



# INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY





**“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is anything but ‘business as usual’. We need not incremental change, but bold change.**

**We need an earthquake that will tilt the system altogether, because little and incremental steps will not give us the world that we want.”**

—Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women

Achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and notably the goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment – requires transformative shifts, integrated approaches and new solutions. Based on current trajectories, existing efforts will not suffice to achieve a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

However, innovations in policies, management, finance, science and technology that disrupt “business as usual” are increasingly recognized as a way to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs for all. From mobile banking ventures that facilitate women’s entrepreneurship to e-learning platforms that take classrooms to individuals, social innovations have the potential to serve as powerful tools to break trends and increase awareness, access and the availability of opportunities. This is particularly true for women experiencing marginalization due to their age, ethnicity, education, income, disability, location or migratory status.

At the same time, it is increasingly clear that technology and innovation can be rejected; that they can create new, unforeseen problems of their own; and that they do not benefit all equally. Not only are women under-represented across core innovation sectors, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but new technology brings risks of bias and possibilities for misuse, creating new human rights challenges for the 21st century.

Recognizing the unprecedented opportunities as well as the challenges of rapid innovation and technological development for gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as the importance of innovation to benefit women and men equally, UN Women has included innovation as one of the “drivers of change” in its Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

This brochure showcases some of UN Women’s thoughts and practices around innovation that could accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment. The examples range from pilot programmes with marginalized beneficiaries to partnerships with start-ups; from frontier technologies to non-tech interventions that challenge mindsets; and from procedural improvements to capacity-building. We hope you will enjoy the reading, and that our sharing will elicit valuable insight and future collaboration.



## INNOVATION AT UN WOMEN

UN Women has accumulated a wealth of experience, capability and techniques for overcoming the issues and barriers to women's advancement in technology and innovation. We have been trying novel approaches and challenging existing ways of doing things to develop solutions that add value for women and girls affected by humanitarian and development challenges.

Our current portfolio covers IT projects, innovative partnerships, big data, behavioural insights and new ways to deliver services for a wide range of thematic areas:

Developing the market for innovations that advance gender equality and women's empowerment

Promoting a gender-responsive approach to the innovation process

Promoting innovations created by women, for women

De-risking high-impact innovations that benefit marginalized women

The **UN Women Innovation Facility** supports all UN Women Units and Country Offices in exploring and piloting new solutions that respond to problems faced by women and girls. The pursuit of innovation is grounded in partnerships and the Facility is actively engaging with partners to identify opportunities for collaboration, including with Member States, international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK

*The Government of Denmark is the founding partner of UN Women's innovation work. Since 2014, the Danish Innovation Fund provides UN Women with flexible and less risk-averse funding to co-identify, prototype and pilot innovative projects that can accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment. It also supports UN Women to strengthen its internal innovation capacity and embed innovation throughout the organization.*



*Since 2018, the Government of France has been supporting the Innovation Facility's capacity to provide technical advice, develop tools and methodologies, capture and share experiences and learning, as well as to build partnerships.*

**Innovation at UN Women is about identifying new and more effective solutions that explicitly meet the needs of women and girls and have the ability to accelerate impact.**



## INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INDUSTRY-WIDE CHANGE

Innovation and technology seldom benefit women and men equally. This gender gap constrains efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment and prevents women from becoming both developers and consumers of technology that addresses their needs.

Recognizing the transformative power of cross-sector partnerships, UN Women created the Global Innovation Coalition for Change (GICC) in 2017 with private sector, academic and non-profit institutions that collectively wish to improve women access, participation and ability to innovate.

Specifically, the GICC focuses on the following goals:

1. Build market awareness of the potential for innovations developed by women that meet the needs of women and girls
2. Identify the key barriers to women and girl's advancement in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship
3. Work collaboratively to identify and take actions to address these barriers and needs at an industry-wide level

GICC members are key representatives willing to take the lead in making their institutions change agents that will spur innovation, unleash investments and power a more equitable world. They are divided into three workstreams:

### **GENDER INNOVATION PRINCIPLES:**

set standards for a gender-responsive approach to innovation. They engage GICC members but also any interested signatory to improve their organizational and business practices and give them access to specific tools for assessment, guidance and reporting.

### **SHE INNOVATES GLOBAL PROGRAMME:**

connects women innovators worldwide and provides access to tools, resources and events.

### **4GOOD PROGRAMME SOUTH AFRICA:**

promotes women innovators in South Africa and gives them access to the knowledge, skills and expertise they need to grow, sustain and scale their businesses.

