



# ETHIOPIAN GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX



Produced by the Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations  
(NEWA)

BOOKLET



# ETHIOPIAN GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX (2021)

The main objective of EGD report is to show the extent to which Ethiopia has advanced in gender equality, reduced the gender gaps and addressed empowerment of women in accordance with all its national and international commitments.

EGDI consists of three dimensions: Rights, which measures Education and Health, Resources, which measures economic opportunities, and Representation, which measures power and decision-making.

## Composite Ethiopian Gender Development Index

Through the Ethiopian Gender gap index, efforts have been made to measure the extent of gender-based gaps among the four key dimensions (Rights [Education and health], Resources [Economic Participation and Opportunity], and Representation [power and decision-making]). Unfortunately, no reliable data on health and gender was available that generates information for advocacy or knowledge purpose. Instead, reproductive health indicators were employed.

Region	Education	Health	Economy	Participation	GDI
Tigray	0.75	0.56	0.60	0.27	0.55
Afara	0.25	0.00	0.87	0.07	0.30
Amahara	0.75	0.33	0.40	0.20	0.42
Oromiya	0.50	0.00	0.47	0.20	0.29
Somali	0.08	0.00	0.53	0.13	0.19
Benshangul	0.50	0.11	0.60	0.20	0.35
SNNP	0.67	0.22	0.53	0.20	0.41
Gambella	0.17	0.11	0.67	0.07	0.26
Harari	0.42	0.33	0.47	0.27	0.37
Addis Ababa	0.75	1.00	0.67	0.40	0.71
Dire Dawa	0.50	0.56	0.47	0.20	0.43
National	0.47	0.11	0.47	0.14	0.30

Source: Computation by authors (2021)

# 1. Rights

## Education and Health

### Gross Enrolment rate- Primary Education

The National Gender Parity Index for primary cycle gross enrolment is **0.89** meaning that the country has about **11** points to fill the gap.



### Gross Enrolment Rate- Secondary Education

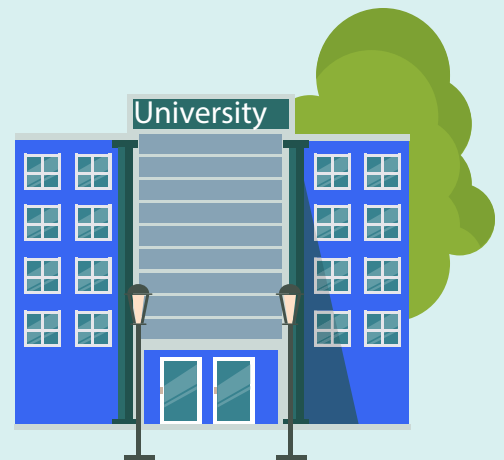
The national gender parity index for secondary cycle gross enrolment is 0.85 meaning that the country has about 0.15 points to fill the gap.



### Enrolment undergraduate Program

Percentage of females in undergraduate and postgraduate program is very low.

