

Gender equality is a prerequisite for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys, have equal rights, life prospects and opportunities, and the power to shape their own lives and contribute to society.

Sida's conceptual framework for multidimensional poverty recognises four dimensions of poverty namely, resources, opportunities and choice, power and voice, and human security. The purpose of this brief is to highlight the main connection between gender inequality and poverty within those four dimensions and how to integrate the gender equality perspective into the multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA).

GENDER EQUALITY AND POVERTY

The last few years have recorded historic achievements in reducing the number of people who are poor. While both men and women are affected by poverty, gender discrimination means that women and girls often have fewer resources and opportunities to cope.¹

Women and men living in poverty often experience multiple forms of discrimination, as gender intersects with age, transgender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, social status and religion or other beliefs² (box 3).

Women in poverty have knowledge, expertise, and they often take on leadership roles which needs to be reflected in the MDPA analysis. In many cases are

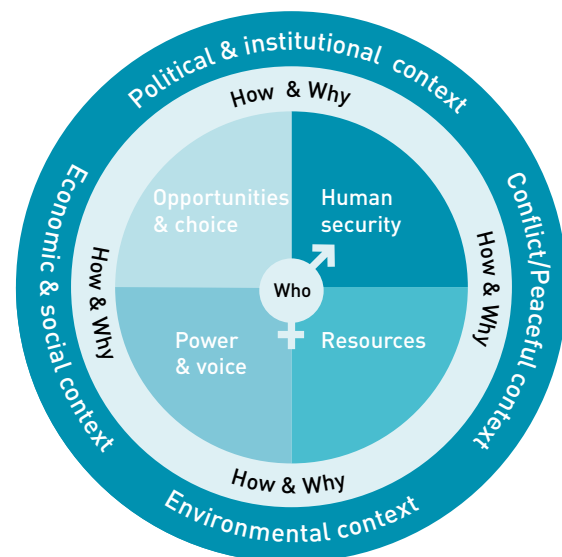
women only categorized as a vulnerable group. It is also important to acknowledge that men and boys also can be affected by gender discrimination and that they are important actors for change.³

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for an end to all forms of discrimination against women and for gender equality to be an integral part of all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development.⁴

BOX 1: THE GENDER EQUALITY PERSPECTIVE⁵

Gender equality is one of the five perspectives that should permeate all of Sida's operations.

A gender perspective highlights the differences between and among women, men, girls and boys in terms of their relative distribution of resources, opportunities, constraints and power in a given context. Performing a gender analysis allows us to develop responses that are better suited to remedy gender-based inequalities and meet the needs of different population groups.



Source: Sida (2017) Dimensions of Poverty – Sida's Conceptual Framework.

¹ <https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/in-focus/poverty>

² Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses multiple discriminations and helps us understand how different sets of identities impact on access to rights and opportunities. Men and women live multiple, layered identities derived from social relations, history and the operation of structures of power. People are members of more than one community at the same time, and can simultaneously experience oppression and privilege. Thus intersectional analysis aims to reveal multiple identities, exposing the different types of discrimination and disadvantage that occur as a consequence of the combination of those identities.

³ <https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/in-focus/poverty>

⁴ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality>

⁵ Stated in the Governance ordinance to Sida (Förordning [2010:1080] med instruktion för Styrelsen för internationellt utvecklingssamarbete [Sida])

BOX 2: THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY:

Being poor in terms of **resources** means not having access to or power over resources that can be used to sustain a decent living standard and improve one's life. Resources can be both material and non-material: a decent income or physical and human capital, such as being educated or having professional skills, being healthy, having agricultural tools or a cart to transport goods.

