



IN BRIEF

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# IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL TRACKING TOOLS AND FINANCING COMMITMENTS FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN INTER-AGENCY POOLED FUNDS

## Financing for Gender Equality

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a crucial foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Progress in achieving gender equality requires sustained and adequate financing. Further, while there have been advancements, the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030, the deadline set by the 2030 Agenda for achievement of its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), one of which, SDG 5, is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Yet, estimates indicate that it will take another 286 years to bridge the global gender gap, according to the [Gender Snapshot 2022](#).

By the end of 2019, the High-Level Task Force on Financing for Gender Equality endorsed a series of recommendations for the UN System to improve its own structures, systems and processes to better support financing for gender equality. The recommendations complement the Secretary-General's Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognize the work of the Digital Financing Task Force for the SDGs in ensuring the full integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in these efforts.

Among the established recommendations, the HLTF called on the UN system to integrate GEWE criteria into the design, selection, implementation and monitoring of pooled funds, including those managed by the MPTF Office and standalone Joint Programmes; and to establish a GEWE minimum financial target across all pooled funds.

## FMOG survey on Funding Compact Commitment 14

In 2022 the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) conducted the Fiduciary Management and Oversight Group (FMOG) Survey on Funding Compact Commitment 14 that included gender-related questions covering issues such as the use of the gender equality marker (GEM), the establishment of financial targets or the minimum 15 per cent allocation to programmes with gender equality as their main objective.

In the third quarter of 2022 the FMOG subgroup on inter-agency pooled funds conducted a survey on common management features of inter-agency pooled funds for the second time. The results were made public in January 2023, according to which the survey was sent to 190 inter-agency pooled funds that were active in 2021, being responded by 150 funds (79 per cent overall response rate), consisted of 102 JPs and 48 MPTFs (representing 68 per cent and 32 per cent of respondents, respectively).

Following is a brief summary of the findings of the FMOG survey on concerning gender-related issues.

## Main findings

**Figure I. Percentage of funds responding affirmatively to gender-related questions**

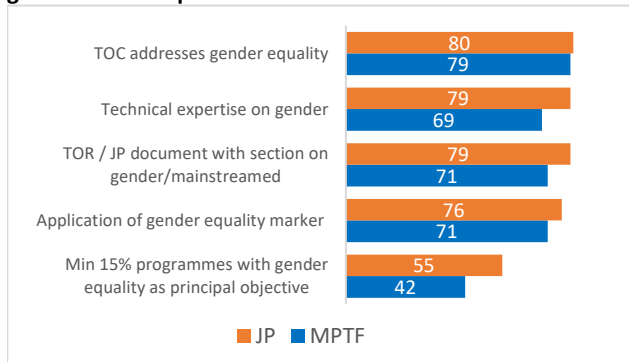
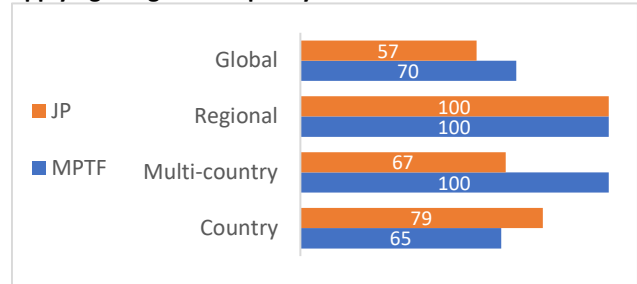


Figure I includes five questions related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG). The first three questions illustrate to extent to which MPTFs and JPs address gender equality in their Theories of Change, whether they have capacity to draw in technical expertise on gender equality, and whether their TOR have either a section on GEEWG or GEEWG is mainstreamed across all sections. At first sight, data tell us that MPTFs perform less well than JPs in terms of existing capacity to draw in technical expertise on gender equality, as well as in terms of ensuring that their TOR include either a section on GEEWG or GEEWG is mainstreamed throughout the document.

When it comes to the application of the gender equality marker (GEM) and the 15 per cent of minimum allocation of resources to programmes with gender equality as their principal objective, we also observe some differences between MPTFs and JPs. While 76 per cent of JPs report applying the GEM, it slightly drops to 71 per cent in the case of MPTFs. On the 15 per cent minimum allocation, there is a greater difference between MPTFs and JPs, 42 per cent and 55 per cent respectively affirm having allocated at least 15 per cent of their budget to programmes with gender equality as their principal objective. In the following paragraphs, the application of the GEM will be further analyzed.

