Monitoring gender equality through SDG gender indicators and indices

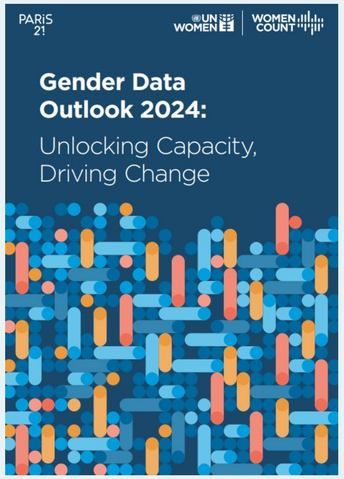
International Workshop on Gender Statistics

28 – 30 July 2026

UN Women Flagship reports

1 | Gender Data Outlook

- new and holistic approach to understanding countries' gender data capacity.



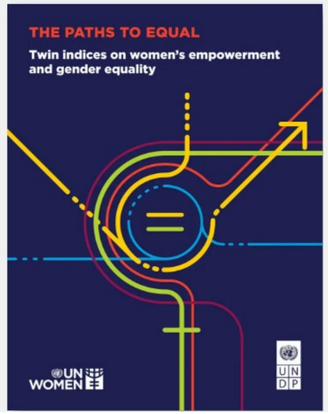
2 | The Gender Snapshot

- Track progress on gender equality across all 17 SDGs by drawing data from more than 100 sources

Another major publication:

3 | Twin indices on women's empowerment & gender equality

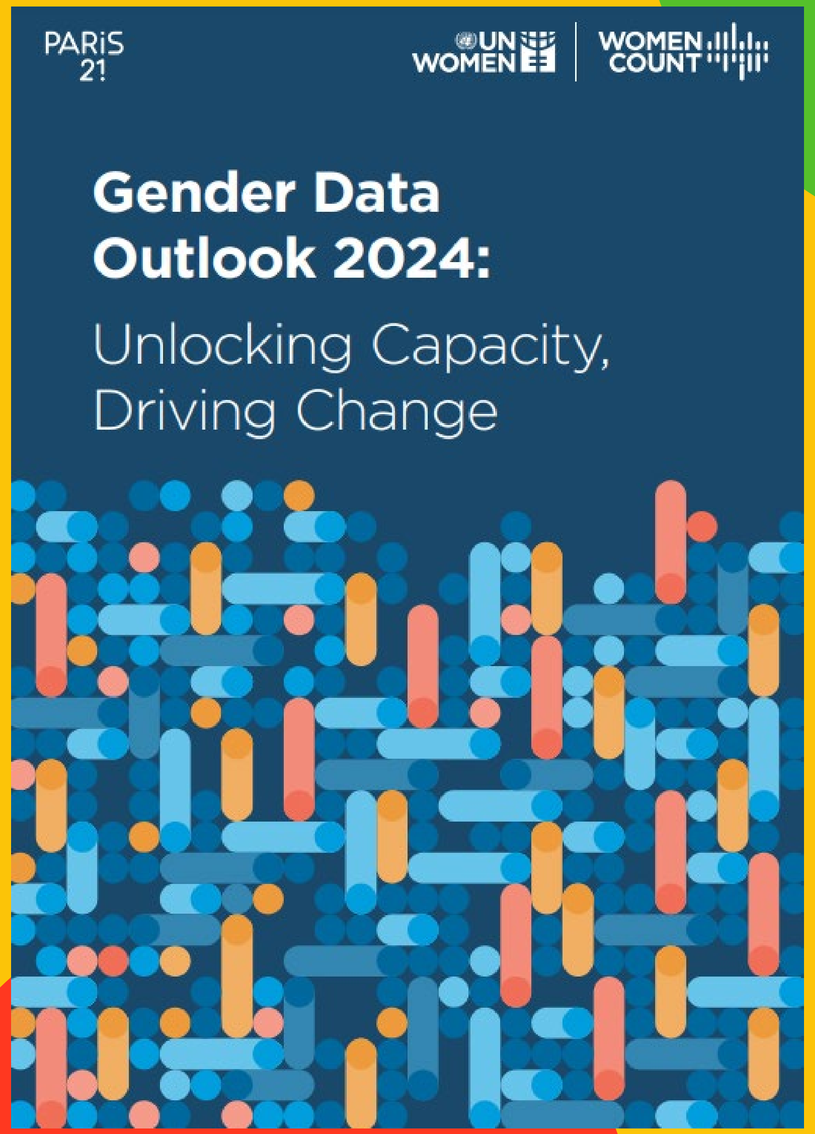
- joint UN Women–UNDP report introducing two new indices — the Women's Empowerment Index and the Global Gender Parity Index — to measure women's empowerment and gender gaps worldwide



WOMEN COUNT

01

Gender Data Outlook 2024

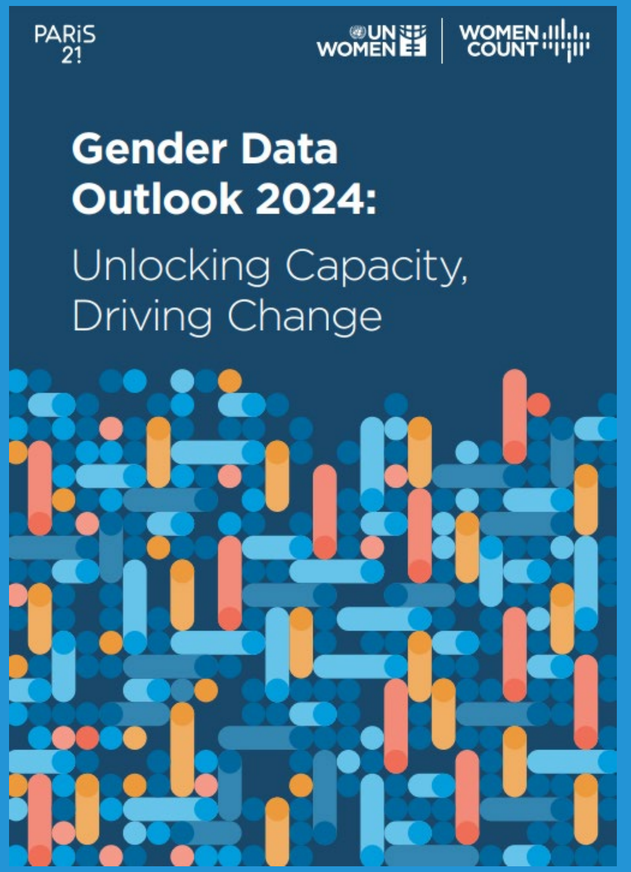


Gender Data Outlook 2024

- **Targeted audience**: Stakeholders (NSOs, government, donors, CSOs, researchers…) who use gender data to monitor progress, identify gaps, design policies, allocate resources, and advance gender equality outcomes

- **Rationale**
  - Identify gaps in measuring gender equality outcomes
  - Support evidence-based policymaking and resource allocation
  - Strengthen national statistical systems and gender data ecosystem

