

## **Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals:**

### **The Gender Snapshot 2026**

#### **References and notes**

##### **Snapshot of gender equality across the Sustainable Development Goals (pages 2 - 3)**

###### *Goal 1*

Sentence 1: de la Flor Giuffra, L., Fruttero, A., Muñoz Boudet, A. M., & Oviedo, A. M. 2025. *Global poverty trends for women*. World Bank.

Sentence 2: UN Women calculations based on UN Women Database on Women and Men Cabinet Members. Data as of 1 January 2026.

###### *Goal 2*

Sentence 1: UN Women calculations based on the International Futures Model, Pardee Center for International Futures.

Sentence 2: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#) for SDG indicator 2.3.1; FAO. 2023. [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#) and UN Women. 2023. [Progress on the SDGs: The Gender Snapshot 2023](#)

###### *Goal 3*

Sentence 1: IPU and UN Women. 2026. [Women in politics: 2026](#).

Sentence 2: World Economic Forum. 2026. [Women's Health Investment Outlook](#).

###### *Goal 4*

Sentence 1: Global Education Monitoring Report Team. 2026. Global education monitoring report 2026: Access and equity, countdown to 2030. UNESCO.

Sentence 2: Acheampong, A. O., Opoku, E. E. O., & Rustagi, N. 2024. Gender quota, women in politics, and gender parity in education. *Economics & Politics*, 36(3), 1223–1260. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecpo.12287> and [Dutta and Maus 2021](#)), UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, 2024/5

###### *Goal 5*

Sentence 1 & 2: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

Sentence 3 & 4: UN DESA. 2025. [The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report](#) and UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

Sentence 5 & 6: WHO. 2025. [Lifetime toll: 840 million women faced partner or sexual violence](#) and UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

Sentence 7: People's AI & Data Lab for Social Research at The New School and UN Women. Full paper forthcoming in 2027. ***Do Women and Men Leaders Prioritize Different Issues? A Machine Learning Analysis of Political Speeches (draft title)***. Authors: Ginette Azcona, Antra Bhatt, Shikha Dodecha, Daniela Frade Noguez, Yeon-Joo Kang, Shofie Alya Qodriani, Firdha Anisa Najiya Merdeka Sari and Disha Wagle.

Speech texts were obtained from the statement PDFs published on the UN General Assembly website (gadebate.un.org). Speaker sex was recorded from the honorific and pronouns shown on the official UN speaker page ("His/Her Excellency," "he/she"); among the 193 delivered statements in 2025, 24 were delivered by women and 169 by men. In 2024, 194 statements were delivered, 20 by women and 174 by men. For statements available only in a non-English language, we translated the full text into English using AI tools. Sensitivity tests assessed whether the main findings held when we excluded machine-translated text.

Sentence 8: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#) and UNICEF. 2025. [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#).

Sentence 9: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)

Sentence 10 & 11: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)

Sentence 12: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)

Sentence 13: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)

Sentence 14: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report](#)

Sentence 15: ECOSOC. 2026. [Statistical Annex, Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

## Goal 6

Sentence 1: UN Women. 2026. [Why water and sanitation are women's rights issues](#)

Sentence 2: WHO and UNICEF. 2026. [Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2025](#)

## Goal 7

Sentence 1: International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, UNSD, World Bank, & WHO. 2026. [Tracking SDG 7: The energy progress report 2026](#).

Sentence 2: Ibid and UN Women calculations based on SDG 7.1.1

## Goal 8

Sentence 1: International Labor Organization (ILO) data. 2026. [ILOSTAT database](#).

Sentence 2: UN Women calculations using International Labor Organization (ILO) data. 2026. [ILOSTAT Database](#).

### Goal 9

Sentence 1: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). 2026. [Female share of graduates from STEM programmes, tertiary \(%\)](#)

Sentence 2: Interface. 2024. [AI's Missing Link: The Gender Gap in the Talent Pool](#)

### Goal 10

Sentence 1: UNDESA. 2024. [Disability and Development Report 2024](#)

### Goal 11

Sentence 1: United Nations. 2026. [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General](#). United Nations.

Sentence 2: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). 2026. *CEPALSTAT statistical data portal*. Retrieved August 28, 2026, from <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/index.html?lang=en> and European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). 2026. *Gender Statistics Database*. Retrieved August 28, 2026, from <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs>

### Goal 12-15

Sentence 1: UN Women calculations using European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre. 2025. [Inform Risk Index Database](#) and United Nations Population Division. 2024. [World Population Prospects 2024](#).

The natural hazard risk exposure index category combines climate-related hazards (river flood, tropical cyclone, coastal flood) and geophysical hazards (earthquake, tsunami). “High risk” corresponds to index scores in the range of 4.7 to 6.8, and “very high risk” corresponds to scores in the range of 6.9 to 10.0. The analysis covers 191 countries and areas, using medium-variant population projections.

Sentence 2: IPU and UN Women. 2026. [Women in Politics: 2026](#)

### Goal 16

Sentence 1: United Nations. 2024. [GR 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems](#)

Sentence 2: UN Women. 2025. [Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security](#)

### Goal 17

Sentence 1: OECD. 2026. [ODA Projections for 2026 and the Near-Term: Implications for Vulnerable Countries and Sectors](#)

Sentence 2: OECD. 2026. [ODA for Gender Equality Is Plummeting: How Can We Protect It?](#)

## Leadership Spread (pages 4 - 11)

### When women lead, all SDGs move forward

#### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: United Nations. 2015. [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
- Sentence 2: United Nations. 2026. [Review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Report of the Secretary-General](#)
- Sentence 3: Ibid.

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: Mechkova, V., Dahlum, S., Petrarca, C.S. 2024. [Women's Political Representation, Good Governance and Human Development](#)
- Sentence 3: Htun, M., Weldon, S.L. 2012. [The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005](#); Weldon, S.L. 2024. [State Feminism, Global Feminist Waves and Democratic Backsliding: Global and Cross-National Perspectives](#)
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: Inference, hence, no reference needed

#### Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#)
- Sentence 2: UNRISD and UN-Women. 2025. [Understanding Backlash Against Gender Equality: Evidence, Trends and Policy Responses](#)
- Sentence 3: See pages 5-10 of report.
- Sentence 4: Mrdelj, R., & Kuhar, R. (Eds.). 2025. [Anti-Gender Mobilizations in Europe and the Feminist Response: Productive Resistance](#); Krizsán, A., Roggeband, C., & Zeller, M. C. 2025. [Who is Afraid of the Istanbul Convention? Explaining Opposition to and Support for Gender Equality](#); UNRISD and UN-Women. 2025. [Understanding Backlash Against Gender Equality: Evidence, Trends and Policy Responses](#); Brechenmacher, S. 2025. [The New Global Struggle over Gender, Rights, and Family Values](#); United Nations Human Rights Council, Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls. 2024. [Escalating Backlash against Gender Equality and Urgency of Reaffirming Substantive Equality and the Human Rights of Women and Girls](#)
- Sentence 5: Horne, C., & Stan, L. 2026. [Introduction to the Special Issue on Democratic Backsliding and Women's Empowerment](#); Chenoweth, E., & Marks, Z. 2022. [Revenge of the Patriarchs: Why Autocrats Fear Women](#)
- Sentence 6: UN Women calculations using IDEA and V-DEM data on women's civil society participation, gender equality and democratic representation between 1975 and 2024 for 161 countries. See Annex I for technical notes.
- Sentence 7: Von Bülow, M. 2024. [Women's Activism: Resistance and Democracy in Brazil](#). In S. Brechenmacher, E. Jones, & Ö. Zihnioglu (Eds.), [On the Front Lines: Women's Mobilization for](#)

