

UN Women 2025 contribution to:
Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the
Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

Areas of focus and reporting:

1) Structural transformation, productive employment, and decent work in the context of a changing global scenario.

UN Women recognizes that global landscape is undergoing profound transformations, driven by rapid technological advancements, climate change, shifting demographics, evolving and conflicting trade patterns, and geopolitical realignments. In this dynamic context, achieving sustainable and inclusive development necessitates a fundamental rethinking of economic and social policies. This means integrating gender-responsive policies to foster structural transformation, promote productive employment, and ensure decent work for all women.

- UN Women, and its partners FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP are jointly implementing the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection in 14 countries¹. Our technical support has focused on developing integrated and coordinated employment and social protection policies and strategies that facilitate just transitions. Recognizing the importance of addressing financing gaps, our efforts have also focused on establishing national financing mechanisms and the mobilization of diverse financial streams—public and private, domestic and international—to fund universal social protection programs and employment interventions, which are inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and gender-responsive, with the ultimate aim of fostering quality job creation.
- UN Women also recognizes that sustained progress on gender equality and poverty eradication will require adequate financing to enable Member States to fulfil their commitments to human rights and the empowerment of women and girls. To achieve this, UN Women developed a financing tool for engendering fiscal space [titled “Engendering fiscal space: A policy framework for financing gender equality”](#). The policy tool provides a blueprint for reforming the international financial architecture, expanding fiscal space under challenging debt constraints for many low- and middle-income countries and using counter-cyclical fiscal and monetary policies to accelerate economic recovery. The tool is helping UN Women’s country offices identify alternative sources of financing to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Drawing on the tool, UN Women also developed a policy brief titled [“Expanding Fiscal Space to Promote Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls”](#) for the Inter- agency Task Force on Financing for Development to inform the substantive preparations by Member States for the Fourth International

¹ Albania, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Colombia, Indonesia, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam

Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and feed into the elements paper, which will guide the discussions on the outcome document.

Women's decent work and entrepreneurship are basic elements of economic empowerment, justice and human rights that contribute to economic growth and prosperity for communities, countries and the world. However, gender disparities in opportunities and resources add up over time and across generations, leading to different long-term outcomes for men and women in the world of work. In some 40 country offices and regions, UN Women leverages its unique triple mandate and convene a range of diverse stakeholders to: 1) increase women's access to and capacity to equitably choose and take up decent jobs and economic opportunities; 2) support women's enterprises and gender-responsive enterprises to grow and connect to local, national, regional and international supply chains and 3). Build a world of work that is equitable, free from discrimination and abuse for all women and girls. For example, **In Egypt**: A UN Women–Central Bank app enabled 240,692 rural women to save digitally in 186 active savings groups. In **Afghanistan**, 12,716 women accessed vocational training and entrepreneurship services; 4,845 jobs created in partnership with 60 private companies. In **Solomon Islands**, market governance and skill-building reached 200 urban and rural women vendors.

2) Expanding social protection systems to underpin inclusive poverty-reducing development.

UN Women recognizes that poverty, in its multifaceted dimensions, remains a significant barrier to achieving sustainable and inclusive development, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. Social protection systems – encompassing policies and programs designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability across the life cycle – are critical instruments for fostering inclusive growth. However, to be truly transformative, these systems must be designed and implemented with a keen understanding of gender dynamics and inequalities. Against this backdrop, UN Women's work on social protection has focused on research, capacity development, and programmatic technical support. This work also includes interagency collaboration for joint research and programming. Examples of our work include:

- Technical assistance by UN Women to 12 countries² across Latin America, for the development of comprehensive care policies and systems that combine social protection, employment policies and public service provision to address gender and other inequalities in paid and unpaid care. Activities have included roadmap development for national care systems, assessments of supply and demand for care services, costing and return-to-investment studies, pilot programs for care services

² Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

at the local level, exploration of financing options and support for cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms.