- **Measure**:
  - Composite measure of gender data capacity
  - Covers key domains of the data value chain
  - Combines multiple indicators to provide a standardized assessment across countries
  - Highlights both achievements and gaps in the gender data system

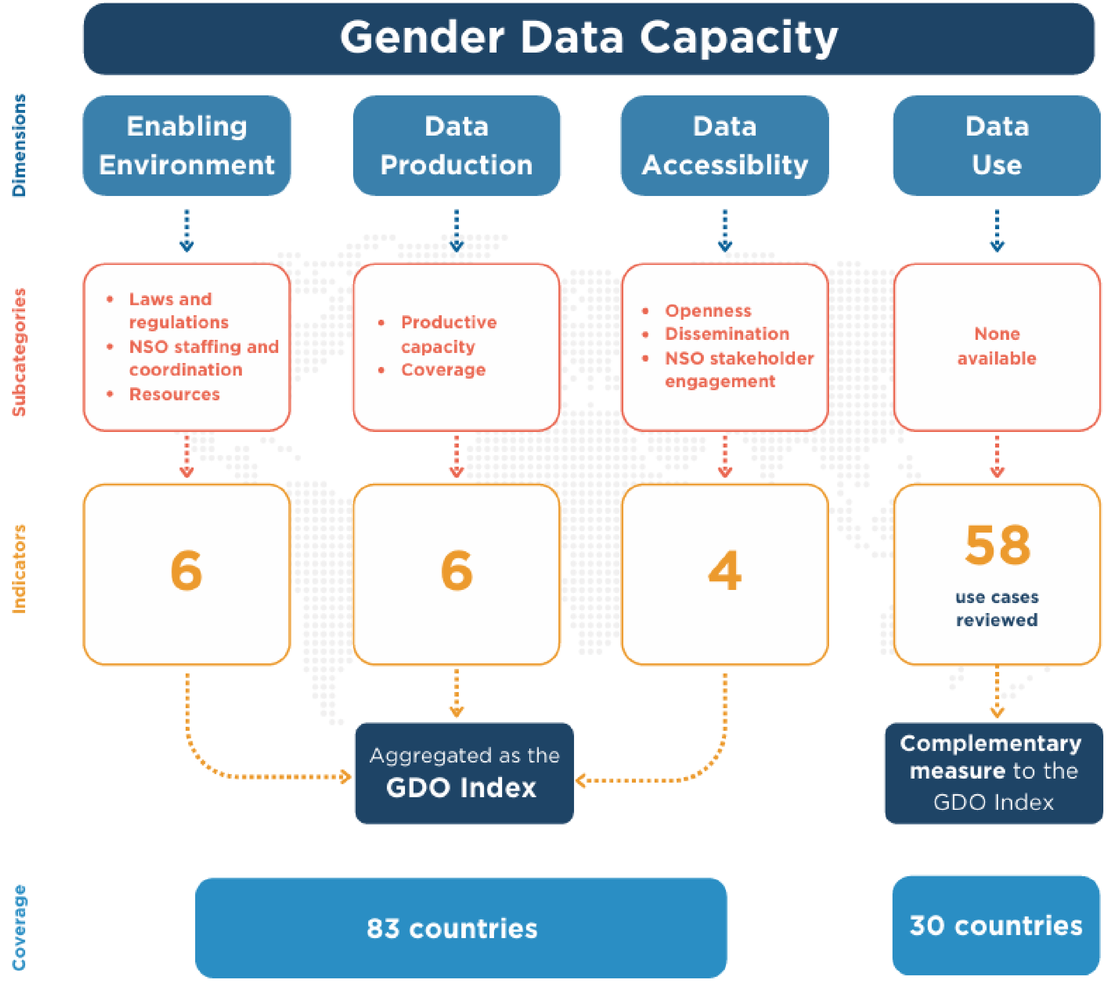


PARIS21 UN WOMEN WOMEN COUNT

01a The GDO framework

GDO Framework

GDO Framework on assessing countries' gender data capacity, 2024



4 Dimensions

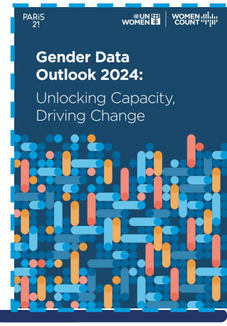
16 initial indicators

Diverse data sources

- UNSD Global Survey on Gender Statistics (9 indicators)
- Open Data Watch Gender Data Compass (5 indicators)
- UN Women (1 indicator)
- GH 5050, ICRW, APHRC (1 indicator)

NEW methodologies

- **GDO Index** by country and dimension
- **Clustering countries** with similar characteristics
- **Typology** of data use



