



## WHEC Update

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

April 2023; Vol. 18. No. 04

### *Anniversary Edition*

On **12 April 2023**, the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) celebrates its **22<sup>nd</sup> Birthday**. Established in 2001, WHEC was created to undertake projects / programs in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNESCO to disseminate reliable, evidence-based and trusted information on reproductive health, to the healthcare providers and the public.

The Curriculum on Governance is a comprehensive set of Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits, which contain ready-to-use and customize training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance THE IMPLEMENTATION of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Understanding SDGs is essential of us all. There are three dimensions of Sustainable Development:

1. Sustainable development has been defined as "*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,*" UN DESA.
2. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic-growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

Leave no one behind – is the principal behind SDGs and all 17 SDGs are inter-connected. This issue of *WHEC Update* addresses, how to take integrated approach for the issues confronting society today which the SDGs aim to tackle. These issues are so complex that they require multi-disciplinary, transversal approach, also at the local level, everywhere. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for SDGs is a moral compass for a long-term vision. Cooperation can only be attained if we collaborate with all actors involved.

#### **Partnership is a key to achieve all the SDGs.**

Benefits to the Member States of SDG Implementation are – they strengthen evidence-based and action-oriented support for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. And it helps in promoting policy and institutional coherence. Effective governance – bridges together relevant standards and operational guidelines in all areas of institution-building relevant to SDGs. One of the Principles of Effective Governance is competence. A competent and effective public service with well-motivated and professional public servants is at the center of success in implementing government policies and programs related to the 2030 agenda and the SDGs, including in delivering services to those left furthest behind. Without a dedicated effort to help governments mobilize and develop the knowledge and capacities of public servants at all levels, progress in SDGs may be undermined.

UN DESA's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), which is leading the UN Programme on Public Administration, coordinates the Global Initiative on Developing Capacities. It aims at developing the capacities of government and public servants (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes, leadership competences and mindsets) to support the implementation of the SDGs. The Global Initiative has led to the establishment of Regional Task Forces of Schools of Public Administration, Management Development Institutes and human resources managers in the public sector.

UN DESA leads the development arm of the United Nations Secretariat. We invite you to share your opinions on ***WHEC Global Health Line (WGHL)*** ... Create an account.

Changing Mindsets in Public Institutions

**Rita Luthra, MD**



## Your Questions, Our Reply

Why a Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs? How was the curriculum developed? How does one know when countries have implemented good governance?

**Effective National / Local Public Governance:** Although a cornerstone of all developmental efforts and the *sine qua non* of sustainability, governance is often nebulous. As a concept, it is hard to decipher. As a practice, it is hard to pin down. The eleven Principles of effective governance for sustainable development tackle precisely this conundrum: how to lucidly operationalize governance so that everyone can find common ground when talking about its scope and scale thereby integrating it ably into SDG implementation.

Developed to help interested countries, on a voluntary basis, build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions with a view to achieving the transformative vision of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, they apply to all public institutions, including executive and legislative organs, public entities active in security and justice sectors, independent constitutional bodies and state enterprises, among others.

Coupled with 62 commonly applied strategies, many of which have been recognized and endorsed over the years in various United Nations Forums, resolutions and treaties, the 11 principles are being operationalized in such ways that the global tapestry of governance can be more visible and legible for all countries and all people.

The overall capacity development mission of the UN DESA / DPIDG is to support governments in strengthening their capacities to translate the SDGs and other internationally agreed goals into institutional arrangements, strategies and programs for effective service delivery and participatory, accountable and inclusive decision-making processes.

The Curriculum and its training toolkits can be used in different ways by:

- Governments and schools of public administration or institutions with training mandates.
- Resident Coordinators, UN agencies and Regional Commissions of conduct national capacity development workshops.
- Member of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN);
- UN DESA to conduct regional and national workshops, upon governments' request, and in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Commissions and Resident Coordinators.

Institutions play a critical role in the achievement of all SDGs and targets. However, public sector reforms needed to implement the SDGs continue to be a major and vexing challenge in many countries. In order to address this challenge concretely, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) has developed a set of principles of effective governance for sustainable development. The essential purpose of these voluntary principles is to provide practical, expert guidance to interested countries in a broad range of governance challenges associated with implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The principles, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2018, highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to reach SDGs. To this end, the principles are linked to a variety of commonly used strategies for operationalizing responsive and effective governance, many of which have been recognized and endorsed over the years in various United Nations forums, resolutions and treaties.

