



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

March 2023; Vol. 18. No. 03

New Perspectives

Child marriage spans continents, language, religion, caste. In India the girls will typically be attached to boys four or five years older; in Yemen, Afghanistan, and in other countries with high early marriage rates, the husbands may be young men or middle-aged widowers or abductors who rape first and calm their victims as wives afterward, as is the practice in certain regions of Ethiopia. Some of these marriages are business transactions, barely adorned with additional rationale: a debt cleared in exchange for an 8-year-old-bride; a family feud resolved by the delivery of a virginal 12-years old cousin.

The people who work full-time trying to prevent child marriage, and to improve women's lives in societies of rigid traditions, are the first to smack down the impertinent notion that anything about this endeavor is simple. Forced early marriage thrives to this day in many regions of the world – arranged by parents for their own children, often in defiance of national laws, and understood by whole communities as an appropriate way for a young woman to grow up when the alternatives, especially if they carry a risk of her losing her virginity to some-one besides her husband, are unacceptable.

Child marriage remains a widely ignored violation of the health and developmental rights of girls and young women. Governments are often either unable to enforce existing laws or rectify discrepancies between national laws on marriage age and entrenched customary and religious laws. This is a tragedy because of the "official tolerance of cultural, societal and customary norms that shape and govern the institution of marriage and family life." In general, there is seldom political-will act when it comes to women's and girl's human rights. Child marriage is culturally packaged as a social necessity, because in many cases, this amounts to "socially licensed sexual abuse and exploitation of a child."

Today, there are nearly 70 million child brides worldwide. Every 2 seconds a young girl is forced into marriage. More than 140 million girls who will marry before they are 18 years old between 2021 and 2030. BE PART OF THE GENERATION THAT CHANGES THAT.

It is very difficult to get accurate data on the true extent of child marriages. This is because most marriages are not officially registered, and many parents resort to falsifying girls' ages. Such acts are made easier in rural areas where birth certificates are often non-existent or not properly recorded. There is also very little data on girls married before the age of 15.

Bringing an end to child marriage, therefore, it is a matter of national priorities and political-will. It requires effective legal frameworks that protect the rights of the children involved, and it requires enforcement of those laws in compliance with human rights standards. It also requires the engagement and support of families and communities who stand up for their daughters and granddaughters. This will win change in otherwise long-standing but harmful social norms and traditions. Most of all, it requires the empowerment of girls themselves; empowerment so that girls are positioned to make decisions at the right time; empowered to that, exercising free and informed consent, girls can make the decision that will safeguard their own futures, transform their own lives and enable them to live in the dignity to which they, as human beings, are entitled.

UN Document: E/CN.5/2019/NGO/1; Published by 57th Session of Commission for Social Development (CSocD); title: **Ending Child Marriage and Protecting Vulnerable Girls & Women**. Available @; http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/E_CN.5_2019_NGO_1_E.pdf

Child Marriages: Too Young to Wed

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

Why is child marriage a global concern? Does child marriage impede the Sustainable Development Goals?

Poverty, Deprivation and Risks: Child marriage makes it harder for families, communities and countries to escape poverty. It erodes the health and wellbeing of girls and overall of communities. It also undercuts international efforts to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS, improve child health and survival, and support other international development initiatives, making billions of development assistance less effective.

Suggestions for Policy and Programming

Countries with high adolescent birth rates, and low levels of satisfied demand for family planning should consider a multi-pronged approach across sectors that encourages delayed marriage for girls.

Approaches should include to end child marriage, support married girls and focus on the youngest first-time mothers:

- The enforcement of laws against child marriage including the enactment and enforcement of laws and raise the minimum age at marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys.
- Countries should expand girls' opportunities for post-primary education, especially for rural and isolated girls during adolescence.
- Consider incentives to families and communities to address the economic and social factors underlying child marriage.
- Offering girls themselves the opportunity to develop new skills and to show their families a positive alternative to child marriage, and
- Investment in girls is not only a good but can also have a powerful multiplier effect on a range of outcomes, including population dynamics.

