



# **SHE in STI**

## **2024**

Closing the Gender Gap in  
**Science, Technology, and Innovation:**

*Select Initiatives from UN System Entities*





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May 2024

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# Introduction

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Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a fundamental human right and a foundation for a peaceful and prosperous world. Similarly, harnessing the transformative power of science, technology and innovation (STI) is crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, women and girls are vastly underrepresented in STI fields.

Partner organizations across the United Nations system have joined forces to address the gender gap in science, technology and innovation and formed the Interagency Task Team (IATT) work stream on Gender and STI. This document showcases diverse initiatives spearheaded by UN agencies creating gender-sensitive and women-centred solutions to advance sustainable development. This impactful selection includes a wide range of initiatives, from using fintech to put more money in the hands of women to capacity building to increase the number of women in nuclear science. The featured initiatives are championed by: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering (ICGEB), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

While challenges persist, there are coalitions of partners actively working to ensure women participate in and contribute to STI and benefit from STI advancements.

This document represents a collective commitment to a brighter, more inclusive future. By combining their unique strengths and collaborating on shared goals, UN entities demonstrate practical approaches to address the gender gap in STI and harness innovation for the empowerment of women. We hope this collection inspires greater collaboration on these and other initiatives to boost gender equality in STI for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

# International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. It promotes the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)



The **IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)** was launched in March 2020 with the aim to increase the number of women in the nuclear field. The programme provides a monetary scholarship for selected female students from IAEA Member States enrolled in Master's programmes in a nuclear-related field, as well as internship opportunities facilitated by the IAEA. Fields of study include nuclear energy and other applications, as well as nuclear safety, security, non-proliferation, and nuclear law. MSCFP is planned as a long-term initiative, growing with each selection cycle and ensuring that more women can pursue master's studies in nuclear-related fields. It is funded by extrabudgetary contributions, including in-kind contributions. As of March 2024, donors include the European Union, 23 Member States, two Member State institutions, two private sector partners, and one academic institution.

Find out more at:

<https://www.iaea.org/services/key-programmes/together-for-more-women-in-nuclear/iaea-marie-sklodowska-curie-fellowship-programme>

## The IAEA Lise Meitner Programme



The IAEA Lise Meitner Programme (LMP) provides early and mid-career women professionals with opportunities to participate in a multi-week visiting professional programme and advance their technical and soft skills. Named after the Austrian-Swedish physicist Lise Meitner, the visiting professional programme aims to boost women's career development in the nuclear sector, in particular in the nuclear energy field. The programme includes professional visits to various nuclear facilities: facilities under construction, in operation, or undergoing decommissioning, research centres, scientific institutions, laboratories, the industry sector, and startup companies.



Find out more at:

<https://www.iaea.org/services/key-programmes/together-for-more-women-in-nuclear/lise-meitner-programme>



# International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)



The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is an independent intergovernmental organization with HQ in Trieste (Italy) and laboratories in New Delhi (India) and Cape Town (South Africa), which counts 68 Member States and 18 signatory countries. The ICGEB is a not-for-profit IGO. Any revenues generated are re-invested in research and in funding programmes for capacity building in its Member States. The Vision of the ICGEB is to be the world's leading intergovernmental Organisation for research, training, and technology transfer in the field of Life Sciences and Biotechnology. Its Mission is to combine scientific research with capacity enhancement, thereby promoting sustainable global development.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### South African Women in Biotechnology Programme (SAWBP)

**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



ICGEB Cape Town runs the ICGEB **South African Women in Biotechnology Programme (SAWBP)**, which supports PhD and Postdoctoral South African women scientists to carry out their research in the state-of-the-art ICGEB laboratories in Cape Town, South Africa. This Programme also promotes the interaction and mobility of South African women biotechnology researchers and

the ICGEB community through research visits to the ICGEB Components in Italy and India.

## Partners

- Government of the Republic of South Africa - Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
- South African National Research Foundation
- South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Potential fellows: <https://www.icgeb.org/activities/fellowship/>

Find out more at: [www.icgeb.org/women-in-science.com](http://www.icgeb.org/women-in-science.com)

## Reducing the Digital Divide and Promoting STEM for Young Learners in Central America



This three-year joint project, coordinated by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), tackles the **digital divide in Central America by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education for young learners.** The initiative

utilises Foldscopes, portable and affordable microscopes, to spark scientific curiosity and equip students, especially in remote areas, to conduct real scientific experiments. This innovative approach not only fosters a love of STEM but also promotes gender equality within these fields.



## Partners

- International Italo-Latin American Organisation (IILA)
- Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination System for Integration (CECC/SICA)
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - Government of Italy

## Achievements & Impacts



The project involved teachers and students from 30 schools in seven countries, reaching an estimated 4,000 students in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Find out more at:

<https://www.icgeb.org/promoting-stem-for-girls-in-central-america-with-iila/>

# International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs) committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. We allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Her CyberTracks



The **Her CyberTracks initiative** promotes the equal, full, and meaningful representation of women in cybersecurity by equipping them with the necessary skills and mindset to succeed in the field.



