The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2026

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2026



Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2026. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The 'Extended Report' aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Storylines presented in this document may slightly differ from figures cited in the SDG Report 2026 text due to the timing of the submission and the subsequent updates received upon finalizing the Report.

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Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Indicator 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

Continuing legal reforms show progress, but gaps continue in all areas

Data collected in 2024 from 131 countries show that, despite progress, discriminatory laws and legal gaps continue to deny women their human rights worldwide and prevent them from achieving their full potential. Between 2019 and 2025, 99 positive reforms focused on removing discriminatory laws and establishing legal frameworks to advance gender equality were recorded, most of them in the area of employment and economic benefits. The reforms included lifting restrictions on women's work, guaranteeing equal remuneration for work of equal value, providing maternity leave, as well as protecting women from domestic violence. Despite progress, no country gets a perfect score across all 4 areas measured by SDG indicator 5.1.1 and over half the countries (51%) have a gap in each of the areas covered. In the area covering overarching legal frameworks and public life, data shows that only 44.3% of countries have a discrimination law that prohibits against both direct and indirect discrimination. In the area covering violence against women, data shows that only 50 countries (38.2%) have both laws on rape that are based on lack of consent and explicitly criminalize marital rape. In the area covering employment and economic benefits, data show that in 61 countries (46.6%) there is at least one restriction preventing women from doing the same jobs as men, restricting the types of industries they can work in, their hours, or the tasks they can perform. Additionally, only 56% of countries mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value. Finally, in the area covering marriage and family, only 30 countries (22.9%) make 18 the minimum age for marriage with no exceptions and make marriage under the legal age void.

Chart 1: Positive reforms captured for SDG indicator 5.1.1 between 2019 and 2025, by area

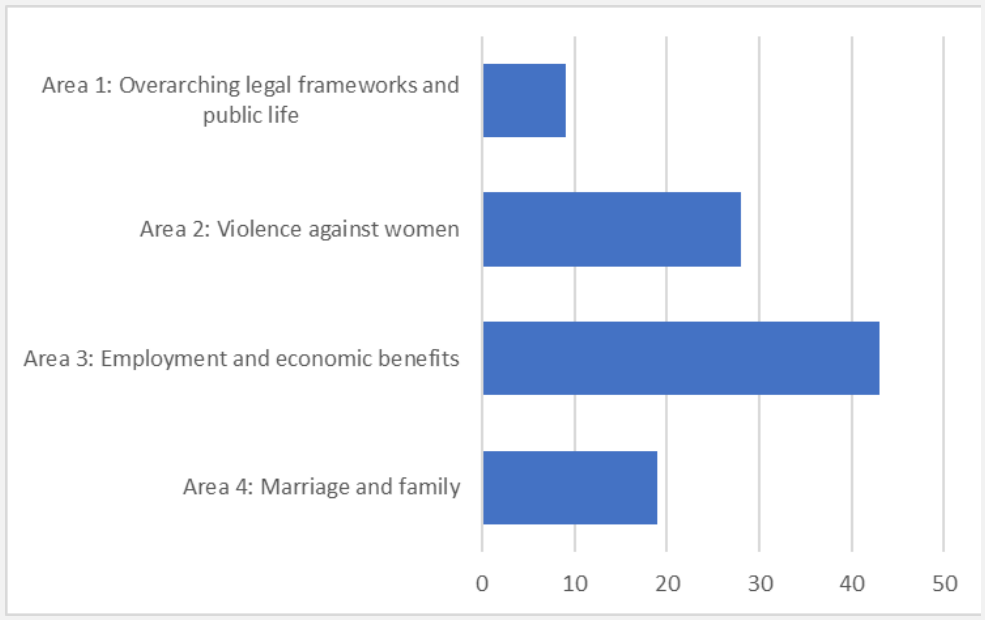


Chart 2: Percentage of countries that have gaps in all 4 areas measured by SDG indicator 5.1.1

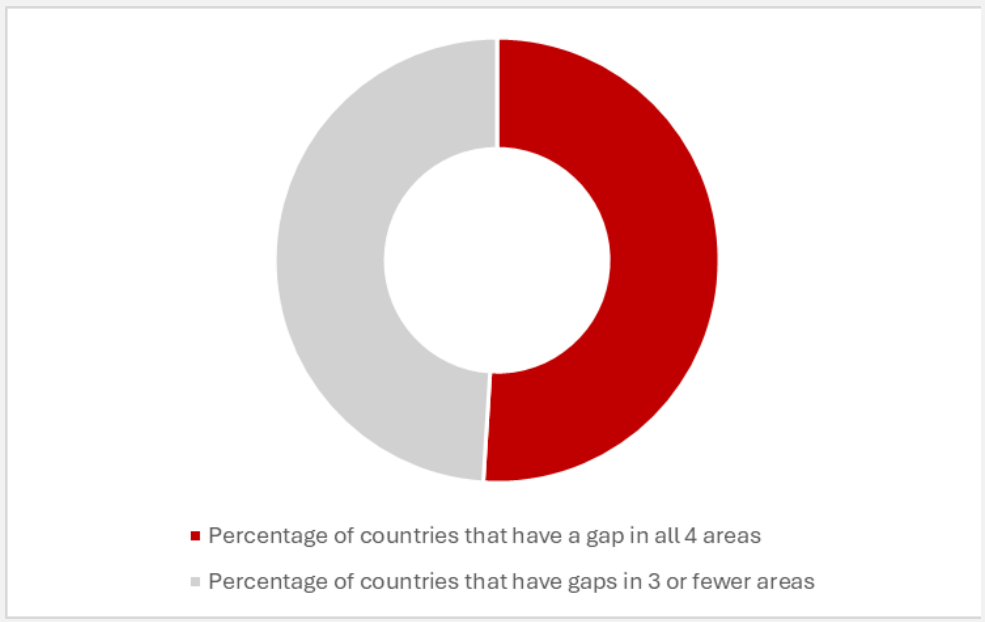
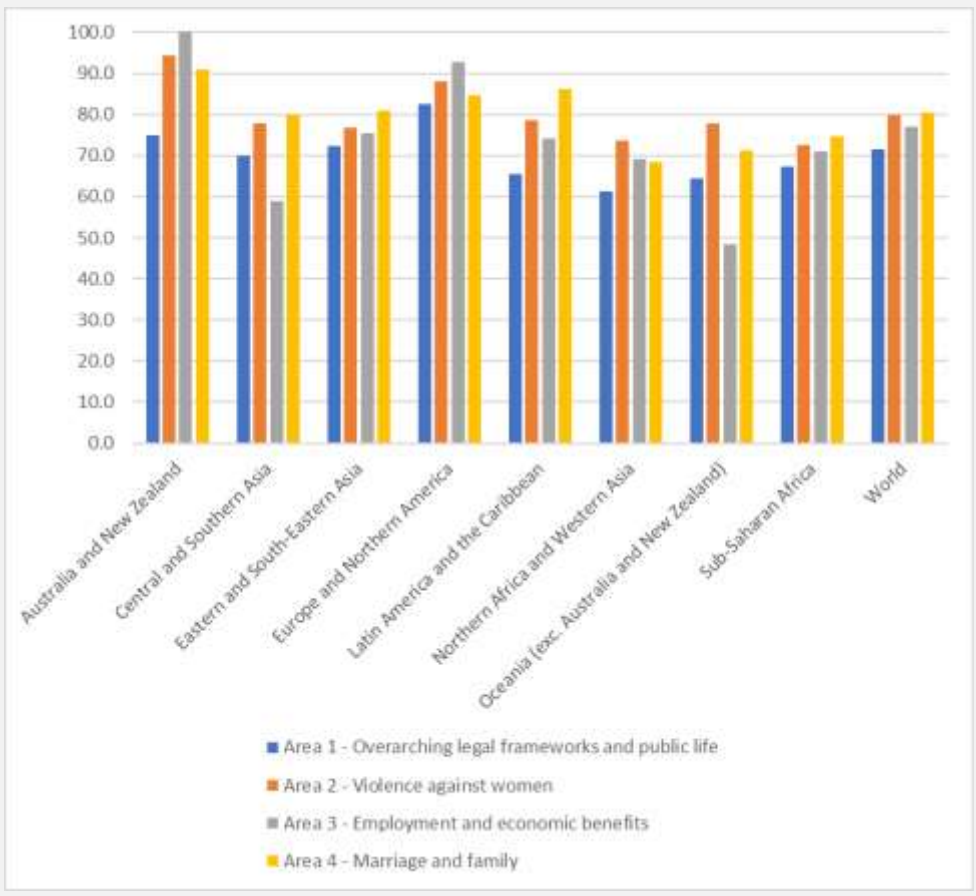


Chart 3: SDG indicator 5.1.1, average regional scores, 2025



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- Brief on SDG indicator 5.1.1:The crucial role of legal frameworks in advancing gender equality (2024). https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/03/infographic-the-crucial-role-of-legal-frameworks-in-advancing-gender-equality

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): UN Women; OECD Development Centre; Wold Bank Group

Custodian agency(ies): UN Women, World Bank,OECD Development Centre

Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Indicator 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

Indicator 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

The Reality behind the numbers: The Persistent Crisis of Violence Against Women in Small Island Developing States

Violence against women remains one of the world's most persistent and under-addressed human rights crises, with very little progress in two decades, according to the most recent 2023 global, regional and national prevalence estimates on intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence (1)

