

TRANSFORM

The economic empowerment issue

Is UN Women relevant,
effective and efficient?

PAGE 8

5 steps to improve UN Women
contributions to women's
economic empowerment

PAGE 24

Mastering innovative
evaluation methodology

PAGE 32





Dear Readers,

A few months ago, we launched *Transform*, the Magazine for Gender Responsive Evaluation. Today, we are pleased to present you our second issue of *Transform*, addressing another critical topic: women's economic empowerment. This subject is important not only for achieving gender equality but also for overall development and poverty reduction. Improving the economic status of women can lead to better outcomes at the individual, family and community level, and has ripple effects across society. Economic empowerment of women affects not only the economic health of countries, but also the overall health and well-being of future generations.

UN Women Independent Evaluation Office undertook a corporate evaluation to learn from progress made so far and inform future work in the area. The evaluation covered all dimensions of women's economic empowerment work in UN Women. It identified strengths and weaknesses and developed five recommendations intended to enhance UN Women work in women's economic empowerment at both the national and global level. Highlights of its findings and next steps are included in this issue. To read more detailed versions of the report, you can access the full report at <http://bit.ly/WEEevaluationreport>.

We hope you find this new format engaging and the information within useful in strengthening the work of UN Women and its partners worldwide.

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Think Beyond. Stay Ahead.

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An empowered future through women's economic empowerment

Increasing empowerment of women,
increasing prosperity for all

PAGE 2

Why do we
evaluate?

PAGE 6

FINDINGS

Is UN Women relevant, effective, and efficient?

Affecting global change: vision and action

PAGE 8



RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVING FORWARD:
5 steps to improve
UN Women
contributions
to women's economic
empowerment

PAGE 24

EVALUATION APPROACH

Mastering innovative
evaluation methodology

PAGE 32

PERSONAL VOICE: ELLEN MLALAZI

Empowerment
in Action

PAGE 36



Increasing empowerment of women, increasing prosperity *for all*



Women who control assets and productive resources acquire more power and autonomy in their families and communities, as well as in their economic and political relationships. Ensuring women's rights to use land and productive resources significantly improves household productivity, welfare and nutrition, as well as women's enjoyment of a broad range of rights.

However, women face a number of burdens in addition to limited access to resources. Worldwide, the responsibility for unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and young girls, leaving them less time for education, leisure, self-care, political participation, paid work, and other economic activities. Women living in poverty who are burdened by care responsibilities face multiple obstacles to their enjoyment of rights, and often these obstacles and poverty are passed on to future generations. Furthermore, women continue to be concentrated in poorly paid and informal work with little or no social or legal protections. This limits their financial prospects and economic resources necessary for their own wellbeing and that of their families.

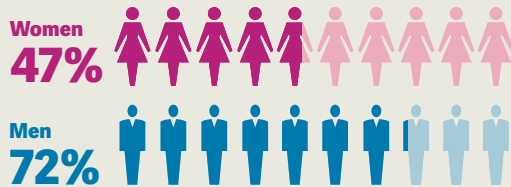
There is a need to recognize, reduce, and redistribute the burden of unpaid care work and promote decent work and sustainable livelihoods. UN Women does so in part through technical support to

governments to undertake time use surveys and social policy to promote parental leave, sick leave, and affordable or free childcare. It also promotes adequate social protection measures that can be used as key policy instruments to address poverty, reduce class and gender inequality, and accelerate economic development.

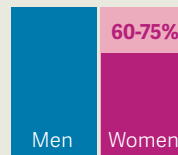
In September 2013, UN Women's Executive Board approved the Strategic Plan for 2014–2017, which lays out six priority areas of work, among them women's economic empowerment, especially for the poorest and most excluded. Subsequently, the Economic Empowerment Section undertook several thematic consultations, which provided the opportunity for UN Women staff in the Policy Division and country and regional offices to share their thinking to advance strategic planning on women's economic empowerment and to be effective in implementing the Strategic Plan. The thematic

The Wage, Work & Asset Gap

Employment-to-population ratio:



Average Wages in most countries:



