ESCAP PROGRESS REPORT ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING 2022
Acknowledgements

This ESCAP Progress Report on Gender Mainstreaming 2022 has been prepared in order to recognize the excellent work and achievements of Gender Focal Points in supporting the efforts of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in mainstreaming gender considerations across the work of the Commission.

The report was developed with input from Gender Focal Points in ESCAP’s divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions under the overall direction and guidance of Srinivas Tata, Director of the Social Development Division with ESCAP.

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Explanatory notes

The narratives in this report are based on data and information available up to the end of December 2022.
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Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020, ESCAP has made significant progress towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls within the context of the System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP). Key highlights include:

**Key highlights**

**Important work carried out to review progress made towards achieving gender equality**

- ESCAP's divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions conducted numerous studies and organized a large number of events in support of advancing and achieving gender equality in Asia and the Pacific.

**Greater gender parity at the senior-level position**

- Efforts to progress on gender parity at ESCAP continued, resulting in an increase in higher professional levels.
- As of December 2022, parity has been reached at P-2, P-3, P-4 and P-5 levels, and the gender ratio at D1 level has almost reached parity, currently at 44%.

**Progress made on UN-SWAP-2.0**

- ESCAP is now exceeding or meeting 15 out of 17 performance indicators.
- In 2022, ESCAP went from meeting requirements to exceeding requirements in the area of Coherence (PI 17).
- As such, ESCAP is now exceeding or meeting 88 per cent of UN-SWAP 2.0 performance indicators.

**Better staff knowledge and skills on gender equality**

- ESCAP conducted a Staff Capacity Assessment on Gender Mainstreaming to determine existing levels - and progress made - of gender awareness and gender competencies among ESCAP staff.
- The findings from the Staff Capacity Assessment were used to develop the Gender Capacity Development Plan.
- To improve staff’s knowledge of gender concepts, the induction program offered to new employees and senior managers will be improved and virtual and in-person training courses will be offered. ESCAP will also continue to build up the iSeek Page on gender mainstreaming with additional gender-related policies, guidelines, plans and documents and inform all staff about its existence through a bi-yearly newsletter. Finally, GFPs' role will be reinforced through yearly capacity-building and peer learning.
Achieving gender equality is the unfinished human rights struggle of this century. All girls and women must be permitted to exercise their full human rights in a safe environment without fear of violence, prosecution or persecution.

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the UN

Women’s empowerment and economic participation are fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and unlocking our full economic potential.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
Executive summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on women and girls around the world. Women were often front-line responders against COVID-19, experiencing direct exposure to the virus yet remained excluded from response planning and decision-making. The crisis threatened many women’s economic security and pushed them to take on more unpaid care. Incidents of gender-based violence - particularly domestic violence - surged due to restrictive lockdown measures and pressure on the resourcing and staffing of service providers, such as shelters and hotlines meant access to help was hampered.

ESCAP was swift to contribute to mitigating the gendered challenges posed by the pandemic. ESCAP worked hand in hand with member States to empower women to cope with the economic fallout from COVID-19 and provided analyses of the gendered impacts of responses to the pandemic and recommendations for recovery policies. This report provides concrete examples of such actions.

Moving forward, ESCAP will continue to place women and girls at the centre of our efforts to craft the post-pandemic future. In accordance with our Gender Equality Policy (2019-2023), ESCAP will continue to play its part in supporting its member States as well as strengthening the skill set of its staff towards an increasing gender-responsive programming and implementation of ESCAP’s activities.

As an organization, we must lead by example. We have made some encouraging progress towards gender parity: ESCAP has reached gender parity at P-2, P-3, P-4 and P-5 levels; and is currently at 44 per cent at the senior level. While this represents an important milestone, efforts to achieve gender parity at all levels will continue.
Introduction

ESCAP’s gender mainstreaming efforts are carried out within the context of the System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), which is the central United Nations policy framework to strengthen the institutional environment and deliver substantive outcomes on gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As an important component of ESCAP’s gender mainstreaming efforts, the biennial Gender Mainstreaming Report, is designed to enhance the visibility of our gender mainstreaming work across ESCAP, while encouraging colleagues to systematically consider gender mainstreaming issues in their work.

This report illustrates the systemic gender mainstreaming efforts ESCAP made in 2022, highlighting the institutionalized policies, mechanisms and plans that integrated gender mainstreaming into ESCAP’s organizational culture, structures and processes, and will provide evidence of direct and indirect interventions promoting gender equality in our work.

ESCAP in Brief

ESCAP is one of the United Nations’ five regional commissions across the world. The regional commissions are unique intergovernmental platforms for the advancement of regional integration, the development of regional norms and standards, and knowledge exchange for cooperation. ESCAP leverages its convening power to promote dialogue and knowledge-sharing at the national, regional and global level.

ESCAP supports its member States to accelerate the implementation of global gender equality commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The gender dimensions of regional priorities for economic and social development are integrated into programme planning and implementation across ESCAP’s work. ESCAP also dedicates focused analysis, targeted programming, and technical support at the request of member States to promote and protect the rights of women and girls. Emphasis is placed on enabling economic participation and enhancing women’s share in safe, formal, and fully remunerated employment across Asia and the Pacific.
Strategic context

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for peace, prosperity and sustainability. Women and girls represent half of the world’s population, but gender inequality continues to persist everywhere. Women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership and perform a disproportionate share of unpaid care work. As such, gender equality remains a crucial yet unfulfilled mission.

The celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action have emphasized how much progress has been made. Visible progress has included changes in international and national legal frameworks, rising numbers of girls attending school, and a decrease in girls being forced into early marriage. International commitments and grassroots movements have advanced gender equality further. However, as highlighted in the recent SDG Report 2021, the many visible changes have been accompanied by missing data, entrenched gender bias and discriminatory laws and social norms.

2030 Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs balance the economic, social, and ecological dimensions of sustainable development, and place the fight against poverty and sustainable development on the same agenda for the first time. Through the pledge to “Leave No One Behind”, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind.

Gender equality is one of the major human development challenges around the world. Equality is not merely a political and ethical issue, but it also serves to guarantee the effectiveness of development policies. Strengthening the rights of women and girls helps all of society move forward.

Women’s equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. SDG 5 aims to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and is a cross-cutting theme for all 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Empowering women and girls, defending their sexual and reproductive health and rights, eliminating of all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence in all areas of social, political and economic life and fighting stereotypes, are all sustainable development drivers.
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a significant turning point for the global agenda regarding gender equality. The resulting Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted unanimously by 189 countries, is an agenda for women’s empowerment and is considered the key global policy document on gender equality.

The Beijing conference built on political agreements reached at the three previous global conferences on women and consolidated five decades of legal advances aimed at securing the equality of women with men in law and in practice. More than 17,000 participants attended the negotiations, including 6,000 government delegates, along with more than 4,000 accredited NGO representatives, a host of international civil servants and around 4,000 media representatives.

The 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, with the participation of governments and civil society organizations. 59 per cent of member States that participated in the survey reported advancing the economic empowerment of women to be a key achievement; this included improved legislation to offer equality at the workplace as well as policies and programmes to support women’s entrepreneurship.

As part of the review, ESCAP undertook research and analysis of challenges to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and recommended policy actions to advance this agenda in the region. This fed into the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review with around 600 participants, convened by ESCAP, in collaboration with UN Women, in November 2019. The Conference led to the adoption of the “Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review”. This way, Asia-Pacific member States committed to ensuring women’s economic, legal, and social protection and full integration into all spheres of life.
ESCAP is advancing gender equality through two main streams:

- First, through the institutionalization of gender equality in ESCAP’s organizational culture, structure and processes. This component applies gender mainstreaming, capacity building, and institutional strengthening through a number of internal policies and tools.

- Second, through the direct and indirect promotion of gender equality in all areas of work - from technical advice to regional cooperation to research. This approach is focused on delivering gender-targeted interventions and results in the Asia-Pacific region.

ESCAP systematically reports on the implementation of its main strategic plan which includes its high-level results on gender equality and women’s empowerment to the annual Commission session. At its seventy-eighth session, the Commission considered the note by the Secretariat on the review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1 and decided that the subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of nine committees. Each Committee shall meet biennially and, when possible and desirable, have joint plenary sessions between multiple committees to discuss cross-cutting issues including gender equality (ESCAP/78/34, para 15 c and ESCAP/RES/78/2).

The Secretariat presented its work through the theme study for the seventy-eight session of the Commission. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic had taken a heavy toll on human well-being and demonstrated the urgent need for more people-and planet centric development pathways, the report called upon members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to place women and girls at the centre to fulfilling their rights and empowerment. The report also called for recognizing, redistributing and rewarding, care for children and the elderly through subsidised services, given the assumed urgency in the context of the rapidly ageing societies in which women live longer than men, and in which women are the primary caregivers.
What do we mean by gender and gender equality/parity?

**Gender** refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context, as are other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, sexual orientation, age, etc.

**Gender equality/parity:** The goal of gender balance/equal representation of women and men applies throughout the United Nations system, in every department, office or regional commission, overall and at each level. It applies not only to posts subject to geographical distribution but to all categories of posts, regardless of the type or duration of the appointment, or the series of Staff Rules under which the appointment is made, nor the source of funding.

**Equal representation** of women and men in the United Nations system is a longstanding mandate. Articles 8 and 10 of the UN Charter, for example, stipulate that there shall be no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights also states that there can be no distinction or discrimination on the basis of gender. Acting on these principles, the General Assembly has repeatedly called for gender balance. Most recently, in 2017, the Secretary-General launched the **System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity**, and established a Gender Parity Task Force to come up with a clear roadmap, including benchmarks and timeframes, to achieve parity across the system.
Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022

The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022 presents a comprehensive assessment on whether the Asia-Pacific region and its five sub regions are on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report underlines the sub regions’ unequal landscapes and uneven progress in achieving their SDGs. Overall, despite ambitious efforts, the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to meet its goals—the pace of progress has slowed owing to intensified crises and disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

Each sub region has made limited progress in achieving certain SDGs, but at the current rate of progress, only East and North-East Asia anticipates achieving SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure). In view of this reality, the report emphasizes the need for regional cooperation and partnerships to support efforts towards achieving the SDGs and fulfilling the commitment of leaving no one behind.

The report also stresses that multiple crises are exacerbating disparities and analyses the disproportionate impact on vulnerable social groups in the Asia-Pacific region, such as women, children and persons with disabilities. It calls for more attention to realize and address the growing challenges affecting these vulnerable groups because of their particular intersectionality and fragility.

Finally, the report highlights the significance of data availability at both national and regional levels to track progress towards the SDGs and to inform policymaking. It offers a reminder that, although the Asia-Pacific region has made great strides towards data collection, it must still do much more to narrow the data gap.
Gender at ESCAP

Institutional policies and practices

Gender Equality Policy

The Gender Equality Policy (2019-2023) details ESCAP’s commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women as a precondition for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Gender equality will have been realized when women, men, girls and boys fully and freely exercise their fundamental human rights and freedoms, with equitable access to opportunities, the realization of their full potential and equal influence in shaping their societies. The engagement of men as well as women underscores ESCAP’s efforts towards this outcome.

Recognizing that realizing equality between women and men, girls and boys, requires concerted and resourced attention by both the Commission itself and ESCAP member States, the Policy identifies the scope, objectives, guiding principles, strategic focus and gender architecture required to support member States in achieving gender-related SDG results by providing a gender-responsive institutional and operational framework within ESCAP.