**A GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACH means going beyond acknowledging and raising awareness of gender gaps, to make sure women's and men's concerns and experiences are equally integrated in the design of innovative products or services and that due consideration is given to gender norms, roles and relations.**

## GENDER INNOVATION PRINCIPLES:

Adopting a gender-responsive approach to innovation means going beyond acknowledging the need for gender equality in innovation and **acting throughout the innovation cycle to ensure that women play a key role at every phase.**

The primary objective of the Principles is to **create a space where members can share tools, lessons learned and rapidly push forward innovative practices.** They are encouraged to set their own specific targets to:

1. Make a high-level corporate commitment to adopt a gender-responsive approach to innovation
2. Design innovations that include women as end users
3. Adapt implementation approaches to ensure innovations meet the needs of women
4. Evaluate gender-responsive impacts by using a data-driven approach
5. Scale innovations that provide sustainable solutions to meet the needs of women and girls

## SHE INNOVATES GLOBAL PROGRAMME:

### MEETUPS AND EVENTS

She Innovates meetups and events are meeting places where women entrepreneurs and innovators can share ideas, experiences and support each other to overcome the barriers for women in innovation.

### MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The She Innovates campaign tackles gender stereotypes by showcasing women who are problem-solvers around the world, who have pioneered innovation and progress across industries.

### MENTORING PROGRAMME

In partnership with Led by Her, UN Women created the She Innovates Mentoring programme, designed to bring innovators and industry experts together. A platform was launched in 2019 to digitally optimize talent pools and bring together innovators and industry experts.

### LABS

The labs are one-day events that connect private sector expertise with local women innovators to provide women with the support, expertise and collaboration needed to scale their innovations.

### AWARD

Teams with innovative solutions that meet the needs of women and girls can apply for any of the MIT Solve's four challenges. Contestants are eligible for the award, which is a grant funding of USD \$25,000 or more.

### LOCAL CHAPTER

The She Innovates Chapter programme is being piloted in Alberta, Canada. The objective is to identify local challenges and focus on initiatives that address these barriers to support local women innovators through targeted community-based initiatives.

## 4GOOD PROGRAMME SOUTH AFRICA:

In a notably male-dominated entrepreneurial ecosystem in South Africa, the 4Good Programme is a 12-month intervention geared to accelerate women-owned innovative businesses by giving them the necessary tools to shift from "survive" to "thrive and flourish mode" and provide:

### • Training/skills development (100 Women)

Cohorts will attend bi-weekly, in-person sessions and monthly Webinars. Entrepreneurs will be split into two groups: developers and accelerators.

### • Mentoring (up to 100 Mentors)

Each entrepreneur will be match with a mentor to accompany her along her journey.

### • Communication and international exposure

Corporate partners and investors will be invited to meet women entrepreneurs and discover their projects at the end of the programme.



## EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION

UN Women is piloting the Buy from Women (BfW) platform under the Global Flagship Programme on Climate Smart Agriculture, to provide easier access to land, information, markets and finance for women farmers.

The platform plays a dual role: it allows women to access pertinent information (prices, inputs, financing) while helping them establish themselves as legitimate commercial entities with records (land/yields, track record of investments/repayments) to secure their financial future or access new markets.

### A USER-DRIVEN, WOMEN FARMER-CENTRIC TOOL

Most available market platforms are developed based on the needs of buyers or companies that need to track their suppliers. But the design of **Buy from Women** is directly based on women farmers' needs.

It uses an open source **ERP system** (Enterprise Resource Planning) developed for the farmers, covering multiple functions, and flexible to integrate third party apps. Pilots are based on value-chain-specific analysis to make sure their features integrate local needs and contexts.



### UNLOCKING THE BUSINESS POTENTIAL OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Women make up **43%** of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and **59%** in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, women farmers face a number of key structural barriers that limit their access to land, information, finance, infrastructure, technologies and markets.

Only **20%** of land owners are women. **22%** of bank account holders in rural areas in low-income countries are women, and **5%** of women have access to extension services.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate existing barriers and create new ones.

**“I have often heard the word digital platform but never really knew what it meant or what it looked like. It is interesting because this platform allows us to communicate with buyers over a distance. The main advantage of using this platform is that it offers opportunities that never existed before to sell our products”.**

*—Béatrice Jean-Denis, woman farmer in Haiti*

# BUY FROM WOMEN:

Land tenure insecurity limits women's economic opportunities and leaves them more vulnerable to poverty, hunger, gender-based violence and displacement

## LAND



- Using GPS for land mapping and digital records of land-holding
- Forecasting and tracking harvest volume using land data

Gaps between men and women in ownership and control of physical assets, plus gaps in human and social capital, influence women's ability to access finance

## FINANCE



- Providing virtual financial accounts with mobile wallets
- Establishing digital records and facilitating access to credit

Knowledge of farming techniques is critical to productivity; however, women farmers have inadequate access to agricultural extension and training services

## INFORMATION



- Receiving text or voice messages from peers or groups on production, storage, prices, transportation, weather, etc.