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

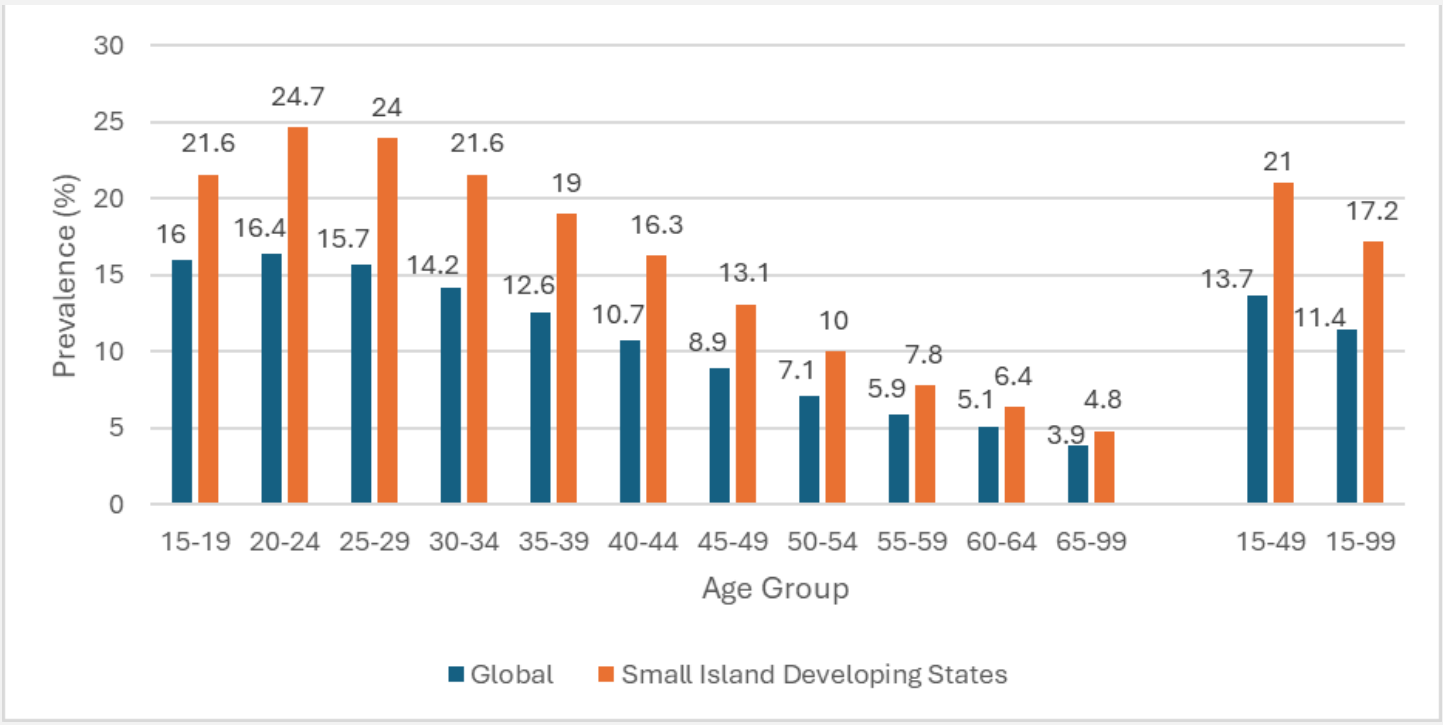
While intimate partner violence against women and girls is prevalent across countries significantly affecting women of all ages, women and girls in the United Nations grouping of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (2) are disproportionately affected by this violence. Almost one in three ever-partnered women (31.4%, UI 29.0–33.8%) in the SIDS have been subjected to physical and/ or sexual violence by an intimate partner at least once in their lives - higher than the global average of (24.7%, UI 22.6-27.5%). The SIDS had significantly higher past-12- months prevalence compared to the global median (13.9%), with 21.0% (UI 18.8–23.7%) of women and girls subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence.

The prevalence of intimate partner violence against women in SIDS is higher than the global average across all ages (Fig). Worryingly, over one in five adolescent girls aged 15-19 years (21.6%) and one four young women 20-24 years old (24.7%) in SIDS have been subjected to recent physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months.

Many of the SIDS are particularly vulnerable to economic, social and structural inequalities, as well as climate change and environmental hazards. This concerningly high prevalence likely reflects these unique intersecting challenges that these populations face in relation to natural disasters, conflict and socioeconomic fragility, with large proportions living in poverty – factors that are well-evidenced drivers of violence against women.

These figures make clear that in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and globally, **SDG Target 5.2** under the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** — to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030 — remains far from reach. Achieving this target will require far more than incremental progress; it demands sustained political commitment and coordinated, multisectoral investment in prevention and response. Programs must be tailored to the specific social, economic, environmental, and institutional vulnerabilities that shape women's lives in SIDS, including poverty, climate-related shocks, and fragile service systems. Increased and sustained national and global financing is essential to strengthen legal frameworks, expand access to justice and support services, and address the root causes of inequality. Nothing short of transformative change is required — a decisive shift in power, resources, and accountability — because half of humanity should no longer have to live in fear.

Prevalence estimates of past 12 months physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence against ever-partnered women, 2023



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- World Health Organization, 2025. Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2023. Global, regional, and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. Available at: Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2023
- Regional grouping of the SIDS countries: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/
- World Health Organization, 2025. Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2023. Global, regional, and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. Available at: Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2023

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): LynnMarie Sardinha, WHO

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC

Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF

Target 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNSD, UN Women

Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

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

Modest gains in women's representation hampered by violence against women in politics and biased social norms

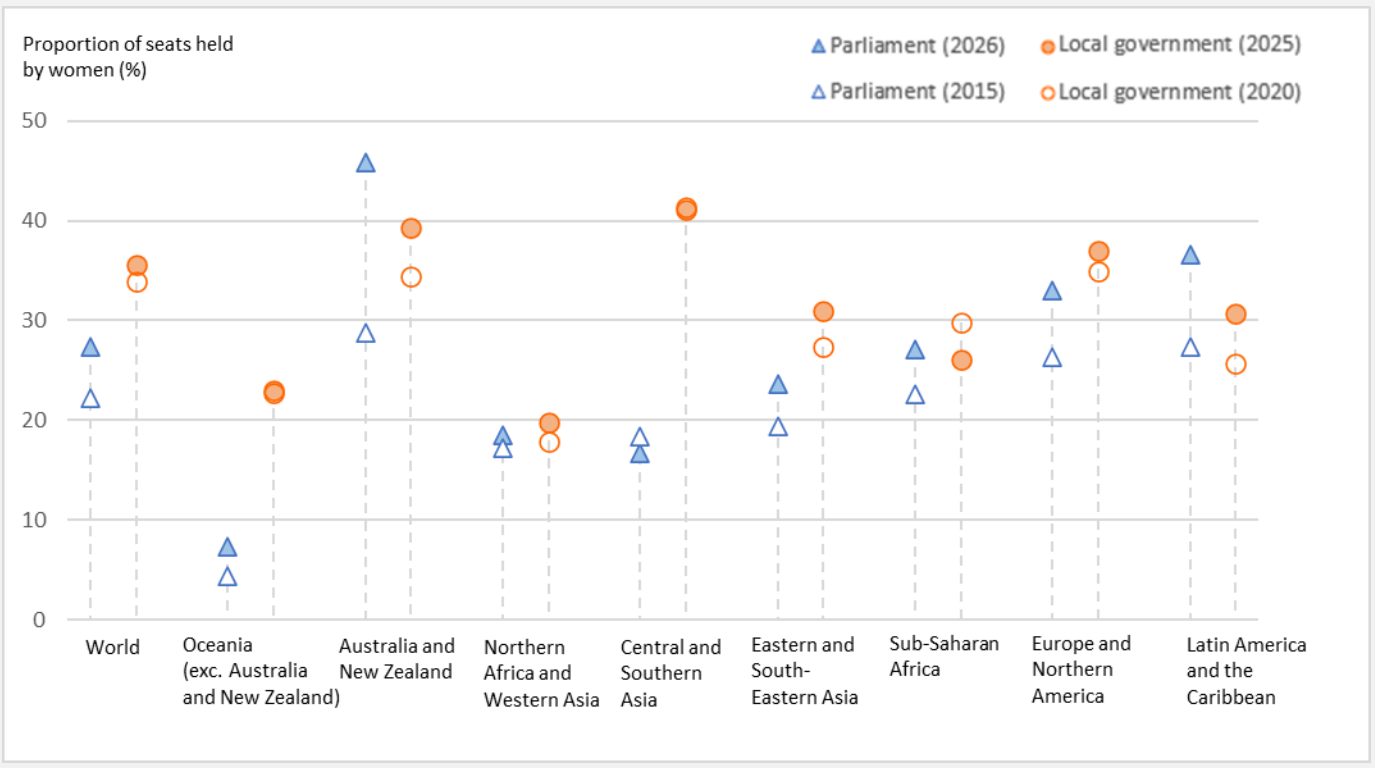
Progress towards parity in political decision-making has slowed. At 1 January 2026, women occupied 27.4% of seats in lower or single chambers of national parliaments globally. This is a gain of 5.1 percentage points since 2015 (22.3%) and 0.2 points since 2025. While regional gaps remain, several countries across different regions have achieved parity. Seven countries have 50% or more women in the lower or single chamber of parliament, up from three in 2015. At the other end, three chambers still had zero women members, down from five in 2015. Another 18 single or lower chambers had less than 10% women MPs.

Women's representation in local government remains higher than in parliament, at 35.6% in 2025. However, the annual rate of progress at local level is at a low 0.1 percentage points, down from 0.5 points before 2023. Only two out of 142 countries with data reached 50% or more women in elected positions. Compared to 2020, the number of countries with 40+% women in local government increased from 23 to 41 while the number of countries with less than 10% women decreased from 15 to 12.

Ambitious and well-designed quotas remain a determining factor for progress. In countries with legislated electoral quotas that target 40+% women and have strong implementation mechanisms, women's representation is higher by 15 percentage points in parliaments and 17 points in local governments, compared to countries with no quotas. Yet, only 93 countries have legislated electoral quotas for women for single or lower houses of parliaments and 82 for local governments. Regarding renewals of lower and upper chambers of parliaments in 2025, countries with legislated or voluntary gender quota elected far more women (31%) than those without quotas (23%).

