



WHEC Update

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

February 2024; Vol.19. No. 02

Annual Project Report

Building resilient and sustainable digital societies and economies, is the way forward. The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), is partnering with UN System and other Academic Institutions in a forward-looking initiative to explore the viability of technology sandboxes through building the institutional capacity, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This innovative and catalytic approach to digital government development is expected to accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

Sandboxes have gained popularity in fintech in recent years but could go beyond the financial sector to others, including health, education, transport, energy, connectivity and the digital economy, in fast-tracking smart and risk-aware implementation of digital policies.

The promise of sandboxes allows evidence-based decision-making and adaptive deployment of digital technologies in the pursuit of development aims. It allows institutions and regulators to experiment with digital technologies and innovations at the edge or even outside of the existing policy space and regulatory framework.

Planning a sustainable future for a growing global population is an essential task. A path towards a more sustainable future requires demographic foresight to guide countries in policy formulation and implementation. WHEC's initiatives, examines the linkages between population growth and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Various projections anticipate that global population may grow by 3 billion people over the rest of the 21st century. Rapid population growth makes it more difficult for low-income countries to afford the increase in public expenditures on a per capita basis that is needed to eradicate poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, and ensure universal access to healthcare, education, and other essential services.

A decline in fertility and the resulting youthful population in some regions present an opportunity for accelerated economic growth, if sufficient improvements are made in education, health, gender equality and access to decent work for all. Limiting adverse climate change impacts will require rapid progress towards decoupling economic activity from environmental degradation. The need for rapid and sustained growth of economies in low-income and lower-middle-income countries will require wealthy countries with the necessary technical and financial assistance to minimize environmental impacts.

Multiple crises take their toll on the most vulnerable countries. Least Developed Countries (LDCs), have been hit particularly hard by the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, despite having been mostly spared the worst direct health impacts that affected several other countries. Recovery from pandemic affects the development of LDCs in multiple ways, including their graduation from the LDC category. By enhancing the monitoring system of countries graduating and graduated from LDC category, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and its secretariat established a system that can create linkages between external shocks and graduation shocks and graduation-related international support.

The wars in Ukraine and Gaza, have affected the lives of those in and around the conflict, directly and having a broader effect on global commodity markets, finance, and the nature of global partnerships, and all with the greatest effect on the people and countries least able to respond.

Framing the future of the development – Join our efforts!

Forwarding Our Common Agenda

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

How to build greater resilience to recurrent crises and forge the best pathways for achieving the 2030 Agenda?

Placing women and girls at the center: Women and girls represent half of the world's population, and therefore, also half of its potential. Gender equality, besides being a fundamental human rights, is essential to achieve peaceful societies, with full human potential and sustainable development. Moreover, it has been shown that empowering women spurs productivity and economic growth. Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go to achieve full equality of rights and opportunities between men and women.

It is of paramount importance to end the multiple forms of gender violence and secure equal access to quality education and health, economic resources and participation in political life for both women and girls and men and boys. It is also essential to achieve equal opportunities in access to employment and to positions of leadership and decision-making at all levels.

UN support for the rights of women began with the Organization's founding Charter. Among the purposes of the UN declared in Article 1 of its Charter is *"To achieve international co-operation ... in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."*

At the turn of the century, in 2001, The WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION CENTER, was established, dedicated exclusively to women, children and gender equality – to help with the advancement of women. Among its earliest accomplishments was ensuring gender neutral language in the global policy-making initiatives.

Women's rights are the human rights. Gender equality has been made part of international human rights law by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which as adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948. That milestone document in the history of human rights recognized that *"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights"* and that *"everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, ... birth or other status."*

Violence against women and children, is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide, 35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. In September 2017, the European Union (EU) joined forces to launch the Spotlight Initiative, a global multiyear initiative that focuses on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

Join us in partnership so that this bold and transformative initiative is matched by equally ambitious political action, resources and knowledge. Why?

1. Violence against women and children is one of the most widespread, persisted, and devastating human rights violations in our world today.
2. 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.
3. Women and girls are disproportionately subjected to violence, including femicide, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, trafficking and harmful practices.

