

The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024

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 2024. 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.

Contents

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.....	2
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.....	3
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	3
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	4
Indicator 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation, by age	4
Indicator 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.....	4
Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments.....	5
Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions.....	5
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	6
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	6
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.....	7
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.....	8
Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	11
Indicator 5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment.....	12

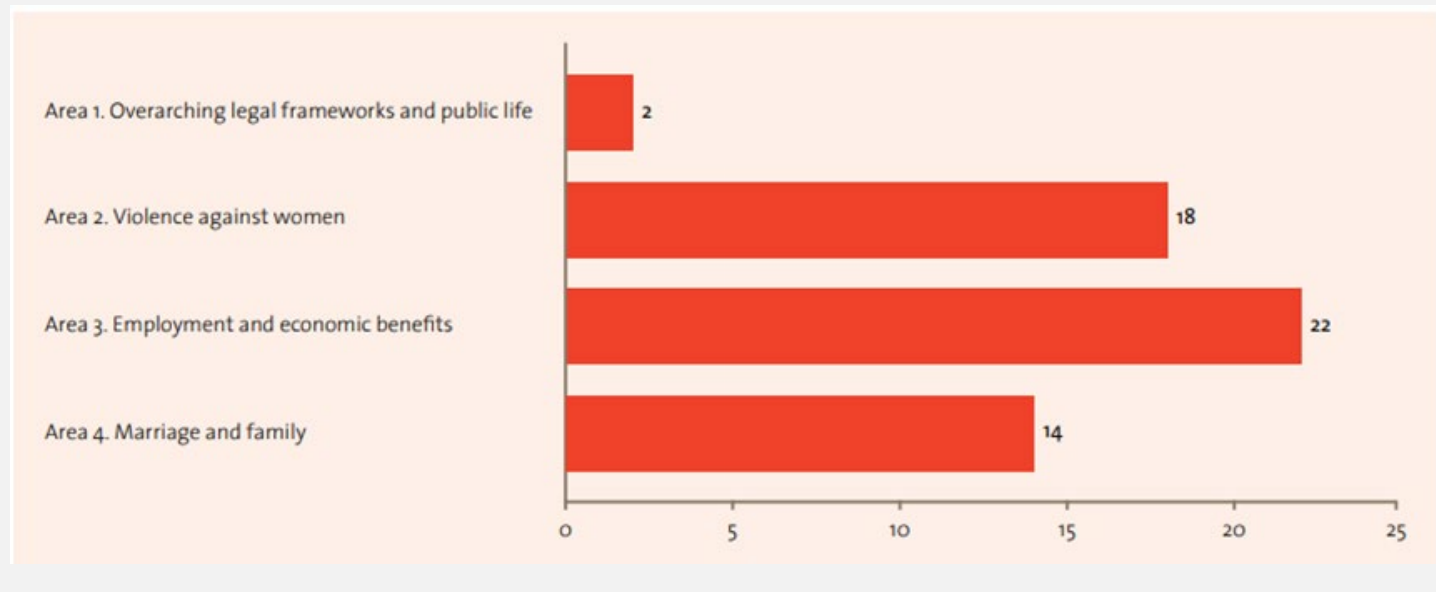
Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

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

Legal reforms to advance gender equality are taking root, but many gaps remain

Positive legal reforms focused on removing discriminatory laws and establishing legal frameworks that advance gender equality are vital to ending discrimination against women and achieving gender equality. Data from 120 countries shows that between 2019 and 2023, 56 positive legal reforms were recorded, including 22 positive reforms in the area of equal rights to employment and economic benefits and 18 in the area of violence against women. The reforms include, for example, lifting restrictions on women's ability to work in specific sectors, as well as new laws introducing the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value. Good practice laws prohibiting marital rape and removing any legal barriers to women's ability to file a complaint for rape against her husband or partner have also been introduced. Despite these advances, gaps remain. None of the 120 countries covered in the analysis received a perfect score across all four areas measured by SDG indicator 5.1.1.

Number of legal reforms between 2019 and 2023 by area for SDG indicator 5.1.1



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

Women with disability are disproportionately affected by intimate partner violence and significant data gaps remain

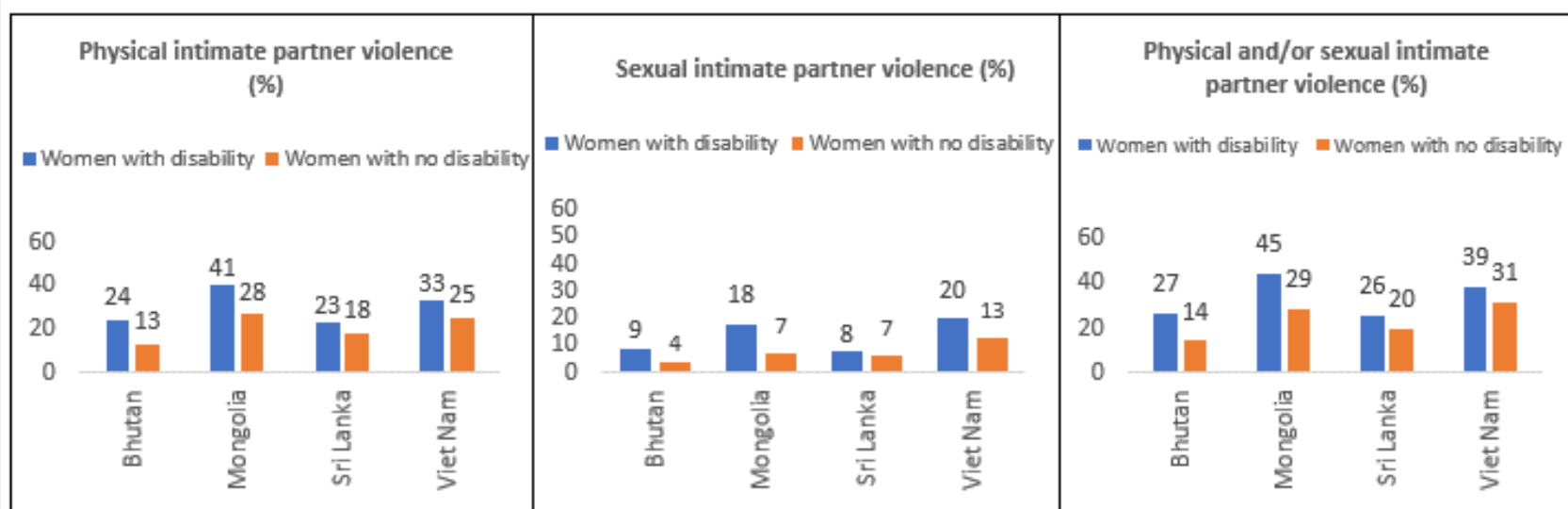
Globally, a growing body of data and evidence indicate that the prevalence of all forms of intimate partner violence is higher among women with disability as compared to women without disability¹. Dedicated surveys based on the WHO Multi-country Study methodology are currently using the Washington Group short set of questions on functional difficulty to identify women with disabilities².

In the Asia-Pacific region, for example, the latest prevalence data from Bhutan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam show that women with disability were at increased risk of partner violence^{3,4}. In Mongolia, 41% of women with disability have experienced physical violence by a partner compared to 28% of women without disability - a difference of 13 percentage points. The gap was almost as high in Bhutan (11 percentage points). In Viet Nam, two in five women with disabilities were subjected to sexual partner violence, compared to two in fifteen women with no disability. Differences of between 6 to 16 percentage points in the prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence were seen across these four countries. The sample of women with disability within existing population-based surveys is often small, so estimates typically have large confidence intervals.

Prevalence estimates are limited by under-representation of women with disability in population-based surveys that measure violence against women due to sample design and accessibility constraints that limit their options to participate. Forms of violence specific to women with disability such as withholding assistive devices and/or medications and denial of care are often unmeasured in these surveys. Efforts to strengthen current measurement, data availability and quality are needed, to more adequately capture the magnitude, patterns as well as how disability can impact access to services for women and girls subject to violence. Based on ongoing methodological work some key recommendations include testing and using more comprehensive and comparable measures of disability within surveys on violence against women, sex disaggregation and the use of appropriate measures on violence against women within surveys on disability that also measure violence, prioritizing accessibility for respondents and involving women with disabilities in all aspects and phases of the survey design and implementation.

