



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

An Overview

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education (SDG 4), health care (SDG 3), decent work (SDG 8), and representation in political and economic decision-making processes (SDG 16) will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

While the world has achieved some progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

Globally, 750 million women and girls are married before the age of 18, though in Southern Asia a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has dropped by over 40% since 2000. Only 52% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care. One in five women and girls have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months, yet 49 countries have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence. FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) has declined by 30% in the past decade, but at least 200 million women and girls in just 30 countries have undergone FGM.

The proportion of women in paid employment outside the agriculture sector increased from 35% in 1990 to 41% in 2015. However, women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector, and globally women are just 13% of agricultural land holders. In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working and in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights.

While women have made important inroads into political office across the world, their representation in national parliaments at 24% is still far from parity. In 46 countries, however, women now hold more than 30% of seats in national parliament in at least one chamber. Progress has been made but there is a lot more to be done to achieve the fair and just society needed to achieve all of the SDGs.

SDG 5 Keywords

This list is comprised of the Scopus queries generated by Elsevier in order to identify research that supports SDG 5, as part of the assessment undertaken by the global THE Impact League.

gender inequality	gender equality	employment equity	gender wage gap
female labour force participation	women's / female (un)employment	access and family planning services	forced marriage
child marriage	occupational segregation	women's/ girls' empowerment	female genital mutilation / cutting
domestic violence	women / girl and violence	sexual violence	unpaid work and gender inequality
unpaid care work and gender inequality	women's political participation	female managers / leadership	women in leadership
intra-household allocation	access and reproductive healthcare	honour killing	antiwomen
feminism	misogyny	female infanticide	human trafficking
forced prostitution	equality and sexual / reproductive / divorce rights	women's rights	gender injustice
gender disparities	gender gap	female exploitation	household equity
female political participation	women's underrepresentation	female entrepreneurship	female ownership
women's economic development	women's power	gender-responsive budgeting	gender quota
foreign aid and women's empowerment	gender segregation	gender-based violence	gender participation

female politician / leader	contraceptive behaviour	women's autonomy	agrarian feminism
microfinance	women's ownership	women's livelihood	female smallholder
gender mainstreaming			

SDG 5 Targets & Indicators

Consider if your research could support a specific target in order to maximise impact.

TARGETS		INDICATORS	
5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	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
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	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
		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
5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
		5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
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	5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location
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	5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments
		5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions
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	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
		5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education
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	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
		5.A.2	Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control
5.B	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in	5.B.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile

	particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	telephone, by sex
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	5.C.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Useful Links

- [UN Women](#)
- [He for She campaign](#)
- [United Secretary-General Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women](#)
- [Every Woman Every Child Initiative](#)
- [Spotlight Initiative](#)
- [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)
- [UN Population Fund: Gender equality](#)
- [UN Population Fund: Female genital mutilation](#)
- [UN Population Fund: Child marriage](#)
- [UN Population Fund: Engaging men & boys](#)
- [UN Population Fund: Gender-based violence](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- [UN High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)
- [UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation \(UNESCO\)](#)
- [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Gender Statistics](#)