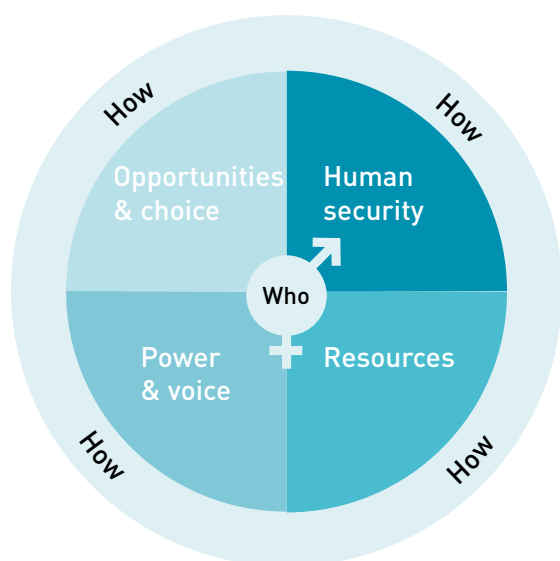
Being poor in terms of **opportunities and choice** concerns what possibility you have to develop and/ or use your resources so as to move out of poverty. Access to productive employment, education, health clinics, infrastructure, energy, markets and information affect the choices available and opportunities to escape from poverty.

Being poor in **power and voice** relates to people's ability to articulate their concerns, needs and rights in an informed way, and to take part in decision-making affecting these concerns inside the household, in local communities and at the national level. Discrimination and violation of human rights are important aspects when analyzing this dimension. Power is a relational concept that allows us to better understand socio-cultural hierarchies and relations of which gender is one. Others include age, caste, class, religion, ethnicity and sexual identity. Reinforcing forms of discrimination based on sociocultural relations may increase an individual's poverty in this sense

Being poor in terms of **human security** means that physical, sexual, and/or psychological violence and insecurity are constraints to different groups' and individuals' possibilities to exercise their human rights and to find paths out of poverty.

According to Sida, a person living in poverty is resource poor and poor in one or several other dimensions.

Sida's model for multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA) helps us to understand **who** is poor (target group), **how** poverty is experienced in the above-mentioned four dimensions, and why this situation has come about.



In order to understand and to alleviate poverty, there is a need to understand the different dimensions of poverty and the related interlinkages: 1) resources,

2) opportunities & choice, 3) power & voice, 4) human security (see box 2). To understand the causes of poverty, the opportunities to move out of poverty, and the main risks that could aggravate poverty, it is important to understand the context in which a person lives: Political & institutional context; Economic & social context; Conflict/Peaceful context; Environmental context.

When analyzing 'who' is poor under various dimensions, it is important to analyze how the situation differs for women, men, girls and boys from various backgrounds and identities and to utilize available gender- and age disaggregated data as much as possible. However, most data and statistics measure households as a unit of observation. More information is thus needed for breaking down how men, women, girls and boys within the household and across their life cycle might have different access to resources, how they control them and how the division of labor is made.⁶ By conducting a gender analysis⁷ the underlying power structures will be identified.

BOX 3: DEFINITION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) defines discrimination against women as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."⁸ However, men and boys can also be discriminated against because of their sex.

This brief highlights the main links between gender equality and poverty in its four dimensions and four contexts. These dimensions and contextual are interlinked in complex ways, whereby improvement in one or several dimensions could result in both positive and negative consequences in other dimensions. This brief can be helpful when making an analysis of multidimensional poverty and its root causes. It can also be useful when appraising the relevance of a contribution or to guide an evaluation. It can further be helpful in guiding a policy dialogue on the links between gender equality and poverty eradication.

- 6 The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) are examples of household surveys that provides disaggregated data on a number of indicators including health, education and harmful practices. Statistics can also be complemented with quantitative data and anthropological studies which describes the situation of men, women, boys and girls in a specific context
- 7 For further guidance on how to conduct gender analyses, use the following guide in Sida's Gender Toolbox: <https://www.sida.se/English/publications/159386/gender-analysis--principles--elements/>
- 8 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

RESOURCES

Resources

Women and men possess different resources, or have access to or power over resources, that can be used to sustain or improve the standard of living.