Hope you avail this resource.



10 – 14 April 2023



United Nations . New York

56th  
Session

Population, education and  
sustainable development

[www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org)

**Commission  
on Population and  
Development**

**56<sup>th</sup> Session of Commission on Population and Development (CPD)**

10 – 14 April 2023

**Priority Theme:** Population, education and sustainable development

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD56>

## **The Women's Health and Education Center's Participation**

**Written Statement:** UN Document: E/CN.9/2023/NGO/9

**Rethinking the Purpose and Content of Education for the 20st Century: Our Efforts**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56CPD-Written-Statement-WHEC.pdf>

### **Virtual Side Event**

13 April 2023; 8:30 am to 9:45 am EDT (New York Time)

### **Towards Quality Education & Common Good**

*A Roadmap for Transformation of Education & Health*

#### **Sponsor:**

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

#### **Speakers / Presenters:**

World Health Organization (WHO)

Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, USA and Africa)

**Our Vision and Our Efforts:** Knowledge and learning are humanity's greatest renewable resources for responding to challenges and inventing alternatives. Yet, education does more than respond to a changing world. WHEC's recommendations and areas of development to achieve United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development agenda are:

#### **Concept Note:**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th\\_Session\\_of\\_CPD-Concept-Note.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th_Session_of_CPD-Concept-Note.pdf)

#### **Announcement / Invitation / Flyer:**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th\\_CPD\\_Side\\_Event-Invitation-2023.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th_CPD_Side_Event-Invitation-2023.pdf)

#### **WHEC's Statement:**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th\\_CPD\\_Side\\_Event\\_Session\\_13\\_April\\_2023.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th_CPD_Side_Event_Session_13_April_2023.pdf)

#### **Speaker's List / Meet the Speakers and Agenda:**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th\\_Session\\_of\\_CPD-Speaker-List.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/56th_Session_of_CPD-Speaker-List.pdf)

#### **Zoom Link:**

*It will be posted on This Page soon. There is no registration needed and there is no registration fee.*

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/cpd.php3>

[Women's Health and Education Center \(WHEC\) - WHEC - Commission on Population and Development \(CPD\); Virtual Side Events \(womenshealthsection.com\)](http://www.womenshealthsection.com)

**Join Us!**



## 8<sup>th</sup> Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2023>

the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum will be held from 3 to 4 May 2023. The Forum will be convened by the President of ECOSOC Her Excellency Lachezara Stovea who has appointed two co-chairs – H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Ambassador and Permanent representative of South Africa to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Thomas Woodroffe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN Economic and Social Council.

### Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Participation

#### Virtual Side Event

#### Open Science Initiatives To Transform Health and Education Systems

3 May 2023; 8:30 am to 9:45 am (EDT, New York Time)

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sti.php3>

Open science is essential to transform health and education systems, and will help us to achieve United Nations 2030 Agenda. The objectives of this Virtual Side Event, is to share:

1. The experiences of various technological solutions, in improving the affordability and accessibility of quality education and healthcare services for all .
2. The Experts and Speakers, will highlight, how to best apply technology in the learning process. It is the poor and marginalized in our society and in our world, who have the most to gain, from the advances in science, technology, innovation, and e-Health/e-Learning—sadly—at this point, they are often the groups, who benefit the least.
3. STI Solutions for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – Lessons Learned from Pandemic.
4. Countries should take rapid actions towards *Broad Band Internet* connectivity to their population.
5. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) with its partners, will continue to support country actions, and strengthen inclusive digital learning platforms and high-quality information worldwide.

**Sponsor:** Women's Health and Education Center

**Speakers / Presenters:** World Health Organization (WHO);  
Carnegie Mellon University(Pittsburgh, USA and Africa)

**Concept Note:**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/2023\\_STI\\_Side\\_Event\\_Concept\\_Note.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/2023_STI_Side_Event_Concept_Note.pdf)

**Announcement / Invitation / Flyer:**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/8th\\_Multi\\_Stakeholder\\_Side\\_Event\\_Invitation\\_2023.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/8th_Multi_Stakeholder_Side_Event_Invitation_2023.pdf)

**Speakers' List and Zoom Link:** *Information will be posted and accessible worldwide, from the Link stated above in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April.*

**Join Us! All Are Welcome!**



**UN**  
**2023 WATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK  
22-24  
MARCH  
2023

**UN 2023 Water Conference**  
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

Water is a deal-maker for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for the

health and prosperity of people and planet. But our progress on water related goals and targets remains alarmingly off track, jeopardizing the entire sustainable development agenda.