The SDG Agenda commits “to leave no one behind” and “to reach the furthest behind first”. Dedicated investment to develop measurement standards, build technical capacity and be inclusive of women with disability is needed to produce robust and quality data. Without data to inform policies, prevention and response strategies, women with disability will remain ‘invisible’ and countries will miss the SDG target of eliminating violence against all women and girls by 2030.

Prevalence of lifetime physical, sexual and physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence among ever-partnered women by disability status



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- García-Cuéllar MM, Pastor-Moreno G, Ruiz-Pérez I, Henares-Montiel J. The prevalence of intimate partner violence against women with disabilities: a systematic review of the literature. *Disabil Rehabil*, 2023;45(1):1–8
- National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan. [National Survey on Women’s Health and Life Experiences 2017 in Bhutan: A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan](#); Mongolia NSO and UNFPA. 2017. [National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia: Breaking the silence for equality](#). Department of Census and Statistics. 2020. [Sri Lanka Women’s Wellbeing Survey 2019](#); MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA. 2020. [National study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2019](#).
- Expert meeting report on measuring violence against women with disability, 10–11 November 2022, Geneva, Switzerland. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022.
- World Health Organization. *Measuring violence against women with disability: Data availability, methodological issues and recommendations for good practice*. Geneva: World Health Organization; (forthcoming)

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, WHO

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

¹ García-Cuéllar MM, Pastor-Moreno G, Ruiz-Pérez I, Henares-Montiel J. The prevalence of intimate partner violence against women with disabilities: a systematic review of the literature. *Disabil Rehabil*, 2023;45(1):1–8

² Washington Group on Disability Statistics: WG Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS). <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-wg-ss/>

³ In accordance with the Washington Group recommendations, women with disability included all who answered ‘Cannot do at all’ to one or more of the areas of functional difficulty measured.

⁴ National Commission for Women and Children, Royal Government of Bhutan. [National Survey on Women’s Health and Life Experiences 2017 in Bhutan: A Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in Bhutan](#); Mongolia NSO and UNFPA. 2017. [National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia: Breaking the silence for equality](#). Department of Census and Statistics. 2020. [Sri Lanka Women’s Wellbeing Survey 2019](#); MOLISA, GSO and UNFPA. 2020. [National study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2019](#)

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

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

Custodian agency(ies): UNICEF

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

Over 230 million girls and women worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation, an increase of 30 million compared to the last estimate in 2016

Over 230 million girls and women worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation. New estimates released in March 2024 show an increase of 30 million compared to 8 years ago. Though there has been progress in some countries in reducing the prevalence, the rate of decline is not fast enough to counter the rapidly growing population in the most affected countries.

The largest share of the global burden, over 144 million girls and women, are in countries in Africa. This region is also home to the countries with highest prevalence of the practice, including Somalia, Guinea and Djibouti, where at least 90 per cent of girls and women have undergone FGM. There are also large numbers seen in Asia, with over 80 million girls and women affected. The practice is present in the Middle East (over 6 million girls and women), and in smaller practising communities in the rest of the world (1-2 million girls and women).

Evidence shows the practice is declining in areas where it was once nearly universal – Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso, 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.

The world is not on track to meet the target of eliminating this harmful practice by 2030. Even in the countries making progress, the rate of decline would need to be 27 times faster than the pace seen in the last decade to meet the target by 2030.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- <https://data.unicef.org/resources/female-genital-mutilation-a-global-concern-2024/>

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

Custodian agency(ies): IPU, UN Women

Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

Female share of managerial positions drops; gender parity further delayed to 176 years

The uphill battle for women striving to obtain decision-making roles like legislators, CEOs, and senior officials has persisted over the years. And it just got harder. While global employment sees nearly 40 per cent representation from women, they only held 27.5 per cent of management positions in 2022. This is a notable decrease from 28.5 per cent in 2021 and taking us back to the female share of managers of 2016. Given this recent setback and sluggish progress before then, it will now take 176 years before we reach gender parity in managerial roles.

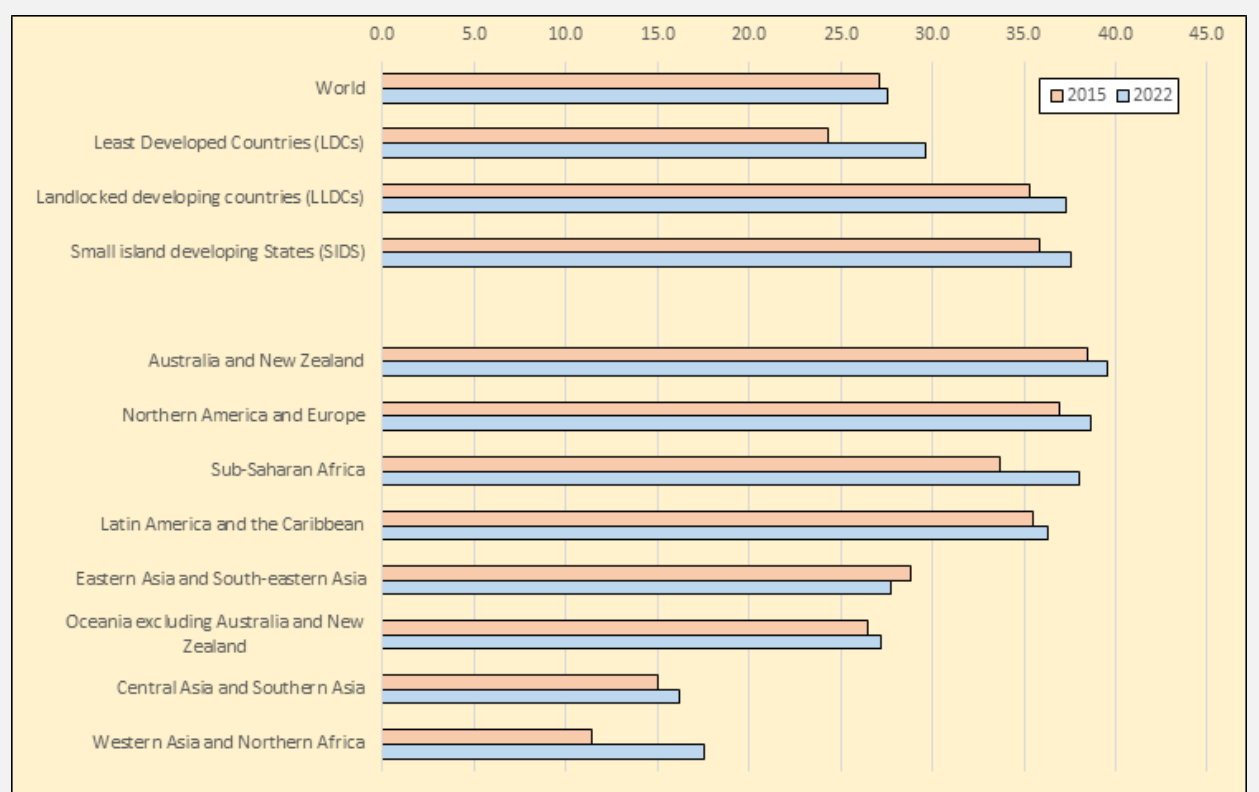
Also worrisome is that this struggle is universal, as evidenced by women's lower presence in management positions compared to their overall employment across all regions and subregions. Northern Africa particularly faces daunting challenges, with a mere 12.6 per cent of managerial positions held by women, mirroring the systemic hurdles across Western Asia and parts of Asia. Discrimination, restrictive laws, and inadequate social protections create a daunting landscape for gender equality in these regions.

On the other hand, sub-Saharan Africa has made remarkable progress, with an 11.3 percentage-point increase in female managers over the last 22 years, compared to a global increase of only 2.8 points. At 38.0 per cent of female managers, this region’s figure closely aligns with the share observed in Northern America and Europe.

Meanwhile, the recent reversal of progress is evident across many regions. It is most notable in Central and Southern Asia, with a 1.3 percentage-point decrease in the share of women managers from 2019 to 2022, followed by Eastern and South-eastern Asia, with a decline of 0.9 point. These are upsetting trajectories for regions that had shown consistent progress from 2000 to 2018.

