PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2026



UN WOMEN FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

WOMEN COUNT

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Snapshot of gender equality across the Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY



In 2024, **9.9%** of **WOMEN** lived in extreme poverty, compared with 9.5% of men. The gender gap was largest among young adults aged 15–34.

Globally, women account for only **19%** of ministers leading economic portfolios – highlighting the persistent gap between those most affected by poverty and those shaping economic policy.

2 ZERO HUNGER



At the current pace, **1.1 BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS** could still be food insecure by 2030.

Closing gender gaps in agricultural productivity could lift **45 MILLION PEOPLE** out of food insecurity.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



WOMEN held just **26.3%** of health minister positions in 2026, while **WOMEN'S HEALTH** receives only around **6%** of private healthcare investment globally.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



273 MILLION children, adolescents and youth were out of school in 2024, with **RURAL GIRLS** and those from the poorest households at highest risk.

HIGHER SHARES of **WOMEN** in parliament go hand in hand with greater education spending, improved primary completion rates and progress towards gender parity in school enrolment.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



NOT ONE SDG 5 TARGET IS ON TRACK to be met by 2030. At the current rate of progress, it will take **171 YEARS TO ACHIEVE SDG 5.**

Between 2019 and 2024, **99 LEGAL REFORMS** helped remove discriminatory laws and strengthen legal frameworks for gender equality. Yet 51% of 131 countries still have significant legal gaps, and **NO COUNTRY** has achieved full legal equality.

Nearly **1 IN 3 WOMEN** globally have experienced partner or sexual violence in their lifetime. In the past 12 months alone, **316 MILLION WOMEN** experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.

Technology-facilitated violence against **WOMEN AND GIRLS** was **NOT ADDRESSED** by a single leader during the United Nations General Assembly sessions in 2024 or 2025.

Nearly **1 IN 5 GIRLS** is married before age 18, and an estimated **230 MILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS** worldwide are survivors of female genital mutilation.

WOMEN AND GIRLS spend **2.5 TIMES MORE HOURS** than men on unpaid domestic and care work, a gender gap that remains deeply entrenched.

WOMEN held **27.4%** of seats in national parliaments in 2026, up from 22.3% in 2015. Yet **WOMEN's** representation in local governments has **STAGNATED AT 35.6%** since 2023.

Only **56.3%** of **WOMEN** aged 15–49 who are married or in a union have **FULL DECISION-MAKING POWER** over their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Nearly two thirds of countries provide **NO OR LITTLE LEGAL PROTECTION** for women's land rights, while fewer than 30% ensure joint land registration or women's participation in land governance.

In 2025, **78%** of **WOMEN** owned a mobile phone, compared with 87% of men – leaving millions of **WOMEN** without a basic gateway to information, services, finance and economic opportunity.

Only **1 IN 4 COUNTRIES** has the systems needed to make gender equality a transparent and trackable public spending priority.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



WOMEN AND GIRLS are the primary water collectors in **70%** of households without water on premises.

In 2025, only **49%** of health care facilities had improved toilets with menstrual hygiene facilities.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



In 2024, global electricity access stagnated at **92%**, leaving **326 MILLION** **WOMEN AND GIRLS** still without electricity.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



In 2026, just **63.9%** of **WOMEN** aged 25–54 participated in the labour force, compared with 92% of men.

FEMALE MANAGERS earned less per hour than male managers in **80%** of countries with data between 2020 and 2025.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



In 2023, **WOMEN** accounted for just **31.4%** of researchers globally.

WOMEN account for only around **22%** of AI professionals globally and hold fewer than **14%** of senior AI leadership positions.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Only **23%** of **WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES** are employed, compared with 46% of women without disabilities and 34% of men with disabilities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The share of urban residents with access to open public spaces fell from **48.0%** to **45.9%** between 2020 and 2025, limiting the spaces in which **WOMEN** can move, work, and participate freely in city life.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the European Union, **WOMEN'S** representation in mayoral seats is only around **HALF** of their representation in local deliberative bodies.



Some **2.9 BILLION** **WOMEN AND GIRLS** live in countries highly or very highly exposed to climate change and geophysical hazards.

WOMEN account for only **27%** of national cabinet ministers with environmental portfolios.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Nearly **8 in 10** **PEACE PROCESSES** worldwide did not include **WOMEN** as negotiators or mediators at all.

OVER TWICE as many cases of conflict-related sexual violence were verified in 2025 compared to 2024.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Funding for gender equality is shrinking: bilateral allocable aid with gender equality objectives fell by **13%** between 2023 and 2024.

Funding to **WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS** fell by **28%** over the same period.

WHEN WOMEN LEAD AND POWER IS SHARED, ALL SDGs MOVE FORWARD

Women's leadership and decision-making power are crucial to achieve gender equality and to meet the promises of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet equal representation at the top of public and private institutions is far from reality. Women's rights to participation in political and public affairs, particularly among women from diverse backgrounds, are not realized, and women remain excluded from decisions crucial to their lives, families and communities.

Women's leadership strengthens democracy and delivers better outcomes. Women in power are more likely to prioritize gender-responsive policies and to defend hard-won rights and hold institutions accountable to the people they serve. Local women leaders, particularly when connected to women-led organizations and movements, are more inclined to remain accountable to women's priorities and deliver tangible change in their communities. Overall, women's equal representation and participation signals a strong, well-functioning democracy. A country cannot claim to uphold human rights and be considered democratic if half of its population is denied an equal voice in decision-making and leadership.

Yet, worryingly, progress on women's leadership is now slowing and even reversing in many countries. This is part of a wider retreat from human rights and inclusive participation in public spaces. Across regions, institutions that focus on gender equality are being dismantled, funding for gender equality is on a steep decline, and civic space is shrinking. Violence against women in political and public life is escalating, and new barriers, such as technology-facilitated violence, are intensifying. Political and legal gains that underpinned decades of gender equality advances are being contested. In such an environment, women's equal and meaningful participation is both an equity objective and a democratic safeguard. Countries with greater gender equality and higher levels of women's civic and political participation tend to be more democratic and representative. Evidence shows that when and where women are able to mobilize, they may help arrest democratic decline.

This section presents the latest evidence on women's participation and leadership in positions of power and decision-making in political, judicial, administrative, government and corporate bodies as well as community-based organizations and movements. It makes the case for stronger investments in national gender equality mechanisms, for addressing violence against women in political and public life, and for enabling inclusive leadership and decision-making.

The rest of the report assesses gender equality under each of the 17 SDGs, spotlighting how women's leadership across all the Goals is accelerating change and pointing to remaining gaps. In a world of declining progress on leadership, further backsliding is not acceptable. Human rights for all will be achieved only when women have equal roles in decision-making, from communities to the global stage.

After years of upward movement, progress on women's political leadership is losing momentum

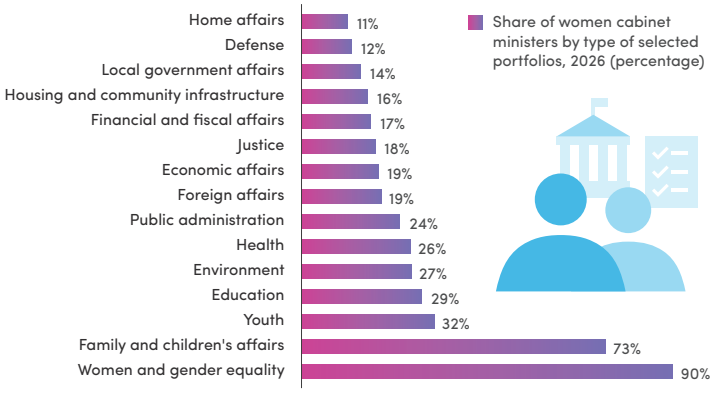
Women's equal participation in political leadership and decision-making is a human right. It is also a powerful symbol of women's role in society, one that can shift discriminatory social norms. It is a critical foundation for inclusive policies that benefit everyone. Yet women's share of political leadership positions remains far from parity, and progress has lost momentum. The number of countries with a woman Head of State or Government slowly increased from 20 in 2020 to 28 as of 1 January 2026. **Yet six in seven countries are still led by men.** Women's representation in national cabinets declined to 22.4 per cent in 2026, after peaking at 23.3 per cent in 2024. The decline is a warning sign that gains cannot be taken for granted and that progress towards equal political power remains fragile.

Women are also losing ground in parliamentary leadership. Shares in lower and single chambers of national parliaments have edged up to only 27.4 per cent in 2026 as progress has slowed, with merely a 0.2 percentage point gain in one year. From 2020 to 2026, women's share in parliaments declined in 54 countries (including by more than 3 percentage points in 23 countries). Based on progress over the last decade, gender parity in parliaments will not be reached until **2064**. At the slower pace of the last five years, it slips to **2089**. As of January 2026, 54 women served as parliamentary speakers globally, representing 19.9 per cent of the total. This was nearly a 4 percentage-point decline from the previous year and the first drop in 21 years. Institutional biases persisted in the assignment of women to standing parliamentary committees. Women chaired over two thirds (68.5 per cent) of parliamentary committees on gender equality and nearly half of youth committees (46.6 per cent), but fewer than one in five committees on defense (18.4 per cent) and finances (17.2 per cent).

Women's representation in local government remains higher than in national parliaments, at 35.6 per cent in 2025. But progress has nearly stalled, rising by just 0.1 percentage point annually. From 2020 to 2025, women's share of local government seats declined in 27 countries (including by more than 3 percentage points in 11 countries). At this rate, achieving parity will require **three more decades**.
(continued on next page)

IN FOCUS 1

Women are far less likely to be allocated economy and finance portfolios — a pattern that reflects institutional bias in appointment decisions, not women's policy interests



Male cabinet ministers dominate key policy portfolios (finance, foreign affairs, defense, justice, home affairs). Female ministers typically hold gender equality, family and children's affairs portfolios.

Women at the highest levels of power, however, show a wide range of expertise and policy interests.

At the **2025 General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly**,

women leaders referenced security and defense as well as economy and finance

as frequently as

male leaders.

They mentioned gender equality nearly

3 times as often as

male leaders and international justice and accountability

twice as often.

Source: UN Women Database on Women and Men Cabinet Members. Data as of 1 January 2026 and People's AI and Data Lab for Social Research at The New School and UN Women (forthcoming).

Temporary special measures, including quotas, accelerate progress towards parity, as called for in General Recommendation 40 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. As of 1 January 2026, 93 countries had legislated electoral quotas for women for single or lower houses of parliament and 83 countries for local governments. The data show that well-designed, ambitious quotas work: Women's representation is 16 percentage points greater in parliaments and 17 points higher in local governments in countries with such quotas compared to countries without them.

Violence against women in politics remains pervasive and continues to deter women from running for office and remaining in public life, as confirmed by UN Women data across 13 countries. During electoral campaigns, 8 in 10 women candidates for parliament and 6 in 10 candidates for local government experience psychological, sexual, economic and/or physical violence. Violence is prevalent particularly against women who defy traditional gender roles and seek positions of high power and visibility. Perpetrators are often men in positions of power such as leaders of political parties, heads of public institutions, intimate partners or opposition supporters. Additionally, members of parliament experience very high levels of intimidation and violence perpetrated by the general public, especially online, and women are more likely to be targeted (76 per cent compared to 68 per cent of men).

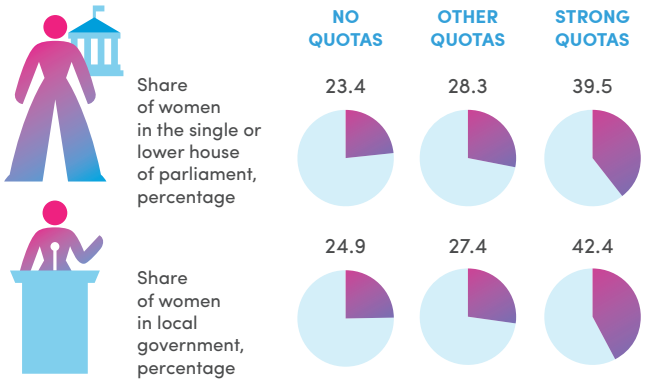
The rules of engagement in political affairs do not account for unequal access to resources between male and female candidates. The cost of running for office, which in some cases can exceed 100 times the national average per capita income, excludes women and those from poorer backgrounds alike. Discriminatory social norms reinforce men's dominance in political leadership. Worryingly, decades of positive trends towards viewing women as equally qualified political leaders seem to be reversing among younger generations of men.

Political power is still shaped by systems that advantage men and make it harder for women to compete on equal terms. Removing structural barriers to participation requires legislative and policy changes that level the field for candidates and prevent violence against women in politics, including strengthened quotas for women, gender-responsive measures on campaign finances, and effective institutional rules and codes of conduct to prevent violence and discrimination in allocating resources and leadership roles in political institutions.

