

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 – EUROPE AND NORTHERN AMERICA

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, 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. While women generally report greater food insecurity, the gender gaps vary significantly across countries and regions. In **Europe and Northern America**, 9% of women and 8% of men reported food insecurity. The gaps however vary across countries: In **Ukraine**, for example, 19% of women and 14% of men reported food insecurity; whereas, in the **United Kingdom**, the difference is much lower, at 10% of women and 9% of men.

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. In **Europe and Northern America**, the maternal mortality ratio stands at 13 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (2015). This figure represents a sharp decline from 1990 when the ratio was 25 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. However, the **United States** is an outlier to the general downward trend: the maternal mortality ratio in the United States increased by 14% (from 12 to 14) between 1990 and 2015.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

In the United States, 10.3% of women have less than a high school diploma, and disparities by wealth, ethnicity and location are also substantial. For instance, among the urban richest in the **United States**, only 4.1% did not complete high school, compared to a national aggregate of 10.3%. The rate is much higher among Hispanic women in the poorest quintile, of whom 38.3% did not complete high school.

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 across the world, 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 Globally, 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. Women aged 15-49 living in **Europe and Northern America** reported a much lower rate of intimate partner violence - 6.1%. However, this does not mean that violence against women and girls of all ages is not an issue in this region. In a survey across 27 universities in the **United States** in 2015, 23% of female undergraduate university students reported having experienced sexual assault or sexual misconduct. A study conducted in five European countries found that 28% of women aged 60 and above reported some form of abuse in the previous year.

5.3 Every year, 15 million girls under the age of 18 are forced into marriage. In **Europe and Northern America**, 8% of women were married before the age of 18. The rate varies across and within countries. In the **United States**, the rate overall is 3.6%, but is much higher among the rural poorest (6.4 %) and lower among the urban richest (1.7%). The highest rates of child marriage in the **United States** are registered among Hispanic women in poorest households, at 9.9%.

5.4 Globally, women do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do. The corresponding figure for **Europe and Northern America** is lower, at 1.9 times. However, there is a noticeable amount of variation at the country level. In some European countries, such as **Sweden**, the corresponding figure is as low as 1.3 times while in the **United States** and **Germany**, women do 1.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do. In **Italy**, women fare worse than the global average, with women doing 3 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.

5.5 As of September 2017, women hold just 23.7% of parliamentary seats globally, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to 2000 – but still way below parity. Within Europe and North America, **Iceland** has the highest proportion of women who hold parliamentary seats, at 47.6%. **Hungary**, in contrast, where only 10.1% of parliamentary seats are held by women, has the lowest.

5.6 Based on data from 45 countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, only 52% of women aged 15-49 (married or in union) make their own informed decisions about sexual relations and the use of contraceptives and health services. Although data is limited, some estimates are available for countries in the Europe and Northern America region: in **Albania** and **Ukraine**, 61.5% and 81% of women, respectively, 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. Available evidence shows that, when women own land, their plots are generally smaller and of lower quality than men's and their rights to the land are less secure.

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. In **Europe and Northern America**, where Internet penetration is high for both women and men, usage among women (75%) is lower than among men (82%).

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 the world's 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. Available data for **Europe and Northern America** shows that 22% of rural households, 18% of poorest households and 13% of all households still rely on solid fuels – this is based on data for eight countries in the region, representing 7% of the population.

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. At 79%, LFPR of women aged 25-54 in **Europe and Northern America** is higher than the global average, but is still 12 percentage points lower than men 25-54 (91%).

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. In **Europe and Northern America**, 27.9% of researchers are women. The figure is as high as 50.3% in **Lithuania** and as low as 23.4% in the **Netherlands**.

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. The **United States** stands out as having one of the largest gender differences in the proportion of people living on less than 50% of the median income, as well as the highest proportion of single-mother households (44%) falling below the 50% median income mark (followed, in this region, by **Luxembourg, Italy** and **Spain** with 42, 41 and 40%, respectively).

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. For the **Europe and Northern America** region, data is available for only two countries – **Albania** and **Ukraine** – where 24.6% and 30.8% of urban women live in slum conditions, respectively.

