




## GENDER EQUALITY AS A KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

Creating equality between the genders is a central concern of the world community. The 193 member states of the United Nations declared this in the “**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”. At the core of the 2030 Agenda lie 17 goals for sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) with 169 targets. Gender equality is a separate goal with nine targets. Cross-references to other subjects are explicitly created there and in nine other SDGs.

On the one hand, women and girls are often more strongly affected by human rights violations or deficiencies such as poverty, lack of access to education or food insecurity than men and boys. On the other hand, women and girls play an essential role in the implementation of the SDGs for a peaceful and sustainable world. We want to provide an overview of the SDGs relevant to gender and use examples to draw connections to facts that illustrate how women and girls are disadvantaged.

**Further information on the 2030 Agenda and on the subject of gender in VENRO’s work can be found under:**  
<http://venro.org/themen/agenda-2030/>, <http://venro.org/themen/themen-gender/>

SDG	Target with gender relevance	Facts
<b>1</b> No poverty 	<b>1.4</b> By 2030, ensure that all men and women [...] have equal rights to economic resources [...].	Only 20 percent of land owners in developing countries are women. <a href="#">↘ Report on women in agriculture, FAO (2011)</a>
	<b>1.b</b> Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies [...].	Only around five percent of the funds for development cooperation of the countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2013 directly served the goal of achieving gender equality. <a href="#">↘ Report on financing gender equality, OECD DAC (2015)</a>
<b>2</b> Zero hunger 	<b>2.2</b> By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition [...] and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	Maternal undernutrition, which is common in many developing countries, leads to poor fetal development and higher risk of pregnancy complications. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), maternal and child undernutrition accounts for more than 10 percent of the global burden of disease. <a href="#">↘ Report on women in agriculture, FAO (2011)</a>
	<b>2.3</b> By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women [...], including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs [...].	Women account for around 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. However, as women have restricted access to productive resources such as fertilizers and tools, their yield is 20–30 percent lower on average than that of men according to estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Closing this gender gap could raise the agricultural yields in developing countries by up to four percent, which in turn would be enough to considerably reduce hunger in the world (12–17 less). <a href="#">↘ Report on women in agriculture, FAO (2011)</a>
<b>3</b> Good health and well-being 	<b>3.1</b> By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.	Every day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. 99 percent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries. <a href="#">↘ Fact sheet on maternal mortality, WHO (2016)</a>
	<b>3.7</b> By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning [...].	In 2014, more than 225 million women in developing countries did not have access to contraceptives. <a href="#">↘ Report on sexual and reproductive rights, UNFPA &amp; Guttmacher Institute (2014)</a>

## FACTSHEET GENDER EQUALITY AS A KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

### 4 Quality education



**4.1** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education [...].

Worldwide, 58 million children of primary school age (between six and eleven years) are out of school, of which 31 million are girls.

➤ [Education report, UNESCO & UNICEF \(2015\)](#)

**4.2** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education [...].

Numerous studies show that access to high-quality childcare enables particularly women to successfully participate in the labour market.

➤ [Discussion paper, UN WOMEN \(2015\)](#)

**4.3** By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

According to the OECD, improved education accounted for about 50 percent of economic growth in OECD countries in the past five decades. This is also due to women gaining increased access to higher education.

➤ [Report to the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, OECD \(2012\)](#)

**4.5** By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable [...].

Among poorer population strata in Southern Africa, for every 100 boys 83 girls complete primary education, 73 girls complete lower secondary education, and only 40 girls per 100 boys complete upper secondary education.

➤ [Report on education and gender equality, UNESCO \(2016\)](#)

**4.6** By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

More than 60 percent of illiterate persons worldwide are women.

➤ [UNICEF Data \(2016\)](#)

**4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development, [...] gender equality, [...].

Women are more often willing to adopt sustainable behaviour. Various studies show that women are more likely to buy sustainable products, recycle and save energy.

➤ [Report on sustainable consumption, OECD \(2008\)](#)

**4.8** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive [...].

A study in 51 countries showed that of enrolled children with disabilities, only 42 percent of girls and 51 percent of boys completed primary school. For children without disabilities, both proportions were ten percent higher.

➤ [Report on the situation of children with disabilities, UNICEF \(2013\)](#)

### 5 Gender equality



**5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

The constitutions of 143 countries guarantee equal rights for women. 52 countries have yet to enshrine this in their constitution.

➤ [UN WOMEN Constitutional Database \(2014\)](#)

**5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls [...].

Every third woman worldwide has experienced sexual violence. In most cases the perpetrators are men. They may be strangers as well as close acquaintances or the partner.