Women are more likely to be unemployed than men, with the majority of them working in the unprotected informal sector, or holding part-time formal employment and earn less than men for work of equal value. The global gender wage gap is estimated to be 23 per cent. This means that women earn 77 per cent of what men earn. These figures understate the real extent of gender pay gaps, particularly in developing countries where informal self-employment is prevalent⁹ with nearly 60 per cent of women working in the informal economy.¹⁰

Women spend 2.5 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men.¹¹ The amount of time devoted to unpaid care work is negatively correlated with female labour force participation. In child labour, girls are more often than boys engaged in unpaid care work or as domestic workers while boys tend to work for an income outside the household.¹²

Women in rural areas, in particular female farmers, have significantly less access to, control over and ownership of land and other productive assets compared to their male counterparts.¹³

*In Uganda, women do 70% of the work in agriculture but they only control 20% of the agricultural output. This leaves women in a vulnerable situation with minimal income as a consequence.*¹⁴

Women are an essential part of global value chains, they are raw material producers, small-business owners, executives, retail workers, and consumers.¹⁵ Yet women, and especially those living in poverty, continue to face gender discrimination and barriers that affect their ability to reach their full potential at work.

Being a man or a woman can significantly impact health, as a result of both biological and gender-related issues. Women and girls living in poverty suffer disproportionately from unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal deaths, sexually transmitted infections, as well as gender-based violence and harmful practises.¹⁶ The access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in developing countries has a direct impact on women and girls, and can cause poor health and even lead to death. Men have lower life expectancy (women tend to live 5 years longer than men)¹⁷ and often higher mortality rate than women due to factors such as risk-taking life styles, substance abuse and violence.¹⁸

More than two-thirds of all countries have reached gender parity in enrolment in primary education. However, in countries that have not reached parity, girls are more likely to be disadvantaged than boys.¹⁹ In those countries, girls are 1.5 times more likely than boys to be completely excluded from primary education, and by the end of 2015, less than half of all countries had achieved gender parity in education at secondary level.²⁰

However, in some countries boys are at a greater disadvantage than girls in secondary education and this can be attributed to factors such as parents' pressure and expectations for boys to take work.²¹

Boys and men, and especially those who do not live up to binary normative standards of masculinity, also suffer from consequences of patriarchal (male dominated) structures. Traditional expectations of masculinity, increase men's susceptibility to serious health risks and make them less inclined to seek health care when needed.

9 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

10 <https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/put-women-and-girls-centre-efforts-recover-covid-19>

11 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

12 https://www.unicef.org/sowc07/docs/sowc07_panel_3_3.pdf

13 <http://www.fao.org/3/i2050e/i2050e03.pdf>

14 Overview- The Gender Perspective in the MDPA of Uganda

15 The OECD WTO and UNCTAD estimate that approximately 70% of world trade passes through global value chains, in which women play key roles. <https://www.bsr.org/en/our-insights/report-view/womens-empowerment-in-global-value-chains-women-deliver-repor>

16 <https://www.unfpa.org/sexual-reproductive-health>

17 <https://www.gr8ness.com/men-have-a-lower-life-expectancy-than-women-why/>

18 https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2019/EN_WHS_2019_Main.pdf?ua=1

19 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/gender/gender-disparities-in-education/>

20 <https://plan-international.org/education/girls-education>

21 <https://themalefactor.com/2018/06/02/top-5-ways-boys-are-disadvantaged-in-education/>

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICE

Opportunities
& choice

Opportunities and choices to move out of poverty differs between women, girls, men and boys. Household members without access to gender sensitive health and education services, employment opportunities as well as basic infrastructure often face more difficulties to improve their situation. Access to clean WASH and SRHR services are crucial for poverty reduction and for achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Even when women and girls are better educated than men and boys, it does not automatically lead to employment opportunities because of women's unpaid work norms, discriminatory legislation²² as well as sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the work place. Also, Gender norms may not encourage / allow women to look for work outside the home. The labour force participation for women (aged 25–54) is 63 per cent compared to 94 per cent for men.²³

*In Kenya, rural women and girls spend many hours every day collecting water and firewood. Girls in income-poor households are often required to take part in these chores to complement household welfare, which affects their school attendance and impacts their long term wellbeing.*²⁴

Women's over representation in the informal sector and gender inequalities in employment often leave them in unsafe working conditions without the protection of labour laws and social benefits such as pension and health insurance.²⁵ Women are also less likely than men to have access to financial institutions or have a bank account. Statistics worldwide show 65 per cent of men compared to 58 per cent of women report having an account at a formal financial institution.²⁶ Most of the 3.9 billion people who are off-line live in rural areas and tend to be women and girls,²⁷ which also makes it very difficult to save money and to move out of poverty.

