

Media Update

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ILO

Press Release

ILO: Women do 4 times more unpaid care work than men in Asia and the Pacific

New ILO report highlights inadequate policy responses to the rising demand and quantifies the extent of the care burden on women. ILO calls for urgent action to prevent looming global care crisis.

GENEVA (ILO news) – Women spend 4.1 times more time in Asia and the Pacific in unpaid care work than men. According to the ILO report on [Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work](#), investment in the care economy needs to be doubled to avert a looming global care crisis, says the new ILO report.

Sweeping changes in policies should address the rising need for care and tackle the huge disparity between women's and men's care responsibilities. The figures show that globally women are performing more than three-quarters of the time spent in unpaid care work.

Around 269 million new jobs could be created if investment in education, health and social work were doubled by 2030, the report says.

According to the report, worldwide 2.1 billion people were in need of care in 2015, including 1.9 billion children under 15 and 200 million older persons. By 2030, this number is expected to reach 2.3 billion, driven by an additional 200 million older persons and children.

“The global prominence of nuclear families and single-headed households, and the growth of women's employment in certain countries increase the demand for care workers. If not addressed properly, current deficits in care work and its quality will create a severe and unsustainable global care crisis and further increase gender inequalities in the world of work,” said Laura Addati, lead author of the report.

Data from 64 countries representing two thirds of the world's working age population show that 16.4 billion hours per day are spent in unpaid care work - the equivalent to 2 billion people



working eight hours per day with no remuneration. Were such services to be valued on the basis of an hourly minimum wage, they would amount to 9 per cent of global GDP or US\$11 trillion (purchasing power parity in 2011).

Women bear the brunt of unpaid care work

According to the report, Globally, women perform 76.2 per cent of total hours of unpaid care work, more than three times as much as men. In Asia and the Pacific, this rises to 80 per cent.

In some countries, men's contribution to unpaid care work has increased over the past 20 years. However, in the 23 countries providing such data, the gender gap in the time devoted to unpaid care responsibilities declined by just 7 minutes per day over the last two decades.

“At this pace, it will take 210 years to close the gender gap in unpaid care work in these countries. The glacial rate of these changes calls into question the effectiveness of past and current policies in addressing the extent and division of unpaid care work over the past two decades,” said Shauna Olney, Chief of the Gender, Equality and Diversity and ILOAIDS Branch of the ILO.

The report says that unpaid care work is the main barrier preventing women from getting into, remaining and progressing in the labour force. In 2018, 606 million working age women said that they were not able to do so because of unpaid care work. Only 41 million men said they were not in the labour force for the same reason.

A 2017 ILO-Gallup report found that, globally, a majority of women would prefer to work at paid jobs, including those who are not in the workforce, and that men agree. It also found that the biggest challenges identified, by both women and men, for women who work at paid jobs was work-family balance and lack of affordable care.

“This implies that a large number of women could be brought into paid employment through universal access to care policies, services and infrastructure,” stressed Olney.

Need for increased spending on care

The report advocates a ‘high road’ to care work, which would result in a total of 475 million jobs by 2030, namely 269 million additional jobs compared with the number of jobs in 2015. This implies total public and private expenditure on care services of US\$18.4 trillion or 18.3 per cent of total projected GDP. Such an investment would allow countries to reach several targets of four United Nations’ Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) by 2030: SDG 3 (health care for all), SDG 4 (education for all), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

The report also showed that most care workers are women, frequently migrants and working in the informal economy under poor conditions and for low pay. In fact, Asia – particularly South Asia – is the primary source of migrant workers.

“A high road to care work means recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work and achieving decent work for care workers, including domestic and migrant workers. Poor job

quality for care workers leads to poor quality care work. Our report calls for sweeping changes in care, macroeconomic, social protection, labour and migration policies,” Addati concluded.

Other key findings:

- In Asia and the Pacific, men perform the lowest share of unpaid care work of all regions (1 hour and 4 minutes), with 28 minutes in Pakistan (or 8.0 per cent of men’s total working time) and only 31 minutes in India (7.9 per cent).
- Mothers of children aged under 6 years suffer the highest “employment penalty” with only 47.6 percent of them in employment;
- Unpaid carers also face a “job quality penalty”: Living with a child under 6 implies a loss of close to one hour of paid work per week for women and an increase in paid working time of 18 minutes per week for men;
- Women with care responsibilities are more likely to be self-employed, to work in the informal economy and less likely to contribute to social security;
- Attitudes towards the gender division of paid and unpaid care work are changing but the ‘male breadwinner’ family model remains very much engrained within societies, along with women’s caring role in the family continuing to be central;
- In 2016, only 42 per cent of countries out of 184 with available data met the minimum standards set out in the ILO Maternity Protection Convention No. 183;
- In the same year, 39 per cent of countries out of 184 with available data did not have any statutory leave provision for fathers (neither paid nor unpaid);
- Globally, gross enrolment rates in early childhood services for children under 3 was only 18.3 per cent in 2015 and barely reached 57 per cent for children aged 3 to 6;
- Long-term care services are close to non-existent in most African, Latin American and Asian countries. The effective coverage of persons with severe disabilities receiving benefits was only 9 per cent in Asia and the Pacific

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UNICEF

News Note

Drought, war and malnutrition make 2017 a record year for the procurement of emergency supplies for children

UNICEF spends an unprecedented US\$550 million in supplies to respond to humanitarian crises

COPENHAGEN, 28 June 2018 - As famine, droughts, conflict and malnutrition threatened the survival of millions in 2017, UNICEF spent over half a billion dollars to deliver emergency, life-saving supplies to children in urgent need of assistance. This is the agency's highest expenditure on supplies for humanitarian crises.

