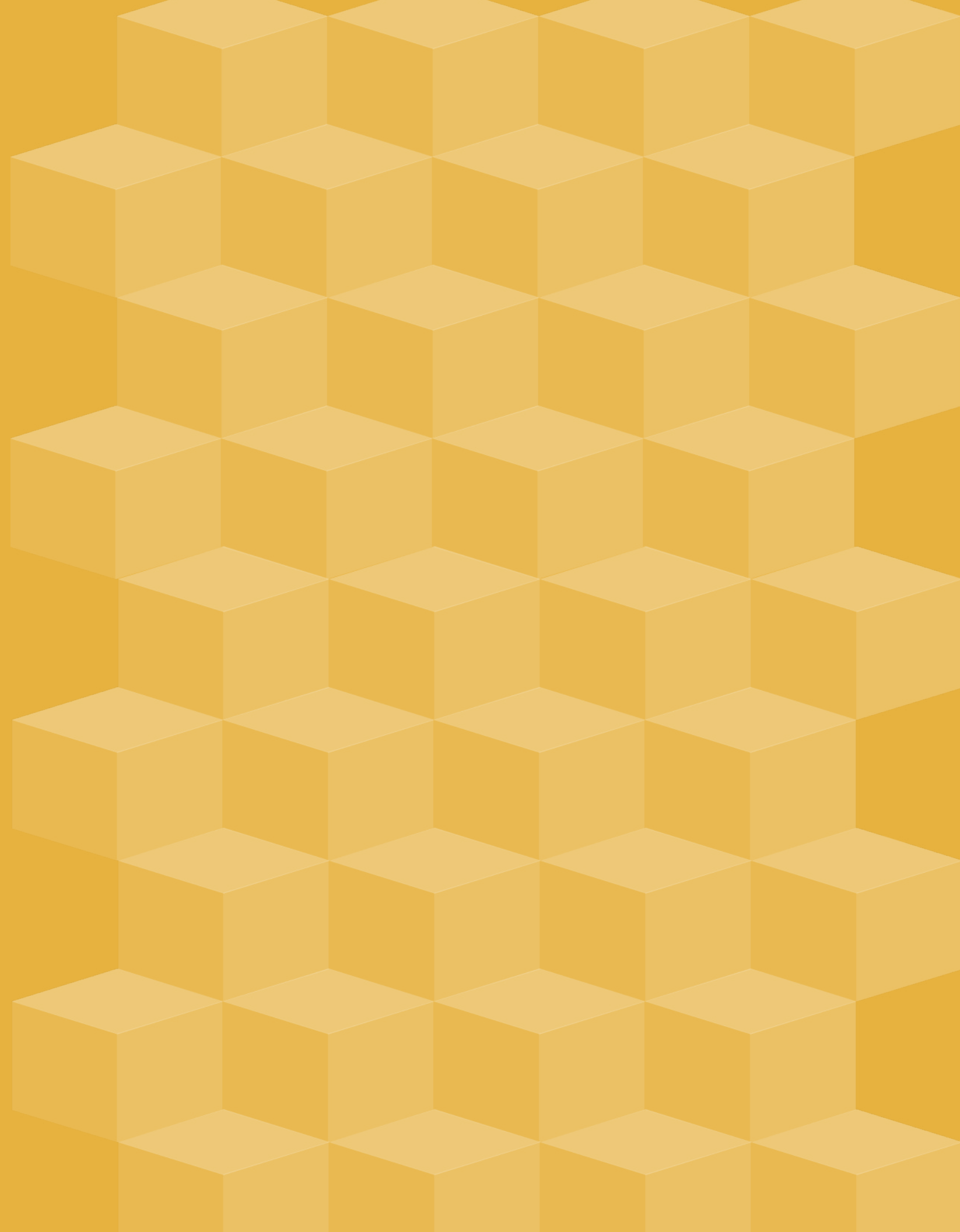


PLACING WOMEN AT THE CENTRE





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Addressing adolescent fertility to support inclusion of young women and girls

Levels and trends of adolescent fertility depend on the opportunities and constraints that young women and girls face in different contexts. Staying in school longer and having access to reproductive health-care services and information helps to keep adolescent fertility low.

In 2020, UN DESA published a pre-pandemic global report on childbearing among adolescents which showed that while adolescent fertility in many countries had fallen significantly since 1990-1995, there are disparities across and within countries and between population groups. Low levels of adolescent fertility were prevalent in countries that had adopted pragmatic policies and strategies to avoid teenage pregnancy and parenthood, including the promotion of sex education and contraceptive use through mass media and schools.



