



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

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Shaping the Future

Looking to the future which promoted an Open Science, fair and inclusive environment for scientific and technological development and cooperation worldwide, building trust in science and global cooperation in innovation. [Women's Health and Education Center's Global Platform](#) aims to integrate a human rights perspective into regulatory and norm-setting processes for new and emerging technologies, in Education and Health Sectors, including artificial intelligence. Language of kindness is understood by everyone and everywhere.

Open science is about making sure not only that scientific knowledge is accessible but also that the production of that knowledge itself is inclusive, equitable and sustainable. In view of the scale of today's global challenges and the great potential of science, technology and innovation to deliver responses, it is necessary to mobilize financial and knowledge resources from governments, businesses, academia and civil societies. Both public and private sectors play important roles in financing, research, & development. When Open-science, artificial intelligence (AI) and big data management meet the social reality of human cooperation and governance, it becomes more sustainable, and help to close digital divide.

Open science has the potential of making the scientific process more transparent, inclusive and democratic. Our recommendations provides an internationally agreed definition, as well as a set of shared values and guiding principles for open science. It also identifies a set of actions conducive to a fair and equitable operationalization of open science, with a special focus on improving maternal and child mortality and morbidity. Of all the health statistics monitored by the World Health Organization (WHO), maternal mortality and morbidity (both physical and mental), shows the largest discrepancy, between developed and developing countries. In order to democratize digitalization and its benefits for public and social value, Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), believes that a dedicated place is needed, in the United Nations to develop and refine appropriate norms, policies and pilots; promote future-ready human capabilities; and mobilize financing for public innovation ecosystems, for [Education and Health Initiatives](#) to succeed. Openness in science is an essential component of the scientific process.

Every day, at least 700 women and girls die, one every two minutes, due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth. And hundreds more have short- and long-term disabilities. 90% of these deaths and disabilities occur in the developing countries. Quality education and universal health care are the most important investments that any country can make for its future and for its people. Investing in health and education is, investing in people, and investing in our collective future. If harnessed properly, the digital revolution can be one of the most powerful tools for ensuring quality health and education for all.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) is well positioned to advance all SDGs, with special focus on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16 and 17. Building sustainable partnerships, through WHEC's e-Learning, e-Health, and e-Government initiatives; such as [LINK \(Learning, Innovating, Networking, for Knowledge\) Access Project](#) – *To disseminate reproductive health information and research*, will offer way forward. Digital technologies including AI and Big Data Management have the potential to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities. While obligations to promote the rights of women's and children are protected by international conventions, difficulties in putting moral obligation into practice still abound. **By supporting reproductive health and research, and open dialogue and objective analysis, WHEC, has laid the groundwork for mutual understanding among countries.**

Science is a global public good that belongs to all of the humanity.

Open Science: As Open As Possible

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

What are the recommendations of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) regarding the Open-Science? Is it essential for health development?

Open-Science: As Open As Possible - Our interconnected world needs open science to help solve complex social, environmental, and economic challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Open science provides an internationally agreed definition, as well as a set of shared values and guiding principles for open science. It also identifies a set of actions conducive to a fair and equitable operationalization of open science for all at the individual, institutional, national, regional and international levels. Multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone is the way forward. It opens the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community. Equity and fairness in research and development can only be obtained, and it is essential, by ensuring fair and reciprocal access to science for all producers and consumers of knowledge regardless of their location, nationality, race, age, gender, income, socio-economic circumstances, career stage, discipline, language, religion, disability, ethnicity, migratory status or any other grounds.