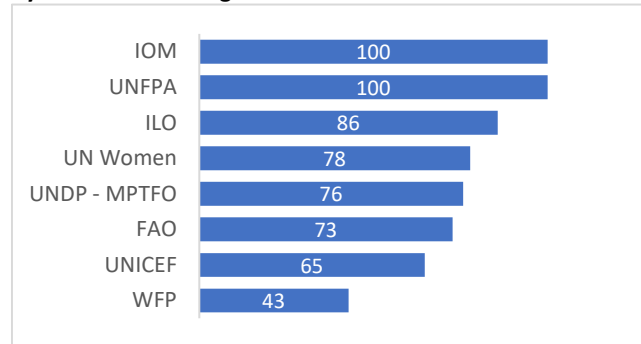
Figure II shows the proportion of MPTFs and JPs that are applying the GEM as per their geographical coverage. Since the majority of inter-agency pooled funds consists of country (98) and global funds (27), the analysis focuses primarily on these two levels. At the global level, 57 per cent of JPs and 70 per cent of MPTFs apply the GEM. When looking at the country level funds, the GEM application grows higher for JPs reaching a 79 per cent but drops for MPTFs with a 65 per cent coverage.

**Figure II. Percentage of funds by geographical coverage applying the gender equality marker**



As indicated in Figure III, IOM and UNFPA consistently apply the GEM in all their JPs. However, there is still work to be done to ensure that other key UN entities, such as UNDP-MPTFO, UNICEF, FAO and WFP, also consistently apply the GEM as Administrative Agents of JPs.

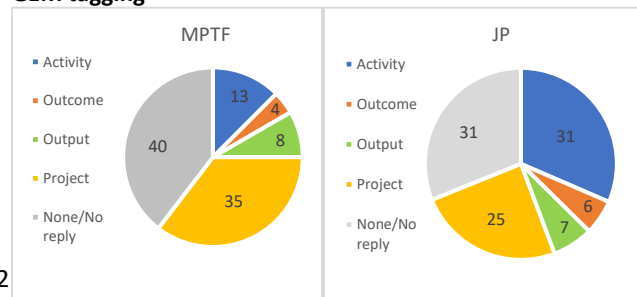
**Figure III. Percentage of Joint Programmes tagged with GEM by Administrative Agent<sup>1</sup>**



(1) Percentages calculated out of the total of each AA.

The analysis of Figures IV and V reveals the primary application of the GEM. While the GEM is predominantly utilized at the project level within MPTFs, it is primarily applied at the activity level in JPs, with the project level closely following. This pattern can potentially be attributed to the fact that out of the total 31 JPs, 16 of them are administered by UNFPA, which specifically applies the GEM at the activity level. A noteworthy concern is the high percentage of MPTFs and JPs that do not report any level of tagging, which should be discouraged.

**Figures IV and V. Percentage of MPTFs and JPs by level of GEM tagging**



**Table I. Use of GEM in MPTF by type of fund**

	Number of MPTF	Number of MPTF with GEM	Percentage of MPTF with GEM
Development	24	15	63
Peace and transition	12	10	83
Climate and environment	11	9	82
No information	1	0	0
	48	34	71

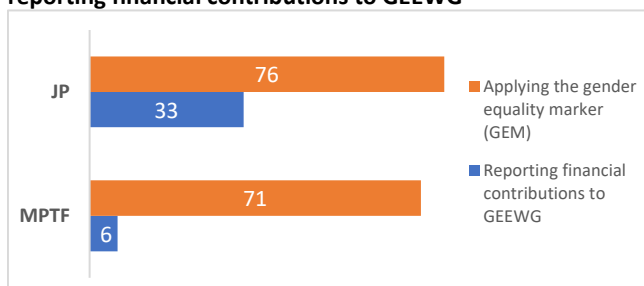
If we focus on the use of the GEM by MPTFS according to the type of fund, Table I shows that the most frequent type is formed by development funds which in turn present the lowest rate of GEM application (63 per cent). The other two types of funds, peace and transition and climate and environment, have similar percentages in terms of the GEM application (82 and 83 per cent, respectively). It should be noted that a fourth category, formed by Humanitarian Funds, is not captured in this analysis since the MPTF Office does not manage humanitarian funds.

**Figure VI. Percentage of MPFs applying and reporting financial targets on GEEWG**



Importantly, and of concern, Figure VI shows that while 42 per cent of MPTFs apply financial targets on GEEWG, only 6 per cent report on those targets.

**Figure VII. Percentage of funds applying the GEM and reporting financial contributions to GEEWG**



Similarly, while a high percentage of JPs and MPTFs report applying the GEM (76 per cent and 71 per cent, respectively), very few funds report financial contributions to GEEWG based either on their GEM or on their financial targets (33 per cent of JPs and 6 per cent of MPTFs). This suggests that the GEM is not being used to its full potential as a financial tracking mechanism.

## Conclusion

Greater efforts are needed at the country and global levels, which are the most significant geographical levels for inter-agency pooled funds (as indicated by almost two thirds of the survey respondents). The short-term objective is to enhance the implementation of the GEM in MPTFs and JPs. Additionally, fund managers and administrative agents should make greater use of the GEM to ensure that its financial tracking capability leads to increased funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

When it comes to types of MPTFs, greater emphasis should be put on development funds, which present the lowest application of the GEM despite being the most frequent type of MPTF.