

your  
**SDG5**  
toolbox

this toolbox contains everything you need to understand the SDGs and play your part to achieve gender equality by 2030

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WOMEN

ALLIANCE

## the tools

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# THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## THE SDGS

193 countries have committed to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by the year 2030. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are specific goals and targets for how we can meet this ambitious agenda. The SDGs provide a universal framework for shared action to be implemented by all people. Governments, organizations, businesses, donors, and individuals will contribute to achieving the SDGs through policy change, development programs, funding, and advocacy that prioritizes human rights and equality.



## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Each of the 17 SDGs emphasize the need to "leave no one behind" in development. This means that anyone at any level should benefit from the efforts to achieve the goals, and further, that governments should focus on the most marginalized people first.

This is particularly important for groups like political and social minorities, people living in poverty, and women and girls. This principle also aims to ensure that those who have been traditionally denied their rights and agency are fully integrated into SDG implementation processes.

## GET INVOLVED

While national government ministries and parliaments will make high-level decisions on the SDGs like financing and integrating the goals into national development plans, citizens will do the bulk of the work to actually achieve the goals.

This means that the needs and interests of citizens should be central to SDG decision-making, implementation, and monitoring. To do this, civil society organizations must have adequate financing for SDG advocacy and be afforded opportunities to participate as equal partners with governments.

There are many ways to get involved in implementing the SDGs. Here are some examples of how to begin to engage effectively in the SDG implementation process at different levels.

These activities will allow you to better understand local and national needs, priorities, and capacities. Use these as a guide to help you understand what engagement means and where you can start (or continue) your work:



**TELL YOUR STORY**

Determine how your work relates to the SDGs and write your SDG story.



**ASSESS YOUR TARGETS**

Map the roles of different stakeholders and identify opportunities to participate.



**RAISE YOUR VOICE**

Engage with decision-makers, conduct advocacy campaigns, and tell your SDG story.



**REPORT YOUR DATA**

Collect data, share stories, and create shadow reports.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5

## SDG5

"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes one goal specifically on gender equality.

SDG5 has nine targets:



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

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

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

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

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

**5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights**

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

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

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

## GENDER EQUALITY AND THE SDGs

SDG5 is an important lens through which to assess progress toward gender equality, but gender equality is present across all 17 goals -- it is a cross-cutting issue that must be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development for all people.

Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across the goals and targets.

Achieving the SDGs requires systematic gender-wise interventions that tackle persistent inequalities and change systems that perpetuate inequality.

In order to achieve equal outcomes for women and men, we must recognize their different needs and interests, and redistribute power and resources accordingly.

Bringing the gender perspective to policy, planning, and implementation processes will eliminate inequalities and create the social justice.

## GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION

To achieve the SDGs we need to develop a better understanding of gender relations and adopt proper mechanisms to allow genuine and equal participation for both women and men in the development process.

This means that the participation of grassroots women's rights and gender equality organizations must be supported with access to decision-making spaces and funding for advocacy activities. The expertise and experiences of these groups are vital to fully achieve SDG5 and the rest of the goals.



how to:

# TELL YOUR SDG STORY

## THE SDGS AND YOU

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals on environmental, social, and economic, development agreed to by all United Nations member states in 2015.

If you do work on gender equality and development, your work is undoubtedly related to the SDGs. Gender equality, inclusion, and women's rights are present throughout the 17 SDGs. Work toward gender equality also has impacts on pretty much every other area, like peace and justice, environmental protection, and good health.

Take a look at the 17 goals to see where your work fits, then look deeper into the 169 targets to see exactly which outcomes your work contributes to. Finally, think about the larger national, regional, and global impacts of your work.

Once you complete this exercise, you'll be able to better see how your work relates to the SDGs.

Which goals does my work contribute to?

Which targets are most relevant to my work?

What are the national, regional, and global impacts of my work?

## YOUR SDG STORY

The text of the Sustainable Development Goals and the discussions surrounding their implementation focus on some key topics: accountability, sustainability, the data revolution, and partnerships.

This language may be new, but it doesn't have to be confusing or exclusive. By learning to talk like an SDG expert, you can:

- **Partner and collaborate with others:** When we speak a common language, we can work together for greater impact.
- **Show your value:** Demonstrate to decision-makers how you contribute to sustainable development.
- **Reach new donors:** Donors are eager to fund work to achieve the SDGs.
- **Connect into a global development framework:** Show that your work has far-reaching impacts.

Demonstrate your relevance, timeliness, and impact to donors, decision-makers, and others by speaking about your work through the lens of the SDGs. Use this sample text to help develop your SDG story:

"[My organization/foundation/group] works to achieve [relevant SDG] in [my community/country/region]."