Transportation, infrastructure and social norms constrain rural women's access to markets and participation in farmer organizations and cooperatives

## MARKETS



- Connecting farmers, coops and buyers
- Facilitating purchases, sales & inventory management

**“I want to continue to use the platform and enrich my knowledge. I want to be more independent and become a role model for other women. The platform contributes to gender equality because it encourages women to work and shows that everything men can do, women can do as well.”**

—Widjine Clerger, woman farmer in Haiti

## COUNTRY PILOTS



### RWANDA

Over 76% of economically active women in Rwanda are engaged in agriculture. However, very few of them have fully benefited from the market system due to challenges like poor access to inputs, extension services and finance. Their activities are mostly limited to subsistence farming.

UN Women is partnering with WFP to test Buy from Women with women farmers producing maize.



### HAITI

Haiti is beset by traditionally low yields and poor farm-to-market infrastructure. Many women have also seen their livelihoods affected by hurricanes. UN Women is supporting women in disaster-prone areas to build resilience and identify new economic opportunities.

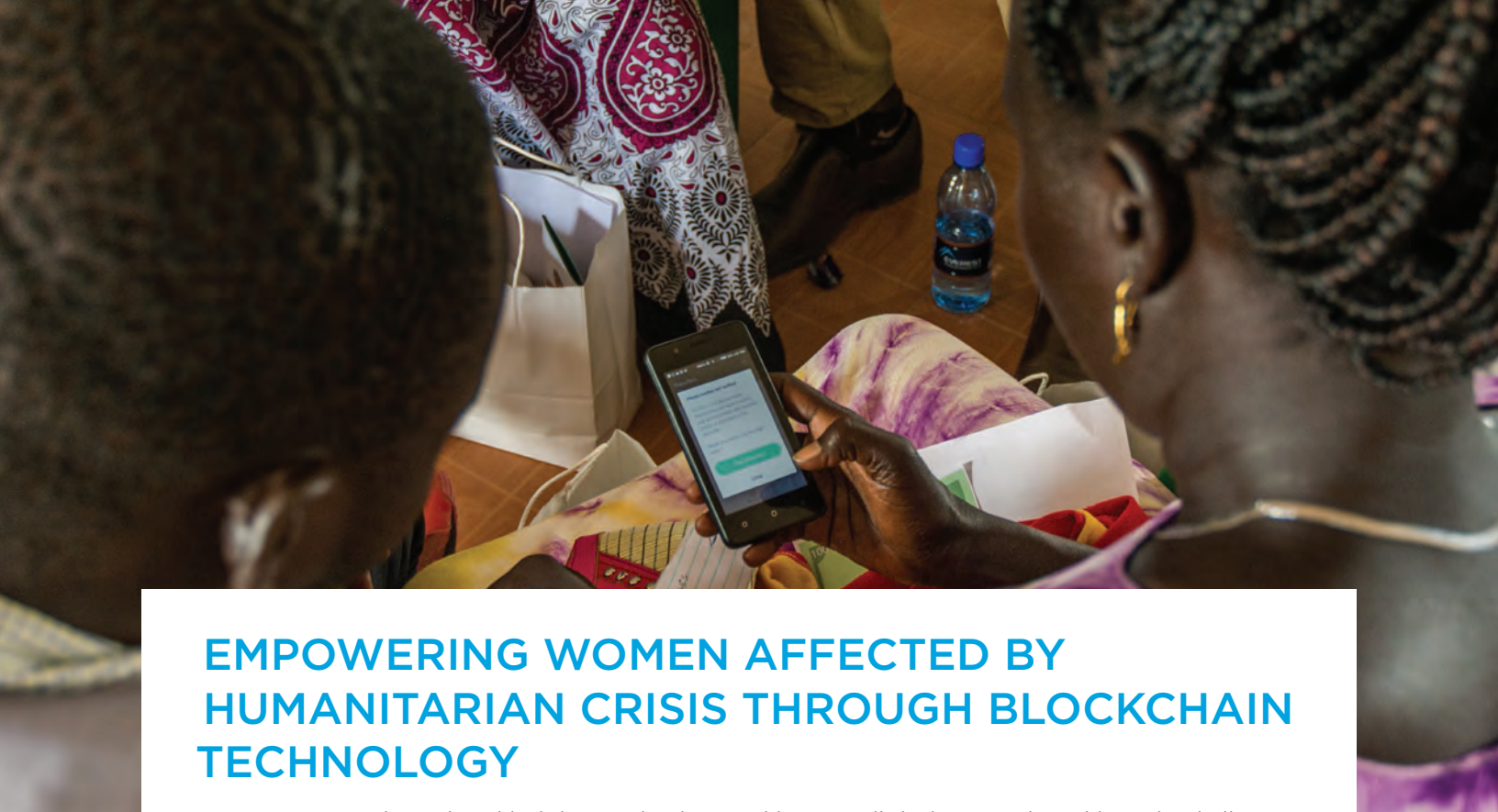
UN Women is partnering with a local social enterprise to develop new economic opportunities in cocoa production, a sector where the global demand is growing rapidly.



