



# SDGs for Women, Women for SDGs

Actions from Taiwan



Produced By Foundation for Women's Rights  
Promotion and Development

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## *Foreword*

### *Caring Minds, Devoted Hands: Women Realizing the SDGs in Taiwan*

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consisting of 17 Goals (SDGs) have been adopted as a global development framework for the 193 United Nations (UN) member states and regional organizations. With Taiwan witnessing her women's empowerment and gender equality progress for decades, we Taiwanese women realize that women's full and effective participation in social, economic, and environmental development is imperative to a society's overall success and the SDGs implementation is no exception. Also, gender-related discrimination and/or violence, including intersecting forms based on sex, age, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity and migration status, are so deeply rooted in systemic and structured socio-cultural practices that any efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda without leaving a single woman or girl behind cannot afford not to address these thorny issues.

The SDGs indeed provide unprecedented opportunities for collective action to eliminate discrimination and violence based on sex and other intersecting factors to promote gender equality and to empower women and girls in SDG 5. On the other hand, as UN Secretary General António Guterres points out in the 2018 UN WOMEN flagship report, *Turning promises into action*, we need to recognize and strengthen the link between gender equality and this transformative framework:

*"Gender equality is fundamental to delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda."* (p. 2)

In fact, from the viewpoint of half of the world's population, as presented by the UN WOMEN Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in the same publication, "gender equality is ... a catalyst for progress across the entire Agenda" (p. 3). We do not confine ourselves to the promotion of women's rights and well-being, but embrace all the SDGs with a gender equality perspective to avail our insights and capacity to accelerate the achievement of every goal in the Agenda. This work requires continued attention and action toward gender-responsive implementation as well as outcomes of the concerted efforts at the country and regional levels.

At the brink of UN's first comprehensive review of the 2030 Agenda progress across the globe in the 2019 September SDG Summit, Taiwan's Foundation for Women's Rights Promotion and Development convened nine major women and gender-related CSOs on the island to present their work and achievement echoing 12 SDGs as part of Taiwan's commitment to this global Agenda. The publication showcases a variety of strategic interventions voluntarily initiated by the civil society to tackle adversities faced by Taiwanese women and girls and to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in the past three years. Concrete examples and case studies of the 12 SDGs are arranged in five sections in accordance with the 5P principles of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership. The innovations and perseverance to carry them through as demonstrated here speak one fact: ordinary people, women and men, can be change makers in realizing the SDGs. We hope the experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in Taiwan, most likely common to many areas and countries, could inform the Agenda advocators and multiple stakeholders and translate into their visions and efforts localizing the SDGs in the community.

After all, we are all part of this grand-scale global development. We are all working toward an inclusive, gender-equal, and peaceful world with our caring minds and devoted hands.





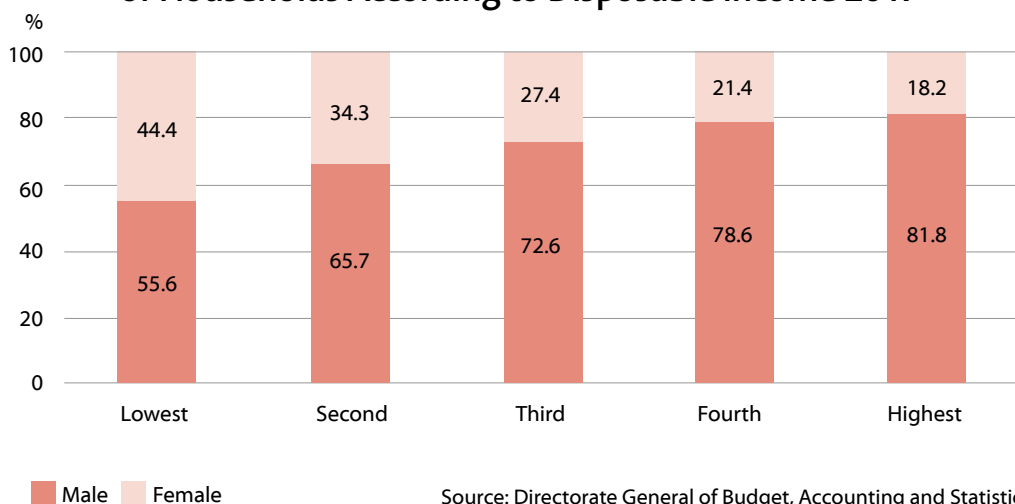
Chapter 1 :

# A Gender Perspective on People

The first five of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover basic human rights, from ending poverty and hunger, to achieving good health and well-being, quality education and gender parity. Taiwan has made significant progress in achieving Goal 1 on ending poverty and Goal 2 on ending hunger. Since becoming a developed nation in the 1990s up to the year 2016, Taiwan rose to number 27 on the Human Development Index (HDI), ranking 6th in Asia. Taking the first half of 2018 as an example, 2.62% of the population had a low or low-to-medium income, which is the lowest percentage in the world. However, investigation of the distribution of wealth and the gender of the economic head of the household shows that the proportion of low-income households headed by women is far higher than the proportion of high-income households headed by women. In addition, according to a 2013 survey by a team at National Taiwan University's Department of Agricultural Economics, the average person wastes 157.31kg of food a year, making Taiwan one of the most wasteful countries in the world. In terms of international standards, poverty and hunger are not the most serious problems currently facing Taiwan, yet more attention must be devoted to the distribution of wealth across class and gender, and how to reduce food waste.

Education is an important path to achieving the SDGs. With the universalization of information technology, how to bridge the urban-rural divide in educational resources and how to deliver up-to-date educational content are focal topics of discussion in Taiwan's public and private sectors. Furthermore, population aging, the low birthrate, and increased average life expectancy due to medical advancements, have pushed the issues of national health and well-being higher up the public agenda. Now both government agencies and civil society organizations are working on healthcare quality and universal first-rate education.

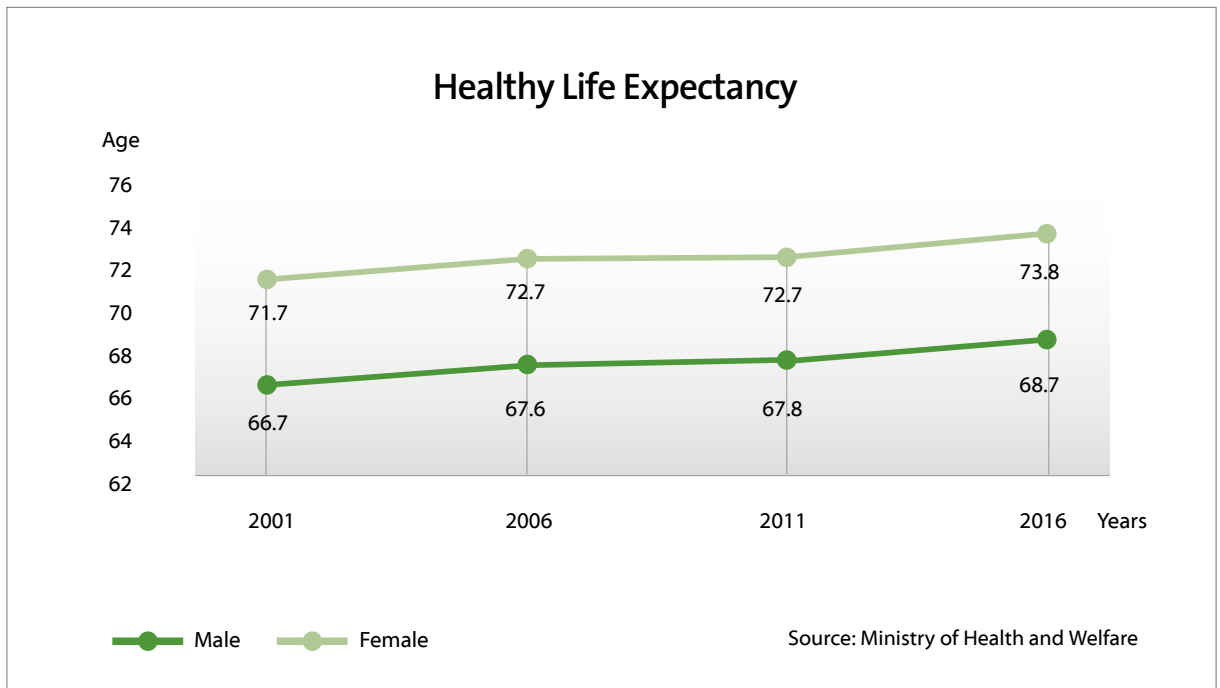
**Percentage of Female Heads by Five Equal Divisions of Households According to Disposable Income 2017**



Goal 3 | **Good Health and Well-Being:  
Aging and Long-term Care**

Regarding health and well-being, Taiwan has over 99.9% health insurance coverage. When injured or ill, the vast majority of citizens have access to basic treatment and care, and are not burdened by high medical fees. However, with population aging, the development of a long-term care system is an issue that must be tackled without delay.

The Long-Term Care Services Act, passed in 2015, explicitly states that in long-term care “there shall be no discrimination that differentiates based on the gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marriage, age, physical or mental disabilities, illness, social class, race, religious belief, nationality or place of residence”. Taiwan is currently drafting a Long-Term Care 10-Year Plan 2.0 in hopes of establishing shared responsibilities and a shared vision for care-workers and families undertaking elderly healthcare, to reduce the increasing burden on women as the main family caregivers. Furthermore, because the government is currently responsible for funding long-term care, this may result in costs being transferred to certain groups, and funding instability, which is why some civil society groups and public health experts are calling for a long-term care insurance system, with quality long-term care supported by social insurance.