Achieving gender-equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world, today.

2023 in Review: A Mission of Hope Our Projects & Our Promises

Commitment is what gets you started, consistency is what gets you somewhere, and persistence is what keeps you going. Many beautiful paths in life cannot be discovered without getting lost, or making mistakes. Science and innovations are no different. And we have long way to go.

THE SUCESSFUL AGEING. A revolutionary increase in life span has already occurred. The maintenance of full function, as nearly as possible, to the end of life, should be the next gerontological goal.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) aims to contribute to the future of Education, Learning Skills and Universal Health Coverage. With multiple digital solutions, like our LINK (Learning, Innovating, Networking for Knowledge) Access Project, there is new focus on learning and building competencies, bringing lifelong opportunities. WHEC serves and offers high-tech environments, providing learning opportunities for leaders, educators, researchers, and health-workers in 227 countries and territories. And it has been instrumental in developing syllabus and curriculums, for the Continuing Medical Education (CME). WHEC has recently accepted Membership of SDG Publishers Compact / United Nations Global Compact.

Our Publications and UN Documents in 2023

WHEC Participation with United Nations *in the Year 2023*

SIDE EVENTS

1. 61st Commission for Social Development (CSocD) Session; 7 February 2023.
2. UN 2023 Water Conference; In-Person Side Event; 23 March 2023.
3. 56th Commission on Population and Development (CPD); 13 April 2023.
4. 8th Multistakeholder Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Forum, 3 May 2023

Details: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/sideevents.php3>

UN Documents / Publications

1. 61st Commission for Social Development (CSocD) Session: E/CN.5/2023/NGO/7
2. 67th Commission on Status of Women (CSW) Session: E/CN.6/2023/NGO/55
3. Water Action Agenda (WAA) # SDGAction49770 and #SDGAction50616
4. 56th Commission on Population and Development (CPD): E/CN.9/2023/NGO/9
5. 8th Multi-Stakeholder Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Forum; **Science-Policy Brief – Open Science to Achieve 2030 UN Agenda**, 3 May 2023

Available @: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/publications.php3>

ECOSOC sent us Our Landing Page; my pleasure and privilege to share will the whole Working Group, Physician's Board and volunteers – who have made this initiative a success. Access link:

WHEC's e-Learning, e-Health and e-Government Initiative:

<https://hlpf.un.org/2022/programme/improving-global-partnerships-for-education-and-health>

Open Science to Achieve UN's 2030 Agenda

Openness in science is an essential component of the scientific process. Making science more accessible, affordable, inclusive and equitable, especially in health and education sectors, is the way forward – and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 4, and 5 by 2030. We suggest avenues for providing Universal Health Care (UHC), online quality educational platforms and use of

artificial intelligence (AI) and Big Data management for low- and middle-income countries to accelerate SDGs.

2024 will be a lucky one.

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> served **13 million** readers / subscribers in **227 countries and territories** with an average of about 1.05 million visitors / subscriber, per month, in 2023 with links to about 250,000 websites. On average 220,000 files, 40,600 URLs and 82,600 pages were accessed, every month. It expanded to 30 sections, and we hope to continue to grow.

Best of 2023

Top 15 Countries out of 227 Countries and Territories, where **WHEC Global Health Line / WHEC Net Work** is accessed frequently:

- USA; Canada; China; Australia; India; Switzerland; Saudi Arabia; Belgium; U.K.; Germany; Venezuela; Spain; Japan; Mexico; and France.

Top 5 Groups out of 25 groups for educational purposes:

- US Educational; US Commercial; US Government; US Military and International (Int).

Top 10 User Agents out of 1,012:

- Mozilla/5.0; The Knowledge AI; BLEXBot/1.0; AhrefsBot/7.0; serpstatbot/2.1 (advanced backlink tracking bot); GoogleBot/ 2.1; Linux X 86_64; SemrushBot/7-bi; DotBot/1.2; and bingbot/2.0.