**36 %** in undergraduate and  
**33 %** in graduate program



### Tertiary Education Program

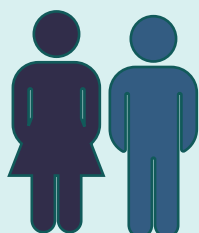


**34.7%**



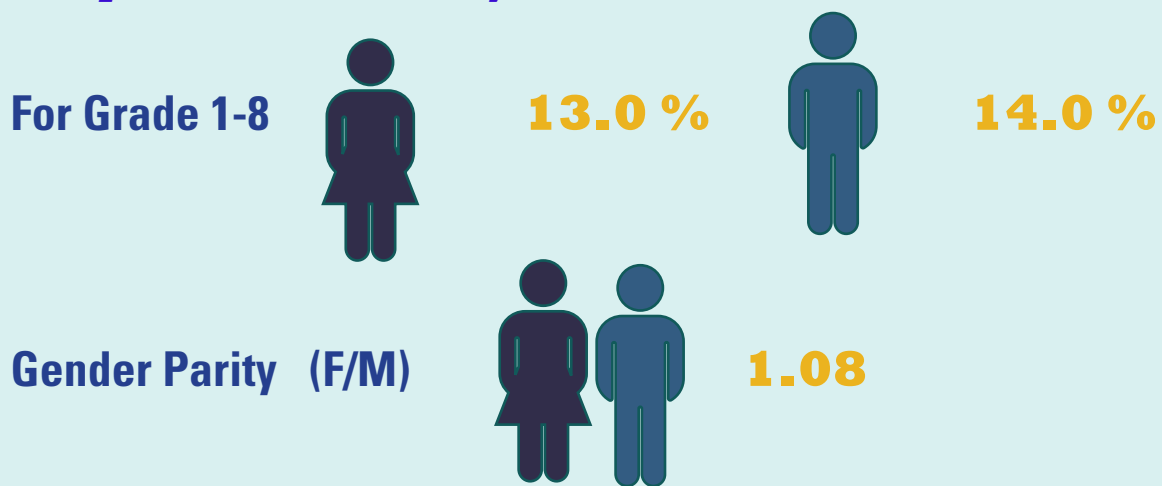
**65.5%**

Gender parity



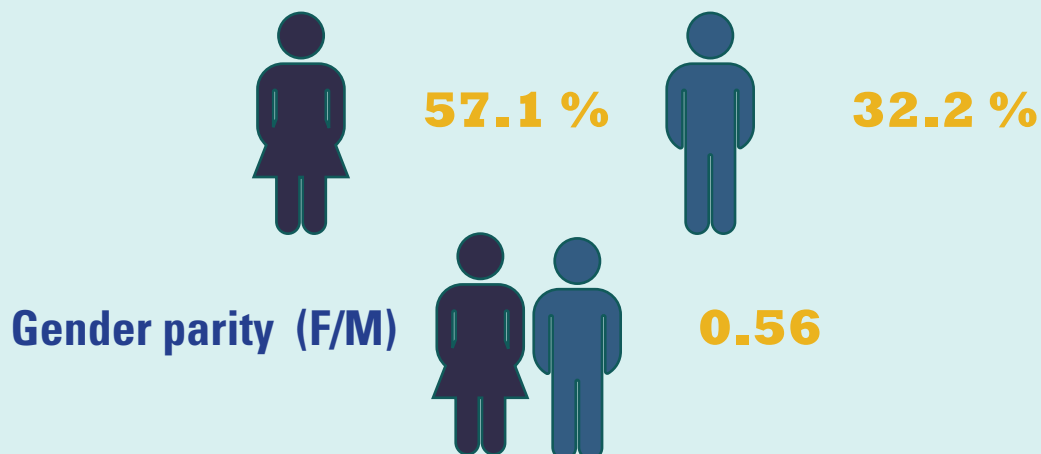
**53.0%**

## Dropout Rate- Primary Education



## Literacy Rate

Gender disparity in illiteracy between adult men and women



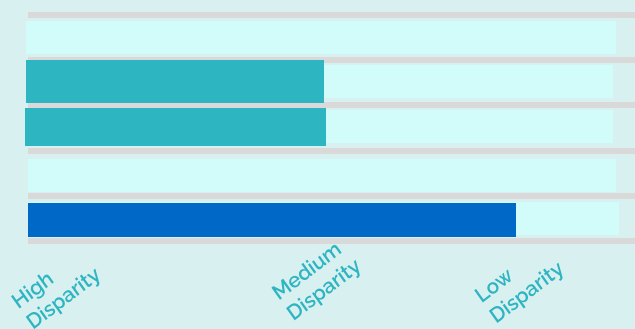
In general, less women are able to read and write than men and the gap between men and women stands at **0.56**. This means there are very high levels of disparity and **44 %** gap needs to be filled.

## Standardized Gender Parity index in Education by Region

AGE: 14-49 years

Gross Enrolment With no education(0)  
 Gross Enrolment Grade 1-8 (2)  
 Gross Enrolment Grade 9-12 (2)  
 Gross Enrolment Tertiary (0)  
 Dropout Grade 1-8 (3)

Standardized disparity index **0.47**



## Health

**Percentage of married women using a modern contraceptive method (2016)**



**35.3%**

**Percentage adjusted as per the national plan**

**64.2%**

At a national level about **35 percent** (2016) of married women are believed to use contraceptives but **65 percent** are not still benefiting from this important family planning tool.

