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ASSIGNMENTS

1. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS EXPLAIN HOW YOU UNDERSTAND GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmed in any area and at all level. It also a strategy for making the concerns and shared the experiences of women as well as men in an integrated part of the decision, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all polices, economic and societal sphere, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

1. **EXPLAIN THREE ENABLING CONDITIONS THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN IN GENDER MAINSTREAMING**.

Government of South Sudan highlights the status of women covering Social protection and poverty reduction,security, education, work and decision making along with social obstacles in women’s empowerment.

An effective implementation of gender mainstreaming requires preparation and organisation. People in decision-making positions can make a particular difference here, as they have more power to introduce changes.

Key elements to be considered are:

**Political and Security Situation**:

The political crisis in South Sudan is structural and systemic. It is structural in terms of the ethnic tensions and regional dimension of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) frame work that initiated peace negotiations in the country without a proper governance structure. It is systemic in terms of the internal divisions within Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement. The ethnic tone of the crisis is associated with inter-tribal massacres and revenge attacks by militia and soldiers from opposing groups. These attacks have been driven by the presence of armed militia, ethnic rivalry, disputes over land and cattle, availability of arms, a high number of soldiers that have not been demobilized, high youth unemployment levels, power struggles, and unresolved post-secession issues with the Republic of Sudan. These challenges have worsened South Sudan’s poverty, human development indicators, governance, institutions, and infrastructure. As a result, the Government suffered setbacks in coordination and has continued to be challenged with macroeconomic challenges, corruption, and power struggles. In addition, the political crisis also translates into frequent changes in Senior Government Officials (i.e. 2 different Ministers of Finance in the past 6 months) making it difficult to establish a strong relationship and have a clear long-term strategic direction of the Government. Since its independence and despite the peace efforts made over the years, South Sudan’s peace and security have been hindered by several factors. The peace efforts include the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in 2015 to end the 2013conflict, the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity, declaration of the national dialogue in December 2016, convening of the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) and signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 21 December 2017. Key challenges to peace and security include;

1. disputes with Sudan over borders and sharing of oil rents;
2. The eruption of the December 2013 civil war; and recurrent violence in July 2016 South Sudan experienced one of the longest civil wars in Africa and the recently signed PSA brings hope for peace and development in the country. Since gaining independence from Sudan on 9thJuly 2011, the country has struggled with good governance and failed to control rebel militia groups operating in its territory Political independence brought optimism for several reasons:
3. a breakaway from Khartoum’s domination;
4. the end of a long period of violence and internal conflicts;
5. the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees; and
6. An opportunity for constructing a new and peaceful future for the country. However, insecurity and peace issues hampered the building of the new nation. Instead, independence has exposed the country to serious peace and security challenges, ethnic divisions and power struggles, all of which have contributed to the stalemate of the nation-building process. South Sudan’s political situation is characterised by fractured and non-inclusive.

**As in most conflicts, women, girls and young men are among the most vulnerable.** They are faced by number of challenges including extreme poverty, lack of access to basic productive assets, and the impacts of climate change on livelihoods and wellbeing. In situations of conflict, these groups are most exposed to adversity, and many of the risks they face, such as gender-based violence (GBV), are heightened.

**Social Context and Cross-Cutting Themes:**

Poverty Situation: The long years of conflict have aggravated poverty levels and increased social marginalization, as millions of South Sudanese have been displaced. Poverty has significantly increased to 82% in 2016, from 66% reported in 2015. Urban poverty was estimated to have increased to 70% in 2016, from 49% in 2015. The ongoing economic recession is another contributing factor to high poverty levels as public wages have remained subdued at the expense of rising security spending, and high inflation followed by disruptions in crop production, thus increasing households ’challenges to afford the minimum food basket. According to the World Food Programme (WFP) report-(Integrated Food Security Phase classification), in January 2018, about 4.3 million people were food insecure. Inequality among the poor has deteriorated, and the poverty index reached0.2 in 2016, from 0.1 in 2015.