We work with stakeholders to [carry out a strategy to achieve a goal/outcome].

Through this we [forward progress on relevant SDG targets] and ultimately [have national/global impact]."

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factsheet:

# THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

## UNDERSTAND HLPF

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The annual forum takes place in July and provides political leadership guidance, and offers recommendations on the agenda's implementation and follow-up to keep track of progress and spur coherent policies.

United Nations member states, U.N. specialized agencies, and other actors (like civil society representatives) participate in the forum each July. Governments report on their progress on specific SDGs (determined by UN DESA) through Ministerial Declarations and one 20-minute presentation. Civil society is welcome to sit in on the presentations and ask questions through the UN Major Group structure.

## REPORTING

All countries are encouraged to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". Governments can voluntarily report to the HLPF on their progress, but it is not an accountability mechanism, yet countries are expected to do so twice within the 15 year implementation period.

In 2018, 44 countries will present their 'Voluntary National Reports' (VNRs). The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## HLPF 2018

The Forum's 2018 theme is "Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies." The set of goals to be reviewed in depth (along with Goal 17 on partnerships) are:

- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Opportunities for civil society to participate during the HLPF are unfortunately limited. UN DESA is working on strengthening civil society participation and involvement in the process. Civil society organizations that are ECOSOC accredited are able to propose official side-events related to the theme of the HLPF. Each year 80 events are selected. Civil society organizations can also:

- Collaborate with others in your country to write a shadow or "spotlight" report highlighting progress (or the lack thereof) on the SDGs from your perspective.
- Meet with your country's Ambassador to the U.N. to present your work and perspective on SDG implementation.
- Advocate to your government to report honestly and openly about SDG implementation.

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# MAP YOUR SDG STAKEHOLDERS

## ACCOUNTABILITY

The SDGs are a public promise, but they're not binding.

Governments can voluntarily report to the United Nations' High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on their progress, but it is not an accountability mechanism.

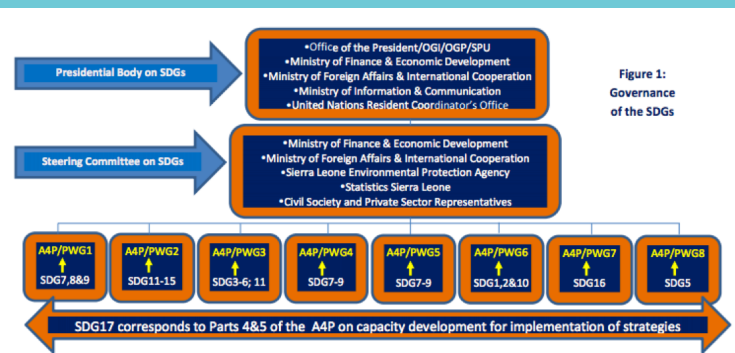
Regional bodies like the African Union, for example, have prioritized the SDGs in their own planning and programming, and will also provide mechanisms for review and follow-up.

Governments are only accountable to one body: their citizens. In order to hold governments accountable for achieving the SDGs, you first need to know who is involved in the decision-making on the planning, implementation, and monitoring of SDG5.

## GOVERNMENT PLAYERS

The people and offices in charge of a government's SDG commitments will vary by country. Some countries will have national steering committees or working groups, others will house SDG-era work inside a particular ministry.

Here is an example of how the government of Sierra Leone organizes its SDG-era work:



