KEY FINDINGS
EM2030's 2019 SDG Gender Index

The EM2030 SDG Gender Index is the most comprehensive tool available to explore the state of gender equality across 129 countries (covering 95% of the world's girls and women), 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and 51 targets linked to issues aligned to the SDGs.

Across the 129 countries studied, no country is the world's best performer—or even among the world's top ten performers—across *all* goals or *all* indicators. **The global average score of 65.7 out of 100; "poor" in the index scoring system.** Altogether, 2.8 billion girls and women live in countries that get either a "very poor" (59 and below) or "poor" score (60 – 69) on gender equality. 8% of the world's population of girls and women live in countries that received a "good" score (80 – 89) and no country achieved an "excellent" score of 90 or above.

Scoring system: The overall index score and individual goal scores are based on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 reflects the achievement of gender equality in relation to the targets set for each indicator (i.e., that 100% of girls' complete secondary education). A score of 50 signifies that a country is about halfway to meeting the targets within that goal.

- Excellent: 90 and above
- Good: 80-89
- Fair: 70-79
- Poor: 60-69
- Very poor: 59 and below

GLOBAL FINDINGS - EM2030 2019 SDG Gender Index (select findings only)

- **Global areas of improvement**: The world is furthest behind on gender equality issues related to public finance and better gender data (SDG 17), climate change (SDG 13), gender equality in industry and innovation (SDG 9) and – worryingly -- the standalone 'gender equality' goal (SDG 5).
- **Global areas of relative strength**: Overall, countries have performed best on issues where coordinated and concerted policy focus and funding has been directed over the past 10-20 years, including on hunger and nutrition (SDG 2), water and sanitation (SDG 6), health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4).
- **Highest scoring 10 countries by overall Index score:** Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Slovenia, Germany, Canada, Ireland, and Australia.
- **Lowest scoring 10 countries by overall Index score**: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Yemen, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad – all appear in OECD's 2018 list of fragile states.
- **GDP and gender equality**: Overall, higher-income countries are more likely to have greater gender equality than lower-income countries. But the data show that this is not always the case:
  - Finland, Georgia, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Rwanda, Slovenia, and Viet Nam, among others — have higher gender equality scores than would be expected based on their GDP per capita.
  - Botswana, Iraq, Malaysia, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States, among others — have lower gender equality scores than might be expected given their income levels.
- **Gender equality in lower performing countries**: There are pockets of progress even among the Index's lower performing regions and countries. For example:
  - The majority of the top scoring countries on indicators related to women's participation in government and the judiciary are Latin American and Sub-Saharan African countries.
  - Several lower-income countries perform well on indicators that capture women's physical safety, through their perceptions of how safe women feel walking alone at night: Rwanda, for example, has the fifth highest score globally on this indicator.
  - Women are more likely to have had their need for modern methods of family planning met in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Thailand, and Uruguay than in Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden (though they still receive "good" or "excellent" scores on the measure).
  - Kenya has very high rates of women who use digital banking – higher rates than three quarters of the world's countries.

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- Colombia has better coverage of social assistance amongst its poorest people than the United States.

REGIONAL FINDINGS - EM2030 2019 SDG Gender Index (select findings only)

Asia and the Pacific (regional score: 64.6/100)
- The region is the second lowest performer on the measure of women's ability to rise to the top ranks of national governments; only three countries are more than halfway toward the target of full gender parity in ministries or senior government positions (Indonesia, New Zealand, and Philippines).
- Asia and the Pacific perform better on the indicator related to strategies for disaster risk reduction than any other region in the world, and six countries have fully met the Index target—though the regional average for the indicator is still a "very poor" grade.
- The region outperforms the global average on SDG 2: Hunger & Nutrition, SDG 3: Health, and SDG 6: Water & Sanitation.

Europe and North America (regional score: 79.1/100)
- Notable outliers in the region include Slovenia, which places 6th overall in the Index, and Russia (59th). Canada (8th) outperforms the United States (28th), which has its overall score driven down by poor performance on indicators related to poverty, women's participation in the economy, and inequality.
- The region has room for improvement on the indicator linked to modern methods of family planning — it fares worse on average than Latin America and the Caribbean, no country in the region meets the 100% target, and nearly half fall under 75%.
- The region is home to nine of the top ten performing countries covered by the Index and 18 countries total in the region achieve "good" overall scores on the Index.

Latin America and the Caribbean (regional score: 66.5/100)
- Countries with the lowest overall scores in the region (Honduras, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Guatemala) have experienced civil conflict or political unrest in the past 30 years.
- Latin America and the Caribbean is by far the lowest scoring region in the world on two indicators related to women's physical safety—the region receives a "poor" overall score on female victims of homicide, and El Salvador is the lowest scoring country in the world on the indicator.
- The region's highest performing countries, Uruguay, Chile, and Costa Rica, along with Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, all place in the top 50 countries in the Index (out of 129 countries).

Middle East and North Africa (regional score: 60.8/100)
- Five countries in the region fall into the category of "very poor" scores overall on the Index, with Yemen the fourth lowest ranking country overall in the world.
- The region falls behind the world on indicators related to women's legal rights, including land ownership, workplace equality, and the extent to which there are legal grounds for abortion.
- On goal-by-goal average scores, the region outperforms the global average on SDG 3: Health, SDG 6: Water & Sanitation, and SDG 7: Energy.

Sub-Saharan Africa (regional score: 51.1/100)
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region aside from Latin America and the Caribbean where any country has fully achieved or surpassed parity in a lower house of parliament. Rwanda (61% of parliament), Namibia (46%), South Africa (42%), Senegal (42%) all rank in the top ten countries in the Index in terms of women in parliament.
- Indicators where most of the world performs quite well, including on maternal mortality, access to drinking water and access to electricity are weak spots across much of the region.
- The region's strongest goal performances are on SDG 2: Hunger & Nutrition and SDG 8: Work & Economic Growth