Generation Equality: Stories of Impact

Progress Snapshot | May 2024



Overview

Generation Equality is the world's leading effort to unlock political will and accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality, bringing together organizations from every part of society through intergenerational, multi-stakeholder alliances. Below are 10 examples – representing <u>commitments made</u> through Generation Equality's networks – showing this change in action →





Photo: Rwanda ICT Chamber

Photo: Forum for Safe Motherhood, White Ribbon Alliance Pakistan Chapter



Photo: UN Women / Ryan Brown

Germany – Human Rights in Supply Chains

The Government of Germany championed human and economic rights through the 2021 Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains. The Act – an initiative arising from the Generation Equality Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition – came into effect in January 2023, and mandates that German enterprises **respect human rights in their respective supply chains**. Aiding the Act's execution, the German Government implemented a range of measures – including the Initiative for Global Solidarity, which has helped 300,000 workers (60 per cent women) to access improved complaint and remedy processes when they experience discrimination and violence in the workplace. More than 1,500 workers have received training to support these efforts, and some 200,000 women from the textile, garment, and electronics sectors can now address workplace harassment and gender discrimination issues.

Guatemala - Grass-roots Advocacy

The activities of Generation Equality commitment-makers Red Las Niñas Lideran, in western Guatemala, have culminated in a new comprehensive psychological care unit within a local municipality that now has an installed facility, staff, and prevention, care and referral programmes. Bolstered by financial support of \$150,000 from a collective of organizations, including Rise Up and Purposeful, the initiative has implemented a tailored psychological care curriculum across public and private schools in two municipalities. Moreover, the pioneering introduction of the "Club de Niñas y Club de Confidantes" (Girls Club and Confidants Club) has provided a vital **support network for survivors of violence against girls**.

Pakistan – Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

The Government of Pakistan's Health Services Academy in the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination has committed — through the Generation Equality Action Coalition on

Bodily Autonomy and SRHR — to introducing a four-year graduation programme in midwifery. For the first time, reproductive health and the promotion of self-care interventions have been integrated into the midwifery curriculum. The Bachelor of Science (BSc) Midwifery programme is helping to **add 1,500 midwifery professionals in the country** – and support Pakistan's progress towards reducing the global maternal mortality ratio (Target 3.1 of the SDGs.)

Kazakhstan - Care and Support

In 2023, the Government of Kazakhstan extended childcare payments for both working and nonworking mothers from 1 to 1.5 years to strengthen support for women performing care work. In addition, social benefits for people with disabilities were raised by 14.5 per cent. Committing to deliver this **improved support system** through Generation Equality helped nearly 700,000 parents over the year.

Rwanda – Technology and Innovation

As a leader and commitment-maker under the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation, the Government of Rwanda pledged to **double the number of women who actively use digital financial services**. With this commitment, Access to Finance Rwanda, alongside the Mastercard Foundation, launched the <u>iHuzo project</u> – a platform that trains and equips workers in small and medium-sized enterprises to expand into e-commerce. More than 4,000 small and medium-sized enterprises, of which 40 per cent are women-owned, now operate on the Ihuzo platform. Almost 2,400 people, of whom 35 per cent are women, have been vetted and registered through the programme, enabling them to sell goods online. The platform has also given e-commerce training to more than 2,100 people, including more than 570 women-owned companies, and allows users to tap into different labour platforms operating across diverse sectors of the economy.

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Ecuador – Violence Prevention in Education

The groundbreaking efforts of the University Feminist Coalition in Ecuador, Generation Equality GBV commitment-makers, have yielded a historic bill presented to the National Assembly in March 2023. This legislative proposal seeks to comprehensively address and **prevent violence against women within higher education institutions**. This bill holds the promise of positively impacting the lives of over 50,000 young women currently pursuing their academic degrees in Ecuador, with the potential to recalibrate the existing legal framework on violence prevention and elevate the recognition of violence within educational systems.

Global | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) – Gender Equality as Part of Green Investment

As a leader of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition, the EBRD has been scaling up its efforts to increase the role of women across the energy sector where it invests. For example, the EBRD is supporting the **empowerment of the new generation of female engineers in Uzbekistan** by promoting the introduction of a new gender-responsive certified internship programme with ACWA Power and the Shirin College of Energy. This is increasing access to market-relevant skills and employment opportunities for young women, and enhancing gender equality in the sector. The Bank is also promoting **women's access to climate finance** with the Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF), one of EBRD's green flagship programmes, where the Bank supports businesses and homeowners wishing to invest in green technologies. Within the Facility, EBRD is working with 18 countries to date, accelerating gender-responsive climate financing and ensuring equal access to green finance, low-carbon technology and entrepreneurship opportunities. As of early 2024, 2700 businesswomen and female homeowners obtained loans or leases to finance green investments, and 1000 women were reached through awareness raising activities and trainings.

India – Jobs and Skills

The <u>Skill Impact Bond</u> is a pioneering Generation Equality commitment — a USD 14.4 million project in India designed to **boost women's access to decent work**. Around 50,000 people (at least 60 per cent of whom are women) will be equipped with employability skills, including digital and financial literacy, language training, and industry-specific courses. Those who have certified — almost 10,000 people, of which over 70 per cent are women — have reported a 56 per cent job placement rate and 42 per cent retention rate over just three months, outperforming many other national initiatives.

Kenya and Zimbabwe – Gender-Based Violence

As part of UN Women's Generation Equality Action Coalition on GBV, the Government of Kenya and the civil society organization Yes Trust Zimbabwe have each forged their own paths in reducing violence against women and girls.

- In Zimbabwe, Yes Trust has trained more than 50 local community leaders on best practices for managing and reporting cases of gender-based violence, while also pursuing multimedia projects to raise awareness about the issue. Those leaders have developed multimedia advocacy strategies such as short films, mobile roadshows, festivals, and community radio dialogues to creates spaces for exchange and empower survivors. The group has established more than 50 groups led by women and girls that conduct programming aimed at educating the public about violence reduction strategies and to empower survivors.
- The Government of Kenya has rolled out localized programmes targeting gender-based violence in nine towns and counties, including toll-free lines to report gender-based violence and clinics to provide services to survivors.

WPS-HA Compact – Economic Security for Women Affected by Conflict and Humanitarian Crises

The Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA) is key to Generation Equality's mission to **drive accountability and intergenerational action**, creating a people-centred approach to peace, humanitarian and development processes. Seventy-four signatories of those eligible for reporting have signed up for actions under the economic security thematic pillar. The Compact Framework includes a series of actions for Member States and United Nations entities to **expand social protection systems and to reach those at risk of exclusion**, including crisis- and displacement-affected women. Two signatories were able to report on these actions. In 2022, Spain transferred €5.1 million in funds in the form of cash, and €3.01 million in the form of coupons, nearly doubling its 2021 contributions. The country has also set a goal to allocate 18 per cent of humanitarian ODA to transfers in cash and vouchers, which will target vulnerable populations. In Mali, Spain has worked with an NGO to provide monetary transfers to survivors of gender-based violence to create or develop small economic initiatives, and to strengthen or create new income-generating activities for associations of women farmers.



Contact Information

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