

# PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY IS POSSIBLE

EQUAL  
MEASURES  
2030

## AND IT'S POWERING CHANGE ACROSS THE SDGS

Gender equality is implicitly embedded within every goal in the 2030 Agenda. With a commitment to 'leave no one behind', the specific situation of women and girls can act as a bellwether and an accelerant for progress on issues across the SDGs.

Recent evidence from the Equal Measures 2030 (EM2030) [SDG Gender Index](#) shows that, while global progress on gender equality across all of the SDGs is too slow, more than half of countries worldwide are moving in the right direction.

When we dig into the data, we see that there is rapid progress on some key gender equality issues. For example:

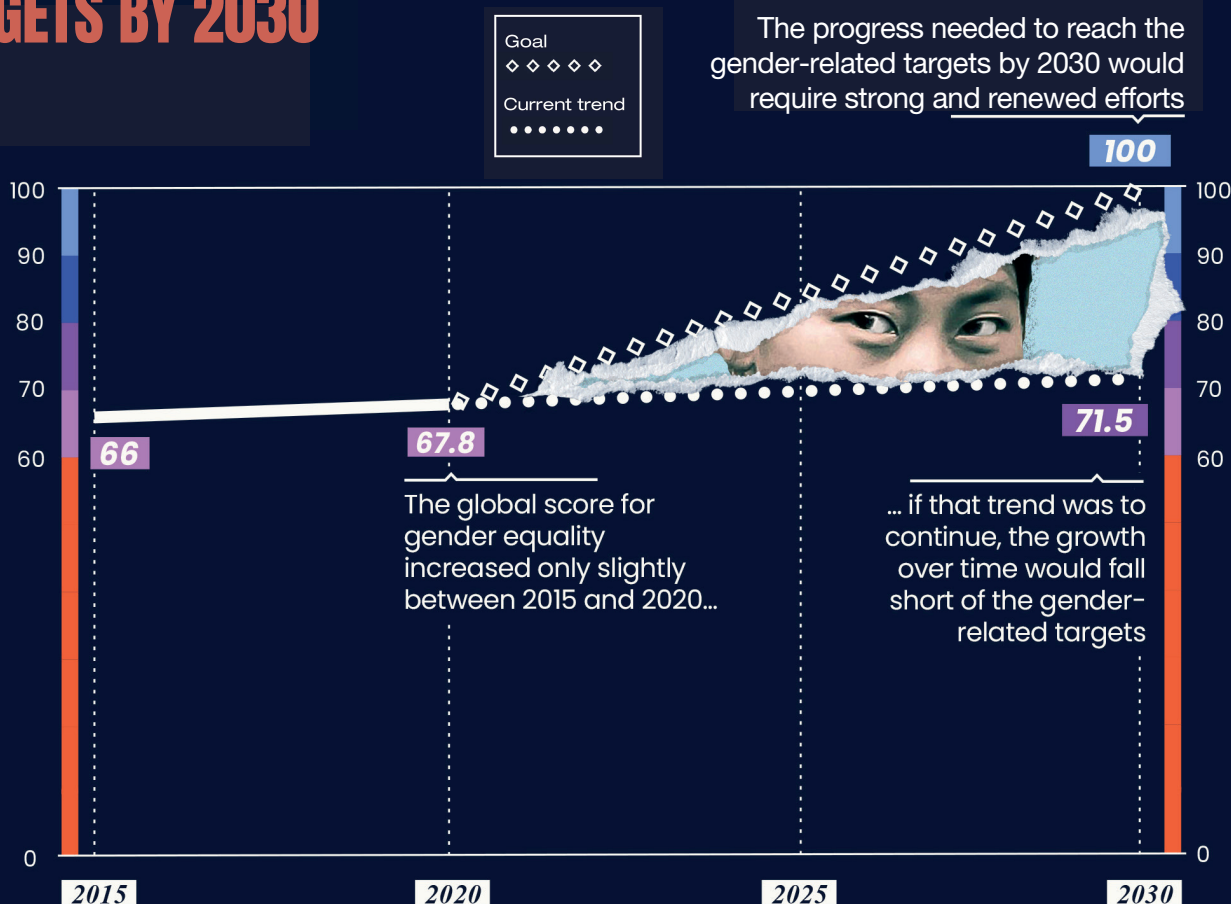
The share of women globally with **access to the internet** grew from 53% to 67% from 2015 to 2020.