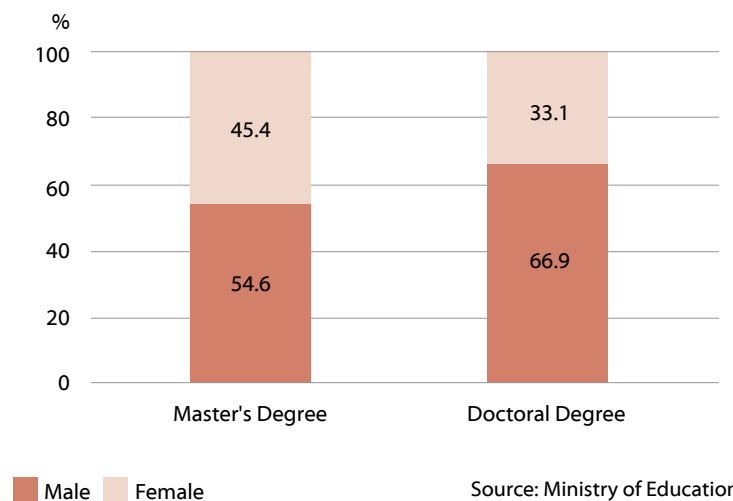


## Quality Education: Reduce Disparities in Urban-Rural Locations, Gender Equality and Experimental Education

To ensure education without discrimination, equitable and high-quality education is the mission of Goal 4 on “quality education”. With improvements in social and economic development, in 2014 the Taiwanese government responded to public aspirations by extending national education from 9 to 12 years, including compulsory education without entrance examinations or school fees for ages 6-14; and no entrance examinations and, under certain conditions, no school fees for ages 15-17. In 2017, gross enrollment of boys and girls in school was 97.4% and 98.5%, and in colleges (ages 18-21) there are more female than male students.

In terms of divisions between social groups and urban and rural locations, an education gap still exists for indigenous students, whose high and junior high school enrollment is 93.8%. Many non-profits try to make up for this shortfall, and improve the quality of education for vulnerable children, such as Teach For Taiwan (TFT), founded by young woman Liu Anting, which trains teachers and works for the educational rights and dignity of vulnerable children in declining farming, fishing and indigenous villages where educational resources are scarce. Since 2014, TFT has trained nearly 100 teachers to enter partner schools, helping spread the distribution of urban resources.

### Percentage of Female Students in Universities 2017





Regarding advancement of sustainable development knowledge skills, in 2004 thanks to advocacy by civil society groups (Box 1.1), Taiwan passed the Gender Equity Education Act which requires elementary and junior high school students to receive four hours of gender equality education courses each semester. But with the controversy over same sex marriage in Taiwan, some religious and parent groups have vehemently opposed same-sex education and even sex education provided by schools under the Gender Equity Education Act. At the end of 2018 a national referendum on whether “elementary and middle schools education should/should not implement gender equality education, including emotional education, sex education and same-sex education” showed more people disagreed than agreed, casting doubt over Taiwan’s gender equality education.

To encourage innovative and experimental education, and protect the rights of students to education and the rights of parents to educational choice, in 2015 Taiwan passed the Three Acts of Experimental Education. Home schooling groups and experimental schools were subsequently established, with a view to introducing a new modes of educational theory and classroom practices that challenged the traditional values of formal education, and reestablish children’s individuality in education. In 2015 there were a total of 277 students in institutional experimental education, which had risen to 5,139 students by 2017, an 18-fold increase. The number of teachers grew from 97 in 2015 to 842 in 2017, an 8-fold increase.



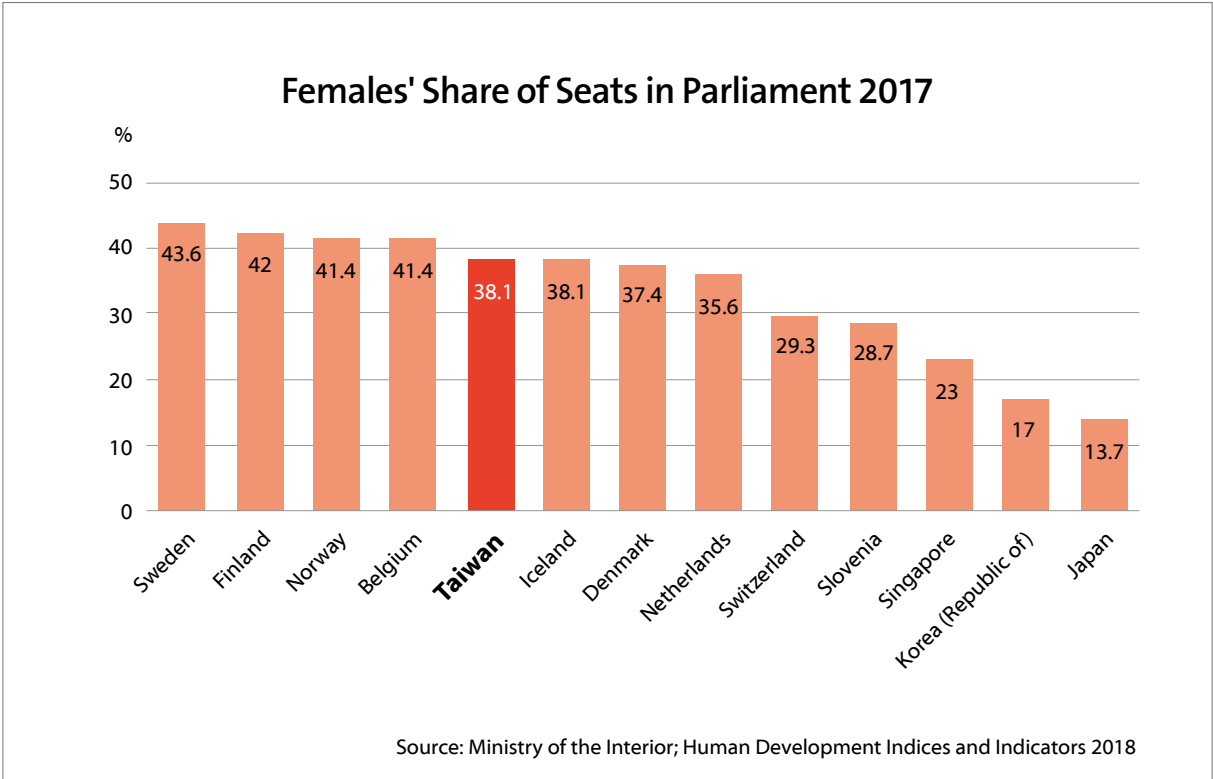
## Goal 5 | ***Gender Equality: Gender Inequality Indicators and LGBTI Rights***


In the late 1990s Taiwan successively passed the Sexual Assault Crime Prevention Act, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act and other legislation against sexual violence, which protected the physical safety of women in public and private locations. In 2005 the government started promoting a gender mainstreaming policy which has been in effect for a decade. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has been incorporated into domestic law for nine years, during which time there have been three national reports and assessments by international experts. Civil servants at all levels of the executive branch of government have a firm grasp of gender mainstreaming within the “gender binary” framework, but have relatively limited understanding of the intersectional discrimination suffered by people with a different sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

Looking at international indicators, Taiwan ranked eighth in the UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII) in 2017, coming top in Asia. Within the indicators measured by the GI, Taiwan performed especially well in “representation of women in parliament”. After the 2016 elections the proportion of female legislators

reached 38% of the total. This achievement can be credited to long-term promotion by women’s groups of “the principle of gender parity”, which was successfully included in a 2004 constitutional amendment that stated “the number of elected female members on each party’s list shall not be less than one-half of the total number”. But in other aspects of public life, Taiwanese women have yet to enjoy equality and decision-making opportunities. Public participation of rural women is particularly limited, illustrated by the fact that not one of the 17 farmland irrigation associations in Taiwan has a female president, and today less than 5% of association committee members are women.

Finally, regarding the lack of explicit reference to LGBTI rights in the SDGs, since the late 1990s, women’s and LGBTI civil groups in Taiwan have consistently campaigned on this issue (Box 1.2), which has raised public awareness, and pushed the government to strengthen official policy to protect the LGBTI community. In recent years the conversation has focused on marriage rights for same-sex couples. In 2017, the Judicial Yuan passed Grand Justices’ Interpretation No. 748, announcing that “marriage limited to the union between a man and a woman” was unconstitutional. Before the Executive Yuan completed amendments to the relevant laws, opposition groups launched a referendum in 2018 to oppose “same-sex marriage entering the Civil Code”, which was passed by a majority, thereby increasing uncertainty over the protection of the human rights of the LGBTI community.





## BOX 1.1 – Action for Goal 4

### ***Taiwan Gender Equity Education Association***


#### ***- Multi-media Promotion of Gender and Cultural Diversity Education***

Taiwan Gender Equity Education Association, founded in 2002, is composed of a group of school teachers who pay attention to gender education and dedicate to promote and implement the Gender Equity Education Act.

It is an important work for the association to develop sex education media that are closer to life experience. It includes early publication of books in regard to the bullying of children on campus who are of different temperament traits and to the relationship between custom and gender in culture. In the mid-term, the association began filming, visualizing intangible ideas, trying to flip the ideas that women are inferior to men, and including taboo topics like youngster's body and desire exploration. Recently, the association develops table tennis "Playing House", a teaching material that incorporates gender, ethnicity, human rights, art and other issues. The game transforms gender stereotypes, housework gender gap... etc. among other ideas about gender equality into characters cards and stories, letting children in the game experience the diversification of family structures and enrich their perspectives and imaginations. These characters and incidents include aboriginals, new immigrants, and children of new immigrants. They also present different physical characteristics of each character, such as those with physical and mental disabilities, children with Down's syndrome, and drag queen. The content of the game also includes natural disasters like earthquakes or floods, letting children understand that a family may encounter different crises at any time.

In response to the questioning of LGBTI education and the rapid dissemination of untrue messages drawn by Taiwanese society and parents, the association has been studying for half a year, collecting domestic and foreign references, assembling numerous junior high and elementary school teachers from all over Taiwan, and jointly doing research and developing the “amulet book.” 500 hours were spent on developing this book in hope for guiding pupils and providing right information to respond misunderstandings about sex education, making Taiwan’s campus more gender-friendly, making children’s vision more diverse, and making social culture more equal in hope that the next generation can live in a healthy environment without gender discrimination, prejudice, bullying, and violence.





## BOX 1.2 – Action for Goal 5

### ***Taiwan Tongzhi (LGBT) Hotline Association***

#### ***- Human Rights Reports Reviewing Policy and Providing, and Offering Suggestions***

Founded in 1998, until today, Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association has contributed to work through a number of community services to promote LGBTI volunteers, gathering LGBTI communities to grow in strength.

