

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



TRANSFORMATIVE FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Photo © UN Women/Janarbek Amankulov

The issue

Financing for gender equality and women's rights is central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The recent twenty-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action found that underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment has contributed to slow and uneven progress in all 12 critical areas of concern. Inadequate financing hinders the implementation of gender-responsive laws and policies. Even in countries that are considered to spend significant resources on gender equality, data shows that these allocations range from a mere 0.5% to 21.9% of the national budget. Financing gaps for implementing national actions plans on gender equality are often as high as 90%. Official Development Assistance (ODA) too accounts for a fraction of overall aid with only 5% targeting gender as a principal objective.

Mobilizing sufficient financing for the full implementation of national gender equality commitments is stymied by a number of factors including: (1) lack of evidence on gaps and corresponding political commitment to allocate resources to gender; (2) lack of alignment between fiscal policies and gender equality objectives coupled with weak capacity to integrate gender into national planning and budgeting processes; (3) insufficient prioritization of gender equality in other financing streams such as Official Development Assistance (ODA), private and innovative financing; and (4) lack of accountability and monitoring mechanisms to hold public and private actors to account.

Our strategy for change

Transformative financing for gender equality and women's rights requires increased scale and scope of investment.

UN Women has identified four priority outcomes to mobilize maximum resources for gender equality from all sources and at all levels, drawing on the priorities identified in the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

1. Create political awareness and consensus to increase allocations to and implement national gender equality commitments, through gender gap analyses of budgets and ODA, public spending impact assessments and costing.

UN WOMEN'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVES

Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is one of UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiatives designed to ensure that UN Women supports Member States to mobilize the requisite financing for implementing SDG 5 and the gender related targets across the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAMME, CONTACT:
Zohra.Khan@unwomen.org



2. Promote gender-responsive fiscal laws, policies and national action plans that prioritize both revenue and budgetary allocations for gender equality, including through technical support for developing and implementing progressive tax policies and legislative frameworks and strengthening planning and budgeting processes.

3. Mobilize additional financing for gender equality, by improving the awareness and capacity of donors to analyze gender gaps, strengthening monitoring and tracking systems, and supporting private sector and innovative financing mechanisms in order to align their priorities with the national gender equality commitments.

4. Hold all actors accountable for implementing their commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment, by establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships and oversight mechanisms and strengthening the capacities of gender advocates and women's organizations for greater accountability for and transparency on public allocations and spending.

How the programme works

The programme will be implemented through a portfolio of regional and country projects. A Global Policy Support Unit will provide the regional and country projects with advisory and technical support services including research, data collection, monitoring, analyzing and documenting trends and lessons and convening communities of practice.

The programme builds on over a decade of work on GRB led by UN Women. It incorporates lessons learned from the successful implementation of a number of global programmes in over 25 countries. This Flagship Initiative will deepen and broaden the scope of existing work by focusing on new areas such as tax policy and private financing.

Partnerships for change

To create the enabling environment for such processes and outcomes to occur, UN Women will leverage its coordination and implementation mandates with a range of partners.

UN Women has a number of strategic partnerships in the area of financing for gender equality with bilateral, multilateral, and civil society organizations at national, regional and global levels. UN Women will strengthen these existing partnerships and forge new partnerships with critical development financing actors such as the World Bank, IMF and the private sector.

FAST FACTS - FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY

- Financing gaps for the implementation of national action plans on gender equality are as high as 90% (UN Women 2015).
- In 2012-13, only USD4 billion in bilateral aid on average per year targeted gender equality as a principal objective, representing 5% of the aid screened (OECD 2015).
- Only 2% of bilateral aid going to women's economic empowerment in 2013 targeted gender equality as a principal objective (OECD 2015).
- A global survey of 1,119 women's organizations from 140 countries (2011) shows that the combined income of 740 women's organizations in 2010 was only USD 106 million (AWID 2013).

At the national level, the programme will strengthen existing partnerships with Ministries of Finance and Economy, Planning, line ministries, Women's Affairs and other National Women's Machinery and local governments.

UN Women will continue to collaborate with the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality and with civil society and women's organizations on strategic advocacy initiatives to exchange knowledge and enhance donor and national accountability for implementing commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

UN Women will also pursue partnership with academic and research institutions and think tanks.

LINKS

VISIT UN WOMEN'S WEBSITE ON FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS:

<http://gender-financing.unwomen.org/en>

FOLLOW UN WOMEN AT:

www.unwomen.org
www.facebook.com/unwomen
www.twitter.com/un_women
www.youtube.com/unwomen
www.flickr.com/unwomen