

TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION:

GENDER EQUALITY
IN THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda is clear: there can be no sustainable development without gender equality. *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 agenda*, a global monitoring report by UN Women, asks: **How far have we come in turning this new development consensus into results for women and girls, and what is needed to bridge the remaining gaps between rhetoric and reality?**

New data analysis* in the report puts a spotlight on gender-based discrimination across all 17 SDGs. The goal-by-goal review shows that gender inequalities—deeply rooted and present across all countries—are pervasive in each and every dimension of sustainable development. **See goal-by-goal summary below.**

Using micro-level data, the report shows how across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often left behind and excluded from progress. These groups of women and girls not only lack access to education and health, but also other key measures of well-being including access to clean water, fuel and housing. **See case studies summary below.**

Addressing these challenges requires dramatic advances in statistics, financing and policies for gender equality.

THE NEED FOR ACTION

The report identifies four key areas for action:

1. Harnessing policy synergies: the demands for implementation are huge—there are 17 goals and gender equality matters for all of them. Integrated approaches to implementation are pivotal to harnessing these synergies.
2. Improving gender data, statistics and analysis to effectively monitor progress for women and girls across all goals and targets.
3. Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes to align action with the principles, values and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Strengthening accountability through gender-responsive processes and institutions to ensure an integrated approach to implementation, follow-up and review with gender equality at its core.

See *Policy in Focus* summary below

* **NOTE:** Data presented are from global databases and may not reflect the most up-to-date country level information. In addition, data may differ from national figures due to harmonization processes performed for international comparability.

FACT SHEET – GLOBAL

Gender-based discrimination— deeply rooted and present across all countries—threatens to undermine the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda in real and measurable ways:

1 NO POVERTY

Globally, women and girls are over-represented among the poor: 330 million women and girls live on less than US\$1.90 a day, that's 4.4 million more than men.

2 ZERO HUNGER

In nearly two thirds of countries, women are more likely than men to report food insecurity.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Globally, 303,000 women died from pregnancy-related causes in 2015. The rate of death is declining much too slowly to achieve Target 3.1.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

15 million girls of primary-school age will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to 10 million boys.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

The 2030 Agenda promises to put an end to barriers that prevent women and girls from realizing their full potential. But significant challenges lie ahead:

5.1 In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

5.2 1 in 5 women and girls under the age of 50 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

5.3 Globally, 750 million women and girls were married before the age of 18 and at least 200 million women and girls in 30 countries have undergone Female Genital Mutilation.

5.4 Women do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.

5.5 As of September 2017, women hold just 23.7% of parliamentary seats, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to 2000 – but still way below parity.

5.6 Based on data from 45 countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, only 52% of women aged 15–49 who are married or in a union make their own informed decisions about sexual relations and the use of contraceptives and health services.

5.a Globally, women are just 13% of agricultural land holders.

5.b The benefits of internet and technology are accessible to men at a much higher rate than women, leaving women behind in Internet access and mobile phone ownership. Women are less likely than men to own a mobile phone, and their internet usage is 5.9 percentage points lower than that of men.

5.c More than 100 countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of households without access to water on premises.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Indoor air pollution from using combustible fuels for household energy caused 4.3 million deaths in 2012, with women and girls accounting for 6 out of every 10 of these.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Globally, the labour force participation rate among prime working-age women (aged 25–54) stands at 63% compared to 94% among their male counterparts. The global gender pay gap is 23%.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Women represent 28.8% of researchers worldwide. Only about 1 in 5 countries have achieved gender parity in this area.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Up to 30% of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are also more likely than men to live below 50% of the median income.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The global population is becoming more urban, with opportunities and risks for women and girls: More than 50% of urban women in developing countries live in conditions where they lack at least one of the following: access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities, durable housing or sufficient living area.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Investment in public transportation yields large benefits for women, who tend to rely on public transport more than men do.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change has a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are 14 times as likely as men to die during a disaster.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

The contamination of freshwater and marine ecosystems negatively impacts women's and men's livelihoods, their health and the health of their children.

15 LIFE ON LAND

Between 2010 and 2015, the world lost 3.3 million hectares of forest areas. Poor rural women depend on common pool resources and are especially affected by their depletion.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

In times of conflict, rates of homicide and other forms of violent crime increase significantly. While men are more likely to be killed on the battlefield, women are disproportionately subjected to sexual violence and abducted, tortured and forced to leave their homes.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

In 2012, finances flowing out of developing countries were 2.5 times the amount of aid flowing in, and gender allocations paled in comparison.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (CASE STUDIES)

Leaving no one behind means the benefits of sustainable development reach everyone. Currently, across countries, it is those women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination who are often the furthest behind.