Access to scientific knowledge should be as open as possible, but sometimes access may need to be restricted, for example to protect human rights, confidentiality, intellectual property rights, personal information, threatened or endangered species, and sacred and secret indigenous knowledge. Open science encourages scientists to develop tools and methods for managing data so that as much data as possible can be shared, as appropriate. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) recommends, promotes and implements The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383771>

It asks Member States to:

1. Promote a shared understanding of open science and set out diverse paths to achieving it.
2. Develop an enabling policy environment for open science.
3. Invest in infrastructure and activities that contribute to open science.
4. Invest in training, education, digital literacy and capacity building to support open science.
5. Foster a culture of open science and align incentives to support it.
6. Promote innovative approaches for open science at all stages of the scientific process.
7. Encourage international and multi-stakeholder cooperation in the context of open science to reduce gaps in technology and knowledge.

These recommendations are meant to be used by all research institutes and organizations that practice, regulate and promote science, as well as by researchers and anyone concerned with the rules, policies and ethics of science.

Our Collective Advocacy/National & International Platform/Making Open Science Reality

Future of health and education sectors is digital, in each and every country, rich and poor alike. Knowledge and understanding are precondition for action at all level. The Women's Health and Education Center launched an e-learning project in association with the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations (UN) on 24 October 2002 (<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>). It has reached 227 countries and territories – serving about 14 million visitors, every year. Continuing medical education is a lifetime commitment requiring knowledge of current trends and developments in the science, technology and economics of healthcare. Convenience of provider-directed independent study activities allows healthcare professionals to reach the learning goals that must be incorporated into their demanding professional schedules.

Our efforts: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>



United Nations at a Glance

Somalia became UN Member State on 20 September 1960



Somalia, officially the **Federal Republic of Somalia**, is the easternmost country in continent of Africa. Stretching across much of the Horn of Africa, it borders Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, Kenya to the southwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, and the Indian Ocean to the east. Somalia has the longest coast-line on Africa's mainland.

Capital: Mogadishu; official languages: Somali and Arabic; Religion: Sunni Islam; Government: Federal parliamentary republic; Population:

19,280, 850 (2025); Area total: 637,657 km² (246,201 sq. mi) Currency: Somali shilling.

Following World War II, Britain retained control of both British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland as protectorates. In 1945, during the Potsdam Conference, the United Nations granted Italy trusteeship of Italian Somaliland as the Trust Territory of Somaliland, on the condition first proposed by the Somali Youth League (SYL) and other nascent Somali political organizations, such as Hizbia Digil Mirifle Somali (HDMS) and the Somali National League (SNL) – that Somali achieve independence within 10 years. British Somaliland remained a protectorate of Britain until 1960.



At the end of 2006, US-backed Ethiopian invasion overthrew the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), leading to installation of TFG (Transitional National Government of Somalia, in Mogadishu under an Ethiopian military occupation. By late 2008 the insurgency had driven the Ethiopian army out of such of Somalia. A new provisional constitution was passed in August 2012, reforming Somalia as a federation. The same month, the Federal Government of Somalia was formed and a period of reconstruction began in Mogadishu.

Somalia is among the Least Developed Country (LDC) in the world, as evidenced by its ranking in metrics such as GDP per capita and its position near the bottom of the Human Development Index, above only South Sudan. It has maintained an informal economy mainly based on livestock, remittances from Somalis working abroad, and telecommunications. It is a member state of the United Nations, the Arab League, African Union, Non-Aligned Movement, East African Community, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Islam was introduced to the area early on by the first Muslims of Mecca fleeing prosecution during the first Hejira with Masjid al Qiblatayn in Zeila being built before the Qiblah towards Mecca. It is one of the oldest mosques in Africa. Throughout the Middle Ages, Arab immigrants arrived in Somaliland, a historical experience which would later lead to the legendary stories about Muslim sheikhs such as Daarood and Ishaq bin Ahmed travelling from Arabia to Somalia and marrying into the local Dir Clan.

Following World War II, Britain retained control of both British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland as protectorates. On July 1, 1960, five days after the former British Somaliland protectorate obtained independence as the State of Somaliland, the territory united with the Trust Territory of Somaliland to form the Somali Republic, albeit within boundaries drawn up by Italy and Britain. Somalia is officially divided into 18 regions, which in turn are subdivided into districts. Owing to Somalia's proximity to the equator, there is not much seasonal variation in its climate. Somali law draws from a mixture of 3 different systems: civil law, Islamic law and customary law.

