



5 GENDER EQUALITY



PROTECT
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

I. SUMMARY

Since the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), good progress has been made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific. Efforts have also been directed toward increasing the availability of gender data and statistics to support monitoring and reporting on such progress. Nonetheless, about half of the gender-related SDG indicators still lack data, and progress assessment at the regional level is only possible for one of the nine SDG 5 targets, namely target 5.5 (Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making). For target 5.1 (Eliminate discrimination against women and girls), official data is only available for one point in time, and progress assessment for this target is possible only if proxy indicators are considered (see Annex). Where available, statistics reveal that despite gains made, substantive efforts are needed to accelerate progress and meet the agreed-upon global targets. For instance, women's representation in national parliaments has increased in most countries since 2015, but the regional average of 20.3 per cent still falls behind the global average of 25.6 per cent.

While data gaps limit trend analysis, the most recent data highlights the need for more attention to the substantial prevalence of intimate partner violence; the sub-regional prevalence of child marriage in Southern Asia and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand); and the disproportionate unpaid care and domestic work burdens on women. The pandemic has exacerbated these issues. The region is unlikely to achieve SDG 5 by 2030 unless Governments make significant investments to accelerate progress.

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The available data for SDG 5 resonates with findings from the 2021 multistakeholder survey of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to inform the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. Survey respondents identified an intersectional array of challenges to gender equality in the region, highlighting key issues presented below, and underlying sociocultural attitudes and stigmas that compromise women's and girls' rights and participation in education, employment, decision-making, and other areas. Stakeholders expressed concerns about weak political will, governance capacity, and law enforcement to address gender inequalities. They also acknowledged the large data gaps that hinder gender-responsive actions. For instance, although limited data is available about women's land ownership and access to secured tenure across the region, this is an issue area worthy of greater attention and has been spotlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic because owning productive assets is an important coping mechanism against crises.

The pandemic has amplified the impacts of longstanding gender inequalities. Rapid gender assessments indicate that violence against women has risen globally since the onset of the pandemic: one in three women was a victim of violence in her lifetime prior to the crisis, and the figure has now risen to one in two.² In Thailand, where such assessments were also conducted, 27 per cent of women reported experiencing intimate partner violence since the onset of COVID-19.³ Additionally, women—particularly young women—are disproportionately affected by the unprecedented employment losses caused by the pandemic, due to their overrepresentation in the hardest hit sectors and in vulnerable and informal employment.⁴ The increase in unpaid care and domestic work also falls primarily on women, contributing to more significant losses of paid working hours for women than for men.⁵ Despite the burgeoning digital landscape catalysed by the pandemic and heightened demand for digital skills for study, work, and maintaining social connections, a significant gender digital divide exists—girls are far less likely to own or have access to digital devices and enjoy fewer opportunities to gain digital skills than boys.⁶ The pandemic, which has overlapped with recent environmental crises and civil unrests in some countries, also emphasises the need for risk-informed development approaches to sustain progress towards the 2030 agenda, including on SDG 5.

A. Progress prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

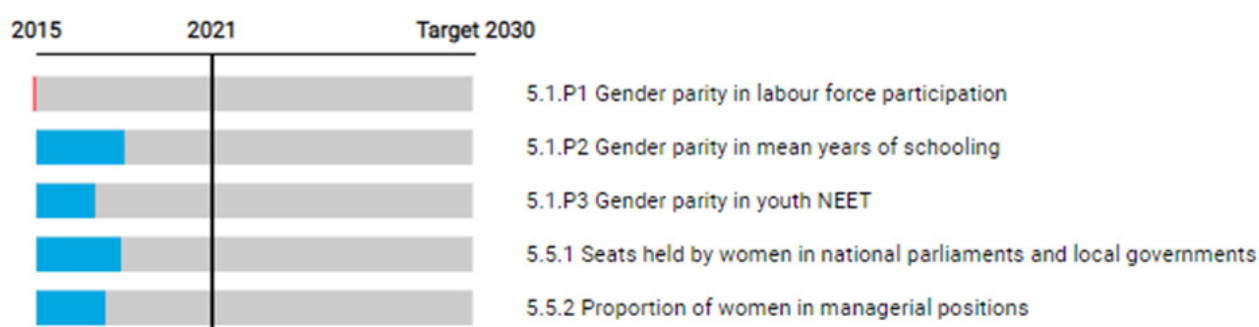
Target 5.5: Progress has been made in women's leadership and decision-making, but parity is still far from achieved. Despite some progress in women's participation in parliaments and local governments (indicator 5.5.1), without accelerated efforts in this area, it will be impossible to reach target 5.5 by 2030 (Figure 1). In 36 out of 49 countries and territories with data, the proportion of seats in national parliaments held by women has increased between 2015 and 2021. Nonetheless, in most countries and territories—38 out of 49—women's representation remains below the global average of 25.6 per cent. As of 2021, no parliamentary seats in the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu are held by women. Representation is the lowest in South and South-West Asia at 17.3 per cent, followed by the Pacific at 18 per cent, North and Central Asia at 21 per cent, South-East Asia at 21.4 per cent, and East and North-East Asia at 21.7 per cent. In local governments, women's representation varies from 1.5 per cent in the Federated States of Micronesia to 47.2 per cent in New Caledonia, with the large majority of countries and territories—30 out of 35—falling behind the global average of 36.3 per cent.⁷ Redoubled efforts are needed to further remove barriers to equal political representation, which provides women with