IN FOCUS 2

Progress on women's political leadership could accelerate by deploying quotas and stopping violence against women in politics

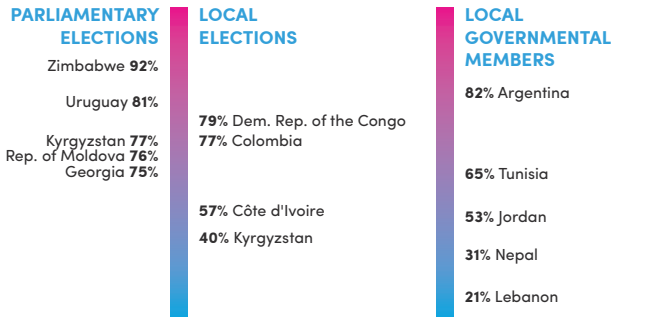
Women's representation in parliaments and local governments is higher in countries with ambitious, well-designed quotas than in countries with weaker or no quotas.





80% of women candidates for parliament and **63%** of women candidates for local government experience violence during electoral campaigns.

50% of women local government members experience violence while in office.



Sources: UN Women calculations based on UN Women. 2026. UN Gender Quota Portal, and UN Women Policy Brief on Violence Against Women in Politics (forthcoming).
Note: Data presented are on prevalence of violence against women candidates and office holders in 13 countries – Argentina (2025), Colombia (2025), Côte d'Ivoire (2025), Dem. Republic of the Congo (2025), Georgia (2025), Jordan (2022), Kyrgyzstan (2023), Lebanon (2022), Nepal (2021), Rep. of Moldova (2025), Tunisia (2022), Uruguay (2025) and Zimbabwe (2024).

Gender equality in justice and public administration is foundational to institutions that serve everyone equally

Courts uphold rights, resolve disputes and safeguard the rule of law and democracy – so who sits on the bench matters. A judiciary that reflects the diversity of society, including through women's leadership, is better positioned to practice equal treatment before the law and deliver justice attuned to the realities of people's lives. Women comprise the majority of judges (51.2 per cent) and registrars (57.5 per cent). They remain underrepresented, however, in positions that define jurisprudence, set institutional priorities and exercise the highest levels of judicial decision-making. Women comprise only 29.0 per cent of prosecutors, a role central to how justice is administered, including in cases of gender-based violence and discrimination where women prosecutors influence both what charges are brought and how justice is pursued. Fewer than one in five chief justices is a woman (19.6 per cent). And in 2025, women accounted for only 29.6 per cent of arbitrators appointed or confirmed by the International Chamber of Commerce.

In public administration, gender equality is essential for representative, effective and trusted institutions. It improves service delivery, citizen engagement and confidence in government. As among the largest formal employers in many countries, public administrations could transform labour markets by setting benchmarks for gender equal workplaces and inclusive institutional cultures. Yet data from 2020 to 2025 reveal that women were underrepresented in public service positions relative to their share of the national population in 62.1 per cent of countries and areas with data (82 out of 132). Underrepresentation is concentrated at the top of public institutions, where gender disparities in senior management persist in 71.1 per cent of countries compared to just 13.8 per cent at lower administrative levels.

Achieving parity at the very top of the justice system and public administration requires sustained political will and efforts to dismantle structural barriers to leadership, as called for in the agreed conclusions of the seventieth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Transparent, merit-based selection and promotion processes, with clear criteria and consistent application, are foundational. So are institutional arrangements that recognize the realities of balancing work and family life, and that provide structured mentorship and leadership paths. In public administration, targeted recruitment and promotion strategies can close gaps, particularly when applied to newly created or expanding positions. Temporary special measures, including quotas, gender-responsive hiring and promotion practices, and institutional accountability mechanisms are most effective when implemented consistently and embedded within broader administrative systems.

IN FOCUS 3

Barriers are evident in top judicial and public administration roles

Of 175 Chief Justices globally, **144 are men** and only **31 are women**.





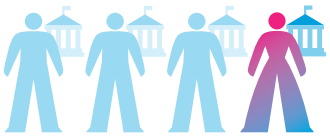
In its 78-year history, the International Court of Justice has had

only 6

women judges compared to **109 men**;

5 of these

women are currently serving.



Globally, only

1 in 4

ministers leading public administration portfolios is a woman (23.8%).

Source: UNDP. 2026. Women at the helm of justice, and UN Women 2026. Voices from the bench – women shaping International Justice and UN Women Database on Women and Men Cabinet Ministers. Data as of 1 January 2026.
Note: The Chief Justices figure captures individuals across all types of apex judicial institutions (Supreme Courts, but also Constitutional Courts, Courts of Cassation, High Courts and regional bodies).

National gender equality mechanisms are the backbone of State commitments to gender equality

The Beijing Platform for Action, the world's most comprehensive normative agreement on gender equality and women's rights, recognized national gender equality mechanisms as catalysts for gender equality and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all legislation, policies and programmes. Without effective institutions to drive and coordinate this work, gender equality commitments remain promises; with them, commitments are more likely to become policies, budgets and concrete results.

National gender equality mechanisms vary significantly in form, mandate, focus and can range from ministries of women and/or gender equality to small units embedded in social affairs, human rights or other ministries and independent national institutions. Many lack the capacity, political support or rights-based mandates to fulfill their role. Yet where they have been well resourced and connected to autonomous women's movements, evidence shows they deliver. National mechanisms have helped advance the implementation of women's rights across areas including violence against women, economic empowerment and property rights. Research spanning 70 countries over four decades finds a statistically significant positive correlation between the presence of a national gender equality mechanism and higher levels of democracy.

At a time when strong institutions are needed most, they are being weakened instead and in some contexts entirely dismantled. In a 2026 survey of national gender equality mechanisms, 1 in 3 (32 per cent) reported an erosion in institutional power over the past two years. The result is an institutional architecture that exists on paper but has diminishing power in practice. Amidst growing backlash, governments must strengthen, not sideline, national gender equality mechanisms by providing the resources, authority and rights-based mandates required to deliver results.

IN FOCUS 4

National gender equality mechanisms are being quietly dismantled



Only
87
countries have ministerial portfolios dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

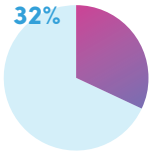


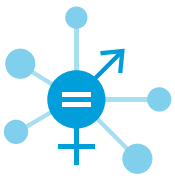
Just
89
countries have independent national human rights institutions that meet international standards.



Even these partial achievements are under siege.

In a 2026 survey of national gender equality mechanisms,

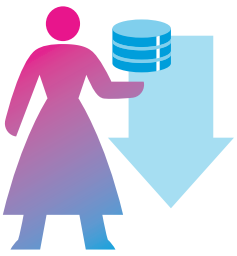


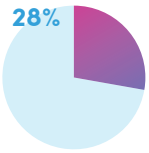


1 in 3
reported an erosion in institutional power over the past two years. This was due to downsizing personnel, reduced influence in decision-making, elimination or diminishment of key units, the downgrading of institutional status or the reassignment of gender mandates to other bodies.

Around
1 in 4
national gender equality mechanisms (23%) reported a reduction in operating budgets over the past two years;

9% lost an autonomous budget.





Nearly
1 in 3
national gender equality mechanisms reported at least one of three setbacks:

- reduced government attention to gender equality,
- cuts to gender data collection and/or
- the reduction or elimination of programmes or activities.

Source: UN Women. 2026. Database on Women and Men Cabinet Ministers. Data as of 1 January 2026, United Nations Statistics Division. 2026. Global SDG Indicators Database, and UN Women calculations using UN Women. 2026. Survey on Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality.
Note: Data refer to all gender equality mechanisms. Institutional mechanisms for Gender Equality or gender equality mechanisms refer to State-based structures mandated to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (e.g., ministry of women and child development, directorate of gender equality). These mechanisms are responsible for promoting the rights, status and well-being of women and girls, and for addressing discriminatory gender norms. Analysis is based on 54 responses across seven regions.

Persistent power gaps continue defining women's corporate leadership

Women's leadership in businesses can broaden perspectives in corporate decision-making and draw greater attention to gender equality, inclusion and responsible practices. The business case is equally compelling: gender-equal leadership improves decision-making, helps firms attract talent and outperform financially, and drives more inclusive products and services. While women account for around 40 per cent of employees of firms worldwide, their representation in corporate leadership lags significantly.

Data from March 2024, covering nearly 88,000 active directors on more than 9,600 boards of publicly traded companies, across 62 countries and areas, show that women hold only 5.8 per cent of chief executive officer (CEO) positions globally. They occupy just a quarter of corporate board seats (25.1 per cent). The total realized pay of women board members is, on average, 67.6 per cent lower than what men earn. These findings underscore the persistence of a "stacked glass ceiling", where women remain excluded from the most powerful executive roles even after entry into leadership. Lower qualifications do not explain the barriers. Women board members are more likely than men to hold advanced degrees (40.5 per cent vs. 33.5 per cent). Yet they are less likely to have previously served as CEOs (29.1 per cent compared to 41.5 per cent).

Corporate decision-making power often concentrates in a few leadership positions, so women's presence on boards does not necessarily translate into steering company priorities, strategy and governance. Male board members disproportionately hold greater institutional capital (prior roles in large companies in the sector, established internal networks and accumulated standing). These structural advantages shape whose voice carries weight in boardroom decisions, regardless of formal representation. When representation and decision-making power diverge, a gender power gap emerges. Women board members have less decision-making power than their representation in 71.8 per cent of publicly traded companies globally. The gender power gap becomes even more pronounced as company size increases. While 70.0 per cent of relatively smaller companies exhibit a negative gender power gap, this rises to 82.8 per cent among bigger companies, suggesting that women face the greatest barriers in the largest, most powerful firms. Advancing gender-responsive corporate governance reforms is essential for women to shape decisions that influence societies and economies and for businesses to realize the returns of gender-equal leadership.

IN FOCUS 5

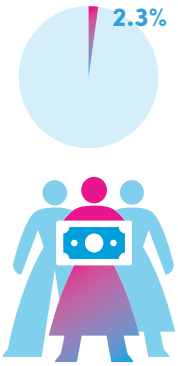
The "stacked glass ceiling" prevents women from influencing corporate responses to social challenges

Boards with more women are more likely to adopt sustainability practices, such as reducing energy consumption and water use. This potential remains unmet, however, since women comprise just



5.8%
of CEOs in publicly traded companies and hold only

25.1%
of corporate board seats.



Only **2.3%** of global venture capital deployment went to female-only founding teams in 2024, compared to 83.6% to male-only founding teams and 14.1% to mixed-gender founding teams.

Only **3%** of cybersecurity startups that received venture funding are women-led.



In the United States, start-ups founded by Black and Latina women received just

0.1%
of venture capital in 2023.

Source: FP Analytics. 2022. Unleashing the Power of Women to Transform Male-dominated Industries, McKinsey and Company. 2023. Underestimated Start-Up Founders: The Untapped Opportunity, Founders Forum Group. 2025. Women in VC and Startup Funding: Statistics and Trends, UN Women calculations using Free Float LLC. 2024. The Glass Cieling in the Glass Ceiling dataset, and NopSec. 2022. Venture backed women in cyber report.

Women's movements drive change, but their space and resources are shrinking

Women's collective activism and leadership have been among the most powerful forces for advancing gender equality and social change. Women mobilize communities, advocate for rights, shape public policy and hold institutions accountable. Their leadership is often informal and unpaid, yet foundational to social cohesion, accountability and crisis resilience. Through community engagement, women gain skills and the trust of constituencies, which may serve as a springboard for more formal positions of power. Activism also creates pathways for women of all ages to shape public life, advance rights and hold institutions accountable.

When women's community leadership coalesces into organized feminist movements, its impact multiplies and can become a powerful driver of progress on women's rights. Global evidence from 126 countries over 1975–2015, brought together in the Feminist Mobilization Index (FMI), shows how feminist movements have expanded across countries. They have increasingly emerged as an important force for advancing women's human rights and gender equality, including through policies addressing violence against women, women's economic and property rights, workplace protections and social policy. Recent trends reflect the consolidation and increasing independence of women's feminist movements in some contexts. For instance, the 2025 update of the FMI for Latin America and the Caribbean reveals that over the past decade, movements in the region grew markedly, matching the scale of gains seen only during the United Nations Decade for Women (1976–1985). While that earlier wave marked the emergence of movements in new countries, recent gains reflect their growing strength and autonomy. The fact that advances continue amid mounting anti-gender backlash and democratic backsliding speaks to the resilient endurance of feminist activism.

