TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION:

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda is clear: there can be no sustainable development without gender equality. *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 agenda*, a global monitoring report by UN Women, asks: **How far have we come in turning this new development consensus into results for women and girls and what is needed to bridge the remaining gaps between rhetoric and reality?**

New data analysis* in the report puts a spotlight on gender-based discrimination across all 17 SDGs. The goal-by-goal review shows that gender inequalities—deeply rooted and present across all countries—are pervasive in each and every dimension of sustainable development. **See goal-by-goal summary below**.

Using micro-level data, the report shows how across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often left behind and excluded from progress.

These groups of women and girls are excluded not only from access to education and health, but also other key measures of well-being including access to clean water, fuel and housing. **See case studies summary below**.

Addressing these challenges requires dramatic advances in statistics, financing and policies for gender equality.

THE NEED FOR ACTION

The report identifies four key areas for action:

1. Harnessing policy synergies: the demands for implementation are huge—there are 17 goals and gender equality matters for all of them. Integrated approaches to implementation are pivotal to harnessing these synergies.
2. Improving gender data, statistics and analysis to effectively monitor progress for women and girls across all goals and targets.
3. Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes to align action with the principles, values and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Strengthening accountability through gender-responsive processes and institutions to ensure an integrated approach to implementation, follow-up and review with gender equality at its core.

See *Policy in Focus* summary below

* NOTE: Data presented are from global databases and may not reflect the most up-to-date country level information. In addition, data may differ from national figures due to harmonization processes performed for international comparability.

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FACT SHEET – SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Gender-based discrimination—deeply rooted and present across all countries—threatens to undermine the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda in real and measurable ways:

Globally, there are 122 women aged 25-34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group.

Extreme poverty numbers are slightly higher for the **sub-Saharan Africa** region, where there are 127 women aged 25-34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men.

In nearly two thirds of countries, women are more likely than men to report food insecurity.

Of all SDG regions, **sub-Saharan Africa** has the highest prevalence of food insecurity. More than half of the female population in the region is food insecure at moderate or severe levels.

Globally, 303,000 women died from pregnancy-related causes in 2015. The rate of death is declining much too slowly to achieve Target 3.1.

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in **sub-Saharan Africa** is 556 deaths per 100,000 live births – making it the region with the highest MMR and accounting for two thirds of all maternal deaths each year.

15 million girls of primary-school age will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to 10 million boys.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, adolescent girls are more likely to be out of school than adolescent boys – 48.1%, compared to 43.6%.

The 2030 Agenda promises to put an end to barriers that prevent women and girls from realizing their full potential. But significant challenges lie ahead:

5.1 In 18 countries, across the world, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

5.2 Globally, 1 in 5 women and girls under the age of 50 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

The figure is even higher for **sub-Saharan Africa**, where 22.3% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

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5.3 Globally, 750 million women and girls were married before the age of 18 and at least 200 million women and girls in 30 countries have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM).

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, 37% of women aged 20 to 24 were married or in a union before the age of 18.

Currently, **Djibouti, Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia** and **Sudan** have the highest FGM prevalence rates in the world, at 85% or greater among women aged 20‑24.

Wealth, location, and race compound to determine prevalence of FGM in **Nigeria**, where women in the richest households and urban areas are more likely to be cut (42.3% and 45.7%, respectively) than those in the poorest and rural households (28.4% and 33.6%, respectively). Yoruba women are 2.7 times as likely to undergo the practice as Fulani women (69.8% and 26.3%, respectively).

5.4 Women do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.

In **Ethiopia, Mali,** and **Mauritius**, women spend 22%, 20% and 19% of their day on unpaid domestic and care work, respectively; men spend 8.7%, 2.5%, and 4.8% of their day, respectively, on this work.

5.5 As of September 2017, Women hold just 23.7% of parliamentary seats globally, an increase of 10 percentage points compared to 2000 – but still way below parity.

The **sub-Saharan African** region is above average in this dimension, with women holding 23.8% of parliamentary seats. **Rwanda** continues its reign as leader in women's representation in national parliaments, with 61.3% of parliamentary seats held by women. While no other country surpasses gender parity in this regard, 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa demonstrate female representation in national parliaments that surpasses the global average.