In recent years, besides community service, the hotline association dedicates itself more to policy lobbying supervision. In its published “2017 Taiwan LGBTI Rights Policy Review”, topics range from personal health, family security, to freedom of fear in the community; topics are comprehensively reviewed through the aspects of international norms, gender equality, the body, law enforcement, equal treatment, work, education, health, family, intimacy, sexual speech control, media, sports, space, transgender, intersex individuals. The review points out that some of the gay human rights lack legal policy norms and devoid of research statistics. Although other aspects are related to legal, LGBTI rights in Taiwan are still not properly protected due to various factors such as flaws in regulations or inadequate design, the lack of gender awareness of law enforcement officials, and the involvement of LGBTI rights opposition.

In response to the above flaws, the hotline association proposes four improvement plans:

1. The government should create laws that protect the LGBTI individuals, and create review mechanisms to make sure the extant policies are executed well. Meanwhile, the government should provide the personnel with high quality in-job training sessions to improve their knowledge, awareness, and friendliness to LGBTI individuals.

2. All government administered surveys regarding gender equity should include appropriate sex, gender identity, sexual orientation questions and variables to ascertain the surveys' inclusivity. Also, the government should invest more resource to LGBTI related research to make sure all policies are well-informed and well-grounded in lived experiences.
3. The government should invest resource in actively incorporating the idea of gender equity in social education, and also promote LGBTI friendly work environment in all public and private sectors.
4. The government should avoid terminology that reinforce gender binary and gender stereotypes in their policies and public campaigns. Meanwhile, the government should proactively address the problem of transgender and intersex individual being excluded due to the gender binary and gender stereotypes prevalent in government policies.





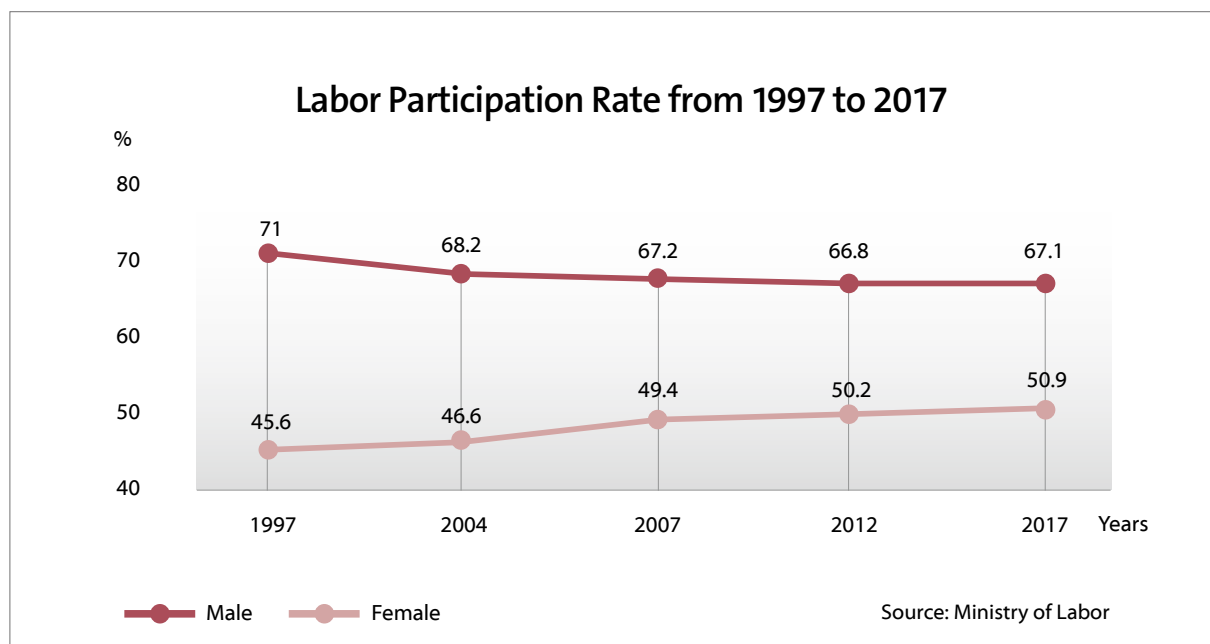
Chapter 2 :

# A Gender Perspective on Prosperity

Prosperity encompasses five SDGs, including Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 10 on reduced inequalities, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production.

Prosperity can generally be defined as economic development. According to International Monetary Fund data, in 2018 Taiwan's GDP made it the world's 23rd largest economy<sup>1</sup>, and women's contribution to the economy had increased over the last two decades. In 1997, 45.6% of Taiwanese women were in the workforce. In 2012 the number broke 50%, and by 2017 it was 50.92%. During the same period, the gender gap in workforce participation fell from 25% to 16.2%. In terms of access to economic resources, the gender wage gap shrank from 27.5% in 1997 to 13.5% by 2017.

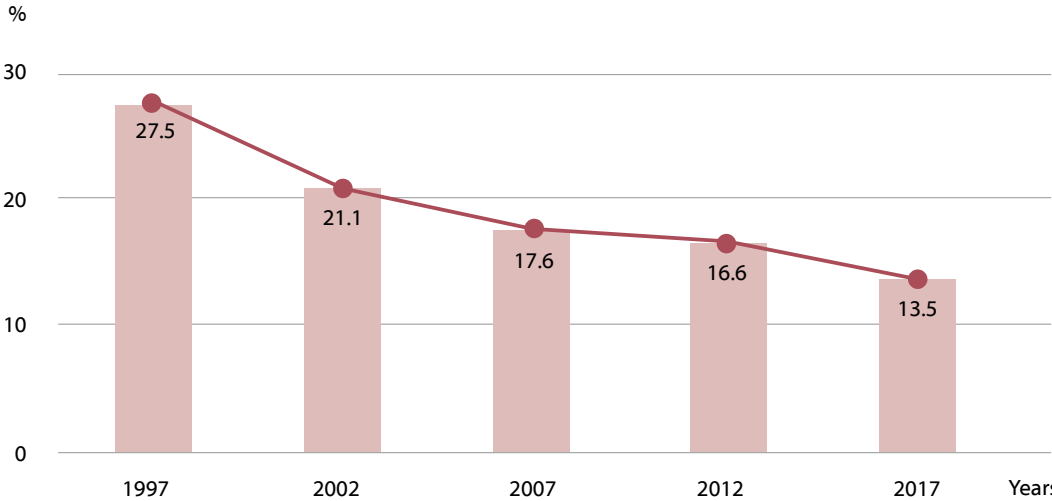
Over the past 20 years, legal structures have been introduced to increase women's political participation, which have been an important factor in the improvement in women's economic status. In 2002, Taiwan passed the Act of Gender Equality in Employment, which banned gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace, and required specific employers to satisfy the maternity, breastfeeding and nursery care needs of employees. Then in 2005 constitutional reform guaranteed a gender quota of legislators, giving women more systematic and powerful means to promote policies for gender equality.



<sup>1</sup> International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2018  
<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2018/01/weodata/index.aspx>



# Gender Pay Gap from 1997 to 2017



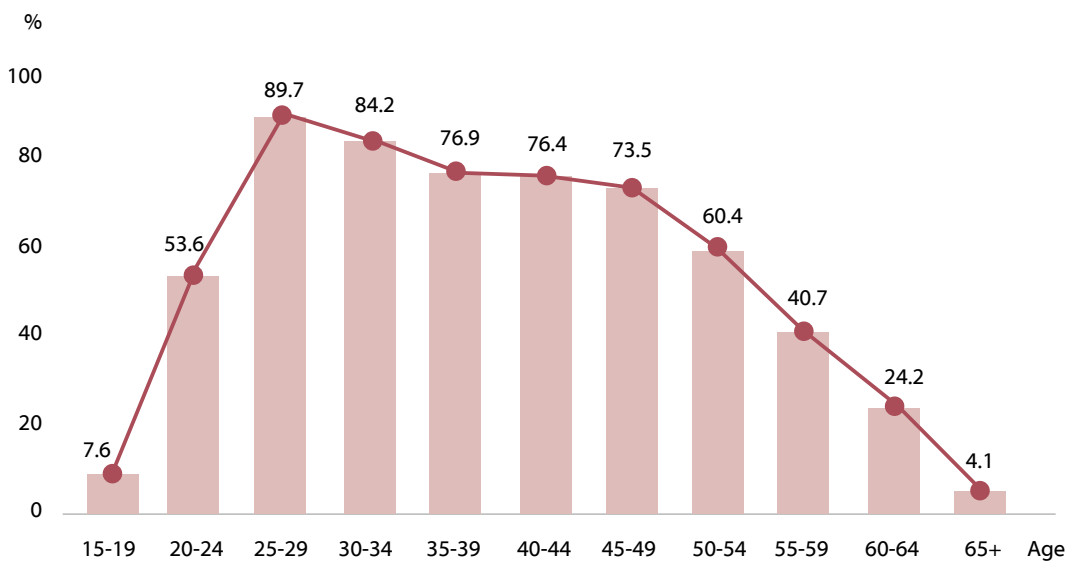
Note: Account by Average Monthly Earnings of Employees on Payrolls (Regular)

Source: Ministry of Labor

After passing the 50% threshold in 2012, participation of Taiwanese women in the workforce has yet to break 51%. Women still shoulder the main burden of domestic work and family care giving. Analysis by the Ministry of Labor (MOL) in 2017 showed 50.17% of non-working women do not join the workforce because they must “manage domestic affairs”. In comparison only 1.46% of men are not in employment because they manage domestic affairs.

Another important reason why the number of women in the workforce is not increasing is because of the problem of reemployment. According to the MOL’s labor gender data report, Taiwanese women’s workforce participation peaks between the ages of 25-29 years old (89.7%), which is within 5 percentage points of men of the same age, but after the age of 30 women steadily leave the workplace. Women’s workforce participation falls to 76.4% between the ages of 40-44 years old, creating a 20 percentage point gap between men of the same age. This “single peak model” of falling workforce participation with rising age illustrates the difficulty for Taiwanese women to seek reemployment. Once they leave the workplace it is very difficult to go back.

