

Gender and Climate

What does the data say?

A compendium of indicators and data-points that illustrates the connection between gender and climate by the Women4ClimateAction Daring Circle of the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society.

DaringCircles

by the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

Climate change and gender are connected. As the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted, crises reinforce and exacerbate inequalities. The climate crisis will do the same for women's equality if we are not intentional in closing gender gaps.

At the same time promoting women's leadership and perspectives and empowering women in all areas of society to play a greater role in climate action are some of the best ways that we can accelerate our efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

This dashboard tracks global indicators of women's equality and participation in areas of our societies and economies that are essential to climate action. Progress against these indicators equals progress in our capacity to combat climate change.

"We cannot close the gender gap without first closing the data gap."

Melinda Gates; Co-Chair, Gates Foundation

1. LEADERSHIP

Women leaders drive decisions that are more sustainable, and more equitable, whilst also achieving greater financial success.¹ Agreements established with the involvement of women are also longer lasting.² However, women leaders are under-represented at the highest levels.



6% of CEOs in the top 500 global companies are women. (Catalyst, 2020)



6.6% of Heads of State are women (10 out of 152) and **6.2%** of those serving as Heads of Government are women (12 of 193). (UN Women, 2020)



Women made up **27%** of the delegation heads and **40%** of the UNFCCC national delegates at COP24. (UNFCCC, 2019)

2. PARTICIPATION & REPRESENTATION

Formal participation and representation ensure women's perspectives are heard and their needs incorporated in decisions. Diverse teams are more innovative and reach decisions that account for more people's needs.³ But women are under-represented in the formal economy and positions of power, including those related to climate change.



58% of people working in the informal economy are women. (ILO, 2018)



25% of parliamentarians are women globally. (UN Women, 2020)



Globally, the average distance completed to parity is at **68.6%**. (WEF Gender Gap Report 2020)

3. HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Improving women's access to health and education can dramatically drawdown global carbon emissions.⁴ Investing in girl's education, particularly in disciplines like STEM, enables women to benefit from and shape the transition to a green economy, which is a \$26 trillion opportunity.⁵ Unfortunately, equality in health and education is still far off.



Globally, only **75%** of girls are enrolled in secondary education. (World Bank, 2018)



Only **55%** of women have the right to make their own decisions regarding reproductive health and contraception. (UNFPA, 2020)

4. AGRICULTURE AND LAND

Women are stewards and farmers of the world's land.⁶ They play vital roles in protecting remaining areas of nature and in adopting and spreading new, more sustainable methods of climate resilient farming.^{7,8} However, often, they don't have the same rights or resources as men, which limits their potential positive impact.



Only **37** countries afford women the same legal rights to land ownership. (UNESCO, 2018)



Only **13%** of agricultural landowners are women. (UNFAO, 2015), but **26%** of the global female population rely on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. (World Bank, 2019)

5. ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Women are more likely to start businesses with positive social and environmental impacts.⁹ They also make more sustainable purchasing decisions.¹⁰ However, lack of access to resources like finance and training hinders women's ability to drive climate action and sustainability.



Of the total global venture capital funding distributed in 2019, **3%** went to female-founded companies. (EoY Diversity Report, 2019)



Only **59%** of women in developing countries have a bank account. (World Bank, 2017)



Only **\$4.6 billion (4%)** of ODA development spending had gender equality as its principle objective in 2018. (OECD, 2020)

"[Citizens must] take stock of how we're doing in terms of women in leadership positions in every sector, in every country across the world so that we really have a clear sense of what the gaps are."

Chelsea Clinton; Vice Chair, Clinton Foundation

¹ McKinsey (2018) Why diversity still matters (Accessed here)

² International Peace Institute (2015) Reimagining peace-making: Women's roles in peace processes (Accessed here)

³ Nathan, M. and Lee, N., (2013). Cultural Diversity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship: Firm-level Evidence from London. *Economic Geography*, 89(4), pp.367-394.

⁴ Paul Hawken (ed.) (2017) 'Drawdown—The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming'.

⁵ World Resources Institute (2018) New Climate Economy: Unlocking the Inclusive Growth Story of the 21st Century: Accelerating Climate Action in Urgent Times.


⁶ Agricultural Development Economics, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2011) The Role of Women in Agriculture. 11-02, Rome: ESA

⁷ Price, R.A. (2018) Women-initiated Measures to Cope with Environmental Stresses and Climate Change in South Asia. K4D Help desk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies

⁸ Ndiritu, S.W., Kassie, M. and Shiferaw, B., 2014. Are there systematic gender differences in the adoption of sustainable agricultural intensification practices? Evidence from Kenya. *Food Policy*, 49, pp.117-127.

⁹ Katie Abouzahr, Matt Krentz, John Harthorne, and Frances Brooks Taplett (2018) Why Women-Owned Startups Are a Better Bet. BCG.com (Accessed here).

¹⁰ Zelezny, Lynnette C., Poh-Pheng Chua, and Christina Aldrich (2000), "Elaborating on Gender Differences in Environmentalism," *Journal of Social Issues*, 56 (3), 443-58



The Women4ClimateAction Daring Circle seeks to identify the levers and initiatives needed to accelerate the transition to a green economy and harness it for women's empowerment, enable women to lead actions against climate change, and address the disproportionate impact that climate change has on women. The Daring Circle is led by BNP Paribas, in collaboration with Bouygues, Colas, Engie, L'Oréal, and Microsoft as Global Partners. The Circle is supported by KPMG as Knowledge Partner, with contributions from CARE France, ClimateSeed, Ministère de la transition écologique, OECD, R20, SEforAll, Société pour l'encouragement de l'industrie nationale, and Syntec Numérique; and HEC as Academic Partner.

Learn more about the Women4ClimateAction Daring Circle [here](#)

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