# POVERTYISSEXIST



### **Poverty is Sexist**

An Introduction





In Switzerland, for every 100,000 births, six women die in childbirth or just after. In Sierra Leone, 1,100 do. That's right. A woman in Sierra Leone is 183 times more likely to die bringing a new life into the world than a woman in Switzerland.

It would be hard to find a statistic that more accurately reflects the injustice of a world in which whether you live or die depends on an accident of geography – on where you were born.

And think about the stories, and the lives, behind that statistic. In one part of the world, the bloodstained sheets, the clinics with flickering lights and intermittent electricity, few supplies and not enough trained nurses and doctors; the grieving husbands and parents, the children bewildered that Mum isn't coming home with a new brother or sister – in fact, that she's not coming home at all. And in the other part of the world, none of that: just the quotidian expectation that when a woman goes into hospital to give birth she, and her baby, will come home safely in a few days, and rejoin her family with all the happiness and giddy promise for the future with which such moments are endowed.

The challenges and injustices that girls and women in the developing world face are many, across all aspects of life, and include structural, social, economic and political barriers –

barriers that men, and women who live in richer countries, experience to far lesser degrees.

The numbers are sobering, even beyond maternal mortality. About 39,000 girls under the age of 18 become child brides every day, with a greater chance of suffering abuse from their husbands.<sup>2</sup> Only a little over 20% of poor rural girls in Africa complete primary education; fewer than 10% finish lower secondary school;<sup>3</sup> and in many countries women in paid work earn 10–30% less than men.<sup>4</sup> What is more, land, safe energy, technology, inheritance and financial services are often out of reach for women. Around the world, only about 22% of parliamentarians are female.<sup>5</sup> Women can be disproportionately affected by corruption because of reduced access to

resources, lower participation in governance and weaker protection of their rights.<sup>6</sup> Cultural and legal limitations create these disparities, despite the fact that women provide the backbone of many aspects of life: in the home, at work and in the community. Violence against women – physical and sexual – reflects the sexism, disrespect and abuse of women's basic rights that occur in all countries across the world. Beyond gross abuses of human rights, imagine trying to productively farm, or fix a car, or stitch a tapestry, or code a new software program, with one hand tied behind your back; yet that is precisely the situation in which a society finds itself when it ignores women's potential.



In many countries women in paid work earn **10–30%** less than men.



**39,000 girls** under the age of 18 become child brides every day.



A woman in Sierra Leone is **183x** more likely to die bringing a new life into the world than a woman in Switzerland.

### What Needs to Happen



This situation needs to change and not only because it is a source of endemic, global injustice.

Put simply, **poverty is sexist**, and we won't end it unless we face up to the fact that girls and women get a raw deal.

That means

### 1. Refocusing the development agenda so that girls and women are centre stage –

they are half of the current population of those living in poverty<sup>7</sup> and often the most vulnerable to falling into and staying in poverty. The global community must seize the opportunity to unleash the social, political and economic potential of women everywhere.

#### 2. Better targeted investments

in health, education and the economic empowerment of girls and women to dismantle the barriers that prevent so many living healthy and productive lives. In this brief, ONE sets out policy recommendations across key sectors to do just that.

If we take those two steps, all members of society could benefit. A mounting body of evidence shows that, if we invest in girls and women, it helps their families and communities too.

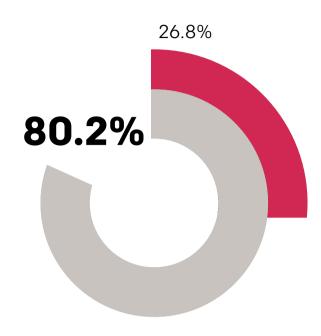
### Why Now?



### 2015 is just the year to do it.

This year will see the world commit to a new set of Sustainable Development Goals<sup>8</sup> (SDGs) designed to replace the Millennium Development Goals<sup>9</sup> and eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 – and so thinking about the place of women in the development story is more important than ever. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and Chair of the African Union Commission (AUC) Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma are leading the way on the issue: each will convene a women's summit this year, and Merkel is putting girls and women at the heart of her G7 agenda. In the following pages, we look at what the challenges – and opportunities – involved in such an agenda are.

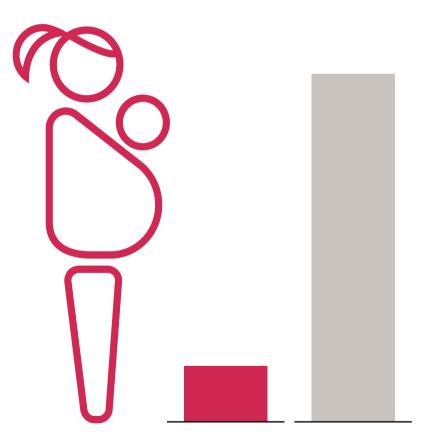
for Girls and Women



Secondary school enrolment for girls is **3x higher** in non-LDCs at 80.2% of girls, on average, compared with 26.8% of girls enrolled in LDCs.

