



# Analyzing Global GEF Commitments and Progress towards Economic Justice and Rights

## About WeProsper

WeProsper is a global coalition that promotes women's economic empowerment (WEE) by engaging in strategic advocacy to advance gender equality, address structural barriers, and foster women's and girls' voice and power as economic actors. Together, we work to build and utilize the global evidence base on women's economic empowerment using a feminist and intersectional approach to meaningfully inform global policy, increase funding for WEE, and support prosperity for women and girls in all their diversity.

## Acknowledgements

WeProsper greatly appreciates the research and analytic contributions from coalition members BRAC USA (Jenna Grzeslo, Emma Haseley, and Leena Khan) and the International Center for Research on Women (Kelsey Harris and Mary Borrowman). We also appreciate the helpful feedback and clarifications from UN Women shared during the writing process.

# Overview




In connection with the Generation Equality Forum in July 2021, over 2,500 commitments were made by various stakeholders—from governments to youth-led organizations—to support gender equality globally over the next five years. Each commitment belongs to one of six different Action Coalitions: Gender-Based Violence, Economic Justice & Rights, Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Bodily Autonomy & Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Feminist Movements & Leadership, and Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality. The commitments that have been made to date are made easily available online through the public [Action Coalitions Commitment Dashboard](#), which is managed by UN Women.

As a global coalition dedicated to advancing women's economic empowerment, justice, and rights, WeProsper has a particular interest in the Economic Justice & Rights (EJR) commitments. With 527 total commitments, EJR commitments comprise the second largest grouping—after Gender-Based Violence at 806 commitments. EJR commitments fall into four priority action areas (each commitment can be categorized under multiple action areas).

In the summer of 2022, one year after the commitments were made, the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) conducted a survey to determine the progress Commitment Makers (CMs) have made thus far. Their survey results are summarized in the [Generation Equality Accountability Report 2022](#), released in September. The survey and initial report are good first steps toward documenting progress and upholding accountability for commitments. Yet, with a response rate of 31% across all GEF commitments and only 19% (n = 138) of EJR commitments reporting on their progress, there is still a great deal of information unknown about progress made towards EJR commitments, and any conclusions put forward at this point should be taken as preliminary.

This brief outlines key takeaways and recommendations following a review of the EJR commitments in the [Action Coalition Commitment Dashboard](#) and findings from the [Generation Equality Accountability Report 2022](#). The purpose of this brief is to provide a comprehensive analysis of this subset of GEF commitments for use by external stakeholders, support the monitoring and accountability of EJR commitments, and add value to the broader conversation around the GEF process.

## EJR Priority Action Areas

<b>ACTION AREA 1</b>  Increase women's economic empowerment by transforming the care economy	<b>ACTION AREA 2</b>  Expand decent work and employment in formal and informal economies	<b>ACTION AREA 3</b>  Increase women's access to and control over productive resources	<b>ACTION AREA 4</b>  Promote gender-transformative economies and economic stimulus
<b>TARGET 1</b> Increase national budgets towards a recommended 3-10% of national income for equitable quality public care services.	<b>TARGET 3</b> Reduce the number of working women living in poverty by 2026 by a recommended 17 million by 2026.	<b>TARGET 5</b> Secure access to ownership and control over land and housing is increased for 7 million women by 2026.	<b>TARGET 8</b> Design and implement gender-responsive macroeconomic plans, budget reforms and stimulus packages so that the number of women and girls living in poverty is reduced by 85 million including through quality public social protection floors and systems by 2026.
<b>TARGET 2</b> Up to 80 million decent care jobs are created by 2026.	<b>TARGET 4</b> Decrease the gap in labour force participation between prime-age women and men with small children by half, resulting in an additional 84 million women joining the labour force.	<b>TARGET 6</b> The gender gap in women's financial inclusion is reduced to 6% by increasing both formal and informal financial inclusion, including for women at risk of being excluded from formal financial services.	
		<b>TARGET 7</b> The number of firms owned by women is increased by 25% in all contexts, including in fragile and conflict situations.	

