

# PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2020



# Snapshot of gender equality across the Sustainable Development Goals



The COVID-19 pandemic is causing a resurgence in extreme poverty, affecting women the most. By 2021, around **435 million** **WOMEN AND GIRLS** will be living on less than \$1.90 a day – including **47 million** pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19.



Women health-care workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and are at increased risk of exposure to the virus. Among infected health-care workers in five countries with available data, **72%** were women.



An estimated **243 million** **WOMEN AND GIRLS** aged 15 to 49 were subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the previous year. At least **200 million** **GIRLS AND WOMEN**

Women spend **3x** as many hours as men each day in unpaid care and domestic work. COVID-19 is adding to women's unpaid care workloads.

Worldwide, **1 in 4** **PARLIAMENTARY SEATS** are held by women. At the local level, women hold **36%** **OF ELECTED SEATS** in local deliberative bodies.

Based on data from 57 countries, **3 in 4** **WOMEN** report making their own decisions about their personal health care or on whether or not to have sex.



Globally, women have a **27%** **HIGHER RISK** than men of facing severe food insecurity. This gender gap is expected to rise in the wake of the pandemic.



School closures are likely to increase gender gaps in education. More than **11 million** **GIRLS** – from pre-primary school to tertiary education age – are at risk of not returning to school in 2020.

have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM), according to recent data from 31 countries where this practice is concentrated.

Globally, **1 in 5** **WOMEN** 20 to 24 years of age were married in childhood.

Child marriage and FGM were on a downward trajectory before the pandemic hit. However, economic hardship and school disruptions could derail progress.



**4 in 10** **SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD** and

**70%**  
**OF THOSE IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

face challenges in providing basic hygiene facilities for students. In some countries,

**150 or more**  
**SCHOOLGIRLS**

are expected to share a single toilet.



Lack of clean cooking fuels and technologies accounted for almost

**2 million**

premature deaths among women and girls in 2016.



Domestic workers and those employed in the informal economy have been especially hard hit by the pandemic. Nearly

**72%** of domestic workers, most of whom are women, have suffered job losses or reduced hours.



The manufacturing sector has suffered major job losses and contraction in economic output due to the pandemic. Women are

**more likely**

than men to be engaged in vulnerable employment in that sector and are more at risk of losing their manufacturing jobs or livelihoods.



Women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination.

**3 in 10**  
**WOMEN AND MEN WITH DISABILITIES**

personally experienced at least one form of discrimination between 2014 and 2019.



Safe and reliable public transportation can be a lifeline for poor urban women, but access remains inadequate in many urban settings. Data from 2019 showed that only

**50%**

of the world's urban population had convenient access to public transport.



Women and girls bear the brunt of increasing climate-related disasters, but are rarely in a position to effect change. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25, only

**21%**

of heads of delegation were women.



In countries led by women, confirmed deaths from COVID-19 are six times lower. Likewise, women's direct participation in peace processes has shown to be a building block for lasting agreements. Yet, between 1992 and 2019, women made up only

**6% OF MEDIATORS,**  
**6% OF SIGNATORIES** and

**13% OF NEGOTIATORS** in peace processes.



Globally, **4.1 billion** PEOPLE are now online, but only 48% of the world's female population are using the Internet, compared to 58% of men. That gender gap is increasing in some developing regions.

# LEAVE NO WOMAN OR GIRL BEHIND

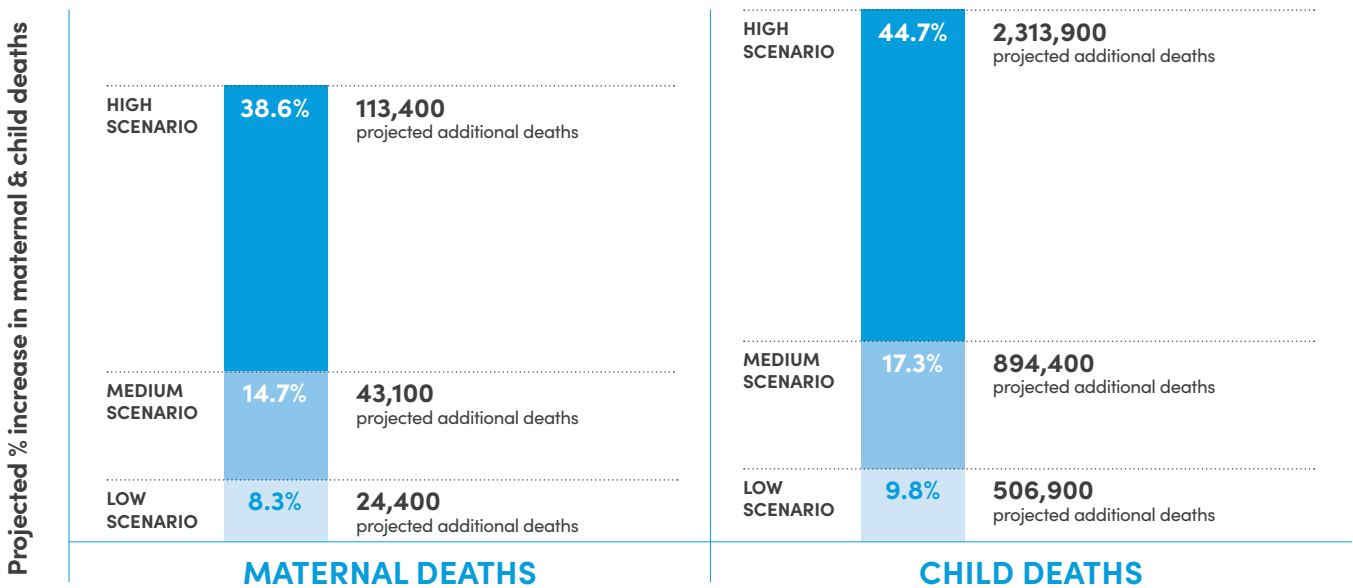
## The COVID-19 pandemic reveals and exacerbates fault lines of inequality

The pandemic is eroding health systems, disrupting routine health services, deteriorating labour markets and limiting access to nutritious diets. And the world’s poorest people are bearing the brunt of the crisis. Hundreds of thousands of additional deaths among children under age 5 are expected in 2020, along with tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths. According to a recent study, if routine health care is disrupted and access to food is decreased, the increase in child and maternal deaths could be devastating: 118 low- and middle-income countries

could see an increase of 9.8 to 44.7 per cent in under-5 deaths per month and an 8.3 to 38.6 per cent rise in maternal deaths per month. At the intersection of many deprivations are women and girls living in poverty, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons, who face the greatest hardships. Even before the pandemic, these groups were dealing with food insecurity due to insufficient income; they routinely confronted challenges in accessing essential health services and were excluded from social protection systems, where they existed.

### IN FOCUS

#### Additional maternal and child deaths attributed to indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, forecasts and modelled estimates, over 12 months (percentage and number)



Source: Roberton, T., et al., ‘Early Estimates of the Indirect Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Maternal and Child Mortality in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries: A Modelling Study’, *The Lancet Global Health*, May 2020.

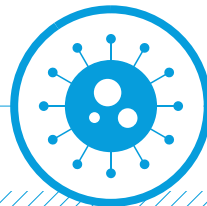
Note: The three scenarios are based on coverage reductions in family planning services, antenatal, childbirth and postnatal care services, and early child vaccination, preventive and curative services. It is assumed that four health system components affect the coverage of services: availability of health workers, availability of supplies and equipment, demand for services, and access to services. The child deaths include the effects of increased wasting.

Economic and social disparities, including inequalities in education, living conditions, and a greater likelihood to be employed in insecure and low-paying jobs, make some groups more vulnerable to the pandemic than others. As of mid-September 2020, more than 29 million cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed globally and were climbing each day; over 900,000 people had succumbed to the

virus. The pandemic is affecting women, men and children worldwide, but it is having a particularly devastating effect on the poorest and most marginalized in society. Emerging data show groups facing racial and ethnic discrimination are particularly affected. This includes people of African descent, indigenous peoples and other racial and ethnic minorities, and the women and girls among them.