Despite many migrant women being highly skilled and well-educated, they face challenges in accessing labour markets in countries of destination.

²² Preventing women from having the same job choice as men

²³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

²⁴ Overview- The Gender Perspective in the MDP of Kenya

²⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/csw61/women-in-informal-economy>

²⁶ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

²⁷ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

Employment restrictions, stereotyping associated with migrant women in countries of destination, as well as gendered labour markets often impact their job prospects.

Women and girls suffer more than men and boys from lack of water and sanitation. In 80 per cent of households without on premises water access, women and girls are responsible for water collection. In addition women and girls suffer from difficult Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) resulting from the absence of water, soap and gender-responsive sanitation facilities, whether at home, school or work.²⁸

POWER AND VOICE

Power
& voice

Poverty and gender discrimination affect men, women, boys and girls' ability to articulate their concerns and having their voices heard. It is therefore important to get information on which groups or individuals lack the power and voice, including freedom of expression, from the women, men, boys, girls and non-binary living in poverty themselves. Power and decision making happen in both the public and private spheres and includes power over your own body and life.

While women at large have not yet achieved an equal political voice, women in poverty face extra marginalization and their voices are rarely heard in decision making.²⁹

Unequal power relations between men and women are accentuated at the family level and affect the extent to which women are empowered to make choices and exercise agency. The patriarchal structure of families and norms governing relationships, tend to position women and girls as dependents of male household members who exercise authority over those households.

Gender discrimination in homes often affect the ability of women and girls to have their voice heard in the public sphere. The right to information (online and offline), access to justice and accountability, access to mechanisms to report instances of violence and abuse are essential tools for moving out of poverty.

²⁸ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

²⁹ <https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/in-focus/poverty>

In most countries, women are not usually seen as heads of households unless no adult male is permanently living in that household. Female headed households, can be more susceptible to poverty and be affected more by disasters due to gender discrimination and are likely to have less power and voice than male headed ones.

In many countries, being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) means living with discrimination. The range of unequal treatment includes harassment, to being denied a job or healthcare and it can even be life-threatening. Hostility directed at LGBTI persons can also be enforced by governments through legislation or other forms of oppression.³⁰ Due to the practiced discrimination, the LGBTI community have limited power and voice to change this situation and those living in poverty have even a lower chance of doing so.

HUMAN SECURITY



Being poor in terms of human security affects men, women, girls' and boys' possibilities to move out of poverty and exercise their rights.

Violence against women manifests itself in the physical, sexual, emotional and economic forms. The most universally common forms include domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence (including rape), sexual harassment, and emotional/psychological violence. Sexual violence as a tactic of warfare and in the aftermath of emergencies is also common in the respective countries and areas affected. Other widespread forms around the globe include: sexual exploitation, sexual trafficking, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), forced and child marriage.³¹ Online gender-based violence (GBV) is used to attack, oppress and silence specifically women and girls and LGBTI persons in private and public spaces with particular emphasis on women human rights defenders, for whom the Internet is a key tool.³²

It is estimated that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives.³³ Violence against women and girls is a serious violation of their right, and the figures are likely to be largely under reported. Due to their lack of income and resources, those who live in poverty and experience domestic or intimate partner violence have fewer options to leave violent relationships.³⁴

In Kosovo (2015) a survey found that 16.6% of civil servants had experienced sexual harassment at least once. Uneven power relations between abusers and abused, coupled with the cultural taboos surrounding the topic prevent women from reporting it. In addition, scarce employment opportunities prevent women from speaking out against discrimination and violence in the workplace.³⁵