Top 5 most popular sections out of 30:

- 1) Newborn Care; 2) WHEC Update; 3) Obstetrics; 4) Gynecology; 5) Violence against Women.

Top 10 most read comprehensive review articles out of 300 Practice Bulletins:

- 1) Marijuana and Pregnancy Implications; 2) LGBTQ+ Healthcare: Building A Foundation For Better Understanding; 3) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; 4) Neonatal Seizures; 5) Human Trafficking and Exploitation; 6) Haemophilia: A Comprehensive Review; 7) Iron Deficiency Anaemia in Pregnancy; 8) Learning Life Lessons Series; 9) Homelessness, Health and Human Habitation; 10) End of Life Care Series.

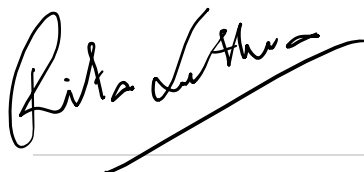
So, we want to hear from you, and we are eager to work together to advance good ideas that have enduring impact. As a global community, we can create change at scale. Tackle that big dream. Ignore the doubt in your head and follow the joy in your heart. The desire for a healthier and better world in which to live our lives and raise our children is common to all people and all generations.

Beneficiaries: Visitors of *WomensHealthSection.com* (more than 250 million readers / subscribers worldwide so far and growing fast...)

With very best wishes for a new year of passion, purpose and promise.

We the peoples of the United Nations.....

Dedicated to Women's and Children's Well-being and Health Care Worldwide





62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62)
5 to 14 February 2024
<https://social.desa.un.org/csocd/62nd>

Priority Theme: Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication.

Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC) @ CSocD62
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/csocd.php3>

Towards Education and Health-for-All: Core Enabler of the UN 2030 Agenda
Virtual Side Event
6 February 2024; 10 am to 11:15 am (EST, New York Time)

The global movement towards education and health for all will directly facilitate the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda. As an enabler of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), education and health can become the driving force behind poverty reduction strategies, in the service of humanity, democratization of the resources and an impetus for regional development in social and economic development – especially relevant for universal health coverage and access.

Speakers / Expert Opinions / Presentations from:

Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC)
World Health Organization (WHO)
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization)
Carnegie Mellon University (USA and Africa)
Children’s Hospital, LA, California (USA) & The American Academy of Pediatrics (USA)

We recognize that the success of the Education & Health projects requires sound policies and planning as well as efficient implementation arrangements. Our common agenda. Education and Health are human rights.

[Click Here To Register](#)



United Nations at a Glance

Norway became UN Member State on 27 November 1945

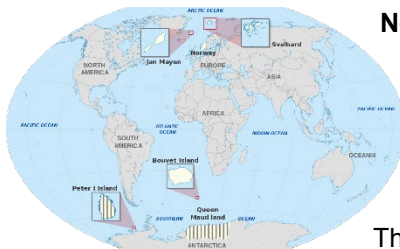


Norway is Oslo.

Norway, officially the **Kingdom of Norway**, is a Nordic country in the Northern Europe, the mainland territory of which comprises the western and northernmost portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula. The remote Arctic island of Jan Mayen and the archipelago of Svalbard also form part of Norway. Bouvet island, located in the Subantarctic, is dependency of Norway; it also lays claims to the Antarctic territories of Peter I Island and Queen Maud Land. The capital and largest city in

Norway has a total area of 385,207 sq. ki. (148,729 sq. mi.) and has a population of 5,425,270 (2022). The country shares a long eastern border with Sweden at a length of 1,619 km (1,006 mi). it is bordered by Finland and Russia to the northeast and the Skagerrak strait to the south, on the other side of which are Denmark and the United Kingdom. Official languages: Norwegian, Sami. Ethnic Group: 82% Norwegian; Religion: 75% Christianity (68% Church of Norway, 7% Other Christian; Government: Unitary Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy. Currency: Norwegian krone (NOK).

