



Eradicate Extreme Poverty Completely



“By 2030, 193 Heads of State and Governments agree to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – by ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including trafficking, sexual exploitation, child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.”

UN Sustainable Development Goal 5

Good News: The UN has seen women achieve the right to vote in all its 193 member states, and 191 of them have signed the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Bad News: Women only earn an average of 77cents for every dollar a man earns.



In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, eliminating gender equality in all its forms and in all aspects of life is an essential global goal. Not only is this morally an absolute necessity, it is widely recognised that eliminating gender disparities is the key to reducing unemployment, boosting education rates, reducing population growth rates and lifting communities out of extreme poverty worldwide. Gender equality has grown exponentially in the lifetime of the United Nations – much of it driven by UN initiatives such as the Mexican and Beijing Women’s Conferences, CEDAW and UN Women. But even in several developed countries, we are yet to achieve total equality.

SDG5 repeats the commitment to eliminating gender equality in all its forms everywhere. Gender equality would grow economies, enrich children’s lives, transform healthcare and go a long way to healing the environment. Most important, gender equality would allow women the knowledge and opportunity to make more informed choices about their own lives.



Balance Sheet

Achievements

The prevalence of female genital mutilation has declined by **25% since 2000**. (2019) [3]

A girl's likelihood of being married in childhood has **declined by 40%** since 2000. (2019) [3]

Since 2000, the proportion of women in managerial roles has **increased in all regions**, except least developed countries, now standing at an average of 27%. [3]

54 countries (of 69 assessed) are on course towards or already have tracking systems for gender budgeting. Of these, 13 fully meet the criteria, and 41 are approaching them. [2]

In 2014, **143 countries constitutionally guaranteed gender equality**. In addition, 191 countries are signatories or state parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). [4], [9]

Work Left to Do

200 million women have experienced FGM, with over half of these in countries in West Africa where the practice is common. [3]

The global gender pay gap remains, with women earning only 77 cents for every 1 dollar a man earns, for the same work. [1]

Women's representation in parliaments averages at only 24%, with the lowest remaining at 0% in some countries. (2019) [3]

Out of 51 countries surveyed, only 57% of women who are married make their own choices with respect to contraception and birth control. [3]

Disparities persist globally. For example, in least developed countries 24% of 15-49 year old women have experienced physical or sexual violence by their partners. This is compared to a global average of 18%. [3]



Achievements

Over **two thirds of countries** have achieved gender parity in primary education, meaning they have a near 1:1 ratio of girls : boys at school. [1]

It is estimated that investing in programmes to improve income generation for women can **return \$7 for every dollar spent**. [11]

In the EU alone, improving gender equality **could increase GDP by €1.95-3.15 trillion** by 2050. Boosting female employment rates could lead to an extra \$6 trillion to OECD countries. [8]

The number of women dying in childbirth has **declined by 45%** since 1990. (2014)

Work Left to Do

In nearly one quarter of countries studied, legal gaps exist in the area of preventing gendered violence - of these, 68% lack rape laws. [3]

Globally, women are 14 times more likely to die during natural or environmental disasters than men. (2018)

Of 189 countries assessed, 104 still have laws preventing women from taking certain jobs, and in 59 husbands can legally stop their wives from working. (2018)

Even in developed countries, women spend far more time than men in unpaid domestic work; globally, they spend triple the time working domestically and caring for children. [5]



Sources

1. [UNDP - SDG5](#)
2. [UN SDG Knowledge Platform - Goal 5](#)
3. [SDGs Report 2019 - Section 5](#)
4. [Gender Equality: Why it Matters](#)
5. [UN WOMEN facts and figures](#)
6. [World Economic Forum - Global Gender Gap Report 2018](#)
7. [WHO Report on Maternal Mortality](#)
8. [European Institute for Gender Equality](#)
9. [CEDAW](#)
10. [The 2030 Agenda](#)
11. [PwC Women in Work Index 2019](#)

Points to Ponder

- How can women be encouraged and supported to enter traditionally male-dominated fields, such as STEM or politics?
- How can we convince more men of the need to be proactive in helping to end gender equality?
- Gender equality has a whole goal devoted to it in the SDGs: there is no similar provision for LGBTQ rights, or disability rights – or intergenerational (youth) rights. Why do you think that is?
- The UN has never had a female Secretary General; the World Bank has never had a female President. Why do you think that is?



Take Action

- Talk to your mother/grandmother/female relatives or friends about their struggles with gender inequality. How much have things changed, do they think?
- Invite speakers into classrooms or assemblies - in developed countries, you could discuss the remaining issues such as the pay gap, period poverty or the burden of domestic work.
- If you are a young woman, consider what the main obstacles to gender equality in your situation? Your religion? Your parents? Ethnic traditions? What? Once identified, prioritize them and figure out how you are going to overcome those obstacles...