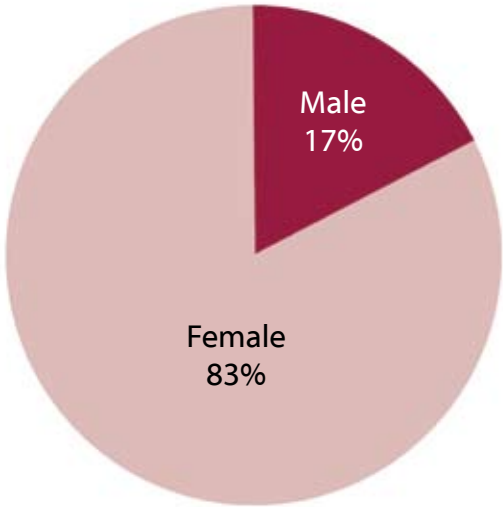
**Female Labor Participation Rate by Age 2017**



Source: Ministry of Labor

In terms of encouraging women to go back to work, apart from government occupational training programs and job matching services, non-government organizations also play an important role. The Peng Wan-Ru Foundation has long advocated for community childcare, non-profit kindergartens and elderly support service, matching qualified care-givers with families who need care services, and campaigning for nationalized nurseries. In addition, the Flexible Jobs website, which was set up and developed independently by reemployed women, has also won government support. The platform helps women who have left the workplace due to care-giving responsibilities to find a balance between their work and domestic care-giving responsibilities.

**Uptake of Parental Leave by Sex 2017**

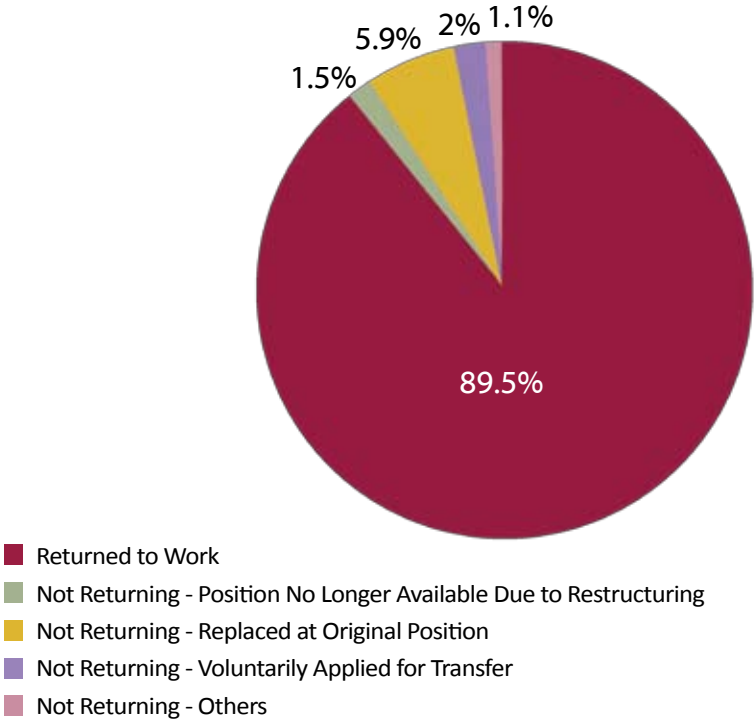


■ Male ■ Female

Source: Ministry of Labor

Finally, recent attention has come to “intersectional discrimination” created by a combination of gender and other issues, such as in LGBTI people with disabilities, new resident women and others. People with dual/multiple vulnerabilities are frequently overlooked by government policy, and their economic and labor conditions left unprotected. For example, previously if women migrant workers become pregnant while employed in Taiwan they would be forced to return to their home countries. Because they were women, because pregnancy affected their work, and as migrant workers because their status was not recognized they suffered intersectional discrimination.

### Proportion of Women Who Return to Work After Parental Leave 2016



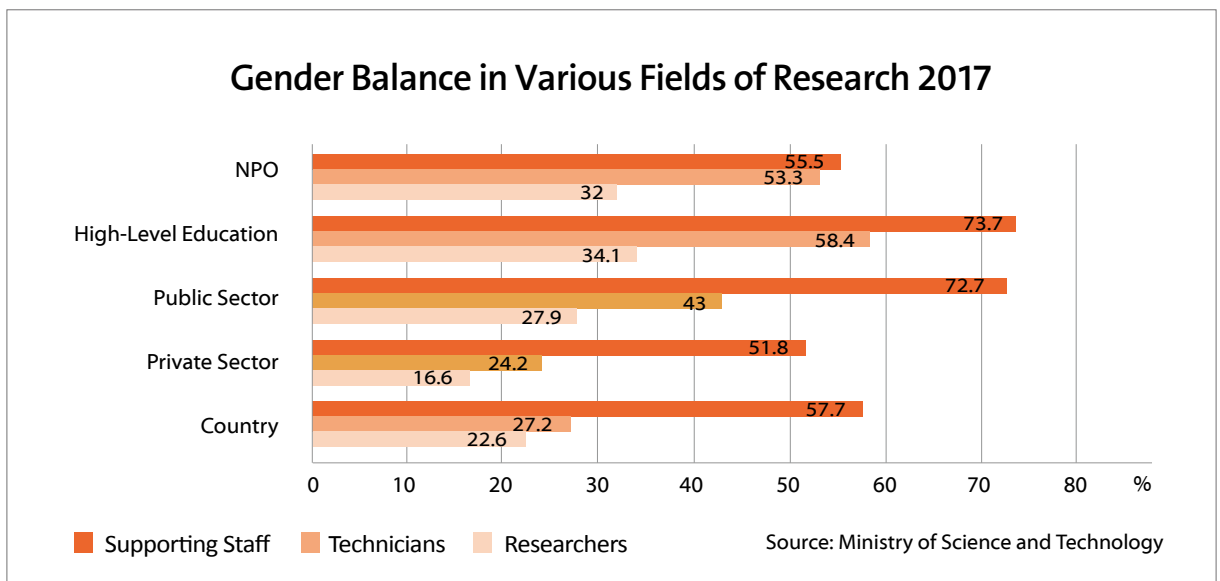
Source: Ministry of Labor

Goal 9 | **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Features of Taiwanese Women in the Technology Industry and Gendered Innovation**

World Economic Forum's *Global Information Technology Report 2015* assessed the network readiness of 148 countries, measured by performance in ten subcategories (pillars). Taiwan came 18th on the network readiness index, and joint first with Norway in the “infrastructure readiness for information and communication technologies development” pillar.

Like most countries, the proportion of Taiwanese women studying and working in STEM fields is not high. In 2015, among students enrolled in STEM departments, women only made up 24.2% of the total, and in the same year the proportion of women working in industrial research and development was 19.0%. The already low proportion of Taiwanese women in STEM jobs can encounter further challenges, and the tangible barrier of a glass ceiling when it comes to promotion. According to the “2016 Global Taiwan Brands by Value Survey”, among the 20 most valuable global Taiwanese brands, nine of the brands were technology related industries, and their proportion of female senior managers was between 11%-20%. Taiwan’s leading technology corporations are mainly run by men.

To reverse the lack of women in STEM fields, the Ministry of Science and Technology has been implementing a gender and technology research program since 2007, and the corporate sector has responded to the international trend to progressively open up promotion opportunities. In the non-profit sector a large number of Women’s Technology Groups has appeared in the last five years, including the Society of Taiwan Women in Science and Technology, PyLadies Taiwan, WeTogether.co, Girls in Tech Taiwan, and Ladies that UX Taipei. These groups have established their own technology networks for women, which through mentorships, scholarships, job matching, technology skills learning and other means, help guide and encourage women through the processes of STEM field enrollment, employment and promotion.



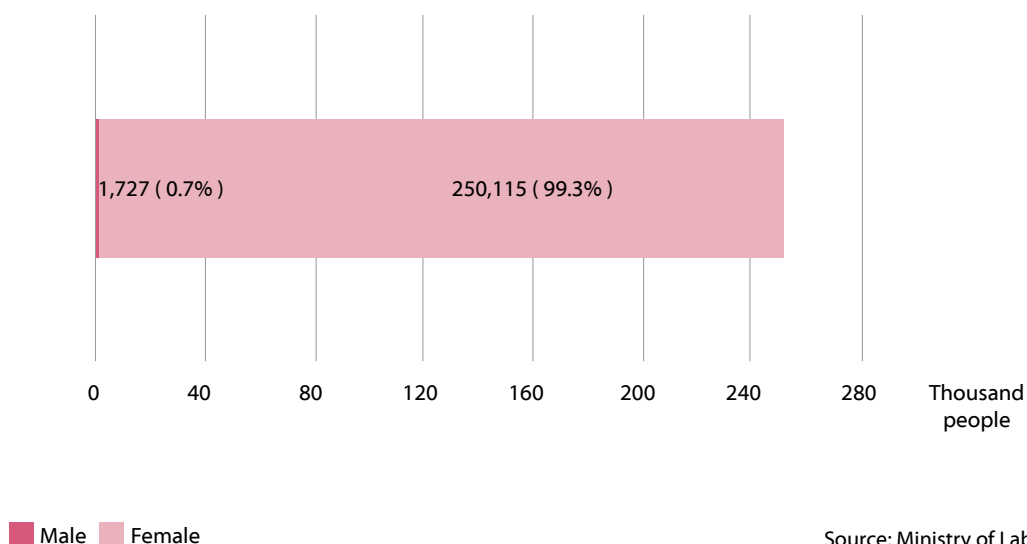


## Goal 10 | *Reduced Inequalities: Women Migrant Workers in Taiwan*

Globally there are 260 million international migrants, including naturalized citizens or long-term residents, short-term migrants for work or education, refugees granted asylum or undocumented migrants and others. However unlike the situation in the early 20th century when men were the main migrants, recently there has been a feminization of migration. This wave of mainly female migrants includes women migrant workers in the “global nanny chain” and naturalized women marriage migrants.