Worryingly, global evidence shows shrinking civic space and funding cuts are major concerns for women's organizations. Women's rights organizations, which have historically received less than 1 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) for gender equality are coming to an existential breaking point. Funding for them declined 28 per cent from 2023 to 2024, with further reductions anticipated. The worst-affected women's organizations are in humanitarian settings, where they are often the first responders and last remaining presence when crises deepen. Defunding them is not only a gender equality failure; it directly contradicts localization commitments made by international donors. It leaves the most vulnerable women and girls without the support they need, when they need it most.

IN FOCUS 6

Women's organizations in humanitarian settings confront severe funding cuts

A 2026 survey of 855 women-led and women's rights organizations, across 52 crisis-affected countries and contexts, found that



88% could no longer meet current levels of need, leaving nearly

1 million women and girls without services they previously received.



Nearly half of organizations had six months or less of operational funding;

2 in 5 considered suspension or closure likely within the next year.

Advocacy and accountability are among the first functions to be abandoned:



31% reported diminished capacity to advocate,



21% had scaled back longer-term gender equality work, and



58% had seen declines in women's participation in community decision-making.

Source: UN Women. 2026. Beyond the breaking point: The continuing impact of funding cuts on women's organizations in humanitarian settings.

THE WAY FORWARD:

Build stronger institutions, expand women's leadership and transform discriminatory social norms

The evidence is clear: Progress can be accelerated, but only through sustained political commitment and investment on multiple fronts.

1. Strengthen national gender equality mechanisms through strong mandates, adequate staffing and dedicated, predictable resources.
2. Close the 36 percentage-point gap in women's legal rights, with implementation mechanisms attached.
3. Extend gender-responsive budgeting and put comprehensive systems in place to track progress and impacts.
4. Expand the adoption and effective implementation of permanent or temporary special measures, including legislated quotas targeting parity, with strong implementation mechanisms in elected offices, public service, the judiciary and corporate decision-making.
5. Use electoral frameworks to address the high financial costs of running for election, as these can filter out women and people from poorer backgrounds before a ballot is cast.
6. Take measures to achieve inclusive participation by enabling women and girls from the most marginalized groups, including Indigenous women and girls, those from other ethnic minorities and women and girls with disabilities, to exercise leadership across all forms of decision-making.
7. Enact and enforce legislation criminalizing violence against women in political and public life, establish codes of conduct with clear accountability for perpetrators, and create accessible reporting mechanisms that do not require women to choose between safety and public participation.
8. Dismantle discriminatory social norms by transforming narratives about women in leadership; providing opportunities, resources and services to promote women's leadership; and building coalitions to support women leaders.
9. Reverse the sharp decline in ODA for gender equality, and make more funding flexible, multi-year and directly accessible to local and national women's organizations, including in humanitarian settings.
10. Restore and increase investment in national statistical systems, prioritizing sex-disaggregated and intersectional data that go beyond national averages to reveal who is furthest behind and inform policymaking.



13 TOTAL INDICATORS | **5** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

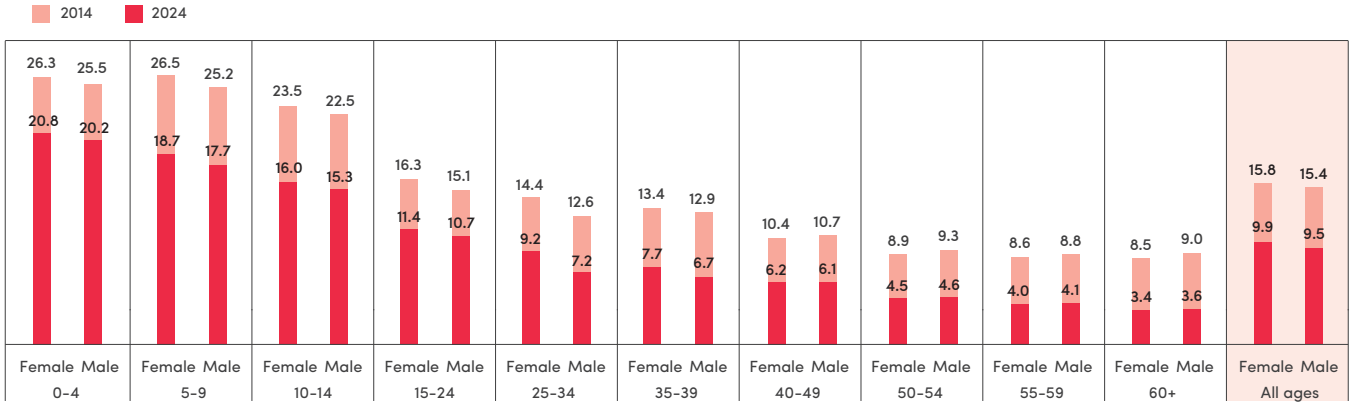
Women face a double bind: overrepresented in poverty, underrepresented in positions to end it

From 2014 to 2024, global extreme poverty sharply declined, especially among children and adolescents. It fell 5–8 percentage points for those aged 0–14, compared to 4–6 percentage points for adults. Yet in 2024, 9.9 per cent of all women and 9.5 per cent of all men still lived in extreme poverty, reflecting the realities of the hardest-to-reach populations. In particular, the 295 million women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa are being left further behind, despite progress overall. The largest gender gap in poverty persists among young adults aged 15–34, where women's poverty rates exceed men's by almost 2 percentage points. These statistics, however, underestimate women's deprivation. They assume that household resources are shared equally among members, despite the influence of skewed bargaining power and social norms favouring male control. If current trends continue, extreme poverty is unlikely to be eradicated by 2030. At the higher threshold of $8.30 a day, more than 40 per cent of people globally will live in poverty.

Beyond poverty incidence, women remain underrepresented in positions that determine poverty reduction policies. Globally, women account for only 19 per cent of ministers leading economic portfolios and 40 per cent of ministers leading social protection and social security portfolios. The gap is particularly striking given global evidence that women's presence in fiscal and political leadership correlates with higher public health and education spending and lower child mortality. Historically, countries where women occupy more than 20 per cent of parliamentary seats have immunization rates that are up to 12 percentage points higher than in countries with lower shares in parliament. Local female leaders invest more in water infrastructure and public goods that directly reduce poverty. In households, when women have greater control over spending, a larger share of resources flows to food, children's education and health, investments that reduce poverty across generations. Addressing women's poverty requires multiple actions, but overall, public investment in social protection, health and education has the greatest potential.

FIGURE 1

Global Poverty rate based on the $3 international poverty line, by sex and age, 2014–2024 (percentage)



Source: World Bank Group. 2025. Tracking Gender Disparities in Global Poverty: 2014-2024.
Note: Expressed in 2021 purchasing power parity. Based on a sample of 110 countries where data are available for both 2014 and 2024.

2 ZERO HUNGER

15 TOTAL INDICATORS | **3** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

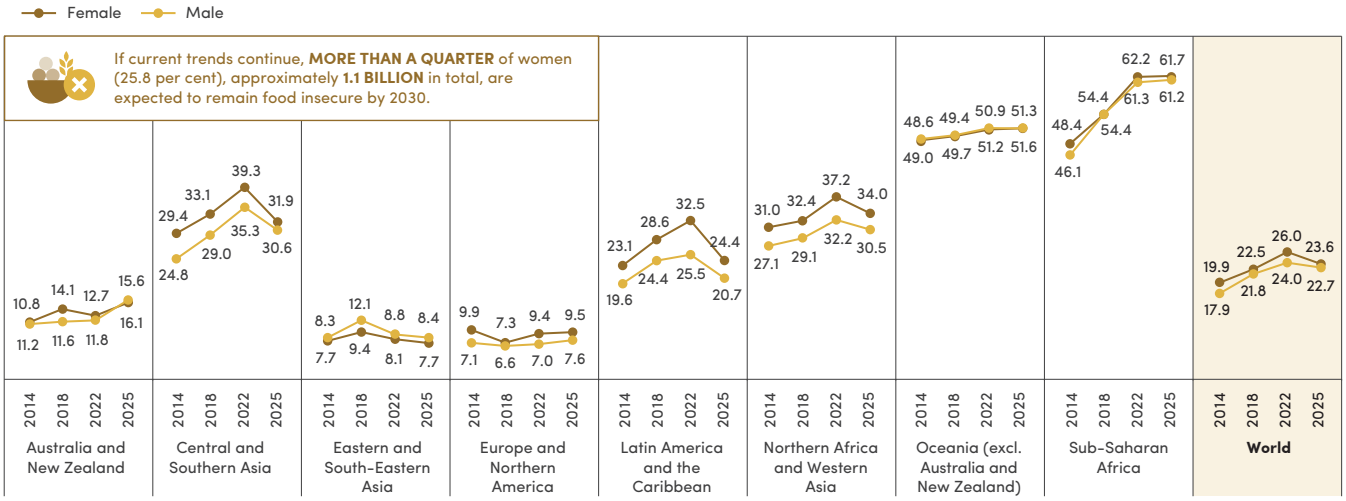
Closing gender gaps in agricultural productivity would improve food security for 45 million people

Rising conflicts and overlapping humanitarian crises, alongside a retreat in humanitarian and development financing, have deepened food insecurity in fragile or conflict-affected settings. Globally, women's moderate or severe food insecurity rate stood at 23.6 per cent in 2025, compared to 22.7 per cent for men. If current trends continue, more than a quarter of women (25.8 per cent), approximately 1.1 billion in total, are expected to remain food insecure by 2030. Rising food prices and the expected El Niño phenomenon are anticipated to intensify pressures and affect women disproportionately. A 10 per cent spike in food prices is associated with a higher jump in moderate or severe food insecurity among women compared to men.

Gender gaps in productive resources constrain food security and farm productivity. Data from 2020–2024 show that male small-scale food producers had higher labour productivity than their female counterparts in 31 of 39 countries, and in 34 of 38 countries among large-scale producers. Closing gender gaps in farm productivity and agricultural wages could reduce global food insecurity by 2 percentage points, leading to approximately 45 million fewer food insecure people. Beyond access to resources, in households, women's agency and decision-making power are associated with improved household nutrition. In Bangladesh, a 10 per cent increase in women's empowerment score is associated with a 24 per cent higher household calorie availability and a 13.6 per cent improvement in dietary diversity, with benefits extending well beyond women to households and communities. Policy action should strengthen women's land rights and tenure security through legal and land registration reforms, design extension services and financial products responsive to women farmers' needs, and advance women's roles as decision makers in agrifood systems and governance.

FIGURE 2

Proportion of individuals aged 15 years or older who are moderately or severely food insecure, by sex and region, 2014–2025 (percentage)



Source: FAO. 2026. FAOSTAT Database, and Pardee Institute for International Futures. 2026. International Futures modelling platform.



28 TOTAL INDICATORS | **6** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

A power gap in healthcare defines whose health needs receive attention and funding

Globally, female healthy life expectancy at birth increased from 59.3 years in 2000 to 63.0 years in 2021, reflecting better healthcare and disease prevention. Other health indicators, such as maternal mortality, births attended by skilled health personnel, adolescent childbearing and access to modern contraception, have seen significant advances, even if they are far from the 2030 targets. Visible progress in HIV prevention among women and girls has driven declines in new HIV infections among women aged 15–49, from 0.74 per 1,000 uninfected women in 2000 to 0.24 in 2025. Yet the recent defunding of global health programmes, threatens to reverse these gains. Development assistance for health is projected to fall by 29–46 per cent from 2024 to 2026, and the permanent termination of key HIV programmes could result in over 6.6 million additional new HIV infections globally between 2025 and 2029.

Aside from funding declines, persistent inequalities in bodily autonomy and decision-making power impede progress. These are particularly acute for women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination, along with poverty, or living in countries with weak health systems. Data from 2017 to 2020 show that around less than half of women of reproductive age participate in decisions about their own healthcare in several countries, including Pakistan (50.5 per cent), Sierra Leone (43.9 per cent) and Tajikistan (45.7 per cent). These disparities extend beyond the household into healthcare governance. In 2026, women held just 26.3 per cent of ministerial positions in health. Persistent gender biases in health leadership and research influence whose health needs receive attention, funding and research. Globally, women's health attracts only around 6 per cent of private healthcare investment. Critical evidence gaps in medical research persist with sex-disaggregated results rarely reported in some major areas of clinical trials. Reversing health financing cuts, putting women in health leadership and mandating sex-disaggregated research are much needed – health gains so far are at risk without all three.

FIGURE 3

Women's health over the past 25 years has seen measurable gains – yet, underinvestment will reverse progress



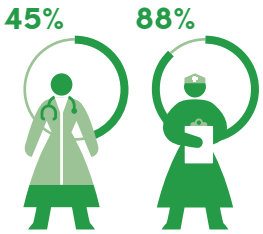
Maternal mortality fell by nearly 40%, from 328 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 197 in 2023.



