

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS BAROMETER 2023

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GENDER EQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD

diversity of paths, changing of perceptions

With only seven years left to go before the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, it now seems that these ambitions will not be met. The SDG 5, which focuses on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, is unfortunately one of the goals that has fallen furthest behind schedule.

In 2023, almost half of the world's population still believes that when jobs are scarce, men should take priority over women. It is imperative that we question the causes of this failure and rethink our commitment, especially as the recent global and regional crises - COVID-19, the war of aggression against Ukraine, climate change, the energy and food crises - have aggravated the situation and threaten to wipe out a few of the gains made on gender equality.

In such a context, governments may be tempted to refocus their attention and funding on certain so-called "more important" SDGs. The 2030 Agenda and its climate component cannot be fragmented and seen as compromises: it is essential to recalibrate our efforts so that SDG 5 is finally at the heart of political concerns and efforts to establish stronger, more sustainable

and inclusive societies. This is not only a societal imperative, but also a major economic challenge.

Indeed, gender equality is not limited to SDG 5, but is deeply integrated into the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The OECD has calculated that almost half of the 247 SDG indicators have a direct link with gender equality. The diversity of the themes addressed by the 2023 Sustainable Solutions Barometer on gender equality reflects this centrality. Whether we are talking about climate, poverty, education, health, work, justice, institutions and peace, gender equality is and must always be at the heart of the design and implementation of public policies.

Nevertheless, progress is slow and sometimes disappointing. Rather than focusing solely on the symptoms of inequality, such as the pay gap, the lack of parity in politics, the low number of women in the engineering professions, we need to look at the hidden face of discrimination: the "discriminatory social institutions", i.e. the formal and informal laws, practices and social norms that dictate "what is acceptable" for women and men. The "visible" inequalities we see daily are rooted in this submerged part of the inequality iceberg.

The data from the fifth edition of the "Social Institutions and Gender Equality"¹ Index of the OECD Development Centre (also known as the SIGI), published in 2023, highlight these structural obstacles and help to recalibrate the efforts of stakeholders. For example, at global level, women spend two and a half times as much time as men to unpaid domestic work. The endogenization of discriminatory social norms is of course not limited to men: a third of women themselves believe that a husband has the right to beat his wife in certain cases - for example, when she burns her dinner or leaves the house without warning.

These disturbing figures should alarm us and serve as a spur to address the problem of gender inequality in its entirety. The discrimination iceberg needs to be tackled holistically, in order to put the world back on the road to gender equality and inclusive development by 2030.

1. <https://data.oecd.org/fr/inequality/l-indice-institutions-sociales-et-egalite-des-genres.htm>

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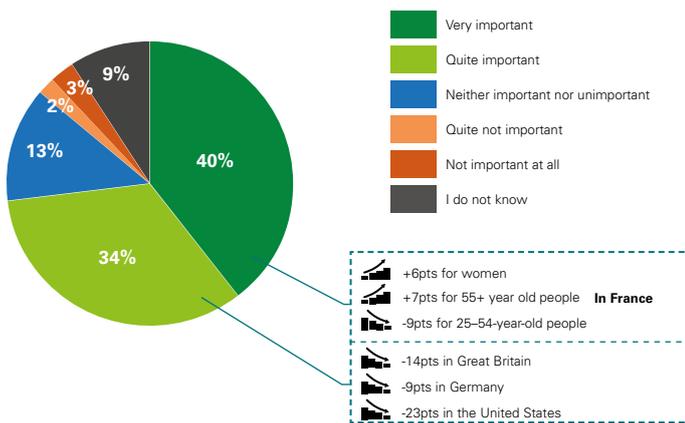
A PUBLIC CONSENSUS IN FAVOUR OF A

Since Focus 2030 has been measuring public support for gender equality in France as part of the Development Engagement Lab¹ research project, the fight against gender inequality has been recognized as a cause supported by citizens of all generations, regardless of their political orientation or level of education. By surveying 17 countries across five continents during the 2021 Generation Equality Forum with the NGO Women Deliver, Focus 2030 also observed the extent to which gender equality is today widely perceived as a legitimate cause that generates more consensus than debate.

An almost-unanimous support for gender equality here and there

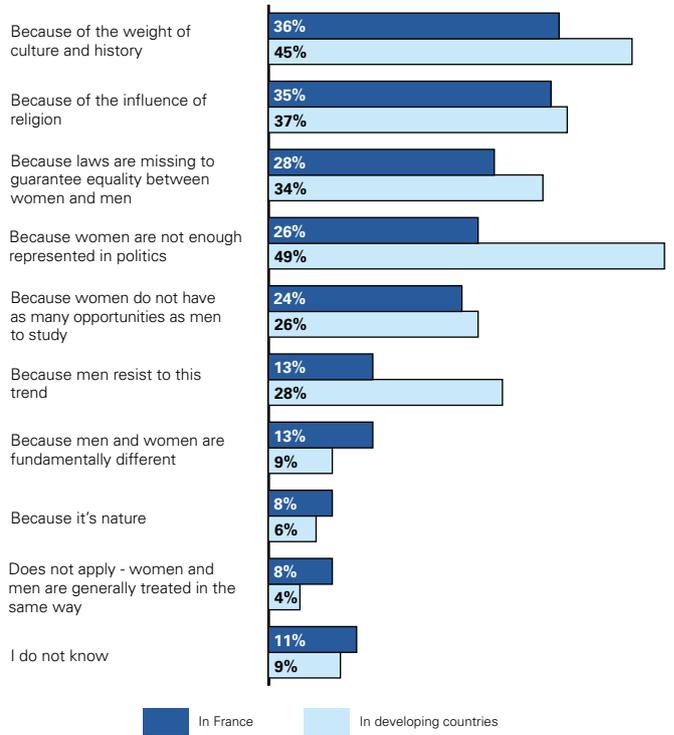
More recently, a comparative survey² conducted in March 2023 in France, Germany, Great Britain and the United States, showed that 75% of French people consider that fighting against gender inequality is a moral imperative, 15 points more than in the other three countries surveyed, a notable distinction. So, it seems as if the feminist movement has succeeded, not without difficulty, in raising awareness of this cause among as many people as possible. The French population is also particularly attached to defending the right to abortion, both in France (82%) and in the rest of the world (74%). Also, the majority (61%) say that it is important for the French government to support women and girls in Iran.

Figure 1: How important is it to you that the French government's foreign policy and France's international aid should be used to protect women's access to abortion in developing countries?



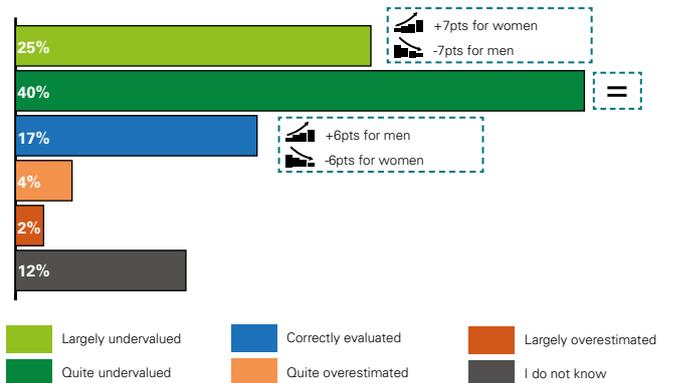
When asked about evolution in gender inequality, 44% of French people feel that gender equality has improved in France over the last ten years, while only 25% feel that equality had improved in developing countries over the same period. Among a list of reasons likely to explain the persistence of gender inequality respectively in France and the developing countries, French people considered that "the influence of religion", "the weight of culture and history" and "the lack of laws guaranteeing equality" were the three main causes. The "poor representation of women in politics" came fourth.

Figure 2: Among the following list, are there any reasons, in your opinion, that explain why women are not treated in the same way as men? *



Although some progress has been made, 70% of women surveyed in the four countries covered by the study believe that the frequency of discrimination and violence suffered by women is actually underestimated. This is 16 points more than the responses observed among men.

Figure 3: When you think about discrimination and violence, do you think the frequency of these situations is underestimated or overestimated?*

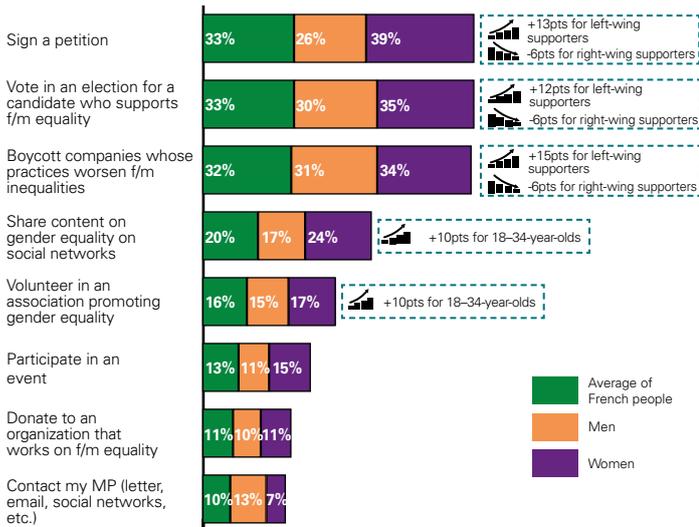


Among a list of actions that citizens would be ready to take to encourage the government to fight against gender inequality, the three activities most often selected in almost the same way in each country were "sign a petition", "vote in an election for a candidate who supports gender equality" and "boycotting companies whose practices or investments exacerbate gender inequality".

FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY?

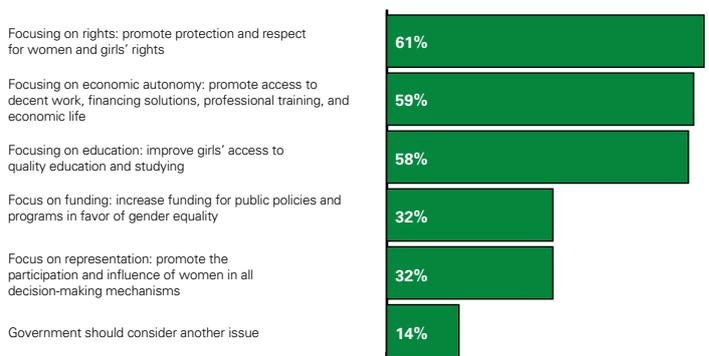
In France, a third of the public would be ready to support the cause through one of these actions, a high potential for mobilisation that is just waiting to be activated.

Figure 4: Thinking about international aid to developing countries, which of the following actions would you be willing to take to encourage the French government to combat gender inequality in developing countries? - According to gender*



integrate gender equality issues generates a relative increase in interest in France. Conversely, in the other three countries surveyed, this is measured when the word “inclusive” is used in the expression “inclusive development aid policy”. From a list of several priorities that the government should consider as part of “feminist diplomacy”, respondents in France, Germany, the UK and the US first selected a rights-based approach, then women’s economic empowerment (decent work, professional training...) and finally girls’ education.

Figure 5: Thinking about developing countries, please rank in order of priority what the French government should consider, in your opinion, in its feminist diplomacy*



Feminism: a unifying concept

From a semantic point of view, “feminism” and “feminists” are two words similarly associated with the idea of equity, justice and solidarity by the people interviewed in France. Furthermore, by testing several ways of naming a development policy, we can see that specifying that “this policy” intends to

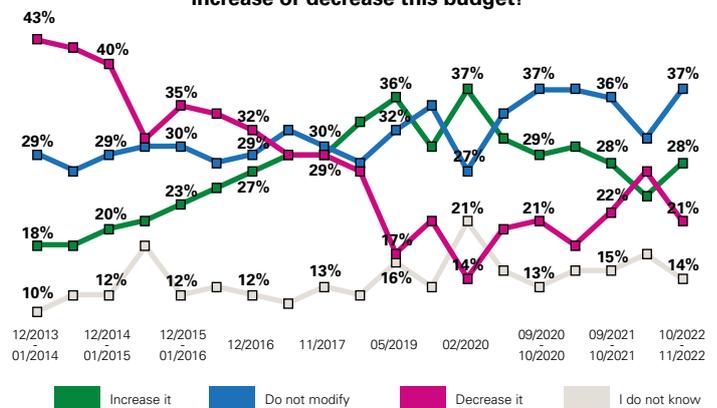
When only 4% of the people questioned in France would be opposed to a “feminist development policy”, a negligible percentage revealing a cultural and national consensus, the message is clear: adopting an ambitious feminist foreign policy generates no political risk and would be supported by the greatest majority.



The public’s desire for greater international solidarity

If we measure the French population’s knowledge of development issues and policies, we can see that they are most familiar with questions relating to poverty, followed by health and economic issues. On the other hand, it knows very little about the African continent. At the same time, we observe since 2013 an upward trend in support for an increase (or maintenance) of the State budget devoted to official development assistance (+18 pts in ten years). Similarly, 50% of French people say they are concerned about poverty in developing countries, and 46% believe that the government should do more to reduce poverty, inequality, hunger, unequal access to health and education, as well as the impact of global the impact of climate change by 2030, therefore expressly supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Figure 6: Out of a total GDP of 2,500 billion euros, the French government currently devotes 0.52% (or 13 billion euros) to international aid for developing countries. Do you think it should increase or decrease this budget? *



1. <https://focus2030.org/The-Development-Engagement-Lab-project>
 2. <https://focus2030.org/Opinions-et-connaissances-sur-Legalite-femmes-hommes-dans-le-monde-en-France>
 *Hudson, J., Hudson, D., Morini, P., Oh, S., Torres, F. (2023). Understanding attitudes towards feminist foreign policy & gender inequality. London: Development Engagement Lab”.

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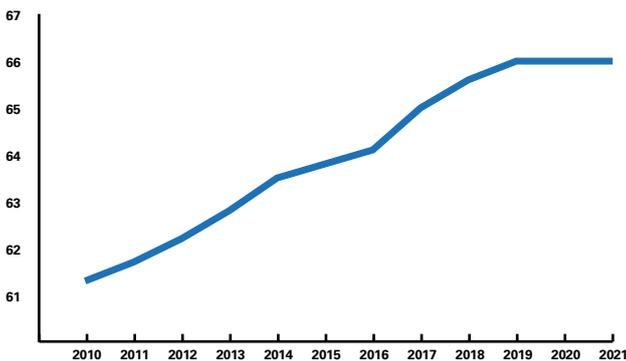
* YouGov survey conducted online using the quota method. Results analysed as part of the Development Engagement Lab project (2019-2024) by the University College London and the University of Birmingham. Survey conducted between the 20th of February and 1st of March 2023 among a representative sample of 2,046 adults in France. Weighted data - Margin of error: ± 2%. More information on the methodology on Focus2030.org - Source : www.devcommslab.org

THE SDGs AROUND THE WORLD: WHERE DO WE STAND HALFWAY FROM THE 2030 AGENDA?

The year 2023 is a turning point for sustainable development worldwide. In 2015, all UN member states agreed on common goals for economic prosperity, environmental protection and social inclusion. In 2023, we are at the halfway point. We still have seven years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hence the relevance of looking at the progress we have made, the major challenges that remain and the solutions that exist to accelerate progress. The Sustainable Development Report, an annual publication that reports on countries' progress towards the SDGs since 2016, aims to answer these questions.

Over the last two years, the world has made no progress towards the SDGs

Figure 1: World average - SDG Index score, 2015 - 2021



The global average for the SDG index is 66, which means that the world is two-thirds of the way to optimal SDGs performance. The graph above shows that, on average, the world has made steady but limited progress on the SDGs between 2015 and 2019. The global average of the SDG index rose by 0.5 point per year over this period. This rate of progress indicates a positive direction for global efforts in favor of sustainable development until 2019, even if it is insufficient to achieve the SDGs by 2030. While the average rate of progress hides disparities between countries and between the SDGs (some having made greater progress than others), since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the global average score on the SDGs has completely stagnated. Over the past two years, progress towards the Agenda 2030 has been frozen - particularly in developing countries - due to setbacks in terms of life expectancy, poverty rates and unemployment.

Figure 2 : The 10 highest and lowest positions in the 2022 SDG Index rankings

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Finland	86.5	154	Angola	50.9
2	Denmark	85.6	155	Djibouti	50.3
3	Sweden	85.2	156	Madagascar	50.1
4	Norway	82.3	157	Congo, DRC	50.0
5	Austria	82.3	158	Liberia	49.9
6	Germany	82.2	159	Sudan	49.6
7	France	81.2	160	Somalia	45.6
8	Switzerland	80.8	161	Chad	41.3
9	Ireland	80.7	162	Central African Rep.	39.3
10	Estonia	80.6	163	South Sudan	39.0

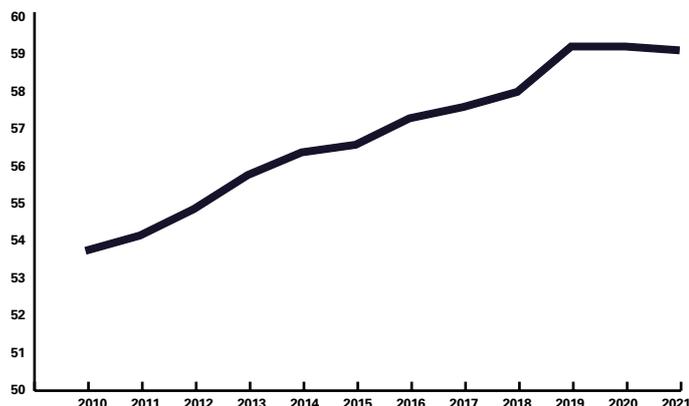
Source : Sachs et al 2022. Sustainable Development Report 2022.

Figure 2 shows that European countries, and especially the Nordic countries, have the best performance in terms of achieving the SDGs. The favorable ranking of these countries is due to their good performance in terms of socio-economic indicators, their relatively low level of inequality, and progress they have made in decarbonising their national energy systems. Conversely, countries at the bottom of the ranking are often low-income countries that lack the fiscal resources to invest in key sectors such as education and health. This is particularly true for countries that have recently experienced, or are still experiencing, conflict. Stability and peace are sine qua non conditions for a country's progress towards sustainable development.

Progress in gender equality paralysed by COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted global progress in gender equality (Figure 3). Progress has been made worldwide on women's representation in politics (in 2021, 43.5% of seats in national parliaments were held by women, compared with only 38% in 2015) and on access to education for girls (the average number of years of education for girls was 72% of that for boys in 2021, compared with 68.8% in 2015). However, considerable efforts are still needed to achieve SDG 5, whose average score has not improved since the pandemic. Since 2019, women's economic integration has been a significant decline, with the female labor force participation rate falling from 55% in 2015 to 53% in 2021.