Recommendations of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC): WHEC recommends these strategies for development for ending child marriages:

1. Supporting and enforcing legislation to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys to 18 years;
2. Providing equal access to quality primary and secondary education for both girls and boys;
3. Mobilizing girls, boys, parents and leaders to change practices that discriminated against girls and to create social, economic, and civic opportunities for the young women'
4. Providing girls who are already married with options for schooling, employment and livelihood skills, sexual and reproductive health information and services (including HIV prevention), and offering recourse from violence in the home;
5. Addressing the root causes of child marriage, including poverty, gender inequality and discrimination, the low value placed on girls and violence against girls;
6. Support UNICEF's and WHO's work in reducing child marriage by connecting with the grassroots organizations and local non-profits working at the grassroots level;
7. In regions with high rates of both child marriage and HIV, strategies for delaying age at marriage and protecting married girls should include: addressing the social, cultural and economic forces that underlie child marriage;
8. Advocating for legal reform or better enforcement of existing laws against marriage before the age of consent;
9. Highlighting the neglected and distinct needs of married girls for policymakers and program managers; and
10. Promoting informational, health, and social support strategies specific to the needs of married girls.

With International Network of WHEC, we will continue its work to prevent child marriages. Join our community!



Learning Life Lessons Series

For Teachers and Students

A Quarterly Series for *WHEC Update*

TOOLS for CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Chapter IV: Test-Taking Strategies

LEARNING HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STUDENT – Is it essential?

Yes! The key is learning how to study smarter, not harder. Follow these study habits: DO NOT attempt to cram all your studying into one session; Plan when you are going to study; Stick to your schedule; Study at the same time; Each study time should have specific goal; Never procrastinate your planned study session; Start with the most difficult session first; Always review your notes before starting an assignment; Make sure you're NOT distracted while you are studying; Use study groups effectively; Review your notes, school work and other class materials over the weekend.

TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES:

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. DO NOT CRAM. Give yourself enough time to study and sleep. Prepare and outline of main topics and concepts. This will help you memorize key facts. Have nutritious breakfast; do not go hungry.

1. Be Prepared. There is no substitute for preparation.
2. Always arrive early and take a moment to relax. This will increase your confidence and you will be able to narrow your focus for the upcoming test.
3. Listen ATTENTIVELY to last minute instructions given by the instructor.
4. Do a memory dump. As soon as you begin the test, write down information that you will likely need to know for the rest and your fear you may forget (i.e. formulas, equations, dates, lists etc.)
5. Read the test directions very carefully and watch for details. It is common to have two correct answers on a multiple-choice question. Pay attention to details.
6. Plan how you will use the allotted time. Complete the questions you know first then come back and tackle problems you are not sure about after.
7. Look for clues. Pay attention to grammatical matching between the question being asked and answers. If an answer seems right but does not match grammatically with the question, it probably is not the correct answer. Look for clues from other questions.
8. Answer all questions. Many professors will give partial credit for partially completed questions.
9. Maintain a positive attitude. Concentrate on what you do know.
10. Rely on your first impressions. it may be counterproductive to review answers and make changes – especially if you are struggling to get through the test.
11. Plan to finish early and have time for review. Check to make sure you have completed entire test. It is common for questions to be listed on the opposite side of page.
12. Consider every test a practice session – analyze your performance. Arrange to meet with teachers to discuss low test scores to determine what you can do to improve. This is highly recommended if you struggle with essay questions.

SUGGESTED READING

Learning Life Lessons Series: Part I; available at:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh016.php3>

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WHEC Participation @ 61st Session of Commission for Social Development (CSocD 61)

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), hosted a Virtual Side Event, in the margins of the 61st Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, on 7 February 2023. Distinguished Speaker from the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters (HQ), Dr. Anshu Banerjee, Director, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Ageing, joined us. It was very well attended, and it was very informative to the audience.

We all from WHEC, thank all the Speakers, for sharing their priceless work with us. Thanks again for making this Side Event a success. Looking forward to long-term collaboration.