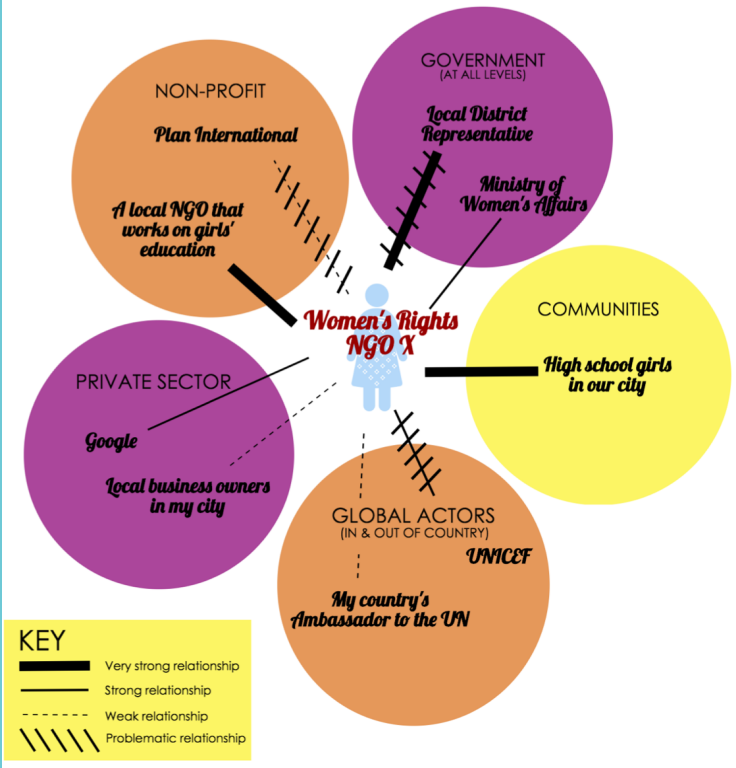
## MAPPING

Many different actors are involved in making sure we achieve the SDGs, including stakeholders in the government, NGOs, donors, businesses, celebrities, and the public.

The Stakeholder Mapping Exercise will help you identify the different stakeholders involved in achieving SDG5.

Once you have finished, you will have a better picture of the stakeholders you need to target and with whom you need to build relationships so that you can make your voice heard and participate fully in the implementation of SDG5.

Use this example as a guide for your own stakeholder mapping:



# SDG5 PARTICIPATION & GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES

## WHAT THE DATA SAYS

A recent survey of 150 grassroots women's rights organizations in 30 countries showed that grassroots advocates are knowledgeable and prepared to participate in the implementation of the SDGs:

- 95% are aware of the SDG framework and believe that SDG5 is a useful tool for holding their government accountable to addressing gender equality
- 97% want to advocate for the implementation of SDGs in their country

However, they are being left out of national SDG-related decision-making processes.

- 67% do not believe their governments' have included grassroots women in the design of national policies related to the SDGs
- 73% have not been consulted on SDG5 implementation decisions.

## GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES DESERVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Globally, grassroots women's rights advocates are consistently left outside the decision-making processes yet they have vital expertise and experience that governments need.

For example, their deep ties to communities and understanding of women and girls' needs, solutions, and priorities will contribute to more effective and sustainable policies that implement the SDGs, eradicate poverty, and reduce inequalities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Urge governments to respond to and engage with grassroots gender equality advocates directly in their events and meetings for planning SDG implementation especially SDG5, to ensure grassroots women and girls' needs are heard and heeded.

Support the creation of spaces that offer greater and more meaningful opportunities for grassroots women's rights groups to engage with mechanisms implementing the SDGs at local, national, and global levels (such as the U.N.)

Invest in and strengthen networks and coalitions of grassroots women's rights groups and gender equality advocates so they are able to advocate for stronger implementation of the SDGs.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Ensure the voices of grassroots women and girls are heard in decision-making and across all fronts.

Your engagement with and support of grassroots women's rights organizations around the world will amplify their tireless work to ensure gender equality is achieved by 2030.

- Join our #InTheRoom campaign by tweeting why YOU think grassroots women's rights groups should be a part of SDG implementation and decision-making.
- Incorporate grassroots women's groups in the design and implementation of your organization's programs for gender equality.
- Share our Global SDG Scorecard report with your local, state, and/or national decision-makers to urge them to take action in ensuring grassroots groups are consulted.



# SDG5 FINANCING & GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES

## WHAT THE DATA SAYS

A recent survey of 150 grassroots women's rights organizations in 30 countries showed that grassroots advocates are knowledgeable and prepared to participate in the implementation of the SDGs:

- 95% are aware of the SDG framework and believe that SDG5 is a useful tool for holding their government accountable to addressing gender equality
- 97% want to advocate for the implementation of SDGs in their country

However, they're lacking resources for advocacy on the SDGs:

- 79% do not know where to identify donors who fund advocacy for SDG5
- 87% have not secured funding for SDG5 advocacy

## GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES NEED FUNDING

Implementing the SDGs in 15 years will take between \$5-7 trillion. Governments, businesses, multilateral institutions, and philanthropists see the momentum behind the SDGs as an opportunity to make true progress on gender equality.

However, while there is a rising commitment to SDGs and gender equality, funds still are not reaching grassroots groups. OECD gender equality-funding reached an all-time high in 2014, yet only 0.5% was allocated to local, grassroots organizations working toward gender equality. Of that, it is unknown what was allocated for advocacy activities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To close the financing gap that grassroots gender equality advocates face, FEWER efforts need to be made to inform and communicate about the SDGs (as that is working) and MORE efforts need to be put toward supporting and financing grassroots advocacy around SDG implementation.