Poverty and gender inequality go hand-in-hand; girls and women in the poorest countries suffer a double whammy, of being born both in a poor country and female. To see the extent of this disadvantage, ONE analysed the situation for girls and women in least developed countries (LDCs)<sup>10</sup> across key gender indicators. On every indicator, life is significantly harder for girls and women in LDCs compared with those living in other countries. While that may not be surprising – because men in poor countries are also disadvantaged -ONE also found that the gender gap between males and females is larger in the poorest countries.

ONE's calculations are based on data from:
World Bank, World Development Indicators
World Bank, Global Financial Inclusion Database (Findex
UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Education Database
International Labour Organisation, IL OSTAT



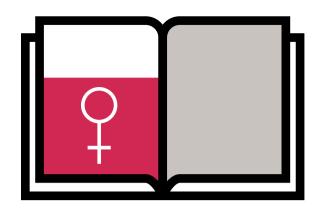
The percentage of working women who are in vulnerable employment<sup>11</sup> is three times higher in LDCs than in non-LDCs, with 86.2% of employed women on average working in vulnerable employment in LDCs.

86.2%



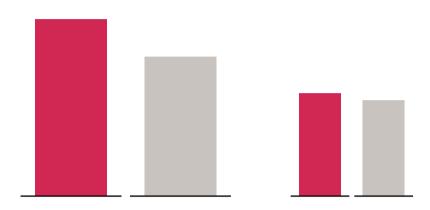
1 in 217 compared with 1 in 1,250

Almost half (45%) of the world's maternal deaths occur amongst the 13% of the world's poorest women living in LDCs: **131,000** in total. Across LDCs, the average ratio is 1 in 217 (i.e. 1 maternal death per 217 live births) compared with 1 in 1,250 on average across non-LDCs.



In LDCs, on average, the rate of literacy among women is only **two-thirds** (68.5%) the rate of men. In non-LDCs, the gender gap remains, but to a lesser degree: women's rates are on average 94.8% those of men's.

In LDCs, 20% more female workers than male workers are in vulnerable employment, a gender gap that is only 7% in other countries.



### Country Comparisons





In **France**, 97% of women have a bank account – in **Chad**, less than 7% of women do, nearly 40% fewer than men.

The number of girls enrolled in primary school in the **UK**, which has a population of 64.1 million, is equal to the number of out-of-school girls of primary age in **Ethiopia**, with a population of 94.1 million people.



### **The Opportunity**

Globally, providing female farmers with the same access to productive resources as male farmers could reduce the number of people living in chronic hunger by 100 – 150 million.<sup>12</sup>

100-150 M



Reducing differences in the employment rate between men and women by 2017 could generate an additional \$1.6 trillion in global output (measured in purchasing power parity).<sup>13</sup>

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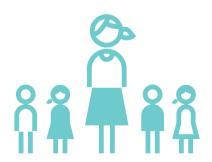


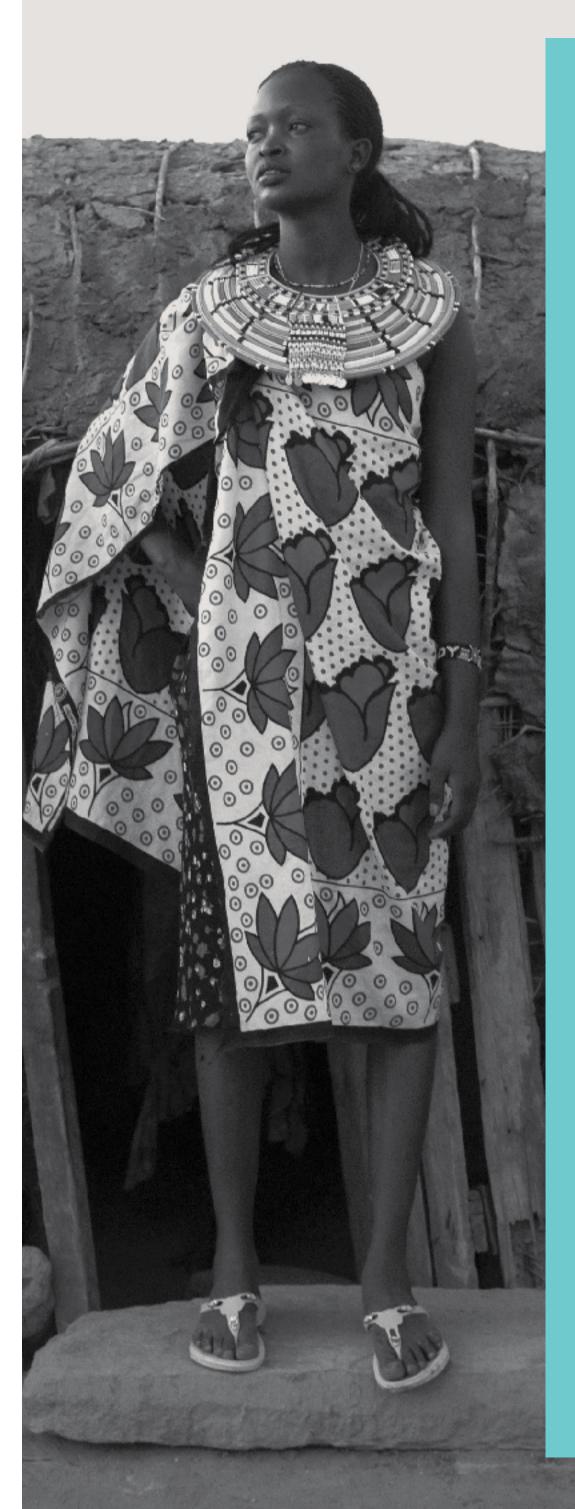
Increasing the amount spent on key health interventions for women and children by \$5 per person per year to 2035 across 74 developing countries could yield a nine times return on investment in economic and social benefits.<sup>14</sup> 9X



Ensuring that all students in low-income countries, including girls, leave school with basic readings skills could cut extreme poverty globally by as much as 12%.<sup>15</sup>

**12%** 





Women farmers could significantly raise economic output and decrease the number of people globally suffering from chronic hunger.