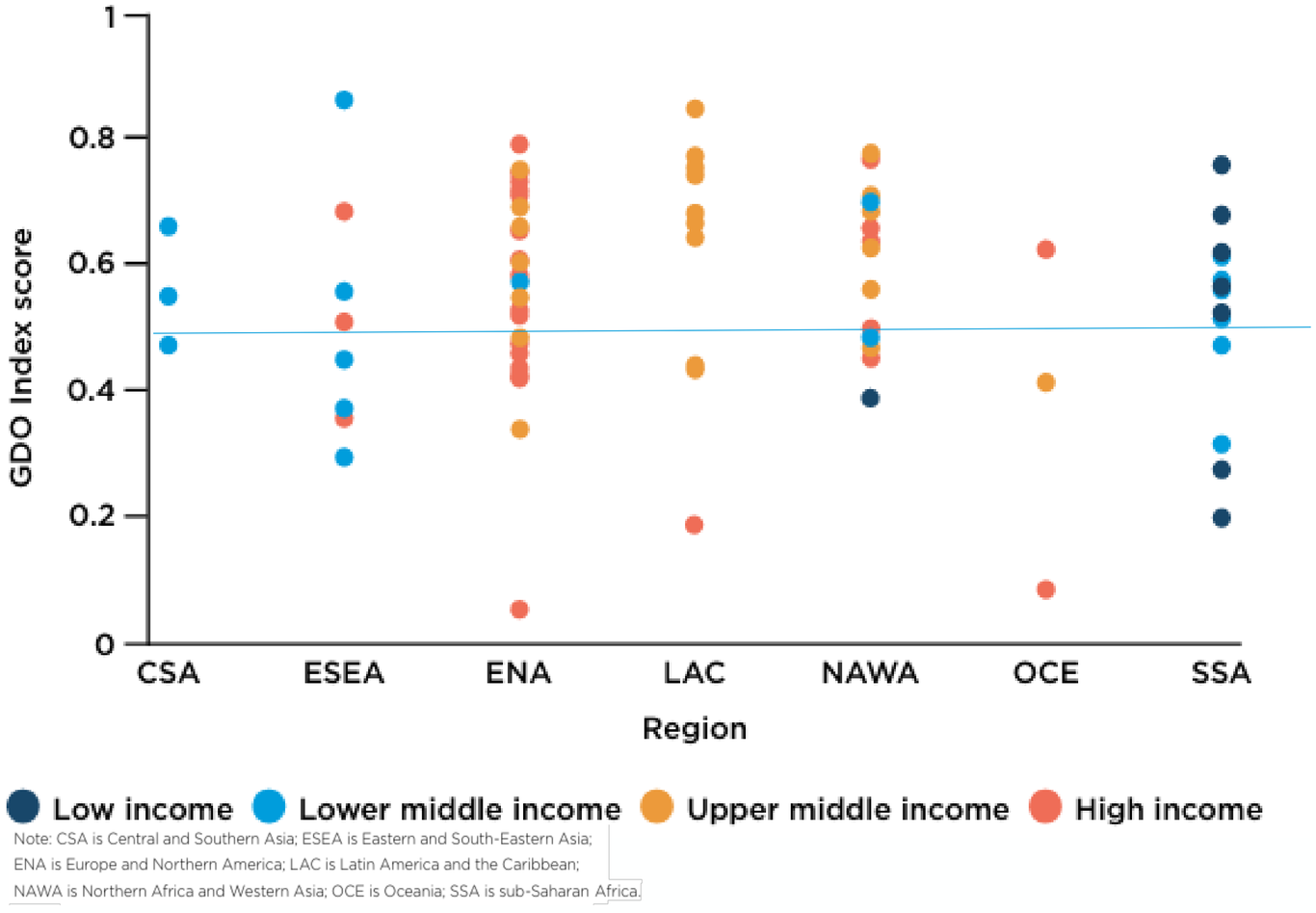
WOMEN COUNT

1b

Key findings of the GDO 2024

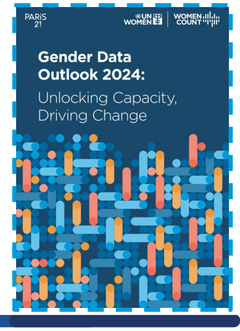
Key finding 1 - GDO Index scores

Country values of GDO Index, by region and income group, 2024

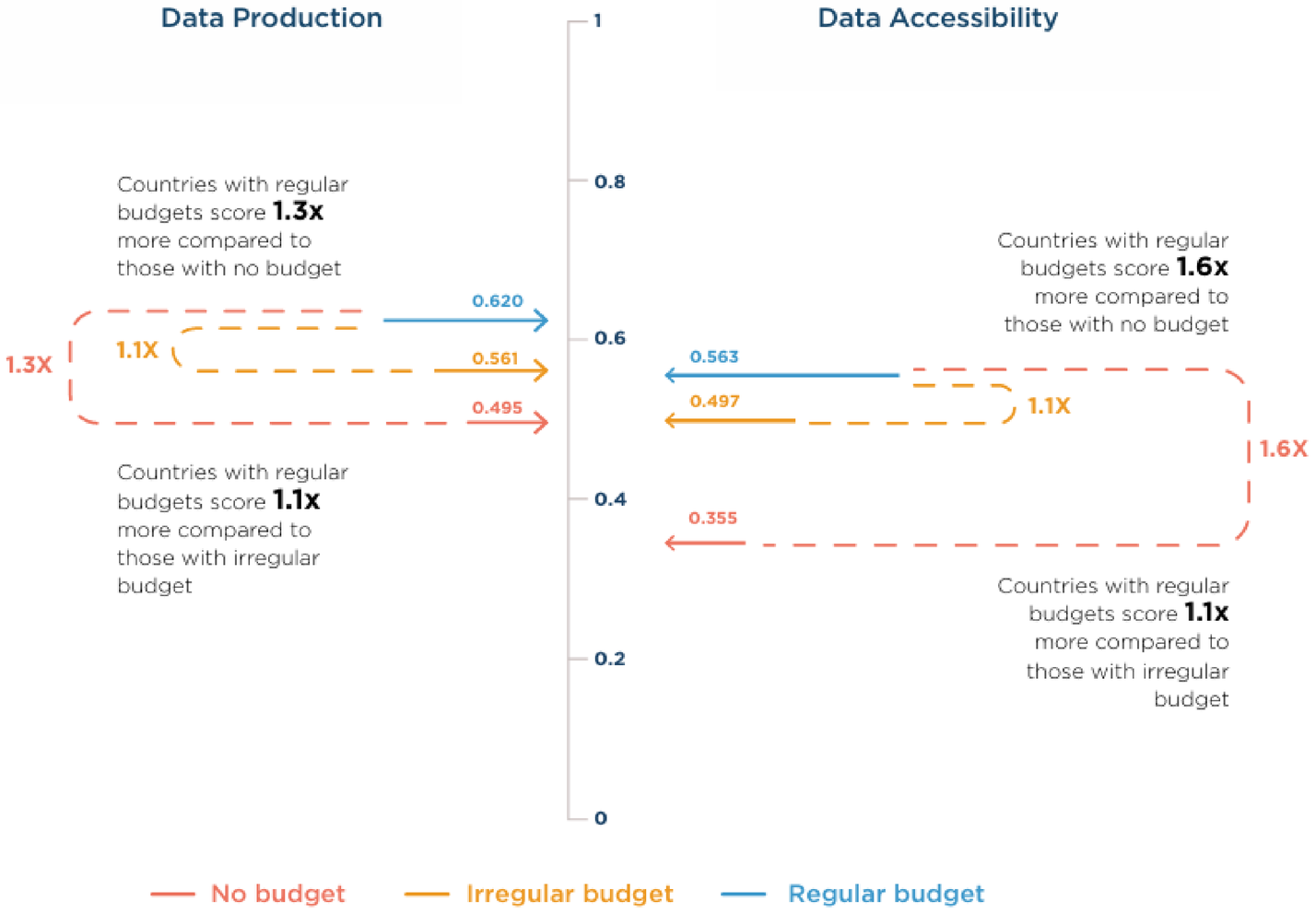


Note: CSA is Central and Southern Asia; ESEA is Eastern and South-Eastern Asia; ENA is Europe and Northern America; LAC is Latin America and the Caribbean; NAWA is Northern Africa and Western Asia; OCE is Oceania; SSA is sub-Saharan Africa.

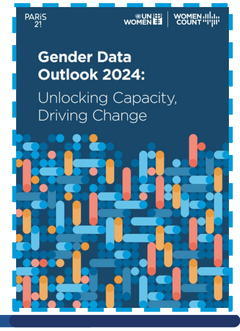
Countries are on average at the halfway point… but experiences are diverse