Throughout the First World War, Norway remained neutral; however, diplomatic pressure from the British government meant that it heavily favored the Allies during the war. Second World War – Norway once more proclaimed its neutrality, but his time, it was invaded by German forces on 9 April 1940. Military and naval resistance lasted for two months. Norwegian armed forces in the north launched an offensive against the German forces in the Battles of Narvik, until they were forced to surrender on 10 June after losing British support which had been diverted to France during the German invasion of France. During the five years of German occupation, Norwegians built a resistance movement which fought the German occupation forces with both civil disobedience and armed resistance including the destruction of Norsk Hydro’s heavy water plant. Every December Norway gives a Christmas tree to the UK as thanks for the British assistance during the World War II. A ceremony takes place to erect the tree in London’s Trafalgar Square.



Norway and its overseas administrative divisions

Norway, a unitary state, is divided into eleven first-level administrative counties. The counties are administered through directly county assemblies who elect the County Governor. Additionally, the King and government are represented in every county by fylkesmann, who effectively acts as a Governor.

There are three Antarctic and Subantarctic dependencies: Bouvet Island, Peter I Island, and Queen Maud Land. On most maps, there had been an unclaimed area between Queen Maud Land and the South Pole until 12 June 2015 when Norway formally annexed that area.

Norwegians enjoy the second-highest GDP per capita among European countries (after Luxembourg), and the 6th highest GDP per-capital in the world. The Norwegian economy is an example of a mixed economy; a prosperous capitalist welfare state, it features a combination of free market activity and large state ownership in certain key sectors. Today, Norway ranks as the second-wealthiest country in the world in monetary value, with the largest capital reserve per capital of any nation. The standard of living in Norway is among the highest in the world.

The Kingdom of Norway has produced 13 Nobel Laureates. Norway was ranked 20th in the Global Innovation Index in 2020 and 2021 down from 19th in 2019.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/norway-8768>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Norway



Norwegian Health System Overview

The analysis of the Norwegian health system reviews recent developments in organization and governance, health financing, healthcare provision, health reforms and health system performance.

Norway is among the wealthiest nations in the world, with low levels of income inequality. Norwegians enjoy long and healthy lives, with substantial improvement made due to effective and high-quality medical care and the impact of broader public health policies. However, this comes at a high cost, as the Norwegian health system is among the most expensive in Europe, with most financing coming from public funds. Yet there are several areas requiring substantial co-payments, such as adult dental care, outpatient pharmaceuticals, and institutional care for older or disabled people.

Recent and ongoing reforms have focused on aligning provision of care to changing population health needs, including adapting medical education, strengthening primary care and improving coordination between primary and specialist care sectors. There has been an increasing use of eHealth solutions, and information and communication technologies. Improvements in measuring performance and a more effective use of indicators is expected to play a larger role in informing policy and planning of health services.

Health Challenges

Norway faces a number of health challenges, such as increasing rates of overweight and obesity, low intake of fruit and vegetables, as well as inequalities in health and prevalence of risk factors, with vulnerable groups being affected the most.

More than 80% of the population lives in urban areas; more than 40% of the population lives around the Oslofjord in south-eastern part where the capital, Oslo, is located and less than 10% of the population lives in the northern part of Norway. Apart from the decrease in net migration, the decline in natural population change is another factor explaining lower population growth in recent years. In 2018, at 1.6, the fertility rate was the lowest ever and well below the replacement level.

Non-Communicable diseases are the key cause of deaths in Norway. Circulatory disease, followed by cancers, are the most common causes of mortality, accounting for, respectively, 28% and 27% of deaths. Deaths from external causes are the second-largest cause of deaths in people aged under 65, with suicide accounting for almost half of deaths from external causes in this age group.

