Spotlight on Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
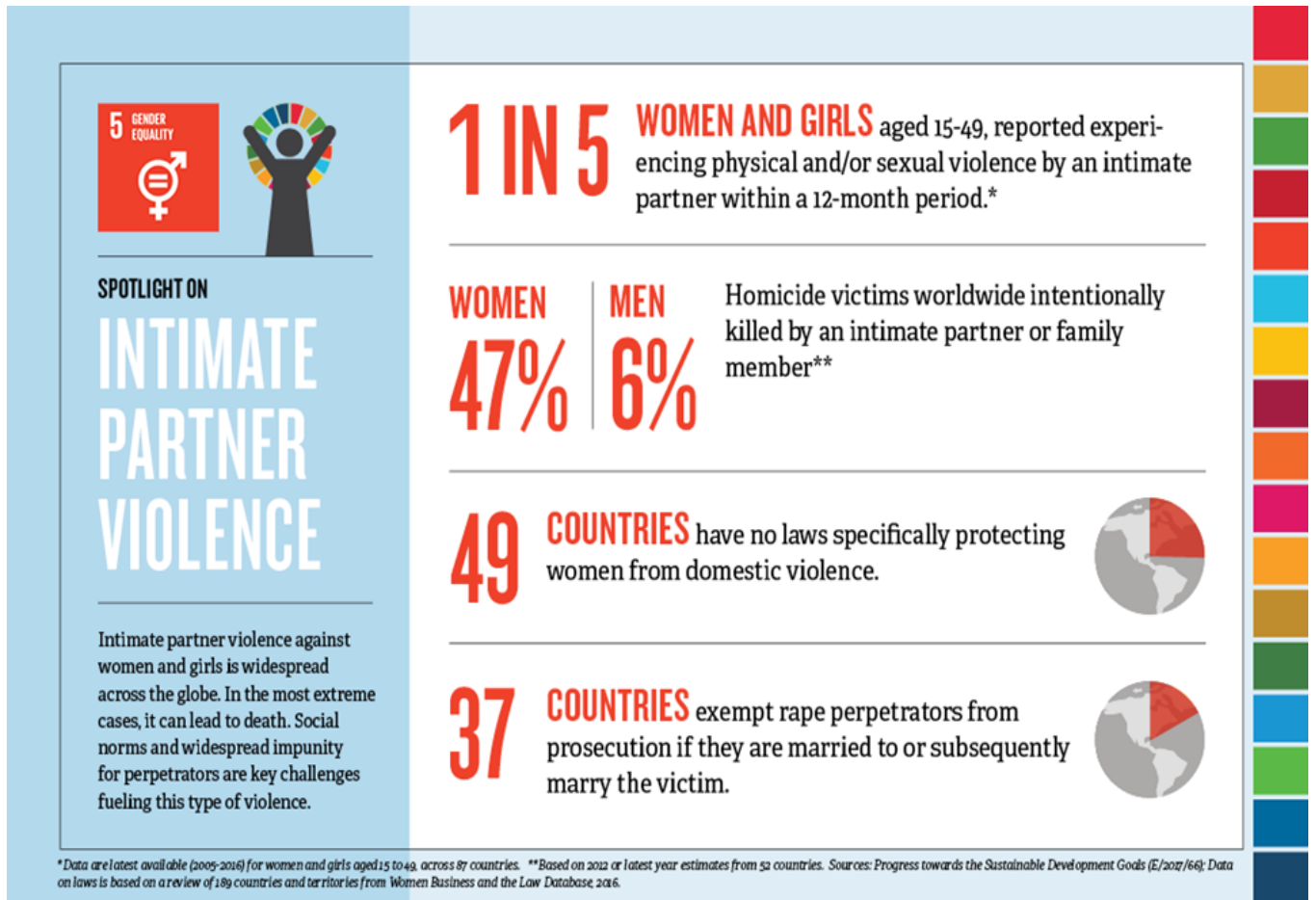
Share   Print

Date : 05 July 2017

Gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This thematic spotlight is part of a series showcasing where women and girls stand against select SDG targets and was produced in support of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at UN Headquarters in New York from 10–19 July, 2017. Download print version »

Related links:

- Editorial spotlight: High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- Report of the UN Secretary-General, Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, E/2017/66

5 GENDER EQUALITY

SPOTLIGHT ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence against women and girls is widespread across the globe. In the most extreme cases, it can lead to death. Social norms and widespread impunity for perpetrators are key challenges fueling this type of violence.