A conducive environment, free from discrimination, harassment and violence is required to accelerate progress in women's political participation. New studies by the IPU and UN Women show the high prevalence of violence against women in politics. An IPU study of the prevalence of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Asia-Pacific in 2025 showed that six in ten women surveyed reported online attacks, a much higher rate than reported in previous studies in Africa and Europe. A recent global IPU study also found that among those surveyed, women MPs more often than men (76% versus 68%) experience intimidation and violence perpetrated by the public. UN Women prevalence surveys show that in local governments, up to two out of three women experienced violence during their office term, often within their own institutions. Prevalence of violence against women candidates in national and local elections is even higher, reaching up to 9 out of 10 women. Harassment, intimidation and violence increasingly occupy digital spaces, discouraging women from running for office or completing their office term. In order to fast-track progress towards 2030, legislative, policy and institutional reforms are needed to adequately address violence against women in politics, dismantle harmful gender norms, and promote parity in political decision-making.

SDG indicators 5.5.1a and 5.5.1b: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments (per cent)



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- CEDAW, *General recommendation No 40. on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems*, 2024, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-recommendation-no-40-equal-and-inclusive
- IPU, *Plan of Action for Gender Parity in Parliaments*, October 2025: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reference/2026-02/plan-action-gender-parity-in-parliaments
- IPU, *When the public turns hostile: Political violence against parliamentarians*, February 2026: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2026-02/when-public-turns-hostile-political-violence-against-parliamentarians
- IPU, *Women in Parliament in 2025: The year in review*, March 2026: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2026-02/women-in-parliament-in-2025
- IPU, Parline database: https://data.ipu.org
- IPU, CPA and AIPA, *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region*, March 2025: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/issue-briefs/2025-03/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-asia-pacific-region
- IPU-UN Women, *Women in Politics: 2026*, March 2026: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/infographics/2026-02/women-in-politics-2026
- UN Women, Women in Local Government website: https://localgov.unwomen.org/
- UN Women, 2026. Women in Local Government 2026, available at: https://localgov.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/2026-03/UN_WOMEN_LOCALGOV_Poster2025%20final_0.pdf
- United Nations, Gender Quota Portal, available at https://genderquota.org/
- United Nations, 2026. Review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Report of the Secretary-General for the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 9–19 March 2026. Available at: https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.6/2026/4

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Mariana Duarte Mutzenberg, IPU; Ionica Berevoescu, UN Women; Julie Ballington, UN Women

Custodian agency(ies): IPU, UN Women

Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

Women's share of managerial positions inches up globally, but progress remains too slow and uneven across regions

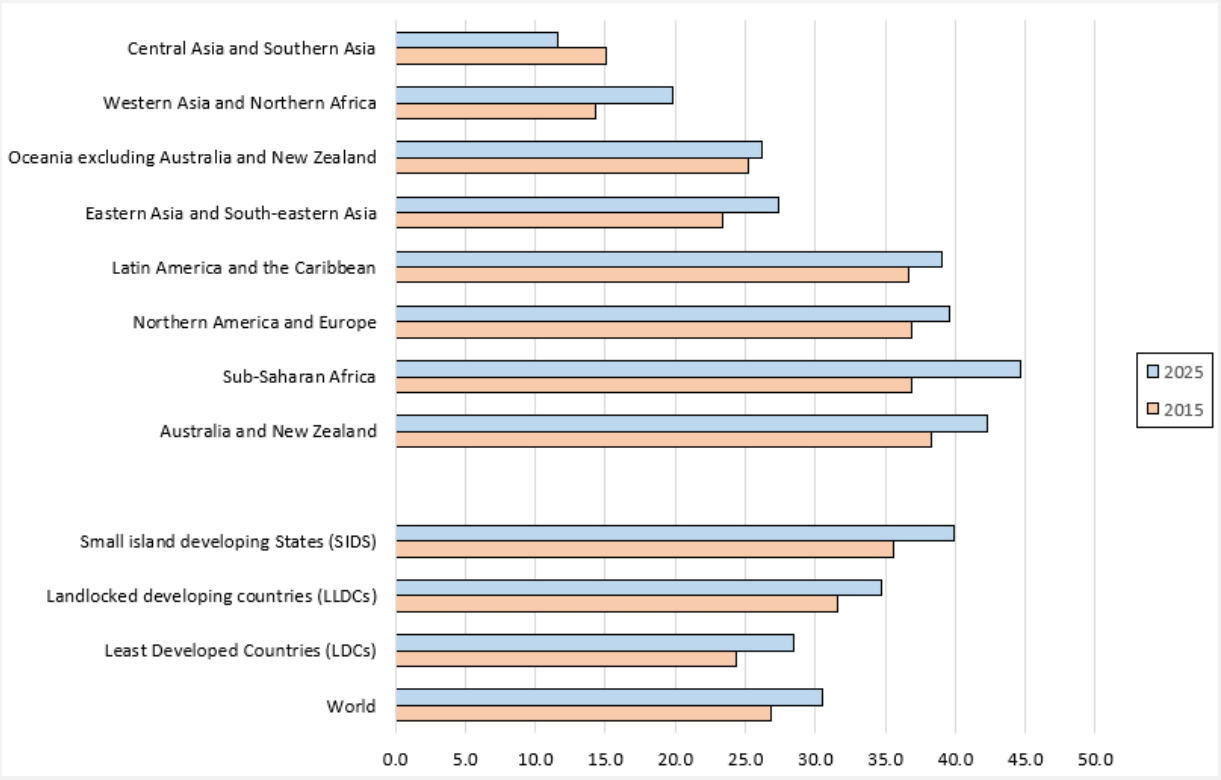
The proportion of women in managerial positions remains far from parity. At the global level, women held 30.5 per cent of managerial jobs in 2025, up from 26.9 per cent in 2015. This represents an increase of 3.6 percentage points over a decade—steady but slow progress. At this pace, reaching parity (50 per cent) would still take more than five decades, underscoring how persistent barriers to women's advancement into leadership remain. Moreover, the absence of acceleration means that improvements in women's representation in decision-making roles are not keeping pace with the level of ambition embedded in SDG target 5.5.

Regional disparities remain substantial. In 2025, the highest share of women managers was observed in Sub-Saharan Africa (44.6 per cent), which also recorded the largest increase since 2015 (+7.7 percentage points). Australia and New Zealand followed at 42.3 per cent, while Northern America and Europe (39.6 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (39.1 per cent) also reported relatively high shares. By contrast, women's representation in management remains lowest in Central Asia and Southern Asia (11.6 per cent in 2025), down 3.5 percentage points since 2015. Western Asia and Northern Africa also remains below one in five (19.9 per cent), despite a 5.5-percentage-point increase over the decade. Eastern and South-eastern Asia rose slightly to 27.4 per cent in 2025, reflecting progress but remaining well below parity.

Accelerating progress towards gender parity in management will require targeted measures to address structural barriers, including equal access to education and training, family-friendly workplace policies, pay transparency, and stronger enforcement of non-discrimination frameworks. Without more decisive action, the advancement of women into managerial and leadership positions will continue to proceed at an incremental pace, limiting progress towards SDG target 5.5 on women's full and effective participation in leadership and decision-making.

It is important to note that this indicator captures all categories of management—ranging from senior executives to lower-level supervisors—without distinguishing by level of authority, firm size or decision-making scope. As a result, improvements in the aggregate share do not necessarily imply proportional gains in top leadership or strategic decision-making roles.

Proportion of women in managerial positions, 2015 & 2025



Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): ILO

Custodian agency(ies): ILO

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

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

Women's Agency in Sexual and Reproductive Health Remains Uneven Across Regions and Socioeconomic Groups

In 2025, the global value for indicator 5.6.1, which measures women's decision-making power across three dimensions—contraceptive use, sexual relations, and reproductive healthcare—stands at 56.3 per cent, unchanged from the previous year, based on data from 78 countries. Nearly half of women aged 15–49 who are married or in a union still lack full autonomy over their own bodies.

At the global level, decision-making on contraceptive use remains substantially higher (88.5 per cent) than autonomy measured across all three dimensions (56.3 per cent), as well as higher than the ability to refuse sex (75.4 per cent) and decision-making on health care (75 per cent), highlighting that gains in contraceptive decision-making do not always translate into full autonomy.

Regional Inequalities

Significant disparities exist across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest regional average at 36.8 per cent, while Central and Southern Asia (61.6 per cent) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (72.4 per cent) remained below the global average. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia stood slightly above it at 77.4 per cent, with the highest levels observed in Latin America and the Caribbean (79.0 per cent) and Europe and Northern America (87.2 per cent). Gaps between contraceptive decision-making and other dimensions are most pronounced in regions with lower overall autonomy.

Socio-economic Disparities Within Countries

Disparities within countries are substantial, reflecting structural inequalities. Data from Demographic and Health Surveys (2023–2024) across eight countries show differences by age, residence, education, and wealth.

Young women consistently report lower autonomy than older women. Adolescents aged 15–19 generally have lower decision-making power than women in their late 40s, influenced by limited negotiating power, reduced access to services, and, in some contexts, early marriage. For example, in Tajikistan (2023), autonomy among women aged 15–19 is 18.1%, compared with 40.0% among women aged 45–49.

