



# Equal Access & Control over Resources

Enabling Gender Equal Access to Economic Resources in Africa

**Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi**

(Executive Vice President of the African Center for Economic  
Transformation)

Content

---

Inequitable Access to  
Resources

---

Facilitating Equitable  
Access

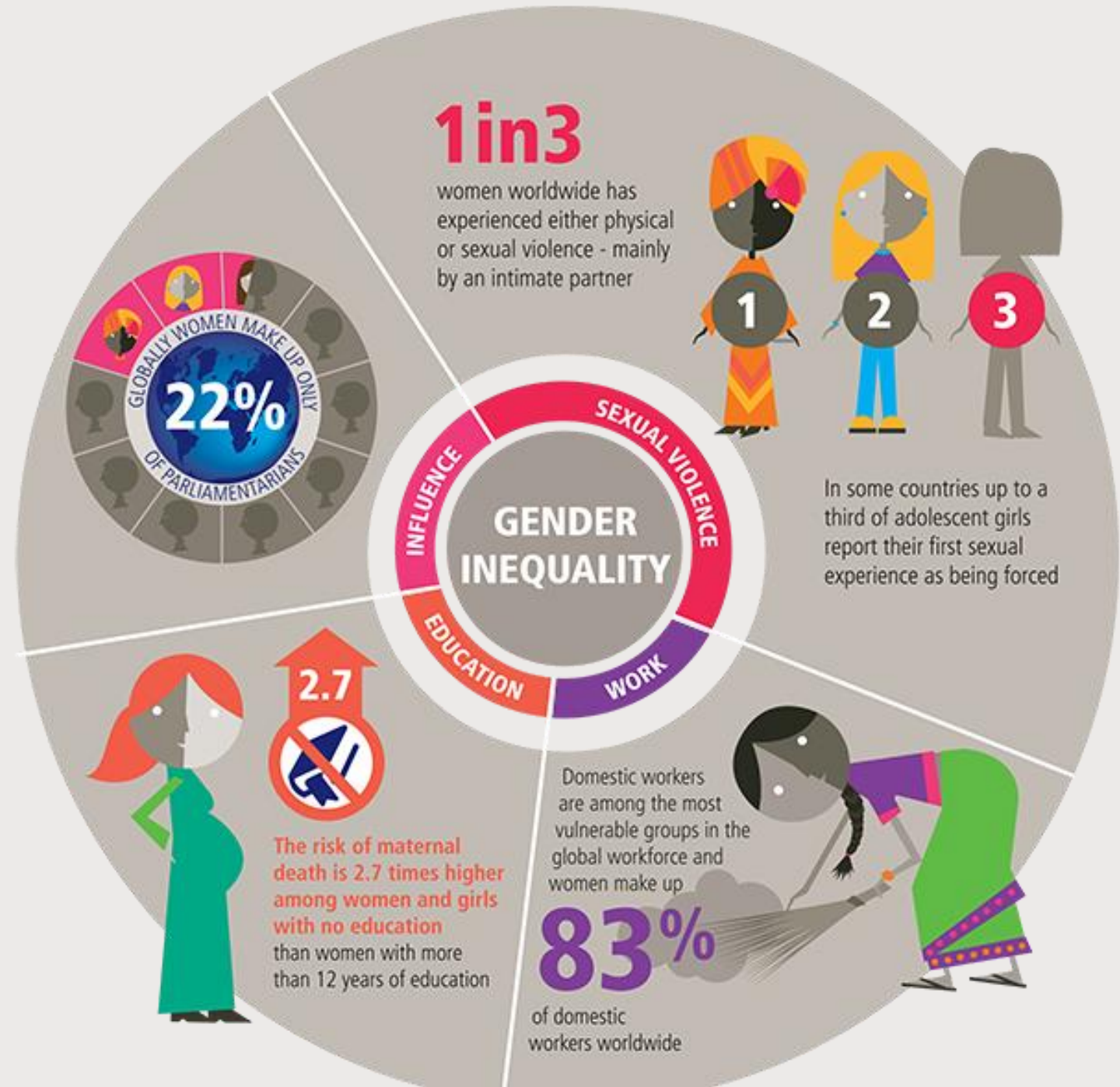
---

Impact of Conflict on  
Equitable Access



# Inequitable access to resources in Sub-Saharan Africa

- 55% of the female population are engaged in the labour force, compared with 78% for men
- Women continue to earn about 50% less than men for the same type of work
- Two thirds of 750 million illiterate adult population are women in SSA & South Asia
- 37% of women have a bank account, compared with 48 percent of men
- In more than 30 countries women and girls do not have the same rights to own or inherit land as men and boys.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, the financing gap for women-owned MSMEs is estimated at around US\$20 billion but is probably higher given the large number of women business owners in the informal sector