Social protection programs are increasingly emerging as important policy tools to rebuild the social fabric and social capital of fragile and conflict affected countries.The implementation of well-designed and inclusive programs can contribute to reducing inequality and empowering women. This is particularly relevant with persistent gender gaps. The inclusion of women and groups with low bargaining power, a lack of voice and agency, and with low access to productive resources in the design of poverty reduction programs can tackle gender-specific vulnerabilities and solidify efforts to increase women’s empowerment and inclusive development. Furthermore, failing to recognize existing gaps can exacerbate inequality to the detriment of vulnerable subgroups and the country’s overall fragility.

**Social protection and poverty reduction programs must consider the different circumstances of women and girls, men and boys to deliver benefits to those that need most.** It is also important to understand the impact of programs for different subgroups of the population, including children and youth, to build a sustained approach to addressing fragility and conflict and to make progress towards ending extreme poverty and achieving shared prosperity. Finally, social protection programs can play a critical role in the prevention, mitigation and response to GBV. (South Sudan Poverty Profile (World Bank, 2016) and on the Republic of South Sudan Systematic Country Diagnostic (World Bank, 2015).

1. **CHOOSING YOUR OWN SECTOR EXPLAINS HOW GENDER MAINSTREAMING HAS OCCURRED.**

Current Situation of Gender by Sector is Agriculture:

3.1 Agriculture is the second most important industry of South Sudan, following the oil industry, providing15% of GDP and 78% of employment in South Sudan. Fertile land, water, and a young labour force assure high agricultural potential. Although 90% of the land is suitable for agriculture, only 4.5% is under cultivation. About half of cereal requirements come from food aid and imports. Agriculture in South Sudan is subsistence agriculture with little inputs and outputs, a combination of livestock, crops, fisheries, vegetable picking, and small-scale trade. Lack of appropriate technology, lack of quality inputs, insecure land tenure, weak farmer associations, lack of access to extension, and climate change hamper agricultural development. Many cows, sheep, and goats are raised; the number of livestock per person in South Sudan is one of the highest in the world. The major pastoralists are **Nilotic, Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Murle, Toposa, and Boya**. Livestock is a symbol of wealth as well as the source of food and nutrition. Large animals are owned by men and inherited through male lineage while women can possess small ruminants, such as pigs and goats, and fowl, such as chickens and ducks. Fisheries are male dominant; however, women are also engaged in fishing during the dry season when the water level is low. Women smoke or sun-dry fish. FAO successfully supported women fisheries cooperatives with technical training, registration, and market information as well as health and nutrition.

South Sudan has abundant natural resources such as teak, gum Arabic, and mahogany. Men used to collect and process gum Arabic, but now women also process and trade it. Women collect honey for food and brewing. Women groups collect process and sell honey in the former Central Equatoria state and the former Western Bar El Ghazal state. Apiculture may have good potential for women’s income generation as honey is on high domestic demand. Conflicts affect agriculture and food security as well. Many people have been displaced and have lost seeds, livestock and land, trapped in destitution. Conflicts have disturbed the migration routes of livestock, markets, and animal health services, leading to reduction of milk production, which is a source of income as well as family nutrition. The change in migration routes brings about tension between agriculturalists and pastoralists. The loss of the livestock sector is estimated from USD 1 to2 billion. Women constitute60.2% of agricultural workers203and account for 80％of agricultural labour force. Despite their significant role in the agriculture sector in South Sudan, women’s access to productive assets is limited. Women are usually engaged in crop production and they have control over crop produce for own consumption but not over crops for sale. Land is also under control of men. What women can control is their labour and simple tools. Access to agricultural extension is often dominated by men. (Among those who used extension service, men account for 88.7%, women 9.7%, and boys 1.3%, girls 0.2%).One of the reasons for this imbalance is lack of women extension workers due to women’s low literacy. In an Agro-Pastoral Field School programme, FAO lowered the requirements for community extension workers and managed to recruit three women extension workers.