[Democracy in an Era of Backsliding](#); Heinrich Böll Stiftung. 2022. [Violence in Social Media Threatens Women Active in Brazilian Politics](#); Shmatsina, K. 2024. [Women's Prominent Roles in the 2020 Postelection Protests in Belarus](#). In S. Brechenmacher, E. Jones, & Ö. Zihnioğlu (Eds.), [On the Front Lines: Women's Mobilization for Democracy in an Era of Backsliding](#); V-Dem Institute. 2025. [Democracy Report 2025: 25 Years of Autocratization – Democracy Trumped?](#)

Paragraph 4:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed

Paragraph 5:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 3: Inference, hence, no reference needed

*After years of upward movement, progress on women's political leadership is losing momentum*

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 3: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: Inter-Parliamentary Union, & UN Women. 2020. *Women in politics: 2020*. [Women in Politics 2020](#);  
Inter-Parliamentary Union, & UN Women. 2026. *Women in politics: 2026*. [Women in Politics 2026](#).
- Sentence 6: UN Women. 2026. [Only 1 in 7 countries is led by a woman as global political power remains dominated by men](#).
- Sentence 7: Ibid.
- Sentence 8: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: UNSD. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals report 2026: Goal 5—Gender equality](#).
- Sentence 3: UN Women calculations using SDG indicator database 2026. Source: IPU, Parline database: <https://data.ipu.org>.
- Sentence 4: IPU submission to UN Women for Gender Snapshot 2026.
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: UN Women. 2026. [Only 1 in 7 countries is led by a woman as global political power remains dominated by men](#).
- Sentence 7: Ibid.
- Sentence 8: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

- Sentence 9: Inter-Parliamentary Union. 2026. [Women in parliament in 2025](#).

Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: UN Women calculations based on UN Women database on Women in local government, accessible at <https://localgov.unwomen.org/>
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.

Infographic – In focus 1: Women are far less likely to be allocated economy and finance portfolios — a pattern that reflects institutional bias in appointment decisions, not women’s policy interests

- Left side: UN Women calculations based on UN Women Database on Women and Men Cabinet Members. Data as of 1 January 2026.
- Right side: People’s AI & Data Lab for Social Research at The New School and UN Women, forthcoming. Full paper forthcoming in 2027. ***Do Women and Men Leaders Prioritize Different Issues? A Machine Learning Analysis of Political Speeches (draft title)***. Authors: Ginette Azcona, Antra Bhatt, Shikha Dodecha, Daniela Frade Noguez, Yeon-Joo Kang, Shofie Alya Qodriani, Firdha Anisa Najiya Merdeka Sari and Disha Wagle.

Each statement was analyzed with a fixed, dictionary-based (lexicon) classifier against a curated taxonomy, namely: women / girls / gender equality: women, woman, girls, girl, gender equality, gender equity, gender parity, gender gap, women's rights, women's empowerment, empowerment of women, female leadership, women in leadership, women in politics, gender-based, feminist, feminism, equal pay, glass ceiling, women's participation, maternal, reproductive rights, gender mainstreaming; backlash / shrinking civic space: backlash, rollback, pushback, regression, erosion of rights, shrinking civic space, closing civic space, threats to democracy, democratic backsliding, anti-rights, anti-gender, attacks on women, harassment of women, delegitimize, silencing women, exclusion of women, obstacles to women; international justice & accountability: international court of justice, ICJ, international criminal court, ICC, rule of law, international law, accountability, war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, impunity, international tribunal, ad hoc tribunal. Terms were matched case-insensitively as whole words or phrases (flexible on hyphenation and apostrophe style, e.g. "gender-based"/"gender based"), without stemming, so that singular and plural forms match only where both are listed.

(Continued – pg. 6)

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 2024. General recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems (CEDAW/C/GC/40). United Nations.
- Sentence 2: UN Gender Quota Portal accessible at <https://genderquota.org/>. The Portal is currently updated with data as of 1 Jan 2026 based on UN Women database on gender quotas.

- Sentence 3: UN Women analysis based on UN Women database on gender quotas and UN Women data on women's representation in local government, as of 1 January 2025. A well-designed, ambitious quota is considered one that targets at least a 40 per cent share of women and is backed by strong implementation mechanisms, such as requirements to alternate placement of women and men on candidate lists and rejection of non-compliant lists.

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: UN Women Policy Brief on Violence Against Women in Politics (forthcoming). Note: Data presented are on violence against women candidates **and office holders** in 13 countries – Zimbabwe 2024), Uruguay 2025), Dem. Republic of the Congo 2025), Kyrgyzstan 2023), Colombia 2025), Rep. of Moldova 2025), Georgia 2025), Cote d'Ivoire 2025), Argentina 2025), Tunisia 2022), Jordan 2022), Nepal 2021), and Lebanon 2022. The percentages shown refer to prevalence of violence (percentage of women who experienced violence).
- Sentence 2: UN Women Leadership and Decision-making policy brief (forthcoming).
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid
- Sentence 5: IPU. 2026. [New IPU report: Lawmakers increasingly intimidated by the public.](#)

Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: UN Women calculation based on data from: Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). 2021. [Cost of Politics in Kenya](#); Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). 2024. ["Cashing Out": Is the Cost of Politics Unsustainable?](#); The Conversation. 2022. [Want to Run for Office in Kenya? Here's How Much It'll Cost You](#); Federal Election Commission (FEC). 2025. [Statistical Summary of 24-Month Campaign Activity of the 2023-2024 Election Cycle](#). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics \(OEWS\)](#); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Parline. [Kenya - Data on Women](#); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Parline. [Indonesia - Data on Women](#); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Parline. (n.d.). [United States - Data on Women](#); World Bank. [GNI per Capita, Atlas Method \(current US\\$\) - World DataBank](#)
- Sentence 3: Beaman, L., Chattopadhyay, R., Duflo, E., Pande, R., & Topalova, P. 2009. [Powerful women: Does exposure reduce bias?](#)
- Sentence 4: Environics Institute for Survey Research. 2019. [Perceptions of gender and political leadership](#)

Paragraph 4:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed

Infographic - In focus 2: Progress on women's political leadership could accelerate by deploying quotas and stopping violence against women in politics

- Left side: UN Gender Quota [Portal](#).

- Right side: UN Women calculations based on UN Women. 2026; UN Women Policy Brief on Violence Against Women in Politics (forthcoming).  
Data presented are on prevalence of violence against women candidates and office holders in 13 countries – Argentina (2025), Colombia (2025), Côte d'Ivoire (2025), Dem. Republic of the Congo (2025), Georgia (2025), Jordan (2022), Kyrgyzstan (2023), Lebanon (2022), Nepal (2021), Rep. of Moldova (2025), Tunisia (2022), Uruguay (2025) and Zimbabwe (2024).

