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Tracking International Funding to Women's Economic Empowerment in **Kenya**

About us

Publish What You Fund is the global campaign for aid and development transparency. We envisage a world where aid and development information is transparent, available, and used for effective decision-making, public accountability, and lasting change for all citizens.

About this project

In October 2020, Publish What You Fund embarked on a multi-year project to improve the transparency of funding for women's economic empowerment (WEE), women's financial inclusion (WFI), women's empowerment collectives (WECs), and gender integration (GI).

We are tracking national and international funding to WEE, WFI, and WECs as well as assessing which funders have a GI approach. We have three focus countries for this phase of the work: Bangladesh, Kenya, and Nigeria.

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Navigating the report series

This report is part of the Tracking Funding to Women's Economic Empowerment in Kenya report series. This series includes the following reports:

- Tracking International Funding to Women's Economic Empowerment in Kenya: [Full report](#) and [summary](#)
- Tracking International Funding to Women's Financial Inclusion in Kenya: [Full report](#) and [summary](#)
- Tracking International Funding to Women's Empowerment Collectives in Kenya: [Full report](#) and [summary](#)
- Assessing National Funding for Women's Economic Empowerment in Kenya: [Full report](#)

Findings for Bangladesh and Nigeria are also available. To access our latest findings, please visit our [project page](#).

About this report

This report focuses on international funding to WEE in Kenya. The intended audience for this report is the international funder community, policymakers and advocates working to advance WEE and gender equality in Kenya.

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Please note that participation in our project advisory committee does not necessarily equate to an endorsement of our findings or outputs.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	The African Development Bank
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
BMZ	Germany Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
CGAP	Consultative Group to Assist the Poor
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
Denmark MFA	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
DFI	Development finance institution
ECCE	Early childhood care and education
FCDO	UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (formerly DFID)
FEMNET	The African Women's Development and Communication Network
FGM	Female genital mutilation
Finland MFA	Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GADN	Gender and Development Network
GBV	Gender-based violence
GI	Gender integration
GoK	Government of Kenya
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
KII	Key informant interview
MSMEs	Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises
MTPs	Medium-term plans
NCDs	Noncommunicable diseases
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
PWYF	Publish What You Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UCW	Unpaid care work
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WECs	Women's empowerment collectives
WEE	Women's economic empowerment
WFI	Women's financial inclusion

Executive summary

Kenya has made notable progress towards gender equality. Despite COVID-19 causing significant job losses in various sectors,¹ the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that the Kenyan female labour participation rate was still 71% in 2021, higher than the global average of 46%.² Yet, key challenges for WEE persist. The quality of women's employment in Kenya remains poor, as they continue to dominate in low paid, mostly informal, insecure, and unsafe jobs.³ On top of this, a household survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics suggests that the pandemic is increasing women's unpaid care work (UCW) responsibilities, which is larger for women than for men.⁴ Zooming out, in the 2021 Global Gender Gap Index, Kenya is ranked 95th out of 156 countries globally and 16th out of 35 regional countries when it comes to closing the gender gap.⁵

Women's economic empowerment (WEE) is central to realising women's rights and gender equality and reducing poverty generally. It is both a process and an outcome of enhancing women's skills, agency, access to and control over resources, and bargaining power. As evidenced by a growing body of literature, investments in these areas are critical for women to contribute to and benefit from economic activity and to have the necessary resources to support their livelihoods.

Although governments and international funders increasingly recognise the importance of funding and advancing WEE, there is a limited understanding of who funds it, how, and with what results. Without this information, it remains difficult for policymakers, funders, and gender advocates to make decisions and/or advocate for the best funding allocations and approaches.

Building evidence

The objective of our research is to provide greater insight into the international funding landscape for WEE in Kenya between 2015–2019 and to pilot a replicable country-based approach to tracking WEE that can be used in other country contexts. We also use this exercise to understand the state of transparency among funders supporting WEE. We provide recommendations for how funders can better report and publish information that allows us to track funding and monitor progress against WEE objectives more sustainably.

Our report offers insights into international funding trends for WEE, including top funders, the types of projects being funded, and the groups of women the funding is intended to support. The report also includes a focused analysis on funding to recognise, reduce, and redistribute women and girls' UCW within WEE funding.

Our methodology for tracking funding to WEE is predicated on a holistic and rights-based approach to WEE. Our approach to WEE, along with our methodology for tracking funding, is detailed in our WEE Methodology. The remainder of the report offers granular insights into funding to WEE in Kenya to illustrate the numerous and intersecting dimensions of WEE.

We hope our findings will be useful for funders, policy makers, and advocates to encourage more effective and coordinated funding for WEE.

Key findings for Kenya include:

Trends: Although overall international funding to Kenya has increased significantly between 2015–2019, the international grant funding to WEE remained largely unchanged over that time period. Although we gleaned insights from non-grant funding to WEE (loans, guarantees, and equity), there was an insufficient number of projects to make trend observations. The low funding levels for grants and non-grant funding were clearly visible for projects where WEE was the primary objective.

Tracking WEE funding: An objective of our research was to produce new, granular insights into which aspects of WEE received funding. We tracked grant and non-grant funding to a broad range of projects that directly supported income earning, as well as projects which both support greater economic rights for women and girls and create an enabling environment for WEE. These dimensions of WEE are outlined in our three-tier framework which includes: 1) employment, entrepreneurship & productive resources access 2) rights, policies & supports 3) foundational capabilities (see [Figure 1](#)).

International grant and non-grant funding to projects that directly target WEE through rights, policies & supports received the least funding compared to projects that target women's employment and economic opportunities or create an enabling environment for WEE. Proportionally total international funding for WEE in Kenya between 2015–2019 was divided between the three categories as:

- 14% of grant and 26% of non-grant funding targeted rights, policies & support
- 21% of grant and 35% of non-grant funding targeted employment, entrepreneurship & productive resources access
- 65% of grant and 39% of non-grant funding supported foundational capabilities

Grant funding marked as targeting WEE remains very low for several sectors that are key for WEE in Kenya. There was limited non-grant funding targeting WEE and of this very little went to projects where WEE is the primary objective and/or projects that have a sole focus on women and girls.

1) Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access includes activities most directly related to income earning. This includes access to productive and income generating resources, such as banking and financial services.

Sectors within this category are vital to WEE. The agriculture sector employs the most women in Kenya, with women representing 59% of the sector's labour force in 2019.⁶ Tourism has the third highest share of total wage employment for women and the sector is projected to be more critical in employing women when compared to men.⁷ Despite this, funding for projects where WEE is the primary objective and/or projects that have a sole focus on women and girls was low:

- Funding for projects in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors where WEE was the primary objective (1% grants) and/or projects that have a sole focus on women and girls (0.1% grants) was low compared to total funding for these sectors.
- Tourism has received the lowest funding among the productive sectors, and only 0.8% of grant funding included WEE as the primary objective.
- Business services is an important sector for supporting women entrepreneurs as well as women in employment. Yet, grant funding where WEE was the primary objective represented only 1% of total funding for business services in Kenya, and funding where projects had a sole focus on women and girls represented 0.1% of total funding to this sector. No WEE targeted non-grant funding was identified for business services.

2) Rights, policies & supports includes activities which support greater economic rights for women and girls. These include funding to women's rights organisations to support WEE as well as projects that create an enabling policy environment and infrastructure for the realisation of WEE.

Infrastructure projects, including energy access, rural development, and transport are all important interventions to enable WEE. Rural electrification, clean cooking equipment, and improved transportation systems that are gender-responsive are important for saving women's time commitments which can support productivity and earnings.⁸ Although most of these sectors received funding that targeted WEE as one of multiple objectives, funding for projects where WEE was the primary objective and/or where women and girls were the sole recipients remains limited.

Our analysis suggests that rights-based supports and macroeconomic interventions were the sub-categories that received the least funding among projects targeting rights, policies & supports.

3) Foundational capabilities include activities that support income generating activities by enhancing agency through knowledge acquisition, improved individual and family health, bodily autonomy, and gendered social services and protections. This includes universal rights, education, access to health, and gender-based violence.

Projects supporting foundational capabilities received the most funding in Kenya between 2015–2019; within these, most funding went to health and basic needs. However, even for these areas, funding for projects where WEE is the primary objective and/or projects that have a sole focus on women and girls was low. In addition, social protection (0.3% of total grant funding to foundational capabilities) and gender-based violence (GBV) – important to WEE in Kenya – were two of the lowest funded sectors within foundational capabilities. The limited funding to these two areas is especially concerning given the established importance of social protection benefits in economically empowering women,^{9,10,11,12} and the prevalence of different forms of GBV in Kenya. For instance, data from UNICEF suggests that one in five women and girls in Kenya has been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM).¹³

Unpaid care work and WEE funding: Our analysis determined that only 3% of WEE projects addressed women and girls' UCW. This is less than 0.6% of total international funding to Kenya between 2015–2019. Even fewer projects explicitly included UCW as an objective or outcome.

- Funders are mostly integrating care services and social protection benefits in their WEE programmes in Kenya, which are critical UCW policy areas.
- Our findings suggest two gaps in funding – projects targeting care-supporting workplaces and measurement tools such as time use surveys to reduce UCW.

COVID-19 and WEE funding: Given the time frame and data constraints, we have only limited data available to analyse funding for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2020–2021, only 13% of WEE grants projects also targeted COVID-19. We only identified one WEE non-grant-funded project with a COVID-19 component. For grants funding from 2020–2021 identified as WEE, less than 1% of the funding indirectly (implicitly) targeted reducing unpaid care responsibilities for women with a COVID-19 response.

Transparency recommendations: International funders can improve WEE funding information through publication of consistent, robust, timely, accessible, and comparable data across datasets and development finance institution (DFI) portals.

- Particular attention should be paid to key fields, such as consistent reporting of the OECD gender markers, sectors, implementers, and targeted groups, as well as publishing clear project titles and detailed project descriptions. All information should be harmonised across data platforms to ensure consistent information.
- Publish all evaluations in a timely way to ensure maximum learning. This includes projects with multiple objectives, which is especially relevant when WEE is a sub-component of larger programming.
- Publish data in accessible formats to allow all stakeholders better access.

Providing this information in a consistent and complete way will enhance the ability to understand where and how funding is being delivered at the country level, which in turn can inform more strategic decision-making. Our global transparency report (forthcoming 2022) will further unpack data challenges and include additional recommendations.

1. Introduction

1.1 Objective

The objective of our research is to provide greater insight into the international funding^a landscape for women's economic empowerment (WEE) in Kenya between 2015–2019^b and to pilot a replicable country-based approach to tracking WEE that can be used in other country contexts.

Using Kenya as a case study example, our report offers insights into international funding trends for WEE, including top funders, the types of projects being funded, and the groups of women the funding is intended to support. The report closes with specific recommendations on how funders can improve the transparency of funding information towards WEE through improved reporting and publication.

We hope our findings will be useful for funders, policy makers, and advocates to encourage more effective and coordinated funding for WEE.

1.2 Defining women's economic empowerment

Kenya has made notable progress towards gender equality. Despite COVID-19 causing significant job losses in various sectors,¹⁴ women continue to make up a majority of the Kenyan labour force: 71% in 2021, only a 1% decrease from its peak in 2019.¹⁵ Yet, key challenges for WEE persist. The quality of women's employment in Kenya remains poor, as they continue to dominate in low paid, mostly informal, insecure, and unsafe jobs.¹⁶ On top of this, a household survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics suggests that the pandemic is increasing women's UCW responsibilities, which is larger for women than for men.¹⁷ Zooming out, in the 2021 Global Gender Gap Index, Kenya is ranked 95th out of 156 countries globally and 16th out of 35 regional countries when it comes to closing the gender gap.¹⁸ Additionally, despite some improvements since 2015, Kenya's performance on the 2022 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Gender Index is still rated 'poor'.¹⁹

WEE is central to realising women's rights and gender equality. It is both a process and outcome of enhancing women's skills, agency, access to and control over resources, and bargaining power.²⁰ These are critical for women to contribute to and benefit from economic activity and to have the necessary resources to support their livelihoods. When women are economically empowered, they can benefit from equal access to and opportunities within markets.²¹

Structural factors within and outside of the labour market pose barriers to WEE. In Kenya, gendered social norms mean that many women do not have equal decision-making power within households which inherently impacts economic participation. Indigenous women or internally displaced women in Kenya face even greater challenges in obtaining economic empowerment and are more likely to face obstacles when accessing resources.²²

^a We examined funding from bilateral, multilateral, DFI, and philanthropic funders.

^b Data from our four main data sources covers the period 2015–2019 which reflects the most up-to-date and completed publicly available reporting information by international funders.

Recognising these barriers, we have adopted a holistic and rights-based approach to understanding WEE.^c This recognises:

- the impact of discriminatory laws and gender norms
- the disparities in the distribution of UCW within the household and communities
- the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that women face, such as by race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and migration status
- the need to create an enabling environment for WEE from the household to the institutional level, including ensuring equitable social provisioning of resources outside of labour market activity, such as equitable access to healthcare, education, social welfare, and cash transfer programmes.

This understanding of WEE informs the scope, methodology, and findings laid out in this report. Our intention is to map and present international funding to WEE in a way that illustrates these numerous and intersecting dimensions.

^c We recognise that there are various definitions of WEE.

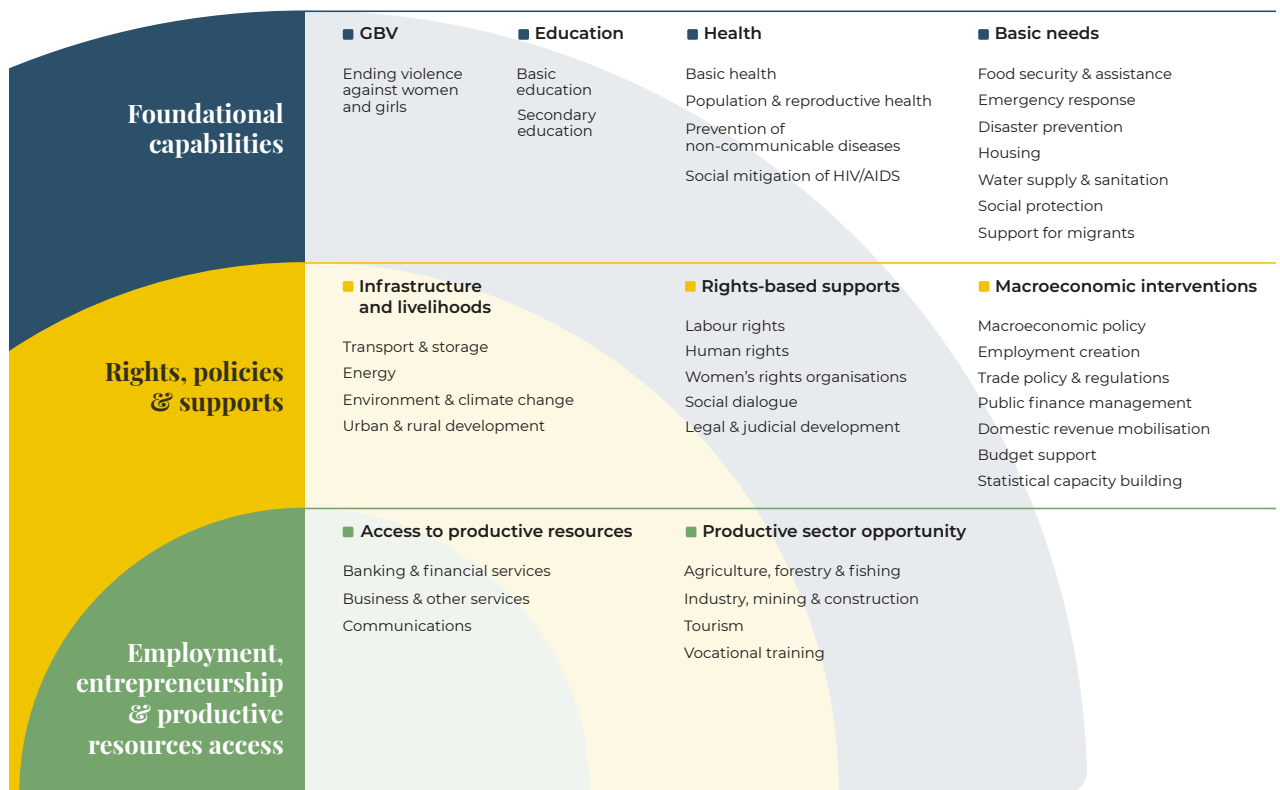
2. Methodology

2.1 What did we track?

The framework below details the scope of what was included in our efforts to map international funding to WEE in Kenya. The framework was informed by existing research carried out by the Center for Global Development and Data 2X's 'Women's Economic Empowerment Measurement Learning Collaborative'²³ and the United Nations (UN) Foundation's and ExxonMobil Foundation's 'Roadmap for promoting Women's Economic Empowerment'.²⁴ It was subject to extensive consultation with external researchers and other stakeholders working to advance WEE.

Our holistic definition recognises that there are numerous and intersecting dimensions to achieving WEE. This ranges from aspects most centrally related to earning incomes to those within the broader landscape which create an enabling environment to realise WEE. Our framework was established to communicate these different dimensions, and to understand how international funding supports WEE, either directly or through developing an enabling environment.

Women's Economic Empowerment Framework



For a complete overview of sectors and purpose codes included in the framework, please see our full methodology.

Figure 1: Women's economic empowerment framework

Our framework outlines three main categories. The first are areas providing direct interventions to earn incomes and the remaining two are those that provide a supportive and enabling environment for WEE. Our three categories are: 1) Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access, 2) Rights, policies & supports and 3) Foundational capabilities. Figure 1 outlines our framework. It shows these three main categories as three concentric but interdependent circles, all of which contribute to the realisation of WEE.

For a more nuanced breakdown, we further split our three main categories into sub-categories. Within each sub-category we have grouped sectors that we believe are key for achieving WEE. These sectors are based upon the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS) purpose and sector codes (see [Box 2](#)). In considering the scope of our WEE framework we utilised the detailed DAC sector and purpose code architecture to identify sectors that might contain relevant funding projects to achieving WEE. These codes provide insights into how funders are reporting on a sector level which reflect targeted policy areas. For some sectors, not all aspects of the definition and projects funded are relevant for WEE, so we manually reviewed the projects as described in the methodology below.

WEE Framework in detail

Inner circle (green). Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access includes activities most directly related to income earning. This is divided into:

- **Access to productive resources.** This includes access to productive and income generating resources, such as banking and financial services.^{25,26}
- **Productive sector opportunity.** This includes aspects related to formal and informal employment in sectors seen as important for WEE such as agriculture, industry, and tourism, including supporting entrepreneurship and acquisition of skills through vocational training.²⁷

Taken together, these two areas are critical for improving women's productive and financial earnings.