Promoting and Ensuring Decent Work for All: Need for Better Globalization

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBxBAkbR2sM>

7 February 2023; 9:45 am to 11 am EST

Letter of Support from United Nations Executive Office of The Secretary General

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Letter_to_Dr_Luthra.pdf

Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet

1 February 2023



WHEC Participation @ 67th Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67)

The 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place from 6 to 17 March 2023.

Priority Theme: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Details: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw67-2023>

Written Statement of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), has been published by CSW67, title:

Creating a Level Playing Field for Girls and Women in Technology: Our Efforts

UN Document: E/CN.6/2023/NGO/55

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/CSW67-Published-Statement.pdf>

Join us to improve coordination for stronger health and education policies.



United Nations at a Glance

Morocco became UN Member State on 12 November 1956



Morocco, officially the **Kingdom of Morocco**, is the westernmost country in the Maghreb region of North Africa. It overlooks the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and has land borders with Algeria to the east, and the disputed territory of Western Sahara to the south. Morocco also claims the Spanish Exclaves of Ceuta, Melilla and Penon de Velez de la Gomera, and several small Spanish-controlled islands off its coast. It spans an area of 446,300 km² (172,300 sq. mi) or 710,850 km² (274,460 sq. mi), with a population of roughly 37 million. Its official and predominant religion is Islam, and the official languages are Arabic and Berber; the Moroccan dialect of Arabic and French are also widely spoken. Moroccan identity and culture is a vibrant mix of Berber, Arab, and European cultures. Its capital is Rabat, while its largest city is Casablanca.

Morocco's strategic location near the mouth of the Mediterranean drew renewed European interest; in 1912, France and Spain divided the country into respective protectorates, reserving an international zone in Tangier. Following the intermittent riots and revolts against colonial rule, in 1956 Morocco regained its independence and reunified. Since independence, Morocco has remained relatively stable. It has the 5th largest economy in Africa and wields significant influence in both Africa and the Arab world; it is considered a middle power in global affairs and hold membership in the Arab League, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the African Union (AU).



Morocco is a unitary semi-constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament. The executive branch is led by the King of Morocco and the prime minister, while legislative power is vested in the two chambers of parliament: the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. Judicial power rests with the constitutional courts, which may review the validity of laws, elections, and referenda. The King holds vast executive and legislative powers, especially over the military, foreign policy and religious affairs; he can issue decrees called *dahirs*, which have the force of law, and can also dissolve the parliament after consulting the prime minister and the president of the constitutional court. King:

Mohammed VI; Prime Minister: Aziz Akhannouch.

The UN maintains a small observer force in Western Sahara, where a large number of Moroccan troops are stationed. The Sahrawi Polisario Front maintains an active militia of an estimated 5,000 fighters in Western Sahara and has engaged in intermittent warfare with Moroccan forces since the 1970s. Morocco was given the status of major non-NATO ally by the George W. Bush administration in 2004. Morocco was the first country in the world to recognize US Sovereignty (in 1777). Morocco is included in the European Union's (EU's) European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) which aims at bringing the EU and its neighbors closer.

Morocco also has the largest port in Africa and the Mediterranean called Tanger-Med, which is ranked the 18th in the world with a handling of over 9 million containers. It is situated in the Tangiers free economic zone and serves as a planning hub for Africa and the world. The Moroccan government has been implementing reforms to improve the quality of education and make research more responsive to socio-economic needs. Morocco was ranked 77th in the Global Innovation Index in 2021, down from 74th in 2019.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/basic-page/morocco-24773>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Morocco



In Morocco, recognition of the importance of access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services as part of universal health coverage (UHC) is growing, and some progress has been made. Maternal health (including antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care) is a key component of SRH services. It is considered a national priority, with services being included in the national health insurance schemes and delivered free of charge at public health facilities. Despite progress in addressing issues related to gender-based violence (GBV), health sector interventions remain limited. More work is needed to better integrate these issues into SRH services in primary care facilities.