5.6 Based on data from 45 countries, mostly in **sub-Saharan Africa**, only 52% of women aged 15‑49 there who are married or in union make their own informed decisions about sexual relations and the use of contraceptives and health services.

5.a Globally, women are just 13% of agricultural land holders.

5.b The benefits of internet and technology are accessible to men at a much higher rate than women, leaving women behind in Internet access and mobile phone ownership. Women are less likely than men to own a mobile phone, and their internet usage is 5.9 percentage points lower than that of men.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, 24.6% of men use the Internet, compared to just 18.4% of women.

5.c More than 100 countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of the world's households without access to water on premises.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, women and girls are the primary water carriers in over 70% of households where water has to be fetched.

Indoor air pollution from using combustible fuels for household energy caused 4.3 million deaths in 2012, with women and girls accounting for 6 out of every 10 of these.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, an average of 85.7% of households rely on unclean fuels for cooking and heating, with devastating effects on the health of women and children, who usually spend more time in the home.

Globally, the labour force participation rate among prime working-age women (aged 25–54) stands at 63 per cent compared to 94 per cent among their male counterparts. The global gender pay gap is 23%.

Sub-Saharan Africa has registered modest increases in the female prime working-age labour force participation rate and a decline in the gender gap, but this has taken place against a backdrop of falling participation rates for men. There is large variation across the region: In 2017, **Burundi** and **Rwanda** had the greatest female prime working-age labour force participation rates, at 96% and 97%, respectively. **Mauritania**, with 37%, had the lowest rate.

Women represent 28.8% of researchers worldwide. Only about 1 in 5 countries have achieved gender parity in this area**.**

The percentage of female researchers in **sub-Saharan Africa** is 31%.

Up to 30% of income inequality is due to inequality within households, including between women and men. Women are also more likely than men to live below 50% of the median income.

Single-mother households are especially at risk of living below 50% of the median income. In **South Africa**, 43% of single-mother households fall below this 50% mark.

The global population is becoming more urban, with opportunities and risks for women and girls.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, more than half (56%) of urban women and girls live in slum conditions, where they lack at least one of the following: access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities, durable housing, and sufficient living area.

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Investment in public transportation yields large benefits for women, who tend to rely on public transport more than men do.

Climate change has a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are 14 times as likely as men to die during a disaster.

The contamination of freshwater and marine ecosystems negatively impacts women's and men's livelihoods, their health and the health of their children.

Occupational segregation in the fishing and aquaculture industry looms large in **sub-Saharan Africa**, where only 13.5% of people working in this sector are women.

Between 2010 and 2015, the world lost 3.3 million hectares of forest areas. Poor rural women depend on common pool resources and are especially affected by their depletion.

"Land grabbing" is a serious issue with serious negative effects on forest-dependent populations—particularly women, who are heavily dependent on subsistence-oriented forest products.

In times of conflict, rates of homicide and other forms of violent crime increase significantly. While men are more likely to be killed on the battlefield, women are disproportionately subjected to sexual violence and abducted, tortured and forced to leave their homes. Many conflict and post-conflict countries in **sub-Saharan Africa** register particularly high female homicide rates. The world's highest rate was registered in **Lesotho**, at 18.9 per 100,000.

In 2012, finances flowing out of developing countries were 2.5 times the amount of aid flowing in, and gender allocations paled in comparison.

While official development assistance (ODA) makes up the majority of international inflows in sub-Saharan Africa, for seven countries in the region (**Cape Verde, Comoros, Gambia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo**), remittances represented the largest source of international inflow in 2015.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (CASE STUDIES)

Leaving no one behind means the benefits of sustainable development reach everyone. Currently, across countries, it is those women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination who are often the furthest behind. To identify such inequalities among women and girls within countries, the report undertakes analysis across a range of development dimensions for four countries, finding that those who are deprived in one dimension are likely to experience deprivations in other dimensions as well. For the case of **Nigeria**, the report finds:

- *Education.* Wealth is a driving force behind educational attainment: 13% of women and girls from the richest households report completing six or less years of education, while in the poorest households, 96.5% are education-poor.
- *Child marriage.* A low-income, rural woman of Hausa ethnicity is eight times as likely to be married before the age of 18 as a high-income, urban woman of Yoruba ethnicity.
- *Violence against women and girls.* 23% of women have been victims of physical or sexual violence by a previous husband and 17.3% by another relative. Igbo women and girls are the likeliest to report being victims of violence at the hands of a relative: 25.2%.
- *Clustered deprivations.* 15% of all women aged 18‑49 (or 5.2 million) are simultaneously deprived in four SDG-related dimensions. These women were not only married before the age of 18 and education poor, but they also reported no agency in healthcare decisions and said they were not working at the time of the survey.

