

Request for inputs-2022

Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty

United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for 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 is promoting decent work and poverty eradication in various ways. One of UN Women's Gender Equality Accelerators (GEA) centers on a combination of capacity development for individuals and institutions, policy support and financing to promote entrepreneurship and decent work. It seeks to build enabling environments for women to secure decent work, generate and gain agency over income and/or wealth, and access social protection, in line with SDG targets 1.3, 4.4, 5.b, 8.b and 8.3.

A critical determinant of the distribution of economic benefits is how governments and companies do business. While one in three businesses are owned by women,¹ they only win an estimated 1 per cent of public and private procurement.² Thus, the GEA strategically leverages procurement to advance women's economic empowerment by fostering a procurement ecosystem designed to respond to their needs and level the playing field.

UN Women, as a thought leader on gender-responsive procurement, has published a series of publications on the subject. This includes Building gender-responsive procurement: Lessons from research and practice³ and Legal frameworks for gender-responsive procurement: A comparative review of regulatory and policy measures and

1 World Bank. 2020. Enterprise Surveys, World Bank Gender Data Portal. Retrieved 8 October 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/datatopics/gender>.

2 World Bank. 2021. Gender and equality in public procurement. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/gender-and-equality-public-procurement>; Vazquez, E.A. and A.J. Sherman. 2013. Buying for Impact: How to Buy from Women and Change the World. Charleston, USA: Advantage.

3 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/11/guidance-note-building-gender-responsive-procurement>

international and national legal norms.⁴ Regional studies include Gender-Responsive Procurement in Asia and the Pacific.⁵

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

UN Women, as a member of the coordinating group of the Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, has taken a global leadership role in providing technical support and integrated policy advice to governments and other development partners in building gender-responsive national social protection systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed that in the face of crises, social and economic fall-out is gendered. From the risk of job loss and economic instability to rising care responsibilities and the experience of violence inside the home, gender inequalities have tended to widen during the pandemic. Against this backdrop, UN Women expanded its support to fifteen Member States⁶ through capacity development, and policy implementation, which have helped decision makers and development practitioners take ownership in building gender-responsive national social protection systems, to reduce gender gaps in coverage, and strengthen the response and recovery efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.)

UN Women, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the National Institute of Statistics (NSO) of Malawi, undertook a gender-responsive poverty assessment in 2022. The recent completions of a Malawi's Fourth Integrated Household Survey 2016-2017, and the Fifth Integrated Household Survey 2019-2020, presented a great opportunity to undertake a gender-responsive poverty assessment to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on poverty. The poverty assessment is helping Malawi meet the data needs for policy formulation and informed results-based decision-making through

4 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/02/legal-frameworks-for-gender-responsive-procurement>

5 <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/03/gender-responsive-procurement-in-asia-and-the-pacific#view> The recent completions of a Malawi's Fourth Integrated Household Survey 2016-2017, and the Fifth Integrated Household Survey 2019-2020, present a great opportunity to undertake a gender-responsive poverty assessment to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on poverty.

⁶ Albania, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Jamaica, Kenya, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Thailand, which are all part of UN Women's joint programmes with other UN Agencies as part of the Joint SDGs Fund on Social Protection.

efficient measurement and monitoring of poverty levels and progress towards SDG Goal 1.2 on halving poverty among men, women, and children. Through this partnership, UN Women is helping strengthen the capacity of the National Statistical Office (NSO) to have up-to-date statistical tools to assess the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. A multidimensional approach to gender-based poverty is needed to undertake a holistic analysis of poverty based on three analytical dimensions: income poverty, gender disparities, and indicators of access to basic goods.

4) The future of food and sustainable agriculture

UN Women is supporting gender-responsive sustainable and climate-resilient food systems this through its coordination, normative and programmatic mandates:

- UN Women’s Climate-Resilient Agriculture programme is combining innovative approaches to promote gender-just transitions in key sectors, e.g., in agroecology, with work on women’s land rights and tenure security, access to markets and information as well as time- and labor-saving technologies.
- 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.
- 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 together with Global Health 50/50 and IFPRI produced the [Global Food 50/50](#) reports to monitor progress and hold food system organizations accountable to advance progress toward gender-just and equitable food systems.

5) Reducing inequalities

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Secretary-General launched Our Common Agenda⁷, an agenda of action to respond to humanity’s most pressing challenges and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. It identifies five standalone actions on gender equality and includes an explicit focus on care and calls for the valuing of informal and unpaid care work in economic models as well as large-scale investment in the care economy. UN Women has taken a global leadership role, in partnership with the Deputy Secretary General to bring the issue of care at the forefront of the UN

⁷ United Nations, 2021. “[Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary General](#)”.

Secretary General’s “Our Common Agenda”, and ensuring that the UN system has a unified and effective approach to the care economy, as well as broader challenges such as financing investments in care infrastructure and services at scale to facilitate women’s participation and re-entry into paid employment. UN Women is now leading a Technical Working Group (TWG) of an Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) comprised of ILO, UNDP, ECLAC, and OHCHR, to develop a UN System-wide policy paper on care in the context of Our Common Agenda and the SDGs.

In September 2018, ILO, UN Women and OECD launched the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) to combat the gender pay gap and is comprised of the Secretariat, Steering Committee, and other stakeholders.⁸ In 2022, EPIC increased its membership while organizing multiple events such as those for the 66th Commission of the Status of Women and International Equal Pay Day (IEPD). In line with SDGs 5 and 8.5 and the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), EPIC aims to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and enhance the capacity of stakeholders through advocacy, knowledge sharing, facilitating cross regional and sectoral research, innovation, and learning.

6) Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards

Climate change and gender inequality are arguably two of the greatest sustainable development challenges of our time. The climate and environment crises are threatening jobs, livelihoods, and a range of human rights particularly for women and groups in vulnerable situations, working in informal and precarious jobs. Such crises intensify women’s and girls’ already unequal share of unpaid care and domestic work – which in turn impedes women’s resilience and rights.

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UN Women’s trajectory in this area of work is firmly rooted in its triple mandate which seeks to secure the co-benefits of gender equality and climate action for sustainable development and peace. In 2022, this included supporting the historic adoption of the Agreed Conclusions on ‘Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women

⁸ <https://www.equalpayinternationalcoalition.org/members/>

and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes during the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and amplifying the voices of women and girls in all their diversity throughout the UNFCCC COP27 process, including through the Generation Equality Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition.

In UN Women's Strategic Plan (2022-2025), the Women's Climate Action & Green/Blue Economies Gender Equality Accelerator aims to foster gender-responsive just transitions to sustainable green/blue economies that protect people and the planet for present and future generations, ensuring women's equal participation, leadership, and benefits.

7) Fighting poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts

UN Women, together with the UN Global Crisis Response Group, launched a policy brief, "[Global Gendered Impacts of the Ukraine Crisis on Energy Access and Food Security and Nutrition](#)" calling for urgent action to address these challenges and transform food systems.