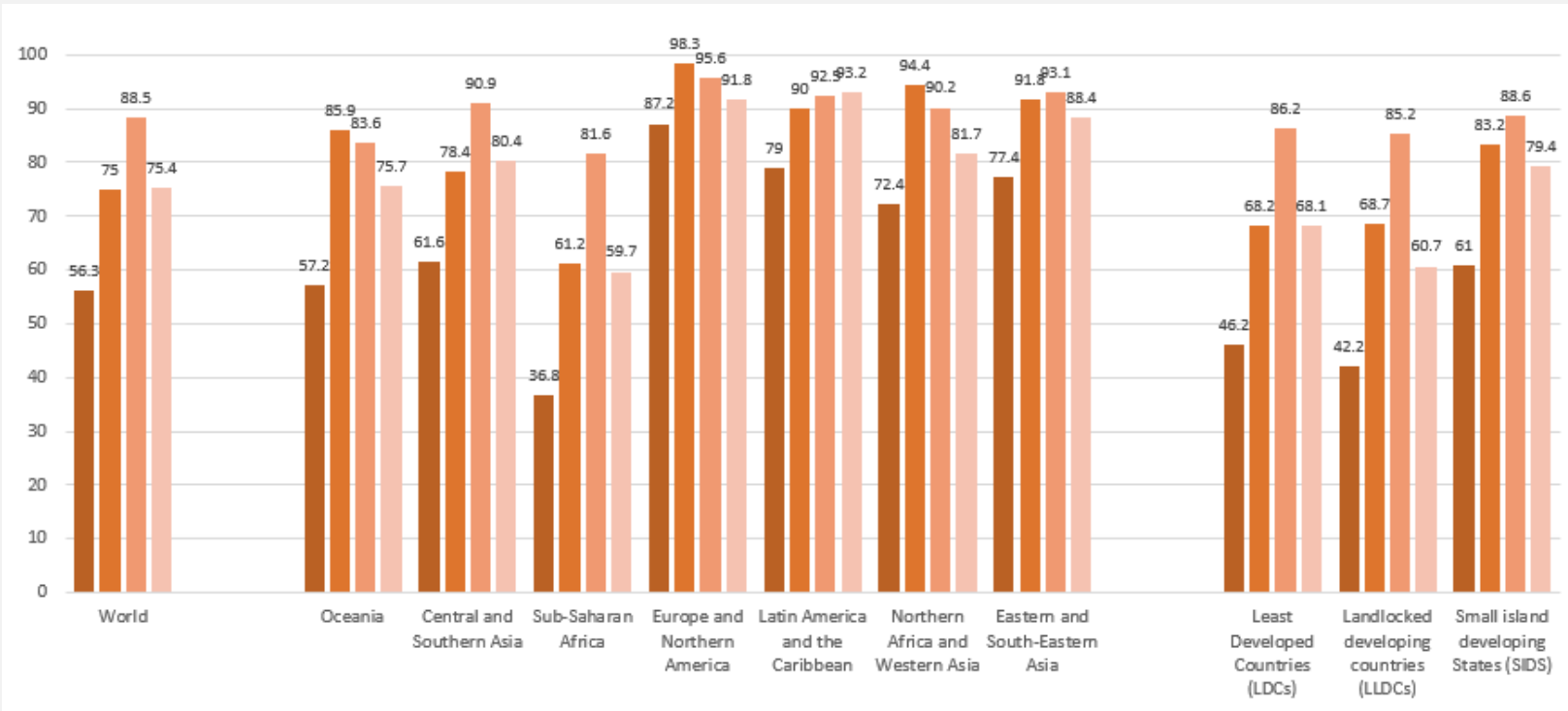
Urban-rural gaps remain substantial. Women in urban areas (44.5%) report autonomy levels more than 13 percentage points higher than those in rural areas (31.2%). For instance, in Nigeria (2024), 44.6% of women in urban areas have autonomy over their sexual and reproductive health, compared with 17.4% in rural areas.

Educational attainment is strongly linked to autonomy. In Angola (2023), women with higher education have autonomy levels of 80.3%, about 56 percentage points higher than the 24.4% among women with no formal schooling.

Wealth-related disparities follow similar patterns. In Zambia (2024), women in the richest quintile reported autonomy of 68.2%, around 32 percentage points higher than the 36.2% observed in the poorest quintile.

These findings underscore that achieving universal sexual and reproductive health and rights requires tackling broader socioeconomic inequalities. While global and regional averages provide an overview of the current situation, disaggregated data show that young women, rural populations, those with limited education, and those living in poverty remain disproportionately disadvantaged. Accelerating progress toward SDG 5.6.1 will require expanding service availability and addressing structural barriers and gender norms that limit women's agency and decision-making.

Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights (including deciding on their own health care, deciding on the use of contraception, and can say no to sex); most recent data 2007-2025 (percentage)



Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Irma Sirutyte, UNFPA; Lindsay Katz, UNFPA

Custodian agency(ies): UNFPA

Indicator 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 health care, information and education

Custodian agency(ies): UNFPA

Target 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Indicator 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

Limited land ownership and secure rights persist, with pronounced gender gaps in most reporting countries

Women play a central role in the agricultural value chain—cultivating crops, managing livestock, processing harvests, and feeding their families. Land ownership and secure rights to agricultural land are critical to their economic empowerment, as they enable women to invest, increase productivity, and build resilience against poverty and hunger.

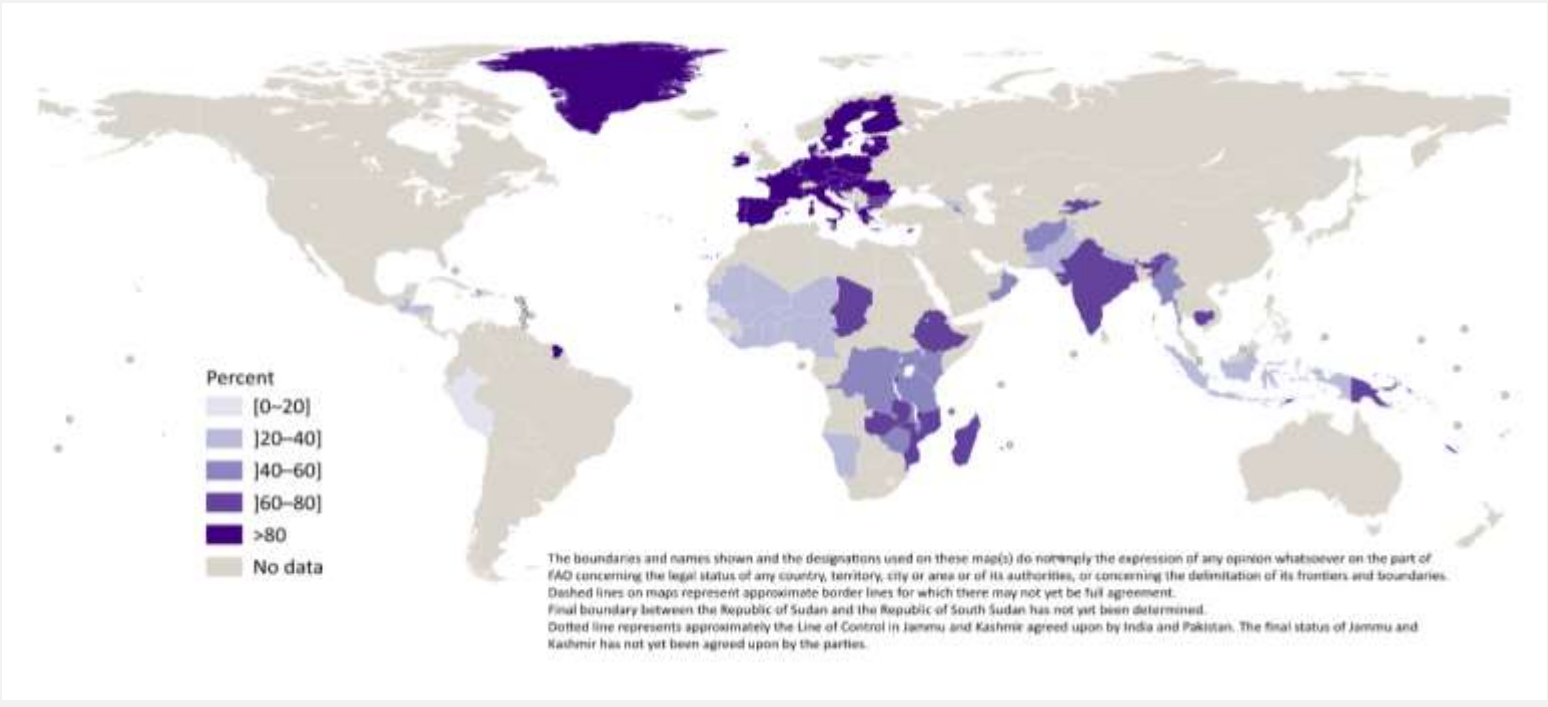
Despite their essential contribution to agriculture, land ownership remains out of reach for many women. Using the most recent data available from 78 countries, the global picture reveals persistent gender inequalities alongside broader weaknesses in land tenure systems.

In nearly 90 percent of countries (68 out of 78), fewer than half of women in agricultural households report owning or holding secure rights to agricultural land (Figure 1). Alarmingly, tenure insecurity is not limited to women alone: in 27 of the 78 countries—about 35 percent—even men's ownership or secure land rights fall below 50 percent. This points to systemic land tenure insecurity affecting entire population. Nevertheless, the gender gap remains substantial. In almost one-third of countries (23 countries), men's rates of ownership or secure rights are at least double those of women.