Key findings 2 - Institutional support can bolster capacity



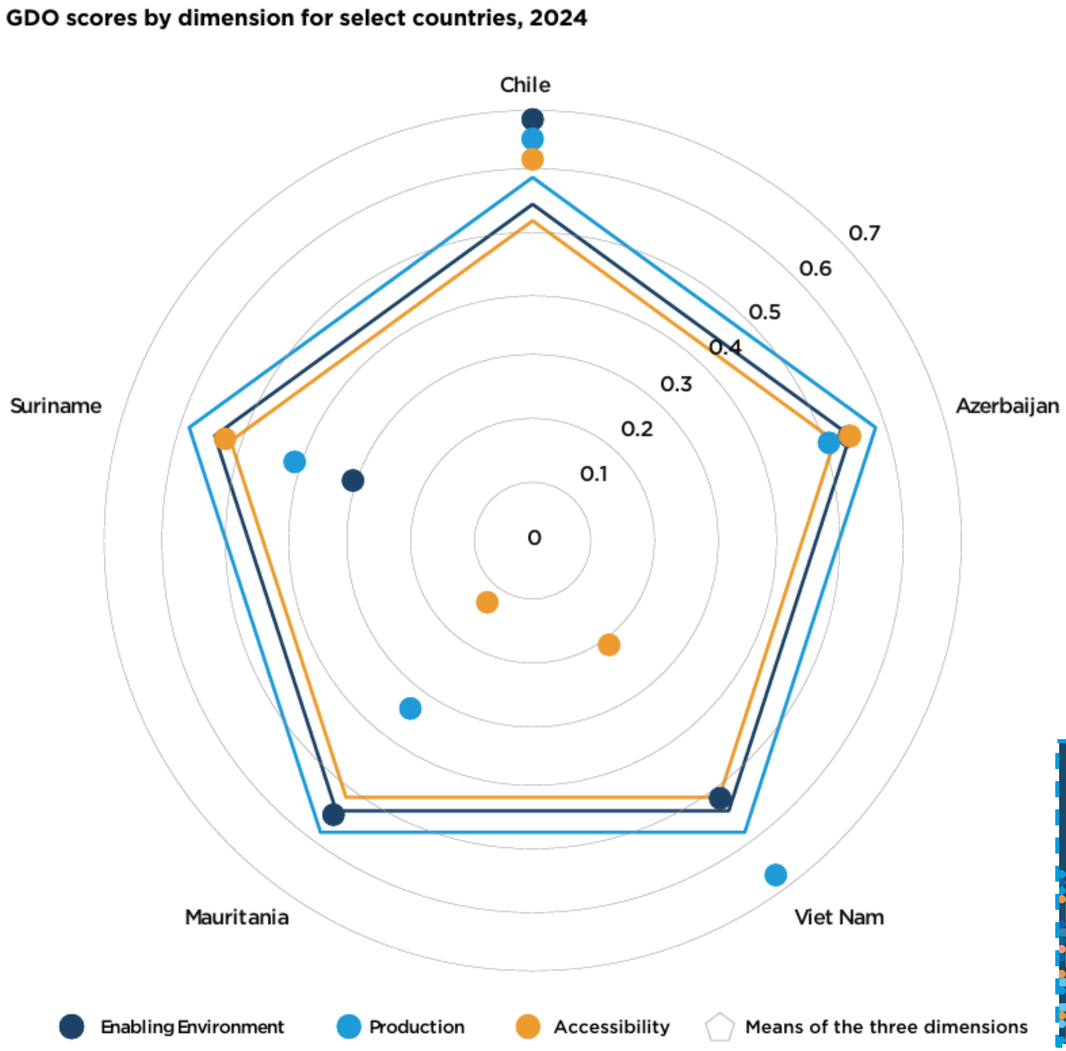
Countries with reliable domestic funding for gender data perform up to 60 per cent better on accessibility

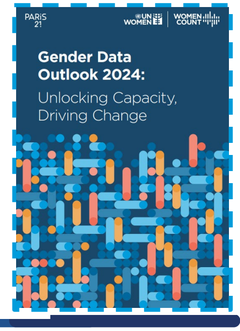


WOMEN COUNT

Key findings 3 - Gender data capacity improvements

Analysis of the Index components highlights where improvements are needed

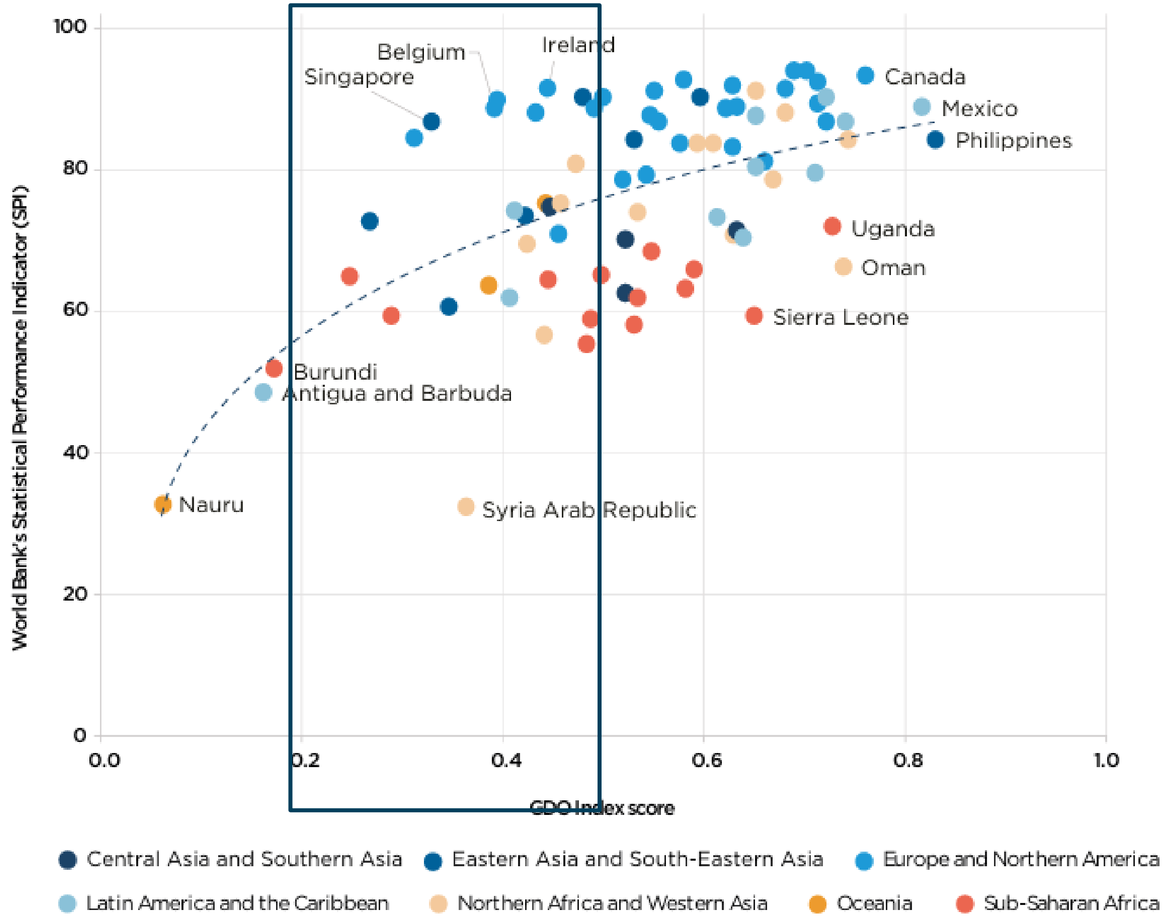




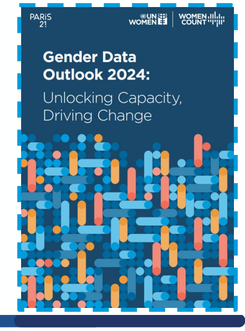
Key findings 4 - Overall statistical capacity is not enough

Overall statistical capacity may not translate into gender data capacity

Countries by performance on the GDO Index vis-à-vis the SPI, 2024



Note: 81 out of 83 countries, as Monaco and Liechtenstein do not have SPI data.



