Adopt sound policies for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (SDG 5)

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I. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – SDG 5

“Gender is used to describe the characteristics of women and men that are socially constructed, while sex refers to those that are biologically determined.”

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work

Women spend about **three times as many hours** in unpaid domestic and care work as men.

Source: OECD Social Protection and Well-being
How much care do men and women provide?

Household-standardized prevalence rates of informal care to older people, by age (60+) and sex, latest available data.

Source: WHO, 2019
Informal carers: lagging behind in recognition and support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recognition/need assessment</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td><strong>No specific needs assessment</strong></td>
<td>End-of-life care leave</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Limited awareness of rights of informal carers</td>
<td>Counselling, training and information (mostly by NGOs)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Respite care</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td><strong>No specific needs assessment</strong></td>
<td>Respite care (albeit with limited availability)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>but informal carers are often assessed by care services</td>
<td>Limited counselling and training (mostly by NGOs)</td>
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<td>Legal statute of informal care currently under discussion in Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td><strong>No specific assessment of needs</strong></td>
<td>Cash benefits for those below poverty line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td><strong>No specific assessment of needs</strong></td>
<td>Very limited provisions for respite care</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very limited counselling and training (mostly by NGOs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td><strong>No specific needs assessment</strong></td>
<td>Several measures of respite care</td>
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<td>Care leave</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Pension credits and unemployment/accident insurance</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Counselling and training</td>
</tr>
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Source: WHO (forthcoming) Towards a Framework for Integrated Care
Why carer’s allowance is not enough

- Supporting carers recognizes gender inequalities
- Stereotypes and gender norms → caring roles
- Higher availability of services → greater gender equality among siblings (Brandt et al, 2009)
- Intra-household wage gap → gendered informal care
- Greater labour market equality → greater informal care equality (Henz, 2010, Glauber 2017)

Share of household resources (Albania)

Source: Picolli (2017) based on Albanian Living Standard Measurement Survey
Gendering policies in LTC: The example of care leave schemes

**Flat-rate care leave**
Providing incentives for carers (i.e. women) to remain in labour market

**Care leave**
Allows carers (women) to remain in labour market

**Income dependent care leave**
Recognizes different incentives due to wage differentials

**FUTURE?**
Son’s/family’s month?
Extra benefits (e.g. length) available to men only or/and if shared

Picture: WHO GRASS tool (Gender mainstreaming for health managers: a practical approach, WHO, 2011)
II. Achieve gender equality to deliver all SDGs

... ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources ...

... reduce premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to health-care services and essential medicines for all

... eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs and promote mental health and wellbeing

Large gender differences in premature mortality rates from NCDs, although absolute number of NCD deaths in women is similar to that of men because women live longer
Women live longer than men but more years in poor health

Sources: Thorslund et al., 2013; Global Burden of Disease Study, 2017
Male disadvantage in (some) NCD rates

Effect of being a woman on probability of reporting

Source: Crimmins et al., 2019
Female disadvantage in others

Effect of being a woman on probability of reporting

Arthritis

Depression

Overall mean ORs = 2.14

Higher risk for men

Higher risk for women

Source: Crimmins et al., 2019
Women at higher risk of functional and cognitive decline

Limitations in IADLs

Age specific prevalence of dementia

Higher risk for women

Overall mean ORs = 1.90
Salient gender issues in addressing NCDs

Different gender-related risk factors for males and females

Differences in access to care (including prevention) and care-seeking behavior among men and women

Differences in care quality (provider bias) and treatment effectiveness

Persistent lack of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators

Focus on equity and fairness in order to achieve gender equality

Inclusiveness in research, care systems and policy making
III. Achieve gender equality through better understanding of intersectionality

“In a world where inequalities of all kinds are on the rise, disaggregation by sex alone is insufficient for monitoring outcomes“

“Other forms of inequality intersect and compound gender-based inequalities, leaving certain groups behind across a range of development indicators“

(UN WOMEN - Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
From single-issue analyses towards intersectionality: spotlighting the interplay of gender and education in care-giving

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<tbody>
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<td>Primary education</td>
<td>0.270</td>
<td>0.252</td>
<td>0.843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary education</td>
<td>0.365</td>
<td>0.411</td>
<td>0.261</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tertiary education</td>
<td>0.336</td>
<td>0.438</td>
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<td>Secondary education</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.295</td>
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<td>0.260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary education</td>
<td>0.306</td>
<td>0.145</td>
<td>0.180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary education</td>
<td>0.357</td>
<td>0.331</td>
<td>0.574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary education</td>
<td>0.309</td>
<td>0.374</td>
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Source: Own calculations based on SHARE waves 1 and 6
Note: Weighted results
“Intersectionality can get used as a blanket term to mean, “Well, it’s complicated.” Sometimes, “It’s complicated” is an excuse not to do anything.”

Kimberlé Crenshaw
Research that studies social categories such as gender not in isolation from other factors, but in its complexity...

... can help us to understand how intersecting inequalities impact on access to social rights and opportunities

- Improved data collection and data quality to facilitate intersectional analysis
- Identifying suitable research methods – intersection is more than the sum of its parts

... can inform context-specific development strategies and policies that are inclusive of all

- Recognising that inequalities are often mutually constitutive
- Risks of policies – by privileging the treatment of some inequities reinforcing/reproducing power mechanisms/biased social norms and marginalising some groups
New research project to identify opportunities to achieve SDG5 and SDG3 through improved policies

Website: https://www.euro.centre.org/projects/detail/3374

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Funded by:
Swedish Research Council
Canadian Institutes of Health Research