Skilled birth attendance rose sharply, from 60.7 to 87.2 per cent between 2000 and 2025.



Family planning demand satisfied with modern methods increased modestly, from 73.7 to 77.2 per cent between 2000 and 2025.



Data from **156 countries** indicate that **women comprise 45% of medical doctors**. In 168 countries, **women represent 88% of nursing personnel**.



Yet the nominal **6% of global private healthcare investment spent on women flies in the face of critical needs**. Conditions such as postpartum haemorrhage, still the leading cause of maternal death, affecting **27 million women** globally each year, remain underresearched and neglected.

Diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis, affecting



1 in 10

women and girls of reproductive age worldwide, **can take from 4 to 12 years**. The lag points to persistent gaps in the quality and accessibility of care.

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division. 2026. Global SDG Indicators Database, World Economic Forum. 2026. Women's Health Investment Outlook and Prescription for Change: Policy Recommendations for Women's Health Research, WHO. 2025. Endometriosis, and WHO. 2025. National health workforce accounts data portal.



12 TOTAL INDICATORS | **8** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

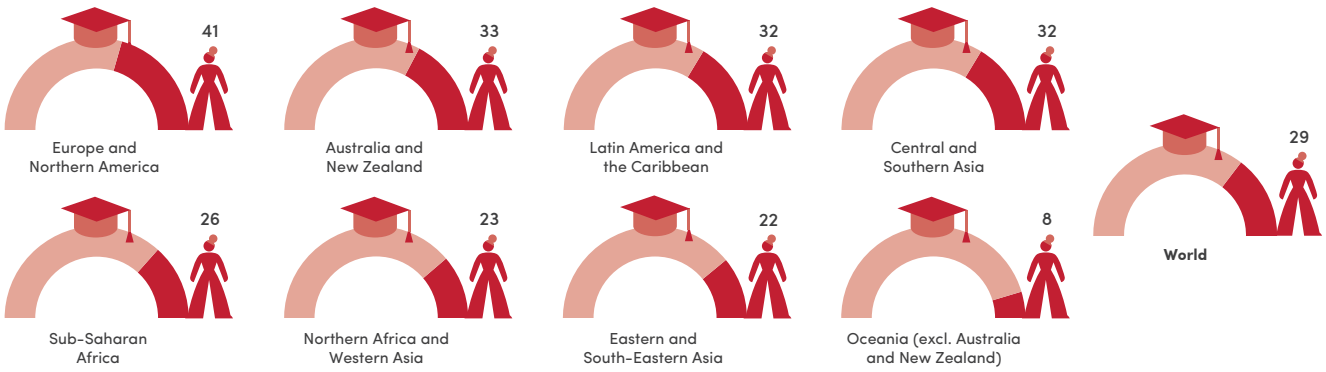
With women at the helm of education, more girls learn and prepare to become the leaders of tomorrow

Globally, 327 million more students are in school today than in 2000, a 30 per cent increase. Yet 273 million children, adolescents and youth were out of school in 2024, with rural girls and those from the poorest households at the highest risk. In rural areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Senegal, fewer than 6 girls complete upper secondary school for every 10 boys. In Angola, Mozambique and pre-war Sudan, among the poorest households, at most 3 girls complete upper secondary school for every 10 boys. Where women lead in education, system performance and learning often improve. Further, female political leaders tend to prioritize education more than male peers; higher shares of women in parliament track greater education spending, improved primary completion rates and progress towards gender parity in school enrolment. In 2026, 64 per cent of parliamentarians in Rwanda are women, and gender equality is embedded across education policies, curricula and textbooks. Students across diverse schools demonstrate high awareness of gender equality. Evidence from India also shows that women's political representation drives better educational outcomes, such as increased primary education completion in urban areas. In West Bengal, quotas for women leaders in village councils helped to close the gender gap in adolescent educational attainment. Some evidence suggests that schools led by women principals achieve better learning outcomes than those led by men. In francophone Africa, students in primary schools with female principals outperformed those in schools with male principals in mathematics and reading by the equivalent of at least six months of learning.

Yet women's presence in education leadership is still far from parity and has recently declined. The share of women education ministers at the global level reached 31.8 per cent in 2024 before slipping to 28.7 per cent in 2026. Even in school leadership, the share of female principals in primary and secondary education is, on average, at least 20 percentage points lower than the average share of female teachers. Only 11 per cent of countries globally take specific measures to advance gender diversity in recruiting principals. Having more women in leadership today is critical, translating into more girls in education and leadership tomorrow.

FIGURE 4

Women's share among education ministers, by region (percentage)



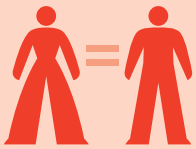
Source: UN Women calculations based on UN Women. 2026. Database on Women and Men Cabinet Ministers. Data as of 1 January 2026.



CURRENT BARRIERS TO WOMEN IN POWER MAKE GENDER EQUALITY A GOAL FOR THE YEAR 2197, NOT 2030

In the remaining four years of the 2030 agenda, not one SDG 5 target is on track. Women continue to be excluded from decision-making in parliaments, local governments, boardrooms, courts and communities as well as at home. Legal barriers to equal pay, land rights and economic participation remain stubbornly entrenched. At the current rate, it will take 171 years to achieve SDG 5. Faster progress urgently requires integrated actions that close leadership gaps through quotas; dismantle structural barriers, including discriminatory social norms and violence; and scale up investment in evidence-based programmes and gender data to make progress visible, measurable and meaningful.

TARGET 5.1:

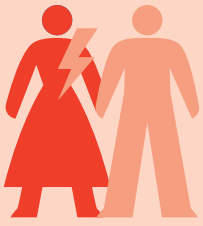


From 2019 to 2024, **99 legal reforms across 47 countries removed discriminatory laws and strengthened legal frameworks for gender equality**. Mostly related to employment and economic benefits, they included statutes for equal pay, the removal of restrictions on women in some jobs, non-discrimination in hiring, and ownership or inheritance rights. Yet today, **no country achieves a perfect score** on all four areas measured by SDG indicator 5.1.1 (Area 1; overarching legal frameworks and public life, Area 2; violence against women, Area 3; employment and economic benefits, Area 4; marriage and family). Of 131 countries, **51% show gaps in each area**.



Globally, women hold only **64%** **of the legal rights** that men enjoy.

TARGET 5.2:



Violence against women remains widespread. Nearly **1 in 3** **women aged 15 or older** – an estimated 840 million globally – **has experienced partner or sexual violence** during her lifetime, a figure that has barely budged since 2000. In the last 12 months, **316 million** women – 11% of those aged 15 or older – were subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.



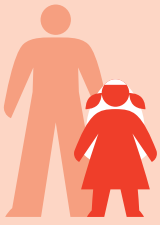
More than **1 in 10** women and girls aged 15 years and older endured sexual violence by a person other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months in Naoero (10.2%), Tunisia (13.5%) and Mexico (14.0%).



Despite growing concern over online violence targeting women and girls, **digital and technology-facilitated violence is absent from high-level political statements**. At the 2024 and 2025 sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, not a single world leader, of either sex, made reference to the issue.

TARGET 5.3:

Progress in eliminating harmful practices is uneven.



Worldwide, nearly **1 in 5** **girls (18%) are married as children before age 18**, down from 22% in 2015. The pace of reduction has almost doubled in the last decade, compared to the previous one, largely driven by girls' education, economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

Female genital mutilation remains an egregious human rights violation affecting generations of women and girls, with an estimated



230 million survivors worldwide.

TARGET 5.4:



Gender gaps in unpaid care and domestic work are entrenched. By 2023, women and girls spent an average of **2.5 times** as many hours per day on these tasks as men globally and up to **4.9 times** as many hours per day in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

TARGET 5.5:

Women's representation in decision-making has slowly improved but remains far from parity. As of January 2026,



women's share of seats in lower and single chambers of national parliaments had reached **27.4%**, up from 22.3% in 2015.



In local governments, the share stagnated at **35.6%** in 2025.

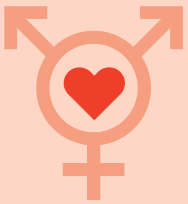


Women held **30.5%** of managerial positions globally in 2025, up from 26.9% in 2015, reflecting gradual progress – but still far too slow.



In the media industry, for example, in 2024, women held only **24%** of top editor positions across 240 news outlets in 12 countries.

TARGET 5.6:



Autonomy in sexual and reproductive health remains limited for many women. In 2025, worldwide, only **56.3%** of women aged 15–49 who were married or in a union **had full decision-making power over contraceptive use, sexual relations and reproductive healthcare**, unchanged from the previous year. The lowest level of autonomy was in sub-Saharan Africa at 36.8%, compared to 61.6% in Central and Southern Asia and 87.2% in Europe and Northern America.

TARGET 5.a:



Women face significant, longstanding barriers to land ownership and secure tenure. Across 78 developing and European Union countries, **women are less likely than men to own or have secure rights over agricultural land** in 71 countries (91%).

Nearly **two thirds** of countries provide no or little legal protection for women's land rights;

over



40% lack guarantees for spousal consent and equal inheritance.

Fewer than



30% ensure joint land registration or women's participation in land governance.

TARGET 5.b:

Globally, 78% of women and 87% of men owned a mobile phone in 2025. Women accounted for **67%** of those **without mobile phones**.



TARGET 5.c:



Gender-responsive financing systems have expanded but are not yet widely institutionalized. Among 131 countries with data, only **1 in 4** **meets three criteria – intention, resource tracking and transparency** – required for systematic public budget allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. Data availability has nearly doubled since 2018, when just 69 countries reported on this indicator.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

11 TOTAL INDICATORS | **0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

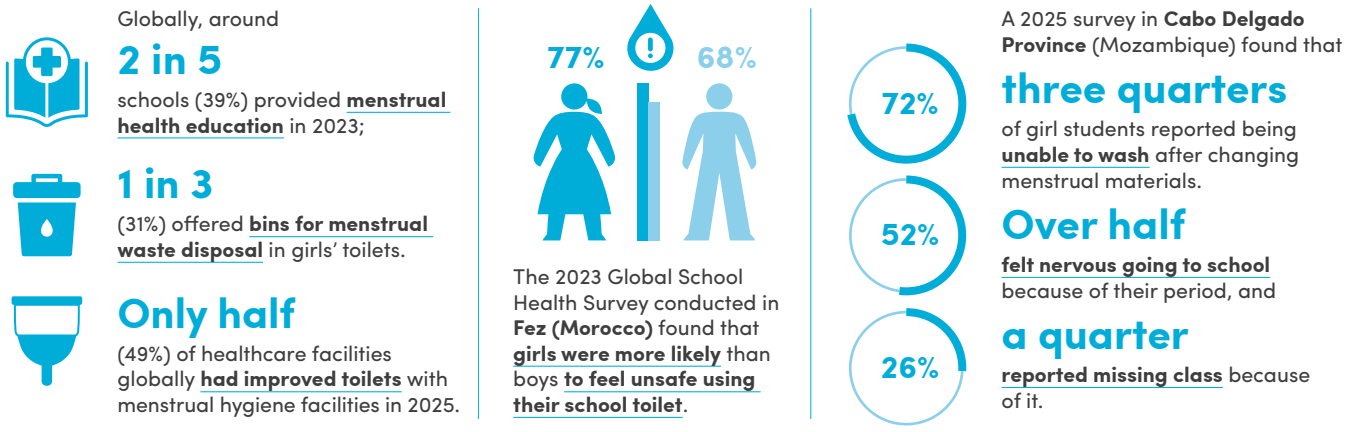
Closing gender gaps in providing and managing precious water resources must go hand in hand

Despite progress, access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene remains out of reach for billions of people. In 2024, 2.1 billion still lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion went without safely managed sanitation and 1.7 billion had no access to basic hygiene services. Infrastructure in schools and healthcare facilities lags. At the current rate of progress, by 2030, only 84 per cent of schools globally will have basic water, 81 per cent basic sanitation and 79 per cent basic hygiene services. Approximately 406 million children will go to schools without basic hygiene. Adequate facilities, including those for menstrual health and hygiene, directly correlate with girls' school attendance and educational attainment. A lack of facilities has increased school dropout rates for girls in Zambia and hindered attendance for menstruating girls in Gambia, India, Kenya, Nepal and Nigeria.

