

# For gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore half of its potential. They are at the forefront of society and have the greatest chances, individually and collectively, to transform the communities in which they live.

However, gender inequality persists throughout the world, delaying social progress.

For this reason, if we want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, it is essential to bridge all gender gaps and guarantee equal rights for girls and women in accessing education, health and quality employment.

In this way we will be able to build stronger economies, more just societies, and equal opportunities will become more of a reality for everyone.

**Because women are, now and always, positive agents of change.**



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# NOW AND ALWAYS positive agents of change



## POVERTY

**Poverty and gender are connected.** Women and girls are often the most vulnerable to hunger, climate change, economic crises or armed conflicts. While the general impression is that women's lives are improving all over the world, the data tells a different story.

- ▶ 1 out of 5 girls in the world lives in extreme poverty
- ▶ In almost 2/3 of countries, women are more likely than men to suffer from food insecurity
- ▶ Divorced women are twice as likely to be poor as their male peers



## EDUCATION GAP

When girls enter adolescence, gender differences increase. In many countries girls continue **to have difficulty enrolling in both primary and secondary school**. Yet, women's access to quality education contributes substantially to building more prosperous economies and improving the quality of life of families.

- ▶ 15 million school-age girls (50% more than boys) do not attend school
- ▶ In developing countries, about 1 in 5 girls starting primary school does not complete it
- ▶ Only 30% of science professionals worldwide are women



## DISCRIMINATION

Gender discrimination exists everywhere: in business, in sports, in educational institutions, in political organizations, when looking for accommodation, or when applying for a loan. **Gender discrimination is always unfair** and has negative consequences in all areas of life, both public and private.

- ▶ In 18 countries, men can legally prevent their wives from working
- ▶ In 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have the same inherited rights
- ▶ Less than 13% of the land allocated to agriculture belongs to women



## EMPLOYMENT GAP

Women's emancipation is the key **to stimulating economic development and promoting social progress**. An example: the full participation of women in the labor force would add percentage points to most economic growth rates of countries, in many cases, of two figures.

- ▶ More than 50 million women in the world are domestic workers and just 10 percent have received regularization of their social security rights
- ▶ Women devote three times as much time to domestic work and unpaid care as men



## GENDER VIOLENCE

Girls and women are exposed to multiple situations of violence. The number of **rapes and sexual assaults** is growing. Human trafficking, sexual exploitation and unacceptable practices such as **child marriage**, forced marriages and female **genital mutilation** are a daily reality for women throughout the world.

- ▶ 35% of women in the world have suffered physical and / or sexual violence
- ▶ More than 130 million girls and women have undergone a form of genital mutilation in 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East
- ▶ 12 million girls are forced to marry each year



## HEALTH GAP

There is a clear link between sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and sustainable development. Poor women, especially the younger ones, are more likely to face **unwanted pregnancies, risky abortions**, a higher risk of maternal mortality, and more **sexually transmitted diseases**. In developing countries, the numbers are multiplying.

- ▶ Every minute a woman in the world dies during pregnancy or childbirth due to causes that could be prevented
- ▶ 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries
- ▶ More than half of the 33 million people living with HIV in the world are women or girls