WOMEN COUNT

1c

Next steps

Next measure: Gender Data Performance Indicators

In addition to UN Women and PARIS21, the updated measure being worked on in partnership with World Bank

GDPI = Gender Data Performance Indicators

Timeline:

July 2026

Finalizing the conceptual and indicators' frameworks

August 2026

Stat the data collection phase

September 2026

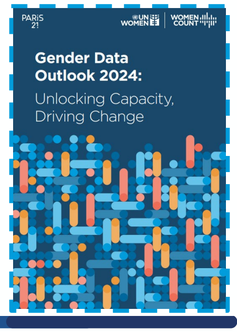
Data cleaning and validation

October 2026

Report writing and dashboard preparation

Q1 or Q2 2027

Global launch



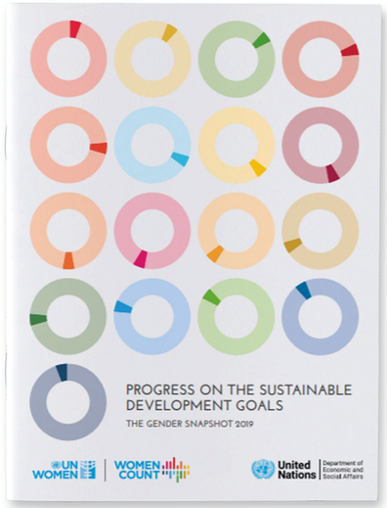
WOMEN COUNT

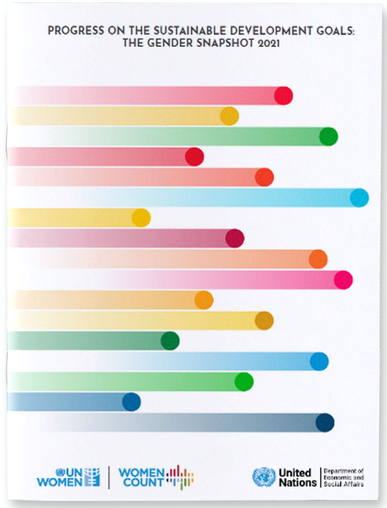
02

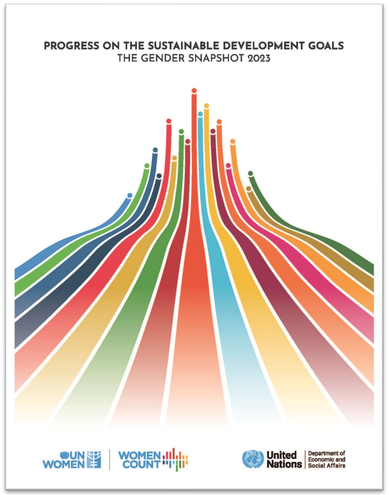
The Gender Snapshot

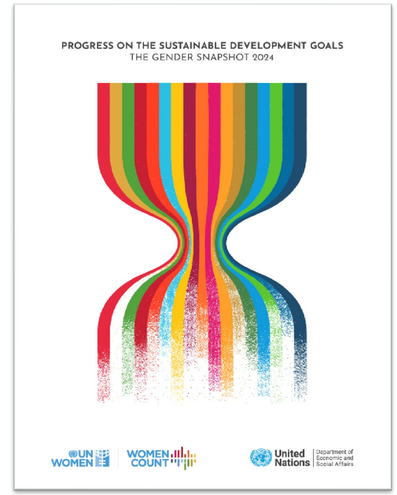
PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

The Gender Snapshot (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)









UNSD & UN Women

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

SNAPSHOT OF GENDER EQUALITY ACROSS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

Female extreme poverty has hovered at around 10% since 2020. If current trends continue, over

351 million

WOMEN AND GIRLS could still live in extreme poverty by 2030 (8.2%).

Accelerating SDG implementation now could cut global female extreme poverty from

9.2% in 2025 to

2.7% by 2050.

2 ZERO HUNGER

Nearly **64 million** more **FEMALE ADULTS** are food insecure than males.

Dietary deficiencies worsen the health of **WOMEN AND GIRLS**, escalating the risk of anaemia, which is projected to rise among **WOMEN** aged 15-49 from

31.1% in 2025 to

33% in 2030.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

From 2000–2023, maternal mortality declined by 39.3%. Yet, across their lives, **WOMEN**

SPENT 10.9 YEARS

in poor health compared to 8.0 years for men in 2021, suffering from various chronic conditions.

An integrated life course approach to healthcare is critical.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Globally, **GIRLS** have surpassed boys in school enrolment and completion. Yet, **GIRLS** continue to lag behind boys in secondary completion in sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia.

In **65 of 70** countries, **WOMEN** are far more likely to be secondary schoolteachers than principals. On average, the global gap is 20 percentage points.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

In the past five years,

99 POSITIVE LEGAL REFORMS

helped to remove discriminatory laws and establish gender equality legislative frameworks across the world. Yet only 38 countries have established 18 years as the minimum marriage age without exceptions and just 63 countries have rape laws based on the lack of consent.

Over **1 IN EVERY 8 WOMEN** aged 15–49 has been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months globally (12.5%).

Nearly **1 IN EVERY 5 YOUNG WOMEN** aged 20–24 was first married or in a union before age 18 (18.6%), down from 22% in 2014.

Each year, **4 million GIRLS** undergo female genital mutilation, with over 2 million before age 5.

WOMEN AND GIRLS devote **2.5x** as many hours per day to unpaid domestic and care work compared to men. In Northern Africa and Western Asia, **WOMEN** spend over four times as many hours as men.

As of 1 January 2025, **WOMEN** held

27.2%

of seats in national parliaments, up 4.9 percentage points from 2015. An astonishing 102 countries have

NEVER

had a **WOMAN** Head of State or Government.

WOMEN'S representation in local governments **STAGNATED** at 35.5% in 2023 and 2024.

Globally, **WOMEN** occupy **30%** of managerial positions. At the current pace of progress, achieving gender parity in management will take **NEARLY A CENTURY.**

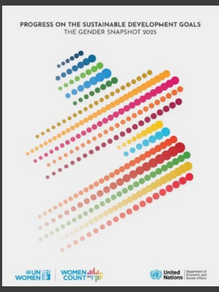
Only **56.3%** of **WOMEN** aged 15–49 who are married or in a union have **FULL DECISION-MAKING POWER** over their sexual and reproductive health and rights, based on data from 78 countries.

From 2021–2024, the gender gap in mobile phone ownership **NARROWED** from 9.4% to 7%.

In 2024, only **26%** of 121 countries and territories had comprehensive systems to track resource allocations for gender equality, a share unchanged from 2021.

