

# PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2020



# Snapshot of gender equality across the Sustainable Development Goals



The COVID-19 pandemic is causing a resurgence in extreme poverty, affecting women the most. By 2021, around **435 million** **WOMEN AND GIRLS** will be living on less than \$1.90 a day – including **47 million** pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19.



Women health-care workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and are at increased risk of exposure to the virus. Among infected health-care workers in five countries with available data, **72%** were women.



An estimated **243 million** **WOMEN AND GIRLS** aged 15 to 49 were subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the previous year. At least **200 million** **GIRLS AND WOMEN**

Women spend **3x** as many hours as men each day in unpaid care and domestic work. COVID-19 is adding to women's unpaid care workloads.

Worldwide, **1 in 4** **PARLIAMENTARY SEATS** are held by women. At the local level, women hold **36%** **OF ELECTED SEATS** in local deliberative bodies.

Based on data from 57 countries, **3 in 4** **WOMEN** report making their own decisions about their personal health care or on whether or not to have sex.



Globally, women have a **27%** **HIGHER RISK** than men of facing severe food insecurity. This gender gap is expected to rise in the wake of the pandemic.



School closures are likely to increase gender gaps in education. More than **11 million** **GIRLS** – from pre-primary school to tertiary education age – are at risk of not returning to school in 2020.

have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM), according to recent data from 31 countries where this practice is concentrated.

Globally, **1 in 5** **WOMEN** 20 to 24 years of age were married in childhood.

Child marriage and FGM were on a downward trajectory before the pandemic hit. However, economic hardship and school disruptions could derail progress.



**4 in 10** **SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD** and

**70%**  
**OF THOSE IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

face challenges in providing basic hygiene facilities for students. In some countries,

**150 or more**  
**SCHOOLGIRLS**

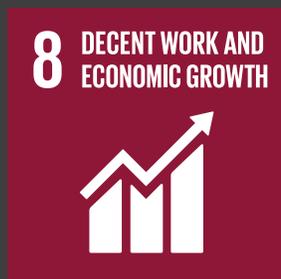
are expected to share a single toilet.



Lack of clean cooking fuels and technologies accounted for almost

**2 million**

premature deaths among women and girls in 2016.



Domestic workers and those employed in the informal economy have been especially hard hit by the pandemic. Nearly

**72%** of domestic workers, most of whom are women, have suffered job losses or reduced hours.



The manufacturing sector has suffered major job losses and contraction in economic output due to the pandemic. Women are

**more likely**

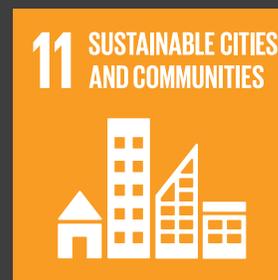
than men to be engaged in vulnerable employment in that sector and are more at risk of losing their manufacturing jobs or livelihoods.



Women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination.

**3 in 10**  
**WOMEN AND MEN WITH DISABILITIES**

personally experienced at least one form of discrimination between 2014 and 2019.



Safe and reliable public transportation can be a lifeline for poor urban women, but access remains inadequate in many urban settings. Data from 2019 showed that only

**50%**

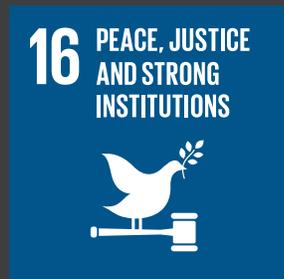
of the world's urban population had convenient access to public transport.



Women and girls bear the brunt of increasing climate-related disasters, but are rarely in a position to effect change. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25, only

**21%**

of heads of delegation were women.



In countries led by women, confirmed deaths from COVID-19 are six times lower. Likewise, women's direct participation in peace processes has shown to be a building block for lasting agreements. Yet, between 1992 and 2019, women made up only

**6% OF MEDIATORS,**  
**6% OF SIGNATORIES** and

**13% OF NEGOTIATORS** in peace processes.



Globally,  
**4.1 billion**

**PEOPLE** are now online, but only 48% of the world's female population are using the Internet, compared to 58% of men. That gender gap is increasing in some developing regions.