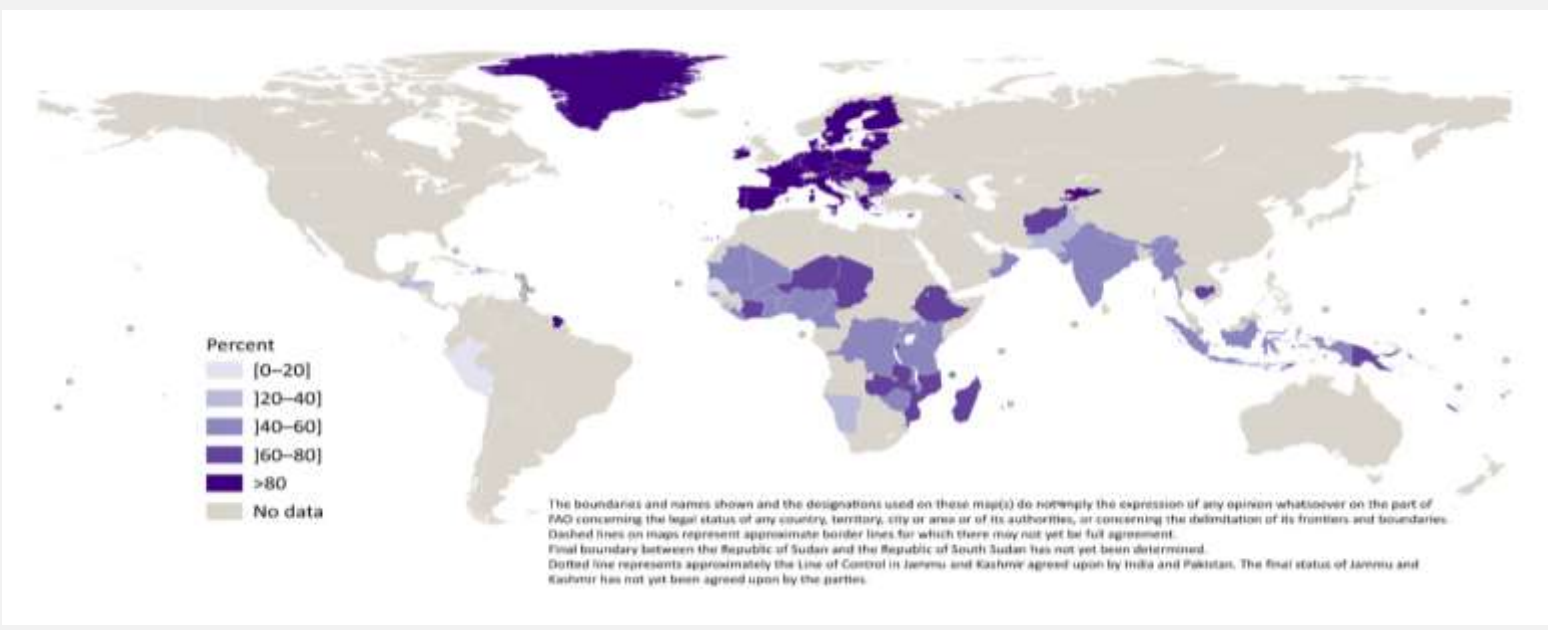
In Benin, Gambia, India, Mali, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, fewer than one in ten women in agricultural households hold ownership or secure rights to agricultural land. In contrast, for the first time this year, data from European countries (2020) show relatively high levels of land ownership or secure rights among the agricultural population overall—89.1 percent in total, including 89.4 percent for men and 88.1 percent for women. The only exceptions are Bulgaria and Malta, where overall ownership rates are approximately 65 percent and 55 percent, respectively; in other European countries, rates are close to 90 percent.

Figure 1: Share of people in the total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights

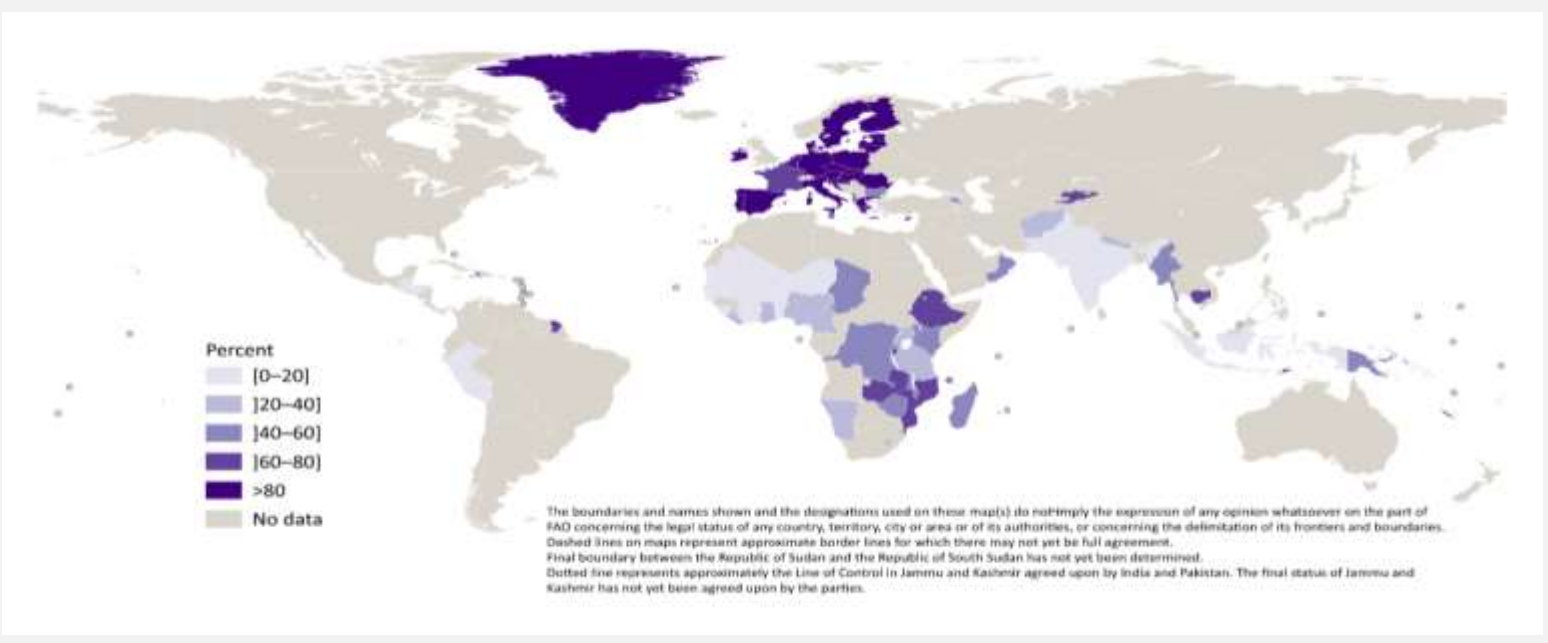
Total



Male

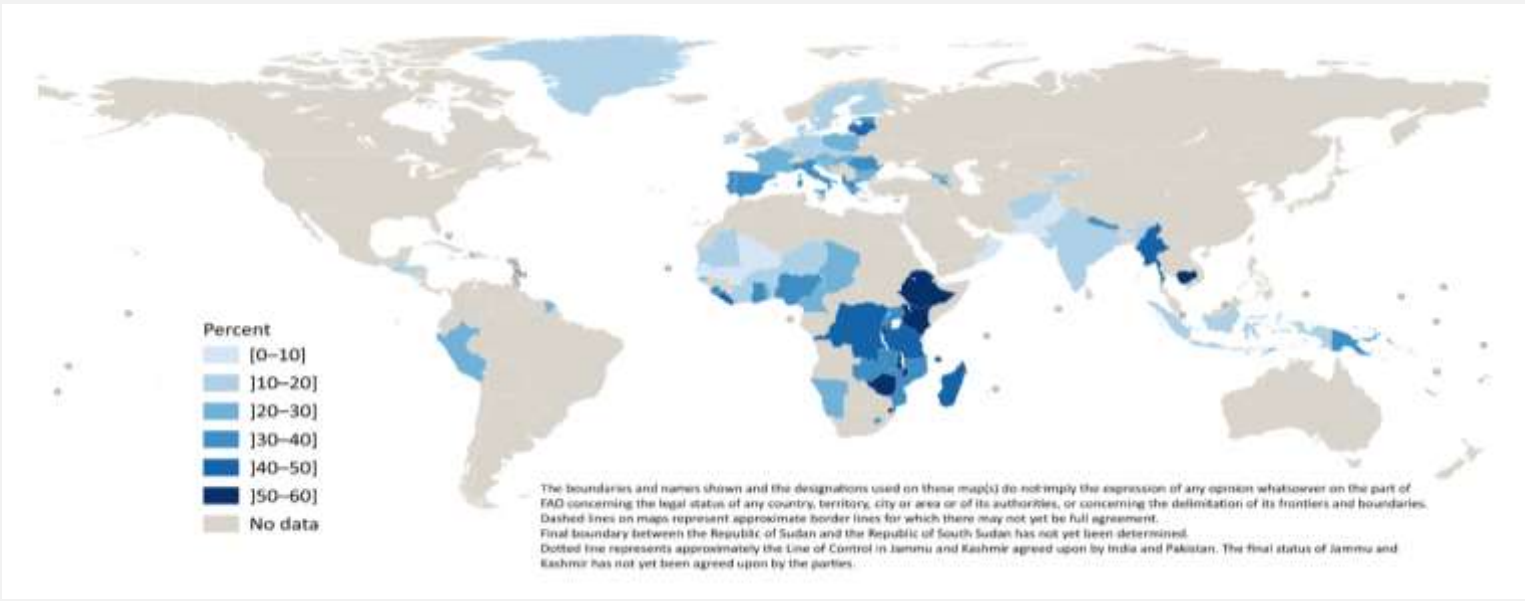


Female



Women constitute a slight majority of landowners or secure rights holders in only eight countries, primarily in Africa—including Burundi, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe—as well as in Cambodia (Figure 2). Data from remaining 70 countries show that men constitute the majority of landowners. Moreover, in 59 countries—more than 80 percent of those with available data—women account for less than 30 percent of landowners or holders of secure rights to agricultural land.

Figure 2 Share of women among owners/ holders secure tenure rights over agricultural land



Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Leman Yonca Gurbuzer, FAO

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

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

From Data to Dialogue to Reform: Transforming Women's Land Rights

Securing women's land rights is essential for inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG indicator 5.a.2 uniquely tracks how legal frameworks protect women's land ownership and control. It now engages close to 140 countries, including nearly 100 that have reported data, new countries joining each year, and participants in the first global update round, strengthening governance, improving data quality, and fostering multi-level, cross-sector dialogue to generate actionable insights advancing women's land rights as a cornerstone of inclusive land governance.

