Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals:  
The gender snapshot 2023

References and Notes

Snapshot of gender equality (Infographic, page 4-5)

Goal 1
UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures, using the International Futures modelling platform 2023.  
Note: These statistics represent the share of women living in poor households, not the share of poor women, as data are collected at the household level, not at the individual level. Climate change and other economic and social shocks, including escalation of wars and conflict are likely to worsen the female poverty outlook.

Goal 2


Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5
UNCTAD. 2023, in partnership with UN Women, UNDP and UNDESA forthcoming. The LDCs group in this study encompasses 6 countries, namely Afghanistan, Myanmar, Haiti, Mozambique, Somalia, and Zambia. Meanwhile, the LLDCs group comprises 11 countries, and the SIDS group encompasses 9 countries.

United Nations. 2023. Global SDG Indicators Database. Based on a sample of 120 countries and areas for which data are available in the SDG indicator database for indicator 5.1.1. Countries and areas that do not score 100 percent in at least one area of 5.1.1 have been used in the numerator.

UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures. 2023. Forthcoming.

IPU.2023. Parline Database.


Goal 6
UN Women and UN-Water. 2023. Spotlight on SDG 6: From commodity to common good: A feminist agenda to tackle the world’s water crisis.
Goal 7

UNDP and the Pardee Center for International Futures. 2023. Modelling universal access. The scenario analysis predicts female poverty will decline to 196.5 million by 2050, a sharp drop from the estimated 381.9 million in 2023.

Goal 8


Goal 9

WIPO. 2023. The Global Gender Gap in Innovation and Creativity

Goal 10

ILGA. 2023. ILGA World Database.


Goal 11

SDG indicator 11.1.1 provides regional aggregates on the proportion of people living in slums, informal settlements and/or inadequate housing. This information alongside the world urban population projections in 2050 are used to derive the population expected to live in slums, informal settlements and/or in adequate housing. For this analysis, unbiased sex ratios in the urban population and for individuals living in slums, informal settlements and/or inadequate housing are assumed. The female share, however, may be higher in contexts where women are overrepresented in slum and slum-like settings. See UN Women and UN-Habitat. 2020. Spotlight on SDG11: Harsh realities: Marginalized women in cities of the developing world.

Goals 12-15

UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures, using the International Futures modelling platform 2023. Based on a possible future scenario where global temperatures rise by 3- 4°C by 2100. See UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures. 2023. Forthcoming for more information on the climate model assumptions used (RCP 6.0) and the broader development model parameters used for this analysis. Note: As with all efforts to project the future, there is a significant amount of uncertainty and variability with the estimates. The further into the future, the greater the variability. With only seven years left, the projection of poverty increases by 2030 as a result of climate change are lower than estimates for mid-century but nonetheless significant. Globally, between 13 and 32 million additional women and girls will be pushed into poverty by 2030 depending upon the frequency and intensity of climate change events and the extent of rises in global temperature.

Goal 16


Goal 17

Leave no women or girl behind (LNOB spread, pages 6-7)

As societies age globally, women have much to contribute, but their rights must be recognized and upheld


Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid., medium variant projections are used for 2050.

Ibid., medium variant projections are used for 2023.


UN DESA, UN Women and OHCHR. 2022. Older Women: Inequality at the intersection of age and gender.

UNCTAD. 2023. forthcoming.

The demographic group of older persons is remarkably heterogeneous. Their population averages, similar to national averages, conceal disparities in health and living conditions as well as in economic activity and the income security of different sub-groups based on gender, location, ethnicity and other socio-economic characteristics. From a policy standpoint, comprehending the lifelong influences that lead to disparities in later life, and understanding how these dynamics are shaped by different national and local contexts, is of paramount importance.

Infographic references:

UN Women and UNDP. 2023. Paths to Equal: Twin indices on women’s empowerment and gender equality.


At risk but overlooked: older women face higher rates of poverty and violence than older men


UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures, using the International Futures modelling platform 2023. The extreme poverty rates, defined as living on $2.15 per person per day, are 11.63 and 11.05 per cent for women and men aged 60 and over, respectively. Although research on poverty among older persons is limited, skewed population rates in older ages and differences in retirement pension provisions makes it difficult to compare poverty rates for persons aged 60 and over.


All references to Kosovo are under United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.


Ibid.

Ibid. Note: These prevalence rates refer to the accumulation of experiences over a lifetime.