UN WOMEN

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs



SNAPSHOT OF GENDER EQUALITY ACROSS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Achieving sustainable water resources management between 2015 and 2030 requires an estimated annual investment of

$1.04 trillion.

Some 14% of countries still have limited or no gender mainstreaming mechanisms in water management.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

On the current path,

896 million

WOMEN could lack access to clean cooking fuels and technologies (including 523 million in sub-Saharan Africa).

Achieving universal access to clean cooking fuels and technologies by 2030 requires an annual investment of

$8 billion;

this could generate a 24-fold return.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Globally,

27.6%

of **WOMEN'S** employment is potentially exposed to generative AI, compared to 21.1% of men's employment.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Globally, 70% of men use the Internet compared to 65% of **WOMEN**.

Closing the gender digital divide by 2050 would benefit nearly

350 million

WOMEN AND GIRLS

and pump an additional

$1.5 trillion

into the global economy by 2030.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

WOMEN with disabilities still face widespread

DISCRIMINATION.

Compared to all **WOMEN, WOMEN AND GIRLS**

WITH DISABILITIES

are less likely to have their family planning needs met (77.6% and 46%, respectively) or use the Internet (65% and 26%, respectively).

WOMEN facing multiple and intersecting inequalities are most impacted: 33% of **WOMEN** aged 60 and over, reported an increase in childcare during COVID-19, compared to 62% for their peers with disabilities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Only **44.2%** of the world's urban population has convenient access to open public spaces.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION · 13 CLIMATE ACTION · 14 LIFE BELOW WATER · 15 LIFE ON LAND

In 2022, **WOMEN** held **24%** of jobs in the primary fisheries and aquaculture sector, rising to about 62% in the processing subsector.

WOMEN are overrepresented in the blue economy's informal workforce. Only **14%** of aquaculture and fisheries production managers are **WOMEN**.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

676 million

WOMEN AND GIRLS lived within 50 kilometres of a deadly conflict event in 2024, the highest recorded number since the 1990s.

National action plans on **WOMEN**, peace and security, vital for effective peacebuilding, were in place in

113 COUNTRIES

in 2025, up from 32 in 2011.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Data availability on SDG 5 indicators in 2025 has improved to

57.4%

for any point in time, up from 47.0% in 2022.

However, funding cuts threaten the availability of gender data for policymaking, with nearly

7 in 10

of national statistics offices reporting reduced funding since January 2025: 68.3% overall and 51% for Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).

UN WOMEN

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION IS A MOMENT TO REAFFIRM GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

ACTION 1

For all women and girls
A digital revolution

THE RETURNS FROM CLOSING THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE ARE MEASURABLE AND CONCRETE

Approximately **343.5 million** women and girls globally could **benefit from closing the gender digital divide** by 2050.

Closing the gender digital divide could pump an additional **$1.5 trillion** into the global economy by 2030 and over $100 trillion cumulatively by 2050.

Investments in education, the labour market and measures to close the gender digital divide, including targeted access to mobile and fixed broadband and mobile phones for women, could result in **30 million more** women and girls leaving extreme poverty.

An additional **42 million** women and girls would be food secure by 2050, compared to business as usual.

ACTION 2

For all women and girls
Freedom from poverty

AN INTEGRATED POLICY RESPONSE TO FREE MILLIONS OF WOMEN FROM POVERTY CAN GENERATE CONCRETE RETURNS

52 million additional women and girls **could leave extreme poverty** by 2030 and **110 million** by 2050 under an *Accelerated SDG push scenario* – a comprehensive package of interventions, encompassing social protection, the green economy, education, labour markets, innovation and effective governance.

Investments in this package of interventions can potentially unlock an additional $4 trillion by 2030 and **$342 trillion** cumulatively by 2050.

To unlock these benefits, **government spending on the comprehensive package of interventions** globally would need to rise by around a cumulative $22 trillion by 2030 and **$233 trillion** by 2050.

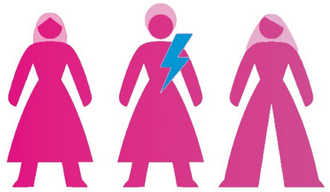
United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION IS A MOMENT TO REAFFIRM GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

ACTION 3

For all women and girls
Zero violence

COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES INCLUDING ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION CAN REDUCE VIOLENCE RATES



Nearly **1 in 3** **women will experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime**, a figure that does not include sexual harassment.

73%
of women journalists report experiencing online violence.

Increases in financial inclusion are generally linked to decreases in intimate partner violence; **for every 10% increase in financial inclusion, violence rates decline by about 2%.**

Rates of intimate partner violence are
2.5 times lower
in countries with comprehensive laws, policies, institutional mechanisms, research and data, prevention, services and budgets compared to those with weak protections.

ACTION 4

For all women and girls
Full and equal decision-making power

DECISION-MAKING NEEDS TO SHIFT TO WOMEN EQUALLY IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE, EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD

By 1 August 2025, just
29 countries
had a **woman serving as Head of State or Government**, an increase from 22 countries five years ago.

Lower courts have realized parity in women's representation but the **ratio in constitutional and supreme courts**, relative to women's population share, is only **0.75.**

The share of **women in managerial positions** is expected to reach only
32%
by 2050, up from just 30% in 2025.

THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION IS A MOMENT TO REAFFIRM GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

ACTION 5

For all women and girls
Peace and security

WOMEN'S FULL, EQUAL, SAFE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION SHOULD BE THE NORM BY 2030

In conflict-affected countries, **women's parliamentary representation** is **20%,** lagging behind the global average of 27%.

The shares of women as negotiators, mediators and signatories in major peace processes remain far below the minimum **one-third target** set by the United Nations.

Of 113 national action plans on women, peace and security, only **55%** make **explicit commitments to women's participation in peace processes**.

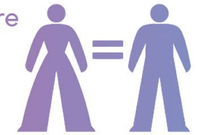
ACTION 6

For all women and girls
Climate justice

ACCELERATED ACTION IS NEEDED TO TAKE A GENDER-JUST AND RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By 2050, under a worst-case scenario, climate change may push up to **158.3 million more women and girls into extreme poverty** ($2.15 per day) globally, with **nearly half in sub-Saharan Africa.**

Women's perspectives are generally missing from national climate plans: Only **39%** of countries (25 out of 64) have established **national coordination mechanisms** – such as task forces or working groups – **to integrate gender equality into climate policymaking** across sectors.



Less than 1% of bilateral allocable **overseas development assistance provided by Development Assistance Committee** members for climate and gender objectives was committed to women's rights organizations in 2022-23. Funding cuts risk erasing even this.