Middle circle (yellow). Rights, policies & supports includes projects which support greater economic rights for women and girls. More specifically, these are projects that channel resources to women's rights organisations to support WEE and create an enabling policy environment and infrastructure for the realisation of WEE. This middle circle is divided into three subcategories:

- **Infrastructure and livelihoods.** This includes the creation of gender-responsive infrastructure and support for livelihood resources, including transport systems, energy infrastructure, inclusive rural and urban development projects, as well as addressing the impacts of climate change on land, crops, and the availability of water. Investment into quality and gender-responsive infrastructure systems are integral economic aspects to creating conditions which support WEE, such as reducing women's UCW, providing transport to reach workplaces, electricity to be able to conduct entrepreneurial activities, and mitigating the gendered impacts of environmental change on crops and livestock used for subsistence or sale.^{28,29,30}
- **Rights-based supports.** These are interventions which support the right to lead an equal life in public and economic life, such as labour rights, social dialogue, economic rights, legal rights to inherit property or work certain jobs, and democratic participation. These rights are important for addressing social and cultural barriers which prevent women from participating in the economic sphere on an equal basis as their male counterparts.^{31,32,33,34,35} Labour rights in particular are important to ensure that women who participate in labour markets can engage in empowering work.
- **Macroeconomic interventions.** These are interventions which create macro level change in policies from the local, national, and global level, such as trade policy, public finance management, employment creation, and macroeconomic policy. Macroeconomic interventions are important for creating structural change and a macroeconomic enabling environment for women.^{36,37} This can involve gender budgeting, gender-disaggregated data collection, gender-responsive fiscal policies, employment creation, and better public integrity systems which all enable women's equal participation in labour markets and more inclusive economies.^{38,39}

Outer circle (blue). Foundational capabilities includes activities that support income generating activities by enhancing agency through knowledge acquisition, improved individual and family health, bodily autonomy, and gendered social services and protections. These are important gender equality goals unto themselves, and support women's and girls' capability to participate in economic activities. This circle includes four sub-categories:

- **Education.** This includes access to both basic and secondary education.
- **Health.** This includes health interventions, including sexual and reproductive health.⁴⁰ Both education and health are fundamentally important to be able to partake fully in the labour market.^{41,42,43}
- **Gender-based violence (GBV).** Interventions which eliminate GBV allow women to live free from violence, harassment and fear thus creating opportunities and freedom for women and enabling economic participation.^{44,45}
- **Basic needs.** Interventions which address basic needs include those that address social assistance, poverty, housing, food assistance, and disaster prevention and reduction. All these efforts are important for negating unequal impacts and for the survival of women and girls. They form a necessary foundation to participate in economic life.^{46,47}

We see each of these categories as fundamental to a holistic approach to WEE. Each category contributes to WEE albeit in their own way. As a result, we present our findings disaggregated by these categories.

2.2 How did we track funding to WEE?

Literature reviews, surveys, and interviews: We applied a mixed methods approach to track international funding for WEE in Kenya. We used a literature review and, using an open and closed question format, we undertook 23 key informant interviews (KIIs) and reviewed survey responses from 56 organisations.

Data sources for tracking funding to WEE: We carried out desk research using two publicly available data sources: International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and the CRS. We also used two data sources that are not publicly available: Candid and Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (GCAP) funder survey data. We examined data from 2015–2019.^d These four data sources contain financial and programmatic information on projects from bilateral, multilateral, DFI, and philanthropic funders.

We split our findings by grant funding^e and non-grant funding.^f These two types of international funding are fundamentally different which means that we cannot compare or combine them. As such, when talking about international funding to Kenya we analysed these two funding flows separately ([Box 1](#)).

^d Data from our four main data sources covers the period 2015–2019 which reflects the most up to date and completed publicly available reporting information by international funders. At the time of our analysis, this was the most up to date publicly available information.

^e Grant funding refers to funders' reported disbursements for standard grants (9440 number of distinct projects), cash grants (631), grants to individuals (8), reimbursable grants (1), and unspecified grants (3).

^f In this report non-grant financial flows refers to funders' reported commitments for standard loans (456 number of distinct projects), aid loans excluding debt re-organisation (36), investment related loans (34), common equity (20), loan to private investor (8), share in collective investment vehicles (5), debt rescheduling (2), guarantees and insurance (13), acquisition of equity in developing countries-not part of joint ventures (8), and equity or debt unspecified (8).

Box 1: Grant and non-grant funding

Key differences:

- Grants include standard official development assistance (ODA) grants and cash grants. Non-grants include various types of loans, equity, and guarantees.^g
- The face value of grants and non-grants are not comparable. For example, grants are provided without any expectation of repayment. With loans, however, there is an expectation of repayment even if the terms may be below market rate.
- For grants, both commitments and disbursements are often available. For non-grant financial flows, commitments are often the only published data.
- Grants are more likely to be provided by bilateral aid agencies, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and foundations. Non-grants are more typically provided by multilateral development banks and DFIs.
- Grants and non-grants tend to support different types of projects. For example, grants may support humanitarian relief or other short-term development objectives, whereas non-grant projects may focus on developing or strengthening national infrastructure such as roadways, energy, or educational systems.

Desk research and review: Our approach to identifying WEE projects^h consisted of a systematic step by step process which was applied to the data collected from our four data sources.

- 1. Gender marker:** Funders can mark their projects using the OECD-DAC gender marker in both CRS and IATI data. We searched our database for projects marked with the OECD-DAC gender marker ([Box 2](#)) to identify projects that were potentially addressing WEE. Projects that explicitly did not intend to support women's empowerment through an OECD-DAC gender marker score of 0 were excluded from our review. This gave us an initial baseline of projects which had a clear gender intention.
- 2. Gender search terms:** Not all data has an OECD-DAC gender marker. For this data, we used a set of predetermined gender inclusive search termsⁱ to identify projects. This enabled us to capture a greater number of potential WEE projects in our baseline.
- 3. Sectoral and purpose codes:** We filtered baseline projects with a clear gender intent using the OECD sector and purpose codes as identified by our framework outlined above (Figure 1). We used the sector and purpose codes included in the OECD's analysis of WEE funding and then supplemented with additional codes to provide for a holistic funding landscape that also included enabling environment factors.
- 4. Manual review for WEE focus:** We reviewed the titles and descriptions of resulting projects using a set of guiding questions^j to determine whether the project had a WEE focus. We undertook a manual review because, as previously mentioned, for some sector/purpose codes, only some aspects of the definitions and projects were relevant for WEE (such as human rights, democratic participation and civil society, energy, transport, urban development). This ensured that the projects included were relevant to WEE.
- 5. Categorised into WEE framework:** Once the projects were determined to target WEE, they were sorted into the three main categories of the WEE framework using the sector and purpose code reported by funders. We further sorted these into subcategories within the three main categories to better inform our analysis.

^g For more information on the exact finance types included for grants and non-grants, please refer to Annex 4 of our data collection methodology: <https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/download/wee-data-collection-methodology/>.

^h When referring to the number of 'projects', this report refers to unique ('distinct') project titles. Our team has checked for slight variations of project titles by the same funders across platforms, such as different US/UK spelling or use of blank spaces but has accepted larger variations to be considered as separate projects, for instance when a funder adds 'phase 1' or 'phase 2' to a project title.

ⁱ To view all gender inclusive search terms, please refer to the 'Gender terms' tab in our search terms Excel sheet: <https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/download/wee-search-terms/>.

^j To view the set of guiding questions/indicators please refer to Annex A1.2 in our WEE methodology document: <https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/download/wee-methodology/>.

By necessity, we accepted funder designations in their reported data. For example, we accepted at face value the designation of sector codes and the OECD-DAC gender marker. We are aware that funders may interpret and apply codes and scores differently, or even revisit coding in the later years of a project.

To produce a replicable approach to tracking funding at a country level our approach relied on project titles and descriptions for key word searches where there was not an OECD gender marker in the data. A lack of detail or explicit mention of WEE related objectives in these fields can result in projects not being captured in our search.

Gender intentionality: we conducted a further analysis to better understand how funders integrated gender intentionality into their projects.

We used the OECD-DAC gender marker (see [Box 2](#)) to help us understand gender intentionality among funders who applied the marker in our dataset.

Box 2: The OECD-DAC approach to monitor policy intentions

The OECD-DAC CRS is the standard for ODA reporting globally. Funders are encouraged to use codes and markers at the design stage of programmes and projects to indicate their intended support to various sectors and policy areas.

Sector and purpose codes: These codes can be used to map funding to different sector and thematic areas, for example, health, education, agriculture, banking, and financial services.

OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker: The OECD-DAC developed a gender marker to track funders' intended financial support to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Funders can use the marker to indicate to what degree their investments intend to target gender equality with a three-point scoring system:^k

- Not targeted (0) = gender equality is not a goal
- Significant (1) = gender equality is a significant, but not primary, objective
- Principal (2) = gender equality is the primary and explicit objective

The OECD notes in their [2022 guidance](#) that a principal score is not by definition better than a significant score. Instead, they argue that development partners should apply a twin-track approach to combine dedicated interventions (usually score 2) with integrated aid or gender mainstreaming (usually score 1). [The OECD-DAC handbook](#) offers funders a comprehensive overview of the minimum criteria projects must meet to qualify for a score with clear project examples.

The latest guidance also underscores that the OECD gender marker scores indicate funders' intentions and inputs, not their gender equality impact and outputs. To create transformative change in gender equality, they recommend funders monitor and evaluate their gender equality results, for instance by investing in and using *ex post* or impact evaluations and meta-evaluations.

The OECD approach to tracking aid to WEE: The OECD tracks aid with gender marker 1 or 2 scores in economic and productive sectors as a proxy measure for aid to WEE.^l Its analyses provide useful insights into global WEE aid trends over time.⁴⁸

^k Please review the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker Handbook: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Handbook-OECD-DAC-Gender-Equality-Policy-Marker.pdf>.

^l Economic and productive sectors are grouped into 11 categories and defined by the OECD as: agriculture and rural development; industry; mining, construction and tourism; transport; energy; communication; banking and financial services; trade; public finance management; employment policy; urban development, detailed in this 2016 report: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Tracking-the-money-for-womens-economic-empowerment.pdf>.

Of the WEE projects we identified in Kenya, 58% of grant funded projects and 14% non-grant funding was marked using the OECD-DAC gender marker 1 or 2. Of that:

- For WEE grant funding, 16% of funding had an 'OECD principal' gender score and 84% of projects had an 'OECD significant' gender score
- For WEE non-grant funding, 3% of funding had an 'OECD principal' gender score and 97% had an 'OECD significant' gender score

Given the number of projects for which the OECD gender marker was not applied in our dataset, we undertook an additional step to understand gender intentionality in projects where an OECD-DAC gender marker score had not been applied. Our team at Publish What You Fund (PWYF) reviewed the titles and descriptions of these projects to assess whether a project had an exclusive focus on women or a partial focus on women ([Box 3](#)).

Box 3: PWYF exclusive and PWYF partial focus on women

After collecting data from our four different data sources (OECD CRS, IATI, CGAP, Candid), we went through a cleaning process to ensure we only counted funding reported by a funder once. To be able to conduct as granular analysis as possible, we prioritised the most descriptive and comprehensive data for each funder. Often times, this led to us keeping funders' IATI data.

We know from our previous work⁴⁹ that many funders do not yet report on the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker in their IATI data. In addition, funders are unable to report on this marker in their CGAP or Candid data. To be able to give a rough indication of the gender intentionality of this funding not marked against the OECD-DAC gender marker, we conducted a search for key gender-related terms to project titles and descriptions. We then manually reviewed these projects to assign one of two scores:

- 'PWYF exclusive focus on women' = projects mention women and girls as their only target group
- 'PWYF partial focus on women' = projects mention women and girls among other target groups, such as men, boys, and children

It is important to note that assigning the OECD gender marker scores is a thorough process, and the PWYF marker scores are not an attempt to replicate them. Our analysis aims only to provide further insights into the gender intentionality of projects without an OECD gender score.

Of the projects we reviewed in Kenya without an OECD gender marker score:

- For WEE grant funding, 7% of funding had an 'exclusive focus on women' and 93% of projects had a 'partial focus on women'
- For WEE non-grant funding, 0.7% of funding had an 'exclusive focus on women' and 99.3% of project had a 'partial focus on women'

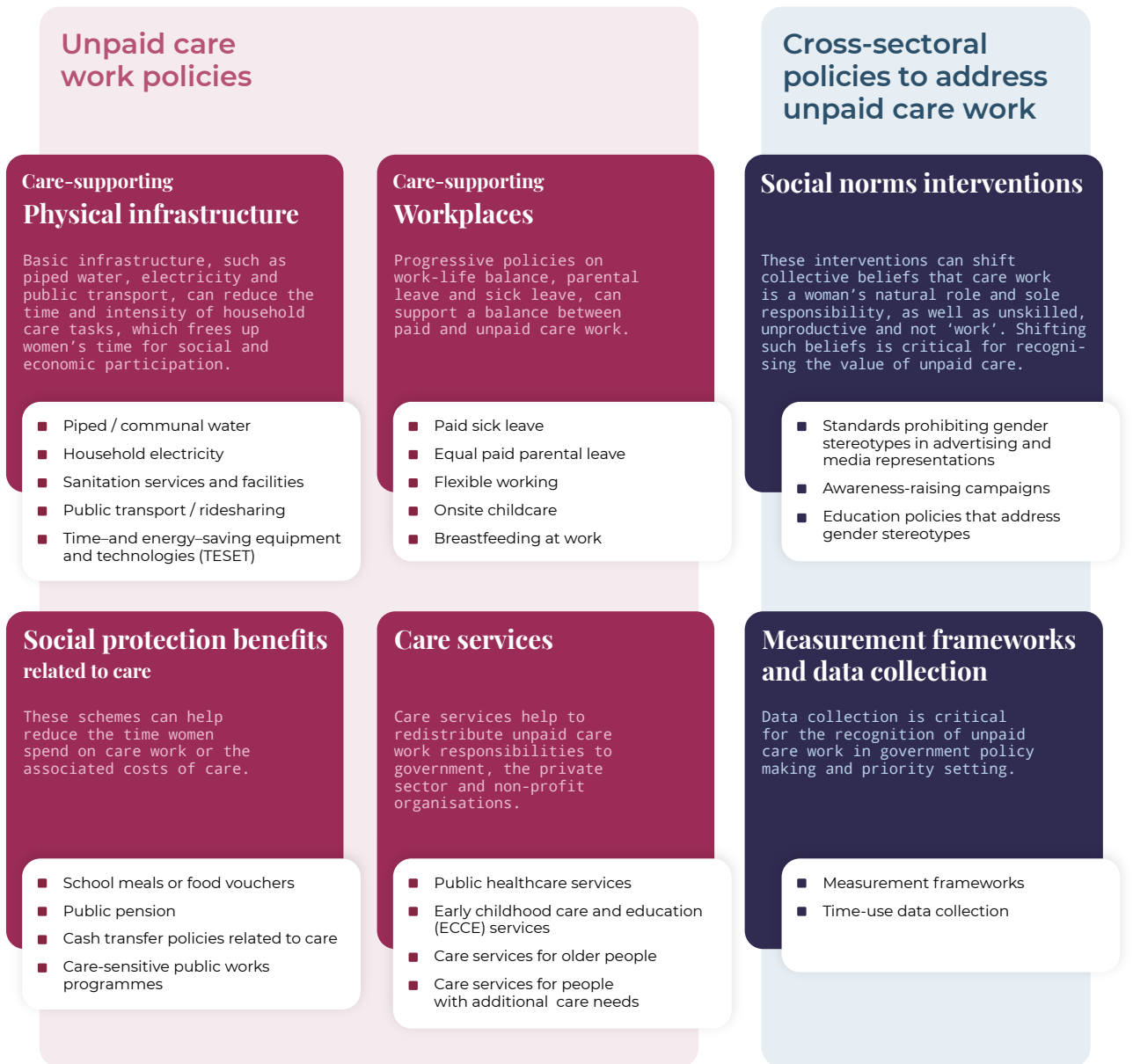
The OECD and PWYF breakdown both refer to funding that targets WEE. We use the four-part distinction between 'OECD principal/significant' and 'PWYF exclusive/partial focus on women' to distinguish gender intentionality within WEE funding throughout our analysis. This four-part disaggregated distinction avoids overestimating the amount of funding going to WEE and provides a more nuanced picture of funding. Especially for projects marked as 'OECD significant' and 'PWYF partial focus on women', aggregating funding amounts would overestimate WEE funding because these projects also address other objectives and target groups. Finally, it isn't possible to isolate just the funding amounts for WEE as that level of budgetary information is rarely provided.

2.3 Focused analysis on women and girls' unpaid care work

The disparities in the distribution of UCW within the household and within labour markets is a structural barrier to WEE given that UCW is typically performed by women and girls.⁵⁰ This is no different for Kenya, where a study by ActionAid reveals that women spent the most time of their day on housework, and they spend 1.4 hours on unpaid care compared to every hour spent by men.⁵¹

We conducted a focused analysis to track international funding to women and girls' UCW responsibilities. We utilised the 'Care Policy Scorecard' developed by a consortium of organisations as a basis for our framework and analysis.⁵² The scorecard uses the ILO 5R framework to outline why the recognition, reduction, redistribution, rewarding and representation⁵³ of UCW is critical for creating an enabling policy environment on care. The scorecard focuses on policy areas that relate to the connected areas of unpaid care, paid care, and cross-sectoral policies to address paid and unpaid care work. We used the scorecard in our research to focus on policy areas that relate to unpaid care and cross-sectoral policies for unpaid and paid care. We recognise that paid care work is also a key component to advancing WEE, but due to time and data limitations, it was not possible to further explore international funding to paid care work. However, we hope these efforts to track unpaid care and cross-sectoral policies provide meaningful analysis, which could inform further discussion on investing in care work. Table 1 provides an outline of the policy areas and indicators adapted from the Care Policy Scorecard and used in our approach.

Unpaid care framework



Adapted from the Care Policy Scorecard

Table 1: Unpaid care framework used for mapping unpaid care within WEE projects in Kenya

Tracking unpaid care: We conducted the unpaid care analysis using the universe of WEE projects we identified through the process outlined above. Our approach to identifying unpaid care projects involved:

1. Identifying WEE projects with an unpaid care component through search terms based upon the above policy indicators.
2. Manually reviewing projects with an UCW search term using the descriptions of the care policy scorecard indicator to mark relevant projects.
3. Distinguishing between projects that explicitly targeted UCW as a project objective or outcome, compared to those where the contribution was indirect or implicit. For example, a project which targeted communities to offer 600 women a caring role and a small remuneration to facilitate parents to allocate their time in paid work was marked as explicitly targeting UCW. Projects facilitating access to safe drinking water within households were marked as implicitly targeting UCW.

2.4 COVID-19 and WEE funding

To understand how WEE and UCW projects in Kenya also addressed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we analysed IATI data for 2020–2021. We identified WEE projects that addressed COVID-19 using a COVID marker^m which funders can attach to their reporting in IATI. This was supplemented with a list of pre-determined COVID search terms to help us capture data where the marker had not been used.ⁿ At the time of this analysis, comprehensive reporting of international funding to COVID-19 was still in its early stages.