POLICY IN FOCUS

Harnessing policy synergies

Investments in accessible, affordable and quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) can contribute to the achievement of several gender- and child-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda by, for instance, reducing the time women spend on unpaid care by shifting some of it out of the family (Target 5.4), enabling women to increase their access to employment (Target 8.5) and enhancing school readiness (Target 4.2).

The need for global gender data availability

Gaps in gender data and the lack of trend data make it difficult to assess and monitor the direction and pace of progress for women and girls. The availability of data necessary for global monitoring of the gender-specific indicators is at a mere 26%. In **sub-Saharan Africa**, the availability of data is slightly lower, with 25.2% of the necessary data for monitoring progress on gender equality in the SDGs. The figure for availability of recent data is 23.4%. Unless gender is mainstreamed into national statistical strategies, gender data scarcity will persist.

Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes

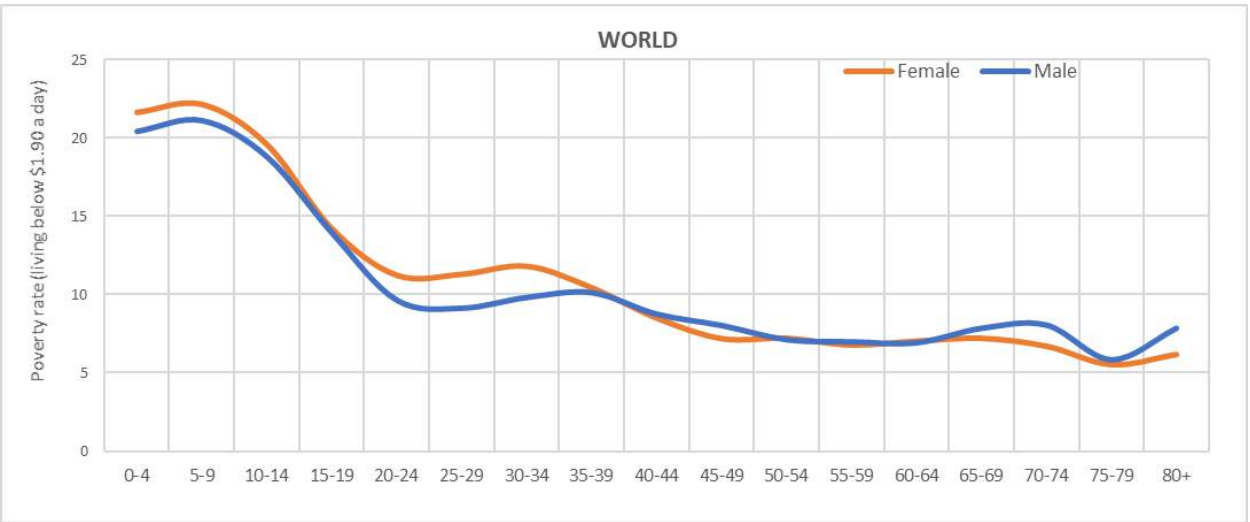
Prioritizing gender-responsive investments pays off. In **South Africa**, for instance, it is estimated that a gross annual investment of 3.2% of GDP in ECEC would not only result in universal coverage for all 0-5-year-old children, but also create 2.3 million new jobs, raising female employment by 10.1% (see Appendix).

APPENDIX

Note: The below represent a selection of illustrative examples for the sub-Saharan Africa region. Country-specific data may be available; if you are interested in country-specific data, please contact us at gender.data@unwomen.org using the subject line “SDG Report”.

1 NO POVERTY

Proportion of people living in extreme poverty[a] by sex and age, 2009-2013[b]



Source: World Bank calculations using Global Micro Database 2017.