**IN FOCUS**

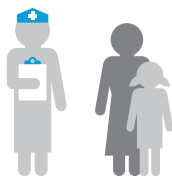
**Women and girls from indigenous communities are especially vulnerable**



**HEALTH**

**Indigenous peoples have historically faced major barriers to accessing medical care**

Even before the pandemic, **indigenous women and girls were less likely to have access to health-care services**, including maternal care, than those who are non-indigenous.



In **Guatemala**, the maternal mortality ratio of indigenous women is

**3X**

that of non-indigenous women.



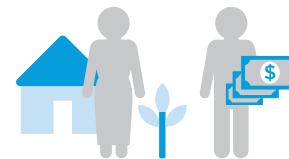
**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

In **nearly all countries**, indigenous peoples have been grouped under the 'most vulnerable to COVID-19' health category.

Indigenous peoples living remotely or in voluntary isolation, who lack immunity to many infectious diseases, are especially threatened.

**ECONOMIC**

**Hundreds of indigenous women are without their main source of income**



Even before the pandemic,

**77%**

**of indigenous households in the region of Guajira**, which straddles the border between Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, were food insecure and lacked the means to lead a healthy and active life.

**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

When tourism ground to a halt, the **Wayuu women** of Alta Guajira were left with no money or food to support their families.

The **Triqui women** from the highlands of Oaxaca, Mexico, who rely on street sales of handicrafts and other products, have seen their livelihoods virtually disappear.

1 NO POVERTY
 



13 TOTAL INDICATORS

5 GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS\*

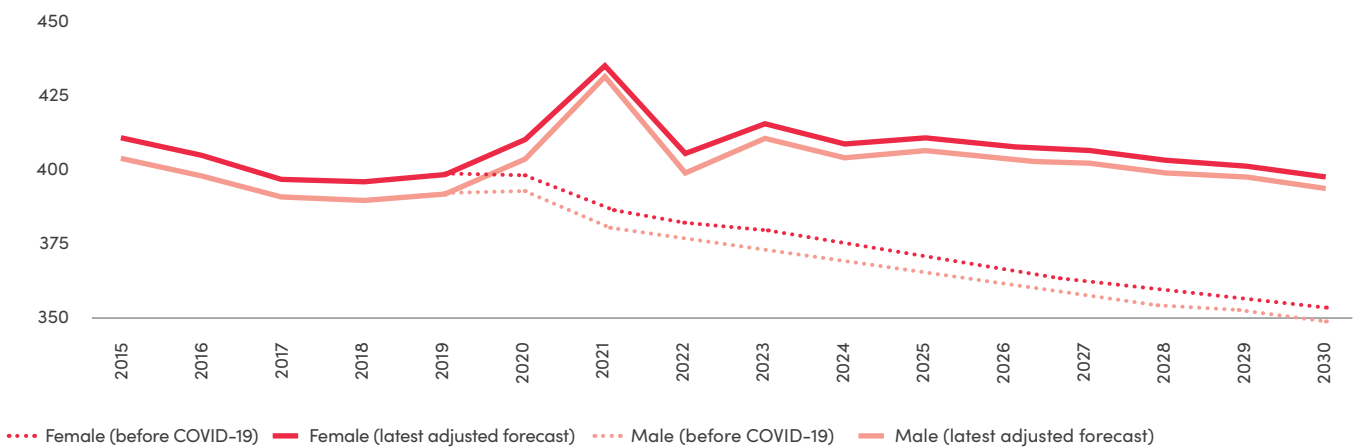
## The pandemic is causing a resurgence in extreme poverty, affecting women the most

The COVID-19 pandemic could reverse decades of progress in the eradication of poverty and inequality. Already, women are more likely than men to live in extreme poverty. As the crisis exacerbates labour market instabilities along with gender inequalities in access to economic resources and in the division of unpaid care and domestic work, many more women are expected to fall into destitution. The total number of women and girls living on less than \$1.90 a day is forecast to total 409 million in 2020 (up from 398.5 million in 2019), and peak at 435 million in 2021. That number is not expected to revert to pre-pandemic levels until 2030.

The two main regions that will be affected most in terms of increased poverty will be sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, between 2021 and 2030, the number of women and girls living in extremely poor households is expected to increase from 249 million to 283 million. By 2030, this region will be home to 71 per cent of women and girls living in extreme poverty. Central and Southern Asia, particularly the subregion of Southern Asia, has made major strides in reducing extreme poverty over the last several years. However, it will also see a resurgence in extreme poverty. Before the pandemic, projections suggested that, by 2030, Central and Southern Asia would comprise 15.8 per cent of the world’s women and girls living in extreme poverty. Revised projections now put that share at 18.6 per cent.

**FIGURE 1**

### Global population living below the international poverty line, by sex, 2015–2030 projection (millions)



Source: UN Women, *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19*, 2020.

Note: This analysis is based on a sample of 129 countries and areas accounting for 89 per cent of the global population. The latest adjusted forecasts for men and women respectively are based on the International Monetary Fund’s June 2020 downward revision in global economic growth.

\* The term ‘gender-specific indicators’ is used here and in subsequent sections of the Gender Snapshot to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as an underlying objective. For a full list of gender-specific indicators by Goals, see pages 21–23 of this publication.



14 TOTAL INDICATORS

2 GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

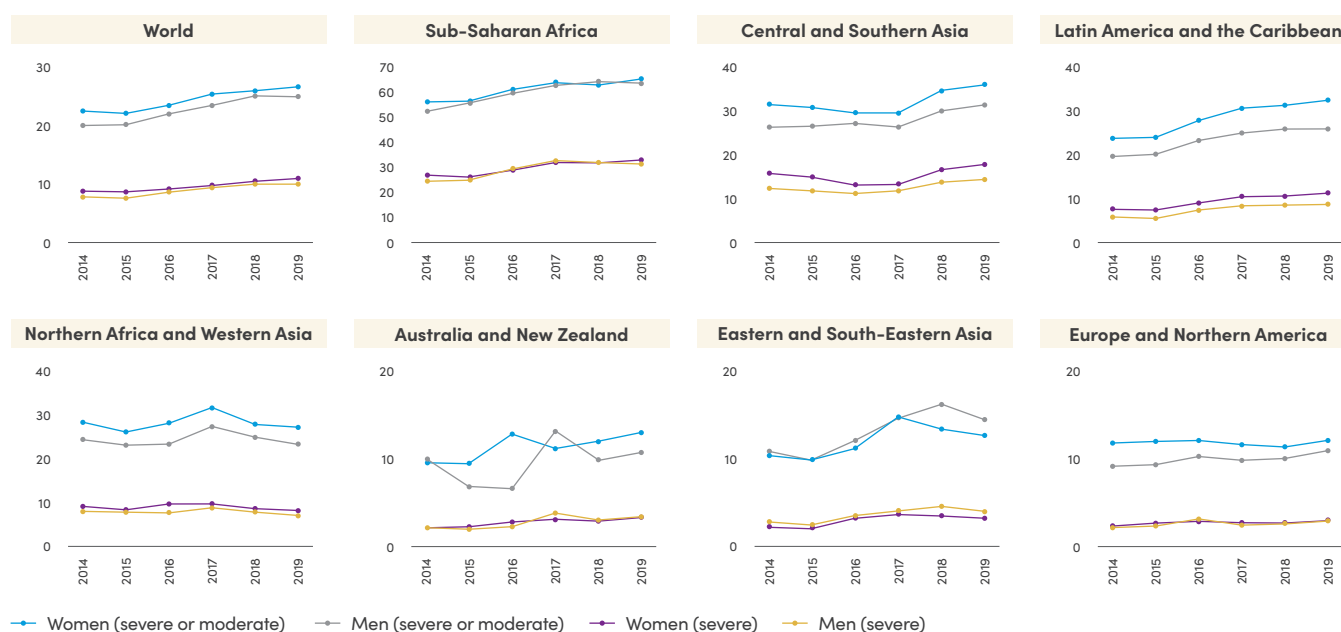
## Severe levels of food insecurity are substantially higher for women than men, and are likely to get worse

At the global level, and more markedly in Northern Africa and Western Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the gender gap in accessing sufficient food increased from 2014 to 2019, particularly at the moderate or severe levels. Women face more food insecurity than men, even when they have the same income and education levels. When various social and economic characteristics are controlled, statistical analyses reveal that the chances of being severely food insecure are about 27 per cent higher for women than for men at the global level. The bias is largest among individuals aged 25 to 49 years and among those who are separated or divorced.

