

# SHE in STI

## 2025



Bridging the Gender Divide in  
Science, Technology, and  
Innovation:  
*Select initiatives from UN system  
entities*



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# Content

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction.....   | 4  |
| International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).....                                    | 5  |
| International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).....       | 10 |
| International Telecommunication Union (ITU).....                                  | 13 |
| United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).....                                | 17 |
| United Nations Department<br>of Economic and<br>Social Affairs (UN DESA).....     | 23 |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural<br>Organization (UNESCO)..... | 26 |
| United Nations Office<br>for Outer Space Affairs<br>(UNOOSA).....                 | 31 |
| United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).....                                       | 34 |
| World Intellectual<br>Property Organization<br>(WIPO).....                        | 40 |
| World Meteorological Organization (WMO).....                                      | 44 |
| About the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT).                    | 47 |

# Introduction

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Science, technology, and innovation (STI) are powerful drivers of progress across every aspect of our lives—from climate resilience and public health to education, economic opportunity, and digital inclusion. As the world accelerates efforts to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that STI solutions reflect a diversity of experiences, needs, and perspectives is more important than ever.

The Gender and STI workstream of the United Nations Interagency Task Team (IATT), led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), brings together UN entities that are committed to advancing inclusive approaches to innovation. This brochure showcases a selection of initiatives from ten contributing agencies that are working to expand opportunities for women and girls in STI and ensure that innovation benefits all members of society.

Contributing agencies in 2025 include the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Together, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to harnessing STI to build more inclusive, innovative, and resilient societies. We hope this collection will spark new ideas, deepen partnerships, and help drive meaningful progress toward a more just and sustainable future.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field and seeks to promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)



In the coming years, we will see greater effects of climate change and a growing population, driving a greater need for food and energy security, and access to cancer care. Building a well-rounded and skilled nuclear workforce is key to meeting these challenges.

In response to these challenges, the IAEA Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi, launched the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme \(MSCFP\)](#) in 2020. The programme aims to increase the number of women in the nuclear sector by providing scholarships for master's programmes and opportunities to pursue internships in their fields of study. To date, the programme has supported 760 women from around the world, and over 200 have completed internships at the IAEA or with partner organizations. In cooperation with Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, the private sector, and public cooperation, the IAEA prioritizes areas such as nuclear science and

applications, nuclear energy, nuclear safety and security, safeguards and non-proliferation, and nuclear law.

MSCFP recipients are also afforded career development opportunities, including access to online professional networks for alumnae, participation in IAEA technical meetings and schools, and participation in other IAEA events.

## Partners

MSCFP collaborates with organizations in the nuclear field from both the public and private sectors. This includes government, academia, industry as well as associations, networks, and intergovernmental agencies. For a breakdown, kindly find below the current donors and partners:



### Donors:

- **European Union**
- **24 IAEA Member States**
- **2 Member State institutions**
- **Industry (3 private sector partners)**
- **2 academic institutions**

### Other partners:

- **35+ internship host organizations**
- **245+ universities where MSCFP fellows study**
- **Associations and networks (World Nuclear Association (WNA), Women in Nuclear (WiN) chapters, and other educational or professional networks)**

“  
My objective is to work in a diverse scientific community, researching ways to get a fully closed nuclear fuel cycle, thus solving the radioactive waste problem that is one of the main concerns about nuclear energy today.”

Student testimonials:  
[www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org)

The MSCFP requires continued support through partnerships to ensure its growth and long-term impact. As demand for scholarships increases, so does the need for funding and resources to continue providing fellowships. The IAEA welcomes new donors and partners. To explore partnership opportunities for this programme, please contact [mscfp@iaea.org](mailto:mscfp@iaea.org).

## Achievements and Impacts

Since its launch, the MSCFP has supported 760 students, from 129 IAEA Member States, studying in 76 countries. Out of the 760 selected, many have already graduated with the programme's support, and over 200 have benefited from internships with host organizations worldwide as well as across the IAEA.

## How to get involved

Potential partners, including donors and host organizations from both public and private sectors, are invited to join the initiative by providing financial and/or in-kind contributions, internship placements, and networking opportunities. If interested, please contact [mscfp@iaea.org](mailto:mscfp@iaea.org)



Find out more at:



## The IAEA Lise Meitner Programme



The IAEA Lise Meitner Programme (LMP) provides early and mid-career women professionals in the nuclear sector with opportunities for career development through participation in a two-week visiting professional programme. Named after Austrian-Swedish physicist Lise Meitner, the LMP enables women to expand their





expertise, build lasting professional relationships, and create a global cross-cultural community of women in nuclear. Launched in 2023 by IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, the programme aims to advance women's careers, with a focus on increasing their representation in leadership roles within the nuclear sector.

Tailored visits to nuclear facilities provide unique insights, while networking opportunities with leaders and experts foster career growth and cross-cultural collaboration.



LMP participants can take part in professional visits to nuclear facilities, attend on-site lectures in project management and laboratory analysis, and perform modelling and simulations using advanced nuclear technology. LMP visits may include a diverse range of nuclear facilities, such as nuclear power plants, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, spent fuel and radioactive waste storage &

management facilities, radioisotope production facilities, research reactors, nuclear research institutions, and laboratories.

As part of the programme, participants connect with leaders and experts in the nuclear sector, gaining valuable insights and mentorship. They also take part in activities focused on management and professional development, helping them grow into confident and effective leaders.

## Partners

The LMP collaborates with organizations in the nuclear field from both the public and private sectors. This includes government, academia, industry as well as associations, networks, and intergovernmental agencies.

## Achievements and Impacts

Since its launch in 2023, the LMP has selected 35 early- and mid-career women from 20 countries to



participate in professional training across the United States of America and the Republic of Korea. To date, these visits have focused on nuclear power plant operations, nuclear reactor modelling and simulations, and virtual environments.

In 2023, the first visit was hosted at North Carolina State University in the United States of America and focused on nuclear power plant operations. The second visit was hosted by the Oak Ridge National Lab and Idaho National Lab in the United States of America and focused on nuclear reactor modelling and simulations and virtual environments.

In 2024, the third LMP visit was hosted by the Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation in the Republic of Korea and focused on nuclear power plant operations.

This year, three more LMP visits will take place in:

- Argentina: Hosted by the National Atomic Energy Commission from 4 to 17 May 2025, this visit will focus on nuclear power programme development.

- Japan: Hosted by the University of Tokyo and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, under the coordination of the Cabinet Office of Japan, from 8 to 21

June 2025, this visit will focus on advanced nuclear technology and Fukushima recovery efforts.

- Canada: Hosted by McMaster University and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories from 13 to 25 July 2025, this visit will focus on research reactors.