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. Occupational segregation in the fishing and aquaculture industry looms large in **Europe and Northern America**, where only 12.8% of people employed in the industry are women. Further, management in the maritime industry is also overwhelmingly male-dominated. In 2016, the proportion of women holding director positions in the seafood industry was 31% in **Norway**, 17% in **Iceland**, 14% in **Canada** and **Denmark**, 8% in **Spain**, 6% in the **United States** and 4% in the **United Kingdom**.

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. In Europe and Northern America, the **Russian Federation** has an intentional female homicide rate of 7.3 per 100,000 population – the highest in the region.

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.

As of 2016, **Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** are the only countries that are meeting the United Nations target for ODA of 0.7 per cent of GNI. The trends in gender-allocation vary across the region: **Germany, Sweden** and **Luxembourg** reported an increase in gender equality focused aid by 7, 5 and 2 percentage points respectively between 2014 and 2015. In turn, **Denmark, Norway** and the **United Kingdom** reported a decrease in gender equality focused aid between 2014 and 2015 – 3, 9 and 20 percentage points respectively.

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 case of the **United States**, the report finds:

- *Health Insurance*: 37% of Hispanic women in the poorest quintile lack access to health insurance, making them 10 times as likely to be deprived as white women in the richest quintile (3.7% of whom lack insurance).
- *Employment*: Native American/Alaskan Native women in the poorest quintile are 2.7 times as likely to be not working as white women in the richest quintile.
- *Older Women*: 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.
- *Clustered Deprivation*: 3.0% of all women aged 18–49 (or approximately 2 million) are simultaneously deprived in three SDG-related dimensions, facing not only education-related deprivation (no high school diploma), but also barriers to employment and health care (proxied through lack of health insurance).

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). Even in developed countries, where overall coverage is generally high, children under 3 from lower income households are systematically less likely to have access to ECEC services than children of a comparable age from higher-income households. In **France** and **Ireland**, for example, participation rates of children 0 to 2 years old from low-income families are at 19 and 11 per cent, respectively, which is less than one quarter of the children from high-income families (81 and 55 per cent).

The need for global gender data availability

Gaps in gender data, uneven coverage of gender indicators across goals and targets, the absence of internationally agreed standards for data collection and the lack of trend data make it difficult to assess and monitor the direction and pace of progress for women and girls. The availability of data necessary for global monitoring of the gender-specific indicators is at a mere 29.2% in **Europe and Northern America**, while the availability of trend data (as in, data available for at least two points in time) is even lower, at 18.5%. Unless gender is mainstreamed into national statistical strategies, gender data scarcity will persist.

Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes

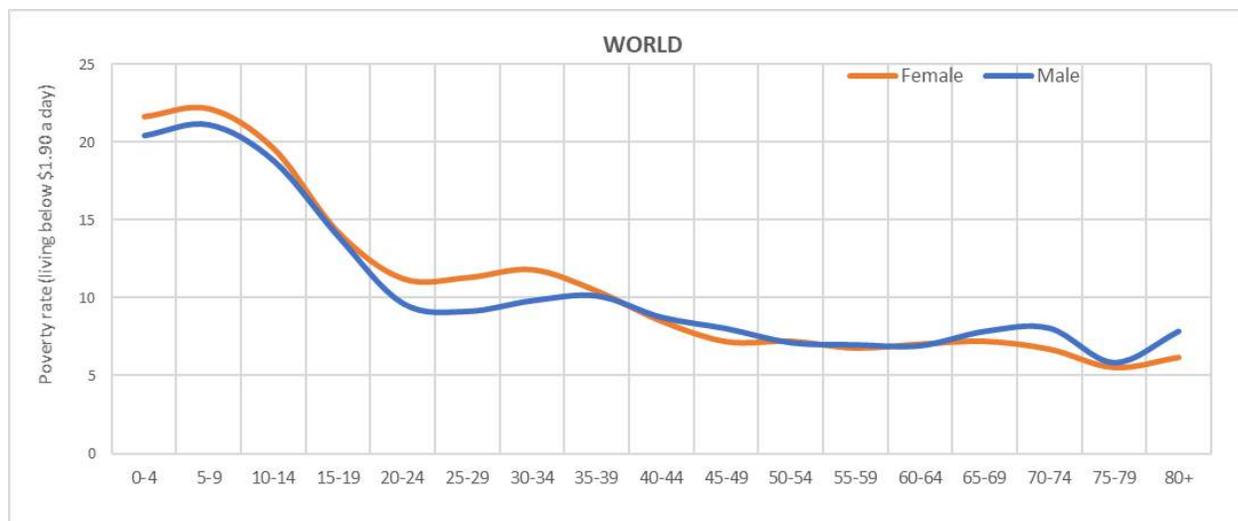
Prioritizing gender-responsive investments pays off. In South Africa, for instance, it is estimated that a gross annual investment of 3.2% of GDP in ECEC would not only result in universal coverage for all 0-5-year-old children, but also create 2.3 million new jobs, raising female employment by 10.1%.