Details: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/news/2025/drought-and-dire-hunger-loom-somalia-warns-un-food-agency-wfp>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Somalia



Health and Development in Somalia

In 2012, the country adopted the constitution of Somalia. The establishment of a federal structure has strengthened federal and state-level institutions, resulting in a total of six Federal Member States. Newly formed states in the central and southern areas are Galmudug, Hirshabelle, South West State and Jubaland. Somalia is continuing its recovery from decades of conflict, civil unrest and protracted humanitarian crises, underdevelopment and political instability.

Somalia is one of the countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change and it has experienced a wide range of natural and human-induced disasters due to its unique geographical, physiographical and strategic setting.

The decades of conflict, violence and climatic shocks have also led to economic marginalization and social exclusion of

young people who make up about 70% of the population, as well as other vulnerable groups such as women and children and internally displaced people. The country's estimated 2.6 displaced people are consistently identified as among the poorest group in the country. Youth unemployment is high at around 20%. Somalia has one of world's lowest enrolment rates for primary school – only 30% of children are in school and only 40% of these are girls.

Health Situation

Somalia is in the initial stages of an epidemiological transition, characterized by declining maternal, infant and child mortality and increasing life expectancy at birth. Life expectancy at birth for both sexes has increased since the 1990s, but is still lower than the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 61.3 years. Life expectancy at birth is 56.5 years, lower for males (55.7) than females (59.1).

Maternal Health

Maternal and child mortality rates in Somalia are among the highest in the world. Frequent and close births have women more susceptible to pregnancy-related risks, diseases, disability and malnutrition. Although Somalia's mortality continues to decline, it is still high, at 829 per 100,000 live births, well above the Sub-Saharan average of 542. The leading causes of maternal mortality are postpartum hemorrhage, pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, obstructed labor and sepsis. Several factors contribute to this situation, including limited involvement of skilled birth attendants, inadequate access to maternal health or delivery services, high fertility rates, low uptake of family planning and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). Nearly all women in Somalia have undergone FGM.

Health System

Health infrastructure: - There are four different levels of health facilities in the country that are involved in the delivery of essential health services. These include primary health care (PHC) units located at the rural areas and is most frequently visited health infrastructure, health centers at sub-district level, referral health centers at the district level and regional hospitals at the regional capitals. Universal health coverage is the lowest in Somalia. It is at 27 out of 100 indicating that in 2023 only 27% of population had access to essential health services without facing financial hardship. Low expenditure in health, shortage of skilled and trained health workers, security problems and weak instructional systems are the main challenges.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/som/>



Somalia is UNESCO Member State since 1960



Xeer Ciise: Oral customary Laws of Somali-Issa Communities in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia.

The Xeer Ciise refers to the oral customary laws of the Somali-Issa communities in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia. A highly structured and rigorously codified system of democratic governance has three main components:

1. A political constitution, which defines the distribution of power and decision-making processes;
2. A penal code, which establishes community justice, focusing on reconciliation and compensation;
3. A code of social conduct, which defines a series of metaphysical, spiritual and social principles and values to regulate collective and individual behavior.

These laws help ensure peaceful coexistence within the community and with other ethnic groups. They incorporate global values and principles, such as respecting the rights of women and children, environmental conservation, peaceful conflict resolution and mutual assistance. Xeer Ciise is transmitted informally, including through tales, proverbs, games, poetry and initiation rites. It is also transmitted through formal educational curricula, panel discussions, symposiums and print and electronic media.



Somalia, the latest country to have ratified the Convention, will hold 6-day workshop on safeguarding its living heritage.