Official Development Assistance should be allocated directly to grassroots women's rights groups so that they are able to carry out their work to not only implement Goal 5 but advocate for stronger government leadership in its implementation. Currently, gender equality financing is shared amongst large international organizations and fails to reach the most local groups.

Grassroots women's rights groups have the knowledge, experience, and expertise that deserves the direct monetary investment.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Supporting grassroots organizations is key to ensuring the implementation of the SDGs. Organizations need funds to operate, provide needed services in their communities, and conduct advocacy activities and campaigns to ensure government accountability.

- Encourage your national-level decision-makers to designate direct official development assistance to grassroots women's rights groups.
- Collaborate and partner with grassroots women's rights groups when designing advocacy activities and campaigns related to gender equality -- bringing them into grants and funding streams as partners, not beneficiaries.
- Support grassroots women's rights groups directly when you choose to make donations and/or gifts to organizations.



# SDG5.1: ENDING DISCRIMINATION

## THE TARGET

The first target of SDG5 on gender equality is:

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

This target covers one of the most widespread and broad issues facing women and girls: discrimination and unequal treatment based on their sex.

Women and girls around the world face similar sex discrimination. This prevents them from exercising their basic human rights such as obtaining a quality education, accessing health services, managing money, being employed, living free from violence, and participating in political life.

Achieving SDG5.1 would mean that national-level laws are enacted and enforced to promote, protect, and monitor equality and non-discrimination in all areas of political and public life.

## THE FACTS

- Worldwide 62 million girls are denied an education (UN Stats)
- 1 in 3 women have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime (WHO), and 46 countries do not have laws against gender-based violence. (WBL 2016)
- Globally, only 22% of national parliaments are female. (UN Women)
- In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working. (WBL 2016)

## STORY:

Tag a Life International, Zimbabwe

### WHAT DOES WOCON DO?

As an organization, we are making use of the inclusive approach of the SDGs to do away with all forms of discrimination against young women and girls in Zimbabwe. First, we equip girls with the knowledge of their rights through training and mentorship. Next, we engage communities, boys, men, and local leaders on gender norms transformation so that they can help in ending discrimination against young women and girls. TaLI believes that without the involvement of these important stakeholders, there will not be the full enjoyment of rights by women and girls.

### HAS SDG5.1 INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

The existence of SDG5.1 has positively influenced the advocacy strategy for achieving gender equality at TaLI, as our core identity, is centered on empowering all girls and young women. Our work also involves lobbying for adoption and strengthening of sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all girls and young women.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

The dwindling global funding to grassroots organizations makes it hard to meet SDG5.1 objectives. Finance is a key issue that has hampered the implementation of our strategy. Cultural practices and resistance also prevent girls and a young woman from achieving their full potential. Addressing deeply rooted gender-based discrimination has proven to be very difficult as a result of patriarchal attitudes and related social norms. Governments sometimes lack the political will to priorities and dedicate resources toward various issues that affect the girls' agenda.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### LEARN MORE

- Check out UN Women for more statistics on the various ways women and girls face discrimination!

### TAKE ACTION

- "I stand with Women Thrive to #AchieveSDG5 & end all forms of discrimination against women & girls!"

# SDG5.2: ELIMINATING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE

## THE TARGET

Target two of SDG5 is focused on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres. It includes issues of trafficking along with sexual and other types of exploitation.

Violence against women takes many different forms - physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, or financial - and affects approximately 1 in 3 women around the world. It also includes sexual harassment, street harassment, and stalking both in real life and virtually. It is most often perpetrated by an intimate partner, a family member, a friend, or a work colleague.

It is the biggest barrier to achieving gender equality because it is rooted in power structures that have led to women being treated as subordinate to men. Further, it cuts across all cultures, socio-economic status, age, education, geographic location, and religion.

## THE FACTS

- Over a third of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives (UN Stats)
- A recent United Nations Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific found that nearly half of the more than 8,000 men interviewed reported using physical and/or sexual violence against a female partner (UN Stats)
- The prevalence of physical and sexual intimate partner violence against women ranges from 16.3% in some countries in East Asia to as high as 65.6% in countries in Central Sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank)

## STORY:

*Women Consortium of Nigeria*

### WHAT DOES WOCON DO?

A recent WOCON project on irregular migration and trafficking exposed some of the underlying causes of why young women and girls are most vulnerable to trafficking. It was discovered that young women and girls are more susceptible to falling victim to human trafficking especially in the targeted border communities of Idiroko and Ajegunle in Ogun state and Owode-Apa and Seme communities in Lagos state due to their location.