APPENDIX

Note: The below represent a selection of illustrative examples for the Europe and Northern America region. 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

Prevalence of food insecurity in Europe and Northern America, 2014-2015

Country	% of females who are food insecure	% of males who are food insecure	Difference (f – m)
Albania	35.44	39.84	-4.4
Armenia	20.69	18.54	2.15
Austria	6.31	4.36	1.95
Belarus	8.77	8.08	0.69
Belgium	8.83	6.86	1.97

Bosnia and Herzegovina	10.85	11.35	-0.5
Bulgaria	16.16	11.98	4.18
Canada	8.22	8.4	-0.18
Croatia	5.62	7.6	-1.98
Czechia	6.51	7.09	-0.58
Denmark	5.84	3.91	1.93
Estonia	8.76	7.19	1.57
Finland	8.87	9.56	-0.69
France	7.07	5.9	1.17
Germany	3.91	3.3	0.61
Greece	13.79	11.92	1.87
Hungary	8.66	9.99	-1.33
Iceland	10.93	7	3.93
Ireland	10.93	9.26	1.67
Italy	7.95	7.01	0.94
Latvia	9.82	9.82	0
Lithuania	13.89	13.72	0.17
Luxembourg	4.72	5.88	-1.16
Malta	4.95	5.85	-0.9
Montenegro	11.23	13.04	-1.81
Netherlands	4.69	5.38	-0.69
Norway	4.13	5.15	-1.02
Poland	9.83	9.32	0.51

Portugal	14.79	14.79	0
Republic of Moldova	12.76	12.26	0.5
Romania	19.33	18.46	0.87
Slovakia	4.92	6.85	-1.93
Slovenia	11.64	12.83	-1.19
Spain	6.12	6.06	0.06
Sweden	4.37	4.69	-0.32
Switzerland	4.36	3.37	0.99
Ukraine	18.75	13.76	4.99
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	9.99	9.04	0.95

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.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Percentage of female researchers in Europe and Northern America

Country and areas	Female Researchers (%) - latest available data
Albania	44.3
Andorra	-
Austria	29.6
Belarus	40.5
Belgium	33.4
Bermuda	32.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	44.4
Bulgaria	49.5
Canada	-
Channel Islands	-
Croatia	48.9
Czechia	27.2
Denmark	35.2
Estonia	44
Faroe Islands	23.1

Finland	32.1
France	26.1
Germany	27.9
Greece	39.4
Greenland	27.4
Hungary	30.4
Iceland	45.6
Ireland	32.3
Isle of Man	-
Italy	36
Latvia	52
Liechtenstein	-
Lithuania	50.3
Luxembourg	27.3
Malta	30.3
Monaco	50
Montenegro	47.6
Netherlands	23.4
Norway	37.4
Poland	37.2
Portugal	44.3
Republic of Moldova	49.1
Romania	46

Russian Federation	40.3
San Marino	-
Serbia	49.2
Slovakia	42.5
Slovenia	36.1
Spain	39.6
Sweden	33.3
Switzerland	32.4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	49
Ukraine	46.3
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	37.4
United States of America	-
Åland Islands	-