The share of women globally who **made a digital payment** jumped from 41% to 61% between 2014 and 2021.

Globally, the share of **parliamentary seats held by women** rose from 23% to 27% between 2015 and 2021.

And the share of women in **senior Minister-level roles** rose from 20% to nearly 25% over the same period.

## PROGRESS ON GLOBAL GENDER EQUALITY TOO SLOW TO MEET TARGETS BY 2030



# THE BIG PICTURE OF GLOBAL PROGRESS

## KEY FACTS



- ◆ **Progress on gender equality has been too slow, too fragile and too fragmented:** there was little progress on gender equality at a global level between 2015 and 2020.
- ◆ **If current trends continue,** the world will reach an **Index score of only 71 out of 100 by 2030**, the deadline for the achievement of the SDGs.
- ◆ **Not one of the 144 countries in the SDG Gender Index has achieved gender equality**, and no country is the world's best performer – or even among the world's top ten performers – across all SDGs. Every country has more to do to realize the vision of gender equality embedded within the goals.
- ◆ **Less than a quarter of countries are making 'fast progress'** towards gender equality; **a third of countries are either making 'no progress'** at all or are moving in the 'wrong direction'.
- ◆ On the positive side, **more than half of countries worldwide are moving in the right direction** on gender equality.
- ◆ However, in 2020, **more than three billion girls and women still lived in countries with 'poor' or 'very poor' scores** for gender equality.



## THE CONTEXT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ◆ The **COVID-19 pandemic** has exposed the deep fault lines in gender equality that have intensified the impact of the pandemic on girls and women.
- ◆ An **intersectional lens** is vital. Without understanding how inequalities combine and accumulate, it is hard to identify the problems and, therefore, the solutions.
- ◆ **Ecological collapse** has a profound impact on girls and women, who see their resources dwindle and their responsibilities expand.
- ◆ Gender equality has become a **political battlefield** in an era of increasing political polarity. There is growing opposition to many human rights, and the rights of girls and women are a favourite target.
- ◆ **Austerity measures** have become the 'go to' option for countries in response to crises. But the resulting cuts to public services hit girls and women first and hardest.
- ◆ **International justice and solidarity are in short supply.** Countries that bear the least responsibility for climate change lack the necessary support, and there has been little improvement in aid effectiveness over the past decade.

# TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

How can we replicate and accelerate recent gains, buttress them against the shocks and stresses of crises like the pandemic, and redouble efforts where we're lagging behind? The EM2030 Partnership has compiled six succinct recommendations to tackle underlying issues that are holding back progress across the SDG agenda.

### Reform and apply inequality laws

Countries that reform and fully implement gender equality laws have better health, nutrition and educational outcomes for women and their families, more resilient employment for women, and more women in their parliaments.

### Invest in public services and social (including care) infrastructure

The social transformation needed for gender equality must be funded, which requires gender-responsive budgets, progressive taxation and strong investment in public services and public (including care) infrastructure.

### Promote the leadership, participation and voice of girls and women

The key is to combat gender norms and promote role models, with the greater visibility of women in public life creating a virtuous circle of participation.

### Close the gender data gaps

This means investing in improving data infrastructure and formalizing the idea of a gender data ecosystem, but also mobilizing and building bridges between different stakeholders and data communities, and making good use of 'big data'.

### Invest in, create space for, and listen to feminist organizations and movements

Little progress on women's rights would have been made without pressure and advocacy from these organizations and movements. They need proper resourcing and safe, secure spaces in which to operate and advocate.