“The UN 2023 Water Conference in March must result in a bold Water Action Agenda that gives our world’s lifeblood the commitment it deserves” – António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## The Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC) Participation & Commitments

Without sufficient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in health care facilities, countries will not achieve the targets set out in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 4, 5, 6, and 17. Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene services is fundamental for patient safety and has been shown to reduce the risk of infections for patients, carers, health workers and surrounding communities.

### WHEC’s Published Water Action Agenda (WAA) for SDG 6

#SDGAction49770; and  
#SDGAction50616

### Water & Sanitation: Essential for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-sanitation-essential-improve-maternal-and-child-health>

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Implementation for Schools and Healthcare facilities.

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash-implementation-schools-and-healthcare-facilities>

WHEC’s WAA for SDG 6 also examines the role of potential of science, technology and innovation as key enablers of catalytic change in the global achievement of other SDGs. The report highlights the potential of frontier technologies. The international community can greatly assist countries in achieving Goal 6, notably by pooling knowledge and technological know-how through sharing mechanisms and by developing innovative financial mechanisms to support water and sanitation-related projects in developing countries.

## In-Person Side Event Participation

Thursday, 23 March 2023; 12.30 to 13:45 pm EDT (New York Time)

Scaling up of Right to Children on WASH in Schools

<http://www.cchrindia.org/UN-2023-water-conference.php>

**Description:** Scale up of Right to Children Act in India that ensures all schools must have safe drinking water, separate toilets for boys and girls; and facilities for hygiene especially for girls.

**Organizers:** Center for Community Health Research (CCHR) (India); Human Right2Water (Switzerland); AOSED (Bangladesh); **Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC), USA**; Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB), Malaysia; Malayala Manorma National Daily (India); FANSA, India; CeTamb-University of Brescia, Italy; PAVE, Nigeria.

**Details:** <http://cchrindia.org/UN-2023-water-conference.php>

 [FLUSH FINAL.mp4](#)



## United Nations at a Glance

**Mozambique became UN Member State on 16 September 1975**



**Mozambique**, officially the **Republic of Mozambique**, is a country located in southeastern Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the northwest, Zimbabwe to the west, and Eswatini and South Africa to the southwest. The sovereign state is separated from the Comoros, Mayotte and Madagascar by the Mozambique Channel to the east. The capital and the largest city is Maputo. Official Language:

Portuguese; Total Area: 801,590 km<sup>2</sup> (309, 500 sq. mile); Population (2020):

30,066,648 – 46<sup>th</sup> most populated country; religions: 58% Christianity 19% Islam; Government Unitary dominant-party semi-presidential republic.

In the late medieval period, these towns were frequented by traders from Somalia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Arabia, Persia, and India. The voyage of Vasco de Gama in 1498 marked the arrival of the Portuguese, who began a gradual process of colonization and settlement in 1505. After over four centuries of Portuguese rule, Mozambique gained independence in 1975, becoming the People's Republic of Mozambique shortly thereafter.



Mozambique is endowed with rich and extensive natural resources. The country's economy is based largely on agriculture, but industry is growing, mainly food and beverages, chemical manufacturing and aluminium and petroleum production. The tourism sector is also expanding. Mozambique's annual average GDP growth has been among the world's highest. However, the country is still one of the poorest and most under-developed countries in the world, ranking low in GDP per capita, human development, measures of inequality and average life expectancy.

The country's population of around 32 million is composed of overwhelmingly Bantu people. Mozambique is a member of UN, the African Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Southern African Development Community,

and is an observer at La Francophonie.

