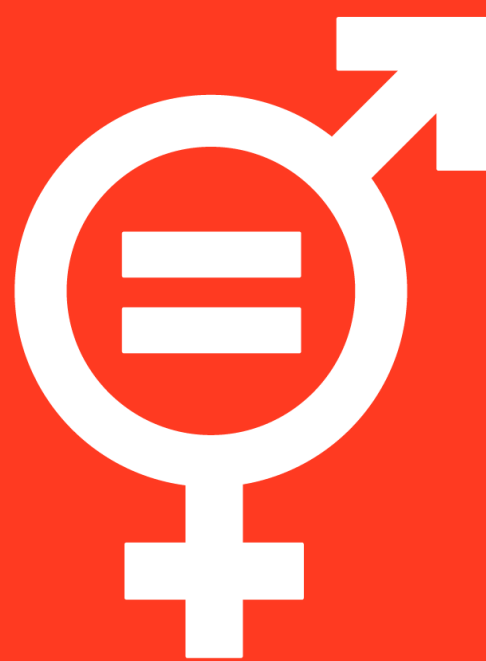


# The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2023

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



**Note:** This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2023. 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.

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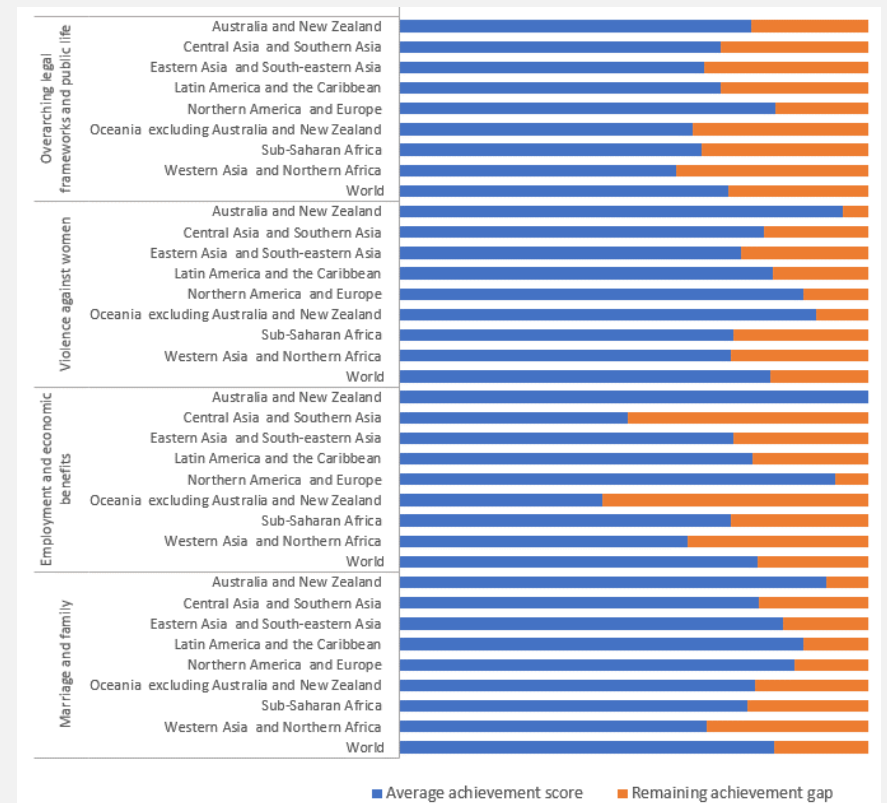
**Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere**