### HAS SDG5.2 INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

The existence of SDG5.2 has facilitated the empowerment of women and girls in rural communities. It has brought awareness to their rights and access to information especially as it relates to irregular migration and other issues surrounding trafficking in persons. At the local level in Nigeria, the existence of SDG5.2 has compelled the government and law enforcement agents alike to participate in activities to bring an end to discrimination against women and girls and this has made our advocacy strategy easier. WOCON has formed a joint task force of community members, the Nigerian Immigration Service, the police, traditional and religious leaders, and other NGOs in order to sustain the impact of the project. This could not have been this successful without SDG5.2.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Some of the challenges are: lack of funding, high level of illiteracy and lack of education of young women and girls in communities leading to vulnerability, and NGOs are not part of decision-making when the government enacts policies or makes strategic decisions affecting women.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### LEARN MORE

- Explore the stats on violence against women.

### TAKE ACTION

- The "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls" campaign is Nov 25 - Dec 10, mobilizing activists around the world. Learn more and join in here!

# SDG5.3: ELIMINATING HARMFUL PRACTICES

## THE TARGET

Target three of SDG 5 is focused on eliminating all harmful practices, such as early, child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM/C).

Harmful practices are forms of violence primarily against women and girls that have been ingrained into societies norms and accepted as traditional or cultural practice. While in many cultures these practices are considered "rights of passage" or ceremonious actions to signal a coming of age, they are considered harmful by international human rights standards because they violate the rights of women and girls as individuals and their bodily autonomy.

Other forms of harmful practices include footbinding, breast ironing, honor-killings, son-preference practices, forced feeding, and even femicide.

Eliminating these forms of violence against women and girls is the gateway to achieving gender equality because it will ensure that girls are not stunted in their physical or psychological health and are able to exercise their full human rights.

## THE FACTS

- "In the developing world, one in three girls is married before age 18 and one in nine girls is married before age 15. 720 million women alive today were married as children, compared to 156 million men." (USAID)
- "Between 100 and 140 million women and girls have undergone mutilating operations on their external genitalia, suffering permanent and irreversible health damage." (World Bank)

## STORY:

*Association de Lutte contre les  
Violences Faites aux Femmes, Cameroon*

### WHAT DOES ALVF DO?

Our organization has been working for two decades to end child, early, and forced marriages in Cameroon on three levels: community, regional, and national. We work closely with girls, women, and leaders in their community to raise awareness of consequences of child, early, and forced marriages. Survivors and community leaders are empowered and involved. In 2014, we created a national platform with other civil society organizations to advocate for a law against gender-based violence, and for the publication of the Family and Person Code. We developed a roadmap and strategized how to raise funds.

### HAS SDG5.3 INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

Our work is based on SDG5.3 that aligns with our organization's vision. Our main target is girls and women, but we also work with the government because we need a political commitment to see change. We believe that without government engagement, it will be difficult to achieve our goal, so we are advocating locally and nationally. We have built problem and solution trees that help us strategize our advocacy campaigns.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

There are many challenges: the reluctance of the communities to justify harmful practices, poor engagement of the government to publish the law against gender-based violence, and lack of funds for our advocacy campaigns. Our advocacy campaigns need technical resources and funds. We do have positive long-term results from our programs, but funding is always a challenge.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### LEARN MORE

- Check out Girls Globe comprehensive resource page about all forms of harmful practices and organizations to support!

### TAKE ACTION

- Harmful practices affect over 200 million girls worldwide, incl the #US. Ending these practices is key to #AchieveSDG5! #FGM #ChildMarriage

# SDG5.4: VALUE UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

## THE TARGET

Target 4 of SDG5 is focused on recognizing and valuing unpaid and domestic care work that is primarily undertaken by women and girls worldwide. Specifically, target 4 addresses the need to provide "public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies" and advocates for the "promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family" as appropriate based on context and national customs.

Unpaid and domestic care work refers to the work that women and girls do for which they are not paid such as cooking, cleaning, washing, child-rearing, elder-care, and collecting fuel or water, among others. As unpaid work, these tasks occupy time that women and girls could alternatively use to attend school, pursue higher education, or hold full-time and meaningful employment.

Achieving this target is key to achieving gender equality because in redefining domestic roles and establishing balance in the household, women and girls' time will be freed up so that they can pursue other opportunities and have agency over their lives.