# Equality makes economic sense

---

- Gender equality could increase the average annual GDP per capita growth in SSA countries by as much as 0.9 percentage points (Hakura et al, 2016)
- SSA could add 12 percent (\$300 billion) to annual GDP by 2025 (McKinsey 2015)
- AfDB asserts that eliminating gender inequality and empowering women could boost the productive potential of one billion Africans, while raising the continent's development potential as well.
- ***Gender equality is both a moral and economic imperative. It is the key to transforming economies, promoting inclusive growth and building resilient societies***





# Facilitating Equitable Access

---



Recognition of  
gender differences  
in adaptation needs  
and capacities



Gender-equitable  
participation and  
influence in adaptation  
decision-making  
processes



Gender-equitable access to  
financial resources and  
other benefits resulting  
from investments in  
adaptation

# Macroeconomic Policy

---

## **Harness the coordinating power of macroeconomic policy instruments to achieve gender balance**

- Macro-economic policies can constrain or boost through direct or indirect channels.
- Macro-economic policies shape the overall economic environment for realizing women's rights including opportunities for paid employment, resources for policies aimed at reducing inequalities, and the demand for women's unpaid labour.

Rwanda, Namibia, and South Africa are examples of the few countries making progress on gender inclusivity in their economic and political landscape.

***In Rwanda, a 1999 law that enabled women to inherit their parents' properties led to closure in gender gaps in land ownership with 88.8 per cent of women own land, compared with 89.5 per cent of men. (National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda)***



# Fiscal Framework

---

**Gender-responsive fiscal policies promote progressive tax reforms that incentivises the economic participation of women.**

**It also prioritises policies that allow public expenditure allocations to respond to the differentiated needs of men and women**

Gender-responsive fiscal policy interventions include:

- policies that facilitate individual income tax filing instead of joint filing for couples
- subsidized childcare
- paid maternity leave
- closing the gender gaps in years of education between women and men at the same income level
- increasing spending on water infrastructure that benefits women in particular
- cash transfers to poor women participating in the labour market.

***In 2017, the Mauritian Ministry of Labor, introduced the Back-to-Work program for women above 35 years of age who wished to join or re-join the labor force. A year after its introduction, out of 1,388 who had registered, 580 women had secured a placement opportunity in 165 private sector companies (UNECA, 2015)***





# Gender-responsive Budgeting

## Gender responsive budgeting is more effective than gender neutral ones

- In Kenya giving women farmers the same level of agricultural inputs and education as men, could increase the yields obtained by women by more than 20 per cent.
- In Zambia, if women enjoyed the same overall degree of capital investment in agricultural inputs as their male counterparts, including land, output in Zambia could increase by up to 15 per cent.
- ***In Rwanda, the introduction of the gender responsive budgeting in the agriculture sector in resulted in the Ministry of Agriculture spending almost one-third of its budget on gender-targeted outputs – thereby enhancing women’s productivity in the sector***





# Impact of Conflict on Equitable Access

---

- Women fleeing from conflict often lose the limited resources they have access to
- Globally, 60% of all refugees choose to live outside of refugee camps to enable integration and possible participation in economic activities.
- Moving out of the refugee camps increases access to resources in the host countries

***Host countries often prioritise returning refugees to their home countries over local integration, which often means refugees find it difficult to leave camps and have little or no access to resources necessary to contribute to their host nations economies***



## Fact #7

**More than 90% of global resettlement needs are unmet**



10 Facts About Refugees

# Refugee Camps

---

## **Kakuma Camp , Kenya (est. 1992)**

- 33,557 women between the ages 18-59 years old
- 46.5% of total camp population are women
- 32% Female headed households

## **Dadaab Camp, Kenya (est. 1991)**

- 48,873 women between the ages of 18-59 years old
- 40.3% of total camp population are women

## **Mayukwayukwa Camp , Zambia (est. 1966)**

- 16,322 women between the ages of 18-59 years old
- 21% of total cam population are women

## **Tanzania Refugee Settlements (1970s) & Camps (1990s)**

- 73,804 women between the ages of 18-59 years old living in refugee camps across Tanzania
- 77% of all people in Tanzania refugee camps are women and children



# Conclusion

---



MACROECONOMIC  
POLICY



FISCAL FRAMEWORKS



BUDGETING





Thank you



Questions?