Across the world, women and girls are the primary water collectors in 70 per cent of households with no water on premises. Women's community leadership improves water security and efficiency, and leads to greater investment in safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure. Yet only 4 per cent of women live in countries with a very high degree of gender mainstreaming in water management. An encouraging example from sub-Saharan Africa demonstrates the benefits of integrating gender equality into water governance, particularly in transboundary basins and joint bodies for water cooperation. The Volta River Basin, shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo, identifies gender equality as a fundamental principle of its Water Charter. It requires factoring gender equality into policy formulation, investment and decision-making on water and the environment, and mandates equitable gender representation in all Charter organs. In 2023, women accounted for 7 (43.8 per cent) of the 16 staff of the Volta Basin Authority Secretariat, reflecting gender-balanced representation and supporting the ongoing consideration of gender issues. Achieving SDG 6 demands making water and sanitation accessible to everyone within and beyond the household, and ensuring women have a seat at the decision-making table.

FIGURE 5

Schools lag behind on water and sanitation services for menstrual health



Sources: WHO and UNICEF. 2026. Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2025, WHO and UNICEF. 2026, Progress on water, sanitation, hygiene, environmental cleaning and waste management in health care facilities 2000–2025, WHO and UNICEF. 2025. Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2024: special focus on inequalities, and WHO and UNICEF. 2024. Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2023: Special focus on menstrual health.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

6 TOTAL INDICATORS

0 GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Just energy transitions demand women's leadership in clean energy

Access to electricity and clean cooking fuel is not just about infrastructure. It is a foundation for women's education, employment, entrepreneurship and leadership. Yet the pace of electrification halved from 2020 to 2024 compared to the previous decade, and stagnated at 92 per cent in 2024. An estimated 655 million people, including 326 million women and girls, still lived without it. The number of women and girls with no electricity has remained between 300 million and 400 million since 2018, reflecting how electrification has failed to keep pace with population growth. In 2024, a quarter of the global population, including 1.5 billion rural residents, relied primarily on unclean cooking fuels and technologies for cooking. While a lack of electricity affects all dimensions of development, indoor air pollution caused by cooking fuels and technologies most directly affects women and girls as they are typically responsible for preparing food. Exposure to related household air pollution caused an estimated 1.43 million premature deaths among women in 2021, with ischaemic heart disease accounting for the largest share (27.9 per cent), followed by stroke (24.0 per cent).

The clean energy transition must be a gender-responsive just transition. This includes prioritizing local energy access. Yet recent funding cuts have delivered a sharp setback to the renewable energy sector and off-grid solutions critical to reaching those furthest behind. The Power Africa Off-grid Programme, which mobilized USD 1.2 billion in investment and established 7.2 million new electricity connections, shut down at the end of 2023. Non-governmental organizations focused on off-grid and community-based energy programmes have the highest female representation in the energy sector, at approximately 35 per cent, yet depend heavily on diminishing development assistance. Sustained investment in them will be critical to narrowing the electrification gap, expanding renewable and clean energy access, and supporting an inclusive energy transition led by women.

FIGURE 6

Expanding energy access to the final 655 million requires a gender-responsive transition



Electricity consumption by data centres **has grown more than four times** the rate of total electricity consumption since 2017. It is **expected to grow by around**

15%

annually by 2030, even as **326 million** women and girls still go without any form of modern power at all.



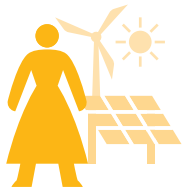
ChatGPT alone processed

2.5 billion

queries per day by mid-2025, **consuming enough electricity to power between**

7.5 and 15 million

off-grid solar home systems across sub-Saharan Africa. This is more than double the number that the Power Africa Off-grid Programme connected over five years before its closure in 2023.



In the shift to renewable energy, **women hold only**

32%

of jobs and **just**

19%

of senior leadership roles, meaning the transition that will determine whether the final 655 million people are connected is being designed and led largely without the people it must serve first.



Source: IEA. 2025. Energy and AI, IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, & WHO. 2026. Tracking SDG 7, UN Women calculations based on SDG 7.1.1, UN Women. 2026. Technical Brief on SDG 7, and IRENA. 2025. Renewable energy: A gender perspective.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

17 TOTAL INDICATORS | **6** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

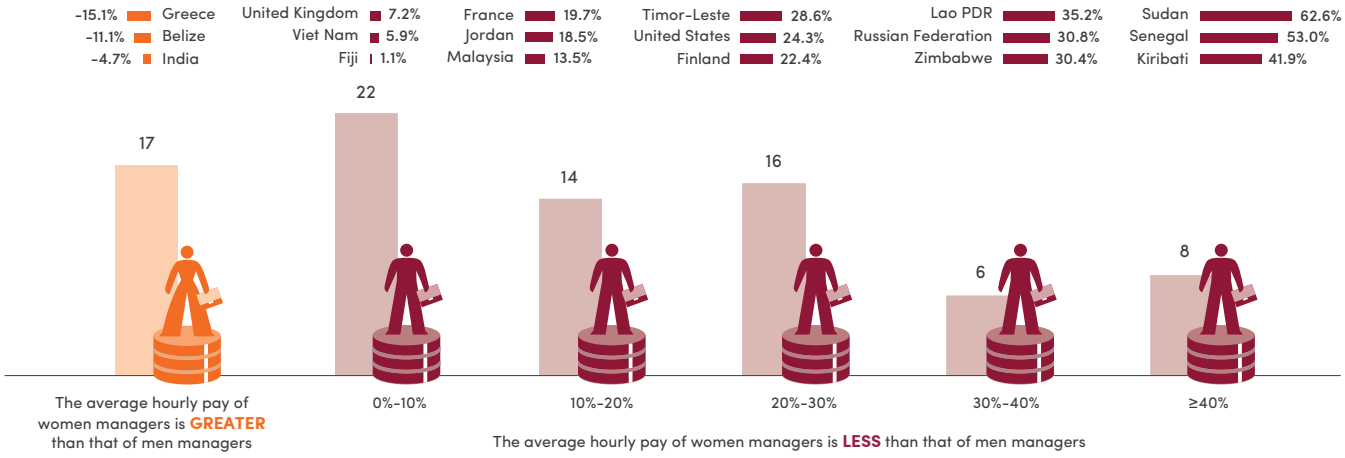
More women have moved into management, but gender pay gaps follow them

From 2015 to 2026, women's labour force participation increased in 128 of 186 countries; the gender gap in participation narrowed in 135 countries. This progress is noteworthy, yet participation levels remain low. In 2026, globally, just under two in every three women aged 25–54 were in the labour force (63.9 per cent) compared to more than 9 in 10 men (92.0 per cent). Even when women enter the labour market, they remain disproportionately concentrated in informal, insecure and lower-paid employment, often with limited social protection. These patterns are often worse in conflict-affected countries. In Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic, 40–71 per cent of women's employment is informal. Disruptions to female-dominated sectors and rising unpaid care work increase the likelihood of women exiting paid work, particularly in Western Asia, where women perform an estimated 80–90 per cent of unpaid care work. Women's economic empowerment also depends on access to financial services, where the gender gap in account ownership has narrowed substantially. In low- and middle-income economies, 73 per cent of women had a financial account in 2024, up from 66 per cent in 2021 and 50 per cent in 2014. Yet important disparities persist. Women are still less likely than men to make digital merchant payments (38 per cent compared to 45 per cent) or borrow through a financial institution (22 per cent compared to 26 per cent).

Women face significant barriers in reaching managerial positions. Globally, the proportion of women in such posts increased from 26.9 per cent in 2015 to 30.5 per cent in 2025. Regional disparities remain stark, with women occupying just 11.6 per cent of managerial positions in Central and Southern Asia. Globally, even when women become managers, they experience significant pay inequalities. From 2020 to 2025, female managers earned less per hour than male managers in 66 of 83 countries and areas with available data. Getting women into leadership is necessary but not sufficient. The structures that govern pay, assets and workplace power must change too.

FIGURE 7

Number of countries by the hourly gender pay gap among managers, 2020–2025



Source: UN Women calculations using ILO. 2026. ILOSTAT Database. Annual estimates are used.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

12 TOTAL INDICATORS | **0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

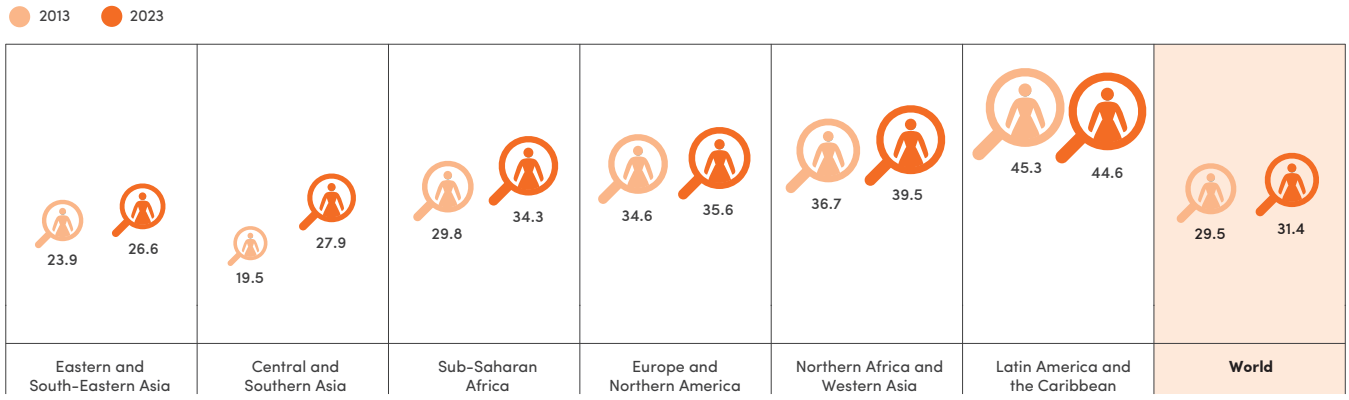
Limited positions in technology and innovation, much less its governance, lock women out of decisions defining the future

Persistent gender gaps in digital skills and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and jobs constrain women's opportunities in research and innovation. From 2020 to 2025, women outnumbered men among graduates from tertiary STEM programmes in only 8 of 118 countries. This limited pipeline perpetuates women's continued underrepresentation in related jobs. In 2023, women comprised 31.4 per cent of all researchers globally, up only modestly from 29.5 per cent in 2013. Further, persistent inequalities in decision-making power, financing and access to frontier technologies throttle their leadership in emerging technology governance and innovation ecosystems. In 2026, women hold only around one in four ministerial positions in research, science, innovation and technology (24.4 per cent), exercising only limited influence over digital transformation, artificial intelligence governance and regulatory agendas. Barriers to entrepreneurship and innovation finance remain high; the share of start-ups globally with at least one woman or non-binary founder declined slightly from 19.9 per cent in 2015 to 18.1 per cent in 2024. These founders raised 37.5 per cent less capital than those founded exclusively by men.

Emerging evidence indicates that the rapidly expanding artificial intelligence economy is reproducing gender inequalities and biases. Women are around 20 per cent less likely than men to use generative artificial intelligence tools, based on global studies covering over 140,000 individuals. Globally, women account for only around 22 per cent of artificial intelligence professionals and hold fewer than 14 per cent of senior leadership positions. As artificial intelligence increasingly shapes economies, public services and everyday life, women's equal participation in its development, governance and regulation is crucial. Women must be at the table to integrate diverse perspectives in emerging technologies, harness their power to advance gender equality, and mitigate risks such as algorithmic bias and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

FIGURE 8

Share of female researchers, by region, 2013 and 2023 (percentage)



Source: UNESCO. 2026. UIS Data Browser.
Notes: Data in this graph are based on headcounts, that is, the total number of researchers who are mainly or partially engaged in research and development. Regional averages are based on available data and are derived by using the nearest year's data, whenever data are missing for 2013 and 2023. Data on the number of researchers broken down by sex are insufficient to calculate a regional aggregate for Australia and New Zealand, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

14 TOTAL INDICATORS | **2** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

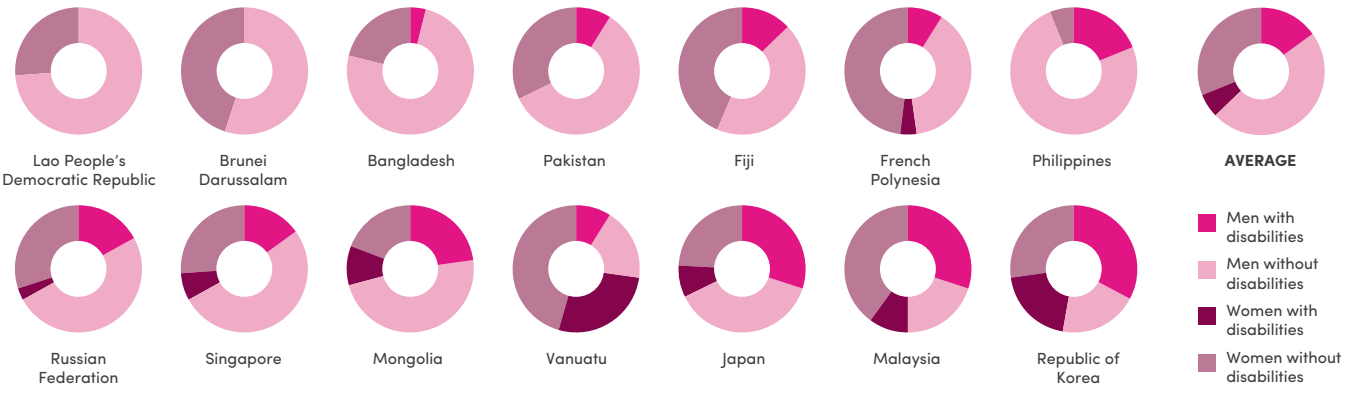
Women with disabilities remain excluded from leadership, including in institutions meant to represent them

Women with disabilities face some of the steepest barriers to leadership and decision-making. Intersecting forms of discrimination limit their access to education, employment, leadership opportunities and public life. Globally, only 23 per cent of women with disabilities are employed, compared to 34 per cent of men with disabilities, 46 per cent of women without disabilities and 67 per cent of men without disabilities. These disparities reduce access to professional experience, networks and resources that support advancement into decision-making roles. Across 25 countries and areas, only 3 per cent of employed women with disabilities work as legislators, senior officials or managers, compared to 4 per cent of women without disabilities. Women with disabilities are less likely to hold these positions in 20 of 25 countries and areas, with the gap exceeding 5 percentage points in some.