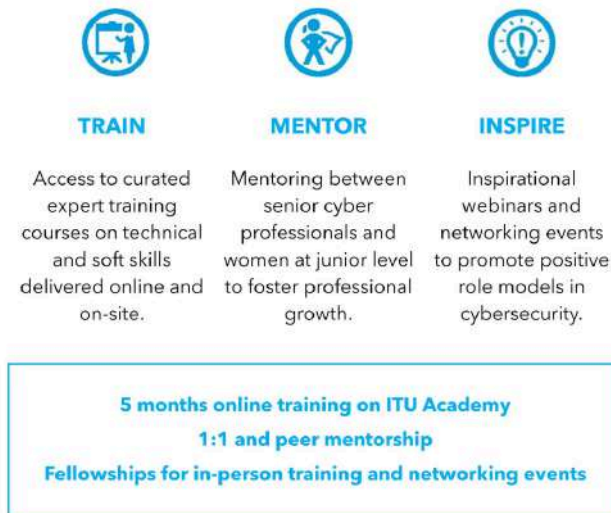
Her CyberTracks offers a one-stop curriculum based on three pillars:

- **Train:** Access to curated expert training courses on technical and soft skills, delivered online and on-site.
- **Mentor:** Mentoring between senior cyber professionals and women at the junior level to foster professional growth.



- Inspire: Inspirational webinars and networking events to promote positive role models in cybersecurity.

Her CyberTracks offers a one-stop curriculum based on 3 pillars:



five-month curriculum, blending online live with self-paced courses, personalized mentorship, and inspirational webinars. The journey culminates in an on-site event featuring soft skills masterclasses, simulations and hands-on exercises, mentorship circles, study visits to cybersecurity organizations, and engaging networking events.

Her CyberTracks currently targets women in the public sector from Africa and select countries in Europe (Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership).

The program is poised to propel the next generation of women in cybersecurity into roles of leadership, ensuring that their voices and expertise shape the future of this critical field.

Her CyberTracks currently offers three tailored CyberTracks—Policy & Diplomacy, Incident Response, and Criminal Justice, comprehensive learning paths on the ITU Academy. Her CyberTracks is a natural progression of ITU's dedication to promoting gender diversity in cybersecurity. By leveraging the success of the Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme, Her CyberTracks provides specialized, targeted training, maintaining the essential mentorship and role modeling aspects. Participants take part in a

Applicants may choose among the following **CyberTracks**:

<b>Policy &amp; Diplomacy CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women in policy (cyber, ICT, peace &amp; security)</li> <li>• Women in technical roles interested in policy/diplomacy</li> </ul>
<b>Incident Response CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women working in IT wishing to enter cybersecurity</li> <li>• Women at entry level in CERT/SOC teams</li> </ul>
<b>Criminal Justice CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women working in the criminal justice sector involved in or aiming to enter cybersecurity and countering cybercrime fields</li> </ul>

## Partners

Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, Her CyberTracks is co-implemented by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and supported by Microsoft.

- German Federal Foreign Office
- ITU Telecommunication Development Sector
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Microsoft

## How to get involved

Please visit the ITU academy at

<https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/her-cybertracks>

Find out more at:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Skills-Development/Her-CyberTracks.aspx>

## Girls Can Code

5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**Girls Can Code** is an ITU initiative focused on coding workshops for girls to promote the development of digital skills and to provide support to beneficiary countries to review/adopt digital inclusion policies and strategies. This is a global initiative with continental chapters around the world that include **African Girls Can Code Phase 1 2028-2022**, **American Girls Can**



**Code** and **Caribbean Girls Can Code** initiatives which aim to promote digital skills development for girls and young women in the respective regions.

## Achievements & Impacts

For the African Girls Can Code Initiative there has been a Continental Camp held in Addis Ababa in 2018, a regional Camp for English-speaking Southern Africa held in 2019 in Pretoria South Africa, and three national camps held concurrently in Addis Ababa, Adama, and Awassa in the 2019.



Find out more at:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/EVENTS/2021/African-Girls-Can-Code.aspx#:~:text=The%20African%20Girls%20Can%20Code,innovative%20women%20on%20the%20Continent>



# UN Interagency Initiative - Led by ITU

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## EQUALS Global Partnership



The **EQUALS Global Partnership** for Gender Equality in the Digital Age is a committed group of corporate leaders, governments, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, and community groups around the world dedicated to promoting gender balance in the technology sector by championing equality of access, skills development, and career opportunities for women and men alike.

EQUALS works to reverse the increasing digital gender divide and close the gap by 2030 – supporting UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 by empowering women through their use of information and communication technologies. An action plan of data gathering, knowledge sharing, and advocacy strengthening drives the EQUALS network partnership.