Land is fundamental for women's empowerment, food security, rural development, and climate action. Where legal frameworks are fragmented, incomplete, or poorly harmonized across land, family, and inheritance regimes, implementation cannot succeed. With only four years remaining until 2030, strengthening the coherence and quality of legal protections is as critical as enforcing them, demanding bold systemic reform.

Global legal protections remain highly uneven. Nearly two-thirds of countries, spanning those with no, very low, or low legal protection, leave millions without secure tenure. Six key legal protections, joint registration of marital property, spousal consent, equal inheritance, financial allocations for women's land rights, protection under customary law, and participation in land governance, illustrate these gaps. While most countries provide some safeguards, over 40% still lack spousal consent or equal inheritance, and fewer than 30% ensure joint registration or women's participation. Even fewer allocate financial resources (10%) or establish customary law safeguards (26%).

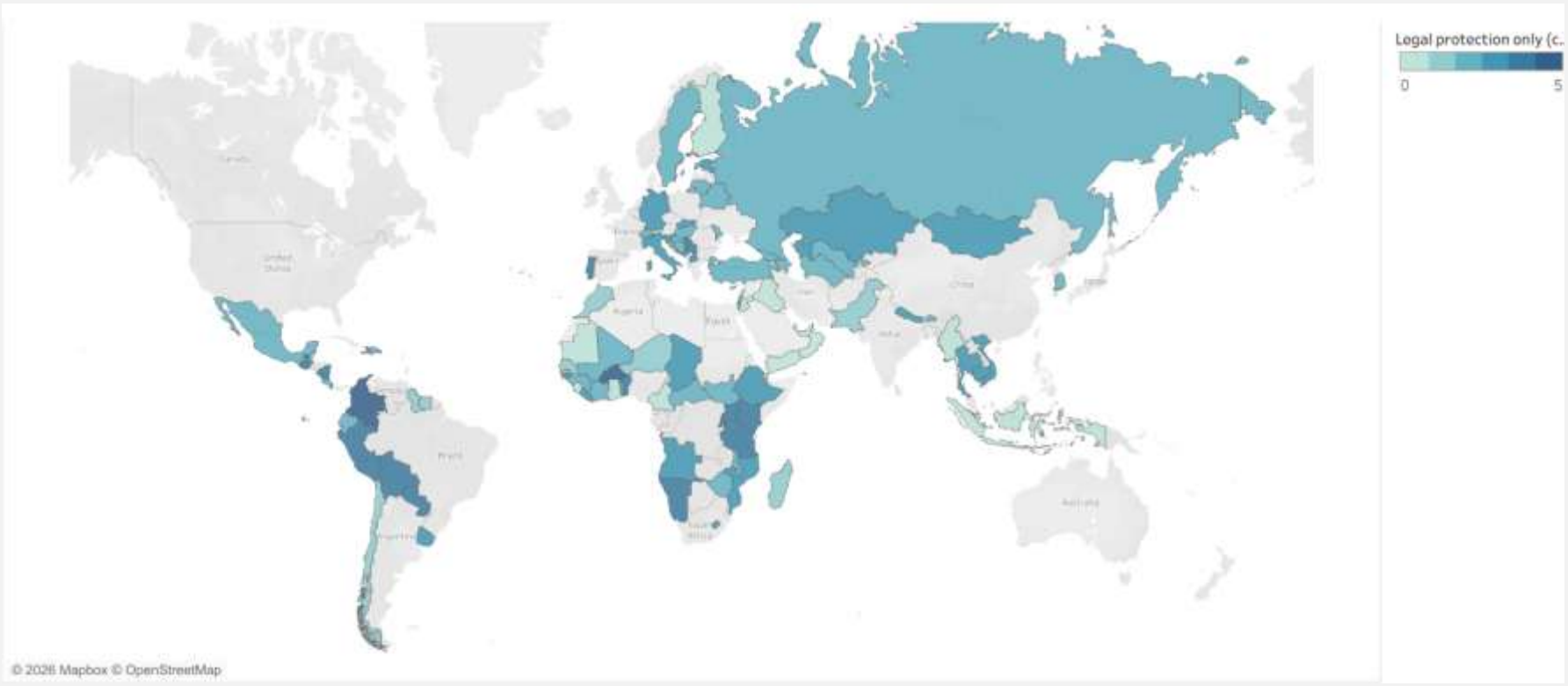
Regional patterns reveal diverse challenges. Sub-Saharan Africa has relatively strong customary law protection and women's participation (around half of countries) but inheritance safeguards. Latin America show broader equal inheritance guarantees (close to 70%) but low participation in governance. Europe offers high protection for spousal consent and inheritance (above 85%) but minimal funding and limited representation measures. Asia (excluding Western Asia) shows moderate joint registration and inheritance protections but little customary law protection. Western Asia exhibits low protections across all proxies, with especially limited spousal consent and affirmative actions.

These patterns reflect diverse legal traditions, cultural contexts, and changing socio-economic realities. As some economies shift away from agriculture and rural land-based livelihoods, strengthening urban and peri-urban land data and aligning policies with the evolving needs of women and men becomes increasingly important.

Using SDG 5.a.2, FAO supports countries in revealing legal inconsistencies and governance gaps, addressing structural barriers, including discriminatory laws, norms, and practices, and reforming land governance systems. Through multi-level dialogue, evidence-based policy guidance, and alignment with broader strategies such as the CFS frameworks, the process reinforces institutional coordination, builds cross-sector alliances, and mobilizes consensus and political will to translate commitments into coherent, inclusive frameworks for women's land rights.

Robust data systems and ongoing monitoring under SDG 5.a, linked to other SDGs, human rights instruments, CFS frameworks, and national development policies, remain critical for closing evidence gaps, guiding interventions, and tracking progress against measurable outcomes. Building on these insights, countries can translate legal commitments and broader development goals into coherent, inclusive, and actionable frameworks for women's land rights. Multi-level engagement with diverse stakeholders and cross-sector collaboration is essential for meaningful change. Together, evidence, dialogue, and strategic action can turn recognition into reality, advancing women's land rights and the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Level of protection for women's land rights in law



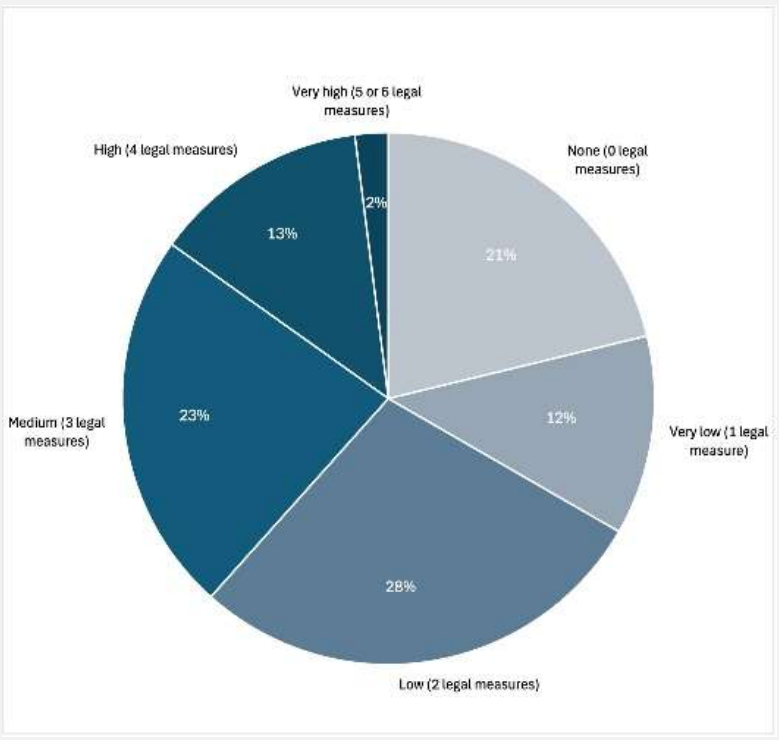
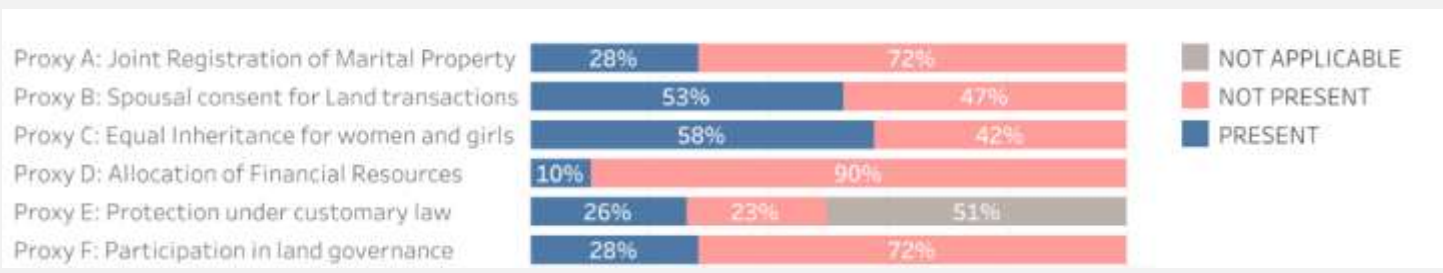
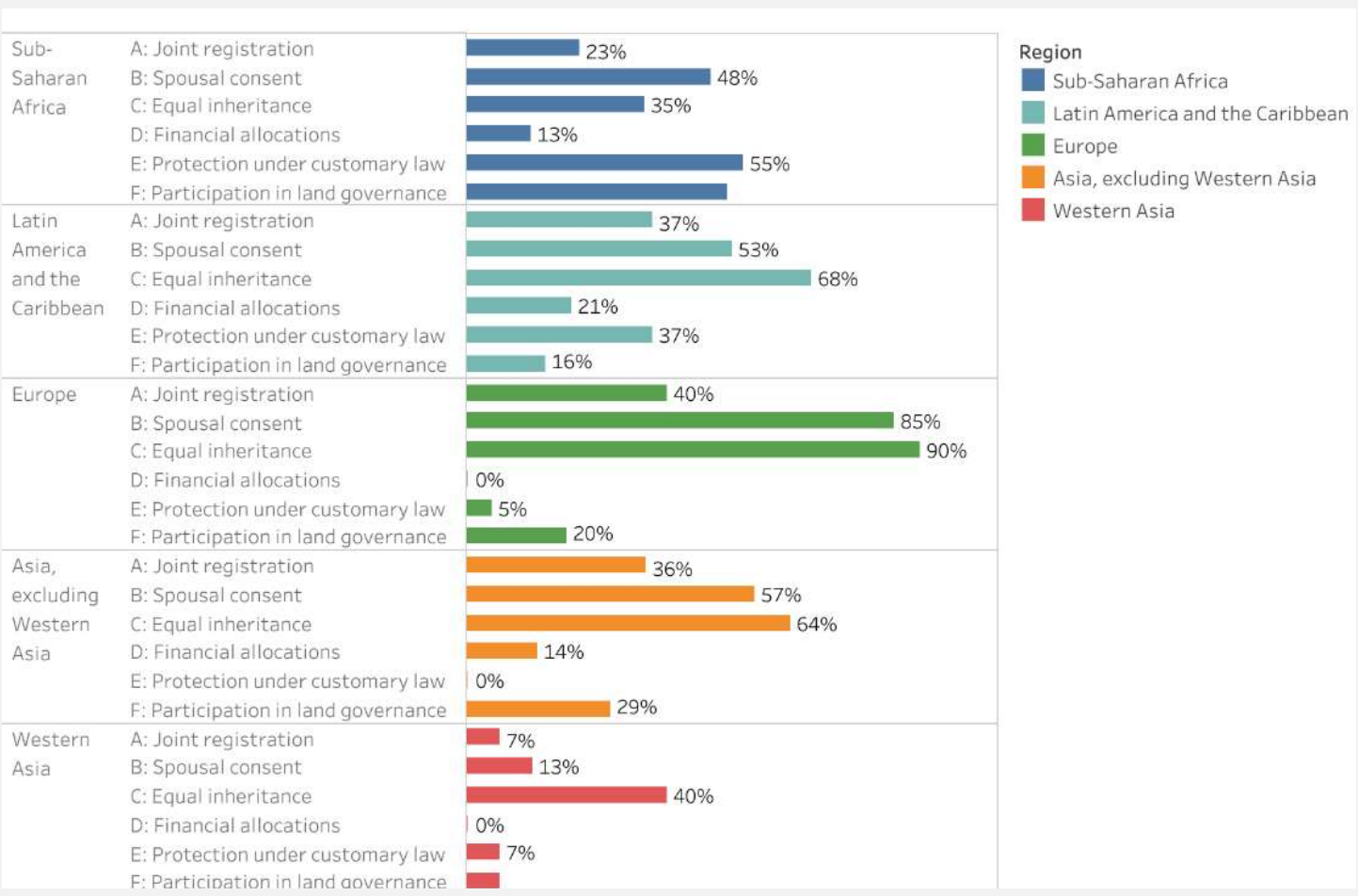