*Gender equality in justice and public administration is foundational to institutions that serve everyone equally*

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: GQUAL Campaign, UN Women. 2026. [Voices From the Bench: Women Shaping International Justice](#); UNDP. 2026. [Women Judges in Asia: Progress Made, Gaps that Remain](#)
- Sentence 3: UN Women calculations using UNDP. 2026. [Women in the Judiciary Global Dashboard](#).  
Judges: 131 countries have data, totaling 223,405 judges (114,490 female / 108,915 male) and Registrars: 43 countries have data, totaling 166,763 registrars (95,922 female / 70,841 male).
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: UN Women calculations using UNODC. 2026. [Data Portal](#)
- Sentence 6: UN Women calculations using UNDP. 2026. [Women at the helm of justice](#). Data are as of December 2025.
- Sentence 7: International Chamber of Commerce. 2026. [ICC Dispute Resolution - 2025 Statistics](#)

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: UNDP and University of Pittsburgh. 2021. [Gender equality in public administration](#)
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#)  
This falls under Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), Target 16.7 ("Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels"), Indicator 16.7.1(b): the "public service" component (as distinct from 16.7.1(a) legislatures and 16.7.1(c) the judiciary).
- Sentence 5: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).  
Percentages are calculated using 27 out of 38 countries for senior management level and for 4 out of 29 countries for administrative professionals.

Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: United Nations. 2026. [Agreed conclusions: Seventieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#)
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 3: UNDP. 2026. [Women at the helm of justice](#) and GQUAL Campaign; UN Women. 2026. [Voices from the Bench: Women Shaping International Justice](#)
- Sentence 4: World Bank. 2025. *Promoting Women's Leadership*. Policy Research Working Paper 11239; UNDP and University of Pittsburgh. 2021. [Gender equality in public administration](#)

- Sentence 5: Ibid.

Infographic - In focus 3: Barriers are evident in top judicial and public administration roles

- Sentence 1: UNDP. 2026. [Women at the helm of justice](#).  
The figure captures individuals across *all types* of apex judicial institutions (Supreme Courts, but also Constitutional Courts, Courts of Cassation, High Courts, and regional bodies)
- Sentence 2: UN Women. 2026. [Voices from the Bench: Women Shaping International Justice](#)
- Sentence 3: UN Women Database on Women and Men Cabinet Members. Data as of 1 January 2026.

*National gender equality machineries are the backbone of states' commitment to gender equality*

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: United Nations. 1995. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Fourth World Conference on Women.
- Sentence 2: United Nations. 1979. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*;  
Htun, M. and Weldon, S.L. 2012. The civic origins of progressive policy change: Combating violence against women in global perspective, 1975–2005. *American Political Science Review*, 106(3), 548–569; Weldon, L. 2024. State Feminism, Global Feminist Waves and Democratic Backsliding: Global and Cross-Regional Perspectives. *French Politics* 22, pp. 197–203

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Forester, S., and Mazur, A. 2026. [Gender equality machineries as critical actors in gender mainstreaming across the globe](#), in Research Handbook on Gender Mainstreaming.
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: UN Women. 2015. [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome](#).
- Sentence 4: Htun, M. and Weldon, S.L. 2012. The civic origins of progressive policy change: Combating violence against women in global perspective, 1975–2005. *American Political Science Review*, 106(3), 548–569;  
Weldon, S.L. and Htun, M. 2013. Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: Why governments take action to combat violence against women. *Gender and Development*, 21(2), 231–247
- Sentence 5: Weldon, L. 2024. State Feminism, Global Feminist Waves and Democratic Backsliding: Global and Cross-Regional Perspectives. *French Politics* 22, pp. 197–203.

Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: UN Women calculations using UN Women. 2026. Survey on Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality.  
Data refer to all gender equality mechanisms. Institutional mechanisms for Gender Equality or gender equality mechanisms refer to State-based structures mandated to advance gender

equality and the empowerment of women and girls (e.g., ministry of women and child development, directorate of gender equality). These mechanisms are responsible for promoting the rights, status and well-being of women and girls, and for addressing discriminatory gender norms. Analysis is based on 54 responses across seven regions.

- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

Infographic - In focus 4: National gender equality mechanisms are being quietly dismantled

- Far left: UN Women. 2026. Database on Women and Men Cabinet Ministers. Data as of 1 January 2026; UNDESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals extended report 2026: Goal 16](#).
- Middle left: UN Women calculations using UN Women. 2026. Survey on Institutional Mechanisms for Gender Equality. Analysis is based on 54 responses across 7 regions. Over the past two years, 14 out of 43 countries and areas (33 per cent) reported at least one power or structural setback: downsizing of personnel (10 out of 43, 23 per cent); reduced power at decision-making tables (5 out of 43, 12 per cent); elimination or downgrading of key units (3 out of 43, 7 per cent); merger into another ministry 2 out of 43, 5 per cent); downgrading of institutional status (1 out of 43, 2 per cent); and reassignment of the gender mandate to other entities (1 out of 43, 2 per cent).
- Middle right: Ibid.  
A reduction in operating budgets was reported by 11 out of 43 countries and areas (26 per cent), and the loss of an autonomous budget through absorption into another ministry by 5 out of 43 (12 per cent). This pressure is compounded by two factors. Insufficient budget is the single most-cited constraint on achieving the goals of these mechanisms (27 out of 41 countries and areas, 66 per cent). And among the 23 countries and areas that provided a funding breakdown, national core government budget made up roughly 95 per cent of institutional funding on average, leaving these mechanisms with almost no external buffer when national budgets are squeezed.
- Far right: Ibid.

*Persistent power gaps continue defining women's corporate leadership*

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2025. [Gender equality is the world's unfinished business – and unfinished potential](#).
- Sentence 2: UN Women. 2025. [Unfinished business: Private sector and gender equality—Transforming corporate commitments into equality for all women and girls](#).
- Sentence 3: UNDESA. 2025. [The Sustainable Development Goals extended report 2025: Goal 5](#); OECD. 2025. [Gender equality in a changing world: Taking stock and moving forward](#).

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: UN Women calculations using Free Float Analytics. 2024. The Glass Ceiling dataset.
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.

- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 6: UN Women calculations using Free Float Analytics. 2024. The Glass Ceiling dataset.
- Sentence 7: Ibid.

Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: Herciu, M et al. 2026. [Women on corporate boards in developed markets](#). Women's Studies International Forum, 117, 103335
- Sentence 2: Posner, C. S. 2019. [Reasons for “male and pale” boards](#). Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance; Hing, L. S. S., et al. 2023. [Gender inequities in the workplace: A holistic review of organizational processes and practices](#). Human Resource Management Review, 33(3), 100968.
- Sentence 3: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: UN Women calculations using Free Float Analytics. 2024. The Glass Ceiling dataset.
- Sentence 6: Ibid.
- Sentence 7: Ibid.
- Sentence 8: OECD. 2025. [Gender equality in a changing world: Taking stock and moving forward](#).

Infographic - In focus 5: The “stacked glass ceiling” prevents women from influencing corporate responses to social challenges

- Sentence 1 (left side): World Bank International Finance Corporation. 2024. [Gender-responsive climate governance and the role of women leaders](#).
- Sentence 2 (left side): UN Women calculations using Free Float Analytics. 2024. The Glass Ceiling dataset.
- Sentence 3 (right side): Female Founders. 2025. [Women in VC & Startup Funding: Statistics & Trends 2025 Report](#)
- Sentence 4 (right side): NopSec. 2022. [How many venture-backed cybersecurity startups are led by women?](#)  
The exact statistic is 3.3%, and refers to venture-backed startups which have received over \$1,000,000 in funding. The total sample size is 654 companies.
- Sentence 5 (right side): Ganesan, V et al. 2023. [Underestimated start-up founders: The untapped opportunity](#). McKinsey & Company.

*Women mobilize for gender equality, human rights and better societies, but space and resources are shrinking*

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2026. [Ideologies, Institutions and Power: Addressing Discriminatory Social Norms](#).
- Sentence 2: Spotlight Initiative. 2022. [Why work with women’s movements](#).