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Mainstreaming gender perspectives in shaping fiscal policy

Gender issues are routinely covered in the annual Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR). The Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development Gender Cluster Group, co-chaired by UN Women and UN DESA, ensures that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in the annual FSDR.

Some of the issues covered in the 2021 FSDR include how COVID-19 fiscal responses helped to mitigate the negative and disproportionate impact of the crisis on women and girls; official development assistance to gender equality and women's empowerment; gender responsiveness of climate finance; measures to address non-tariff barriers faced by women cross-border trade; and investing in gender statistics. UN DESA's analytical work also highlighted that the negative impacts of illicit financial flows are greater on women and girls.



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World's Women 2020: Tracking data on gender equality

The Secretary-General's flagship report **The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics** presents the latest assessment of progress towards gender equality. It is a collection of 100 brief data-driven stories, accompanied by a geospatial data hub, all presented on an interactive portal.

Gender equality was analysed in six critical areas: population and families; health; education; economic empowerment; power and decision-making; violence against women and girls, all impacted by COVID-19. The report shows that despite some slow progress over time, no country has achieved gender equality. The report is the outcome of an unprecedented partnership spearheaded by UN DESA, including more than 30 national statistical offices, Regional Commissions, and international agencies. The collaboration enabled the report to zoom into gender data also at the national and sub-national levels.



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Gender equality in post-pandemic recovery

The “gender digital divide” stymies women's access to online learning finance and other essential online services. Without gender sensitive policies in the hybrid work environment, a two-tier workforce is re-

emains a threat, with men able to socialize with peers at the office while women juggle work and care at home. UN DESA's June 2021 economic briefing highlighted the importance of this and other factors of gender equality for post-pandemic recovery.



Putting gender at the heart of SDG 7

UN DESA's work in the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group brought insight on the lack of progress towards gender equality in energy access. While the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis somewhat overshadowed efforts in this area, the pandemic has shed light on the urgency of accelerating women's engagement in the energy sector. Women play important roles in expanding and decentralizing renewable energy supply chains, both for productive and household purposes. UN DESA's work showcased how new stimulus plans can promote economies and support greater access to energy by increasing investments in women's access to

modern energy services, appliances and cooking technologies; ensuring women's participation in decision making at all levels of energy production, supply and consumption; and strengthening data, research and innovation on gender and energy interconnections. The Department highlighted areas critical to closing the gender energy gap, including gender action plans and gender responsive policies, investments to support female entrepreneurship, and more mandated positions for women in public and private sector energy management.



Promoting gender equality and the advancement of women in ECOSOC and the HLPF

At the 2021 HLPF, gender equality and the empowerment of women were critical dimensions of measures considered for transforming economies and building more just, equal and inclusive societies in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. UN DESA actively promoted the consideration of gender concerns in the Forum's deliberations by providing clear guidance to session organizers to mainstream gender perspectives into the discussions.

As a result, gender considerations were systematically integrated in HLPF meetings, and women's critical role in the COVID-19 response was recognized in the Ministerial Declaration adopted by HLPF and ECOSOC by consensus. The Forum agreed that gender equality and women's empowerment were fundamental for a more inclusive and just society and key for a sustainable recovery. In addition, UN DESA ensured that 47% of featured speakers were women.



Promoting a gender-based perspective of economic development

The need for a gender-based perspective of economic development is clear from SDG goal 5, but traditional economic development indicators, such as those that measure GDP and other economic activity, are not disaggregated by gender. Most economic measurement focuses on the market economy, where men's production predominates. Child and elder care as well as household work – typically provided without pay and mostly by women – are unmeasured. The unequal distribution of unpaid domestic and care work between women and men

add to women's daily work and may prevent them from participating in the labour market. UN DESA found that this gender gap had been decreasing in many countries until the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary data shows a recent diminishing of that positive trend. UN DESA and partners developed a short survey instrument to inform policy makers on impacts on time-use and developed the manual National Time Transfer Accounts: Measuring and Analysing the Gendered Economy.

The new methodology and manual provide systematic, comprehensive and coherent methods for the age and sex disaggregation of the major components of National Accounts. This will result in an improved understanding of the gender dimension of economies through a standardized methodology that permits international comparisons and identification of best practices in support of gender equality.