Transformation from subsistence agriculture to income-generating commercial agriculture needs agri-business and agro-processing development. Given that men and women have different obstacles, this requires training that is catered to the different needs of men and women (in relation to agricultural technology and literacy level)and support to improve access to productive assets (land, microfinance, seeds).

The government recognizes the importance of gender in agriculture and has developed gender sensitive policies such as the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan supported by JICA. Ministry of Livestock and Fishery Industries developed Fisheries Policy 2006–2011 and Animal Resource Policy 2006-2011 to address mainstreaming of gender and vulnerable groups. Ministry of Livestock and Fishery Industries’ Policy Framework and Strategic Plans 2012–2016 set gender analysis and gender mainstreaming planning as objectives of Planning Department, and gender mainstreaming as an objective of Extension Department.

Agriculture Sector Policy 2012–2017 has a component about gender. The three-year plan of the former West Equatoria state (2010–2012) also includes main programmes on HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming. However, National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy and Agricultural Research Policy do not mention gender.211The major donors in the agriculture and livelihood sector are FAO, USAID, Canada-DFAT, DFID, EU, GIZ, WFP, the Netherlands, the World Bank, Switzerland and JICA. UN Women, IOM, WFP, and UNHCR support humanitarian assistance and development programmes in cooperation with local NGOs. Because of the current critical situation, FAO and WFP concentrate on food security. USAID used to support market-oriented horticulture in the southern area with fertile soil, but after the armed clash in December 2013, it scaled down their activities and turned the focus on food security. USAID suspended all activities after July 2016. EU and GIZ supported the northern region. The Netherlands supported the private sector such as agricultural inputs traders and seeds breeders.

1. **COMPARE AND CONTRAST HOW GENDER MAINSTREAMING HAS BEEN ENCOMPASSED IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS)**

On 25 September2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the agreed framework for international development. It is the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, unlike the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda presents a much wider scope by deliberately and more fully incorporating economic and environmental sustainability, as well as the aspiration of many countries for peaceful and inclusive societies. The agenda also applies to all countries rather than just the developing countries. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is more ambitious envisaging the eradication of poverty, the systematic tack-ling of climate change and building peaceful, resilient, equitable and inclusive societies. The Agenda, unlike the MDGs, has a stand-alone Goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In addition, there are gender equality targets in other Goals and a more consistent call for sex disaggregation of data across many indicators. UN Women Communications and Advocacy Section in New York conducted an analysis of what the main 9 SDGs adopted mean to women in order to inform strategic interventions building on the e orts of localization at country and regional levels. This analysis has been collated in this publication and linked to UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional and Country Office priorities. Concrete examples programming interventions by UN Women country offices in the region are pro led in relation to specific SDGs and how those streams of interventions could lead to localization e orts. This has been done through an analysis of all annual reports submitted by regional/ multi/country offices to identify work streams feeding into the localization of sustainable development goals. The team comprising UN Women’s consultant on SDGs, Knowledge Management and Research Specialist and UN Women’s Regional Communications Assistant, under the leadership of the Deputy Regional Director, linked to existing analysis provided by UN Women on Women and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).The publication showcases how women are affected by each of the 9 proposed SDGs, as well as how women and girls can — and will — be key to achieving each of these goals. Data and stories of the impact of each SDG on women and girls are illustrated. UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa region’s efforts and interventions as they relate to SDGs are also discussed under each SDG, including our programmes, intergovernmental work and advocacy for policy change. This publication is intended to help countries in Eastern and Southern Africa understand and appreciate the linkages between SDGs and women and girls in their localization e orts and in establishing various partnerships and networks that feed into the vision of localizing SDGs at the country and regional levels are:

