

## When Hunger Meets Gender Inequality

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and all girls

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SDG2 and SDG 5 are both highly complex and highly crucial as they depict the foundations for human needs, growth and development. People who do not benefit from stable access to nutritious food will fall behind on quality education, access to economic opportunities and will suffer from poor health and well-being. Similarly, issues related to gender inequality, such as discrimination in society, the labor market, education or healthcare, as well as violence or other physical harmful practices will leave women and girls fall behind in society and the economy across the globe and will be detrimental for their well-being.

There often is a close relation between SDG 2 and 5. In order to ignite your brainstorming regarding interrelated trends and problems with regard to the two areas please have a look at the examples outlined below:

- The high representation of female farm workers on small-scale food producers which are disproportionately hit in case of adversity. Also the discrimination against women to own assets (e.g. land or generated income) can depict a source of food insecurity (e.g. when the land on which you plant food is taken away or you cannot decide how much of your income is used to buy nutritious food).
- The fact that male-headed households achieve higher labour productivity and earn a larger annual income compared to their female counterparts.
- The female role and standing in different cultures and regions, lack of access to sexual education, knowledge about and freedom of choice and (financial) access for contraceptives and the relation to high birth rates and subsequent resulting of malnutrition of children and families.
- The rising female poverty in so-called rich nations and children's nutrition – think of single mothers struggling to provide financial resources and childcare; and the impact this has on their own position as well as the children's nutrition and access to equal opportunities in society (both in terms of hunger and malnutrition as well as on overweight).



- The aging of society and elderly women who increasingly experience poverty with limited access to a nutritious or even a stable supply of food, and might also be subject/ vulnerable to abuse in their situation.
- Desperation due to hunger (and gender-based discrimination) which pushes children into child marriage or makes them more vulnerable to child labor, human trafficking and sexual or other types of exploitation.
- The fact that most women carry more household burden in the home and purchase and prepare food. Next to financial resources, the adoption of a healthy and nutritious diet is subject to different influences, such as lifestyle, household participation, knowledge, time, access etc.
- The increased risk of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes due to anemia and malnutrition.

### Your Challenge

*What can your company do* (alone or in collaboration with other member companies or organizations) to make an impact on both SDG 2 and 5? Identify an area in which the close relation between SDG 2 and 5 is apparent (either pick one of the examples above or come up with your own) and elaborate the nature of the problem. Work on a solution (product, service or other) that your company could deliver, build the business case and prove that it will work, with impact!

SDG 2 and 5 at a Glance...

Be sure to explore these goals further!

Further resources to get started: [SDG 2](#) | [SDG 5](#)

**2**  
ZERO  
HUNGER

**END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

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BEFORE COVID-19

FOOD INSECURITY WAS ALREADY ON THE RISE

**POPULATION AFFECTED BY MODERATE OR SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY**

23.2%

2014

26.4%

2018

STUNTING AND WASTING AMONG CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO WORSEN

**21.3%** (144 MILLION)  
OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE STUNTED

**6.9%** (47 MILLION)  
OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE AFFECTED BY WASTING (2019)

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COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE PANDEMIC IS AN ADDITIONAL THREAT TO FOOD SYSTEMS

SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS ARE HIT HARD BY THE CRISIS

COMPRISING 40%–85% OF ALL FOOD PRODUCERS IN DEVELOPING REGIONS

5 GENDER EQUALITY



## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

### BEFORE COVID-19

DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS,  
FULL GENDER EQUALITY  
REMAINS UNREACHED



FEWER GIRLS ARE FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE  
...  
MORE WOMEN ARE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

### COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

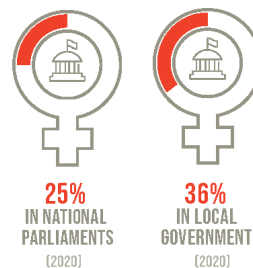
LOCKDOWNS ARE INCREASING THE RISK OF  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
HAVE INCREASED BY 30%  
IN SOME COUNTRIES

WOMEN  
MUST BE REPRESENTED FAIRLY  
IN PANDEMIC-RELATED LEADERSHIP ROLES

#### WOMEN REPRESENT



WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONT LINES  
OF FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS



WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 70%  
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS



WOMEN BEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD BURDENS  
DURING THE PANDEMIC

↓ ↓ ↓  
WOMEN ALREADY SPEND ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MANY HOURS  
IN UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK AS MEN