**Percentage of Married women age 15-49 who received Antenatal Care(2016)**



**62.4%**

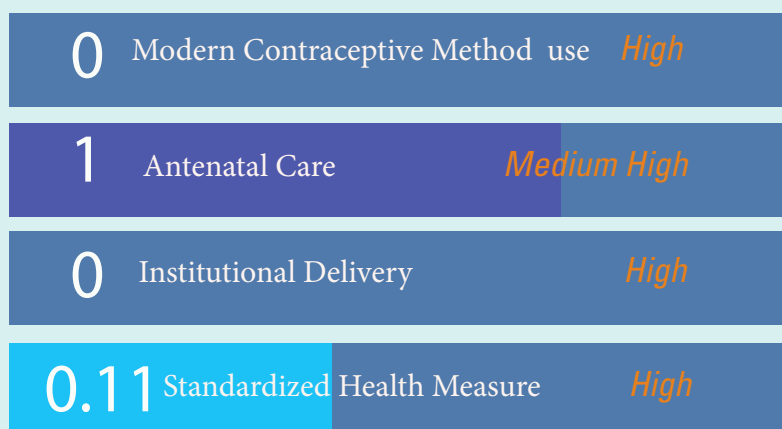
**Percentage adjusted as per the national plan**

**70.0%**

**Percent distribution of live births in the 5 years before the survey delivered in a health facility (2016)**

**26.2%**

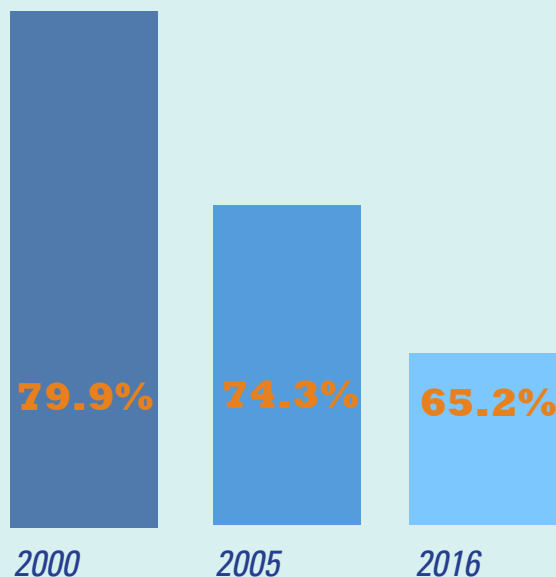
## Standardized gender parity index in health



## Percentage distribution of women age 15-49 who are circumcised

Data suggests gradual decrease in the percentage of women who are circumcised from almost 80 percent in the years 2000 to

65 percent in 2016.



## Attitude toward wife beating (GBV)

Percentage of respondents who agree that with at least one specified reason (37) a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife (2016)



Percentage of women aged 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence in the 12 months preceding the survey and ever in 2016

**6.5**

Experienced in their life (ever) **10.1**

Overall, 10 % of interviewed women have said they have ever experienced sexual violence and 6.5% have experienced in the past year nationally.

## 2.Resources:

### Gender and Economic Opportunities

#### Percentage of Employed Population



**75.9 %**



**84.4 %**

Gender parity

**0.76 (Medium high)**

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#### Land and housing Ownership

##### House ownership



**51.9 %**



**64.2 %**

Female headed

Male headed

Gender parity

**0.81 (Medium low)**

At national level **64.2%** male-headed households and **51.9%** female-headed households are reported to own dwelling or housing.

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#### Land ownership



**47.5 %**



**60.0 %**

Gender parity

**0.79 (Medium high)**

In terms of land ownership by gender of the household head, **60 %** male headed households and slightly less, female-headed household (**47.5%**) reported to own land.

## Access to microfinance by gender of the household head



2.4%



4.3%

Gender parity **0.56 (high parity)**

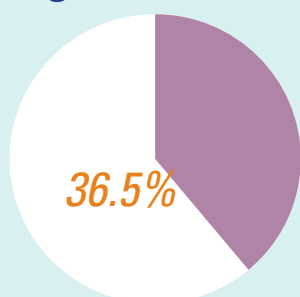
Nationally **56 %** gap has been closed so far. To date, there is still **44%** average gap that remains to be closed in access to microfinance in the country

Time use	Female	Male	Disparity Index(M/F)
SNA	269	396	0.68
Non-SNA	321	224	0.70
Learning	383	386	0.99
Other non productive activities	892	945	0.94

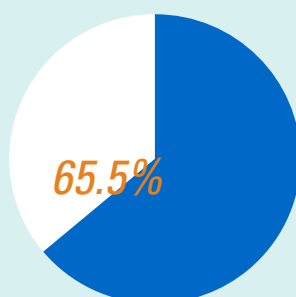
## 3.Representation: Power and Decision Making



### Percentage of civil servants



Female



Male

Gender parity **0.57 (high)**

Nationally, there is still **43 %** average gap that remains to be closed to achieve gender parity in civil service.