1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The end of poverty can only be achieved with the end of gender-based discrimination. All over the world, gender inequality makes and keeps women poor, depriving them of basic rights and opportunities for well-being. Women make significant contributions every day from bringing an income to her household as an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders. However, a woman farmer, for instance, may not be able to make her crops thrive like a man can because she doesn’t have the same access to seeds, credit, and technology and extension services. She is very unlikely to own her land—only 20 per cent of landowners globally are women. If she hopes to someday inherit family property, the law may deprive her of an equal share, or social convention may simply favor her male relatives. Poverty comes with many risks; discrimination leaves women less resilient to these. In an economic downturn, poor women are less likely to have savings and abilities to make up for lost income. Poor girls are more than twice as likely to marry in childhood as those who are wealthy. They then face potentially life-threatening risks from early pregnancy, and often lost hopes for an education and a better income. Women have a right to equal access to all avenues to end poverty, from social protection safety nets to use of the latest technology. Fully realizing that right will be key to achieving the first SDG.UN Women acts to end poverty through programmes to provide training, loans and practical skills to empower poor women economically, give them a voice, strengthen social services and increase awareness of women’s rights. We also work to ensure women’s access to basic services, control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services.

2 End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

Women prepare up to 90 per cent of meals in households around the world, yet when times are tough, women and girls may be the first to eat less. Households headed by women may not eat enough simply because women earn at lower levels, and are less prepared to cope with sudden crisis. Nourishment is not just about the quantity of food, but its quality. In poor households, women can be less likely to get the nutrients they need, including to manage the physical demands of pregnancy and breastfeeding. Gender inequality intersects with inadequate health care, insufficient education and limited income to drive these deprivations. Inequities in food consumption stand in contrast to women’s significant role in agricultural production. They comprise on average 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and over 50 per cent in parts of Asia and Africa. Yet their potential contribution to food security remains constrained by unequal access to land and other productive assets. Ending hunger means that all women can consume enough food with adequate nutrients. All women working in agriculture, if unshackled fromdiscrimination can contribute to greater global food security. UN Women acts to stop hunger by supporting women’s role in food security, as the cornerstones of food production and utilization. We provide training for women farmers and access to information and technology, to help women can achieve significantly higher agricultural productivity. UN Women also raises awareness among rural women and decision makers alike, on the need for legal changes to allow more equitable distribution of assets, such as land and credit. The entity also steers the online global knowledge hub Empower.org, where women can share practical knowledge around food production and technology.**ag**

**3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every person. Gender-based discrimination, however, undercuts this right. It can render women more susceptible to sickness and less likely to obtain care, for reasons ranging from affordability to social conventions keeping them at home. Among women of reproductive age worldwide, AIDS is now the leading cause of death. Not only are women biologically more susceptible to HIV transmission, but their unequal social and economic status undercuts abilities to protect themselves and make empowered choices. Countries have committed to universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, but many gaps have slowed progress so far. More than 225 million women have an unmet need for contraceptive methods. In developing regions, where maternal mortality rates are 14 times higher than in developed ones, only half of pregnant women receive the minimum standard for antenatal care. Fulfilling the right to health requires health systems to become fully responsive to women and girls, offering higher quality, more comprehensive and readily accessible services. Societies at large must end practices that critically endanger women’s health and well-being—among them, all forms of gender-based violence. UN Women advances women’s well-being and health by working with governments to improve the provision of health services for women and girls, including survivors of violence, and backing nongovernmental partners in filling gaps. The entity strives to end practices that endanger women and girls, such as child marriage, female genital cutting, dietary restrictions and others. The programmes help meet women’s health needs during medical humanitarian crises, restoring confidence in maternal and child health services in the wake of Ebola virus disease in West Africa. We also support and empower women living with HIV and AIDS.