2.5 Data considerations

As with any methodology and dataset, there are considerations and issues that affect the analysis of WEE and unpaid care funding that readers should keep in mind. Please note the following (Box 4) to better contextualise our findings:

Box 4: Data considerations

- We rely on international funders^o to publish data that is comprehensive, timely, and comparable. The quality of this data is variable across publishers and our analysis is constrained by these data quality issues. For instance, lack of detailed reporting prevents us from providing a comprehensive analysis of which types of organisations implement projects, which groups of women are being targeted with projects, and project results.
- Poor reporting of results/impact data is a common issue beyond WEC/WEE/WFI project reporting. We use secondary literature to help contextualise the findings given limitations around impact data and do not make assessments on the effectiveness of interventions in this study.
- In merging data, where funders reported to more than one of our four data sources for a particular year, we defaulted to the data with the most project level detail. This preference for detailed information could be a partial explanation of why the OECD-DAC gender marker uptake appears low for some key funders, as the use of the marker is mandatory for OECD-DAC members in the CRS and voluntary in IATI. Inconsistent use of the OECD-DAC gender marker by funders across datasets has been highlighted in our previous report.⁵⁴
- Non-grant financial flows typically have less detailed reporting than grants funding. DFIs, for example, do not routinely publish project level funding, at least to open data sources. There is sometimes more information available on DFIs' own portals but searching is time consuming and affects replicability. A deep dive into this topic^{55,56} echoes our previous work that there is a broader underlying issue with the transparency of DFI funding. This report is a starting point to highlighting what this means for WEE reporting.⁵⁷ Our global transparency report (forthcoming 2022) will provide a more in-depth review of data challenges.
- We conducted our analysis up to 2019 to include the most up to date reporting for all four data sources. At the time of research, IATI had more complete reporting for 2020–2021, which was used to analyse COVID-19 funding.

For more information, please see our full [methodology](#).

^m For detailed methodology on the COVID marker, refer to IATI methodology: <https://iatistandard.org/en/guidance/standard-guidance/covid-19/>.

ⁿ To view all COVID search terms, please refer to the 'COVID terms' tab in our search terms Excel sheet: <https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/download/wee-search-terms/>.

^o In this report, funder means individual reporting agencies as captured in each of our four data sources.

3. National policy and development priorities for WEE in Kenya

3.1 National policy context

When examining the scope of international funding to Kenya it is important to recognise that funders' decisions are guided by various factors, including their own strategies as well as national priorities. This was highlighted through our KII process, where both were cited as factors influencing funding.^p

The government of Kenya (GoK) has established WEE as a national development priority. In addition to the constitutional provisions for gender equality and freedom from discrimination, as well as an elaborate bill of rights coupled with the signing of international treaties, the government:

- Integrated WEE within its national development plans, medium-term plans (MTPs), and other policies that promote the economic development of women. Key policies include the development blueprint Vision 2030,⁵⁸ National Policy on Gender and Development (2019),⁵⁹ the National Land Policy (2009),⁶⁰ the National Policy for Prevention and Response to GBV (2014),⁶¹ and the National Policy for the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (2019).⁶²
- Adopted its first Women Economic Empowerment Strategy for 2020–2025. This standalone strategy builds on the Third MTP and the Big Four Agenda for 2030 and seeks to act as a key reference for integrating WEE. Its institutional framework includes the National Consultative Committee (Gender Sector Working Group) and the National WEE Technical Committee. The technical committee will facilitate the development of legal, policy, strategies, and guidelines to enhance WEE.⁶³
- Reserved 30% of all government procurement for women, youth, and persons with disabilities through the 2013 Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) policy and regulations, and is also currently establishing the AGPO Preference and Reservations Secretariat to offer technical and advisory services to these groups.⁶⁴
- Committed under the social pillar of Vision 2030 to introduce gender mainstreaming into all government policies, plans, and programmes to address the needs and interests of women and girls, to recognise and acknowledge the various ways in which women contribute to the economy and society as a whole, and to strengthen gender divisions in all ministries and government agencies in support.⁶⁵
- Established the Biashara Kenya Fund in 2021 to expand access to financial resources for groups or enterprises established by women, youth, and persons with disability, and generally micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.⁶⁶ This fund replaces the various flagship affirmative action fund initiatives (i.e. the Women Enterprise Fund, the Uwezo Fund, and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund).⁶⁷

Taken together these reflect efforts to mainstream gender, provide equal opportunities to women, and enhance WEE in Kenya.

3.2 National budget expenditure


We also researched and analysed publicly available information to track national funding to WEE. This is outlined in a separate report.⁶⁸

4. International funding to WEE in Kenya

4.1 Trends in international funding for WEE

Grant funding: International grant funding to Kenya increased between 2015–2019. Despite the national importance of WEE, international grant funding to WEE has been limited compared to overall funding.

Our analysis provides the breakdown of international grant funding trends within each of our three categories: (1) Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access, (2) Rights, policies & supports (3) Foundational capabilities, compared to overall international funding trends to Kenya as captured in our review from 2015–2019. (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4).

Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access 

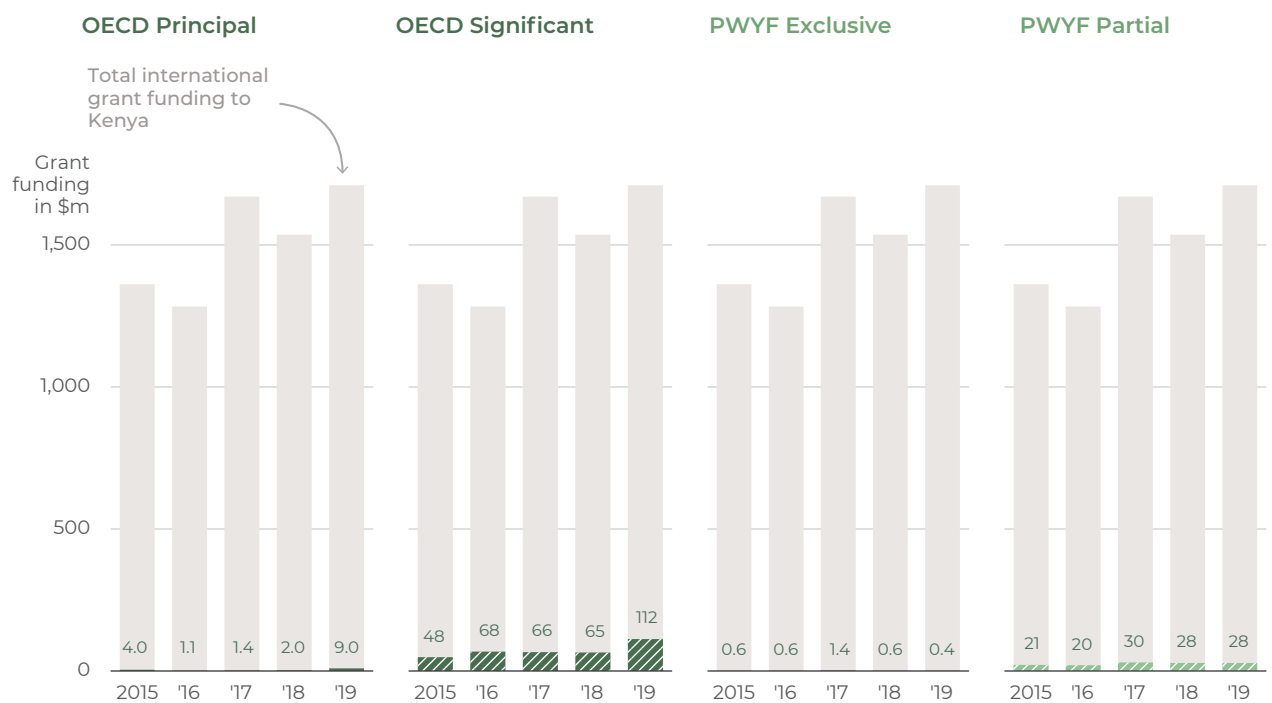


Figure 2: Total reported grants funding to employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access category, broken down by gender intentionality (2015–2019, \$m)

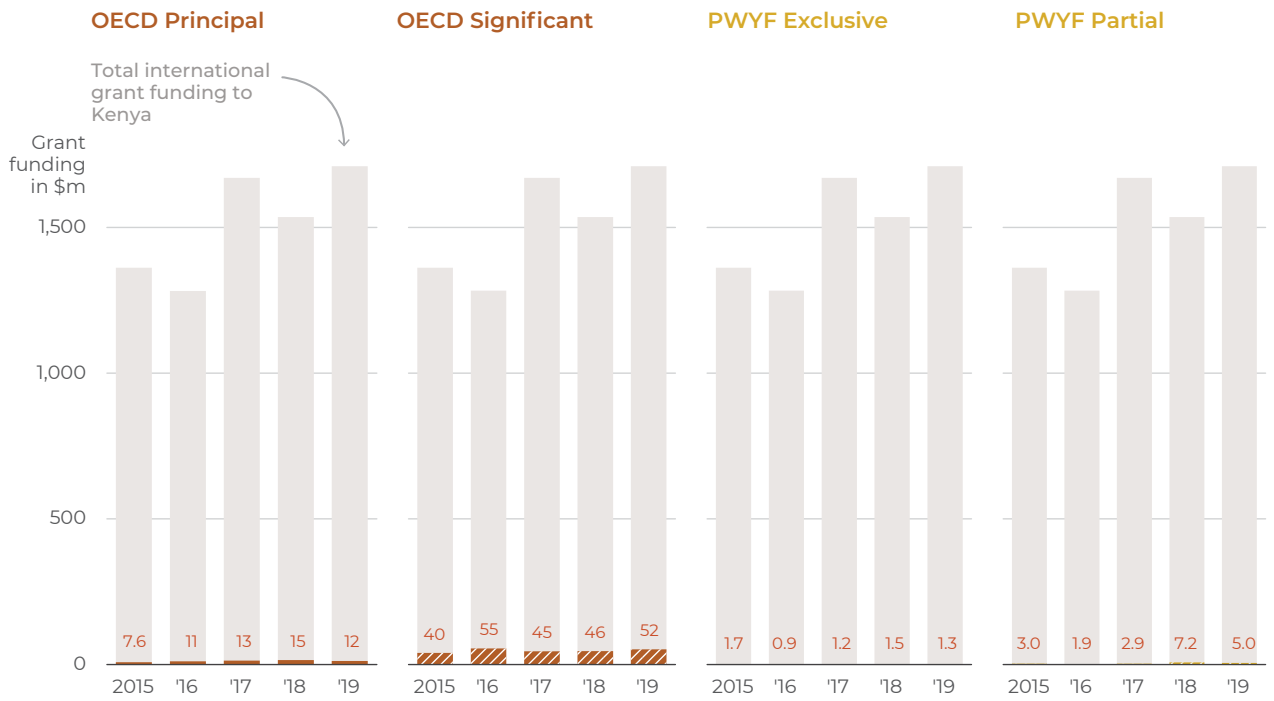


Figure 3: Total reported international grant funding to rights, policies & supports category, broken down by gender intentionality (2015–2019, \$m)

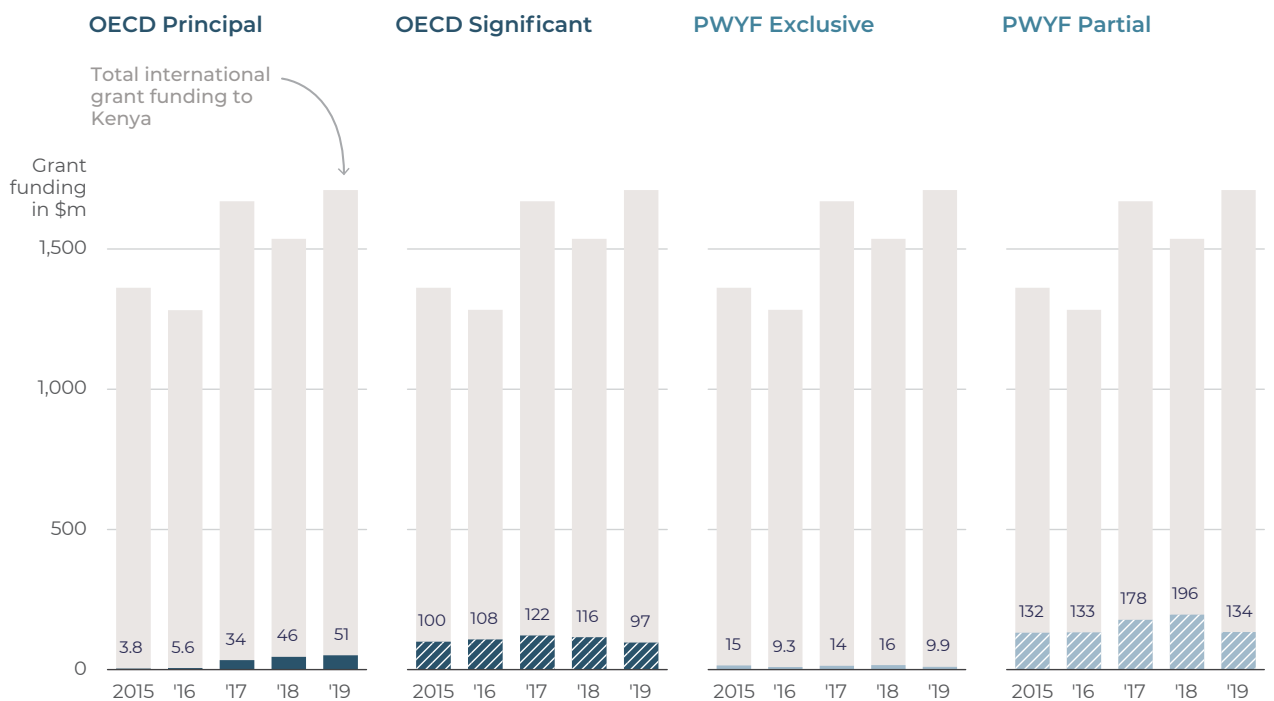


Figure 4: Total reported international grant funding to foundational capabilities category, broken down by gender intentionality (2015–2019, \$m)

Non-grant funding: The international non-grant funding trends were dominated only by a few projects and a few large international funders. There was insufficient non-grant data to draw trend observations. The African Development Bank (AfDB) alone funded 65% of the non-grant funding reported over 2015–2019.

One reason for the lack of identification of non-grant funding in our review may be explained by specific limitations in DFI project-level reporting to open data sources.⁶⁹ This is a well-known challenge when it comes to gathering data on DFI development financing and it prevents a comprehensive mapping of the funding universe for WEE. To understand this further, we conducted a deep dive into non-grant financial flow reporting. The full report and recommendations of this deep-dive research into DFI funding can be viewed separately.⁷⁰

4.2 Which areas of WEE receive funding?

The distribution of funding across the main categories and sub-categories of our WEE framework shows that rights, policies & supports received the smallest percentage of funding for both grants and non-grants.

Rights, policies & supports received the least international WEE grant funding between 2015–2019

Percentage of grant funding for WEE

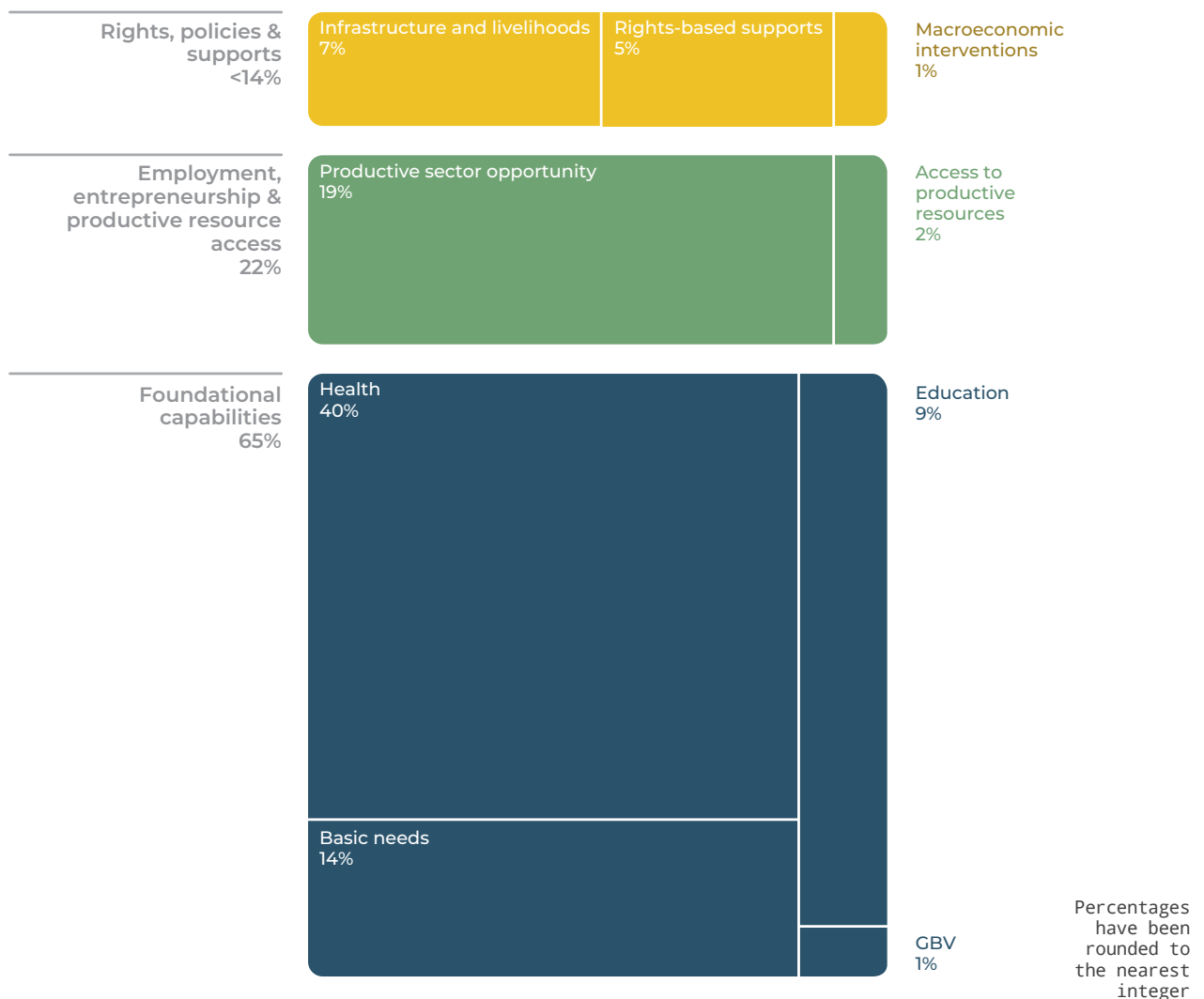


Figure 5: Proportion of international grant funding identified as targeting WEE, broken down by WEE main category (2015–2019, \$m)

Most international non-grant funding for WEE went to foundational capabilities and employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access

