

Sustainable Development Goals through the Gender Lens



The **sustainable development goals** (SDGs) <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jan/19/sustainable-development-goals-united-nations> are a new, universal set of **goals**, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years.

In addressing the structural causes of poverty, women's groups advocated for a stand-alone goal on gender as well as mainstreaming gender through all the goals, which was achieved in **Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls**. The purpose of the stand-alone goal is to address three key areas: freedom from violence against women and girls; gender equality in the distribution of capabilities; and gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions.

A close look at the goals and targets indicate the cross cutting gender relationships and shows the impact on all other goals and targets.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- ❖ Equitable treatment of women and children is fundamental to poverty eradication.

Goal 2: End hunger achieves food security and improved nutrition.

- ❖ Women's engagement in enhancing food security and improved nutrition initiatives is vital given their central roles in securing food for families and communities.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

- ❖ Attention to women and children in health initiatives is vital given their central roles in both social and biological reproduction and their need for access to health related services.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

- ❖ Women's and children's engagement in education initiatives, especially basic literacy, is central to improving life chances.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

- ❖ Women's role is central given their responsibility for the social reproduction of families and communities and the centrality of water and sanitation to this and the daily time and physical burdens this place on women in many world regions. [Read More
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112727/1/9789241507240_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112727/1/9789241507240_eng.pdf)

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

- ❖ Women's role is central given their responsibility for social reproduction and the centrality of energy to food preparation.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

- ❖ Women's involvement in economic growth is central given their roles in both waged employment and unwaged work in their homes and communities.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

- ❖ Women's concern with infrastructure provision, and its links to resources, is central to their daily lives given their roles in both production and social reproduction activities.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

- ❖ The reduction in inequality is the surest way of reducing gender inequalities and increasing the empowerment of women and children.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- ❖ Women's and children's needs in relation to land, housing, services, transport, sanitation are central to the planning of sustainable cities.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- ❖ Women's and children's access to basic needs – land, water, food and energy – form the basis of sustainable production and consumption.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

- ❖ Climate change disproportionately affects women and children. Women's responsibilities in relation to production and social reproduction are central to making climate change initiatives sustainable.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

- ❖ There are synergistic links given women's roles in community conservation, the preservation of biodiversity and environmental decision-making.

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

- ❖ There are synergistic links given women's roles in community conservation, the preservation of biodiversity and environmental decision-making.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- ❖ Without women's engagement in peaceful development initiatives, they will fail.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

- ❖ Without the implementation of sustainable development for women, sustainable development in many other sectors will fail.

Monitoring and evaluation indicators must be gender disaggregated, consensus-based, universal, and managed by designated organizations and with clear links to each target. In addition, more effort is needed to develop indicators that make sense at local scales. In this sense, engaging local stakeholders, citizen groups, including marginalized communities is needed. Baseline conditions, determined with local and global data, need to be established. A system for updating the indicators periodically through national and international reporting systems is also needed.

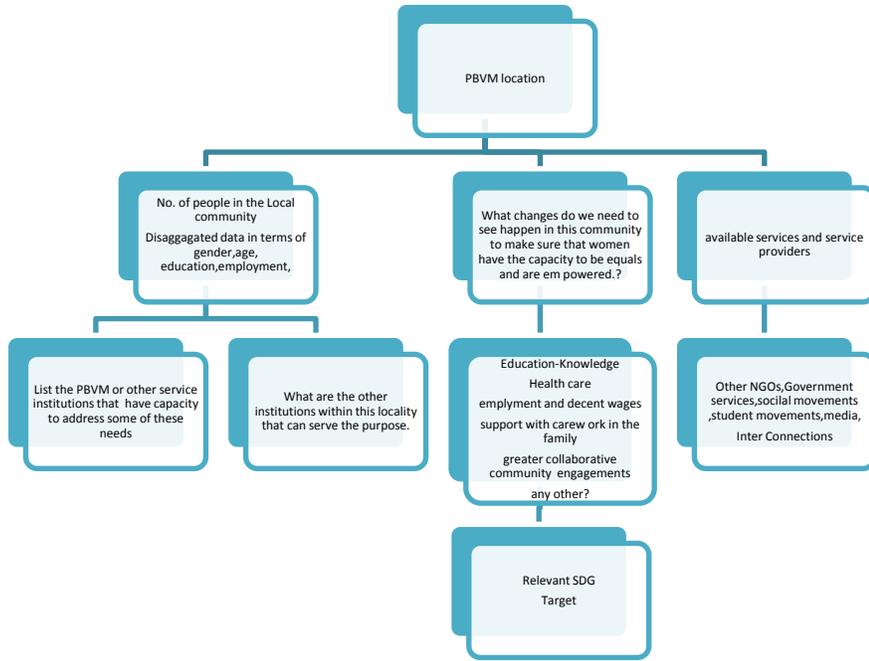
As Presentation people who are committed to cause of women and girls it is an opportunity for us to engage with the Sustainable Development Goals and make sure that in the next 15 years the reality of every woman, especially the most vulnerable in our target area is transformed. As we begin the process, a reality check in terms of the demographics we are serving, types of services we are providing, current impact of our services, number of people left behind, reasons for leaving them behind and the possible networks are good way to start. Every child and staff in our institutions could be a potential change agent. Equipped with knowledge of SDGs and good analytical tools they could be educators in their own families no matter what the age. This is huge space for us to work with local communities and other likeminded people on a Right based approach.

Some helpful links

http://www.unicef.org/post2015/files/Post_2015_OWG_review_CR_FINAL.pdf

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org//index.php?menu=1565>

Some possible way to become engaged with the process:



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