The exclusion of women with disabilities extends into public institutions responsible for policies and programmes that affect their lives. Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognizes the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, and the CRPD Committee's General Comment No. 3 (2016) further calls for their meaningful participation in political, public and policymaking life. Yet they are poorly represented in national coordination mechanisms on disability, which oversee policy and programme development, implementation and monitoring. While global data are unavailable, research on 14 countries and areas in Asia and the Pacific provides a glimpse of this underrepresentation. Women with disabilities accounted for only 6 per cent of members, on average, compared with 15 per cent for men with disabilities, 31 per cent for women without disabilities and 48 per cent for men without disabilities. In six countries, no women with disabilities were represented in national coordination mechanisms. Closing this gap calls for systematically including women with disabilities in decision-making bodies, backed by adequate resources, accessibility measures and accountability mechanisms.

FIGURE 9

Members of national coordination mechanisms on disability, by sex and disability status, selected countries and areas in Asia and the Pacific, 2022 (percentage)



Source: Data compiled by ESCAP in 2022 through a voluntary national survey for the final review of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, in UNDESA. 2024. Disability and Development Report 2024.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

16 TOTAL INDICATORS | **3** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

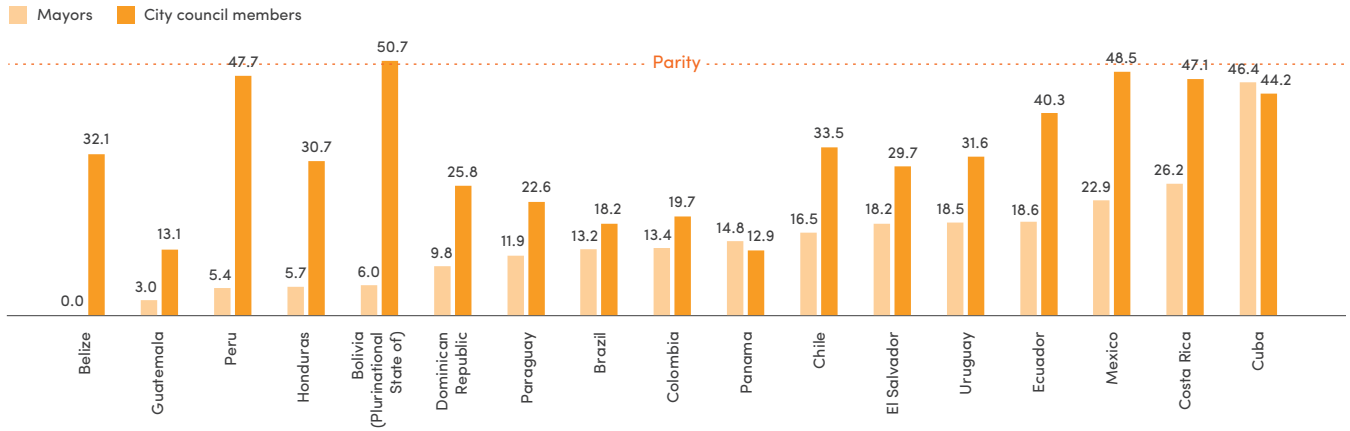
Among city mayors, gender parity is far off, but cities are safer when women lead

Urban expansion is occurring at an unprecedented speed. For all residents to benefit equally, stronger investment is needed in inclusive housing, resilient infrastructure, and safe, green and open public spaces. Yet globally, 1.16 billion people live in slums or informal settlements, with women and girls overrepresented among them. As cities boom, access to public space is declining; from 2020 to 2025, in 414 cities across 126 countries, the share of the population with convenient access to open public spaces fell from 48.0 to 45.9 per cent. Public space is not simply an amenity for women and girls but is a fundamental right. Its erosion narrows the conditions under which women may participate in city life and concentrates their exposure to gender-based violence.

Data on women mayors are not consistently available, but in Latin America and the Caribbean, the share of female mayors is around half the share of women in local deliberative bodies (16.6 per cent compared to 32.6 per cent). A similar pattern exists in the European Union (18.9 per cent compared to 34.9 per cent in 2025). Despite continued underrepresentation, evidence suggests that women in local leadership often place greater emphasis on policies that promote social inclusion, gender equality and public safety. In the United States, electing female mayors is associated with a 6 per cent increase in the likelihood of police arresting perpetrators of violence against women and a roughly 13 percentage-point increase in female victims reporting crimes. Similar evidence from Chile suggests that women mayors have improved the reporting of crimes against women by prioritizing gender-based violence in policy proposals and directing additional resources to community organizations. Beyond mayors, evidence from Cairo, Egypt shows that participation of women's rights organizations in a gender-responsive bus rapid transit system made the public transport system more responsive to the safety needs of women and girls. Accelerating progress towards SDG 11 therefore requires investments in adequate housing, public spaces and resilient urban infrastructure, alongside addressing sexual harassment in public spaces and achieving greater gender equality in local leadership and decision-making.

FIGURE 10

Proportion of elected women mayors and women city council members, Latin America and the Caribbean, most recent elections as of 1 January 2025 (percentage)



Source: ECLAC. 2026. CEPALSTAT Statistical Data Portal.



45 TOTAL INDICATORS | **1** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATOR

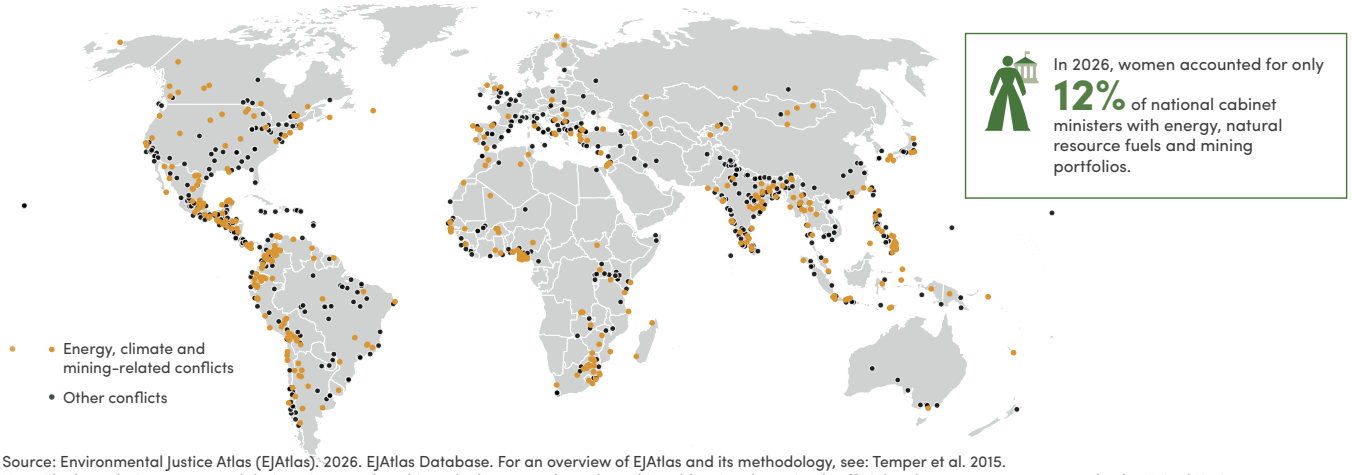
Amid high risks, women defend the environment and demand a sustainable future for their communities

Climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are interconnected and accelerating, with compounding consequences for the lives, livelihoods, health and well-being of women and girls. Over two thirds of people today live in countries and areas considered highly or very highly exposed to climate change and geophysical hazards (5.8 billion); half are women and girls (2.9 billion). By contrast, 1 billion women and girls (24.5 per cent) reside in medium-exposure settings. Only 224.9 million (5.5 per cent) live in countries and areas with low or very low exposure. For older women, rising temperatures are becoming acutely life-threatening. In the summer of 2022 in Europe, older women accounted for a disproportionately high share of heat-related deaths.

Meeting these challenges requires the equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making. Internationally, the number of women participating in climate and other environmental decision-making has steadily increased. In 2025, women made up 40 per cent of delegates to the thirtieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, compared to 31 per cent during the fourteenth session in 2008. In 2023, under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, women comprised 52.7 per cent of reporting officers in the most recent reporting cycle. Progress nationally, however, has not been as consistent. In 2026, women accounted for only 27 per cent of national cabinet ministers with environmental portfolios and 12 per cent with energy, natural resource fuels and mining portfolios. Beyond formal settings, women are leading public demands for climate action and defending ecosystems, facing threats that may be lethal. As of July 2026, almost a quarter (1,024 of 4,454 cases) of socioenvironmental conflicts worldwide visibly involved women environmental human rights defenders. This is almost certainly an underestimate, given gaps and biases in media reporting. The Escazú Agreement, in force since 2021, makes the protection of women environmental defenders a legal obligation in Latin America and the Caribbean, offering a concrete model for global legal protection.

FIGURE 11

Reported environmental justice cases involving women environmental defenders, as of July 2026



Source: Environmental Justice Atlas (EJAtlas). 2026. EJAtlas Database. For an overview of EJAtlas and its methodology, see: Temper et al. 2015.
Note: The boundaries, names and designations used on this and other maps throughout this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

24 TOTAL INDICATORS | **7** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Women and girls neither choose nor lead conflicts and are sidelined from ending them

Armed conflict has intensified sharply over the past two decades. Globally, 18.8 per cent of women and girls, or 756.1 million, lived within 50 kilometres of at least one armed conflict event in 2025. The share rises to 50.5 per cent in fragile States. Conflict exacerbates pre-existing inequalities, disrupts education, healthcare and livelihoods, and heightens exposure to displacement, food insecurity and violence. In 2025, the United Nations verified nearly 9,800 reported cases of conflict-related sexual violence, more than double the number recorded in 2024 (4,600 cases). Such sharp increases reflect both worsening conflict dynamics and persistent failures to protect civilians and end impunity. In addition, one in four civilians killed in armed conflict in 2025 was a woman or girl, reflecting the growing toll of warfare in populated areas. Evidence from Colombia, Ethiopia and Lebanon shows that women continue to lead local peacebuilding, despite being underrepresented in formal peace negotiations. In Yemen, women have negotiated for civilian access to critical resources such as water amid ongoing conflict. In Sudan, advocacy by a coalition of women peacebuilders backed women's indirect participation in the 2024 Geneva peace talks.

Despite their contributions, women activists and defenders of human rights brave escalating threats and violence. These attacks reflect broader patterns of backlash against women's participation in public and political life. Fewer than 5 per cent of world leaders mentioned backlash and the shrinking space for civic and women's rights at the 2025 United Nations General Assembly General Debate. This neglect reverberates in poor perceptions of inclusive governance. Data covering 2021–2025 show that the proportion of women who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive ranges from just 8.4 per cent in Tunisia to 69.9 per cent in Lithuania. In the State of Palestine (21.2 per cent), the Republic of Korea (21.4 per cent), New Zealand (23.7 per cent) and Colombia (28.6 per cent), fewer than 3 in 10 women held this view. The legitimacy, effectiveness and responsiveness of public institutions depends on ending women's exclusion from decision-making.