Strong health systems could mean that maternal and child deaths drop dramatically.

Safe, reliable energy could mean that businesses would be better able to thrive, the quality of education for girls and boys would improve and health clinics would provide better care. All of this could boost economic and social development.

Improvement in access to quality education for girls could significantly boost their future income, drastically reduce rates of child malnutrition, save mothers' and children's lives and reduce overall poverty levels.

Getting more women into the labour force and increasing women's access to information and communication technology (ICT) and the Internet could boost the overall economy. Affording women more control over finances could greatly improve quality of life at the household level.

For all those reasons, the fundamental message is plain: if we are going to end extreme poverty, we need to start with girls and women.

Agriculture



#### **What's Needed**

Agricultural training and research and development should be tailored to women's needs; women's access to hired labour and other productive inputs should be increased; and women's land tenure rights should be strengthened (e.g. by such means as formalised registration of tenure, expansion of co-titling and enabling individual titling for women, and reforming inheritance and family laws).<sup>24</sup> All six World Health Assembly nutrition targets<sup>25</sup> should be integrated into the SDGs.

• Agricultural productivity for female farmers in a sample of sub-Saharan African countries is between 23% and 66% lower than that of male farmers. Though data are limited, only 10–20% of all land-holders globally are female. Female farmers' access to credit is lower than that of males.

Women provide roughly half of all agricultural labour in Africa, yet female farmers continue to have less access to farm labour, tools, extension services and financing for their farms compared with men, and get less return on the same investments.<sup>19</sup>

#### **The Potential**

• Globally, providing female farmers with the same access to productive resources as male farmers (i.e., closing the gender gap in agriculture) could increase agricultural yields by 20–30%, raise economic output by 2.5–4%, and reduce the number of people who go hungry by 12–17% (100–150 million people).<sup>20</sup>

Studies show that growth in the agriculture sector in sub-Saharan Africa is 11 times more effective at reducing poverty than growth in any other sector of the economy. In developing countries, nearly half of the reduction in hunger that occurred between 1970 and 1995 can be correlated with increases in women's education, and Bread for the World recently showed that countries with greater levels of gender equality tend to have lower rates of child malnutrition.



Health



#### **What's Needed**

Investments in the health of girls and women must be scaled up and health programmes must more effectively target and engage them as their beneficiaries and partners. The health of girls and women must remain a foundational priority on the global development agenda, and leaders must chart a clear pathway towards the virtual elimination of preventable maternal and child deaths. As part of this effort, investments must be targeted in ways that aggressively fight specific diseases that adversely impact women; help make women's access to essential health commodities universal; and strengthen human resources for health, which can extend the reach of health systems to the most vulnerable.

- •Of adults living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, 58% are women; and, globally women aged 15–24 face double the risk of HIV infection compared with their male peers.<sup>26</sup>
- •Almost 800 women die every day from complications in pregnancy or childbirth. Of the 68 countries with the highest burden of maternal and child deaths, 53 do not have the 23 physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000 people deemed necessary to deliver essential health services;<sup>27</sup> and an estimated 225 million women are not able to access the tools needed to plan and space the births of their children. Some 43 million women do not deliver their babies in a health facility.<sup>28</sup>