### Development challenges

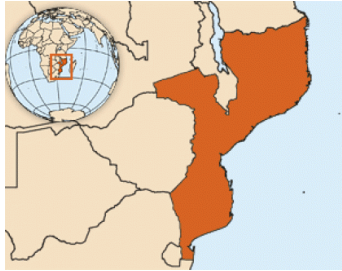
The country's main challenges include maintaining macroeconomic stability considering exposure to reestablish confidence through improved economic governance and increased transparency. Moreover, structural reforms are needed to support the struggling private sector. That, and diversifying the economy away from its focus on capital-intensive projects and low-productivity subsistence agriculture, while strengthening the key drivers of inclusion, such as improved quality of education and health care delivery, could in turn improve social indicators. As the recent Mozambique Country Economic Update (2022) notes, the country needs to press ahead with its structural reform agenda as the pandemic subsides.

1. Policies focusing on supporting economic transformation and job creation, especially for the youth will be critical.
2. Targeted interventions to support women.
3. Alleviate gender inequalities as well as to harness the power of mobile technology would support sustainable and inclusive growth in the medium term.

Details: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique>

# Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

## WHO | Mozambique



The Mozambican National Health System is financed through two main sources:

1. Domestic funds from the state budget;
2. External funds received from different mechanisms including budget support, the Common Fund, which is a basket fund where partners pool their resources, and various bilateral project support initiatives.

Over recent years, there has been steady increase in funding including the variety of funding mechanisms for health financing in Mozambique. The difference between two funding sources is almost constant with the exception of 2004, when the sector attracted significantly more external funds than in the previous years.

The mechanisms for budgeting and allocation follow the main policy documents, namely the Poverty Reduction Action Plan (PARP), the Health Sector Strategic Plan, and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. As the Health Sector Strategic Plan was covering the period 2005 – 2012, a new plan is in its final phases of development. These strategic documents all follow the same overall objective of increasing accessibility to health care services while improving quality of care particularly in the area of primary healthcare.

### Achievements

The second National Health Accounts exercise was launched in April 2013. These studies will provide detailed information on health expenditure in Mozambique. In 2012, a task force was established consisting of WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, UK Department of International Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and USAID to discuss contributions for a comprehensive health financing policy and strategy aiming at contributing to the next Health Sector Strategic Plan, a process to be completed by August 2013. Following a capacity building training for focal points in the Ministry of Health in July 2011, resource tracking for Mother and Child Health has been planned as a country activity under the Commission of Information and Accountability for Mother and Child Health; Training for the Ministry of Health on One Health and National Health Accounts methodologies. The Health Financing Review was completed as part of the Health Sector Review process in 2012.

### Governance of Health – Sector Policies and Strategies

One of WHO's core functions is to oversee and guide policies in the health sector. This involves interaction with the entire health system to protect public interest. It requires political involvement such as advocating for the most favorable allocation of limited resource and technical expertise for the development of comprehensive strategic plans to guide the health sector.

### Health Policies and Service Delivery

The provider of health care services throughout Mozambique is the Public National Health Service. The private sector is formed by two components:

- Private-not-for-profit healthcare providers, which are mainly international and national NGOs;
- Private-for-profit providers. These are almost exclusive to main cities and constitute a rapidly growing sector, which competes with the public sector for the limited human resources for health.

Awareness raising of the importance of traditional medicine at the African Traditional Medicine Day in Lichinga, Niassa in August 2013.

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



### Mozambique joined UNESCO on 11 October 1976



#### Is the solution to water crises hiding right under our feet?

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (IHP), founded in 1975 following the International Hydrological Decade (1965 – 1974), the only intergovernmental cooperation program of UN System dedicated to water research and management, and related education and capacity development. It addresses the national, regional, and global water challenges, by supporting the development of sustainable and resilient societies. Expanding a holistic understanding of water, improving technical capabilities, and enhancing human and institutional capacities are IHP's main tools. IHP's work supports sound, evidence-based water governance and decision-making drawing on transdisciplinary science and technology other knowledge systems.

The IHP seeks to enable all stakeholders to participate in the creation of a new, sustainable, water culture. The IHP's just started ninth phase (IHP – IX, 2022-2029) puts science to action for a Water Secure World, in a Changing Environment.