# Analysis of GEF EJR Action Coalition Commitments

In total, there are 527 EJR commitments made by 354 unique Commitment Makers (CMs), as reported via the Action Coalition Commitment Dashboard, as of September 2022. To get a better understanding of the types of work the EJR commitments span and the gaps that remain and to contextualize the EJR commitments, we took a deep dive into the data available on the Generation Equality Forum website.<sup>1</sup>

## Commitment Makers

Among the twelve types of EJR CMs, nonprofit sector organizations comprised the bulk of the commitments, while international financial institutions, media organizations, and national institutions put forward the fewest. 48% (n=255/527) of EJR commitments were made by civil society organizations, followed by government (21%, n=113/527), and private sector companies (10%, n=10/527). This reflects a similar pattern when looking across all Action Coalitions, except that youth-led CMs are more significantly represented, at 12% (n=316/2626) of all CMs versus 7% (n=38/527), in the EJR Action Coalition. In total, 38 governments made various, sometimes multiple, EJR AC commitments, with the Government of Spain—one of the EJR AC government leads—pledging the most with 28 commitments.

There are noticeable disparities in the geographic region where EJR commitment organizations are based. 30% (n=161/531) of the organizations that made EJR commitments, as well as 30% (n=815/2696) of the

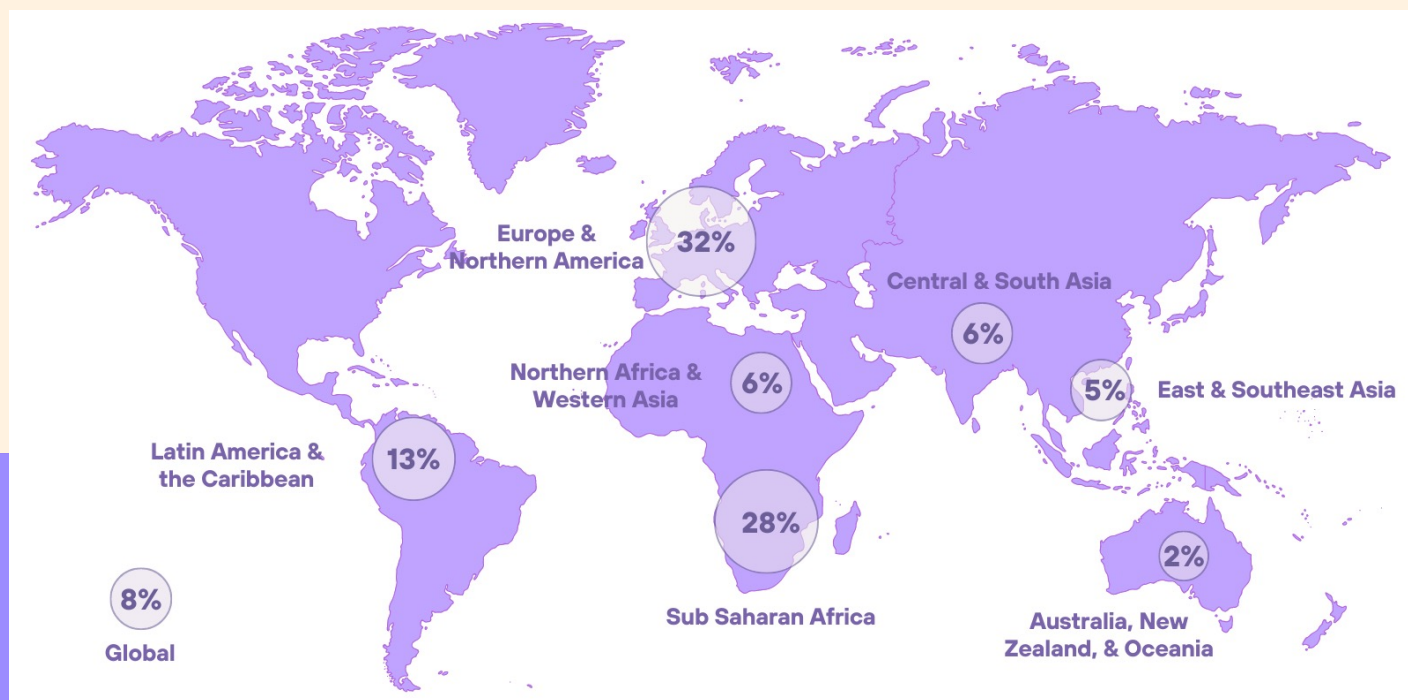
organizations of all Action Coalitions are based in the Africa region, followed closely by organizations who listed their region as “Global” with 28% (n=149/531) of EJR commitments and 29% (n=775/2696) of all Action Coalitions doing so. Overall, nearly 20% of CMs are based in the United States, which is more than any other country. The Arab States, Asia, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean have the fewest organizations making commitments, with the Arab States having the least at 0%. Similar geographic focuses exist when we zoom out to look at all Action Coalition CMs.

