

WOMEN ARE THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Invest in a girl and she will do the rest.

A thought...



**When women are denied the
opportunity to better
themselves and their societies,
we all lose.**

-Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-
General of the United Nations

...or two...

Women are the backbone of families, villages, communities and nations. Yet globally, they are much more likely than men to be poor, malnourished, illiterate, and have inadequate access to basic health services.

-Steve Chadwick, The Government of New Zealand

Basic gender inequalities

- Job security is greater for men
- Job vulnerability is greatest for women
- Strong societal bias against girls
- Greater responsibility for food and drinking water security falls on women
- Violence is more prevalent against women
- Lack of education opportunities for girls
- Lack of access to reproductive health care

The story on economic inequality

WOMEN
provide **2/3** of the world's labor
for
10% of the wealth
and
1% of the property rights

-Global Summit on Women 2008

The dilemma of voice and choice

Women's capacity to use voice or exercise choice is mediated by men or local dominant interest groups, or is distorted by gender-biased access to politics or markets

UN Millennium Development Goals

The MDGs were designed in 2000 and targeted for completion by 2015

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

UN Millenium Development Goals 2000-2015

*Three critical factors that will
advance gender equality across the globe:*

- **Development investment in education and health**
- **Equal market engagement for men and women**
- **Women's participation in public decision-making**

Who's engaged

- United Nations
- UNIFEM
- Center for Global Development
- USAID
- Catalyst
- Vital Voices
- 10000 Women
- Millenium Challenge Corporation
- APCO Worldwide

What you can do

- LEARN about the global issues and the organizations working to solve them
- Become CULTURALLY ATTUNED
- STAY CURRENT with RSS feeds and subscriptions
- PARTICIPATE in organizations that match your talents with your priorities
- ACT through your time, attention and money

Learn

- Start with www.un.org or www.unifem.org
- Go to www.linkedin.com/in/lisahickey and download my document on women's economic empowerment
- Attend a seminar
- Watch the great video at www.girleffect.org
- Read Nicholas Kristof's book Half the Sky

Become culturally attuned

- Check out www.executiveplanet.com for tips
- Learn a second language through continuing education
- Join an international chamber, or two
- Participate on www.connected-women.com
- Set your preferences on www.nawbo.org to participate in the international community of practice

Stay current

- Design your home page on Google or Bing or Yahoo to contain RSS feeds from sites like www.cgdev.org or www.vitalvoices.org or www.care.org
- Subscribe to international newsletters such as World Pulse magazine
- Join groups on LinkedIn that are talking about gender equality issues
- Follow UNDP on Twitter

Participate

- Organization of Women in Trade: www.owit.org
- The International Alliance for Women:
www.tiaw.org
- Vital Voices: www.vitalvoices.org
- Connected Women: www.connected-women.com

ACT

- Consider giving your time as a mentor through Vital Voices or Eve-olution
- Serve on committees or boards relative to your interest
- Donate in alignment with your interests
 - ▣ Make girls smarter: www.hki.org
 - ▣ Keep a girl in school: www.care.org
 - ▣ Catch girls in time: www.girleffect.org
 - ▣ Support a woman's business: www.MercyCorps.org
or www.BRACUSA.org
- Diversify your own business internationally

***WE THINK TOO SMALL, LIKE THE
FROG AT THE BOTTOM OF THE
WELL. HE THINKS THE SKY IS
ONLY AS BIG AS THE TOP OF THE
WELL. IF HE SURFACED, HE
WOULD HAVE AN ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT VIEW.***

- Mao Tse-Tung