

Ending violence against women and girls is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) seek to change the course of the 21st century by addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, health, and women's empowerment. Ending violence against women would accelerate achieving the SDGs.



Goal 1. No Poverty

Poverty can be a consequence of violence, causing women to lose income and affecting their capacity to work or complete their education. In Nagpur, India, women had to forgo, on average, 7 days of paid work per violent incident.¹



Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being

Studies have shown that intimate partner violence can increase the risk of HIV infection by around 50%.³

Women who experience intimate partner violence have a 16% greater chance of having a low birth-weight baby.²



Goal 4. Quality Education

In Uganda, 78% of primary and 82% of secondary school students reported having experienced sexual abuse at school, 67% perpetrated by male teachers. Fear for girls' safety in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea have led parents to withdraw girls from school. The impact of gender-based violence causes compromised attendance, lower academic results and higher drop-out rates.⁴



Goal 17. Partnerships for the goals

Governments worldwide increasingly use gender-responsive budgeting to ensure implementation of gender equality policies and action plans. However, the costing of selected national action plans such as gender equality, ending violence against women, gender parity in the workplace, show financing deficits as high as 90%.¹²



Goal 16. Peace, Justice and strong institution

Women comprise 98% of the estimated 4.5 million people forced into sexual exploitation. Women who face violence often encounter numerous obstacles to accessing justice, including institutional barriers within the justice system such as the lack of expertise of legal professionals, lack of coordination and cooperation among relevant institutions.¹¹



Goal 13. Climate Action

In humanitarian emergencies, women living in camps or informal settlements may face violence as they fetch water or firewood, may be forced to offer sexual favors in exchange for food when food is scarce. In some situations, economically disadvantaged families marry off their underage daughters to have one less children to feed.¹⁰



Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities

Violence against women and girls limits women and girls' mobility and the use of public spaces, keeping them away from school, work, and transports. According to a 2013 survey on women's perceptions of safety in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 2 out of 3 women live in fear of sexual violence.⁹



Goal 5. Gender Equality

35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.⁵



Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation

Women in 25 sub-Saharan countries spend the total of 16 million hours per day collecting water. Women and girls are frequently subjected to unacceptable risks of violence, including sexual violence, while accessing water and sanitation facilities.⁷



Goal 10. Reduced inequalities

20% of the women in Cambodia who experienced domestic violence reported that they missed work and their children missed school.⁸



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