Nearly 250 million children and adolescents globally experience physical, sexual and emotional violence in homes, schools, communities, work places and over the internet every year.³⁶ Girls and boys aged 5 to 9 years are more likely to experience violent punishment and after puberty girls are mostly at risk of experiencing intimate partner violence. Teenagers, especially boys, may become the targets of violence based on their non-traditional sexual orientation or gender identity.³⁷

Women and girls who face gender discrimination combined with other forms of discrimination are more at risk of experiencing violence. Data from Asia and Africa show that women with disabilities are two to four times more likely to experience partner violence than those without disabilities. Disability-related stigma and discrimination, increases women's and men's vulnerability and hinders their ability to report and seek support.³⁸

30 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/discrimination/lgbt-rights/>

31 <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/296-forms-of-violence-against-women-.html>

32 Gender based violence on line, Sidas gender toolbox

33 This figure does not include sexual harassment <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

34 Women and girls living in poverty are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including trafficking. And those who experience domestic or intimate partner violence have fewer options to leave violent relationships, due to their lack of income and resources.

35 Overview- the gender perspective in the Kosovo MDPA

36 <https://en.unesco.org/themes/school-violence-and-bullying>

37 https://en.unesco.org/themes/school-violence-and-bullying.file:///C:/Users/lekartss/Downloads/VR-fullreport_Final-LR-3_2_15_189.pdf

38 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

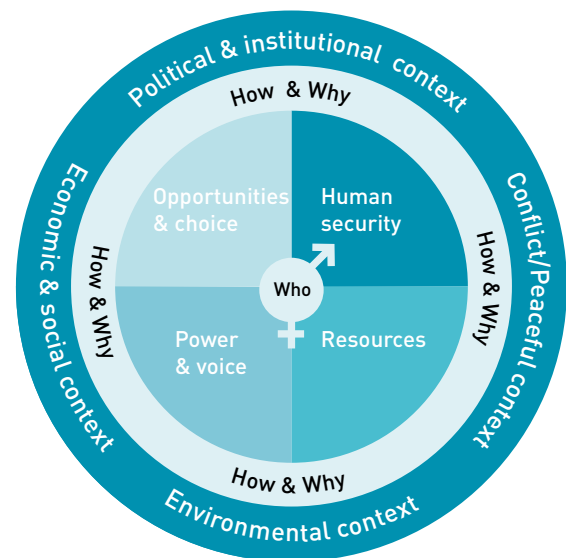
Although men more often than women are the perpetrators of violence, men and boys can also be victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and those living in poverty are most at risk. Young male victims of sexual exploitation are often criminalised.³⁹ There is a general shortage of reporting mechanisms and shelters, especially for men, boys and the LGBTI community.

Harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and early child and forced marriages and other forms of gender-based violence, have been committed primarily against women and girls in certain communities and societies for so long that they are considered, or presented by perpetrators, as part of accepted cultural practices.⁴⁰ It is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women in 31 countries have undergone FGM/C.⁴¹ FGM and poverty are interconnected since girls who undergo this practice often come from poor families and are married as children. Child marriages often result in early pregnancy, social isolation, interrupts schooling, limits opportunities and increases her risk of experiencing domestic violence.⁴² Girls living in poverty are 2.5 times more likely to marry in childhood than those living in the wealthiest quintile.⁴³

Men continue to constitute the majority of fatalities in conflict while women are more exposed to other security risks such as gender based and sexual violence. Sexual and gender based violence often increases in conflict situations and women and girls face heightened risks due to displacement and the breakdown of normal social structures and support. They also face increased demand for care-related tasks such as providing food and water and caring for the sick.⁴⁴

ANALYSING POVERTY AND GENDER EQUALITY IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

How gender influences the different dimensions of poverty has been discussed in the previous section. Moving further from a descriptive study to an analysis of root causes of poverty, one needs to analyse the development context to understand why some people are poor. The gender dynamics in relation to the context analysis will be further explored in the following sections.