In 2017, drought and armed conflict devastated children's lives in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and north-east Nigeria. Some 22 million children were left hungry, sick, displaced and out of school in the four countries. Nearly 1.4 million children were at imminent risk of death from severe malnutrition. In response, UNICEF sent US\$122.4 million worth of nutritional products, including Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, milk, high-energy biscuits and anthropometric equipment to weigh and measure children.

In the Horn of Africa, where droughts exacerbated a large-scale nutrition crisis, UNICEF delivered nearly a quarter of its global therapeutic food to save hundreds of thousands of children affected by acute malnutrition. More than half of this product was manufactured by local suppliers in countries where UNICEF has nutrition programmes, which helped to improve efficiency and support local markets.

Besides nutrition-related supplies, UNICEF also sent life-saving water and sanitation supplies, vaccines and pharmaceuticals, as well as education and clothing items to children and families caught in, or displaced by conflict, natural disasters and other crises across 61 countries. Most emergency supplies went to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Yemen, the Horn of Africa, Syria, the Lake Chad region and South Sudan.

To serve Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, logistics services were rapidly put in place, while water, sanitation and health supplies were delivered to deal with simultaneous cholera outbreaks around the world. In Yemen alone, where almost 22 million people were affected by food insecurity and a crumbling health system, UNICEF provided over 900 million purification tablets, 1,800 acute watery diarrhea kits and 33 million doses of vaccines.

In 2017, UNICEF and its partners also substantially reduced vaccine prices, thanks to efforts to influence markets. For the first time, a full round of vaccines for a child under the age of one is available at under US\$18 for low-income countries – down from the 2013 price of US\$24.46.

In total, UNICEF procured US\$3.46 billion worth of supplies and services for children in 150 countries and areas last year.



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The report is available [here](#).

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. For more information about UNICEF and its work for children visit www.unicef.org.

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UN Women

Press Release

Pakistan's leading Wholesale store METRO Cash & Carry Pakistan sets an example by stepping up for women's economic empowerment

Lahore, Pakistan: METRO Cash & Carry Pakistan has joined hands with UN Women by signing Women Empowerment Principles to promote Women in Trade (WiT) initiative to enhance the capability of informal workers, along with its employees in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 - to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Women in Trade (WiT) initiative is an international employee network within METRO AG aiming to support and promote the professional development of women. Within the local chapter, METRO Pakistan has set two goals which is to 'drive cultural change in the company' and 'focus on female employment & development internally and externally.'

UN Women and METRO Pakistan will be working together to enhance women's access to organized work opportunities. The Seven Principles for Women's Empowerment - a joint initiative of UN Women and the UN Global Compact – provide a set of guidelines to assist



companies focus on key elements, integral to promoting gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community, through policy and action. This includes the promotion of women to executive positions, career development opportunities for female employees, supporting women-owned companies as vendors and service providers, promoting a positive image of women in marketing campaigns and enhancing basic facilities within the company (childcare, maternity and paternity leave, flexible work options, etc.).

In pledging to promote gender equality within the organization, Mr. Marek Minkiewicz, Managing Director of METRO Cash & Carry Pakistan, said, “By signing the CEO Statement of Support for the Women’s Empowerment Principles, the entire METRO Pakistan’s team shows its support to promote and enhance gender equality within its chain of wholesale stores. METRO Pakistan aims at promoting Women in Trade in Pakistan and is committed to focus on female employment and development.

With the belief that gender equality promotes equal opportunities for employees, who then feel empowered to work towards achieving organizational goals, METRO aims at not just providing barrier-free work environment for all its employees, but also enhancing capability of female farmers, home based workers and at the same time, bridging the gap between the corporate sector by acknowledging, appreciating and celebrating success of female labor force.”

On this occasion Mr. Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women, also contributed by saying, “The positive spirit of this gathering gives me great confidence that we will see concrete results of this partnership soon. I acknowledge that METRO Pakistan is already underway with a promising initiative, WiT (Women in Trade), which is a concrete example of the company’s commitment towards gender equality and women empowerment at every level.

Equality between men and women is a fundamental human right. Women Empowerment is a key driver of sustainable development. Equality Means Business!”

By signing the seven steps of the Women’s Empowerment Principles, METRO Pakistan takes on a global approach to four key areas: promoting economic development through female entrepreneurship, championing gender diversity in business and corporate level, public-private partnerships for advancing women’s economic opportunities and providing potential business and investment opportunities through supplier diversity and marketing practices.

To date, more than 52 Pakistani companies have made a public commitment of support over the last two years by signing onto the Women’s Empowerment Principles.

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