Figure 2 The share of countries, out of 99 countries, in which each proxy is present





Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- FAO. 2023. The status of women in agrifood systems. https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/adc0741f-9de2-4d09-ae68-b19cc871601a
- V. Slavchevska, M. Veldman, C. Park, V. Boero, L.Y. Gurbuzer, A. M. Giaquinto. From law to practice: A cross-country assessment of gender inequalities in rights to land. 2025. Special issue on gender, Global Food Security Journal https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2025.100852
- FAO. 2025. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2025 – Addressing land degradation across landholding scales*. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7067en
- FAO, NRI, AWARD. 2026. The status of women in agrifood systems in sub-Saharan Africa- Overview. Rome. https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd6631en
- FAO. ILC. CIRAD. 2025. *Report on the State of Land Governance and Tenure*. Status of Land Tenure and Governance (SLTG) | Governance of Tenure | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Muriel Veldman, FAO

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Target 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

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

Worldwide, more than four out of five people own a mobile phone, but women are about 7% less likely to own one than men

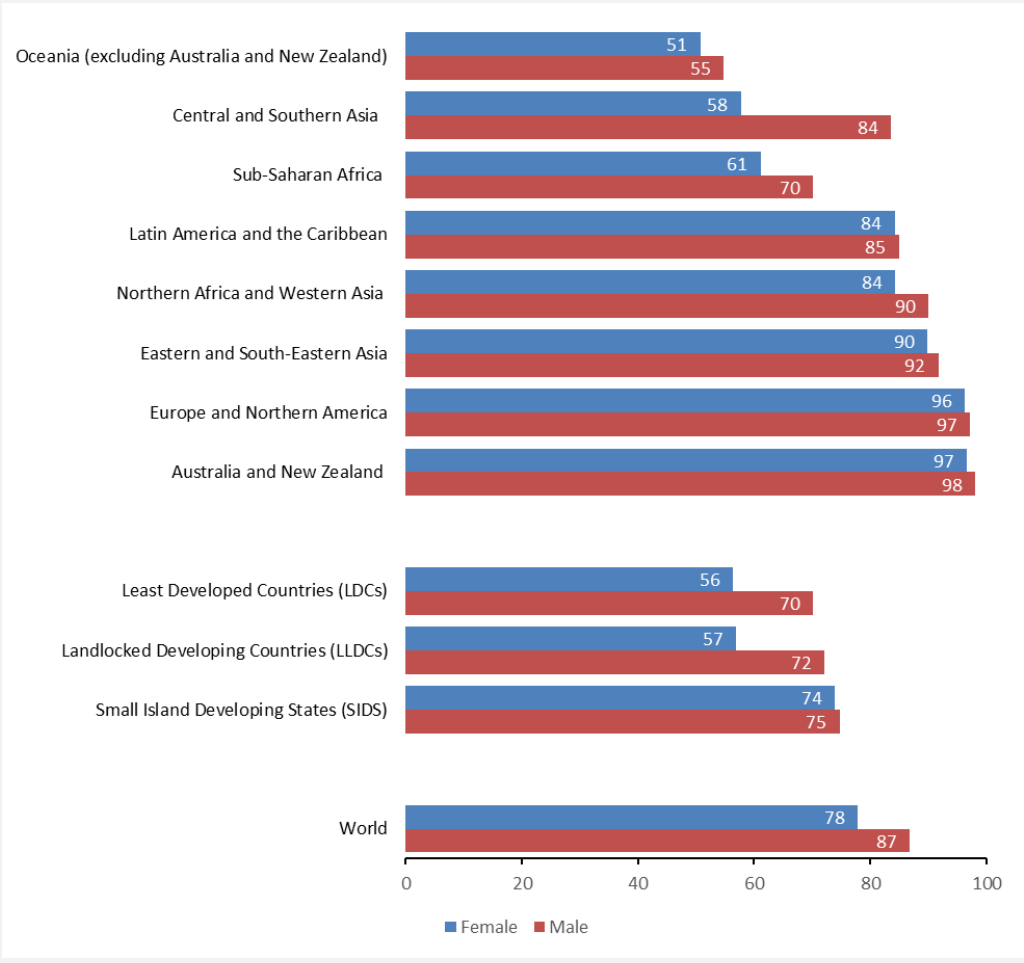
Globally, more than four out of five individuals 10 years or older owned a mobile phone in 2025 (82%). Universal ownership, meaning a penetration rate of over 95%, has been reached in the SDG regions Australia and New Zealand, and Europe and Northern America. On the other end of the spectrum, in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) only 53% of the population owned a mobile phone. In Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia this figure stood at around two-thirds of the population, while in the other regions it was between 85% and 91%.

Looking at the breakdown by sex, 78% of females and 87% of males owned a mobile phone, giving a gender parity score (GPS) (defined as the percentage of women owning a mobile phone divided by the number of men owning one) of 0.90, i.e. skewed against women. Gender parity (defined as a GPS between 0.98 and 1.02) has been reached in Australia and New Zealand; Europe and Northern America; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. The lowest GPS were recorded in Central and Southern Asia (0.69) and Sub-Saharan Africa (0.87). The situation was also dire in Landlocked Developing Countries (0.79) and Least Developed Countries (0.80).