**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**

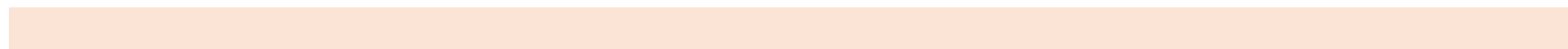
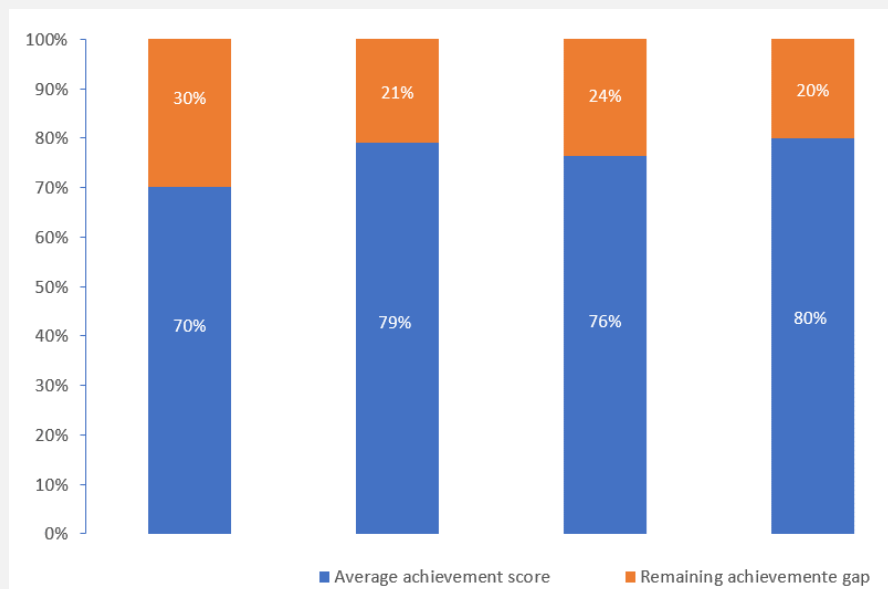
**Discriminatory laws and legal gaps persist in critical aspects denying women their human rights worldwide.**

Based on data collected in 2022 in 119 countries, women continue to face discriminatory laws and legal gaps preventing them from enjoying their human rights. In the area of overarching legal frameworks and public life, the average gap in achievement was 30 percent. The data showed that 55 percent of the countries lacked non-discrimination laws that prohibit direct and indirect discrimination against women, and half of the countries continued to lack quotas for women in the national parliament. In the area of violence against women, while the average gap was 21 percent, 60 percent of the countries failed to have laws defining rape based on the principle of consent, one of the largest continuing gaps (59 percent of countries with 2020 data). In the area of employment and economic benefits, the average gap was 24 percent, and 45 percent of countries did not mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value, and over a third of countries failed to provide maternity leave in accordance with the ILO standards. In the area of marriage and family, which recorded legal gaps of 20 percent on average, almost a quarter of countries did not grant women equal rights with men to enter into marriage and initiate divorce, and close to three-quarters of countries failed to stipulate 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for women and men, with no exceptions, the largest continuing gap (72 percent of countries with 2020 data). At the regional level, the largest average gaps were in Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand and Central and Southern Asia in the area of employment and economic benefits, 57 percent and 51 percent, respectively, followed by Western Asia and Northern Africa in the area of overarching legal frameworks and public life (41 percent).

**Average achievement score and achievement gap, global and by region, 2022**



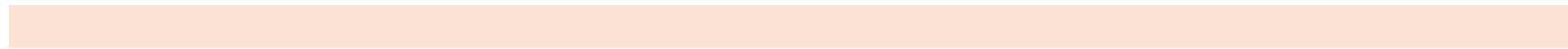
**Average achievement score and achievement gap, global 2022**



**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**



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

**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**



**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

#### COVID-19 threatens global progress against child marriage

Globally, more than half a billion girls and women alive today were married in childhood. The highest levels of child marriage are found in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where 32 per cent and 26 per cent of young women, respectively, were married in childhood. Recent data indicate that the prevalence of child marriage is generally in decline, but there is substantial heterogeneity in rates of reduction across and within regions and countries, with some high-prevalence areas seeing stagnating progress and even increases. However, the profound effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are threatening this progress, putting girls at higher risk of becoming child brides through various pathways including economic shocks, school closures and interruptions in services. In the next decade up to 10 million more girls will be at risk of child marriage as a result of COVID-19, in addition to the 100 million who were projected to become child brides before the pandemic.

Many efforts to end child marriage have focused on keeping girls in school, and new analysis reinforces the connection between having educational opportunities and avoiding child marriage. Every year of schooling matters, but advancing through secondary school is especially protective. Even in countries where the practice is very common, girls with at least a secondary education are often spared early marriage. If all girls were to complete secondary school, the level of child marriage would likely fall by two thirds.

#### Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-marriage-and-education-data-brief/>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Claudia Cappa, UNICEF; Colleen Murray, UNICEF

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

#### Female genital mutilation is in decline in many places, but progress is not fast enough

At least 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to female genital mutilation. There are wide variations in prevalence across countries. The practice is almost universal in Somalia, Guinea and Djibouti, while it affects no more than 1 per cent of girls and women in Cameroon and Uganda. Evidence shows the practice is declining in areas where it was once universal – Egypt and Sierra Leone, for example – as well as in countries where it only occurred in some communities, such as Kenya, Liberia and Nigeria. However, progress is not happening everywhere. In many countries, the practice remains as common today as it was three decades ago. Overall, even in countries where the practice has become less prevalent, progress would need to be at least 10 times faster to meet the global target of eliminating female genital mutilation by 2030.

Where female genital mutilation is practised, it is a longstanding tradition that is upheld by pressure to conform to societal expectations. Efforts to eliminate it have focused on challenging the norms that underlie this custom, and in recent years, shifts in attitudes have become evident, with growing opposition in practising communities. In countries where female genital mutilation is practised, 7 in 10 girls and women think the practice should end, and even among those who themselves have been cut, 5 in 10 are opposed to its continuation. In most countries with data, boys and men from practising communities are just as likely as girls and women to oppose female genital mutilation.

To halt the transmission of female genital mutilation into the next generation, the attitudes and behaviors of young girls' parents are especially important. Mothers and fathers have an especially important role to play as agents of change, as the girls at lowest risk of undergoing female genital mutilation are those with both parents who oppose the practice.

#### Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://data.unicef.org/resources/mobilizing-boys-and-men-in-the-fight-against-female-genital-mutilation/>

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Claudia Cappa, UNICEF; Colleen Murray, UNICEF

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

#### Barriers such as gender-based violence and unequal access to campaign finance maintained and deepened the gap between women and men in politics in many parts of the world

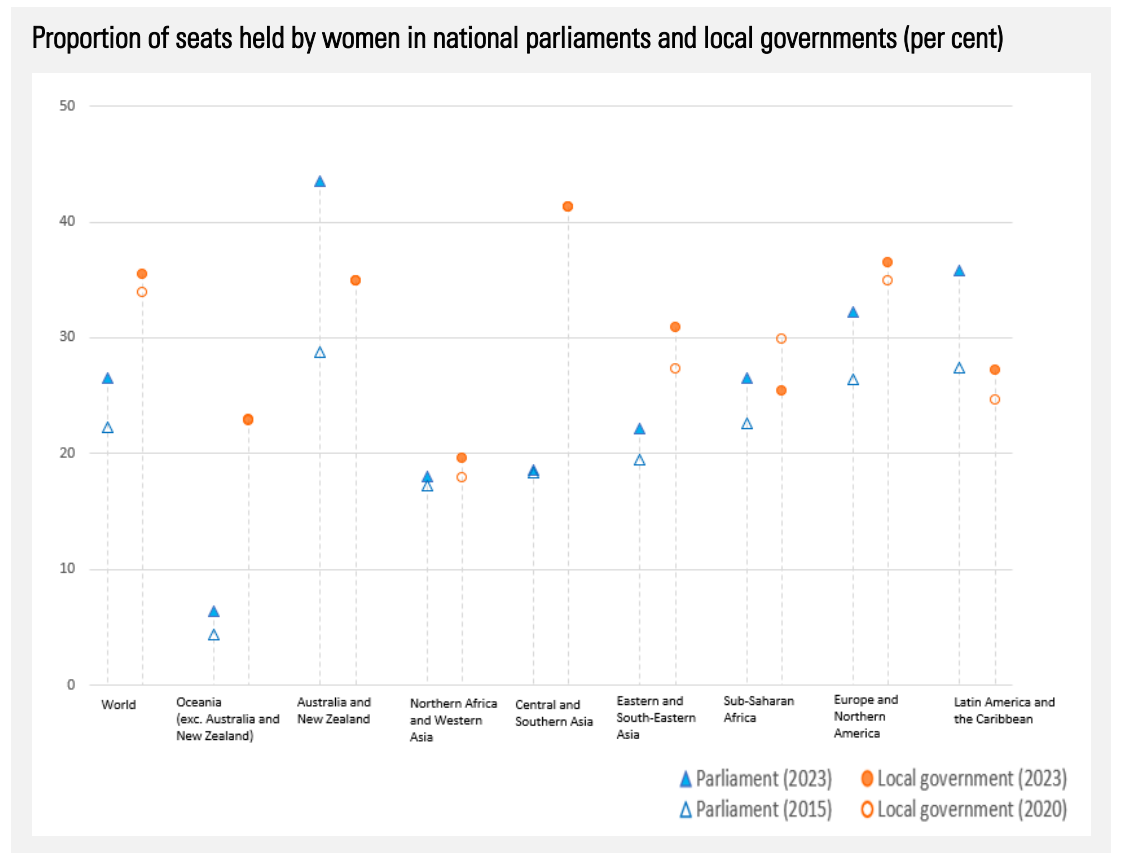
Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other global challenges have reaffirmed the importance of women’s leadership. Yet, the world is decades away from reaching women’s full and equal participation in national parliaments and local governments, and special measures to accelerate progress, such as the adoption of gender quotas, are much needed.