Progress has been made in preventing unintended pregnancies through the development of communication tools to promote family planning. A training guide on post-abortion care has strengthened the skills of health workers at the primary health care level. Antenatal care services have adopted information, education and communication messages for the prevention of future unintended pregnancies. A range of specific policy measures to address program implementation and service delivery challenges have been proposed to advance progress in: maternal health care services; the prevention of unintended pregnancies; post-abortion care; and services for the prevention of GBV (as well as care for those affected by it). The measures include the participation of women, and vulnerable and marginalized groups in public decision-making and political processes related to priority-setting, design, implementation, monitoring and accountability of SRH and UHC policies and programs.

Policy and Program Implications

A key strategy is that the government, civil society, private sector and all development partners must join forces through a multisectoral approach to ensure the effective integration of SRH within UHC. Specifically, efforts should be focused on the following.

- Encourage – through NGOs and civil society organizations – the active participation of marginalizes and vulnerable groups in decision-making and priority-setting processes, to provide opportunities for them to influence decisions related to SRH and to hold state authorities accountable for the commitments they made.
- Enhance advocacy efforts in favor of SRH, targeting legislators as key stakeholders with roles in legislation, budget allocation and oversight, to hold the government accountable for SRH commitments.
- Undertake analysis of SRH policies to identify issues that decision-makers need to consider when designing and implementing programs to improve SRH services and to bridge the gap between policies and program implementation.
- Enact additional UHC legislation to ensure that the right to SRH, including maternal health and post-abortion services and prevention of GBV and unintended pregnancies are guaranteed in law and in practice and that related services are included in the health benefit packages (HBPs).
- Establish adequate accountability mechanisms to monitor progress towards UNC, including integration of SRH into voluntary national SDG reviews and implementation of rapid assessment tools to identify context-specific GBV, as well as prevention of unintended pregnancies and post-abortion care, and to access their magnitude and implement appropriate responses to improve them.

Increase public awareness of the role of SRH, including services effectively represent the voices of marginalized groups.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/mar/>

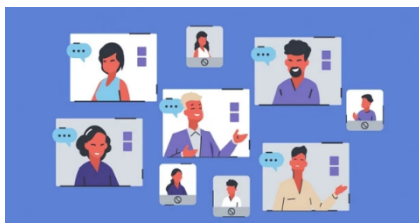


Morocco Jointed UNESCO on 7 November 1956



Ait Ben Haddou, the fortified city in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains in central Morocco. The Ksar of Ait-Ben Haddou is UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Ksar is mainly collective grouping of dwellings. In the defensive walls with are reinforced by angle towers and pierced with a baffle gate, houses crowd together – some modest, other resembling small urban castles with their high angle towers and upper sections decorated with motifs in clay brick – but there are also buildings and community areas. It is an extraordinary ensemble of buildings offering a complete panorama of pre-Saharan earthen construction techniques. The oldest constructions do not appear to be earlier than the 17th century, although their structure and technique were propagated from a very early period in the valleys of southern Morocco.

The site was also one of the many trading posts on the commercial route linking ancient Sudan to Marrakesh by the Dra Valley and the Tizi-n'Telouet Pass. Architecturally, the living quarters form a compact grouping, closed and suspended. The community areas of the Ksar include a mosque, a public square, grain threshing areas outside the ramparts, a fortification and a loft at the top of the village, and caravanserai, two centuries (Muslim and Jewish) and the Sanctuary of the Saint Sidi Ali or Amer. The Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou is a perfect synthesis of earthen architecture of pre-Saharan regions of Morocco.



Higher Technical Education in Africa

The China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) Phase III: *Higher technical education in Africa for a technical and innovative workforce* was initiated with the signing of an agreement between the People's Republic of China and UNESCO in October 2019. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of higher education institutions (HEIs) to respond to the skill needs for national education and the industry, enhancing labor market-oriented teaching, and strengthening competence-based learning.

CFIT Phase III covers six countries, namely Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda, and direct beneficiaries include higher education institutions as well as graduate students enrolled in higher technical education programs. Expected outcomes:

- Effective utilization of information from labor market analysis, curriculum review, graduate tracer studies by HEIs to improve the delivery of technical education;
- Quality and relevance of the curriculum and programs improved in HEIs, which meets labor market demands, enhances inclusiveness, and promote gender equality;
- Improved assessment methods adopted by HEIs to promote competence-based training;
- Cooperation between HEIs and private sector stakeholders strengthened to inform labor market analysis, curriculum development, provision of work-based training opportunities, program development, assessment reform, and delivery of technical higher education.