## How to get involved

Potential donors, partners, and LMP host organizations from both the public and private sectors are invited to partner with the programme by providing financial and/or in-kind contributions or by hosting future LMP visits. If interested, please contact [LMP@iaea.org](mailto:LMP@iaea.org)

Find out more at:





# International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)



The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is an intergovernmental organisation with the unique mandate of fostering research, capacity building, and technology transfer in the Life Sciences, with the ultimate purpose of promoting sustainable global development. With 69 member states, the ICGEB forms an interactive network of internationally recognized scientists and state-of-the-art laboratories at its Components in Trieste (HQ), New Delhi, and Cape Town; a Regional Research Centre in China; and over 40 Affiliated Centres worldwide. The ICGEB was established as a special project of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) in 1983 and, since 1994, has been an independent international organisation with operations aligned to those of the UN. ICGEB is deeply committed to promoting gender equality in education and access to funding for scientific projects, contributing to helping countries progress in SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) 4 and 5. To this purpose, the Centre has promoted and established several related initiatives.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Lucy Enset



This year, ICGEB wishes to highlight a promising startup called **Lucy Enset**, a women-led company producing Enset flour and baked products in Arba Minch (Ethiopia), which came into existence thanks to an ICGEB-funded Collaborative Research Proposal grant.

Enset is a crop indigenous to Ethiopia, consumed after fermentation—a traditional yet time-consuming and unreliable process. Enset processing is a main activity of rural families, but product losses can reach up to 45% due to unsafe fermentation, which provides insufficient sustenance.



*Photos: traditional Enset processing*

## Partners

- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Arba Minch University – Ethiopia
- Bio and Emerging Technology Institute (BETin)

## Achievements and Impacts

Prof. Addisu Fekadu Andeta from Arba Minch University decided to map the challenges within the Enset value chain and bridge critical gaps through knowledge transfer, local capacity building, and the empowerment of smallholder Enset farmers—primarily women, who are the main actors in Enset processing. His work, supported by an ICGEB collaborative grant, led to the introduction of basic processing equipment and the development of improved fermentation techniques that reduced the traditional fermentation period from two months to just seven days. This initiative contributes to a number of SDGs: 2 (sustainable agriculture), 4 (inclusive quality education), 8 (decent work), 9 (resilient infrastructure), and 17 (partnership for the Goals).

The innovation combines a technological and cultural shift in the processing of the staple food, allowing families and communities in Ethiopia to easily satisfy their needs and produce surplus products, thereby providing additional income. The innovations have significantly improved product quality and diversification, enhanced food safety, and, most importantly, transformed the livelihoods of thousands of people in the regions where the initiative is active.

An additional advantage is that the once discarded fibers from the Enset stem have now become a valuable source of income for the community. Women from nearby villages have started producing a variety of handcrafted products using these fibers, selling them both locally and online. Their work has already reached international markets, including the United States.



*Photos: products handcrafted by women*

To follow up on the success of the initiative, in April 2025 ICGEB supported the official launch of the Lucy Enset starter cultures through the B-INOC initiative, under the BioBoost project funded by the Italian Ministry of External Affairs (MAECI).



*Photos: Ethiopian women from the Lucy Enset startup launching their products commercially; B-INOC poster.*

Lucy Enset now facilitates economic growth and creation of decent employment opportunities in the local communities, by empowering women's innovation. This initiative is fully aligned with one of the national priorities in Ethiopia, Enset being a major staple food. All ICGEB instruments of action (fellowships, grants, meetings, technology transfer) strive to empower ICGEB member states to be the main drivers of scientific, and hence economic development – leaving the communities stronger, more independent and more resilient after the ICGEB project ends.

Find out more at: [icgeb.org](https://icgeb.org); [lucyenset.com](https://lucyenset.com)



# International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



The International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs) committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. We allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs for underserved communities worldwide.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Girls in ICT Day: Empowering the Next Generation of Women in Tech



**Girls in ICT Day** is a flagship global initiative led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to encourage girls and young women to consider careers in information and communication technologies (ICTs), science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Each year, on the fourth Thursday of April, thousands of events are held worldwide to introduce girls to the wide range of opportunities technology offers — from coding and robotics to satellite engineering and cybersecurity.

The initiative addresses critical gender gaps in STEM education and the digital workforce by providing role models, hands-on training, and exposure to emerging technologies. Each year, ITU sets a theme to guide engagement — for example, digital skills for life, AI, or space tech—ensuring relevance to today's digital transformation.

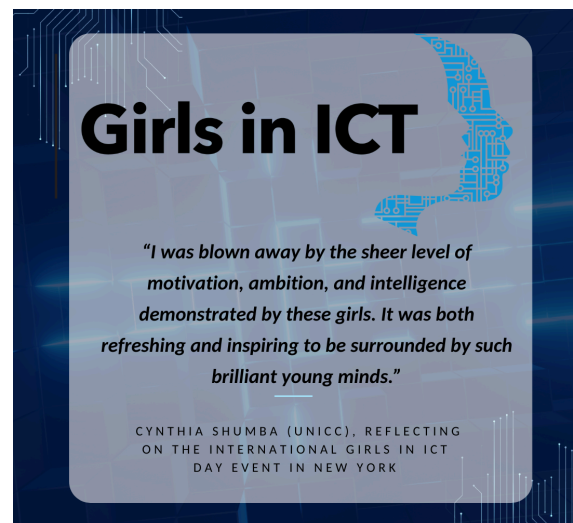


## Achievements and Impacts

Since its launch in 2011, Girls in ICT Day has reached over 400,000 girls through 12,000+ events in 170+ countries.

It has directly influenced national policy dialogues on gender and STEM education in countries such as Rwanda, Thailand, and Costa Rica.

ITU's continued engagement has encouraged governments to integrate digital skills and gender equity into national education strategies, helping shape long-term systemic change.



## Partners

ITU works with a diverse network of partners, including:

- National governments and education ministries
- Telecom regulators and ICT ministries
- Private sector companies (e.g., Microsoft, Cisco, Ericsson)
- Civil society organizations and youth networks
- UN partners and development agencies

## How to get involved



#Girls in ICT  
are...



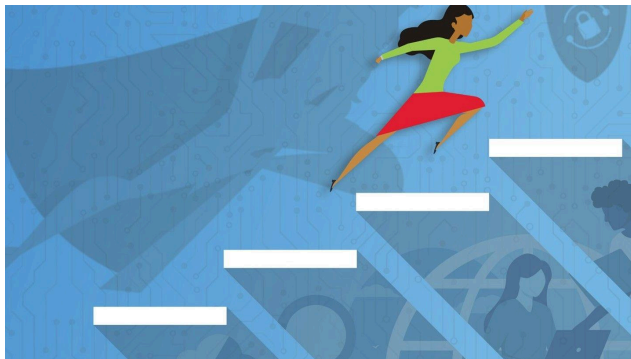
Organizations can get involved by hosting events, delivering digital skills workshops, mentoring girls, sharing stories of female ICT professionals, or supporting local outreach with resources and funding. ITU provides a comprehensive toolkit to help partners plan impactful events globally and locally.

