Gender and Migration in the framework of SDGs

SDGs and Migration in Arab States
16 - 17 July 2018 Cairo, Egypt

Yllka Gërdovci Cancel
• New York Declaration and CEDAW - quotes
• Why does gender matter in migration?
• Gender and migration: opportunities and risks
• Gender equality, migration and SDGs
• UN Women response
• Key recommendations
“ensure that [our] responses to large movements of refugees and migrants mainstream a gender perspective, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and fully respect and protect the human rights of women and girls”

Commitment by Member States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1) paragraph 31
“To understand the specific ways in which women are impacted, female migration should be studied from the perspective of gender inequality, traditional female roles, a gendered labour market, the universal prevalence of gender-based violence and the worldwide feminisation of poverty and labour migration.”

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), General Recommendation 26, paragraph 5
About 48% of the world’s 244 million migrants are women

Migrant women account for half of the world’s estimated $601 billion in global remittances

Migration is entrenching a new globalised sexual division of labour in which there is a demand for female and migrant labour in countries of destination, specifically in domestic and care work

Migration may also reinforce gender stereotypes that limit women’s autonomy, their lack of power in decision-making processes, and their vulnerability to systematic human rights violations

Migrant women are often only considered as being a vulnerable group, failing to recognise their agency and contributions

International migration governance has been largely gender-blind

Human rights-based and gender-responsive migration policies consider the specific needs and experiences of all migrants, whilst recognising other intersectional issues including sexual and gender identity, disability, and race
Why does gender matter in migration?

Share of female migrants in the total migrant stock in the Arab region, 1990-2015

Proportion of female migrants as a percentage of the total migrant population by age group in Arab sub-regions, 2015

Why does gender matter in migration?

## Why does gender matter in migration?

Female migrants in the Arab region by country of origin and share of total migrant population, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Female migrants</th>
<th>Female migrants as a percentage of total migrant population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,961,255</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>1,662,291</td>
<td>47.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>1,489,374</td>
<td>48.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>889,664</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>758,333</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>676,122</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>488,950</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>465,386</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>298,977</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>253,595</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>248,664</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>213,777</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>212,546</td>
<td>37.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>201,804</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>136,750</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why does gender matter in migration?

Why does gender matter in migration?


Percentage of female migrants as a share of total migrants from Mashreq

Percentage of female migrants as a share of total migrants from Arab LDCs

Gender and Migration: opportunities and risks

Opportunities:
- Earn Income
- Better education
- New skills
- Status and autonomy
- Mobility
- Remittances
- Change in power dynamics

Exposure to new and increased risks/challenges:
- Exploitation and abuse (S/GBV, trafficking)
- Discrimination/restrictive gendered migration policies
- Limited access to decent work (low paid jobs/de-skilling/social protection)
- No access to formal remittance channels
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Selected indicators</th>
<th>Migration dimension</th>
</tr>
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| 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation | • Gender-based violence or conflict related sexual violence may force women and girls to migrate  
• They may be subject to violence during all stages of migration  
• **Migrant women are more likely to be trafficked or experience sexual exploitation** |
| 5.3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) | • Victims of harmful practices use migration as means to escape  
• Exposed to social norms and practices at the country of destination  
• Migrant communities use early marriage as coping strategy |
| 5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate | • More than 70% of migrant domestic workers are women and girls  
• **Women migrants in stereotypical feminine roles (live-in care and domestic work) are more often isolated and thus more vulnerable to violence, exploitation, abuse and mistreatment** |
UN Women’s new flagship report, provides a comprehensive assessment of progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender perspective.

THE NEED FOR ACTION

The report identifies four key areas for action:

1. **Harnessing policy synergies**: the demands for implementation are huge—there are 17 goals and gender equality matters for all of them. Integrated approaches to implementation are pivotal to harnessing these synergies.

2. **Improving gender data, statistics and analysis** to effectively monitor progress for women and girls across all goals and targets.

3. **Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes** to align action with the principles, values and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

4. **Strengthening accountability through gender-responsive processes and institutions** to ensure an integrated approach to implementation, follow-up and review with gender equality at its core.
Turning promises into action

1. No Poverty
   - Globally, there are 522 women aged 25-44 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age.

2. Zero Hunger
   - Women face up to 11 percentage points more likely than men to report food insecurity.

3. Good Health and Well-being
   - The 2030 Agenda aims to end and reduce barriers that prevent women and girls from realizing their full potential. But significant challenges lie ahead.

4. Quality Education
   - 6.4% of girls do not have access to schools and 2.6 times the unpaid care work done by men.

5. Gender Equality
   - Women are 6.6% less likely than men to report food insecurity. The rate of death is declining much faster in men.

6. Clean Water and Sanitation
   - 3.5 billion people are living in areas with severe water stress. Women and girls are responsible for collecting water.

7. Affordable and Clean Energy
   - 16 million girls of primary and primary ages get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to 10 million boys.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
   - In 2022, the global gender pay gap is 20%. Women’s labour force participation rate is 63% while that of men is 74%.

9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
   - Women represent 38.8% of researchers worldwide. Only about 1 in 5 countries have achieved gender parity in this area.

10. Reduced Inequalities
    - Up to 20% of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are also more likely than men to live below 60% of the median income.