Social and Human Sciences in Morocco.

Details: <https://en.unesco.org/countries/morocco/information>

Education-for-All and Health-for-all

Bulletin Board



Goal 7

Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for all

Overview

- 2.4 billion people still use inefficient and polluting cooking systems;
- Number of people without electricity: 1.2 billion 2010; 733 million 2020; 679 million 2030.
- Total renewable energy consumption increased by a quarter between 2010 and 2019; but the share of renewable in total final energy consumption is only 17.7%.
- International financial flows to developing countries for renewables declined for second year in a row – 24.7 billion in 2017, 14.3 billion in 2018 and 10.9 billion in 2019.
- Progress in energy efficiency needs to speed up to achieve global climate goals: 1.9% actual 2010 – 2019, needed 3.2% to 2030.

Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030, is a prerequisite and a catalyst for improving the living conditions and working conditions of all the world's people, especially those in the poorest and vulnerable populations who lack any modern services.

The Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Strategic Recommendation:

1. Align energy policy and investment with energy transition pathways that accomplish universal access to electricity and clean cooking by 2030.
2. Prioritize and coordinate political commitments and financing access to clean cooking, building synergies with electrification efforts.
3. Position universal access to energy as a key enabler and driver of inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic recovery and growth as an integral part of the transition to a just net-zero emissions energy system.
4. Put people at the center of efforts to deliver energy.
5. The 'last mile' of energy access must become the 'first mile' to be tackled. Half of the population without access to electricity live in countries experiencing fragility and conflict, where lack of access to clean cooking and electricity disproportionately affects low-income and vulnerable people, women and girls.
6. Support enterprises with innovative, cost-effective, and scalable energy-access business models so that delivery of clean cooking and electricity solutions can be accelerated to households, businesses, and community facilities. Unlocking the potential of enterprises with innovative and pioneering mechanisms and supporting them to reach homes and businesses on the 'last mile' will enable scaling up.
7. Accelerate the advancement of knowledge exchange, capacity-building, partnership-building, and innovation. Human capacity will be essential to drive universal access to energy.
8. Improve the availability and quality of open-source, verifiable energy information and data pertinent to national, and local contexts. Both end-user and supply-side data are necessary for understanding consumers' needs-namely, what interventions will likely be effective in accelerating access – and also for tracking progress correspondingly.

50% of the annual financing flows to clean cooking and electricity access should be directed to Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

*UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)
Expert Series on Health Economics*

Morocco's Unique Situation in the Climate Change Arena

An analysis of climate forecasts and their link to agriculture

Alterations in rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures due to climate change will most likely translate into yield reductions in desirable crops. In this particular context, the object of this paper is to lay down findings and results for projected yield impacts in Morocco using a well-tested crop model, CliCrop, which estimates yield impacts based on water stress. Simulation results from the CliCrop model suggest declining yields, but not by much, and variability is projected to increase marginally. These results are in sharp contrast with the other yield forecasts, which show substantial yield declines for Morocco. It is important for future research to resolve these differences.

The trend of agricultural productivity growth in the last decades has been tremendous in many ways, which helped to alleviate poverty and food insecurity in many areas (although there are still substantial differences across regions). This was primarily improved production systems and investments in crop and livestock breeding programs. Nonetheless, climate change threatens to exacerbate the existing challenges faced by agriculture. The global population is estimated to reach nine billion by 2050, with the bulk of the increase occurring mostly in Africa and South Asia. Also taking into account the accelerated demand for food and changes in dietary habits, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that feeding the world population will require 70% increase in total agricultural production.

The major conclusion from this data analysis is that there is still huge uncertainty in yield forecasts for Morocco. The WB/Morocco/FAO study uses yield shocks substantially larger than those estimated via the CliCrop model. The analyses of the results from the CliCrop model simulations indicate that the yield shocks are relatively small and do not display substantial variability across SRES scenarios and GCM models. At the individual crop level, there is some increased variability for wheat, but little for barley.