Pathak, N., R. Dhairyawan and S. Tariq. 2019. The experience of Intimate Partner Violence Among Older Women: A narrative review. Maturitus 121: 63-75. Note: This range is based on a review of 48 cross-country studies focusing on women aged 45 and over, including studies specifically focused on those aged 50 to 74 and 65 to 74. A lack of consistent definitions and age ranges employed across studies hinders the production of a global intimate partner violence prevalence rate for older women.

World Bank, Global Women's Institute, IDB and ICRW. 2016. Brief on violence against older women.


Infographic references:
United Nations. 2023. World Social Report 2023: Leaving no one behind in an ageing world. Estimates are based on a relative poverty line of 50 per cent of the median income of the total population, and are calculated using harmonized survey data on disposable household income, reported at the individual level.

Ibid. Accessed 1 August 2023.


Goal by Goal Storylines

Goal 1

The 2030 projections for indicator 1.1.1 are based on the compounded annualized growth rate, or CARR, using the base year (i.e., the earliest available base year for the global average). This methodology is used for other SDG gender-specific indicators, including those produced by IPU, WHO, UNICEF and ILOSTAT. As with all efforts to project the future, there is a significant amount of uncertainty and variability with the estimates. More and better gender data can help to significantly reduce the level of uncertainty and improve current understanding of prevailing trends and implications for future outcomes.

UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures, using the International Futures modelling platform 2023. Note: These statistics represent the share of women living in poor households, not the share of poor women, as data are collected at the household level and, not at the individual level. Climate change and other economic and social shocks, including the escalation of wars and conflict are likely to worsen the female poverty outlook.

Authors’ calculations based on a desk review of recent (2018 or later) readily available data on public national statistics office data portals and/or in a publicly available official government report. Note: Estimating monetary poverty by sex remains difficult in contexts where the primary source of data is household-level instruments. These tools often lack information on intrahousehold dynamics, including individual consumption patterns and information on how resources are pooled or not among household members. Nevertheless, simultaneous disaggregation of these data by sex and age as well as household composition reveals important information about women’s risk of poverty across the life cycle. See Munoz Boudet, A. M., A. Bhatt, G. Azcona, et al. 2021. A Global View of Poverty, Gender and Household Composition. World Bank, Policy Research Working Papers.


Based on the availability of recent sex disaggregated statistics (2018 or later) for SDG indicator 1.2.2. See United Nations, 2023, Global SDG Indicators Database.


Goal 2

The 2030 projections for indicator 2.1.2 are based on the compounded annualized growth rate, or CARR, using the base year (i.e., the earliest available base year for the global average). This methodology is used for other SDG gender-specific indicators, including those produced by IPU, WHO, UNICEF and ILOSTAT. As with all efforts to project the future, there is a significant amount of uncertainty and variability with the estimates. More and better gender data can help to significantly reduce the level of uncertainty and improve current understanding of prevailing trends and implications for future outcomes.


Glauber, J., and A. Mamun. 2023. *India’s New Ban on Rice Exports: Potential threats to global supply, prices and food security*. IFPRI.


“The percentage of men who have ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land is twice that of women in more than 40 percent of the countries that have reported on women’s landownership (Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.a.1), and a larger percentage of men than women have such rights in 40 of 46 countries reporting” FAO. 2023. *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems*

Ibid.

Goal 3

The 2030 projections for indicator 3.1.1 are based on the compounded annualized growth rate, or CARR, using the base year (i.e., the earliest available base year for the global average). This methodology is used for other SDG gender-specific indicators, including those produced by IPU, WHO, UNICEF and ILOSTAT. As with all efforts to project the future, there is a significant amount of uncertainty and variability with the estimates. More and better gender data can help to significantly reduce the level of uncertainty and improve current understanding of prevailing trends and implications for future outcomes.


Ibid.

Ibid.


WHO. 2015. *Strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM)*.

UN Women calculations using United Nations, 2023, *Global SDG Indicators Database*.

UNFPA. 2023. *A neglected global crisis for women: Nearly 300,000 mothers died in 2020 from preventable causes*.

Goal 4

UNESCO. 2023. Let Girls and Women in Afghanistan learn!

UN Women calculations using UNESCO, 2019, Meeting Commitments: Are countries on track to achieve SDG 4?; UNESCO. 2019. Are the Education Goals Out of Reach? Note: The majority of the out of school students are projected to be in sub-Saharan Africa, where the upper-secondary out-of-school rate in 2021 was 4.2 percentage points higher for women than men. See UNESCO, 2022, New Estimation Confirms Out-of-School Population is Growing in sub-Saharan Africa.