### MALI

It has traditionally been very hard for women to own land in Mali, restricting their access to resources and the means of production. Women do not have access to relevant information (on crops, markets, etc.), which prevents them from taking advantage of commercial channels and gaining a market share in higher value chains.

UN Women is partnering with local cooperatives and buyers to promote greater access to markets, starting with the production of shallots and shea nuts.



## EMPOWERING WOMEN AFFECTED BY HUMANITARIAN CRISIS THROUGH BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

UN Women is exploring how blockchain technology could potentially be harnessed to address the challenges women and girls face in humanitarian settings and increase their access to socioeconomic opportunities.

Blockchain could be used to create and store verifiable digital identities for refugees or enable trackable and inexpensive cash transfers. As humanitarian crises grow increasingly protracted, with millions of people on the move, technology like blockchain may well hold the potential to address pressing challenges.

UN Women has identified cash transfer as an area in which to leverage blockchain technology to assist women and girls in humanitarian settings. We've joined forces with the World Food Programme (WFP) in testing the inter-agency blockchain project 'Building Blocks' through UN Women's Oases resilience and empowerment centres, which provide cash-for-work programmes, skills training and livelihoods opportunities to Syrian refugee women.

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**BLOCKCHAIN is a distributed database of immutable digital records that can be accessed from anywhere. It offers users the ability to build and maintain immutable and secure records and to directly transfer digital assets without the need for intermediaries and associated costs.**

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Women in crisis situations and displacement settings tend to have lower digital literacy than men, and often lack access to technology and connectivity. UN Women seeks to increase the financial literacy of its beneficiaries through expense-tracking and budgeting seminars conducted at their 'Oases'. Recipients will also soon be able to view their Building Blocks accounts and their account history online.

In the Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps in Jordan, UN Women's four Oases centres are also increasing training opportunities for women and girls, with a focus on improving digital literacy. In addition to providing livelihoods opportunities, they use a holistic approach to resilience and empowerment for women and girls, integrating protection and prevention of gender-based violence, remedial education and civic engagement, as well as access to childcare.

### It's all in her eyes

A Syrian woman will soon be able to scan her eye to request cash back at WFP-contracted supermarkets. The scan will link to her account on the blockchain, and the amount of cash dispensed will automatically be sent to Building Blocks. The fact that UN Women and WFP validate each other's transactions through a common blockchain network results in improved security and accountability. This reduces risks and costs, while promoting the increased harmonization of aid efforts.



# THE JOURNEY OF BLOCKCHAIN INNOVATION



## LINKING HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES TO CORE TECH COMMUNITIES

*UN Women and Innovation Norway co-organized a hackathon at the 2017 Katapult Future Fest in Oslo. After a 36-hour challenge, 40 participants developed eight solution demos to address various issues affecting women in refugee settings. The event provided a unique opportunity for technological innovators and humanitarian workers to come together and build technology-driven solutions to complex humanitarian problems.*



## EVALUATING BLOCKCHAIN SOLUTIONS THROUGH LIVE SIMULATION LAB

*In January 2018, in partnership with the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology and with the support of Innovation Norway, UN Women hosted a four-day blockchain live test and simulation lab in New York. Seven blockchain companies presented their solutions and engaged with more than 200 participants from UN agencies, permanent missions to the UN, tech communities, humanitarian workers and academic researchers. The best solutions were invited to submit proposals for field testing.*

## INTER-AGENCY PILOT TESTING IN JORDAN

*UN Women partnered with the World Food Programme to test their Building Blocks solution, which already provides cash transfers to 106,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan through a blockchain-based system. Through this project, Syrian refugee women participating in UN Women's Cash-for-Work Programmes in Jordan will be able to receive and spend their earnings in a faster and safer digital manner. UN Women and WFP are also exploring ways to provide female refugees with cash back at WFP-contracted supermarkets and other forms of digital asset management.*



## PILOT TESTING IN KENYA

*UN Women tested a blockchain mobile wallet solution developed by a private sector partner in the Kakuma camp in Kenya. The team explored the potential of using this new solution to enable the economic empowerment of crisis-affected women through financial inclusion.*

**“UN Women had a rare, open approach towards the private sector and encouraged private sector innovators to help develop new solutions from the start. Innovation Norway believes that this type of openness, broad mobilization and partnerships across sectors is key to solving the world’s complex challenges.”**

*—Ingvild von Krogh Strand, Innovation Lab Lead at Innovation Norway.*

**“I work on the computer side. I have some imagination, some info, but this is far from the whole knowledge of the situation.”**

*—Maciej Kucharz, head of a local tech company and one of the winners of the Hackathon.*



## BIG DATA AND GENDER EQUALITY

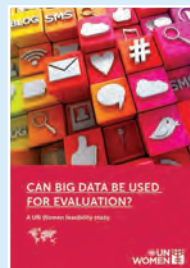
In a rapidly evolving world, global challenges are becoming increasingly complex and interlinked. Innovative approaches are needed in order to improve the way UN Women responds and adapts to this changing environment, where established methods do not always ensure impact.