Source: Sida (2017) Dimensions of Poverty – Sida’s Conceptual Framework.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

Despite remarkable progress in some areas, no country in the world has achieved gender equality. Women and girls are often discriminated against in health, in education, at home and in the labour market — with negative repercussions for their opportunities and rights. Gender inequalities are consequently perpetuated unless dealt with, in particular in situations of conflict and crises. Therefore, analysing the economic and social contexts from a gender perspective, e.g. how economic and natural resources are distributed and how the economy is structured will help identify barriers that needs to be addressed. This includes analysing the labour market, how the education and health system is organised and resourced and what social security systems exists from a gender perspective.

39 <http://www.stop-cse.org/sexual-exploitation-boys-young-men/>
 40 <http://www.healthscotland.scot/health-topics/gender-based-violence/harmful-traditional-practices>
 41 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>
 42 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>
 43 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women/2014/poverty>
 44 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/facts-and-figures>

Trade can be an important tool for enabling people to move out of poverty and advancing women's economic empowerment. Women have seen increased job opportunities in sectors such as in manufacturing following trade liberalisation, but these tend to be concentrated in the lowest paid jobs, often with labour right deficiencies and some countries and businesses have attempted to base their international competitiveness on women's low wages.

Corruption hampers economic growth, increases poverty and undermines the quality and quantity of public services, depriving women, men, girls and boys living in poverty of equitable access to vital services such as healthcare, education, water and sanitation. While many forms of corruption affect both women and men, corruption disproportionately affects poorer populations and hits the poor the hardest. Corruption presents a barrier for women to gain full access to their civic, social and economic rights. Furthermore, there are specific forms of corruption, where sex is the currency of the bribe, thus disproportionately affecting women.⁴⁵

Analysing shifts in economic and demographic development trends, migration patterns as well as the structure of growth from a gender perspective, is an important component of the MDPA. This is likely to change during times of conflict and crises and there are lessons to be learned from previous crises, to better understand the consequences for women and men and their opportunities to move out of poverty.

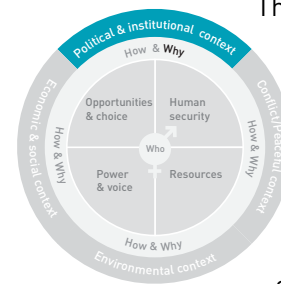
BOX 4: GENDER EQUALITY AND COVID-19

The effects of a pandemic such as Covid-19 is likely to reverse the progress on gender equality and women's rights as it exacerbates existing inequalities in the following sectors namely; health, economic security and social protection. Many women work in the informal economy putting them at a greater risk of falling into poverty as a result of the pandemic. COVID-19 has resulted in increased violence against women and girls, child abuse and harmful practices as a result of the lock down measures, and lack of access for survivors to safety and health services. The majority of those working in the health and social sectors are women (70%, are women) putting them at a high risk of being infected⁴⁶. Most of them are also parents and care givers to family members and most likely this burden increases during crises and pandemics.

45 https://www.transparency.org/files/content/feature/2019_G20_Gender+Corruption_Transparency_International.pdf

46 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/3/news-womens-needs-and-leadership-in-covid-19-response>

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT



The political and institutional context refers to formal and informal political institutions, social norms, power relations, the rule of law and human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) recognises women and men's equal rights. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)⁴⁷, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action⁴⁸, the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁴⁹ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵⁰ lays out key commitments for a global drive to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.⁵¹ It is important to assess which commitments governments have made based on those, and how these have been implemented through gender policies and strategies, laws, budget allocations and institutional changes.