Asian Development Bank. 2022. Female Secondary School Stipend in Bangladesh. In addition to an increase in the years of schooling, the program with a 24 year follow up also found a 10.2 percentage point increase in secondary school completion and 1.4 years of delayed marriage for girls that received the stipend, as compared to those that did not.

UN Women and UNDP. 2023. Paths to Equal: Twin indices on women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Goal 5

See a summary of relevant work in this area in Coffe, H., M. Fraille, A. Alexander, et al., 2023, Mind the Backlash: Gender discrimination and sexism in contemporary society, Frontiers in Political Science 5.

When gender equality is not a core objective, addressing the bottlenecks that affect women and girls specifically is easily dismissed as the work of others or work that cannot be prioritized given current budgetary constraints. This is particularly the case when programme components to address the specific needs women and girls require injections of cash that may be deemed necessary for the broader programme objective. See: Cornwall, A., E. Harrison and A. Whitehead, 2007, Gender Myths and Feminist Fables: The Struggle for Interpretive Power in Gender and Development, Development and Change, 31 January; Karlsson, M.S., 2022, Gender Equality Has a Cost, Spear Final Conference. Non-profit organizations, including those targeted at supporting gender equality, are also in need of reserves and investments funds that can support long-term sustainability and long-term programming (see Aleman and Bafu-Tawamba. 2023. How a Donor’s Embrace of a Neglected Idea Allowed This Nonprofit to Thrive).

Seguino, 2000; Braunstein et al., 2020; UNCTAD, 2023, Unlocking Transition Pathways: A global perspective to SDG costing with synergistic approaches.

This analysis reflects an optimal scenario based on efficient allocation of government spending, highlighting the positive outcomes of optimized spending.

UNCTAD in partnership with UN Women, UNDP and UNDESA. Note: The estimate is based on the costing of eight gender-specific SDG indicators, including, full implementation of appropriate social protection systems (SDG target 1.3), universal food security (SDG target 2.1), reduced maternal mortality (SDG target 3.1), and full implementation of programmes and policies that support unpaid care and domestic work (SDG target 5.4) and advance women’s empowerment (SDG target 5.5). As detailed in UNCTAD, 2023, the method used to produce these estimates is based on countries’ official statistics on government expenditure by sector compared to development outcomes measured using countries’ SDG indicator data. The projected shortfall is based on assumption that resources are allocated in an optimum way, i.e., maximization of synergies is achieved and that investments in the ‘business as usual’ scenario are not reduced in the future. Indicators of government effectiveness, political stability and absence of violence and terrorism, as well as foreign direct investment (net inflows) were used as control variables. While the input data consist of official statistics, the analysis is based on the Stochastic frontier analysis model and as such the results are
estimates that include uncertainty. Moreover, as country coverage is below 50 per cent thresholds and population coverage is similarly below 66 per cent for some regions, these estimates should be considered provisional. Nevertheless, these estimates have the potential to inform policy prioritization and show clearly the need to expand gender equality investments for progress towards the SDGs.

There are six least developed countries in this study: Afghanistan, Haiti, Mozambique, Myanmar, Somalia, and Zambia. The landlocked developing countries group comprises 11 countries and the small island developing States group encompasses nine countries.

Calculating business as usual and optimal spending scenarios.


Based on a sample of 120 countries and areas for which data are available for SDG indicator 5.1.1 and SDG indicator 5.2.1. The average rates of intimate partner violence for countries with domestic violence legislation is 9.5 per cent while the average rate for countries with no domestic violence legislation is 16.1 per cent. Similarly, a recent 2021 study found a correlation between the existence of gender quotas and increases in the number of women parliamentarians. The results were strongest in candidate-centered electoral systems compared to platform-centered ones. See Forman-Rabinovici, A., and L. Nir, 2021, Personalism or Party Platform? Gender quotas and women's representation under different electoral system orientations. PLoS One 16(9): e0257665.

United Nations. 2023. Global SDG Indicators Database. Based on a sample of 120 countries and areas for which data are available in the SDG indicator database for indicator 5.1.1. Countries and areas that do not score 100 percent in at least one area of 5.1.1 have been used in the numerator.


UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures, using United Nations, 2023, Global SDG Indicators Database and the International Futures modelling platform 2023. Note: Globally, adult individuals spend just over 12 percent of their day, or 2.9 hours, on unpaid care and domestic work. This time is not distributed evenly, however. Men spend an average of 6.4 percent of their day (or about 1.5 hours) on unpaid care and domestic work and women an average spend nearly 18 percent (4.3 hours). See the technical note for further details.

UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures. 2023. Forthcoming.


Globally, women are only 25 per cent of subjects and sources in mainstream news. Global Media Monitoring Project.2020. Who Makes the News?

See, for example, the Generation Equality Forum and the results of over 2,000 commitments, across six Action Coalitions to accelerate progress on gender equality.

IPU.2023. Parline Database.
Women in politics face many barriers that limit their equal participation, including gender-based violence and unequal access to campaign finance. See United Nations, 2023, *Extended Report Goal 5*.

**Goal 6**


UN Women and UN-Water. 2023. *Spotlight on SDG 6: From commodity to common good: A feminist agenda to tackle the world’s water crisis*.


UN Women and UN-Water. 2023. *Spotlight on SDG 6: From commodity to common good: A feminist agenda to tackle the world’s water crisis*.


UN Women calculations using UNEP-DHI, 2022, *IWRM Data Portal*.

**Goal 7**

The 2030 projections for indicator 7.1.1 are based on the compounded annualized growth rate, or CARR, using the base year (i.e., the earliest available base year for the global average). This methodology is used for other SDG gender-specific indicators, including those produced by IPU, WHO, UNICEF and ILOSTAT. As with all efforts to project the future, there is a significant amount of uncertainty and variability with the estimates. More and better gender data can help to significantly reduce the level of uncertainty and improve current understanding of prevailing trends and implications for future outcomes.


UNDP. 2023. *Access to Electricity*.

UN Women calculations using United Nations, 2023, *Global SDG Indicators Database*. The access to electricity in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) was 38.2 per cent in 2020 as per the SDG indicators database. Based on CAGR, between 2015 and 2020, the value for 2023 is extrapolated to 41.08 per cent.
UN Women calculations using United Nations, 2023, Global SDG Indicators Database; World Bank 2023, The Energy Progress Report 2023; and IEA, 2023, SDG 7: Data and Projections. For this analysis, unbiased sex ratios, 101 women for every 100 men, are assumed. The ratio is then applied to the estimated number of people expected to be lacking access to electricity by 2030, if current trends continue. The female share, however, may be higher in contexts where women are overrepresented among the energy poor. See Ngarava, S., L. Zhou, T. Ningi, et al., 2022, Gender and Ethnic Disparities in Energy Poverty: The case of South Africa, Energy Policy 161. They found that female-headed households in South Africa were more vulnerable to energy poverty than male-headed households. Black/African female-headed households were more vulnerable to energy poverty compared to White, Coloured and Indian/Asian female headed households pointing to the compounding disadvantages faced by women at the intersection of race and gender inequality.

Stoner et.al 2020, Global Household Energy Model: A Multivariate Hierarchical Approach to Estimating Trends in The Use of Polluting and Clean Fuels for Cooking. The projections presented in this statement and in Figure 6 for access to clean fuel are median estimates only. The upper and lower bounds (confidence intervals) are available upon request.


UNDP and the Pardee Center for International Futures. 2023. Modelling Universal Access, Data Futures Platform. The scenario analysis predicts female poverty will decline to 196.5 million by 2050, a sharp drop from the estimated 381.9 million in 2023.


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**Goal 8**

ILO. 2023. New Data Shine Light on Gender Gaps in the Labour Market. Spotlight on Work Statistics 12. The gap is even higher among those of the same age with at least one child under age 6. Among this group, women’s participation is 53.1 per cent and men’s is 95.7 per cent, a gap of 42.6 percentage points (ILO, 2023).

Ibid.


Goal 9


General Assembly resolution A/77/302, Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The Economist Intelligence Unit. 2021. Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women.


IMF. 2020. Low Internet Access Driving Inequality.

For inventors listed in international patent applications, see WIPO, 2023, Patent Cooperation Treaty Yearly Review – 2023. Note: The female share using data in 2022 is 17 percent, compared to 83 per cent for men. Based on current trends, parity in international patent applications will not take place until 2061. For computer programming, see United Nations, 2023, Global SDG Indicators Database. Note: The simple average is based on a sub-set of 62 countries and areas for which sex disaggregated data were available from 2017 or later. The female value is 4.2 per cent, compared to 7.7 per cent for men. Similarly, gaps exist in basic computer skills. For example, according to cross-national skills assessments, women in numerous countries are 25 per cent less likely than men to know how to leverage ICT for basic purposes, such as using simple arithmetic formulas in a spreadsheet. See UNESCO and Equal Skills Coalition, 2019, I’d Blush if I Could: Closing gender divides in digital skills through education. Policy paper.