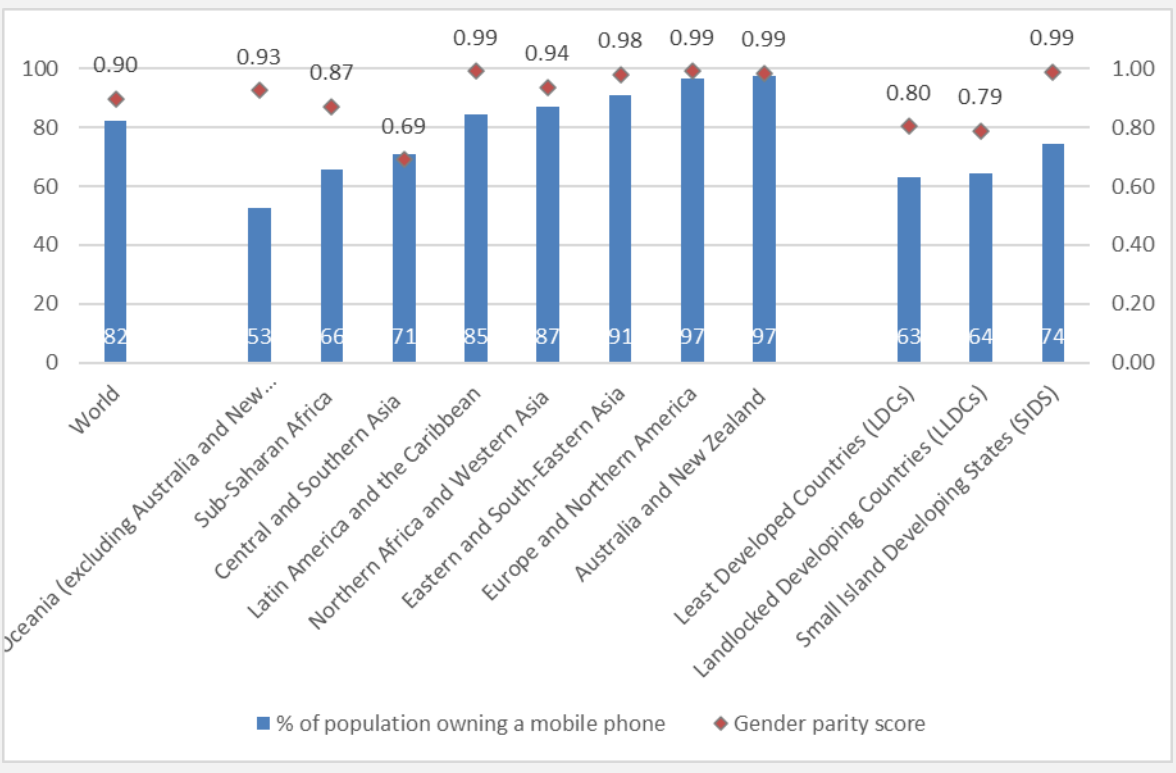
GPS and Internet penetration rates tend to be correlated. Small Island Developing States, where almost two thirds of the population used the Internet in 2025, are an exception. Although SIDS are 25 percentage points below the most connected country groups, they have achieved gender parity in Internet use (GPS of 1.00) and in mobile phone ownership (GPS of 0.99).

Progress on gender parity in mobile phone ownership has been uneven in the past three years. Globally, women are 10% less likely to own a mobile phone than men, which is down from 12% in 2022. Among those not owning mobile phones, women outnumber men by 67%.

Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex, 2025



Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone and gender parity score, 2025



Additional resources, press releases, data blog/stories, etc. with links:

- ITU (2025): Measuring digital development: Facts and Figures 2025, https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2025/

Storyline author(s)/contributor(s): Martin Schaaper, ITU

Custodian agency(ies): ITU

Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

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

Growing Adoption of Gender Budgeting, yet comprehensive institutionalization remains limited

Global monitoring shows a notable shift since 2018, with many countries moving from having no system in place to introducing some elements of a system to track and make public allocations. The share of countries not meeting the requirements at all has declined significantly from 59 per cent in 2018 to 16 per cent in 2025, while the proportion approaching the requirements has increased from 22 per cent to approximately 59 per cent. This indicates that many countries have made steady improvements in their public finance management systems over time.

Progress toward fully institutionalized systems has been more limited. The share of countries that fully meet all requirements and qualifies as having a full system in place has increased only modestly, from 19 per cent in 2018 to 25 per cent in 2025, indicating that most progress reflects countries introducing some elements rather than establishing comprehensive gender-responsive budgeting systems.

Policy Implementation Gap in Financing for Gender Equality Persists

Despite sustained policy commitment to gender equality, financing for implementation remains inadequate. In 2025, 91 per cent of countries report having policies and programmes to address gender equality while only 54 per cent report adequate resource allocations.

This gap has narrowed compared to 2018 data, when 90 per cent of reporting countries had gender equality policies but only 41 per cent reported adequate resources. While the increase in countries reporting adequate allocations suggests progress in aligning budgets with gender equality objectives, a significant gap between policy commitments and financing persists.

In a context of tightening fiscal space, growing gender financing needs, and declining Official Development Assistance, stronger domestic resource mobilization and more systematic integration of gender priorities within public financial management systems are critical to close the gap between commitments and financing.

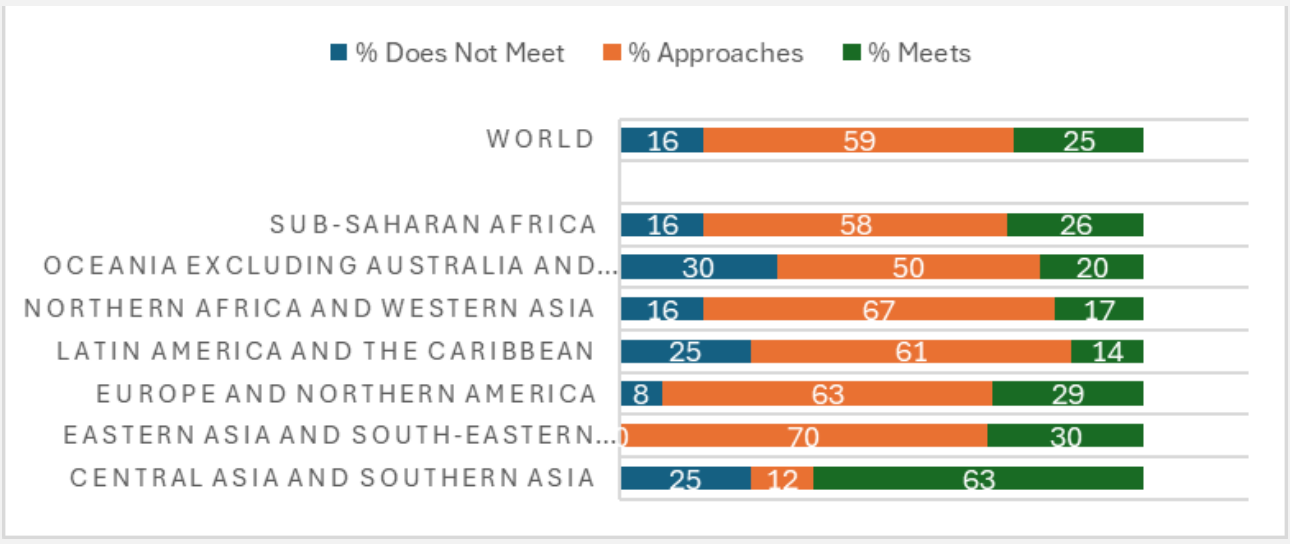
Gender-responsive Budgeting Progress Concentrated in Budget Preparation, with Weaker Mechanisms for Tracking and Evaluation

Comparisons with the 2018 baseline show uneven progress across key gender-responsive budgeting practices within public financial management systems. Several practices related to budget preparation have become more widespread. For example, the share of countries issuing gender budget directives has increased slightly from 52 per cent to 54 per cent, while the use of ex-ante gender impact assessments has grown from 34 per cent to 39 per cent. Similarly, the proportion of countries presenting gender budget statements has increased from 32 per cent to 41 per cent, suggesting greater integration of gender equality objectives within budget planning.

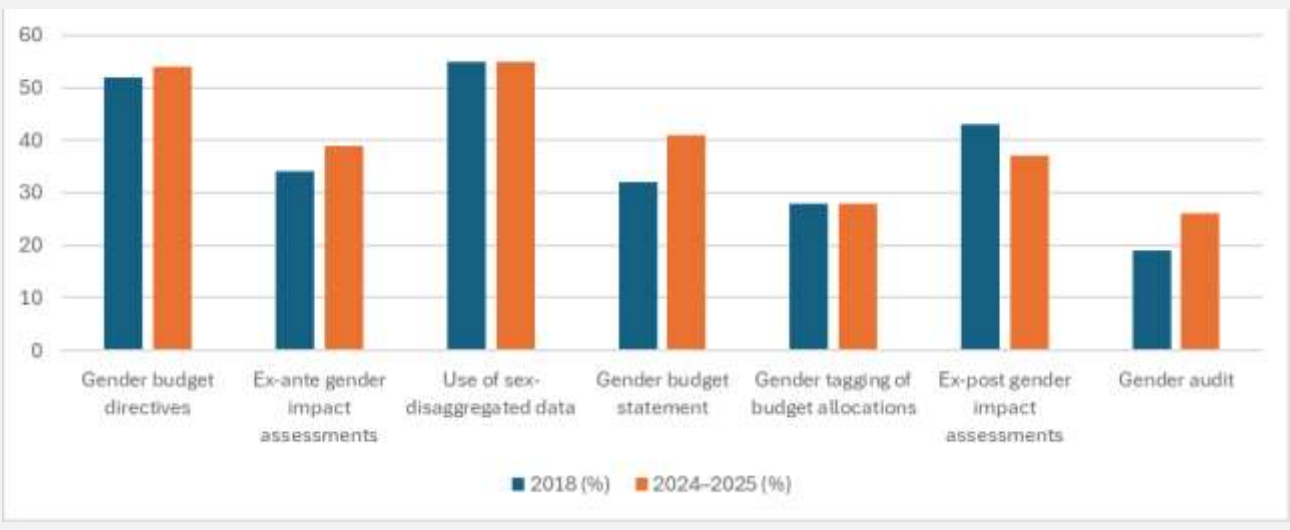
Progress has been weaker in practices that support tracking and evaluating gender-related spending. The use of sex-disaggregated data in budget decision-making remains unchanged (55 per cent), while gender tagging of budget allocations has stagnated at 28 per cent. In addition, the proportion of countries conducting ex-post gender impact assessments has declined from 43 per cent to 37 per cent, suggesting that evaluation of the gender impact of public spending remains limited in many contexts. Independent gender audits have increased from 19 per cent to 26 per cent, though they remain among the least commonly implemented mechanisms.

Overall, the data indicate that progress in gender-responsive budgeting has been stronger in integrating gender considerations during budget preparation than in establishing mechanisms to track and evaluate gender-related expenditures.

Distribution of countries with systems to track gender equality allocations 2018-2025



Adoption of gender-responsive budgeting practices in public financial management systems, 2018 and 2024–2025



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Custodian agency(ies): UN Women,

OECD, UNDP