To go to the next step, we will need to do sensitivity analysis on prospective yield shocks. There is no way at this point to know which forecasts are better, so all we can do is sensitively analyze the shocks. That is what we will do in the next step when we move to the actual modelling.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Ismail Ouraich and Wallace E. Tyner; Sponsors: The World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) was established by the United Nations University (UNU) as its first research and training center and started work in Helsinki, Finland in 1985. The Institute undertakes applied research and policy analysis on structural changes affecting the developing and transitional economies, provides a forum for the advocacy of policies leading to robust, equitable and environmentally sustainable growth, and promotes capacity strengthening and training in the field of economic and social policy-making. Work is carried out by staff researchers and visiting scholars in Helsinki and through networks of collaborating scholars and institutions around the world.

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Two Articles of Highest Impact, February 2023

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Hemophilia: A Comprehensive Review;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc016.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Ending Child Marriage: A Call for Global Action;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/heal/heal025.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization) PMNCH Member

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line



From Editor's Desk

WHEC Projects under Development

We Focus on Issues that Unlock Progress on Gender Equality



Women's Leadership and Political Participation

governance.

From the local to the global level, women's leadership and political participation are restricted. Women are underrepresented as voters, as well as in leading positions, whether in elected office, the civil service, the private sector or academia. This occurs despite their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change, and their right to participate in democratic

Women face several obstacles to participating in political life. Structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions still limit women's options to run for office. Capacity gaps mean women are less likely than men to have the education, contacts and resources needed to become effective leaders. Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to healthcare and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women.

FACTS & FIGURES

- Only 20.9% of national parliamentarians were female as of 1 July 2013, a slow increase from 11.6% in 1995.
- As of July 2013, 8 women served as Head of State and 13 served as Head of Government.
- Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide. Women there have won 63.8% of seats in the lower house.

- Globally, there are 37 States in which women account for less than 10% of parliamentarians in single or lower house, as to July 2013.
- As of January 2012, only 17% of government ministers were women, with the majority overseeing social sectors, such as education and health.
- Women's representation in local governments has made a difference. Research on panchayats (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with female-led councils was 62% higher than in those with male-led councils.
- In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found.

Our Solutions and Our Initiatives

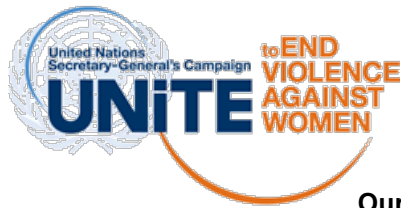
The Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) programs on leadership and participation are guided by a history of international commitments to women's representation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) measure progress toward gender equality in part by the proportion of women in parliamentary seats. Towards these ends, we provide training for women political candidates to help build their capacities, and offer voter and civic education and sensitization campaigns on gender equality. We back gender equality advocates in calling on political parties, governments and other to do their part in empowering women. Other initiatives encourage men and women to engage in advocacy around making gender equality measures central to public policymaking.

WHEC advocates for legislative and constitutional reforms to ensure women's fair access to political spheres – as voters, candidates, elected officials and civil service members. We collaborate with various UN Agencies and UN country teams and work with civil society on programs so that elections uphold women's rights, including to vote and campaign free from electoral violence.

UN General Assembly Resolution: A/RES/66/130: **Women and Political Participation**

https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/130

Ending Violence Against Women



At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace (World Bank 2020). But challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women and girls' access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished.

Our Solutions and Our Initiatives: Measuring Laws and Regulations

Eight indicators are constructed around women's interactions with the law as they begin, progress through, and end their careers are used to align different areas of law with the economic decisions women make at various stages of their lives. The indicators are chosen based on statistically significant associations with outcomes related to women's economic empowerment, including women's labor force participation rates.