Percentage of non-grant funding for WEE

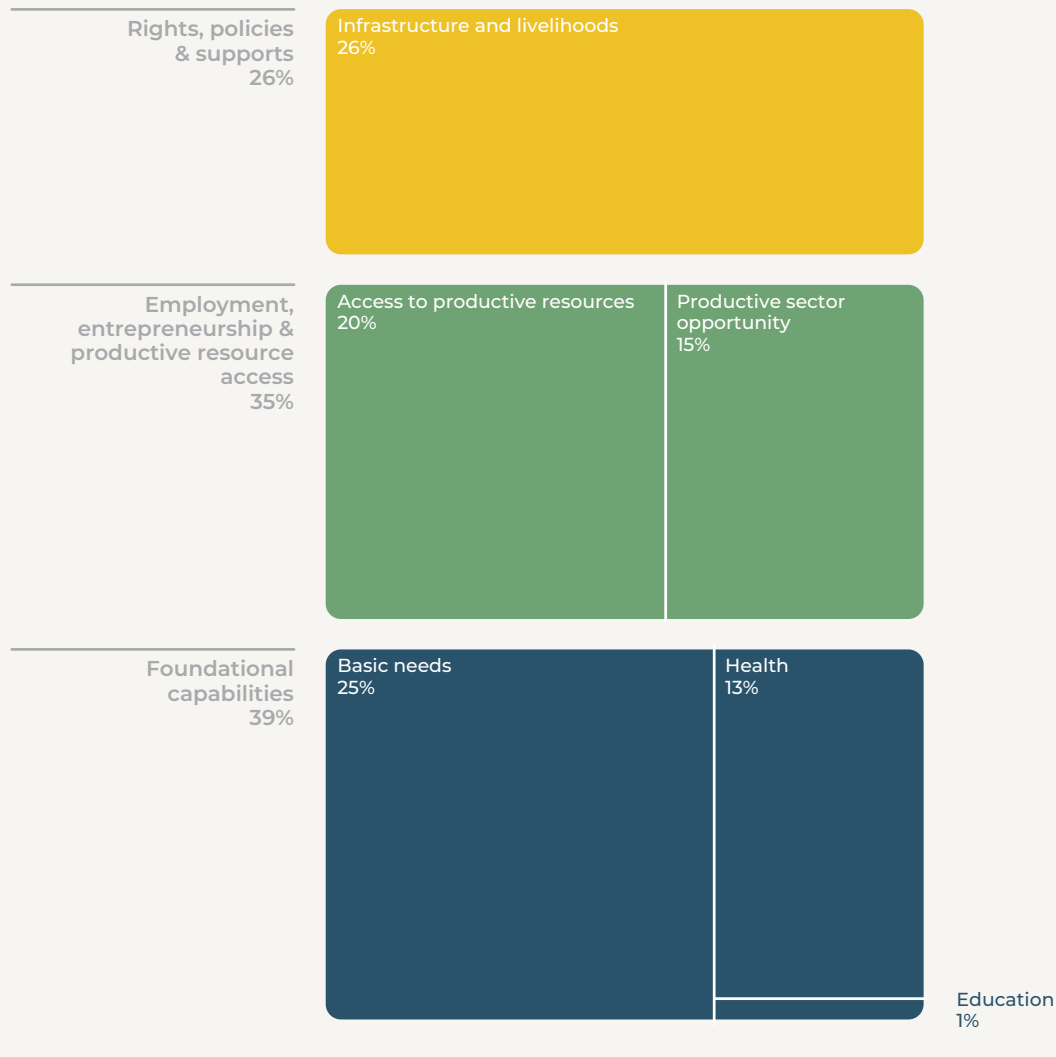


Figure 6: Proportion of international non-grant funding identified as targeting WEE, broken down by WEE main category (2015–2019, \$m)

4.3 A sector breakdown of international funding to WEE

This section provides insight into which sectors funders targeted with their WEE programming in Kenya between 2015–2019. The sector level breakdown is situated within the categories and sub-categories of our WEE framework (Figure 1). Grant funding marked as targeting WEE remains very low for several sectors^q that are key for WEE in Kenya. There was limited non-grant funding targeting WEE across the three main categories and even less that was marked 'OECD principal' or 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'. We examine the implications of this at a sector level, including the need for greater targeting to sectors key to advancing WEE.

Compared to overall funding to each sector, funding targeting WEE often remains a small portion. For a full list of grant and non-grant international funding figures (\$m) captured for each WEE category and sub-category, please refer to the Appendix.^r

^q For visuals 7–12 we follow the format and spelling of OECD sector and purpose codes as presented in the publicly accessible online database. Additionally, whilst our WEE framework uses a mixture of sector and purpose codes, this section refers to sectors.

^r Please note, Figures 7–12 only display the sectors for which there was WEE or other international funding.

4.3.1 Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access

Interventions grouped under employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access mostly relate to income earning. Compared to total funding, WEE targeted funding to sectors relating to entrepreneurship & productive resource access was particularly low with 1% of the grant funding in this category marked 'OECD principal', and 0.3% marked 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'. For non-grants WEE targeted funding was even lower with 0.2% of the non-grant funding to this category marked 'OECD principal', and 0.4% marked 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'.

WEE grant funding marked as OECD Principal or PWYF Exclusive focus on women was low in sectors key for employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access

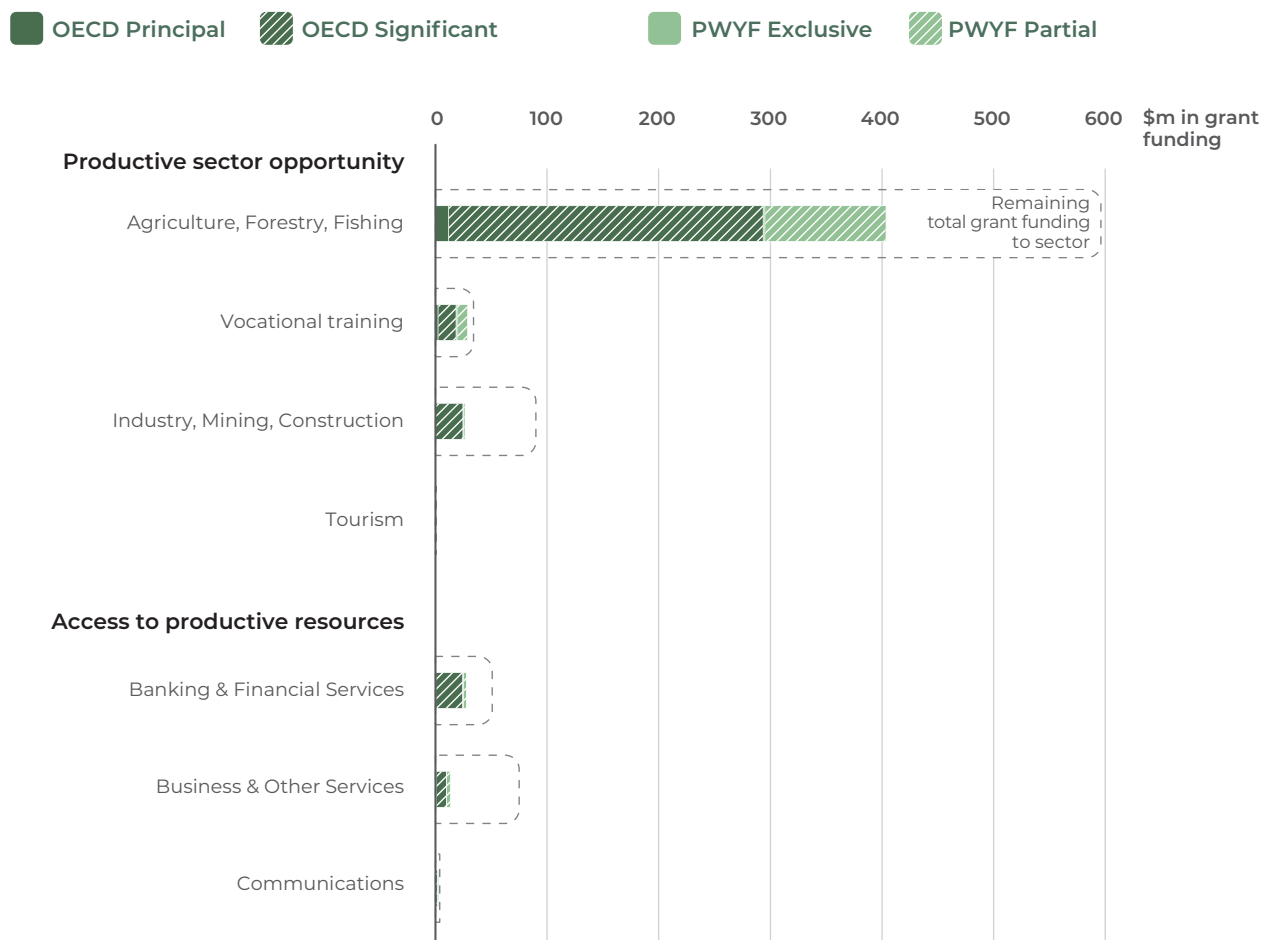
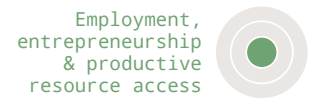


Figure 7: Proportion of international grant funding targeting WEE, broken down by WEE sub-category and sector; employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access (2015–2019, \$m)

Non-grant funding for WEE was low in sectors key for women's income generation

Employment,
entrepreneurship
& productive
resource access

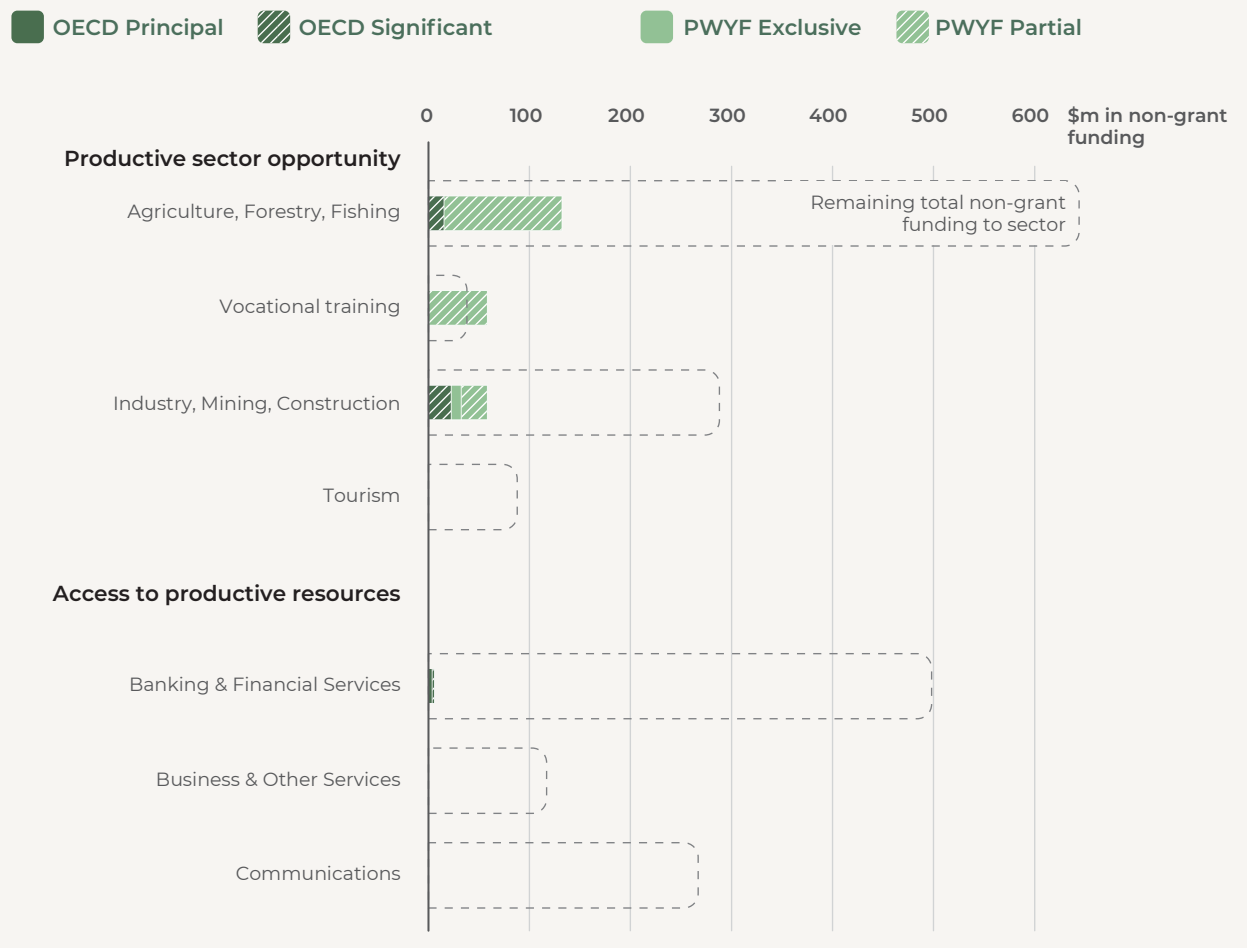


Figure 8: Proportion of international non-grant funding targeting WEE, broken down by WEE sub-category and sector; employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access (2015–2019, \$m)

Productive sector opportunity: The agriculture sector is the largest employer of women in Kenya.⁷¹ According to the World Bank, 59% of those employed in the agriculture sector are women.⁷² Despite this, funding for projects targeting agriculture, forestry, and fishing marked 'OECD principal' (1% grants) and projects marked 'PWYF exclusive focus on women' (0.1% grants) is low compared to total funding for these sectors. Funding marked 'OECD significant' was 28% of the total grant funding. None of the non-grant funding for this sector was marked 'OECD principal' or 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'.

The industry, mining, and construction sectors are among the top sectors employing the Kenyan labour force,⁷³ but only 2% of the workforce are women.⁷⁴ Figures 7–8 show that 0.1% of grant funding targeting industry, mining, construction was marked 'OECD principal'. A further 0.2% of grant and 3% of non-grant funding was marked 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'. One example of a grant funded WEE project marked 'OECD significant' targeted at the industry, mining, and construction sector aimed to establish a factory for the local production of affordable turnkey water storages systems in various sizes for the local market. It included an emphasis on labour circumstances, salaries, ensuring a safe, healthy, and hygienic working environment, and decent salaries. The project was funded by Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

A large proportion of grant funding for vocational training was marked 'OECD significant' or 'PWYF partial focus on women'. However, only 5% of the grant funding was marked with an 'OECD principal marker' and 1.2% was marked 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'. One grant funded project from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), marked 'OECD principal', focused on training poor women in information and communications technology business to reduce the level of inequality in employment opportunities, and to increase engagement of poor women in the sector.

None of the non-grant funding for vocational training was marked 'OECD principal marker' or 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'. Instead, the majority the non-grant funding going to this sector targeted WEE and was identified as partially focusing on women. This was a project funded by AfDB, with the GOK as the recipient, titled 'Kenya - Technical Vocational Education and Training for Relevant Skills Development Project - Phase II'. The objective of the project was to increase access and improve the quality and relevance of technical vocational education and training. The target group for this project was youth including those with disabilities, with a target of 50% of those reached being women.

Vocational training can be an important avenue for women to learn or increase marketable skills, improving opportunities for jobs or self-employment.⁷⁵ In Kenya, the expansion of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions has been a priority for attaining the SDGs and Vision 2030, ensuring no one is left behind.⁷⁶ According to research, Kenyan women that completed vocational training reported positive impacts including increasing agency, life skills, and improved employment mobility.⁷⁷ Despite this, male and female enrolment differs, and barriers exist for women pursuing vocational education. A study of TVET institutions in West Pokot County found that female enrolment, retention, and completion was lower than that of males. Female enrolment was also lower across courses perceived as masculine including science, mathematics, and engineering courses.⁷⁸

There appears to be a gap in WEE targeted funding to the tourism sector in Kenya. According to research by The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, tourism has the third highest share of salaried employment for women and the sector is projected to be more critical in employing women when compared to men.⁷⁹ However, none of the non-grant funding for tourism was identified as targeting WEE during 2015–2019. There was limited total grant funding to this sector overall, with 0.8% of funding marked 'OECD principal'. One grant funded project to support tourism that was marked 'OECD significant' was funded by Fredskorpset – also known as FK Norway – and focused on developing and assisting community-based tourism enterprises.

Access to productive resources: International grant funding targeting WEE marked 'OECD principal' or 'PWYF exclusive focus on women' is low for banking and financial services in Kenya. Of the total grant funding going to this sector, 0.9% is marked 'OECD principal' and 1% of funding is marked 'PWYF exclusive' (Figure 7). One example of a grant funded project marked 'OECD principal' aimed to improve marginalised women's access and engagement with digital financial services. The use of digital financial services such as mobile banking has increased in Kenya, with research showing how potential benefits of mobile money could improve financial inclusion for Kenyan women.⁸⁰ The WEE grant funding marked with an 'OECD significant' gender marker is comparatively higher, representing 31% of the total grant funding to this sector.

The total non-grant funding to banking and financial services is higher than grants, however WEE targeted funding is low with only 0.6% of the total funding to this sector marked 'OECD principal'. Non-grant funding marked 'PWYF partial' was notably higher at 26%. One example of a non-grant funded project marked 'OECD principal' was a standard loan from Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation to Musoni Kenya, a microfinance institution, whose expansion into rural areas has improved reach to women.

Banking and women's financial inclusion (WFI) is central to economically empowering women. According to the Kenya 2021 FinAccess Household Survey, the financial inclusion gap between men and women was 4.2% in 2021, which is an improvement from 5.2% in 2019, but still suggests women are less likely to be financially included than men.⁸¹ In addition, the majority of women in Kenya still access financial services through informal services. In 2019, women represented only 37% of the total digital credit user base amounting to 26% gender gap in the credit sector.⁸² According to the World Bank, women entrepreneurs represent almost a quarter of all MSME and 40% of all small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) owners in Kenya. Yet, nearly half of them do not gain access to the benefits of formal bank accounts or even hold accounts.⁸³ This poses challenges for women in growing their businesses.

Business services are also an important sector, supporting women entrepreneurs as well as women in employment. Grant funding marked 'OECD principal' represented 1% of total funding for business services in Kenya. Examples of projects, funded by the Canadian Parliament and marked 'OECD principal', include one project that aimed to empower rural women economically through the development of business enterprises, and another that promoted decent job creation by investigating in rural women's farming, agro-processing, and livelihood activities. By comparison, projects marked 'OECD significant' aimed to deliver entrepreneurship, information communications technology, and workforce readiness programs to help 200,000 young women and men build entrepreneurial and job skills, and use technology to increase their incomes and employment opportunities.