Somalia is the latest State Party to have ratified the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. UNESCO is encouraged to see that a growing number of activities are taking place on the ground and wishes to highlight these dynamic beginnings.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi and Somalia Academy of Science and Arts (SOMASA), with support from the Somali Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE), has organized the first workshop for national awareness-raising and capacity-building for the safeguarding and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Somalia. Youth involvement and gender equality are at the core of the UNESCO's project – strengthening capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Eastern Africa. It includes sessions about awareness-raising strategies, guidance on the Convention's Operational Directives and exercises to increase capacities for identifying and safeguarding international cultural heritage.

Intergenerational exchanges between elders and youth is essential to ensure transmission of Somali's rich and diverse intangible cultural heritage in a sustainable way.

Details: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/so>

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015

Sustainable Development Goals...continued

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Trade

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda.

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.

Systemic Issues

Policy and institutional coherence

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence.

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

To be considered.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

Understanding Somalia's social contract and state-building efforts

Consequences for donor interventions

Building on a World Bank regional study in Africa aiming at measuring social contracts concepts and within the framework of reflecting on future donor interventions, this paper applies social contracts measurement and complements with qualitative assessments in Somalia. This uses the framework developed regionally to explore the citizen-state bargain and social outcomes in Somalia and is relevant for most fragile and conflict-affected countries. The qualitative parts describing the social contract in Somalia use the lenses of security, education, and taxes to describe the current setting. It is usually assumed that improved service delivery in fragile states should improve almost automatically state legitimacy and then reduce conflict likelihood. This paper shows that the security imperative prevails in such countries and that tax bargaining hardly exists in most cases. Citizen's expectations are usually low, which explains that how service delivery is improved matters a lot for state legitimacy. This work draws lessons pertaining to past engagement, building on Somalia's history and also reflecting on how aid may impact the country.

Since the collapse of the Somali state in 1991, recurrent cycles of conflict and instability have often threatened the achieved progress. Clan-based conflicts remain a common form of violent contestation in Somalia. These conflicts usually revolve around scarce resource allocation and access, and they remain a key source of mistrust across the Somalia population. Finding a political settlement that supports a stable, central government has been a core challenge for Somalia. Since 2012, there has been some progress in federalism. Building on the framework developed in a recent World Bank study on social contracts in sub-Saharan Africa, the paper explores the nature of the social contract in Somalia in quantitative and qualitative ways through three compasses:

1. The citizen-state bargaining process;
2. The social outcomes produced; and
3. The extent to which alignment between outcomes and expected makes the social contract resilient.

Donor efforts to support more inclusive and resilient social contracts should aim to strengthen the quality of the citizen-state bargaining process – that is, the first main aspect of social contracts set out in the conceptual framework. This requires strengthening citizen collective action capacity, state capacity, state capacity, and more inclusive political institutions.

There is no clear prescription for achieving this; actions would need to be adaptable and hybridized and attuned to the complex society factors that shape outcomes. Donors should limit competition and fragmentation of support to avoid strengthening part of the elite at the expense of others or citizens/clans, which ultimately makes the situation more unstable and fragile.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Mathieu Cloutier, Hodan Hassan, Deborah Isser, and Gael Raballand; Sponsors: United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development. The Institute began operations in 1985 in Helsinki, Finland, as the first research and training center of the United Nations University. Today it is a unique blend of think tank, research institute, and UN agency—providing a range of services from policy advice to governments as well as freely available original research

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Two Articles of Highest Impact, August 2026

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Learning Life Lessons: Part I;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh016.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Learning Life Lessons; Part II.;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh017.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization) PMNCH Member

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line



From Editor's Desk

WHEC Projects under Development

UN Town Hall: The Next Secretary-General Selection of the United Nations

U N Secretary General commands no armies. He/she writes no laws. The Office of UN Secretary General, depends on diplomacy, persuasion, and the ability to bring together 193 member states to find common ground on the world's most pressing challenges.



The discussion marks an important milestone in the selection and appointment proves of **the next Secretary-General**. The town hall is moderated by journalists and streamed live worldwide.