The number of people facing acute food insecurity in low- and middle-income countries will nearly double to 265 million by the end of 2020. Emerging data from humanitarian settings already point to increases in food insecurity, particularly among population groups whose nutritional needs are higher, such as pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, sick people, and those who are older.

FIGURE 2

### Proportion of the population who are moderately or severely food insecure, by sex, 2014-2019 (percentage)



Source: Global SDG Indicators Database, 2020. Note: Estimates cover persons aged 15 and older. Due to low coverage, estimates for Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) are not shown.



**28** TOTAL INDICATORS

**6** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

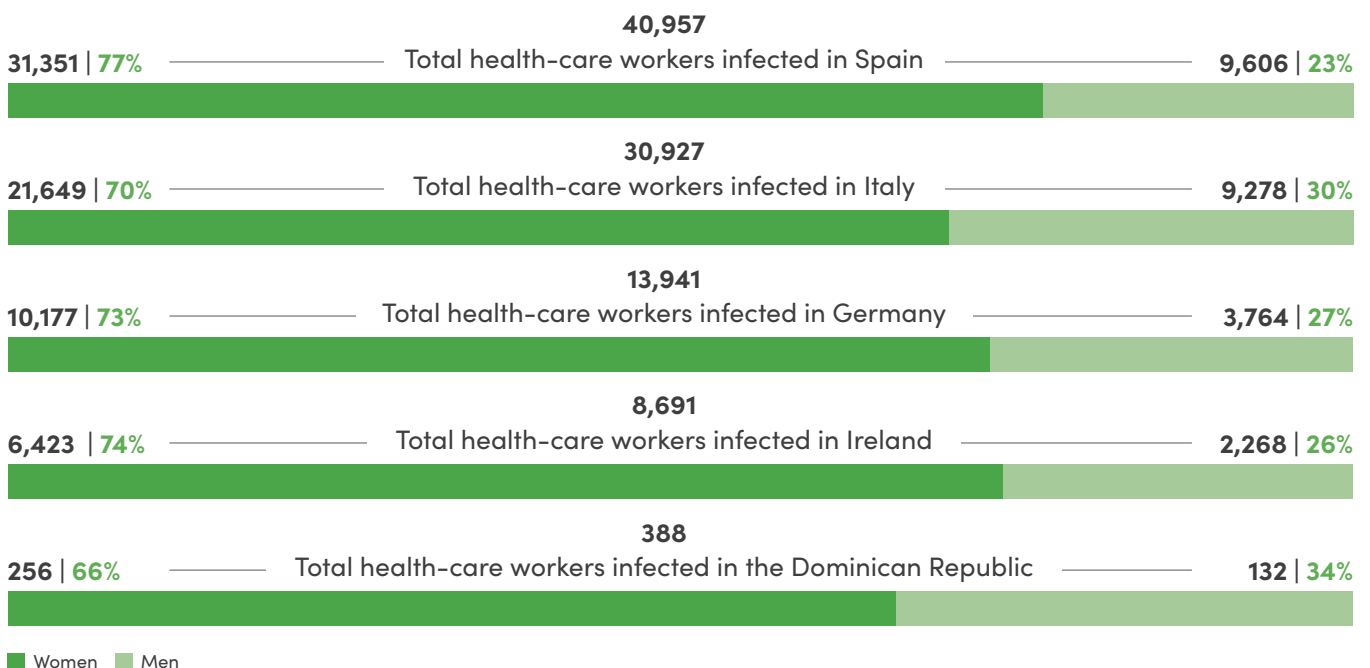
## Women health-care workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting their lives at risk

The pandemic is placing significant stress on health systems. Even the best-resourced systems in the most advanced countries have been strained to the breaking point at peak periods in the crisis. In addition, disruptions to routine health services are likely to limit women’s access to sexual and reproductive health care, including access to safe maternity care and modern contraception. Despite the ambitious goal to end preventable maternal deaths by 2030, at the current rate of progress the world is expected to fall short of the target by more than 1 million lives. Compounding the problem is the fact that more than 250 million women of reproductive age globally who want to prevent pregnancy are not using modern methods of contraception.

Women represent 70 per cent of the world’s health-care workers. Thus, they are on the front lines of the pandemic and at increased risk of exposure to the virus. Emerging data from the Dominican Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Spain have confirmed that among infected health-care workers, 72 per cent are women.

**FIGURE 3**

### Confirmed cases of COVID-19 among health-care workers, by sex, selected countries, September 2020 (number and percentage)



Source: Compilation by Global Health 50/50 in 2020, using official national source for respective countries. In cases where data were not updated by Global Health 50/50, the latest health-care worker case data were updated using the latest bulletins from the official national source.





**12** TOTAL INDICATORS

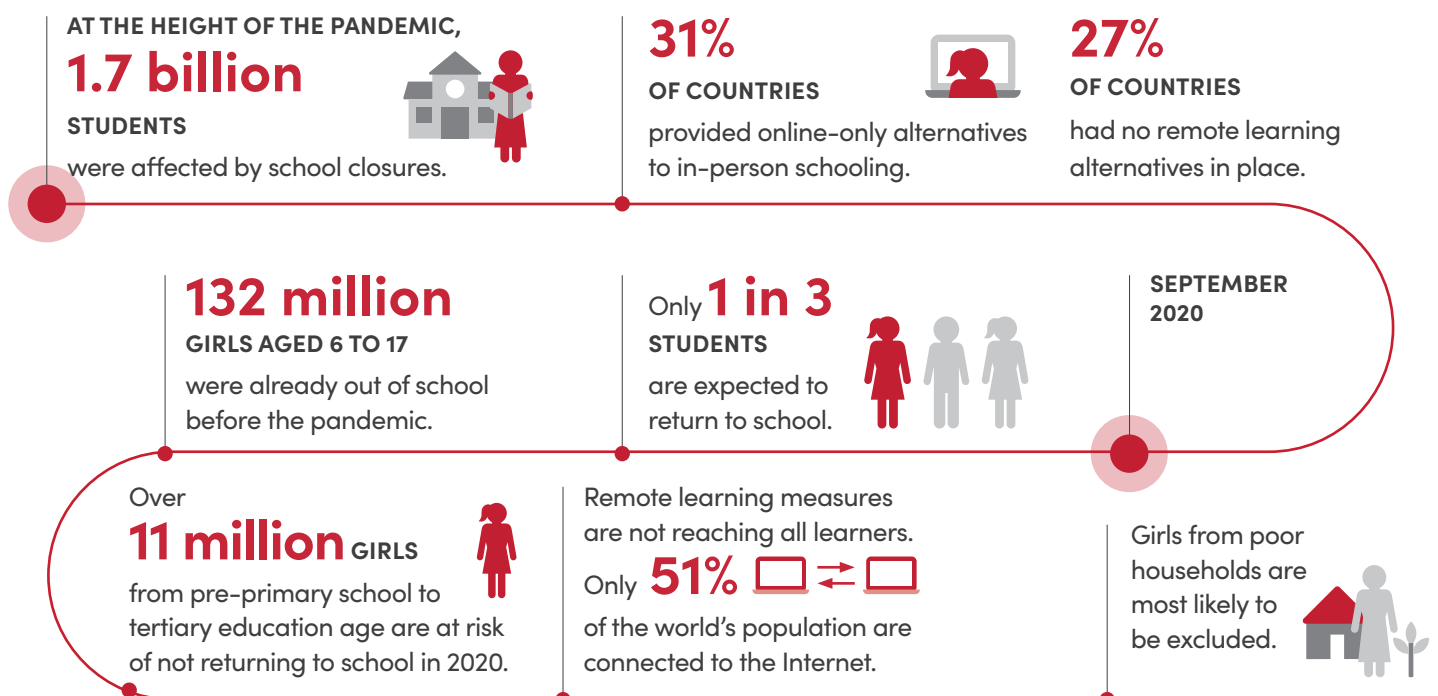
**8** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

## School closures are likely to increase gender gaps in education and rates of child marriage

At the height of the pandemic, 193 countries and areas temporarily closed educational institutions, affecting 1.7 billion students. According to the latest reports from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), only one in three students will return to school this September, while the rest will continue to face school closures and uncertainty. Over 11 million girls – from pre-primary school to tertiary education age – may not return to school in 2020.