There is a general lack of disaggregated data on gender and information gaps are often impediments to measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. UN Women has an important role to play in ensuring that the data revolution is inclusive and does not leave women behind. For that purpose, UN Women is not only working to incorporate big data and analytics into planning and decision-making, but also to develop programmes and work with partners to address gaps in women's access to ICT and other tools and activities that generate new sources of data.

### UN Women has developed two knowledge products to explore Big Data:



In collaboration with Global Pulse, UN Women examines successes and challenges in the use of big data to improve the lives of women and girls. The report presents the benefits of such data (e.g. real-time data), risks (e.g. elite capture and privacy), and policy implications (e.g. how it can be incorporated into project cycles from planning to evaluation). It ends with a compendium of gender-related big data projects and their relevance to the SDGs.



The objective of this study was to investigate the feasibility of leveraging big data sources to improve the evaluation of gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives. In particular it seeks to understand the role of big data to evaluate the contribution of UN Women to women's leadership and political participation.

**Big data is a term that describes a large volume of data – both structured (data organized into a formatted repository, typically a database) and unstructured (information that either does not have a pre-defined model or is not organized in a pre-defined manner). Such data has the potential to be mined for information and used in machine learning projects and other advanced analytics applications. Big data can be analysed for insights that lead to decision-making and strategic positioning.**

# SCALING FOR IMPACT THROUGH SOCIAL INNOVATION

The Fund for Gender Equality launched a “Social Innovation Initiative” to provide women’s organizations with a space for learning and experimentation on beneficiary-centred approaches.

The Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) is UN Women’s global grant-making mechanism dedicated to the economic and political empowerment of women worldwide. The Fund provides technical and financial support to high-impact, innovative initiatives from women-led civil society organizations that demonstrate concrete results on the ground, especially for marginalized women.

The Fund created the initiative for its 2017-2019 grantees, to allow them to find new approaches to scale-up their ongoing initiatives and better meet the needs of the women they serve. The Fund is providing these civil society organizations with the resources, skills and tools to use a human-centred design approach focused on the “end users” of their projects. The objective is to test models that address challenges for women’s empowerment, with the potential to catalyse change.

## MAPPING THE JOURNEYS OF WOMEN DOMESTIC WORKERS IN PARAGUAY

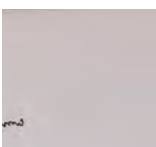
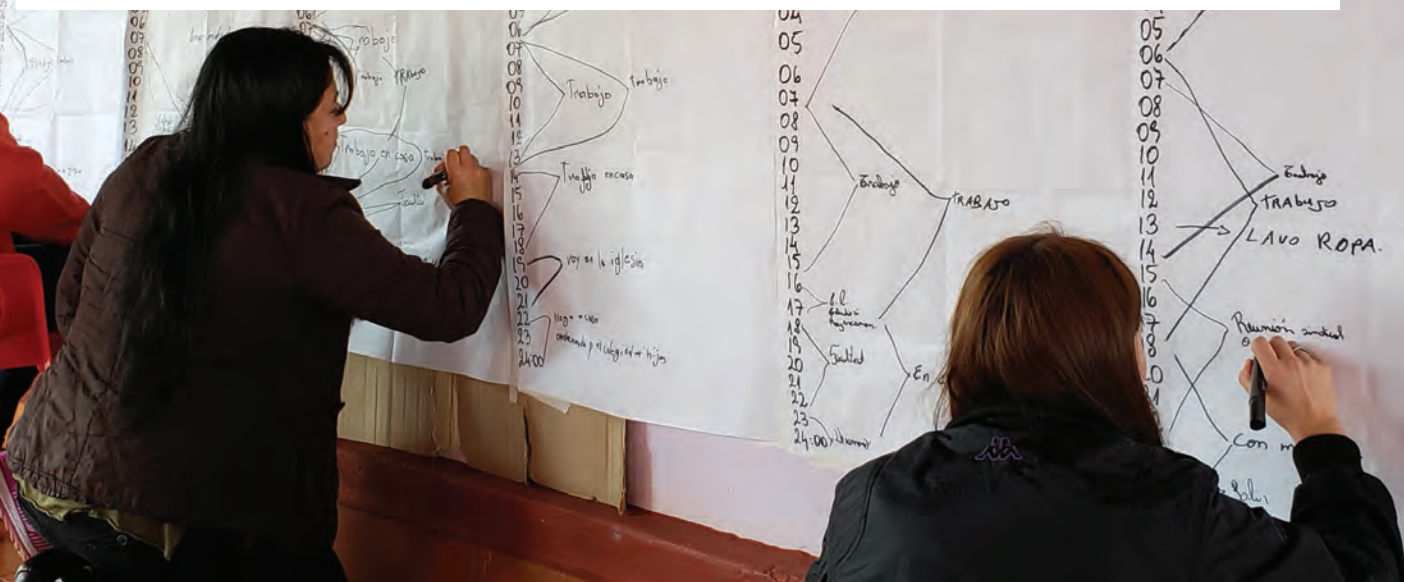
One of the FGE grantees testing such models is the Centre for Research and Documentation (Centro de Documentación y Estudios—CDE) in Paraguay, which supports domestic workers to organize and lead advocacy efforts to claim better working conditions. CDE saw good results in certain areas, especially in the capital, Asunción, but noticed lower enrolment among domestic workers’ associations and unions elsewhere. As part of the FGE Social Innovation Initiative, CDE conducted research to gain a deeper understanding of the needs, challenges and emotions of domestic workers, applying innovation tools such as “A day in the life of...”, actors-mapping and in-depth interviews. The information collected is used to design a service or project that fits their needs, schedules and social preferences.

