



Care Economy and Policy Guidelines for EU Development Partners

In the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2023

SDG 5 Target 5.4: Recognize and **value unpaid care and domestic work** through **public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies**, and by promoting **shared responsibility** within the household and family, as appropriate in each country.

“647 million persons of working age are outside the labour force due to family responsibilities, out of them, 606 million are Women.”

SOURCE: ILO (2018) Care work and Care jobs: For the future of decent work

This guidelines are a roadmap:

For the right to care implementation with environmental sustainability as the ultimate goal.
To design, implement, and/or evaluate any transformational project, program, policy or care system.

This guidelines are addressed to:

All EU Member States in their role as ODA donor countries, and especially to development partners, states, local governments or other partners, such as non-governmental entities or companies, which can contribute to building a transformative care agenda, either ambitious transformative policies for sustainable development or comprehensive systems, or projects for the provision of care services and infrastructures.

Three dimensions of care

1. As a work

Care work allows the economic system to have everyday workers in conditions of precariousness and invisibility. Without them, the established system simply would cease to function.

2. As a need

This need involves both the people who receive care and those who care for them or for themselves, including care of the environment (eco-dependence).

3. As a right

Care as a human right, understood as the right to receive care, to care and to self-care.
This recognition drives States to guarantee their fulfilment.

Call to Action to 10 Guidelines: DATA



By 2030, the global gender poverty gap from ages 25 to 35 will be **121** women for every 100 men.

Source: (UN Women, 2020) From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the wake of COVID-19

Women spend **3x** as many hours as men in unpaid care and domestic work, limiting their access to decent work

Source: UN Women (2020): The impact of Covid on women.

Of all domestic workers globally **76%** are women

Source (ILO, 2021) Making decent work a reality for domestic workers: Ten years after the adoption of the domestic workers convention. 2011 (No. 189)

Women spend **4:30** hours per day doing UNPAID care work while men only do **1:15**. Women spend **3:00** hours per day doing PAID work while men do **5:30**

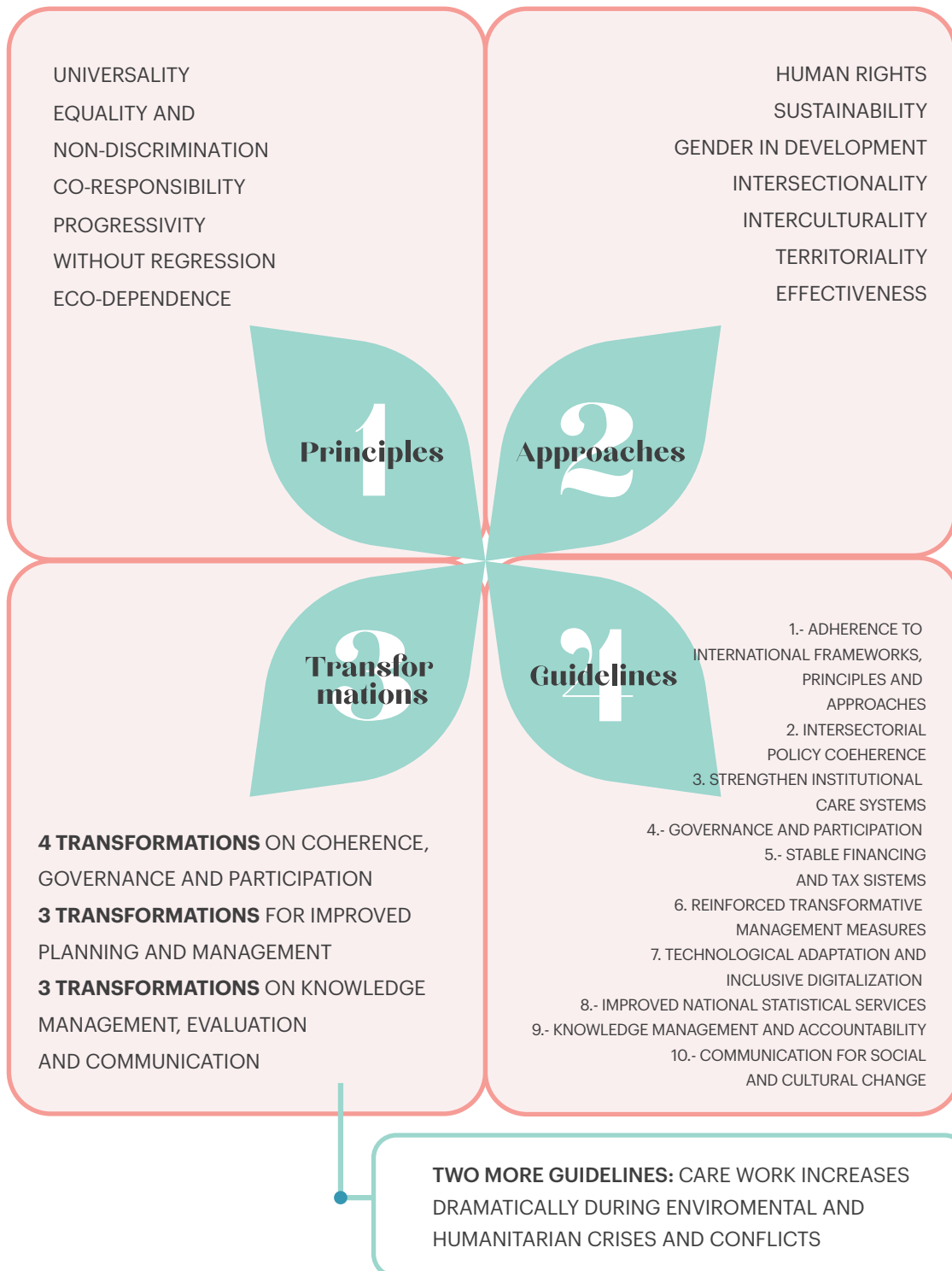
Source: ILO 2018. Care work and care workers for a decent work future