# LEAVE NO WOMAN OR GIRL BEHIND

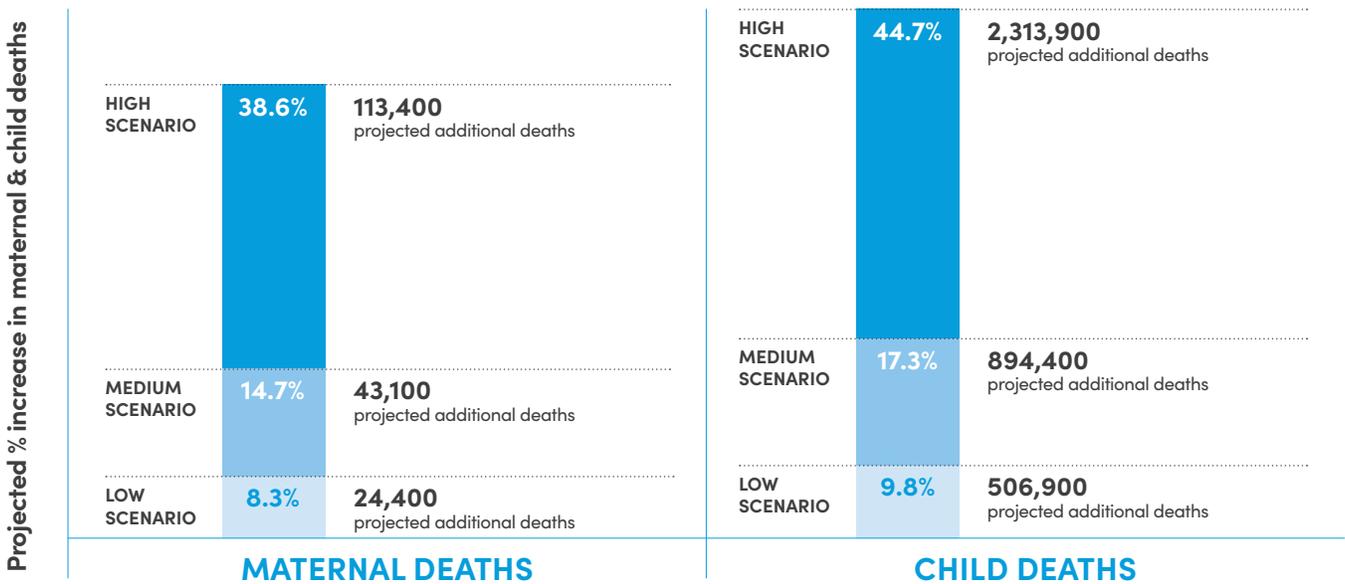
## The COVID-19 pandemic reveals and exacerbates fault lines of inequality

The pandemic is eroding health systems, disrupting routine health services, deteriorating labour markets and limiting access to nutritious diets. And the world’s poorest people are bearing the brunt of the crisis. Hundreds of thousands of additional deaths among children under age 5 are expected in 2020, along with tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths. According to a recent study, if routine health care is disrupted and access to food is decreased, the increase in child and maternal deaths could be devastating: 118 low- and middle-income countries

could see an increase of 9.8 to 44.7 per cent in under-5 deaths per month and an 8.3 to 38.6 per cent rise in maternal deaths per month. At the intersection of many deprivations are women and girls living in poverty, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons, who face the greatest hardships. Even before the pandemic, these groups were dealing with food insecurity due to insufficient income; they routinely confronted challenges in accessing essential health services and were excluded from social protection systems, where they existed.

### IN FOCUS

#### Additional maternal and child deaths attributed to indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, forecasts and modelled estimates, over 12 months (percentage and number)



Source: Roberton, T., et al., ‘Early Estimates of the Indirect Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Maternal and Child Mortality in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries: A Modelling Study’, *The Lancet Global Health*, May 2020.

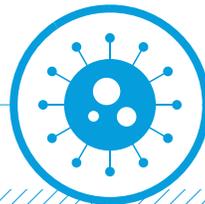
Note: The three scenarios are based on coverage reductions in family planning services, antenatal, childbirth and postnatal care services, and early child vaccination, preventive and curative services. It is assumed that four health system components affect the coverage of services: availability of health workers, availability of supplies and equipment, demand for services, and access to services. The child deaths include the effects of increased wasting.

Economic and social disparities, including inequalities in education, living conditions, and a greater likelihood to be employed in insecure and low-paying jobs, make some groups more vulnerable to the pandemic than others. As of mid-September 2020, more than 29 million cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed globally and were climbing each day; over 900,000 people had succumbed to the

virus. The pandemic is affecting women, men and children worldwide, but it is having a particularly devastating effect on the poorest and most marginalized in society. Emerging data show groups facing racial and ethnic discrimination are particularly affected. This includes people of African descent, indigenous peoples and other racial and ethnic minorities, and the women and girls among them.

**IN FOCUS**

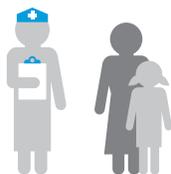
**Women and girls from indigenous communities are especially vulnerable**



**HEALTH**

**Indigenous peoples have historically faced major barriers to accessing medical care**

Even before the pandemic, **indigenous women and girls were less likely to have access to health-care services**, including maternal care, than those who are non-indigenous.



In **Guatemala**, the maternal mortality ratio of indigenous women is

**3X**

that of non-indigenous women.