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The current **data availability** on SDG 5 is

57.4%

up from

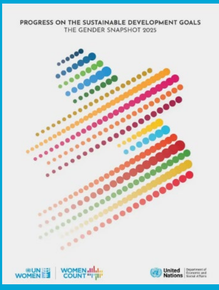
54.5%

But **data gaps** remain pervasive, including from an intersectional perspective, rendering the realities of millions of women and girls

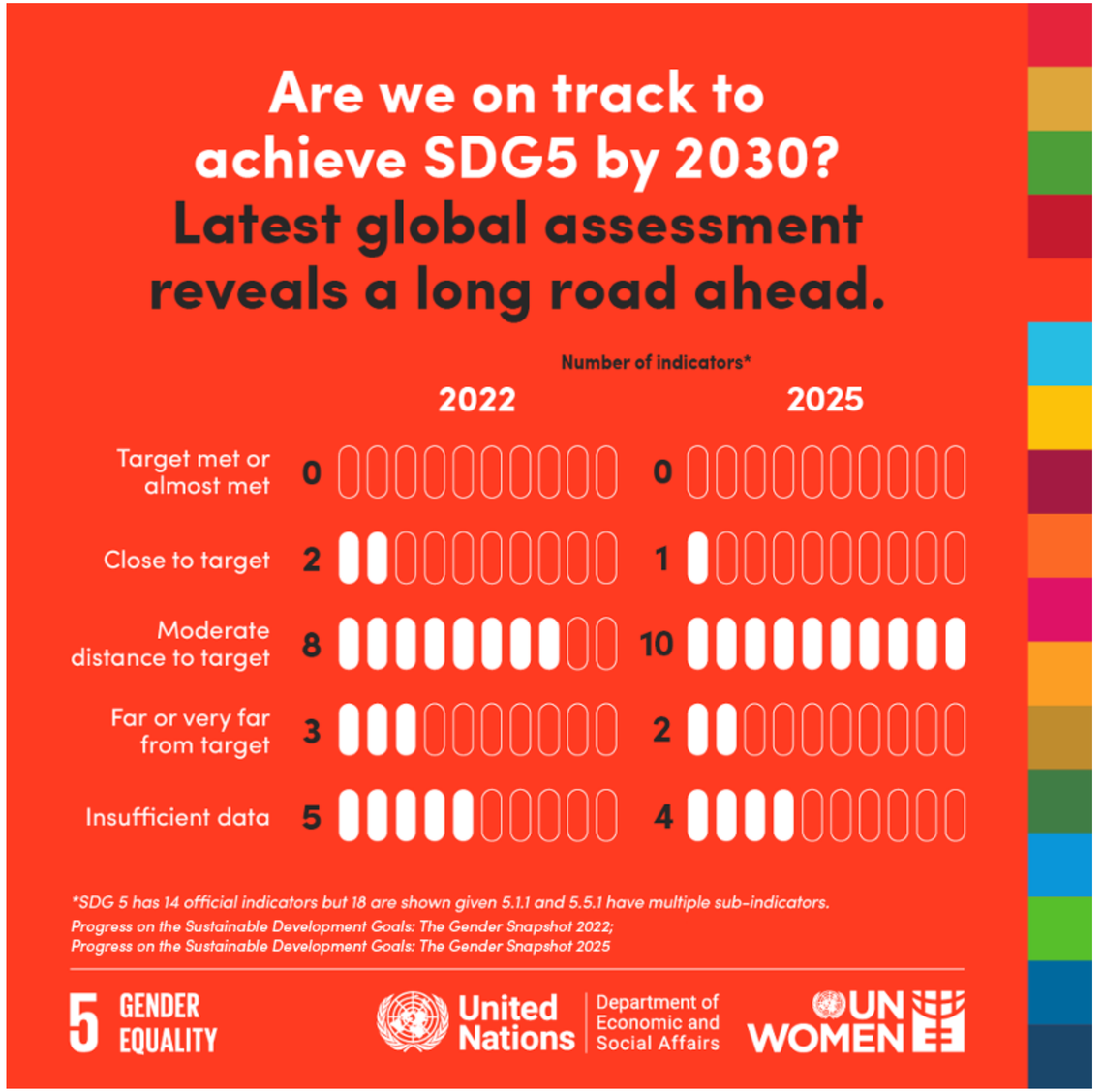
INVISIBLE.

UN WOMEN

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs



SDG 5 TRACKER: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD



Level assessment

- Target met or almost met
- Close to target
- Moderate distance to target
- Far from target
- Very far from target
- Insufficient data

Trend assessment

- On track or target met
- Moderate progress but acceleration needed
- Marginal progress and significant acceleration needed
- Stagnation
- Regression
- Insufficient data

UN WOMEN

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Targets and indicators		World	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Central and Southern Asia	Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	Europe and Northern America	Australia and New Zealand
Target 5.1										
5.1.1 Overarching legal frameworks and public life	Level									
	Trend	→	←	→	→	→	←	→	→	–
5.1.1 Violence against women	Level									
	Trend	→	→	→	←	→	←	↠	→	–
5.1.1 Employment and economic benefits	Level									
	Trend	→	→	→	→	→	←	←	←	↠
5.1.1 Marriage and family	Level									
	Trend	→	–	→	→	→	←	↠	–	–
Target 5.2										
5.2.1 Women and girls subjected to intimate partner violence	Level									
	Trend									
5.2.2 Sexual violence against women and girls	Level									
	Trend									
Target 5.3										
5.3.1 Child marriage among women and girls	Level									
	Trend	→	→	–	→	–	→	→		
5.3.2 Female genital mutilation	Level									
	Trend		→	→						
Target 5.4										
5.4.1 Ratio of unpaid domestic and care work, by sex	Level									
	Trend									
Target 5.5										
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments	Level									
	Trend	→	→	–	←	→	→	→	→	↠
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (b) local governments	Level									
	Trend	→	←	→	←	→	→	–	→	←
5.5.2 Women in managerial positions	Level									
	Trend	→	→	→	←	←	→	←	→	→

Targets and indicators		World	Sub-Saharan Africa	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Central and Southern Asia	Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	Europe and Northern America	Australia and New Zealand
Target 5.6										
5.6.1 Proportion of women and girls who make informed decisions on reproductive health	Level									
	Trend									
5.6.2 Laws on equal access to reproductive health, information and education	Level									
	Trend									
Target 5.a										
5.a.1 Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex	Level									
	Trend									
5.a.2 Laws that guarantee equal land rights	Level									
	Trend									
Target 5.b										
5.b.1 Women who own a mobile phone	Level									
	Trend	→	⏩	→	⏩	⏩	→	→	—	—
5.b.1 Men who own a mobile phone	Level									
	Trend	→	⏩	→	→	→	—	→	—	←
Target 5.c										
5.c.1 Countries with systems to track gender equality	Level									
	Trend	→	→	—	←	←	—	—	⏩	

Level assessment

- Target met or almost met
- Close to target
- Moderate distance to target
- Far from target
- Very far from target
- Insufficient data

Trend assessment

- ⏩ On track or target met
- → Moderate progress but acceleration needed
- → Marginal progress and significant acceleration needed
- — Stagnation
- ← Regression
- Insufficient data

UN WOMEN

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

•03 • The Twin Indices

A multidimensional measurement framework aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Twin indices measuring WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT and GENDER EQUALITY

The WEI evaluates women and girl's achievement in expanding their capabilities across **5 dimensions** to make choices and seize opportunities in life