FIGURE 12

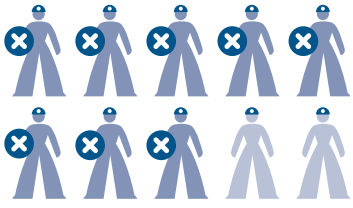
Women's participation in formal peace negotiations



Women remain

far below

parity in peace and security decision-making for formal peace negotiations.



In 2025, nearly

8 in 10 **peace processes worldwide had no women negotiators or mediators**. Women were signatories to only 2 peace agreements: in Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



In Liberia, **women's organizations helped revive the 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations** through advocacy, coalition-building and engagement with policymakers, while building political support for their implementation.



In Kenya, **women peacebuilders led cross-county dialogue and advocacy to increase women's leadership** in inter-county peace agreements on land and resource governance, helping to address key drivers of conflict.

Sources: UN Women. 2026. Women lead peacebuilding efforts in Colombia, Lebanon, and Malawi through dialogue, mediation, and justice, UN Women. 2025. Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security, United Nations. 2024. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, General Recommendation 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, and Conciliation Resources. 2024. Enabling change: Lessons from grant-making to increase women's participation in peace processes.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

24 TOTAL INDICATORS | **0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

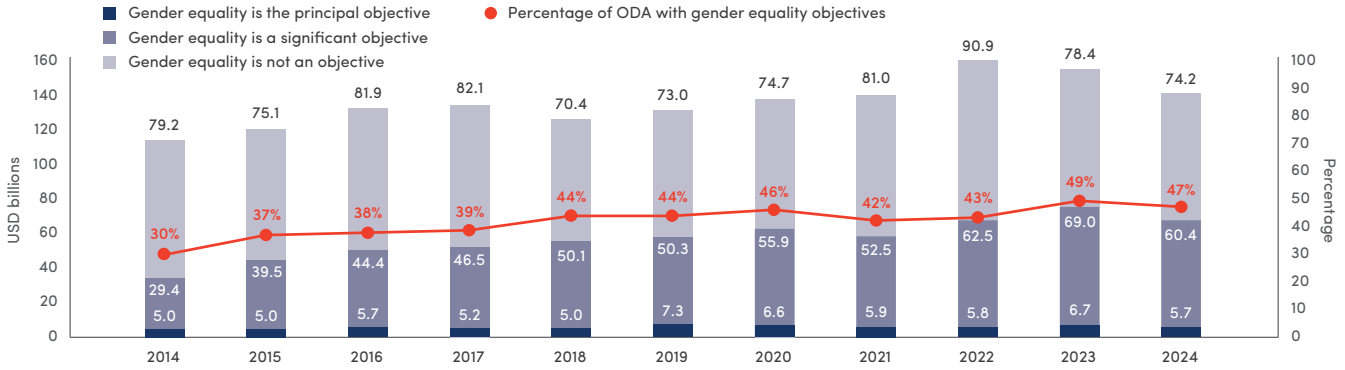
Drops in official development assistance have especially affected women's rights organizations

After a decade of slow growth in net official development assistance (ODA), 2025 saw a 23.3 per cent drop. The fall is expected to continue in 2026 and beyond. By 2028, net ODA is projected to be 9.9 per cent lower than in 2025, with the ratio to gross national income slipping to 0.21 per cent, against an agreed target of 0.7 per cent. Bilateral allocable ODA with gender equality objectives experienced a sharp reduction from 2023 to 2024, falling 13 per cent to its lowest volume since 2021. Women's rights organizations, which have historically received less than 1 per cent of ODA for gender equality, were particularly affected. Their funding declined by 28 per cent from 2023 to 2024, with further reductions anticipated. Equally concerning, while ODA to end violence against women and girls rose steadily from 2020 to 2024, it is now projected to drop by 17–20 per cent in 2025. Substantial cuts are also expected in population and reproductive health support, where funding could decline by as much as 54.1 per cent from 2024 to 2026. Amidst funding cuts, 42 per cent of UN entities report actual or anticipated weakening of their gender equality efforts.

Together, these trends diminish the financing, data and institutional capacity needed to implement and monitor the SDGs. Only 15 per cent of the funding allocated to gender equality projects was associated with women's leadership initiatives — signaling that even within gender equality financing, women's leadership remains an underfunded priority. Current global data availability for gender-specific indicators across the SDGs, outside Goal 5, is 40.8 per cent for at least one data point since 2015. The share may shrink with disruptions to Demographic and Health Surveys. Data gaps echo leadership gaps in institutions responsible for setting measurement priorities and resourcing gender statistics. Globally, women make up only 27 per cent of chief statisticians in national statistical offices and 28 per cent in the United Nations system and other international organizations. Leadership gaps tend to be wider where data availability is lower and funding more constrained. Sustained investment in national statistical systems, transparent pathways to statistical leadership, and women's organizations and mechanisms shaping the priorities that determine what gets counted, are all needed.

FIGURE 13

Volume and share of ODA with gender equality objectives, bilateral allocable ODA commitments by DAC members, 2014-2024 (USD billions and percentage)



Source: OECD, DAC. 2026. ODA for gender equality is plummeting: How can we protect it?
Note: Volume figures are in constant 2023 prices.

SDG 5 TRACKER: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD

Progress across SDG 5 targets is too slow to achieve gender equality by 2030; advancing women's leadership and decision-making power is central to accelerating change

The SDG 5 tracker evaluates progress across the 9 targets and 18 indicators and subindicators of SDG 5. Two measures of progress are included: a level assessment, which gauges the current level of achievement on a given target or indicator, and a trend assessment, which measures the pace of progress from a baseline year to the current level, and the distance from the target, if applicable.

Leadership and decision-making are both core dimensions of gender equality and catalysts for accelerating progress across Goal 5 and all other SDGs. Women's participation in political, economic and public decision-making helps shape laws, policies, budgets and institutions that affect every aspect of women's and girls' lives. Yet since 2015, progress has been uneven and fragile. Persistent discrimination, rising conflict, climate-related crises, economic insecurity, and backlash against gender equality and women's rights continue to constrain women's voice, agency and leadership at all levels.

The SDG 5 tracker shows that, based on available data, gender equality remains far from being achieved. No Goal 5 indicator or subindicator has reached "target met or almost met". Only 2 are "close to target", 10 are at a "moderate distance to target", 2 are "far from target", 1 is "very far from target" and 3 lack sufficient data. Sixty-nine countries are far or very far from achieving equality in unpaid care and domestic work (indicator 5.4.1), and 22 countries have legal frameworks that provide high or very high guarantees of gender equality in land ownership and control (indicator 5.a.2).

Trend data paint a similarly concerning picture. Ten indicators show "marginal progress and significant acceleration needed", while eight lack sufficient data to assess change over time. Not a single SDG 5 indicator is currently on track. For instance, 36 countries show regression in women's representation in national parliaments (indicator 5.5.1(a)), 27 in local government representation (indicator 5.5.1(b)) and 34 in managerial positions. The slow pace of change, and even regression, reflects persistent structural barriers to women's leadership. In some contexts, broader democratic erosion is narrowing opportunities for inclusive participation and decision-making. At the same time, women's continued exclusion from positions of power weakens inclusive governance and accountability, limiting the transformative leadership needed to advance gender equality and accelerate progress across the SDGs.

Targets and indicators		World	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia
Target 5.1				
5.1.1 Overarching legal frameworks and public life	Level			
	Trend	→	←	→
5.1.1 Violence against women	Level			
	Trend	→	→	→
5.1.1 Employment and economic benefits	Level			
	Trend	→	→	→
5.1.1 Marriage and family	Level			
	Trend	→	–	→

The availability of SDG 5 data continues to improve, standing at 56.6 per cent since 2015, up from 19.3 per cent in 2019. Particularly encouraging is the availability of data on indicators first introduced in the SDG monitoring framework as Tier 3 indicators. Data on leadership and governance indicators have had a remarkable increase, from no globally comparable data to 147 countries with data on women's representation in local government (indicator 5.5.1(b)); 131 countries with data on non-discriminatory legal frameworks (indicator 5.1.1); and 131 countries with data on systems to track gender-responsive budgeting (indicator 5.c.1). Furthermore, data on non-intimate partner sexual violence (indicator 5.2.2), now cover 121 countries. For the first time, this enables a more systematic global assessment of this critical dimension of violence against women and girls. Nevertheless, significant data gaps remain. Less than half of countries have data on indicators on unpaid domestic and care work (48.7 per cent), mobile phone ownership (47.7 per cent), female genital mutilation (41.7 per cent), reproductive health decision-making (41.5 per cent), and ownership or secure rights to agricultural land (40.4 per cent). Despite progress in strengthening national gender data systems, persistent gaps in sex-disaggregated and intersectional data continue to obscure the experiences of many women and girls and constrain evidence-based policymaking.

With only four years remaining until 2030, faster progress on gender equality will require stronger commitments to women's leadership and decision-making alongside sustained investments. Expanding women's voices, representation and influence in political, economic and public life is essential for achieving target 5.5 and, from there, advancing progress across all dimensions of SDG 5. Closing persistent gaps, strengthening accountability and investing in better gender data will be critical for making the promise of the SDGs not just a number but a reality for all women and girls.

Level assessment

- Target met or almost met
- Close to target
- Moderate distance to target
- Far from target
- Very far from target
- Insufficient data

Trend assessment

- On track or target met
- Moderate progress but acceleration needed
- Marginal progress and significant acceleration needed
- Stagnation
- Regression
- Insufficient data

Central and Southern Asia	Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	Europe and Northern America	Australia and New Zealand

Targets and indicators		World	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia
Target 5.2				
5.2.1 Women and girls subjected to intimate partner violence	Level			
	Trend			
5.2.2 Sexual violence against women and girls	Level			
	Trend			
Target 5.3				
5.3.1 Child marriage among women and girls	Level			
	Trend			
5.3.2 Female genital mutilation	Level			
	Trend			
Target 5.4				
5.4.1 Ratio of unpaid domestic and care work, by sex	Level			
	Trend			
Target 5.5				
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments	Level			
	Trend			
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (b) local governments	Level			
	Trend			
5.5.2 Women in managerial positions	Level			
	Trend			
Target 5.6				
5.6.1 Proportion of women and girls who make informed decisions on reproductive health	Level			
	Trend			
5.6.2 Laws on equal access to reproductive health, information and education	Level			
	Trend			
Target 5.a				
5.a.1 Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex	Level			
	Trend			
5.a.2 Laws that guarantee equal land rights	Level			
	Trend			


Central and Southern Asia
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
Latin America and the Caribbean
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)
Europe and Northern America
Australia and New Zealand

Targets and indicators		World	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia
Target 5.b				
5.b.1 Women who own a mobile phone	Level			
	Trend			
5.b.1 Men who own a mobile phone	Level			
	Trend			
Target 5.c				
5.c.1 Countries with systems to track gender equality	Level			
	Trend			

Sources: UN Women and United Nations Statistics Division, based on the latest available data and estimates as of 2026 provided by: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Telecommunication Union, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women and World Health Organization.

Notes: Official SDG indicator names have been condensed given space limitations. Global and regional averages were reported in The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026 Statistical Annex and the United Nations SDG indicator database, unless otherwise specified. For full indicator names and descriptions, see the list of gender-specific indicators below. SDG 5 has 14 official indicators; 18 are assessed in the tracker given that indicators 5.1.1 and 5.5.1 have multiple subindicators.

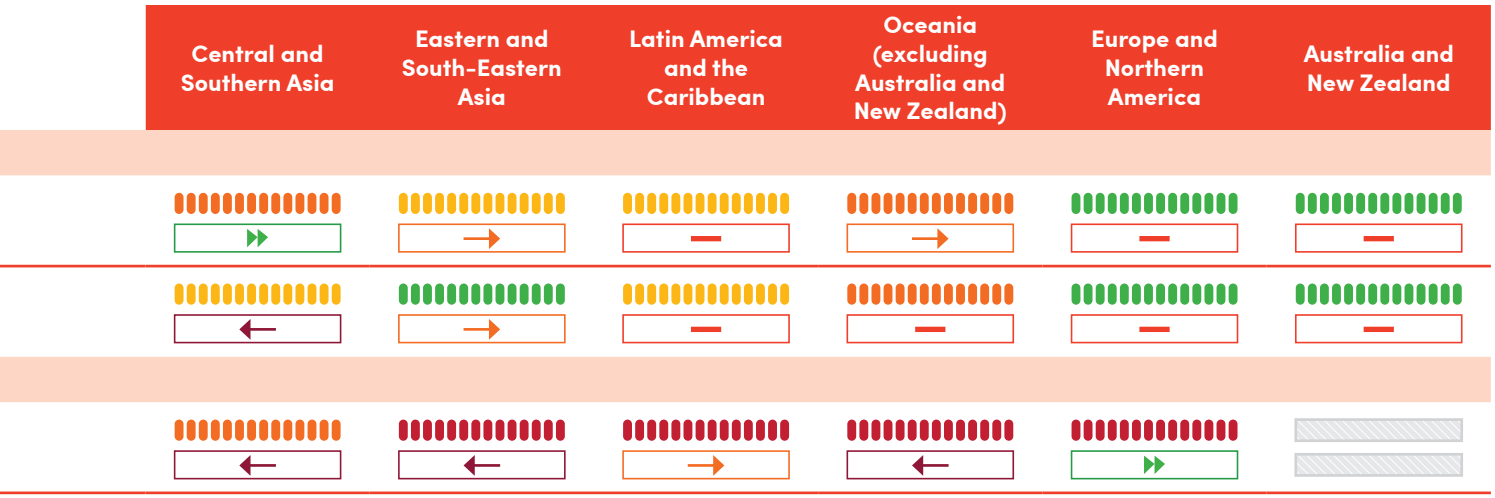
5.1.1: The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2018 or later and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026.