## Achievements & Impacts

Today, EQUALS is a growing global network of more than 100 partners – including governments, companies, and NGOs.

To achieve our goals, partners focus on four core issues: **ACCESS, SKILLS, LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH**

## Partners

EQUALS was founded in 2016 by five partners:

- ITU
- UN Women
- International Trade Centre
- GSMA
- United Nations University

Today, EQUALS is a growing global network of more than 100 partners – including governments, companies, and NGOs.

## How to get involved

As an official EQUALS partner, your support drives real actions to ensure tech has no gender, and you become part of an innovative network working together to harness the combined energy of all partners. An essential part of becoming an EQUALS partner is committing to play an active role in the network, through EQUALS project work, financial contributions, leveraging networks, and/or providing in-kind support. Learn more: <https://www.equalshintech.org/join>.



Find out more at: <https://www.equalshintech.org/>

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively. The organization also helps equip developing countries to deal with the potential drawbacks of greater economic integration. To do this, UNCTAD provides analysis, facilitates consensus-building, and offers technical assistance. This approach helps developing countries use trade, investment, finance, and technology as vehicles for inclusive and sustainable development.

## Gender & STI Initiatives



UNCTAD works on integrating a gender perspective into science, technology, and innovation policies to effectively address socio-economic development challenges.

Science, technology, and innovation (STI) can play a crucial role in meeting internationally agreed development goals. However, STI cannot effectively facilitate equitable and sustainable development unless the aims, concerns, situations, and abilities of women, as well as men, are considered when formulating STI policies. In other words, a “gender lens” needs to be applied to STI policy-making.





UNCTAD has identified three entry points to apply a gender lens:

1. Science for women: developing science and technology that support women's development and livelihood activities.
2. Women in science: promoting gender equality in science, technology, and engineering education, careers, and leadership.
3. Encouraging and supporting the role of women in innovation systems at national and grassroots levels.



## Achievements & Impacts

1. A New UNCTAD-AIR initiative is helping to train women scientists in Brazil and South Africa to harness geospatial technology for sustainable urban development. A successful workshop has been completed for Brazil, and the one in South Africa is planned for 21-23 May.
2. UNCTAD's partnership with the Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), formalized during the 26th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in March 2023, provided women with well-equipped tools to make a difference back home with team exercises and field visits to bio-circular-green (BCG) economy-model sites, culminating in a group activity in



which participants applied their newly acquired knowledge by pitching a BCG project to a panel of judges.

3. The Young Female Scientist Programme has improved building human capital in STI-related fields in developing countries through educational programmes and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of more than 20 women. The programme has been extended a further 5 years.
4. UNCTAD's Gender Advisory Board has been revitalized with new membership and has made important contributions to the Committee on Science, Technology and Development (CSTD) and to UNCTAD at large. More recent developments include up-to-date information and statements on opportunities and challenges women and girls in STI are facing, and to explore and suggest ways and means of cooperation to best address them, within the mandate of CSTD. Future activities include a webinar on AI, Gender, and healthcare.

## Partners

Governments, academia, and NGOs, including [Okayama University](#), the [Thai Government](#), the [AIR Centre](#), the [South African Space Agency](#) (SANSA), and the [Federal University of Rio de Janeiro](#) (UFRJ).

## How to get involved

Please contact [sticourses@unctad.org](mailto:sticourses@unctad.org) to get involved.

### Find out more at:

- UNCTAD-AIR Centre initiative focussing on women scientists:  
<https://unctad.org/news/new-unctad-air-initiative-help-brazil-and-south-africa-harness-geospatial-technology>
- BCG Model for women scientists and entrepreneurs:  
<https://unctad.org/news/training-equips-women-science-and-technology-lead-sustainability-push>
- Young female scientists programme:  
<https://unctad.org/topic/science-technology-and-innovation/young-female-scientist-programme>
- Gender Advisory Board of CSTD:  
<https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development/gender-advisory-board>



# United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) provides a framework for formulating and harmonising sectoral policies for member countries, a platform for congress and coordination, a home for expertise and knowledge, and an information observatory. In fulfilling its commitments, ESCWA works to include STI in all aspects of initiatives and projects. At the same time, ESCWA is committed to promoting gender equality in the region by mainstreaming gender in its activities.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Handbook on the Arab Gender Indicator Framework