The policy is accompanied by the ESCAP Gender Equality Implementation Plan (2019-2023), which aims to operationalize the policies and commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The plan outlines the responsibility and accountability mechanisms to implement ESCAP’s policies and commitments. This is divided into three strategic areas: strengthening the delivery of gender-related SDG results, tracking financial resources for gender equality and strengthening the institutional framework.

UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP)

In addition, ESCAP also reports to the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP). UN-SWAP is an UN-wide framework that is enhancing accountability and measuring progress towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It includes a set of 17 performance indicators that establish a common understanding of what it means to achieve gender equality and a common method to work towards it.
88 PER CENT
of UN-SWAP 2.0 requirements were met or exceeded by ESCAP

12 OUT OF 17
UN-SWAP 2.0 performance indicators were exceeded by ESCAP in 2022
6 MORE

UN-SWAP 2.0 performance indicators were exceeded by ESCAP since 2020

GENDER PARITY

has been reached at P-2, P-3, P-4 and P-5 levels
This year, ESCAP went from meeting to exceeding requirement in the area of Coherence (PI 17).
ESCAP has also received positive feedback from UN Women for some of their mainstreaming efforts in the 2022 SWAP 2.0 Good Practices Report. In the report, ESCAP’s peer review partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ECSWA) was highlighted for its success in supporting both entities to improve on Financial Resource Tracking and Allocation (PI 9, 10), with a focus on the implementation of the gender marker, setting up financial targets, and the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting implementation in Umoja. Also praised were ESCAP’s contributions towards the launch of the UN mentoring programme that connects staff members across duty stations and entities around the world in 2020. This programme, established in collaboration with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC) contributed to reductions in social isolation and stress and promoted inclusivity while providing a support system for career development and networking. In this pilot phase, around 520 participants from over 90 duty stations, the Secretariat and 16 non-Secretariat entities have been meeting, learning and growing as one UN.

Finally, ESCAP was also referenced in relation to their inclusion of gender equity targets in their Senior Managers’ Compacts, this helps ensure that senior managers are held accountable for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Intranet iSeek

The video, Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment: UNESCAP’s ongoing mission introduces UNESCAP’s work in each priority area, providing context, emphasizing significance, and providing a brief overview of the numerous programs, initiatives, and measurements UNESCAP is implementing alongside national governments and partners to advance sustainable gender equality.
It shows that across Asia and the Pacific, women's ability to participate in the economy is constrained by a range of factors including discriminatory laws and policies, entrenched socio-cultural norms, risks to personal security and unequal access to educational and employment opportunities. This economic inequality not only acts as a barrier to women’s rights but also reinforces inequalities in other spheres of women’s lives. It is therefore essential that countries across the region do their utmost to support and promote women’s economic empowerment.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is striving to overcome these obstacles and promote women’s economic empowerment throughout the region by focusing on three key priority areas of action: promotion of women’s entrepreneurship, reduction of unpaid care and domestic work and the collection of gender data and statistics.

The video is published on iSeek and YouTube and it is aimed at giving the audience a visual, powerful and direct experience of women’s lives that have been empowered through different means.

**Gender in ESCAP Newsletter**

In March 2022, the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the priority theme for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) that was jointly convened by ESCAP and UN Women made the headline of the ESCAP Newsletter. As a window to share valuable and relevant information, the newsletter headline helps ESCAP’s efforts for gender equality to be more visible to a wider audience.
Gender training

ESCAP’s editorial unit will provide training to the Commission’s authors and editorial staff and has already incorporated gender dimensions into their performance goals. The unit will deliver training to offices and both permanent and temporary staff on using gender-sensitive language. The unit has also updated ESCAP’s communications guidelines which are available on iSeek. These guidelines aim to keep ESCAP’s communications consistent and coherent across the organization.

In 2022, ESCAP’s Director of the Social Development Division also provided Senior Management Training on gender mainstreaming. The training provided an overview of key global gender equality commitments and the various ways in which ESCAP is promoting gender mainstreaming within the organisation. Topics covered included the ESCAP Gender Equality Policy 2019-2023, the ESCAP Gender Equality Implementation Plan 2019-2023, the ESCAP Gender Architecture and Accountability Mechanism, the Gender Focal Point Network, Gender Parity at ESCAP, UN-SWAP and the ESCAP Gender Marker. Also included in this training was an overview of ESCAP’s current work on advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment across the Asia Pacific region. This included information on the CWE Programme, ESCAP’s work on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, PSC Funding, etc.

Within the context of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2018–2022 (UN-SWAP 2.0) and the 2019-23 ESCAP Gender Equality Policy and Implementation Plan, the ESCAP Staff Capacity Assessment on Gender Mainstreaming (gender capacity survey) was conducted to follow up on previous surveys in order to determine existing levels – and progress made - of gender awareness and gender competencies amongst ESCAP staff. It was the third in the series of the ESCAP Staff Capacity Assessment on Gender Mainstreaming, with the first assessment conducted in 2014 and the second in 2020. The results provided a wealth of information in terms of change in the levels of gender awareness and gender competencies amongst ESCAP staff between 2014 and 2022.
The findings from the Staff Capacity Assessment were used to develop the gender capacity development plan. This plan aims to address data collection gaps identified through the gender capacity assessment by developing activities that specifically address the capacity challenges and that strengthen the foundations in these areas of intervention. The activities were divided into three outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** The enabling environment is improved through capacity development
  - Activity 1: Improve the induction program offered to new employees
  - Activity 2: Identify training courses relevant to ESCAP’s various work areas
  - Activity 3: Bring improvements to the current senior managers’ induction

- **Outcome 2:** The enabling environment is improved through the provision of tools and mechanisms
  - Activity 1: Expand the “one-stop shop” for gender equality
  - Activity 2: Develop a series of self-taught modules on gender

- **Outcome 3:** The GFP’s role is reinforced across the divisions/offices/institutions
  - Activity 1: Maintain yearly capacity-building and training efforts targeting the GFPs
  - Activity 2: Encourage peer-learning with GFPs
  - Activity 3: Offer tailored activities/training to staff on specific topics

To improve staff’s knowledge of gender concepts, the induction program offered to new employees and senior managers will be improved and virtual and in-person training courses will be offered. We will also continue to build up the iSeek Page on gender mainstreaming with additional gender-related policies, guidelines, plans and documents and inform all staff of its existence through a bi-yearly newsletter. Finally, the GFPs’ role will be reinforced through yearly capacity-building and peer-learning.

The capacity development plan also contains key recommendations for strengthening the ability of all staff to mainstream gender in their work through a focus on specialized training on gender issues to ensure effective integration and mainstreaming as well as continued commitments to the realization of gender equality, within the context of an overarching strategy and Senior Management leadership.
Gender equality in performance plans

Division Director performance plan

The Division Director performance plan consists of the e-Performance for Division Directors and the ESCAP implementation plan. E-Performance for Division Directors ensures that division directors are held accountable for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. In the e-Performance for Division Directors, under Goal 1, the following action is required: “Demonstrate leadership to mainstream UN-wide strategic priorities into Division’s work, including on gender, disability and innovation.”

Success criteria include: “Mainstreaming: a) ESCAP’s Gender Equality Policy 2019-2023, Gender Equality Implementation Plan and Gender Marker Guidance Note implemented and reported on through SWAP; b) United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy implemented and reported on; c) ESCAP innovation roadmap supported and staff time made available to work on coordination and implementation of the roadmap.”

On recruitment, it is also stipulated that senior managers ensure that a) recruitment is completed within 120 calendar days, as possible given the measures to mitigate the Secretariat’s cashflow crisis; b) adequate outreach for all vacancies that require gender and geographical diversity; c) ES/DES involved on the short-list phase of recruitments that affect gender and geographical representation; d) gender parity at professional levels improved through all new vacancies; e) ensure each shortlist includes applications by candidates from un- and under-represented countries.

In the ESCAP implementation plan, a gender parity performance measure is included, which requires “progress towards achieving the goal of gender parity at each internationally recruited staff level (FS, P-1 to D-1) within available positions.” Accordingly, a senior management scorecard has been integrated into Director work plans and Directors are sent quarterly target infographic updates by grade level. Division directors are asked to monitor and oversee recruitment in line with gender targets in view of ESCAP’s vacancy management policies and support the work-life balance and enhanced productivity of staff using Flexible Working Arrangements (FWA).

Performance Management Workplan

The Performance Management Workplan indicates that gender parity has been an indispensable criterion for determining successful work planning.

In the e-performance template, Key Focus 3.3 proposes “mainstreaming gender, disability and innovation into Division’s work.” To achieve this, work plans have to fulfil the criteria “leadership in implementation of the ESCAP Gender Policy and Plan as well as Gender Marker in line with UN System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) as evidenced in new projects (rated at GEM1 or above);” and “Subprogramme strategy includes a contribution to SDG5, with planned activities/deliverables contributing to gender equality outcomes.”
Gender tools

What is gender mainstreaming?

The 1997 agreed conclusions of ECOSOC defined gender mainstreaming as: “The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetrated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.”

Gender Equality Marker

The Executive Secretary launched the ESCAP Gender Marker in November 2019. It is part of a UN system-wide initiative to incorporate gender perspectives into work, and a financial tracking mechanism on gender equality and women’s empowerment. In recognition of the multiplier effects of gender equality on achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, it has become a systematic requirement under the UN-System-Wide Action Plan for the Implementation of the Chief Executives Board. It is mandated by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly resolutions on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

Project managers are required to review projects together with Gender Focal Points to ensure that a project is gender-responsive and the appropriate code of the Gender Marker is applied in the project. PME focal points further work with gender focal points to identify entry points for gender mainstreaming in the work of the respective Divisions/Offices. Throughout the project cycle, SME focal points can help ensure that the appropriate Gender Marker code is reflected and ensure that the project continues to adhere to gender responsiveness as reflected in the Gender Marker. The SME focal point can also examine the implementation of the project, including ways to strengthen the gender dimension.

The ESCAP Gender Marker is based on the 4-point UNDG scale (0 – 1 – 2a – 2b) and was rolled out in two phases. The first phase (2019-2020) applied the Gender Marker for extrabudgetary projects and Development Account projects, while the second phase (2021-2022) addressed Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 23) and the regular budget work programme (Section 19). As of 1 January 2021, the ESCAP Gender Equality Marker thus applied to all projects across ESCAP, without exception. An implementation plan and guidance note for staff have been prepared to support the implementation of the Gender Marker.
On ESCAP’s iSeek page on gender mainstreaming, launched in 2021, supportive background documents are provided, such as the ESCAP Gender Marker Guidance Note, an accompanying Quick Guide, a presentation on ESCAP’s Gender Marker, and a memorandum on the implementation of the ESCAP Gender Equality Marker, issued by the Executive Secretary in July 2021.

Gender-inclusive language

**What is gender-inclusive language?**

Using *gender-inclusive language* means speaking and writing in a way that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender or gender identity, and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes. Given the key role of language in shaping cultural and social attitudes, using gender-inclusive language is a powerful way to promote gender equality and eradicate gender bias.