Almost three quarters (73 per cent) of countries have begun implementing various forms of remote learning, including online classes. Yet not all children are benefiting equally. The poorest girls tend to suffer most since both their households and schools often lack computers and other related technologies. Among households that do have access to computers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Ghana, girls have lower levels of computer skills than boys (17 and 18 per cent, respectively, for girls versus 56 and 49 per cent, respectively, for boys). Even before the pandemic, girls from the poorest households faced major obstacles to education: 44 per cent of girls compared to 34 per cent boys from the poorest families have never gone to school or dropped out before completing primary school. In Mali, Niger and South Sudan – which have some of the world's lowest enrolment and completion rates for girls – closures have forced more than 4 million girls out of school. Similarly, refugee girls of secondary-school age are only half as likely to enrol in school as their male peers. Prolonged school closures may increase these gender gaps and lead to spikes in harmful practices such as child marriage, which further diminish girls' chances of receiving an education.

**FIGURE 4**



Source: International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO Institute for Statistics, and UN Women, 2020.



## Progress interrupted: COVID-19 could erase many of the hard-won gains for the world’s women

The year 2020 was supposed to be momentous – in a good way. World leaders and women’s rights activists had planned to celebrate the anniversaries of key legal and policy instruments that are central to the realization of women’s human rights, including the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 40th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted those plans and may reverse many of the hard-won gains of the past two decades. Women and girls are facing acute hardships, including higher rates of poverty, increased care burdens, greater exposure to violence and obstructed access to sexual and reproductive health services. And with few women directing policy responses at the national and local levels, such issues are not being sufficiently prioritized and resourced. Discriminatory laws and social norms also persist.

Globally, an estimated

# 243 million

**WOMEN AND GIRLS AGED 15 TO 49**

were subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the previous year. COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown and confinement measures are widely presumed to have heightened women’s exposure to violence.



In 2019,

# 1 in 5

**WOMEN**

aged 20 to 24 years were married in childhood, down from one in four in 2004.



At least

# 200 million

**GIRLS AND WOMEN**

have been subjected to female genital mutilation, according to recent data from the 31 countries where this practice is concentrated.

FGM is becoming less common, but progress is not fast enough to meet the global target of eliminating it entirely by 2030.



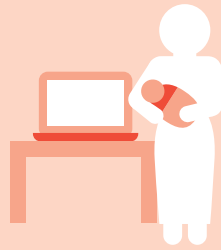
The prevalence of harmful practices, including child marriage and FGM, had been on a downward trajectory before the pandemic hit. Past experience, however, suggests that economic hardship and school disruptions could derail such progress.



Women already spend

**3x**

as many hours as men on unpaid care work at home.



**COVID-19 is adding to women's workloads, particularly among those with small children or other dependents that require care at home.**

**TOO FEW WOMEN ARE LEADING RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.**

**Only 6.7%**

of the world's heads of government are women.



**Only a quarter**

of seats in national parliaments are held by women.



At the local level, women hold a higher, but still low, level of seats in local deliberative bodies:

**36.3%**



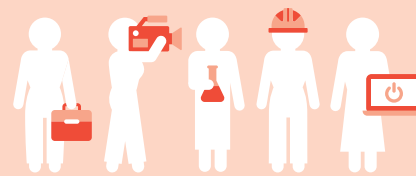
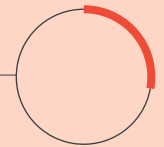
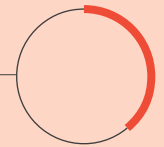
In 2019, women represented

**39%**

of the world's workers, yet they occupied only

**28%**

of managerial positions.

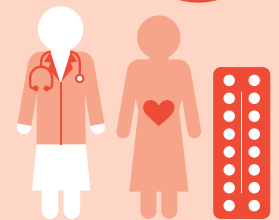
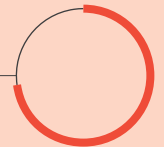


In 2019, in the 75 countries with data,

**73%**

of the laws and regulations

needed to guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights were in place.



**RESOURCES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE LAWS AND POLICIES.**

Despite progress on gender-responsive budgeting globally, 2018 data from 69 countries and areas show that only

**13 countries**

have a tracking system in place to measure gender budget data and make them publicly available.



**11** TOTAL INDICATORS

**0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

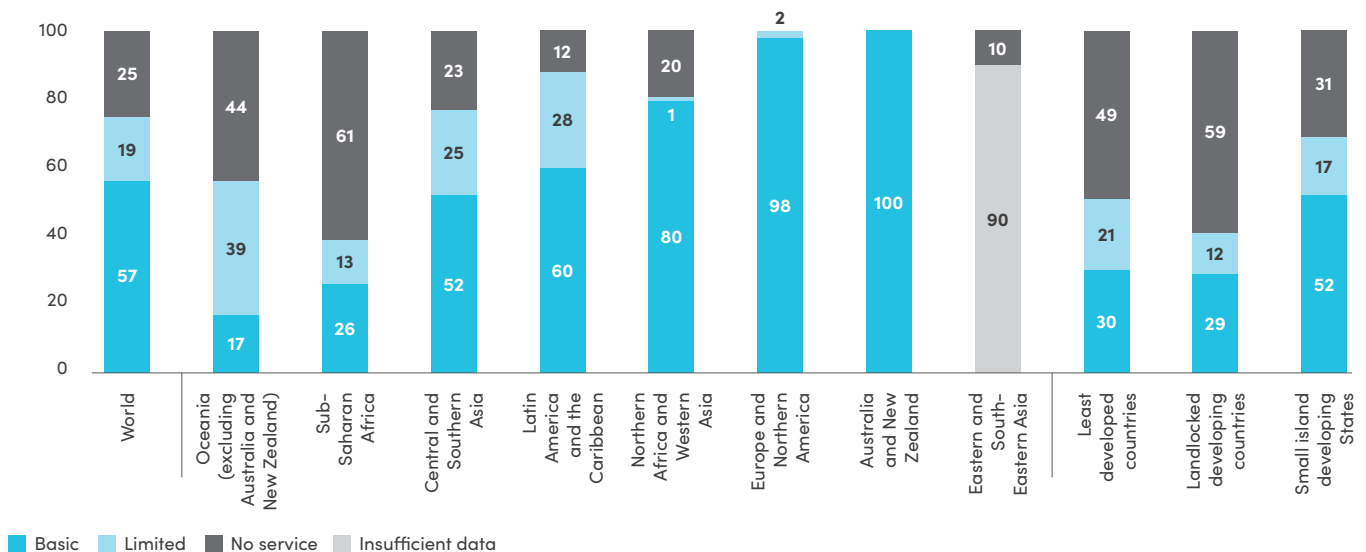
## The lack of adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities is another deterrent to girls returning to school

Even prior to the pandemic, four in ten schools around the world and 70 per cent of those in least developed countries faced challenges in providing basic sanitation and hygiene facilities for students. In particular, the lack of soap and water for handwashing will hamper school re-opening plans in the developing world, where 463 million pupils have been affected by school closures and the lack of online education.

For adolescent girls, the absence of such facilities spells trouble in managing their periods safely and with dignity. Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 4 girls in Nigeria, 1 in 5 in Côte d'Ivoire and 1 in 7 in Burkina Faso reported that they had missed school due to menstruation in the 12 months prior to the survey. Without adequate sanitation facilities, and in light of the pandemic, the situation is likely to get worse. Yet in many countries, girls are not prioritized in the planning of water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools. In Sao Tome and Principe, 186 schoolgirls share a single toilet, compared to 172 boys. In Indonesia, the ratio is 153 girls to 136 boys, and in Mali, 81 girls to 78 boys. In refugee camp schools in Djibouti, 150 girls share a single toilet, versus 55 and 36 girls per toilet in public and private primary schools, respectively.

