of multisectoral support services for survivors. We support national governments in developing the capacities of police, judges, prosecutors, military and security officials to improve women's access to justice. We work with state actors, community and religious leaders to transform gender stereotypes, build public awareness and mobilize communities against sexual and gender-based violence.

We offer policy advice, tools and capacity-building for the implementation of gender-responsive social protection systems as well as measures to reduce and redistribute women's unpaid work and ensure their access to decent employment opportunities.

We support advocacy, policy and legal reforms to accelerate the equal participation of women in decision-making. This includes promoting women's participation as voters and candidates in electoral processes; supporting women's representation in governance institutions, including constitutional committees, parliaments, public administrations and the judiciary. We also support women's leadership and participation in conflict mitigation, mediation and peacebuilding.

In line with SDG 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation), we support the participation of women in the development and implementation of water resource strategies and service delivery policies to ensure that water resources are well managed and that service delivery takes into account the needs of both women and men. We support the strengthening of the participation of local communities and rural women in water and sanitation management and in monitoring the quality of related services.



In line with SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), we support governments to ensure that all women and men have access to affordable and reliable energy services and that women are empowered as energy entrepreneurs. This includes promoting women's participation in efforts to identify, innovate and expand clean energy solutions.

In line with SDG 8 (Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth), we support partners in integrating gender equality in sustainable development strategies. This includes removing the structural barriers that women face in accessing the labour market and adopting policies to address women's burden of unpaid work. We also support women's entrepreneurship, including initiatives to ensure women's equal access to credit and financial services. An important part of this work includes supporting women's participation in and ownership of green businesses as well as their access to ecosystem goods and services.

We offer policy advice, tools and capacity-building for the implementation of gender-responsive social protection systems.

In line with SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), we support national governments to ensure that plans for basic infrastructure – including health services, water and sanitation, transportation, markets and schools – meet the needs of both women and men.

We support women's access to innovative technology, including ICTs and mobiles, with a special emphasis on women in rural and remote areas.

We work to mobilize government and private sector finance and technical assistance for small-scale women-led projects contributing to innovative infrastructure solutions, and climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

In line with SDG 10 (Reduce inequalities within and among countries), we support governments in adopting pro-poor, gender-sensitive policies and advocating for recognition of the multiplier effect on families and communities of investments in gender equality and women's empowerment.

We support national partners so they can put in place policies and laws that comply with international commitments on gender equality such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention; for example, by drawing attention to the circumstances and needs of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

We offer policy advice, tools and capacity-building for the implementation of gender-responsive social protection systems.

We build partnerships for sustainable development between governments, women organizations, civil society and the private sector, including initiatives to help private companies meet global standards for gender equality in the workplace.

We support governments to address the root causes and impacts of migration; ensure social cohesion and stability for individuals in transit; and build resilience in host communities by supporting gender-responsive public services, border management and livelihood interventions.

In line with SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), we support the capacities of national ministries of housing, transport and water and sanitation to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for sustainable urban development and ensure that public infrastructure meets the needs of both women and men.

We support innovative approaches to make cities safe and resilient for all, including women and girls. We work with governments, municipalities and communities, also engaging men and boys, to promote and monitor the safety of urban environments for women and girls and enhance their mobility and ability to participate in the public sphere.

In line with SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), we raise public awareness on women's role in promoting responsible consumption and production.



We encourage the participation of women as workers and entrepreneurs in green sectors, such as alternative energy and waste recycling.

We support national governments in adopting public and corporate procurement and sourcing practices that are sustainable and gender-responsive.

In line with SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact), we support the mainstreaming of gender equality into national policies, strategies and planning for climate change. We support partners to ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation policies and initiatives are gender-responsive, taking into account both the impact of climate-related events on women's livelihoods and their specific contributions to climate adaptation and to a low-carbon economy. We work to ensure that existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms equally benefit women and men at the national level.