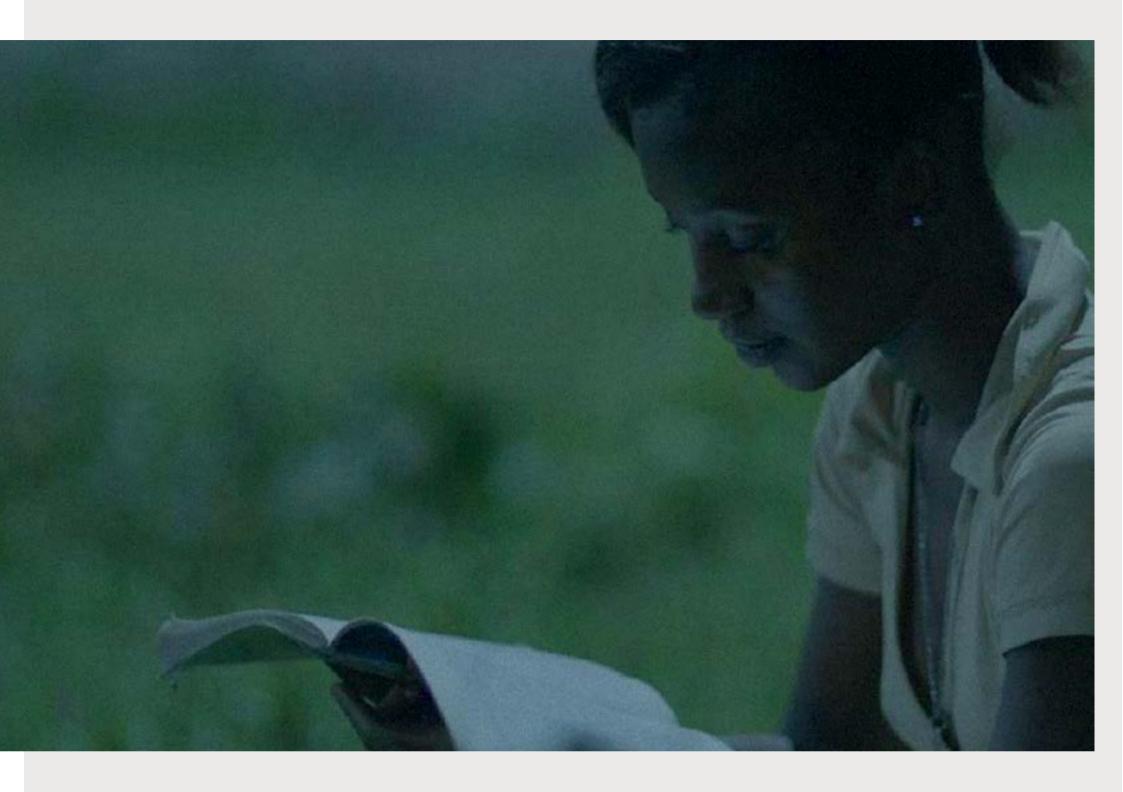
Far too many women and girls still lack access to the quality health services, programmes and commodities they need to stay healthy. Compounding this problem, women experience physiological, economic and socio-cultural obstacles that make them more vulnerable to many diseases and conditions than their male counterparts. In addition, many African women spend a lot of their time playing the crucial role of health care providers and primary care-givers, looking after sick family members.<sup>29</sup>

#### **The Potential**

- In 2013, more than two-thirds of pregnant women living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries received treatment to prevent transmission of the virus to their babies. Tast-tracking efforts on HIV/AIDS could see the world eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, save millions of lives, and return \$15 for every \$1 invested.
- If all women could access the care, commodities and services recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), maternal deaths would drop by 67%, and newborn deaths would fall by 77%.<sup>32</sup>

In recent years, a significant increase in donor and domestic investments in women's and children's health has made a real impact: there are now fewer unintended pregnancies, fewer women dying in childbirth and fewer children dying from preventable causes than ever before. Yet it is clear from the statistics that better and more investments in women's health, including training and retaining health care workers, are critical to saving lives of both women and children and to improving their overall health. As a side benefit, strengthened formal health systems could free up the time of women who traditionally play that (unpaid) role in the family, allowing them to pursue more economically productive activities.

Energy



### **What's Needed**

Universal access to safe, sustainable, affordable, reliable and modern energy services must be achieved, while access to finance and capacity-building resources in energy sector innovation, particularly for women, should be prioritised.

- In most countries, women tend to be in charge of cooking. When they cook over open fires or traditional stoves, they breathe in pollutants every day. This indoor smoke is responsible for over half a million deaths annually due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among women worldwide.<sup>33</sup>
- Around 60% of refrigerators used for vaccine storage in African health clinics have an unreliable electricity supply, compromising the effectiveness of life-saving children's vaccines. Unreliable energy access for clinics also means the risk of unsafe delivery for women forced to give birth in the dark.<sup>34</sup>

Around 19% of the world's population, or 1.3 billion people, have no access to electricity at all. Energy poverty (lack of access to safe, reliable, modern energy) is a crucial issue for women, as it results in premature deaths from cooking with unsafe and unhealthy fuel sources, wasted time in the collection of fuel (to say nothing of the dangers involved in collecting it), insufficient provision of health services, inability to properly store and process agricultural harvests and lower quality of education. Further, many African businesses have cited the lack of reliable energy access as the biggest obstacle to growth. 36

#### **The Potential**

- Women in sub-Saharan Africa currently spend up to eight hours per day collecting fuel for cooking and heating their homes; access to energy would mean that women could spend this time on income-generating pursuits.<sup>37</sup>
- In one study, women's employment in South Africa increased by 9.5% where electricity was provided, most probably because it released women from home production and enabled them to participate in micro-enterprises and other economic pursuits.<sup>38</sup>

Data on the direct positive effects of energy access for women on local and national economies are still too thin to draw direct global or even regional conclusions, but examples in a number of localities are proving promising. It is clear that providing reliable access to safe energy for all who lack it would improve educational opportunities, health service delivery, agricultural productivity and women's safety.



Education



#### **What's Needed**

Focused attention must be paid to getting girls into school and helping them to stay there, through concrete policy measures such as improving infrastructure in order to create a gendersensitive educational environment; providing female teachers trained in counselling and recruiting professionally trained, motivated and well-supported teachers of both sexes.