At 1 January 2023, the global share of women in lower and single chambers of national parliaments reached 26.5%, a mere improvement of 4.2 points since 2015 (22.3%). After decades of +0.6 percentage points annual growth, the rate of progress has started to slow down since 2015 to nearly +0.5 points. At the local level, women held 35.5% of seats in deliberative bodies, up from 33.9% in 2020. Under the current trends, it will take over four and three decades, respectively, to close the gender gap in representation at national and local levels.

In 2022, women’s rights concerns dominated many elections. Women’s participation has never been as diverse as it is in many countries today. Dramatic changes in technology and parliamentary operations driven by the pandemic are becoming institutionalized, helping to make parliaments more modern, gender-sensitive and family-friendly workplaces.<sup>1</sup> Women’s leadership has also been illustrated in the response to the climate crisis. But barriers such as gender-based violence and unequal access to campaign finance maintained and deepened the gap between women and men in politics in many parts of the world.<sup>2</sup>

Countries with gender parity parliaments and local governments are rare. Only six countries had 50% or more women in the lower or single chamber (Cuba, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates), up from five in 2022 and three in 2015. And 29 parliaments had 40% or more women in their lower/single house at the beginning of 2023. This is a decrease from 32 in 2022. One lower chamber in the world now has zero women members (Yemen), down from three single/lower chambers in 2022 and five in 2015. Similar patterns are observed for local governments. As of 1 January 2023, only three countries (out of 141 with data) had 50% or more women’s representation, and an additional 22 countries had 40% or more. At the opposite end, 12 countries had less than 10% women’s representation and 33 countries had between 20 and 30%.

Special measures such as quotas are imperative to accelerate progress towards gender parity in politics. Well-designed, ambitious and duly enforced legislated gender quotas are a proven tool for increasing women’s representation. In 2022 parliamentary elections, women obtained 30.9% of seats in countries that applied a legislated quota, versus only 21.2% in countries without quotas. Similarly, countries with legislated quotas have higher women’s representation in local government compared to those without quotas – by seven percentage points on average.



#### Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- IPU-UN Women Map Women in Politics: 2023, available at <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/infographics/2023-03/women-in-politics-2023>
- IPU Women in Parliament in 2022: The year in review, 2023, available at: <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2023-03/women-in-parliament-2022>
- IPU Parline database on national parliaments, <https://data.ipu.org>
- UN Women, Women in Local Government website, accessible at: <https://localgov.unwomen.org/>

**Storyline author(s)/contributor(s):** Mariana Duarte Mutzenberg, Inter-Parliamentary Union; Julie Ballington, UN Women; Ionica Berevoescu, UN Women; Addie Erwin, Inter-Parliamentary Union

**Custodian agency(ies):** IPU, UN Women

<sup>1</sup> For additional information, see IPU, Women in Parliament in 2022: The year in review, 2023: <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2023-03/women-in-parliament-2022>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