1 IN 5 WOMEN AND GIRLS aged 15-49, reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.*

WOMEN **47%** | MEN **6%** Homicide victims worldwide intentionally killed by an intimate partner or family member**

49 COUNTRIES have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence.

37 COUNTRIES exempt rape perpetrators from prosecution if they are married to or subsequently marry the victim.

*Data are latest available (2005-2016) for women and girls aged 15 to 49, across 87 countries. **Based on 2012 or latest year estimates from 52 countries. Sources: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66); Data on laws is based on a review of 189 countries and territories from Women Business and the Law Database, 2016.

Target 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
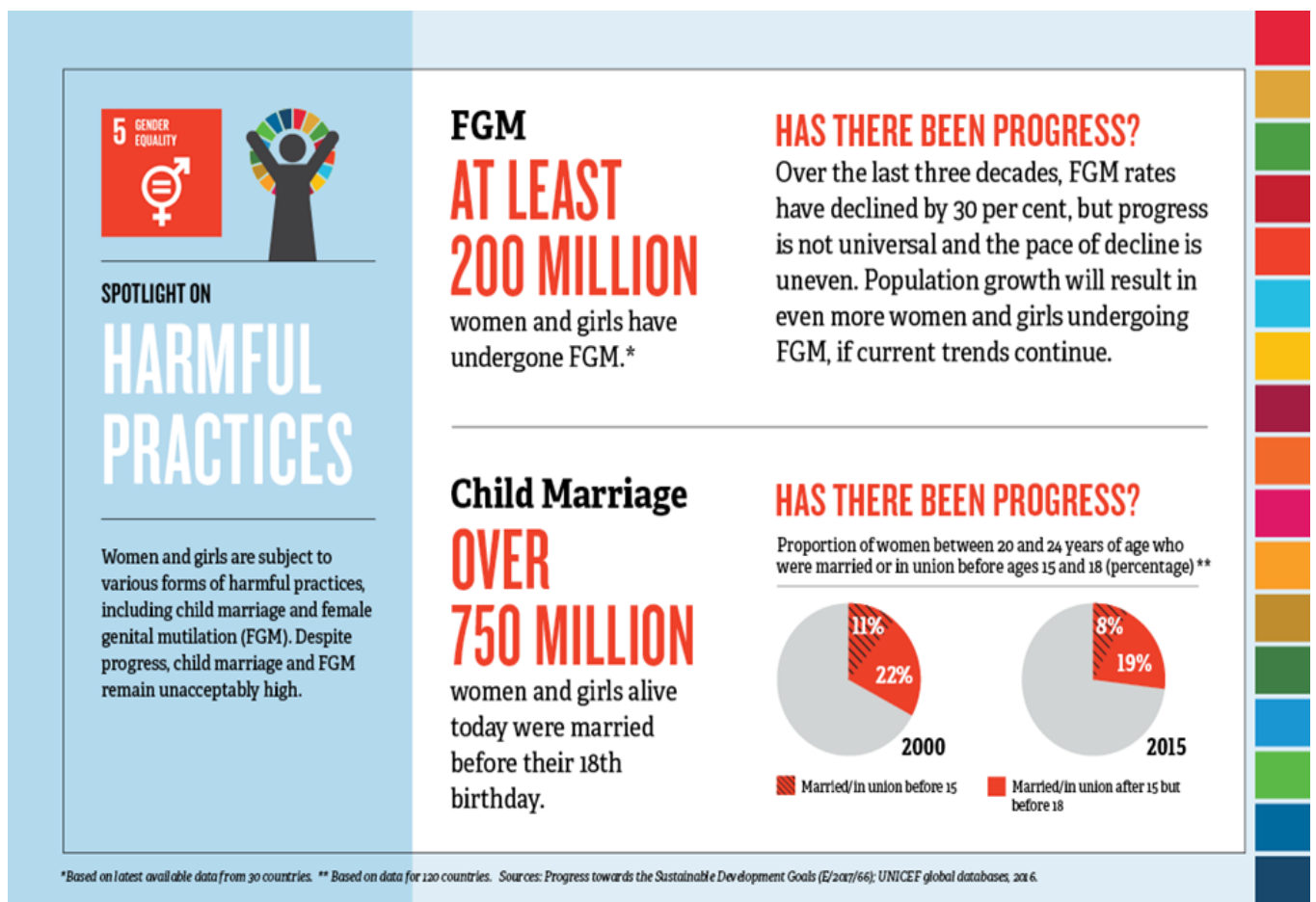
Indicators:

5.2.1 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.