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the opportunity to participate in policy design and implementation and to influence investments that address concerns which disproportionately affect themselves. Accelerating efforts are especially needed in Pacific Island Countries, where on average only 6.4 per cent of parliamentary seats and 24.8 per cent of local government seats are held by women.⁸

Another area with good progress is women in managerial positions (indicator 5.5.2). In 20 out of 25 countries and territories with at least two data points, the share of managerial positions held by women had increased between 2015 and 2020.⁹ Yet, in 17 of the 25 countries and territories, this value remained below the global average of 28.3 per cent. When it comes to women in senior and middle management, some progress can be observed in eight out of 12 countries and territories with data between 2015 and 2019.¹⁰ Parity, however, remains far from reach. Accelerating efforts continue to be necessary.

Figure 1. The Status of Sustainable Development Goal 5 in Asia and the Pacific



Source: Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway

Target 5.1: Despite relevant legal frameworks put in place to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls, gender equality outcomes show a mixed picture. Efforts have been made by Governments in Asia and the Pacific to put in place legal frameworks to promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (indicator 5.1.1). For instance, countries in Central and Southern Asia reported that 68.3 per cent of the overarching legal frameworks needed for gender equality and non-discrimination were in place. This rate was 60.6 per cent in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. The rates were even higher in these two subregions when it comes to legal frameworks concerning violence against women at 83.3 and 73.6 per cent, respectively, and marriage and family at 74.2 and 77.3 per cent, respectively. Less has been achieved regarding legal frameworks for employment and economic benefits at 41.7 and 68.3 per cent, respectively.¹¹ The establishment of relevant legal frameworks has not necessarily translated into gender equality outcomes, however. Given the limited availability of trend data for this target, three proxy indicators were used in this profile to measure regional progress: gender parity in labour force participation, in mean years of schooling by sex, and in youths aged 15–24 not in employment, education, or training (NEET).¹² Since 2015, the

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gender gaps in the latter two proxy indicators have been closing. A slight yet concerning regression has been observed in labour force participation, however, where the gender gap has widened (Figure 1)¹³. This trend requires particular attention especially given the pandemic's disproportionate economic impacts on women and the known interlinkages between women's economic empowerment and their vulnerabilities to violence and other gender-related concerns.

B. Areas Requiring Attention and Associated Challenges

While trend analysis of the other SDG 5 targets is not possible at the regional level, the latest available data for related indicators underscores that attention must be directed towards key areas such as violence against women and girls (target 5.2), harmful practices (target 5.3), and unpaid care and domestic work (target 5.4). The reversal trend in gender parity in labour force participation also requires continued attention. Underpinning these concerns is the need to increase women's political participation and leadership in governance and decision-making in all sectors of society, which has implications for women's voice and agency and their abilities to enjoy their human rights.