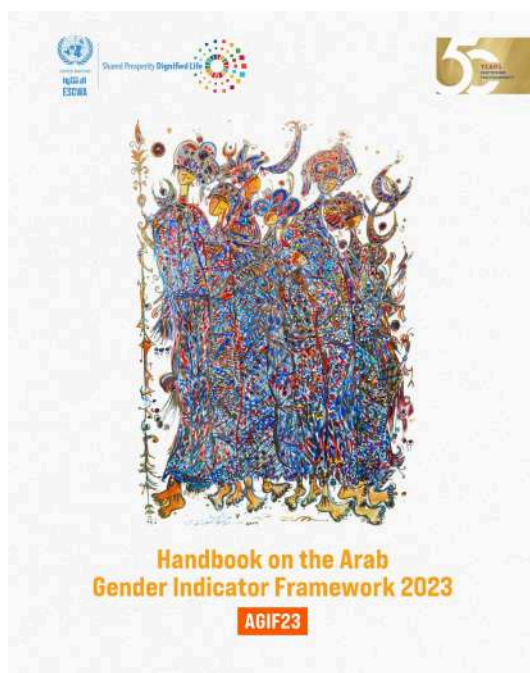
**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The [Handbook on the Arab Gender Indicator Framework 2023](#) is a helpful information guide for statisticians, policymakers, and other stakeholders. It aims to support countries in producing and disseminating comparable gender indicators highlighting priority gender issues in the region. The framework of 115 indicators covers priority areas in the Arab region linked to strategic objectives outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action. The Handbook also assesses data availability and metadata resources to produce and disseminate comparable official

statistics in line with the U.N. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

## Achievements & Impacts

- (1) The handbook was published publicly through the ESCWA gender statistics initiative page <https://unescwa.org/gender-statistics>.
- (2) The handbook was shared with the relevant UN agencies and will be shared with NSOs of ESCWA member states.
- (3) The handbook is a reference for collecting data for the Beijing 30+ report by ESCWA Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster.

## How to Get Involved

- (a) Potential users and stakeholders can participate in a planned webinar on the handbook, its use, and other ESCWA educational activities with partners and actors.
- (b) Stakeholders can directly use the handbook in the area of gender, SDGs, and other gender-sensitive indicators.
- (c) Potential stakeholders can learn about the handbook through ESCWA's social media channels and reach out to the provided contacts.

Find out more at:

<https://unescwa.org/publications/handbook-arab-gender-indicator-framework-2023>

# United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



As the UN agency for science and education with gender equality as a global priority, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is actively engaged in closing the gender gap in science. Addressing the societal factors and systemic barriers that impede progress toward gender equality in this field is a key concern for UNESCO. This commitment stems from the recognition that more women in science not only means better science but also fosters societal development and contributes to the pursuit of peaceful societies.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Call to Action: Closing the Gender in Science

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



The UNESCO **Call to Action: “Closing the Gender Gap in Science”**, launched on the occasion of the 2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science, provides recommendations aimed at tackling the root causes of gender-based inequalities in science. It calls for urgent multi-stakeholder collaborative actions to (1) dismantle gender stereotypes and biases in science through the enhanced visibility of female role models; (2) open educational pathways for girls in science through innovative and inspiring educational strategies and initiatives; and (3) change workplace environments

to attract, retain and advance women scientists through policies and actions that promote inclusion, diversity and equity.

## Partners

A UNESCO Advisory Panel for Closing the Gender Gap in Science has been established to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations for implementing the Call to Action. It is composed of 15 internationally renowned experts and stakeholders, alongside UN experts from different sectors and the relevant UNESCO Chairs.

## Achievements & Impacts

Since no single individual or institution can close the gender gap in science alone, a broad multistakeholder community is being mobilised to build stronger connections between various actors and sectors to foster collaboration and align actions and advocacy efforts. UNESCO also coordinates research, communication strategies and awareness-raising campaigns to amplify key messages and scale up best practices. Lastly, UNESCO is engaging in innovative projects, along with partners, to bring about change and gain further support.

## How to Get Involved

Three Action Groups for Women in Science, based on the three priority areas identified in the Call to Action, are being established. These Action Groups, which will be open and inclusive, will provide space for relevant and interested individuals, entities, organizations and institutions to contribute to the Call to Action by disseminating key messages, identifying research questions, sharing existing initiatives and best practices, and discussing further actions.

**Find out more at:** <https://www.unesco.org/en/science-technology-and-innovation/cta>

**Join the action group:** <https://forms.office.com/e/ws3LwLWJEa>

## L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



UNESCO has a rich history of championing women in science and showcasing inspiring role models. Since 1998, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO have worked together to promote women in science through the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards and the Young Talents

Programmes, putting women scientists in the spotlight and contributing to breaking the glass ceiling in science.

### Achievements & Impacts

Since its creation, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme has honoured more than 4,400 women scientists for their research excellence, including 132 Laureates of the International Awards and more than 4,000 young female researchers. Seven of the laureates have received a Nobel Prize.

Find out more at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/women-science>



# United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrialization. The Organization's work is concentrated on the following priorities:

- a) Clean energy and climate action – reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions and applying nature-based solutions;
- b) Ending hunger – developing sustainable agribusiness value chains and promoting innovative yet affordable agro-technology for improved food security and quality; and
- c) Sustainable supply chains – promoting fair and environmentally responsible local industrial production.