48.5%



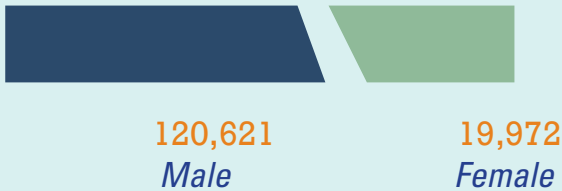
51.5%

Gender parity 0.95

Nationally, there is an only 5% average gap remains to be closed to achieve parity in election participation

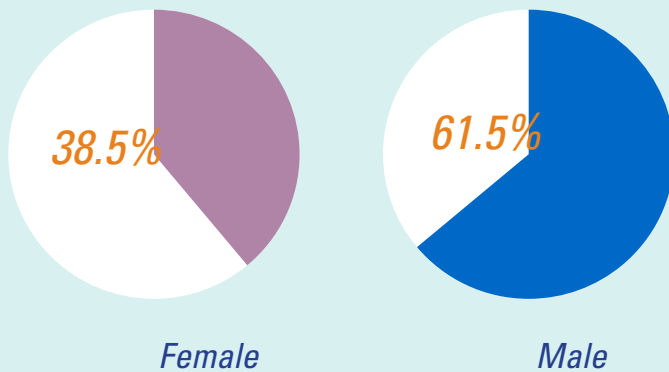
## Number of police staff

The police force data indicates that female representation in the police force is very low. At national level only 17% gap has been closed so far and there is still 83% average gap that remains to be closed to achieve parity in police service.



Gender parity 0.17

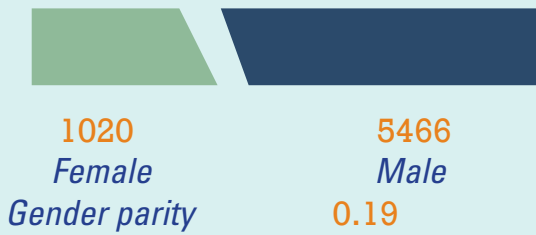
## Percentage of Member of the House of Representatives



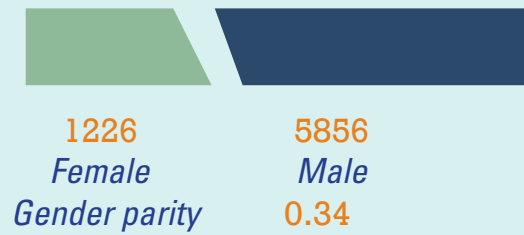
Gender parity 0.63

On average, women make 38.5% in the parliament. That means, during the last election 38.5 % gap has been closed so far and there is still 61.5% average gap that remains to be closed to achieve parity in house of representatives.

## Number of Judges



## Number of persecutors



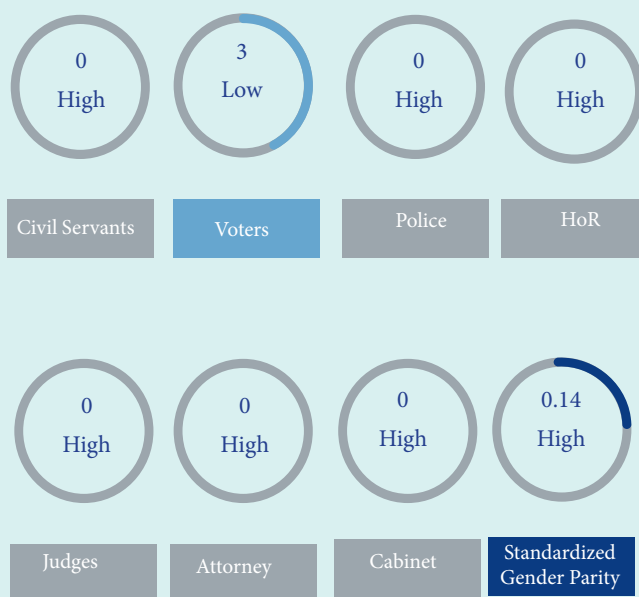
At national level only **34%** gap has been closed so far and there is still **66%** average gap that remains to be closed to achieve parity in persecutor composition