- If current trends continue, in sub-Saharan Africa, boys from the relatively richest families will achieve universal primary completion in 2021, but the poorest girls will not catch up until 2086.<sup>39</sup> Rural girls are more likely than rural boys and twice as likely as urban girls to be out of school.<sup>40</sup>
- Two-thirds of the 796 million people people worldwide who are illiterate are women.<sup>41</sup>

While the gender gap in primary education is closing in much of the developing world, 42 it remains large in many sub-Saharan African countries and in some parts of Asia. It is estimated that almost two-thirds of the girls not in school in sub-Saharan Africa will never get there.<sup>43</sup> Globally, girls make up 54% (31 million) of the out-of-school population and it is likely that 17 million of them will never go to school.44 The higher the grade level, the fewer the lowincome countries (LICs) that achieve gender parity in education. Around 20% of LICs achieve parity at primary school, but only 10% achieve it at lower secondary level, and just 8% at upper secondary.<sup>45</sup> Sadly, since 1990, no progress has been made globally in improving women's rates of literacy, and in 12 of the 15 countries in West Africa that have some of the lowest adult literacy rates in the world, fewer than 50% of young women are literate. 46

#### **The Potential**

- Every year that a girl spends in school can boost her future income by 10–20%.<sup>47</sup>
- If all women had primary education, there would be 15% fewer child deaths, saving 900,000 lives per year. If all women had secondary education, there would be 49% fewer child deaths, saving 2.8 million lives, 64% fewer early marriages and 59% fewer young pregnancies.<sup>48</sup>

Studies show that investing in girls' and women's education goes beyond saving lives. Every year a girl spends in school can boost her future income by 10–20%. 49 Further, it is estimated that a 10% increase in educational equality can increase income per capita by 23% over 40 years. Put another way, if all students in LICs could leave school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty. 50 In addition, globally, women are less likely to have access to vocational training; remedying this disadvantage would open up access to qualified, better-paying, more economically productive jobs. 51



Financial, Legal and Economic Empowerment



### **What's Needed**

Employment, banking and business policies must be better tailored to women, including the creation of decent, paid jobs; formalisation and growth of medium-sized, female-owned enterprises; and access to financial services. The proportion of youth, particularly women, not in paid employment or vocational training should also be reduced. All legal differences on the basis of gender that limit women's economic empowerment must be dismantled.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, 86% of women are in vulnerable employment, compared with 70% of men, only a 1% decrease from 15 years ago.<sup>52</sup>
- More than 1.3 billion women do not have an account at a formal financial institution such as a bank, post office or credit union.<sup>53</sup>

In the developing world, women are in vulnerable employment to a greater degree than men, meaning they are more vulnerable to economic risk, have less access to social protection, are paid on average less than men for work of equal value and access and use financial institutions at lower rates. Globally, almost half of women's productive potential is unutilised, compared with less than a quarter of men's.<sup>54</sup> In addition, in many countries legal barriers for women persist, with substantial gender-based differences in areas such as access to property, employment, credit, the justice system, and protection from violence.<sup>55</sup> All such barriers limit the extent to which women can be fully empowered economically.