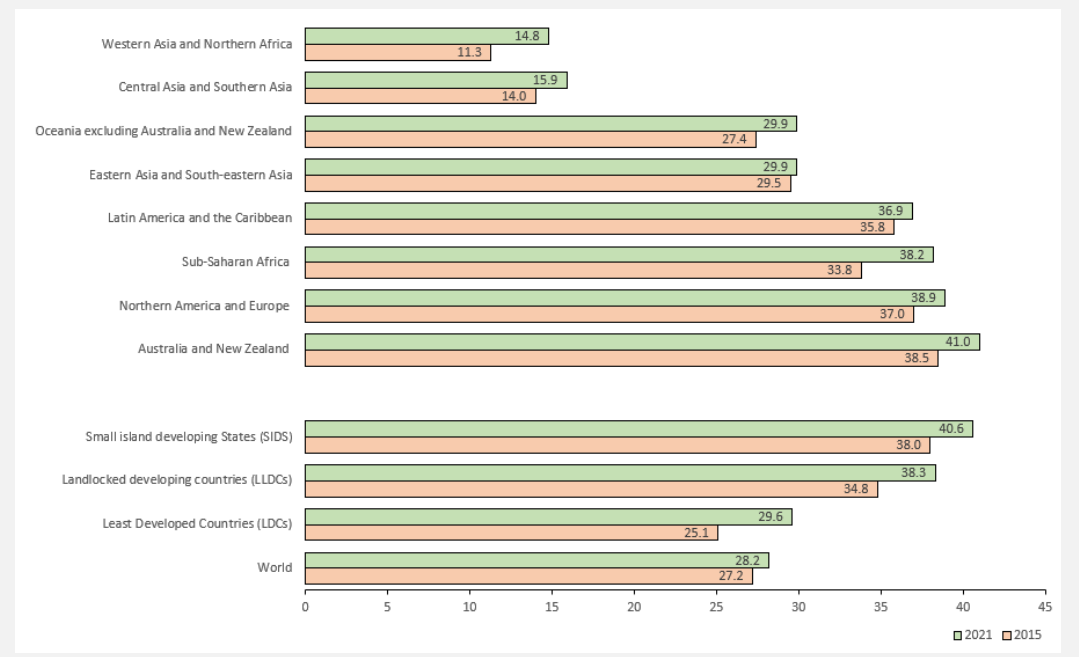
### It will take more than 140 years to achieve gender parity in managerial positions at the current rate of progress

For decades, women have been facing persistent barriers to access decision-making positions such as legislators, senior officials, CEOs, and other managerial occupations. Globally, they held only 28.2 per cent of management positions in 2021, although they accounted for almost 40 per cent of total employment. While the share of women in management has been on the rise worldwide and is slightly higher than pre-pandemic times, progress has been slow, with an increase of only 1.0 percentage point since 2015. At this current rate of progress, more than 140 years would pass before gender parity in managerial positions would be achieved.

Women's share in management remains below the corresponding share in total employment across all regions, a reflection of the hurdles faced by women everywhere to take up leadership roles. Nonetheless, Sub-Saharan Africa made the most progress from 2015 to 2021, with an increase of 4.3 percentage points. At 38.2 per cent in 2021, this region's share of women in management positions is close to the average in developed regions. Australia and New Zealand had the highest share of women in managerial positions, at 41.0 per cent, followed by Northern America and Europe, at 38.9 per cent. Meanwhile, women occupied the lowest shares of management positions in Western Asia and Northern Africa (14.8 per cent) and Central Asia and Southern Asia (15.9 per cent). This is related to women's low share of employment in these regions, which has been hovering around a quarter for more than two decades. The situation remains particularly grim for women in Northern Africa, where they held only 9.3 per cent of managerial positions. Women in this region and in parts of Western Asia face a plethora of obstacles in the labour market, including adverse social norms, widespread discrimination, restrictive labour laws, and insufficient legal and social protections, all of which thwart gender equality.

It is important to note that these aggregate data do not provide information on the levels of management (top, senior, middle, or junior management), the number of staff supervised, type of economic unit, or scope and size of the economic unit, all of which are important to assess the actual decision-making power of workers holding managerial positions.