Across these priorities, UNIDO pursues the creation of decent jobs, women's economic empowerment, innovative technology and knowledge transfer, digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI), investment promotion, and training and skills development.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### The Gender and Energy Compact

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



**The Gender and Energy Compact** is a global, multi-stakeholder coalition that aims to catalyze action towards gender equality and women's empowerment to accelerate a just, inclusive, and sustainable energy transition. The Compact gathers and monitors individual commitments and actions of stakeholders.



## Achievements & Impacts

Launched at the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy in September 2021, it brings together more than 80 signatories from government, private sector, academia, civil society, and intergovernmental organizations.

## How to Get Involved

We look forward to your entity's participation. To join the Gender and Energy Compact, please visit <https://genderenergycompact.org/how-to-join/>

## Partners

- ENERGIA
- GWNET
- SEforALL

Find out more at: [www.genderenergycompact.org](http://www.genderenergycompact.org)

## Gender, Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence Report

**5 GENDER  
EQUALITY**



**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



In 2023, UNIDO launched the report "**Gender, Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence**", which explores the opportunities that digital technology innovations such as artificial intelligence, big data, robotics etc., can present for women while also highlighting the risk of exacerbating economic and social exclusion of women and vulnerable groups. Based on an examination of over 150 initiatives from all



regions, the report highlights recommendations and entry points to ensure that digital technologies equally benefit all.

## Partners

- Institute for Manufacturing  
University of Cambridge
- Western Norway Research  
Institute

Find out more at:

[https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/unido-publications/2023-09/GDTAI v 1.12  
-pages\\_low\\_resolution%20%281%29\\_0.pdf](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/unido-publications/2023-09/GDTAI_v_1.12-pages_low_resolution%20%281%29_0.pdf)

# United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. The organization's mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. The organization was established in 1969 and has operated in 150 countries and territories since then.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### AccessAbility Innovation Challenge

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



In June 2023, UNFPA partnered with the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) and the Global Network for Young Persons With Disability (GNYPWD) to launch the [AccessAbility Innovation Challenge](#). Over 6 months, this initiative aimed to address barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for young persons with disabilities across six global regions. By empowering young persons with disabilities through supporting their innovative solutions, the challenge aimed to increase their access to tailored services and enhance their participation in decision-making surrounding SRH and gender-based violence (GBV).







## Achievements & Impacts

Winning ventures received \$180,000 in seed funding and \$100,000 in capacity development. The program included personalized mentoring, awareness programs for over 600 members, and fostering connections for diverse perspectives. AccessABLE (India) improved access to quality sexual and reproductive health information for young persons with disabilities using AI-powered chatbot. Vessels for Development (Cameroon) developed an accessible menstrual cycle tracking device designed specifically for young women and girls with disabilities, complemented by educational workshops. Technoprise Global (Kenya) developed an AI-powered platform for inclusive data



collection on the needs of young women and girls with disabilities in humanitarian settings. Alianta Infonet (Moldova) empowers persons with disabilities through the tailored, accessible

podcast "Depasim Prejudecati" (Overcome Prejudices) and workshops, increasing awareness of the health and rights of persons with disabilities and addressing inclusion in society.



## Partners

- Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub)
- Global Network for Young Persons With Disability (GNYPWD)

Find out more at:

<https://www.unfpa.org/press/unfpa-announces-winners-accessability-innovation-challenge>

## The Equity 2030 Alliance

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**The Equity 2030 Alliance** is a global initiative to normalize gender equity in science, technology, and finance by 2030. The Alliance is advancing the vision that an equitable future can only be achieved if advances in science and technology include and address the needs of all.

The Alliance unites leaders and experts from business, academia, and government to:

- Amplify impact through gender-equitable solutions.
- Galvanize the public and industries to close gender equity gaps in solutions design.
- Accelerate gender-equitable policies in business and governments.
- Mobilize funding and financing for women-centric solutions.

The Equity 2030 Alliance membership is open for all established entities who are ready to take or are already taking, action to close the gender equity gaps in science, technology, or financing. The actions include, among others, introducing algorithms and tools for gender-equitable technology solutions, developing frameworks for ensuring gender equity in research, technology or investments, conducting case studies to guide policy change through evidence-based arguments, and investing in more equitable healthcare solutions.

The world is not designed for women - let's redesign the world.



## Achievements & Impacts

The Equity 2030 Alliance significantly boosted researchers' and tech product developers' awareness and commitment towards gender equity at all stages of product design, fostering enhanced collaboration, knowledge exchange, and public advocacy. It improved access to research funding for gender-equitable and women-centric projects and influenced policymakers and decision-makers. Advancements in understanding women's health needs led to better data collection and increased collaboration, promoting gender-equitable innovation. Progress was made in advancing gender equity in global health research, with increased awareness and adoption of inclusive practices.