Find out more at: <https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/>

# Women in Cyber Programme: Building Inclusive Cybersecurity Ecosystems



The **Women in Cyber programme** by ITU is a global initiative designed to address the underrepresentation of women in the cybersecurity workforce. With global cybersecurity threats increasing in frequency and complexity, the programme ensures that women are not left behind in securing our digital future.



The programme focuses on building a pipeline of women cybersecurity professionals through targeted training, mentorship, knowledge exchange, and awareness-raising. It fosters community building and leadership development, particularly among women from developing and least developed countries.

## Achievements & Impacts

Over 700 women from 100+ countries have participated in Women in Cyber activities since its inception in 2021.

The programme has supported diverse career pathways, with alumni now leading national CSIRTs, policy units, and technical operations.

It played a key role in launching ITU's Global Network of Women in Cyber, a growing platform for professional exchange, visibility, and leadership development.

A strong emphasis on regional inclusivity ensures that women from underserved regions are equipped with the latest tools and knowledge in cyber resilience.



*"Being part of this programme opened doors I never thought possible. The support and guidance I received were instrumental in advancing my career."*

Anonymous participant, Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme



## Partners

ITU collaborates with:

- National cybersecurity agencies and telecom regulators
- Academic institutions and training platforms (e.g., FIRST, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise)
- Private sector entities like Microsoft and Fortinet
- UN and regional organizations working on digital security and gender equality



## How to get involved

Organizations can support by:

- Hosting or funding regional capacity-building programmes
- Providing access to cybersecurity training or certifications
- Nominating mentors and mentees for the Women in Cyber Mentorship Scheme
- Engaging in public advocacy to promote gender diversity in cybersecurity decision-making

### Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme

*Become a changemaker in cybersecurity*



Partners



Find out more at:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Women-in-Cyber/Women-in-Cyber-Mentorship-Programme.aspx>



United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) promotes inclusive and sustainable development by helping developing countries integrate into the global economy. It provides research, technical assistance, and serves as a platform for consensus-building on trade, investment, finance, and technology—supporting inclusive development and ensuring that no one is left behind. In addition, UNCTAD acts as the secretariat to the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including its Gender Advisory Board, which addresses critical issues related to the gender dimensions of science, technology, and innovation.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Gender and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Programme



UNCTAD's Gender in Science, Technology and Innovation Programme aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in STI as a means to foster inclusive and sustainable development. The programme supports the integration of gender perspectives into STI policies, encourages women's participation in STEM fields, and strengthens the capacity of governments to design and implement gender-responsive STI strategies.

**Objectives:** The initiative aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in science, technology, and innovation (STI) as a means to foster inclusive and sustainable development. It supports the integration of gender perspectives into STI policies, encourages women's participation in STEM fields, and strengthens the policy capacities of governments to design gender-responsive STI strategies.

#### Target Audience/Community:

- Policymakers and government institutions involved in STI and gender policy.

- Women scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs.
- Academic institutions and research bodies.
- Civil society organizations and international development partners.

### Geographical Focus:

Global, with targeted country-level activities in developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, based on project-specific funding and partnerships.

### Duration:

Ongoing

programme, with specific technical assistance interventions typically ranging from 1 to 3 years under various funding arrangements, including Development Account projects and technical cooperation initiatives.



### Problems Addressed:

- Persistent gender gaps in STEM education and careers.
- Underrepresentation of women in STI policymaking and leadership.
- Lack of gender-sensitive STI policies and data.

### Opportunities:

- Harnessing women's potential to drive innovation and inclusive growth.
- Promoting gender-responsive digital and technological development.
- Building STI capacity in developing countries through inclusive policy frameworks.
- Strengthening global knowledge-sharing and collaboration on gender and STI.

## Achievements & Impacts

### 1. CSTD Gender Advisory Board (GAB)

A key achievement of UNCTAD's Gender in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Programme is the reactivation of the Gender Advisory Board, which now actively contributes to the work of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). Through expert input into policy reports and participation in intergovernmental sessions, the Board has helped ensure that the voices and priorities of women and girls are meaningfully reflected in global STI debates. The Board has

increasingly drawn attention to both long-standing gender barriers and the emerging challenges posed by new and frontier technologies—such as artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and biotechnology—where women and girls remain underrepresented and underserved.

## **2. Exhibition on Women in Science at the CSTD (2025)**

To complement the work of the Gender Advisory Board, UNCTAD continues to explore innovative ways of engaging with the international community on the role of women and girls in science, technology, and innovation. In 2025, it organized a high-profile exhibition during the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). The exhibition featured contributions from more than 15 institutions and highlighted the achievements and personal stories of women scientists from developing countries, including representatives from governments, the private sector, and academia involved in gender-focused STI initiatives.

This initiative raised the visibility of women in science and innovation on a prominent UN platform, drawing attention to both their successes and the persistent challenges they face. Through compelling visual storytelling, it engaged policymakers, delegates, and the broader public in meaningful dialogue on the importance of gender inclusion in STI. The exhibition reinforced the urgent need for gender-responsive STI policies by showcasing real-life examples that illustrate both the progress made and the barriers that remain.

## **3. Gender Assessments of Digital Technologies Project (forthcoming – accepted for funding)**

Through its Gender Assessments of Digital Technologies Project, UNCTAD's Gender Programme is enhancing the capacity of policymakers in ASEAN countries to design and implement gender-responsive STI policies that address digital divides and promote inclusive digital transformation. The project engages countries with diverse levels of technological development and institutional readiness. By facilitating cross-country learning across these varied contexts, the initiative promotes triangular cooperation, fostering knowledge exchange and mutual support among countries at different stages of digital and gender policy integration.

The project includes national gender assessments, stakeholder dialogues, hands-on training workshops, and the development of actionable national plans. These activities, supported by the CSTD Gender Advisory Board, are designed to identify and address gender-related barriers in priority digital sectors such as health, agriculture, education, and finance. In doing so, the project strengthens regional policy coherence, contributes

to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, and offers a scalable model for replication in other developing regions worldwide.

#### 4. Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre Collaboration

In partnership with the Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre, the Programme organized four regional workshops—in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Caribbean—to build capacity in the use of geospatial data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a strong emphasis on gender inclusion. The workshops prioritized the meaningful participation of women scientists and professionals from developing countries across all project activities.

The initiative contributed to the advancement of SDG 5 (gender equality) by ensuring equitable access to technical training and leadership opportunities in data science and geospatial analysis. Notably, female participants from Brazil and South Africa, who were specifically selected and sponsored, became active contributors to the global open-source Julia programming community, extending their impact beyond the training itself. The project also fostered inclusive scientific collaboration and underscored the importance of women's leadership in driving data-informed sustainable development.

