



## Impact 2: Women's economic empowerment

Data as of: 18 May 2024

Selected Strategic Plan:  
**2022–2025**

Year Selected: **2022**

Women have income security, decent work, and economic autonomy.

## Our result highlights

### Malawi: Climate Change Impact



Malawi

As grey clouds start moving over the fields in Mkanda village in central Malawi, 43-year-old Jennifer Lipungaa inspects her two-acre groundnut farm. Unlike in the past, Lipunga is no longer worried about negative weather impacts affecting her crop, thanks to Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) interventions.

“Two years ago, we planted seeds months before the rains fell, the rains delayed further and the temperature continued to rise, ruining the planted seed. Most of our crop was damaged and we only harvested 21 kg of groundnuts” says Lipunga. [Read more >](#)

---

### Georgia: Women Entrepreneurs



Georgia

UN Women Georgia hosted the first large-scale exhibition and sale of products and services made by women entrepreneurs on 1-2 October at the Expo Georgia Exhibition Center in Tbilisi. During the two-day event, about 100 participants from all over the country had the opportunity to present their products to the attendees, sell them on the spot and establish connections with potential customers. [Read more >](#)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/U0Bsm7QdJnQ>

---

### Asia Pacific: Women's Empowerment Principles

Asia



Pacific

UN Women catalyzes private sector actions to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality through the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), which saw increased commitments, actions and strengthened accountability mechanisms among businesses in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2022, the number of WEPs signatories increased by 408 from 1,665 in 2021 to 2,073.

The 2022 report “Trends and Opportunities to Advance Gender Equality in Business in Asia and the Pacific” provides valuable insights into the progress made by signatory companies in promoting WEPs across supply chains and highlights gaps where actions are still needed. Significant advances were made in companies that used the Gender Gap Analysis Tool (GAT) to make this assessment, and as of 31 December 2022, a total of 851 companies in the Asia-Pacific region have undertaken the tool. Among the surveyed WEPs signatory companies in the region, 71 per cent reported that the COVID-19 pandemic encouraged a rethinking of

their diversity and inclusion strategy. They perceive their most notable progress to be on promoting women in leadership, advancing workplace equality, and increasing awareness of gender.

To encourage companies to demonstrate their commitments in action, the UN Women Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards were launched under the WeEmpowerAsia (WEA) programme. Open to private sector organizations of all sizes and categories, the Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards offer them a unique opportunity to showcase their work in advancing women's empowerment across organizational value chains. Growing in prominence since 2020, there has been an increase in the number of applicants, with 508 applications received in 2022 from 19 Asia-Pacific countries. Applications came from a diverse range of industries, including banking, consumer goods, business support, social enterprises, Chambers of Commerce, IT, and impact investors. The progress over the past three years reflects the increasing number of WEPs signatories in the region that self-identify as having exemplary practices and value receiving recognition for it.

The various categories of the WEPs Awards were both relevant and aspirational, with new examples of employer-supported care and care for supply chain workers. The number of applications for Transparency and Reporting doubled from 2021. The highest number of applications were in Gender-Inclusive Workplaces as well as Community Engagement and Partnerships. To make the Awards more inclusive and to recognize the vital contribution that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) make to the economy, the 2021 and 2022 cycles added three additional MSME Champions Awards. In fact, 40 per cent of applications in 2022 were from MSMEs.

The WEPs have also been a driving force for policy advocacy. Under the WEA programme, UN Women and ILO developed the [Ecosystem landscaping to advance the accountability to implement the Women's Empowerment Principles in ASEAN](#). It provides comprehensive details on policy gaps and sets out a clear policy roadmap for the ASEAN Member States to advance more gender-responsive business conduct, with especially clear guidance on reporting and implementing WEPs-related policies. It is being leveraged by ASEAN and UN Women through the [ASEAN Public Policy Action Brief](#) under the leadership of the ASEAN Committee on Women. Similarly, the brief on Advancing Gender and Business Reporting was launched at the 2022 ASEAN Summit on Women and is strongly complementary to and will help generate more traction on the [WEPs Transparency and Accountability framework](#).

Using the [official WEPs Awards website](#) as an interactive knowledge exchange platform and the evidence generated in the form of [16 WEPs in Action and WEPs Leadership Insights case studies](#), UN Women has been able to leverage the WEPs in the Asia-Pacific as a catalyst for action and momentum at policy and business levels to accelerate business action in advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Read more:

[Advancing gender and business reporting to implement the women's empowerment principles \(WEPs\) as part of an inclusive COVID-19 economic recovery](#)

[WEPs Transparency and Accountability Framework: Creating Transparency on Gender Equality to Transform Business](#)

[TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY IN BUSINESS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC \(UN Women 2022\)](#)

[Women's Empowerment Principles in Action Case Studies](#)

[WEPs Awards Awardee Profiles from 2021 \(but published in 2022\)](#)

[UN Women Think Piece: Innovations in Childcare to Advance Women's Economic Empowerment](#)

---

## Ecuador: Empowerment In Humanitarian Action



En Ecuador, para responder a la crisis migratoria y de movilidad humana, se han implementado mecanismos y acciones de acogida, protección y asistencia humanitaria, dirigidas especialmente a mujeres y niñas que transitan en la frontera y que corren riesgos específicos, como ser víctimas de violencia de género, violencia sexual, prostitución forzada, trata de personas o explotación sexual.

Desde 2019, a través del proyecto Caminando, ONU Mujeres busca empoderar a las mujeres migrantes, refugiadas y de las comunidades de acogida para el pleno ejercicio de su derecho a vivir una vida libre de violencia. [Leer más >](#)

---

## Kuwait: Economic Empowerment Platform



Leading members of the Kuwait private sector launched the Women's Economic Empowerment Platform Kuwait (WEEP Kuwait) on 6 June, with the endorsement and support of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD). Senior representatives of Equate Petrochemical, Gulf Bank, LimakInsaat Kuwait SPC, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), and Zain Kuwait announced their commitment to collaborate and exchange knowledge and expertise to advance the implementation of the [Women's Empowerment Principles \(WEPs\)](#) in Kuwait. [Read more >](#)

---