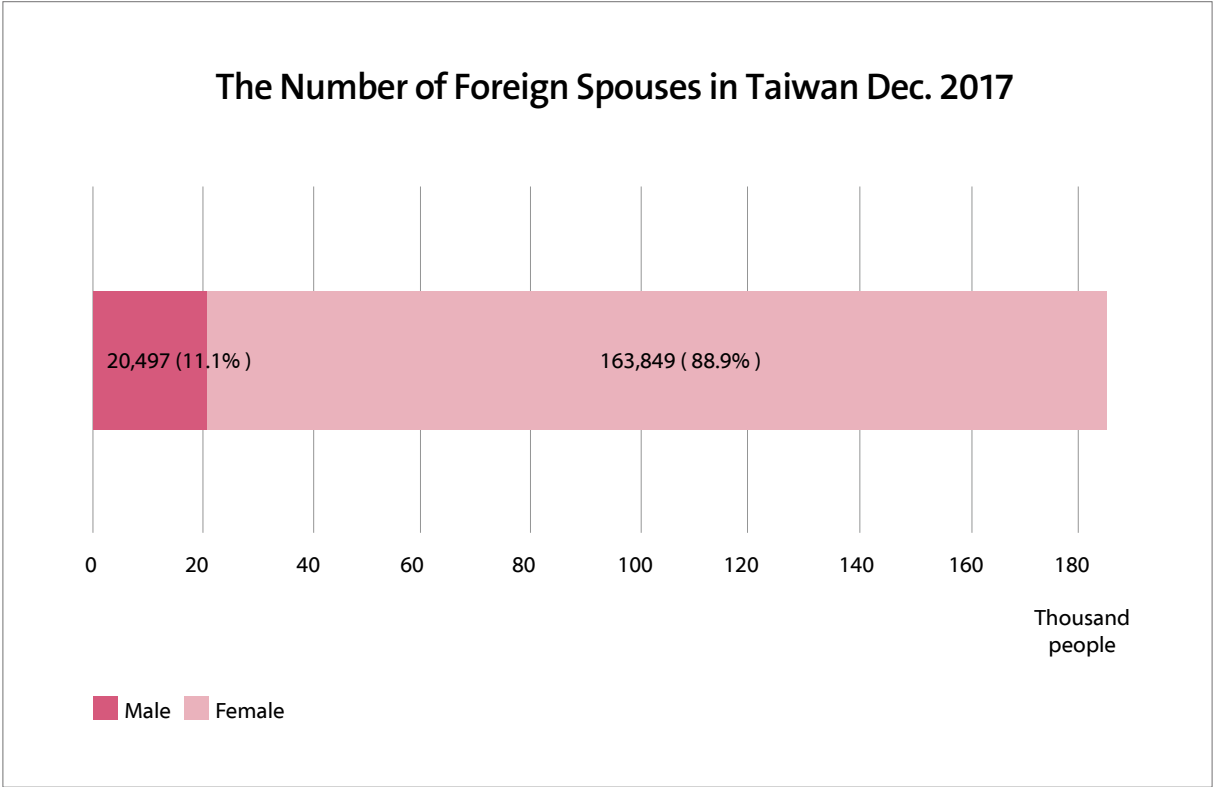
Taiwan does not fall outside the international migration system. In 2015, data from the Monthly Bulletin of Labor Statistics showed that among the three categories of foreign laborers in Taiwan, as many as 99% of social welfare workers were women, but the labor rights of these women migrant workers are incomplete. Because migrant domestic care-givers are not protected by the Labor Standards Act, and are hampered by language and cultural barriers, it is difficult to protect their rights and satisfy their needs, and in the event of occupational injury it is difficult for them to access appropriate medical care and compensation.

### The Number of Foreign Workers in Social Welfare in Taiwan June 2017



Women who migrate to find work and are far from their homes are under enormous psychological pressure. Many international organizations have called for the right to reunions for families of migrant workers. In Taiwan only migrant workers who are “professional technicians” may qualify for long-term residency after working for a period of time, and their children and spouses may claim residency in Taiwan as relatives. But most women migrant laborers in Taiwan are social welfare workers, who do not qualify for these family reunion benefits.

Finally, according to the World Migration Report 2018 published by the UN Migration Agency, whether inbound or outbound, there are migrants to or from Asia than anywhere else in the world. As of 2017, there were 676,142 foreign workers in Taiwan, over half of whom are women. Apart from working in industry, more importantly these women migrant laborers shoulder the responsibility of Taiwan’s long-term care work: 253,189 women work in care-giving positions. These foreign workers need policies to protect their labor and human rights, and especially to protect them from the specific disadvantages of intersectional discrimination.





Goal 11 and Goal 12 | ***Sustainable Cities and Communities,  
Responsible Consumption  
and Production:  
Cooperative Consumption  
and Sustainable Communities***

Starting in the 1960s Taiwan went through a wave of industrialization, with rapid development of both light and heavy industry that brought an economic miracle to the island. However, the economic benefits of this tide of industrialization were not divided equally. Most women were either the low skilled laborers of the industrial boom, or undertook unpaid family work<sup>2</sup>, becoming the “bosses’ wives<sup>3</sup>” unique to Taiwanese culture. In addition, the negative external costs of industrial production, such as serious pollution of the land by heavy industry, resulted in a slew of food safety scandals that emerged in the 1980s.

In 2001 the Taiwan Homemakers Union Consumers Consumers Coop was founded under the belief that “consumers can change the world, and together create a better local life”. Collectively purchasing agricultural products in the mode of a cooperative, on the one hand the Coop offers consumers a better choice of groceries, and on the other also protects the economic security of farm product producers. For women facing a multitude of restrictions, the organization demonstrates the wisdom of homemakers who have long run their household economies, is a practical example of the power of partnership and mediation, and reverses the oppressed role of women consumers under capitalism.


The cooperative economic model in a win-win for producers and consumers, but the Coop also plays the role of building community spirit and providing food and farming education. By shortening the supply chain and monitoring producers, the Coop indirectly encourages consumers to be more aware of responsible consumption, and more sympathetic to farmers and the land. The Coop also adheres to the spirit of International Cooperative Principle No. 7 on “concern for the community” by using its jointly accumulated assets, built up by cooperative spending, to fund local community environmental education projects, such as ecological picture books, power and water saving classes, training of local food and farming tour guides, and other momentum-building schemes to connect the community.

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<sup>2</sup> Unpaid family workers are family members who work in a business run by the family head or another relative, and do not receive a regular salary or wage. Apart from Japan and a minority of other countries, most countries or regions set a minimum number of working hours a week in the definition of an unpaid family worker. See the Workforce Development Agency’s Labor Development Encyclopedia for details: <http://laborpedia.evta.gov.tw/link1.asp?did=B062&result=yes>. Retrieved date: 2018/11/6.

<sup>3</sup> References: Kao Cheng-shu (1999) “The economic activities and social meaning of female bosses in Taiwan’s SMEs”, Linking Publishing, New Taipei ; Li Yueh-tuan, Ke Chih-ming (1994) “Sexual Division of Labor and Production Organization in Wufenpu’s Small-Scale Industries”, Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies ; Lin Thung-Hong (2009) “Post-industrializing Taiwan: Changing Class Structure and Social Inequality, 1992-2007”, Taiwanese Journal of Sociology.





## BOX 2.1 - Actions for Goal 8

### ***Peng Wan-Ru Foundation***

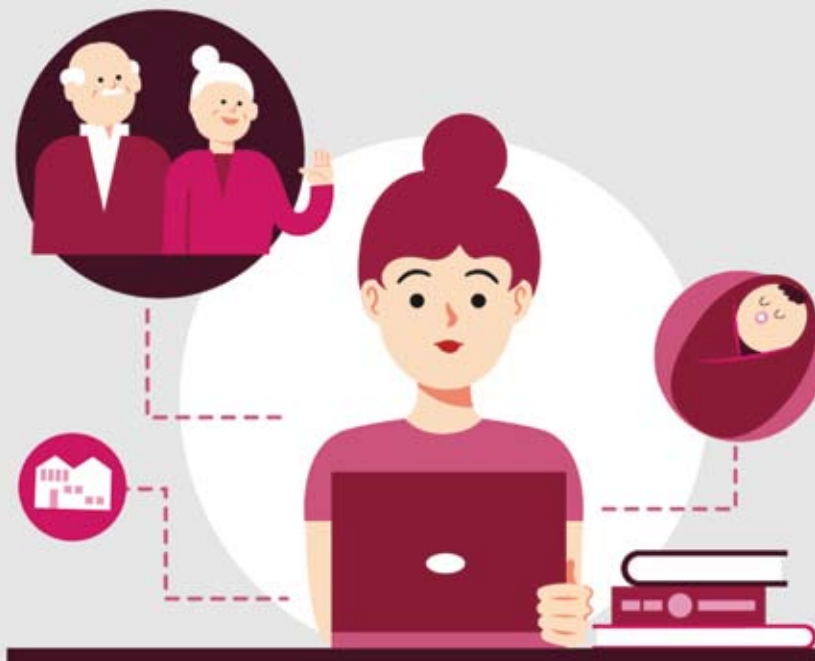
#### ***- Promoting Women's Reemployment to Support Community Caring Services***


Peng Wan-Ru Foundation is the pioneering foundation in community care system in Taiwan. The foundation, as a non-profit organization, put forward systemized community caring services that maintain the value of mutual help. The system relies on donations made by members, including providers and receivers as the basis for stable and continuous operation of the system.

"Mutual support" is the core value of the system. The families that have caring needs are able to find helpers via the system and take a breather from the load of caring while it creates job opportunities. Women, especially for second-time employment women, receive training and management in the system, becoming professional care takers; they earn stable wages and receive labor rights.

Since 1998, the foundation has promoted the "community care system for neighborhood" and the "after-school care for primary school kids" program, providing care for infants and children in primary and secondary schools. It even set up a "mental health and counseling support system" to counsel special children. Since 2000, the foundation has promoted the "community home service support system" that provides housework service to help dual-earner households. Since 2001, it has promoted home care and companionship, helping elderly people, disabled individuals and long-term patients. The program has been trained to improve the employability of nearly 10,000 women, successfully matching nearly 3,000 women to continue employment, and giving care to more than 10,000 families and children.

The caring system has been in existence for over 15 years. The housework service not only helps in economic improvement of second-time employment women and their families, but also provides reliable, affordable, and quality housework service, achieving win-win goals for job creation and employment support. At present, there are 3,060 full-time house managers and a total of 18,531 families served in 2016. That is, the number of providers and receivers in the system exceeds 22,000 a year.