## THE FACTS

- Women are more likely than men to be employed part-time. Part-time jobs are often associated with lower hourly wages, less job security, and less training and promotion opportunities than full-time employment. (United Nations)
- Women spend, on average, three hours more per day than men on unpaid work in developing countries and two hours more per day than men in developed countries. (United Nations)

## STORY:

Wings of Mercy Psychological Support Organization, Tanzania

### WHAT DOES WMPISO TANZANIA DO?

Our WINGS campaign uses radio programs to talk about the effects of gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and early forced marriages on women and girls. We discuss the role women play within the family in propagating the economy at the family and national levels. Another campaign is TUINUANE, 'let's uplift each other'. Through mentorship and coaching we want young girls to gain confidence. Helping women and girls change their attitude and develop positive self-worth will help them be assertive and demand better treatment and respect of their rights.

### HAS SDG5.4 INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

A large focus is on women and environmental stewardship. We educate about the chores women have to do daily and the impact this has on them and the environment, especially the rural women who use charcoal or firewood. We hope to sensitize communities to the harsh impacts this has on the women and promote improvised means of energy such as biogas, solar energy, and electricity.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Lack of political will is a challenge: politicians never speak against these ills because this jeopardizes their electorate votes. They do not want to be perceived as against the cultural tenets of their traditional communities. There is also a lack of will on the part of domestic employers to let their workers attend our outreach seminars and trainings. They fear that they will know their rights and perhaps boycott them. There is also a financial constraint: WMPISO is still a young organization and despite its staff and volunteers, we have not yet secured funds to run our campaigns.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### TAKE ACTION

Support a local unpaid or domestic workers' rights organization like our friends the National Domestic Workers Alliance to stay informed or take action!

# SDG5.5: ENSURE WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

## THE TARGET

Target 5 of SDG5 is focused on ensuring "women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life." Specifically, this target measures the proportion of seats held by women in government and the number of women holding managerial roles in the private and public sectors.

Reaching gender parity in decision-making is one of the key drivers to achieving gender equality worldwide: without women in the room and at the decision-making table, the issues related to women's rights and gender equality can go undiscussed.

The common feminist saying "not about us, without us" means that discussions and decisions about and for women should not be had without adequate representation in the room. Parity between the genders in all spheres of decision-making ensures that the diversity of perspectives and issues are addressed.

## THE FACTS

- As of 2012 only 17% of government ministers were women, with the majority overseeing social sectors, such as education and health. (United Nations)
- The global average of women in national parliaments increased just slightly from 22.6% in 2015 to 23.3% in 2016. (IPU)
- Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide. Women, there have won 63.8% of seats in the lower house. (UN Women)

## STORY:

Women LEAD Nepal

### WHAT DOES WOMEN LEAD DO?

Women LEAD Nepal's vision is a better world where women leaders co-create the future. Every day, we work toward a Nepal where the voices of women and girls are powerful and influential, and women occupy positions of leadership and decision-making on an equal footing with men. Through our signature, year-long LEAD (Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Advocacy, and Development) Course, we work with exceptional adolescent girls and provide them with the tools and skills they need to become leaders in their schools, community, and eventually in Nepal.

### HAS SDG5.5 INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

Leadership goes hand-in-hand with advocacy and activism. During the LEAD Course, for example, LEADers receive a week of hands-on trainings on advocacy and then plan and implement their own advocacy campaign. These conversations are usually anchored through the explanation of SDG5. Our YWPLI Fellows also learn about their rights as Nepali citizens and how they can leverage their skills to keep their government and elected official accountable. Doing so not only keeps them engaged in the decision-making process, but it also elevates the voices and concerns of young women, all of which is directly related to the goals of SDG5.5.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Nepali women continue to be disadvantaged in the face of a historically patriarchal society. Even though more women are coming to the forefront, many still lack the background, expertise, or experience to be able to actively participate and contribute to the development of the country. In addition, women are still raised to become wives and mothers and much of their value is still dependent on their role in the house. As such, structures, social expectations, and work environments are not conducive to supporting or encouraging women in leadership. Working against these norms is one of our biggest challenges.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### TAKE ACTION

Support organizations such as Emily's List who train and build the skills of progressive women who choose to run for office in the U.S.

# SDG5.6: ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

## THE TARGET

Target 5.6 seeks to ensure "universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. These two conferences outline in detail what and how sexual and reproductive health can be addressed by U.N. member states.

Progress to achieving this target will be measured by monitoring how many women can make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care, and the number of countries with laws that guarantee women access to reproductive health care, information, and education.

Providing women and girls with access to robust sexual health education will facilitate their empowerment and agency in completing formal education; understanding sexual activity, contraception, and its effects; and avoiding STIs and unwanted pregnancies, as well as complications while pregnant.