- In the **United States**, the share of black and Native American/Alaska Native women over the age of 50 who live in low-income households is more than 10 percentage points above the average for all women.
- In **Nigeria**, a low-income, rural woman of Hausa ethnicity is eight times as likely to be married before the age of 18 as a high-income, urban woman of Yoruba ethnicity.
- In **Pakistan**, the poorest rural Punjabi women and girls are almost 200 times as likely as the richest urban Urdu women and girls to lack access to clean fuels.
- **Colombia**, poorest rural indigenous women are more than 300 times as likely as women who do not identify with any ethnicity and live in the richest urban households to lack skilled delivery care.

POLICY IN FOCUS

Harnessing policy synergies

Investments in accessible, affordable and quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) can contribute to the achievement of several gender- and child-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda by, for instance, reducing the time women spend on unpaid care by shifting some of it out of the family (Target 5.4), enabling women to increase their access to employment (Target 8.5) and enhancing school readiness (Target 4.2).

The need for global gender data availability

Gaps in gender data and the lack of trend data make it difficult to assess and monitor the direction and pace of progress for women and girls. A mere 26% of the data necessary for global monitoring of the gender-specific indicators is available. Unless gender is mainstreamed into national statistical strategies, gender data scarcity will persist.

Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes

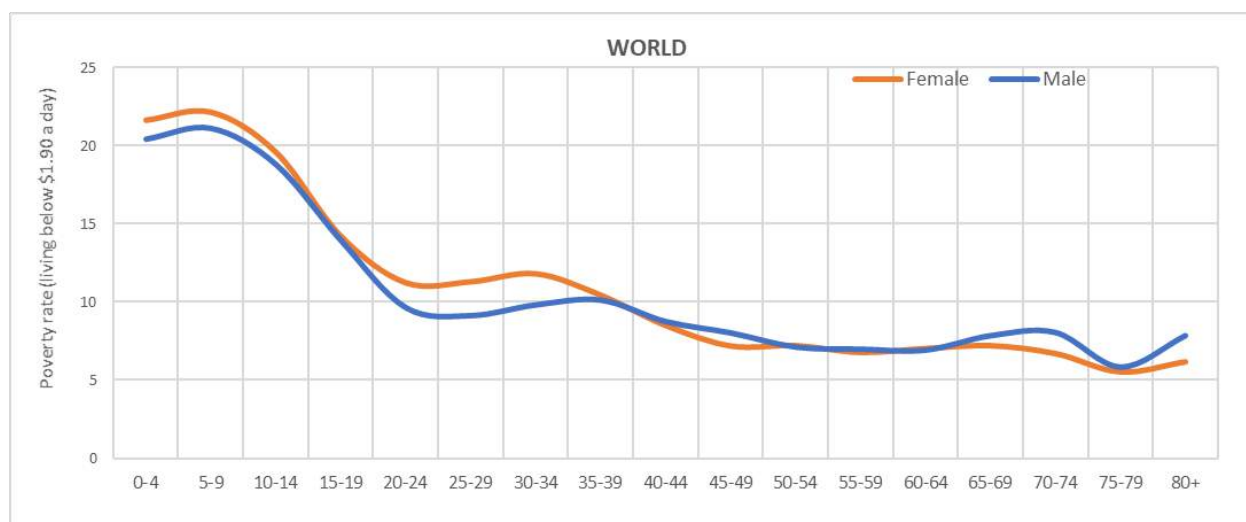
Prioritizing gender-responsive investments pays off. In **South Africa**, for instance, it is estimated that a gross annual investment of 3.2% of GDP in ECEC would not only result in universal coverage for all 0-5-year-old children, but also create 2.3 million new jobs, raising female employment by 10.1%.

APPENDIX

Note: The below represent a selection of illustrative examples at the global level. Country-specific data may be available; if you are interested in country-specific data, please contact us at gender.data@unwomen.org using the subject line “SDG Report”.

1 NO POVERTY

Proportion of people living in extreme poverty^a by sex and age, 2009-2013^b



Source: World Bank calculations using Global Micro Database 2017.

Notes:

a – Living below \$1.90 a day.

b – Data refer to the most recent available during the period specified for 89 developing countries.

2 ZERO HUNGER

Gender gap in prevalence of food security, 2014-2015

SDG Regional Groupings	% of females who are food insecure	% of males who are food insecure	Difference (f-m)
Australia and New Zealand	8.2	10.9	-2.7
Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia	8.4	8.7	-0.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	56.7	56.1	0.6
Europe and Northern America	9.0	8.0	1.0

Northern Africa and Western Asia	28.8	26.8	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	30.8	28.0	2.8
Central Asia and Southern Asia	28.2	24.5	3.7
World	23.9	22.4	1.5

Source: UN Women calculations based on data from the FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) survey (2014–2015).

Notes: The FIES measures the percentage of individuals in the national population who have experienced food insecurity at moderate or severe levels during the 12-month reference period. The analysis is based on data from 141 countries collected by FAO in the context of the Voices of the Hungry Project. FAO, 2017.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Internet penetration rate by sex and region, 2017

SDG Regional Groupings	Female Internet users as % of total female population 2017	Male Internet users as % of total male population 2017
Australia and New Zealand	53.7	56.9
Central and Southern Asia	41.5	44.6
Eastern and South-eastern Asia	27.8	42.0
Europe and Northern America	75.2	82.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	66.7	65.2
Northern Africa and Western Asia	55.3	59.5
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	53.7	56.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	18.4	24.6
World	44.7	50.6

Source: ITU (International Telecommunication Union), 2017. *ICT Facts and Figures 2017*. Geneva: ITU.

