Ending violence against women and girls is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) seek to change the course of the 21st century by addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, health, and women’s empowerment. Ending violence against women would accelerate achieving the SDGs.

Goal 4. Quality Education
In Uganda, 78% of primary and 82% of secondary school students reported having experienced sexual abuse at school, 67% perpetrated by male teachers. Fear for girls’ safety in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea have led parents to withdraw girls from school. The impact of gender-based violence causes compromised attendance, lower academic results and higher drop-out rates.

Goal 5. Gender Equality
35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.

Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation
Women in 25 sub-Saharan countries spend the total of 16 million hours per day collecting water. Women and girls are frequently subjected to unacceptable risks of violence, including sexual violence, while accessing water and sanitation facilities.

Goal 10. Reduced inequalities
20% of the women in Cambodia who experienced domestic violence reported that they missed work and their children missed school.

Goal 13. Climate Action
In humanitarian emergencies, women living in camps or informal settlements may face violence as they fetch water or firewood, may be forced to offer sexual favors in exchange for food when food is scarce. In some situations, economically disadvantaged families marry off their underage daughters to have one less children to feed.

Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities
Violence against women and girls limits women and girls’ mobility and the use of public spaces, keeping them away from school, work, and transports. According to a 2013 survey on women’s perceptions of safety in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, 2 out of 3 women live in fear of sexual violence.
References


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Resources