## THE FACTS

- Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death and disability for women age 15-49 in most developing countries. (UN Foundation)
- 80% of HIV cases globally are transmitted sexually and a further 10% are transmitted during pregnancy, labor, and delivery, or through breastfeeding. Sexual and reproductive health programs are an important contribution to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support. (OHCHR)

## STORY:

*Women For a Change, Cameroon*

### WHAT DOES WFAC DO?

In contributing to the realization of SDG5 target 5.6, Wfac has as one of its focus areas a Comprehensive Sexuality Education outreach program in and out of schools. The Wfac CSE project is a weekly interactive curriculum which draws on various participatory teaching tools such as group discussion, storytelling, creative plays, energizers, personal reflections, analysis, and others. It is Wfac's belief that by talking about human sexuality with adolescents (boys and girls) and reaching out to communities and leaders, attitudes and behaviors would be changed and improved and all these would invariably inform policymakers on the needs of women related to sexual and reproductive health and rights and thus influence national policy and programs.

### HAS SDG5.6 INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

Given that Wfac operates in a conservative and highly patriarchal society, we are constantly challenged and reflective in our work and outreach, including advocacy and campaigns for a gender just society. As such, Wfac has always continued to triangulate its advocacy methods and strategies. These include sensitizing women and girls on their rights, addressing any form of violence or discrimination, and influencing policy-makers as well as policy designs to be gender friendly. We advocate for governments to give equal opportunity to men and women, boys and girls.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

There are cultural and religious barriers. Some students come from areas or believe in a religion, whereby they are not permitted to use contraceptives. We also lack finances to help us reach out to all the schools. At the level of teachers, we notice there are still large gaps existing in gender sensitization as most teachers still carry out discriminatory practices between boys and girls but this is due to lack of awareness.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### TAKE ACTION

Take action through the International Women's Health Coalition, Women Thrive's partner -- a leading voice on sexual and reproductive health and rights! They have regional advocacy actions through which you can show your solidarity!

# SDG5.A: EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES

## THE TARGET

Target 5.A focuses on women's economic rights and pushes for policy and program reforms that ensure women's "equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources." This target will be measured by:

- Tracking total arable land owned by women (within the agricultural population);
- The share of women among owners and 'rights-bearers' of agricultural land; and
- The number of countries where there are policies and laws guaranteeing women equal rights to land ownership or control.

Since the creation of the SDGs in 2015, SDG5.A has not yet had progress data shared. It is one of the targets not yet to be prioritized by many countries. Having economic rights and legal provisions that provide and protect women's economic assets is essential to economic growth and eradicating poverty.

## THE FACTS

- Women produce more than 80% of the food in Africa, yet they own only 1% of the land. (World Bank)
- The bulk of the land in Africa, about 75%, is under customary tenure, administered by unwritten law based on tradition and cultural norms prevailing in an area for a particular tribe of people. (United Nations)
- If rural women had the same access to productive inputs as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30%, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4%. (World Bank)

## STORY:

*Femmes et Education des Adultes, DRC*

### WHAT DOES FEDA DO?

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we organized two workshops on a local level in March and May. These workshops focused on bringing both traditional chiefs (who monopolize the ownership of land) and women together, and it allows us to defy the taboo surrounding women and land ownership. It also allows for these women to be able to discuss their concerns in a safe environment and find solutions along with the traditional chiefs. We had a participation of 400 people total, 300 women and also 100 traditional chiefs. We also organized and developed a team of five facilitators who are in charge of simplifying and explaining laws relating to the management of land and family code in local languages.

### HAS SDG5.A INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

Our organization mission aligned with the SDG5.A target, being easy access and control of land by women, which in return promotes sustainable agriculture and economic development. Land constitutes a capital source of revenue for a lot of these rural women in the "FIZI" zone and rural women are the majority of farmers and are crucial partners in the fight against famine, malnutrition, and poverty.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

We face many challenges, specifically regarding our campaigns. They are seen in our community as encouraging women to disobey their husbands and go against tradition. As a result, we often do not find a lot of support among conservatives. Despite all the progress that has been made, rural women are still excluded from the decision-making process, and often forgotten from politics and development programs. The agricultural production which for the most part rests on rural women, will not progress and expand if we do not recognize women's social position and assure and recognize their judicial status.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### TAKE ACTION

Sign Habitat for Humanity's Solid Ground petition to take action on a New Urban Agenda that promotes women's rights and gender equality!

### LEARN MORE

Check out the Women, Business and Law data center to see what laws exist in your country!



# SDG5.B: ENHANCE WOMEN'S USE OF AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

## THE TARGET

Target 5.B looks at the role and enabling forces of technology for development. It focuses on enhancing women's use of and access to technology and specifically looks at promoting the use and innovation of communications technology to promote the empowerment of women.