Photo: Left to Right, top then bottom: MoFA-Chile; Eduardo Mangas; Rafael Mariano Grossi; Rebecca Grynspan; Permanent Mission of Guyana/Shatan-and Anude; Vincent Charpentier.

Process 2025 – 2026

The process of appointing and selecting the next

Secretary-General is based on General Assembly resolutions and will be guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity. On 5 September 2025 the General Assembly adopted <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/327> resolution 79/327 on the Revitalization of the work in the line with

Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations. Resolution 79/327 builds on previous related resolutions, which introduced significant improvements to the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General. Within the process:

- A joint letter of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council initiates the process.
- Candidates are nominated by a member or groups of Member States and provide a vision statement, curriculum vitae and campaign financing disclosures.
- The President of the General Assembly convenes webcast interactive dialogues with all candidates.
- The President of the General Assembly engages closely, in a transparent and inclusive manner, with Member States.

Did you know?

1. Number of United Nations Secretaries-General since its creation in 1945 - **9**.
2. Number of years of the term of office of the UN Secretary-General, with the possibility of renewal – **5**.
3. First Secretary-General to have previously held the position of Head of Government – **1**.



Initiation of the Process

A joint letter of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council addressed to Member States, published on 25 November 2025, formally initiated the selection process. The joint letter, also published as A/80/544-S/2025/765 [Document Viewer](https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/544) <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/544> invites nominations from Member States and outlines the principles of the selection process and notional events.

Nomination of Candidates for the position of Secretary-General

The following nominations have been received, displayed in alphabetical order:

- **Michelle Bachelet Jeria (nominated 2 February 2026)**. Nomination by Chile, Brazil, and Mexico. Her Vision Statement: <https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-02/bachelet-vision-en.pdf>
- **Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces (nominated 11 May 2026)**. Nominated by Antigua and Barbuda on 11 May 2026. Her Vision Statement: <https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-05/espinosa-garces-vision-en.pdf>
- **Virginia Gamba (nominated 11 March 2026; withdrawn 25 March 2026)**.
- **Rafael Mariano Grossi (nominated 26 November 2025)**. Nominated by Argentina on 26 November 2025. His Vision Statement: [grossi-vision-en.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2025-12/grossi-vision-en.pdf) <https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2025-12/grossi-vision-en.pdf>
- **Rebecca Grynspan Mayufis (nominated 3 March 2026)**. Nominated by Costa Rica on 3 March 2026. Her Vision Statement: https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-03/grynspan-vision-en_0.pdf [VISION STATEMENT GRYNSPAN ENG](#)

- **Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett (nominated 15 June 2026)** Nominated by Guyana on 15 June 2026. Her Vision Statement: [carolyn-rodrigues-birkett-vision-en.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-06/carolyn-rodrigues-birkett-vision-en.pdf)
<https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-06/carolyn-rodrigues-birkett-vision-en.pdf>
- **Macky Sall (nominated 2 March 2026)**. Nominated by Burundi on 2 March 2026. His vision Statement: [macky-sall-vision-fr.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-03/macky-sall-vision-fr.pdf)
<https://www.un.org/sg/sites/default/files/document/2026-03/macky-sall-vision-fr.pdf>

The Next UN Secretary General: Challenges and Opportunities

Peaceful settlement of disputes. Today conflicts are increasing in number of, complexity, length and scope. We see an alarming disregard for international law. Impunity is spreading. Violations are going unanswered and trust is eroding. It is time to step back. Diplomacy may not have succeeded in preventing these conflicts; but still it still holds the power to stop them.

As long as power inequalities hold back half of our societies, peace will remain elusive. And it entails the meaningful participation of youth in conflict prevention and dispute-resolution. Mechanisms, and a strong civil society to help build trust and solidarity.