#### 5. Thailand-UNCTAD Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) Project

In collaboration with the Government of Thailand, the Programme implemented the Thailand-UNCTAD Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) Project to support countries across Asia, Africa, and the Arab region in integrating gender perspectives into their national BCG strategies. The initiative featured regional workshops, national policy dialogues, hands-on training sessions, and field visits to local farms and enterprises in Thailand—all designed to help participants, particularly women, understand, adapt, and apply the BCG model within their own countries and communities.



These activities provided a platform for inclusive knowledge exchange, bringing together policymakers, STI stakeholders, and women entrepreneurs to co-develop context-specific approaches. By fostering practical learning and South-South cooperation, the initiative emphasized the critical role of women in advancing sustainable, circular, and inclusive economic

transformation.

## 6. UNCTAD–Okayama University Young Female Scientist Programme

Recognizing the importance of inclusive scientific capacity for sustainable development, UNCTAD partnered with Okayama University (Japan) to launch the Young Female Scientist Programme. This initiative empowers young women scientists from developing countries through technical training, mentorship, and opportunities to build global research networks. The programme aims to close the gender gap in science, technology, and innovation (STI) by increasing the participation of women in STEM fields, particularly in contexts where access to advanced infrastructure and expertise remains limited.

Between 2020 and 2024, the programme trained 34 young women scientists from more than a dozen developing countries. Participants received specialized training in advanced scientific fields such as environmental and health sciences, while also benefiting from exchange opportunities, peer learning, and capacity-building to tackle sustainable development challenges in their home countries. The success of the programme has led to an expansion of the collaboration to include participants from Latin America and the Caribbean, further broadening its global impact.

### Partners

UNCTAD's Gender and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programme has collaborated and continues to do so with a wide range of partners, including:

**UN agencies:** Economic Commissions (ECLAC, ESCAP, ECA, ECE), UN Women, UNESCO, UNDP, UNU, and other UN entities especially promoting gender equality and digital transformation.

**Government bodies:** National ministries and STI councils from participating countries, including those responsible for science, gender, education, and ICT.

**Academic and research institutions:** Okayama University (Japan), EPFL (Switzerland), Oxford University (UK), and local and regional research hubs engaged in inclusive STI.

**International organizations and donors:** The European Union and other bilateral and multilateral partners supporting gender-responsive innovation and capacity-building.

**Civil society and women's organizations:** NGOs working to advance gender equality in STEM education, entrepreneurship, climate action, and digital inclusion.

**Private sector partners and innovation hubs:** Enterprises and hubs focused on digital inclusion, AI, sustainable technology, and capacity-building for women in STEM.

**Opportunities for Collaboration:** Yes, there are ongoing opportunities for additional partners to collaborate, especially in the following areas:

- Gender assessments of digital technologies.



- Technical expertise in gender-responsive STI policy design and evaluation.
- Funding and sponsorship for country-level or global activities.
- Capacity-building and training for women in STEM and digital skills.
- Research collaboration on gender gaps and data collection.
- Support for innovation hubs, the private sector, and universities interested in hosting or supporting gender and STI initiatives, mentoring, and internships.

UNCTAD welcomes expressions of interest from governments, academic institutions, development agencies, and private sector actors committed to advancing gender equality in STI.

## How to get involved

UNCTAD invites expressions of interest from partners wishing to support its Gender and STI initiatives through technical expertise, funding, joint programming, or capacity-building.

Potential collaborators include research institutions and universities, international organizations and donors, women's networks and civil society groups, innovation hubs and private sector actors, as well as national governments and relevant ministries in science, gender, education, and digital policy.

Please contact:

Ms. Eugenia Núñez  
Programme Coordinator, Gender and STI  
✉ [eugenia.nunez@unctad.org](mailto:eugenia.nunez@unctad.org)

Find out more at:



# United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)



The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is the home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where each goal finds its space and where all stakeholders can do their part to leave no one behind. We are a leading analytical voice for promoting inclusion, reducing inequalities, and eradicating poverty, and a champion for tearing down the barriers that keep people in poverty.

UN DESA helps countries make informed decisions by providing a wealth of information through our publications and databases and our support for international deliberations at the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commissions, Forums, and other bodies.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum)



The world is currently not on track to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030. Harnessing science, technology, and innovation is crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) solutions are rarely designed with women's perspectives in mind. Each year at the [Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation \(STI Forum\)](#) organized by UN DESA, policymakers, scientists, innovators, engineers, and other stakeholders bring attention to this important issue.

At the 9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum 2024), a dedicated thematic session looked at the intersection of gender equality and STI solutions for sustainable development. The session 'Advancing Sustainable Development with women-centered Science and Technology solutions' showcased women-centered tech and innovation solutions to advance sustainable development. It also highlighted



actions for addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities to accelerate SDG implementation by harnessing women-centered STI solutions and identified concrete strategies to increase the participation of women in STI, including in the design phase.

## Partners

Collaborated with [WIPO](#) and [ITU](#), co-leads of the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT) Workstream 8 on Gender and STI, and with other group members.

## Achievements and Impacts

The session 'Advancing Sustainable Development with women-centered Science and Technology solutions' at STI Forum 2024 showcased the successes and challenges of diverse initiatives from governments, international organizations, business, and civil society in forging innovative women-centered solutions in science and technology, to advance sustainable development. Session 6 delved into the limited consideration of women's perspectives in STI solutions. Emphasizing the importance of digital equity, participants discussed strategies to enhance digital literacy among women and girls, aiming to equip them with the necessary skills for the digital era. The session underscored the significance of global partnerships and financial investments in closing the gender gap in STI, stressing collaborative efforts to empower women and girls through STI and reinforce the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The session featured an interactive discussion. Takeaways from interventions included calls to improve women's literacy and skills in science, create inclusive education ecosystems, and promote knowledge-sharing to eliminate gender bias. Additionally, there were discussions on the importance of offering women-centered solutions, equitable access to research and innovation, and cooperation between the government, private sector, and civil society. Challenges such as a lack of awareness, infrastructure, and funding were noted, along with calls for initiatives to engage girls in STEM and entrepreneurship.

Challenges discussed during the interactive discussion included cultural stereotypes, lack of awareness, infrastructure, and funding, hindering women's engagement in STEM fields and entrepreneurship. However, opportunities were also highlighted. Mentorship programs, funding for women-led projects, and cooperation between the government,

private sector, and civil society were seen as avenues for empowering women in STI and driving global equity.

## How to Get Involved

The special focus on women and girls in STI is included in the activities of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), including the UN interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (IATT) Workstream 8 on Gender and STI. There are many opportunities to collaborate including at the annual STI Forum and its events.