## Partners

Since its global launch last autumn, the Alliance has gained 49 members from the governments, UN agencies, technology and healthcare industry, civil society, and academia, showcasing the growing momentum towards gender equity in these critical areas. The Equity 2030 Alliance invites companies all over the world to join the movement!

## How to get involved

Stakeholders interested in joining the Equity 2030 Alliance can send an email to [equity2030@unfpa.org](mailto:equity2030@unfpa.org) or via our membership form: <https://www.unfpa.org/equity-2030-alliance-get-involved>



Find out more at: <https://www.unfpa.org/equity-2030-alliance>

Watch the Equity 2030 Alliance video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwJq-Wn9HU4>

# United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress in meeting their needs worldwide.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Women's Empowerment Principles

**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The [Women's Empowerment Principles \(WEPs\)](#) provides a holistic framework of seven principles for the private sector to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community.



## Partners

UN Women collaborates with all stakeholders working with private sector companies - large and small - globally, including UN agencies, governments, chambers of commerce, and industry associations, among others.

## Achievements & Impacts

As a primary vehicle for advancing SDG 5 gender equality in the private sector, WEPs are informed by international labour and human rights standards and grounded in the recognition that businesses have a stake in, and responsibility for, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. As of April 2024, nearly 10,000 CEOs—representing over 30 million employees across 160 countries—have committed to advancing gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and community. They operate in all industries, including STI and STEM-related industries.

Exploring new pathways and leveraging innovative approaches, WEPs signatory companies follow the WEPs journey by adapting their policies, programmes and initiatives to create diverse working environments where women and girls can succeed. An increasing number of companies have created inclusive business models and invested in women's economic empowerment initiatives.

An increasing number of companies express that they can now achieve better business outcomes, including:

- Lower rates of absenteeism and turnover;
- More innovation and employee engagement;
- Access to new markets and investors;
- Stronger reputation in the community; and
- Higher productivity and profitability

Ultimately contributing to the economic and social well-being of communities and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5, on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The impact of WEPs extends beyond signatory companies as some of them are embedding gender equality in their investment and business engagement strategies, supply chains and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

## How to Get Involved

Private sector actors are welcome to sign and adopt the WEPs ([www.weps.org/join](http://www.weps.org/join)). Other stakeholders are invited to advocate for WEPs adoption.

Find out more at: [www.weps.org](http://www.weps.org)



WEPs video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJKWwcoXdul>

## Action Coalition on Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality



The **Action Coalition on Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality** stands as the pioneering multistakeholder platform devoted to Tech & Innovation for Gender Equality. With over 300 partners spanning governments, the UN system, the private sector, philanthropies, feminist, women's rights & youth organizations worldwide, it fosters dialogue and shared perspectives to realize a collective vision. By harnessing technology and innovation, the coalition seeks to propel gender equality forward and develop innovative solutions that cater to the diverse needs of women and girls. This mission is anchored in four pivotal, scalable, and measurable objectives:

- Bridging the gender gap in digital access and competencies
- Investing in feminist technology and innovation
- Cultivating inclusive, transformative, and accountable innovation ecosystems
- Preventing and eliminating online and tech-facilitated GBV and discrimination.

For more information please visit <https://techforgenerationequality.org/> or contact us at [TI.actioncoalition@unwomen.org](mailto:TI.actioncoalition@unwomen.org)



## Achievements & Impacts

The Year of Action initiated by the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation during the UNGA in 2022 aimed to center gender equality in the Global Digital Compact. This effort culminated in a Joint Statement and Call to Action endorsed by 10 Member States and over 100 women's rights organizations and activists in 2023. Notably, the Agreed Conclusions of CSW67 incorporated 97% of the recommendations from the Secretary-General's report, which was shaped by the Action Coalition's blueprint. Additionally, the GEF accountability framework revealed that 90% of the commitments reported under the Action Coalition are on track for completion.

## Partners

- Governments
- Private sector
- Foundations
- CSO
- Youth
- UN agency

Find out more at: <https://techforgenerationequality.org/>

# World Food Programme (WFP)



The World Food Programme (WFP) works in over 120 countries and territories to bring life-saving food to people displaced by conflict and made destitute by disasters and help individuals and communities find life-changing solutions to the multiple challenges they face in building better futures.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Afghanistan: Financial inclusion innovations for women



In Afghanistan, women previously spent entire days in lengthy queues to obtain cash assistance, losing precious time and facing significant security risks, especially when relying on public transport. To tackle these issues, WFP Afghanistan partnered with local fintech company HesabPay to introduce a **digital cashless payment system**. This initiative allows women to open digital accounts linked to their mobile phones in just 15 minutes at HesabPay branches. With this setup, recipients no longer need to visit banks physically. Instead, they can conduct digital transactions directly from their phones, using digital Afghan currency to purchase goods or withdraw cash at local markets. HesabPay shops are conveniently located nationwide, enabling easy access. This digital solution enhances safety, saves time, and restores autonomy and dignity to women, empowering them to manage their finances with greater ease and security.

