

Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are essential building blocks for healthy, prosperous, and resilient communities. Societies where girls and women have the tools and opportunities to thrive can promote economic development, support development goals, fight climate change and build food and nutrition security.



CHANGING LIVES

Harnessing the power of gender equality to achieve food security

Gender equality and women's empowerment are central to fulfilling WFP's mission to end global hunger. Ensuring women and girls have better access to information, resources, services, decision-making, and economic opportunities guarantees food security and better nutrition for themselves, their families, communities, and countries.

These interdependent gender and food security goals are a long way from being realized. Today, women and girls account for 60 percent of the 349 million people worldwide who face severe food insecurity.

At current rates of progress, experts say it will take at least 86 years for the world to reach gender equality.



WHY WFP?

WFP believes **Zero Hunger is possible when everyone has equal opportunities, access to resources, and a voice in the decisions** that shape their households, communities, and food security. Our gender policy has evolved over time to focus more resolutely on addressing root causes of gender inequalities and supporting women's economic empowerment, and has a twin-track approach.

Firstly, **WFP mainstreams gender into all programmes and activities** including strategies, guidelines, training, project design, implementation, and evaluation.

Secondly, we carry out **gender-targeted actions and activities at the country level.**

In 2021, WFP assisted **128 million beneficiaries, of which 68 million were women and girls.**

Our programmes benefit women and girls in multiple ways. In Zimbabwe, for example, a WFP-supported dam-construction project reduced women's time collecting water, while another taught them financial and business skills needed to build sustainable businesses.

MOVING FORWARD

Promote gender equality and women's empowerment through nutrition and farming

WFP uses nutrition-sensitive programming to support women's livelihood development and leadership and to drive social and behaviour change through mixed-gender engagement. WFP's market and other support for female smallholder farmers also promotes women's empowerment and gender equity. We work to reduce post-harvest losses and increase women's entrepreneurial skills and employment opportunities.

Strengthen girls' opportunities through school programmes

WFP's school-based programming contributes to keeping girls in primary and secondary schools while working with partners to deliver a raft of other paybacks like strengthening sexual and reproductive health and addressing gender-based violence.

Target initiatives that build assets, resilience, and climate change adaptation

WFP programmes that build assets in combination with complementary initiatives can deliver income-generating opportunities for women. Because women and girls are more at risk of climate shocks, WFP designs and implements programmes that enhance their resilience and adaptability by focusing on their leadership capacities and independence.

Enhance data collection and analysis to inform gender-based programming better

WFP aims to strengthen data collection and analysis to shape gender-responsive and transformative programming and operations. We generate and systematize evidence and

knowledge to underpin our gender equality and women's empowerment work.

Grow partnerships and collaborations, especially with women-led organizations

Thanks to WFP's extensive network of field offices, we work with and help enhance the capacity of many local actors, starting with women-led organizations, strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment.

COUNTRY EXAMPLES



With **UNFPA** and **UNICEF** in **Chad** and **Niger**, the 'Breaking Barriers to Education' initiative addresses the key barriers to schooling for girls by providing meals, and targeted services related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, childcare facilities as well as mentoring and coaching.



In **Zimbabwe**, Food for Assets activities included the construction of a dam to reduce women's time spent collecting water and provided financial and business literacy training to support livelihood development and sustainable resilience.



In **Ecuador**, **FAO**, **IFAD**, and **WFP** participate in a Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches which contribute to the elimination of hunger by addressing the root causes of gender inequalities.