Notes:
a – Living below $1.90 a day.
b – Data refer to the most recent available during the period specified for 89 developing countries.

2 ZERO HUNGER

Gender gap in prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, by country, 2014-2015

Country	% of females who are food insecure	% of males who are food insecure	Difference (f-m)
Angola	65.88	61.07	4.81
Benin	58.14	52.97	5.17
Botswana	58.54	54.11	4.43
Burkina Faso	41.86	42.15	-0.29
Burundi	80.6	78.19	2.41
Cameroon	54.29	53.53	0.76
Chad	65.65	63.17	2.48
Congo	61.47	62.2	-0.73
Côte d'Ivoire	48.17	55.32	-7.15
Democratic Republic of the Congo	72.75	71.82	0.93
Ethiopia	49.53	48.69	0.84
Gabon	59.37	57.91	1.46
Ghana	53.04	49.43	3.61
Guinea	69.44	69.97	-0.53
Kenya	53.33	58.55	-5.22
Liberia	85.22	87.57	-2.35
Madagascar	53.61	51.96	1.65
Malawi	85.81	84.66	1.15
Mali	23.84	25.8	-1.96
Mauritania	25.94	26.7	-0.76

Mauritius	9.25	9.55	-0.3
Mozambique	65.04	60.89	4.15
Namibia	65.73	56.83	8.9
Niger	56.49	60.51	-4.02
Nigeria	53.57	52.82	0.75
Rwanda	48.73	45.25	3.48
Senegal	30.48	30.27	0.21
Sierra Leone	75.7	80.25	-4.55
Somalia	48.72	48.32	0.4
South Africa	43.23	41.86	1.37
South Sudan	91.82	91.33	0.49
Togo	66.18	62.71	3.5
Uganda	65.77	68.36	-2.59
United Republic of Tanzania	56.23	52.54	3.69
Zambia	76.87	75.5	1.37
Zimbabwe	60.93	60.98	-0.05

Source: UN Women calculations based on data from the FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) survey (2014–2015).
Notes: The FIES measures the percentage of individuals in the national population who have experienced food insecurity at moderate or severe levels during the 12-month reference period. The analysis is based on data from 141 countries collected by FAO in the context of the Voices of the Hungry Project. FAO. 2017.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Internet penetration rate by sex and region, 2017

	Female Internet users as % of total female population	Male Internet users as % of total male population
Sub-Saharan Africa	18.4	24.6
Eastern and South-eastern Asia	27.8	42.0
Central and Southern Asia	41.5	44.6
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	53.7	56.7
Australia and New Zealand	53.7	56.9
Northern Africa and Western Asia	55.3	59.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	66.7	65.2
Europe and Northern America	75.2	82.0

Source: ITU (International Telecommunication Union). 2017. *ICT Facts and Figures 2017.* Geneva: ITU.
Note: Internet penetration rates refer to the number of women and men using the Internet, as a percentage of the respective total female and male population.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Proportion of time spent per day on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, 2000-2016

Country	Women (% of day)	Men (% of day)
Malawi	8.7	1.3
Ghana	15.5	4.6
Lesotho	15.6	6.2
Madagascar	15.6	3.8
South Africa	15.9	6.7
United Republic of Tanzania	16.5	4.4
Mauritius	19.0	4.8
Mali	20.4	2.5
Ethiopia	22.1	8.7

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Proportion of women aged 15-49 (married or in a union) who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care, 2007-2015

Country	Percentage	Country	Percentage
Benin	38.2	**Liberia**	67.2
Burkina Faso	20.3	**Madagascar**	35.9
Burundi	49	**Malawi**	42.2
Cameroon	16.8	**Mali**	6.5
Chad	11.6	**Mozambique**	49.1
Comoros	20.8	**Namibia**	71.2
Congo	26.8	**Niger**	7.3
Côte d'Ivoire	25.2	**Nigeria**	50.8
Democratic Republic of the Congo	30.7	**Rwanda**	69.5
Ethiopia	53.4	**Senegal**	3.4
Gabon	48	**Sierra Leone**	40.2
Gambia	40.5	**Swaziland**	48.9
Ghana	52	**Togo**	29.6
Guinea	22.7	**Uganda**	49
Kenya	56	**United Republic of Tanzania**	46.8
Lesotho	60.9	**Zambia**	46.6
		Zimbabwe	59.9

Source: UNSD (United Nations Statistics Division). 2017. "SDG Indicators Global Database." Accessed 30 November 2017. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/

Note: The figure reflects available data from 45 countries (covering 7 per cent of the world's population) over the reference period. Country coverage is insufficient to calculate average for all regions, except Sub-Saharan Africa.