Principal Health Reforms

Much of the policy effort in the years to come is likely to be consumed by the continued implementation of ongoing reforms, such as the primary care reform which is currently in the piloting phase. The areas that are likely to see further changes in the near future are: Public health; Primary care; Substance abuse treatment; Long-term care; and Specialist care

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/nor/>



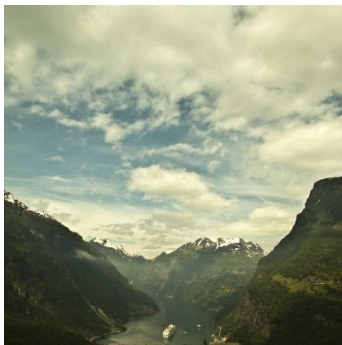
Norway Joined UNESCO on 04 November 1946



Bryggen

Bryggen, the old wharf of Bergen, is a reminder of the town's importance as part of the Hanseatic League's trading empire from the 14th to mid-16th century. Many fires, the last in 1955, have ravaged the characteristic wooden houses of Bryggen. Its rebuilding has traditionally followed old patterns and methods, thus leaving its main structure preserved, which is a relic of an ancient wooden urban structure once common in Northern Europe. Today, some 62 buildings remain of this former townscape.

The houses are built in a combination of traditional timber log construction, and galleries with column and beam structure with horizontal wooden panel cladding. The roofs have original brick tilting or sheets, a result of fast repairs after an explosion during World War II. Towards the back of the gård, there are small fireproof warehouses or storerooms (*kjellere*) built of stone, for protection of special goods and valuables against fire.



West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord

Situated in south-western Norway, north-east of Bergen, Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord, set 120 km from one another, are part of the west Norwegian fjord landscape, which stretches from Stavanger in the south to Andalsnes, 500 km to the north-east. The fjords, among the world's longest and deepest, are considered archetypical fjord landscapes and among the most scenically outstanding anywhere. Their exceptional natural beauty is derived from their narrow and steep-sided crystalline rock walls that rise up to 1,400 m from the Norwegian Sea and extend 500 m below sea level.

The sheer walls of the fjords have numerous waterfalls while free-flowing rivers cross their deciduous and coniferous forests to glacial lakes, glaciers and rugged mountains. The landscape features a range of supporting natural phenomena, both terrestrial and marine, such as submarines and marine mammals.

Of the 200 fjords along the west coast of Norway, Nærøyfjord and Geirangerfjord are the least affected by human activity such as hydroelectric dams and infrastructure. Peridotite is currently quarried outside, but close to the Geirangerfjord component of the property and plans exist for another quarry nearby. These impacts are localized, and restoration will take place when extraction ceases.

What is the Global Convention on Higher Education?

The Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education was adopted at the 40th session of the UNESCO in November 2019 in order to facilitate academic mobility between countries and regions. It is the first legally binding United Nations treaty on higher education with a global scope. The Global convention complements the five UNESCO regional conventions on the recognition of higher education qualifications. It creates a framework for fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory recognition of higher education qualifications.

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

Education-for-All and Health-for-all

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015

Preamble

This agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet:

People

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of present and future generations.

Prosperity

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

To be Continued.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

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

Natural Resource Revenues and Public Investment in Resource-Rich Economies in sub-Saharan Africa

The general policy prescription for resource-rich countries is that, for sustainable consumption, a greater percentage of the windfall from resource rents should be channeled into accumulating foreign assets such as sovereign public fund as done in **Norway** and other developed but resource-rich countries. This might not be a correct policy prescription for resource-rich sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, where public capital is very low to support the needed economic growth. In such countries, rents from resources serve as opportunity to scale-up the needed public capital.

Using panel data for the period 1990 – 2013, we find in line with the scaling-up hypothesis that resource rents significantly increase public investment in SSA and that this trends to depend on the quality of political institutions. We also find evidence of a positive effect of public investment on economic growth, which also depends on the level of resource rents.

Using some of the components of public investment, such as health and education expenditure, we find a negative effect of resource rents, suggesting among other things that public spending of resource rents is directed more to other things that public spending of resource rents is directed more to other infrastructure investments.

This paper explores 4 key policy-relevant aspects of the link between public investment and resource rents for SSA countries. More specifically, the study attempts to answer the following key policy-relevant questions:

1. What are the key drivers of public investments in resource-rich SSA countries?
2. Do revenues from natural resources play any significant role in scaling up public investment?
3. Does the interaction between resource rents and institutional quality explain public investment levels in SSA given country differences?
4. What are the implications of the impact of resource rents via public investment on economic growth and management of natural resource windfalls in avoiding the resource curse in SSA countries?