The research findings revealed that the main reason domestic workers fail to join these organizations is a lack of information about their existence or how to access them. A co-creation session was organized with other FGE grantees working in similar areas, which led CDE to choose to pilot a radio programme hosted by and reaching domestic workers, to connect the organized with the unorganized. The beneficiaries took full ownership, immediately mobilizing to prepare the contents, basing them on workers’ own personal stories, sharing anecdotes and life stories. They are also planning to video-record the programmes and disseminate them through their social media platforms. CDE is also now helping to document the deep emotional impact that this intervention has been having on beneficiaries. The results of this experiment will be available in mid-2019.

**“The best aspect of this exercise was to be able to have conversations [with beneficiaries] at such a personal and emotional level. It was a very special moment”.**

**“We have observed a great sense of empowerment among domestic workers, who feel they can do much more than just domestic work.”**

—Clyde Soto, Women’s Area Coordinator, Centro de Documentación y Estudios, Paraguay





## USING BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is an endemic problem in Moldova, deeply rooted in cultural norms and behaviours. In Moldova, 63% of women have experienced at least one form of violence from their partners during their lifetime. Yet because of fear, stigma and lack of knowledge about their rights, few women find the courage to speak up or to seek help.

In response to this, UN Women and partners created a women survivor's support group attended by psychologists who have used behavioural insights to identify 'positive deviants' (PD) among survivors, empowering them to speak up and advocate for concrete action at local and national events. Through this work, UN Women has managed to change perceptions about survivors of violence among service-providers, decision-makers, media and the general public by recognizing and involving PDs as key experts in eliminating gender violence. They reach out to women in their communities, share their empowering stories and help women access services locally.

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**BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHT (BI)** is a methodology that combines cognitive science, psychology and social science with empirically tested results to uncover how people make choices and how it is possible to nudge them towards better decisions.

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During the first year of this strategy, hundreds of women in communities across Moldova sought support services to escape the vicious cycle of intimate partner violence, thanks to the active positioning of the PD women survivors. The number of protection orders in the region of Drochia more than doubled and both NGO-assisted and police-referred court cases increased five-fold over the period prior to the implementation of the PD approach.

With the support of UN Women, women PDs met with public authorities, including Ministers and Members of Parliament, to share their stories and solutions used in four targeted districts, as well as advocate for change and urgent action. These initiatives were also broadly supported by a media campaign. The end result was reflected in critical amendments to the Domestic Violence Law, which had been pending approval for more than three years. It was promulgated by Parliament soon after members' interaction with the women survivors.

**POSITIVE DEVIANCE** is an approach to behavioural and social change based on the observation that in any community there are people whose uncommon but successful behaviours or strategies enable them to find effective solutions. These positive outliers overcome challenges which most of their peers are not able to successfully address despite having no extra resources or special knowledge. These individuals are referred to as positive deviants.

# PUTTING JUSTICE WITHIN REACH FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

The UN estimates that one in three women around the world will suffer sexual violence during her lifetime. In places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Kenya, the vast majority of such crimes never reach court – often due to a lack of evidence.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women has supported Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) to address the gaps in medical-legal processes, in order to improve responses to, and accountability for, sexual violence. PHR has developed an app called MediCapt, designed to assist doctors in documenting evidence of sexual violence. The app connects police, medical and legal professionals to transform the documentation and prosecution of human rights violations. MediCapt makes it easier to capture, preserve and transmit forensic evidence of sexual violence. The app was developed using a collaborative design process and involved many rounds of field testing with end-users to ensure an ethical and contextually appropriate product.