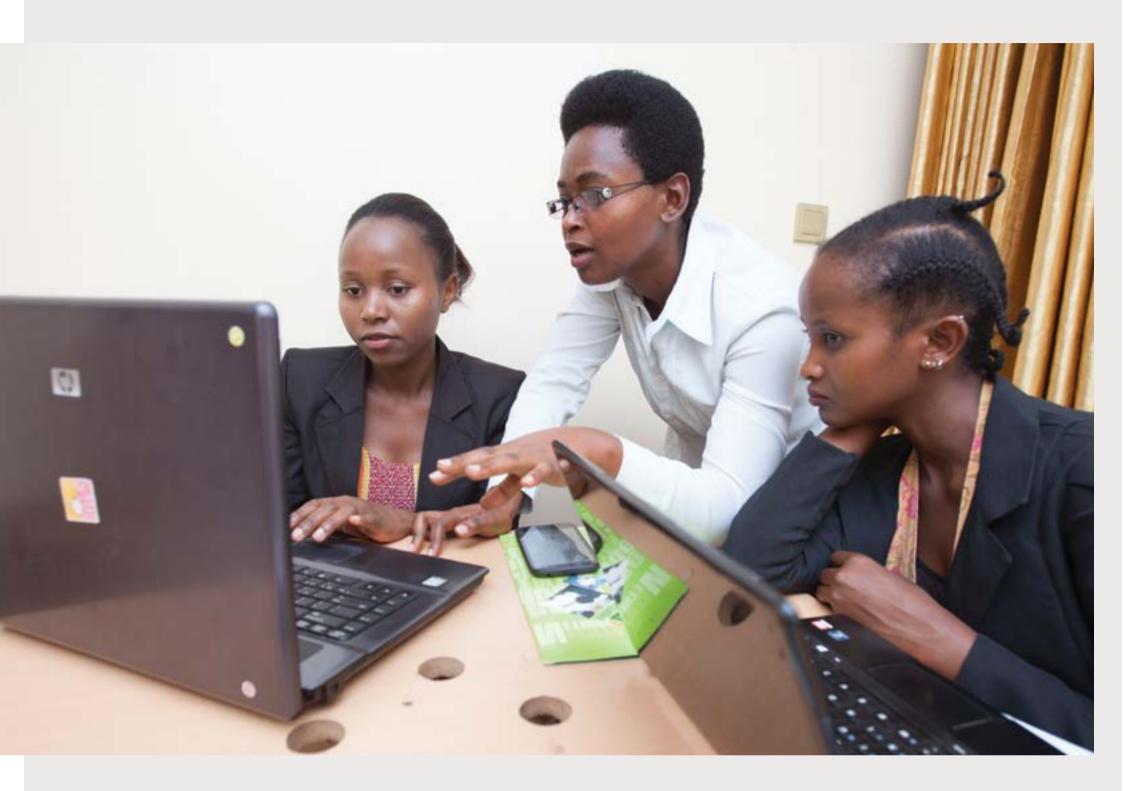
#### **The Potential**

- Over the coming decade 1 billion women are poised to enter the global economy.<sup>56</sup>
- From programmes such as the social cash transfer in Niger, for instance, there is evidence that using mobile technology shifts intra-household decision-making in favour of women – the people who received the cash.<sup>57</sup>

A wealth of evidence suggests that giving women access to employment, educational, financial and political opportunities reduces the likelihood of household poverty.<sup>58</sup> In South Africa, it was found that closing the gender gap in labour could result in a potential 10% increase in GDP.<sup>59</sup> In India, women who have been given more local decision-making power have provided more public goods such as water and sanitation. 60 Studies have demonstrated the development benefits when women have control over household income: for example, the PROGRESA cash transfer scheme in Mexico shifted family spending to areas including investments in the future and improved nutrition.61 Another study found that child survival prospects are 20 times higher when a mother's earned income increases than when that of a father does.62



Access to Technology



### **What's Needed**

To bring more women into the digital economy, policies that increase the affordability and use of technology, expand rural mobile access, digitise salary and government payments,<sup>71</sup> and boost digital literacy for women must be prioritised.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, women are 23% less likely than men to own a mobile phone, 63 and almost 45% fewer women than men have Internet access. 64
- Globally, 300 million women do not own a mobile phone, amounting to \$13 billion in missed revenues for mobile operators; women constitute an estimated two thirds of the untapped mobile market.<sup>65</sup>

### **The Potential**

 The World Bank estimates that every 10% increase in access to broadband is correlated with a 1.38% growth in GDP for developing countries;<sup>66</sup> closing the gender gap in broadband access could increase GDP growth, and surveys find that it increases women's incomeearning potential.<sup>67</sup>

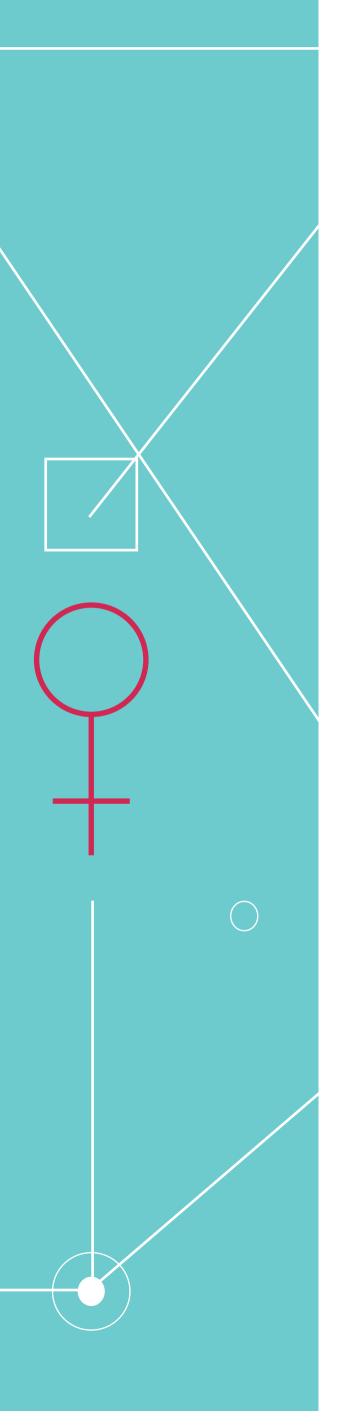
Technology is playing an ever more vital role in women's economic empowerment in the developing world. For example, among other aims, the Groupe Speciale Mobile Association's (GSMA) global "Connected Women" initiative<sup>68</sup> addresses two main challenges for women in developing countries concerning mobile technology – the access gap and the digital skills gap. Investments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) that are targeted towards women make economic sense in reaching an untapped or under-utilised market. Such investments also increase safety and access to mobile-based education and extension, financial services and incomegenerating opportunities, all of which contribute to ending poverty. In Kenya, the arrival of mobile money transfers increased women's economic empowerment in rural areas by making it easier to request remittances from their husbands, who migrated to urban areas for work.69 Some 46% of the clients for a Kenyan mobile-based micro-insurance programme for farmers are women; scaling up such programmmes elsewhere could prove enormously beneficial for female farmers.<sup>70</sup>