**FIGURE 5**

### Proportion of schools with basic hygiene services, 2019 (percentage)



Source: World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2020.

Note: Figure reflects the 110 countries that have sufficient data to estimate coverage of basic hygiene service in schools (availability of handwashing facilities with soap and water).

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**6** TOTAL INDICATORS

**0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

## The lack of clean cooking fuels and technologies is causing the premature death of nearly 2 million women a year

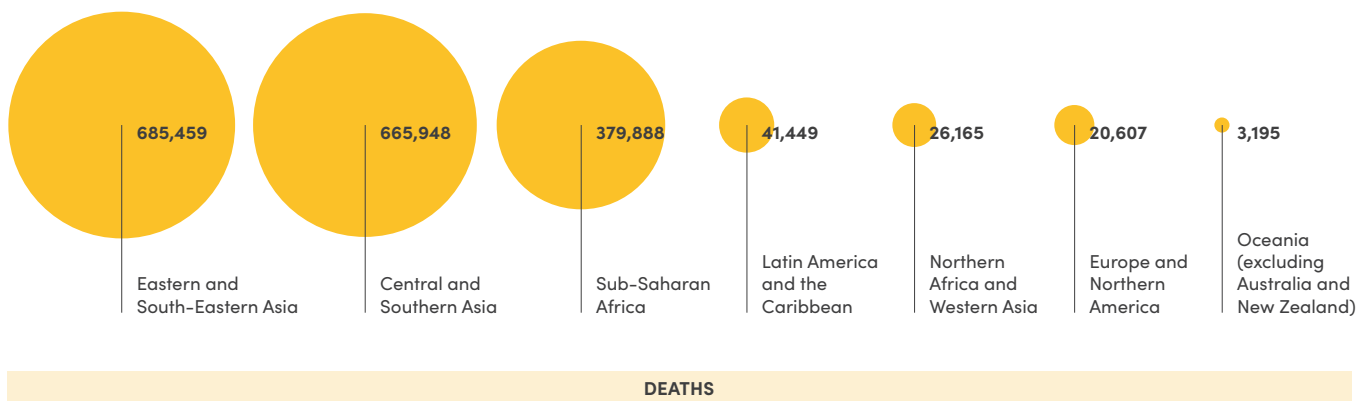
The lack of clean cooking fuels and technology, which leads to the use of polluting fuels, contributes to climate change. It is also a major health hazard affecting mostly women and girls, and diminishes their ability to engage in productive activities. Globally, around 3 billion people cook using polluting open fires or simple stoves fuelled by kerosene, biomass or coal. This includes 8 in 10 people in sub-Saharan Africa, and more than 6 in 10 people in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and Central and Southern Asia.

Since women and girls perform the bulk of unpaid care and domestic work within the home, they risk significant exposure to harmful household air pollution, which in 2016 accounted for 1.8 million female premature deaths. Over two thirds of such deaths occurred in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (37.6 per cent) and Central and Southern Asia (36.5 per cent), with an additional 20.8 per cent of deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. Women exposed to high levels of indoor smoke are more than twice as likely to suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease than women who use cleaner fuels and technologies.

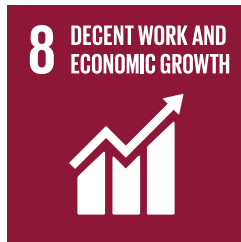
**FIGURE 6**

### Female deaths attributed to household air pollution, 2016 (number)

Globally, **1.8 MILLION WOMEN DIED** prematurely from household air pollution in 2016



Source: WHO, Global Health Observatory, 2020. Note: Figure reflects data from 180 countries. No female deaths attributed to household air pollution were reported in Australia and New Zealand in 2016.



**16** TOTAL INDICATORS

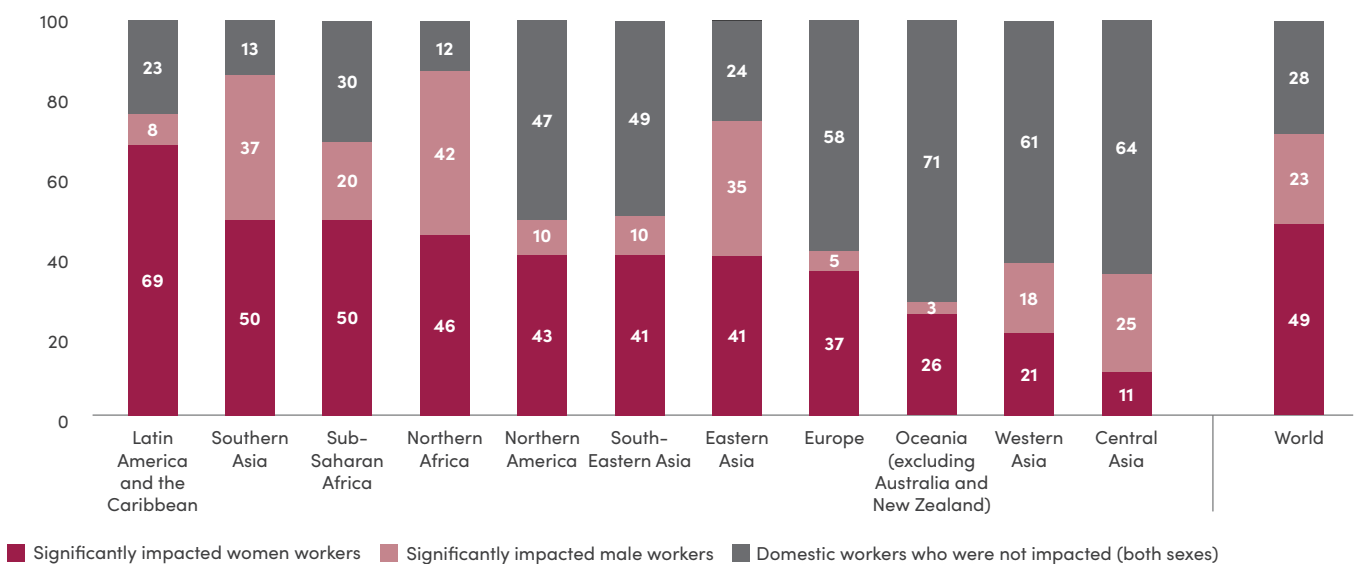
**6** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

### Domestic workers and those employed in the informal economy have been especially hard hit by the crisis

Domestic workers, whether employed formally or informally, are particularly vulnerable in the current climate of uncertainty. Globally, the estimated proportion of domestic workers at higher risk of experiencing job losses or a reduction in work hours and earnings due to lockdown measures and lack of social security registration rose from 49.3 per cent to 72.3 per cent between March and June 2020. Of this affected group, two thirds were women, a pattern consistent across all regions. The fear of getting sick has caused many domestic workers to stay home from work, whether at the request of their employers, by their own choice, or in compliance with lockdown measures. There are over 67 million domestic workers worldwide, 75 per cent of whom are employed informally. Many of them earn as little as 25 per cent of average wages and only 10 per cent have access to social security – meaning that they are unprotected against income loss and ill health. For some migrant domestic workers, who number around 11 million, the pandemic has resulted in the loss of residence permits along with their jobs. With international border closings, many of these workers are unable to find new employment or return home. Migrant domestic workers with irregular status face an additional risk of deportation as well as a higher inability to access adequate public health services.

**FIGURE 7**

**Proportion of domestic workers significantly impacted due to COVID-19, by sex, 2020 (percentage)**



Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) calculation in 2020.

Note: Calculations based on national labour force or similar household surveys from 137 countries representing 91 per cent of global employment. 'Significantly impacted' refers to a reduction in the number of work hours, reduction in earnings and job losses. Estimates for Australia and New Zealand were not available and are therefore not shown.

