

OECD POLICY DIALOGUE ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

Recognising, Reducing
and Redistributing Unpaid Care
and Domestic Work



A joint initiative of the OECD Development Centre,
Development Co-operation Directorate and
Statistics Directorate

Why focus on unpaid care and domestic work to support women's economic empowerment?

The case for countries to invest in women's economic empowerment has never been stronger. A growing body of evidence demonstrates how economies are more resilient, productive and inclusive when they reduce gender inequalities and actively support women's participation. Despite some progress, traditional approaches to women's economic empowerment, such as training programmes or access to finance, ignore the negative impact the burden of women's unpaid care and domestic work has on women's ability to pursue economic opportunities. However, there is greater recognition that promoting women's economic empowerment and well-being cannot be achieved without addressing their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work.

Governments committed to “recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work” in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 5.4, through “public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate”. Understanding the links between unpaid care and domestic work and women's economic empowerment can accelerate progress towards gender equality in the home and the economy for more inclusive, sustainable development benefitting women and their families.



Why the OECD?

The OECD is building on its expertise in data and analysis to help move governments and the development community from the “why this is important?” to “how to drive change?”. To this end, the OECD Policy Dialogue on Women’s Economic Empowerment aims to generate data, evidence and policy guidance on “what works” to reduce women’s unpaid care and domestic work and support their economic empowerment and well-being in low- and middle-income countries.

This initiative will capitalize on the OECD’s extensive work and expertise on gender equality and women’s empowerment, including:

- The **Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)** which examines how gender inequality is shaped by discriminatory social institutions
- The **Time-use database** to better understand how women and men allocate their time to paid and unpaid work and leisure
- The **DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker** allows for tracking of aid flows to women’s economic empowerment and support for gender equality in the social services and infrastructure sectors.

In addition, the Policy Dialogue benefits from the convening power of the OECD’s existing networks including the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), netFWD and EMnet (bringing together foundations and the private sector, respectively) and engages with representatives from developing countries representing all regions, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries, including members of the OECD Development Centre, as well as multilateral stakeholders, civil society and academia.



Planned activities

The objective of the Policy dialogue will be achieved through two work streams:

1. Data analysis on unpaid care and domestic work in developing country contexts

- Expanded OECD time-use database to select low- and middle-income countries and analysis of women's time use and policy investments
- Updated Social Institutions and Gender Index for 2018 measuring gender-based discriminatory laws, attitudes and practices
- Monitoring and analysis of Official Development Assistance to women's economic empowerment

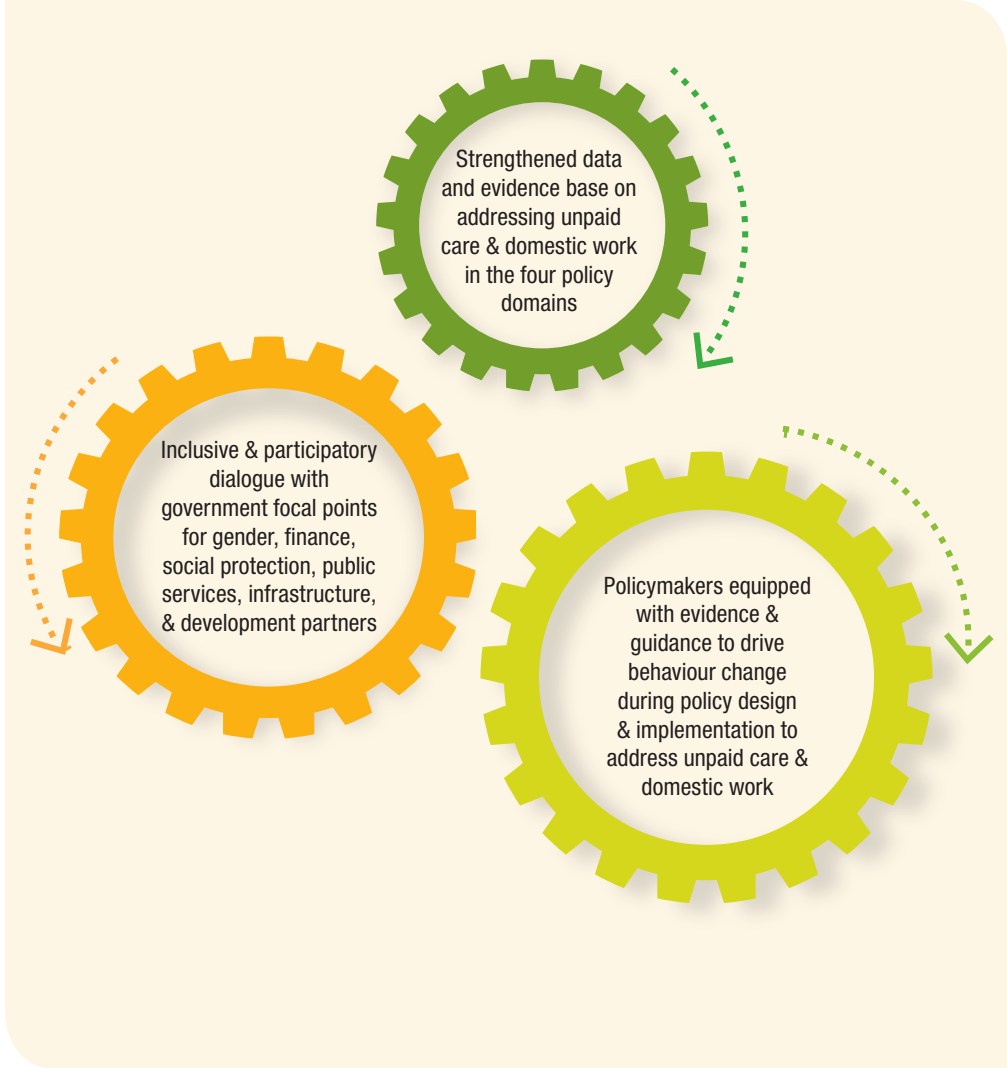
2. Policy analysis and inclusive dialogues