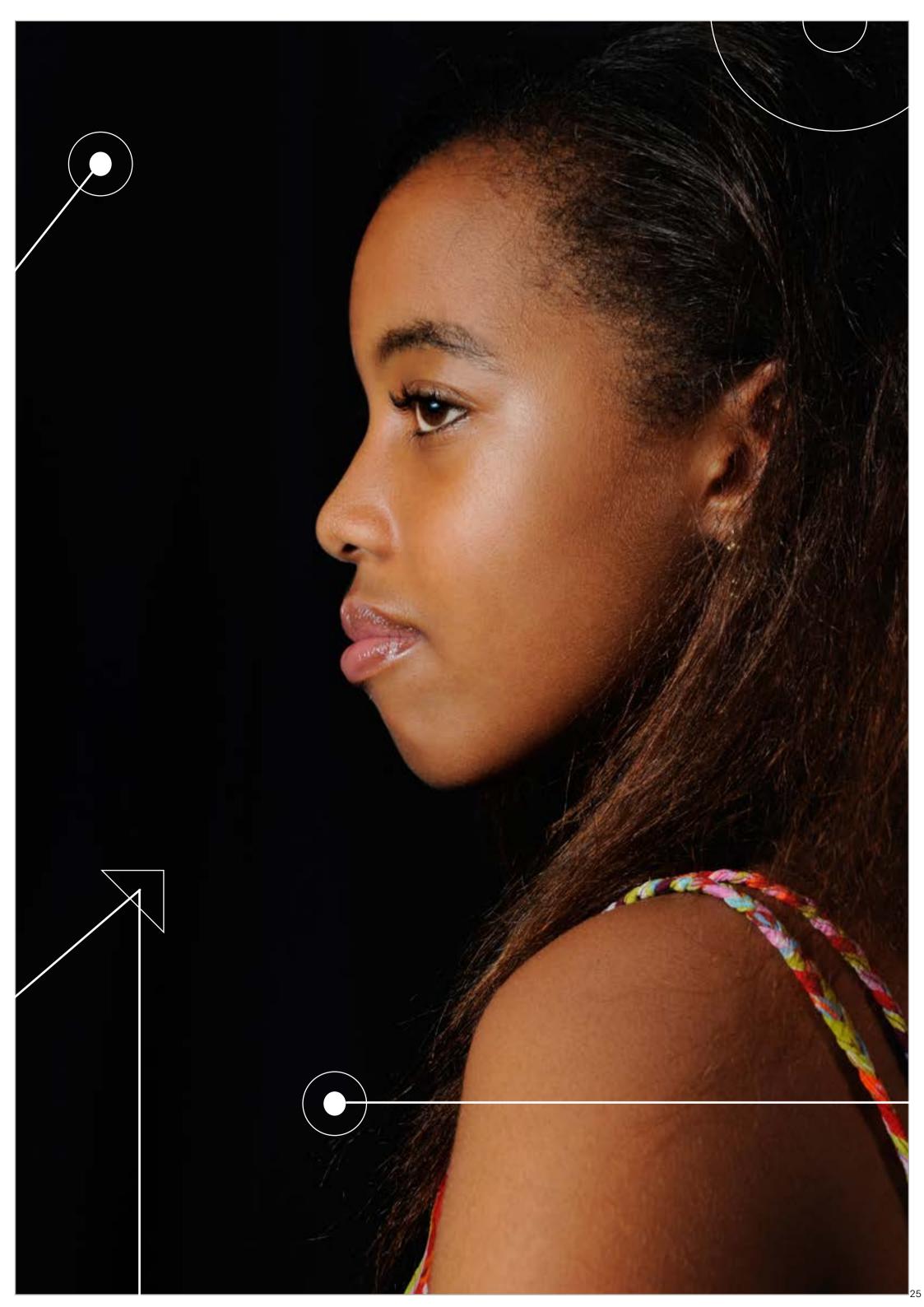


### Why We Need a Data Revolution

More and better data are vital if women are to be placed at the centre of the development story. The data gaps for girls and women reflect an overall dearth of comprehensive data and statistics available for poverty analysis, and we need a data revolution to address the problem across the board.

The United Nations has defined a set of 52 indicators<sup>72</sup> that paint the full picture of women's economic empowerment, yet Bread for the World has found that, on average, in sub-Saharan Africa over 80% of these data points simply do not exist.73 Without information on population, needs or outcomes, there is no way of knowing how best to structure efforts to empower girls and women living in poverty, nor whether or not current efforts are succeeding. In response to this challenge, the No Ceilings initiative,74 launching in March 2015 by the Clinton Foundation and partners, gives a data-driven evaluation of the progress that girls and women have made over the past 20 years and the challenges that remain to them achieving full participation in the 21st century. Data2X is another project seeking to close the gaps in our knowledge of women, so that support for them can be better targeted.<sup>75</sup> The Sustainable Development Solutions Network is prioritising a "Data Revolution" that will ensure that an adequate data system exists to monitor progress against the SDGs.<sup>76</sup>





### 2015 Could Change Everything

The case is clear across all sectors. Empowering women—giving them the power and tools they need to change their own status—allows them to take advantage of equal opportunities, break from cultural and social constraints that may be holding them back and become drivers of poverty reduction.

#### **Everyone could benefit.**

This graphic shows the key moments of 2015, the year that the world is going to commit to a new development agenda in the SDGs. If global government and development leaders are to put girls and women at the heart of the agenda and target investments that advance their interests, a series of events in 2015 will be crucial to building momentum.



