

2025



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SDG 5:

GENDER EQUALITY

*Achieve gender equality and
empower all women and girls*



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Significant progress in advancing women's rights has been recorded globally, with 99 positive legal reforms implemented between 2019 and 2024 to remove discriminatory laws and establish gender equality frameworks.
- In 61 of the 131 countries for which data are available, there was at least one restriction preventing women from doing the same jobs as men in 2024. Only 38 countries had made 18 the minimum age for marriage, with no exceptions, and only 63 countries had laws on rape that were based on a lack of consent.
- As of 1 January 2025, women held 27.2% of the seats in national parliaments, up 4.9 percentage points from 2015 but only 0.3 points from 2024. Women held 35.5% of local government positions.
- From 2015 to 2023, women representation in management positions increased by only 2.4 percentage points, reaching 30%.
- Today, nearly one in five young women aged 20–24 (19%) was first married or in union before age 18. While child marriage has become less common globally, largely due to progress in Southern Asia, levels remain highest in sub-Saharan Africa (31%).
- Over 230 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). Eliminating FGM by 2030 will require accelerating progress to 27 times as fast as the past decade's pace.
- By 2023, women and girls were spending an average of 2.5 times as many hours per day on domestic and care work as men. Women in Northern Africa and Western Asia spend over four times as many hours as men.
- A global review of 84 countries shows that 58% lack adequate legal protections for women's land rights across family, inheritance, and land laws. Moreover, in nearly 80 percent of countries with available data, less than half of women have ownership or secure rights to agricultural land.
- 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, according to data from 78 countries. The lowest level of autonomy was reported in sub-Saharan Africa, at 36.8%, compared with 87.2% in Europe.
- Globally, 77% of women and 82% of men owned a mobile telephone in 2024. Since 2021, the gender gap in mobile phone ownership has narrowed, from 9.4 to 7% in 2024. However, among population without mobile phones, there are nearly 200 million more women than men.



WHERE WE STAND

- Three decades after the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, gender equality remains elusive.
- Women remain underrepresented in decision-making and leadership, holding only one in five parliamentary seats and less than one-third of managerial positions. Given this sluggish progress, it will take almost 100 years to reach gender parity in managerial roles.
- Only 26% countries and areas have comprehensive systems to track resource allocations for gender equality
- Achieving gender equality requires integrated, comprehensive, and gender-responsive policy packages that strengthen legal frameworks, reduce economic and structural barriers, and scale up investment in gender equality at all levels.

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



To learn more about
global progress on the 17
SDGs, [click here](#) to read
the latest Sustainable
Development Goals
Report 2025.

SPOTLIGHT



Spotlight Initiative

The **Spotlight Initiative** is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations focusing on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The initiative is administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office with the support of core agencies including UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women and overseen by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

With the initial investment of EUR 500 million from the European Union as its main contributor, the initiative welcomes other donors and partners to join forces to broaden its reach and scope.

Key impact from the initiative so far include:

- overall conviction rate for gender-based violence doubled across 13 countries;
- 540+ laws or policies were signed or strengthened to end violence against women and girls;
- USD 195 million was delivered to civil society organizations (49% of activity funds);
- more than 5,000 local and grassroots women's rights organizations reported having greater influence and agency;
- close to 3 million women and girls accessed gender-based violence services;
- 384 million people reached through prevention campaigns;
- close to 8 million young people joined gender equality programmes;
- 50 countries strengthened their National Action Plans to eliminate violence against women and girls.

For more information, please visit [here](#).



UN SYSTEM IN ACTION

- Under the leadership of the **Deputy Secretary-General, UN Women** coordinated the **first UN system-wide policy guidance to transform care systems**, supported by core partners such as **UNDP, ILO, OHCHR, and ECLAC**. Building on the guidance, **ILO, OHCHR and UN Women** facilitated the observance of the **International day of Care and Support** on 29 October. The Government of Mexico and **UN Women** launched the **Global Alliance for Care**, the first global multi-stakeholder community of governments, civil society, union associations, philanthropy, international organizations and academia that facilitates and fosters spaces for collective action, advocacy, communication, and learning about care economy. The **ILO Global Care Portal** present a knowledge hub to support the transformation.
- Led by **UN Women, DPO and UNDP**, the Global Focal Point on the Rule of Law (GFP) Gender Justice Working Group adopted a **Gender Equality Marker Tracking System** to assess and monitor the gender-responsiveness of the technical and strategic support provided by the GFP. The **Gender Justice Platform of UNDP and UN Women** works closely with GFP to bridge the gender justice gap, empower women, and dismantle barriers to their participation in rule of law institutions. The **Steering Committee of Equality in Law for Women and Girls by 2030** led by **UN Women**, the African Union, the Commonwealth, IPU, **UNHCR, UNODC**, and other partners, seeks to fast track the repeal of discriminatory laws across six thematic areas and address systemic discrimination.
- Led by the **ILO, UN Women**, and the OECD, the **Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC)** aims to achieve equal pay for women and men at the global, regional and national levels.
- ITC's "**Gender Moonshot**" Initiative focuses on removing barriers that women-led businesses face in accessing finance, public procurement, market information, digital tools, and professional networks. The **WTO-ITC Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund** is a \$50 million global fund to support women-led businesses and women entrepreneurs in developing and LDCs to adopt digital technologies. **ITC and UN Women's Gender Responsive Public Procurement Campaign** encourages governments to incorporate gender perspective into procurement practices.
- **UNESCO and UN Women** facilitate the observance of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** on 11 February, which unites the international community in emphasizing the need for gender equality in science. The **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS)** partnership recognizes and supports female scientists at different stages of their careers. The **EMPOWER Fellowship**, a joint initiative between **UNOSSC** and **ICGEB**, aims at supporting young women scientists particularly in developing countries.
- The **UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** works to tackle the elimination of FGM through interventions in 18 countries, shifting social norms in affected communities while working with governments to put in place viable national response systems.

* This is not an exhaustive list of UN system actions to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please visit



To inform the thematic review of SDG 5 at the 2025 HLPF, **UN DESA, UN Women**, together with other partners from the wider UN system, organized an **Expert Group Meeting on SDG 5 and its interlinkages with other SDGs** on 21-22 January 2025, in New York.

To read the summary of discussion from the Expert Group Meeting, click [here](#).



UN SYSTEM SDG IMPLEMENTATION DATABASE