

# TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION:

## GENDER EQUALITY IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda is clear: there can be no sustainable development without gender equality. *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 agenda*, a global monitoring report by UN Women, asks: **How far have we come in turning this new development consensus into results for women and girls, and what is needed to bridge the remaining gaps between rhetoric and reality?**

New data analysis\* in the report puts a spotlight on gender-based discrimination across all 17 SDGs. The goal-by-goal review shows that gender inequalities—deeply rooted and present across all countries—are pervasive in each and every dimension of sustainable development. **See goal-by-goal summary below.**

Using micro-level data, the report shows how across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often left behind and excluded from progress.

These groups of women and girls not only lack access to education and health, but also other key measures of well-being including access to clean water, fuel and housing. **See case studies summary below.**

Addressing these challenges requires dramatic advances in statistics, financing and policies for gender equality.

## THE NEED FOR ACTION

The report identifies four key areas for action:

1. **Harnessing policy synergies:** the demands for implementation are huge—there are 17 goals and gender equality matters for all of them. Integrated approaches to implementation are pivotal to harnessing these synergies.
2. **Improving gender data, statistics and analysis** to effectively monitor progress for women and girls across all goals and targets.
3. **Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes** to align action with the principles, values and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.
4. **Strengthening accountability** through gender-responsive processes and institutions to ensure an integrated approach to implementation, follow-up and review with gender equality at its core.

**See *Policy in Focus* summary below.**

\* **NOTE:** Data presented are from global databases and may not reflect the most up-to-date country level information. For the most up-to-date country level information we advise that you check with national level sources.

## FACT SHEET – AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

*Gender-based discrimination— deeply rooted and present across all countries—threatens to undermine the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda in real and measurable ways:*

### 1 NO POVERTY

Globally, there are 122 women aged 25-34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group.

### 2 ZERO HUNGER

In nearly two thirds of countries, women are more likely than men to report food insecurity. However, in the **Australia and New Zealand** region, women are less likely than men to be food insecure – 8.2% and 10.9%, respectively, for women and men. In **Australia**, the prevalence of food insecurity is 2.8 percentage points higher among men than women, and similarly, the gap is 2.4 percentage points in **New Zealand**.

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Globally, 303,000 women died from pregnancy-related causes in 2015. The rate of death is declining much too slowly to achieve Target 3.1. **Australia and New Zealand** have had the lowest maternal mortality ratio of all regions since 1990. In 2015, there was an average of 7 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the region – compared to an average of 216 globally.

### 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Globally, 15 million girls of primary-school age will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to 10 million boys.

### 5 GENDER EQUALITY

**The 2030 Agenda promises to put an end to barriers that prevent women and girls from realizing their full potential. But significant challenges lie ahead:**

**5.1** In 18 countries across the world, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

**5.2** Globally, 1 in 5 women and girls under the age of 50 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 17% of women over the age of 18 in **Australia** have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime.

**5.3** Globally, 750 million women and girls were married before the age of 18 and at least 200 million women and girls in 30 countries have undergone FGM.

**5.4** Globally, women do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do. However, in **Australia and New Zealand** the corresponding figures are lower: 1.9 and 1.6, respectively.

Evidence from the region suggests that same-sex couples are less likely to follow traditional gender roles. In **Australia**, only 38% of opposite-sex couples said that both partners do about the same amount of unpaid domestic work, versus 59% of female same-sex couples and 57% of male same-sex couples.

**5.5** Women hold just 23.7% of parliamentary seats globally, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to 2000 – but still way below parity. **Australia and New Zealand** demonstrate higher female representation in national parliaments than the global average. As of September 2017, 34.2% of parliamentary seats in New Zealand and 28.7% in Australia are held by women.

**5.6** Based on data from 45 countries, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa, only 52% of women aged 15-49 who are married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

**5.a** Globally, women are just 13% of agricultural land holders.

**5.b** The benefits of internet and technology are accessible to men at a much higher rate than women, leaving women behind in Internet access and mobile phone ownership. In **Australia and New Zealand**, 53.7% of women have access to the Internet, a slightly lower proportion than that for men, of whom 56.9% have access to the Internet.

**5.c** More than 100 countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of households without access to water on premises.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Indoor air pollution from using combustible fuels for household energy caused 4.3 million deaths in 2012, with women and girls accounting for 6 out of every 10 of these.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Globally, the labour force participation rate among prime working-age women (aged 25–54) stands at 63%, compared to 94% among their male counterparts. The global gender pay gap is 23%. In **Australia and New Zealand**, women's labour force participation rate has been consistently lower than men's over a 20-year period. While men's LFPR stands at 91% for the region in 2017, women's LFPR is 77%, up only slightly from 75.1% in 2007.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Women represent 28.8% of researchers worldwide. Only about 1 in 5 countries have achieved gender parity in this area.