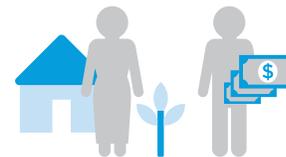
**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

In **nearly all countries**, indigenous peoples have been grouped under the 'most vulnerable to COVID-19' health category.

Indigenous peoples living remotely or in voluntary isolation, who lack immunity to many infectious diseases, are especially threatened.

**ECONOMIC**

**Hundreds of indigenous women are without their main source of income**



Even before the pandemic,

**77%**

**of indigenous households in the region of Guajira**, which straddles the border between Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, were food insecure and lacked the means to lead a healthy and active life.

**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

When tourism ground to a halt, the **Wayuu women** of Alta Guajira were left with no money or food to support their families.

The **Triqui women** from the highlands of Oaxaca, Mexico, who rely on street sales of handicrafts and other products, have seen their livelihoods virtually disappear.



**13** TOTAL INDICATORS

**5** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS\*

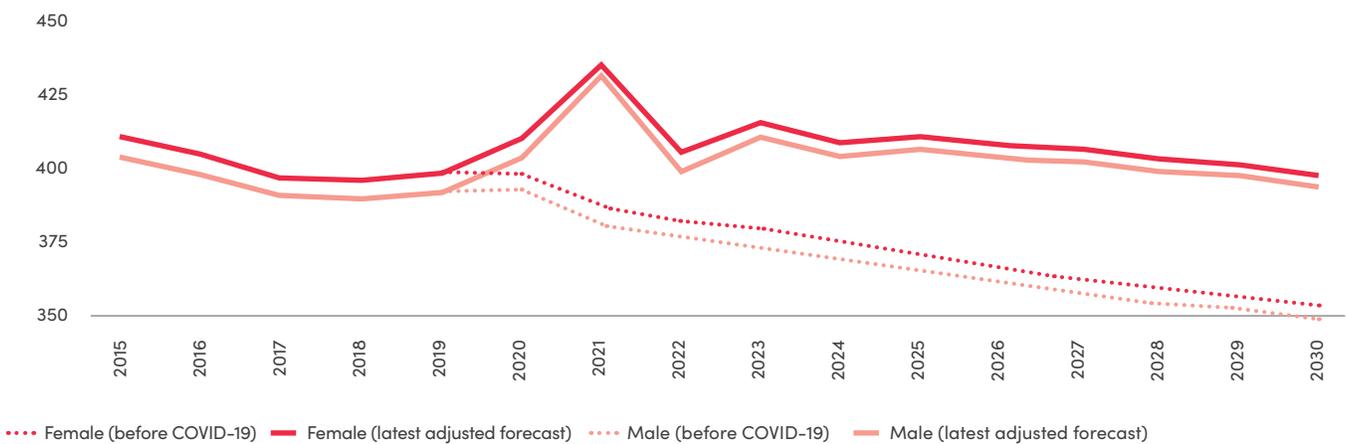
### The pandemic is causing a resurgence in extreme poverty, affecting women the most

The COVID-19 pandemic could reverse decades of progress in the eradication of poverty and inequality. Already, women are more likely than men to live in extreme poverty. As the crisis exacerbates labour market instabilities along with gender inequalities in access to economic resources and in the division of unpaid care and domestic work, many more women are expected to fall into destitution. The total number of women and girls living on less than \$1.90 a day is forecast to total 409 million in 2020 (up from 398.5 million in 2019), and peak at 435 million in 2021. That number is not expected to revert to pre-pandemic levels until 2030.

The two main regions that will be affected most in terms of increased poverty will be sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, between 2021 and 2030, the number of women and girls living in extremely poor households is expected to increase from 249 million to 283 million. By 2030, this region will be home to 71 per cent of women and girls living in extreme poverty. Central and Southern Asia, particularly the subregion of Southern Asia, has made major strides in reducing extreme poverty over the last several years. However, it will also see a resurgence in extreme poverty. Before the pandemic, projections suggested that, by 2030, Central and Southern Asia would comprise 15.8 per cent of the world’s women and girls living in extreme poverty. Revised projections now put that share at 18.6 per cent.

**FIGURE 1**

### Global population living below the international poverty line, by sex, 2015–2030 projection (millions)



Source: UN Women, *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19*, 2020.

Note: This analysis is based on a sample of 129 countries and areas accounting for 89 per cent of the global population. The latest adjusted forecasts for men and women respectively are based on the International Monetary Fund’s June 2020 downward revision in global economic growth.

\* The term ‘gender-specific indicators’ is used here and in subsequent sections of the Gender Snapshot to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as an underlying objective. For a full list of gender-specific indicators by Goals, see pages 21–23 of this publication.