More than 2.5 billion women and girls around the world are affected in many ways by discriminatory laws and the lack of legal protections.⁵² These laws deny them equal rights with men and boys and give the message that gender discrimination is acceptable. Some examples include personal laws that deny women equal rights in marriage and criminal laws that limit access to justice for women and girls by allowing perpetrators of rape to marry survivors to escape criminal responsibility. Only six countries worldwide give women and men equal work rights and⁵³ 93 countries legally allows girls to marry before the age of 18 with parental consent.⁵⁴

The absence of gender equality in national laws are associated with fewer girls enrolled in schools, fewer women in the skilled work force, fewer women owning land, and more women facing domestic, family

47 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

48 <https://enb.iisd.org/cairo.html>

49 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1995) <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

50 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

51 <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/equality-in-law-for-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5600>

52 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/03/equality-in-law-for-women-and-girls-by-2030>

53 <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/world-bank-report-finds-only-six-countries-worldwide-give-women-men-equal-legal-work-rights>

54 <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-law/>

and sexual violence. Lack of rule of law, corruption, political oppressions and lack of independent human rights institutions, also affects gender inequalities and make it more difficult for men, women, girls and boys to move out of poverty.

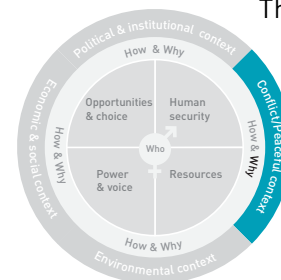
The political and institutional contexts also include social norms, which are the informal rules governing behaviour and common practice, e.g. how most people behave in a particular context. According to the UNDP, Gender and Social Norms Index 2020⁵⁵, covering data from 75 countries, close to 90 percent of men and women hold some sort of bias against women in relation to politics, economics, education, violence or reproductive rights. Understanding why a gender discriminatory norm is in place, or what function it is playing in relation to a practice is crucial for changing the norm.⁵⁶

The shrinking space for civil society actors and women rights defenders have affected gender equality as speaking up in public for gender equality and women's rights can be a serious threat to their security. According to a report by Kvinna till Kvinna (2018), more than 60 percent of women human rights defenders in 32 countries say their space to act as an activist has shrunk. An important aspect is the global backlash towards gender equality and the failure to recognise women's role as actors for change.

Women's leadership and political participation are restricted from the local to the global level. Women are underrepresented as voters as well as in leading positions, in elected offices, civil services, the private sector and in academia. This greatly affects their chances to participate equally with men in democratic governance.⁵⁷

Barriers for women to participate in political life includes structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions which limit women's options to run for office, as well as women's lack of contacts and resources needed to become effective leaders.⁵⁸ Only 24 percent of the parliamentary seats are held by women, and they represent only 5 percent of heads of government according to data in 2019.⁵⁹

PEACE AND CONFLICT CONTEXT



The peace and conflict context refer to factors such as social cohesion, trust, conflict resolution mechanisms, justice as well as violence, tension grievances and conflicting interests. This contexts helps understand existing conflicts or rising tensions and how gender equality is or is likely to be affected in order to identify pathways out of poverty.

Providing more transformative support for gender equality and sustainable peace requires an understanding of the power relations driving gender inequality, conflict and fragility and the role of women as actors rather than as only passive victims or beneficiaries.⁶⁰

It is estimated that by 2030, up to two thirds of the world's extreme poor will live in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.⁶¹ Gender inequality, conflict and fragility are key challenges to sustainable development. They are inextricably linked, unequal gender relations can drive conflict and violence, while women's active participation can contribute to peace and resilience. At the same time, conflict and fragility place enormous burdens on women and girls, while peace building and state building can provide unique opportunities to advance recognition of their rights.

Women all over the world are leading movements for peace to rebuild communities. There is strong evidence suggesting that women's participation in peace processes contribute to longer, more resilient peace after conflict. Despite this, women remain largely invisible to, and excluded from, peace processes and negotiations.⁶²⁽¹⁾ The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and the following resolutions, affirms that peace and security efforts are more sustainable when women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflicts, the delivery of relief and recovery efforts and in the forging of lasting peace. Understanding the relationship between women, peace and security is therefore an important aspect of the MDPA.

55 https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/Gender_Social_Norms_Index_2020.html

56 <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9818.pdf>

57 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>

58 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>

59 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hd_perspectives_gsni.pdf

60 http://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docsGender_equality_in_fragile_situations_2017.pdf

61 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/people-peace-prosperity>

62 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security>

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT



To address the environmental context, there is a need to understand the particular environmental situation, trends and consequences such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, pollution and water quality as well as the causes and drivers of degradation.

