



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Examining the nexus between the rights of women and the rights of children

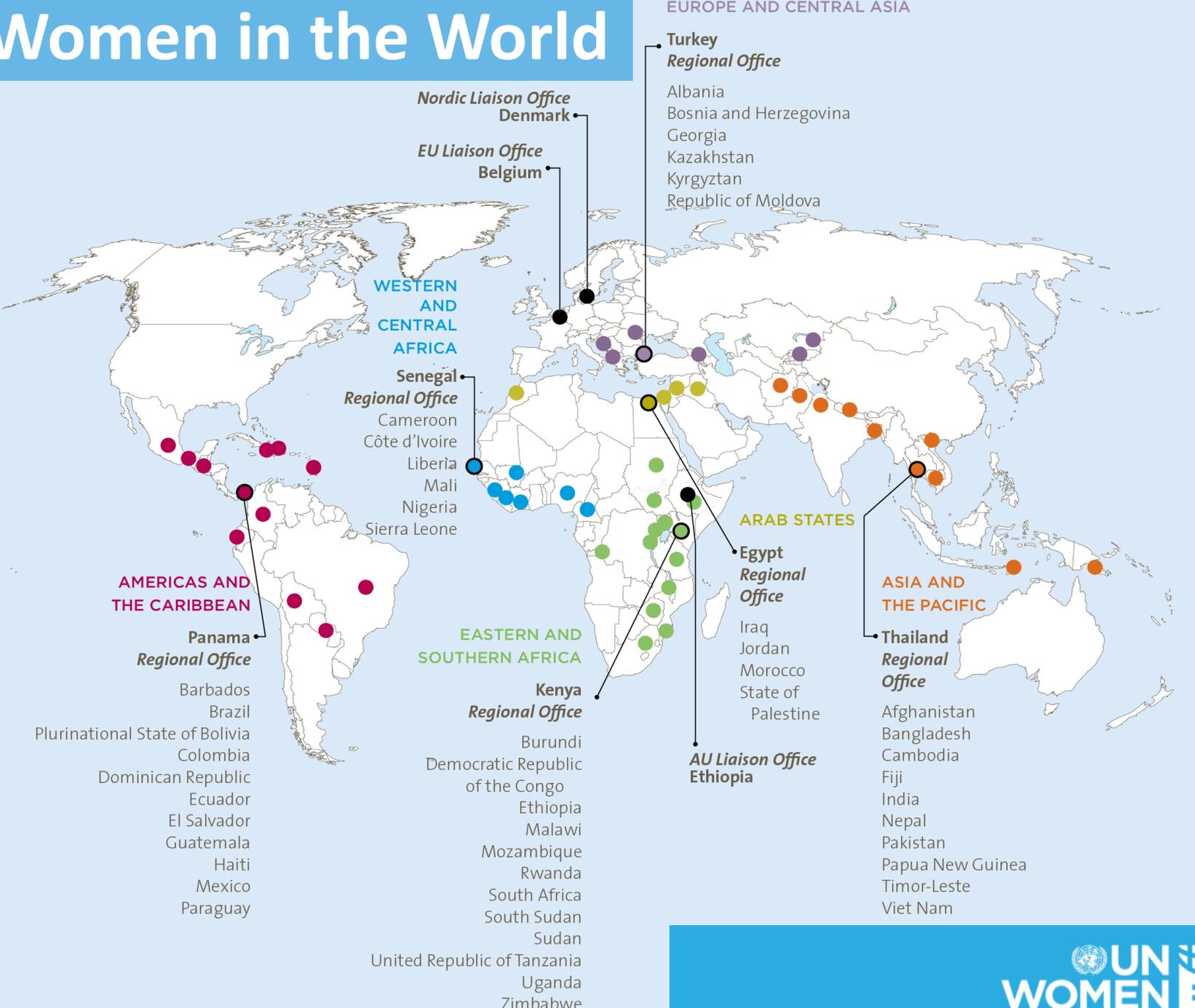
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UN Women's mandate

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Women in the World



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- Turkey Regional Office**
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Republic of Moldova

Nordic Liaison Office
Denmark

EU Liaison Office
Belgium

WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

- Senegal Regional Office**
- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Liberia
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Panama Regional Office**
- Barbados
- Brazil
- Plurinational State of Bolivia
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Paraguay

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Kenya Regional Office**
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

ARAB STATES

- Egypt Regional Office**
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Morocco
- State of Palestine

AU Liaison Office
Ethiopia

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- Thailand Regional Office**
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- India
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam



Women in the World: Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Women still earn up to 30% less than men and constitute two-thirds of the world's illiterates;
- Only 39 countries have achieved or surpassed the 30% critical mass for women's representation in parliament (world average is 22%);
- According to a 2013 global review, 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence. Rape has been a rampant tactic in modern wars.