Violence and harmful practices against women and girls (targets 5.2 and 5.3). Women and girls in Asia and the Pacific experience high levels of violence from their intimate partners (indicator 5.2.1). According to the latest available data, the prevalence stood at 18.3 per cent in South and South-West Asia, 10.5 per cent in the Pacific, 8.7 per cent in South-East Asia, and 7.4 per cent in East and North-East Asia.¹⁴ Even in subregions with lower prevalence rates, the situation is still worrisome because violence prevalence estimates are known to be heavily underestimated. Since the pandemic worsens the risks of violence that women and girls face and exacerbates barriers to access support, more sophisticated efforts are required to address risk factors and to reinstate and strengthen relevant survivor support.¹⁵ The way women experience and report violence and how they are affected by the pandemic vary depending on factors such as age, ethnicity, race, disability, and migrant or socioeconomic status. Comprehensive analysis and responses must include steps to protect women and girls in all situations, ensuring no one is left behind.¹⁶

Other harmful practices, such as early union or child marriage (indicator 5.3.1), remain prevalent in some parts of Asia and the Pacific. According to latest available data, about 28.4 and 26.3 per cent of women aged 20–24 in Southern Asia and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand), respectively,—married before turning 18. The figures were 17.3 per cent in Western Asia, 16.1 per cent in South-Eastern Asia, and 8.4 per cent in Central Asia.¹⁷ Studies in Bangladesh and Nepal draw special attention to the increased risks of child marriage in humanitarian settings.¹⁸

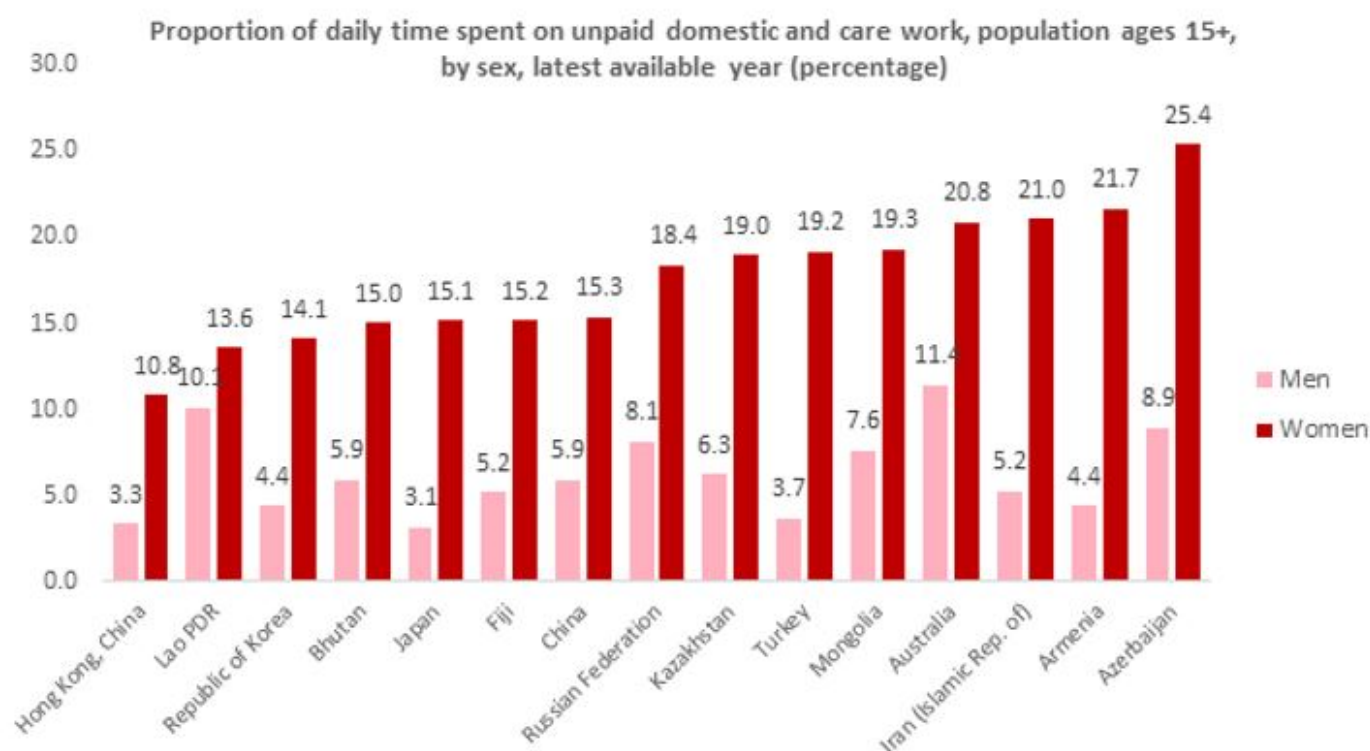
Child marriage has multidimensional consequences, from increasing the likelihood of adolescent pregnancy and violence against women to reducing access to higher education and high-paying jobs. Thus, actions to eliminate child marriage can have transformative effects on women's lives.