It should be noted that these numbers do not delve into the nuances of managerial levels or decision-making powers, which are critical in truly understanding the situation. Assessing factors such as the size of economic units or the scope of roles provides a clearer picture.

Proportion of women in managerial positions, 2015 & 2022



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): ILO
Custodian agency(ies): ILO

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

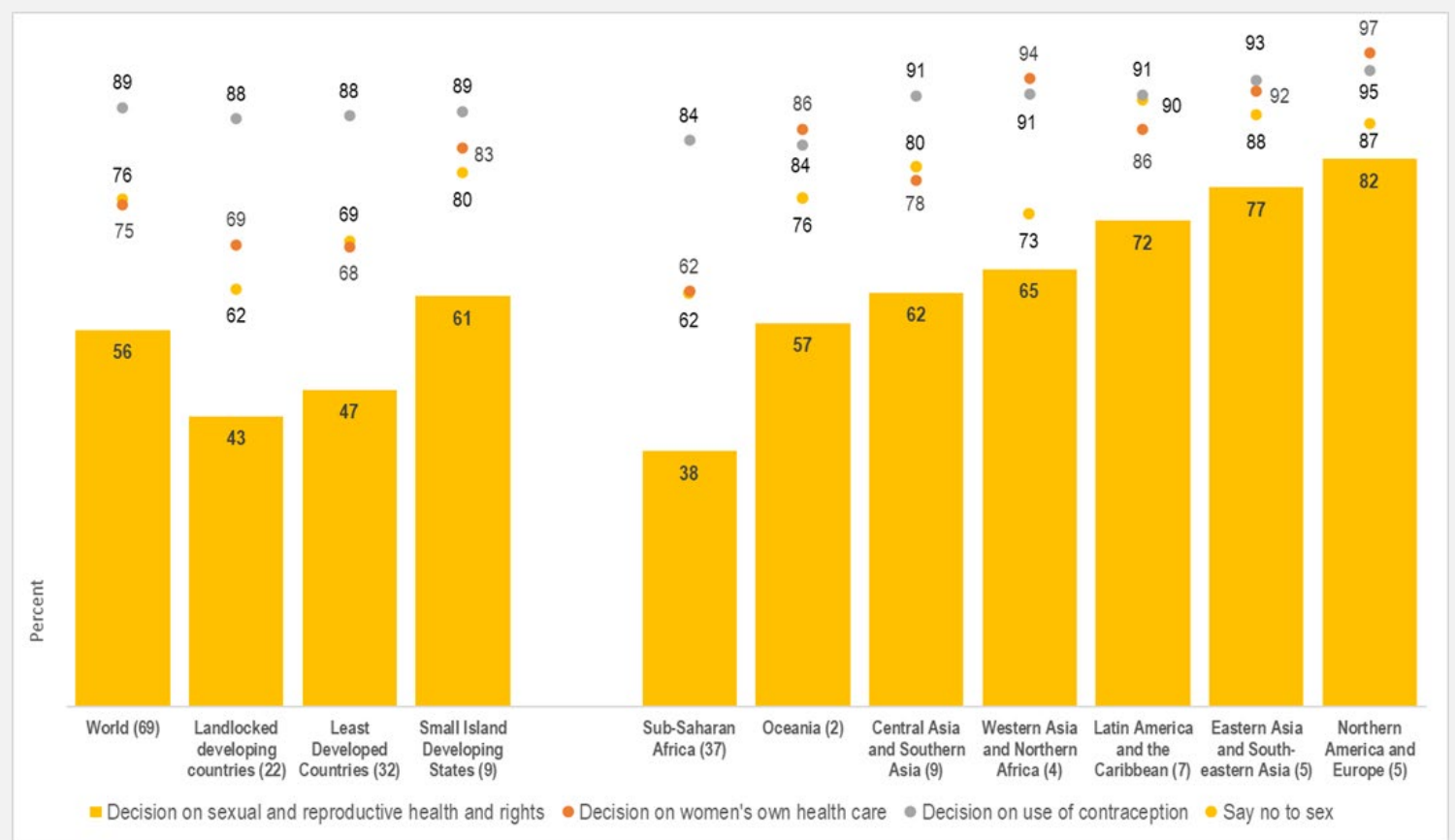
Indicator 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Stagnant Progress: Nearly Half of Married Women Still Denied Decision-Making Power in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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 69 countries. These statistics show significant disparities among regions, with data ranging from 38 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. But such data have yet to motivate significant improvements in women's reproductive agency. For the first time, a second round of data is available for more than 30 countries, and while 19 countries have seen a positive trend in women's ability to exercise decision-making over their own sexual and reproductive health, 13 countries have seen a negative trend in this same measurement. The most significant improvements were observed in Eastern and Southern Africa, yet West and Central Africa experienced notable declines, highlighting regional disparities. An analysis of the levels in the three sub-indicators reveals notable disparities across countries. The data on health care decision-making shows the most positive trend, with 21 out of 32 countries reporting an increase in women's autonomy over health care decisions. In contrast, the component related to the ability to refuse sexual intercourse exhibits the most negative trends. Over half of the countries (22 out of 32) reported a decrease, particularly in West and Central Africa, where 9 out of these 22 countries are located. The trends for the three sub-indicators may diverge within a single country. For example, Tanzania saw an improvement in women's health care decision-making but a decline in their ability to refuse sex and make contraceptive decisions. Such diverging trends, observed in many countries, underscore the complexity of monitoring women's reproductive health and rights decision-making. This nuanced picture emphasizes the critical need to understand the underlying drivers of these trends. Socioeconomic factors such as household wealth, education levels, and place of residence may play a role in shaping these outcomes. For instance, data revealed shifts in the urban-rural gap, with some countries seeing a decrease in disparities, while others, like Armenia and Tanzania, witnessed widening gaps. Similarly, the educational divide in countries like Senegal and Namibia showed signs of narrowing, contrasting with the growing disparities in Benin and Tanzania. Understanding these trends is crucial for developing effective policies and programme interventions that target the most vulnerable groups.

Particularly, focusing on rural populations, those in the lowest wealth quintiles, and individuals with limited education can help bridge the significant gaps identified. Tailored interventions that address these specific challenges are essential for ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of equitable women's sexual and reproductive health and rights outcomes. The diversity of trends across and within countries underscores the importance of localized, data-driven approaches to enhance women's reproductive autonomy and decision-making capabilities.

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.