Evidence indicates that resource rents, aid, external debt stock, trade, political institutions, and the interaction between political institutions and resource rents are key drivers of public investment, obviously with different effects in terms of sign and size. Moreover, we also find that public investment has a positive effect on economic growth and the impact tends to depend on the level of resource rents.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Amin Karimu, George Adu, George Marbuah, Justice Tei Mensah, Franklin Amuakwa-Mensha; 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, January 2024

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19) Disease and Pregnancy;**
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsidp/obsidp013.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. **Inherited Thrombophilia in Pregnancy;**
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsmd/obsmd018.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



UNESCO Collaboration: Why Invest in Quality Education?

Education has power transform the lives of children, adolescents and adults and it is a basic human right. It is indeed a privilege for the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) to collaborate with UNESCO – a global leader in education, to deliver quality education for all. Education, essential to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to **“ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”**

WHEC is looking forward to collaborate with UNESCO on many projects and programs to achieve the hopes and dreams of The Education 2030 Framework for Action. It provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.

We welcome Mr. Yong Feng Liu, Program Specialist, Section of Health and Education, UNESCO, Paris, France, http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/bio_Liu%20Yongfeng_2023.pdf We are looking forward planning and developing many “Interactive Classrooms” with his group.

Education improves health, while health improves learning potential. Education and Health, together, serve as the foundation for a better world. We embrace the tremendous diversity of people, religions, and cultures around the world. In support of this belief, we have established academic and cultural focus at iconic institutions around the globe, to nurture our common interests and potential.

By supporting reproductive health and research, open dialogue and objective analysis, we lay the groundwork for mutual understanding among nations.

Join us to succeed in creating a world where all learners thrive!



Gender Equality – The Unfinished Business of Our Time



Women and girls represent half of the world's population, and therefore also half of its potential. Gender inequality, besides being a fundamental human right, is essential and sustainable development. Moreover, it has been shown that empowering women spurs productivity and economic growth.

Unfortunately, there is still a long way to achieve full equality of rights and opportunities between men and women. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to end the multiple forms of gender violence and secure equal access to quality education and health, economic resources and participation in political life for both women and girls and men and boys. It is also essential to achieve equal opportunities in access to employment and to positions of leadership and decision-making at all levels.

The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) and Women's Rights

Our initiative targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations and it is the first step in the direction of human rights and affirms the reproductive rights of women. The Side Events, or Parallel Events of Chat Series – hosted by WHEC at the United Nations, reaffirms women's rights. Our statement breaks new ground by declaring all issues to be women's Issues.

Equality and Empowerment: WHEC is now focusing on United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution.

Goal 5: To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, is known as the stand-alone gender goal, because it is dedicated to achieving these ends. Deep legal and legislative changes are needed to ensure women's rights around the world. While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2030 another 52 had not taken this step. Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women in labor market still earn 20% less than men globally. As of 2022, only 25% of all national parliamentarians were female, a slow rise from 11.3% in 1995.

The world has made unprecedented progress, but no country has achieved gender equality. Legal restrictions have kept 2.7 billion women from having the same choice of jobs as men. Less than 25% of parliamentarians are women. One in three women experiences gender-based violence.



Looking forward to 2024

The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) is calling on everyone around the world to work together to ensure that women's rights are upheld, their leadership is guaranteed, their needs are met in time of crisis, and their lives are always free of violence.

Violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide 35% of women, a global, multi-year initiative that focuses on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

Gender Inclusive Language

Using gender-inclusive language means speaking and writing in a way that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender or gender identity, and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes. Given the key role of language in shaping cultural and social attitudes, using gender-inclusive language is a powerful way to promote gender equality and eradicate gender bias.

The Best Practices / strategies:

1. Use non-discriminatory language;
2. Make gender visible when it is relevant for communication; and
3. Do not make gender visible when it is not relevant for communication.

Being inclusive from a gender language perspective means speaking and writing in a way that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender and gender identity, and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes.