5.2.2 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.

Data gaps

Data on the prevalence of violence against women and girls is often lacking. This is especially true for women and girls with disabilities, ethnic minorities, migrant workers and older women. Even where the data exists, comparability across and within countries remains a considerable challenge for global monitoring.

Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
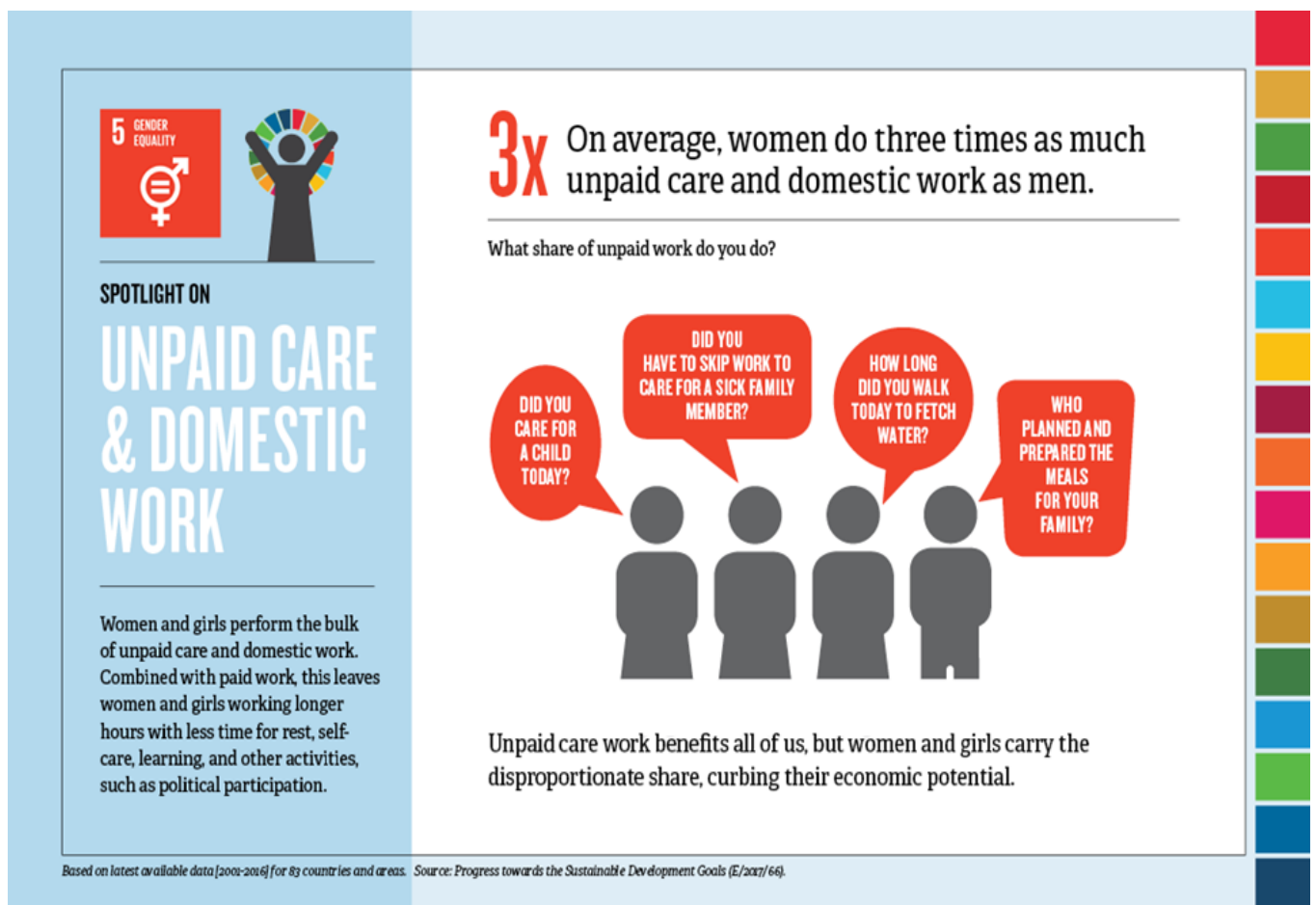
5.3.1 Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.

5.3.2 Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age group.