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**12** TOTAL INDICATORS

**0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

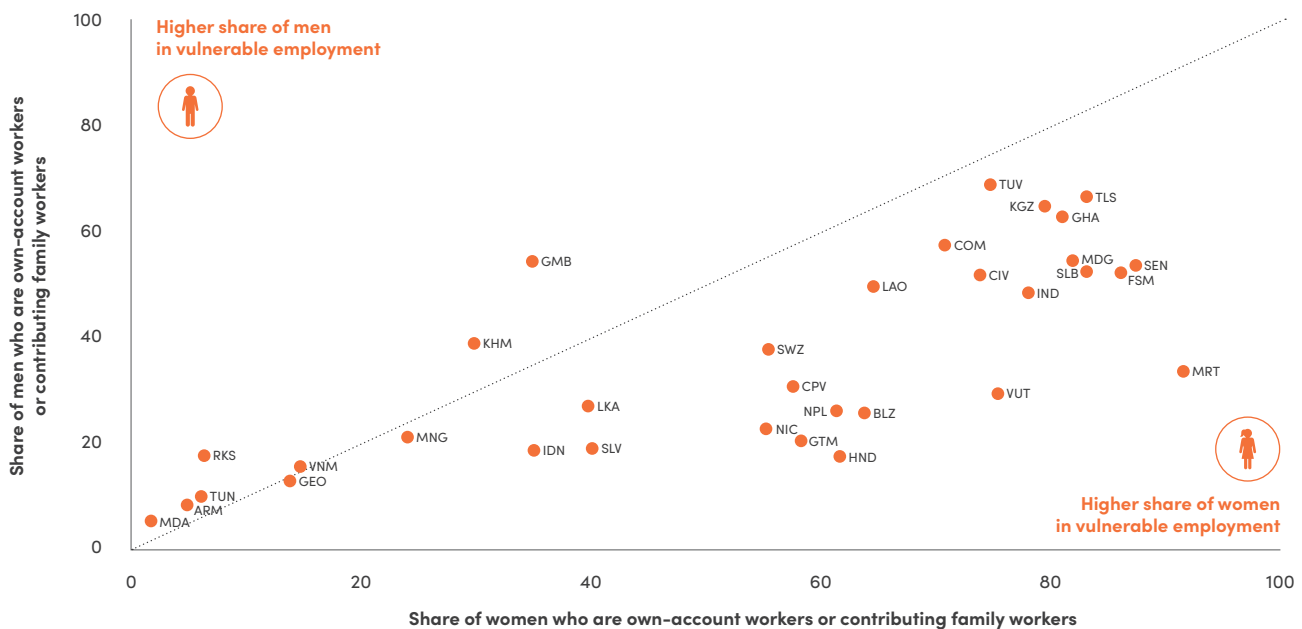
**Manufacturing jobs held by women tend to offer little security and are now at risk of disappearing altogether**

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the global economy. The manufacturing sector, in particular, has suffered major job losses and a contraction in economic output. World manufacturing output growth, already decelerating since 2018, declined sharply (by 6 per cent) in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. More than 111 million enterprises in the sector faced high risks of serious disruption in the first months of the pandemic.

Men account for a majority of workers in manufacturing. However, women employed in this sector are more likely to hold vulnerable jobs – that is, to be employed as own-account workers or contributing family members. In 26 of the 33 countries with available data, women are more likely than men to hold vulnerable jobs in the manufacturing sector; in 21 countries, the share is more than half. Before the COVID-19 crisis, these women were more likely to lack decent working conditions and social protection, and now they are at high risk of losing their jobs.

**FIGURE 8**

**Vulnerable employment in the manufacturing sector, by sex, selected countries, 2019 (percentage)**



Source: ILO, 2020. Figure reflects dataset on employment at risk by gender – countries that have applied to the first round of the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Note: The three-letter ISO (International Organization for Standardization) country code is used to represent the names of the 33 countries reflected in the figure. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the manufacturing sector's (ISIC rev. 4 C) economic output is considered high based on the ILO's assessment of real-time and financial data.



**14** TOTAL INDICATORS

**1** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATOR

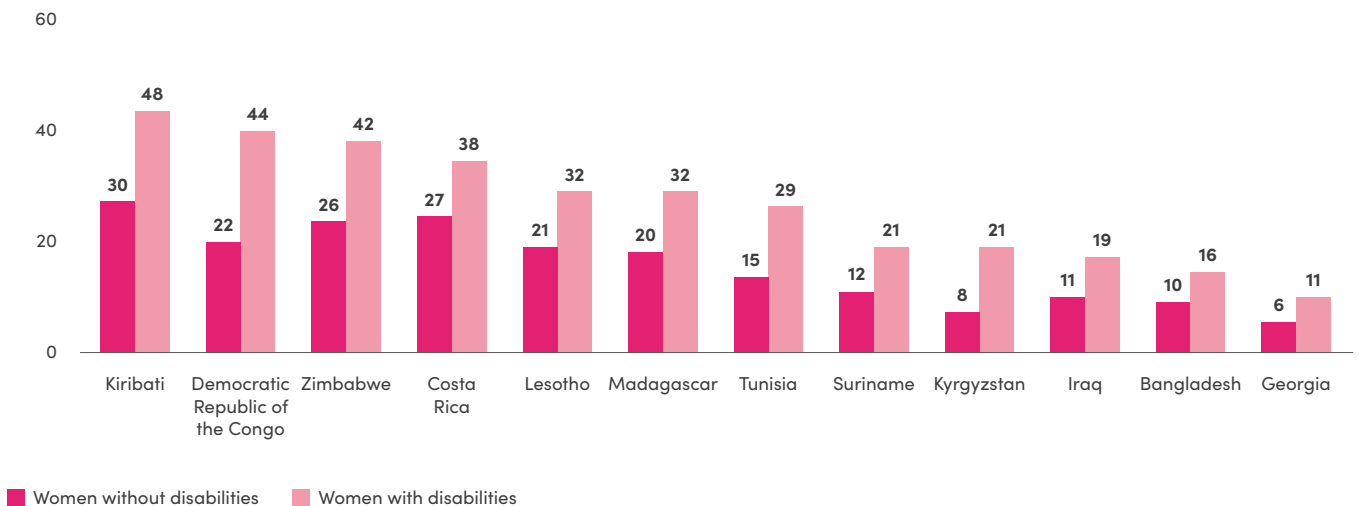
### The pandemic is likely to further entrench existing patterns of discrimination and stigma

Almost 2 in 10 people have personally experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds established by international human rights law, according to data from 27 countries over the period 2014 to 2019. The ratio is 3 in 10 among people with disabilities, and women with disabilities report higher levels of discrimination.

The disability itself was not the main ground of discrimination cited by these women, but rather religion, ethnicity and sex. The COVID-19 pandemic may exacerbate the inequality and discrimination faced by these women. Even before the pandemic, evidence across countries showed that women with disabilities were twice as likely to experience violence at the hands of partners or family members than women who were not disabled, and up to 10 times more likely to suffer from sexual violence.

**FIGURE 9**

### Proportion of women reporting having felt personally discriminated against in the previous 12 months, selected countries, 2018–2019 (percentage)



Source: Global SDG Indicators Database, 2020.

Note: Based on a sub-sample of 12 countries with available data on the proportion of the population reporting having felt discriminated against by sex and disability status. Iraq covers five grounds for discrimination: sex, age, ethnic or immigration origin, disability, other reason; Tunisia covers six grounds: sex, age, ethnic or immigration origin, disability, sexual orientation, other reason; Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan and Lesotho cover seven grounds: sex, age, ethnic or immigration origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation, other reason. Costa Rica covers eight grounds: sex, age, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, nationality, sexual orientation, other reason. Suriname also covers eight grounds: sex, age, ethnic origin, disability, religion or belief, immigration origin, sexual orientation, other reason. Zimbabwe covers 10 grounds: sex, age, ethnic or immigration origin, disability, religion or belief, marital status, pregnancy (women only), political affiliation, born out of wedlock, other reason. Madagascar covers an unspecified number of grounds for discrimination.





