

# TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION:

GENDER EQUALITY  
IN THE 2030 AGENDA  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Using micro-level data, the report shows how across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often left behind and excluded from progress.

These groups of women and girls not only lack access to education and health, but also other key measures of well-being including access to clean water, fuel and housing. **See case studies summary.**

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

## THE NEED FOR ACTION

The report identifies four key areas for action:

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

**See *Policy in Focus* summary.**

\* NOTE: Data presented are from global databases and may not reflect the most up-to-date country level information. For the most up-to-date country level information we advise that you check with national level sources.

## FACT SHEET – OCEANIA

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

### 1 NO POVERTY

Globally, there are 122 women aged 25-34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group.

In **Oceania**, women aged 25-34 are over-represented among the poor: there are 113 women for every 100 men living on less than \$1.90 a day. The gender gap is larger for women and men aged 55-59: For this population, there are 119 women living in poverty for every 100 men.

### 2 ZERO HUNGER

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

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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

In 2015, **Oceania** reported 188 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births, a higher ratio than all other regions except sub-Saharan Africa.

### 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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

### 5 GENDER EQUALITY

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

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

**5.2** Globally, 1 in 5 women and girls under the age of 50 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period. **Oceania** (excluding Australia and New Zealand) is the region with the highest 12-month prevalence of intimate partner violence, with up to 40% of women aged 15-49 reporting having experienced IPV.

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

21% of women aged 20-24 in **Oceania** were first married or in a union before the age of 18.

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

**5.5** Women hold just 23.7% of parliamentary seats globally, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to 2000 – but still way below parity. **Oceania** has the lowest proportion of women in national parliaments in the world – on average across the region, women hold just 5.4% of parliamentary seats. In **Fiji**, the country in the region with the highest percentage of women in national parliaments, only 16% of parliamentary seats are held by women.

**5.6** Based on data from 45 countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, only 52% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

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

**5.b** The benefits of internet and technology are accessible to men at a much higher rate than women, leaving women behind in Internet access and mobile phone ownership.

In **Oceania**, 56.7% of men use the Internet, compared with 53.7% of women.

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

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

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

**Oceania** has one of the highest proportions of people, 86% on average, who rely on unsafe water sources, including surface water from rivers, streams and ponds as well as unprotected open wells.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

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

86.2% of households in **Oceania** use solid fuels for cooking and heating.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Globally, the labour force participation rate among prime working-age women (aged 25–54) stands at 63%, compared to 94% among their male counterparts. There is large variation in the female labour force participation rate across the **Oceania** region: In 2017, for example, 74.4% of women in the **Solomon Islands** participated in the labour force, while in **Samoa**, only 31.2% did. Overall, the region registered little increase in female labour force participation over the past 20 years, with the average LFPR growing just from 72% in 1997 to 73% in 2017.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Up to 30% of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are more likely than men to live below 50% of the median income. Family status is also a factor: analysis of 35 countries shows that single-mother households are more likely than other types of households to fall below the 50% of median income mark.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The global population is becoming more urban, with opportunities and risks for women and girls. The inaccessibility of clean energy sources, clean water, and improved sanitation in slum housing, for example, has adverse consequences on women's health.

Public urban spaces can be sites of sexual harassment and violence against women, with few laws and policies in place to address it. A study in Port Moresby, **Papua New Guinea**, showed that when accessing public transportation, over 90% of women and girls have experienced some form of sexual violence.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

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

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION

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

## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

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

Occupational segregation looms large within fisheries and aquaculture around the world. **Oceania** is the region with the highest proportion of women working in fisheries, aquaculture and other related industries – women represent 20.3% of the workforce in these industries.

## 15 LIFE ON LAND

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

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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

Partly driven by the on-going conflict, intentional female homicide is especially high in **Papua New Guinea**, where the proportion of female homicide victims is more than double the average for the **Oceania** region: In 2010, there were 5.4 intentional female homicides per 100,000 people in Papua New Guinea, compared to 2.4 per 100,000 people in the region overall.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

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

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

## POLICY IN FOCUS

### Harnessing policy synergies

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

**Kiribati** represents a hopeful example of harnessing policy synergies in the government's integration of the issue of violence against women and girls into reproductive health programming, and locating such services close to referral hospitals and shelters. In the absence of such mechanisms, women can experience unnecessary delays, and their safety may be at risk due to failures in service delivery.

### The need for global gender data availability

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

**Oceania** is the region with the least amount of available data at 13%, with only 9% being timely data from 2010 or later.

### Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes

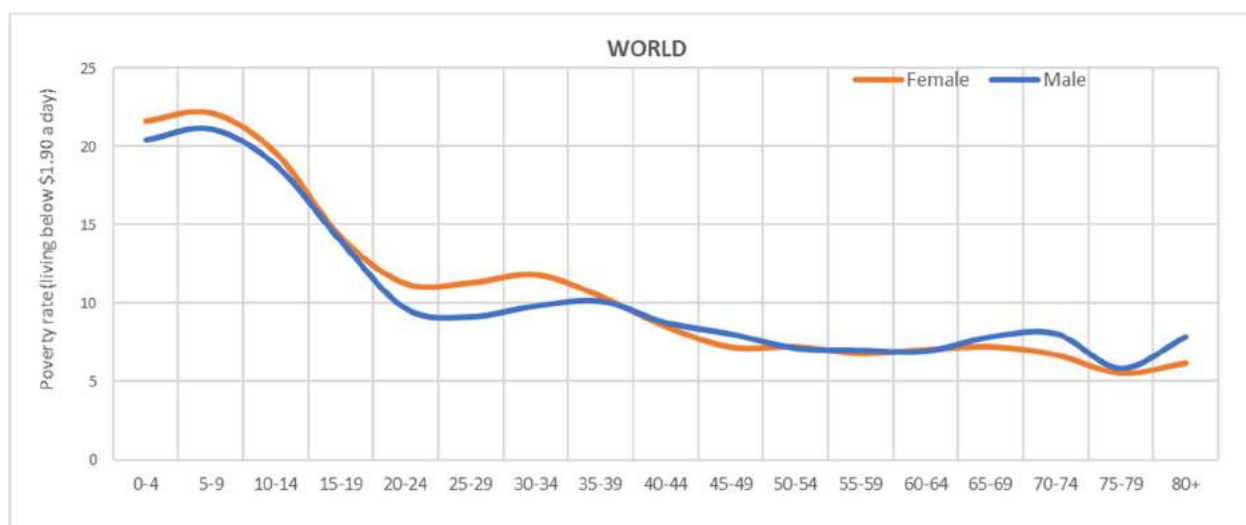
Prioritizing gender-responsive investments pays off. In South Africa, for instance, it is estimated that a gross annual investment of 3.2% of GDP in ECEC would not only result in universal coverage for all 0-5-year-old children, but also create 2.3 million new jobs, raising female employment by 10.1%.

## APPENDIX

**Note:** The below represent a selection of illustrative examples for the Oceania region (excluding Australia and New Zealand). Country-specific data may be available; if you are interested in country-specific data, please contact us at [gender.data@unwomen.org](mailto:gender.data@unwomen.org) using the subject line “SDG Report”.

### 1 NO POVERTY

**Proportion of people living in extreme poverty<sup>a</sup> by sex and age, 2009-2013<sup>b</sup>**



Source: World Bank calculations using Global Micro Database 2017.

Notes:

a – Living below \$1.90 a day.

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

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**Maternal mortality ratio: deaths per 100,000 live births, by region, 1990-2015**

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	997	938	858	735	635	556
<b>Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand</b>	391	319	292	240	207	188
<b>Central Asia and Southern Asia</b>	519	448	368	280	214	170
<b>Northern Africa and Western Asia</b>	210	192	166	136	117	105
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	135	116	99	86	80	68



<b>Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia</b>	160	129	113	94	74	59
<b>Europe and Northern America</b>	25	23	18	16	14	13
<b>Australia and New Zealand</b>	10	9	10	8	7	7
<b>World</b>	386	369	341	280	246	216

Source: Weighted averages calculated by UN Women using data from UNICEF. 2017. Accessed November 2017.

Note: Based on data for 183 countries.



### Internet penetration rate by sex and region, 2017

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

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

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

Region	Percentage
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	39.6
Central and Southern Asia	23.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	22.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	21.0
Northern Africa and Western Asia	12.4
Eastern and South-eastern Asia	7.8
Europe and Northern America	6.1
World	19.0

Source: SDG Indicators Global Database. Accessed 19 July 2017.

Note: Data refer to the most recent available from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other national surveys for 87 countries, during the period specified. Data coverage by region: Europe and Northern America: 29 countries, 50 per cent population coverage; Eastern and South-Eastern Asia: 3 countries, 5 per cent population coverage; Northern Africa and Western Asia: 5 countries, 40 per cent population coverage; Latin America and the Caribbean: 10 countries, 24 per cent population coverage; Sub-Saharan Africa: 27 countries, 66 per cent population coverage; Central and Southern Asia: 7 countries, 81 per cent population coverage; Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand): 6 countries, 11 per cent population coverage.

	Women (%)	Men (%)	Unknown (%)
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	20.3	79.1	0.6
Central and Southern Asia	16.6	83.4	0.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.5	77.6	8.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	12.8	67.8	19.4
Australia and New Zealand	12.8	75.8	11.5



<b>Eastern and South-eastern Asia</b>	10.4	84.2	5.4
<b>Europe and Northern America</b>	4.7	48.5	46.8
<b>Northern Africa and Western Asia</b>	0.4	85.5	14.1

Source: World Bank, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), World Fish Center and ARD (Agriculture and Rural Development). 2012. *Hidden Harvest: The Global Contribution of Capture Fisheries*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Table 3.3.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

### Proportion of urban population living in slums, by region (per cent)

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

Source: UN-Habitat, 2017.