**Some best practices:**

- Use non-discriminatory language. When referring to or addressing specific individuals, use forms of address and pronouns that are consistent with their gender identity. Avoid gender-biased expressions or expressions that reinforce gender stereotypes.
- Made gender visible when it is relevant for communication
- Do not make gender visible when it is not relevant for communication. Use gender-neutral pronouns where possible. Consider using plural pronouns and adjectives as well as the pronoun one where possible.
How-to one-pagers

In 2022, ESCAP revised its iSeek gender mainstreaming page with updated policy and guidelines, as well as the How-to one-pagers on gender issues. Based on previous one-pagers, improvements were made to ensure effective delivery with a unified style and clear instructions to support colleagues in applying a gender lens in their day-to-day work.
ESCAP continues to promote equal representation of women through the implementation of its gender parity strategy and plan, which is first targeted at gender parity at professional levels and then to gender parity at general service levels, in accordance with the Secretary-General’s UN System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity. ESCAP’s progress in increasing gender parity between 2020 and 2022, challenges and lessons learnt, and future action plans for the next two years are detailed in the 2020-2024 ESCAP’s Implementation Plan for the Achievement of Gender Parity.

Since 2020, ESCAP has focused on the following three priority areas: 1) transforming our organizational culture; 2) capacity-building and awareness raising; 3) creating a data-driven culture. Through this, a senior management scorecard has been integrated into Director’s work plans and Directors are provided quarterly target infographic updates by grade level. Directors are asked to monitor and oversee recruitment in line with gender targets in view of the vacancy management policies of ESCAP and support staff work-life balance and using Flexible Working Arrangements (FWA). Other improvements have included an increase in the uptake of mandatory training, including four related to gender. The reform of HR’s approach to staff induction resulted in the addition of a briefing on these necessary training, during which onboarding senior managers now meet with the HR Chief of ESCAP for a tailored briefing on gender parity.
Aligned with the Secretariat’s framework of delegated authority, the ESCAP gender parity strategy stipulates that the authority of Directors to select candidates will be removed from Directors at the specific level where the target is not met for one year. As Secretariat-wide policy, when the qualification of one or more women candidates match the requirements for the vacant post and the entity recommends a male candidate, the department or office shall submit a written analysis with appropriate supporting documentation to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to demonstrate the qualifications and experience of the recommended male candidate are clearly superior to those of female candidates. Following the delegation of authority framework, the ASG/OHR’s must approve before the head of entity or designated official make the final decision.

ESCAP continues to partner with hiring managers to promote equal representation of women through the policy on temporary special measures, ST/AI/2020/5 in identifying qualified women prior to the posting of the job opening at levels where parity has not been reached.

Moving forward, ESCAP intends on continuing their work to increase levels of gender parity at all levels. Targets include increasing male participation in discussions about gender, encouraging the sharing of personal stories and insights, educating employees on how to detect and report misconduct, facilitating career coaching, mentoring, and other effective staff development opportunities, and expanding initiatives for increasing female recruitment.

**Gender Focal Points**

ESCAP continues to support its system of Gender Focal Points (GFPs), which are focal points in each sub-programme that are responsible for coordinating and advocating for the substantive mainstreaming of gender within their thematic areas. Each focal point is appointed at P4 level and above, in accordance with the terms of reference.

**Annual Meeting**

The Annual ESCAP Gender Focal Point (GFP) Meeting was held on 1st June 2022 through the Microsoft Teams platform. The objective of the Annual Meeting was to share knowledge, experiences, and promising practices on effective gender mainstreaming. This year the GFP Meeting was structured in three sections. In the first section, the Strategic Programme Management Division and Social Development Division provided an overview and updates on ESCAP’s gender mainstreaming including the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (2.0) and the rollout of the ESCAP Gender Equality Marker (GEM). During this section, ESCAP’s success in exceeding 11 performance indicators was emphasized, along with the significance of the financial benchmark for resources contributing to gender equality and the need to ensure that funding continues to be handled adequately to better meet performance indicators or risk falling back to a ‘meeting’ rating.
The second section featured presentations by Gender Focal Points and project managers who implement gender-responsive projects in the Transport Research and Policy Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, and the Disaster Risk Reduction Division. Positive practices, such as the use of sex-disaggregated data, the creation of various e-learning courses, and the production of various outreach materials, such as social media campaigns and policy briefs, blogs, and guidelines on the influence of gender on their division’s work were shared during this section.

The third section focused on initiatives rated GEM1 or above and on the capacity building activities that are carried out as part of ESCAP’s capacity development plan on gender mainstreaming in the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and Social Development Division, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, and Statistics Division. An example of such initiatives include the CSAM’s on gender mainstreaming intended to increase awareness and capacity of CSAM staff to create greater impacts on gender equality and contribute to develop gender-sensitive policies that promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in the region. Another example is the introduction of various gender trainings that have been developed in the Statistics division to shed light on the level of gender knowledge and the use of analysis of sex disaggregated data amongst staff.
Meet some of ESCAP gender champions!

Efforts behind the scenes: How did the gender marker come into shape at ESCAP?

Interview with Ms. Zeynep Orhun Girard
Chief of Section, Programme Management

The ESCAP Gender Equality Marker applies to all projects across ESCAP and is incorporated into ESCAP’s Programme Monitoring Tool. As a main contributor to these efforts, Ms Orhun Girard shared the history of her work to integrate the gender marker ratings into the development of ESCAP’s programmatic dashboard from its inception in 2020. The dashboard has ensured increasing visibility on project progress, including on gender equality but also other cross-cutting issues (disability inclusion and countries with special needs, for example).

As an indicative tool to identify the allocation of ESCAP resources towards achieving results on gender equality and women’s empowerment, the gender marker was initially applied to capacity development projects and focused on long- and medium-term projects. Later, it began to be used to mark short-term projects, regular activities, and outputs, and is now applied to all of ESCAP’s deliverables, thereby ensuring that the gender dimensions of ESCAP’s work are substantively analysed and addressed.

"Gender should be an issue of concern for everybody"
Building on the successful implementation of gender marking for capacity development projects, ESCAP piloted GEM methodology for other deliverables, e.g. publications and meetings to assess the contributions of these deliverables to gender equality and women empowerment and whether they were aware of the gendered impacts of their work on the ground. After the first-year trial, Ms Orhun Girard was encouraged to see colleagues asking questions related to gender in their work. “This is the added value of the gender marker because it really changed the focus of the conversation. Hopefully, this gendered lens will be integrated into our daily life and work,” she said, adding that “gender should be an issue of concern for everybody.”

The implementation of the gender marker is only one step towards achieving gender outcomes through ESCAP’s work. Moving forward, Ms Orhun Girard argued that it is critical to think about how to strive towards bringing an even stronger gender lens across the ESCAP board and throughout the project and programme cycle.
As a centre specialised in agricultural mechanization, much of CSAM’s work happens within what could be called a technical niche, and it is not always easy to integrate a gendered lens across all their work. However, Mr Silvestri stressed the importance of gender mainstreaming to the work of CSAM in relation to the concept of the ‘gender yield gap’ — compared with their male counterparts, female agricultural workers have lower rates of agricultural productivity, due to their lack of access to subsidies, services, and modern machinery. He added that although CSAM’s work does not focus directly on women in STEM, supporting more female participation in research and design related to agricultural and mechanical engineering is also relevant.

Mr Silvestri summarised that the PSC funding has assisted CSAM in producing two concrete outcomes related to gender mainstreaming. From 12 to 14 October 2022, CSAM organized a workshop entitled “Enabling Gender Responsive Food Security Programming: Focus on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization”, which saw attendance and active participation from multiple agencies in the UN China Country Team (where CSAM is based), including FAO, IFAD, RCO, UNAIDS, UNEP, WFP and of course UN Women This event received highly positive feedback from participants. The workshop discussed the pressing need to bridge the gender yield gap to boost food security and combat the global food crises. In addition, it also explored measures to increase female farmers’ access to modern machinery and technologies and identified the need to tailor initiatives and practices to local development realities and levels of mechanization.

The PSC funding also supported CSAM in recruiting an expert whose fields of research encompass both agriculture, mechanization and gender issues, further enhancing CSAM’s capacity in gender mainstreaming within its overall strategy and programme planning. Mr Silvestri praised steps taken on gender work stating that CSAM is now ‘asking the right questions and determining how to solve them’ … yet he also acknowledged that CSAM staff could certainly benefit from further learning on gender mainstreaming.
Moreover, the recent meeting of the CSAM Governing Council (GC) featured a fruitful session on gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. The GC members recognized and acknowledged women’s contribution to food security and sustainability and identified the gender yield gap as a priority to address. As a result, CSAM’s new mandate has expanded its scope of work on gender—a topic that has not been previously addressed through dedicated projects. This new mandate also creates opportunities for future inter-agency collaboration, exchange of good practices, and funding support.

Calling this a step forward, Mr Silvestri stated that the added importance that GC has placed on gender mainstreaming in the agriculture sector is critical and motivating. The PSC funds have increased CSAM’s capacity to engage more proactively in future gender work, and he was excited to see this substantive outcome and the engagement of colleagues, commenting that “the journey ahead will be rewarding” as this “not only concerns crop yields or productivity but the lives of people”.

Mr Silvestri argued that all CSAM staff are committed to further improving their understanding of gender issues and building their capacity to translate this into enhancing the Centre’s programmes. He emphasised that while increasing female agricultural workers’ access to machinery is surely a more immediate focus for CSAM to contribute to women’s empowerment, a long-term commitment to educate and inspire a new generation of women to become agricultural engineers would widely benefit the sustainable agricultural mechanization sector, the livelihood of women farmers, and the food security of the region. CSAM has started to prepare itself to support this transformation.
Gender in social media

Social media has proved to be a powerful vehicle for bringing women’s rights issues to the attention of a wider public, galvanising action on the streets of cities around the world and encouraging policymakers to step up commitments to gender equality. In 2022, ESCAP consistently promoted and advocated for gender equality through its social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). For more details please refer to Annexes.
Gender mainstreaming across ESCAP

ESCAP works to ensure that gender equality is addressed holistically in order to develop forward-looking strategies and contribute to efforts towards gender equality, poverty reduction and economic growth in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the implementation of the gender marker across extrabudgetary and regular budget projects enabled ESCAP management to review current financial allocations on gender mainstreaming to ensure sufficient resources to implement Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW) activities.

PSC Funding

ESCAP management approved USD 60,000 to develop staff capacity on gender mainstreaming in the organization under the PSC funding stream. This is being utilized to support efforts across ESCAP’s divisions, subregional offices, and regional institutions in line with the ESCAP Gender Equality Policy and Implementation Plan 2019 – 2023 and within the context of the ESCAP Staff Capacity Assessment on Gender Mainstreaming, a survey between December 2019 and March 2020. The Transport Division, with the help of the funding, was able to increase the capacity of its staff to design projects with great(er) impacts on gender equality and women’s empowerment and to contribute concretely to the design of gender-sensitive transport policies in the region. Likewise, the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID) has profited immensely from this funding. They advanced on staff capacity regarding the gender-differentiated impact of trade and investment and how to appropriately incorporate women empowerment dimensions into the project proposals prepared by the TIID staff.