- Sentence 3: UNDP. 2025. [Women's leadership at the heart of disaster risk reduction](#). ; UN Women Australia. 2026. [At least one million women and girls lose access to critical support as aid cuts dismantle women's organisations working in humanitarian crises](#).
- Sentence 4: Birger Sagiv, I., Goldner, L., & Carmel, Y. 2022. [The civic engagement community participation thriving model: A multi-faceted thriving model to promote socially excluded young adult women](#). Frontiers in Psychology, 13, 955777.
- Sentence 5: United Nations Human Rights Council. 2022. [Women's human rights defenders](#). (A/HRC/50/25).

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Spotlight Initiative. 2022. [Why work with women's movements](#).
- Sentence 2: Forester, S et al. 2022. [New dimensions of global feminist influence: Tracking feminist mobilization worldwide, 1975–2015](#). International Studies Quarterly, 66(1)
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, reference not needed.
- Sentence 5: Weldon, S.L., Kelly-Thompson, K., Lusvardi, A. and Forester, S. 2026. *Feminist Mobilization and Femicide in Latin America: Progress and Backlash*, paper commissioned by UN Women under the ACT Programme to End Violence against Women and Girls, funded by the European Union. This analysis draws on data from the *Feminist Mobilization Index*, originally developed by S. Laurel Weldon and colleagues. The latest update of the Index was supported by UN Women and the European Union under the ACT Programme.  
Dataset citation: Feminist Mobilization Index, 2026 UN Women Updated Dataset, Work in Progress.
- Sentence 6: Ibid.
- Sentence 7: UN Women & United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. 2025. [Understanding backlash against gender equality: Evidence, trends and policy responses](#).

#### Paragraph 3:

- Sentence 1: Equal Measures 2030 & Alliance for Feminist Movements. 2025. [Redefining risk: The cost of not funding women's rights organisations](#); UN Women. 2026. [Beyond the breaking point: The continuing impact of funding cuts on women's organizations in humanitarian settings](#).
- Sentence 2: OECD. 2026. [ODA for gender equality is plummeting: How can we protect it?](#) ; UN Women. 2025. [At a breaking point: The impact of foreign aid cuts on women's organizations in humanitarian crises worldwide](#).
- Sentence 3: OECD. 2026. [ODA for gender equality is plummeting: How can we protect it?](#)
- Sentence 4: UN Women. 2026. [Beyond the breaking point: The continuing impact of funding cuts on women's organizations in humanitarian settings](#). ; UN Women. 2024. [Why investing in women's organizations is critical during crisis: Five stories of resilience](#)
- Sentence 5: UN Women. 2025. [Unravelling the gap between global commitments and funding for women's organizations in conflict-affected contexts](#).
- Sentence 6: UN Women. 2026. [Beyond the breaking point: The continuing impact of funding cuts on women's organizations in humanitarian settings](#).

Infographic - In focus 6: Women's organizations in humanitarian settings confront severe funding cuts

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2026. [Beyond the breaking point: The continuing impact of funding cuts on women's organizations in humanitarian settings](#).
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.

*THE WAY FORWARD: Action Oriented page (no references needed – relies on evidence within the report)*

## Goal by Goal Storylines

### Goal 1

#### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: World Bank. 2025. [Global poverty trends for women](#). Extreme poverty refers to households where each member is living on less than \$3 per day 2021 PPP.
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 7: World Bank. 2025. [Global poverty trends for women](#).
- Sentence 8: Ibid.
- Sentence 9: Ibid.

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: UN Women calculations based on UN Women Database on Women and Men Cabinet Members. Data as of 1 January 2026.
- Sentence 3: Clements, B., Nguyen, H., Sahay, R. & Jain, M. 2025. [Women in Policymaking: Social Spending and Outcomes](#). NCAER Working Paper 187. National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.
- Sentence 4: Swiss, L., Fallon, K. M., & Burgos, G. 2012. [Does critical mass matter? Women's political representation and child health in developing countries](#). *Social Forces*, 91(2), 531–558; Origin of the 12pp figure: This figure comes from the earlier study (published 2012; panel dataset 1980–2005, 102 developing countries, 5-year lagged measure of women's parliamentary representation). It compares countries with 20%+ women in parliament vs. 0% women and finds: a) Measles immunization: +10 percentage points, and b) DPT immunization: +12 percentage points. Corroboration from newer evidence: A more recent study (Social Science & Medicine, 2022; 162 countries, 1990–2020 panel) finds the same positive direction: a higher share of women in parliament is associated with higher immunization coverage. Specifically, a one-percentage-point increase in women's parliamentary share raises measles coverage by 0.61 pp and DPT coverage by 0.84 pp (both statistically significant,  $p < 0.05$ ).
- Sentence 5: Chattopadhyay, R. & Duflo, E. 2004. [Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India](#). *Econometrica*, 72(5), 1409–1443.
- Sentence 6: Eissler, S. & Bryan, E. 2025. [Women's Control over Income and Household Spending Decisions: A Rapid Review](#). *IFPRI Discussion Paper 2362*. International Food Policy Research

Institute, Washington DC; UNICEF. 2025. [The State of the World's Children 2025: Ending child poverty](#). United Nations Children's Fund.

- Sentence 7: Staab, S. 2025. [Op-ed: Gender-responsive social protection: A key to unlock progress across the SDGs](#). UN Women.

Figure 1:

- World Bank. 2025. [Tracking Gender disparities in Global Poverty: 2014-2024](#)

## Goal 2

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: WFP. 2026. [Conflict and Hunger](#); FAO/GNAFC. 2026. [Acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain alarmingly high as crises deepen, UN, EU and partners warn in new report](#)
- Sentence 2: FAO. 2026. [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026](#)
- Sentence 3: UN Women calculations based on the International Futures Model, Pardee Center for International Futures
- Sentence 4: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2025. [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 - Addressing High Food Price Inflation for Food Security and Nutrition](#); WMO 2025. [State of the Global Climate 2025](#).
- Sentence 5: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2025. [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 - Addressing High Food Price Inflation for Food Security and Nutrition](#)

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: FAO. 2023. [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#)
- Sentence 2: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#) for indicator 2.3.1; FAO. 2023. [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#).
- Sentence 3: FAO. 2023. [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#).
- Sentence 4: Global Nutrition Report. 2026. [Chapter 4 : Strategies to integrate gender into food and health systems actions](#).
- Sentence 5: Sraboni, Malapit, Quisumbing & Ahmed. 2014. [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: What Role for Food Security in Bangladesh?](#)
- Sentence 6: FAO. 2023. [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#) and UN Women. 2023. [Progress on the SDGs: The Gender Snapshot 2023](#)

Figure 2:

- FAO. 2026. [FAOSTAT Database](#), and Pardee Institute for International Futures. 2026. International Futures modelling platform.

## Goal 3

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: WHO. 2026. [WHO Global progress dashboard](#).
- Sentence 2: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).
- Sentence 3: UNAIDS. 2026. [AIDSinfo: Global data on HIV epidemiology and response](#).

- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: OECD. 2026. [ODA projections for 2026 and the near-term: Implications for vulnerable countries and sectors \(OECD Policy Briefs No. 59\)](#); UNAIDS. [UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2025: AIDS, crisis and the power to transform](#). The modelling underlying the estimate of 6.6 million additional new infections is based on the permanent discontinuation of PEPFAR programmes, not on the termination of all HIV programmes globally.