Source: UIS 2017.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

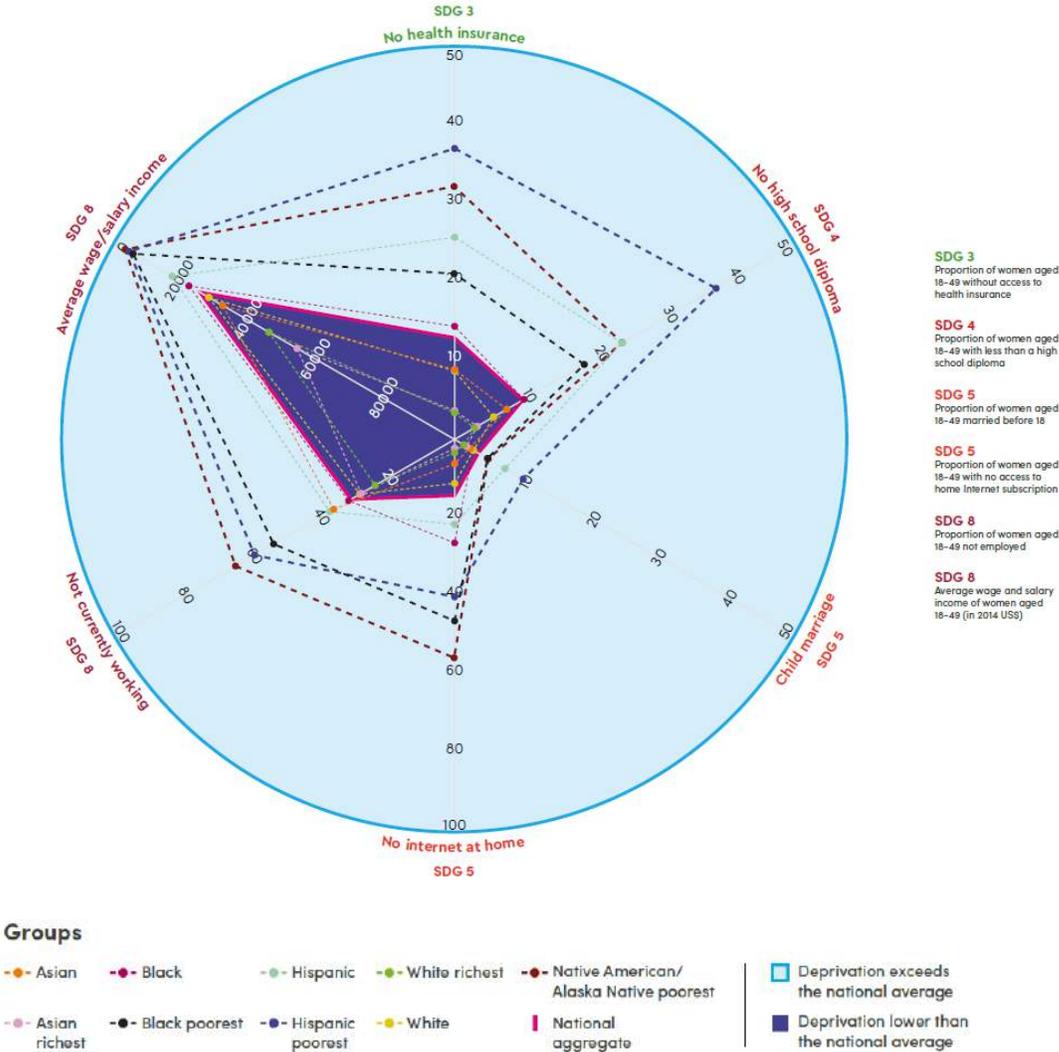
Proportion of urban population living in slums (per cent)

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.

Inequalities in SDG-Related Outcomes Between Different Groups of Women, United States, 2015



Source: Based on UN Women calculations using the 2015 American Community Survey microdata (U.S. Census Bureau 2017).
 Notes: Different scales are used across each of the 8 axes, each corresponding to the maximum and minimum values for each given indicator. The scale for average wage/salary income is inverted as a higher salary represents less deprivation. Select groups are shown given space limitations. For full group disaggregation, see Annex Table 3.