**4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;**

All developing regions of the world have achieved or almost achieved — equal enrolment of boys and girls in primary school. This is an historic accomplishment, but far from complete. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 23 per cent of poor rural girls finish primary school. Gender gaps widen significantly in many countries in secondary and tertiary schools. Education is a right. It empowers individuals to increase their well-being and contributes to broader social and economic gains. Improved education accounts for about 50 per cent of economic growth in Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development countries over the past five decades. About half is due to more women entering higher levels of education and greater equality as to the year’s men and women spend in school. For education to deliver, it must be inclusive and high-quality. Active efforts to end gender stereotypes must tackle those that limit schooling or channel women and girls into ‘acceptable’ areas of study or work. For all girls and boys, men and women, education must be available across their lifetimes. Pre-primary education establishes a foundation on which all later References: schooling can build. Ongoing learning for adults broadens choices for productive and fulfilling lives. UN Women acts to promote education — a core pre-requisite for gender equality and women’s rights –through the revision of school curricula and policies to counteract gender discrimination, improving access to information technologies, and training for teachers, students and parents. Along with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, UN Women has developed a non-formal educational curriculum to prevent violence against women and girls, which educators and youth leaders are being trained to deliver in more than a dozen countries.

**5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

The sustainable development goals seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women. **Women’s empowerment is a pre-condition for these Women** have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs,with many targets specifically recognizing women’sequality and empowerment as both the objective,and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as thestand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated toachieving these ends.Deep legal and legislative changes are needed toensure women’s rights around the world. While arecord 143 countries guaranteed equality betweenmen and women in their Constitutions by 2014,another 52 had not taken this step. In many nations,gender discrimination is still woven through legaland social norms.Stark gender disparities remain in economicand political realms. While there has been someprogress over the decades, on average women inthe labour market still earn 24 per cent less thanmen globally. As of August 2015, only 22 per centof all national parliamentarians were female, a slowrise from 11.3 per cent in 1995. Meanwhile, violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide, 35cut the roots of gender discrimination wherever they appear. UN Women works to empower women and girls in all of its programmes. Advancing women’s political participation and leadership and economic empowerment are two of the entity’s central goals. UN Women supports more women to get on ballots, attain political office and go to polls to vote. We assist women to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies, while underlining the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden on per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. UN Women joined the voices of many global actors in pointing out that violence was absent from the Millennium Development Goals. Women have a right to equality in all areas. It must be embedded across legal systems, upheld in both laws and legal practices, including proactive measures such as quotas. Since all areas of life relate to gender equality, efforts must be made to women for unpaid care. We promote women’s role and leadership in humanitarian action, including in conflict-prevention and efforts to ensure peace and security. We advocate for ending violence, raise awareness of its causes and consequences and boost efforts to prevent and respond, including ensuring the rights of women living with HIV. We also work to ensure that governments reflect the needs of women and girls in their planning and budgeting, and engage men and boys, urging them to become champions of gender equality.

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

A drink of water sustains human life, but only if it is safe and affordable. From 1990 to 2015, 2.6 billion people gained access to improved drinking water, but 663 million still rely on unimproved sources like unprotected wells and springs. Water quality has deteriorated through pollution, and worsening scarcity pressures over 40 per cent of the global population. For women, inadequate water supplies pose additional burdens. In a single day in 25 sub-Saharan African countries, women spend 16 million hours collecting water, often to the detriment of schooling or paid work, and with potential health risks from repeatedly carrying heavy burdens over long distances. Poor quality sanitation—including open defecation— can pollute water and spread disease. Sanitation has improved for 2.1 billion people between 1990 and 2015, and open defecation has fallen by nearly half, yet 2.4 billion people still rely on unimproved sanitation facilities. In schools, a lack of separate facilities for girls can be a major reason for parents keeping them at home. Ensuring water and sanitation for all is the goal; achieving it must take all dimensions specific to women and girls on board, and involve them directly in the process. UN Women acts to provide water and sanitation to all by helping governments craft policies and programmes that respond to women’s needs and underpin sustainable services. Gender-responsive budgeting, for instance, can channel funds towards measures to improve easy access to safe drinking water so that women have more time to earn an income, girls are more likely to attend school, and family health and hygiene improve.