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2024. [Generation Equality Accountability Report 2024: Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#).
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: World Bank. 2026. [Gender data portal](#).
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: IPU and UN Women. 2026. [Women in politics: 2026](#).
- Sentence 6: World Economic Forum. 2026. [Women's Health Investment Outlook](#).
- Sentence 7: Ibid.
- Sentence 8: World Economic Forum. 2025. [Prescription for Change: Policy Recommendations for Women's Health Research](#).
- Sentence 9: Inference, hence, no reference needed

#### Infographic (Figure 3) left side:

- Sentence 1: WHO. 2025. [Maternal mortality](#)
- Sentence 2: WHO. 2026. [Global Health Observatory data](#).
- Sentence 3: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

#### Infographic (Figure 3) right side:

- Sentence 1: UN Women calculations using WHO [Global Health Observatory data](#) on medical doctors by sex (%) and Nursing personnel by sex (%). 2026.
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: World Economic Forum. 2026. [Women's Health Investment Outlook: 6% of Funding for Nearly 50% of the Population – Not Just a Gap, but Untapped White Space](#).
- Sentence 4: Coomarasamy A, Sindhu K, Gallos I et al. [Postpartum haemorrhage: epidemiology, consequences, and missed opportunities](#). *The Lancet*, 2026; 408, 62-73; WHO. 2025. [Postpartum haemorrhage](#).
- Sentence 5: WHO. 2025. [Endometriosis](#)

#### Goal 4

##### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: UNESCO. 2026. [Global education monitoring report 2026: Access and equity, countdown to 2030](#).
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: UNESCO. 2026. [Gender equity in access to education in Africa](#).

- Sentence 4: Chen, LJ. 2021. [Female policymakers and educational expenditures: cross-country evidence](#). *Eur J Law Econ*, 51, 129–155.
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Acheampong, A. O., Opoku, E. E. O., & Rustagi, N. 2024. [Gender quota, women in politics, and gender parity in education](#). *Economics & Politics*, 36(3), 1223–1260; Dutta and Maus. 2021. [Share of Women in Parliament and Health and Education Outcomes](#), *Journal of Economic Development*, 46(3); UNESCO. 2025. [Global Education Monitoring Report 2024/5: Leadership in education](#).
- Sentence 7: Garnett Russell, S. 2019. [Gender Equality in Post Genocide Rwanda](#); UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).
- Sentence 8: Garnett Russell, S. 2019. [Gender Equality in Post Genocide Rwanda](#).
- Sentence 9: Clots-Figueras, I. 2012. [Are female leaders good for education? Evidence from India](#). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(1), 212–244.
- Sentence 10: Ibid.
- Sentence 11: Beaman, L., Duflo, E., Pande, R., & Topalova, P. 2012. [Female leadership raises aspirations and educational attainment for girls: A policy experiment in India](#). *Science*, 335(6068), 582–586.
- Sentence 12: UNESCO. 2026. [Global education monitoring report 2026: Access and equity, countdown to 2030](#).

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: UN Women & IPU, Women in Politics Maps [2023](#), [2025](#), [2026](#); UN Women. 2024. [Women Political Leaders 2024](#).
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: UNESCO. 2026. [Global education monitoring report 2026: Access and equity, countdown to 2030](#).
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: Beaman, L., Duflo, E., Pande, R., & Topalova, P. 2012. [Female leadership raises aspirations and educational attainment for girls: A policy experiment in India](#). *Science*, 335(6068), 582–586.

#### Figure 4:

- UN Women calculations based on UN Women. 2026. Database on Women and Men Cabinet Ministers. Data as of 1 January 2026.

#### Goal 5

##### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 3: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 4: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#). Note: Projections for indicators 5.1.1 are based on the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) or the average annual rate of reduction (AARR)—based on what was appropriate for the direction of

the specific indicator—using the base year 2018. The projection calculations include only countries with data available since the base year. 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 our current understanding of prevailing trends and implications for future outcomes.

- Sentence 5: UN Women. 2024. [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024](#).

Paragraph 2; Target 5.1:

- Sentence 1: UN DESA. 2025. [The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: UN Women calculations using UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: World Bank. 2024. [Women, Business and the Law 2024](#).

Paragraph 3; Target 5.2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: WHO. 2025. [Lifetime toll: 840 million women faced partner or sexual violence](#)
- Sentence 3: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

Paragraph 4; Target 5.2:

- Sentence 1: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).
- Sentence 2: People's AI & Data Lab for Social Research at The New School and UN Women. Full paper forthcoming in 2027. ***Do Women and Men Leaders Prioritize Different Issues? A Machine Learning Analysis of Political Speeches (draft title)***. Authors: Ginette Azcona, Antra Bhatt, Shikha Dodecha, Daniela Frade Noguez, Yeon-Joo Kang, Shofie Alya Qodriani, Firdha Anisa Najiya Merdeka Sari and Disha Wagle.  
Speech texts were obtained from the statement PDFs published on the UN General Assembly website ([gadebate.un.org](http://gadebate.un.org)). Speaker sex was recorded from the honorific and pronouns shown on the official UN speaker page ("His/Her Excellency," "he/she"); among the 193 delivered statements in 2025, 24 were delivered by women and 169 by men. In 2024, 194 statements were delivered, 20 by women and 174 by men. For statements available only in a non-English language, we translated the full text into English using AI tools. Sensitivity tests assessed whether the main findings held when we excluded machine-translated text.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.

Paragraph 5; Target 5.3:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).
- Sentence 3: *Ibid.*; UNICEF. 2021. [Towards Ending Child Marriage: Global trends and profiles of progress](#).
- Sentence 4: UNICEF. 2025. [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

Paragraph 6; Target 5.4:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#); UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

Paragraph 7; Target 5.5:

- Sentence 1: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: WIN (Women in News). 2024. [Leadership Mapping Report](#).

Paragraph 8; Target 5.6:

- Sentence 1: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#).

Paragraph 9; Target 5.a:

- Sentence 1: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Report](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.

Paragraph 10; Target 5.b:

- Sentence 1: UN DESA. 2026. [The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.

Paragraph 11; Target 5.c:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: ECOSOC. 2026. [Statistical Annex, Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- Sentence 3: UN DESA SDG Progress Update. 2026. [Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls](#)

## Goal 6

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: WHO and UNICEF. 2025. [Progress on household drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2024: Special focus on inequalities](#).
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: WHO and UNICEF. 2024. [Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2023: Special focus on menstrual health](#)
- Sentence 4: WHO and UNICEF. 2026. [Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2025](#)

- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Agol, D., & Harvey, P. 2018. [Gender differences related to WASH in schools and educational efficiency](#). *Water Alternatives*, 112, 284–296; Shah et al. 2022. [Effects of Menstrual Health and Hygiene on School Absenteeism and Drop-Out among Adolescent Girls in Rural Gambia](#). *Int J Environ Res Public Health*; UNICEF India. (n.d); Sharma et al. 2024. [Do school Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene facilities affect students' health status, attendance, and educational achievements? A qualitative study in Nepal](#). *Health Sci Rep*. 8;7(8):e2293; Kasali et al. 2026. [WASH facility adequacy and school attendance during menstruation among secondary school girls in Nasarawa West, Nigeria: a cross-sectional study](#). *Reprod Health*. 28;23(1):149

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: WHO. 2023. [Women and girls bear brunt of water and sanitation crisis – new UNICEF/WHO report](#).
- Sentence 2: UN Women. 2026. [Why water and sanitation are women's rights issues](#); WHO and UNICEF. 2023. [Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2022: Special focus on gender](#); Foreign Policy Analytics. 2024. [Transforming Water Security Through Women's Leadership](#)
- Sentence 3: UN Women calculations using Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) data. 2023. [IWRM Data Portal](#).
- Sentence 4: UNECE, UNESCO, and UN-Water. 2024. [Progress on transboundary water cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on climate change](#).
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Ibid.
- Sentence 7: UNECE. 2024. [Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention: Third report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes 2020–2023](#).
- Sentence 8: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

Infographic (Figure 5):

- Sentences 1 (left side): WHO and UNICEF. 2024. [Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2023: Special focus on menstrual health](#);
- Sentence 2 (left side): WHO and UNICEF. 2026. [Progress on water, sanitation, hygiene, environmental cleaning and waste management in health care facilities 2000–2025](#)
- Sentence 3 (center): WHO and UNICEF. 2026. Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2025.
- Sentence 4 (right side): Ibid.
- Sentence 5 (right side): Ibid.