Storyline authors(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

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

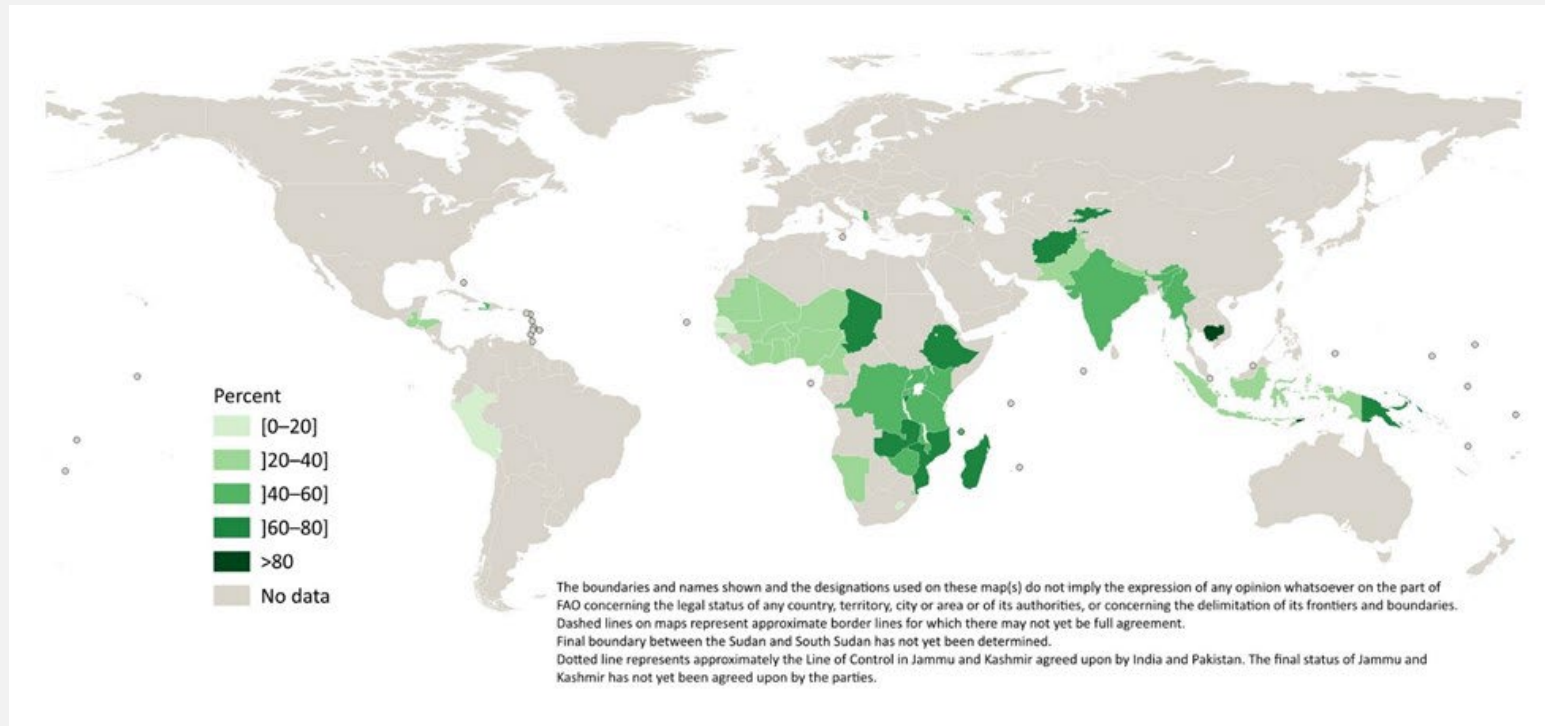
Indicator 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Significant gender disparities persist in agricultural land ownership

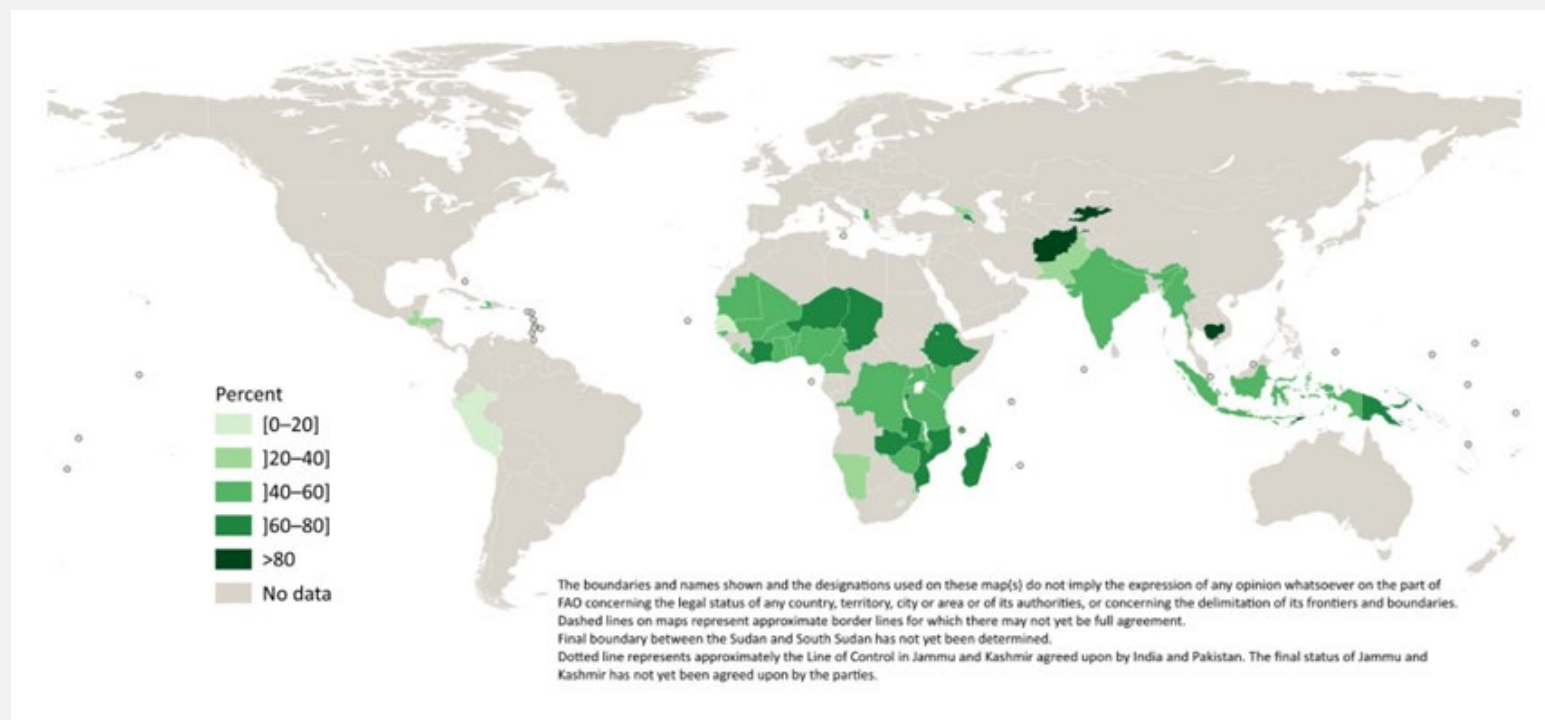
Women play a fundamental role throughout the agricultural value chain, from production on family plots to food preparation and distribution within households. In this context, access to agricultural land is crucial for women's economic empowerment. Ownership of land and secure land rights provide a range of benefits not only for women but also for society as a whole. While global-level data remains limited, existing information from 49 countries between 2009-2023 reveals that many men and women involved in agricultural production lack ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land. Moreover, significant gender disparities persist within the agricultural population, with women being less likely than men to own agricultural land in most countries.