## Percentage of cabinet at federal level

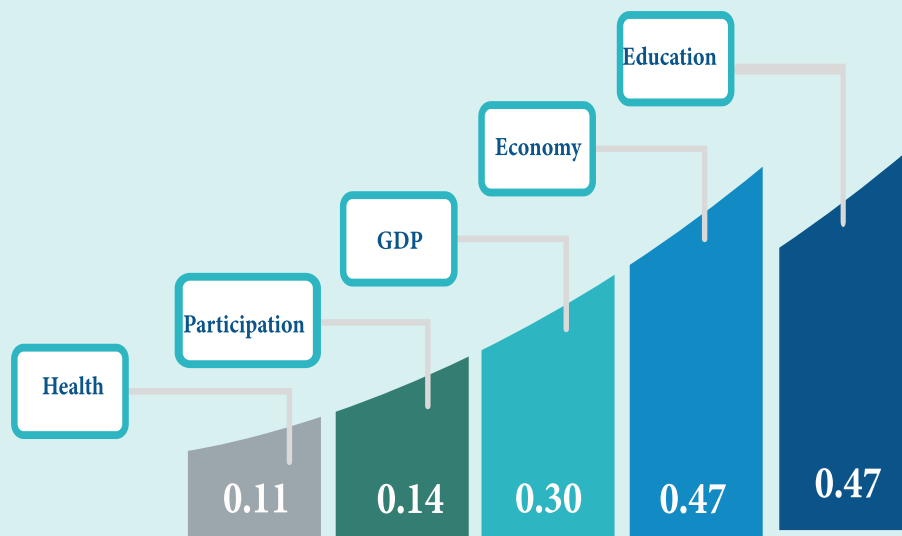


While in October 2018, Ethiopia had a gender-balanced cabinet comprising of 20 members, currently that number has changed and out of the 22 cabinet positions

## Scores on Standardized gender parity index



## Ethiopian Gender Development Index



*This result indicates that while Ethiopia has achieved better results in some sub-dimensions, such as education and economic participation (47%), the country is still behind to achieve gender parity. Across all the sub-indexes, the largest gender disparity is reflected in health (11%) followed by Political participation scores (14%).*

## 5.2 Recommendations

Based on preceding discussion, conclusions, CEDAW (2019) concluding observations and Beijing +25 reviews, the following recommendations are targeted at local and international CSO in Ethiopia as well as aimed at the policy makers for action.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTIONS: CSO AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

The Civil society organizations could build on their community level experience and work with grassroots organizations to promote gender equality and women's empowerment agenda by taking the following actions.

- Engage in targeted awareness campaigns to effect changes in attitudes and encourage women and girls to claim their legal rights.
- Undertake education awareness programs that target parents and community leaders in order to tackle the biased cultural and social norms that impede the educational achievement of girls;
- Carry out awareness-raising campaigns that target the general public, the judiciary, law enforcement institutions and traditional and customary institutions on the legislation, policies and programs to promote women's access to economic opportunities and resources. Gender equality awareness rising needs to be given not only to the public but also targeted at individuals at leadership position.
- Undertake education awareness programs targeting politicians, the media, leaders of traditional governance institutions and the general public to highlight the importance of women's full and equal participation in political and public life, in particular in leadership positions at all levels.
- Advocate so that gender equality remains political agenda
- Advocate and generate continuous public support to hold governments accountable for the implementation of international commitment.
- Generate evidence. Collection of sex-disaggregated data is essential to assess the status of gender equality and to engage in evidence-based advocacy. Strengthen the collection and management of data and statistics disaggregated by sex, age, geographical location, socioeconomic status and other relevant factors on participation and progression
- Advocate for women's quotas and affirmative action to promote the participation of women in political and public life. Advocate for legislative-mandated quotas for proportion of women in the national parliament and in local governance structures.
- Support women's entrepreneurship through creation of greater access to skills, and financial and business support services.
- Help reduce the burden of unpaid work through better infrastructure, in particular energy, water, sanitation and transportation, the provision of affordable care services.
- The CSOs should seek to increase the access of women to loans and other forms of finance, including by providing them with soft loans and improving their business and financial knowledge, and promote their access to income-generating activities.
- Support women to gain access to justice by increasing their awareness of their right to legal aid;
- Provide appropriate training on women's rights and gender equality, specifically adapted to the needs of Islamic and customary courts.
- Intensify collaborative efforts with the media to inclusively and accessibly raise public awareness of gender stereotypes that persist at all levels of society, with a view to their elimination. formal sector and ensure that women employed in the informal sector are effectively covered by social and labour protection;
- Provide members of the judiciary, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials with adequate training on women's rights and on gender-sensitive investigation and interrogation procedures in cases of gender-based violence against women;

- Collect data on gender-based violence against women, including on the number of cases of violence against women and complaints lodged, the sanctions imposed on perpetrators, the number of women who are victims of violence who have been provided with legal assistance and relevant support services, and the number of women who are victims of violence who have received compensation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTIONS: THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT**

In general the government needs to strengthen gender-mainstreaming agenda and this should be one of the standards against which the performance of decision-makers is assessed. Accountability can be promoted through setting gender targets and its evaluation. In addition, there is a need to establish a special fund to empower women in small and medium-sized enterprises. Similarly, allocate adequate organizational, human, technical and financial resources to promote gender equality in all sectors in particular with regard to women in rural and remote communities of high importance. Specific domain related recommendations targeted at the state are presented as follows.

