



IN BRIEF



# GENDER EQUALITY: A GOVERNANCE MATTER

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## What's the Issue?

Gender Inequality is a Governance Failure. National plans, policies, institutions and budgets reflect how governments translate commitments to gender equality into results for women. Too often, however, there is a gap between policy and practice. Viewing these dimensions of governance through a gender equality lens means putting aside the conventional assumption that they are gender-neutral. It entails comprehensively assessing gender gaps and identifying actions to close them. Changes to promote gender equality need to be backed by adequate funds, and systematically monitored for progress in reducing gender discrimination.

## Our Solutions

UN Women works across aspects of governance that can most readily accelerate progress towards gender equality. We help bridge disconnects between national development strategies and gender equality plans. We support steps such as cultivating the capacities of public officials to integrate gender equality measures in plans and budgets, and select performance indicators for oversight.

We advocate transparent and adequate public financing for gender equality, including through the adoption of gender-responsive budgets that channel adequate resources to both women and men. Engagement with gender equality advocates helps strengthen their skills to influence public

decision-making and hold governments accountable. At the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission on the Status of Women and elsewhere, we play central roles in supporting a stronger normative framework for financing for gender equality, and strengthened public sector capacity and accountability.

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A decade of UN Women's work in more than 60 countries has yielded concrete results. Strategic partnerships have been established with Finance, Planning and sector Ministries, local governments, parliamentarians, women's organizations, civil society groups, academic institutions, development partners and the UN system.

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## Results Snapshot

### TRACKING & FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY:

- Ecuador, a leader in gender-responsive planning and budgeting and a long-standing UN Women partner, has taken important steps to track public allocations towards gender equality through the development and application of a budget classifier. As a result of effective tracking, it almost doubled funding allocated to implement gender equality policies from US\$ 1.4 billion in 2011 to US\$ 2.6 billion in 2012.
- In Morocco, building on UN Women's support of the government's national planning and budgeting, the European Union signed a financing agreement with the national government to provide Euro 45 million to implement the governmental Plan for Equality.

### CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING:

In 2012, UN Women supported the creation of two regional knowledge hubs on gender-responsive budgeting.

In Morocco, under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, the EU-sponsored Center of Excellence for French and Arabic speaking countries was launched. In Russia, the regional Center of Excellence was launched under the leadership of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. Both resource centers will facilitate capacity strengthening, knowledge building, and exchange of expertise.

### EXPERIENCES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL:

Since 2009, UN Women has supported local governments to improve women's access to services and resources in Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. The application of gender-responsive planning and budgeting in the seven districts has resulted in increasing women's representation and participation in decision-making and in better access to services for women and girls.

- In Tanzania, women identified development of water resources as one of their main priorities. In response, the Morogoro district put in place improved water infrastructure, resulting in water delivery for 7,500 new users in the district.

- In Mozambique, with UN Women's support, the Muembe district saw a 15 per cent increase from 2010 to 2011 in women's participation in decision-making. The overall rate of women's participation exceeded the 30 per cent quota set by the national law on decentralization. As a result, pressing priorities identified by women were addressed by local government, such as the organization of a first-ever civic registration campaign for women.

### ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY:

In 2012, UN Women and the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality supported the elaboration of a gender equality and women's empowerment indicator. The indicator measures government efforts to track public resource allocations for gender equality and makes an important contribution to support larger efforts at strengthening capacity and promoting accountability and transparency for increased financing for gender equality.

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**“Thanks to the participatory budget experience, women are more aware of their rights. I myself, I have my own land and I cultivate. Like my husband.”**

– Woman member of the Community Council, Senegal

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### EMERGING AREAS:

- **COSTING FOR GENDER EQUALITY:** UN Women is developing work on costing for gender equality priorities in more than 20 countries.
- **GENDER RESPONSIVE DECENTRALIZATION:** Building on its strong partnership with local governments in several countries, UN Women is developing its work on engendering local governance. UN Women is a strong advocate for positioning local governments as key drivers for change in the post-2015 landscape.
- **ANTI-CORRUPTION:** UN Women is nurturing strong partnerships with UNDP and women's grassroots organizations, such as the Huairou Commission, to further develop its work on anti-corruption.