Disproportionate unpaid care and domestic work burdens on women (target 5.4). Available data about unpaid care and domestic work highlights that this is a key area of concern in Asia

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and the Pacific. In almost every one of the 15 countries and territories with data—except the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Australia—women spend two to five times as much time on unpaid care and domestic chores as men (Figure 2).¹⁹ Unpaid care and domestic work includes activities such as cooking, cleaning, caring for children and elderly or sick family members, grocery shopping, and making household repairs, among others. The disproportionate unpaid care and domestic work burdens have considerable consequences for women, who are often forced out of paid labour or compelled to work fewer paid hours to cope with these burdens. In turn, this situation may contribute to the glass ceiling for women to reach managerial positions and higher-paid jobs, and to women’s overrepresentation among the extremely poor, particularly during key reproductive years.²⁰ It may also affect women’s physical and mental health, a critical challenge highlighted by the pandemic, as 63 per cent of women in the region reported substantially heavier burdens such as caring for sick family members, home-schooling children, and maintaining household hygiene.²¹

Figure 2: Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work in 15 countries and territories from 2001 to 2019



Source: ESCAP, Data & Statistics. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/stat/data>.

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Economic participation and the empowerment of women. Critical challenges remain in women's equal access to decent work and economic empowerment. Even before the pandemic, the regional gender gap in labour force participation was 32 percentage points and well above the global gap of 27 points. The gap was the highest in South Asia at 54 points.²² This gender gap can be expected to widen due to the pandemic. Declines in working hours and employment were higher for women than men in most countries with data.²³ The increase in women's economic inactivity may result in difficulties in re-entering the labour force. This situation would compound the existing vulnerabilities of female labour such as overrepresentation in informal employment. In 2019, an estimated 89.3 per cent of women workers in South Asia and 70.9 per cent in South-Eastern Asia were in informal employment, typically with inadequate or no access to labour and social protections.²⁴ The gender wage gap is also on the rise and may be larger in the informal sector.²⁵ In addition, work-related gender-based violence and harassment have worsened with the pandemic, hampering women's engagement in employment.²⁶ Negative gender norms, biases, and stereotypes persist and impact educational and training pathways and eventually career choices and opportunities for women and girls. For instance, girls and women in Asia and the Pacific are less likely to study and work in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields than boys and men.²⁷ This disparity can negatively impact women's economic prospects as well as the region's overall growth and development.

C. Integration of Human Rights and Gender Equality Considerations

Non-discrimination and gender equality are principles fundamental to human rights. Protecting the full range of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights of women and girls at all times and in all circumstances is one of the core values and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The obligations of those holding power and authority to promote and protect human rights, including women's human rights, are not circumstantial. States and other duty-bearers are answerable for the observance of women's human rights, at all times and vis-à-vis all people.

Major gaps and challenges continue to negatively impact women's and girls' enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as reflected in the sections above. It is essential to align the implementation of SDG 5—as well as the other SDGs—with other international commitments and human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. All actions and efforts for realizing gender-related SDG targets can be anchored in human rights norms and standards. In 2020, member States and stakeholders reflected on the necessity of such alignment during the Beijing+25 review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). Women's vital role in the implementation of all SDGs and these other treaties and commitments—not only as target groups for equality and empowerment but also as part of the solution—must be acknowledged and supported.

Of course, women are not a homogeneous group. Women in Asia and the Pacific continue to face intersecting forms of discrimination due to factors such as age, race, ethnicity, disability, or socioeconomic status, in addition to discriminatory gender-based norms. For instance, women

III. PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

and girls with disabilities and older women face additional vulnerabilities in access to social protection and sexual and reproductive health services, and in the experience of violence, including during times of emergency. Their special needs are often overlooked or underserved as evidenced in the COVID-19 response.²⁸ This issue highlights the need to align gender equality and inclusion perspectives in policies and actions in order to effectively address intersectional challenges and ensure no one is left behind.

III. PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

Innovations to combat the “shadow pandemic” of violence against women. Pandemic control measures have further limited women’s access to information and support services. Online and other creative means have been used to disseminate vital information and support help-seeking. For instance, the “Stand Up Against Violence” app was launched in India. The app lists contact details of State and non-State agencies, service providers, and activists who can assist survivors of domestic abuse. Several countries have created new helplines, provided special training for police officers about violence against women, and expanded funds available to shelters and counselling services. For instance, Australia earmarked 150 million Australian dollars in pandemic relief funds to strengthen support for domestic violence services. A further 20 million Australian dollars were announced for legal assistance to survivors. Brunei Darussalam provided the police force with special training about violence against women in the context of COVID-19. In Fiji and Tonga, crisis centres dealing with violence against women and girls were designated essential services during lockdowns.²⁹

Promising solutions for access to decent work and economic empowerment of women. Declining female labour force participation requires policy reforms that target the drivers of gender inequalities. In several countries including Bangladesh, Fiji, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Turkey, labour-related protections such as a minimum wage and social security have been extended to cover informal workers—overrepresented by women—to support the transition from informal and vulnerable work to formal employment. A range of Governments has adopted promising policies that address women’s unpaid care and domestic work, such as paid family leave, tax breaks, subsidies that incentivize employers to provide childcare services in workplaces, and increased care support for older persons and persons with disabilities.³⁰

The Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship programme implemented by ESCAP in six countries aims to advance women’s entrepreneurship and market participation by addressing critical challenges across Asia and the Pacific, such as a high concentration of women in the informal sector and their constrained access to operating capital and skills. The programme strengthens women entrepreneurs’ access to and use of financial services, their use of information and communication technologies and digital solutions to support their businesses, and the enabling

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policy environment by incorporating women-specific reforms into relevant national policies and laws. Ten innovative financing solutions have been brought to market with support from the Women Enterprise Recovery Fund jointly implemented by ESCAP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Viet Nam.³²

Jointly implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Vietnam, the EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies project enables women to use renewable energy to build resilient livelihoods and support women-owned energy enterprises.³³ It also demonstrates women's critical role in gender-responsive climate and disaster risk reduction solutions. The project has supported three provinces in Viet Nam in adopting provincial action plans on "Renewable Energy and Women Entrepreneurship", and two provinces in Cambodia in specifying renewable energy and women's economic empowerment in their official investment plans.

Inspiring actions to mainstream and bolster gender statistics.³⁴ A number of Governments have taken actions to mainstream gender into national statistical strategies by enhancing the capacities and resources of their national statistical offices and promoting gender data use. For example, the Republic of Korea prioritized gender mainstreaming in its First National Statistics Development Plan (2015). Under the plan, two ministries are selected annually to receive dedicated technical support and capacity building to develop gender statistics. In 2018, Georgia's main statistical office, Geostat, launched an electronic gender data portal, accompanied by efforts to publicly disseminate data and bolster the capacity of its consumers such as journalists, non-governmental organizations, and civil servants, in gender data interpretation and use. Statistics New Zealand established a centralized database on gender statistics, which holds de-identified and linked microdata across a range of topics, including education, income, benefits, migration, justice, and health, which can support effective gender analysis across sectors.

To support countries in enhancing the production and use of gender statistics while fostering their enabling environments, UN Women is implementing a global flagship programme called Making Every Woman and Girl Count. The programme has supported the implementation of data collection and reprocessing, capacity building, and creation of national strategies related to gender statistics, among many other initiatives, in 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Promising practices facilitated by the programme include gender data user-producer dialogues to inform evidence-based decision-making, design and implementation of time-use surveys, gender-environment surveys, and rapid gender assessment surveys about the consequences of COVID-19. The project has also developed key technical resources including the Gender Statistics Training Curriculum and the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics.³⁵

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The following priorities for action are recommended to accelerate the achievement of SDG 5 in Asia and the Pacific.

Priority 1: Enhance women's participation and leadership in governance and decision-making.