## HOW IT WORKS

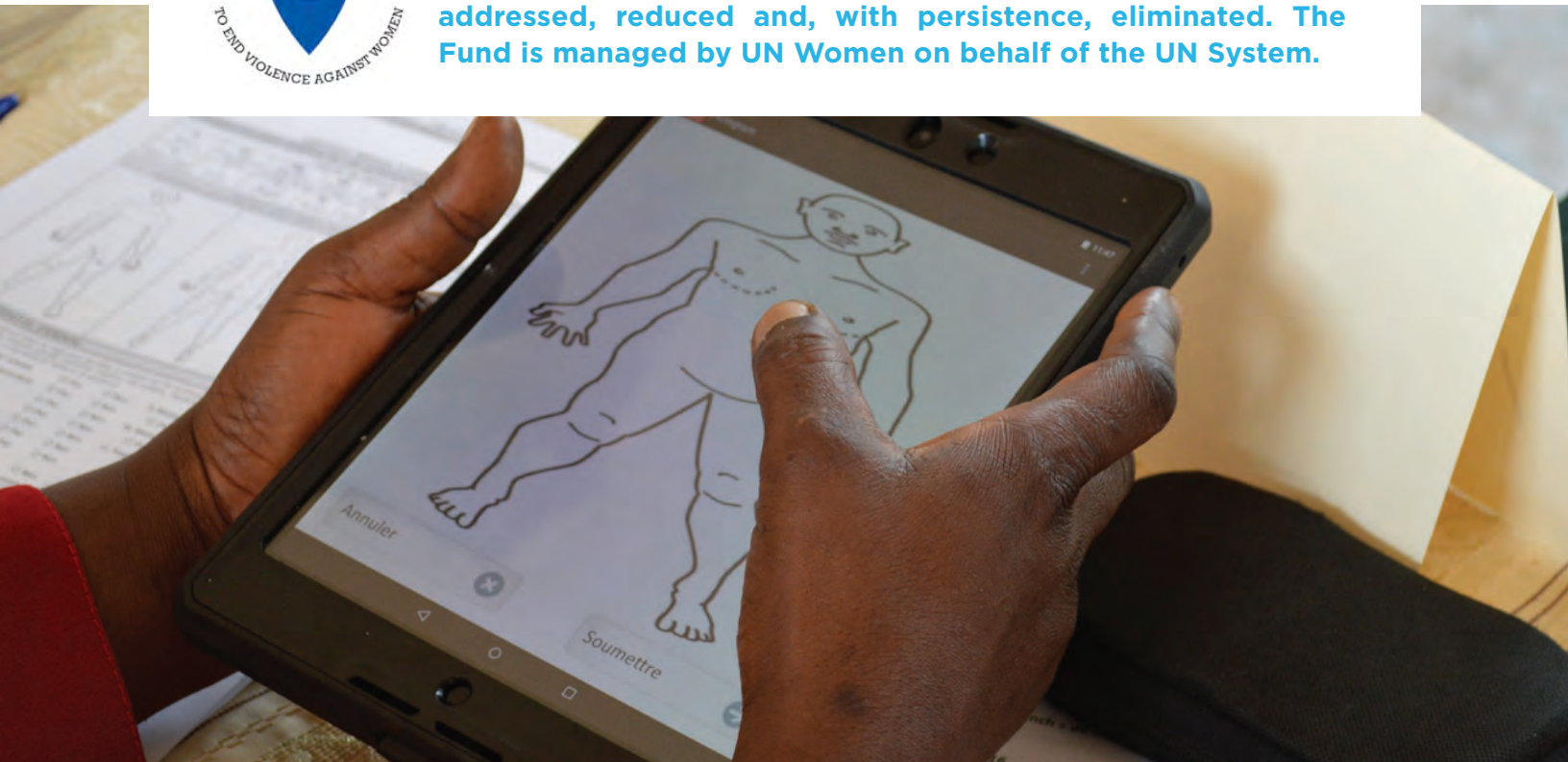
The app allows clinicians to digitally document forensic medical evidence of sexual violence, photograph survivors' injuries, store the images securely and – after obtaining survivor's informed consent – share the evidence with law enforcement officials and lawyers to support the legal case. MediCapt includes sophisticated encryption, trackable cloud data storage, high adherence to chain-of-custody standards required by national and international courts, and tamper-proof metadata.

“In addition to equipping professionals with a powerful tool to ensure that survivors' information is collected, securely stored and transmitted to the justice sector, MediCapt also has the potential to be used as an early warning or rapid response tool, as the data could show patterns of abuses and violence,” explains Karen Naimer, director of the U.S.-based PHR programme on sexual violence in conflict zones.