- In July 2024, UN Women supported the launch of the first-ever [UN System-wide policy guidance on transforming care systems](#). Under the overall leadership of the UN Deputy Secretary-General, UN Women led the development of the landmark guidance and coordinated an inter-agency working group comprising UN Women, ILO, UNDP, ECLAC and OHCHR. The guidance provides key definitions, approaches, conceptual frameworks and practical policy options and entry points for transforming care systems across different contexts.
- In partnership with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), UN Women convened collaborative discussions among public development bank to refine investment approaches focusing on financing care infrastructure. The work culminated in a groundbreaking report, which makes a compelling case for PDBs to elevate care infrastructure as a core investment priority.

3) Human capability development: addressing the non-income forms of poverty (access to basic needs such as quality education and healthcare, clean water and sanitation, decent housing, and security, etc.).

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4) The future of food and sustainable agriculture.

- Across its triple mandate, UN Women promotes the realization of women's right to food and women's and girl's food security and nutrition, livelihoods, resilience and well-being, including in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.
- UN Women's **Climate-Resilient Agriculture programming** combines innovative approaches and promotes women's economic empowerment including through promoting women's land rights and tenure security, access to markets and information as well as time- and labour-saving technologies.
- UN Women supports the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and partners in the implementation of the intergovernmental agreed [Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition](#) the first negotiated global policy agreement to advance gender equality, women's and girls' rights, and women's empowerment as part of global, regional and national efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. UN Women is working to support the uptake of the guidelines through its normative, coordination and programmatic activities.

- As part of UN Women's contribution to the **Making Food Systems Work for Women and Girls Action Coalition of the Food Systems Summit**, UN Women works with Global Health 50/50 and IFPRI to produce the [Global Food 50/50](#) reports to monitor progress and hold food system organizations accountable for achieving gender equality toward gender-just and equitable food systems.
- UN Women together with FAO, IFAD and WFP on a Joint Programme '[Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment](#)' (**JP RWEE**), with a proven holistic approach to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience in the context of sustainable development, including improved food security and nutrition.

5) Reducing inequalities.

- Iceland issued the world's first sovereign gender bond with UN Women's technical support. The €50 million bond sets a global precedent, leveraging sovereign debt to finance essential services for women and gender minorities, affordable housing that benefits low-income women, and efforts to maximize reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work.
- Women remain underrepresented in global supply chains, receiving only 1 per cent of procurement spend^{3,4} despite owning one in three high-growth businesses worldwide.⁵ UN Women promotes gender-responsive procurement to rectify this inequality, for example through the UAE–UN Women Strategic Partnership Framework implemented globally and in Kenya and Chile.
- The gender pay gap stands at 20 per cent globally.⁶ As a co-leader of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC)—alongside the ILO and OECD—UN Women works with governments, employers, workers, and other partners to achieve SDG Target 8.5 on equal pay for work of equal value.
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3 Vazquez and Sherman (2013). *Buying for Impact: How to Buy From Women and Change the World*. Charleston, USA: Advantage. Cited by UN Women (2022). *Procurement's Strategic Value: Why gender-responsive procurement makes business sense*.

4 World Bank (2021). Gender and equality in public procurement. Weblog.
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/governance/gender-and-equality-public-procurement>

5 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 Women's Entrepreneurship Report: From Crisis to Opportunity.

6 ILO Global Wage Report 2018/19.

6) Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards.

- UN-Women recognizes and promotes the interlinkages and synergies among the three Rio Conventions – United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – to advance gender-responsive climate and environment action in the green and blue economies.
- Leveraging its triple mandate, UN-Women works closely with partners at all levels to create enabling environment for women in all their diversity to equitably access climate and environmental finance, technologies, knowledge and services as well as to improve access to and control over natural resources and secure land rights.
- For example, UN Women served an advisory member to Climate Bond Initiative – a global bond standard setting organization to integrate gender equality consideration into the Climate Bonds Resilience Taxonomy (CBRT), a new global classification system for climate resilience investment to leverage public and private finance toward climate actions.
- EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies in the Asia-Pacific region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam), implemented by UN Women and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), mobilizes investment for gender-responsive renewable energy entrepreneurship and climate-resilient livelihoods for women and marginalized groups while promoting their leadership in gender-responsive climate action.
- Gender and the Green Transition in West and Central Africa, implemented by UN Women's Regional Office for West and Central Africa, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Development Bank, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and women's organizations and networks across the region, works to promote policies to improve women's access to green jobs, green entrepreneurship opportunities and green finance under the regional policy programme.