### Partners

- **HesabPay**



Find out more at:

<https://wfpinnovation.medium.com/driving-financial-inclusion-for-women-in-afghanistan-cashless-payments-by-hesabpay-0048bfd15fa8>

## Niger: Shimodouram Center - Connectivity and resilience

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



Rebuilding a life can seem impossible in the aftermath of conflict or crisis without access to essential services, including information on where and how to receive support and how to contact loved ones. That's why, in Diffa, Niger, the WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has established a learning centre, enabling thousands of people fleeing violence, particularly women and young girls, to rebuild their lives. The centre provides access to computers, the internet, and phones, allowing them to learn new skills, enrol in online professional development courses, and stay connected with loved ones. Since its opening in June 2023, the centre, known as the **Shimodouram Center**, has welcomed more than 9,000 visitors, over 60% of whom are women.

## Partners

- **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster**

Find out more at:

<https://www.etcluster.org/services/etc-services-communities#:~:text=The%20ETC%20supports%20services%20for,response%20and%20recovery%20after%20crises>

## UN Interagency Initiative - Led by WFP

### Yemen: ICT-enabled education opportunities

**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



In Yemen, where young women face a deteriorating economy and ongoing conflict, university education offers a gateway to a better life. However, dwindling university resources and crumbling technology infrastructure have severely restricted students' access to information and global communication. Addressing this, the WFP-led Emergency



Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), funded by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, has upgraded the university's library and medical faculty. They provided essential IT equipment such as laptops, monitors, printers, and internet access, laying the groundwork for twenty-first-century education. This initiative has transformed the university lab into a bustling hub for students, including many women, giving them the tools to forge a path toward a brighter future amidst one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

### Partners

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Bank



# World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information, and cooperation. WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 193 member states. Our mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. Our mandate, governing bodies and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967. WIPO is committed to promoting gender equality and diversity in the innovative and creative sectors, across the wider world of IP and within our own Organization. We work to systematically mainstream gender equality considerations across our work program while generating and analyzing disaggregated and gender-specific data, collaborating on capacity development, and strengthening and replicating good practices.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### The Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**



**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**



#### The Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity

An International Comparison of the Gender Gap in Global Patenting over Two Decades

WIPO Development Studies



Innovation is a major driver of economic growth, but the underrepresentation of women among inventors hinders their contribution to innovation. WIPO's **Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity** report examines women's participation in international patent applications as an indicator of the inclusion of women in innovation. It examines participation across regions, sectors and industries over two decades, 1999-2020. The data reveals a marked increase in the participation of women in

patenting, however, women represent just 13 per cent of all listed inventors in these filings. The Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity finds that based on current trends, gender parity (where women inventors make up 50% of listed inventors) will likely be reached around 2061.

This strong analytical piece serves as an important input for gender-responsive innovation policy-making and for designing and strengthening gender-sensitive innovation ecosystems.

Find out more at: <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4653>

## WIPO Intellectual Property (IP) and Gender Action Plan: The Role of IP in Support of Women and Girls

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



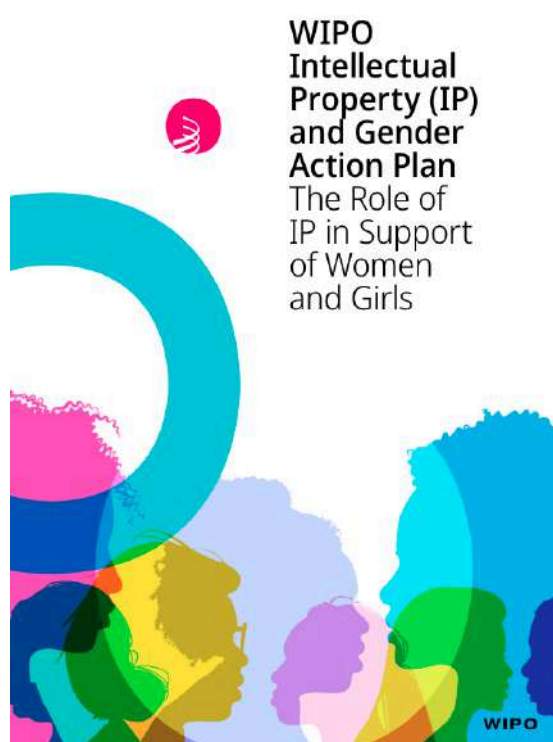
**8** DECENT WORK AND  
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WIPO's IP and Gender Action Plan frames WIPO's contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment. It focuses on developing an IP ecosystem that promotes women's engagement in IP and innovation and rests on three initiatives:

- (1) Strategic advice for member states on IP and gender integration.
- (2) Data collection and analysis: to identify the scope and nature of the IP and gender gap.
- (3) Creating opportunities: projects, capacity building and networking to advance gender equality in IP and women's economic empowerment.