Proportion of women in managerial positions, 2015 and 2021



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

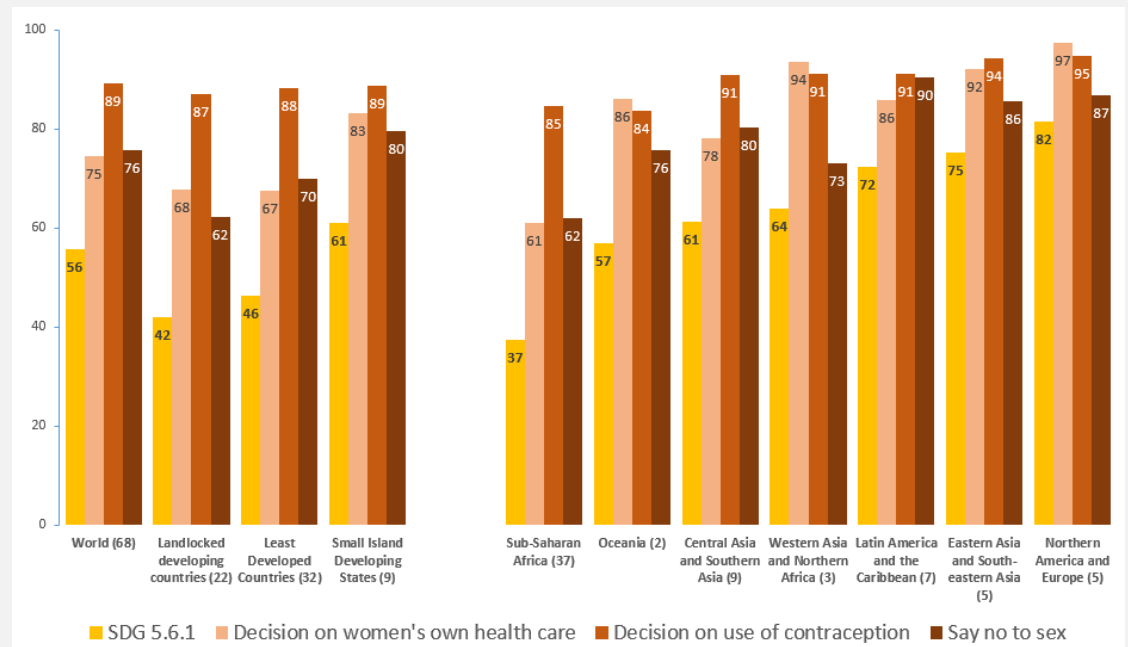
Indicator 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Denial of women and adolescent girls' decision-making power for sexual and reproductive health and rights, coupled with legal obstacles to access these services, hinders the full and equal realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Only 56 percent of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union are able to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), according to data collected from 68 countries. These statistics show significant disparities among regions, with data ranging from 37 percent in sub-Saharan Africa to over 80 percent in some countries in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. Analysis of three sub-indicators reveals that although 89 percent of women have the autonomy to decide to use contraception, one in four women cannot make their own healthcare decisions or say no to sex.

Dynamics in sexual and reproductive health decision-making vary substantially across regions. In Southern Africa, 94 per cent of married or in-union women make decisions on their health care and 73 per cent can say no to sex. In comparison, in Middle Africa, 54 per cent of women make decisions of their health care, and 69 per cent can say no to sex. The levels in women's decision-making regarding sexual and reproductive health care greatly varied across countries and disparities exist for each type of decision. In certain countries, older women are more likely to have the agency to refuse sex, while in others, the opposite is true. Conversely, older women are more likely to make decisions regarding their healthcare in nearly all countries with available data. Across all three aspects of the indicator, significant disadvantages are consistently experienced by less educated women, those residing in poorer households, and women living in rural areas in most countries. Ultimately, certain women, based on their age, education, location, and economic status, face higher obstacles in exercising their autonomy over their bodies.

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 2007-2022 (percentage)



**Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:**

- For more information, please visit <https://www.unfpa.org/sdg-5-6>

**Storyline author(s)/contributor(s):** Mengjia Liang, UNFPA; Emilie Filmer-Wilson, 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**

**Denial of women and adolescent girls' decision-making power for sexual and reproductive health and rights, coupled with legal obstacles to access these services, hinders the full and equal realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.**

Critical to individuals' ability to decide freely on their SRHRR is the extent to which laws prevent or enable access to relevant sexual and reproductive health care and information. Even where a specific service is legally available, there may be legal restrictions regarding who can access it, excluding, for example, minors, non-citizens or women who have not secured spousal consent. Furthermore, conflicting laws can leave people confused as to what their legal entitlements are, while service providers can be unsure about what their legal liability might be if they provide certain services. Plural legal systems may also exist (such as the coexistence of customary Sharia law alongside statutory law) that provide conflicting frameworks for the provision and uptake of sexual and reproductive health services.

Understanding a country's hierarchy of laws, and what rights are guaranteed in law, is an essential foundation for action, particularly in the face of opposition and obstacles. Although there is far to go, SDG indicator 5.6.2 demonstrates that there are strong laws on the books in many countries. These require full implementation and monitoring, and accountability must be ensured when laws are violated. While there are 152 countries that reported to this indicator, only 115 countries provided complete data. Of these 115 countries, 76 per cent on average have in place supportive laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to SRHRR. In order of strength, supporting laws for SRHRR were found to be the following: HIV and HPV (81 per cent), contraceptive services (76 per cent), maternity care (74 per cent), and sexuality education (65 per cent).