A significant percentage of infant deaths — particularly those that occur within the first 28 days after birth — are attributable to the poor health and nutrition of the mother during pregnancy and in the immediate post-partum period.

There is a strong positive correlation between women's literacy and girls' educational levels. Women who have experienced the benefits of education themselves are in a better position to make decisions on the education of their children, especially of their daughters.

Women's economic empowerment can reduce child labor and improve the health of her children

Gender discriminatory laws and attitudes affects women and girls, and hinder both boys and girl to develop and achieve their full potential.

When crises strikes **gender inequalities** are often exacerbated,

- **Gender-based violence**, including rape and early and forced marriage, often increases during crises when protection mechanisms deteriorate, depriving women and girls the fundamental rights to live free from violence

- **60 per cent of preventable maternal mortality deaths** take place in settings of conflict, displacement and natural disasters.

1 in 5 **refugees or displaced women in complex humanitarian settings** are estimated to have experienced **sexual violence**

Crises often hit **women's livelihoods** hardest, in part also because they tend to work in informal sectors, increasing their risk of engaging in poorly paid work or **transactional sex**.

Almost **every sixth domestic worker** in the world is an **international migrant**, and **women and girls make up 73.4 per cent** of international migrant domestic workers.

Women and children have less access to education and health services. Girls are **2.5 times more likely to be out of school in conflict-affected countries** than their counterparts in conflict-free countries

The right to nationality affects both women and children, their protection and access to services.

The **lack of death and divorce certificates** can also hinder the ability of widowed or divorced women to inherit property, legally remarry, or register children born through subsequent relationships.

Discriminatory national laws also affects the right of **women and their children**. A growing number of States in MENA have already reformed their laws to increase the ability of women to confer nationality to children (such as Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq and Yemen), and others are now examining similar reforms

Article 9 of CEDAW

1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of her husband.
2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

Today, **50 per cent of the world's refugees are women and girls, yet, only 4 per cent of projects in UN inter-agency appeals** were targeted at women and girls in 2014.

Studies show that when women are included in humanitarian action, the entire community benefits. Local women's groups are often best placed to mobilize change and respond to crises.

Yet, refugee and migrant women's needs, priorities and voices are often missing from policies designed to protect and assist them. The voices of children and youth are also often absent too.



UN Women's Priorities

- a. Women lead and participate in **decision-making** at all levels
- b. Women are **economically empowered** and benefit from development
- c. Women and girls live a life **free from violence**
- d. **Peace and security and humanitarian action** are shaped by women's leadership and participation

(continued)



UN Women's Priorities

- e. **Governance and national planning** fully reflect accountability for gender equality commitments and priorities;
- f. A comprehensive and dynamic **set of global norms, policies and standards** on gender equality and women's empowerment is in place and is applied through action by Governments and other stakeholders at all levels.

In a statement for World Refugee Day on 20 June 2016, UN Women calls for urgent action to ensure refugee women and girls have access to secure transit routes, safe spaces and protection when they arrive in a host country, and resources and services that will help them to build a post-conflict life free from violence and poverty.

Within the framework of the Regional Response Plan (RRP6) and national response plans, UN Women initiated a regional project in April 2014, targeted five countries Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria. Designed to respond to the specific needs of the Syrian women and girls and reduce their vulnerabilities to achieve the following two outcomes:

Economic empowerment of vulnerable Syrian women through increased access to economic recovery and livelihoods opportunities

Violence against women (VAW) reduced to strengthen the capacities of the Syrian women to claim their rights and meaningfully engage in community decision making

By March 2016:

3740 Syrian and refugee hosting community women had vocational and agro-business skills. Over 120 of these beneficiaries started own home based businesses.

900 women at risk benefited through cash for work programme subsequently benefitting more than 29,900 family members

A total of 2121 women at risk in camps and host communities received women's rights/GBV awareness capacity

The capacity of 85 service providers in GBV prevention and response strengthened

Public awareness of more than 500,000 persons through public campaigns and documentary film capturing stories by Syrian Women refugees:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhthFbBRgBo>

World humanitarian summit :

- Empower women and girls as change agents and as leaders
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health
- Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender based violence
- Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive
- Comply with humanitarian policies on women empowerment and women's rights

- Revise gender discriminatory national laws, such as those who omit women being able to confer nationality to their children in all circumstances.
- Promote international standards for women and children's rights to nationality
- Make the implementation of the CEDAW and the CRC mutually reinforcing; such as the rights to non-discrimination, protection, nationality and participation.
- Address gender discrimination from a life cycle approach
- Engage boys and men in actions to promote gender equality