None of the non-grant funding to business services targeted WEE. Supporting business services, and banking and financial services is critical for WEE. According to the Global Findex report, after gaining access to savings accounts, market vendors (primarily women), saved more than the ones without savings account, and invested 60% more in their businesses.⁸⁴

There is a notable gap in WEE funding to the communication sector for both grant and non-grant funding. Interventions that address information services, telecommunications, and information and communications technology infrastructure are important for women's inclusion, including internet use and access. Fostering women's leadership in these areas is of equal importance to build gender inclusive technology systems.⁸⁵

Research has shown that removing the access barriers to productive resources, including financial and business services, is an important precursor for full and effective participation in the economy. This can be addressed by creating financial services catering to women's financial needs, both formally and informally,⁸⁶ providing appropriate savings and credit policies, and offering quality financial and business services such as training to support women-owned SMEs. These influence women's opportunities to earn income and can ultimately expand choices and economic freedoms to pursue other income generating activities.⁸⁷

4.3.2 Rights, policies & supports

Interventions under rights, policies & supports include activities that support women's ability to control resources and their ability to participate in the economic sphere in equitable ways. This category is divided into infrastructure and livelihoods, macroeconomic interventions, and rights-based supports. Figures 9 and 10 illustrate the different picture of support at a sectoral level between grant and non-grant funding. Sectors under the infrastructure and livelihoods category receive the most funding for both grants and non-grants, but the sector focus varies significantly.

WEE grant funding marked **OECD Principal** was high for rights-based supports, but limited for infrastructure and livelihoods



■ OECD Principal
 ▨ OECD Significant
 ■ PWYF Exclusive
 ▨ PWYF Partial

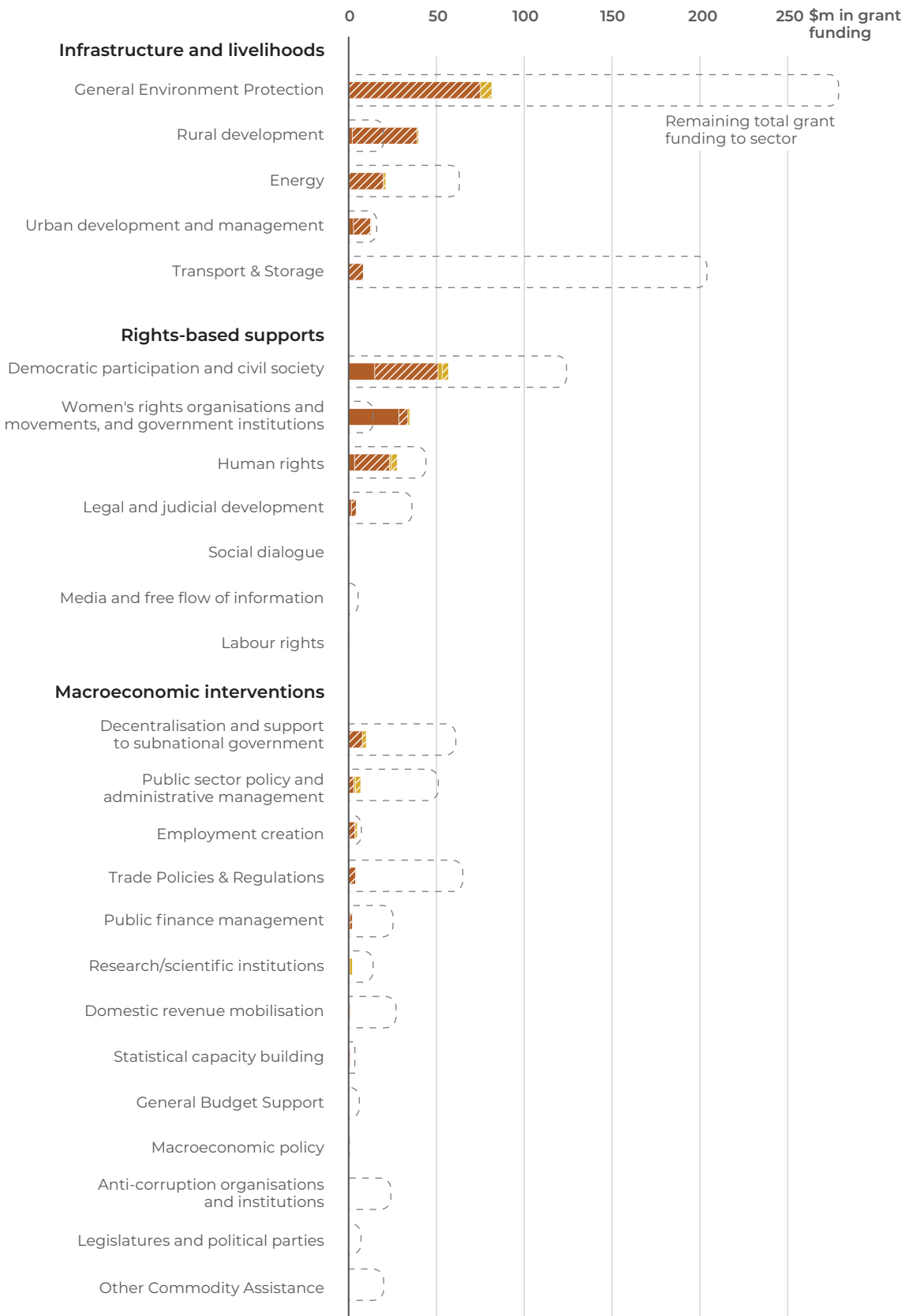


Figure 9: Proportion of international grant funding targeting WEE, broken down by WEE sub-category and sector; rights, policies & supports (2015–2019, \$m)

There was limited non-grant funding that targeted WEE through rights, policies & supports

Rights, policies & supports

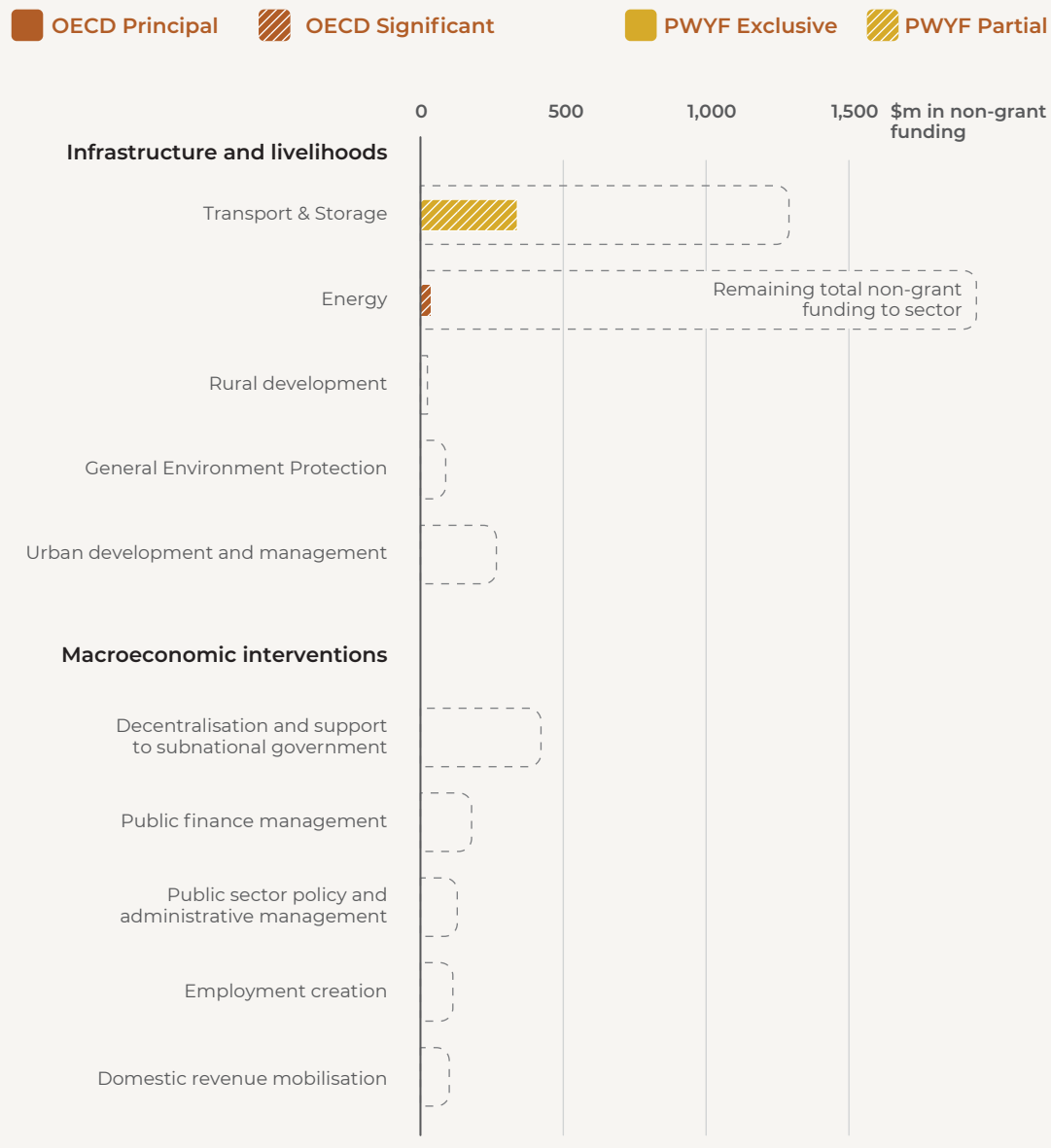


Figure 10: Proportion of international non-grant funding targeting WEE, broken down by WEE sub-category and sector; rights, policies & supports (2015–2019, \$m)

Infrastructure and livelihoods: Fifty-one percent of WEE targeted grant funding within rights, policies & supports was allocated to the infrastructure and livelihoods category. Infrastructure projects such as those that address energy access, rural development, and transport are all important interventions to enable WEE. Rural electrification, clean cooking equipment, and improved transportation systems that are gender-responsive are important for saving women's time commitments which can support productivity, and earnings.⁸⁸ Droughts and flooding also have an increased impact on women due to their caregiving role in the household as providers of food and fuel.⁸⁹

General environmental protection received the highest grant funding within the infrastructure and livelihoods category. The funding targeting WEE marked 'OECD principal' only represented 0.05% of total funding to this sector. Grant funding targeting the energy sector with an 'OECD principal' marker was even lower at 0.01% and only 0.12% was marked 'PWYF exclusive focus'. A US government funded project that targeted the energy sector aimed to install solar drip irrigation systems for women or provide solar panel lightings within households.

Another project marked 'OECD principal', funded by Italy, identified disadvantaged households, and purchased and installed solar panel lighting systems at their homes. The project also organised training activities and awareness campaigns on renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The energy sector was the highest non-grant funded sector and all funding to WEE was marked 'OECD significant'. All of these projects focused on rural electrification.

Funding for urban and rural development interventions that targeted WEE were comparatively higher than the other sectors within this sub-category. Of the total grant funding to rural development, 67% was identified as targeting WEE. Of the WEE funding, 6% was marked 'OECD principal'. There was a notable absence of WEE targeted funding to these same sectors for non-grant funding.

WEE targeted funding through grants, for the transport and storage sector was low in comparison to total grant funding to the sector. However, this sector received the highest non-grant funding, targeting WEE within the infrastructure and livelihood category. Addressing this gap is critical given that women in Kenya are more likely to use public transportation systems than men as a regular form of commuter transportation.⁹⁰ Very few policies target women and girls' safety on public transport despite evidence that more than 80% of women in Kenya's capital city of Nairobi have witnessed harassment (verbal or other forms of emotional abuse) while using public transport.⁹¹ The projects we identified targeting WEE included a non-grant funded project by the Islamic Development Bank. This project focused on the reconstruction of the Abakaliki ring road. With the goal of improving standards to ensure mobility in the zone, providing all (including the vulnerable, women, young, old, and disabled, in urban and rural areas), with at least some basic level of access through transport services.

Rights-based supports: Non-grant funding was absent from this category. Grant funding to this category mostly supported WEE by targeting human rights, women rights organisations, and democratic participation.

Democratic participation and civil society received the highest amount of WEE targeted funding within the right-based supports sub-category. Funding for this sector supported projects providing training to journalists on gender sensitive reporting, human rights journalism, gender balanced newsrooms, and training to women's human rights organisations on media relations, engagement, and collaboration.

Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions received the highest grant funding marked 'OECD principal' for WEE (\$29m). However, funding to this sector compared to total funding to Kenya is only 0.35%. According to our previous research on global gender financing, international funding captured to this sector code represented 1–2% of all international funding.⁹² Women's rights organisations are fundamental actors in implementing and advocating for WEE policy and programmes. Despite this, there has been a chronic history of underfunding to this sector by international funders at a global level.⁹³

WEE targeted funding to the legal and judicial development sector that was 'OECD principal' marked represented 4% of total grant funding to this sector. Laws and regulations along with rights are also important for protections from non-discrimination, equal pay, and paid parental leave, all which impact women's ability to enter and stay in the labour market or pursue entrepreneurship and financial activities.⁹⁴ Due to gaps in existing legal frameworks, women in Kenya have limited property ownership compared to men. Only 1% of land titles are owned by women^{95,96} and women's access to secured land rights is not ensured.⁹⁷

Labour rights were one of the lowest funded sectors within this category, and although almost 47% of the grant funding to this sector was marked 'OECD significant', no grant funding was marked 'OECD principal' or 'PWYF exclusive'.

Macroeconomic interventions: There was very little grant funding for WEE targeted macroeconomic interventions in Kenya and non-grant funding was absent overall. From our review, only 0.5% of the total grant funding to this sub-category was marked 'OECD principal' and 0.6% marked 'PWYF exclusive focus', representing a key gap in WEE targeted funding from international funders.

Interventions which create macro level change, such as trade policy, public finance management, employment creation, macroeconomic policy, and anti-corruption⁹⁸ are also important for addressing structural barriers to WEE.⁹⁹ This can involve gender budgeting, access to decent work, addressing UCW, progressive fiscal policies, pensions, employment creation, and better public integrity systems, all of which enable women's equal participation and access to resources in labour markets.^{100,101} Macroeconomic policies are fundamental to achieving women's rights. Feminist literature demonstrates how larger structural macroeconomics impact women's everyday lives, from what gets counted as paid 'productive' work to women achieving decent and empowering work.¹⁰² As the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) and the Gender and Development Network (GADN) explain, macro level economic policymaking is inseparable from wider women's rights and gender equality work, because women overwhelmingly face the greatest negative impacts of our current macroeconomic model.¹⁰³

4.3.3 Foundational capabilities

Interventions included under foundational capabilities are critical to achieving global progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5: Gender equality. As such these areas are important gender equality goals, which funders support separate from WEE. At the same time, these areas also support income generating activities by enhancing agency through knowledge acquisition, improved individual and family health, bodily autonomy, and gendered social support systems.

Grant funding to WEE for foundational capabilities mostly targeted health, but other important sectors received less

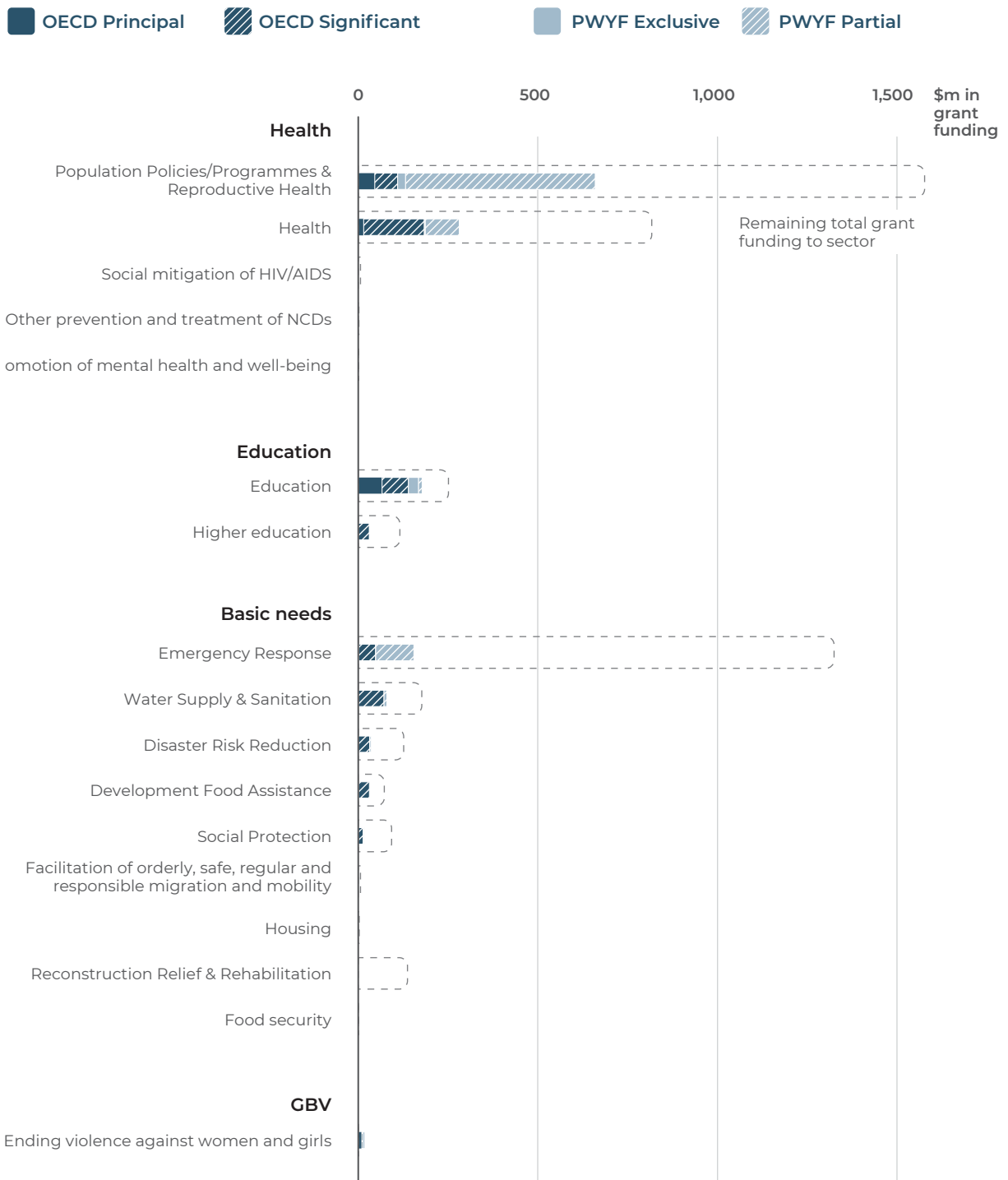


Figure 11: Proportion of international grant funding targeting WEE, broken down by WEE sub-category and sector; foundational capabilities (2015–2019, \$m)

Non-grant funding for foundational capabilities mostly targeted Water Supply & Sanitation

