



PLANET 50-50 BY 2030

STEP IT UP

FOR GENDER EQUALITY



BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION: KEY STATISTICS

Women and poverty

- Data from 29 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America shows that only 33 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 earned cash income, compared to 83 per cent of men in the same age category (in the last 12 months).
- Globally, only 47 per cent of women over the age of 15 in developing countries had an account at a formal financial institution in 2011, compared to 55 per cent of men.
- Poor girls are 2.5 times more likely to marry early than those who are wealthy.

Education and training of women

- All developing regions have achieved, or are close to achieving, gender parity in primary school. While some regions have achieved parity in secondary school, others still fall short.
- The impact of poverty on girls' education in particular is especially stark in sub-Saharan Africa, where children from the richest 20 per cent of households reach ninth grade at 11 times the rate of those from the poorest 40 per cent of households.
- Gender disparities remain wider in tertiary colleges and universities. The biggest gap is in sub-Saharan Africa, where 64 girls are enrolled for every 100 boys at the tertiary level.
- Worldwide, 89 per cent of men are literate compared to 80 per cent of women. The gender gap is wider in the least developed countries, where 67 per cent of men are literate versus 51 per cent of women.

Women and health

- Maternal deaths have dropped by 45 per cent since 1990.
- Yet in 2013, nearly 800 women died every day from maternal causes—99 per cent in developing countries. Most of their lives could have been saved with simple, well-known medical interventions.
- More than 140 million women who are married or in a union cannot obtain family planning. Poverty and geographic location remain key determinants of unmet needs for family planning, with significant differences between poor rural women and rich urban women.
- Globally, young women between 15 and 24 years of age have a 50 per cent higher risk of becoming infected with HIV, compared with their male peers.

Violence against women

- 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.
- A global study on homicide found that almost half of female homicide victims are killed by their intimate partner or family members. The figure for men is just over 1 in 20 homicide victims.
- A study of 42,000 women in the European Union found that 55 per cent of women have experienced sexual harassment at least once since the age of 15.

Women and armed conflict

- In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted the ground-breaking resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It recognizes that war impacts women differently, and reaffirms the need to increase women's role in decision-making related to conflict prevention and resolution.
- From 1992 to 2011, however, only 4 per cent of signatories to peace agreements and 9 per cent of negotiators at peace tables were women.

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Women and the economy

- Between 1992 and 2012 the gender gap in labour force participation has only narrowed slightly, from about 28 to 26 percentage points. In 2012, the female labour force participation rate was 51 per cent, compared to 77 per cent for males.
- Women earn between 10 and 30 per cent less than men, based on data from 83 countries. At the current pace of progress, it would take more than 75 years to reach equal remuneration for work of equal value.
- There are 25 women CEOs in Fortune 500 companies—a stark contrast to 1 in 1998. Still, this is a mere 5 per cent of all CEOs on the list.

Women in power and decision-making

- Women held only 22 per cent of national parliamentary seats as of the start of 2015, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995.
- In 2015, 19 countries had women heads of State or government, up from 12 countries in 1995.

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

- Although two-thirds of national statistical offices have focal points or desks for gender statistics, only 31 per cent have a dedicated office for gender statistics.
- Only 12.7 per cent of countries have a gender statistics budget; 48 per cent depend on ad hoc funds.

Human rights of women

- Only 143 out of 195 countries guaranteed equality between women and men in their constitutions as of 2014.
- 188 countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), but the Beijing Platform for Action goal of universal ratification has not been achieved. Many countries have maintained reservations, particularly on article 2 on policy measures, and article 16 on marriage and family life. The latter signals reluctance to regulate the private sphere, where deeply entrenched gender discrimination often continues unchallenged.
- In 26 of 143 countries, statutory inheritance laws differentiate between women and men.

Women and the media

- Only 40 per cent of people worldwide can connect to the Internet. The gender gap is worse in developing countries; 16 per cent fewer women than men go online, compared to only 2 per cent fewer in developed countries.
- A global report that contains data on women in the news media, spanning 59 countries and 522 news media organizations, found that women make up 35 per cent of the total media workforce across the world, but only hold roughly a quarter of the jobs in top management (27 per cent) and governance (26 per cent).
- In 2010, a study of 108 countries found that only 24 per cent of people seen or heard in print, radio and television news were female.
- A study across eleven countries found that only 23 per cent of films had female protagonists.

Women and the environment

- Although 89 per cent of the world in 2012 had access to improved drinking water sources compared to 76 per cent in 1990, 748 million people still lacked access to clean drinking water, most of whom lived in rural areas.
- Women bear the brunt of time-consuming water collection. A study in 25 sub-Saharan African countries estimated they spend at least 16 million hours a day collecting drinking water. Men spend 6 million hours and children 4 million hours.

The girl child

- A girl's chance of going through female genital mutilation (FGM) has fallen by a third over the last 30 years. Yet more than 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of FGM in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where it remains prevalent.
- More than 700 million women today have married by age 18; more than one-third before 15. If current trends continue, the number of girls marrying early each year will grow, from 15 million in 2014, to 16.5 million in 2030, to over 18 million in 2050.