An additional USD 40,000 have been programmed for gender mainstreaming in the Statistic Division, in the ESCAP Regional Institute, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) in Beijing, as well as the ESCAP subregional office for North and Central Asia (SONCA) in Almaty. For CSAM funding is to support initiatives to increase the awareness and capacity of CSAM staff to design projects with high(er) impacts on gender equality and women’s empowerment and to contribute concretely to the development of gender-sensitive policies for the inclusion of women in the promotion of sustainable agricultural mechanization in the region. With this aim, CSAM hosted the Workshop ‘Enabling Gender Responsive Food Security Programming: Focus on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization’ on the 12-14 October 2022. This was organized in recognition of the significant, yet undervalued, role women play in the rural economy, and looked to provide participants with the knowledge needed to develop gender-responsive food security programmes, with a specific focus on sustainable agricultural mechanization and innovation.
Trade, Investment and Innovation Division

The Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship (CWE) programme aims to advance women entrepreneurship and market participation in the Asia-Pacific region, resulting in poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and economic growth. The programme works to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs to effectively start-up and/or expand their businesses. The programme takes a facilitative approach to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, by enhancing women entrepreneurs’ access and use of financial services; strengthening women entrepreneurs’ use of ICT and digital solutions to support their business; and through policy and advocacy initiatives. The programme undertakes on-the-ground implementation activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam. With policy and advocacy support across South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The innovative financing mechanisms established through the programme have increased outreach to women entrepreneurs by 287% over the previous year. CWE has unlocked over 64.9 million USD in capital to women entrepreneurs and is currently supporting 14 financing start-ups. This has been made possible through innovative financing and technology. The programme reimagined several traditional financing mechanisms to go beyond the profit imperative and to also include women’s economic empowerment objectives. The CWE Programme has also developed innovations at the intersection of finance and technology. Through the programme’s FinTech Challenge Funds, the team has partnered with digital start-ups addressing the challenge of access to finance for women entrepreneurs.

Collection of Policies and Recommendations to Improve Meaningful Participation of People in Vulnerable Situation in the Digital Economy, December 2022

Commissioned by the G20 Indonesia presidency, ESCAP’s Trade, Investment and Innovation Division Griffith Asia Institute, prepared a Compendium of policies which have successfully enhanced the meaningful participation of women, children, older persons, rural communities, persons living with disabilities and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the digital economy. Their recommendations focussed on designing and implementing “targeted” policies; improving digital infrastructure and connectivity; broadening consultations; taking a whole-of-government approach building partnerships and monitoring and reforming policies. The policy implications in the Compendium provide useful reference to countries in Asia and the Pacific and beyond.

Divisions

Gender issues have been addressed throughout the multidisciplinary programmes at ESCAP to build the evidence base for gender-responsive policy making. Various working papers prepared by the different divisions have addressed the gender dimensions of these issues.
The seventh session of the Committee on Transport reported on selected regional considerations on safe and inclusive transport and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/CTR/2022/5). It reported on the existing policy gaps and potential areas for regional cooperation to improve road safety and support poverty reduction, social inclusion and gender equality in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It also highlighted that disaggregated transport data by age, income, gender and disability has been increasingly critical to the development of inclusive transport policies and should always be included in transport data collection and analysis to better understand the travel demand, patterns and preferences of all user groups. Relevant data on transport workers needed to be sex-disaggregated to better develop employment policies that will close the gender gap in the transport workforce. The report also provided a set of recommendations in areas of road safety intervention which, among others, include recommendations to address safe speed through cross-cutting issues (climate change, health, air pollution, gender) by seeking out and collaborating with partners working on other global agendas that would also benefit from better speed management to give a stronger voice to the value of managing speed.

The Committee also recognized issues related to gender equality and women’s empowerment in the maritime and port sector areas (ESCAP/CTR/2022/2) as the shipping and port sectors are still facing gender imbalance issues. Addressing this, the Secretariat reported that it had published several training manuals for logistics providers, including the “Training manual: operational aspects of multimodal transport” and the “Training manual: standard of logistics information system”. It also organized national capacity-building workshops in the Philippines.

The Secretariat also reported to the Committee on the ongoing and completed work (ESCAP/CTR/2022/INF/1) which included 1) gender and inclusive data collection in areas related to urban mobility in pilot cities and countries, 2) city mobility assessment which included data collection and analysis of existing policies and practices on gender and inclusive transport, and innovative solutions on integrated public and smart transport system, and 3) working paper on “Mind the gender gap in the workforce, including transport and logistics: the perspective from Sri Lanka and beyond”
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ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

The fourth session of the Committee reported that rapid technological change coupled with the Internet speed gap had exposed and exacerbated existing social, economic and geographical digital divide in areas related to age, gender, education and disability (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/1). The Secretariat reported to the Committee on its work with government agencies in Bangladesh to identify policy challenges to the use of artificial intelligence for social good and to conduct research that can help to inform the design of such policies. Research teams were established to identify how government agencies can use artificial intelligence to support the monitoring of women's health during pregnancy (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/3). The regional institution (The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development) under the Secretariat reported on the assessment of information and communications technology capacity-building needs in Asia and the Pacific. One of the identified prioritized topics included (j) ICT for women's empowerment and women entrepreneurs and to increase women's labour-force participation in which the institution would prioritize its work accordingly (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/4).

The Secretariat reported on its work in sponsoring the attendance of six young professionals from developing countries, four of whom were women, to attend the twenty-fifth post-graduate course in remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) at the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/5).

Statistics Division

The eighth session of the Committee on Statistics recognized the work of the Secretariat on the webinar and knowledge activities related to gender statistics and gender mainstreaming in official statistics. The regional institution under the Secretariat (Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific) reported their work in developing and delivering e-training modules related to gender statistics (ESCAP/CST/2022/8).

The Secretariat also reported to the Committee (ESCAP/CST/2022/1) that the participants in the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific acknowledged the importance of implementing gender-sensitive civil registration systems. The Ministerial Conference discussed existing gender gaps in civil registration and vital statistics data and methods for closing those gaps through a life-cycle approach. National civil registration policies and laws should not discriminate on the basis of gender and vital statistics based on civil registration records should be disaggregated by sex in order to better inform and enable policymakers to address gender gaps. It also called for prioritizing the development of marriage and divorce registration as part of national civil registration and vital statistics strategies to prevent child marriage. To support this goal, the Secretariat provided technical support in the form of workshops and ongoing guidance on every step of developing a vital statistics report, including analysis of civil registration data and its completeness, calculation of key indicators, report writing, and communication and dissemination of vital statistics data (ESCAP/CST/2022/4).
Asia-Pacific Stats Café: Mainstreaming Gender in Official Statistics: Practical Insights, 7th June 2022

The Statistics Division organised a Stats Café on practical approaches to mainstreaming gender in official statistics. Gender issues span the social, economic, and environmental domains of statistics, hence topics/variables for data collection must also reflect the diversity of demographic groupings and their unique issues/challenges and include special topics such as time-use patterns, unpaid work, and gender-based violence data. Participants at the café discussed matters such as data generation, starting with statistical concepts, definitions, and classifications and survey and questionnaire design. During the Café ESCAP, UN Women, and SIAP’s eLearning course on “Using Gender Data for Analysis, Communications and Policymaking in the context of SDG monitoring and beyond” was launched. The course aims to enhance the capacity of a range of stakeholders to use and analyse gender data for monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

The Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series: Women in Leadership in Official Statistics, 7th February 2022, 14:00-15:30 (GST+7)

The Statistics Division organized a Stats Café on Women in Leadership in Official Statistics to bring together a diverse group of successful women in official statistics from national statistical systems, international and regional organizations, and civil society to discuss how they advanced professionally, developed their leadership skills, and became leaders. The panelists shared their experiences as female leaders in statistical organizations, the challenges, and barriers they faced, and how female leadership reduces the gender data gap. This event sought to motivate more women to pursue leadership roles in the field. [Find out more]
The seventh session of the Committee on Social Development was convened in September 2022. The session reviewed and discussed the implementation of two important action plans: the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific. The meeting not only recognized the challenges faced by older persons, particularly older women, but also acknowledged the distinct needs of women with disabilities and stressed the need to implement special initiatives to achieve gender equality at all levels. Furthermore, the meeting highlighted the importance of creating decent jobs and improving work skills through upskilling and reskilling programmes for groups in vulnerable positions, including women and girls.

The Secretariat reported on the assistance and technical supports provided in areas of mainstreaming disability perspectives into relevant policies and programmes, supporting national and local policymakers in incorporating disability and gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction policies and measures, and a pilot project on disability assessment to increase access for persons with disabilities to disability-related services (ESCAP/CSD/2022/4). The secretariat also reported to the Committee on the advocacy and video materials produced to support policymakers and practitioners, including the social protection primer series, which is a series of policy guides covering issues such as the sustainable financing of social protection, gender-sensitive schemes and how to develop more inclusive social protection systems (ESCAP/CSD/2022/2).

Annual Meeting – Thematic Working Group on Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals
United Nations, 9th November

The annual meeting of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Working Group on Gender and SDGs is held annually in advance of the SPECA Economic Forum and serves as a forum for policy dialogue, capacity building and networking for government stakeholders from relevant key ministries and agencies in SPECA countries in partnership with UN agencies to discuss critical and key emerging issues for gender-transformative economic policies to empower women’s decision-making and participation in the context of climate change. This year’s Annual Meeting focused on four goals: 1) Increasing awareness of the importance of participatory gender-transformative approaches to the design, implementation and monitoring of measures that tackle the structural barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; 2) Sharing experiences and lessons learned on policy response to achieve women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change and discuss further policy initiatives in response to challenges and national priorities; 3) Identifying the necessary actions and best practices to improve the enabling environment for women and girls in SPECA countries; 4) Identifying opportunities for further sub-regional cooperation on the implementation of the SDG 5 on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls. The outcome of the meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs will inform the work of ESCAP and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe towards the Beijing+30 review process within the context of sub-regional collaboration with SPECA countries, including in the context of COVID-19.

The Committee on Social Development recognized the immense societal contribution of older women throughout their lifetimes and stressed their particular vulnerabilities and disadvantages in the Asia-Pacific region, such as lack of access to social protection schemes, financial hardship and health challenges. Faced with increasing challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, older women also continuously shoulder much of the unpaid care work and other responsibilities. The Committee called for multi-stakeholder collaboration to accelerate progress in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and build older women’s resilience to assist them in navigating these difficult times.

National Public Forum on Advancing Women Entrepreneurship in ASEAN through Family Care and Social Protection Policies, 7th September

This forum, organized by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) and Oxfam Cambodia, raised awareness and understanding among key players regarding the importance of family care policies and social protection in advancing women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship. ESCAP was invited to participate in recognition of their role as an advanced contributor in the production and proliferation of publications pertaining to the forums’ goals. Women’s economic empowerment benefits society, yet social conventions, stereotypes, gender budgeting, and social safeguards strengthen women’s primary role as carers. The SDD recommended investing in care services, infrastructure, and training and mentoring to support and empower women entrepreneurs. Family care policies, for example, benefit women entrepreneurs by redistributing unequal allocation of unpaid and domestic care work. ESCAP’s contributions were discussed in regard to empowering women’s entrepreneurs through the Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship programme, which supports women’s access to information, financial services and digital solutions for their businesses.

SDG 5 roundtable event at the 9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific”, 29th March

The roundtable event on the Sustainable Development Goal 5 drew attention to different action areas to further ensure: 1) decent work, relevant legal frameworks and policies to close gender gaps, gender-based violence (at home, in public and online) and the increasing intersectional discrimination and barriers that women face in the workplace; 2) policies based on a gender-responsive ecosystem to support women entrepreneurs and empower (young, indigenous) women’s leadership across high-level political spaces, private sector, technology and technical fields to advance gender equality and challenge patriarchal norms; 3) COVID-19 actions that take into account gender equality at the centre; 4) inclusive social protection benefits based on a care-responsive policies; 5) policies and governance frameworks that mandate gender-responsive planning and budgeting in an adequately holistic way; 6) investment in closing critical gaps in gender statistics and data by integrating gender (prevalence violence against women, time use spent in care and domestic work, and sexual and reproductive health and rights) into national statistical strategies; and 7) a whole-of-society approach that provides coherent and effective collaboration between governments.
Asia Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women’s Day 2022 (IWD 2022) “Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”, 8th March

The event was organized by ESCAP and the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and held under the theme ‘Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow’. The objective was to provide a multistakeholder platform for the exchange of knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned in the region as well the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on existing inequalities. The dialogue was focused on the uneven consequences of climate change and environmental degradation and underscored the significance of women and girls’ leadership in climate action, adaptation, and risk reduction. It highlighted the urgency of a holistic approach that includes women’s unique knowledge and experiences in agriculture, conservation, and management of resources for assuring better climate action. The key recommendations were focused on strategic collaboration from grassroots to policy and women’s inclusion in decision-making to better encompass the gendered nature of climate change with concrete future initiatives for disaster risk reduction.

Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the Priority Theme of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66): “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”, 9-10th February

The consultation provided a forum for ESCAP member States and key stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to consider possible areas for joint interventions to accelerate progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The objective was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas among state and non-state actors and generate a set of recommendations to feed the CSW66 and inform membership contributions to the Agreed Conclusions. Their recommendations focused on the inclusion of women’s leadership and stewardship in the areas of natural resource management and environmental conservation, water-food-climate nexus, loss of livelihoods and relevant infrastructure support, sexual and reproductive health and rights, girls’ education as well as data collection, youth engagement and grassroots solutions for climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Sub-regional offices

All of ESCAP’s subregional offices (subprogramme 8) plan to advance gender equality and the economic empowerment of women in their strategies for 2023, with subregion-specific foci, for example, on gender equality in the technology industry for the Office in North-East Asia.
Subregional Training of Women Entrepreneurs on Expanding Business through E-commerce and Digital Marketing, 4-6 April 2022

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA) organized a training in Kathmandu, Nepal, in partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework, Geneva, the South Asia Network on the SDGs, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the South Asian Women Development Forum.

The first segment of the training involved sectoral discussions with leading experts and trade consultants who shared their experiences on digitally diversifying their enterprises during the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed the recent innovations, trends and challenges encountered, and solutions adopted to overcome the challenges created by the pandemic. The second part of the training involved sessions on enhancing the capacity of women entrepreneurs in South Asia to use online platforms for promoting their businesses through e-commerce and creating awareness about existing opportunities. There were also dedicated hands-on sessions on registering and creating products and services catalogues as well as uploading their profiles as entrepreneurs one-market platforms, including ESCAP’s training platform.

Sustainable Growth for Women Entrepreneurship and Exports Promotion SWEEP 2022: Edition 3.0, 25 March 2022

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna participated in a panel discussion “Gender Considerations in International Trade Policies & Compliance” at the “SWEEP-2022: Global Summit for Women Entrepreneurs”, organized by the Madhya Pradesh Association of Women Entrepreneurs in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh; the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India; ESCAP; World Trade Organization; Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation; Women’s Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Madhya Pradesh Council; and UBUNTU: Consortium of Women Entrepreneur’s Associations. In his remarks, Dr. Ratna highlighted that women entrepreneurs were a key factor in the progress of economies, nations and societies and shared that more than 1400 women have been trained under the e-commerce and digital marketing project co-initiated by the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia.

6th International Conference on Women-Led MSMEs as Catalysts of Transformation–Mission Possible 2022, 24 March 2022

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna participated in a panel discussion “Session IV: ISID–ESCAP Session – Leveraging E-Commerce and Digital Marketing for Women-led MSMEs” at the “6th International Conference on Women-Led MSMEs as Catalysts of Transformation” organized by the Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India and Institute for Studies in Industrial Development. In his remarks, Dr. Ratna highlighted that over 1,400 women entrepreneurs have been trained in the past two years under ESCAP’s project on e-commerce and digital marketing.
International Conference on the Evolving Role of Women in Science, Technology & Innovation and Science Diplomacy, 18 February 2022

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, participated as a panellist on Day 1 of the two-day “International Conference on the Evolving Role of Women in Science, Technology & Innovation and Science Diplomacy” organized by Tillotoma Foundation, in association with the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, Almaty

Annual Meeting of the SPECA Thematic Group on Gender and SDGs, 9 November 2022

The annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs is held annually in advance of the SPECA Economic Forum and serves as a forum for policy dialogue, capacity building and networking for government stakeholders from relevant key ministries and agencies in SPECA countries in partnership with UN agencies to discuss critical and key emerging issues for gender-transformative economic policies to empower women’s decision-making and participation in the context of climate change. The meeting contributed to efforts toward women’s economic empowerment and gender equality, poverty reduction and economic growth in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. This year’s meeting aimed to: 1) Increase awareness of the importance of participatory gender-transformative approaches to the design, implementation and monitoring of measures that tackle the structural barriers to gender equality; 2) Share experiences and lessons learned on policy response implemented to achieve women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change and discuss further policy initiatives in response to challenges and national priorities; 3) Identify the necessary actions and best practices to improve the enabling environment for women and girls in SPECA countries; 4) Identify opportunities for further sub-regional cooperation on the implementation of the SDG 5 on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls.

2022 SPECA Economic Forum “Greener and Safer Future”, 16 – 17 November 2022

The 2022 SPECA Economic Forum discussed and identified the opportunities for regional cooperation to support a greener and safer future. It sought to support the implementation of internationally agreed goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. The conclusions and recommendations emerging from the 2022 SPECA Economic Forum fed into the outcome document “Almaty Declaration” which will be submitted for adoption to the 17th session of the SPECA Governing Council. Session 6 of this year’s Forum was dedicated to gender equality and women’s empowerment which looked to explore the status of gender equality in the region, with a particular focus on women’s economic empowerment and climate change, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on gender disparities and identifying positive practice.
Regional Institutions

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)


On 12-14 October 2022, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization hosted the Workshop ‘Enabling Gender Responsive Food Security Programming: Focus on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization’. Organised in recognition of the significant, yet undervalued, role women play in the rural economy, this workshop looked to provide participants with the knowledge needed to develop gender-responsive food security programmes, with a specific focus on sustainable agricultural mechanisation and innovation. The workshop sought to provide clarification on the following:

- Why do we need to develop gender-responsive food security programs and agricultural innovations?
- What are key barriers women face in adopting agricultural innovations?
- How does gender-responsive agricultural mechanization programming look in practice: Frameworks and approaches?

Upon completion of the workshop, participants gained a strong understanding of how current practices and mechanisms disadvantage women and learned of the simple and practical tools needed to design gender-sensitive programmes intended to promote equality in the agricultural sector. This training was developed from a wide variety of resources from UN agencies and international research centres.
Even before the pandemic struck, women and girls across Asia-Pacific spent an average of 11 hours per day doing unpaid care and domestic work – a number four times greater than for men. With the onset of COVID-19, women took on essential roles in the response and spent disproportionately more time compared to men on caring for their family members and their households. They do so on both, the frontline as health workers as well as within their own homes as lockdowns restricted mobility and school closed.

In this light, priority was accorded to tackling this issue in line with SDG 5.4 that aims to ‘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’. To this end, ESCAP swiftly responded to this unfolding situation with an array of research, reports, and collaborations to address the unpaid care economy across the region. ESCAP led the development of frameworks and policies to support the region’s care working women, and quickly established itself as an ideas leader, with the ability to bring together the diverse range of stakeholders required to improve empowerment and equality for women and girls.

Project highlights

ESCAP currently has three priorities for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The first is to advance the economic empowerment of women through the promotion and facilitation of entrepreneurship, especially through technology. Its second priority is to encourage women’s role in leadership and decision-making in political and economic spheres. The third priority is to put high quality and timely gender statistics in place on all boards.

Unpaid care economy

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In collaboration with the ASEAN Committee on Women, UN Women, International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Institute of Development Studies (UK), and Oxfam, ESCAP have successfully established a partnership with Oxfam in the Philippines for advocacy campaigns and policymaker capacity development, targeted to ensure policies and legislation that address the care economy, including scaling up national investment in care infrastructure, care services, and gender-responsive social protection measures.

‘Care is not a burden’: a 7-4-7 framework of action for operationalising the Triple R

The publishing of the journal article ‘Care is not a burden’: a 7-4-7 framework of action for operationalising the Triple R has emerged from research on the care-sensitive policies conducted for ESCAP for the Asia-Pacific region. Building on those findings and conceptual thinking, SDD researchers have developed a unique 7-4-7 framework of action for operationalizing the Triple R (Recognition, Reduction, and Redistribution) of unpaid care and domestic work. The article was published in the Gender and Development Journal special issue on unpaid care work. The paper proposes a care-integral approach to ensure gender-transformative outcomes. This approach comprises a unique three-tier framework for policy action constituting: (1) seven foundational care normative principles, (2) typology of four care-sensitive policy categories, and (3) seven levers of change to guide implementation. Further, this paper makes a unique contribution by redirecting the attention of the Triple R approach on the quantity of care, to make a case for improving the overall quality of care.

ESCAP has also developed case studies to support policy development in Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The promotion of case studies has resulted in convening the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) in Cambodia and the Philippines Commission on Women in the first inter-ministerial stakeholder dialogue on the care economy convened in Phnom Penh, aiming to establish a national strategy and action plan on the care economy. Also published this year was a policy brief providing a detailed overview of ‘Female labour force participation and the care economy in Asia and the Pacific’. Published in December 2022 the policy brief examines the low rate of female labour force participation in Asia and the Pacific and its correlation with persistent inequalities in the distribution of care responsibilities between men and women as well as the society and the State. The research presented here highlights the critical role of unpaid care work in the promotion of female participation in the labour market. It focuses on a care economy lens to shed light on the benefits that increasing female labour force participation represents for sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific.
ESCAP’s work on gender equality has also touched on the gendered impact climate change has on the lives of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific. This topic was covered in a policy brief titled ‘Gender Equality and Climate Change’ published in December 2022 which aims to raise awareness of and spur regional action towards addressing the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in the region. In particular, the brief looks at the consequences of climate change through a gender lens in three thematic areas: the feminization of agriculture, women’s share of unpaid care and domestic work, and women’s participation and representation in climate action. As part of this project, ESCAP also organized a regional forum on Addressing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work which took place on 23-24 November 2021. This forum facilitated the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learnt with respect to the progressive implementation of Beijing+25 commitments in Asia and the Pacific related to the care economy, including within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESCAP also participated in the 13th Development Account Project on Strengthening Social Protection for Pandemic Responses. (2020 – 2022), in collaboration with the other UN Regional Commissions, with a particular focus on the care economy. Through its involvement, ESCAP has established itself as a knowledge leader and policy catalyst engaging in extensive research, contributing towards the development of numerous frameworks and policies, and collaborating with regional stakeholders in order to build back more equal and inclusive societies. ESCAP’s contributions and engagement in the Project are outlined in the Final ESCAP DA13 Progress Report (2020-2022).
Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship Programme

The Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship (CWE) programme aims to advance women’s entrepreneurship and market participation in the Asia-Pacific region, resulting in poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and economic growth. The programme works to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs to effectively start up and/or expand their businesses. The programme takes a facilitative approach to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, by enhancing women entrepreneurs’ access and use of financial services; strengthening women entrepreneurs’ use of ICT and digital solutions to support their business; and through policy and advocacy initiatives. The programme undertakes on-the-ground implementation activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam, with policy and advocacy support across South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Work on this project has seen the publication of several policy briefs, reports, and toolkits on the issue. Notably in November 2022, in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of Canada, ESCAP launched the Policymakers’ Toolkit “Strengthening Women’s Entrepreneurship in National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Policies and Action Plans”. The Toolkit is a practical tool designed to enable policymakers involved in promoting women’s entrepreneurship, especially the MSME development agencies, to assess gaps, take stock of opportunities and design gender-focused interventions through national policies to advance women’s entrepreneurship in the ASEAN region. It presents a self-assessment toolkit for policymakers to assess SME support policies and programmes from a gender perspective and establishes indicators that support the design, implementation and monitoring of the impact of interventions undertaken over a given period.