The findings from these data are particularly encouraging with regard to laws ensuring confidentiality in HIV treatment and the availability of care services for HIV treatment (93 per cent and 91 per cent, respectively). Some 90 per cent of countries guarantee in law the provision of 13 life-saving commodities for women and children on the national list of essential medicines. In addition, 82 per cent of countries guarantee that the full, free and informed consent of individuals will be obtained before they receive contraceptive services, including sterilization.

Barriers to women's and men's full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education stem from the lack of positive laws and regulations or the existence of negative laws and regulations. The data show that barriers are most extreme in the case of abortion (43 per cent) and the HPV vaccine (54 per cent) but are also substantial in relation to sexuality education (66 per cent) and the sexuality education curriculum (68 per cent). Only 65 per cent of countries allow induced abortion in cases of rape, 75 per cent allow it in cases of fetal impairment, 82 per cent allow it if required to protect a woman's health and 95 per cent allow it if it would save a woman's life. Furthermore, women can be criminally charged for having an illegal abortion in 63 per cent of the 152 reporting countries. Only 59 per cent of governments have some laws or regulations that guarantee HPV vaccination for adolescent girls. A lack of favourable laws and regulations is also apparent with regard to the sexuality education curriculum; only 72 per cent of governments have laws, regulations or national policies that make sexuality education a mandatory component of the national school curriculum.

Restrictions and plural legal systems pose barriers to full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education, even where positive laws and regulations exist. The data from SDG indicator 5.6.2 also highlight that restrictions targeting certain groups, namely adolescents and women, are prevalent. The data show a clear gap between human rights standards that call for SRHRR services and information for all, and countries' legal and regulatory frameworks.

**Extent to which countries have 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, including Section (S1-S4) and Component (C1-C13) values, 2022 (per cent).**



**Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:**

- For more information, please visit <https://www.unfpa.org/sdg-5-6>

**Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s):** Mengjia Liang, UNFPA; Emilie Filmer-Wilson, UNFPA

**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**

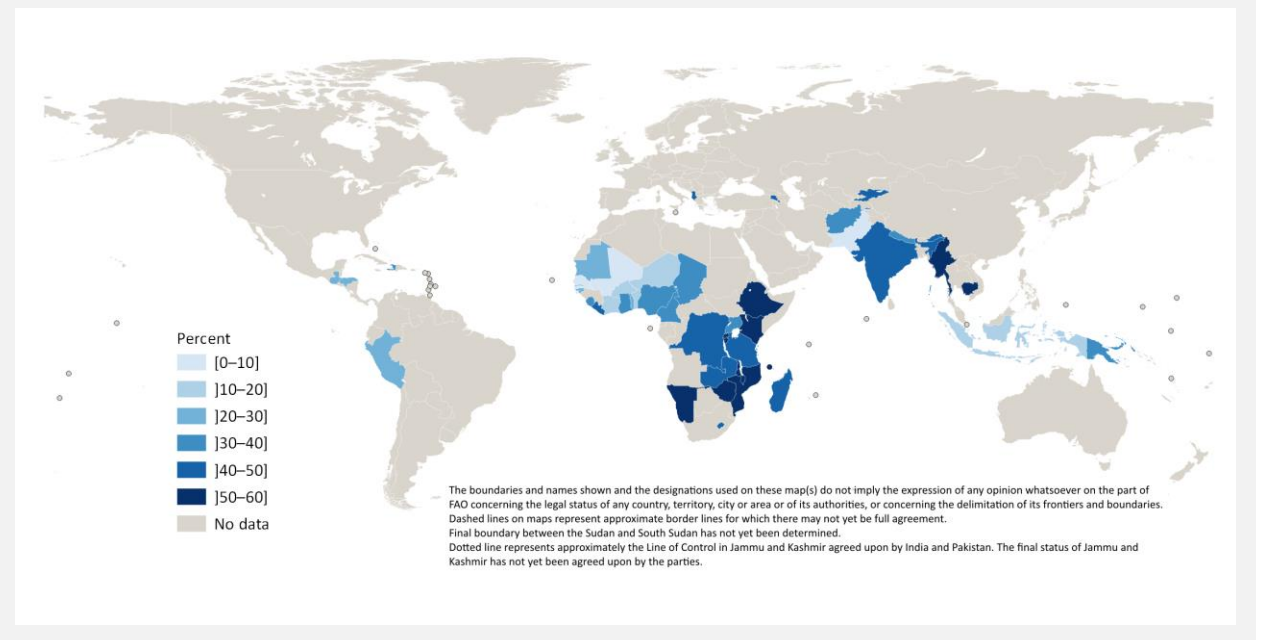
### Gender equality in terms of agricultural land ownership is still far from achieved