*Goal 7*

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, & WHO. 2026. [Tracking SDG 7: The energy progress report 2026](#).

- Sentence 3: Ibid and UN Women calculations based on UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#), SDG 7.1.1
- Sentence 4: UN Women calculations based on UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database](#), SDG 7.1.1
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: International Energy Agency (IEA). 2025. [Energy access improving, but international financial support still needed to boost progress and address disparities](#); UN. 2026. [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General](#).
- Sentence 7: WHO. 2025, December 16. [Household air pollution](#).
- Sentence 8: UN Women calculations using WHO. 2026. [Global Health Observatory](#).

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2025. [SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy: Just transitions demand women's leadership in clean energy](#). *The Gender Snapshot*.
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Inference, hence, no reference needed

#### Infographic (Figure 6):

- Sentence 1 (left side): IEA. 2025. [Energy and AI](#)
- Sentence 2 (left side): Ibid; IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, & WHO. 2026. [Tracking SDG 7: The energy progress report 2026](#) and UN Women calculations based on SDG 7.1.1.
- Sentence 3 (center): UN Women. 2026. Technical Brief on SDG 7.
- Sentence 4 (center): Ibid.
- Sentence 5 (right side): IRENA. 2025. [Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective, Second Edition](#).

#### Goal 8

##### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Based on UN Women calculations using International Labor Organization (ILO) Labour force participation data. 2026. [ILOSTAT database](#).
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 3: International Labor Organization (ILO). 2026. [ILOSTAT database](#).
- Sentence 4: United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). 2024. [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General \(E/2024/3\)](#).
- Sentence 5: UN Women & United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). 2026. [Women's Employment at Risk in the Arab States: Unequal Exposure to the 2026 Middle East Crisis and Implications for Policy in Six Countries](#).
- Sentence 6: Ibid.

- Sentence 7: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) & UN Women. 2026. [Conflict and its shockwaves: Implications for the security and economic participation of women in the Arab region.](#)
- Sentence 8: World Bank. 2021. [The Global Findex Database 2021: Women and Financial Inclusion.](#)
- Sentence 9: World Bank. 2025. [The Global Findex Database 2025: Connectivity and Financial Inclusion in the Digital Economy](#)
- Sentence 10: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 11: World Bank. 2025. [The Global Findex Database 2025: Connectivity and Financial Inclusion in the Digital Economy](#)

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). 2026. [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General—Statistical Annex: Global and regional data for Sustainable Development Goal indicators \(E/2026/73, annex\)](#)
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 5: UN Women calculations using ILO. 2026. [ILOSTAT Database](#). Annual estimates are used.
- Sentence 6: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 7: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

#### Figure 7:

- UN Women calculations using ILO. 2026. [ILOSTAT Database](#). Annual estimates are used.

#### Goal 9

##### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). 2026. [Female share of graduates from STEM programmes, tertiary \(%\)](#), indicator FGP.5T8.F500600700. Data Release February 2026
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: IPU and UN Women. 2026. [Women in politics: 2026](#)
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: International Energy Agency. 2026. [Gender and Energy Data Explorer](#). Start-ups with gender diverse founders are those that have at least one founder identifying as 'female' or one of the non-binary categories grouped within 'other'.
- Sentence 7: UN Women calculations using International Energy Agency. 2026. [Gender and Energy Data Explorer](#). Start-ups with gender diverse founders are those that have at least one founder identifying as 'female' or one of the non-binary categories grouped within 'other'
- Sentence 8: PitchBook. 2024/2025. [All In: Female Founders in the VC Ecosystem](#)

##### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Harvard Business School. 2025. [Global Evidence on Gender Gaps and Generative AI](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Interface. 2024. [AI's Missing Link: The Gender Gap in the Talent Pool](#)
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 5: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

Figure 8:

- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). 2026. [UIS Data Browser](#).

### Goal 10

#### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: UNDESA. 2024. [Disability and Development Report 2024](#)
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Ibid.

#### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 2: United Nations. 2006. [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 6: Women with Disabilities](#) and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 2022. [General Recommendation No. 39 on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities. CEDAW/C/GC/39](#).
- Sentence 3: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 4: UNDESA. 2024. [Disability and Development Report 2024](#)
- Sentence 5: UNDESA. 2024. [Disability and Development Report 2024](#)
- Sentence 6: UNDESA. 2024. [Disability and Development Report 2024](#)
- Sentence 7: Inference, hence, no reference needed.

Figure 9:

- Data compiled by ESCAP in 2022 through a voluntary national survey for the final review of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific decade of persons with disabilities, 2013–2022

### Goal 11

#### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: United Nations. 2026. [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General](#). United Nations.
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). 2026. [World Cities Report 2026: The global housing crisis: Pathways to action](#).

- Sentence 5: United Nations. 2026. [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General](#). United Nations.
- Sentence 6: UN Women & United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2025. [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2025](#).

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). 2026. [CEPALSTAT statistical data portal](#).
- Sentence 2: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). 2026. [Gender Statistics Database](#).
- Sentence 3: Inference, hence, no reference needed.
- Sentence 4: Wen, J. 2025. [Female mayors and violence against women: Evidence from the U.S. Cities](#), 159, 105768
- Sentence 5: Dalton, M., & Visconti, G. 2026. [Representation behind closed doors: The effect of electing women mayors on domestic violence](#). *The Journal of Politics*.
- Sentence 6: UN Women. 2021. [Corporate evaluation of UN Women's UN system coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women](#).
- Sentence 7: UN Women. 2026. [UN Women Climate and Environment Strategy](#).

Figure 10:

- ECLAC. 2026. [CEPALSTAT Statistical Data Portal](#)

## Goal 12-15

Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2026. [UN Women Climate and Environment Strategy](#).
- Sentence 2: UN Women calculations using European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre. 2025. [Inform Risk Index Database](#) and United Nations Population Division. 2024. [World Population Prospects 2024](#).  
The natural hazard risk exposure index category combines climate-related hazards (river flood, tropical cyclone, coastal flood) and geophysical hazards (earthquake, tsunami). “High risk” corresponds to index scores in the range of 4.7 to 6.8, and “very high risk” corresponds to scores in the range of 6.9 to 10.0. The analysis covers 191 countries and areas, using medium-variant population projections.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Ibid.
- Sentence 5: Ballester, J., Quijal-Zamorano, M., Turrubiates, R., Pegenaute, F., Herrmann, F., Robine, J., Basagaña, X., Tonne, C., Antó, J., and Achebak, H. 2023. [Heat-related mortality in Europe during the summer of 2022](#). *Nature Medicine*.
- Sentence 6: Ibid.

Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed

- Sentence 2: Saeed, J. 2026. [From Participation to Power: What COP30 Reveals About Gender and Climate Leadership](#). WEDO Gender Climate Tracker.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. 2025. [Report on the Second Short National Reports under Article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)
- Sentence 5: IPU and UN Women. 2026. [Women in Politics: 2026](#)
- Sentence 6: Ibid.
- Sentence 7: UN Women. 2023. [Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action](#).
- Sentence 8: Environmental Justice Atlas (EJAtlas) global database as of 23 July 2026, accessible at <https://ejatlas.org/>. For an overview of EJAtlas and its methodology see: Temper, L., Del Bene, D., & Martinez-Alier, J. 2015. Mapping the frontiers and front lines of global environmental justice: the EJAtlas. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 22(1), 255-278. <https://doi.org/10.2458/v22i1.21108> Calculations are based on 4,454 environmental conflicts recorded in EJAtlas. Among conflicts involving women, 39 per cent (403 cases) fell within the two largest categories: Fossil Fuels and Climate Justice/Energy and Mineral Ores and Building Materials Extraction. The term environmental defenders refers to Women collectives or organizations playing a key role in the mobilization against the contentious activity, either because they are affected by specific impacts (health, labour, household conditions, sexual exploitation, discrimination or murder), or because they lead the main activities of resistance and transformation.
- Sentence 9: Ibid and UN Women. 2023. [Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action](#).
- Sentence 10: ECLAC. 2018. *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement)*. Adopted 4 March 2018, Escazú, Costa Rica. Entered into force 22 April 2021. United Nations Treaty Series.  
In April 2026 at COP4 the "Guide on gender mainstreaming" for the Escazú Agreement was adopted, which provides guidance, recommendations, and good practices for integrating a gender perspective into legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, and decision-making processes. See: <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/stories/noticia/2026/04/el-acuerdo-de-escazu-avanza-la-cop4-impulsa-la-implementacion-y-refuerza-la-agenda-de-genero-en-la-region>

Figure 11:

- Environmental Justice Atlas (EJAtlas) global database as of 23 July 2026, accessible at <https://ejatlas.org/>. For an overview of EJAtlas and its methodology see: Temper, L., Del Bene, D., & Martinez-Alier, J. 2015. Mapping the frontiers and front lines of global environmental justice: the EJAtlas. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 22(1), 255-278. <https://doi.org/10.2458/v22i1.21108> The map represents a subset of the 4,454 environmental conflicts recorded in EJAtlas. 1,024 conflicts involving women are depicted, of which 39 per cent (403 cases) fell within the two largest categories and are color coded yellow: Fossil Fuels and Climate Justice/Energy and Mineral Ores and Building Materials Extraction. Other categories (represented by black dots) are as follows: Biodiversity conservation conflicts, Biomass and Land Conflicts (Forests, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Management), Industrial and Utilities conflicts, Infrastructure and Built Environment, Nuclear, Tourism Recreation, Waste Management, and Water Management.

## Goal 16

### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: Rustad, Siri Aas. 2026. Women Exposed to Armed Conflict, 1990–2025, *GPS Policy Brief*, 1. Oslo: PRIO (<https://www.prio.org/publications/14833>)
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: United Nations. 2026. [Conflict-related Sexual Violence Still Widespread, Underreported, Speakers Warn Security Council, Urging Stronger Action beyond Condemnation.](#)
- Sentence 6: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 7: OHCHR. 2026. [Human Rights Count.](#)
- Sentence 8: Conciliation Resources. 2024. [Enabling change: Lessons from grant-making to increase women’s participation in peace processes](#) and UN Women. 2026. [Women lead peacebuilding efforts in Colombia, Lebanon, and Malawi through dialogue, mediation, and justice.](#)
- Sentence 9: UN Women. 2022. [How women made use of tribal norms to mediate conflict in Yemen](#)
- Sentence 10: UN Women. 2025. [Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security.](#)

### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database.](#)
- Sentence 2: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 3: People’s AI & Data Lab for Social Research at The New School and UN Women. Full paper forthcoming in 2027. ***Do Women and Men Leaders Prioritize Different Issues? A Machine Learning Analysis of Political Speeches (draft title).*** Authors: Ginette Azcona, Antra Bhatt, Shikha Dodecha, Daniela Frade Noguez, Yeon-Joo Kang, Shofie Alya Qodriani, Firdha Anisa Najiya Merdeka Sari and Disha Wagle.  
For each statement, the classifier records, per category, the count of matching terms, the rate per 1,000 words (normalizing for statement length), and a binary indicator of whether the category is referenced at all. We compared women and men leaders on two measures: the mean rate per 1,000 words and the share of leaders who referenced a category at least once.
- Sentence 4: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 5: UNSD. 2026. [Global SDG Indicators Database.](#)
- Sentence 6: Ibid.
- Sentence 7: Inference, hence, no reference needed

### Infographic (Figure 12):

- Sentence 1: UN Women. 2025. [Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security](#)
- Sentence 2: United Nations. 2024. [GR 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems](#)
- Sentence 3: Conciliation Resources. 2024. [Enabling change: Lessons from grant-making to increase women’s participation in peace processes.](#)

- Sentence 4: Ibid.

## Goal 17

### Paragraph 1:

- Sentence 1: OECD. 2026. [ODA Projections for 2026 and the Near-Term: Implications for Vulnerable Countries and Sectors](#)
- Sentence 2: Ibid.
- Sentence 3: Ibid.
- Sentence 4: OECD. 2026. [ODA for Gender Equality Is Plummeting: How Can We Protect It?](#)
- Sentence 5: Ibid.
- Sentence 6: Ibid.
- Sentence 7: Ibid.
- Sentence 8: OECD. 2026. [ODA Projections for 2026 and the Near-Term: Implications for Vulnerable Countries and Sectors](#)
- Sentence 9: UN Women. 2026. [Speech: Our vision is clear, our movement strong, our resolve undeterred.](#)

### Paragraph 2:

- Sentence 1: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 2: UN Women calculations based on OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS). 2026. [Gender Equality: Aid \(ODA\) data](#). See Annex II for methodological notes.
- Sentence 3: UN Women calculations based on UNSD. 2026. [SDG Indicator Database](#).
- Sentence 4: Ross, J. 2025. [The end of the DHS Program and the future of gender data: What's at stake?](#)
- Sentence 5: Inference, hence, no reference needed
- Sentence 6: UN Women. 2026. [Women may run the numbers, but not the institutions](#)
- Sentence 7: Ibid.
- Sentence 8: Inference, hence, no reference needed

### Figure 13:

- OECD, DAC. 2026. [ODA for gender equality is plummeting: How can we protect it?](#)  
Note: Volume figures are in constant 2023 prices.

## SDG 5 Tracker

Sources: UN Women and UNSD, based on the latest available data and estimates as of 2026 provided by: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Telecommunication Union, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women and WHO.



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Notes: Official SDG indicator names have been condensed given space limitations. Global and regional averages were reported in The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026 Statistical Annex and the United Nations SDG indicator database, unless otherwise specified. For full indicator names and descriptions, see the list of gender-specific indicators below. SDG 5 has 14 official indicators; 18 are assessed in the tracker given that indicators 5.1.1 and 5.5.1 have multiple subindicators.