The initiative also draws on collaboration (internal and external) to embed gender-responsive IP approaches within the organization and with partners, and communication activities to raise awareness of the benefits of a more inclusive IP community.

## Partners

- Member States
- IP-related institutions

Find out more at: <https://www.wipo.int/women-and-ip/en/>

## World Intellectual Property Day 2023: Women and Intellectual Property: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



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In 2023, WIPO shone a light on the achievements and challenges of women in intellectual property by dedicating the annual **International World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD 26 April) to Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity**.

Women in all regions shape the world through their imagination, ingenuity, and hard work, but they often face significant challenges in accessing the knowledge, skills, resources, and support they need to thrive. Through WIPD 2023,



WIPO and its partners raised awareness of these challenges and celebrated the creative, innovative and enterprising women using IP around the world. Over 230 women change-makers were profiled on the WIPO website, and WIPO and its partners hosted

dozens of events around the world. WIPD 2023 also provided an opportunity to showcase how the IP ecosystem can better support and accelerate women's innovation and creativity through tools, networks and initiatives.

## Partners

- IP Offices

Find out more at: <https://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/2023/index.html>

# World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the United Nations system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### UN Interagency Initiative - Led by WMO

#### The Climate Risks and Early Warning System (CREWS) Initiative

1 NO POVERTY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



13 CLIMATE ACTION



**CREWS** finances 16 country and regional projects that develop and enhance multi-hazards, gender-responsive, people-centred early warning systems in over 70 countries. While taking into consideration the entire early warning-early action value chain, activities on one side focus on the provision of scientific and technical assistance to stakeholders involved in early warning and national services in charge of meteorology and climate, hydrology, and civil protection. On the side of early action, CREWS conducts assessments and develops guidance, training, and awareness campaigns to ensure that warnings are reached by the most



vulnerable population with emphasis on community engagement and gender inclusion.

CREWS' engagement in gender is constantly growing. Specific activities to involve women leadership in the early stages of projects, gender assessments, and capacity-building activities ensure that early systems services are fully developed and gender-responsive. Currently, CREWS is working to strengthen and further supplement its commitment by including gender equality considerations in the overall



objective of projects. CREWS produced Operational Procedures on Gender-sensitive programming and People-centered approaches in early warning to serve as a guide in CREWS project implementation. Gender-specific outcomes and indicators are well-captured in its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework.

## Achievements & Impacts



CREWS efforts have translated into very impactful results. An example is Mali and the inclusion of women as integral players in reducing climate-related disaster risk. By strengthening hydro-met and civil protection skills to deliver timely and accurate forecasts and warnings, by training and engaging 350 women community leaders from 6 regions on warning systems and managing hazard risk, and by building a communication network to amplify their reach and that of others, in the early warning value chain, women in rural and urban areas are being better equipped to protect themselves, their families, and assets. And the whole population too.

In Fiji, women's groups, community members, older people with disabilities, and leaders of 7 rural and coastal communities were consulted, which resulted in a better understanding of their ways to access, disseminate, and respond to early warnings. This can lead to better-tailored approaches to early warning services. The identified gaps and good practices have been included in the gender—and disability-inclusive guidelines and checklist.

Similarly, the Caribbean region saw an increase in the awareness and capacities on gender and vulnerability considerations and integration of gender issues in early warning. Three national workshops were held under the theme 'Gender and Vulnerable Groups in Early Warning Systems', and a regional training was held in Antigua on end-to-end early warning systems for flood forecasting and integrated flood risk management focused on the integration of women and strengthening national capacity and sensitivity towards gender issues.

## Partners

The CREWS initiative is supported by 12 Member States who contribute to the CREWS Trust Fund – **Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom**. Projects are being implemented by three Implementing Partners – the **World Bank's Global Facility on Disaster Risk Reduction (WB/GFDRR), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the WMO**. More than 250 operational partners are cooperating with CREWS in the countries and regions, including the **National Meteorological Offices, National Disaster Management Offices, Civil Protection Authorities, Regional centres, local authorities, Red Cross national societies, the private sector, and local community organizations**.

Find out more at: <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en>

# About the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT)

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The UN interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (IATT), coordinated by UN-DESA and UNCTAD, promotes coordination, coherence, and cooperation within the UN System on STI-related matters. The IATT boasts 47 UN entity members and is a catalyst for cooperation and information flow on STI issues in the UN system.

The IATT work stream on "Gender and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)", co-led by ITU and WIPO, was formed in 2018 to increase synergies and collaboration among the UN, its agencies, funds, and programmes on issues pertaining to STI and gender. This work stream provides an informal working-level platform that facilitates collaboration and allows for the sharing of information, expertise, lessons learned, and best practices on gender and STI. The initiatives featured in this document are a sample of the impactful work led by members of the IATT's Gender and STI workstream.



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