Annex VII

Overview of UN-Women’s Flagship Programme Initiatives by Strategic Plan Impact Area

As described in the main report, UN-Women developed Flagship Programming Initiatives (FPIs) in 2015 through an organizational participatory approach involving many partners and staff. Following this process, a set of 12 FPIs fully aligned to the five thematic impact areas outlined in UN-Women’s strategic plan and the Entity’s composite mandate was selected. All FPIs integrate the normative, UN coordination and operational mandates of UN-Women (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Flagship Programme alignment with UN-Women’s 2014-2017 Strategic Plan Impact Areas

FPIs aim to address multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a synergistic manner. All FPIs contribute to the targets for SDG 5 on the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. In addition, FPIs will enable UN-Women to contribute towards gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights targets throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A mapping of FPIs against SDGs shows that FPIs contribute towards over 40 SDG targets (see Figure 2).

This annex provides an overview of UN-Women’s Flagship Programming Initiatives per strategic plan impact area.
Strategic Impact Area 1: Women’s Leadership and Political Participation

The first Flagship Programme relates to women’s political empowerment and leadership. In 1995, around 11 per cent of Parliamentarians around the world were women compared to 22 per cent today. At this rate, gender parity in parliaments will not be achieved until sometime between 2070 and 2080. The FPI aims to accelerate this process. It will support countries in four areas: (i) the removal of legal and logistical barriers; (ii) the expansion of the pool of qualified candidates; (iii) the transformation of gender norms so that women are accepted as legitimate and effective leaders; and (iv) the provision of gender-sensitive support to women leaders in political institutions.

The second Flagship Programme under impact area 1 is concerned with Women’s Access to Justice. The rationale behind this Flagship Programme relies on the idea that without legal protections in place, opportunities for women’s political empowerment are often undermined. A 2015 report by McKinsey Global Institute, entitled, The Power of Parity: How Advancing Women’s Equality can add $12 trillion to Global Growth” has come to the same conclusion stating that “electoral processes and access to justice are interdependent”.¹

Strategic Impact Area 2: Women’s Economic Empowerment

There are 3 mutually reinforcing Flagship Programmes that contribute to the second impact area of women’s economic empowerment. The first focuses on narrowing the gender gaps in access to land, finance, information, time-saving technologies, and markets in agriculture. Women account for between 30 and 80 percent of the agricultural workforce in Africa. Addressing these gender gaps can increase the productivity of women’s farmland by 5 to 25 percent in Africa and increase the resilience of communities to climate change by facilitating women’s upfront investment in climate-smart agricultural practices. As women tend to reinvest large parts of their income in education and health for their families, empowering women in agriculture will positively contribute to almost every single Sustainable Development Goal.

Productivity gains in agriculture should enable an increased number of women to migrate to less vulnerable technical and professional jobs. The second Flagship Programme in the area of women’s economic empowerment focuses on the promotion of women entrepreneurs. In job-poor environments, promoting women entrepreneurs is often a pre-condition to enable such a migration to technical and professional positions. There is a considerable body of evidence indicating that the promotion of women entrepreneurs positively impacts economic growth and accelerates the creation of decent jobs for women.

The third FPI in this strategic impact area focuses on income generation for women through decent work and social protections. This Flagship Programme aims to both engender labor policies and increase investment in social infrastructure and essential services. Women spend 250% more time than men on average on unpaid domestic and care work. Investment in social infrastructure and essential services is critical to reduce women’s time poverty and enable them to seize these new job opportunities.

Strategic Impact Area 3: Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women

The two FPIs in this third impact area focus on prevention and access to essential services and the creation of safe public spaces for women.

The first FPI is designed to implement the existing normative framework on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW), including the agreed conclusions of CSW 57 (2013), which stresses the role of prevention by addressing the root causes of violence against women as well as the need to enhance accessibility of services to survivors. This FPI is expected to be implemented with close to 10 UN agencies and to promote a common international protocol for prevention and access to essential services for EVAW.

It is recognized that the way in which public spaces are designed can either benefit or hinder efforts to improve women’s access to essential services. The second FPI in this impact area aims to foster urban development that is safe for women. It will involve communities in designing public places to prevent violence against women. Key activities range from ensuring proper street lighting to ensuring the proper location and design of market places. This FPI is also to ensure that shelter services for women are closely linked to the existing infrastructure of medical and social services in each country of implementation.

Strategic Impact Area 4: Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action

The three FPIs under this fourth strategic impact area are also closely interrelated.
The first FPI focuses on women’s engagement in peace and security. One of the key conclusions of the 2015 Global Study and Review of Security Council Resolution 1325 is that the engagement of women in peace, security and humanitarian action significantly reduces the likelihood of conflict, increases the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and increases the likelihood of successful peace mediation and negotiations in case of conflict as well as the likelihood that peace will be sustained after conflict.

The second FPI in this impact area seeks to support women’s leadership, empowerment, access and protection in crisis response. Given that women and girls are too often disproportionately affected by violence, and in light of their role as important change agents, it is critical to ensure their full engagement in humanitarian efforts and in the crisis-development contiguum.

The final FPI on Disaster Risk Management seeks to address the gender inequality of risk and promote community resilience to natural hazards in a changing climate. In the face of rising numbers of natural disasters and pandemics, 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. UN-Women’s Flagship Programme provides a framework for action and contributes to implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 while offering an opportunity to address the underlying causes of the gender inequalities of risk.

**Strategic Impact Area 5: Planning and Budgeting**

The fifth and last impact area is planning and budgeting. Two Flagship Programmes have been designed in this area of work. The first relates to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The principle of “leaving no one behind” in the universal sustainable development agenda, will require all actors to go beyond the image represented by national averages and identify specific groups that are currently bypassed by national development processes. National statistical offices and machineries must be strengthened so that decision makers at the national and local level can develop evidence-based policies in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in general, and with a specific focus on the most vulnerable in particular.

The ambition and comprehensive vision of the SDGs to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, requires a transformative financing framework that significantly increase the scale and scope of resources and investments available to fund this work. The second Flagship Programme in this impact area therefore promotes the implementation of financing strategies to ensure gender-responsive budgeting and investment.

**Pipeline Flagship Programmes**

In addition to the 12 Flagship Programmes outlined above, four ‘Pipeline’ Flagship Programmes have been developed. They include initiatives that seek to improve women’s greater access to growth enablers such as education, health or energy services in collaboration with other UN agencies. However, the work of UN-Women in this field is still at a nascent stage and therefore cannot constitute a full-fledged Flagship Programme. The Entity will continue to work closely with its partners and monitor programmatic progress in this area over the next two to three years and may decide to upgrade this “pipeline” FPI to the status of full-fledged FPI.