## BOX 2.2 - Actions for Goal 10

### ***Young Women's Christian Association of Taiwan*** ***- Creating a Friendly Environment for New Immigrants***

There are about 260 million people live in non-native nationality, accounting for 3.4 % of the world's population. And the feminization of migration in the theory also occurred in Taiwan. According to the statistics of the Ministry of the Interior National Immigration Agency and the Department of Household Registration, the number of newly immigrant residents in Taiwan exceeded 530,000 by the end of 2018 March. On average, 2 out of every 100 people are new immigrants and women account for 91.8% of new immigrants. In addition to the transnational cultural shocks, these new immigrants also face the dilemma of insufficient economic resources.

YWCA has tried to reduce domestic and inter-country inequality in order to respond to the goal of sustainable development. Since 1999, the association has been engaged in caring for the basic human rights of new immigrant women in Taiwan. Over the years, YWCA has been committed to eliminating social, policy, and employment issues as well as unequal treatment of new immigrants.

In action of "eliminating unequal treatment of new immigrants," YWCA provides services to new immigrants from China, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, etc. Through the research on the needs of new immigrants, helping them adapt the language and environment of Taiwan, and retaining their cultural background, the association supports new immigrants from the perspectives of personal safety, regulatory environment, and cultural background, etc.

The actions include:

1. Opening courses for interpreting talent training, teacher training, job professional experience and exploration so that new immigrants can develop themselves and show their advantages.
2. Handling multicultural forums and publishing books to build a platform between the public and new immigrants.
3. Supporting the new immigrant network, connecting the life experiences of women new immigrants, and transforming them into scripts. Through performances, the public can understand the life story and resilience of new immigrants.
4. Cooperating with local governments to provide support for companionship and cultural connections as well as promoting the integration of new immigrants into local life and family.
5. Collecting experiences and excavating policies for unequal treatment of new immigrants, so as to propose improvements for the future, such as Chinese language learning advice for new immigrant children returning overseas, elderly or widowed new immigrants living and economic issues, etc.





Chapter 3 :

# A Gender Perspective on Planet

International research on women, climate change and natural disasters has already produced valuable results, showing that women are disproportionately affected by climate change. Aside from academic research, UN Women’s 2017 “SDG Report Fact Sheet – Eastern and South-eastern Asia” states that in certain areas of Eastern and Southeast Asia, women are 14 times as likely as men to die during a disaster. The reasons come down to social hierarchies in the region and traditional practices that make it more difficult for women to flee. During the post-disaster recovery period, because of inadequate infrastructure, women are more vulnerable to sexual violence in situations where they lack private space. In terms of water and energy resources, the aforementioned Fact Sheet also states that in regions with limited access to water sources, women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of households. Women and girls also account for most deaths caused by polluting fuels.

According to figures from Taiwan’s Water Resource Agency, tap water coverage in 2017 had reached 93.8%. Unequal access to water resources is chiefly due to the level of regional development. In Taiwan’s six main cities, tap water coverage is over 95%, but regions where coverage is below 90% still include the four counties in central and eastern Taiwan. Because Pingtung County relies heavily on groundwater pumping, coverage is only 50.8%. In other words, residents of rural areas have poorer access to clean water sources.

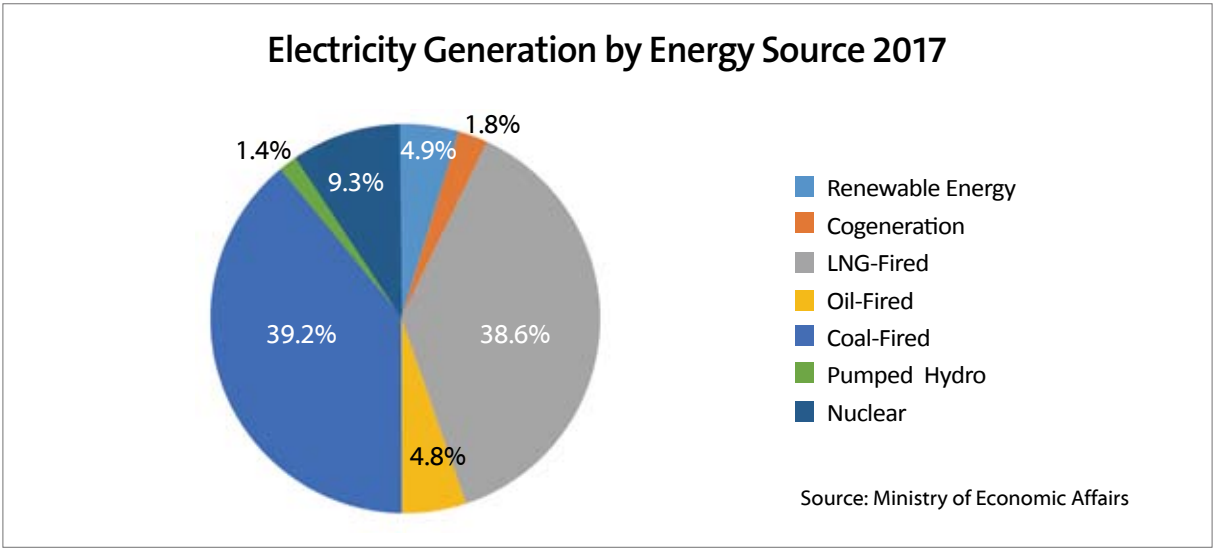
The risks brought on by climate change and natural disasters are not equally shared, as shown in Taiwan after the Typhoon Morakot disaster of 2009 by academics who applied a gender perspective to creating gender-sensitive disaster prevention and rebuilding processes. In terms of climate migration, the central government has enshrined its “2025 nuclear-free homeland” goal into law, but so far only Changhua County government has set a benchmark by promoting green office spaces.



### Goal 7 | ***Affordable and Clean Energy Clean Energy: Nuclear-Free Homeland and Green Energy Promotion***

Taiwan has the largest scale coal-fired power plant in the world – Taichung Power Plant, which produces 16% of the Taiwan’s energy each year. Regarding nuclear energy, after a long anti-nuclear campaign by civil environmental groups, and the Fukushima disaster in neighboring Japan, Taiwan’s nuclear energy production dropped from 23.6% in 2000 to 9.3% in 2017. The government finally explicitly included its “2025 nuclear-free homeland” goal into the Electricity Act in 2017. However opinions in Taiwanese society differed about the timetable to phase out nuclear power and the choice of energy priorities, so much so that at the end of 2018 a referendum was passed to “repeal the Electricity Act requirement to decommission nuclear power generating facilities by 2025”, effectively nullifying the nuclear-free homeland goal.

Nevertheless, there is general consensus in the Taiwanese government and civil society about the development of renewable energy sources. In 2017, renewable energy made up 4.9% of electric power. Activists have been working through social enterprises or cooperatives to carry out green living education, and campaigning for clean energy (Box 3.1 and 3.2). Local governments have also continued to promote green energy through their policies – Changhua County government launched a program to install solar panels on the roofs of all its schools, and established a Green Energy Promotion Office to coordinate planning and integrate resources. So far results have been very promising, with power-generating income surpassing NT\$100 million by 2018. Schools are given flexibility to spend this income, using it to supplement school fees, so as well as protecting the environment, the quality of education is also improved.



Goal 13

**Climate Action:**  
***Gender Perspectives During Reconstruction after the Typhoon Morakot Disaster***

The Typhoon Morakot disaster was one of the most serious natural disasters to hit Taiwan in half a century. A total of 619 people were killed, and damages cost nearly NT\$200 billion. In the aftermath, the government mobilized a military relief operation and poured NT\$138.546 billion into post-disaster reconstruction. Costly in terms of the number of lives lost and the amount of resources needed to rebuild, the natural disaster also prompted the Executive Yuan’s Women’s Rights Committee, women’s groups and academics to start a dialogue on the issue of women’s rights within the disaster relief and reconstruction process.

After the disaster, the Taiwanese government set up the Typhoon Morakot Post-Disaster Reconstruction Council to bring together leaders of the executive branch of government, experts, and academics to expedite reconstruction. However, of the 37 members of the council, only three were women, all of

whom were participating in their roles as city and county mayors. Clearly the channels to involve women in disaster rescue and reconstruction were very narrow. It took a suggestion from the Women’s Rights Committee to finally allow southern Taiwanese representative Ms. Wang Chieh-yen to join the council as an “observer” with limited powers of decision-making and opportunities to speak.

Meanwhile indigenous group worker Danubak Matalaq pointed out that Taiwan’s policy of limiting applications for relief aid to land or property owners overlooked the indigenous villages, which were the main settlements in areas hit hardest by the typhoon. According to the traditional gender values of the Bunun tribe, land and property are generally owned by men. As a result of this policy some women, such as victims of domestic violence who cannot file for divorce, may lose their homes, but still be unable to apply for aid, even if they have children under their care.

Regarding shelter in tent areas, poor infrastructure or a lack of gendered design creates the problem of a low sense of safety and privacy for women. Wang Chieh-yen pointed out that many women in disaster refuges had experienced cases of sexual assault and domestic violence. Indigenous women even set up their own night patrol teams to safeguard tribeswomen. Danubak Matalaq went further by saying that because some shelters were located in military camps, where most of the facilities and bathrooms were designed for men, there were cracks between cubicles, locks were unreliable, there were no emergency alarms, privacy was poor, and women using them felt very unsafe.

In disaster relief aid, distribution is key. After the disaster the delivery of sanitary towels, baby bottles, milk powder and other supplies for women and infants into the disaster-hit areas in Taiwan was insufficient. This put women, who shoulder the main burden of caregiving, under enormous psychological stress. Finally, academic Lin Chin-ju pointed out that media reports during the disaster relief process invariably showed men working in rescue teams, carry heavy supplies, and picking their way through dangerous piles of rubble, reinforcing the idea that disaster rescue is a masculine activity. However, the thoughtful, caring and ongoing work done by women in relief aid situations, which may be the flexible fabric that holds the operation together, is inevitably undervalued and overlooked.

Summing up the above, because society generally overlooks the needs of women and children, or underestimates the value of women’s care and support work, when women are victims of natural disaster, they may easily fall through the cracks. In the future the government must improve gender awareness so that no one is left behind in the disaster relief and reconstruction process.