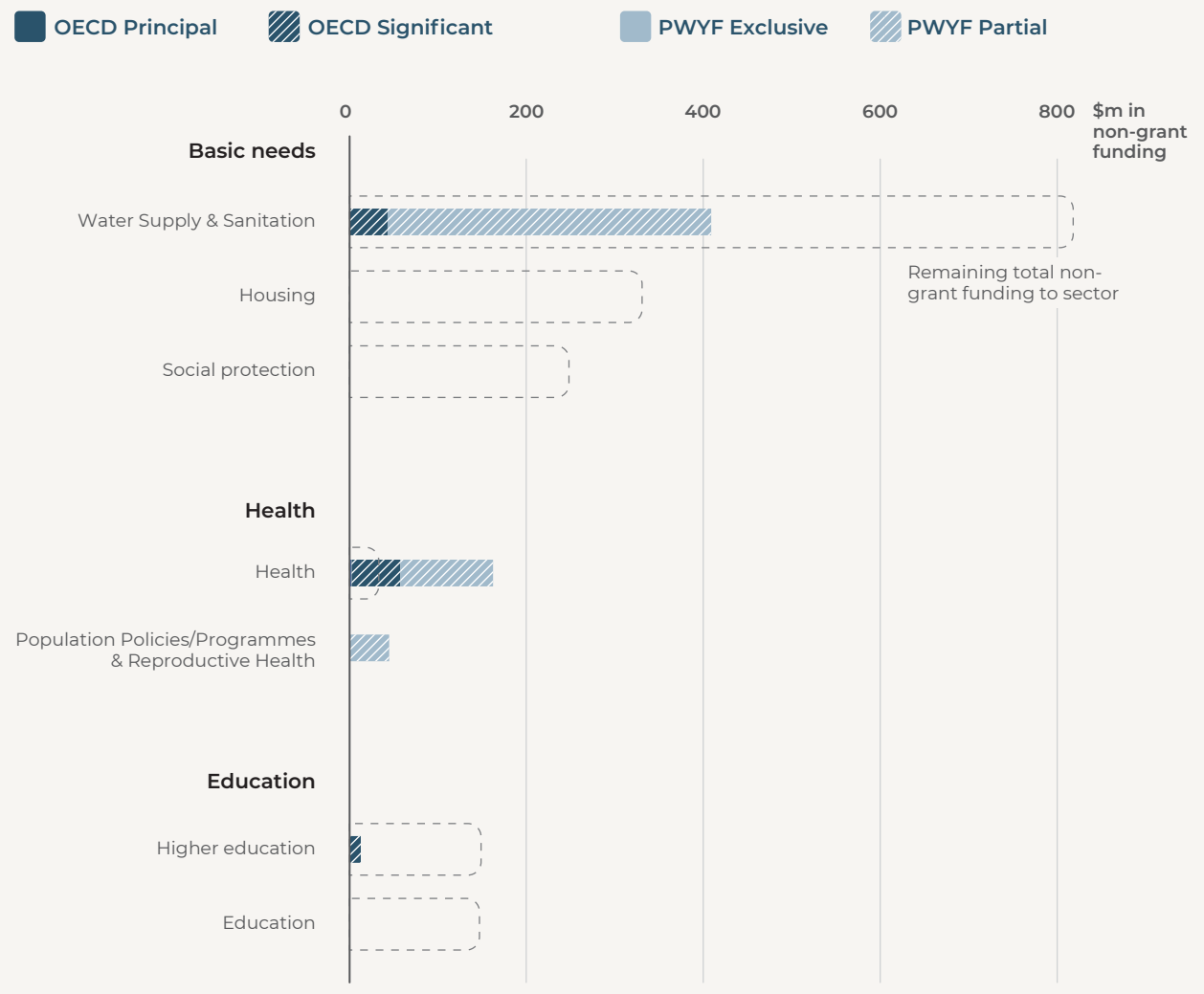


Figure 12: Proportion of international non-grant funding targeting WEE, broken down by WEE sub-category and sector; foundational capabilities (2015–2019, \$m)

Social protection and basic needs: Of the total funding to the social protection sector (\$110m), 15% was identified as targeting WEE. Just under 2% of WEE funding was marked 'OECD principal' and 3% 'PWYF exclusive focus' (Figure 11). Examples of grant funded project marked 'OECD principal' included one project focused on empowering a local partner to work with Maasai girls and their communities in the Narok region. This project funded by Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Finland MFA) focused on improving the "overall status of Maasai girls", including health training, improving community attitudes around FGM, and support to enter high-school or post-graduate education. Most of the WEE funding to this sector was marked 'OECD significant'. None of the non-grant funding targeted WEE through social protection and basic needs.

Social protection is key to WEE as it provides women with a safety net, particularly poor and vulnerable women. According to research by the UN and ILO, the GoK has made several efforts to transform the social protection sector in Kenya.¹⁰⁴ Despite this, according to our analysis, this sector remains one of the lowest funded sectors within the foundational capabilities category. There is a wide range of evidence establishing the importance of social protection benefits to economically empower women.^{105,106,107} The same is true for Kenya, given that women in Kenya are more likely to be unemployed, underemployed, underpaid, seasonal workers, and generally have less access to social protection.¹⁰⁸ The Center for Global Development argues that gender-

responsive social protection, for instance in the form of cash transfers, in-kind assistance, and employment through public works programmes, can be especially critical to offset the negative impacts of COVID-19 on women's income and economic opportunities.¹⁰⁹ As a result the need for more social protection initiatives and funding is expected to have increased in the last few years.

Other basic needs: Water supply and sanitation was the only sector that received non-grant WEE targeted funding within the basic needs sector sub-sector. None of this funding was marked 'OECD principal' or 'PWYF exclusive' (Figure 12). Projects marked 'OECD significant' included improving the water supply, and developing the water sector and sewage disposal systems. Of the grant funding to this sector, only 0.1% was marked 'OECD principal'. As well as fulfilling basic needs, funding for affordable and safe access to clean water, electricity, heat, sanitation, housing, transportation, and food are also integral economic aspects of livelihood support for women. Reduced access to water also impacts women and girls' hygiene practices.¹¹⁰

Funding that targeted WEE within the humanitarian sectors⁵ represented 10% of the total funding to the basic needs category. Emergency response was the highest grant funded sector targeting WEE within basic needs. Most of the grant funded projects were marked 'OECD significant' or 'PWYF partial' and included addressing food security and the effects of flooding including drought. The risk of humanitarian emergencies and displacement due to flooding is a real threat in Kenya. Climate related emergencies impact woman more severely, with women in Kenya facing displacement, and impacted livelihoods due to their use of natural resources, either for family or income.¹¹¹ Gender-responsive projects within these sectors support women's livelihoods in times of crisis. This is especially important in the aftermath of emergencies to address disproportionate impacts on women and girls and to facilitate recovery and resilience building.¹¹²

Education: The education sector received the highest amount of grant funding marked 'OECD principal' out of the basic needs category. Of the total grant funding to the education sector, 15% was marked 'OECD principal' and 6% 'PWYF exclusive focus'. For higher education, 0.1% was marked 'OECD principal'. The 'Girls' Education Challenge' project is an example of an 'OECD principal' marked project. Funded by PwC, from 2015–2019, this project provided support for "1 million marginalised girls" to complete primary school and transition to secondary education. Out of school, marginalised adolescent girls are also supported to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Such projects are important given that in Kenya, only 55% of women progress beyond primary education compared to 65% of men, while the share of men that complete tertiary education is much higher.¹¹³ Another project funded by Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation targeted higher education to help young vulnerable female university students with safe accommodation and environment for studies.

A recent 2022 report by the Center for Global Development highlights that while girls' education can have numerous spill over benefits, evidence of a strong link between education and gender equality is mixed and context specific.¹¹⁴ The authors recommend advocating for areas of girls' education where there is clear evidence of effectiveness while also recognising and addressing other barriers to gender equality that education alone will not solve, such as labour market inequalities. The report further recommends that policy makers strengthen the potential for education to support WEE by: crafting reforms focused on laws and policies that promote equity, supporting school-to-work transitions, hiring more women, strengthening cross-sector collaboration, making gender norms more equal, and by ensuring the education sector and other sectors better prepare girls for the future.¹¹⁵ Funders could similarly support such initiatives to complement their international investments towards women and girls' education and ultimately to support WEE.

⁵ For the purposes of our women's economic empowerment framework (Figure 1), the following OECD sector/purpose codes are identified as addressing humanitarian needs: development food assistance / food aid / food security assistance, emergency response, reconstruction relief & rehabilitation, disaster prevention & preparedness, and disaster risk reduction.

Health: Only 26% of the total grant funding for projects in the health sector were identified as targeting WEE, with 1.4% marked 'OECD principal' and 0.2% marked 'PWYF exclusive focus on women'. For non-grant funding, 83% of the total funding to this sector was identified as targeting WEE, with 1.3% marked 'OECD principal'. One grant funded project by GAC, marked 'OECD principal', aimed to reduce maternal mortality rates by increasing access to quality healthcare during pregnancy and delivery in Central Province and the Migori region in Nyanza Province in Kenya. Women in Kenya still face barriers accessing proper healthcare systems. The barriers range from getting permission to seek care, the distance to the health facility, getting money needed for treatment, and not wanting to go alone.¹¹⁶

The population policies/programmes and reproductive sector only received WEE targeted non-grant funding marked 'PWYF partial'. For grant funding, 2% of the total funding to this sector was marked 'OECD principal' and 1% as 'PWYF exclusive'. Some of the prominent health challenges women face in Kenya include maternal health. The most recent Kenyan health survey notes that more than one-third of births in Kenya (37%) take place at home.¹¹⁷ For women, delivering at home without the assistance of skilled birth attendants, increases the possibility of birth trauma, haemorrhage, infection, and maternal or neonatal death.¹¹⁸ Women and girls in Kenya still lack knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and Kenya's constitutional provisions on SRHR. This results in low uptakes of contraceptives, increased rates of unintended pregnancies, or unsafe abortions.¹¹⁹

GBV: While ending violence against women had proportionally the highest WEE focus funding (99.8% of grant funding targeted WEE), it remains one of the lowest overall funded sectors (0.2% of the total international funding to Kenya). Out of the total grant funding to this sector, 50% was marked 'OECD principal' and 27% 'PWYF exclusive'. No non-grant funding was allocated to this sector in Kenya between 2015–2019. According to the UN Women global database on violence against women, women in Kenya are victims of different forms of violence including intimate partner violence and FGM.¹²⁰ UNICEF states that on average one in every five women and girls are victims to FGM in Kenya, and in some communities, this can be as high as 94%.¹²¹

Box 5: Addressing social norms in WEE by international funders

Social norms are a set of expectations from individuals that are considered to be normal within a society and can largely influence the behaviour of individuals within and outside households. A set of such norms or expectations are imposed on women and girls and directly relate to influencing women's participation in the economic market.¹²² Women and girls in Kenya are no exception to the implications of such norms. The presence of any children within a household in Kenya, has been reported to restrict younger women or girls from attaining higher educational qualification, regardless of whether the child is their own or not. Exclusion from education ultimately results in limited economic opportunities.¹²³ Social norms and expectations of women as caregivers, also impacts women's employment opportunities. Missed work time but also employment in the informal job market brings lower social or legal protection and lower wages.^{124,125}

Gender norms and stereotypes can influence all the dimensions of WEE in our framework. Understanding how projects might work to address gender norms and promote women's voice and agency is often limited by the amount of project level information reported by funders. Using a set of word searches, our initial analysis determined that most projects that referenced social norms within our WEE projects were ones that supported either foundational capabilities or rights, policies & supports. Some of the projects we identified included prevention of violence against women, child marriage advocacy projects, and sexual and reproductive health rights programmes; empowering women through better access to education and economic outcomes.

Our high-level search identified targeting raising awareness within communities as the projects that least-directly addressed social norms within employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access. Advocacy against social norms and gender stereotypes are equally important when targeting WEE through employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access. Safe spaces for women and girls in workplaces and during commutes, access to credit facilities and market opportunities, gaps in training and employment, and autonomy at decision-making level are some of the many barriers women in Kenya still face when trying to participate in the economic or financial market.¹²⁶

4.4 Which women does WEE funding target?

Not all international funders in our review identified the groups of women being targeted within their WEE programmes. We found that 74% of grant funded projects specified a certain group of women, compared to 90% of non-grant funded projects. Identifying the specific group(s) of women that the funding is intended to support greatly enhances our ability to identify gaps in funding. Addressing the differential needs of women is complex given that economic empowerment and access to resources are shaped by intersecting discriminations. Experiences and opportunities differ based on gender identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, migration status, sexuality, class, and caste.^{127,128} Knowing which groups of women are targeted through international funding provides a starting point for better coordination among international funders, and helps to ensure that those groups on the margins also receive appropriate attention. The WEE projects that did specify a group of women do offer some useful insights.

International grant funders for WEE most often mentioned girls or adolescents as target groups

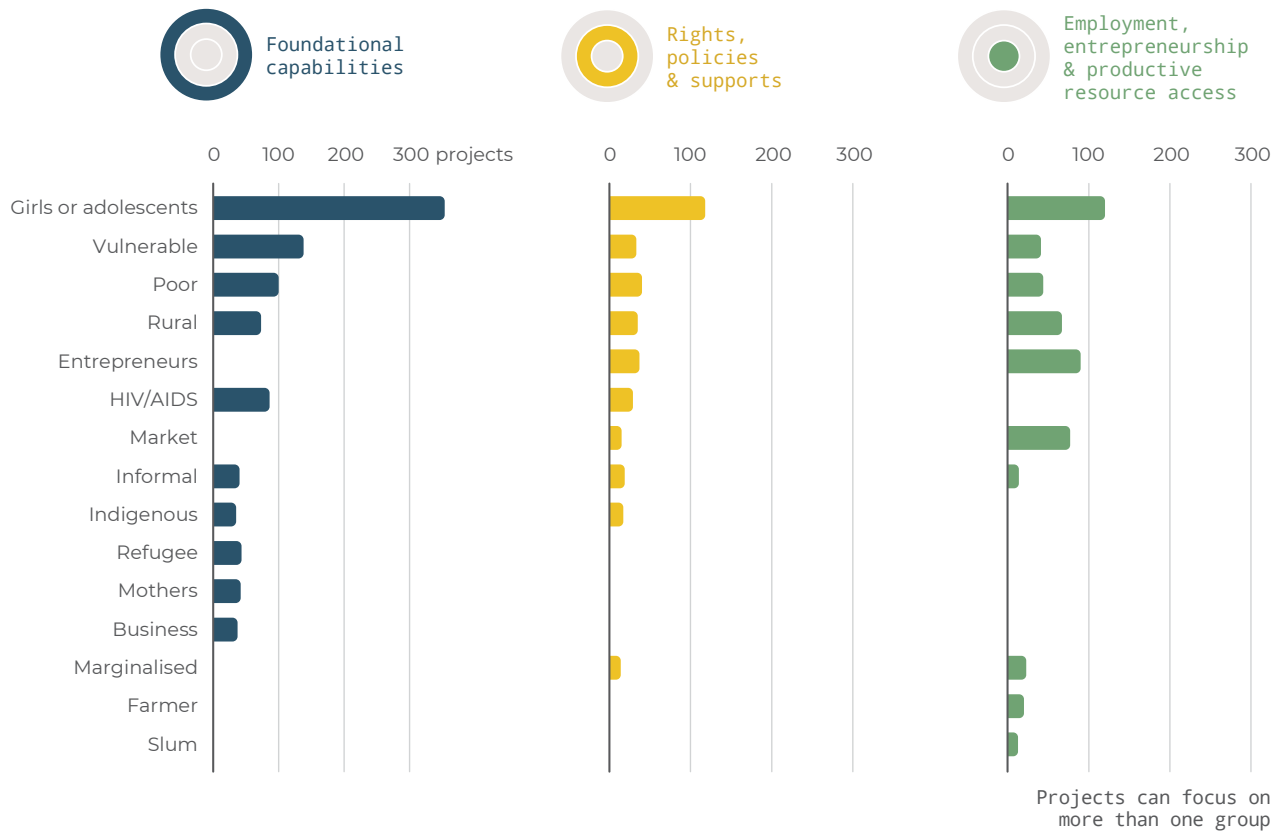


Figure 13: Groups of women specified in project descriptions, broken down by WEE main category and project numbers (2015–2019, \$m)

Grant funding: For grant funded WEE projects, ‘girls or adolescents’, and ‘vulnerable’ or ‘poor’ women were the most commonly cited target groups of women in Kenya across all three categories. Girls and adolescents face specific challenges to their rights. The impacts of child marriage on Kenyan girls undermines their health, personal integrity, and education¹²⁹ which hinders social and economic progress.

Projects that have been identified as targeting WEE often target girls or adolescents as a part of the programme. For example, a project funded by Global Giving targeted FGM by providing support to girls who had experienced medical complications while undergoing FGM. Another project funded by Swedish Postcode Lottery targets school girls to prevent child marriage and economically empower them.

Vulnerable groups of women were the second most targeted group across all three categories. The focus on vulnerable women could reflect the need to focus on areas such as social protection. One project example captured in our review was a USAID grant funded project that provided social protection for vulnerable at-risk women by mitigating adverse conditions they face, and removing barriers to help integrate socially excluded women back into society.

Rural women and women in informal urban settlements or slums, who often experience poverty and additional vulnerability, tend to spend more time than their male counterparts on reproductive and household chores, facing more time constraints in economic activities. These groups of women also face increased barriers accessing economic markets due to the lack of information on job availability, opportunities for training and education, limited access to property, land, and financial and non-financial services.¹³⁰ Research from UN Habitat and UN Women (2020) shows that women living in slum conditions in Kenya are overrepresented compared to men, with 116 women for every 100 men.¹³¹

Women with HIV/AIDS are also commonly targeted for projects in the categories foundational capabilities, and rights, policies & supports. Although the rate of new HIV infections in Kenya has been decreasing since 2010, overall, more women are likely to be living with HIV compared to men.^{132,133} Protection from GBV, comprehensive SRHR services, and sexual education are some of the critical elements to reduce incidences of HIV/AIDS.¹³⁴ Ease of access to healthcare is essential for WEE.

Indigenous women were another common group specified by international grant funders in both foundational capabilities, and rights, policies & supports. Indigenous populations often lack access to adequate social protection systems, including basic social services such as essential healthcare and education. Evidence suggests that one of the reasons for this could be that vulnerable communities and households may not be registered under social protections systems.¹³⁵ It is estimated that 25% of Kenya's population are indigenous. Indigenous women tend to face multifaceted social, cultural, economic, and political barriers which can hinder economic participation, and access to safety nets.¹³⁶

Non-grant funding: International funders tended to specify the same groups of women for non-grant funded projects. Some of the non-grant funded projects for foundational capabilities, and rights, policies & supports focused on especially vulnerable women in north-eastern Kenya and Kilifi. Evidence suggests that women and girls from this region are at a greater risk of facing GBV, having lower access to proper healthcare services or SRHR which all reduce opportunities to economic markets.¹³⁷ Targeted interventions for women and girls in these regions is key to achieve WEE in Kenya.