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

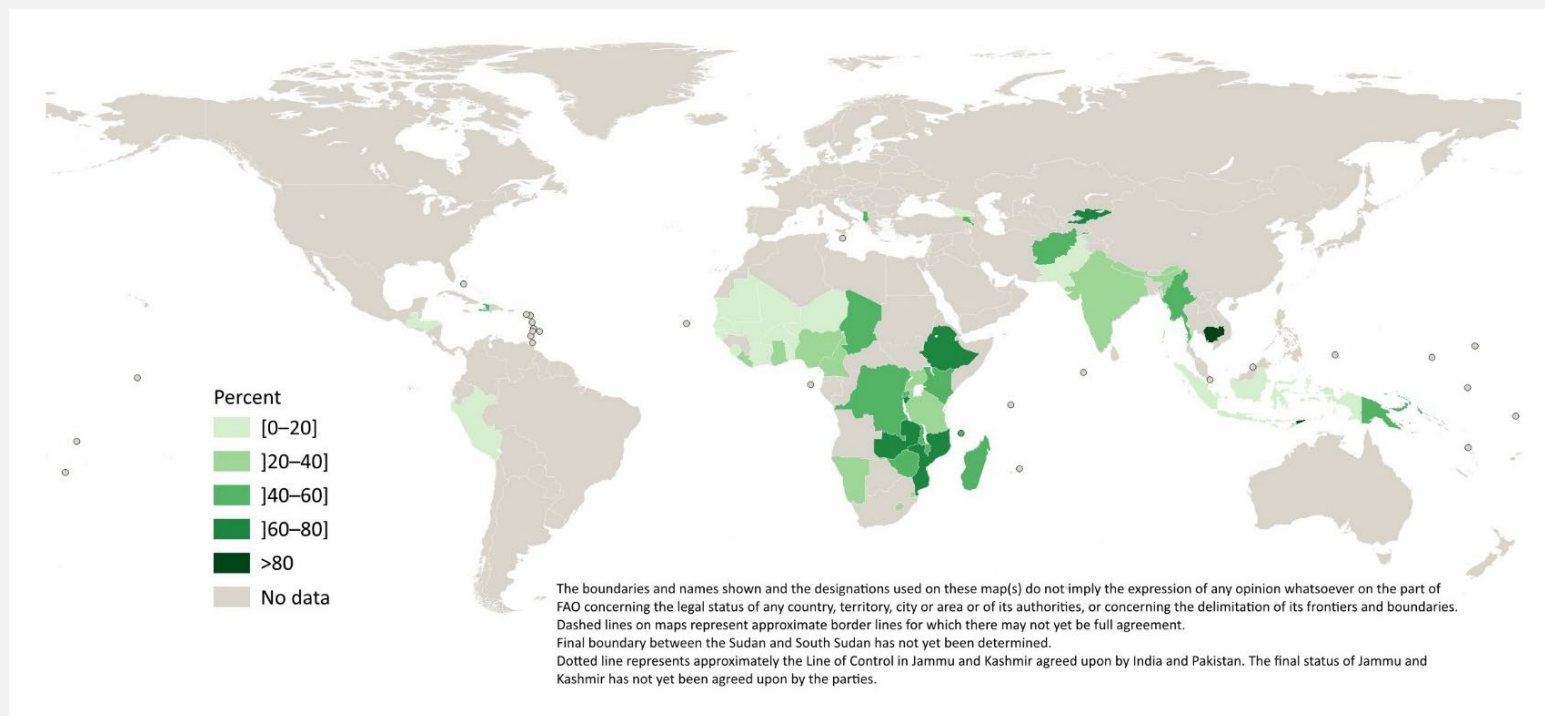
Total



Male



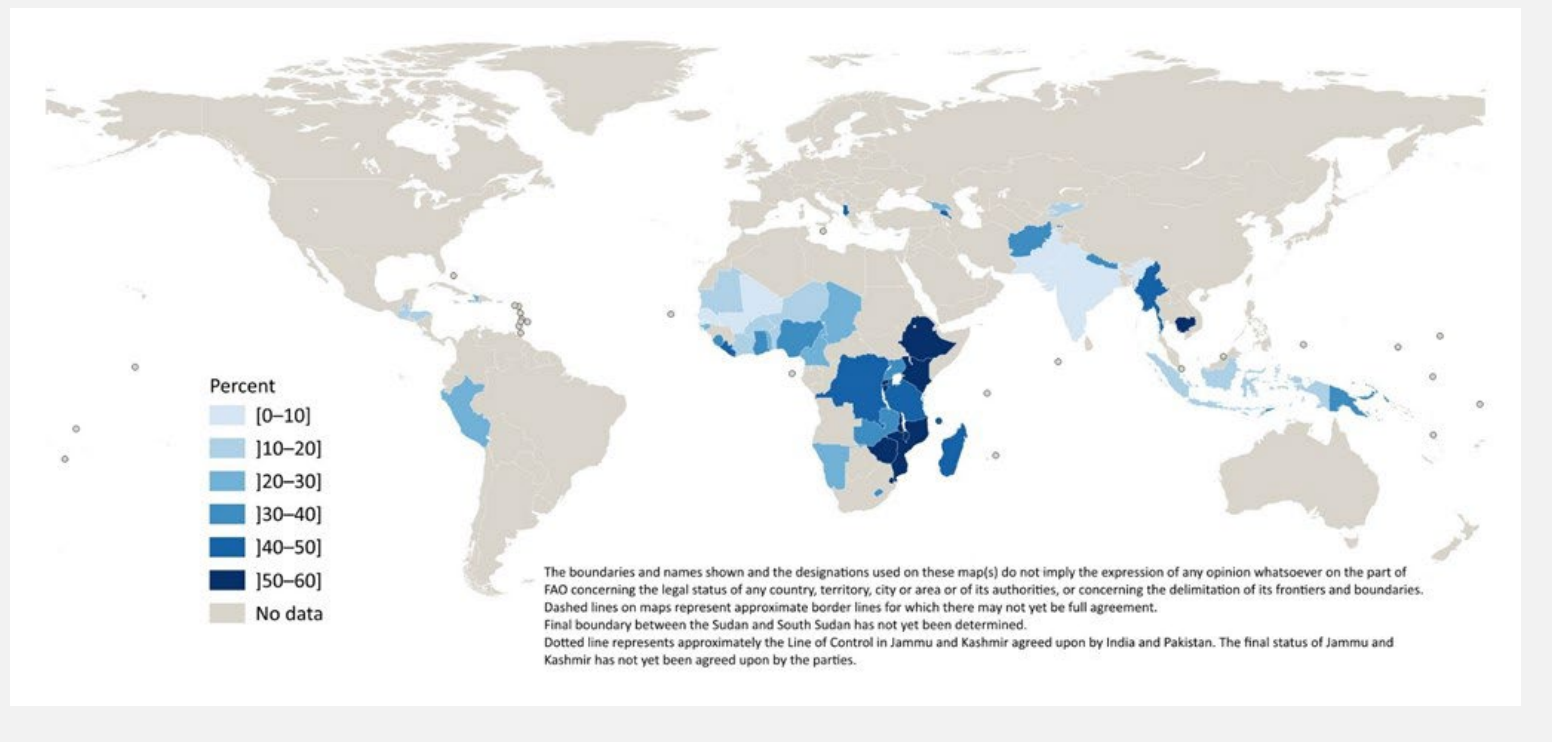
Female



In one third of the countries with available data, less than 50 percent of women and men have ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (Figure 1). Additionally, there is a notable disparity between women and men’s agricultural land ownership, with men owning land at least twice as often as women in almost half of the countries.

Achieving gender equality in ownership and secure rights over agricultural land remains a challenge in most countries. Only nine countries have a slightly higher proportion of female among the total landowners, exceeding 50 percent. Additionally, male landowners constitute over 70 percent of the total owners in one third of the countries (Figure 2).

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



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Leman Yonca Gurbuzer
 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

The state of protection of women’s land rights in the law around the world. Evidence from FAO’s global data base

SDG Indicator 5.a.2 measures the extent to which national legal frameworks recognize and protect women’s rights to own and/or control land (not limited to agricultural lands or populations). It is measured using the following six proxies:

- a. joint registration of land owned by the spouses jointly;
- b. spousal consent for disposing of joint marital property;
- c. equal inheritance rights for women and girls in estate successions;
- d. allocation of financial resources to strengthen women’s landownership;
- e. explicit protections of women’s land rights under customary law, if customary law, customary institutions or customary lands are formally recognized, and
- f. quotas for women’s participation in land administration and management.

Across the full sample of 77 reporting countries, protections for women’s land rights are low or not existent in 58 percent of them (Table 1). These are countries with 0 to 2 proxies present in the legal frameworks. Wide heterogeneity exists within regions in terms of legal protections (Figure 1). In most regions there are countries with high levels of legal protections for women’s land rights as well as countries with low legal protections. Data remain limited in many regions.

Most reporting countries establish equal rights for men and women in the areas of marital property (proxy B) and inheritance (proxy C) (Figure 2). In 60 percent of countries, spousal permission is needed to dispose of land that is considered joint marital property, or the family home. This obligation is found in the majority of countries in Europe, Central-, Eastern - and Southeastern Asia and in approximately half of the reporting countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (Figure 3). This obligation is not common in Western – and Southern Asia.

Equal inheritance rights for all children and the surviving spouse, regardless of sex, are mandated in 60 percent of the country sample (Figure 2). All reporting countries in Europe except one, as well as a large majority of them in Eastern and Southeastern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean grant women and girls a first rank right to inherit the deceased’s estate and an equal share of the estate (Figure 3). Such provisions are much rarer in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Western Asia.

About one in three of reporting countries include formal provisions for registration of land in the name of both spouses (proxy A). (Figure 2) Joint titling is mandated in the laws of 7 out of 18 reporting countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and in 6 out of 17 in Europe. But in Sub-Saharan Africa, only 6 out of 24 countries and in Western Asia only 1 out of 9 provide for joint titling. Three countries in the sample use economic incentives to promote joint registration.