Improving Digital Cooperation – Placing Women and Girls at the Center of Fair-wages Policy

UN Document: E/CN.5/2023/NGO/7

Published by Commission for Social Development, 61st Session.

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/N2269744.pdf>

There is no single or simple solution to wiping out poverty and hunger. Decent work, equal pay, the promotion of rights, employment, social protection and dialogue – will always be at the health of successful policies, to get there. Let there be no illusion: COVID-19 may look pale in comparison to the future challenges ahead if we do not learn from the failures.

Written Statements; UN Documents – CSocD62 & CSW68

1. 62nd Session of Commission for Social Development (CSocD62)

UN Document: E/CN.5/2024/NGO/30

Investing in Human capabilities to Achieve 2030 UN Agenda

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/N2335910.pdf>

2. 68th Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

UN Document: E/CN.6/2024/NGO/87

Social Justice in an Open World: Our Role & Our Initiatives

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/N2335063.pdf>

Contact Us

To participate in the Initiatives and Events of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC); please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you and know about your projects and programs.

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

Partner, Publish and Promote



Global Issues: Goal 5 Gender Equality



Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. There has been progress over the last decades, but the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) is about bold actions, which are needed to accelerate progress, including through the promotion of laws, policies, budgets and institutions that advance gender equality. Greater investment in gender statistics is vital, since less than half of the data required to monitor Goal 5

are currently available.

Facts and Figures:

- Globally, 26% of ever-partnered women aged 15 and older (641 million) have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.
- In a 2021 survey in 13 countries, 45% of women reported that they or woman they know has experienced some form of violence since COVID-19.
- In 2021, nearly one in five young women were married before the age of 18.
- 35% and 28% of young women were married in childhood, respectively in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.
- The prevalence of Child marriage has declined by about 10% in the past 5 years.
- Up to 10 million more girls are likely to become child brides by 2030 due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the 100 million girls projected to be at risk before the pandemic.
- At least 200 million girls and women today have been subjected to female genital mutation, mainly in 31 countries.
- As of 1 January 2022, the global share of women in lower and single houses of national parliaments reached 26.2%, up from 22.4% in 2015.
- At this pace, it would take another 40 years for women and men to be represented equally in national parliaments.
- Women's share is slightly over one third in local governments.
- In 2019, before the pandemic, women accounted for 39.4% of total employment. In 2020, women represented nearly 45% of global employment losses.
- The share of women in managerial positions worldwide increased from 27.2 to 28.3% from 2015 to 2019, but remained unchanged from 2019 to 2020, the first year without an increase since 2013.
- Between 2007 and 2021, 57% of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union made their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.
- In the first year of the pandemic, an estimated 1.4 million additional unintended pregnancies occurred in lower- and middle-income countries.
- Only 15 out of 52 reporting countries included sufficient provisions in their legal frameworks to protect women's rights to land.
- Between 2018 and 2021, only 26% of countries have comprehensive systems in place to track public allocations for gender equality, 59% have some features of such a system, and 15% do not have the minimum elements of such a system.

Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022

[The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf \(un.org\)](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf)

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>

Art & Science

Art that touches our soul

Madama Butterfly scenic design Act I



Madama Butterfly is a 1904 opera in three acts by Giacomo Puccini, with an Italian-language libretto written by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa.

The plot is based on the short story “Madame Butterfly” (1898) by John Luther Long in turn based on stories told to Long by his sister Jennie Correll on the semi-autobiographical 1887 French novel **Madame Chrysanthème** by Pierre Loti.

The opera features Pinkerton, a U.S. Naval officer, who rents a house in Nagasaki, Japan, for himself and Cio-Cio-San (nicknamed Butterfly), a 15-years old Japanese girl whom he is marrying for convenience and intends to leave once he finds an American wife.

This watercolor illustration on cardboard, from the archives of the music publisher Casa Ricordi, depicts the scenic design for a 1906 production Act 1 of *Madama Butterfly*, set in the hills near Nagasaki.

Illustration Credit: Alexandre Bailly and Marcel Jambon; restored by Adam Guerden.

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

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