STI Forum 2025 includes a session titled 'Advancing science, technology and innovation for gender equality'. As called for in the Pact of the Future, this session will identify ways to close the gender digital divide and to advance leadership in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for women and girls. It will focus on removing barriers to the full, equal and meaningful access to and participation and leadership in

education, employment and research in STEM fields and will also consider how to ensure that advances in technology do not amplify gender inequalities or introduce new risks and challenges for women, but rather create new economic opportunities.

Find out more at: <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2024>

# United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



As the UN agency for science and education with gender equality as a global priority, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is actively engaged in closing the gender gap in science. Addressing the societal factors and systemic barriers that impede progress toward gender equality in this field is a key concern for UNESCO. This commitment stems from the recognition that more women in science not only means better science but also fosters societal development and contributes to the pursuit of peaceful societies.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Call to Action: Closing the Gender Gap in Science



The UNESCO **Call to Action: “Closing the Gender Gap in Science”**, launched on the occasion of the 2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science, provides recommendations aimed at tackling the root causes of gender-based inequalities in science. It calls for urgent multistakeholder collaborative actions to:

1. Dismantle gender stereotypes and biases in science through the enhanced visibility of female role models;
2. Open educational pathways for girls in science through innovative and inspiring educational strategies and initiatives; and



3. Change workplace environments to attract, retain, and advance women scientists through policies and actions that promote inclusion, diversity, and equity.

## Partners

This Call to Action (CTA) brings together a dynamic global network of stakeholders committed to advancing gender equality in science. The UNESCO International Consultative Group of Experts for Closing the Gender Gap in Science was established to provide strategic advice, guidance, and recommendations for the CTA's implementation. This group includes internationally recognized experts and key stakeholders representing governments, academia, research institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society, as well as UN entities and UNESCO Chairs.



The CTA has also led to impactful collaborations with research funders, such as Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and with media organizations, including the Radio-Télévision Belge Francophone (RTBF).

We welcome new partnerships to co-develop and advance future projects under the CTA.

## Achievements & Impacts

Since the CTA's launch in 2024, key achievements include:

- The CTA has mobilized a strong global community. Through targeted engagement and network-building initiatives, it has reached over 6,500 individuals across sectors and regions, all interested in closing the gender gap in science.
- In collaboration with the Radio-Télévision Belge Francophone (RTBF), UNESCO has been developing a media coaching initiative for women in science, aimed at supporting women scientists in gaining visibility and confidence on air and fostering more inclusive science communication.
- A curated collection of effective practices for advancing gender equality in science is now accessible via the UNESCO Open and Inclusive Science Hub, providing a valuable resource for institutions and policymakers.

- To mark the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in

“This is a fantastic recognition of our ongoing commitment to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in STEM. We have long been advocating for sharing knowledge and building communities of practice in this space, and the UNESCO compendium is a brilliant resource that aligns with these goals.”

CONTRIBUTOR FEATURED ON THE UNESCO  
OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SCIENCE HUB

Science, the digital campaign “Imagine the world with more women in science” invited voices from around the world to share how their field would benefit from greater participation of women in science. In just two weeks, nearly 900 posts were shared through the CTA’s network, reaching an estimated 26 million people.

- In September 2024, the G20 Recommendations on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) called for support to the CTA’s implementation.

## How to Get Involved

No single individual or institution can close the gender gap in science alone. That’s why the Call to Action is building a broad, multi-stakeholder community to strengthen connections across sectors and foster collaboration. We invite you to:

- Explore the UNESCO Open and Inclusive Science Hub to discover inspiring practices and initiatives promoting gender equality in science across the globe, and contribute by sharing your own good practices.
- Join the UNESCO Action Groups for Women in Science - open-ended working groups that meet online several times a year to share ideas, spark collaboration, and plan future initiatives.
- Connect with the community through the LinkedIn Group “UNESCO - Advancing Gender Equality in Science” to exchange ideas, projects, events, and best practices.





- Raise your voice on social media with the hashtag **#EveryVoiceInScience** to highlight the voices of women in science and help build a more inclusive science community.

Find out more at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/science-technology-and-innovation/cta>

Explore the Open and Inclusive Science Hub:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/inclusive-science?hub=178646>

Join the Action Groups for Women in Science:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VhQAYtNErM>

Connect on the LinkedIn group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13143426/>

## L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme



UNESCO has a rich history of championing women in science and showcasing inspiring role models. Since 1998, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO have worked together to promote women in science through the **For Women in Science (FWIS)** International Awards and the network of over 50 national and regional “Young Talents” Programmes, putting women scientists in the spotlight and contributing to breaking the glass ceiling in science.

### Partners

- Fondation L'Oréal

### Achievements & Impacts

Since its creation, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme has honored more than 4,700 women scientists at different stages of their careers, including 132 international laureates, for the excellence of their research. Among these laureates, 7 have received a Nobel Prize.



### How to Get Involved

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme welcomes the support and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders — from academic institutions and scientific organizations to policymakers, media, and private sector partners. There are several ways to get involved:

- Encourage and support the nomination of outstanding women researchers for national or international awards. Calls for applications and nominations are published annually at: <https://www.forwomeninscience.com/>
- Research institutions and universities can partner with the FWIS Programme to promote gender equality in science, help identify suitable candidates, and/or participate in the selection process.
- Relevant stakeholders can contribute by involving awardees in high-level events related to science and gender equality, promoting them as role models to inspire younger generations, and helping raise awareness of the ongoing challenges and opportunities for women in science.

Find out more at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/women-science>



# United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



**United Nations**  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) works to help all countries, especially developing countries, access and leverage the benefits of space to accelerate sustainable development. We help countries build their capacity to develop and make the most out of the space sector through a two-fold approach: on one side, we provide resources such as training, workshops, conferences and knowledge-sharing portals; on the other side, we complement these with concrete opportunities for countries to expand their space capabilities, such as fellowships and competitive programmes, some of which specifically target developing countries.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Space4Women



**Space4Women** is a project of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to promote women's empowerment in space. Space4Women encourages women and girls to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and raises awareness about career opportunities and the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in the space sector.

### Partners

The Space4Women Project is open to any partners willing to engage in increasing women's participation in the STEM and space fields. Space4Women mainly partners with national



space agencies and governmental institutions worldwide, academia and research

institutes, the private sector, NGOs, and civil society. Our network expands every year and remains open to all; join us!

## Achievements & Impacts

### Landmark study on Gender Equality in the space sector:

UNOOSA launched the Landmark Space4Women Study on Gender Equality in the Space Sector in 2024 to provide information on gender representation in space-related public organizations and examine policies or interventions that advance gender equality. The first phase of the study was conducted in 2024 to collect quantitative data on women's participation in the public space sector. The second phase will conclude in 2025 with the aim of collecting quantitative data, including from the private sector, on systemic barriers for women starting and pursuing a career in space.