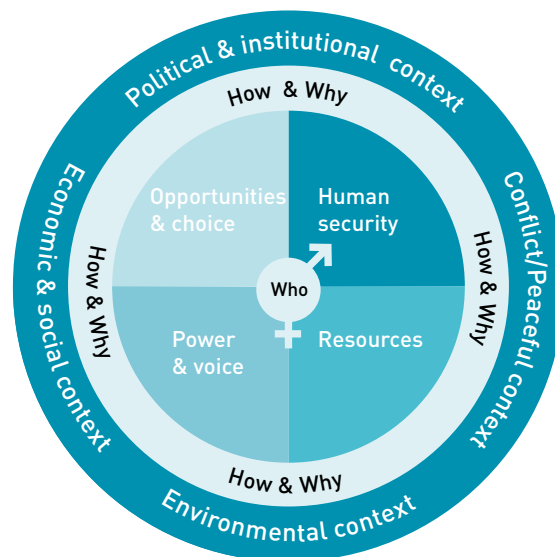
Environmental degradation and climate change have disproportionate impact on women and children.⁶³ Women often have to cope with climate-related shocks and stresses or the health effects of indoor and urban pollution, all which add to their care burden. When land, forest and water resources are increasingly compromised, privatized or used for commercial investment, local communities and indigenous peoples, particularly women, whose livelihoods depend on them, are marginalized and displaced.⁶⁴

Women are responsible for more than half of the total world food production and are generally involved in the management, maintenance and conservation of natural resources for collective and community consumption. It is often the responsibility of women and girls to fetch water, collect firewood and to cook in an unhealthy environment. Due to women's high degree of dependency on the natural environment to perform their daily roles, they are generally more adversely affected than men when land is degraded, climate is changing and natural resources become scarce.

Access to and control over natural resources can be a driver for sexual exploitation. This exploitation is commonly seen when representatives of land tenure authorities suggest or demand sexual favours for land rights which are expressed as transactional sex for resources.

The gendered aspects of migration need to be assessed as many people move as a result of environmental degradation and climate change. Urbanisation often results in broken traditional community based systems which may result in increased level of gender based violence and other forms of vulnerability.

It is important to acknowledge that women are not only victims but are also powerful agents of change, and possess specific knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, but are largely under-represented in decision making processes at all levels.⁶⁵



TOOLS FOR INTEGRATING GENDER EQUALITY INTO THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY ANALYSIS

Analyzing the links between gender equality and poverty is an integral part of the multidimensional poverty analysis that aims to identify gender inequalities and how it affects people living in and their path out of poverty.

Below are some supplementary guidance for integrating gender equality in the dimensions of poverty:

- Sida's Poverty Toolbox: This includes Guiding Questions and a Menu of Indicators that provides practical advice and access to data sources on economic development and poverty. <https://www.sida.se/English/partners/methods-materials/poverty-toolbox/>
- Sida's Gender Equality Toolbox: Check specifically the tool on how Sida works with gender equality. <https://www.sida.se/English/partners/methods-materials/gender-tool-box/>

⁶³ https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB1_Africa_Overview-Gender-Climate-Change.pdf

⁶⁴ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

⁶⁵ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/gender-and-science/cross-cutting-issues/climate-change-and-gender-equality/>

There are also a number of data resources that could be useful when integrating gender equality in the multidimensional poverty analysis, for instance the following databases could be used:

- The Gender Data Portal is the World Bank Group's comprehensive source for the latest sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/>
- The World Bank report Women, Business and the Law (WBL) measures gender inequality in the law. [Women Business and the Law, World Bank](#)
- The United Nations Development Programme has developed a Gender Inequality index [Gender Inequality Index Rank](#)
- The World Economic Forum has developed a Global Gender Gap Index Report [Global Gender Gap Index Rank](#)