14 TOTAL INDICATORS

2 GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

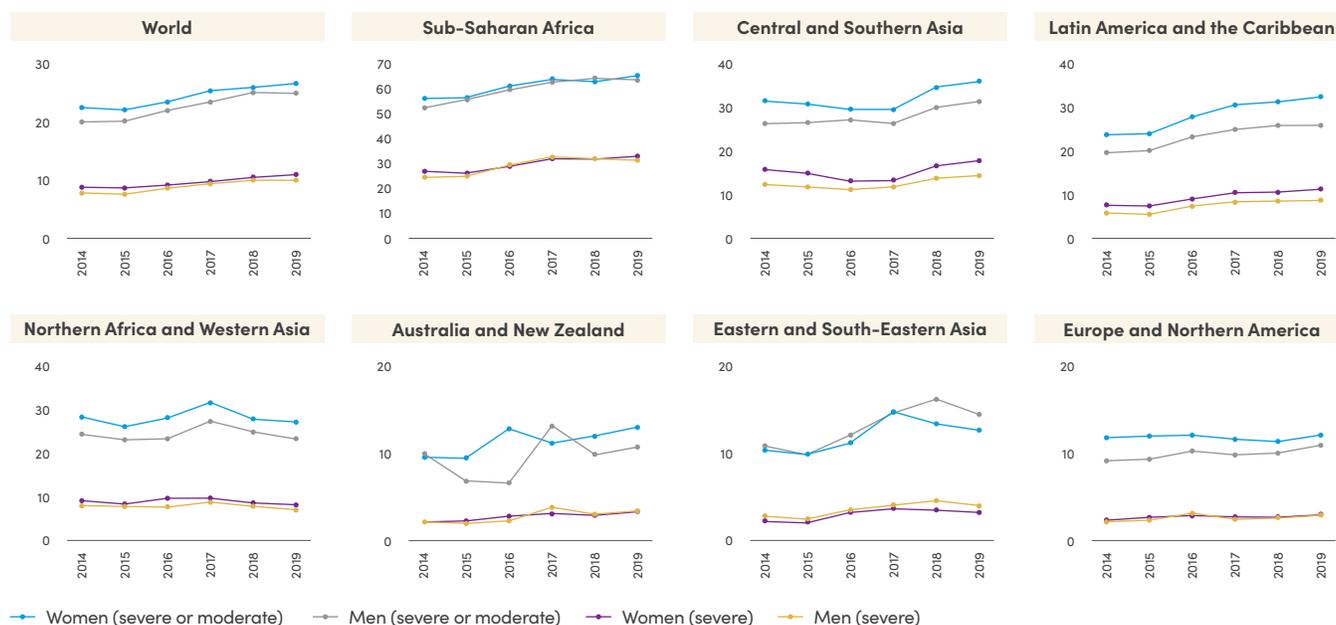
## Severe levels of food insecurity are substantially higher for women than men, and are likely to get worse

At the global level, and more markedly in Northern Africa and Western Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the gender gap in accessing sufficient food increased from 2014 to 2019, particularly at the moderate or severe levels. Women face more food insecurity than men, even when they have the same income and education levels. When various social and economic characteristics are controlled, statistical analyses reveal that the chances of being severely food insecure are about 27 per cent higher for women than for men at the global level. The bias is largest among individuals aged 25 to 49 years and among those who are separated or divorced.

The number of people facing acute food insecurity in low- and middle-income countries will nearly double to 265 million by the end of 2020. Emerging data from humanitarian settings already point to increases in food insecurity, particularly among population groups whose nutritional needs are higher, such as pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, sick people, and those who are older.

FIGURE 2

### Proportion of the population who are moderately or severely food insecure, by sex, 2014-2019 (percentage)



Source: Global SDG Indicators Database, 2020. Note: Estimates cover persons aged 15 and older. Due to low coverage, estimates for Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) are not shown.

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**28** TOTAL INDICATORS

**6** GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

### Women health-care workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting their lives at risk

The pandemic is placing significant stress on health systems. Even the best-resourced systems in the most advanced countries have been strained to the breaking point at peak periods in the crisis. In addition, disruptions to routine health services are likely to limit women’s access to sexual and reproductive health care, including access to safe maternity care and modern contraception. Despite the ambitious goal to end preventable maternal deaths by 2030, at the current rate of progress the world is expected to fall short of the target by more than 1 million lives. Compounding the problem is the fact that more than 250 million women of reproductive age globally who want to prevent pregnancy are not using modern methods of contraception.

Women represent 70 per cent of the world’s health-care workers. Thus, they are on the front lines of the pandemic and at increased risk of exposure to the virus. Emerging data from the Dominican Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Spain have confirmed that among infected health-care workers, 72 per cent are women.

**FIGURE 3**

#### Confirmed cases of COVID-19 among health-care workers, by sex, selected countries, September 2020 (number and percentage)



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/云报告?reportId=5\\_21831](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/云报告?reportId=5_21831)



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