The Intergovernmental Hydrological Program stimulates and encourages holistic hydrological research and knowledge generation, assists Member States in research and training activities. For the new ninth phase, the IHP will focus on five interrelated Priority Areas. Scientific Research and innovation; Water education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution including Sustainability; Bridging the data-knowledge gap; Inclusive water management under conditions of global change; Water governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

By bringing innovative, interdisciplinary, and environmentally sound methods and tools into play, while fostering and capitalizing on advances in water sciences, IHP acts at the science-policy nexus to help meeting today's global water challenges.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/new-report-solution-water-crises-hiding-right-under-our-feet>



#### Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO – SPIN)

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are increasingly important for social, economic and sustainable development. The formulation of effective STI policies is critical in facing the major challenges ahead for achieving the 2030 Agenda, such as conserving freshwater (SDG 6), building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation (SDG 9), and combating climate change (SDG 13). These, as all policies, need policy instruments in order to be effective, such as laws, competitive grants and public subsidies.

GO-SPIN aims to fill this information gap by providing key information on STI governing bodies, legal frameworks, policy instruments and long-term series of indicators for evidence-based policy analysis, design and fore-sight studies. GO-SPIN is an online, open access platform for decision-making, knowledge-brokers, with a complete set of various information on STI policies.

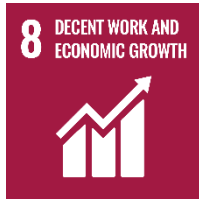
[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/gospin\\_platform\\_presentation.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/gospin_platform_presentation.pdf)

Details: <https://en.unesco.org/countries/mozambique>

***Education-for-All and Health-for-All***



## Bulletin Board



### Goal 8

## Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

### FACTS & FIGURES

- Global economic recovery is hampered by: New Waves of COVID-19; Rising Inflation; Supply-chain disruptions; Policy uncertainties, and Labor Market Challenges.
- Global Unemployment Rate (To remain above pre-pandemic level until at least 2023): 5.4% in 2019; 6.6% in 2020; 6.2% in 2021.
- Child Labor: 1 in 10 children are engaged in child labor worldwide – 160 million total children (2020).
- Global economic recovery is further set back by the Ukraine crisis.
- Worker productivity has rebounded, but not in LDCs – Growth in output per worker – 1.6% from 2015-2019; -0.6% in 2020; 3.2% in 2021.

### Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Recommendations on three key areas:

#### I. Policy Changes at the Country Level

- Willingness of Governments to prioritize the goal and targets and adjust their policies. WHEC's initiatives will be available to inspire better policy design.
- Comprehensive and effective national strategies for: Social protection, skills, small- and medium-sized enterprises, youth employment, child labor, labor rights, safe working conditions and migration.
- Strengthening national capacities and institutions is an important, starting with better collection and analysis of labor market statistics.
- "Data Revolution" demands innovative public and private initiatives to improve large-scale collection and dissemination of development statistics.
- Building competent and accountable national administrations, as well as effective labor market institutions and organizations. Multilateral cooperation works better when international agencies and Governments work alongside other bodies, such as civil society organizations, the private sector, local authorities and other stakeholders.

#### II. Global Partnerships

- A supportive international environment will be essential to advance the post-2015 agenda, especially in poorest countries;
- The post-2015 agenda should be seen as an additional arena, a supplementary channel to reach out to technocrats, politicians and the public-at-large.
- Regular thematic reviews of global progress in key areas will be one component of the future framework for the agenda's implementation.
- Forge a solid consensus for the promotion on inclusive, sustainable, and job-rich economic growth.

#### III. Delivering As ONE

- Closer cooperation on the SDGs with sister agencies and international financial institutions, will renew efforts to deliver as one United Nations system.
- WHEC's multilateral nature sets us apart from the rest. We must adapt the way we operate while helping the wider United Nations system to appreciate the value of our distinct approach.
- Need for a fair globalization.



## Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

### **Mozambique – bust before boom**

Reflections on investment surges and new gas

This paper is a sequel to an earlier paper that looked in broad terms at many of the issues that Mozambique faces today in managing its new extractive resources. The paper first describes the investment surge that has already been prompted by new gas discoveries in Mozambique. It then summarizes some of the more recent literature that has examined the effects of such surges in other country contexts. It next examines the main aspects of the disappointing economic outcomes that have so far been seen through 2018, and selectively analyses some of the implications of these outcomes for future policy. The paper concludes by exploring the epidemiology of a large public investment surge – an issue that has relevance for the further surge that is still anticipated. In following this sequence of argument, the paper also throws light on a number of critical general policy questions that arise in the context of major new resource discovery. This paper has examined the significant investment surge that occurred in Mozambique soon after the discoveries of major new natural gas resources in 2009 – 2010. It has also documented some of the seriously disappointing outcomes that have emerged in the wake of that surge: a ‘bust’ has indeed preceded any significant ‘boom.’ All the indications now are that a further surge in investment will occur in the next few years as the production in the major natural gas fields begins. Certainly that is the opinion of reported in IMF (International Monetary Fund’s) *Regional Economic Outlook of April 2018*, which anticipates an even higher investment ratio in the near future than in the recent past. Given this outlook for the next few years, this paper concludes by examining the epidemiology.

Even if any new public investment program is self-financing in the long run ((i.e. when extractive revenues eventually arrive and economic activity is higher), there may be difficult transition problems, such as a need for short-term increases in tax rates that could further harm private activity. As the Mozambican experience after 2014 illustrates, there are in principle several ways to deal with these transition problems including the following:

- Additional *concessional borrowing* (and/or aid) could in theory limit the need for a difficult fiscal adjustment.
- Additional *domestic borrowing* may also provide some help, but the magnitude of such help is seriously limited because: 1) it does not generate any additional resources for the country’s balance of payments; 2) in thin financial markets it significantly increases domestic borrowing seems certain to cause harmful interest rate increases.
- Additional *non-concessional borrowing*, as the Mozambican authorities have found, can limit the need for a difficult fiscal adjustment initially, but even so such borrowing has to be consistent in amount with various possible inefficiencies of the public investment if unsustainable debt dynamics are to be avoided – a condition certainly breached by Mozambique’s US \$2 billion of undisclosed loans and the uses to which they were apparently put.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Alan R. Roe; Sponsors: The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development. The Institute began operations in 1985 in Helsinki, Finland, as the first research and training center of the United Nations University. Today it is a unique blend of think tank, research institute, and UN agency—providing a range of services from policy advice to governments as well as freely available original research.

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, March 2023

*Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions*

*Fully open-access with no article-processing charges*

*Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.*

1. **Newborn Nutrition:** <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc004.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. **Hepatitis C Virus Infection and Pregnancy;**  
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsidp/obsidp014.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**

## World Health Day 2023



### **World Health Day 2023: Health For All**

7 April 2023 – World Health Day – the World Health Organization (WHO) will observe its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. WHO's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle the health challenges of today – and tomorrow.

#### **Key Messages:**

- Health for all envisions that all people have good health for a building life in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.
- The right to health is a basic human right. Everyone must have access to the health services they need when and where they need them without financial hardship.
- 30% of the global population is not able to access essential health services.
- Almost two-billion people face catastrophic or impoverishing health spending, with significant inequalities affecting those in the most vulnerable settings.
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC) offers financial protection and access to quality essential services, lifts people out of poverty, promotes the well-being of families and communities, protects against public health crises, and moves us toward #HealthForAll.
- To make health for all a reality, we need; individuals and communities who have access to high quality health services so that they can take care of their own health and that their families; skilled health workers providing quality, people centered care; and policy-makers committed to investing in UHC.
- Evidence shows that health systems powered by as a primary health care (PHC) approach is the most effective and cost-effective way to bring services for health and well-being closer to people.
- COVID-19 set back every country's journey to #HealthForAll.
- Progress needs to be accelerated if health-related SDGs are to be met.

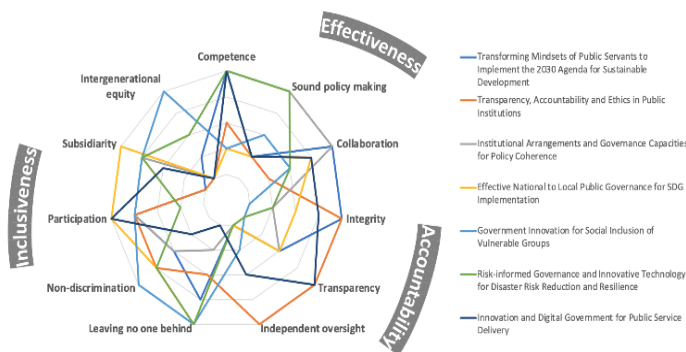
<https://www.who.int/campaigns/75-years-of-improving-public-health>



## Digital Government Implementation: Our Initiatives

### e-Government Initiatives for Women's Empowerment

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by UN Member States in 2015 affirms that “the spread of information and communication technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies.” Women's Empowerment through e-Government can, indeed, accelerate the achievement of Goals and Targets across the 2030 Agenda.