**14** TOTAL INDICATORS

**3** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

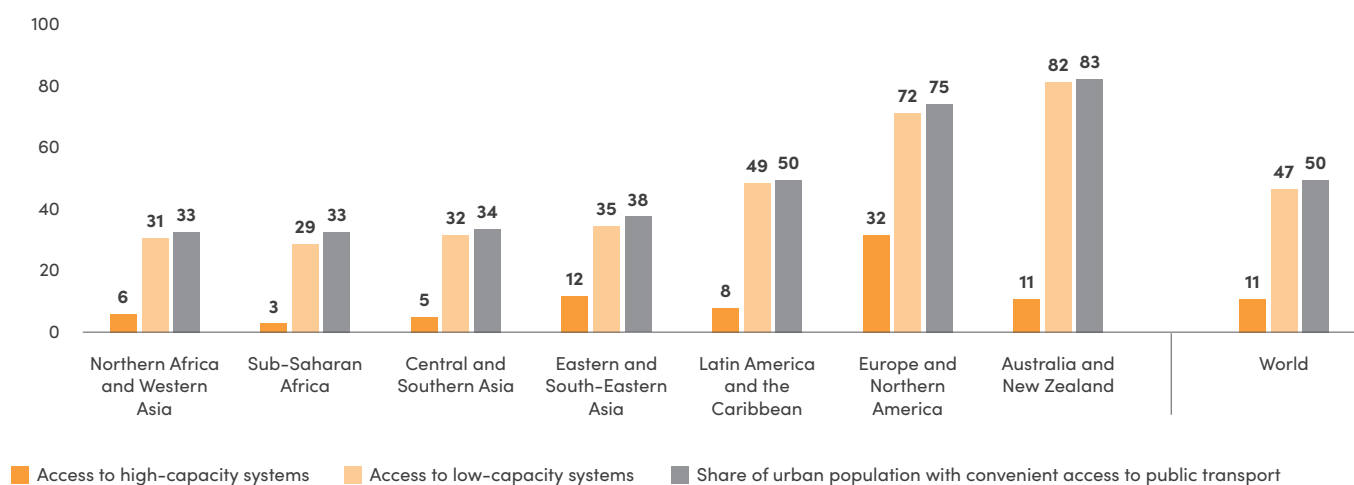
## Safe and reliable public transportation can be a lifeline for poor urban women

For most of the world's 1 billion slum dwellers, inadequate housing, lack of running water, shared toilets, poor or no waste management systems, limited access to formal health-care facilities, and inaccessible and overcrowded public transportation are part of their daily reality. Women aged 15 to 49 are overrepresented in slums and slum-like conditions in 80 per cent of countries with available data. These women tend to work in the informal sector and, without social protection benefits, must fend for themselves as cities shut down. Paid sick leave is rare, leaving such women and their families highly exposed to COVID-19 as they attempt to seek work.

In these difficult circumstances, safe and reliable public transportation can be a lifeline. Nevertheless, data collected in 2019 from a sample of 610 cities in 95 countries showed that only half of the world's urban population had convenient access to public transport. Since the COVID-19 crisis erupted, the situation has worsened due to a large drop in public transportation services in many global capitals, alongside huge spikes in the cost of the few services available. Women, who rely on such services more than men, are being affected disproportionately. In Asia and the Pacific, data collected during the pandemic shows that 69 per cent of women in capital cities have been affected compared to 63 per cent of men.

**FIGURE 10**

### Proportion of urban population with convenient access to public transport, 2019 (percentage)



Source: UN-Habitat Global Urban Indicators Database, 2020.

Note: Convenient access to public transport is defined as living within 500 metres walking distance from a low-capacity transport system (such as a bus stop) or within 1,000 metres of a high-capacity transport system (such as a railway or a ferry terminal). Estimates for Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) were not available and are therefore not shown.



**45** TOTAL INDICATORS

**1** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATOR

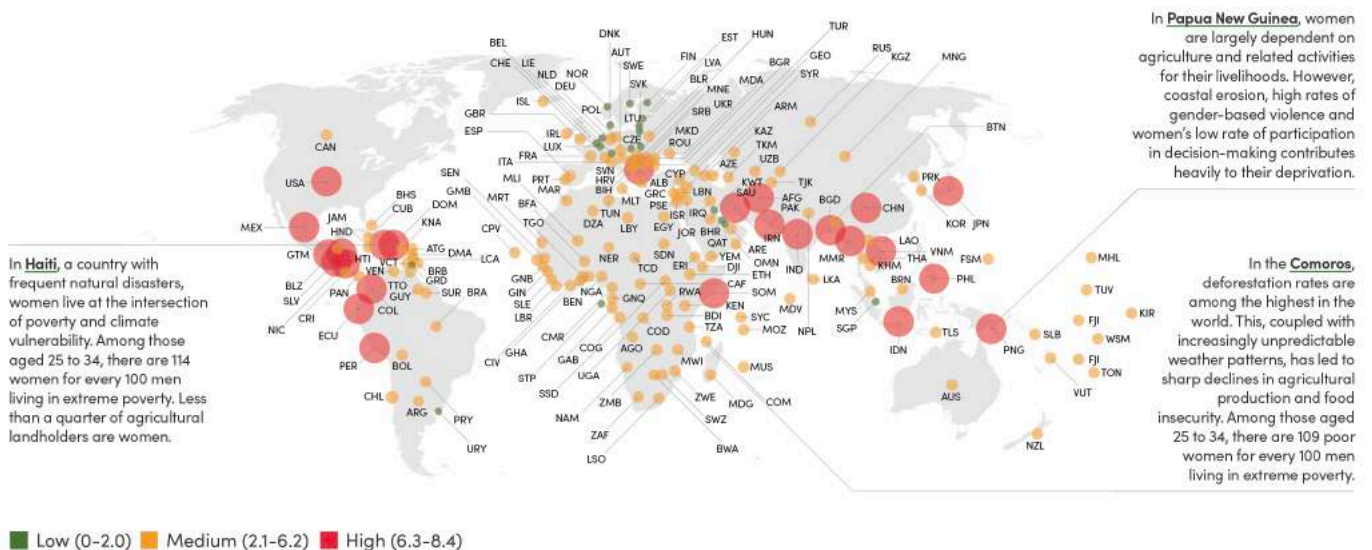
## Women bear the brunt of increasing climate-related disasters, but are rarely in a position to effect change

Climate change is affecting everyone, everywhere. Certain regions, however, including the Arctic, small island developing States and least developed countries, are being hardest hit due to their low capacity to adapt and more severe climate variability. Populations most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or who have the least capacity to respond, including women from the poorest communities, are bearing the brunt of climate-related natural hazards, such as droughts, landslides, floods and hurricanes. In Central Africa, where up to 90 per cent of Lake Chad has disappeared, nomadic indigenous women are struggling to cope. Collection of water and firewood, traditionally a task relegated to women, has become even more difficult due to drought and deforestation.

Climate change has a direct impact on the well-being of women and girls, yet they are often excluded from decision-making regarding climate issues. At the UN Climate Change Conference in 2019, only 41 of the 196 heads of delegation to the Conference of the Parties were women (21 per cent). The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change intersessional in June 2019 had greater female representation, but was still below parity: women made up 43 per cent of national delegations and headed only 29 per cent of these. At the national level, women fare better. In January 2020, women held 54.2 per cent of ministerial positions responsible for the environment, natural resources and energy.

**FIGURE 11**

### INFORM Climate Change Risk Index, 2021



Source: The European Commission's INFORM Risk Index, 2021.

Note: The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) is a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters. The sub-index presented here covers physical exposure to earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tropical cyclones, droughts and epidemics. It ranges from 0 (no physical exposure to natural hazards) to 10 (highest exposure to natural hazards).