## BOX 3.1 - Action for Goal 7 & Goal 15

### ***DOMI***

#### ***- Children Education Programs to Foster Actions to Alleviate Climate Change***

Taiwan is composed of forests that count 60% of the island. That is to say, forests are essential parts of Taiwan. In addition to economic value, forests also play a vital role in water conservation and biodiversity conservation. Taiwan is among the best in the world in terms of the ratio of native forests and protected forests. According to data collected in 2015, Taiwan's primary forests rate is 51% (ranked #26 in the world) and protected forest ratio is 52% (ranked #9 in the world).

DOMI is the Latin word for "home," which is the fundamental reason that DOMI was founded and has been aiming to make Taiwan a sustainable homeland. The goal is to make the planet Earth a better place and let more people pay attention to environmental issues through activities. While advocating climate change issues, the association also emphasizes happy and enjoyable participation. Two approaches that effectively address the issues are: "minus- alleviate now" and "plus- plant the seed." The former uses the existing technology to reduce carbon emissions and burden of the Earth. DOMI devotes to developing products that are convenient for corporations and households to easily and quickly install and use. The latter focuses on environmental education through activities such as "planting trees activities" and "energy education picture book project."

"Planting tree activities" allows children to touch the land and plant seeds, opening up the curiosity of exploring nature and letting them consciously look at climate and environmental changes. At the same time, these tree planting activities

expand the green area of Taiwan. The association holds 1-2 occasions a year, inviting parents to plant trees with their children, learning through activities that fulfill environmental greening and enhance low-carbon development. It also uses environmental, ecological knowledge and interaction designed by theater experts. It is a fun educational, interactive game that allows children to learn through play, understanding the importance of tree to the environment.

In the energy education picture book project, a series of picture books will be published and storytelling events will be held. Through interesting storyline and the removal of difficult terms, children are able to understand environmental protection and the importance of sustainable energy, arousing their awareness and enhance their action in reducing carbon footprint.





## BOX 3.2- Action for Goal 7 & Goal 13

### ***Homemakers United Foundation***

*- Food Cherish Education to Alleviate Climate Change and  
Citizens Power Plants to Implement Green Life*

In early 1987, a group of homemakers in Taiwan were facing drastic social change and problems and deficiencies in the environment and human rights, thus founded “Homemakers United Foundation.” In 2017, the themes of the foundation which celebrates its 30 anniversary are: low-carbon diet, energy transition, and low carbon life. It promoted the action that responds climate change with diet, launching self-cooking program for college students and food cherish restaurants, while actively investing in the protection of agricultural land, herbicides, multi-grain re-cultivation and giving food and farming education.

In the face of climate change, Homemakers United Foundation encourages the public to adjust their lifestyles and face climate change with low carbon lifestyle. By reducing food consumption, cherishing food, and reducing the amount of waste from the source of food production, thanks to “food cherishing,” we can reduce the energy and expenditure for processing leftovers, extending the food cherishing education by collecting leftovers in buckets and by reducing food miles and restaurants’ appropriate purchases. More than 50% of food waste occurs in restaurants and customers. Reducing leftovers can also reduce waste of land and water. In Taiwan, the crops planted in nearly 14 hectares are wasted; the water needed to grow crops, after conversion, almost equals to the amount that the global population is about to waste for a whole year. If we can use our land and crops more effectively, it will not just solve the problem of hunger, but also help ecological environment.

In response to energy transformation, Homemakers United Foundation advocates the use of green energy power plants in the community. It supports the use of electricity as a community. Also, through the joint management of community cooperatives, it sells excess electricity back to Taiwan Power Company. Thanks to the efforts of the foundation and green energy coop of which the foundation supports, Taiwan finally set up the first community power plant in early 2018, implanting the concept of “green energy and carbon reduction help in environmental protection” with rooftop solar panels. In addition, Homemakers United Foundation also incorporates power plants supported by citizens into national energy policies by participating in the “energy transformation white book” formulated by the government.





Chapter 4 :

# A Gender Perspective on Peace



## Goal 16 | *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*

The practical content of Goal 16 includes eliminating all forms of violence. From an international perspective this means ending war and conflict, so people can live free of the fear of warfare. From a national perspective, it means achieving justice and accessible institutions so that when people encounter injustice they can resort to the legal system and receive a transparent and fair verdict. It also means building inclusive, non-discriminatory legal systems that extend protection to all social groups. From the individual perspective, it means an individual can enjoy a living life free from violence, including physical, psychological and sexual violence.

A life of peace and justice is the bedrock of individual aspirations for economic development and political expression. From a gender perspective, a priority is to protect women and girls who are vulnerable to gender-based and domestic violence, and other more disadvantaged groups caught up in intersecting power relationships, including indigenous women, indigenous girls and women with disabilities. By combining their forces, governments and civil society organizations can empower these victims of violence, and by reviewing their cases, reform unjust practices and structures in the legal system.

In 2014, Taiwan passed the Enforcement Act of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), with the aim of implementing the protections for children guaranteed by the UN CRC. In 2015, the amended Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act was passed, revising treatment of sexually exploited children and youths from “crime correction” to “active protection”. In the same year child/youth witnesses to domestic violence were included under the legal protection of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, and civil society groups that had long provided protection to child witnesses to violence, and supported the recovery and life rebuilding of women survivors of violence (Box 4.1 and 4.2) were recognized for their efforts.

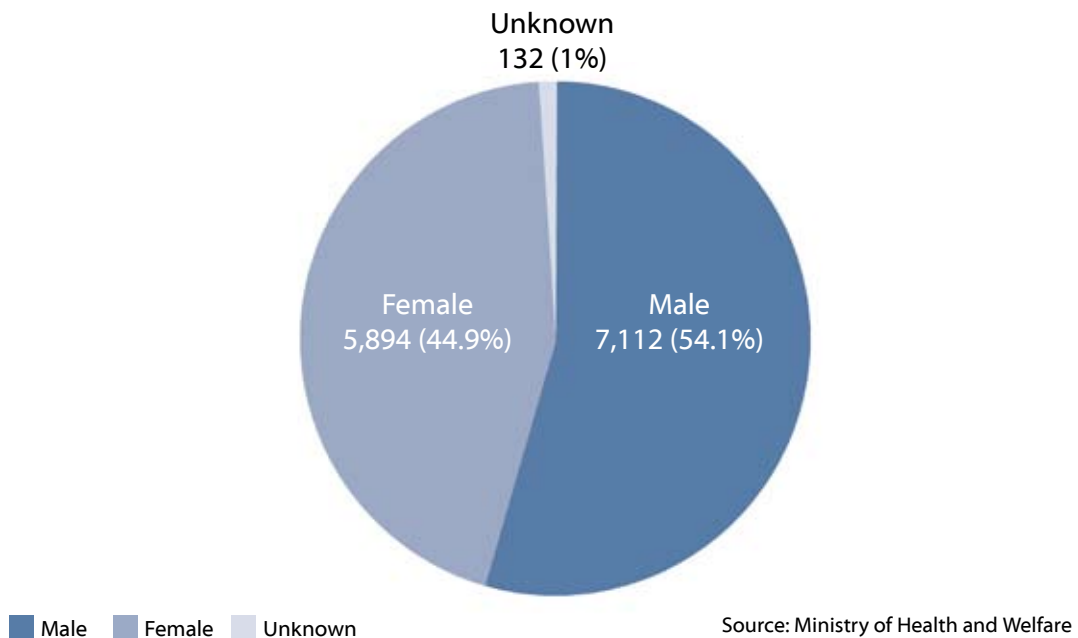
In terms of non-discriminatory laws and inclusive decision-making, Taiwan’s Constitution, the Act of Gender/Sexual Equality in Employment, and the Gender Equity Education Act all explicitly prohibit gender discrimination. The Gender Equality Policy Guidelines further outline the positive policy to “improve opportunities for indigenous, new migrant, elderly, working class, rural and women in remote areas to participate in governance”. In regard to inclusiveness of its laws, Taiwan already surpasses most other Asian countries. Nevertheless, more needs to be done on implementation of the law, and ensuring people’s access to the law, before everyone can be liberated from the fear of violence.

### *The Plight of Exploited Children*

In 2015, thanks to lobbying from civil groups and the efforts of legislators, the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act was renamed the Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act. In legal terms this reflected a change in the spirit of the law from “negative discipline” to “positive protection”. In terms of how the children and youths were viewed, they were transformation from “sexual transaction criminals” to “sexually exploited victims”. From 2013 to 2017, over ten times as many girls as boys were arrested in cases of sexual exploitation of children and youths. According to analysis by Huang Shu-ling (2002), the main reasons girls go in to prostitution include poverty, family violence, sexual violence, unstable homes, low achievement in school and a low sense of belonging. In light of this, the government must continue to actively prevent sexual exploitation, counsel the victims, and narrow the wealth gap between families. In this regard, Taiwan’s civil groups fulfil the important functions of advocacy and shelter provision.

Looking at the statistics, sexual exploitation of children and youths seems to be a highly charged gender issue, because girls have a far greater chance of becoming victims. However, just in terms of the number of arrests, every year on average 40-50 boys and young men become victims of sexual exploitation (not including the unknown hidden number of victims). Taiwan’s government and academia should conduct further research on sexually exploited boys and young men, and study their living situation in shelter institutions, to stop boys and young men continuing to be hidden victims of sexual exploitation.

### Numbers and Sex Distribution of Child Victims of Domestic Violence 2018



### ***Including Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence under Protection of the Law***

In 1998 Taiwan passed the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the first in Asia to have a domestic violence law with regulations on civil protection orders. At the time it was made law, parties protected under the Act were limited by a relatively strict definition of family relationships. The process of later amendments to the law reflected changing family types. Step by step, more diverse kinds of domestic violence were included, and the scope of protection was expanded. In the 2007 amendments, “existing or former genuine husband-wife relationship” was changed to “existing or former cohabiting relationship” to extend protection beyond husband-wife relationships to same-sex couples. The 2015 update added non-cohabiting intimate couples to the admissible conditions, and provided a certain level of protection to non-cohabiting couples aged 16 years old or above. At the same time, the 2015 amendments added children who had witnessed domestic violence under the scope of protection, explicitly requiring all levels of government to give child witnesses to violence psychological rehabilitation and economic aid, such as medical support, counselling costs and so on. In addition, currently Taiwan also has many civil groups offering counseling and shelter services to child and youth witnesses to domestic violence.