Of the 40 countries that formally recognize customary law, 22 countries safeguard gender equality with respect to land rights. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 14 of the 22 reporting countries where customary law has been incorporated in the legal framework also explicitly protect women’s land rights, with many of these

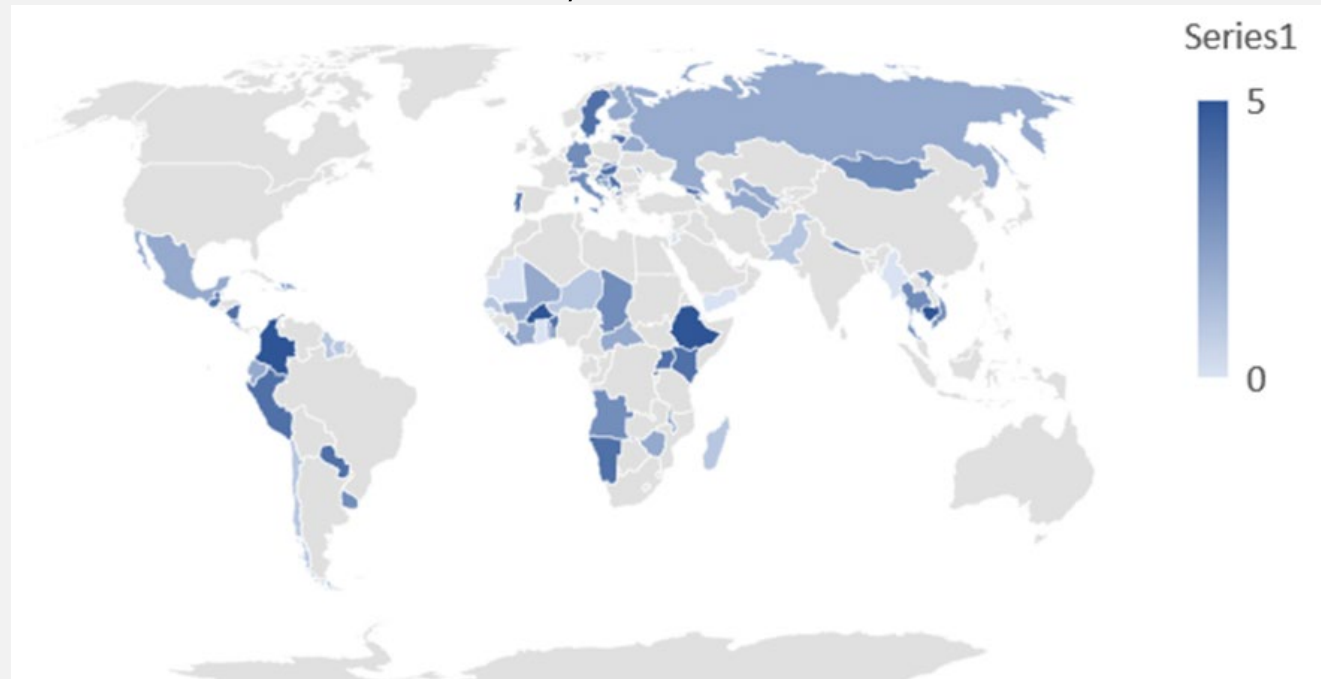
Table 1: Level of protection for women’s land rights in the law (Source: FAO unpublished data based on officially submitted SDG indicator 5.a.2 assessment. February 2024).

Number of proxies present	Band*	Level of protection**	No. of countries (n=77)	No. of countries (level of protection in the law only, without statistics)
0	1	None	16%	17%
1	2	Very low	10%	12%
2	3	Low	25%	30%
3	4	Medium	21%	22%
4	5	High	22%	17%
5 or 6	6	Very high	6%	3%

land reforms introduced recently. The majority of the remaining countries with proxy E can be found in Latin America with mostly abstract protections offered in the Constitutions.

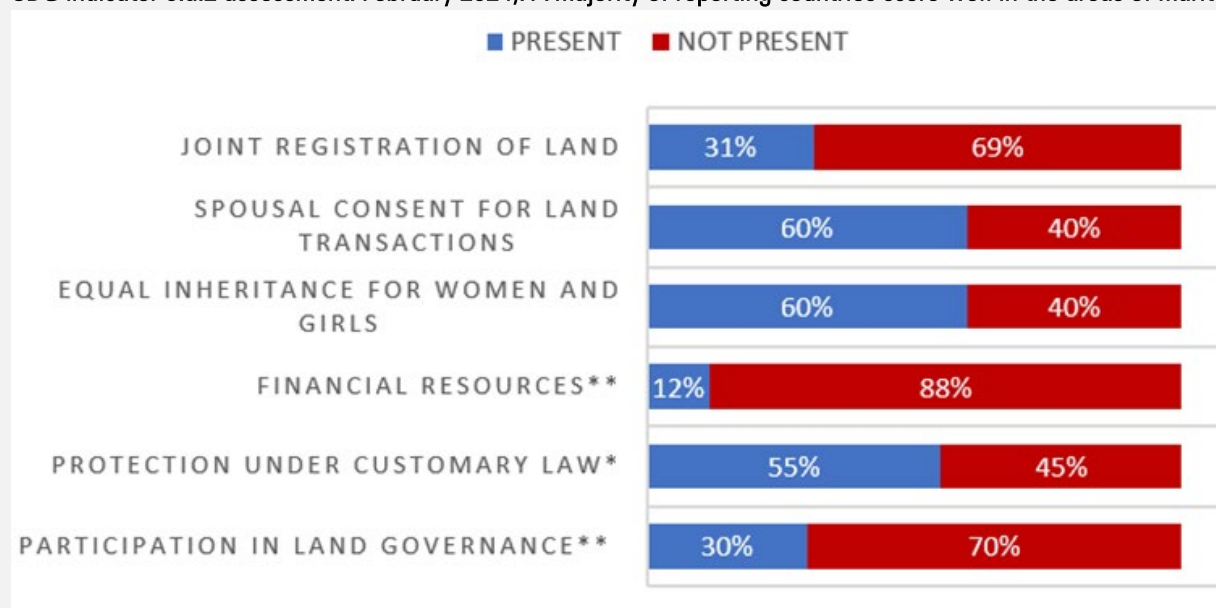
Proxy D and F are temporary measures to support the implementation of policies and laws and to accelerate gender equality in land rights in practice. Only 9 out of 77 countries in the sample have adopted legal provisions allocating financial resources to strengthen women’s landownership. Thirty percent of them mandate quotas for women’s representation in land institutions of which 13 in Sub-Saharan Africa. Figure 4 presents the regional breakdown comparing results with and without statistics. Many examples exist of temporary measures having been adopted in countries with weak(er) protections in marriage and inheritance laws, raising questions about the effectiveness of such measures in catalyzing tangible changes in women’s land ownership on the ground in such contexts.

Figure 1. The level of protection in the national laws of 77 countries by SDG region (Source: FAO unpublished data based on officially submitted SDG indicator 5.a.2 assessments, February 2024)



Notes: Country score is shown based on the number of proxies that are present, including on the basis of statistical data for 10 countries.

Figure 2 The share of countries, out of 77 countries, in which each proxy is present (Source: FAO unpublished data based on officially submitted SDG indicator 5.a.2 assessment. February 2024): A majority of reporting countries score well in the areas of marital property and inheritance



Notes: *Proxy E is calculated for the sample of 40 countries that recognise customary law in their legal framework. **Where proxy D and F are considered present, this can exceptionally be based on statistics (see note 2, table 1). However, this graph only shows the percentage of countries having adopted temporary special measures in line with methodological requirements.

Figure 3: The share of countries in each region, where legal proxies A (Joint registration), B (Spousal consent), C (Equal inheritance) are present.