**24** TOTAL INDICATORS

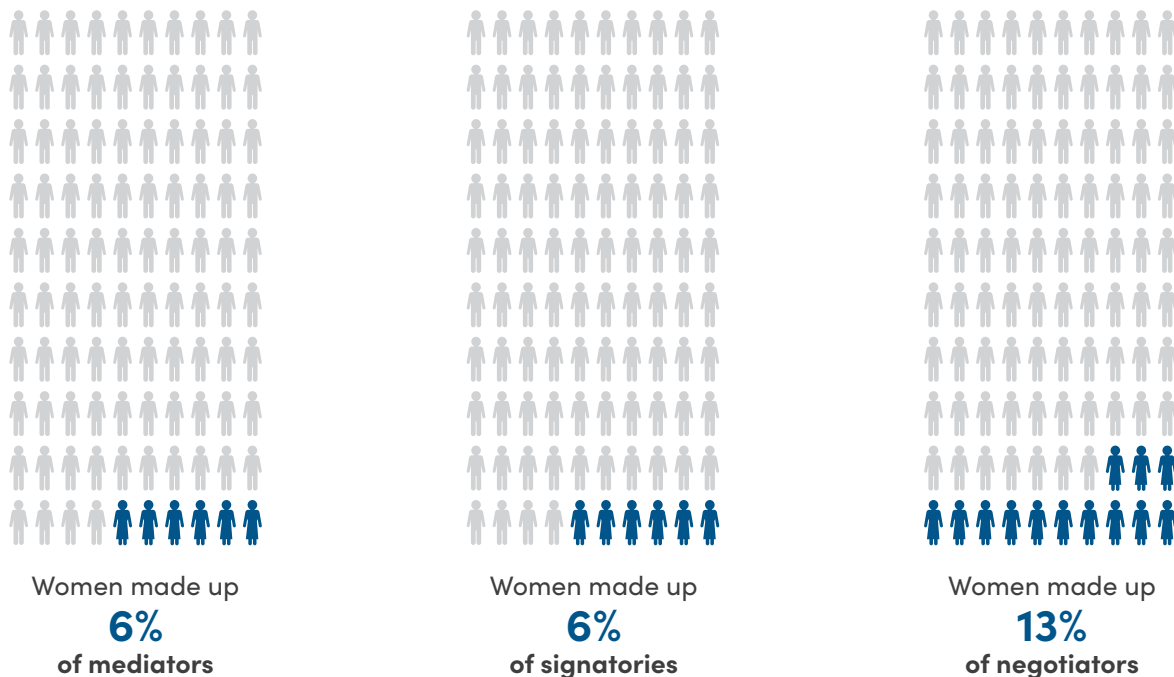
**6** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

### Women’s full, equal and meaningful participation will be crucial as the world ‘builds back better’ from the pandemic

In countries with women at the helm, confirmed deaths from COVID-19 are six times lower than in countries led by men. This is attributed in part to a faster response by women leaders and greater emphasis on social and environmental well-being over time. Likewise, women’s direct participation in peace processes has shown to be a building block for durable peace agreements. As peace processes continue under the shadow of violent conflict and a global health emergency, sustained attention must be given to the much-needed perspectives that only women can provide, and that are context-specific. Yet, between 1992 and 2019, women represented, on average, 6 per cent of mediators, 6 per cent of signatories, and 13 per cent of negotiators in major peace processes worldwide. The women who do try to exert influence and raise their voices against injustice and human rights violations face sometimes lethal consequences. Across 81 countries, between 2015 and 2019, 225 killings of women human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists were reported, which is likely an undercount.

**FIGURE 12**

#### Proportion of women mediators, signatories and negotiators in major peace processes, 1992-2019 (percentage)



Source: Council on Foreign Relations, 2020.



**24** TOTAL INDICATORS

**0** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

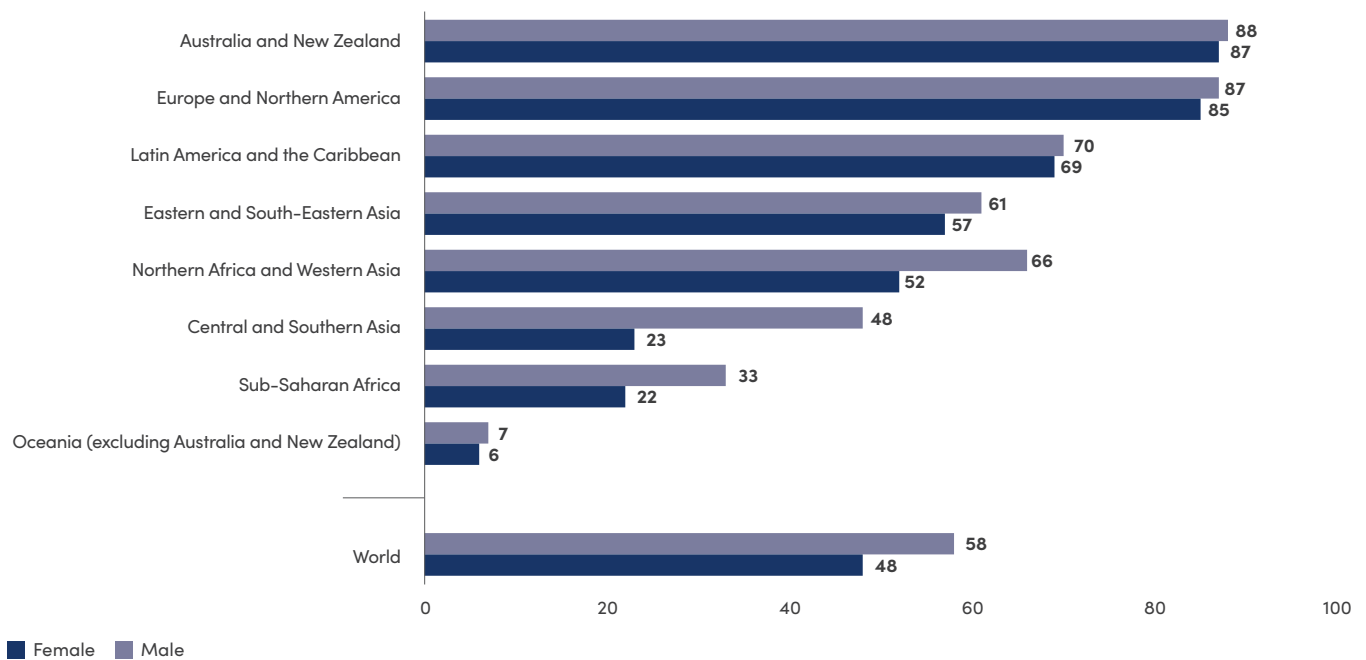
### More men than women have access to the Internet, and that gap is widening in some regions

Information and communications technology skills are fundamental for participation in today’s information society. They are even more crucial in the context of COVID-19, as people seek to maintain personal connections and day-to-day business operations. However, gender gaps in such skills and in access to digital technology, including the Internet, are observed across the board.

Globally, 4.1 billion people are now online. But in most countries, women still lag behind men. Less than half (48 per cent) of the world’s female population are using the Internet, compared to 58 per cent of men. This translates to a global Internet user gap of 10 per cent. Between 2013 and 2019, the gender gap widened in Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. This is due to the rapid growth in male users, especially in developing countries. Overall, gender equality in Internet use is found in just over one quarter of the world’s countries.

**FIGURE 13**

#### Internet penetration rate, by sex, 2019 (percentage)



Source: International Telecommunications Union, 2020.

# 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 (2)

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

**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 indicators (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

**4.2.1** 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** Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

**4.7.1** 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

**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/cutting, 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 health care

**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

**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 female and male employees, by occupation, age 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** Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, 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 indicator (1)**

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

**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 physical 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 (6)**

**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 public 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

**Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development****No gender-specific indicators****Total****Total indicators: 231\*****Gender-specific indicators: 51**

\*Note: The total number of indicators listed in the global indicator framework is 247. However, since some indicators repeat under different targets, the actual number of unique indicators is 231. Similarly, total number of gender-specific indicators listed above is 52, but the total number of unique gender-specific indicators is 51.



## PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2020

This year, marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, was supposed to be momentous – a time to celebrate accomplishments. World leaders and women’s rights activists had planned to come together for the anniversaries of key legal and policy instruments. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has largely interrupted those plans and is threatening to undo many of the gains made in gender equality over the past 25 years. This year’s edition of *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2020* brings together the latest available evidence on gender equality across all 17 Goals, underscoring the progress made, but also taking stock of areas where progress has been disrupted, as a result of COVID-19.



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