## Geographic Breakdown of EJR Commitment Implementation<sup>2</sup>

Each EJR Commitment Maker is implementing their commitment in an average of three countries. The highest number of implementation countries specified for an EJR commitment is 138 by the United Nations Office for Project Services, which pledged to put gender at the core of all of its projects and programs and is working on a set of strategies to do so. 111 EJR commitments and 475 of all commitments list the country of implementation as “Global.”<sup>3</sup>

The country where the most commitments are being implemented is Spain (n=32), followed by Mexico (n=30), Niger (n=29), India (n=28), South Africa (n=28), the United States (n=27), Canada (n=26), Nigeria (n=25), Kenya (n=23), Tanzania (n=21), and Senegal (n=20).

## Where are EJR Commitments being implemented?



## Project Timelines

Nearly half of EJR commitments—about 48% (n=200/531)—are on a 5+ year timeline, which is just shy of the breakdown for all Action Coalitions on equivalent timelines, at 50% (n=1171). A little less than a third of commitments (n=116/415) are 2 years or less, which means that they should be completed by mid-2023.

## Commitment Type

There are four different commitment types: Advocacy, Financial, Policy, and Programmatic. One commitment can be tagged with multiple or all commitment types. 41% (n=173/423) of EJR commitments belong to more than one commitment type, with Advocacy and Programmatic as the most common combination. Overall, EJR CMs prefer programmatic-based strategies to achieve their project

goals; 33% of EJR commitments include programmatic as at least one type, while only 13% include financial. In comparison, when we look at commitments across all six Action Coalitions, we see that AC leaders overall prefer advocacy-based strategies to achieve their goals; 36% of all commitments include advocacy as one of their commitment types. See more details in Table 1.

## Priority Action Areas

Of the four EJR priority action areas outlined below, there is a roughly equal distribution across commitments, with EJR Priority Area 2, focused on expanding decent work and employment in formal and informal economies, coming out slightly ahead at 28%. EJR Priority Area 4, focused on promoting gender-transformative economies and economic stimulus, was slightly below the others at 23%.

**Table 1. Commitment Types**

	EJR Commitments		All Commitments	
	Number	Percentage of Total Reported	Number	Percentage of Total Reported
<b>Total number of times the commitment type was listed.</b>				
Advocacy	213	31%	1422	36%
Financial	91	13%	396	10%
Policy	151	22%	765	20%
Programmatic	225	33%	1322	34%
<b>Total number of times a type was mentioned</b>	680		3,905	
<b>Only one commitment type was selected.</b>				
Advocacy	74	30%	568	39%
Financial	36	14%	131	9%
Policy	54	22%	256	18%
Programmatic	86	34%	500	34%
<b>Total number of single-type commitments</b>	250	59%	1455	
<b>Multiple commitment types were selected.</b>				
Two types	99	57%	596	61%
Three types	50	29%	256	26%
All four types	24	14%	123	13%
<b>Total number of commitments that include more than one type</b>	173	41%	975	

## Commitment Quality

There is wide variety in the breadth, detail, and quality of EJR commitments that were made. Some commitments provide extensive details concerning plans for external and internal commitments, some of which are clearly new and emerging efforts, while others provide little information. For example, commitments that appear to be tied to a Collective Commitment, such as the Global Alliance for Care, generally do not provide any further details on the CM's involvement with that Collective Commitment.