Former Secretaries-General [Former Secretaries-General](#) | [Secretary-General](#)

Essential UN and Role of Secretary General:

At the end of 2026, Secretary-General Honorable António Guterres will end his second term – passing the baton to a successor. That person, which will be one of this person, listed above. That person will inherit an institution tasked with finding ways to confront persistent warfare in Ukraine, in the Middle East, to address widening economic gaps for developing nations, to reckon with the blistering and disruptive advance of artificial intelligence (AI), and to navigate the intensifying and divisive competition for global influence amongst the world's major powers.

Yet, the UN's mission extends beyond responding to crises.

Every day it works to promote peace and security, advance sustainable development, defend human rights and deliver humanitarian assistance to millions of people around the world.

The next Secretary general will take office at a moment when global challenges are becoming inter-connected, even as international cooperation and financing is becoming more difficult. The United Nations is the only place on Earth where all the world's nations can come together to discuss common problems and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

Ten Ways the UN Makes a difference:

1. **Assists and protects** 136 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution.
2. **Provides** food and assistance in over 120 countries.
3. **Supplies** vaccines for 45% of the world's children, helps save 4 million lives a year.
4. **Works** with 193 nations to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C.
5. **Keeps** peace with 52,000 peacekeepers in 11 operations around the world.
6. **Tackles** the global water crisis affecting over 4 billion people around the worldwide.
7. **Protects** and promotes human rights globally and through 80 treaties/declaration.
8. **Coordinates** US \$ 23 billion appeal prioritizing humanitarian needs of 87 million people.
9. **Uses diplomacy** to prevent conflict assists some 50 countries a year with their elections.
10. **Protects** over 42 million people with life-saving sexual and reproductive services.

Building Our Future Together!!!!

Join our efforts!

Act Now For The Peaceful World



Peace is not just made at conference tables, but in classrooms, neighborhoods, and everywhere people meet with open minds and open hearts. Together, day by day, we can build a more just world, with compassion, equality and dignity for all.

2026 Theme: Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

21st September, the world marks the International Day of Peace. Today, amidst staggering volatility, the search for peace feels overwhelming – but it has never been more urgent. Peace is more than the absence of war; it is the foundation necessary to collectively tackle humanity's challenges. It is the lived experience of safety, dignity, opportunities and cooperation in our daily lives.

Under the theme **Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day**, This year's international Day of Peace honors the everyday architects of peace – people driving local action, laying the groundwork for stability, and building a lasting peace from the ground up.

Remember, peace is NOT just built in conference rooms – it is shaped by everyone, everywhere, every day. Everyone, everywhere, can do their part for peace. **Take one small step for peace every day:**

1. Give your time to help someone else.
2. Lend your voice to drive positive change.
3. Host a Peace Circle – an intergeneration youth led conversation on solutions.
4. Use your platform to promote a cause or tell a story of peace and hope.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.



Why peacebuilding matters

Nearly 20 years ago, at the 2005 World Summit, UN Member States established the Peacebuilding Commission to help countries recover and rebuild after conflict. To support this effort, the United Nations also created the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund, backed by voluntary contributions from Member States. Then Secretary-General Kofi Annan called this a turning point in efforts to guide nations from war to peace and to close gaps in the UN's peacebuilding work.. Since then, the Peacebuilding Fund has supported projects in over 70 countries, focusing on conflict resolution, justice, reconciliation, human rights, and gender equality.

Peacebuilding is also about prevention, addressing the root causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

If you look around the world right now, there is record number of conflicts. It is at a decades-long high. We have a record number of fatalities because of conflict. All of this has caused unimaginable suffering for so many people around the world. The human cost of conflict is devastating, and the economic toll is staggering. According to the independent Global Peace Index, wars cost the world nearly US \$ 20 trillion in 2023. That is over 13% of Global GDP, or an estimated \$2,380 per person.

To put this in perspective, the cost of violence per person exceeds the average annual income per capita in Africa. **These are unacceptable numbers.**

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

**The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.**

- **Robert Frost** (26 March 1874 – 29 January 1963) American Poet and Playwright. Appointed United States Poet Laureate in 1958, he also received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 and in 1961 was named poet laureate of Vermont.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