### ***Anti-Discrimination Legislation and Inclusive Decision-Making to Promote a Society for Diversity***

Apart from the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, a review of legal reform in Taiwan in recent years shows wider concern for Taiwanese women and people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Of the above mentioned laws passed in the early 2000s, the Act of Gender/Sexual Equality in Employment and the Gender Equity Education Act both explicitly prohibit discrimination or different treatment on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation. In 2012 the Taiwan legislature further passed the CEDAW Enforcement Act, which institutionalized protection of gender and human rights, advancing gender equality and other regulations, and giving them equal status to national laws. In the same year, the Executive Yuan announced the Gender Equality Policy Guidelines, which included the policy direction to “improve opportunities for indigenous, new migrant, elderly, working class, rural and women in remote areas to participate in governance”. Furthermore, in May 2017 the Grand Justices announced their interpretation that laws against same-sex marriage were unconstitutional, based on the equal rights established in the Constitution. The above legislation and policies have again and again led Taiwan toward a more open, inclusive and non-discriminatory society.

While there has been international recognition for women’s participation in the decision-making process and protection of LGBTI community rights in Taiwan, it cannot be denied that there is a group of women in Taiwan who face a disproportionately greater risk of violence, yet the doors of justice are not always open to them, due to a discriminatory social culture, the sexual autonomy and personal safety of women migrant domestic workers are not completely protected, and they lack a proper interpretation system. According to an investigative report by Control Yuan member Wang Mei-yu (2018), each year from 2012 to 2017 on average 104 migrant workers, most of whom were women domestic workers, were sexually assaulted. Furthermore, Judicial Yuan data from 2018 shows a serious shortage of interpreters in Taiwan. Predictably and inevitably, when a Southeast Asian woman migrant worker is sexually assaulted or sexually harassed, the Taiwanese court cannot provide appropriate legal services yet.





## BOX 4.1 - Actions for Goal 16


### ***Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation***

#### ***- Offering Multiple Services to Solve the Cycle of Violence***

TWRF was founded on a basis of the respect for the value of life and the pursuit of social justice and has been continuously caring disadvantaged women and children oppressed by sex violence and neglected. The foundation recognized domestic violence has many negative effects on physical, psychological, and social aspects of children, such as fear, inferiority, depression, withdrawal, learning disabilities, lack of self-confidence, etc. Because of long-term witnessing domestic violence in a long term, children easily learn to use force in relationships and use various types of violence to gain power, controlling freedom of others. Also, because of witnessing domestic violence in a long-term, children's identification with gender is affected and they develop varied gender stereotypes accordingly. For example, men should speak loudly and strong in physical strength. Women should be good wife at home without expressing her opinions. Combined with rationalized violence, all makes it hard to stop domestic violence, easily putting sway on the next generation. Thus, the violence never ends. In 2001, TWRF advocated groups that deal with child witnesses of domestic violence, conducting advocacy in community and on campus, holding parental sessions, providing legal counsel, linking consultation resources, and counseling individuals through interviews, game therapy, and artistic creation. These services also include safety assessments for children, clarifying their awareness of violence, improving self-protection, and appropriately expressing emotions.

From its work in the field, the foundation came to the realization that giving those children who witnessed violence a friendly environment will enhance their recovery and the hope for future. For this reason, the TWRF Domestic Violence Division has continued to work hard by cooperation with schools. It sends social workers to campus visiting individuals; it also attends to groups that deal with children witnessing violence on campus. It also promotes nearly 20 sessions of publicizing their belief in schools and kindergartens in each district every year, hoping to draw attention from the frontline teachers to children witnessing violence and inspire them to provide more care and support for these children, creating a friendly campus. In this way, it is possible to achieve positive interaction with others and learning experiences in schools, reducing the stress and trauma caused by the family. With the help of individual, family, community, and on-campus services, hopefully, intergenerational cycles of violence will be solved, letting children learn about zero-violence and create a future with no violence.





## BOX 4.2 - Actions for Goal 16

### ***The Garden of Hope Foundation***

#### ***- Taiwan #MeToo: Accompanying and Helping Survivors of Gender Violence Recover***

Founded in 1988, the Garden of Hope Foundation (GOH) was first set up to rescue child prostitutes. Important early work included advocating for the Child and Youth Sexual Transaction Prevention Act. In the following 20 or more years, through its services the Foundation has continued to work on preventing and eliminating the harm caused by sexual assault, sexual exploitation and domestic violence on women and children. GOH also works on social change, and creating a healthy environment for women, children and youths.

In 2017, GOH served a total of over 6,000 cases of women and children who were victims of domestic violence, and over 2,000 cases victims of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence/abuse and their children (child witnesses to violence). In April 2018, in response to the global #MeToo movement, and to create safe spaces for victims of gender-based violence, GOH and the Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) held a joint “#MeToo GOH is here for you, LAF will help you” event. Key actions included a GOH Dandelion Counseling Center #MeToo program, a “GOH is here for you” hotline, and legal aid advice and pro-bono services, in hopes of creating momentum and putting pressure on the government to comprehensively assess the sexual harassment and sexual assault reporting system. Held back by the Asian “guanxi” (relationship) culture, if perpetrators of sexual harassment and sexual assault are known to the victim, the case often disappears without a trace. Victims desperately need psychological and legal aid, and trauma

recovery support. So by listening to the needs of victims of sexual assault, the “GOH is here for you” program helps victims receive emotional support, and encourages them to talk about their traumatic experiences. This not only encourages other victims to come forward, but more importantly helps victims make progress along the road to recovery.

In terms of legal aid support, LAF helps victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment. With a social worker accompanying the victim through the process, LAF looks for a lawyer who is gender-aware or has experience with relevant cases. Depending on the client’s personal needs, LAF provides “individualized” services. In this way the victim receives genuine help, and does not suffer secondary trauma. In addition, regarding the recovery of severely traumatized victims of sexual assault and harassment, GOH backed up by its Dandelion Trauma Recovery Centers works on sexual assault trauma treatment, offering victims professional accompaniment and psychological counseling guidance.





Chapter 5 :

# A Gender Perspective on Partnership



## Goal 17 | ***Partnerships for the Goals: International Cooperation on Reproductive Health***

Sustainable Development Goal 17 to “revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” stresses using international cooperation to together make progress toward the better future outlined by the sustainable development goals, so that every citizen of every country can enjoy the benefits of development. Taiwan’s official development assistance is carried out by the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF). Founded in 1996, ICDF’s cooperation projects focus on agricultural skills transfer, and helping diplomatic allies improve their planting and caring skills. In recent years, cooperation on gender related issues includes the Eswatini Maternal and Infant Healthcare Improvement Project, which started in 2016. The project tackles the country’s extremely and persistently high HIV prevalence rate by building the capacity of qualified healthcare unit personnel and upgrading the functions of healthcare units. In the second phase of the project, starting in January 2019, ICDF expects to continue the work done in phase 1, while increasing the number of partner units, training more community maternal and infant health education promotion personnel, and building the country’s data analysis capacity.

Apart from projects focusing on women’s reproductive health, Taiwan must continue to increase gender sensitivity in all cooperation projects and make gender equality an important indicator of international partnerships. It is hoped that in the future, ICDF can effectively use gender mainstreaming tools, not just in cooperation projects that are clearly gender related, but also in projects that are apparently gender neutral, ICDF should also carry out gender disaggregated data collection, analysis and impact assessment. Women’s varied needs, or the different impact a program or project has on different genders, can be seen in every aspect of cooperation. Hand in hand, ICDF and Taiwan’s diplomatic allies can achieve gender equality.



## BOX 5 - Actions for Goal 17

### ***Soroptimist International***

#### ***- Clean Water Projects Empowering African Women***

Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 in Oakland, California, as an international INGO. It has about 75,000 club members in 122 countries throughout the world. It stands as one of the largest women's groups in the world. There are four Soroptimist Federations under the umbrella of Soroptimist International: Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE), Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland (SIGB) and Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific (SISWP). Soroptimist International of the Americas Taiwan Region was formed in 1996. Under SIA, it is consisted of 24 clubs and more. Over decades, SI has been devoting to promoting human rights of women and girls and gender equality on community-level, national level, regional level, and international level. Through the initiative, education, and programs that offer various resources and opportunities, it promotes international understanding, goodwill, and peace.

According to the 2016 United Nations World Water Development Report 2016, 4 billion people suffer from severe water shortages every year and 663 million people lack access to improved sources of drinking water. Women and girls are particularly affected. Ms. Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, the president of Soroptimist International, proposed the project "Women, Water, and Leadership" in hope for "improving agriculture and accessing clean energy and water" as one of the goals.

Specific plans include: providing education and vocational training to 500 female

farmers in areas with low water supply such as Kenyan Kuru, Kilifi, Sumu, and Machakos, assisting them in managing the farm to ensure food security. In addition, SI also launched “WeWash” project, reshaping the lives of unemployed and low-income women and girls to raise the rights of women and girls in Stara Zagora. The project successfully increased employability for 100 women, and equipping a minimum of 30 women with the skills to run small-scale businesses in the alternative sanitation sector. Soroptimist International of Taiwan region participates in these SI programs, helping the countries of the south through education and training to improve drinking water and food safety and enhance the rights and interests of local women.





## *Foundation for Women's Rights Promotion and Development*

In 1999, the Foundation for Women's Rights Promotion and Development was established to serve as a bridge between the government and the civil society, and to build a resource center for women in Taiwan. The foundation is comprised of chiefs from ministries engaged in women's issues, advocates from women's groups, professionals and scholars. We are dedicated to promoting women's rights and has conducted gender equality on the following issues:

- Promote gender mainstreaming and gender resources kits
- Enhance women empowerment and education
- Develop women/gender network through various platform
- Engage in international exchange and participation

In the future, we will continue to promote women's rights and establish a society of gender equality and mutual respect.



*Foundation for Women's  
Rights Promotion  
and Development*  
財團法人婦女權益促進發展基金會

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