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
    - Women have more urban slums and costs of basic needs such as access to clean water and electric energy compared to men.

12. Responsible Consumption and Production
    - Investment in public transportation yields large benefits for women, who tend to rely on public transport more than men do.

13. Climate Action
    - Climate change has a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are 14 times as likely as men to die during a disaster.

14. Life on Land
    - The degradation of freshwater and marine ecosystems negatively impacts women’s and men’s livelihoods, their health, and the health of their children.

15. Life Below Water
    - Between 2010 and 2015, the world lost 3.3 million hectares of forest areas. Poor rural women depend on common pool resources and are especially affected by their depletion.

16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
    - In times of conflict, rates of homicide and other forms of violent crime increase significantly. Men are more likely to be killed than women, who are subjected to gender-based violence.

17. Partnerships for the Goals
    - In 2022, the Nordic countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.
In Northern Africa and Western Asia, 28.8% of women and 26.8% of men reported food insecurity – a gender gap of 2 percentage points. Libya, 10 percentage points difference.

Globally, there are 122 women aged 25-34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group.

In Northern Africa and Western Asia, 25.7% of girls are out of school, compared to 21.7% of boys.

In Northern Africa and Western Asia, there were 105 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 – a figure much lower than the global average of 216.
In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

About 12.4% of women and girls in the region reported having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months.

In the region 17% of women aged 20-24 were first married before the age of 18. Overall but limited decline in FGM. In Iraq and Yemen, FGM rates for women aged 20-24 are 8% and 17%, respectively.

Within the region, Iraq stands out as the country with the largest gender difference in unpaid care and domestic work and Qatar with the lowest gender difference.

Only 18.1% of seats in national parliaments were held by women, as of September 2017.

Only 52% of women aged 15-49 married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia generally show substantially lower than average reliance on solid fuels for household energy, at 12.4% across the region.</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of the world’s households without access to water on premises.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The widest gender gap in LFPR is found in the Northern Africa and Western Asia region, where the gap is nearly 60 percentage points, and female participation rates are less than 35%.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Northern Africa and Western Asia region is still below parity, but is above the global average - 38.8% of researchers are women.</strong></td>
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In the region, about 22% of urban women live in conditions where they lack at least one of their basic housing needs: access to clean water, sanitation facilities etc.

Up to 30% of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are also more likely than men to live below 50% of the median income. For example in Egypt, 19.4% of women and 17.7% of men live on less than 50% of the median income.

Investment in public transportation yields large benefits for women, who tend to rely on public transport more than men do.

Climate change has a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are 14 times as likely as men to die during a disaster.
Between 2010 and 2015, the world lost 3.3 million hectares of forest areas. Poor rural women depend on common pool resources and are especially affected by their depletion.

Occupational segregation in the fishing and aquaculture industry looms large in Northern Africa and Western Asia, where only 0.4% of people working in this sector are women.

In times of conflict, rates of homicide and other forms of violent crime increase significantly. While men are more likely to be killed on the battlefield, women are disproportionately subjected to sexual violence and abducted, tortured and forced to leave their homes. In Northern Africa and Western Asia, the regional aggregate for intentional homicides is 1.2 per 100,000 people.

In 2012, finances flowing out of developing countries were 2.5 times the amount of aid flowing in, and gender allocations paled in comparison.
Since its establishment, UN Women has advocated for the development and implementation of gender-responsive migration policies which promote the full spectrum of human rights for migrant women and girls.

- **Chaired the Global Migration Group in 2016**: “Strengthening the gender responsive engagement with migration and development”

- In the context of the **Global Compact for Migration**, UN Women has highlighted the importance of integrating a gender equality perspective.

- UN Women produced **expert recommendations** on addressing women’s human rights in the global compact for migration as a key advocacy tool to lobby for the inclusion of gender equality considerations in the global compact.

- UN Women acts as the **substantive secretariat of the Expert Working Group** on addressing women’s human rights in the global compact for migration, composed of experts from treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, UN agencies, civil society and academia.

- The expert working group produced **5 guidance notes on how to ensure that gender is a central feature in the GCM**
Past programme:

- UN Women implemented a three year advocacy, research and capacity building programme with EU funding that aimed at promoting and protecting the labour and human rights of women migrant workers from 2014 to 2017. This included working with a variety of stakeholders including treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, civil society organisations, migrant women, UN agencies etc.

Relevant programmes in development:

- Global Gender and Migration Project

  “Goal: To enhance legislative, policy and institutional mechanisms to address the safe, orderly and regular migration of women to ensure the promotion and protection of their human and labour rights, and the full integration of the human rights of all women within the core policy mechanisms for global migration governance.”

- Joint Programme IOM and UN Women Regional Offices for Arab States

  “Goal: To contribute to the promotion of safe and gender equal opportunities for migrant women workers in the MENA region.”
Steps for Ensuring a Gender-Responsive Global Compact for Migration

5 KEY CHALLENGES
- Pathways
- Labour rights
- Services and social protection
- Recruitment
- Justice

5 KEY ACTIONS
- Research
- Evaluate
- Educate
- Institutionalise
- Budget
Thank you!

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# Annex: List of relevant publications

<table>
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<th>Publication Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Annex: List of relevant publications</td>
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