## Notable EJR AC Commitments

**Key financial commitments:** The top 10 financial commitments by CMs all exceeded \$500 million USD, and half of those were made by national governments: Canada, the United States, Sweden, Germany, and Uganda. The largest financial commitment was made by Canada at approximately \$38 billion USD,<sup>4</sup> followed by the United States at \$12.4 billion. The largest private sector commitment was made by Procter and Gamble at \$10 billion, the largest civil society commitment was made by the Hong Maple Foundation / HMF Women's Development Committee/ Maple Centre for Sustainable Development and Application at \$1 billion, and the largest philanthropic donation was made by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at \$650 million. It is notable that many commitments identified an initial financial commitment with plans to raise additional funds beyond that. It is unclear how many of these financial commitments are committing new funding, sharing already planned spending that aligns with the EJR Action Coalition or include funding that overlaps with other Action Coalitions.

**Collective Commitments:** About 45% of commitments were identified as collective or joint.<sup>5</sup> A few notable collective EJR commitments include:

- [Global Alliance for Care](#) is a commitment being implemented by the Government of Mexico's Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES) and UN Women. It serves as a multi-stakeholder platform of 81 entities, including 15 national governments. Together, stakeholders are working to advance the creation of comprehensive care systems, create a community of practice on care, transform gender roles, and promote an inclusive economic recovery from COVID-19 through investments in care infrastructure.
- [Addressing violence and harassment in the world of work](#) is a commitment made under the Economic Justice and Rights and Gender-Based Violence Action Coalitions being led by the International Trade Union Commission (ITUC). The commitment supports the ratification of the International Labor Commission (ILO) Convention No. 190 (C190) on the elimination of violence and harassment in the workplace, and so far 80 stakeholders have signed on in support, and 19 governments have ratified C190.
- [2X Collaborative](#) is an EJR commitment that brings together global industry bodies on gender-lens investing. The platform provides members with the resources they need to increase the volume and impact of capital towards WEE.
- [Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights Initiative](#) is a commitment made to change gender stereotypes and negative social norms through education and training as a catalyst for women's empowerment in Africa.
- [Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice](#) is a commitment made across the Economic Justice and Rights and Climate Justice Action Coalitions by four co-conveners, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), and Women's Working Group on Financing for Development. The "Feminist Action Nexus" is working to advance a comprehensive feminist agenda at the intersection of economic and climate justice towards economies centered around people and the planet.



# Key EJR Findings from Accountability Report

The [Generation Equality Accountability Report 2022](#)

provides updates on commitments made across the six Action Coalitions based on responses to a survey conducted by UN Women from June to August 2022. We analyzed the information available in the report with particular attention to the updates and preliminary findings related to the 138 EJR Action Coalition commitments which provided updates via the accountability survey. Some key preliminary findings are noted below; ***it is important to note that these takeaways only apply to the subset of EJR commitments that shared updates via the survey:***

- **EJR commitment reporting is limited:** 19% of the EJR commitments (138 total) were reported on via a survey as of September 2022. The highest reporting came from civil society organizations at 41% overall. While the percentage reporting of all commitments (31%) is above the minimum threshold of 30% set by UN Women, the EJR reporting level is not above that threshold.
- **Reported EJR commitments have a significant funding gap:** EJR commitments have at least a \$3 billion funding gap based on reporting, the largest of any Action Coalition by far (the next largest funding gap is \$1.3 billion for Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights). From the information available, it is not clear why this gap is so large, but could be due to sizable commitments not reporting via the survey. EJR commitments represent 60% of the total funding gap across all of the six Action Coalitions. Out of \$15 billion total pledged across 51 EJR commitments, there has been only \$11.8 secured.
- **Reported EJR commitments are in full swing:** Of the 138 EJR commitments that reported on their progress, 76% are in progress, 10% are in the planning scope, and only 5% have not yet begun.
- **Reported EJR commitments are relatively less engaged with youth leadership:** Out of all six Action Coalitions, the EJR action coalition has the lowest proportion of commitments led by youth organizations at 8%. In contrast, the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition has 30% of its commitments led by youth organizations.
- **Almost half of reported EJR commitments are global in scope:** The EJR Action Coalition has 45% of reported commitments with a global scope, which is much higher than the 28% of all EJR AC commitments being implemented globally. After Feminist Movements and Leadership (56%) and Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality (48%), it is the coalition with the third largest proportion of commitments on a global scale per the accountability survey.
- **Most reported EJR commitments have a country or regional focus:** The EJR coalition has 55% of reported commitments with a country or regional scope.
- **Almost half of reported EJR commitments are a result of newly-formed partnerships:** The EJR coalition has 48% of reported commitments that have resulted from newly-formed partnerships. After Feminist Movements and Leadership (63%) and Feminist Action for climate justice (58%), it is the coalition with the third-largest proportion of commitments that result from newly-formed partnerships.
- **Almost half of reported EJR commitments aim to take an intersectional approach:** The EJR coalition has 46% of reported commitments that intend to take an intersectional approach, as intersectionality is a core principle of Generation Equality. However, it lags behind 3 other Action Coalitions: Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality (70%), Feminist Action for Climate Justice (64%), and Feminist Movements and Leadership (59%).