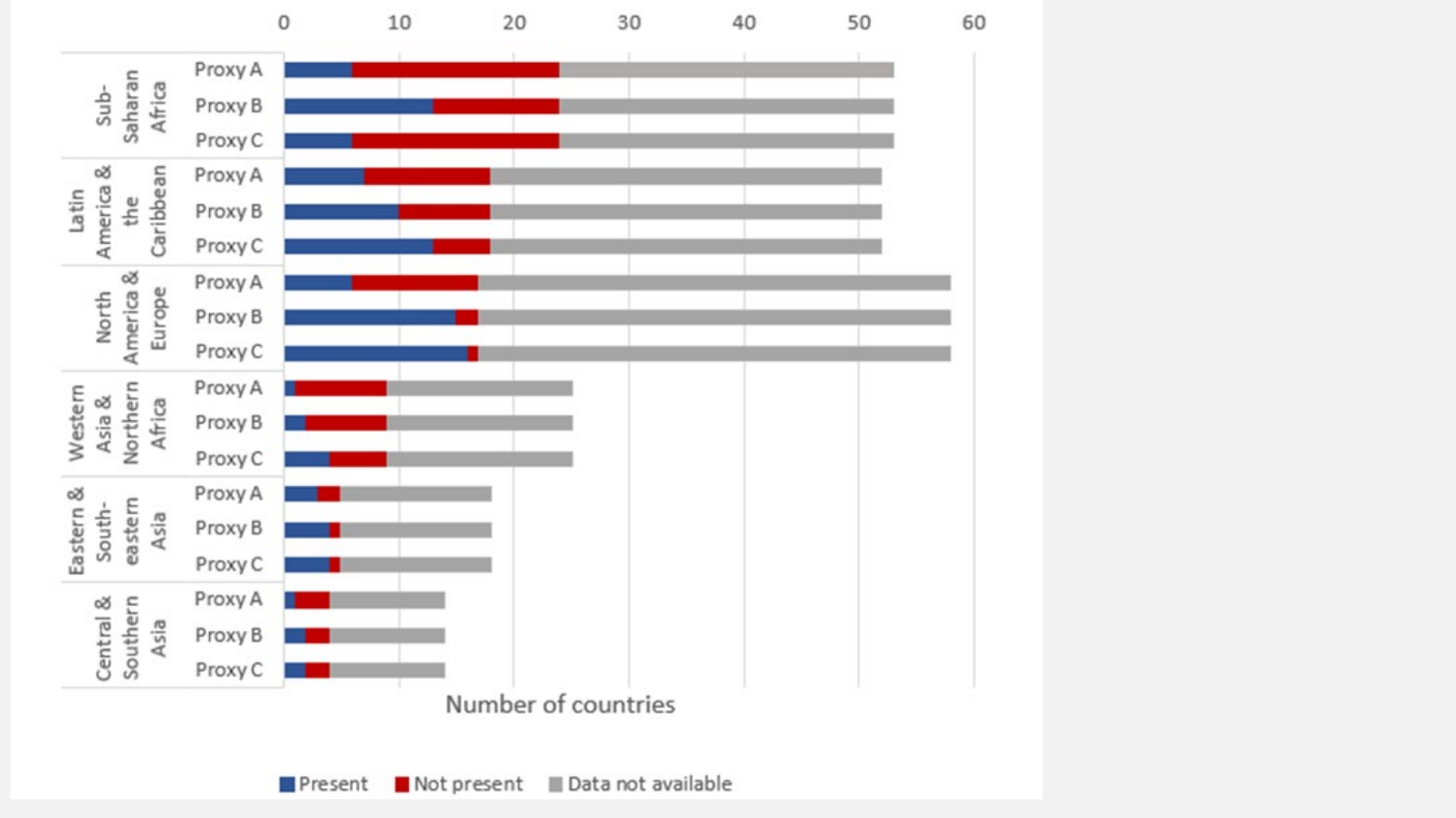
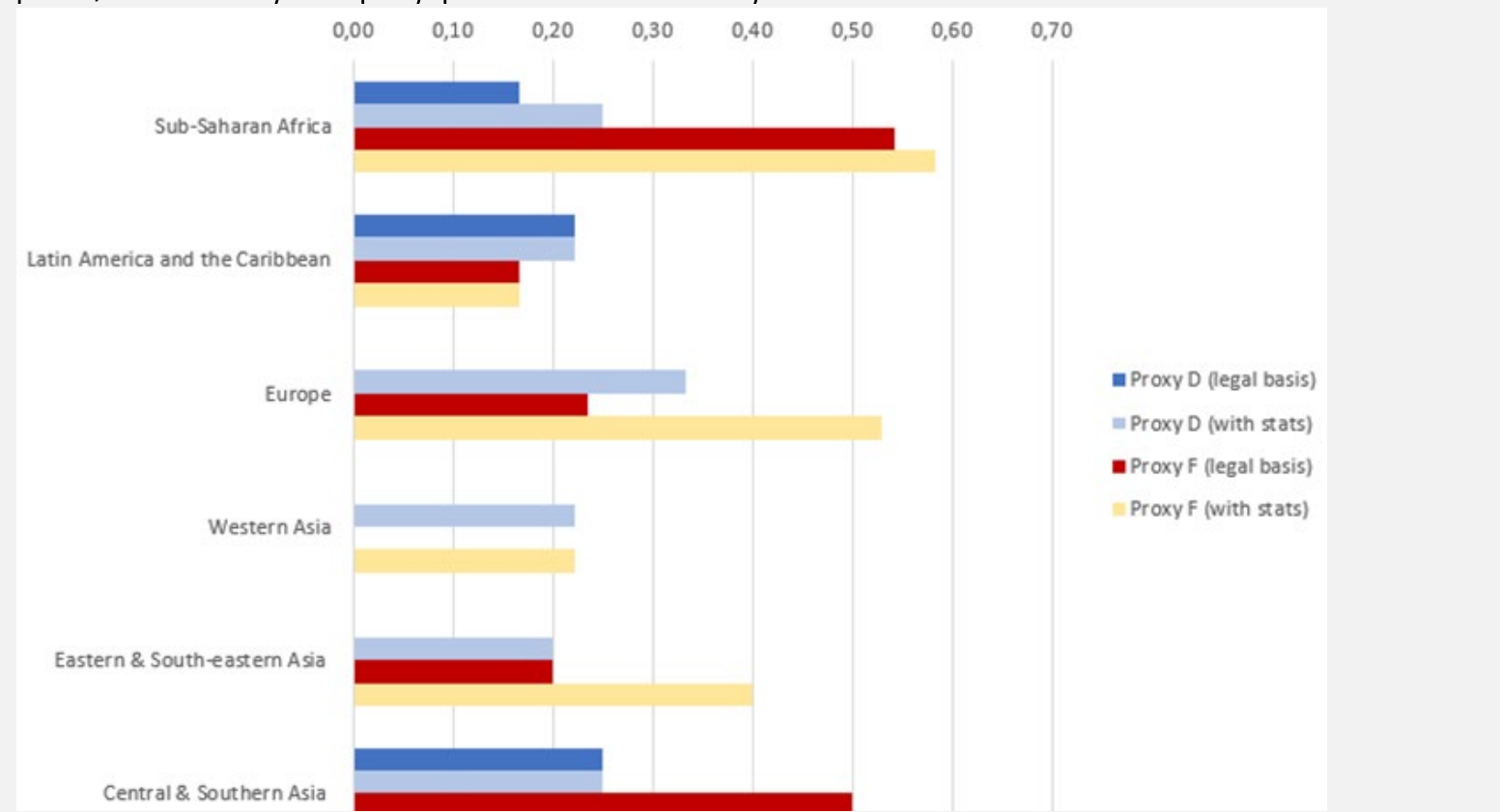


Figure 4: The share of countries in each region, where Proxy D (Financial allocations) and proxy F (Quotas ensuring women's participation) are present, either based only on temporary special measures or additionally based on statistical data.