Proportion of urban population living in slums, by region (per cent)

Region	2014	2000
Australia and New Zealand	0.03	0.03
Central Asia and Southern Asia	31.89	46.05
Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia	27.55	38.23
Landlocked Developing Countries	59.00	67.11
Latin America and The Caribbean	21.26	29.31
Least developed countries	62.16	77.97
Northern America and Europe	0.10	0.10
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	24.15	24.19
Sub-Saharan Africa	55.99	65.04
Western Asia and Northern Africa	22.06	23.11
World	22.77	28.42

Source: UN-Habitat, 2017.

Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 living in slums*, by country, 2006-2016

**Defined as meeting criteria of no improved water sources, no improved sanitation facilities, overcrowding, and/or insufficient housing*

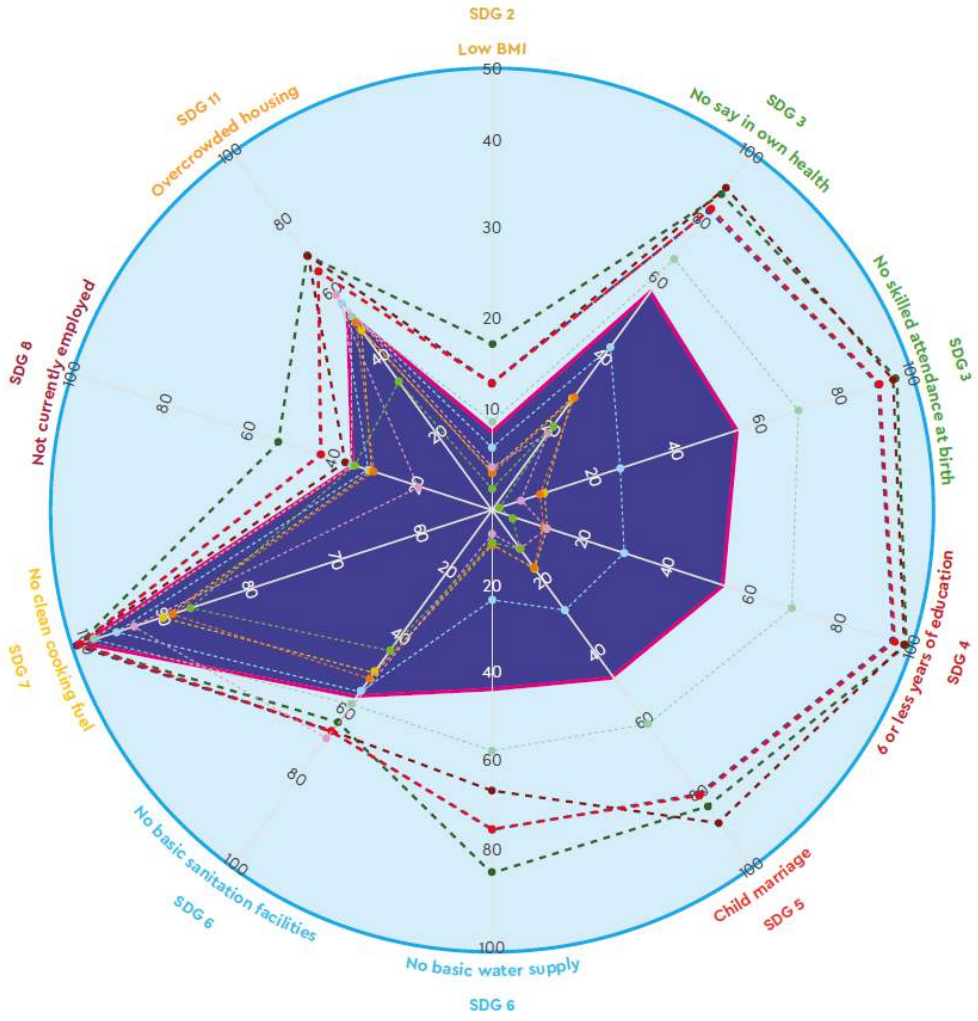
Country	All four criteria	3 criteria of the four	At least one criteria	Year of survey
Angola	1.44	3.67	59.4	2011
Benin	2.16	10.4	71.34	2011
Burkina Faso	0.46	3.13	50.18	2010
Burundi	0.34	2.3	49.48	2012
Cameroon	0.81	4.18	47.53	2011
Chad	5.31	24.78	84.99	2014-15
Comoros	0.69	7.04	72.56	2012
Congo	0.36	4.08	70.24	2011-12
Côte d'Ivoire	0.2	2.41	64.23	2011-12
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4.5	15.48	81.02	2013-14
Ethiopia	2.55	23.21	80.88	2011
Gabon	0.33	2.08	54.6	2012
Ghana	0.11	0.94	53.86	2014

