

## Request for inputs-2020

### **Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty** United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

Areas of focus and Reporting:

#### **1) Structural transformation, productive employment and decent work in the context of a changing global scenario.**

Women's access to productive employment, decent work, and income security is the cornerstone of UN Women's corporate strategy to promote women's economic empowerment. By all measures, women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 crisis. According to recent data, 40 per cent of all employed women, work in hard-hit sectors, including accommodation, food services; wholesale, and retail trade<sup>1</sup>. Despite making up just 39 per cent of global employment, women account for 54 per cent of job losses<sup>2</sup>. Against this backdrop, UN Women, in partnership with the ILO, developed an applied policy guidance tool<sup>3</sup> to strengthen governments' capacity in the promotion of sectoral and industrial policies that tackle occupational and sectoral segregation and enhance women's access to decent employment opportunities.

According to the IMF<sup>4</sup>, as of 6 April 2021, 197 countries adopted and implemented some forms of fiscal stimulus packages to limit the human and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, although advanced countries accounted for the biggest share of total spending. In this context, UN Women and the ILO developed an applied policy guidance tool<sup>5</sup> to support governments and policy makers to ensure that fiscal stimulus packages incorporate critical gender issues and implemented in a way that do not disproportionately and negatively impact women and girls. In Colombia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Ukraine, UN Women's technical support to governments helped strengthen the gender responsiveness of their national COVID-19 economic recovery plans,

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, 2020. "ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fifth edition. Updated estimates and analysis. Accessed [here](#) on 23 November 2020.

<sup>2</sup> McKinsey Global Institute, 2020. "COVID-19 and Gender Equality: Countering the Regressive Effects". Accessed [here](#) on 5 May 2021.

<sup>3</sup> UN Women and ILO, 2020. "Assessing the gendered employment impacts of COVID-19 and supporting a gender-responsive recovery: A country-level policy tool". Accessed [here](#) on 5 May 2021.

<sup>4</sup> See [IMF Policy Tracker](#).

<sup>5</sup> UN Women and ILO, 2020. "How to Assess Fiscal Stimulus Packages from a Gender Equality Perspective". Accessed [here](#) on 5 May 2021.

including advocacy efforts to implement employment and labour market policies in sectors disproportionately employing women, and support for women-owned businesses.

UN Women saw increased demand for support due to COVID-19 and was able amplify work on using and disseminating social impact assessment data. As a result of UN, capacities to implement women's empowerment policies informed by socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk population were enhanced in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Mexico, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam

In 2020 UN Women continued to scale up work for the Stimulating Equal Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs flagship programme, which leverages gender-responsive procurement as a tool to enable women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. In 2020, UN Women supported 171 government or private sector entities to practice gender responsive procurement in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Uruguay

## **2) Expanding social protection systems to underpin inclusive poverty-reducing development**

In the global fight against poverty, UN Women considers social protection a key focus area of its COVID-19 response. In 2020, UN Women scaled up its efforts on joint research with partners, capacity development, integrated technical support, and policy implementation, which has helped decision makers in 64 countries<sup>6</sup> and development practitioners take ownership in building gender-responsive national social protection systems in their respective COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. UN Women's efforts in Albania, Mexico, Mozambique, and Rwanda, contributed to the adoption of targeted social protection measures, including cash transfer for the informal sector, migrant and domestic workers, and other female dominated sectors of the economy such as tourism, accommodation and food services sectors, which were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 lockdown measures.

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Countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Moldova, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe. Regional Offices: Americas and the Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, Barbados Multi-Country Office, Fiji Multi-Country Office. The State of Palestine, Kosovo (References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)).

However, while it is encouraging to see that many countries around the world have adopted and implemented some forms of social protection measures to cushion the negative impact of the pandemic, persistent gender gaps remain. According to the [UN Women/UNDP Global Gender Response Tracker](#), only 10% of social protection, employment, economic and fiscal measures analyzed are directed towards women's economic security, and only 8% of measures on social protection and employment are directed towards care. These disturbing trends highlight why by 2021 around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day — including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19<sup>7</sup>. As a member of the [Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board](#) (SPIAC-B) Gender Working Group, UN Women continues to strengthen inter-agency coordination on gender-responsive social protection, and promote evidence-based policy advocacy, direct technical support to government entities, and partnerships across the United Nations system.