### **Rights - Education**

- Gender disparity in literacy rate is high. Strengthen adult literacy programs, especially in rural areas.
- Ensure that primary education is compulsory for and inclusive of all children and reduce the indirect costs of schooling, with a view to eliminating them;
- Intensify efforts to improve enrolment, retention and completion rates for women and girls at all levels of education;
- Ensure that every school has adequate and accessible sanitation facilities for girls to prevent them from missing or dropping out of school because of menstrual management challenges;
- Ensure a safe school environment for girls and strengthen effective reporting and accountability mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting cases of sexual abuse and harassment of girls in schools;

### **Resources - Economic Participation and Opportunity**

- Evidence shows access to microfinance is low. Expand the access of rural women to microfinance and microcredit at low interest rates to enable them engage in income-generating activities and start their own businesses.
- Promote women's ownership of land and enhancing the security of their land tenure, and ensure that rural women are involved in the development and implementation of agricultural policies; Ensure that women not only receive land certificates but actually drive economic benefits from their land resources. ;
- Put mechanisms in place to reduce the burden of unpaid work through better infrastructure, in particular energy, water, sanitation and transportation, the provision of affordable care services.
- Data suggests women are less represented in formal employment. Increase women's access to decent work, promote their transition to the formal sector and ensure that women employed in the informal sector are effectively covered by social and labour protection;
- Women's entrepreneurship: Undertake new measures and strengthen current ones to promote women's entrepreneurship and ensure that they have greater access to skills, and financial and business support services.
- Ensure that women domestic workers are guaranteed the same level of protection and benefits as other workers, and strengthen efforts to protect them from abusive and exploitative working conditions;

## Representation – Power and Decision Making

- Women's participation in politics and decision is the lowest. There is a need to consider introducing new quotas and other affirmative action measures to promote women's participation in political and public life at all levels, in particular in the civil service, managerial positions and the judicial service;
- Support women's political leadership by investing in women's education and economic assets, and political internships.
- Take specific measures to build the capacity of women candidates and provide incentives to encourage political parties to nominate equal numbers of women and men to stand for election;
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for politicians, community and religious leaders, the media and the general public on the importance of the participation of women in political life and decision-making positions.

## Rights- Health

- It is difficult to locate gender data in health. There is a need that MOH strengths gender dimension in its HMIS initiatives.
- Provide for people to have access to comprehensive information regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights and affordable, modern methods of contraception to all women and girls to reduce unwanted and teenage pregnancies and unsafe abortions.
- Improve the coverage of and access to health services at a lower cost throughout its territory by allocating sufficient budgetary resources to the establishment of hospitals, in particular in rural and remote areas,
- Increase and improve the provision of sexual and reproductive health information and services to women and girls, including in rural areas, on the basis of the principles of inclusion and accessibility;

## GBV and HTPs

- Adopt the national free legal aid strategy developed in 2015 with the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations ;<sup>1</sup>
- Ensure that appropriate budget allocations are made for the provision of legal aid to women and girls;
- Establish fully funded and capacitated Ministry or a Commission whose mandate is Gender Equality in order to meet international targets.
- Gender machineries need to introduce and move away from women in development approach to gender in development.
- Allocate adequate organizational, human, technical and financial resources to the institutions that promote gender equality to enable it to carry out its mandate to coordinate, monitor and assess the impact of the implementation of public policies and national action plans for the advancement of women.
- Strengthen mainstreaming gender perspectives in all laws and policies, and ensure its coverage of the entire territory;
- Adopt a comprehensive and inclusive law on gender-based violence, addressing all forms of violence against women, including acid attacks, domestic violence, rape, marital rape, gang rape and other forms of sexual violence;
- Integrate age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights into school curricula, including comprehensive sex education for adolescent girls and boys.

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<sup>1</sup> CEDAW concluding remarks recommendation (2019) underlines on legal aid issues and the need

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