More men work than women in most countries, and they get paid more for similar work. In many countries, girls and women have less access to education, health and finance than boys and men. Greater gender equality would benefit the economy through higher growth and lower income inequality.

Linking Gender And Income Inequality

Higher gaps in labor force participation rates between men and women result in inequality of earnings between sexes, thus creating income inequality.

Inequality of opportunities, such as unequal access to education, health services, finance, is strongly associated with income inequality — a large part of this inequality is driven by different access for men and women.

Revise tax policies to encourage women to join the labor force.

Create space in government budgets for priority expenditures such as infrastructure and education.

Implement well-designed family benefits.

Gender inequality is strongly associated with income inequality over time and across countries of all income groups.

An increase in various measures of gender inequality is associated with an increase in net income inequality by almost 10 points.

For advanced countries — with more equal economic opportunities across sexes — income inequality arises mainly through gender gaps in economic participation. In emerging markets and low-income countries, inequality of opportunity, in particular in gender gaps in education and health, appear to pose an obstacle to a more equal income distribution.

Remove gender-based legal restrictions.