For a full list of recommendations focused on achieving gender equality through innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age, see the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, E/CN.6/2023/L.3.

Goal 10


UN AIDS. 2021. HIV AND STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION.

In addition, 43 countries prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics, 16 provide for legal recognition of gender identity on the basis of self-identification, and 7 have protections for the physical integrity of intersex children. ILGA. 2023. ILGA World Database.

Discriminatory laws criminalizing private, consensual same-sex sexual acts remain on the books in 64 countries, of which 9 impose the death penalty for convictions. ILGA. 2023. ILGA World Database. Note: The 64 figure refers to 62 countries, plus 2 that criminalize de facto. The death penalty statistics refer to 7 countries and regions of 2 additional countries.


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**Goal 11**

SDG indicator 11.1.1 provides regional aggregates on the proportion of people living in slums, informal settlements and/or inadequate housing. This information alongside the world urban population projections in 2050 are used to derive the population expected to live in slums, informal settlements and/or in adequate housing. For this analysis, unbiased sex ratios in the urban population and for individuals living in slums, informal settlements and/or inadequate housing are assumed. The female share, however, may be higher in contexts where women are overrepresented in slum and slum-like settings. See UN Women and UN-Habitat. 2020. Spotlight on SDG11: Harsh realities: Marginalized women in cities of the developing world.


About one in six people experiences a disability. Disaggregated by sex, 14.2 per cent of the male population has a disability compared to 18 per cent of the female population. The vast majority of persons with disabilities, nearly 80 per cent, live in developing countries. World Health Organization. 2022. Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities.

Braunmiller, J.C., and M.Dry. 2022. The Importance of Designing Gender and Disability Inclusive Laws: A survey of legislation in 190 economies. World Bank Group. A 2004-2005 study also explored the extent to which countries included accessibility standards in their rules and regulations around urban planning. The report found that 54 per cent of countries lacked accessibility standards for outdoor spaces, including streets; 43 per cent lacked standards for public buildings; and 44 per cent lacked them for schools, health facilities and other public service buildings. See UN-Habitat, 2014, Accessibility of Housing. A handbook of inclusive affordable Housing solutions for persons with disabilities and older persons.

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**Goal 12-15**

UN Women and UN-Water. 2023. Spotlight on SDG 6: From commodity to common good: A feminist agenda to tackle the world’s water crisis.
Climate shocks are also expected to increase the risk of violence against women. A recent UN Women study focused on the Asia and the Pacific region found online searches for key words related to violence against women increased following periods of crisis, including severe weather events such as tsunamis and cyclones, but also during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis, when curfews were put in place throughout the region. See UN Women, 2023. *Disasters, Crises and Violence against Women: Evidence from Big Data Analysis*.

UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures, using the International Futures modelling platform 2023. Based on a possible future scenario where global temperatures rise by 3- 4°C by 2100. See UN Women and Pardee Center for International Futures. 2023. *Forthcoming* for more information on the climate model assumptions used (RCP 6.0) and the broader development model parameters used for this analysis. Note: As with all efforts to project the future, there is a significant amount of uncertainty and variability with the estimates. The further into the future, the greater the variability. With only seven years left, the projection of poverty increases by 2030 as a result of climate change are lower than estimates for mid-century but nonetheless significant. Globally, between 13 million and 32 million additional women and girls will be pushed into poverty by 2030 depending upon the frequency and intensity of climate change events and the extent of rises in global temperature.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

UN Women and UN-Water. 2023. *Spotlight on SDG 6: From commodity to common good: A feminist agenda to tackle the world’s water crisis*.

Goal 16

UNHCR 2023. *Yemen Crisis Explained*.


Goal 17


SDG 5 Tracker


See also United Nations. 2023. Technical Note for Progress Assessment.

See also UN Women. 2023. Technical note on SDG 5 Progress Assessment. Forthcoming.

List of gender-specific indicators

Indicator 12.8.1 ‘Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment’ is not listed as gender-specific under Goal 12 in this chart so as not to double count the identical indicator 13.3.1 in the section on Goals 12-15.

Indicator 16.b.1 ‘Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law’ is not listed as a gender-specific indicator under Goal 16 in this chart so as not to double count the identical indicator 10.3.1 in the section on Goal 16.

The total number of gender-specific indicators listed above is 54, but the total number of unique gender-specific indicators is 52.