Data gaps

The sensitive nature of FGM poses challenges in the reliable collection and comparability of such data, as families are reluctant to provide these details. In addition, prevalence levels among different groups and/or regions within countries are not always available, leaving only national prevalence rates which obscure differences.
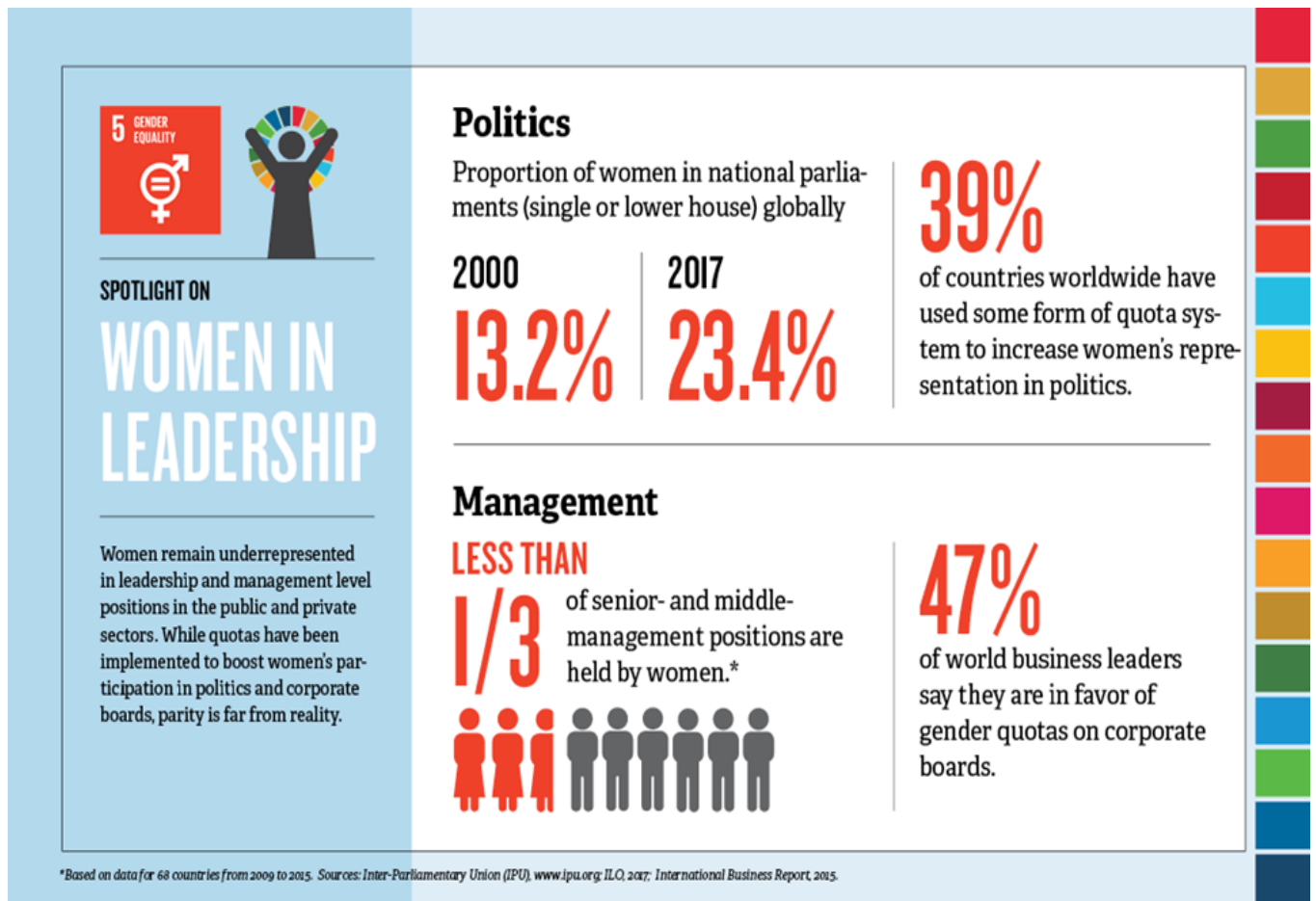

Target 5.2: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Indicators:

5.4.1 Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age group and location.

Data gaps

Time-use surveys remain unavailable or ad-hoc in many countries, and few are carried out with regularity to allow for trend analysis.Moreover, caring for children, elderly and the sick often overlaps with domestic work, making accurate person-to-person care statistics difficult to capture.

