What's the Issue?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to change the course of the 21st century—for the first time all countries have agreed to a universal agenda to end poverty, save the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Gender equality and women's empowerment are preconditions for achieving the SDGs.

However, based on existing trends, the SDGs are not attainable by 2030. For example, Goal 5 aims to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Based on current trends it will be 50 years before there is parity in politics and 81 years before there is parity in women's participation in the economy.

Trends are not a fatality and progress can be dramatically accelerated with political will, innovation and increased catalytic investment. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs are an integrated and indivisible vision for change. This means that a limited number of policy levers can facilitate simultaneous implementation of several SDGs, dramatically reducing costs and increasing co-development benefits.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment is both a fundamental human right and a solution to seemingly intractable sustainable development challenges. Achieving the SDG 5 on gender equality would boost efforts to meet every single SDG and, similarly, progress in the other 16 SDGs will greatly contribute to the attainment of SDG 5.

Our Solutions

UN Women has developed twelve Flagship Programming Initiatives (FPIs) to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The FPIs are high-impact, scalable programmes that will support national governments to address multiple SDG targets across multiple goals. They respond to demand for technical policy and programmatic support expressed by the UN Member States.

All FPIs adopt a human rights-based approach by strengthening the voice of women and girls to remove structural barriers for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Each FPI is based on a comprehensive theory of change which articulates the causal linkages and actions required by governments, civil society organizations, the UN system and private partners in order to achieve transformative change in the lives of women and girls.

All FPIs will monitor and report on performance in line with the SDG indicators. Together they help to ensure that UN Women is “fit for purpose” for the 2030 Agenda and that we can deliver on the SDGs for women and girls across the globe.

FOLLOW UN WOMEN AT:
www.unwomen.org
www.facebook.com/unwomen
www.twitter.com/un_women
www.youtube.com/unwomen
Below is a short description of the 12 Flagship Programming Initiatives. Additional Programmes are in the pipeline, including the Women’s Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy and on Demanding Rights to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health Services.

**Women’s Political Empowerment and Leadership**

This Programme focuses on: Supporting development and implementation of robust legal frameworks and administrative arrangements; Expanding and diversifying the pool of qualified and capable women to run for election; Transforming gender norms; Supporting women leaders in gender-sensitive political institutions.

**Women’s Access to Justice**

This Programme addresses bias and gender discrimination in justice delivery through: Creating a gender-responsive enabling environment; Strengthening the capacity of formal and informal justice actors; Increasing women’s demand for justice and their visibility in justice administration.

**Women’s Empowerment through Climate-Smart Agriculture**

The four priority outcomes of this Programme are: Increasing gender-responsive, climate-resilient agricultural policies and women’s land tenure security; Improving women farmers’ access to climate-resilient information and skills; Removing financing barriers to allow women farmers to invest in climate-resilient agriculture; Increasing access of women farmers to higher-added value markets.

**Income Generation and Security through Decent Work and Social Protection for Women**

Through this Programme we promote income generation and improve women’s income security by expanding decent work opportunities and access to gender-responsive social protections.

**Equal Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs**

This Programme aims to address the structural barriers faced by women entrepreneurs by promoting gender-responsive public and corporate procurement to create demand for women-owned businesses and strengthening the capacity of women-owned businesses to respond to this demand.

**Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces**

This Programme is the first-ever global programme that develops, implements, and evaluates tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. A growing list of champions includes over 20 cities in 2016.

**Prevention and Access to Essential Services to End Violence Against Women**

This Programme builds on evidence that, to effectively prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, a comprehensive, transformative approach towards gender equality and women’s empowerment is required which results in comprehensive anti-violence laws and policies, prevention, provision of essential services and data collection.

**Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) in Crisis Response**

This Programme focuses on: Gender-inclusive humanitarian planning, frameworks and programming; Protection and economic opportunities for women affected by sudden onset emergencies; Positive coping mechanisms for women and girls affected by protracted crises.

**Gender Inequality of Risk in a Changing Climate**

This Programme aims to mitigate the gender inequalities of loss of lives and livelihoods and enhance the resilience and recovery of communities to natural hazards in a changing climate.

**Women’s Engagement in Peace, Security & Recovery**

This Programme focuses on: Ensuring women’s participation in conflict prevention and peace negotiations; Protecting women’s human rights and security; Promoting the socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in post-conflict situations.

**Gender Statistics for SDGs Localization**

This Programme aims to address three inter-related challenges: Weak policy space as well as legal and financial environments to produce gender statistics at national level; Technical challenges at the national level that limit the production of gender statistics; and Lack of access and limited capacity. With the generous support of Australia and the Gates Foundation, this Programme will support governments to improve the production of gender statistics to monitor SDGs, inform policy and ensure accountability.

**Transformative Financing for Gender Equality**

Drawing on the priorities identified in the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, this Programme targets four priority outcomes to mobilize maximum resources for gender equality from all sources and at all levels.
Each of UN Women’s twelve Flagship Programming Initiatives (FPIs) supports multiple SDG targets. Given the indivisible nature of the SDGs, the FPIs are expected to have an indirect impact on most SDGs.
SDG 5:
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 1: No poverty
SDG 2: Zero hunger
SDG 3: Good health and well-being
SDG 4: Quality education
SDG 5: Gender equality
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
SDG 13: Climate action
SDG 14: Life below water
SDG 15: Life on land
SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institution
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
UN Women and the SDGs: unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs
UN Women's Flagship programmes: unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/programme-and-technical-assistance

Updated September 2016