Female representation in research positions in **New Zealand** is much higher than the global average and surpasses that of men. Based on latest available data, 52% of researchers in New Zealand are women.

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Up to 30% of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are also more likely than men to live below 50% of the median income.

Single-mother households are likely to fall below the 50% median income mark: In **Australia**, single mothers are over two times as likely to be poor, with 35% of single-mother households living below 50% of the median income, compared with 15% of all women and 13% of all men.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The global population is becoming more urban, with opportunities and risks for women and girls. The inaccessibility of clean energy sources, clean water, and improved sanitation in slum housing, for example, has adverse consequences on women's health.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Investment in public transportation yields large benefits for women, who tend to rely on public transport more than men do.

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change has a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are 14 times as likely as men to die during a disaster.

## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

The contamination of freshwater and marine ecosystems negatively impacts women's and men's livelihoods, their health and the health of their children.

Occupational segregation looms large within fisheries and aquaculture in **Australia and New Zealand**, where from 2009-2015, women represented just 12.8% of people working in these industries.

## 15 LIFE ON LAND

Between 2010 and 2015, the world lost 3.3 million hectares of forest areas. Poor rural women depend on common pool resources and are especially affected by their depletion.

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Protecting women and girls from violence contributes to the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies. In **New Zealand**, the Ministry of Social Development funds approximately 80 non-government organizations across the country to provide education, life skills, parenting and relationship skills to women who have experienced violence. These services were developed based on the needs of the community and are tailored to each family's needs. All services are available in English, but many are also provided in Māori and some in Pacific or other languages.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

In 2012, finances flowing out of developing countries were 2.5 times the amount of aid flowing in, and gender allocations paled in comparison. **Australia's** contribution to Official development assistance (ODA) was only 0.27% of their GNI while that of **New Zealand** was 0.25% - much below the United Nations target ODA of 0.7% of GNI. Although, **New Zealand's** gender equality-focused aid increased from 49% to 58% from 2014 to 2015, **Australia's** gender equality focused aid decreased from 57% to 54% over the same period.

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Leaving no one behind means the benefits of sustainable development reach everyone. Currently, across countries, it is those women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination who are often the furthest behind.

Specific measures may be needed within universal policies and programmes to enable marginalized groups to access services. **Australia** has introduced indigenous-specific primary health services that operate within the universal health system to address specific barriers experienced by indigenous people.

## POLICY IN FOCUS

### Harnessing policy synergies

Investments in accessible, affordable and quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) can contribute to the achievement of several gender- and child-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda by, for instance, reducing the time women spend on unpaid care by shifting some of it out of the family (Target 5.4), enabling women to increase their access to employment (Target 8.5) and enhancing school readiness (Target 4.2).

In **Australia and New Zealand**, indigenous families are less likely than non-indigenous families to access ECEC services.

### The need for global gender data availability

Gaps in gender data and the lack of trend data make it difficult to assess and monitor the direction and pace of progress for women and girls. The availability of data necessary for global monitoring of the gender-specific indicators is at a mere 26%. Data availability for monitoring gender-specific indicators in **Australia** is similar to the global average, at 26.3%, with **New Zealand** falling slightly below the global average, at 21.2%. These percentages are even smaller when accounting for only recent (since 2010) data. Unless gender is mainstreamed into national statistical strategies, gender data scarcity will persist.

### Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes

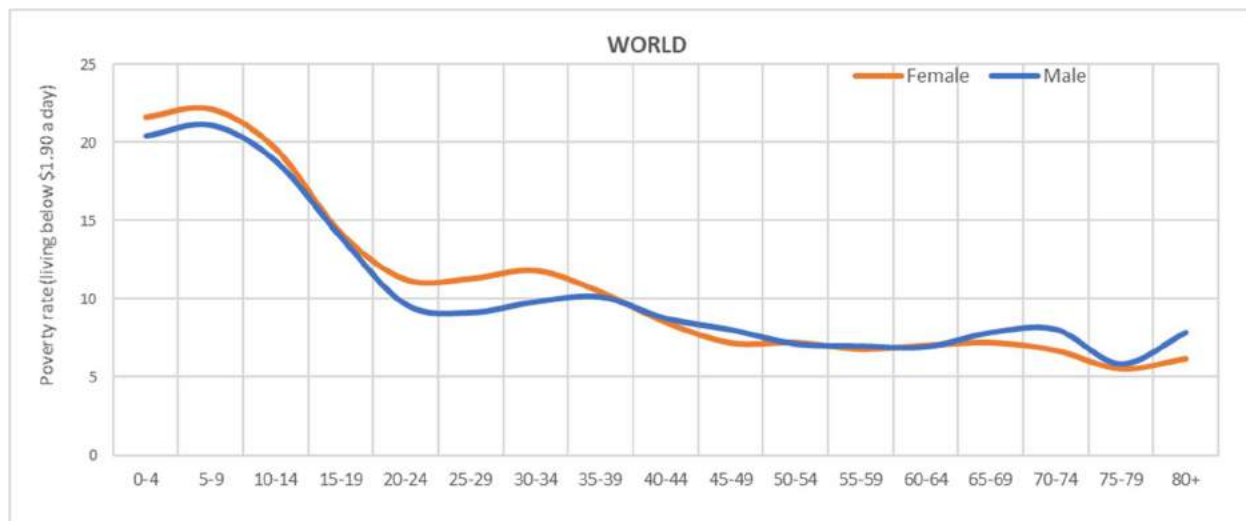
Prioritizing gender-responsive investments pays off. In South Africa, for instance, it is estimated that a gross annual investment of 3.2% of GDP in ECEC would not only result in universal coverage for all 0-5-year-old children, but also create 2.3 million new jobs, raising female employment by 10.1%.