## Annex I - Technical Note: Relationship Between Women's Status and Democratic Representation

### 1. Introduction and Research Questions

This technical note outlines the methodologies used to assess the relationship between women's development outcomes and democratic representation. Specifically, this analysis asks: What is the relationship between women's development outcomes (namely, gender equality and civic society participation) and the extent of a country's political representation, and does this relationship vary by country, region and/or time?

### 2. Sources

Data on democratic representation come from the Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Indices (IDEA), and provide a multidimensional measure of democracy, incorporating electoral, liberal, social and participatory dimensions. The data span 161 countries and 49 years (1975 to 2024), and comprise relevant indicators from aggregated, cross-national datasets.

Women's development outcomes are assessed in the present analysis using two indices:

- A) Women's Civil Society Participation Index (CSO), which measures democracy and human rights using country-expert evaluations and researcher data, and
- B) the Gender Equality Index (also from GSoD), which measures gender equality across political, civic, educational, economic and financial domains using nine indicators from V-Dem, IHME, ILO, the World Bank and GGGR, aggregated using item response theory

Detailed breakdown of variables and dimensions analyzed:

| Variable                                        | Description                                                                                      | Dimensions Assessed                                                                                                                                                                            | Origin Dataset              |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Democratic Representation Index                 | Composite representation score (0–1) capturing representative democracy across 6 dimensions.     | Electoral integrity, inclusive suffrage, political party freedom, elected government, legislative oversight, and local government autonomy.                                                    | <a href="#">GSoD (IDEA)</a> |
| Women's Civil Society Participation Index (CSO) | Index (0–1) measuring women's participation in civil society across 3 dimensions.                | Open political discussion, participation in civil society organizations, and representation among journalists.                                                                                 | <a href="#">V-DEM</a>       |
| Gender Equality Index                           | Index (0–1) measuring equality across 9 political, educational, economic, and social dimensions. | women's political representation and rights, civil society participation, educational attainment, labour force participation, managerial representation, financial inclusion, and empowerment. | <a href="#">GSoD (IDEA)</a> |

### 3. Methodology

Datasets were harmonized and merged, retaining countries with non-missing data for all relevant indicators within the specified time period ( $n = 161$  countries).

Two linear mixed-effects regression models were estimated to examine the association between democratic representation and women's development outcomes. Democratic representation was modelled separately as a function of gender equality and women's participation in civil society organizations (CSOs).

Both models included fixed effects for UN SDG region and year, with year centred at 2000. Country-level random effects included an uncorrelated random intercept and random slope for the respective predictor, allowing both baseline levels of representation and the association between women's status and representation to vary across countries. A random intercept for year was included to account for period-specific variation associated with global shocks or other unobserved factors.

The models can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Representation}_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 X_{it} + \beta_2 \text{Region}_i + \beta_3 \text{Year}_t^c + u_{0i} + u_{1i} X_{it} + v_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where  $X_{it}$  represents either the gender equality indicator or women's CSO participation for country  $i$  in year  $t$ .

- $u_{0i}$  is the country-specific random intercept;
- $u_{1i}$  is the country-specific random slope for  $X$ , specified as uncorrelated with the random intercept;
- $v_t$  is the year-specific random intercept; and
- $\varepsilon_{it}$  is the residual error term.

This approach estimates how democratic representation varies with women's status while accounting for regional and temporal differences, as well as cross-country variation in both baseline representation and the relationship between the predictor and representation.

### 4. Key Finding

Models showed statistically significant, positive associations between democratic representation and both gender equality and women's civic participation ( $p < 0.001$ ). Representation increased globally over time and was highest in Australia and New Zealand, followed by Europe and Northern America. Random effects indicated cross-country heterogeneity in these associations, but overall results suggest that greater gender equality and women's participation in CSOs are positively associated with democratic representation.

## Annex II – Technical Note: Proportion of Official Development Assistance allocated to gender equality projects that are associated with women’s leadership initiatives

### 1. Introduction

This technical note outlines the methodology used to estimate the proportion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to gender equality projects that have a women’s leadership component or reference women’s leadership in project descriptions.

Specifically, the analysis draws on 42,260 projects with funding earmarked for gender equality, based on 2024 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data on bilateral allocable ODA for gender equality and women’s empowerment (OECD DAC Gender Equality policy marker, DAC Creditor Reporting System).

### 2. Data Source

The OECD dataset contains information on development funding flows, including donor and recipient countries, funding amounts, sectors and project descriptions.

Sector classifications provide insight into the area of development to which funding is attached (e.g. education facilities and training, ending violence against women and girls [EVAW] etc.). However, sector classifications may not capture projects that address women’s leadership when leadership is not the project’s primary sector. Computational text analysis of project descriptions provides a more direct way to identify projects that address leadership. Thus, this analysis focused on project descriptions.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Dictionary-based classification

The primary approach used a dictionary-based method to identify leadership-related content in project descriptions. This approach searches project descriptions for predefined words and phrases associated with leadership and governance.

The initial dictionaries consisted of two categories:

- **Core terms:** words or phrases that, on their own, provide relatively strong evidence that a project substantively concerns leadership or governance (e.g. *governance, leadership, leaders, empowerment, women’s leadership, institutional strengthening, accountability mechanisms, public office, elected officials, participation, and representation*).
- **Peripheral terms:** words commonly found in development-project language that are weaker indicators individually but may signal leadership-related content when they occur together (e.g. *decision-making* and *policymaking* are a stronger signal of leadership together than either term is individually).

Each project description was searched for all dictionary terms, and matches were counted. For example, a description containing “*Women’s leadership and governance training*” would register two core-term matches.

### 3.2 Word embeddings

Word embeddings were used to refine the dictionaries and identify additional terms that may be semantically related to leadership or governance. Embeddings represent words as vectors based on their patterns of co-occurrence within the OECD project-description corpus. In this analysis, each word  $w$  was represented as a 100-dimensional vector:

$$v(w) \in \mathbb{R}^{100}$$

The embeddings were trained on the OECD corpus rather than using pre-trained external vectors, allowing the resulting representations to reflect the language and terminology specific to development projects.

Words that occur in similar contexts are represented by vectors that are closer together in the embedding space. Cosine similarity was used to measure the similarity between the vectors for two words:

$$\text{sim}(w_i, w_j) = (v(w_i) \cdot v(w_j)) / (\|v(w_i)\| \|v(w_j)\|)$$

Higher cosine similarity indicates that two words have more similar patterns of use within the corpus. For example, the analysis identified terms such as *participation* and *representation* as relatively close to established leadership-related terms. Candidate terms identified through this process were then manually reviewed and incorporated into the dictionary when they provided substantively relevant and sufficiently specific evidence of leadership or governance. Generic or ambiguous terms were retained as peripheral terms rather than core terms.

This process expanded the initial dictionary while keeping the classification grounded in the language of the OECD project descriptions.

### 3.3 Project classification

Using the refined dictionaries, projects were classified as leadership-related according to the following rules:

- The presence of one or more **core terms** was treated as evidence that a project addresses leadership.
- A single **peripheral term** was treated as a weak signal, whereas multiple peripheral terms occurring within the same project description were treated as stronger evidence of leadership-related content.

These classifications were used to estimate the proportion of gender equality projects that address women's leadership. As a robustness check, estimates were compared across alternative classification rules, including core terms only, peripheral terms only, and the combination of core and peripheral terms. As a final step, project classifications were linked to OECD funding allocations to estimate the



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share of funding associated with gender equality projects that address leadership. The final calculation used the most conservative classification, i.e., projects identified through core terms only.