# Recommendations

Based on our analysis, we recommend a few next steps to improve the accountability process, ensure transparency and clarity for external stakeholders, and support financial sustainability for GEF commitments.

## 1. Simplify the reporting process.

The survey process (conducted from June-August 2022) that CMs undertook was long and burdensome, particularly for those with multiple commitments who had to complete the multi-page survey several times. In order to ensure robust and meaningful reporting, the accountability process should be simplified and streamlined to ensure significant and meaningful participation. This will enable the achievement of the United Nation's target 30% threshold, at a minimum, and facilitate meaningful progress reporting for EJRC commitments. As 30% is still a low percentage of the total number of commitments, we also recommend working to surpass that level and sharing an analysis of the commitments that have not provided updates to facilitate a better understanding of what the data does not include.

## 2. Share additional data publicly.

While it is understood that the accountability report provides initial and preliminary information from the accountability survey, the release of additional public information is welcomed by civil society to best support the accountability process externally. As only summary statistics are available via the report, moving forward, additional data reporting transparency is needed. For example, more details on commitment progress will enable stakeholders to identify gaps that need to be filled to achieve GEF EJRC AC targets and Collective Commitments.

## 3. Directly engage EJRC Commitment Makers that have not yet reported.

Through direct outreach, GEF leadership should engage EJRC CMs that have not yet submitted a report and provide new and different mechanisms to share updates, such as a streamlined form or verbal reporting opportunity. Any notable gaps from those commitments that have not yet reported should be shared in the continued absence of reporting to give more meaning to the data that is available.

## 4. Push for clarity on financing gaps and share publicly.

Given the significant funding gap for the EJRC Action Coalition, outreach to CMs should include a push for more concrete information on the financing of commitments, and financing details should be made public to the fullest extent possible. Where initial funds were identified in commitments with goals to raise more funding, this should be followed up as a further indicator of progress. Additionally, to facilitate tracking of financial commitments, there should be clarification on how much of the committed funds represent a new influx of funds as compared to investments that entities were already making, as well as how many are exclusive investments to EJRC.

## 5. Facilitate new and stronger EJRC commitments across underrepresented geographies.

To ensure global progress toward economic justice and rights, commitments should be more balanced globally. As such, GEF and EJRC AC leadership, in coordination with civil society, should push for new and stronger commitments in geographic areas that are currently not represented by existing EJRC commitments, such as in Asia, the Arab States, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

## 6. Keep engaging civil society.

The percentage of reported new partnerships is promising and should continue to be built upon, particularly those that engage civil society and are cross-sectoral in nature. Further, civil society should be engaged to support accountability and commitment implementation given the large percentage of EJRC commitments made by civil society.

# Endnotes

1. Note that not every category of information was filled-out for each commitment. This means that the percentages are out of the total of commitments that did provide information for that category.
2. For each commitment, there are three different elements related to geography: Country of Implementation, Region (the geographic region where the organization is from), and Organization Country.
3. Note that 2 of the EJRC commitments and 43 of all commitments also list other countries of implementation in addition to “Global.”
4. Canada’s commitment was \$49 billion Canadian dollars. At the time of writing this was equivalent to \$38 billion USD.
5. “Collective Commitments” are a limited number of formal joint commitments endorsed by each Action Coalition; for the EJRC AC, there are just 4 collective commitments (the first four in the list above). Joint Commitments are commitments made in partnership with other organizations; these comprise 45% of all EJRC commitments made. When GEF commitments were initially made in 2021, this differentiation was not yet clear, and Joint Commitments were sometimes referred to as collective.