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

Sustainable modern energy fuels development, from the light that allows a child to do her homework to streetlamps allowing women to travel safely home at night. Universal access requires energy to be affordable and reliable. Generating it must not irreversibly harm the environment. In households, women are often the primary energy managers. When modern sources are not available, they spend hours each day collecting fuel to cook and heat their homes. Many suffer poor health through indoor air pollution generated, for example, by a rudimentary stove that smokes heavily as it burns wood or animal dung. Some indications suggest that women are more likely than men to conserve energy—using up to 22 per cent less, including through a greater willingness to alter everyday behaviors. However, women are largely absent in the industries that produce modern sources of renewable energy, comprising only 20 per cent of the workforce. As primary energy managers in households, women could play powerful roles in extending sustainable modern energy. All elements of energy planning and policy-making need to factor in gender dimensions and actively advance women’s leadership. Within the energy industry itself, barriers to women executives, entrepreneurs and employees must fall. And their representation on national and global energy council must grow. UN Women’s efforts extend energy access and enable women to electrify their communities. Through the Barefoot College in India, the entity has helped train illiterate older women from rural communities in various geographic regions as solar engineers. UN Women is also part of the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves, which advocates for a global market for clean and efficient household cooking devices. In Ghana, UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality has introduced green cook stoves. And since 2011, UN Women has sponsored the Gender Equality Award granted by the SEED Initiative, a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy, which has prized many clean energy initiatives involving women. And new green energy programmes are in the pipeline.

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

An inclusive, sustainable economy fosters growth with benefits for all. It does not harm the environment, and uses resources judiciously so they will remain for generations to come. For many people, employment is the entry point for economic well-being. In an inclusive economy, decent work means a living wage, workplace safety and protection against discrimination. There has been some progress. Twenty years ago 40 per cent of women were engaged in wage and salaried employment; today 48 per cent of women are being paid wages. Yet, globally, women still work at lower rates than men. Gender stereotypes often define what ‘women’s work’ is, and can channel women into some of the worst jobs. Among 143 countries, at least 90 per cent have some legal restriction on women’s employment. When economies are geared towards achieving women’s rights and gender equality, the benefits, such as fairer societies and greater economic dynamism, accrue to everyone. Women must have equal access to decent work, productive resources and financial services, as well as an equal voice in economic decisions.

**WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**UN Women prioritizes economic rights and growth for all.** This includes advocating for legislation on equal pay for equal work, better access to employment opportunities, safety from sexual harassment in the workplace, and other critical rights. The organization promotes women’s ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development. It seeks to measure and redistribute women’s unpaid care work, and to take actions so women and men can more readily combine it with paid employment. UN Women also engages the private sector to create equal opportunities for women at work, in the marketplace, and in the board rooms, through the Women’s Empowerment Principles.

**9: Reduce inequality within and among countries**

Inequalities have widened across and within many countries, even amid high rates of economic growth. Disparities, caused by practices within countries and in the global economy, are unjust and weaken the social fabric. Today, more women are in the workforce, in politics, in leadership roles, breaking stereotypes and societal taboos. Yet, gender discrimination makes women prone to deeper disparities. Globally women earn 24 per cent less than men, with varied gaps between countries. They are also more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment, with up to 75 per cent of women’s jobs being informal or unprotected in developing countries. Worldwide, 83 per cent of domestic workers are women—most are not legally entitled to a minimum wage. Further, gender discrimination can intersect with other types, such as regarding age, disability ethnicity, economic status and so on, multiplying the burden of inequalities many times over. Social norms that treat women as second-class citizens in many cases translate into structural obstacles to progress, such as laws that fail to punish perpetrators of gender-based violence. Or budgets that do not fund the services women need most. Whether the issue is fiscal policy or safe migration or improved regulation of global financial markets, different and potentially unequal outcomes for women and men must be recognized. Only then can deliberate actions be taken to correct them, within and across countries. UN Women works to reduce inequality within and among countries through advocacy for decent work, social protection and gender-sensitive economic policies around the world. The entity’s mandate is focused on empowering women and reducing gender inequality in all spheres, whether by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices or promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions. UN Women advocates for employment policies that improve labour market conditions and advance decent work for women, as well as making sure domestic workers can migrate safely and receive social protection.

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