Figure 3: Score for SDG 5 (Gender equality), global average, 2010-2021



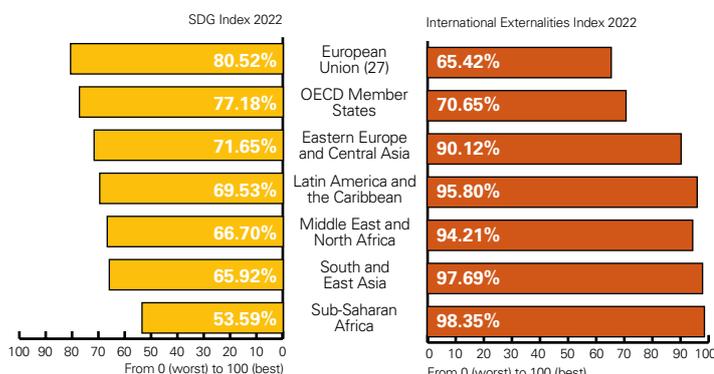
Source: Compilation by the authors, based on Sachs et al. (2022).

Different SDG challenges in different countries

High-income countries face considerable challenges in meeting their inequality and climate change targets. In addition to generating significant negative social and environmental externalities outside their borders (Figure 4), wealthy countries are not making enough progress on gender equality to meet the 2030 target - one of the main challenges being to improve women’s representation in national parliaments.

While the poorest countries are doing better than the richest when it comes to goals related to protecting the planet, they are still lagging far behind on the socio- economic SDGs, including SDG 5. Major obstacles remain in terms of access to modern family planning methods and girls’ education even though significant progress has been made since 2015 in integrating women into the labor market.

Figure 4: SDG 2022 Index score vs. International Externalities 2022 Index score



Source : Sachs et al 2022. Sustainable Development Report 2022.

What can be done to boost progress towards the SDGs?

High-income countries will have to reduce their impact on the environment by investing in renewable green energy and reducing their dependence on fossil fuels. These same countries will have to systematically collect data on the various forms of environmental degradation and adopt national quantitative targets to account for their actions. To reduce their negative international externalities, they can implement public policies, for example relating to duty of care, or introduce measures relating to the reporting and data that companies must provide on their suppliers and supply chains. They can also take advantage of new forms of partnership with countries of the South by providing them with large-scale funding and knowledge to support their ecological adaptation to climate change. Finally, on the demand side, changes in people’s consumption patterns can also reduce harmful environmental impacts abroad.

For low-income countries, the priority is to increase their budgetary capacity in order to facilitate financing of the SDGs. At present, however, the market is not providing sufficient levels of financing to achieve the SDGs – low-income countries are borrowing at extremely high interest rates, while they are the most vulnerable and least able to repay these interests. The international community can facilitate the financing these countries need in several ways: 1) authorise more borrowing within multilateral financial institutions, 2) authorise more borrowing on international private capital markets, 3) invest more in official development assistance and 4) restructure the debt of heavily indebted countries.

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Sachs, J., Lafortune, G., Kroll, C., Fuller, G. and Woelm, F. (2022), “Sustainable Development Report 2022. From Crisis to Sustainable Development: the SDGs as a Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond”, Cambridge University Press, doi.org/10.1017/9781009210058, available at: <https://dashboards.sdginde.org/>

“Hudson, J., Hudson, D., Morini, P., Oh, S., Torres, F. (2023). Understanding attitudes towards feminist foreign”

Leslie BERMONT-DIAZ

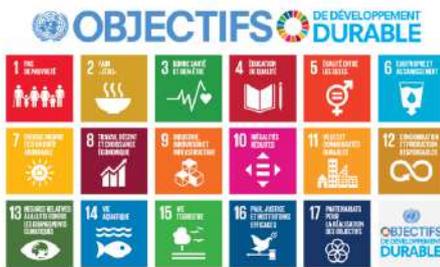
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THE FRENCH NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW 2023: AN UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs



The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the UN's main platform for monitoring and reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by UN member states, known as the 2030 Agenda.

The HLPF meets every year under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It provides a high point for political leadership in sustainable development. In 2023, 47 countries will submit a Voluntary National Review (VNR). The Forum provides an opportunity to review the progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to share advice and recommendation for integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Work on the French VNR continues. The first phase of gathering contributions from stakeholders (senior officials for sustainable development for the ministries and civil society players) was completed in February 2023.

The General Commission for Sustainable Development (Commissariat Général au Développement Durable; CGDD) received 26 contributions from the 2030 Agenda community, displaying very diversified actions in line with the respondent's *raison d'être*, from promoting and popularising of the SDGs to water issues and the budget allocated to the SDGs. The tools, levers and platforms developed and/or put forward by community players were particularly appreciated.

It was suggested to make the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs visible by drawing on the Roadmap drawn up in 2019. The first part is structured around six issues:

1) Acting for a just transition, fighting against all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities, and freedoms for all. To make the fight against discrimination, particularly gender discrimination, a priority in both the public and private spheres. The State's commitment in the professional sector is being successfully pursued. Gender equality indicators show that France is making progress in terms of parity between men and women, coming 5th out of 156 in the World Economic Forum 2022 ranking;

2) Transforming social models by reducing carbon emissions and saving natural resources, to help protect the climate, the planet and its biodiversity;

3) Relying on lifelong education and training to enable changes in behaviour and lifestyles that are adapted to the world we are building and to the challenges of sustainable development;

4) Promoting the health and well-being of everyone, in particular through healthy, sustainable food and farming;

5) Make citizens' participation in achieving the SDGs effective and bring about a transformation of practices by strengthening experimentation and territorial innovation;

6) Working at European and international level to promote the sustainable transformation of societies, peace and solidarity.

The second part is a more traditional, SDG by SDG approach, similar to the other GNIs, based on the 98 indicators chosen by France to monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The final document aims to report on the progress made on each of the SDGs but also on expected improvements.

The final stage of sharing with all civil society stakeholders is currently underway. Since January, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs has mobilised the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI), which holds monthly meetings of a working group dedicated to the international aspect of France's Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda and which delivered its conclusions at the end of April 2023.

A meeting to present the VNR document, chaired by the General Commissioner for Sustainable Development, was held on April 18, 2023. The Open Diplomacy Institute, whose main mission is to help citizens understand and participate in international life, organised a "contributory conference" at the VNR with all stakeholders on May 22. Following this conference, the Institute will draw up a report entitled "Towards France in 2030". To carry out this work, it will be supported by a French Committee for the Agenda 2030, made up of qualified personalities.

The final report could be submitted to the Minister before the HLPF and would sign the contribution of French civil society to the HLPF, independently of the official document of the French VNR which will be presented between July 14 and 19 in New York.

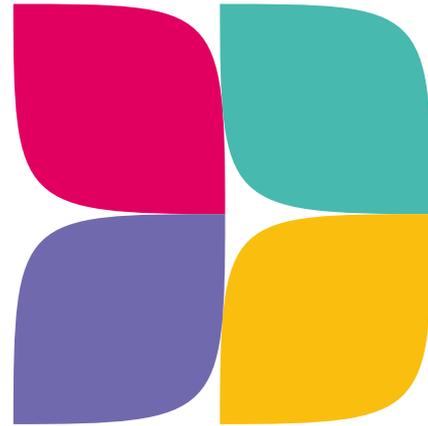
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WORLD FORUM | 15TH EDITION

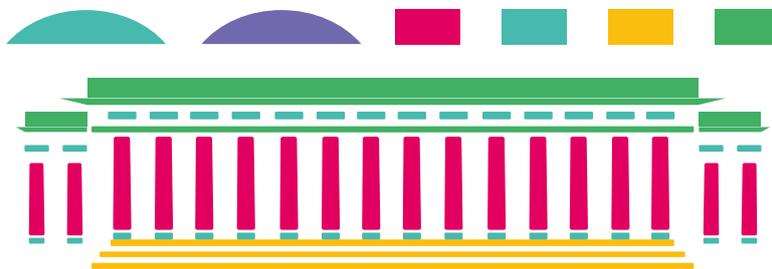
ZERO EXCLUSION CARBON POVERTY

**combining
social justice
and ecological
transition**



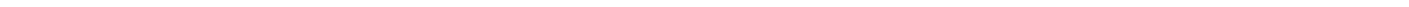
For the past 15 years, the Forum has been an exclusive forum for sharing ideas on **building a fair, united and sustainable world**, bringing together professionals from all walks of life to discuss innovative solutions for combating poverty, precariousness and climate change throughout the world.

In 2023, halfway through the 2030 Agenda, the 3Zero World Forum is staying on course: to provide everyone, citizens and organisations alike, with the means and tools to think differently and act to combine **social justice and ecological transition!**



On 5 September 2023, come and meet us at the Palais Brongniart, and meet your peers, forge new links and attend high-level conferences.