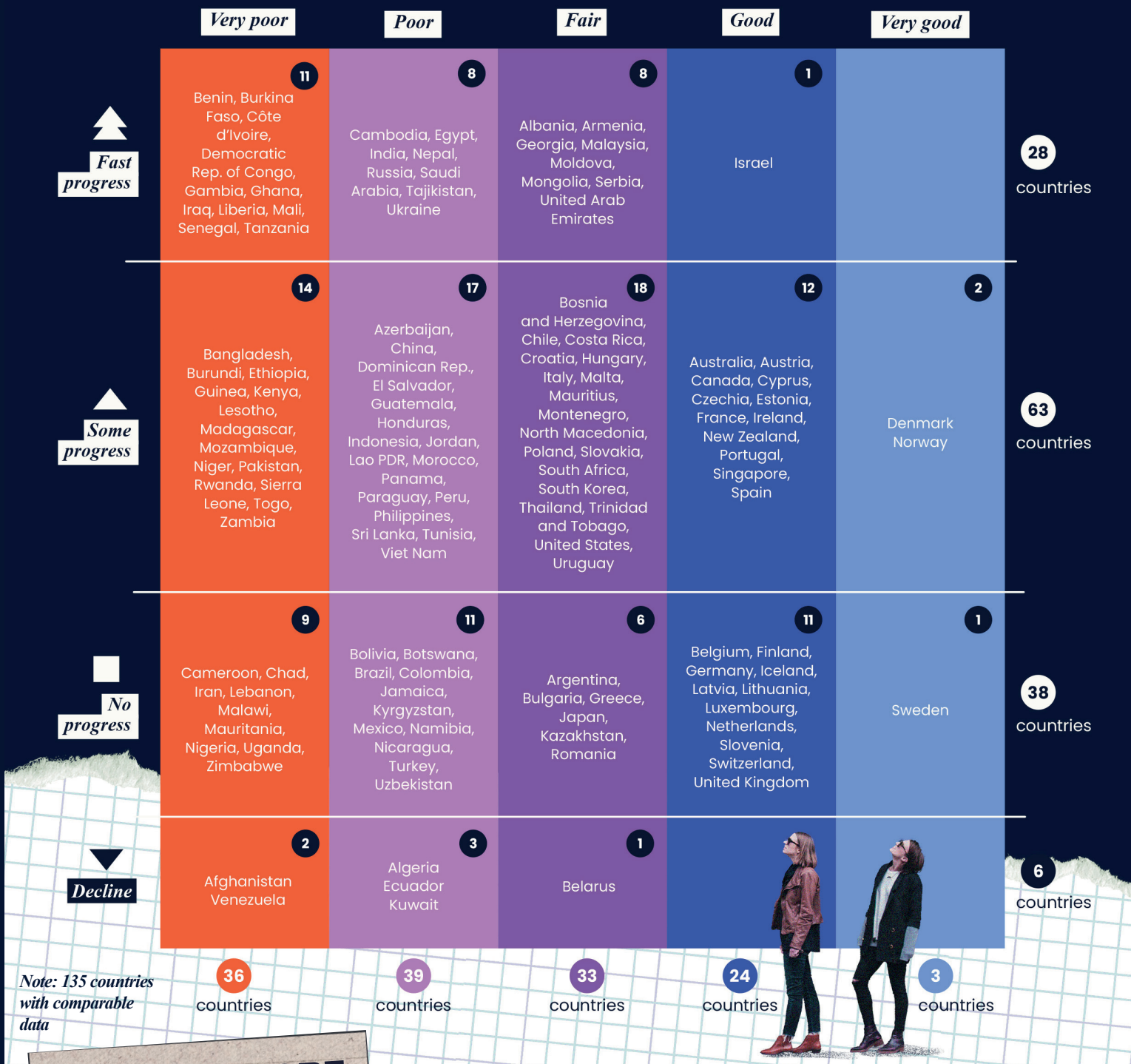
### Work with and empower girls and young women

Their voices should be heard in the decisions that affect them. Programmes, policies and laws designed with and for them, and funding for their groups, are critical for accelerated progress towards gender equality.





# MORE THAN HALF OF COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE MADE PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY BETWEEN 2015 AND 2020



**FIND OUT MORE**

Equal Measures 2030 is a collaboration of national, regional and global leaders from feminist networks, civil society, international development and the private sector. We connect data and evidence with advocacy and action on gender equality, to transform the lives of women and girls and realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

You can learn more about the [impact of our collective efforts here](#).

Read the [full Index report here](#) or explore our website at [www.equalmeasures2030.org](http://www.equalmeasures2030.org)