Our online global platform <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> directly contributes to SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13, 16 and 17. It is an innovative public resource related to the design and implementation of gender-responsive e-Government institutional ecosystems in all the Member States – it is serving..

The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) with its partners, promotes and supports international cooperation in the pursuit of sustainable development for all. It addresses a range of cross-cutting issues that affect peoples' lives and livelihoods, especially the most vulnerable. In providing a broad range of analytical products, policy and advice and technical assistance, WHEC effectively translates global commitments in the economic, social and environmental spheres into national policies and actions and plays a key role in monitoring progress towards the 17 SDGs.

### The Dimensions of the Digital Divide

The concept of the digital divide has been evolving over the years, being generally described as a social issue linked to the difference amount of information between those individuals who have access to the information society and information and communication technologies (ICT) and those who those who do not. It also refers to countries, regions, cities, and businesses that are at a differentiated socio-economic and cultural level with regard to ICT accessibility. This gap includes imbalances in terms of access to internet infrastructure, information and knowledge, and equality of opportunity depending on income, race, ethnicity, gender and other similar criteria.

The nature of the digital divide is complex and debatable; therefore, an accurate diagnosis of its causes is imperative in order to discern and implement the proper solutions. The digital divide is wide. There is a strong correlation between the digital divide and poverty. Almost 40% of the world population lives in low-income countries. About one billion people have no access to ICT. In addition, the digital divide comes in many forms.

Governments should act by developing and using e-Government tools in order to enhance e-readiness, encourage and educate the usage of ICT, and support the development of ICT skills in a non-discriminative manner.

### **What will I learn from e-Government for women's empowerment and gender equality?**

e-Government is "the use and application of information technologies in public administration to streamline and integrate workflows and processes, to effectively manage data and information, enhance public service delivery, as well as expand communication channels for engagement and empowerment of people." E-Government is thus about the digitally-enabled overhaul of the institutional ecosystem of government. The e-Government ecosystem comprises of three key components:

1. e-Service delivery;
2. Digitalized citizen engagement / participation
3. Connectivity architecture

Research studies have clearly highlighted how the core objective of a transition from legacy systems to a new digitalized government paradigm is rooted in the principles of *Good Governance*. There are numerous frameworks for good governance that have been put forth in development literature.

Good Governance has two critical dimensions:

1. The Administrative dimension of bureaucratic simplification; and
2. The political dimension of strengthening democracy through transparency and accountability.

These two dimensions need to be approached through a gender-sensitive, NOT gender-neutral, perspective. We believe: Governance which neglects the human rights, interests and needs of more than half the population, women and girls, cannot in any sense be described as good.

National policy and programmatic efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment span social, economic and political domains. As governance goes digital, the needs and interests of women require to be central to the intent and design of such initiatives.

The transition to e-Government systems should therefore address the following aspects;

1. Enhance *State Capability* to implement women's empowerment and gender equality policies; ,
2. Invigorate responsiveness of government institutions to women's needs and interests and
3. Build *Gender-Sensitive accountability* mechanisms.

What this means is that empowerment is not only about expanding women's access to material resources or providing them the means to enhance their economic situation. It is equally about creating the conditions for critical self-reflection, changing women's sense of agency, so that women can understand "*the deep structural basis of gender inequality*" and come together with other women to transform gender power in ways that "benefit not only them, but also other women."

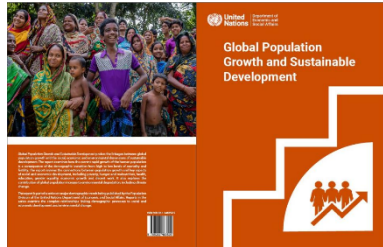
For government policy and programs, therefore, empowerment interventions for gender equality should be about expanding women's sense of self-worth, and changing the way society perceives women.

Join the initiative!