The GGPI assess the gender gap across **4 dimensions of human development**

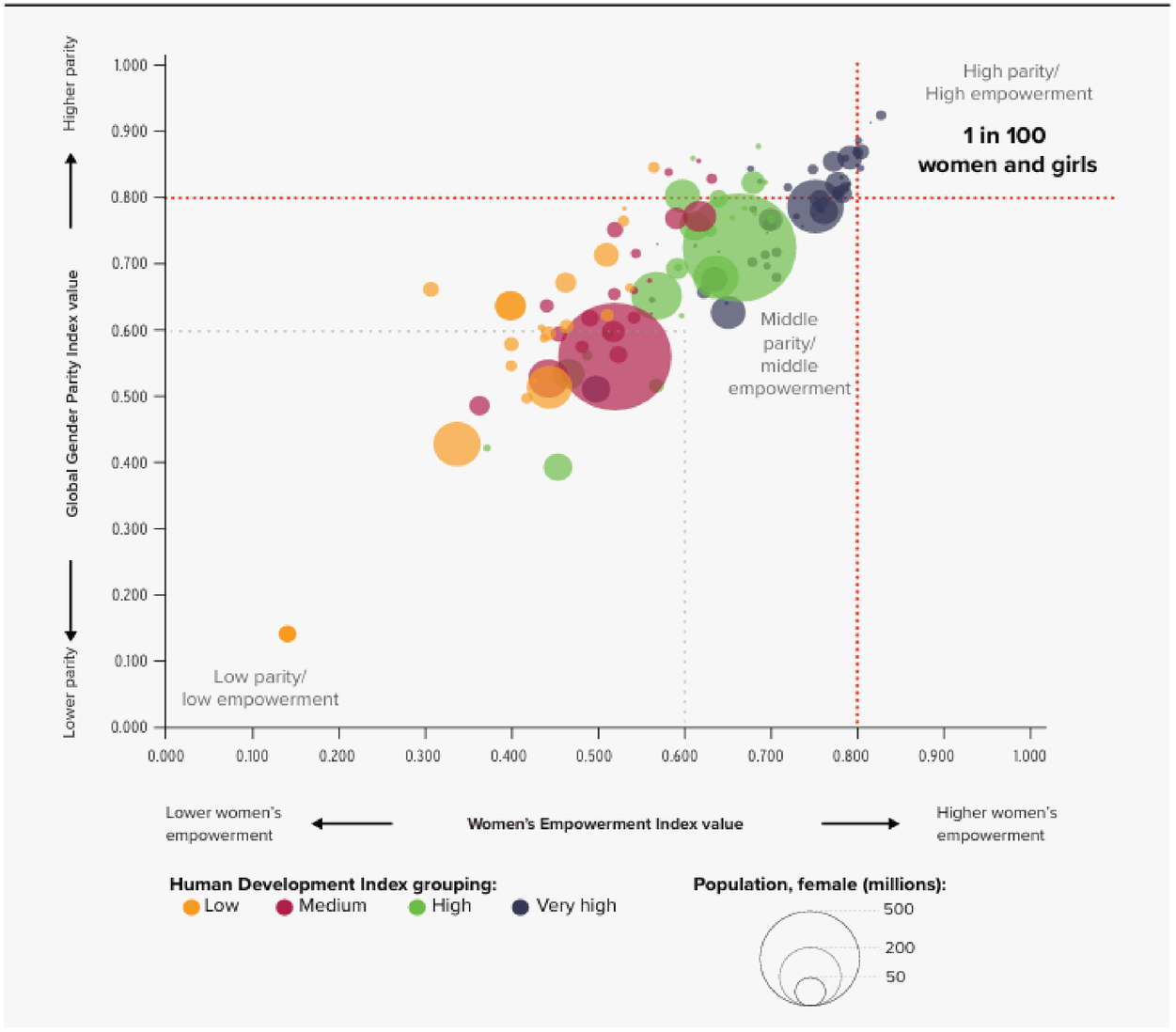
8 of the **10 indicators** selected are SDG indicators.

72% of indicators are official SDG indicators.

5 of the **8 indicators** selected are SDG indicators.

WOMEN COUNT

Figure 3.1 More than 90 percent of the world's women and girls live in a country with low or middle women's empowerment and low or middle performance in achieving gender parity



Source: Authors' calculations; UNDESA (2022b) for data on population.

Key findings

Globally, women are empowered to achieve only **60 percent of their full potential** and achieve **72 percent** of what men achieve across key human development dimensions.

No countries has achieved full women's empowerment or complete gender parity.

- Less than **1 percent** of women and girls live in countries with both **high** women's empowerment and **high** performance in achieving gender parity.
- More than **90 percent** of the world's female population—live in countries characterized by **low or middle** women's empowerment and **low or middle** performance in achieving gender parity.
- About **8 percent** live in countries with **low or middle women's empowerment** but **high performance in achieving gender parity**. This suggests that small gender gaps do not automatically translate into high women's empowerment.
- **No country** has achieved **high women's empowerment** while maintaining **a large gender gap**. This suggests that women's and girls' empowerment will remain elusive until gender gaps are eliminated.

WEI (Women Empowerment Index) – captures women's achievement

Gender Parity Index – Captures the statis of women relative to that of men

WOMEN COUNT

Key findings

- Higher human development does not automatically translate into women's empowerment and gender equality.
- More than half the 85 countries with a large empowerment deficit and a large gender gap are in the high (21) or very high human development group (26 countries).

The WEI and GGPI offer different but complementary lenses.

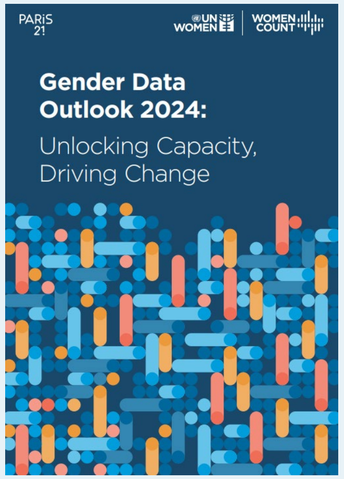
In isolation each provides a partial picture of progress.

Together shed light on complex challenges faced by women and pave the way for targeted interventions and policy reforms.

WOMEN COUNT

UN Women Flagship reports

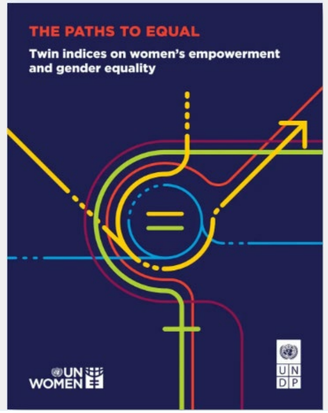
1 | Gender Data Outlook



2 | The Gender Snapshot

Another major publication:

3 | Twin indices on women's empowerment & gender equality



WOMEN COUNT

THANK YOU

Tsz Yu Chang (Patty)
tszyu.chang@unwomen.org

Aurelie Acoca
aurelie.acoca@unwomen.org

Antra Bhatt
antra.bhatt@unwomen.org