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- The status of women in agrifood systems (available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5343en>)

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

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

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

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

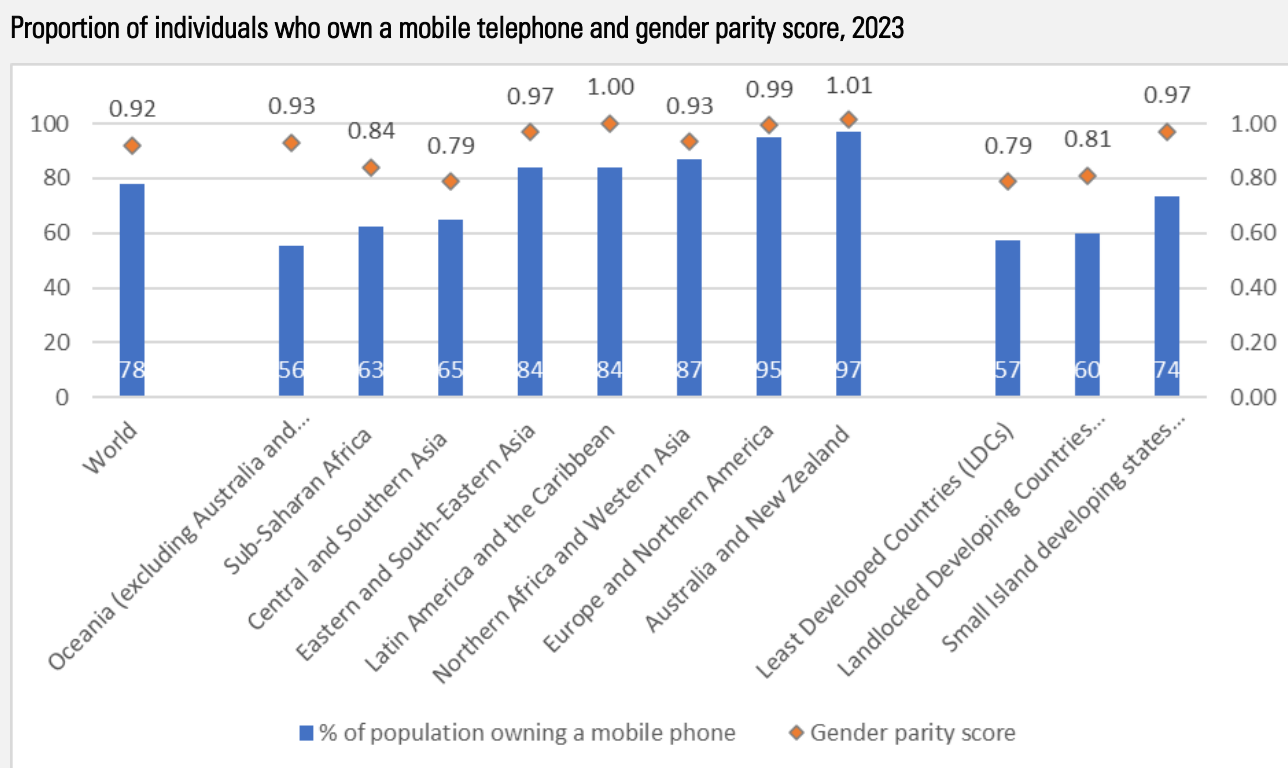
More than three-quarters of the world’s population own a mobile phone, but women are about 8 per cent less likely to own one than men

Data show that, on average, the percentage of individuals owning a mobile phone is higher than the percentage of Internet users, in every region and every income group. Worldwide, 78 per cent of the population aged 10 and over in 2023 owned a mobile phone, 11 percentage points higher than the percentage of individuals who used the Internet. This gap is shrinking in all regions, as growth in Internet use has significantly outpaced the growth of mobile phone ownership over the last three years.

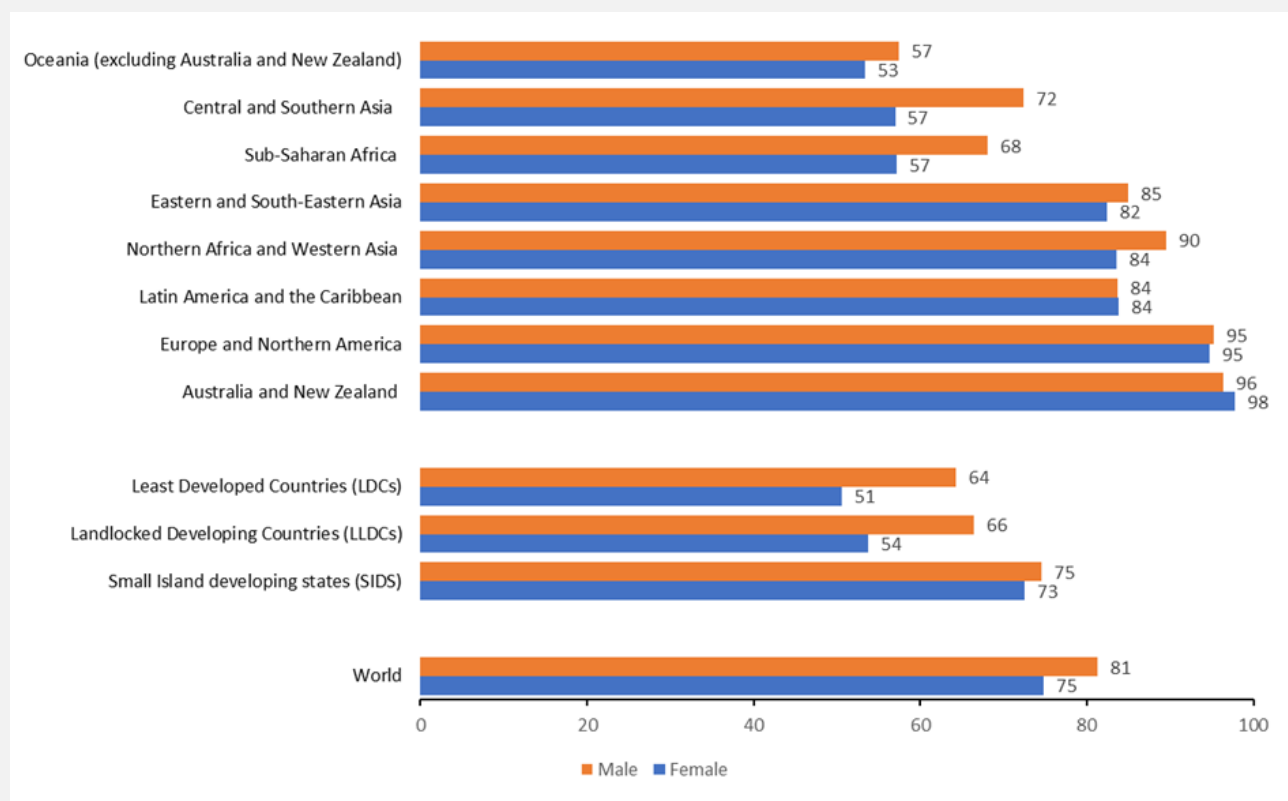
The gender parity gap in mobile phone ownership is comparable with that in Internet use. At the global level, the gender parity score (defined as the percentage of women owning a mobile phone divided by the number of men owning one) for mobile phone ownership is marginally lower (i.e., skewed against women) than it is for Internet use. As with Internet use, progress has been uneven over the past three years. Women were about 8 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone than men in 2023, down from 10 per cent in 2020. Among those not owning a mobile phone, women outnumbered men by 35 per cent.

In Australia and New Zealand, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Northern America, and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, gender parity in mobile phone ownership was reached or almost reached, while Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and Northern Africa and Western Asia were above the 0.9 mark. In Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia, low mobile phone ownership rates were coupled with low gender parity scores.

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.



Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex, 2023



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- ITU (2023), Measuring digital development: Facts and Figures 2023, <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2023/>

Storyline authors(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

Data transparency to strengthen accountability in aligning public budgets with gender-responsive laws and policies

Budget transparency is a key pillar of effective, efficient public financial management. From a gender equality perspective, public budget data enhances understanding of how funds are spent and whether reallocations are required to address gender inequalities.

The third criterion of SDG Indicator 5.c.1 assesses budget transparency, measuring whether information on budget allocations to gender equality is publicly available, and whether this information is timely and accessible. Timeliness enables monitoring to influence the next budget cycle; while data accessibility supports stakeholders outside the finance ministry to scrutinize whether resources are flowing to gender equality objectives. To meet this criterion, governments need to have two of three aspects of budget transparency. The overall achievement score for this criterion, based on data from 105 countries and areas, is 63 per cent with strong clustering of sub-criteria scores falling within a relatively narrow, 4 percentage point range.

Recent analysis by UN-Women identified promising practices under this criterion on how public budget information can be used to publicize, advocate for and shift budget decisions. For example, citizen budgets prepared by some countries support people’s understanding of budgetary decisions related to service delivery and have been used to advocate for increased budget investments in areas including social protection and women's healthcare. Additionally, public budget classification and execution data has enabled non-state actors to advocate for increased budgetary allocations in areas including sexual and reproductive health.

Percent of countries meeting sub-criteria of Criterion 3 on Data Transparency

Criterion 3	
Q3.1	63% (65/104)
Q3.2	59% (61/104)
Q3.3	59% (61/104)

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): UN-Women, UNDP and OECD

[Custodian agency\(ies\):](#) UN Women, OECD, UNDP