

G7 members are making tangible and important progress in advancing women's economic empowerment by addressing the barriers to their participation in the workforce and in the communities. This Report demonstrates that, 28% of G7 and EU reported ODA disbursements in 2015 and 2016 supported initiatives in key economic and productive sectors, and education and skills training sectors, focused on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment reflecting their strong commitment towards women's economic empowerment. Further support of USD \$529 million by G7 and EU was provided to address violence against women and girls, a key barrier to gender equality and women's economic empowerment, as described in Chapter 2.

Despite progress and investments made to foster an enabling environment, much remains to be done to achieve women's economic empowerment. The systemic barriers to gender equality and women's economic empowerment require holistic approaches that focus not only on increasing women's capacities and access to capital, but also on transforming social norms and power relations.

Strategies to improve women's voice and agency in economic activities also requires investments in the capacity of local women's groups to promote the rights of women and girls, and to increase their social, economic and political power. Local women's groups and associations are well placed to serve as champions for women's economic participation, and as interlocutors between communities and government or private-sector organizations. Men and boys also have an important role to play in challenging the institutions, traditions and customs that support and maintain gender inequalities. They further play a part in improving the sustainability of investments in, and outcomes of, interventions for women's economic empowerment.

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The G7 collectively recognizes the need for improved methods and approaches to collect, analyze and track sex and age disaggregated data to measure women's economic activities. Data on women's economic empowerment will help us understand the full scope of the intersectional barriers that must be overcome to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Additional data tracking system that captures disbursements which address social, cultural and legal barriers to women's economic empowerment by the OECD-DAC would also be beneficial. This will further facilitate research and policy discussions for strengthening women's economic empowerment.

Thus, the constraints and barriers to women's economic empowerment need to be further addressed through concerted efforts at the international, national, regional and local levels, as well as in partnership with civil-society and private-sector organizations. The G7 will continue to work towards overcoming these barriers and to promote women's economic empowerment.