As part of this project, a report on Women’s Entrepreneurship and Care Economy in Cambodia was also launched this year. The report adopts an ecosystem approach toward developing women’s entrepreneurship in Cambodia. With financial and technical support from ESCAP, MoWA under the Catalysing Women’s Entrepreneurship Programme (CWE) designed a Women’s Entrepreneurship Development Centre (WEDC) framework. It operates as a partnership model to leverage the strengths of the public and private sectors, develop the women’s entrepreneurship ecosystem through training, business incubators and accelerators, research and knowledge generation, and offer them collective spaces. The objectives of the project have been to provide skills training for women entrepreneurs (how to start up, maintain and grow their businesses) and develop a plan with actionable recommendations on how to implement a whole-of-government approach and care economy policy package. MoWA and ESCAP developed four activity areas to meet these objectives: i) conduct research on the best practices related to the policy and program intervention to address the care economy in Cambodia; ii) provide an action plan on how to integrate care-economy considerations into national policy responses; iii) promote advocacy materials to raise awareness on the importance of unpaid care work; and iv) develop entrepreneurship skills of 105 women entrepreneurs in both rural and urban areas.
As part of the CSW66 in 2022, the Royal Government of Cambodia has encouraged all relevant ministries, institutions and partners to continually expand the scope of implementation of gender equality policies as defined in the current Rectangular Strategy Phase IV for employment growth, equity and efficiency in building the foundation to towards the vision of Cambodia in 2050, Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals 2030, in particular in the Strategic Framework and Programs for Economic Recovery in the context of Living with Covid-19 in a New Normal 2021-2023 and the A Sustainable Development Agenda. To this end, one of the main priorities of the government is to expand economic potential and well-being by encouraging all stakeholders—including the private sector—to promote the recognition of the value of unpaid care work and identify ways to reduce the workload of women and girls, as well as increase public investment in care and social welfare.

In the last year, this project has directly benefited a total of 43,291 women entrepreneurs through access to finance and enhanced digital skills to start and grow their businesses, exceeding the Programme outreach target by double. The innovative financing mechanisms established through the programme have increased outreach to women entrepreneurs by 287% over the previous year. CWE has also unlocked over USD 64.9 million in capital to women entrepreneurs and is currently supporting 14 innovative financing start-ups. This has been made possible through innovative financing and technology. The programme has also seen partnership agreements successfully made with five SME Ministries and two Women’s Ministries crucial for fostering a strong policy and institutional environment in the Asia and Pacific region. In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment in Viet Nam, ESCAP assessed the impacts of the SME Law and decrees on women’s entrepreneurship and established one-stop online portals to address gender equality gaps in accessing information and services.

In the next year, the CWE Programme has put in place a work plan that will build on the foundations and results of the programme to date, with a view to further surpass the agreed objectives of the programme. Regarding policy and advocacy, the CWE Programme will dive deeper into the implementation and monitoring of the various policy reforms initiated over the past years. With the outreach performance of innovative financing initiatives nearly trebling in 2021, the CWE Programme will continue to monitor, support and harvest learnings from the established initiatives. The CWE Programme will also focus on cultivating new partnerships to develop more innovative financing initiatives, with the aim to deliver tangible benefits for women entrepreneurs. With a focus on the intersection of technology, gender-lens investing and impact investment, the CWE Programme will aim to drive innovation and build the evidence base in this emerging field. A specific focus of this innovative financing policy work will be to support more gender-sensitive financial inclusion, impact investing, and FinTech strategies and policies amongst others. Training activities for women entrepreneurs on ICT and business skills will continue to be implemented in cooperation with national partners from governments, civil society organizations, and women’s associations. Capacity-building workshops will focus on assisting women entrepreneurs to use e-commerce and digital marketing, given their importance in the pandemic environment.
Looking ahead

Gender will continue to be integrated into the strategic planning, as guided by the ESCAP Gender Equality Policy and Implementation Plan and supported through gender equality capacity development activities. The Social Development Division will continue to coordinate closely with the Strategy and Programme Management Division, to follow up on the effective mainstreaming of gender within the ESCAP work programme.

In the draft Proposed programme plan for 2024, subprogrammes 2 on trade, investment and innovation and subprogram 7 on statistics have put forth results on advancing women’s economic empowerment and mainstreaming gender in statistics respectively. Subprogramme 3 which focuses on transport is planning to achieve a result on inclusive and safe mobility policies which address gender concerns in the transport sector as a cross-cutting theme. The participation of women in decision-making processes and the health impacts of environmental issues is one of the key concerns for ESCAP’s subprogramme on environment and development, highlighted in its strategy for 2024. Similarly, subprogramme 9 on energy facilitates dialogue and produces knowledge products that include the energy system’s impacts on women and highlight women’s contribution to a sustainable and just energy transition.
Annexes

Gender in social media 2022

Twitter (@UNESCAP)

January 2022

February 2022
United Nations ESCAP | @UNESCAP - Feb 8

Addressing #GenderEquality in climate action is a chance to support various developmental agendas.

See link for more on our AsiaPacific Regional Consultation on #CSW66: https://www.unescap.org

With @unwomen, @undp, @unicef, @unfpa, @unep and @unlp at #UNCW66.

Karen Zaud

TAKING ACTION

against the narrow assumption of a gender gap in climate action across countries in Asia and the Pacific.

UN Women AsiaPacific and Barich Krobos

United Nations ESCAP | @UNESCAP - Feb 9

“We must build coalitions of support to advance #GenderEquality and the empowerment of all women and girls by integrating gender perspectives in #ClimateChange, environmental and #IRR policies.” — shared @Swilkbiz7, @unwomen AsiaPacific Regional Director.

UN Women AsiaPacific and 2 others

United Nations ESCAP | @UNESCAP - Feb 11

“Social norms and barriers that prevent women and girls from advancing in #STEM are depriving our region of enormous untapped talents. On this #internationalwomenandscience day, let us work towards ensuring that all women have equal opportunities to realize their true potential.”

UN Women AsiaPacific and 2 others

United Nations ESCAP | @UNESCAP - Feb 11

“Make #GenerationalEquality real with us, @unwomen, @unescapptwol, @UNESCAP, #womeninSTEM, and @unesco. Call to action: Greater participation of women in STEM is needed to achieve gender equality across Asia and the Pacific.

CALL TO ACTION

Greater participation of women in STEM is needed to achieve gender equality across Asia and the Pacific.

#InternationalDayOfWomenAndScience #unwomen #gender #womeninSTEM #SciGirls #SciWomen

UN Women AsiaPacific and 6 others

United Nations ESCAP | @UNESCAP - Feb 21

Women in #STEM are crucial to India’s post-COVID-19 recovery. Now is the moment to act on the international Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Make #GenerationalEquality real with us, @unwomen, @unescapptwol, @UNESCAP, #womeninSTEM, #girlsinSTEM, #SciWomen.

#SciGirls #SciWomen

Read more: bit.ly/3kXUQ6D

UN Women/Reemid Proval

#WomenInSTEM #SciGirls #SciWomen #GenerationEquality
March 2022

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 1

#AsiaPacific is a dynamic region with ever-changing progress. Catch up with what happened at the #SDGs front in our March Newsletter.

bit.ly/3M8qG5h

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 1

On International Women’s Day next week, we must join hands to achieve #GenderEquality including in #ClimateAction. Register for the AsiaPacific Commemoration on #WID2022 here: bit.ly/3FVjzFp.

With @UNWomenAsia, @UNDPAsiaPac, @UNICEF_AseanPac and @UNEP_AseanPac.

---

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 1

#ZeroDiscrimination real with us and @UNwomenasia.

We need to stop discriminatory institutions impacting women’s voice and access to land in East Asia and the Pacific.

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 2

#ThaiNew

Because of everyone,

- More girls are going to school.
- More women are in leadership positions.
- We are moving towards #GenderEquality.

---

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - 23h

#WomenEntrepreneurs take farewell to physical bookkeeping.

ESCAP in collaboration with @UNICEF through SHE investments, supported the launch of KOTRA HK - the first gender-focused and culturally tailored business support app for women in Cambodia.

bit.ly/3eKvH7z

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Opening the AsiaPacific commemoration of International Women’s Day, UN Secretary-General @antonioguterres underscored that we cannot emerge from the pandemic with the clock spinning backwards on #GenderEquality. #WID2022

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On International Women’s Day, it’s time to turn the clock forward for every woman and girl.

Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

11:08 AM · Mar 8, 2022 · Twitter Web App
On #IWD2022, ESCAP @UN_Armida stressed the importance of empowering women and girls in response to #GenderInequality and #ClimateChange in the region.

"To achieve a sustainable future, we must give women the voice and power to make decisions on climate change and disaster risk reduction."

Armida Salsiah Aminjahana
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Women ministers from the #AsiaPacific region shared past achievements on advancing #GenderEquality and expressed a unified voice on the need to achieve "equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" — resonating the aspiration of #IWD2022.

Women and girls are not passive actors in the face of challenges: they are effective and powerful leaders and change-makers.

Sarah Kohlos
Officer-in-Charge of UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

On #IWD2022, youth voices echoed throughout @UNESCAP hall, delivering powerful speeches on achieving a sustainable future and climate resilience through education. It is time to commit and act together on #ClimateAction & #GenderEquality!

As #COVID19 is reversing the hard-fought gains towards #GenderEquality in #AsiaPacific, the #IWD2022 regional commemoration today highlighted the importance of women’s voice and leadership in #ClimateAction and #DRR.

Our interactive dialogue on #IWD2022 put together academia, private sector, activism & social media on the same track to move #GenderEquality and #ClimateAction from theory to practice.

This is a women’s issue as well as everyone’s issue, and it needs our attention now.
Governments in the #AsiaPacific region identified economic empowerment and ending violence against women and girls as keys to achieving #GenderEquality. Now is the time to act on #InternationalWomensDay!

Make #GenerationEquality real with us and @unwomensasia / @unwomen.

#IWD2022

We must break societal expectations and traditional gender stereotypes to ensure women's equal economic rights are protected.

9:00 AM - Mar 8, 2022 - Buffer

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Meet our #AmbassadorForADay in Thailand, Youth4Climate delegate 2021, is shadowing ESCAP @UN_Armanda and giving a speech on #ClimateChange at the regional commemoration of #IWD2022 tomorrow.

Watch the introduction

youtube.com/Ambassador For A Day - Aminata P.

Quality education and accessibility is the key to our progressive world, but the climate crisis is a pressing...

12:55 PM - Mar 7, 2022 - Twitter Web App

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Meet Nipit Suponrat, a Social Work graduate from @thammasat_uni, who will stand as #AmbassadorForADay youth shadow for ESCAP @UN_Armanda at the regional commemoration of #IWD2022.

Let’s watch Nipit’s visions on how to achieve #GenderEquality.

youtube.com/Ambassador For A Day 2022 | Nipit Suponrat

Hello, My name is Nipit Suponrat. I am 24 years old, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Social Work from...

1:06 PM - Mar 7, 2022 - Twitter Web App

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On #InternationalWomensDay next week, we must join hands to achieve #GenderEquality including in #ClimateAction. Register for the #AsiaPacific Commemoration on #IWD2022 here bit.ly/3t7VqMv

With @unwomensasia, @UNDPasiapac, @UNDRR_AsiaPac and @UNEP_AsiaPac.