Women's participation and leadership in governance and decision-making is crucial for gender-responsive, equitable, and inclusive policymaking and resources allocation, including in emergencies like COVID-19. Yet only 14 per cent of the COVID-19 taskforce members in Asia, and 24 per cent in Oceania, are women.³⁶ The security-driven crisis response, led by predominantly male decision-makers, has failed to effectively account for women's and girls' essential needs and threatens to exacerbate existing gender inequalities.³⁷ Governments must strengthen laws and policies that explicitly promote women's representation and secure safe spaces for women leaders, activists, and women from marginalized groups to participate in political and public affairs, especially in sectors such as environmental management and disaster risk reduction where women are underrepresented. Establishing gender-responsive political and governance processes and investing in building women's leadership capacities is also crucial to meeting this objective. Efforts in this area would lead to transformative change only if they are integrated with other investments to address discriminatory gender norms in societies and institutions, threats of violence, and the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic responsibilities.

Priority 2: Enhance gender-responsive budgeting and innovative financing for more efficient recovery and Sustainable Development Goal implementation. Gender-responsive budgeting is a critical tool to ensure fiscal allocation and promote accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment and is a requirement for good governance. Governments across the region can institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting across the public sector through legislation, regulation, or other means. Technical cooperation and collaboration between Governments, United Nations agencies, and development banks can be strengthened to enhance the capacities of national women's machineries, ministries of finance, and line ministries with respect to gender-responsive budgeting. South-South cooperation can facilitate learning and exchange with countries where gender-responsive budgeting is officially mandated and implemented, such as Indonesia and the Philippines. These actions can ensure that fiscal planning for COVID-19 response and recovery in the region is gender-responsive. The introduction of innovative financing means, which connect public and private-sector resources, can make economic and social-sector recoveries more efficient. Such innovative financing is especially necessary for women-dominant sectors and women-owned enterprises, which are often under-resourced.

Priority 3: Integrate gender into national strategies for statistical development. Heightened efforts are needed towards the production of gender data to monitor the SDGs and to enable gender-responsive policy planning. Such efforts would include production of new data and

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reprocessing of existing data to arrive at estimates for gender indicators across the entire SDG framework, well beyond Goal 5. To achieve this objective, Governments are encouraged to fully integrate gender across their national strategies for the development of statistics; identify a set of gender-related priority SDG indicators pertaining to national contexts; allocate sufficient funds to generate gender data; include gender modules across scheduled surveys; adjust survey samples to interview women and men beyond heads of households; implement specialized surveys on topics relevant to gender; make use of unconventional data sources, such as by performing geospatial and survey data integration; reprocess existing data to yield gender statistics; consistently calculate, report, and publish sex-disaggregated estimates; and improve public access to anonymized microdata.

Priority 4: Strengthen women's economic empowerment, including for post-COVID-19 recovery. Economic stimulus and policies that Governments are deploying to curb the pandemic's socioeconomic impacts and enable long-run recovery must be gender-responsive. Measures to revamp vulnerable sectors—including those worst hit such as tourism and agribusiness—will not be effective without tailored solutions to support the large numbers of women in these sectors. Social protection benefits designed and delivered in gender-responsive and inclusive ways—including income security, health insurance, maternity or parental and child benefits, and pension schemes—must be extended to women and to all persons in informal and vulnerable work. Also, for social protection, systems strengthening can anticipate and mitigate the impacts of shocks like COVID-19, preventing them from transforming into crises. Governments also need to develop policies and allocate funding to provide more affordable, accessible, and high-quality care services for children, as well as for older persons and persons with disabilities, which in turn will reduce care burdens that fall disproportionately on women. Policy and financial incentives such as paid family leave and tax breaks can incentivize more equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic responsibilities. In order to shrink time burdens for women, Governments also need to invest in building sustainable public infrastructure such as electricity, clean water, and sanitation facilities. Lastly, Governments can generate decent work in the care sector as part of a job-rich recovery strategy.