Note: Internet penetration rates refer to the number of women and men using the Internet, as a percentage of the respective total female and male population.

Country	All four criteria	3 criteria of the four (no improved water sources, no improved sanitation facilities, overcrowding, insufficient housing)	At least one criteria	Year of survey
Albania	0	0.03	24.61	2008-09
Angola	1.44	3.67	59.4	2011
Armenia	0	0.19	31.14	2010
Azerbaijan	0.62	4.07	84.25	2006
Bangladesh	0.14	3.97	60.75	2014
Benin	2.16	10.4	71.34	2011
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.58	3.08	52.36	2008
Burkina Faso	0.46	3.13	50.18	2010
Burundi	0.34	2.3	49.48	2012
Cambodia	N/A	3.78	61.34	2014
Cameroon	0.81	4.18	47.53	2011
Chad	5.31	24.78	84.99	2014-15
Colombia	0.05	0.32	16.29	2015
Comoros	0.69	7.04	72.56	2012
Congo	0.36	4.08	70.24	2011-12
Côte d'Ivoire	0.2	2.41	64.23	2011-12
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4.5	15.48	81.02	2013-14
Dominican Republic	0	0.21	24.65	2013
Ethiopia	2.55	23.21	80.88	2011
Gabon	0.33	2.08	54.6	2012
Ghana	0.11	0.94	53.86	2014
Guinea	0.28	1.07	52.97	2012
Guyana	0	0.25	41.77	2009
Haiti	0.58	4.09	63.8	2012
Honduras	0.29	4.23	63.1	2011-12
India	0.44	5.38	68.21	2005
Indonesia	0.34	2.46	46.99	2012
Jordan	0	0	42.6	2012

Kenya	2.14	4.46	52.86	2015
Kyrgyz Republic	0	0.3	40.8	2012
Lesotho	0.17	1.28	40.02	2014
Liberia	1.59	8.18	75.86	2013
Madagascar	7.05	17.85	83.78	2013
Malawi	0.03	1.2	43.3	2015-16
Maldives	0	0	48.79	2009
Mali	0.69	4.27	57.21	2012
Moldova	0	0.3	27.8	2005
Morocco	0.06	0.07	22.18	2003-04
Mozambique	3.9	12.84	65.38	2011
Namibia	0.55	5.09	50.18	2013
Nepal	0.49	5.15	61	2016
Niger	0.44	9.04	66.48	2012
Nigeria	1.22	4.94	62.26	2013
Pakistan	0.1	1.47	69.49	2012-13
Philippines	0.32	1.82	52.76	2013
Rwanda	0.68	5.29	56.31	2010
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.44	18.63	87.15	2008-09
Senegal	0.39	2.88	46.8	2015
Sierra Leone	0.89	4.66	68.84	2013
Swaziland	0.31	1.23	47.04	2006-07
Tajikistan	0	1.46	61.48	2012
Timor-Leste	1.8	6.68	52.59	2009-10
Togo	0.24	1.98	58.84	2013-14
Uganda	3.38	6.93	65.94	2011
Ukraine	0	0.16	30.84	2007
United Republic of Tanzania	2.1	11.97	71.93	2010
Viet Nam	0.41	0.97	39.34	2005
Yemen	0.06	2.06	61.02	2013
Zambia	1.4	5.94	63.51	2013
Zimbabwe	0.05	0.31	36.2	2015

Sources: UN Women calculation based on micro-data from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) for 60 developing countries, latest available year.

Notes: SDG indicator 11.1.1 classifies 'slum household' as households that meet at least one out of five listed criteria: (1) Lack of access to improved water source, (2) Lack of access to improved sanitation facilities, (3) Lack of sufficient living area, (4) Lack of housing durability and (5) Lack of security of tenure. These criteria utilize the international definition of 'slum households' as agreed by UN Habitat-United Nations Statistics Division-UN Cities. However, in practice, methodology for measuring security of tenure is not in place; thus slum status is assessed using the first four criteria only. Sample of women and girls aged 15-49 has been used for all countries except Viet Nam, which is based on data for women aged 18-49.

Region	2014	2000
Australia and New Zealand	0.03	0.03
Central Asia and Southern Asia	31.89	46.05
Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia	27.55	38.23
Landlocked Developing Countries	59.00	67.11
Latin America and the Caribbean	21.26	29.31
Least developed countries	62.16	77.97
Northern America and Europe	0.10	0.10
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	24.15	24.19
Sub-Saharan Africa	55.99	65.04
Western Asia and Northern Africa	22.06	23.11
World	22.77	28.42

Source: UN-Habitat, 2017.