This target thus focuses on both women's use of tech as a means to achieve gender equality and tech's role in promoting women's rights and gender equality.

So far, the only measurement metric for this target is the proportion of cell-phone owners that are women. While this metric does not cover the entirety of what the target seeks to accomplish, it provides a step toward understanding the scope and reach of technology, and a baseline from which to work.

## THE FACTS

- In low- to middle-income countries, a woman is 21 percent less likely to own a mobile phone than a man, and the divide is similar for Internet access. (UN Women)
- The U.N. estimates that 95 percent of harassment, abusive language, and derogatory imagery in online spaces is aimed at women. (Global Fund for Women)
- Women are 1.6 times more likely than men to report lack of skills as a barrier to Internet use. (World Wide Web Foundation)
- In the United States, the share of women in computing jobs is in decline: only 24% of women hold computing jobs. (Girls Who Code)

## STORY:

Malkia Foundation, Kenya

### WHAT DOES MALKIA FOUNDATION DO?

We are committed to empowering the African girl with a STEM education. I come from a community that has programmed girls to believe that they are not wired for hard stuff like maths and sciences. I am fighting to kick this notion out of my community. The world being a global village, a STEM Education will enable women and girls to have access to networking opportunities with their peers from other parts of the world. They will continue learning from each other, despite their very diverse cultures.

### HAS SDG5.B INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

Whereas before we just wanted to provide a quality education for girls, the existence of the SDG5.B has had us make a turn around and just focus on a STEM education which I believe will make for more informed women and girls, who will after, and even before graduation, give their male counterparts a run for their money in the scramble for the lucrative STEM industry jobs in the market, which have always been a preserve for males.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Our biggest challenge at the moment is the funding needed to make our dream a reality. So far, we've bought the land and need help to start building the Malkia STEM School for girls. Another challenge is that coming from a rural village makes it extra hard to ensure that our community understands what a STEM education is, and what it entails, plus its importance to girls in the community. We have to educate them to understand first.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### TAKE ACTION

- Support programs like Girls Who Code to encourage and coach girls and women in the fields of science and technology.

### LEARN MORE

- Learn more about the U.N. Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum which addresses SDG5.B among others in its work!

# SDG5.C: ADOPT POLICIES AND LEGISLATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

## THE TARGET

Target 5.C looks at the legal and legislative policies that are instituted by countries in support of gender equality and women's rights. Specifically, this target asks governments to "adopt and strengthen" policies and "enforceable legislation" that promotes "gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" at all levels.

This target is set to be measured by tracking the proportion of countries that make public budget and policy allocations toward gender equality and women's rights.

When legal provisions are in place that protect, support, and empower women in their communities and countries, women and girls have the assurance that their human rights are recognized. These legal provisions can include protection from workplace sexual harassment, legislating parity in public and political leadership, ensuring maternal and sexual and reproductive health care, and many others. Laws being in place also allow citizens to hold their governments accountable for human rights violations.

## THE FACTS

- As of 2014, 143 countries have guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions but 52 have yet to take this step. (United Nations)
- 49 countries have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence. (UN Women)
- Only 15% of countries have legislation that mandates specialized gender-based violence surveys. (UN Women)

## STORY:

*Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative, Nigeria*

### WHAT DOES ECOWA DO?

Echoes of Women in Africa works to promote peace and security for African women and girls by monitoring stakeholders commitments to policies on protection of women and girls in conflict. We create awareness on legislation in communities, families, traditional and religious leaders, political and corporate organizations as well as sensitization of men and women on the provisions of the laws.

### HAS SDG5.C INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY?

This goal 5, has strengthened my zeal and provided me a back up to continue with the advocacy. I use this in my work as its states that legislation is needed to ensure government promotes women's human rights and leadership around the world without discrimination. Achieving gender equality will require stepping up legislative efforts on all fronts and much more in developing nations where women have been left behind as partners in nation building. As a member of Women Thrive Alliance, I have been empowered with different advocacy strategies on engagements with stakeholders on the implementation of the SDGs.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Existing policies are not used nor enforced, this is a real challenge. Access to justice for victims is rare. From impunity in compliance on provisions of the law to police ignorance of the law and the implementation as well as victims reluctance to continue with cases of discrimination, abuse, and violations due to fear, threats, poverty, and delays of the judiciary system, all compound legal procedure on using legislation for redress.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### LEARN MORE

A Swedish success story: what we can learn from their gender aware snow-clearing policy

### LEARN MORE

How the introduction of a gender equity subject in school in India has changed behaviors and perspectives

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find more tools at  
[womenthrive.org](http://womenthrive.org)

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