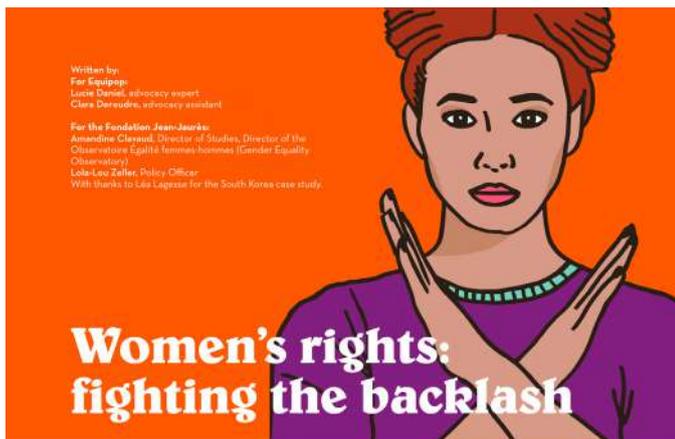
Find out more about the day's programme here!



NO DEMOCRACY WITHOUT FEMINIST POLICIES!

Afghan women's removal from the public sphere, mobilisation of Iranian women against compulsory veiling, which was harshly repressed by the regime, revocation of the Roe vs Wade ruling in the United States, which legalised abortion at federal level in 1973, and the increasing attacks on the right to abortion and comprehensive sexuality education in Poland and Hungary: The international situation is worrying for the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people. At the last session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women last March, Antonio Guterres stated that it would take 300 years to achieve gender equality.

These backward trends that we are seeing all over the world are known as "backlash". A term used historically by the American journalist Susan Faludi in her eponymous book, "Backlash. The Cold War Against Women" published in 1991. In this book, she highlights the strategy of American conservatives in the 80s and 90s, following Ronald Reagan's presidency, to attack women's rights at every levels: political, institutional, economic, cultural and media.



It is precisely this conservative offensive that we decipher in the report "Women's rights: fighting backlash" through a case study of twelve countries. The anti-rights movements are made up of a wide range of players: governments, economic players, religious organisations, and civil society. They share a sexist and heteronormative vision of the family and sexuality. Some states are joining forces through declarations such as the Geneva Consensus, which brings together some thirty states that are traditionally opposed to the right to abortion - the United States under Donald Trump, Brazil, Russia, Egypt, Indonesia, Hungary, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. It is from this traditionalist conception of society that they work together to implement a reactionary agenda whose central objective is the control of women's bodies and sexualities. Playing on their opacity, they benefit from substantial funding estimated at several billion euros.

Through these various channels, they are seeking to roll back the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people. Some conservative governments are changing the law or implementing legislation to reduce, or flout acquired rights. The right to abortion is virtually banned in Poland and Brazil. Although legal in Turkey, Hungary, Italy and Tunisia,

the conditions for accessing this service are extremely complicated, due to the reactionary political leanings of governments, the proliferation of disinformation centres and doctors who refuse to provide it. Anti-rights movements have a real desire to reduce sexuality to the image of the heteronormative family and the simple need to procreate. In 2013, Vladimir Putin introduced a law in Russia aimed at banning "homosexual propaganda" aimed at young people. A similar law was passed in Hungary in 2021, and another passed its first reading in the Polish parliament. Under the guise of "protecting traditional Christian values", these laws prevent young people from receiving a comprehensive education on sexuality.

They are also investing in multilateral bodies by forming coalitions to influence international decisions, notably the Commission on the Status of Women and the World Health Organisation. They are campaigning against the Istanbul Convention, the European instrument for combating violence against women, which they claim is a propaganda tool for "gender ideology". Six EU Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania) have refused to ratify it. Recently, Turkey, the first country to sign it on its own soil, and Poland announced their intention to withdraw. They also use democratic tools such as political parties and online petitions. Finally, they organise themselves on social networks by spreading disinformation and cyber-harassing women, particularly feminist activists.

In a context where crises are multiplying - humanitarian, ecological, economic and social - we are calling for three levers of action to be put in place: increasing funding for feminist associations and movements, defending and protecting feminist activists and networks, and making feminist struggles a subject of international concern. France, which has been calling for feminist diplomacy for several years, must put this into practice. Defending human rights in France, Europe and around the world means defending democracy.

1. [https://www.jean-jaures.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Rapport_Backlash.pdf\(french only\)](https://www.jean-jaures.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Rapport_Backlash.pdf(french%20only))

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REVERSING THE TREND: SOLUTIONS TO THE LEARNING CRISIS AMONG GIRLS AND BOYS

According to a UNICEF report¹ published in 2020, nearly one in three adolescent girls from the world's poorest households has never been to school. Poverty, discrimination based on gender, disability, ethnic origin or language of instruction, the geographical remoteness of schools and poor infrastructure are all obstacles preventing the poorest children from accessing quality education. Exclusion at every stage of education perpetuates poverty and is one of the main drivers of the learning crisis.

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In an already precarious context, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented interruptions in children's schooling, with data showing significant learning losses around the world. These effects occurred in a context

of already high learning poverty. Learning poverty is the percentage of children unable to read or understand simple text at the age of ten.

According to UNICEF estimates, before the pandemic, almost two-thirds of the world's 10-year-olds were unable to read and understand a simple story - even if they were at school. This learning poverty can be caused by a number of factors: inadequate school curricula, overcrowded classrooms, poor teacher support and more. Learning losses are most severe for the most vulnerable. Studies suggest that girls often suffer greater learning losses than boys. Girls are particularly vulnerable to this for a number of reasons: they face additional pressures from domestic work, reducing their learning time. Furthermore, the closure of schools has led to an increase in child marriages and early pregnancies, hindering their access to education.

Despite the significant progress made in girls' education in recent decades, much remains to be done to ensure their success at school and their access to equitable learning opportunities. This learning crisis has a negative impact on girls' future prospects and on their contribution to their countries' economic and social development. Schools have gradually reopened, but a return to pre-pandemic education will not be enough to compensate for the losses. Pupils are finding it difficult to keep up with their lessons and risk becoming disengaged, which could lead to them dropping out of school.

Yet investing in education, particularly for girls, has a transformative effect on communities, countries and the world as a whole. Educated girls are less likely to marry at a young age, enjoy better health, are more productive, earn higher incomes, participate in decision-making and build a better future for themselves and their families. But girls' education is not just about access to school, it is also about ensuring the quality of their learning, their safety in the classroom and supporting them in their choice of subjects and careers, including those in which they are under-represented.

In response, UNICEF is proposing a holistic approach to address the learning crisis among children, tackling multiple barriers and working to ensure their equitable access to quality education. The goal is to halve, by 2030, the proportion of ten-year-olds worldwide who are unable to read and understand simple text. Together with its partners, UNICEF has developed the RAPID2 framework for re-launching and accelerating learning, based on 5 pillars:

- Bringing all children back to school and keeping them there;
- Assess the level of learning through regular evaluations;
- Give priority to teaching basic concepts and fundamental skills;
- Intensify the effectiveness of teaching, including remedial classes;
- Develop children's psychosocial health and well-being.

Convincing results have already been obtained by UNICEF thanks to the implementation of this RAPID framework, particularly in the East Africa region. UNICEF Kenya has supported the tracing and re-enrolment of 3,383 children, including 1,624 girls, who did not return to school after reopening, including children with disabilities. UNICEF Rwanda was able to train 200 teachers to better assess pupils' learning levels. UNICEF Uganda supported the implementation of the Ministry of Education programme by training master trainers and 3,182 primary and secondary teachers from 2,217 primary schools and 1,102 secondary schools. The trained teachers are now teaching 580,937 pupils, including 281,814 girls, to help them re-establish learning after a period of loss of learning and develop their skills in the fundamentals (reading, writing and arithmetic). Finally, UNICEF Angola has supported 5,000 children, parents and front-line carers by providing maternal and child health services, including 300 psychosocial kits for classrooms. Psychosocial support clubs, including children in and out of school, to enable peer interaction and create safe spaces for listening and emotional expression have also been set up.

In 190 countries and territories around the world, UNICEF works to provide quality learning opportunities that equip children and adolescents with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

1. Addressing the learning crisis : <https://www.unicef.org/reports/addressing-learning-crisis-2020>

2. RAPID Framework <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/f97022e739dbda353412b3d588f6f362-0200022022/related/French-Exec-Summary-Guide-for-Learning-Recovery-and-Acceleration-July-7.pdf>

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WHEN HUMANITARIAN CRISES EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUALITIES

Floods in Pakistan, drought in the Horn of Africa, earthquakes in Turkey and Syria... Numerous humanitarian crises have broken out or worsened over the past year. But while natural disasters are neutral in terms of gender equality, their consequences are not. The same applies to the impact of conflict and war, another major cause of humanitarian crises.

Crises act as catalysts for inequalities - based on age, origin, social class, disability... but also gender. Rape and sexual violence as weapons of war came under the spotlight in 2018, when Yezidi survivor and activist Nadia Murad and Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their activism in this area. The rise in violence against women, teenage girls and girls is a recurring phenomenon of humanitarian crises, and is just one of the many gender inequalities emerging today.

When a crisis breaks out, violence is not only used against the enemy camp, it can increase within communities and households, with an increase in domestic violence. Women have fewer resources to cope with shocks, due to restricted access to decision-making bodies and property, and more precarious status in informal jobs. They are also over-represented in displaced or refugee populations: with the war in Ukraine, over 90% of refugees are women and children¹. In a context of food insecurity, women often eat less, eat last, and eat the least nutritious foods - which makes them even more vulnerable, particularly when they are pregnant or breastfeeding and have specific dietary needs. In situations where already scarce resources are focused on emergency response, health services such as family planning can be de-prioritised or even interrupted. This was the case in West Africa during the Ebola peaks: the concentration of efforts against the epidemic led to the closure of some clinics and a 70% rise in maternal mortality in the region, which was already among the highest in the world².