Priority 5: Reinstate and sustain funding and services to address violence and harmful practices against women and girls. Restrictions to mobility, loss of income, the perception of survivor support and services as “non-essential”, and increased online activities have all contributed to the so-called “shadow pandemic” of violence against women and girls at home, at work, and in public spaces. Despite shrinking fiscal capacity, Governments must ensure that appropriate funding is earmarked for prevention and protection services, including funding to allow civil society organizations and women's groups to reinstate essential services like women's shelters. Governments also need to further develop measures to address cyber violence, work-related gender-based violence and harassment, and other harmful practices such as child marriage, which restrict women's and girls' educational and economic opportunities as well as safety.³⁸

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Priority 6: Emphasize sub-regional perspectives in Sustainable Development Goal implementation. Monitoring SDG implementation across Asia and the Pacific can hold decision-makers accountable. It is important to monitor implementation and progress with a sub-regional lens, given the region's broad geographic coverage and diverse contexts. For instance, achieving SDG 5 in countries and territories in the Pacific will require strong efforts to promote women's participation in politics, reduce violence against women and girls, and enhance women's engagement in environmental management. In Southern Asia, in turn, emphasis must fall on eliminating harmful practices such as child marriage, which remain prevalent.

The official indicator framework for SDG 5 proposes 14 indicators for nine targets under Goal 5. The data is far from sufficient for all SDG 5 indicators in Asia and the Pacific. To access available data to date, please visit the Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway at dataexplorer.unescap.org.

Target	Indicator	Status of indicator (Tier)	Most recent data available	Comments
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	II	N/A	Proxy 1: Gender parity in labour force participation
			2020	
			2017	Proxy 2: Gender parity in mean years of schooling
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 The proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	II	2019	Proxy 3: Gender parity in youth NEET
			2018	At least two data points available in less than 50 per cent of countries and territories since 2015
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.2.2 The proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	II	N/A	
	5.3.1 The proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	I	2020	At least two data points available in less than 50 per cent of countries and territories since 2015
	5.3.2 The proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation or cutting, by age	I	2017	Data available only in Maldives

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location	II	2019	At least two data points available in less than 50 per cent of countries and territories since 2001
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life	5.5.1 The proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	I	2021	At least two data points available in less than 50 per cent of countries and territories for sub-indicator (b) since 2015
	5.5.2 The proportion of women in managerial positions	I	2020	At least two data points available in less than 50 per cent of countries and territories for senior and middle management since 2015
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 The proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care	II	2021	At least two data points available in no country or territory since 2015
	5.6.2 The number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education	II	2019	At least two data points available in no country or territory since 2015
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) The proportion of the total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) the share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	II	2017	At least two data points available in no country or territory since 2015
	5.a.2 The proportion of countries where the legal framework, including customary law, guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	II	2020	At least two data points available in no country or territory since 2015
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	II	2020	At least two data points available in less than 50 per cent of countries and territories since 2015

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5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 The proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	II	2018	At least two data points available in no country or territory since 2015
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N/A – these data are not available

ENDNOTES

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6. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Children’s Fund, *Situation Analysis on the Effects of and Responses to COVID-19 on the Education Sector in Asia: Regional Synthesis Report* (Bangkok, 2021).
7. ESCAP, *Data & Statistics*. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/stat/data>.
8. Sub-regional United Nations Statistics Division data for Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand. See *Global SDG statistical annex (E/2021/58)*. The United Nations Statistics Division’s regional groupings differ from ESCAP subregions. Five out of five countries and territories in Central Asia, nine out of nine in South Asia, seven out of seven in East Asia, 11 out of 11 in South-East Asia, 4 out of 18 in West Asia, and 21 out of 24 in Oceania are ESCAP member States and associate members. See unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/. ESCAP’s Pacific subregion includes Australia and New Zealand.
9. Twelve other countries have only one data point since 2015. See ESCAP, *Data & Statistics*. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/stat/data>.
10. Nine other countries have only one data point since 2015. See ESCAP, *Data & Statistics*. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/stat/data>.
11. *Global SDG statistical annex (E/2021/58)*.
12. See “Progress Assessment Methodology” at data.unescap.org/resource-guides/progress-assessment-methodology.
13. ESCAP *Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway* (2021).

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17. Global SDG statistical annex (E/2021/58).
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22. International Labour Organization, *Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020: Navigating the Crisis towards a Human-Centred Future of Work* (Bangkok, 2020). The Asia and the Pacific region of the International Labour Organization covers 38 ESCAP member States and associate members.
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