The Landmark study is conducted thanks to the generous support of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA).

### Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for the Space Sector:



on gender equality outcomes. The toolkit brings actionable solutions to unlock the space sector for women worldwide. It is available in English and French, and soon in Russian and Arabic.



Published in 2024, the toolkit provides simple and practical measures, examples, and tools to help people who are not gender specialists adapt gender mainstreaming efforts to their own contexts. It provides concrete measures to: (1) commit at all levels to advancing gender equality, (2) promote equal opportunities within organizations, (3) create dedicated programming to empower all women and girls, and (4) measure and report



The Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit was elaborated thanks to the generous support of the Canadian Space Agency.

### Space4Women Expert Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya:

UNOOSA and the Kenya Space Agency hosted the UN/Kenya Space4Women Expert Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27-29 November 2024, marking the first expert meeting



on the African continent. Gathering more than 120 stakeholders from national space agencies and government entities, academia, the private sector, NGOs, and civil society, the expert meeting provided a regional platform to discuss tangible solutions to advance gender equality in STEM. Experts especially discussed ways of successfully implementing the Toolkit, participated in initial consultations on the elaboration of a STEM education for women and girls in underprivileged areas, and called for more funding opportunities for women and girls, including scholarships and

mentorship programmes.

## How to Get Involved

Are you an aspiring woman pursuing a career in space, a professional woman working in space sector, or simply a strong advocate for the promotion of women in the space field? Join one of our activities, any time a call for participants is published!

In addition, if you have any proposals for an activity, feel free to reach out!

Find out more at: <https://space4women.unoosa.org/>

# United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, works to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. It partners with governments and organizations in over 150 territories and locations to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services, advance gender equality, and support data-driven population policies. UNFPA empowers women and girls to innovate across science and technology on global, regional, and country levels.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### UNFPA 4HerPower Challenge



Young women and girls encounter considerable obstacles in accessing sexual and reproductive health services. In response to this issue, UNFPA, Organon, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology launched the **4HerPower Challenge** to identify, fund, and support innovative solutions developed by teams and organizations led by young women to address the needs of young women and girls across 14 low- and middle-income countries. The challenge provided essential equity-free funding, empowering these young innovators to amplify their impact, dismantle barriers, and ultimately enhance sexual and reproductive health and rights within their





communities. This initiative took place a little over one year and ended in December 2024.

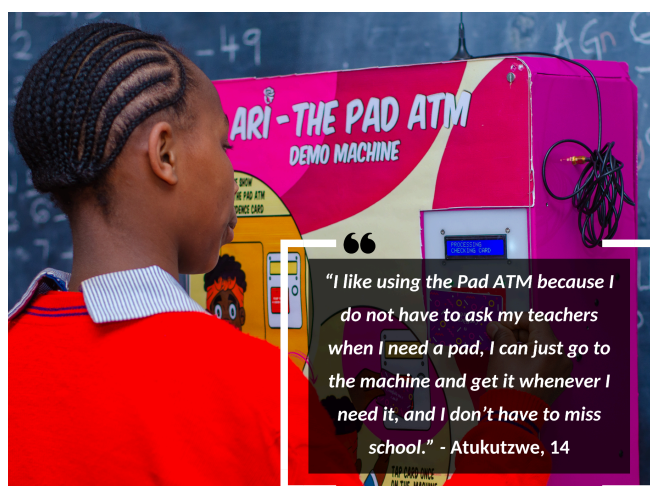
## Partners

UNFPA and Organon collaborated with MIT Solve as an implementing partner, bringing together technical expertise and connections to a world-class innovation ecosystem relevant for science, tech, and innovation. UNFPA Innovation Challenges under the Equalizer Accelerator Fund are open to new partners interested in scaling women-led health innovations and have a growing portfolio of impact stories through various modalities.



## Achievements & Impacts

From nearly 300 women-led solutions submitted, 14 winners were awarded a total of \$280,000 in seed funding. Through a six-month support programme led by MIT Solve, winners received tailored coaching, mentorship, and exposure to global networks. Collectively, the winning solutions impacted over 230,000 lives and demonstrated impactful results.



For example, Ari - The Pad ATM in Kenya scaled from 125 to 1,454 girls, distributing over 10,000 sanitary pads and securing an additional \$74,000 in funding; TeenUp in Vietnam provided SRHR education to more than 78,000 youth and secured an additional \$200,000 in funding; Kayayei Insight Initiative in Ghana reached over 80,000 women weekly with culturally sensitive SRHR content via WhatsApp; and

Violetta in Mexico expanded its free access platform to over 240,000 users with 1,000 monthly actives. These results highlight the power of investing in local, young

women-led solutions to drive systemic change and advance their access to SRHR and equity.

## How to Get Involved

You can write to [innovation@unfpa.org](mailto:innovation@unfpa.org) to get involved. UNFPA is open to new partners interested in funding, technical expertise, and scaling innovations.

Find out more at:

[Web link 1](#) and [Web link 2](#)



## The Young Women Leading Change Innovation Challenge



Young women face persistent barriers in leading community-driven innovation. In response, UNFPA Sierra Leone, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, launched the **Young Women Leading Change Innovation Challenge** to empower young women across Sierra Leone to lead transformative, community-based solutions that address the most pressing challenges facing women and youth.

The initiative provides grants, mentorship, and capacity-building support to women-led groups proposing innovative projects in areas such as skills development and entrepreneurship, ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy, improving access to health services, and addressing gender-based violence and drug abuse.



The challenge, targeting young women aged 18-35, promotes youth leadership, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and locally led innovation for sustainable development.

## Achievements & Impacts

Over 40 young women-led initiatives have been supported through the Innovation Challenge across Sierra Leone, including eight initiatives led by young women living with disabilities. A few highlights include:

- DigitalHer – Bo: Provided more than 150 women with digital literacy and livelihood skills, such as reusable pad production and tie-dyeing, alongside SRHR education.
- STEM Garage – Bo: Reached 500+ girls with SRHR education and peer-led outreach; trained 20+ peer educators; and co-hosted the 2024 International Day of the Girl Child celebration.
- SafetySphere – Freetown: An AI-powered FemTech platform with 1,000+ confidential chatbot conversations, a contraceptive symptom checker, and community outreach impacting 500+ girls.



## Partners



- UNFPA Sierra Leone - Financial, technical, and mentorship support
- Ministry of Youth Affairs - Financial, technical, and mentorship support
- Local CBOs and NGOs led by Young Women - Implementation and grassroots mobilization

Partnership opportunities:

UNFPA and the Ministry of Youth Affairs welcome new partners to collaborate in scaling successful innovations and launching new rounds of the

challenge. There are opportunities for collaboration in areas such as funding, technical assistance, mentorship, research, content development, and policy engagement.