1. **Mobility:** Examines constraints in freedom of movement;
2. **Workplace:** Analyzes laws affecting women's decisions to work;
3. **Pay:** Measures laws and regulations affecting women's pay;
4. **Marriage:** Assesses legal constraints related to marriage;
5. **Parenthood:** Examines laws affecting women's work after having children;
6. **Entrepreneurship:** Analyzes constraints on women's starting and running businesses;
7. **Assets:** Considers gender differences in property and inheritance;
8. **Pension:** Assess laws affecting the size of a woman's pension.

Join our efforts!

Global Issues: Water & Sanitation (SDG 6)



The DNA of Water

The role of water and Whole Genome Sequencing in protecting human, animal and ecosystem health

Water is one of the world's most precious resources. It connects us all and is essential to everything we do. Water is also vital for agriculture, livestock and fisheries and key to food production, nutritional security and health. Yet, global water quality is deteriorating at an alarming rate, and land and water resources around the world are at a breaking point, according to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Globally, about 80% of wastewater is discharged into the environment without adequate treatment, and one third of all rivers, deltas and tributaries in Latin America, Africa and Asia are severely polluted with pathogens, putting the health of millions of people at risk.

Water quality also impacts food quality, and it is an important aspect to manage throughout the entire supply chain, from production to consumption. Foodborne illnesses are often a result of consuming food contaminated from poor – quality water.

Even though access to clean water and safe, nutritious food is a basic human right, every year around the world, over 420,000 people die and some 600 million people – almost one in ten – fall ill after eating contaminated food. Contaminated food hampers socioeconomic development, overloads healthcare systems and compromises economic growth and trade.

Prevention is better than cure, and water quality and food safety risks are best addressed simultaneously at farm-level. Managing water quality in the context of food safety will reduce the exposure to harmful pathogens in water and the resultant food supply.

Through its One Water One Health Program, FAO is expanding the use of technologies, such as Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), to study the genomes of pathogens and track their path from water to food in order to prevent food contamination at its source. By incorporating water quality into food safety considerations and applying genomic surveillance to this process, the program is enabling countries to address water and food quality as an integrated issue.

Currently, FAO is running a pilot program in six countries where using WGS for surveillance of pathogens from water to food has never been done. As one example, FAO is working with Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) to implement a genomic study on water quality in chicken-fish farming systems in Blitar, East Java. A common practice in this area, integrated chicken-fish farming involves raising chickens alongside fish. Connecting these systems allows the manure from chickens to fertilize pond water and generate food for fish. Manure is very efficient fertilizer, generating phytoplankton and zooplankton growth that fish then eat.

For farmers, there is a clear advantage for these systems as there is no supplementary expenditure on fish feed. However, the risk of contaminants and disease to fish stock and the environment is relatively high, and poor sanitation and biosecurity can be an issue if the system is not properly managed.

Innovative WGS technology provides rapid identification and characterization of microorganisms with level of precision not previously possible. Ultimately, WGS and novel approaches to water quality and food safety monitoring and surveillance will contribute to this global understanding and help prevent foodborne illnesses before they start.



IN THE MAIL

It is indeed our pleasure to share our mail with you!

1. Letter of Support from United Nations Executive Office of The Secretary General

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Letter_to_Dr_Luthra.pdf

Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet

1 February 2023

2. THE WHITE HOUSE; Holiday Greetings; President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/2023_Greetings_THE_WHITE_HOUSE_President_Joe_and_Jill_Biden.jpg 3 February 2023



Words of Wisdom

On Fame

Fame, like a wayward girl, will still be coy
To those who woo her with too slavish knees,
But makes surrender to some thoughtless boy,
And dotes the more upon a heart at ease;

She is a Gipsy, will not speak to those
Who have not learnt to be content without her;
A Jilt, whose ear was never whisper'd close,
Who thinks they scandal her who talk about her;

A very Gipsy is he, Nilus-born,
Sister-in-law to jealous Potiphar;
Ye love-sick Bards! repay her scorn for scorn;
Ye Artists lovelorn! madmen that ye are!

Make your best bow to her and bid adieu,
Then, if she likes it, she will follow you.

- John Keats (1795 – 1821). English romantic poet. The poetry of Keats is characterized by sensual imagery, most notably in the series of odes. Today his poems and letters are some of the most popular and most analyzed in English literature.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