We also support partners to ensure that disaster risk reduction policies are developed with the participation and leadership of women, and take account of the impact of disasters on women.

In line with SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development), we support governments in efforts to involve women from the fisheries sector to harness their knowledge and participate in initiatives to manage natural resources and engage in marine and coastal conservation efforts. We support government efforts to ensure that women working in the fisheries sector have access to credit, market information and linkages with supply chains, extension services and technology.

In line with SDG 15 (Restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss), we support national governments' efforts to integrate gender equality in ecosystem conservation and restoration strategies and policies. We promote the equal participation of women in decisions about land, forest and biodiversity management, and foster partnerships between local communities and the private sector,

civil society organizations and government agencies responsible for gender-responsive conservation.

We support the development of initiatives that link conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems with economic empowerment of women.

In line with SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), we support the advancement of women's equal participation in decision-making, including ensuring their participation as voters and candidates in electoral processes and helping them to hold office effectively. We support partners to ensure women's meaningful participation in peace and security processes, including by engaging them in national and local peace dialogues and initiatives.

We also work with partners to promote women's equal participation in decisions related to recovery processes, and to build responsive and accountable institutions that benefit women and men equally.

We support national actors to secure and protect women's rights through legal reforms and the provision of gender-responsive police and justice services. An important element of this work includes efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

In line with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), we support governments and the private sector to foster understanding that investing in gender equality brings improved development outcomes. We work with them to expand investments in gender equality initiatives, including women's economic empowerment.

We support governments and development actors so they can meet financial benchmarks for investing in gender equality. We support the development of tools such as the Gender Marker for tracking those commitments.

We support the exchange of South-South experiences in promoting gender equality, including those focused on ensuring women's equal access to new technologies.

We promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships devoted to gender equality initiatives.



UNDP IN ACTION

Women's Economic Empowerment

UNDP promotes **inclusive social protection** that caters to the needs of all, including women, and has supported partner countries in considering the differentiated needs of men and women in social protection systems. In Uruguay, UNDP partnered with United Nations agencies, the government, civil society and the private sector to integrate early childhood, disability, old age and care services in the government's social protection agenda. Subsequently, a national system of care was established with an annual budget of \$250 million.

In India, UNDP worked in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development to develop policies to support the **elimination of rural poverty and social exclusion, especially for women**. Support from UNDP resulted in improved access to bank credit and livelihood options for rural women. UNDP also supported a web portal to link banks with local self-help groups to ensure women's participation and inclusion. This programme benefited 976,280 rural women by giving them better access to bank credit.

To reduce gender gaps and **promote equality in the workplace**, UNDP is supporting governments in developing a Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme through which they can recognize private and public companies for meeting specific standards to promote gender equality and empower women. Since 2007, more than 1,400 public and private companies in Latin America have been certified with a Gender Equality Seal. Certified companies, which addressed issues such as gender pay gaps, women's role in decision-making at middle and upper management levels, sexual harassment and work-life balance, have cited benefits including greater efficiency and staff performance, reduced absenteeism and enhanced public image.

Women's Participation in Decision-Making

UNDP promotes **women's political participation** through a broad range of activities, including electoral assistance, parliamentary support and support for constitutional reforms. In Libya, working with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNDP convened women leaders from all political backgrounds to formulate their vision for the future constitution, such as ensuring the full



right both to gain and inherit citizenship for men and women equally. In Tunisia, UNDP provided members of the Constitutional Assembly with knowledge of best practices on gender equality provisions in constitutions. The Tunisian Constitution adopted in 2014 includes commitments to ensure women's equality, eliminate violence against women and work towards gender parity in all elected bodies in the country.

UNDP also supports partners in promoting **women's participation as voters and candidates** in electoral processes. This includes ensuring all aspects of the electoral process are gender-sensitive, training electoral administrators, mobilizing women voters and encouraging and building the skills of women candidates. In Afghanistan, where UNDP has been supporting the electoral authority, the number of women participating as voters increased from approximately 1.6 million in the 2009 elections to about 2.6 million in 2014.