## APPENDIX

**Note:** The below represent a selection of illustrative examples for Australia and New Zealand. Country-specific data may be available; if you are interested in country-specific data, please contact us at [gender.data@unwomen.org](mailto:gender.data@unwomen.org) using the subject line “SDG Report”.

### 1 NO POVERTY

Proportion of people living in extreme poverty<sup>a</sup> by sex and age, 2009-2013<sup>b</sup>



Source: World Bank calculations using Global Micro Database 2017.

Notes:

a – Living below \$1.90 a day.

b – Data refer to the most recent available during the period specified for 89 developing countries.

## 2 ZERO HUNGER

### Gender gap in prevalence of food security, 2014-2015

| SDG Regional Groupings              | % of females who are food insecure | % of males who are food insecure | Difference (f-m) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Australia and New Zealand           | 8.2                                | 10.9                             | -2.7             |
| Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia | 8.4                                | 8.7                              | -0.3             |
| Sub-Saharan Africa                  | 56.7                               | 56.1                             | 0.6              |
| Europe and Northern America         | 9.0                                | 8.0                              | 1.0              |
| Northern Africa and Western Asia    | 28.8                               | 26.8                             | 2                |
| Latin America and the Caribbean     | 30.8                               | 28.0                             | 2.8              |
| Central Asia and Southern Asia      | 28.2                               | 24.5                             | 3.7              |
| World                               | 23.9                               | 22.4                             | 1.5              |

Source: UN Women calculations based on data from the FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) survey (2014–2015).

Notes: The FIES measures the percentage of individuals in the national population who have experienced food insecurity at moderate or severe levels during the 12-month reference period. The analysis is based on data from 141 countries collected by FAO in the context of the Voices of the Hungry Project. FAO. 2017.

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY

### Internet penetration rate by sex and region, 2017

| SDG Regional Groupings          | Female Internet users as % of total female population 2017 | Male Internet users as % of total male population 2017 |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Australia and New Zealand       | 53.7   | 56.9   |
| Central and Southern Asia       | 41.5   | 44.6   |
| Eastern and South-eastern Asia  | 27.8   | 42.0   |
| Europe and Northern America     | 75.2   | 82.0   |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 66.7   | 65.2   |

|  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
| <b>Northern Africa and Western Asia</b>              | 55.3 | 59.5 |
| <b>Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)</b> | 53.7 | 56.7 |
| <b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>                            | 18.4 | 24.6 |
| <b>World</b>   | 44.7 | 50.6 |

Source: ITU (International Telecommunication Union). 2017. *ICT Facts and Figures 2017*. Geneva: ITU.

Note: Internet penetration rates refer to the number of women and men using the Internet, as a percentage of the respective total female and male population.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

### Proportion of urban population living in slums, by region (per cent)

| Region   | 2014  | 2000  |
|--|-------|-------|
| <b>Australia and New Zealand</b>                     | 0.03  | 0.03  |
| <b>Central Asia and Southern Asia</b>                | 31.89 | 46.05 |
| <b>Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia</b>           | 27.55 | 38.23 |
| <b>Landlocked Developing Countries</b>               | 59.00 | 67.11 |
| <b>Latin America and The Caribbean</b>               | 21.26 | 29.31 |
| <b>Least developed countries</b>                     | 62.16 | 77.97 |
| <b>Northern America and Europe</b>                   | 0.10  | 0.10  |
| <b>Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)</b> | 24.15 | 24.19 |
| <b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>                            | 55.99 | 65.04 |
| <b>Western Asia and Northern Africa</b>              | 22.06 | 23.11 |
| <b>World</b>   | 22.77 | 28.42 |

Source: UN-Habitat, 2017.