## How to get involved

Stakeholders can join the initiative by:

- Partnering with existing or new women-led projects
- Offering mentorship or training to young leaders
- Providing funding or technical support
- Helping amplify the stories and successes through media or advocacy channels
- Please contact us if you're interested in collaborating to scale youth-led innovation for gender equality.

Find out more at:

[-https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/ministry-youth-affairs-and-unfpa-kickstart-regional-workshops-young-women-leading-change](https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/ministry-youth-affairs-and-unfpa-kickstart-regional-workshops-young-women-leading-change)

[-https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/call-applications-innovation-challenge-young-women-leading-change](https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/call-applications-innovation-challenge-young-women-leading-change)

[-https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/president-julius-maada-bio-launches-key-initiatives-boost-youth-employment-and-empowerment](https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/president-julius-maada-bio-launches-key-initiatives-boost-youth-employment-and-empowerment)

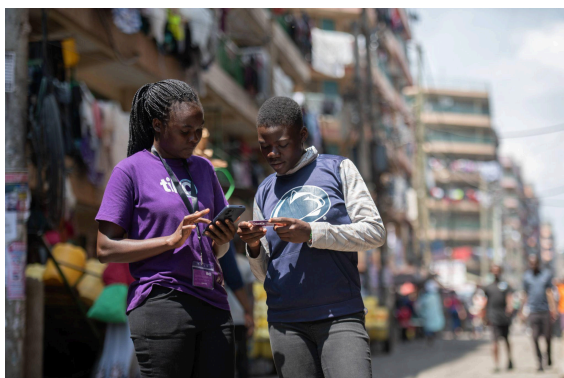
-Instagram/Facebook/X: @wearesia

## UN Inter-agency Initiative

### The Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond (ASRH DIB)



Led by UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO, UNAIDS, UN Kenya, and the UN SDG Partnership Platform, this innovative UN-backed impact bond delivers high-quality sexual and reproductive health services—including HIV testing—to girls aged 15–19 in Kenya.



The country faces acute challenges: one in six girls aged 15–19 has been pregnant, and in 2022, there were 7,307 new HIV infections among 15–24-year-olds, accounting for 41% of new adult infections. Adolescent girls and young women represent 78% of new infections in this age group.

The ASRH DIB harnesses technology to expand access to care and empower underserved adolescent girls across ten counties most



affected by HIV, adolescent pregnancy, and sexual violence - the so-called 'triple threat' facing young women in urban Africa.

## Achievements & Impacts

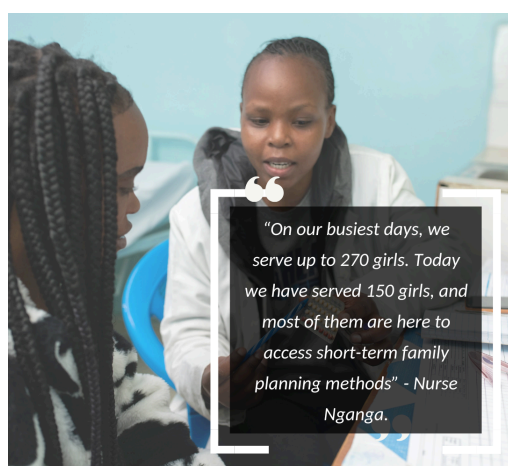
Through its non-profit partner, Tiko, the project connects fragmented stakeholders, including medical providers, community-based organizations (CBOs), and pharmacies, ensuring adolescent girls access high-quality sexual and reproductive health services at no cost.



The free digital platform connects the girls to private and public service providers, removing barriers to care and empowering girls in their sexual health journey. Since launching in July 2023, the program has reached over 227,000 girls with HIV and family planning services. It has onboarded 136 public facilities, 147 private facilities, and 45 pharmacies, bringing services closer to girls in 10 counties with high teen pregnancy and HIV rates.

## Partners

The UN in Kenya, led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNAIDS, World Health Organization, and the SDG Partnership Platform Kenya, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya, the global non-profit organization Tiko (formerly Triggerise), the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Bridges Outcomes Partnerships, and KOIS. There are opportunities for additional partners to collaborate and potentially scale to other locations and countries.



## How to get involved

For partnership inquiries, please contact the UNFPA Kenya Country Office:  
<https://kenya.unfpa.org/en/contact>

Find out more at:  
<https://kenya.unfpa.org/en/enhancing-adolescent-sexual-reproductive-health-kenya> and  
for the Tiko platform <https://tiko.org/>



# World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information, and cooperation. WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 193 member states. Our mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. Our mandate, governing bodies, and procedures are set out in the WIPO Convention, which established WIPO in 1967. WIPO is committed to promoting gender equality and diversity in the innovative and creative sectors, across the wider world of IP and within our own Organization. We work to systematically mainstream gender equality considerations across our work program while generating and analyzing disaggregated and gender-specific data, collaborating on capacity development, and strengthening and replicating good practices.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### Empowering Brazilian Women in STEM: A Journey in Intellectual Property



WIPO successfully launched and implemented a series of initiatives to support women in STEM and entrepreneurship across Latin America. From December 2023 to May 2024,



mentoring programs were rolled out in Argentina, Costa Rica, Peru, and Uruguay to strengthen women's engagement in innovation and intellectual property (IP). These initiatives aimed to build connections between IP institutions and organizations supporting women innovators, raise IP awareness, and foster lasting partnerships.

Complementing this regional approach, WIPO also implemented the **"IP Management for Women in STEM Careers"** project in Brazil from October 2023 to March 2024. This project focused on enhancing IP proficiency among professional women in STEM by delivering tailored training, speed mentoring, and practical skill development to help them manage their inventions and technical knowledge more effectively. Targeting early-career researchers and entrepreneurs, the initiative addressed the underrepresentation of women in innovation and the lack of IP management skills. It created opportunities for participants to build strategic IP knowledge, connect with national IP institutions, and strengthen their role in Brazil's innovation ecosystem.

## Partners

WIPO partnered with several national institutions, including:

- Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil
- Ministry of Development, Industry, Commerce and Services
- EMBRAPPII – Brazilian Industrial Research and Innovation Company
- CONFAP – National Council of State Research Support Foundations

## Achievements and Impacts

As an outcome of the mentoring, researchers developed strategies for the protection and commercialization of their specific innovations, including revisions of IP protection strategies, identification of relevant markets, valuation of technology, and assistance in protection via the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). The initiative contributed to strengthening the role of women in Brazil's innovation ecosystem by equipping researchers and entrepreneurs with essential IP management skills and fostering connections with national IP institutions. The closing seminar brought together participants, mentors, and representatives from WIPO to present the project's results and discuss future perspectives and challenges, further reinforcing the initiative's impact and sustainability.