PHR launched the app for use with survivors in Kenya in 2018 and plans to pilot the app in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019. Clinicians in Naivasha, Kenya are documenting dozens of cases each month and report that the app has made it easier and faster for them to document medical evidence of sexual violence.



**The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) awards grants to initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated. The Fund is managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN System.**





## MEET THE AFRICAN GIRLS WHO CODE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) is a new Africa-wide initiative that is empowering girls by teaching them digital literacy and coding, while also building confidence, leadership and development skills.

According to ITU data, the African region has the lowest rates of Internet penetration, and the widest digital gender gap—with a mere 18.6% of women using the Internet, versus 24.9% of men.

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**“Harnessing this technology to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment is not only vital for women and girls, but critical throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. If we do not have enough women in the so-called fourth industrial revolution, we will not get the variety of solutions that are needed by women and girls.”**

*—Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative in Ethiopia, the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.*

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The objective of the programme is to bridge the technological divide by increasing women’s and girls’ access to modern technology and by supporting their empowerment through education and employment. By exposing young women and girls to new skills and technologies, UN Women is providing them with ways to contribute concretely to Africa’s innovation, industrialization and growth—by mastering ICT.

The AGCCI programme achieves this through: coding camps across Africa for young girls between 17–20 years of age; mainstreaming ICT, coding and gender into national curricula; and national media campaigns highlighting female role models. The first coding camp was organized in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in August 2018, placing the participants on-track to take up further education and careers in ICT and coding.

Bright-eyed 15-year-old Khayrath Mohamed Kombo is heading off to camp in another city for the first time. But far from tents, sleeping bags and wilderness, this camp has a more high-tech environment. “When I heard about this, I was excited because my dream is to learn more things and expand my knowledge,” says Khayrath, who is the only girl in her computer science club at school, back in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Khayrath was among more than 88 girls from 32 African countries who attended the first Coding Camp for 10 days in August 2018 and were trained as programmers and/or designers.

# TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES DATA COLLECTION IN STUDY ON MEN AND VIOLENCE

An unprecedented UN study of 10,000 men in Asia and the Pacific found that half of respondents reported using physical and/or sexual violence against a female partner, ranging from 26–80% across six countries. Nearly a quarter of the men interviewed admitted having raped a woman or girl.

Mobile technology was used to gather the most sensitive questions on sexual violence and criminal activities, using self-administered questions to ensure confidentiality and avoid potential ethical obligations to report findings to police.

According to UN Women’s Yuki Lo, the innovative use of ICT can not only expand the amount of data collected, but also improve accuracy and the understanding of the results.



**Visit the UN Women website to learn more about some of our other innovative initiatives: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)**



## Second chance education

Leverages existing technology to provide women and girls with virtual learning environments



## Unstereotype Alliance

Tackles the widespread prevalence of stereotypes that are often perpetuated through advertising and content



## Innovative social media campaigns

The “Finding Her” campaign, challenges viewers to look for women in the illustrations of various workspaces.



## PHEZA

Digital solutions to prevent gender-based violence on South African Campuses



## Empower Women, Peaceful communities

Under this programme, UN Women has developed new and innovative research on the gender-specific dynamics of violent extremism as well as novel tools to collect sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data.



## EQUALS

Partnership for Digital Equality



## HeForShe

An innovative, inclusive approach that mobilizes people of every gender identity and expression as advocates for Gender Equality

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



Planet 50-50 by 2030  
Step It Up for Gender Equality

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COVER: The picture shows Mata Koné testing the Buy from Women app. She is a farmer and member of Jaba Sène Ton Cooperative of Sébougou, Ségou in Mali. UN Women is partnering with local cooperatives and buyers to promote greater access to markets for women farmers in Mali starting with the production of shallots and shea nuts. UN Women/Alou Mbaye.

PHOTOS: P.2 UN Trust Fund/Phil Borges; P.3 UN Women/Ryan Brown; P.5 UN Women/Joe Saade; P.6 (from left) UN Women/Sandra Hollinger, UN Women/Guillaume Joachin, UN Women/Alou Mbaye; P.7 UN Women/James Ochweri; P.8 (from top) UN Women, UN Women/Ryan Brown, UN Women/James Ochweri; P.9 UN Women/Müslüm Bayburs; P.10 UN Women/Sandra Bosch; P.11 UN Women Moldova/Media Sapiens; P.12 Physicians for Human Rights; P.13 UN Women ESAR/Faith Bwibo; P.14 (from top left) UN Women/Ryan Brown, Unstereotype Alliance, DDB Dubai for UN Women Egypt, UN Women SAMCO/Otae Mkandawire, UN Women, Equals, HeForShe.

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