4.5 How funders target WEE in their programming

Grant funding: Most of the international grant funding identified as targeting WEE in Kenya is funded by bilateral governments. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reported the highest funding for WEE focused projects between 2015–2019. This was followed by UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO),^t the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), SIDA, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Denmark MFA). Collectively, the top five grant funders represented 51% of the total grant funding to WEE projects in Kenya (Figure 14).

^t Formerly, the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Rights, policies & supports received the least grant funding from the top 5 funders

Grant funding in \$m

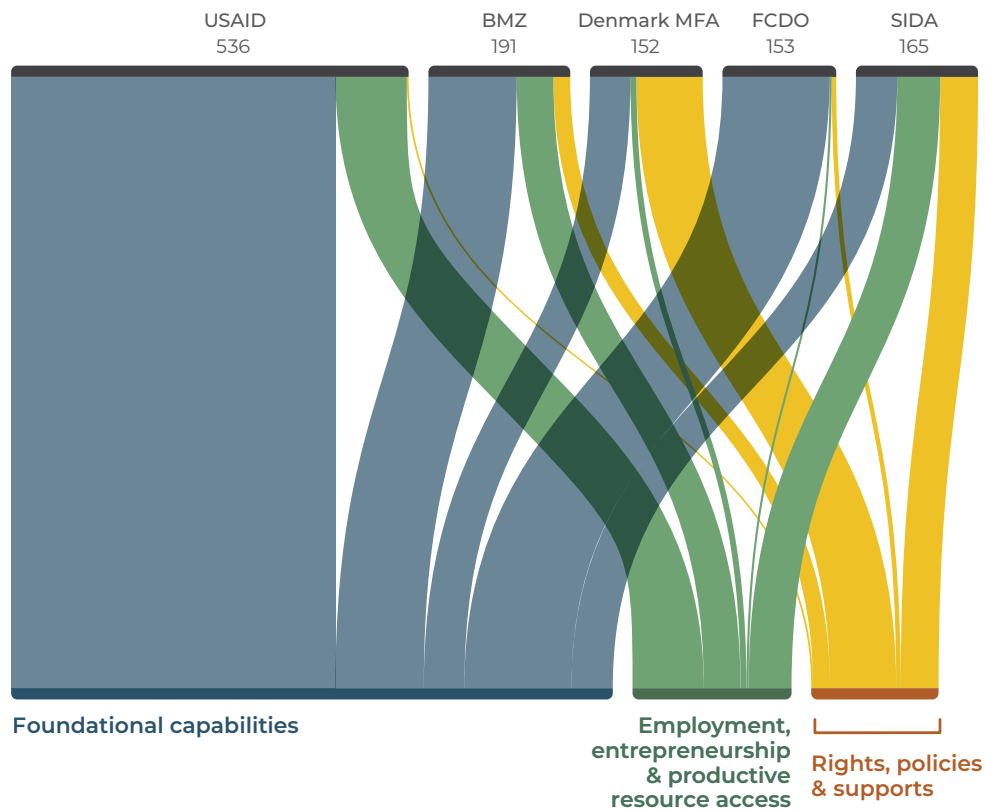


Figure 14: Top five funder organisations with highest grants disbursements to WEE, mapped against WEE sub-category (2015–2019, \$m)

A more nuanced analysis of the types of WEE projects funded by these top grant funders suggests that there is a clear priority for funding foundational capabilities. This category received 68% of the top funders' WEE funding over the period 2015–2019, whereas rights, policies & supports received 14%, and employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access received 18%. While USAID, BMZ, and the FCDO funded foundational capabilities disproportionately, SIDA funding was largely distributed evenly between the three categories. Most of Denmark MFA's funding was targeted to rights, policies & supports.

Non-grant funding: AfDB reported the highest non-grant funding commitment to WEE. Non-grant funding from AfDB accounts for 65% of the overall WEE non-grant funding to Kenya over 2015–2019. AfDB is also the only top non-grant funder we identified that targeted all three categories of WEE with their programmes. An estimated 83% of the WEE targeted non-grant funding from AfDB went to the GoK.

Other top non-grant funders included the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), BMZ, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Together these top five non-grant funders comprised 91% of the WEE targeted non-grant funding to Kenya over 2015–2019 (Figure 15). Of the funding allocated by these funders, 26% went to rights, policies & supports. This compares to 34% allocated to employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access and 39% allocated to foundational capabilities.

Non-grant funding from the top 5 funders primarily supported foundational capabilities

Non-grant funding in \$m



Figure 15: Top five funder organisations with highest non-grant funding to WEE, mapped against WEE sub-category (2015–2019, \$m)

4.6 Who is implementing WEE programs in Kenya

Identifying the implementers of WEE projects was challenging due to gaps in funder reporting. We estimate that the GoK received 5% of grant funding and 68% of non-grant funding targeting WEE going to Kenya between 2015–2019.

4.7 Unpaid care work and WEE funding

4.7.1 WEE projects targeting UCW

Our analysis determined that only 3% of WEE projects addressed women and girls' UCW. This is less than 0.6% of total international funding to Kenya between 2015–2019. Of WEE projects that addressed UCW, 0.3% addressed UCW explicitly and 2.7% of projects addressed UCW implicitly. We only identified one non-grant funded project funded by IDA. This project addressed UCW indirectly by improving universal health coverage.

Only 3% of WEE projects targeted unpaid care work, and few did so explicitly

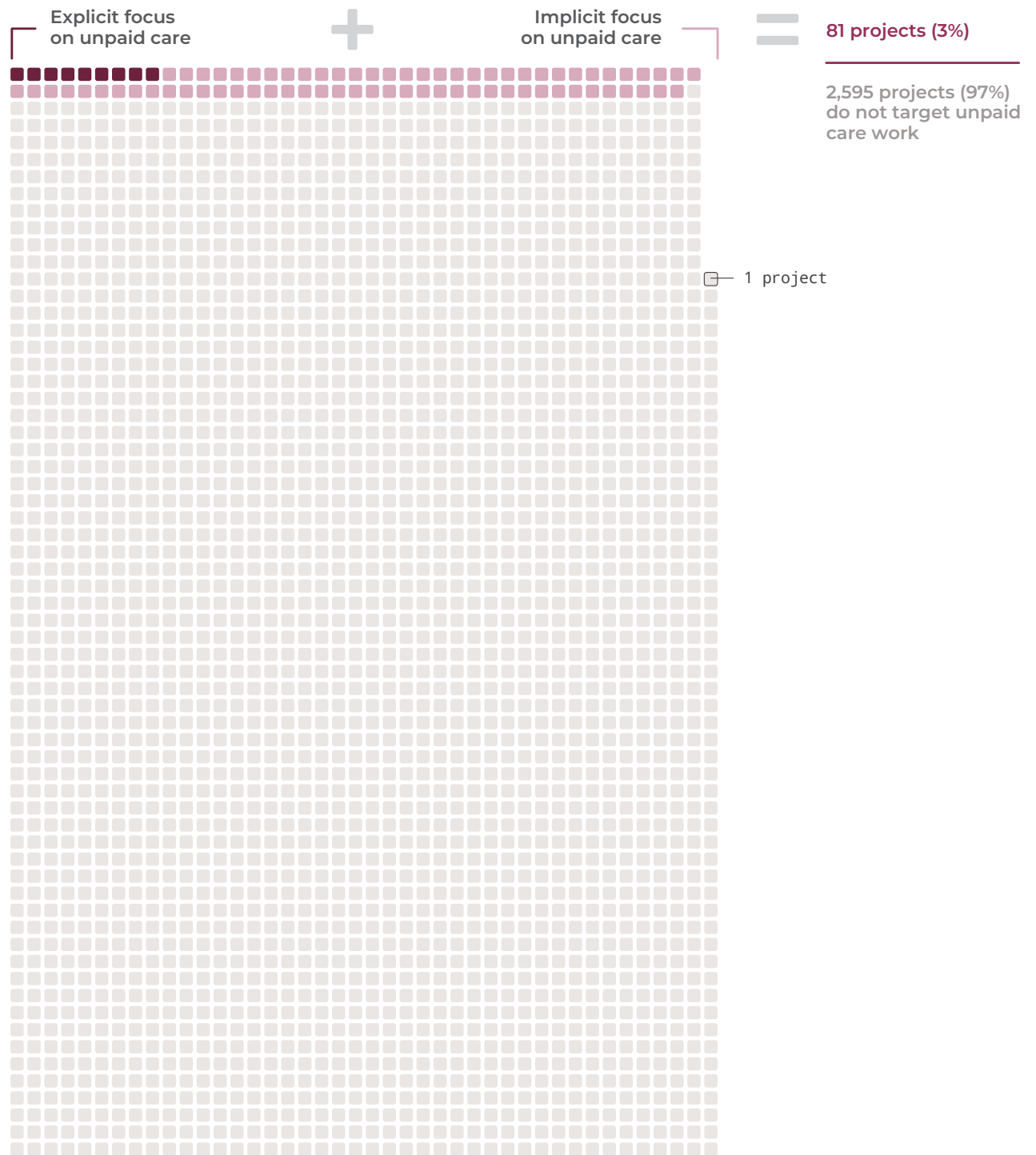


Figure 16: Number of WEE projects that target unpaid care (2015–2019)

We identified six funders who explicitly targeted reducing UCW for women and girls across nine projects. These projects targeted social norms interventions and care-supporting physical infrastructure. Global Greengrants Fund Inc., RAIN Foundation, SIDA, and Women First International Fund targeted care-supporting physical infrastructure through their funding. Projects targeting social norms interventions to raise awareness on gender stereotypes were funded by Finland MFA, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Global Greengrants Fund Inc.

There is a clear connection between UCW, paid care work, and paid work.¹³⁸ In particular, UCW exacerbates women and girls' poverty by reducing the amount of time available for economic, political, or social activities. There is also clear evidence that UCW responsibilities pose a challenge when entering paid work, forcing many into the informal sector where they face more precarious working conditions and fewer social protections compared to those without UCW responsibilities.¹³⁹

A household care survey conducted by Oxfam Kenya (2018–2019) found that women spend 11.1 hours per day on any form of care work compared to men's 2.9 hours per day.¹⁴⁰ In order to manage their UCW responsibilities, women might be pushed towards employment in the informal market which might be flexible or part-time. This results in women participating in the economic market with low or no social protections and labour rights.¹⁴¹ According to the ILO, 37% of the informal labour market around the world represent women and for the global south, 92.1 % of employed women are in informal employment compared to 87.5 % of men.¹⁴² Kenya also has a large informal economy¹⁴³ and women employed in the informal market split their time between poor working conditions without proper protection and rights, along with taking on the higher burden of UCW.¹⁴⁴

4.7.2 UCW policy areas targeted by funders in their WEE programmes

Figure 17 illustrates how funders targeted UCW policy areas in their WEE programmes using the Care Policy Scorecard policy areas and indicators ([Table 1](#)).

Most WEE projects that supported unpaid care work targeted care services whilst no projects targeted measurement frameworks and data collection

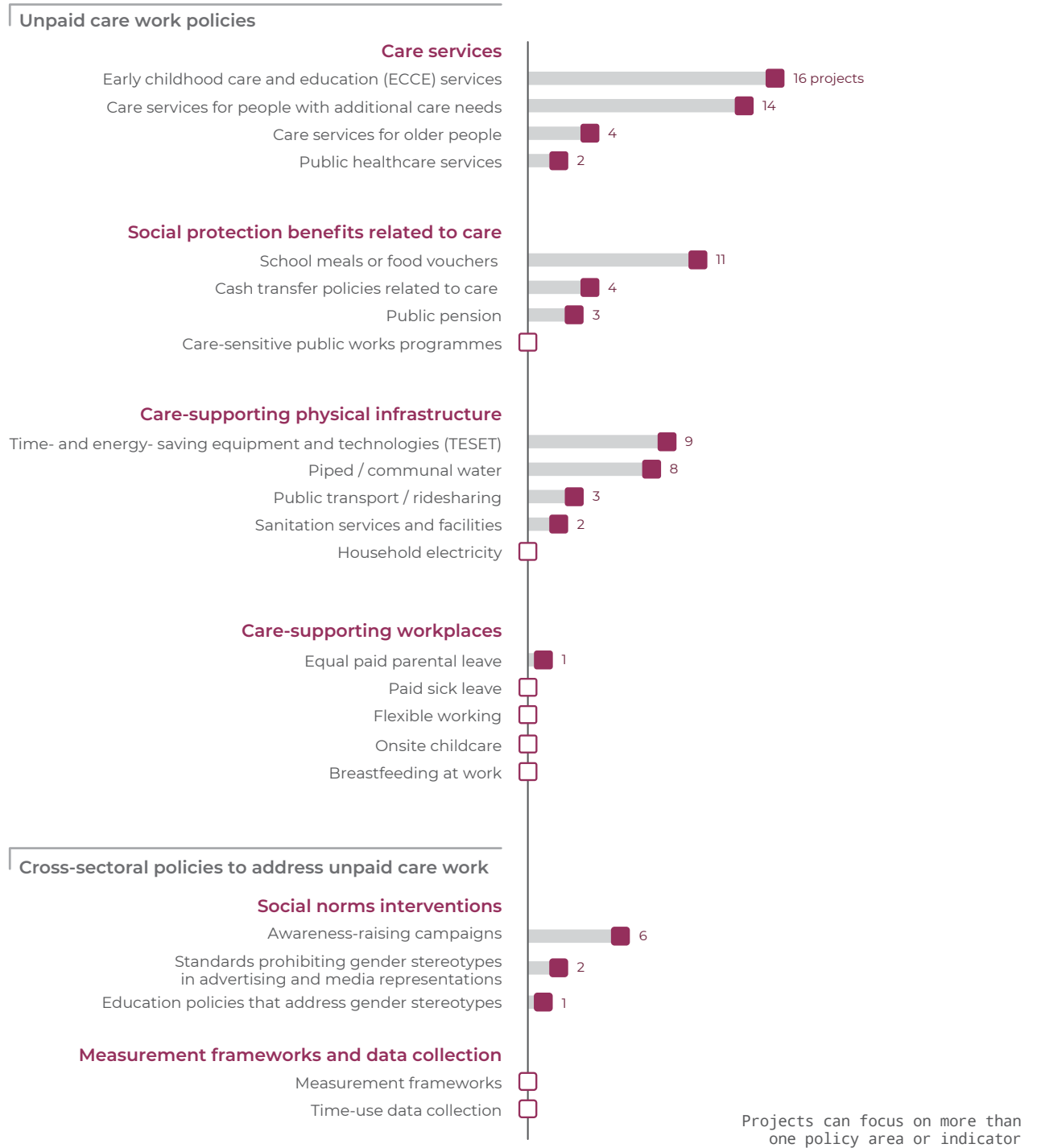


Figure 17: Number of projects mapped to individual policy indicator for UCW

Care services was the most commonly targeted policy area for unpaid care in Kenya. Care services includes early childhood care and education (ECCE) services and public health services, as well as care services for older people and people with additional care needs. Funding care services can help transfer caring responsibilities away from women and redistribute them to government, private sector, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).¹⁴⁵

Finland MFA supported a project focused on care services through ECCE. The project's goal included increasing access to quality Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services for young children, strengthening the capacity of parents, and influencing ECCD policy development. According to the household care survey, women in Kenya spend 5 hours a day on average providing primary care for household members compared to 1 hour spent by men.¹⁴⁶

Our review revealed that funders targeting care services for people with additional needs or care services for older people integrate these objectives into larger health outcomes.

Social protection benefits related to care was the second most commonly targeted area by funders to reduce UCW. Funding for social protection benefits is critical to reducing UCW as it provides a critical safety net for women, particularly those who are more vulnerable and women living in poverty. These benefits recognise the contribution of unpaid care to society and can help reduce the amount of time women spend on unpaid care or the associated costs.¹⁴⁷ Examples of projects we identified include providing unconditional cash transfers to meet the immediate needs of the households or school feeding programmes that save women from time spent preparing meals for school children.

Care-supporting physical infrastructure was the third most targeted policy area by international funders. The basic infrastructure services covered under care-supporting physical infrastructure include piped water, electricity, and public transport. They can reduce the intensity and time women spend on unpaid care tasks or domestic chores, especially in low-income countries, and rural and low-income communities.¹⁴⁸ Women allocate higher hours when it comes to cleaning and maintaining their own dwellings,¹⁴⁹ thus infrastructure that can save time in these roles could facilitate reducing UCW responsibilities.

Care-supporting workplaces and projects targeting measurement frameworks that facilitate the reduction of UCW through data appears to be a gap in funders' WEE programming. Only one project was identified that provided maternal leave. Although the Health Act (2017) in Kenya mandates all employers to support women employees to breastfeed in the workplace, this is rarely followed, mostly due to insufficient budget allocations.¹⁵⁰ The private sector also has a role to play in creating care-supporting workplaces. Stronger policies for affordable and secure childcare services and the right to onsite childcare or breastfeed in workplaces and public spaces could help address this gap.¹⁵¹ Family-friendly policies and protections around returning to work are also important, including paid leave and comprehensive maternity and paternity pay.¹⁵²

Additionally, there appears to be limited focus on measurement frameworks, which could include time-use surveys and other tools that can be pivotal in monitoring the allocation of time spent by women on UCW. Despite this, globally, only 83 countries have conducted time-use surveys up until 2019.¹⁵³ While there may have been time-use surveys by NGOs or the national bureau of statistics since then, no internationally funded effort was identified between 2015–2019 for Kenya. Support from international funders for such data collection can be a critical step toward reducing UCW work for women.

Box 6: Explicit targeting of UCW

Title: For the development and implementation of an advocacy strategy on unpaid care and domestic work

Description: This grant will allow Oxfam to build on its Women's Economic Empowerment and CARE work to develop and implement a global, regional, and national advocacy strategy. The work will ensure policy commitments on unpaid care and domestic work; promote the use of research and evidence with policymakers and international financial institutions to increase access to infrastructure and services; build the capacity of women's rights organisations to increase advocacy effectiveness and representation in decision-making spaces; and generate and share learning on unpaid care work and domestic work advocacy within Oxfam, women's rights organisations, and international development organisation partners.

UCW policy indicator: Social norms interventions, awareness raising campaigns

Funder: William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

Recipient Organisation: Oxfam-America

Finance type: Standard grant

Purpose code name: Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions

Disbursement amount: \$205,875

Year: 2019

4.7.3 Funders targeting UCW through their WEE programmes

The top seven funders who addressed UCW through their WEE programmes represented 89% of the total funding supporting UCW between 2015–2019. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) allocated the highest funding amount spanning across seven projects. This is followed by Aqua for All Netherlands (NL), BMZ the European Commission, Plan International NL, SIDA, and Finland MFA.