In the face of crises, populations implement survival strategies that are not immune to gender dynamics. Girls

are more likely to drop out of school, become involved in domestic or care work, or be forced into marriage to reduce household burdens. In some contexts, women may be forced to turn to sex work to earn an income. This is particularly true of Venezuelan refugee women, who are highly exposed to the risks of sexual exploitation and trafficking on their way to neighbouring countries³. This makes access to contraception and abortion services all the more necessary, given the rise in unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as access to pre- and post-natal support services. The increase in risks and the reduction in social services are a double whammy for women.



CARE project with refugee women in Uganda to strengthen their decision-making on the humanitarian response

To gender-based violence, we call for feminist responses. It is crucial that humanitarian action takes gender into account so that the specific needs and constraints of women and girls are not overlooked, or worse, exacerbated. The first step is to measure and identify these needs: humanitarian data collection should be systematically disaggregated by sex, age and disability, so as not to make vulnerability factors invisible but to adjust responses as effectively as possible. More financial resources should be allocated to projects that limit the collateral effects of crises to which women are exposed, particularly in the fight against violence, access for girls to inclusive quality education and appropriate healthcare.

Finally, women should be able to play a full part in the projects and policies that affect them: local groups of women, both formal and informal, are already working with their communities to make them more resilient, but all too

often they are far removed from the official channels of humanitarian aid. Projects designed and implemented by local people are more effective, legitimate and sustainable. As a group of NGOs and partners of grassroots feminist organisations, we are calling for humanitarian aid to focus more on these driving forces of civil society, who have a detailed knowledge of the issues at stake, as well as the trust of their communities.

France can play its part: the government has been calling for feminist diplomacy since 2018, and this must be embodied in its humanitarian aid. In 2023, the government is revising its humanitarian strategy, which will guide the aid it deploys in crisis situations. This is an opportunity to make the fight against gender inequality a priority.

1. Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés, Ukraine Situation, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/ukraine-situation>
2. Julia Smith, Overcoming the 'tyranny of the urgent': integrating gender into disease outbreak preparedness and response, 2019, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13552074.2019.1615288?journalCode=cgde20>
3. CARE, An Unequal Emergency: CARE Rapid Gender Analysis of the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, 2020, https://www.care-international.org/files/ENG_LAC_Regional_VZ_RGA_FINAL_compressed.pdf

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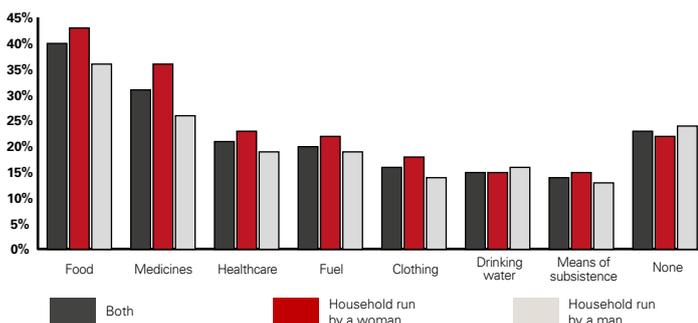
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USING EVALUATION DATA TO UNDERSTAND IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISES ACCORDING TO GENDER - THE EXAMPLE OF UKRAINE

Humanitarian disasters tend to exacerbate pre-existing social inequalities through the pressure they exert on affected communities, access to resources and the guarantee of fundamental rights. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality calls for the impact of these crises on men, women and gender minorities to be taken into account. However, the urgency of the situation often leads actors to favour actions that are adapted to the greatest number of people, or to resort to generic analyses that have little relevance to gender dynamics that are highly contextual, to inform programs.

Gathering information on humanitarian issues is therefore necessary to guide decisions in favour of greater equality. Although it is not done systematically, comparing data disaggregated by age and sex at the individual level, or by the demographic composition of households, provides an overview of the impact of the crisis on these different groups.

Figure 1: Most frequently reported priority needs



Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in March 2022, the NGO IMPACT Initiatives set up a Multi-sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA). This statistical survey compared the impact of the crisis on female- and male-headed households. Sampled households answered questions about their access to essential resources, their priority needs and their preferences in terms of humanitarian assistance. While the comparison shows an alignment of self-reported priorities around the food and health sectors, there are tangible differences in the severity of needs measured. Forty-six percent of female-headed households have extreme or very extreme needs in at least one intervention sector, compared with 38% of male-headed households¹.

These differences in the severity of needs reflect differences in access to livelihoods. The average monthly income level appears to be significantly lower for female-headed households (UAH 9.872) than for male-headed households (UAH 12.819). Pre-dating the Russian invasion², the income gap between men and women can be explained by structural factors linked to a traditional division of roles, persistent discrimination in employment and a concentration of women in low-income sectors³, but it may also be correlated with dynamics contemporary with the crisis. The fact that female-headed households make up the bulk of travel flows and that heads of household are more often single women who have to support dependants in the household can therefore have a significant impact on their access to stable jobs.

While households headed by women aged 60 and over have the lowest average monthly income, households headed by women aged 18 to 59 and those headed by women with at least one disabled member have the most significant gap between their income and expenditure, with a shortfall of over UAH 2,100. This disaggregated analysis suggests that female heads of household are not a homogenous category, but that different demographic characteristics combine to produce an exacerbated level of vulnerability. Through Ukraine's Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, IMPACT Initiatives has worked with humanitarian actors to develop recommendations tailored to the needs arising from the intersection of these vulnerabilities. While households headed by women aged 18 to 59 would benefit from support to develop their livelihoods and access employment, cash assistance appears to be more recommended for households headed by women aged 60 and over.

Figure 2: Average monthly income, average monthly expenditure and average net income in UAH, by household profile

	Average monthly income	Average monthly expenses	Average net income (income - expenses)
Households run by W aged 60 and over	6875,13	8237,33	-1362,2
Households run by W including one disabled member	7973,39	10669,02	-2695,63
Households run by M aged 60 and over	9110,69	9684,95	-574,26
Households run by M including one member with a disability	9661,11	11759,41	-2098,3
Households run by W	9872,36	11669	-1796,42
Households run by W with no disabled member	10103	11191,1	-1088,1
All households combined	11188,75	12681,33	-1492,58
Households run by W aged 18-59	12605,8	14799,98	-2194,18
Households run by M	12818,81	13935,15	-1116,34
Households run by M with no disabled member	13380,16	13564,23	-184,07
Households run by M aged 18-59	14999,26	16435,97	-1436,71

The use of quantitative data is essential to support the inclusion of gender in the response, but it is also important to identify the grey areas that remain beyond the statistics. Needs assessments tend to focus on the immediate impacts of shocks, whereas gender inequalities are the result of normative, institutional and social processes that are difficult to quantify. As a result, the most complex issues - linked, for example, to issues of protection and discrimination - and the specific needs of the hardest-to-reach groups - such as LGBTQIA+ people - are not given much attention by these large-scale surveys. Quantitative surveys therefore need to be complemented by in-depth contextual analyses, more targeted research and closer collaboration with civil society actors, to promote a transformative humanitarian response in the gender field.

1. The composite index of multi-sector needs to which this analysis refers has been calculated on the basis of an analytical framework developed by IMPACT Initiatives. Additional information on the survey and analysis and analysis methodology is available here: https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/a55a0d01/REACH_UKR_Methodology_Overview_MSNA-Bulletin_February-2023.pdf

2. In 2016, women earned on average only 73% of the average monthly salary of men according to a survey conducted by USAID : https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00mq3k.pdf

3. Ibid.

FRENCH FEMINIST DIPLOMACY: FUNDING THAT MEETS THE CHALLENGES?

Women, teenagers, and girls, as well as gender minorities, suffer a disproportionate impact from conflicts and crises, which reveal structural inequalities based on gender, exacerbate discrimination and violence, and increase the risk of their rights being violated. To take account of these differentiated impacts, several countries have announced in recent years the adoption of a feminist foreign policy. Sweden led the way almost 10 years ago, and more recently other countries (Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, etc.) have embraced feminist foreign policies.

In France, equality between women and men has been declared a “major cause of the five-year term” and was enshrined in 2018 by the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) as a “guiding and cross-cutting principle of France’s external action”. But it is only since the government’s March 2019 declaration in favour of “feminist diplomacy as a new dynamic” that France’s diplomacy has explicitly claimed to be feminist.

If describing diplomacy as feminist sends out a strong signal, what financial resources go with it?

To date, France’s feminist diplomacy has no specific framework; it is France’s international strategy dedicated to gender equality (2018-2022) that defines the main lines of this diplomacy, even though it predates the strategy. This strategy does not have a specific budget and all the funding dedicated to feminist diplomacy is difficult to assess, as the High Council for Equality (HCE) pointed out in 2020.

One of the five objectives of the strategy is to increase and improve funding to combat gender inequality in Official Development Assistance (ODA). Since 2013, France has committed to ensuring that half of its ODA takes gender inequalities into account. In 2018, only 19% of French bilateral ODA took gender inequalities into account, which is a long way from the OECD average of 42%, and from Sweden and Canada, which had already reached over 85%.