➤ [Study on sexual violence, WHO \(2013\)](#)

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

According to WHO estimates, more than 200 million women and girls worldwide are victims of genital mutilation.

➤ [Fact sheet on female genital mutilation, WHO \(2016\)](#)

**5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work [...].

While women on average spend between three and six hours per day on unpaid care work, the average for men is only half an hour to two hours.

➤ [Issues paper on unpaid care work, OECD \(2014\)](#)

**5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership [...].

Although the proportion of women in parliaments has doubled in the past 20 years, it is only at about 23 percent.

➤ [Data page of the Inter-Parliamentary Union \(2015\)](#)

**5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights [...].

For women aged 15 to 44 years, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death worldwide, with unsafe sex being the most frequent cause of transmission.

➤ [Fact sheet on women's health, WHO \(2014\)](#)

# FACTSHEET GENDER EQUALITY AS A KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

<p><b>5 Gender equality</b></p> 	<p><b>5.a</b> Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources [...].</p> <p><b>5.b</b> Enhance the use of enabling technology [...] to promote the empowerment of women.</p> <p><b>5.c</b> Adopt and strengthen sound policies [...] for the promotion of gender equality [...].</p>	<p>In 26 of 143 countries, statutory inheritance laws discriminate against women. <a href="#">↗ Summary report on the Beijing Declaration, UN WOMEN (2015)</a></p> <p>Investment in research and development is important, but most researchers are still men. Women account for only 25% of researchers in many OECD countries. <a href="#">↗ Report on sustainable energy and gender, UNIDO &amp; UN WOMEN (2013)</a></p> <p>Only 31 percent of countries have an office for gender statistics, even though it is important to disaggregate the data by gender. <a href="#">↗ Report to the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Economic and Social Council (2015))</a></p>
<p><b>6 Clean water and sanitation</b></p> 	<p><b>6.2</b> By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all [...], paying special attention to the needs of women and girls [...].</p>	<p>2.4 billion people cannot use adequate sanitation facilities. Mostly girls are negatively affected by this, e.g. because parents keep them away from school if there are no separate toilets and washrooms. <a href="#">↗ Millennium Development Goals Report, UNDP (2015)</a></p>
<p><b>8 Decent work and economic growth</b></p> 	<p><b>8.5</b> By 2030, achieve [...] decent work for all women and men [...].</p> <p><b>8.7</b> Take immediate and effective measures to [...] end modern slavery and human trafficking [...].</p> <p><b>8.8</b> Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers [...].</p>	<p>83 percent of domestic workers worldwide are women, including twelve million girls aged five to 17. About 30 percent of these workers are not protected by national labour legislation, 43 percent of the women and girls do not receive a minimum wage, and 36 percent are not entitled to maternity protection. <a href="#">↗ Progress report on the situation of the world's women, UN WOMEN (2015)</a></p> <p>98 percent of the victims of sexual exploitation in the private economy are women. <a href="#">↗ Study on forced labour, International Labour Organisation (2012)</a></p> <p>Out of 173 countries, 155 have at least one law impeding women's economic participation, such as laws that allow married women to take up employment only if it is "in the interest of the family." <a href="#">↗ Report on the economic and legal situation of women, World Bank (2016)</a></p>
<p><b>10 Reduced inequalities</b></p> 	<p><b>10.2</b> By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, [...].</p>	<p>Globally, women are paid around 24 percent less than men on average. <a href="#">↗ Progress report on the situation of the world's women, UN WOMEN (2015)</a></p>
<p><b>11 Sustainable cities and communities</b></p> 	<p><b>11.2</b> By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all [...] with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, [...].</p> <p><b>11.7</b> By 2030, provide universal access to [...] public spaces, in particular for women and children, [...].</p>	<p>A World Bank study from 2015 shows that transport systems often disadvantage women. They have fewer choices, as they less often possess a car or a driving licence than men, and they are often subject to harassment on public transportation. <a href="#">↗ Study on public transportation and violence against women, World Bank (2015)</a></p> <p>Numerous studies in different countries show that women are subject to harassment in public space. In all countries considered, at least one in two women reported having been harassed; in some countries, up to 99% of the women surveyed did so. <a href="#">↗ Web page of the NGO Stop Street Harassment (accessed March 2017)</a></p>
<p><b>13 Climate action</b></p> 	<p><b>13.b</b> Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management [...], including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.</p>	<p>For disadvantaged and marginalised population groups, including many poor women, climate change poses a particular risk. Many of them have to travel increasing distances to collect water or have problems cultivating their fields and poor harvests. <a href="#">↗ Report to the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Economic and Social Council (2014)</a></p>

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