International funders mostly supported **social protection benefits related to care** and **care-supporting physical infrastructure** within unpaid care projects

Number of projects

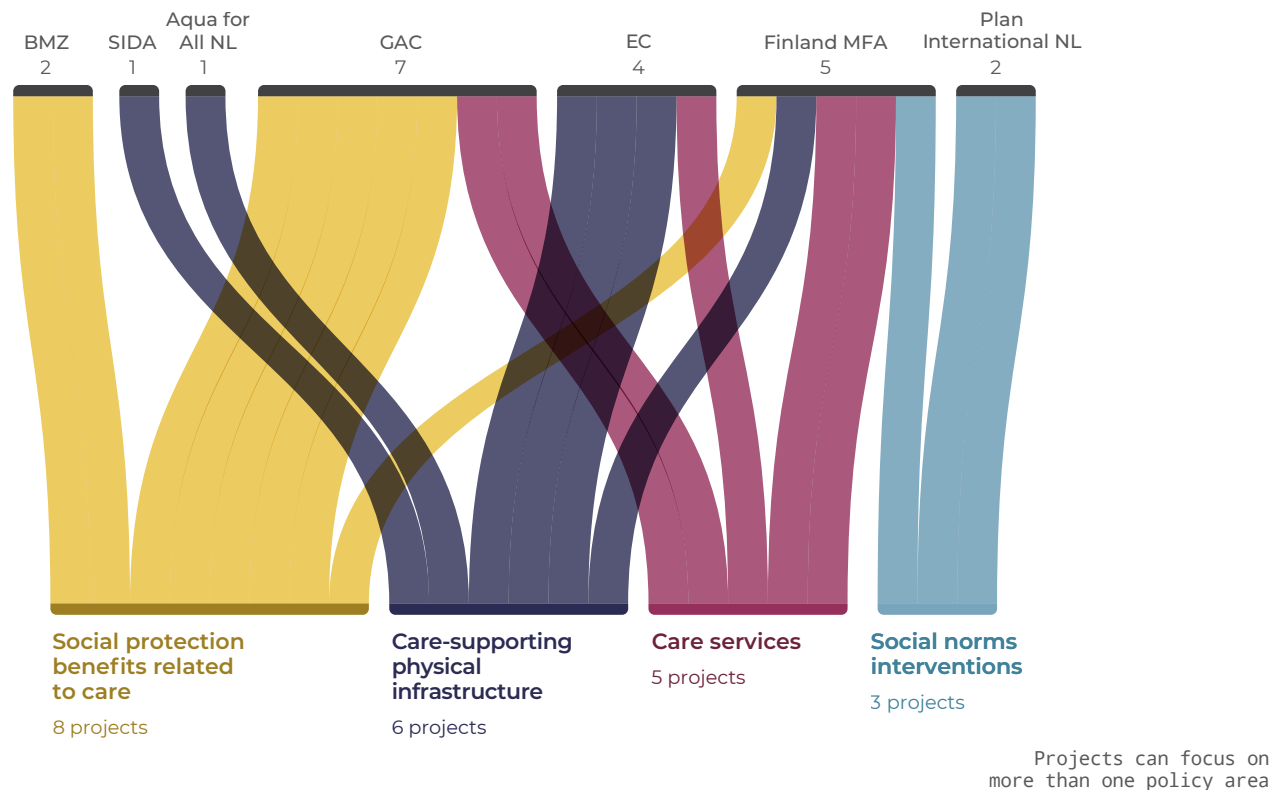


Figure 18: Unpaid care policy areas funded by top funders (2015–2019)

These funders most commonly targeted care services, care-supporting physical infrastructure, and social protection benefits related to care policy areas for unpaid care. (Figure 18). We identified some cases where other funders addressed multiple policy areas for reducing women and girls' UCW within their larger WEE projects.

4.7.4 Who implements WEE programmes that address UCW

As with WEE funding, identifying the implementers of unpaid care projects was challenging due to gaps in funder reporting. The one non-grant project funded by IDA was identified as going to GoK. Much of the UCW research, including the Care Policy Scorecard and other studies,¹⁵⁴ have emphasised the importance of stronger government policies and interventions in addressing UCW. Without this governmental leadership role, including the provision of accessible public services for women and girls, the responsibility of unpaid care is unlikely to shift.¹⁵⁵

4.7.5 Which groups of women does UCW funding target?

Funders specified a target group of women for 81% of the unpaid care projects we identified. Similarly to WEE, girls or adolescents and vulnerable women were the most frequently mentioned. UCW is often higher for those living in poverty or in rural areas in Kenya. Access to time and labour-saving infrastructure and technology such as running water or access to quality healthcare services is further limited for these women.¹⁵⁶

International funders most often mentioned girls or adolescents, or vulnerable women as the target group for unpaid care projects

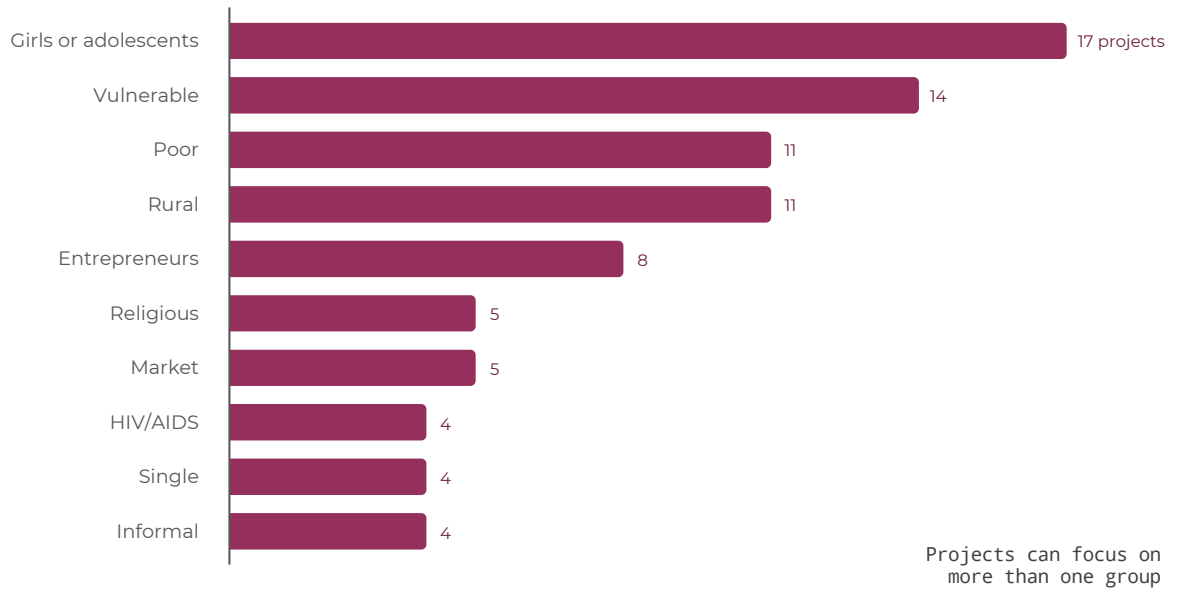


Figure 19: Top ten groups specified for UCW projects (2015–2019)

4.8 COVID-19 and WEE funding

Research has shown that the COVID-19 pandemic has had disproportionate social and economic impacts on women.¹⁵⁷ This is especially true for poor and marginalised women who are at a higher risk of loss of livelihood, economic opportunities, and increased risk of violence.¹⁵⁸ The effects of global lockdowns have led to a loss of income and reduced earnings for women, with reduced savings and ability to earn. School closures and reduced care services have led to an increase in UCW for which women already bear the large share.¹⁵⁹ Additional social and economic stress due to increased responsibilities, along with reduced mobility and social isolation have also led to an increase in GBV.¹⁶⁰ The existing inequalities between groups of women have also been brought to light with impact and spread of the virus being experienced differently based on race, disability, income, and age.¹⁶¹

The disproportionate impact of the pandemic has renewed urgency for global stakeholders to commit to action and prevent a reversal of progress made for WEE and SDG 5.¹⁶²

To build on the growing research of how international funders are responding to the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,¹⁶³ we analysed IATI data for 2020–2021 to get a sense of how funders were targeting WEE and COVID-19 in their programming.^u Out of the 625 grants projects identified as targeting WEE for 2020–2021, 80 projects were identified with a COVID marker or COVID search terms. This represents 13% of the total projects reported in 2020–2021.

Grant funding: SIDA was the largest funder for projects targeting WEE and COVID-19 in 2020–2021, with 56% of this funding supporting employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access. This is followed by USAID, which allocated 90% of their COVID-19 funding for WEE to the same category. The remaining top three funders, the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and GAC, allocated the majority of WEE targeted COVID-19 funding to foundational capabilities. For example, one European Commission project aimed to minimise the risk of the spread of COVID-19 through strengthened, inclusive, and gender-responsive health initiatives. Another project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was focused on increasing accessibility to antenatal care post COVID-19.

^u 2020–2021 data was only available for IATI and CANDID. Thus, our analysis for COVID has been done on a different subset of our dataset that is not comparable to the rest of our analysis in the report for 2015–2019, where complete data from four different data sources were analysed.

Non-grant funding: We only identified one non-grant funded WEE project with a COVID-19 component in Kenya. Funded by the AfDB, the project was a \$217m loan in 2020 to the GoK. It was entitled “Kenya - COVID-19 Emergency Response Support Program (ERSP)” with the aim to “support the Government of Kenya’s efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate its economic and social impacts.” This project description, among other objectives, mentions expanding social safety nets for vulnerable women, and was marked with a ‘PWYF partial focus on women’. Improving the shock-responsiveness of the safety net system has been a priority for the GoK, not only for COVID-19 but also in times of climate shock. In response to COVID-19, the GoK has implemented fiscal related measures including cash transfers to vulnerable households as well as public works improvement programmes.¹⁶⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted workers in the informal sector, which has exacerbated the low income and the routine lack of social protection these workers face. In Kenya, women make up an estimated 66% of the informal work force. Despite COVID-19 responses, a 2021 publication finds that women in the informal sector, including women-owned SME’s, have largely fallen outside the scope of these protections.¹⁶⁵

4.9 Unpaid care and COVID-19

Addressing the impact of UCW has been a vital part of addressing the gendered impacts of COVID-19. At the global level, the data captured by the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker demonstrates that globally gendered measures remain limited. For example, only 7% of other social protection and labour market responses were recorded as addressing unpaid care.¹⁶⁶

Women in Kenya have been no exception and many reported lower earnings in the wake of COVID due to increased unpaid care responsibility.¹⁶⁷ Our analysis determined that only 11% of the projects that targeted UCW between 2020–2021 also specified COVID-19 as a focus, representing less than 1% of the funding allocated to UCW over 2020–2021.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

This report has provided insight into the international funding landscape for WEE in Kenya between 2015–2019, examining both grant and non-grant funding. Applying a methodology for tracking funding to WEE that is predicated on a holistic and rights-based approach, we have aimed to illustrate the numerous and intersecting dimensions of WEE. We have shown that in Kenya, international grant funding to WEE has remained largely unchanged between 2015–2019, despite an increase in total international grant funding. The targeting of WEE in both grant and non-grant funding, particularly that was marked ‘OECD principal’ or ‘PWYF exclusive focus on women’, remains low across key sectors for advancing WEE. Through our focused analysis on UCW we have identified that only 3% of total WEE projects addressed women and girls’ UCW. Considering the increasing attention to UCW globally there is room for improvement. The scale and effects of COVID-19 are far-reaching. While our data was unable to touch upon this in more detail, we hope that it has created a starting point for tracking international funding for WEE during the pandemic and especially in the post recovery phase. This will be critical to monitor future funding allocations to WEE and to ensure that we continue to progress towards global gender equality goals.

The following recommendations would significantly improve the transparency of the international funding landscape for WEE through publication of consistent, robust, timely, accessible, and comparable data across datasets and DFI portals. Our global transparency report (forthcoming 2022) will further unpack data challenges and include additional recommendations.

Transparency recommendations

1) Publish key fields and harmonise where possible. Ideally, all funders should create one dataset that can be used for reporting to various portals, including open databases and funders’ own websites. At a minimum, funders should harmonise information across platforms. Data platforms should enable and encourage funders to report on key fields, and funders should consistently report on these. Fields include:

- **OECD gender marker scores.** This provides information on the gender intentionality of a project. Publish these scores both in OECD and IATI data and where applicable, alongside funders’ unique gender scores.
- **Sectors and implementers.** Use the CRS code list, including sector/purpose codes and parent-channel (implementing organisations type) codes, and recipient organisation names, including for multi-year projects within datasets. Avoid “blank” reporting in these fields.
- **Targeted groups.** Specify which groups of women are targeted by funding, even where WEE is a sub-component of a broader project. This provides better insight into whom is included/excluded in WEE programmes and how this might be addressed, specifically for marginalised groups of women. For example, funders can mention age group, race/ethnicity, disability status, social class, and religious affiliation.
- **Titles and descriptions.** Funders should provide clear titles and detailed project descriptions and clearly indicate WEE objectives. This allows for more reliable and robust WEE identification and analysis.

2) Publish more evaluations and results. The sparse reporting of project evaluations and results significantly limits the ability to measure impact and learn from investments in WEE. To improve this:

- Funders should publish evaluations and results information where possible and as soon as they become available.
- Funders should publish on all aspects of programme activities. This is particularly relevant where WEE is a component or objective of a much larger programme.
- Data platforms should enable and encourage funders to publish evaluations and results information where not already possible.

3) Improve data accessibility: Improving accessibility of programmatic and financial data is vital to track funding for individual projects. To improve this, funders should:

- Make project lists and the results of project searches exportable in CSV or other formats compatible with common software suites.
- Facilitate browsing and downloading of project documents.

Providing this information in a consistent and complete way will enhance the ability to understand where and how funding is being delivered at country level and with what results, which in turn can inform more strategic decision-making and improve coordination between in-country stakeholders and international funders.

Appendix

All funding in this report is in USD millions. Funding amounts over \$10m have been rounded to the nearest million. Amounts under \$10m include one or more (rounded) decimals.

WEE main category	WEE sub-category	Sector name	OECD Principal		OECD Significant		PWYF exclusive focus on women		PWYF partial focus on women		Remaining total grant funding to sector	
			Grants (G)	Non-grants (NG)	G	NG	G	NG	G	NG	G	NG
Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resource access	Access to productive resources	Banking & Financial Services	\$0.7	\$4.0	\$24	\$1.8	\$1.0	-	\$1.8	-	\$51	\$498
		Business & Other Services	\$1.0	-	\$9.3	-	\$0.1	-	\$2.8	-	\$75	\$117
		Communications	\$0.5	-	\$1.9	-	\$0.02	-	\$0.2	-	\$3.9	\$267
	Productive sector opportunity	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	\$12	-	\$282	\$16	\$1.4	-	\$108	\$116	\$596	\$644
		Industry, Mining, Construction	\$0.1	-	\$25	\$23	\$0.2	\$9.8	\$0.8	\$25	\$90	\$288
		Tourism	\$0.01	-	\$0.3	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.7	\$88
		Vocational training	\$2.8	-	\$16	-	\$0.8	-	\$8.8	\$58	\$34	\$38
Rights, policies & supports	Infrastructure and livelihoods	Transport & Storage	-	-	\$8.2	-	-	-	-	\$337	\$204	\$1,290
		Energy	\$0.01	-	\$20	\$36	\$0.1	-	\$0.9	-	\$63	\$1,946
		General Environment Protection	\$0.2	-	\$75	-	-	-	\$6.1	-	\$279	\$88
		Urban development and management	\$2.9	-	\$9.8	-	-	-	\$0.1	-	\$16	\$266
		Rural development	\$2.2	-	\$37	-	-	-	\$0.5	-	\$20	\$24
	Rights-based supports	Legal and judicial development	\$1.8	-	\$2.3	-	-	-	-	-	\$36	-
		Democratic participation and civil society	\$15	-	\$36	-	\$2.4	-	\$3.3	-	\$124	-
		Media and free flow of information	\$0.1	-	\$0.03	-	-	-	-	-	\$5.4	-
		Human rights	\$3.5	-	\$20	-	\$1.0	-	\$2.9	-	\$44	-
		Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions	\$28.7	-	\$5.2	-	\$0.7	-	-	-	\$14	-
		Labour rights	-	-	\$0.1	-	-	-	\$0.02	-	\$0.1	-
		Social dialogue	-	-	\$0.3	-	-	-	\$0.03	-	\$0.03	-

Rights, policies & supports	Macroeconomic interventions	Trade Policies & Regulations	\$0.02	-	\$4.1	-	\$0.01	-	-	-	\$65	-
		General Budget Support	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$6.1	-
		Public finance management	\$0.7	-	\$1.3	-	-	-	-	-	\$25.2	\$179
		Domestic revenue mobilisation	-	-	\$0.7	-	-	-	-	-	\$27	\$101
		Macroeconomic policy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.4	
		Employment creation	\$0.1	-	\$3.8	-	\$0.003	-	\$0.9	-	\$7.3	\$113
		Statistical capacity building	\$0.5	-	\$0.2	-	-	-	-	-	\$3.5	
		Public sector policy and administrative management	\$0.3	-	\$2.8	-	\$0.9	-	\$2.7	-	\$51	\$129
		Decentralisation and support to sub-national government	-	-	\$8.0	-	-	-	\$1.8	-	\$61	\$422
		Anti-corruption organisations and institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$24	-
		Legislatures and political parties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$7.0	-
		Other Commodity Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$20	
		Research/scientific institutions	-	-	\$0.7	-	\$1.3	-	-	-	\$14	-
Foundational capabilities	GBV	Ending violence against women and girls	\$9.9	-	\$3.4	-	\$5.3	-	\$1.3	-	\$0.1	-
		Education	Education	\$66	-	\$74	-	\$28	-	\$10	-	\$251
	Higher education		\$0.1	-	\$31	\$13	-	-	\$0.1	-	\$116	\$149
	Health	Health	\$15	\$2.5	\$169	\$55	\$2.2	-	\$95	\$105	\$817	\$33
		Population Policies/Programmes & Reproductive Health	\$46	-	\$64	-	\$22	-	\$528	\$45	\$1,577	-
		Promotion of mental health and well-being	\$0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.1	-
		Other prevention and treatment of NCDs	-	-	\$0.8	-	-	-	-	-	\$1.4	-
		Social mitigation of HIV/AIDS	\$0.3	-	\$1.4	-	\$0.8	-	\$1.0	-	\$6.2	-
	Basic needs	Water Supply & Sanitation	\$0.3	-	\$71	\$43	-	-	\$8.5	\$366	\$177	\$818
		Development Food Assistance	\$0.6	-	\$30	-	-	-	-	-	\$72.4	-
		Emergency Response	\$1.3	-	\$47	-	\$0.7	-	\$106	-	\$1,325	-
		Reconstruction Relief & Rehabilitation	\$0.1	-	\$0.01	-	-	-	\$0.07	-	\$137	-
		Disaster Risk Reduction	\$0.1	-	\$32	-	\$0.01	-	\$3.4	-	\$126	-
Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility		-	-	\$1.4	-	-	-	\$2.0	-	\$6.3	-	
Social Protection		\$0.2	-	\$14	-	\$0.5	-	\$1.7	-	\$93	\$248	
Food security		-	-	-	-	\$0.01	-	-	-	\$0.8	-	
Housing		\$0.01	-	\$1	-	-	-	\$0.1	-	\$2.3	\$331	

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