July August September October November December

25th African Union Summit (Johannesburg, July)

Financing for Development (FFD) Conference (13–16 July, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (25–27 September, New York City, USA)



### 2015: Road to the SDGs

#### 8 March

International Women's Day

#### 9-20 March

Commission on the Status of Women

New York City, USA

Governments should agree at the Commission on the Status of Women to prioritise gathering detailed data on girls and women, disaggregating all data and statistics as far as possible.

#### 7-8 **June**

G7 Summit

Schloss Elmau, Germany

ONE is calling for Chancellor Merkel, the G7 and development partners from across the globe to support initiatives that will deliver tangible results for women's economic empowerment and ensure they are at the heart of the new global Goals, including:

- Agricultural Development and Hunger:
  - Help close the gender gap in agriculture by increasing access to ICTs, providing affordable credit and farming inputs, tailored vocational training and hired labour; supporting land tenure rights for women; increasing funding for agricultural development; fully supporting country owned agricultural development plans; and fulfilling commitments made at 2013's Nutrition for Growth summit.<sup>77</sup>
- **Health:** Significantly increase the quality and quantity of aid for health systems and health care services so as to equitably engage and reach women; and train and retain health-care workers at all levels.
- Finance commitments: Commit to spend 50% of aid in least developed countries (LDCs), while delivering on the international commitment of spending 0.7% of gross national income

(GNI) on effective aid and committing to gender-sensitive financing policies, data collection and domestic resource mobilisation strategies.

• **G7 leadership on SDGs:** Ensure that the new Goals are focused, financed and followed with girls and women at their heart.

#### July

### 25th African Union Summit

Johannesburg, South Africa

African leaders should step up with a clear set of policy reforms and budget commitments in their 2015 declaration that includes:

- Agricultural Development and Hunger: Focus attention across the agricultural value chain; commit to deliver tailored agricultural training to women, increase their access to productive inputs and advance equal land tenure rights for all by breaking through legal and cultural challenges; deliver commitments made in last year's AU declaration under the Year of Agriculture and improve the quantity and quality of agricultural finance.
- **Health:** Improve the quantity and quality of health spending in line with the Abuja commitment; prioritise budget space for the salaries and retention of more health workers at all levels, as one key element of strengthening health systems and improving access to health services for women.
- Financial and legal empowerment: Increase domestic investments in girls and women, ensuring that all budgeting and planning processes are gender-sensitive; and ensure access to justice for girls and women.
- Transparency: Improve transparency of natural resource management, particularly through making information on payments from extractives companies publicly accessible and available to citizens and civil society, including communities living near to extractives plants.

• AU leadership on SDGs: Ensure that the new Goals are focused, financed and followed with girls and women at their heart.

#### 13-16 July

## Financing for Development (FFD) Conference

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

World leaders will meet to draw up the blueprint for how the SDGs will be financed. ONE is calling for a range of commitments including:<sup>78</sup>

- Finance: Donors should agree to devote 50% of aid to LDCs (where girls and women are most disadvantaged), as well as to keep other longstanding commitments on aid quantity and quality; partner countries should agree to a package to boost domestic resources for development and incentivise responsible private investment; all should agree to measures that fight corruption and curb illicit capital flight, all of which should be made more gender-sensitive.
- Financial planning and trade: All governments should ensure that the processes of planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of all public spending are gender-responsive, 79 as are trade policies.
- Filling the data gap: All governments should commit to a Last Mile Fund, a financing mechanism that builds capacity for statistical offices focusing on the hardest-to-reach populations to ensure that everyone is counted—particularly girls and women. These data, alongside new innovations in data collection and use, can be employed as the basis for planning, monitoring resource allocation and tracking progress.

#### 25-27 September

### Adoption of the SDGs

New York City, USA

Leaders must agree to an ambitious and actionable SDG framework that has a strong focus on unleashing the potential of girls and women through clear targets on agricultural development, nutrition, health, energy, development finance and accountability. The Goals must also tackle gender inequality, including through ending violence against women, child marriage, human trafficking and the exploitation of girls and women. Empowering girls and women can help end extreme poverty for all.

To achieve this, the SDGs must be:

- Focused: Goals, targets and indicators that are clear, universal and implementable with evidence-based targets, enabling the measuring of progress and effective allocation of resources for the most vulnerable and addressing all aspects of women's rights and economic empowerment.
- **Financed:** Adequate resources for fully-funded Goals that put the poorest first, with a focus on investing in policies that lift girls and women out of poverty.
- Followed: Citizens, including women, must be able to participate in monitoring efforts and ensure that promises made are kept. Robust statistics are needed to better map poverty and development progress in particular, the gender gap in data must be closed; and there must be a strong commitment that no target should be considered reached if girls and women are left behind.

ONE looks forward to working with its valued partners in development, including those that have long worked on girls and women and gender inequality issues, to make sure that the promise of 2015 is delivered for girls, women, boys and men across the globe.

### **Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup>As of 2013; from the online UN Global Health Observatory data: http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\_health/en/; also WHO. 2014. "Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990 to 2013". http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112682/2/9789241507226\_eng.pdf?ua=1
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- <sup>3</sup> UNESCO. 2014. "Education for All: Global Monitoring Report 2013/14". http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002256/225660e.pdf
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