Thanks to the mobilisation of civil society, these targets were significantly increased in 2021 as part of the Orientation and Programming Law on Solidarity-based Development and the Fight against Global Inequalities (LOP-DSLIM). From now on, 75% of France’s funding will have to take account of the fight against gender inequality, and 20% will make this a priority by 2025. These new targets bring France closer to the European objectives set out in the Gender Action Plan III and those of other countries with feminist foreign policies. According to the latest data available from the OECD, France’s spending commitments in favour of gender equality amounted to 47% of French ODA in 2021, and the 2023 Finance Bill sets a target of 48.5% of bilateral credit allocated to gender equality, which is still too far from the target set in the law.

One of the greatest advances in French feminist diplomacy has been the creation of the Support Fund for Feminist Organisations. Announced by Emmanuel Macron in 2019, following a mobilisation of civil society during the G7, supported by Women7, this fund of 120 million initially planned for three years is a valuable tool for reducing gender inequalities at international level, by financially supporting feminist movements and organisations from French aid partner countries. These organisations have far too little access to international aid funding, even though they are in the best position to combat inequality in their own countries. Although there is still room for improvement if the fund is to fully meet the needs of women’s organisations, the announcement that it will be renewed in 2022 is to be welcomed, as is the effort made by the public authorities to consult and dialogue with civil society in defining the fund’s strategic framework and in implementing it.

2023 is a pivotal year for feminist diplomacy. Before the summer, the CICID will adopt the main priorities and funding trajectories of France’s development aid policy. It will also renew its humanitarian strategy, which until now has taken very little account of

gender inequalities. A new international strategy dedicated to gender equality will also be defined. These are all opportunities for France to reaffirm and strengthen the financial commitments made in the LOP-DSLIM and its support for feminist organisations in developing countries, but also to provide a more comprehensive and coherent framework for feminist diplomacy.

1. Joint opinion piece by Jean-Yves Le Drian and Marlène Schiappa, *Pour une diplomatie féministe*, 8 March 2019
2. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/strategie-internationale-de-la-france-pour-l-egalite-entre-les-femmes-et-les/>
3. HCE - *La diplomatie féministe - D'un slogan mobilisateur à une véritable dynamique de changement ?* p.41-43
4. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/dossierlegislatif/JORFDOLE000042676989/>
5. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184
6. According to figures consulted in the Creditor Reporting System of the Organisation for Cooperation and Development, in disaggregated bilateral ODA commitments

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INTERMEDIATED FUNDS: A NEW WAY TO FINANCE EQUALITY? THE FEMINISTS IN ACTION PROJECT

The Feminists in Action project was the first intermediated fund financed by the Fonds de “Soutien aux Organisations Féministes” (managed by Agence Française de Développement), one of the emblematic funding mechanisms of French feminist diplomacy. Made up of three feminist funds and three NGOs that act as intermediaries and facilitators between donors and local organisations, it implements a feminist funding model in which the organisations themselves define their priorities.

An intermediated fund is characterised by its bottom-up or direct funding approach: the projects to be carried out are defined and implemented by local feminist organisations, which are best placed to analyse the concrete needs on the ground. Fifty per cent of the total project budget is devoted to their funding. This represents a paradigm shift in facilitating a collaborative approach between local organisations, international NGOs and feminist funds. Feminists in Action (FeA) is based on three pillars to rethink funding for gender equality.

1st pillar: financing operating costs

Of all the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) supported in 2022, 58% have an annual budget of less than 50,000 euros, 48% have never received national funding and 35% have no paid staff. Without paid staff and the considerable efforts made by volunteers, feminist projects cannot exist. Without premises or equipment, associations cannot set up projects. Feminists in Action has therefore decided to fund the structures themselves, not just the projects. Funding is devoted to strengthening structures, with envelopes ranging from €5,000 to €20,000. To date, 55 feminist organisations have received grants of this kind.

“During the implementation of our previous project, we noticed that our network had shortcomings, particularly in terms of financial and human resources management. We opted for a reinforcement grant to improve the administrative and financial structure of our network, which will enable us to have a greater impact”, explains Annick Bolou, from the FiA-funded RFAY network in Guinea.

The aim of Feminists in Action is to support the growth of feminist CSOs by providing them with flexible, multi-year funding tailored to their absorption capacity, to improve their efficiency in project management, and above all to make them sufficiently autonomous to be able to manage international public funds themselves.

“We decided to apply for a grant to strengthen our structures, because we realised that despite our various actions in the field, we did not have the institutional capacity to meet the challenges of mobilising resources and consolidating our actions”, explains Lucrece Avahouin, from the Biowa association, funded by FeA, in Benin.

2nd pillar: supporting structures in their development

An intermediated fund is not just about allocating grants to local organisations. The aim at the heart of the scheme is to strengthen feminist ecosystems so that organisations are stronger and more structured.

“As a consortium, we ensure that the beneficiary organisations have what they need to develop and strengthen their power. It’s all about accompanying groups, which includes moral and emotional support, political solidarity and support in learning to grow and become sustainable”, explains Fawzia Baba-Aïssa of the Mediterranean Women’s Fund, a member organisation of the consortium.

For Feminists in Action, the aim is to build the capacity of feminist organisations in order to consolidate their power to act and bring about profound changes in attitudes, institutions and laws. Supporting the structural and organisational development of CSOs can, for example, take the form of training in accounting, project management or the use of digital tools. Thirteen per cent of the project budget is devoted to strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of organisations.

3rd pillar: facilitating networking between feminist organisations

Another important aspect of capacity building is the opening of spaces for strategic reflection between associations in the same country or region to think about priorities, alliances and actions to be undertaken collectively. In this way, Feminists in Action seeks to encourage the creation of alliances and the sharing of knowledge between grassroots organisations.

The initiative encourages networking through the implementation of joint advocacy actions that multiply the reach of the messages. One example is the networking of women’s and feminist organisations supported in Guatemala and Ecuador. During a three-day meeting, representatives of around ten Latin American organisations drew up a common roadmap, with a view to collectively implementing an advocacy strategy to meet the challenges of defending women’s rights. Financing equality means helping to strengthen the feminist ecosystem and encouraging the creation of synergies.

Intermediated funds and increased funding for local feminist organisations seem to be a promising way of meeting some of the challenges of official development assistance, particularly that of localising aid. With the aim of reaching out to small local structures, intermediated funds are the first step towards adapting funding more closely to the needs of feminist organisations on the ground, so that they in turn become the direct interlocutors of donors.

For more information: <https://feminaction.fr/en/homepage-en/>

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WOMEN'S DOMESTIC WORK: RECOGNISING AN UNDERVALUED JOB AND VIOLATED RIGHTS

Worldwide, more than 75 million people are involved in domestic work. In this category, women are over-represented. There are nearly 57.7 million. These women are our housekeepers, our nannies, our home helpers, etc. But all over the world, these domestic workers face multiple injustices: lack of social security, rest time and trade union and associative freedoms, underpay, overtime, forced isolation, psychological, physical and sexual violence, even trafficking and modern slavery. The list of abuses is still long.

In fact, only 10% of these workers have access to some form of social protection worldwide. Domestic work is also one of the professional categories most affected by two scourges:

- Modern slavery, with 20.9 million cases worldwide;
- Child labour, which affects one in six workers worldwide.

It is precisely because domestic work takes place in the private sphere that it is difficult to carry out external controls, but also to organise the collective mobilisation of the people involved who are often isolated, especially when they are housed on site. However, there is an international text to protect workers and regulate domestic work: Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on decent work for domestic workers. Still little exploited, the Convention sets minimum rights and guarantees for employees in this sector. Supplemented by Convention No. 190, it provides extensive protection against violence at work.

Today, it is often women's trade unions, especially in Latin America, that have taken up the subject. Their goal is to train other women domestic workers on their rights and freedoms, but also to create an international mobilisation around the document and its adoption.

The case of Latin America: the collective mobilisation of women's organisations in the face of systemic violations.

Latin America accounts for 37% of the world's domestic work. Yet, three-quarters of employees are still part of the informal economy, synonymous with precarious and underpaid jobs, with no social security or fixed hours.

"We have no rights. And there is no legal protection system for us. People think they have the right to do whatever they want to us. I want something different for my children. Things can't go on like this!" explains Gabriela¹, a domestic worker.

There is one solution: collective mobilisation. Yet, domestic workers face a lack of time and resources to form a strong collective that allows them to assert and seize their rights. Added to this is the fact that there is no single employer because it is a multitude of individuals. This makes collective mobilisation and standardisation of practices even more complicated.

Despite this, women's domestic workers' unions are particularly mobilised to ensure access to the rights of other women employed in this sector.

However, they now depend mainly on international cooperation. Today, CARE works to empower them by providing them with spaces for exchange to strengthen their skills and make their voices heard. Thus, CARE is developing a regional project that brings together expertise

and partners from five countries to improve the situation of domestic workers by strengthening their trade union and representative organisations. To support them in achieving their objectives, particularly political ones, the project supports the creation of a regional school of trade union advocacy bringing together 16 countries in the region.



Maria Faustina, Maria de los Angeles, Fidelia Castellanos, Eloida Ortiz and Florida Alma Cartera were photographed on 13 April 2018 in Guatemala City. These women accompany other women to help prevent the abuse they have suffered. The women pictured here are also working to convince Guatemala to ratify Convention 189 of the International Labour Organisation, which establishes fundamental rights for domestic workers worldwide.