Guinea	0.28	1.07	52.97	2012
Kenya	2.14	4.46	52.86	2015
Lesotho	0.17	1.28	40.02	2014
Liberia	1.59	8.18	75.86	2013
Madagascar	7.05	17.85	83.78	2013
Malawi	0.03	1.2	43.3	2015-16
Mali	0.69	4.27	57.21	2012
Mozambique	3.9	12.84	65.38	2011
Namibia	0.55	5.09	50.18	2013
Niger	0.44	9.04	66.48	2012
Nigeria	1.22	4.94	62.26	2013
Rwanda	0.68	5.29	56.31	2010
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.44	18.63	87.15	2008-09
Senegal	0.39	2.88	46.8	2015
Sierra Leone	0.89	4.66	68.84	2013
Swaziland	0.31	1.23	47.04	2006-07
Timor-Leste	1.8	6.68	52.59	2009-10
Togo	0.24	1.98	58.84	2013-14
Uganda	3.38	6.93	65.94	2011
United Republic of Tanzania	2.1	11.97	71.93	2010
Zambia	1.4	5.94	63.51	2013
Zimbabwe	0.05	0.31	36.2	2015

Sources: UN Women calculation based on micro-data from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) for 60 developing countries, latest available year.

Notes: SDG indicator 11.1.1 classifies 'slum household' as households that meet at least one out of five listed criteria: (1) Lack of access to improved water source, (2) Lack of access to improved sanitation facilities, (3) Lack of sufficient living area, (4) Lack of housing durability and (5) Lack of security of tenure. These criteria utilize the international definition of 'slum households' as agreed by UN Habitat-United Nations Statistics Division-UN Cities. However, in practice, methodology for measuring security of tenure is not in place; thus slum status is assessed using the first four criteria only. Sample of women and girls aged 15-49 has been used for all countries except Viet Nam, which is based on data for women aged 18-49.

Inequalities in SDG-related outcomes for different groups of women and girls, Nigeria, 2013



SDG 2
Proportion of women aged 18–49, who are underweight (BMI less than 18.5 kg/m2)

SDG 3
Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 who do not have an independent/ joint say in own healthcare

SDG 3
Proportion of births not attended by skilled health personnel (births in last five years)

SDG 4
Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 with six or less years of education

SDG 5
Proportion of women aged 18–49 who were married before age 18

SDG 6
Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 with no access to basic drinking water services

SDG 6
Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 with no access to basic sanitation facilities

SDG 7
Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 with no access to clean cooking fuel

SDG 8
Proportion of women aged 18–49 currently not employed

SDG 11
Proportion of women and girls aged 15–49 living in overcrowded housing

Groups

- Poorest
- Urban
- Richest urban
- Richest urban Igbo
- Poorest rural Hausa
- National aggregate
- Richest
- Rural
- Poorest rural
- Richest urban Yoruba
- Poorest rural Fulani