“Recognize care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender responsibility, and therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by people of all sectors of society, families, communities, businesses and the State, adopting regulatory frameworks and comprehensive care policies, programmes and systems with an intersectional and intercultural perspective that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of violence at workplace and sexual harassment in formal and informal work, and that free up time for women, so that they can engage in employment, education, public and political life and the economy, and enjoy their autonomy to the full”.

Source: Buenos Aires Commitment (2023)

Principles and Approaches to 10 Transformations to advance 10 Guidelines

Depending on what each actor, state or local entity prioritizes, that defines in what type of program or initiative to work on, with which transformation as its horizon, and using which guideline(s).



10 Transformations and 10 Guidelines



1.- ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS, PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES

Recognition of right to care in national legislations including its transformational implementation approaches (human rights, gender in development, intersectionality, interculturality, territoriality, sustainability, and effectiveness).



2.- INTERSECTORIAL POLICY COHERENCE

Establish an interministerial coordination mechanism (including sectors and civil society) to ensure organization and local sustainability.



3.- STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CARE SYSTEMS

Guarantee gender mainstreaming at all stages of care policies and gender equality mechanisms leading its implementation.



4.- GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Set up consultative mechanisms for the effective and meaningful civil society participation (specially those groups involved, i.e. domestic workers' trade unions, womens' organizations, caregivers' associations, associations of care-dependant people)



5.- STABLE FINANCING AND TAX SYSTEMS

Sustainable and transparent public funding for care policies through national gender-sensitive budgeting and progressive fiscal systems (complemented by ethical and sustainable private funding if needed)



6.- REINFORCED TRANSFORMATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Ensure objectives for implementing the right to care in its triple scope (caring, being cared for and self-care) are in line with target 5.4 of SDGs



7.- TECHNOLOGICAL ADAPTATION AND INCLUSIVE DIGITALIZATION

Provide for Inclusive digitalization and digital gender gap reduction. Capacity-building for all caregivers as well as all people designing and implementing care policies or projects throughout their cycle.



8.- IMPROVED NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICES

Strengthen National Statistical Systems to mainstream gender and intersectional approaches, to advance in the geo-referencing of gender indicators and to promote public access to the information generated.



9.- KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Multi-stakeholder mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of care policies based on gender indicators, including participative accountability instruments.



10.- COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE

Reinforce social change processes about care work value, roles and responsibilities, by means of diverse communication strategies.

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