UNDP works with partners to ensure the participation of women and a focus on women's particular needs and circumstances in **peace and security processes**. In the Arab States region, UNDP worked with the League of

Arab States to support a network of over 300 women leaders and 103 non-governmental organizations in 13 countries in articulating their demands, learning from one another and engaging in peace and development policymaking processes. Through this support, the women launched a 10-point agenda for action for their work in the region.

Women's Legal Rights

UNDP supports **women's legal rights, for instance by strengthening women's access to justice and control over land and resources**, combating gender-based violence through a range of integrated strategies and focusing on property, inheritance, family and gender equality in laws. In Egypt, UNDP helped to build social and political momentum to support the implementation of a law criminalizing female genital mutilation (FGM) and supported the National Population Council to develop the final draft of a five-year national strategy to eradicate FGM. In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNDP helped to shape the country's first law on domestic violence, which was approved by the Parliament in August 2014.



UNDP also supports efforts to ensure **justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in both crisis and non-crisis contexts**. This includes supporting enhanced capacities of police officers, judges, prosecutors, court administrators, the military and religious leaders to ensure women's access to justice through both formal and informal processes. In Sierra Leone, UNDP supported the establishment of Saturday Courts to supplement weekday court sittings and ensure swifter adjudication of sexual and gender-based violence cases.

UNDP also supports the **legal empowerment of women and girls living with and affected by HIV** through Know Your Rights campaigns, legal analysis and audits, research, advocacy, and HIV and gender-based violence assessments.

Gender and Environment

UNDP works with partners to **mainstream gender into natural resources management** and ecosystem services programmes and projects. With financing from the Global Environmental Facility, UNDP supported the Government of Mexico to mainstream gender equality concerns into the Mexican standard for sustainable forest management certification. Gender considerations are now mainstreamed in the national standard. They include criteria specifying that profit-sharing among forest community owners, including women and indigenous populations, is equal, and that existing forest ownership groups provide equal access to job and training opportunities.

Through the Climate Change Adaptation Facility, UNDP helps countries to integrate **gender-responsive approaches to agriculture and water management**. In Cambodia, UNDP supported a project designed to assist women who are often left at home while the men go to the rice fields or migrate to other areas for work when rice crops are not doing well due to unpredictable rainfall. The project supported the construction of new water supply technologies that included the establishment of 35 solar pumping systems. With water now available through the pumps, many village women are now able to diversify their livelihoods to grow vegetables in small gardens near their homes.

UNDP worked with partners to develop inclusive and sustainable solutions to **increase women's access to**

affordable and clean energy. In Mali, UNDP supported a programme that enabled 800 women to use technology based on renewable energies, such as solar freezers to run small ice-producing businesses. In addition, solar water heaters were installed to improve maternity ward conditions and reduce the use of wood and charcoal for heating water. In Tajikistan, UNDP trained women from single-headed households to assemble solar water-heating systems. As a result, Jilikul village, near the border of Afghanistan, now has 16 'do-it-yourself' solar water heating systems. The women are equipped with the tools to make more.

UNDP works with national governments to ensure that **conflict and disaster risk prevention, reduction, mitigation and recovery tools, frameworks and instruments benefit from a strong gender component** as well as the full participation of women. In Honduras, UNDP supported government efforts to integrate gender perspectives into national disaster risk management policy, including early warning systems for potential flooding and landslides on the Choluteca River. UNDP also provided technical assistance in the development of community handbooks on family risk management plans, and promoted women's participation in awareness raising campaigns at the community level.





1. *World Employment Social Outlook: The changing nature of jobs*, International Labour Organization. 2015
2. *The State of Food and Agriculture: 2010-2011 Women in Agriculture, Closing the Gender Gap for Development*; FAO
3. <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/gender.shtml>
4. UNICEF, 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Annual Report', 2011

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