Politics

Proportion of women in national parliaments (single or lower house) globally

2000 **13.2%** | **2017** **23.4%**

39% of countries worldwide have used some form of quota system to increase women's representation in politics.

Management

LESS THAN 1/3 of senior- and middle-management positions are held by women.*

47% of world business leaders say they are in favor of gender quotas on corporate boards.

*Based on data for 68 countries from 2009 to 2015. Sources: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), www.ipu.org; ILO, 2017; International Business Report, 2015.

Target 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

Indicators:

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions.

Data gaps

There is currently no mechanism for the global monitoring of women in local governments. This data is vital to obtain a holistic perspective on women's political participation.

ONLY 52%

OF WOMEN MARRIED OR IN A UNION freely make their own decisions about consensual sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

Percentage of women aged 15-49 years married or in union who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care *(The number of countries represented in each region is in parentheses.)*
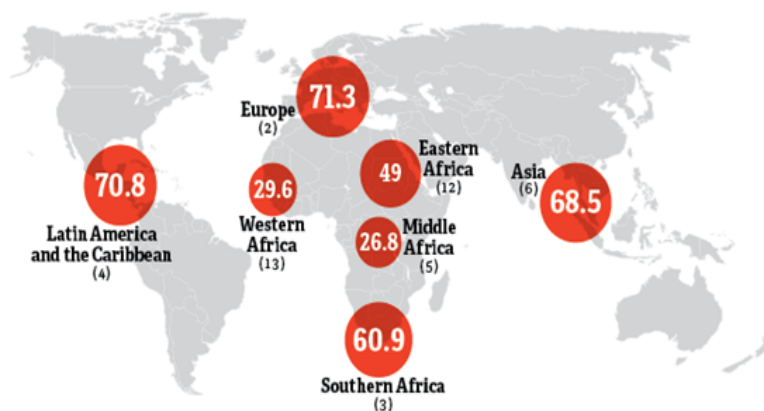
5 GENDER EQUALITY

SPOTLIGHT ON

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Women face various barriers in exercising their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Migrants and indigenous women, among other marginalized groups, are particularly vulnerable.

Europe (2) — 71.3
Latin America and the Caribbean (4) — 70.8
Western Africa (13) — 29.6
Eastern Africa (12) — 49
Middle Africa (5) — 26.8
Asia (6) — 68.5
Southern Africa (3) — 60.9

Target 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 and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Indicators:

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.

5.6.2 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.

Data gaps

Currently there is no comprehensive overview of data on laws and regulations that guarantee women and men full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education. Moreover, data coverage for indicator 5.6.1 is also limited, with estimates for only 45 countries, and mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

SPOTLIGHT ON

GENDER DATA GAP

Data on the varying factors that impact women and girls is largely missing. This lack of data makes it harder to accurately identify, analyze and monitor the separate needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men and boys and develop effective evidence based policies and solutions.

Only **13%** of countries dedicate a budget to gender statistics.

Only **15%** of countries have legislation that mandates specialized gender-based surveys.

Only **41%** of countries regularly produce violence against women data.

OUR RESPONSE: MAKING EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL COUNT

Through our flagship programme, Making Every Women and Girl Count, UN Women aims to bring about a radical shift in how gender statistics are created, used and promoted at the global, regional and national levels.

Working together with governments, civil society, academia and other international agencies, the programme will support efforts to increase the availability of data on gender equality and women's rights in order to inform policy and decision-making.

Source: United Nations, 2013.

Making every woman and girl count

Making Every Women and Girl Count is a UN Women flagship programme that aims to bring about a radical shift in how gender statistics are used, created and promoted at the global, regional and national levels.

The five-year programme will provide technical and financial support to countries to improve the production and use of gender statistics in order to monitor the implementation of gender equality commitments in the 2030 agenda.

The programme is generously funded by the governments of Australia, Ireland and the United States of America and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

How it works

The programme focuses on three key areas:

1. Enabling environment: Promoting a supportive policy environment to address institutional and financial constraints and to strengthen policies and practices governing the production of gender statistics.

2. Data production: Supporting efforts to improve the regular production of gender statistics, including building the technical capacity of the national statistical sys¬tem and providing financial support to collect data to monitor the SDGs and other national commitments.

3. Data accessibility: Promoting greater access and analysis of data by users, includ¬ing open access, providing dissemination tools, supporting user-producer dialogues and strengthening the capacity of all relevant actors to use gender statistics in policy and advocacy.