5.2.1: The average for the world is based on 164 countries and areas.

5.2.2: The average for the world is based on 125 countries and areas.

5.3.1: Covers women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18. The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2015 and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026. The average for the world is based on 119 countries with 82 per cent population coverage. Sub-Saharan Africa is based on 37 countries with 92 per cent population coverage, Northern Africa and Western Asia is based on 17 countries with 80 per cent population coverage, Central and Southern Asia is based on 13 countries with 97 per cent population coverage, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia is based on 12 countries with 92 per cent population coverage, Latin America and the Caribbean is based on 19 countries with 52 per cent population coverage, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) is based on 8 countries with 92 per cent population coverage.

5.3.2: The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2014 and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026. The average for sub-Saharan Africa is based on 25 countries with 69 per cent population coverage. The average for Northern Africa and Western Asia covers Northern Africa only (2 countries and 66 per cent population coverage). Data coverage is limited for Western Asia and other remaining regions, where the practice is marginal.



5.4.1: The world average is calculated as a simple average of available regional aggregates for Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Europe and Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Africa and Western Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. No trend assessment is available due to limited data.

5.5.1(a): The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2015 and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026.

5.5.1(b): The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2020 and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026.

5.5.2: The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2015 and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026.

5.6.1: The average for the world is based on 78 countries with 49 per cent population coverage. Sub-Saharan Africa is based on 37 countries with 96 per cent population coverage, Central and Southern Asia is based on 9 countries with 92 per cent population coverage, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia is based on 6 countries with 9 per cent population coverage, Europe and Northern America is based on 10 countries with 10 per cent population coverage, Latin America and the Caribbean is based on 9 countries with 18 per cent population coverage, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) is based on 3 countries with 86 per cent population coverage. The average for Northern Africa and Western Asia covers Western Asia only (4 countries with 6 per cent population coverage).

5.b.1: The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2022 and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026. As values approach 100 per cent, the growth rate is expected to slow. This in part reflects the greater effort needed to extend coverage to hard-to-reach populations that have not already been reached. The lower growth rate as regions approach universal coverage results in a trend assessment of stagnation in some regions, such as Australia and New Zealand and Europe and Northern America.

5.c.1: The trend assessment uses a baseline year of 2018 or later and is calculated per the United Nations Technical Note for Progress Assessment 2026. The data represent information reported by countries from 2018 to 2024. For Europe and Northern America, Northern Africa and Western Asia and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). Regional averages should be interpreted with caution as they cover less than 50 per cent of the countries in each region. No regional aggregate for Australia and New Zealand is available.

LIST OF GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Gender-specific indicators (5)

1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Gender-specific indicators (3)

2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)

2.2.4 Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, by population group (children aged 6 to 23.9 months and non-pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years).

2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Gender-specific indicators (6)

3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio

3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Gender-specific indicator (8)

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education), by sex

4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, Indigenous Peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

4.6.1 Youth/adult literacy rate, by sex

4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender-specific indicators (14)

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation, by age

5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive healthcare

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and education

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

No gender-specific indicators

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

No gender-specific indicators

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Gender-specific indicators (6)

8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status

8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

No gender-specific indicators

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Gender-specific indicators (2)

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Gender-specific indicators (3)

11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of non-sexual or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

No gender-specific indicators

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Gender-specific indicators (1)

13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

No gender-specific indicators

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

No gender-specific indicators

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Gender-specific indicators (7)

16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

No gender-specific indicators

Total	Total indicators: 234	Gender-specific indicators: 53

Note: The total number of indicators listed in the global indicator framework is 251. However, since some indicators repeat under different targets, the actual number of unique indicators is 234. Similarly, the total number of gender-specific indicators listed above is 55, but the total number of unique gender-specific indicators is 53.

Note to reader

Notes and references

The notes and references of *The Gender Snapshot 2026* have been separately listed for each section and published on *The Gender Snapshot 2026* website. See: https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot.

Most figures in the report are presented at the regional and subregional level. These values are generally weighted averages, calculated by international agencies with specialized mandates, using national data from official statistical systems and applying the relevant reference population as weights.

Although aggregate figures are convenient to track progress, the situations of individual countries within a given region, and of population groups and geographical areas within a country, may vary significantly. Presenting aggregate figures for all regions obscures the lack, in many parts of the world, of adequate data to assess national trends, and inform and monitor development policies.

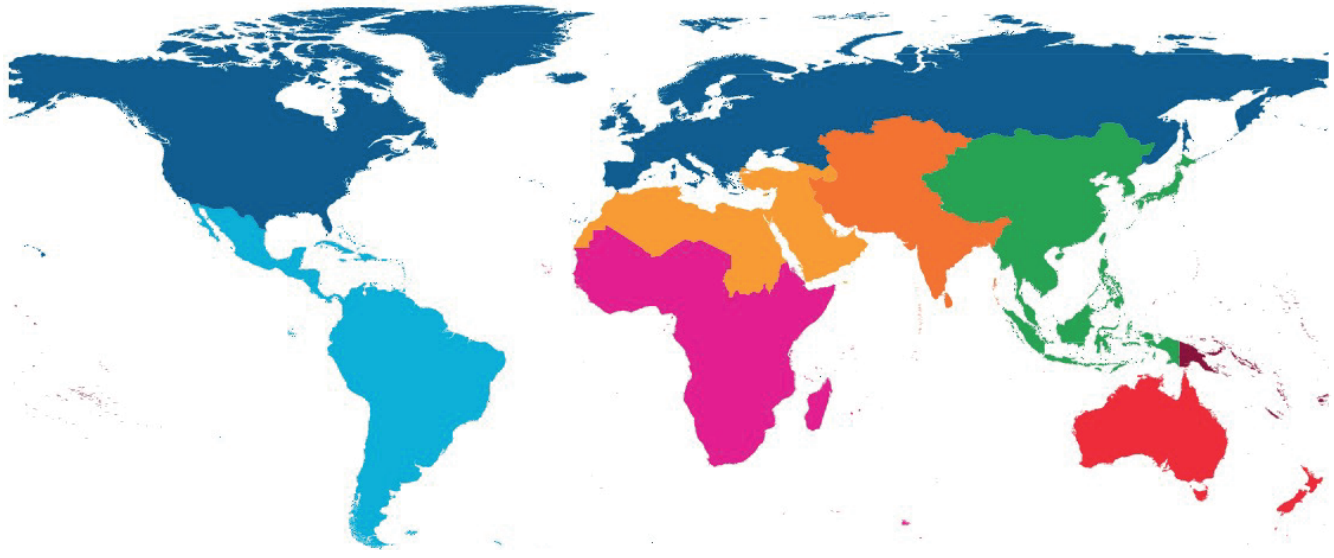
Given the emergence of new data and revised methodologies, data series presented in this report may not be comparable with series presented in previous editions.

Regional groupings

The Gender Snapshot 2026 presents data on progress towards achieving the SDGs worldwide and by various groups. Country groupings are based on geographic regions defined in the Standard Country of Area Codes for Statistical Use (known as M49) of the United Nations Statistics Division. The map below shows the geographic regions. For the purpose of presentation, some regions have been combined.

The text and figures present, to the extent possible, data for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, all of which are country groups requiring special attention. A complete list of countries in each region, subregion and country group is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/.

The term "country" refers, as appropriate, to territories and areas. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.



Note: The boundaries, names and designations used on this and other maps throughout this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Chief, Research and Data Section (a.i): Laura Turquet

Report leads: Antra Bhatt and Yongyi Min

Report authors: Antra Bhatt, Guillem Fortuny Fillo, Ionica Berevoescu, Asha Meagher, Yongyi Min, Heather Page, Sokunpanha You

Research assistance: Safa Salim, Firdha Anisa Najiya Merdeka Sari, Shofie Alya Qodriani, Anahat Kaur Chahal

Production: Agnethe Kuwata, Elisa Acevedo Hernández, Gulistan Akyildiz, Mika Mansukhani, Talita Mattos, Tianyi Zhao

Reviewers and contributors: Lana Ackar (UN Women), Aurelie Acoca (UN Women), Manos Antoninis (UNESCO), Ginette Azcona (New School), Julie Ballington (UN Women), Veronica Boero (FAO), Laura Capobianco (UN Women), Claudia Cappa (UNICEF), Paloma Carrillo (ILO), Pablo Castillo Diaz (UN Women), Cibele Cesca (OECD), Lister Chapeta (UN Women), Christie Chatterley (consultant, UNICEF), Paro Chaujar (UN Women), Chiao Ling Chen (UN Women), Angela Chung (UN Women), Anna Coates (WHO), María Isabel Cobos (UNSD), Jenny Cresswell (WHO), Nazneen Damji (UN Women), Luciana De la Flor Giuffra (World Bank), Prim Devakula (UN Women), Tatiana Dmitrieva (UNESCO), Shikha Dodecha (New School), Ayça Dönmez (UNICEF), Mariana Duarte Mutzenberg (IPU), Ramya Emandi (UN Women), Jessamyn Encarnacion (UN Women), Summer Forester (Carleton College), Miguel Anibal Franco Billini (Independent Consultant), Colleen Murray Gastón (UNICEF), Jenny Hedman (OECD), Rick Johnston (WHO), Yeon-Joo Kang (New School), Anne W. Kepple (FAO), Zohra Khan (UN Women), Sonja Koeppel (UNECE), Carla Kay Kraft (UN Women), Jonathan Lang (IPU), Redah Manga (UN Women), Maria Martinho (UN DESA), Amy Gale Mazur (Washington State University), Michelle Mcisaac (WHO), Dawn Minott (UNFPA), Ana Maria Munoz Boudet (World Bank), Dennis Mwaniki (UN-HABITAT), Dorian Navarro (FAO), Robert Ndugwa (UN-Habitat), Giuliana Neumann (UN Women), Mariana Neves (UNDP), Bernardo Nigri (IPU), Daniela Frade Noguez (New School), Venge Nyirongo (UN Women), Lara Ognibene (UNEP), Rohan Pathirage (UNESCO), Nicole Petrowski (UNICEF), Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP), Tanya Primiani (UN Women), Adriana Quinones (UN Women), Raphaelle Rafin (UN Women), Michael Austin Rahija (FAO), Nicolas Reuge (UNESCO), Katarina Salmela (UN Women), Martin Schaaper (ITU), Papa Alioune Seck (UN Women), Tom Slaymaker (UNICEF), Leonardo Souza (UNSD), Constanza Tabbush (UN Women), Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon (UNECE), Kathryn Travers (UN Women), Iulia Trombitcaia (UNECE), Laura Turquet (UN Women), Iliana Vaca-Trigo (UNSD), Sara Viviani (FAO), Disha Wagle (New School), Lisa Williams (OECD).

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PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2026

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2026 is the latest edition in an annual series produced by UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Covering all 17 Goals, the report spotlights the latest data and evidence on gender equality, tracking trends and revealing progress and gaps.

The 2026 Gender Snapshot is clear: The promise of gender equality in leadership and decision-making is a distant dream.

The evidence that this promise is fraying is clear. On political leadership alone, parity in national parliaments will not be reached for another **63 years**. Of **175** Chief Justices globally, **144** are men and only **31** are women. In a 2026 survey of national gender equality mechanisms, **one in three (32 per cent)** reported an erosion in institutional power over the past two years. The result is an institutional architecture that exists on paper but has diminishing power in practice. The consequences are visible: less funding for gender equality priorities, less accountability for laws and policies that address women's needs and weaker implementation of existing commitments.

When women lead, gender-responsive policies are prioritized, institutions are held accountable, and progress is made across all SDGs, including in education, environmental protection, poverty reduction, and more.

A different path is possible: Build stronger institutions, expand women's leadership and transform discriminatory social norms.

UN WOMEN
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220 East 42nd Street
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