## In The News

### Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development



Given the intrinsic momentum of population growth, the range of plausible trajectories for the size of global populations can do little to mitigate the forces of climate change between now and 2050. A lower birth rate over the next few decades could begin to have a significant impact on global trends only in the later half of the century, after the current momentum dissipates. At the same time, in many low-income and lower-middle-income countries, rapid population growth remains a matter of concern.

#### Ten Key Messages

1. **Rapid population growth is a common feature of the demographic transition.** For many countries, this transition has already ended, and the population is growing slowly if at all; for many others, the demographic transition is still at an early and intermediate stage.
2. **Most of the world's future population growth will take place in developing countries.** World population continues to grow but is expected to peak around 2100 at a level of 11 billion. Most of this growth will take place in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.
3. **Rapid population growth is both a sign of success and a challenge to be met.** It is also the result of a failure to ensure that all people, everywhere, have the knowledge, ability and means to determine whether and when to have children.
4. **Global population is expected to continue to grow rapidly over the next few decades.** It is unlikely the reduction in global population increase over the next 30 to 40 years will happen substantially faster than already anticipated in the population projections of the UN.
5. **Rapid population growth is both a cause and a consequence of slow progress in development.** Achieving SDGs, particularly those related to health, education, and gender equality, can contribute to slowing global population growth.
6. **Access to reproductive healthcare services can accelerate social and economic development.** Increased access to high-quality reproductive healthcare services, including for safe and effective methods of family planning, can facilitate a drop in fertility and help to related economic and social development.
7. **A decline in fertility can create a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth.** In countries with relatively high levels of fertility today, investments in education and health and the promotion of full and productive employment for all, including for women, can significantly increase the positive, but temporary, economic impact of a favorable age distribution created by a sustained decline in fertility.
8. **Higher incomes contribute more to environmental degradation than population growth.** More affluent countries bear the greatest responsibility for moving rapidly to achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases and for implementing strategies to decouple human economic activity from environmental degradation.
9. **Developing countries require support to reduce future emissions and to develop sustainable.** Wealthy countries and the international community can help to ensure that these countries receive the necessary technical and financial assistance so that their economic can grow using technologies that will minimize future greenhouse gas emissions.
10. **Food systems must transform to feed a growing population and limit environmental damage.** Food systems need to incorporate more sustainable practices, while ensuring access to safe, sufficient, affordable and nutritious food and enjoyment of a diversified, balanced and healthy diet for all.

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesapd\\_2022\\_global\\_population\\_growth.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesapd_2022_global_population_growth.pdf)



## IN THE MAIL

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

**Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNSCO, Acknowledgement; UNESCO HQ Paris, France.**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/GreetingDirectorGeneralUNESCO.pdf>

## Art & Science

*Art that touches our soul*

**Wheat Fields** by **Vincent van Gogh** (30 March 1853 – 29 July 1890)



**Wheat Fields** is a series of dozen paintings by the Dutch Post-Impressionist artist **Vincent van Gogh**, borne out of his religious studies and sermons, connection to nature, appreciation of manual laborers and desire to provide a means of offering comfort to others. In this 1890 oil-on-canvas landscape painting, entitled *Wheatfield Under Thunderclouds* or *Wheat Fields Under Clouded Sky*, Van Gogh depicts the loneliness of

the countryside and the degree to which it is “healthy and heartening.”

**Wheat as a subject:** Failing to find a vocation in ministry, Van Gogh turned to art as a means to express and communicate his deepest sense of the meaning of life. Cliff Edwards wrote: “Vincent’s life was quest for unification, a search for how to integrate the idea of religion, art, literature, and nature that motivated him.” Van Gogh came to view painting as a calling, “I feel a certain indebtedness [to the world] and out of gratitude, want to leave some souvenir in the shape of drawings or pictures – not made to please a certain taste in art, but to express a sincere feeling.” In the series of paintings about wheat field, Van Gogh expresses through symbolism and use of color his deeply felt spiritual belief, appreciation of manual laborers and connection to nature.

Van Gogh suffered from psychotic episodes and delusions and though he worried about his mental stability, he often neglected his physical health, did not eat properly and drank heavily. He spent time in psychiatric hospitals, including a period at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. On 27 July 1890 Van Gogh shot himself in the chest with a revolver. He died from his injuries two days later.

The work is now in collection of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

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

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