### **3) Human capability development: addressing the non-income forms of poverty (access to basic needs such as quality education and healthcare, clean water and sanitation, decent housing and security, etc.)**

### **4) The future of food and sustainable agriculture**

UN Women places strong emphasis on improving women's livelihoods in the context of food and sustainable agriculture. In 2020 UN Women was instrumental in supporting 30 new and/or improved gender-responsive policies on land developed to be developed or implemented, including in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Rural women in Albania, Bolivia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam. In 2020 UN Women supported 100,906 rural women to gain access, use and/or control of productive resources in Albania, Bolivia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Viet Nam

UN Women is strengthening the economic empowerment and resilience of women, their communities and environments through its flagship Climate Resilient Agriculture and [Joint Programme with FAO, IFAD and UN Women] on [‘Accelerating progress toward the

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<sup>7</sup> UN Women, 2020. “From Insight to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19. Accessed [here](#) on 6 May 2021.

economic empowerment of rural women' (JP RWEE) / rural women's economic empowerment]. Cumulatively, some 125,000 rural women and farmers, along with 384,000 of their family members, have benefitted from greater access to sustainable livelihoods and productive resources, such as finances, energy and climate-resilient infrastructure, as well as improved food security and nutrition.

## 5) Reducing inequalities

Heavy and unequal care responsibilities are major barriers to gender equality and to women's equal enjoyment of human rights, and, in many cases, condemn women to poverty. There needs to be concerted efforts to promote policies to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work by positioning care as a social and collective responsibility, in particular through improving women's access to public services, childcare services, and infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of care systems around the world and highlighted the need to address the disproportional burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women. UN Women has taken a global leadership role in developing a methodology, and policy guidance tool<sup>8</sup> in partnership with the ILO, to make the policy case for sustained investment in social care infrastructure, as a mean to not only meet an urgent need for families, but also to generate decent employment opportunities for women. In 2020, the methodology was used in Côte D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, and Tanzania, to make policy case for expanding free universal childcare.

UN Women promotes women's entrepreneurship because it has catalytic potential to reduce inequalities by enabling women to have more agency and voice by starting and growing a business. In 2020, UN Women supported 114,243 women to strengthen capacities and skills to participate in the economy, including as entrepreneurs in Afghanistan, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Myanmar, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam. Additionally, UN Women supported 18,440 to access gender responsive financial products and services in Afghanistan, Argentina, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay, and Vanuatu.

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<sup>8</sup> UN Women and ILO, 2020. "A Guide to Public Investments in the Care Economy Policy Support Tool for Estimating Care Deficits, Investment Costs and Economic Returns". Accessed [here](#) on 5 May 2021.

## 6) Addressing climate change and the intensification of natural hazards

To ensure a risk-informed and gender-responsive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Women contributed to the COVID-19 Needs Assessment Methodology of the World Bank, the European Union, and the UN system, which was used to assess the gendered socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in 9 countries.

UN-Women successfully worked with 50 UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies to mainstream gender into the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction progress review, which helped identify the UN system's gender gaps in disaster resilience and informed targeted action to support women's agency and leadership for more effective, equitable and inclusive disaster prevention, preparedness, and recovery worldwide.

UN-Women contributed to gender-responsive disaster risk reduction legislation, strategies, plans, and assessments in 41 countries, covering 107,481,057 million people through new gender-responsive policies and assessments. 28 countries were supported by UN-Women with gender focal points in the national disaster platform.<sup>[15]</sup>

## 7) Fighting poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts

UN-Women improved the gender-responsiveness of COVID-19 responses by providing gender expertise to humanitarian coordination mechanisms in 18 countries. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) COVID-19 Gender Alert and localized guidance in 13 countries, developed by UN-Women, guided the humanitarian response to the pandemic. UN-Women monitored adherence to gender commitments in 30 crisis-contexts, and published research on [Funding for Gender Equality in Humanitarian Programming](#). The [IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Evaluation's](#) recognition of the UN-Women-led Gender Accountability Framework as a success factor, and its call for better use of UN-Women's mandate within the IASC further attested to UN-Women's proven capacity to support the humanitarian system.

In countries with UN-Women presence, 86 per cent of humanitarian cluster systems had gender expertise through UN-Women.<sup>[10]</sup> Among publicly available 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overviews, 100 per cent included sex- and age-disaggregated data and some gender analysis, often drawing from assessments and analyses coordinated by UN-Women.<sup>[11]</sup>

UN-Women supported 571,007 crisis-affected women and girls and 90,520 men and boys with direct humanitarian services, including in the Rohingya response in **Myanmar** and **Bangladesh**, the Syrian refugee crisis in **Lebanon**, **Jordan**, and **Turkey**, the Venezuela response in **Colombia**, and other complex emergencies such as the Lake Chad Basin crisis in **Nigeria**, **Cameroon**, and **Niger**.<sup>[12]</sup> In 38 countries, UN-Women built the self-reliance of crisis-affected women and girls by addressing food insecurity, gender-based violence, and supporting women's livelihoods and leadership. This included 13 countries in which UN-Women's humanitarian work specifically targeted women and girls with disabilities. With private-sector partners, the Second-Chance Education programme improved the livelihood opportunities of 12,000 women in **Cameroon** and **Jordan**. UN-Women enabled 1270 local women's organizations to guide and implement humanitarian activities, improving gender-equitable outcomes and the humanitarian community's accountability to affected populations.<sup>[13]</sup>