This project aims to strengthen these women's knowledge of their rights (salary, social security, working conditions, leave, rest, etc.) and to consolidate their professional skills through training, including administrative and financial management. A real school for domestic workers, this structure will allow them to obtain a diploma and participate in the recognition of the status of domestic worker.

Also, three social enterprises have been created so that they can organise collectively. This allows them to share their experiences but above all to negotiate employment contracts no longer individual but as a company. The project and its activities, mainly the advocacy school and labour law courses, contribute to the dissemination of the international standards of Convention No. 189, which are essential to implement a uniform regulatory framework and truly protect people. In parallel, mobilisation campaigns make it possible to raise awareness and consolidate knowledge on the sector. It is for this reason that a mobile application has been developed to simplify administrative procedures and regulate domestic work.

This programme is part of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5.4: to make room for and value unpaid care and domestic work, through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibilities in the household and family, according to the national context.

1. The name has been changed

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ACCESS TO ENERGY AS A LEVER FOR WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION

Women are the most affected by the lack of access to energy. In sub-Saharan Africa, millions of women and girls do not have access to a source of clean energy, despite being the first to bear the brunt of the negative consequences. They walk miles to collect firewood, they give birth by candlelight, they use charcoal to cook, young girls cannot study in good conditions, the lack of connectivity distances them from economic prospects... In addition, it is estimated that women account for 60 to 70 per cent of agricultural production. Because of their greater domestic workload, women generally compensate for the lack of energy services by providing energy for domestic work (e.g., pounding cereals).

Women benefit less from development initiatives



Women generally have less access to credit, vocational training and land ownership, all obstacles to their economic and human development. Their economic activities are most often in the informal sector and are therefore less likely to be included in employability initiatives. They are also kept out of development interventions for structural reasons: they tend to have lower literacy rates and education, and they suffer from less availability to participate in initiatives because of the time spent on domestic chores and childcare.

Access to clean energy not only preserves women's health but also empowers them. It frees up time to develop or create income-generating activities, which promotes local dynamism and significantly improves women's conditions. The additional income from these activities allows for a change in relationships in the home, increasing women's decision-making and bargaining power. With the ÉGALES project in Senegal or DEVEL'UP in Madagascar, the Fondation Énergies pour le Monde (Fondem) uses access to energy as a lever for emancipation and improvement of women's quality of life.

Support for the professionalization of women market gardeners in Casamance: the ÉGALES project

The objective of the ÉGALES project is to sustainably improve the working and living conditions and incomes of women practicing market gardening in the commune of Ouonck in Senegal. Indeed, women are forced to extract water manually. Agricultural yields are limited, threatening household food security, and not allowing enough to generate income. Women struggle to sell their vegetables at a good price, while techniques and means of processing and preserving products are not widespread.

"My village has been in darkness for too long, it is a priority to get out of it. Many women run farms here, but they cannot sell their production. Thanks to electricity and freezing, we can sell our products better and improve our living conditions." says Soukoye Coly, president of a women's group in Senegal.

To enable the transition from subsistence to productive agriculture, Fondem acts on:

- Reducing the workload and increasing the productivity of the market garden plots, by mechanising water extraction through the installation of solar pumps and a low-energy, efficient irrigation system;
- structuring the market gardening sector through specific training, a study into the possibilities of accessing sources of finance, and actions aimed at giving women access to land ownership, thereby securing productive market gardening activity.

The development of women's entrepreneurship: a specific focus of the DEVEL'UP project



As part of the DEVEL'UP project, entrepreneurs are selected to benefit from support for the development of an income-generating activity related to electricity. This approach stems from the PAMÉLA methodology, which aims to ensure the sustainability of electricity services by supporting local entrepreneurship.

Fondem thus ensures the integration of women entrepreneurs: an in-depth analysis of gender barriers related to rural entrepreneurship is carried out in order to offer support to women for the practice of so-called "masculine" activities. Specific assistance is offered to women entrepreneurs to deepen their application to be supported under the project. Finally, a mentoring system is also deployed, making it possible to connect these new entrepreneurs with those who have received support under the initial project, PAMÉLA.

The PAMÉLA methodology

Income generating activities (IGAs) increase and stabilise electricity consumption, while giving households the opportunity to pay for the electricity service, and thus creating a profitable business for the electricity system operator. The sustainability of the electricity service is thus ensured, while the AGRs stimulate job creation. Faced with this observation and as part of its PAMÉLA project, Fondem has developed a methodological guide to support the development of IGAs related to electricity.

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A “ZERO CARBON” THAT INCLUDES ALL: WOMEN AT THE HEART OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The year 2022 has once again highlighted the inherent link between humanitarian and environmental crises. Wherever Acted works, from the Americas to Asia, the Middle East and Africa, the evidence is clear: climate change triggers humanitarian crises or aggravates existing ones. The countries that have contributed the least to global warming are the most affected. And within these countries, the first victims are the most vulnerable populations, including women and children.

As part of its emergency humanitarian responses, Acted places vulnerability criteria at the centre of its interventions. It is clear that climate change is exacerbating already existing inequalities: in Pakistan, for example, the deadly floods last August left millions of people homeless and without access to basic services, making access to education and training even more difficult for girls, who have traditionally been less encouraged to go to school. In Somalia, women displaced by prolonged drought and violence are more likely to face sexual and gender-based violence by fetching water, forced to travel longer distances. To respond to these situations, Acted has implemented several interventions. In Pakistan, Acted improves girls' access to education, regardless of physical and social barriers, through literacy and numeracy programmes. In Somalia, Acted built accessible wells for host and displaced communities to reduce the risks of violence against women.

Acted is also fully committed to integrating the gender dimension into its development projects. Beyond the humanitarian emergency, our vision is an inclusive and sustainable world. To achieve this goal, it is essential to work collaboratively with women by enabling them to play a central role in creating and implementing environmental solutions.

Acted thus carries out development projects that involve women in the agricultural sector, the main sector of employment for women in low-income countries. The aim is to provide women with environmentally friendly agricultural solutions, while improving their access to livelihoods and economic opportunities, to support their independence.

In Mali, a country severely affected by food insecurity, particularly due to climate change, Acted supports more than one hundred women farmers, in partnership with Akuo Energy, a renewable energy company. To strengthen their technical and agricultural capacities, these women have been trained in practices adapted to the environment of the region, particularly in market gardening and agroforestry, and have seen their access to the market improved.

In Jordan, the second most water-scarce country in the world, Acted trained four women-led micro-enterprises in azolla production. Azolla is an alternative feed supplement for livestock, cheap and water efficient. Its production requires minimal resources: it can be grown in simple hydroponic beds and a single plantation ensures a lifetime of production. Such trainings have enabled women in targeted communities to ensure sustainable livelihoods for their households.



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In Amman and the north of the country, Syrian women, Jordanians, and refugees have also gained access to sustainable agricultural solutions such as permaculture. These activities were accompanied by marketing and commercialisation training to make these companies resilient to drought, but also to allow them to produce at a lower cost and to access the market more easily.

Acted is not limited to involving women in economic sectors where they are traditionally represented, such as agriculture. In Pakistan, for example, more than fifty women have been trained in solar energy technologies thanks to the support of the Asian Development Bank. After graduating as solar technicians, most of them were able to find jobs in this male-dominated sector.

In a world where women are often excluded from decision-making processes, it is essential to ensure their participation in the dialogue on climate change solutions as well. At the community level, Acted is committed to promoting women's participation in discussions on critical environmental issues, such as waste management. For example, in the Mafrq region of Jordan, an all-female discussion forum led to the establishment of a waste recovery project through the creation of clothing. The women involved were able to collect used fabrics and clothes, which were then recycled and sold within the community. This initiative has promoted their empowerment while allowing them to contribute to the sustainable development of their territory.

By fully integrating the gender dimension into our projects, Acted aspires to contribute to a just and inclusive transition. This transition can only be achieved if we put women, as well as all people discriminated against, at the heart of our sustainable development strategy to move towards a world of Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty.

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WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS



In the face of the climate emergency, we are all involved, but not all equal. Why is that? Firstly, because the poorest half of the world's population, living mainly in the developing countries and responsible for just 7% of cumulative CO₂ emissions between 1990 and 2015¹, are bearing the full brunt of the impacts of climate change. The figures speak for themselves: over the last thirty years, 97% of the total number of people affected by the consequences of extreme weather events (cyclones, floods, etc.) and 79% of recorded deaths were in developing countries².

Secondly, such climate injustice forms an explosive cocktail with the gender inequalities still very much present throughout the world, hampering women and girls in their access to and control over land and financial resources, as well as their opportunities for education, employment and technology. In concrete terms, climate change is contributing to an increased workload and greater exposure to risks for women and girls. They are the ones who have to travel ever greater distances to find water and firewood, which have become scarce due to deforestation and repeated droughts. This means less time for education, developing a small business, farming, thus limiting their independence, or taking part in local decision-making circles. The excessive workload imposed on families, and on mothers in particular, leads to an increase in girls dropping out of school early to help out around the house.

But it would be wrong to portray women and girls solely as victims. They play a central role in the response to climate change, particularly through their contribution to agricultural production in both developed and developing countries, by designing and disseminating creative and effective solutions: growing seeds that are more resistant to drought or flooding, using improved cooking stoves, and resorting to compost as a substitute for chemical fertilisers. It is crucial and urgent to give greater value and support to their skills and know-how, as well as involving them in decision-making processes relating to climate change, from the local to the international level, so as to ensure a more appropriate response³.