12:00 PM - Mar 1, 2022 - Buffer
United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 14

Only joint political, economic & social interventions can address GenderEquality and impact ClimateAction.

Read more: bit.ly/3k0BTgC

#CSW66 with @UN_CSW and @womenasia

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 15

Let’s protect and embrace women’s voices to ensure effective Disaster risk reduction & GenderEquality!

Read more: bit.ly/3k0BTgC

#CSW66 with @UN_CSW and @womenasia

---

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 17

Look at how we are slowing down on SDGProgress.

At this rate, the victims of our unsustainable trends will be:

- Women and children
- People with disabilities
- Migrants and refugees
- Poorer households

Read more in our new report: bit.ly/SDGProgress2022

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 20

If global challenges are games, we have been playing with an unfair handicap.

The handicap of not fully utilizing the potential of women in parliaments.

#SDG5 #GenderEquality #GlobalGoals

---

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Mar 20

Significant data gaps remain on SDG indicators, with 34% of the targets being unmeasured. This impacts the SDGProgress on:

1. Gender equality (#SDG5)
2. Life below water (#SDG14)
3. Peace, Justice and Strong institutions (#SDG16)

Read more: bit.ly/SDGProgress2021

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57/169 of SDG targets cannot be measured
UNPACKING THE SDG DATA GAPS
United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP • Mar 25

At the #APFSD in 3 days, we will review critical issues for #GenderEquality:

- Women’s economic empowerment & unpaid care burdens
- Violence against women & girls
- Women’s participation & leadership in decision-making

Come to learn more on #SDGs bit.ly/35z7Vja

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP • Mar 28

Women were more exposed to #COVID19 as they made up the majority of frontline workers. In some countries, more than 90% of nurses and community health workers are female.

Our #APFSD #SDGS profile recommends solutions bit.ly/36mg71H

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP • Mar 28

Regional stakeholders actively engaged at the #APFSD roundtables today to establish progress on #EDSG #EDD #SDG4 & #SDG19. Together, they developed recommendations to address challenges and future collaboration ahead of the #HLPF in July.

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP • Mar 30

Since 2019, many groups of children have struggled to access #DigitalLearning, including:

- Girls
- Children with disabilities
- Children from low-income households

Find out what we can do to help: unescap.org/4p2022/edsg-4-

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United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP • Mar 31

The #APFSD side event alert - @SocEntAsia, @Catalyst_2030, @onfamph, @UNESCAP_SEA, @unwomenasia, @APRCEM, #WEEmpowerAsia, and the Embassy of Sweden launched the guidelines on accelerating women’s economic empowerment in agricultural value chains.
April 2022

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP  Apr 1
Gender gaps in the world of work are expected to widen. Women and girls in Asia Pacific are experiencing heavier burdens of unpaid care and Domestic Work.

Latest update in the #APFSD #SDGs Profile: unescap.org/ko/2022/sgd-6

#APFSD

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP  Apr 2
Increasing women’s ownership and decision-making power over the land and forests they use is important to ensure they can contribute to, and benefit from, environmental sustainability.

Read how #SDG16 and #SDG15 are linked: unescap.org/ko/2022/sgd-15

#APFSD

May 2022

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP  May 9
SIGNED today @UNESCAP and the Reserve Bank of Fiji solidified partnerships to unlock capital for #WomenEntrepreneurship through a Memorandum of Agreement.

Read: bit.ly/SIGN1374
#CatalyzingWomenEntrepreneurship

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP  May 9
A greater push is needed for #GenderEquality and #HumanRights across AsiaPacific. The #KnowYourAPF channels (UN development system expertise to accelerate progress. Connect. Collaborate. Achieve: bit.ly/2sportr

Fijian Government and 4 others
June 2022

Did you know that no region has data for even half of the #SDG gender indicators?

Read our #blog to find out why do we need to stop using #GenderMainstreaming as an empty buzzword and start acting on it: bit.ly/3Dv8B8e

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - 8th

August 2022

What if laws & policies treated women & men equally? #WomenInLaw #WomenInPolitics

Find out how policy and legal reforms can #Boost women's entrepreneurship & #AccelerateEquality at bit.ly/3ApxnCt

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - 12th

Globally, women only have 3/4 of the legal rights afforded to men

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - May 25

“Coupled with pre-existing structural impediments, the #pandemic has intensified the challenges in key social sectors, like health, food, #education, and #GenderEquality, in countries in special situations.”

---BRMOPA Minister @AKAbdulMomen at #CST78.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and 3 others

United Nations ESCAP @UNESCAP - Aug 29

SAVE THE DATE and join us for a discussion on legislative and policy reforms to increase women's entrepreneurship in the #AsiaPacific region.

August 31
9 AM - 5 PM (UTC+7)

Register at bit.ly/3ApxnCt

#AccelerateEquality #WomenInLaw #WorldBank

Register now for the UN ESCAP event on August 31, 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand (in person) or virtually.
October 2022
February 2022

United Nations ESCAP reActivityed

Armida Aisjahbana @UN_Armida - Feb 11
Social norms and barriers that prevent women and girls from advancing in #STEM are depriving our region of enormous untapped talents. On this #WomenInSTEM day, let us work towards ensuring that all women have equal opportunities to realize their true potential.

March 2022

Celebrating #IWD2022 🌟 with my #AmbassadorForADay youth shadows, @aimeeaminta and Nipit Supornrat. The #AsiaPacific regional commemoration is starting soon at @UNESCAP.

Achieving #GenderEquality requires all of us 😊. On this #IWD2022 🌟, let us strive for equality toward building a more equitable, sustainable and climate-resilient world.

International Women’s Day
8 March 2022
Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
From security & safety officers, construction engineers to a core part of our substantive divisions, it’s good to see women paving the way in diverse areas of work and inspiring younger generations. 😊 😊

Here at @UNESCAP, we remain committed to #empowerment and #GenderEquality.

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Delighted to spend #IWD2022 with @aimeeaminta and Nipit Suponrat, my promising youth shadows under the @UNThailand #AmbassadorForADay initiative. It is clear from our discussion that young people can and will play a crucial role in addressing regional challenges.

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“The unyielding perseverance to go on”

My words of encouragement to the inspiring group of young changemakers at #AFISDOYouth2022. With resolve, Youth can be, and will be, at the forefront of action and innovative, powerful solutions for #Innovation, #genderequality and #SDGs.

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As women own only 8-9% of formal SMEs in SouthAsia, #ECommerce could be the solution to their economic and social empowerment.

It is my pleasure to address the Training of 100 #WomenEntrepreneurs on Expanding Business through E-commerce and #DigitalMarketing this morning.

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New UNESCAP report reveals that AsiaPacific is the most digitally divided in the world. Bridging those divides and ensuring tech advances can benefit everyone will be a key challenge in our post-pandemic recovery.

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Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal and 3 others

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Bangkokpost.com
Shaping up for our digital future
Asia and the Pacific is the most digitally divided region of the world, and Southeast Asia is the most divided subregion. The Covid-19 pandemic...
October 2022

Armida Alisjahbana 📣UN, Armida - Oct 7
At the 8th North & Central Asia Forum on SDG Implementation, I stressed that decisive action is needed, including on #water, #energy, #infrastructure, #innovation and #gender, to get the subregion back on track towards the #GlobalGoals.

Armida Alisjahbana 📣UN, Armida - Oct 19
Interesting to hear from Fiji Minister of Women Children & Poverty Alleviation @RoySakbar that 17% of population has some form of disability. Also concern for vulnerability of #PwD to #climate change, gender-based violence.

Fiji at the UN and Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation Fiji

Facebook

January 2022

United Nations ESCAP 📣January 24 at 8:00 AM 🙌
On International #EducationDay, we recognize that empowering women and girls in science and technology is crucial to shaping an equitable society. #PowerEducation and make #GenerationEquality real with us. UNESCO Bangkok, and UN Women Asia and the Pacific.

The proportion of female students in science programmes across Asia and the Pacific is still noticeably low

United Nations ESCAP 📣January 21 at 4:13 PM 🙌
Be an #AmbassadorForADay! Share a video message on how YOU are taking action on a social issue affecting women and girls with United Nations Thailand and the Embassy of Thailand for a chance to job shadow an ambassador as part of the #IWD2022 in Thailand. Apply now until 6 February. https://bit.ly/aday2022 🙌

AMBASSADOR FOR A DAY

Lend your voice to issues affecting women and girls. 2-MINUTE VIDEO CONTEST

Deadline extended! Submissions due 6 February 2022. Winners will be notified on 14 February 2022.

#AmbassadorForADay #RakelTarhunia

62
February 2022
March 2022

United Nations ESCAP
March 1 at 3:00 PM

Read while it’s HOT 🌞
Asia and the Pacific is a dynamic region with ever-changing progress.
Catch up with what happened at the #SDGs front in our March Newsletter!
See more

United Nations ESCAP
March 1 at 12:00 PM

On #InternationalWomensDay next week, we must join hands to achieve #GenderEquality including in #ClimateAction. Register for the Asia-Pacific Commemoration on #IWD2022 here https://bit.ly/3t7VqMY.

With UN Women Asia and the Pacific, UNDP in Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Pacific Office, and UN Environment Programme in Asia Pacific.

PROGRAMME:
10:00 Opening Remarks
10:15 Special Address by Ministers
10:40 Ambassador for a Day Initiative
10:50 Youth Voices on Climate Change
10:55 Interactive Dialogue

REGISTER HERE: https://www.mediacentre.unescap.org!

United Nations ESCAP
March 2 at 7:00 AM

#ThankYou
Because of everyone.
- More girls are going to school.
- Because of everyone.
- Fewer girls are forced into early marriage.
- More women are in leadership positions.
- And because of everyone.
- We are moving towards #GenderEquality.

#GlobalGoals
United Nations ESCAP

We recommend economic policies designed to promote the well-being of both people and the planet and ensure #inclusiveRecovery for all.

#APSurvey #BuildingForwardFairer

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022

IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE

Ensure inclusive recovery
BUILDING FORWARD FAIRER
LIVE LAUNCH ON 12 APRIL 2022

United Nations ESCAP

More gender-disaggregated data is needed.
Filling the data gaps on the gender-environment nexus is required to make informed and effective policy decisions.


DID YOU KNOW?
The improvement of data collection on gendered risks and climate change is fundamental to advance inclusive and gender-responsive actions.
Meet Nipit Suponrat, a Social Work graduate from Thammasat University, who will stand as #AmbassadorForADay and a youth leader for ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana at the regional commemoration of #IWD2022 tomorrow.

Let’s watch Nipit’s visions on how to achieve #GenderEquality.

UN Women Asia and the Pacific was live.

LIVE from UNCC Bangkok

Women ministers from the Asia-Pacific region shared past achievements on advancing #GenderEquality and expressed a unified voice on the need to achieve “equality today for a sustainable tomorrow” — resonating the aspiration of #IWD2022.

Click to expand

UN Women Asia and the Pacific

Live in 1 hour!

The Asia-Pacific Commemoration of #IWD 2022 starts soon. Click here to register:

http://unwo.meny/0j58507paul

With United Nations ESCAP | UNDP in Asia and the Pacific | UNDRR | UN Environment Programme

Governments in the Asia-Pacific region identified economic empowerment and ending violence against women and girls as keys to achieving gender equality. Now is the time to act on #InternationalWomensDay!

Make #GenerationEquality real with us and UN Women Asia and the Pacific / UN Women.

#IWD2022

We must break societal expectations and traditional gender stereotypes to ensure women’s equal economic rights are protected.