**Find out more at:**

<https://www.wipo.int/en/web/office-brazil/w/news/2024/empowering-brazilian-women-in-stem-a-journey-in-intellectual-property>

# Leadership Course on Intellectual Property, Science and Innovation for Women Scientists and Innovators



WIPO launched the **Leadership Course on Intellectual Property, Science, and Innovation for Women Scientists and Innovators** in September 2024 to empower women scientists and innovators in their scientific and entrepreneurial endeavors. Developed for a select group of Laureates, International Rising Talents, Young Talents, and National Awardees from the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program, the course supports participants in refining their IP knowledge, critical thinking, and leadership skills while fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.



Rooted in the recognition that women remain underrepresented as inventors, leaders, and entrepreneurs in STEM fields, the course responds directly to needs expressed by the Women in Science community and aims to address this gap by equipping participants with practical tools for innovation and intellectual property management.

## Partners

The initiative is organized by WIPO in collaboration with UNESCO and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), in the framework of the UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science program.

## Achievements and Impacts

The course contributes to strengthening the role of women in science and innovation by offering expert-led training, leadership development, and networking opportunities. Participants gain the ability to explain and apply different IP principles,





*Nurturing young scientific talent through mentorship and financial support is essential for building a sustainable and innovative future.*

Mesha MBISANA  
Young Talents (Sub-Saharan Africa),  
Botswana



navigate the innovation cycle, assess commercialization risks, and develop market-ready strategies. A key outcome is the establishment of a robust international network of leading women scientists, inventors, and industry experts, enhancing both individual growth and the global community of women in STEM. The training also raises awareness on gender-specific challenges in innovation and equips participants to serve as future leaders and role models.

## How to Get Involved

Currently, the course is offered by invitation to select participants from the UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science program. WIPO's Academy invites institutions with specific training needs related to women in STEM to reach out and explore opportunities to collaborate on future leadership courses tailored to those needs.

Find out more at: <https://welc.wipo.int/fwis/>

See the presentation here: <https://prezi.com/p/embed/a3H7upNYONxh5jowK7Db/>

# World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the United Nations system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### The Climate Risks and Early Warning System (CREWS) Initiative



**CREWS** finances 54 country and regional projects that develop and enhance multi-hazard, gender-responsive, people-centred early warning systems in over 150 countries. While taking into consideration the entire early warning-early action value chain, activities on one side focus on the provision of scientific and technical assistance to stakeholders involved in early warning and national services in charge of meteorology and climate, hydrology, and civil protection. On the side of early action, CREWS conducts assessments and develops guidance, training, and awareness campaigns to ensure that warnings reach the most vulnerable populations with emphasis on community engagement and gender inclusion.

CREWS' engagement in gender is constantly growing. Specific activities to involve women's leadership in the early stages of projects, gender assessments, and capacity-building efforts ensure that early warning system services are fully developed and gender-responsive.

CREWS finances 19 country and regional projects that enhance multi-hazard, gender-responsive, people-centered early warning systems in more than 70 LDCs and SIDS. Thirteen of these projects explicitly contribute to the CREWS outcome on people-centered and gender-responsive early warning.



Over time, CREWS' approach to gender has evolved — from initially encouraging a gender-informed perspective to adopting a gender-sensitive approach as a core principle. Today, CREWS actively advocates for a gender-responsive approach that addresses root causes of inequality and promotes systemic change. To support this shift, the Secretariat is updating its Gender Operational Procedures to reflect this commitment and guide implementation.

Gender-specific outcomes and indicators are also embedded in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework, and CREWS continues to integrate gender equality considerations across project objectives.

## Achievements & Impacts

CREWS initiatives continue to deliver impactful results, fostering gender equality and women's leadership in disaster risk reduction and early warning systems worldwide. For instance, in the Pacific region, WMO has organized various initiatives to enhance women's roles in meteorology, hydrology, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). These include regional sensitization workshops, the creation of a community of practice for women working in related disciplines, and leadership training for women in the hydrometeorological and DRR sectors. Notably, the Women in Leadership in Meteorology and Hydrology Workshop held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in September 2024 brought together women leaders from across the Pacific region, fostering collaboration, experience sharing, and leadership skill development..

In Southeast Asia, through the CREWS project in Laos and Cambodia, lessons learned from other initiatives, including the Adaptation Fund and Volta Basin projects, are being integrated into risk communication plans, early action protocols, and response strategies. These efforts ensure that gender-responsive measures are incorporated, particularly for marginalized groups. In addition, a Guidance Document on Mainstreaming Gender and Disability in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) will be developed and tested to promote gender-transformative early warning and early action (EW-EA).

Similarly, in Africa, the Women's Leadership Training on Disasters and Climate Action was held on 25 October 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia, alongside the Africa Regional Platform for DRR and the Africa Multi-Stakeholder Forum of Early Warnings for All. Supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN Women, and funded by CREWS, this training brought together women leaders from across the continent. The event empowered participants with the knowledge and skills to take on leadership roles in

disaster management and climate action, strengthening the continent's capacity to respond to climate-related challenges.

Find out more at: <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en>

## WMO Secretariat Initiatives



On 10 March, WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo hosted a breakfast at WMO Headquarters to acknowledge International Women's Day. The celebrations were followed by an interactive art exhibit organized by the Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Network.

The exhibition "From Disaster to Recovery: Visible and Invisible Gendered Impacts of Climate Change, and Women in Climate Action" highlighted the often-unseen effects of climate change on women and celebrated the women leading the way in climate action.

Through powerful imagery, this exhibit showcased both women affected by environmental disasters and those leading advancements in weather, water, and climate services worldwide. By visualizing these diverse impacts, the exhibition sparked discussions led by WMO Gender Focal Points and emphasized the essential role of women in strengthening environmental services through their active role in science, technology, and innovation.

## Partners

With our members, 193 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

Find out more at:

<https://wmo.int/media/news/international-womens-day-rallying-call-action>

# About the UN Interagency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT)

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The UN interagency task team on STI for the SDGs (IATT), coordinated by UN-DESA and UNCTAD, promotes coordination, coherence, and cooperation within the UN System on STI-related matters. The IATT boasts 47 UN entity members and is a catalyst for cooperation and information flow on STI issues in the UN system.

The IATT work stream on "Gender and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)", co-led by ITU and WIPO, was formed in 2018 to increase synergies and collaboration among the UN, its agencies, funds, and programmes on issues pertaining to STI and gender. This work stream provides an informal working-level platform that facilitates collaboration and allows for the sharing of information, expertise, lessons learned, and best practices on gender and STI. The initiatives featured in this document are a sample of the impactful work led by members of the IATT's Gender and STI workstream.



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