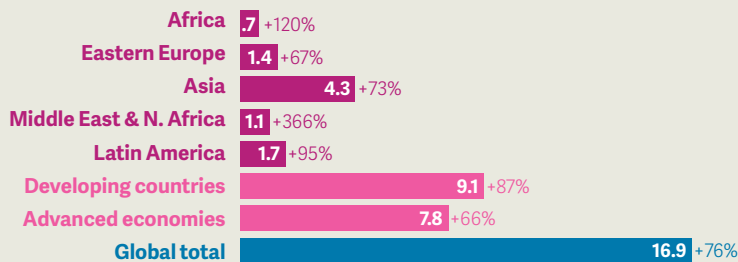
The cost of inequality

USD **\$9 trillion**

Cost that women in developing countries bear each year due to unequal wages and the fact that women have less access than men to paid jobs

Benefits of Economic Empowerment

If the wage and employment gap were closed, women's income would increase by the following (USD in trillions):



If women had the same access as men to productive assets in 34 developing countries...

+7% Agricultural output

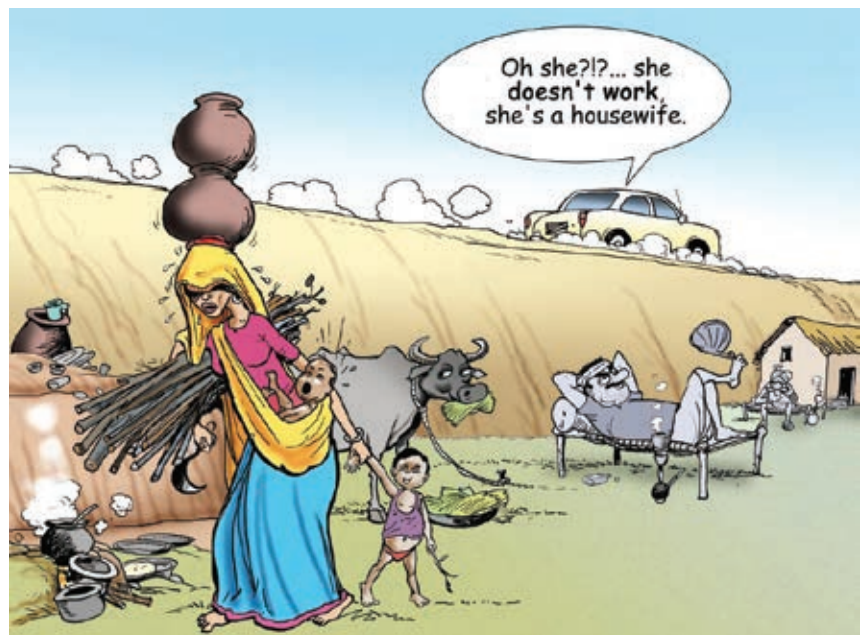
-17% Undernourished people

+150 million
overall estimated decrease in hungry people

consultations helped reorient UN Women strategy to be more focused on poverty, namely:

- Women's access to and control over land and other productive assets and resources
- Women's employment and livelihoods, spanning the continuum of work from unpaid care work to decent work

With these goals in mind, UN Women works with governments, civil society organizations, UN system partners and grassroots organizations around the world to increase education and incomes, improve access to and control over resources, increase security, and encourage global poverty eradication and development.



Leading cartoonist Neelabh Banerjee made this cartoon for UN Women.

The movement for women's economic empowerment



So that women everywhere
can achieve their full economic
potential, creating a world with
more opportunities, security
and prosperity for everyone.

Connect and join empowerwomen.org to
create & innovate, share & learn, inspire & get inspired.

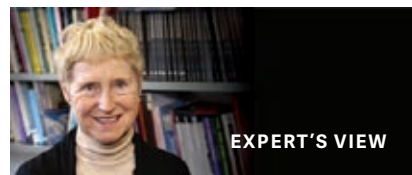




Why do we evaluate?

Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things right? Are we doing these things on a scale that makes a difference? To get better results, we need to know what works. We need to know what doesn't work and how to fix it.

In 2014, the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office undertook a corporate thematic evaluation of the UN Women contribution to women's economic empowerment. The main purpose of evaluation was to inform strategic policy and programmatic decision-making, organizational learning and accountability within UN Women, and contribute to wider knowledge on what works and what does not work in advancing women's economic empowerment.



I have served as an independent external expert on the Advisory Group for this evaluation, drawing on my long experience of engagement with research and policy advice on women's economic empowerment. I advised on the design of the evaluation and commented on the draft synthesis report.

The team appointed to carry out the evaluation has a wealth of relevant experience and technical expertise. They have pro-

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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