@ESCAP75
On #WED2022, youth voices echoed throughout ESCAP halls delivering powerful speeches on achieving a sustainable future and climate resilience through education. It is time to commit and act together on #ClimateAction & #GenderEquality.

(Dis)Dragging, (Stereotypes + Bias) = Women being excluded from #SocialProtection.

Today is #WED2022. Watch ESCAP video on how to ensure women are protected:

How to Design Gender-Sensitive Social Protection Systems

The video “How to Design Gender-Sensitive Social Protection Syste...

As COVID-19 is reversing the hard-fought gains towards #GenderEquality in AsiaPacific, the #WED2022 regional commemoration today highlighted the importance of women’s voice and leadership in #ClimateAction and #DRR.


From security & safety officers, construction engineers to a core part of our substantive divisions, women are paving the way in diverse areas of work and inspiring younger generations."

Here at ESCAP, we remain committed to #empowerment and #GenderEquality.

Are we shouldering the #pandemic equally? — No.
Women are harder hit by the economic impacts and are at greater risk of falling into #poverty.

Learn more about #GenderEquality now: https://bit.ly/3IPQ8Gm

ADB Southeast Asia Development Solutions - SEADS

COVID-19 has been devastating for #women. An ADB study found that women in #SoutheastAsia bore the brunt of job losses in the wake of the pandemic. In striving... See more
Will you read this long sentence?
“1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.”

Don’t ignore violence that happens in front of you... See more

Only joint political, economic & social interventions can address #GenderEquality and impact #ClimateAction.

Get ready! This year, #CSW66 is happening in a hybrid format. Check out all the events and how you can get involved and participate: http://unwo.man/6QY50jgBo

Call for #ClimateAction Let’s protect and embrace women’s voices to ensure effective disaster risk reduction & #GenderEquality!

Women’s skills and knowledge are key for achieving #ClimateJustice

To achieve #GenderEquality, unpaid care and domestic work that fall on women must be recognized and reduced.

If global challenges are games, we need to play with an unfair handicaps. The handicap of not fully utilizing the potential of women in parliaments.

#SDGS #GenderEquality #GlobalGoals
Let’s accelerate ACTION for a sustainable tomorrow! 🌍

What’s holding you back from acting? Gender equality? Infrastructure? 

#GlobalGoals #SDGs

United Nations ESCAP ⚠️
23 March ⚠️

Let’s accelerate ACTION for a sustainable tomorrow! 🌍

What’s holding you back from acting? Gender equality? Infrastructure? 

#GlobalGoals #SDGs

United Nations ESCAP ⚠️
23 March ⚠️

At the APFSD in 3 days, we will review critical issues for GenderEquality: 

- Women's economic empowerment & unpaid care burdens 
- Violence against women & girls 
- Women’s participation & leadership in decision-making 

⋯ See more

3 days to go

Asia-Pacific Conference on SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

United Nations ESCAP ⚠️
31 March at 11:00 ⚠️

#APFSD side event alert – The Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA), Catalyst 2030, Oxfam Great Britain, UN Women Asia and the Pacific, Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism, Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, JPHEmpowerAsia, and ESCAP Subregional Office for South-East Asia launched the guidelines on accelerating women’s economic empowerment in agricultural value chains.

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April 2022

United Nations ESCAP ⚠️
1 April ⚠️

Women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region are experiencing heavier burdens of unpaid care and DomesticWork.

Read the latest update in the #APFSD #SDG5 Profile 📺

Unpaid care and domestic work

unescap.org
SDG 5 Goal Profile

Learn more

United Nations ESCAP ⚠️
2 April at 04:51 ⚠️

We are advancing #SDGs in Asia and the Pacific. Read the latest update in the #APFSD SDG5 Profile 📺

https://unescap.org/ap/2022/sgap-5-goal-profile

Learn More
May 2022

A greater push is needed for #GenderEquality and #HumanRights across Asia-Pacific. The United Nations development system expertise to accelerate progress. Connect, Collaborate, Achieve. 

June 2022

Learn about our practical efforts at ESCAP to advance #GenderMainstreaming in official statistics for #AsiaPacific.

Read More:
Beyond buzzwords: Actioning gender mainstreaming in official statistics

United Nations ESCAP
Jun 06

Here’s why you should sign up for our new e-learning course on #GenderData use for analysts, communications, and policymaking to #improve skills in mainstreaming #GenderStatistics and help achieve #GenderEquality. https://bit.ly/3zBi0e6

Read More:
Improving skills for mainstreaming gender statistics

United Nations ESCAP
Jun 06

Notes: ESCAP and the UN Women International Cooperation Agency renewed their partnership and agreed to further their annual co-operation by: 
- Implementing #GenderStatistics
- Implementing #GenderData
- Promoting gender-responsive sustainable development goals (SDGs) and women’s empowerment
- Education and training

ASIA-PACIFIC Knowledge Management Hub
August 2022
October 2022

Today we celebrate women and their contributions to economies. Taking care of both paid agriculture tasks & unpaid domestic work, women farmers often achieve lower yields than men. Engaging this gender gap would boost food security globally. Joining the fun!

To better support this goal, ESCAP-CAAD staff recently concluded a training workshop on mainstreaming gender-responsive food security programming. To learn more about gender-responsive food security programmes, visit... See more

March 2022

Economics and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022

ECONOMICS IS NOT ABOUT MONEY

IT’S ABOUT PEOPLE

Ensure inclusive recovery

#GlobalGoals
April 2022

June 2022

July 2022
January 2022

United Nations ESCAP
3.3k followers

2021 has been vital for laying down the foundation for #GenderEquality in the post-COVID-19 era. On #WDD2021 in March, ESCAP Executive Secretary Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana wrote an expert opinion on why we must empower women leaders—which became the #BestOf2021!

In case you missed it: https://bit.ly/3x6b1nt

TOP OP-ED

Why We Must Empower Women Leaders in the Post-COVID-19 Era

#BestOf2021

February 2022

United Nations ESCAP
3.3k followers

Women in #STEM are crucial to an inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery. Now is the time to act on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

CALL TO ACTION

Greater participation of women in STEM is needed to achieve gender equality across Asia and the Pacific
March 2022

United Nations ESCAP
35,728 followers

Read while it's HOT 🍈

#AsiaPacific is a dynamic region with ever-changing progress. Catch up with what happened at the MDGs front in our March Newsletter!


United Nations ESCAP
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On Zero Discrimination Day, we must stop the discrimination undermining gender-responsive legislative initiatives in the #AsiaPacific region.

#GenerationEquality #ZeroDiscrimination #SDGs

We need to stop discriminatory institutions impacting women’s voice and access to land in East Asia and the Pacific

United Nations ESCAP
35,728 followers

On International Women’s Day next week, we must join hands to achieve #GenderEquality including in #ClimateAction. Register for the #AsiaPacific Commemoration on #WWD2022 here 🌏 https://bit.ly/3rYvJof.

 Program:
10:00 Opening Remarks
10:10 Special Address by Ministers
10:40 Ambassador for a Day Initiative
10:50 Youth Voices on Climate Change
10:55 Interactive Dialogue

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35,728 followers

Because of everyone;
- More girls are going to school.
- Fewer girls are forced into early marriage.
- More women are in leadership positions.
- We are moving towards #GenderEquality.

#GlobalGoals
How a novel digital bookkeeping app is helping women entrepreneurs in Cambodia.

Our interactive dialogue on #WWD2022 put together academia, private sector, activism & social media on the same track to move #GenderEquality and #ClimateAction from theory to practice.

Meet Nipit Supornrat, a Social Work graduate from Thammasat University, who will stand as #AmbassadorForADay youth shadow for ESCAP Executive Secretary Arminda S. Shalini at the regional commemoration of #WWD2022 tomorrow.

Let's watch Nipit's visions on how to achieve #GenderEquality.

We must break societal expectations and traditional gender stereotypes to ensure women's equal economic rights are protected.
#InternationalWomenDay 2022 is coming. Share with us, are you or someone you know still face gender-based discrimination?

#GenderEquality #SDGs #GlobalGoals #WID2022

If global challenges are games, we have been playing with an unfair handicap. The handicap of not fully utilizing the potential of women in parliaments.

#SDGs #GenderEquality #GlobalGoals

Only joint political, economic & social interventions can address #GenderEquality and impact #ClimateAction.

Call for #ClimateAction. Let’s protect and embrace women’s voices to ensure effective #Disaster risk reduction & #GenderEquality.

Women’s skills and knowledge are key for achieving #ClimateJustice.
To achieve #GenderEquality, unpaid care and domestic work that fall on women must be recognized, reduced, and redistributed.

**#SDGs #GlobalGoals**

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Join ESCAP, ADB, and UNDP to launch the #SDGPotential report on 28 March, 12:05 (UTC+7). This year we analyze 3 areas for post-#COVID19 policy action:

- Inclusion
- Women’s empowerment
- Environmental sustainability

Learn more: https://bit.ly/3qy9CVS

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Will you read this long sentence?

"1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report exp [see more]

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At the #APFSD in 3 days, we will review critical issues for #GenderEquality:

- Women’s economic empowerment & unpaid care burdens
- Violence against women & girls
- Women’s participation & leadership in decision-making

Come to learn more on #SDGs and other #SDGs: https://bit.ly/35z7Yja

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During the solution presentations and panel discussions at the #APFSDYouth2022 event today, youth representatives, policymakers, UN officials, and stakeholders exchanged ideas on the roles of #youth as drivers for #GenderEquality and #ClimateAction.

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#COVID19 negatively impacted the mental health and well-being of older people. Our #SDGProgress Report indicates that 42% of #OlderPeople felt depressed, with more women than men affected.

Read: https://bit.ly/3bN4b5p

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COVID-19 impacts the physical and mental health of older people.
April 2022

**United Nations ESCAP**

Since 2019, many groups of children have struggled to access #DigitalLearning. Including:

- Girls
- Children with #disabilities
- Children from low-income households

Find out what we can do to help: [https://mkd.in/y4YETzZr #APFSD #SDG4](https://mkd.in/y4YETzZr #APFSD #SDG4)

**United Nations ESCAP**

Increasing women's ownership and decision-making power over the land and forests they use is important to ensure they can contribute to, and benefit from, environmental sustainability.

Read how #SDG16 and #SDG15 are linked: [https://mkd.in/jy6lSsEJ #APFSD](https://mkd.in/jy6lSsEJ #APFSD)

**United Nations ESCAP**

Gender gaps in the world of work are expected to widen. Women and girls in #AsiaPacific are experiencing heavier burdens of unpaid care and #DomesticWork.

**United Nations ESCAP**

Women and girls in #AsiaPacific experience elevated levels of violence from their intimate partners under #COVID19.

**United Nations ESCAP**

Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund is calling for expressions of interest. Apply by 29 April for partnerships to unlock investment capital for #WomenEnterprises in South and South-East Asia & the Pacific. [https://bit.ly/3i3 محل](https://bit.ly/3i3 محل)

**United Nations ESCAP**

Call for Expressions of Interest

**Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund**

Three thematic areas:
1. Impact Investing and Innovative Financing
2. Gender Lens Investing
3. Research and Policy Initiatives

**United Nations ESCAP**

End violence against women and girls
May 2022

SIGNING today United Nations ESCAP and the Reserve Bank of Fiji to solidify partnerships to unlock capital for WomenEntrepreneurs through a Memorandum of Agreement.

Read https://bit.ly/3Q6W6w
#CatalyzingWomenEntrepreneurship

June 2022


Beyond buzzwords: Actioning gender mainstreaming in official statistics
unescap.org • 4 min read