- Global mapping of policies and programmes addressing women's unpaid care work in line with SDG 5.4
- Inclusive policy dialogue meetings at the global and regional levels
- Policy analysis and case studies in the domains of social protection, public services, infrastructure and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household
- Policy Guidance to achieve SDG 5.4 validated by governments and development partners

How can the Policy Dialogue drive behaviour change?

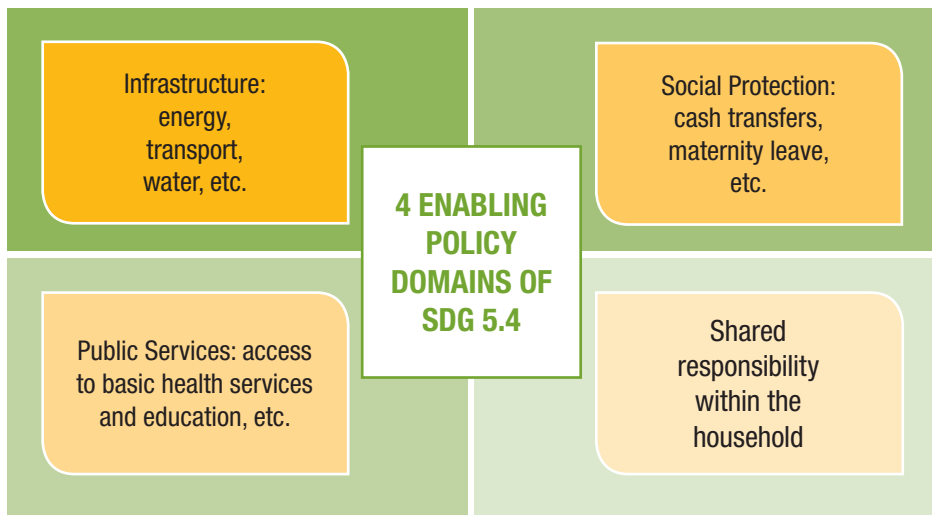
The Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic empowerment will equip policymakers and practitioners the evidence and tools they need on why and how to address women's unpaid care work. Through participation in Policy Dialogue meetings and validation of research findings, this initiative aims to drive behaviour change for more effective policy design the recognises, reduces and redistributes women's unpaid care and domestic work.

Theory of Change: Evidence-based, participatory dialogue to drive behaviour change in policymaking



Four enabling policy domains

SDG Target 5.4 identifies four enabling policy domains to address unpaid care and domestic work where policies and programmes can have a positive impact on women's time use (see figure below). By framing the policy analysis and guidance within these four domains, this initiative aims to bridge the gap between knowledge and the capacity to translate it into practical policy solutions.

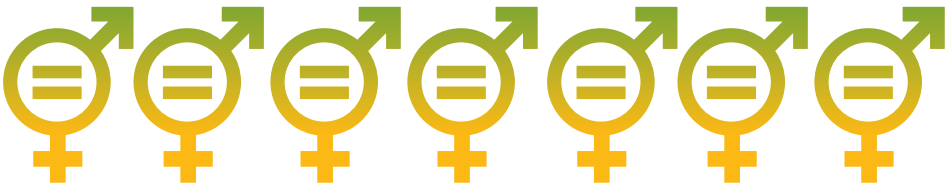


Engage with the OECD Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment

The Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment is committed to creating a community of practitioners, researchers and advocates from all over the world to identify effective policies and practices to address women's unpaid care and domestic work and promote gender equality. The first Policy Dialogue meeting took place in January 2018 at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France, bringing together over 150 participants from governments, NGOs, civil society, multi-lateral organisations, the private sector and foundations. This meeting offered a forum for participants to share experiences and best practices, discuss challenges and identify knowledge gaps to help define the scope of future analytical work and case studies.

We invite you to:

- **Share good practices and promising initiatives** that have had a positive impact on women's unpaid care and domestic work in any of the four policy domains. The information will be consolidated into a matrix of good practices that will be shared with the Policy Dialogue community.
- **Contribute to case studies and analysis** in the 4 policy domains.
- **Participate in Policy Dialogue meetings** to learn from local, national and regional experiences how to tackle unpaid care and domestic work to achieve Target 5.4. Future meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America will be an opportunity to validate findings and tailor policy messages and guidance to the regional level.



For more information about the Policy Dialogue please contact
Annelise Thim, Annelise.Thim@oecd.org.

