

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH EQUITY



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Significant progress has been made to improve health and wellbeing worldwide. However, many individuals and communities continue to be left behind.

Discrimination, human rights violations and abuses, poverty, and other determinants of health, underlie many health disparities and intersect in ways that limit people's abilities to make decisions about their own health, impede access to quality health care, and worsen physical and mental health outcomes.

As a result, women and girls, gender-diverse people, indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, rural and remote communities, and others who experience discrimination, marginalization, and deprivation, are often least able to realize their right to the highest attainable standard of health.

Health systems can reinforce inequities or help to overcome them, but the right action needs to be taken at the necessary scale to achieve impact.

WHO'S APPROACH TO GENDER EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH EQUITY

We envision a world where all people attain the highest possible standard of health and well-being; where diversity of all kinds is celebrated; human rights are promoted, protected, and fulfilled; gender equality and health equity are the norm; and barriers to health and well-being are insignificant.

We aim to ensure equity-oriented, gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches are integrated into all of our work, including within our response to health emergencies.

Our objective:

A Secretariat that is fit-for-purpose to fulfil its commitment to support Member States to advance gender equality, human rights and health equity and to ensure that no one's health is left behind.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME ON GENDER EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH EQUITY DO?

- Document effective approaches to advancing gender equality, human rights and health equity, and facilitate learning within and between countries on these approaches
- Develop and implement technical guidelines, norms, and tools to advance gender equality, human rights and health equity in health
- Build the capacity of the WHO secretariat to support countries to systematically identify, monitor and address health inequities, implement gender-specific and transformative approaches and fulfil the human right to health and health related rights; including through online courses and the sharing of best practices
- Advocate for the prioritization of and investment in gender, equity and human rights in health within the organization and across partner organizations, including through interagency platforms
- Provide technical assistance to countries to advance gender equality, human rights and health equity in health policies, programmes, services and beyond
- Support engagement of civil society and communities in country-level processes
- Develop tools to institutionalize and track progress on mainstreaming of gender, human rights and equity at WHO, including through the output score card, the gender marker, the human rights marker, and the monitoring and evaluation framework of the roadmap.

SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

WHO supports countries to integrate gender, rights and equity in health by applying a number of tools:

1. Know who is being missed and why

- Handbook on Health Inequality Monitoring with a special focus on low and middle-income countries, WHO 2013 [Read here](#)
- Handbook for conducting an adolescent health services barriers assessment (AHSBA), WHO 2019 [Read here](#)
- Innov8 approach for reviewing national health programmes to leave no one behind, WHO 2016 [Read here](#)

2. Address these inequities by strengthening health systems and programmes

- Human rights and gender equality in health sector strategies: how to assess policy coherence, WHO 2011 [Read here](#)
- Gender mainstreaming for health managers: a practical approach, WHO 2011 [Read here](#)

The Programme for Gender Equality, Human Rights and Health Equity consists of the HQ Department of Gender, Rights and Equity & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (GRE-DEI) and regional office teams. The Programme is supported by a wide network of gender equality, human rights and equity focal points at the three levels of the WHO secretariat.



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