Women's role is fundamental throughout the agricultural value chain, from production on the family plot, to food preparation and distribution within the household. In this context, the agricultural land plays a key role in women's economic empowerment. Moreover, ownership of land and secure rights give provide a range of benefits not only for women but also for society as a whole. While data at the global level is still limited, existing data from 46 countries for the 2009-2020 period shows that many men and women involved in agricultural production lack ownership and/or secure tenure rights over agricultural land. In addition, significant gender disparities continue to exist among the agricultural population, with women being less likely than men to own land in most countries.

In one third of the countries with available data, less than 50 per cent of women and men have ownership or secure rights over agricultural land. In 40 of the 46 countries assessed, relatively fewer women own agricultural land compared to men, with the share of men with ownership at least twice that of women in almost half the countries.

In most countries, gender equality is yet to be achieved in ownership and secure rights over agricultural land. Indeed, women are in a disadvantaged position compared to men, as their share among land owners is less than 50 per cent in 35 countries. In addition, the share of men among landowners exceeds 70 per cent in one third of the countries.

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



**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**

### Significant reforms in national legal frameworks are needed to remove discriminatory legal provisions and address the gender gaps that exist in the law and in practice

As of 2022, 68 countries have reported on women's rights to land ownership and/or control in their legal frameworks. About 47 percent of the reporting countries show scarce level of protection of women's land rights in the law (score of 2 or less out of 6), while 22 percent have medium levels of protection (3 out of 6). Only 31 percent of the countries have high or very high levels of protection of women's land rights in the legal framework (4 or more out of 6).

Within regions, there is wide variation in the presence of the six proxies used to measure the level of national legal frameworks' support for women's land rights. The heterogeneity of results within the same region shows a wide variation in the level of protection of women's land rights. In 60 percent of the countries, one spouse cannot dispose of land or property considered as joint marital property without the consent of the other. 59 percent of the reporting countries support equal inheritance rights for children and the surviving spouse, regardless of sex. However, in some countries where religious and/or customary law influence family matters, even if women and girls might have some inheritance rights, they tend to favour men and boys.

**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**

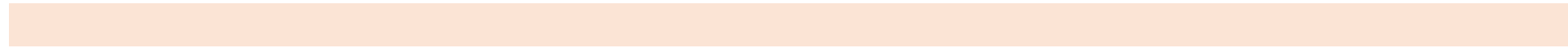
**Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex**

**Gender parity in mobile phone ownership still a distant progress in the poorer parts of the world**

Globally, 73 per cent of the population aged 10 and over owned a mobile phone in 2022, up from 67 per cent in 2019. On this trend, universal ownership will not be reached by 2030, but it most likely will be in sight. While in the high-income countries in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Northern America virtually everyone already owned a mobile phone, in Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, this was only true for about six in ten people.

Ownership of mobile phones has been shown to be an important tool to empower women. However, women were about 12 per cent less likely to own mobile phones than men – a percentage virtually unchanged from 2019. This global percentage hides a large variety between regions. While in most, mostly high- or middle-income regions gender parity has been reached already or is almost reached, there is a large disparity in Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and to a lesser extent in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

In LDCs and LLDCs, a low level of ownership is coupled with a low gender parity score, meaning ownership is very much skewed in the favour of men. In the SIDS, overall ownership was slightly above the global level, but with gender parity almost reached.



**Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:**

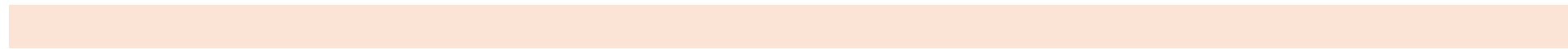
- ITU, Measuring digital development: Facts and Figures 2022, see <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2022/>
- ITU, Digital Development Dashboard, available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/Digital-Development.aspx>

**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**



**Custodian agency(ies):** UN Women, OECD, UNDP