Over the last two decades, various international texts have called for a fair balance in gender representation in climate policy spheres⁴. More specifically, the Lima Agenda adopted at COP20 in 2014, the Lima Enhanced Gender Work Programme and its Gender Equality Action Plan adopted at COP25 in 2019, and the Beijing Declaration (signed by 189 States) had the specific objectives of strengthening gender-sensitive climate policies and increasing women's

participation in climate decision-making bodies. At COP27 in November 2022, there were only seven women out of the 110 heads of state and government represented in Sharm el Sheikh⁵. More generally, the percentage of women in all national delegations to climate negotiations has risen from 30% in 2009 to 38% in 2021,⁶ an increase of less than 10% despite greater political commitments and activities to promote equal participation. Only 10% of delegation heads were women in 2009, compared with 13% in 2021. At this rate, gender parity in national delegations to the COPs will not be achieved before 2040.

Given this situation, it is time to rectify the situation to ensure equal participation in climate-related decision-making⁷. The gender action plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)⁸ provides in particular for negotiation and leadership capacity building for women delegates to climate negotiations, with a focus on young women and women from indigenous populations or local communities. Governments must implement this commitment without delay, pooling resources as Canada and France did a few years ago to support women delegates from French-speaking African countries. It is also a priority for all UNFCCC member countries to appoint national focal points on gender and climate change without delay to ensure that the various ministries in each country coordinate ambitious climate action that fully integrates gender issues, which is not yet the case today⁹. If we are to fight climate change and gender inequality effectively, the voices and proposals of women and girls must finally be heard!

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- [2. <https://www.carefrance.org/actualites/malgre-les-189-millions-de-victimes-annuelles-des-catastrophes-climatiques-dans-les-pays-du-sud-les-pays-riches-refusent-toujours-de-mettre-au-pot/>](https://www.carefrance.org/actualites/malgre-les-189-millions-de-victimes-annuelles-des-catastrophes-climatiques-dans-les-pays-du-sud-les-pays-riches-refusent-toujours-de-mettre-au-pot/)
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- Où sont les femmes à la COP27? | 24 heures
- [6. <https://wedo.org/womens-participation-in-the-unfccc-2022-report/>](https://wedo.org/womens-participation-in-the-unfccc-2022-report/)
- On the occasion of the 84th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on 22 February 2023, the RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation has coordinated a submission by a number of players on these issues: <https://www.fondation-raja-marcovici.com/actualites/integrer-les-femmes-dans-les-prises-de-decisions-climatiques.html>
- [8. <https://unfccc.int/documents/627886>](https://unfccc.int/documents/627886)
- [9. <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/resources/list-of-gender-focal-points-under-the-unfccc>](https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/resources/list-of-gender-focal-points-under-the-unfccc)

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“TOWARDS EQUALITY”, THE COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM PROGRAMME FOR GENDER EQUALITY



The media play a crucial role. By denouncing violations of women's rights, but also by highlighting new perspectives to make our societies a place where women can live without fear of violence or discrimination. To achieve this, the media must provide the public with an overview. This means raising awareness of gender inequality issues, of course, but also including more women's voices and points of view, wherever they come from, going beyond social and cultural stereotypes and showing how women can also be powerful agents of change.

This is why, on 8 March 2023, to mark International Women's Day, Sparknews has invited 14 major international media such as Ouest France, El Diario, Asahi Shimbun, The Hindu, but a few, to join forces for a unique collaborative publication: Towards Equality.

Media keep citizens aware of the political and societal climate that impacts, directly or indirectly, on their lives. Whether covering war zones, climate disasters, citizens' movements or political elections... Their ability to report the news with accuracy, transparency and impartiality is the cornerstone of the smooth running of our societies. And this is despite the many challenges they have faced in recent years.

Yet the multiplicity of crises to cover, the rise of fake news, and the lack of time and resources allocated to journalists - to name but a few issues - have led many media to focus their efforts on the headlines and the subjects that can generate the most clicks, often to the detriment of social issues that actually deserve particular attention.

The representation of the world they convey shapes and influences the way in which individuals place their hope in the future. It is only by looking beyond preconceived ideas and considering all strata of society that we will be able to find lasting solutions to current and future crises.

Women's rights issues are a perfect example of this under-representation. We may already be well aware of some of the challenges facing women around the world, such as violence, harassment and pay inequality, but there are still many others that are all too often neglected.

Although progress has been made in recent decades, women and girls around the world still do not enjoy the same rights and opportunities as men. What's more, the social and economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the questioning of the right to abortion in certain countries have meant that some progress has been reversed.

At this rate, the UN warns, it could take almost 300 years to achieve complete gender equality worldwide. And while the regular rankings reveal major disparities between countries and regions, let's make no mistake: no country in the world is on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

and ARTE to name but a few, to join forces for a unique collaborative publication: Towards Equality.

These 14 editorial boards from various corners of the world (France, India, Argentina, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Spain, Kenya, Japan, etc.) have formed a unique alliance to cover global gender issues and highlight women, men, NGOs, citizens' movements and politicians who are tackling the gender gap at their level. From 8 March 2023 and for one week, these media have joined forces to reverse the usual scenario, moving away from controversy to finally see gender issues in a new light. For one week, they simply did what they do best: report on what people are going through; in this case, what 51% of the world's population is going through.

Through 130 articles, they reached over 200 million readers around the world. It's an enormous strike force, reminding us all that collaboration is essential if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

If #TowardsEquality is proof that new stories can emerge in the mainstream media, we must not stop there.

Sure, we should talk more about gender equality, but we also need to talk about it more effectively! Let's work together, pooling our strengths, our skills and our networks, to support the work of our editorial teams and promote a better understanding of these issues by as many people as possible.

Anissa SAUDEMONT
Head of Media programs

Alice ELLENBOGEN
Communication manager

Sparknews

“HE FOR SHE”: ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY



Photo: HeForShe

Today, the situation of women and girls is worsening worldwide. Stereotypes against them are persistent¹, and the backlash against their most fundamental rights is growing². They are also disproportionately affected by the current crises and the aftermath of previous ones. As a result, society as a whole remains deprived of their full potential, capabilities and valuable prospects. In other words, gender inequality jeopardises the prospects for justice, peace and sustainable development - simply put, a better future for all. At this rate, it will take almost 300 years to achieve gender equality in the world³. This figure reveals the fragility of the progress made and the scale of the remaining challenges, both in terms of safeguarding the gains that are constantly under threat and of accelerating progress.

Achieving gender equality requires collective efforts, including on the part of men and boys. Today, more and more men and boys are taking action in this direction out of a sense of responsibility and solidarity. To stimulate and catalyse their mobilisation, UN Women, the United Nations agency for gender equality and the empowerment of women, initiated HeForShe in 2014. This international solidarity movement - open to all people regardless of their gender identity - invites men and boys to become allies of the feminist struggles. More concretely, HeForShe represents a platform of commitment that coordinates concerted and inclusive action to bring about systemic change. Since its launch, it has two million activists in the community, three billion conversations on social networks every year, and 600 million citizens represented by its global partners⁴.

Inclusive production lines in Turkish factories, safer university campuses in Kenya, equal pay in Iceland... The solutions applied aim, among other things, to promote respectful and equitable relationships, eliminate tolerance of all forms of discrimination and violence against women, and encourage men to take on and share parental and domestic tasks. More than a commitment, HeForShe is a tangible, measurable and jointly developed action in an area targeted towards achieving gender equality. Each year, the results of the movement are documented, communicated and, if applicable, shared as best practice.

Men in senior positions in government, business and academia are particularly targeted. Their active support within the institutions they lead leads to transformative and lasting change while inspiring others to follow the mobilisation. For example, on 27 September 2015, Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi, became a HeForShe Champion by pledging to end early and forced marriage in his country. His leadership has included amending the Constitution to raise the legal age from 16 to 18 years old, enacting laws against gender-based violence, and involving traditional, community and

religious leaders. One of them cancelled 455 customary marriages and sent 1,312 girls and 143 boys back to school. These efforts have led to a significant drop in the rate of child marriage in Malawi, from 42% in 2015 to 8% in 2020⁵.

The HeForShe movement is part of UN Women's global strategy to tackle the root causes of inequality, transform unequal power relations and abolish underlying discriminatory practices. Beyond individual identities, attitudes and behaviours, it acts directly on the systems within which individuals and relationships operate, i.e. on the power structures that maintain gender inequalities. The aim is, on the one hand, to abrogate the social norms that fuel discrimination and, on the other, to promote those that advance equality.



Photo: ONU Femmes / Karim Schierbrucker

From its creation, UN Women has been aware of the need to involve all sectors of society in order to achieve such an objective, including the importance of raising awareness and working with men and boys as allies and agents of change. Today, accompanied by global leaders from all walks of life, UN Women is intensifying its impact in governments, the private sector, campuses and communities at large.

Through a more peaceful, prosperous and fair world, gender equality benefits everyone.

Join the movement at <https://www.onufemmes.fr/heforshe> !

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Composed of more than 300 partner organisations from all sectors, the association acts to stimulate reflection and action, disseminate good practices and promote the co-construction of high impact and innovative partnerships.

Convergences works in all areas likely to have a decisive effect in favor of its objectives: sustainable development, international solidarity for development, solidarity and inclusive finance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), social entrepreneurship, social and solidarity economy and new technologies for development.

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