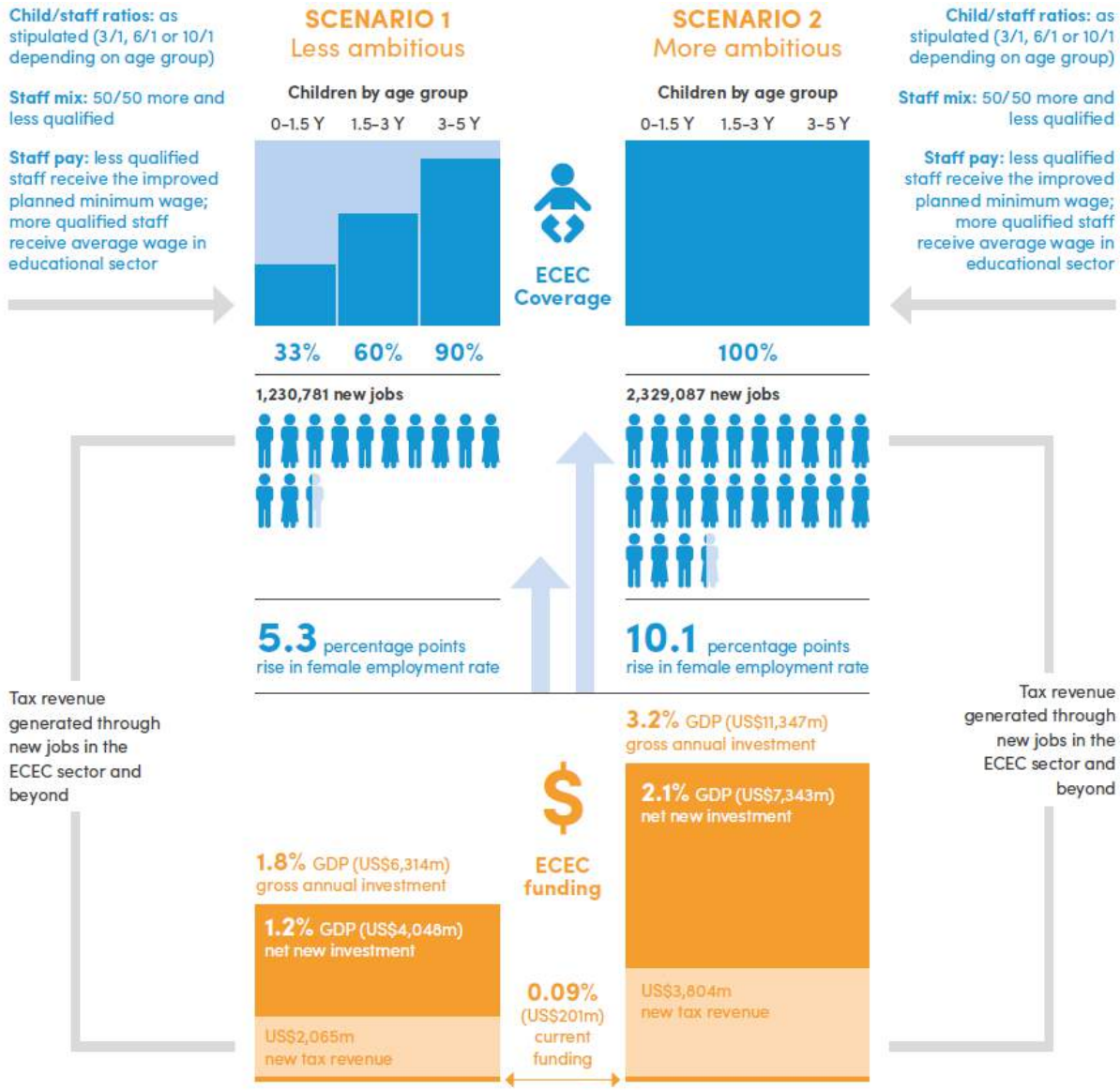
Deprivation exceeds the national average

Deprivation lower than the national average

Source: UN Women calculations based on microdata from the 2013 Nigeria DHS (NPC, Federal Republic of Nigeria and ICF International 2014).

Notes: Different scales are used across each of the 10 axes, each corresponding to the maximum and minimum values for each given indicator. Select groups are shown given space limitations. For full group disaggregation, see Annex Table 3.

Early childhood education and care investment scenarios: South Africa



Source: De Henau 2017. The calculations for South Africa were prepared by Debbie Budlender.

Note: All amounts in US$ are figures for 2017. The exchange rate used was USD 1 = ZAR 13.51. The scale used to visually display the number of jobs created is 1 for 100,000.