

Focus on...Gender Equality

You have the right to be treated as an equal

Gender relations are central to change the balance of power between women and men in societies. Gendered relations are increasingly recognised to be central to the development of policies and implementation to promote effective service delivery.

Evidence shows that benefits in society accrue more to men than women. Such inequalities are manifest, for example, in economic, educational, social, political, technological and health sectors. Some concrete examples of the gendered dimension of social accountability issues are: food security, sexual and reproductive health, education of the girl child, water, transport, sanitation, electricity and hygiene.

A primary goal is to mainstream gender equality in all areas of social and economic development. Gender mainstreaming is a process rather than an end itself. It should prioritise gender in all areas of social accountability: policy development; advocacy, dialogue; resource allocation; planning and implementation.

ANSA-Africa identifies gender as a significant cross-cutting factor to add value to and facilitate the improvement of gender imbalances on the demand side of service delivery.

UN Millennium Development Goal 3:

Promote gender equality and empower women



- There is overwhelming evidence that gender inequality in education leads to higher fertility, higher child mortality, higher undernutrition, and lower education investment.
- There is evidence that women's empowerment is associated with improved governance and reduced corruption.
- In Uganda, researchers concluded that failure to meet the MDG on gender equality would slow economic growth by between 0.1 and 0.2 percentage point.

Source: Gender and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa
United Nations University Research Paper 2006/37

- A UN Economic Commission for Africa study concludes that gender-based discrimination slows entrepreneurship among African women.
- Southern African Development Community statistics show that at least one in every five women in the region is beaten, coerced into sex, killed or abused in some way or other, usually by an intimate partner or family member in the region.



ANSA-Africa is a growing network, jointly created by the World Bank and the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa, to advocate across the continent of Africa for citizen involvement in demand-side governance initiatives – particularly in how governments spend budget at community level

 **ANSA**
AFRICA
AFFILIATED NETWORK FOR SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

For resources, insight and tools to build up ICT resources in developing nations, please visit:
www.ansa-africa.net or email: ansa@hsrc.ac.za