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inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda
and Agenda 2063”*

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Highlights of the background report on the sub- theme of gender equality

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1. Significant strides in

- reducing child marriage
- Enhancing women's representation in leadership roles

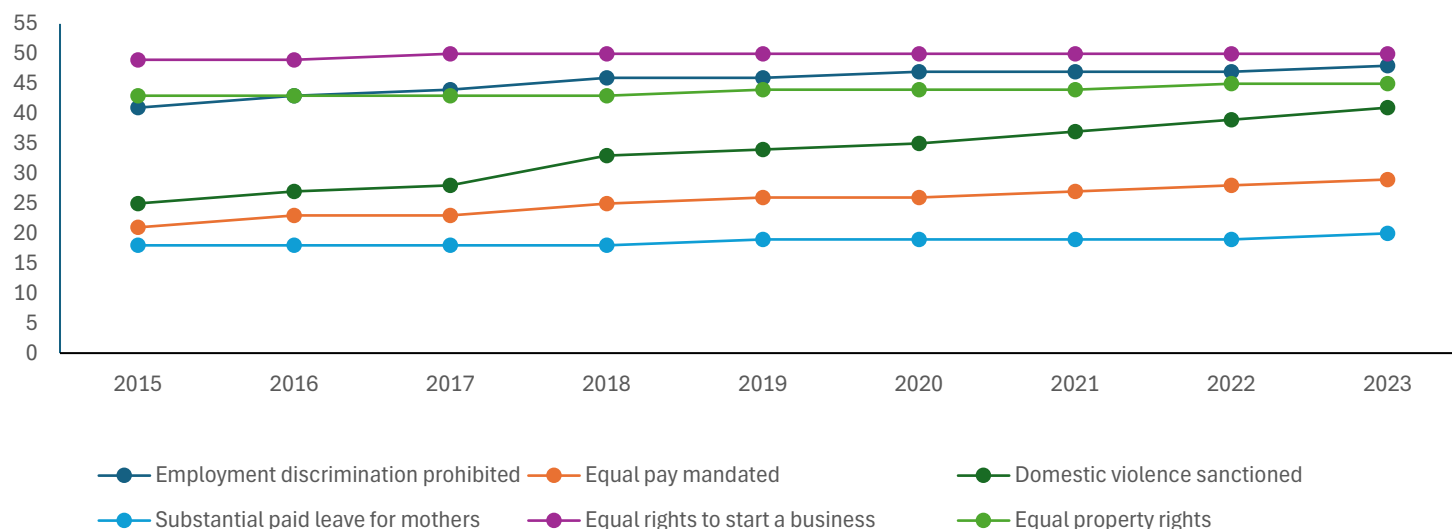
• Variation in progress

- Maintain progress-1 country
- Accelerate progress- 45 countries
- Reverse trend-8 countries

1. Ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere



Figure 1: Number of African countries with principal economic and social rights for women provided in legislation



- Sustained progress in the enactment of laws and legislation to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, but implementation and enforcement are weak.

2. Eliminating all forms of violence against and exploitation of women and girls



Intimate partner violence

1 IN 3



in some countries in Africa

1 IN 5



in sub-Saharan Africa

1 IN 7



in Northern Africa

experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner

Violence against children

79 million

Girls and women in SSA experience sexual violence before the age of 18

3. Eliminating all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation



Female genital mutilation

1 IN 3



aged 15 to 49 in
sub-Saharan
Africa

had undergone FGM in 2022. High prevalence in some countries up to 99%

Child, early and forced marriage

130 Million

women and girls married before the age of 18 years in 2023

31% of women and girls aged 20 to 24 in SSA were married or in a union before 18 years

Challenges

- Weak enforcement of legislation
- Deeply entrenched cultural practices

Key issues to address

- Backlash in women's and girls' rights
- Medicalisation of FGM

Opportunities

- Adoption of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

4. Recognising and valuing unpaid care and promoting shared domestic responsibilities



1. The disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work falls majorly on women

- Women spend **four times** more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men
- Men spend **1.5 times** more time on productive work than women

2. Government expenditure on social protection in Africa is low, accounting for 3.8% of GDP in 2020.

- Early child education is underfunded.

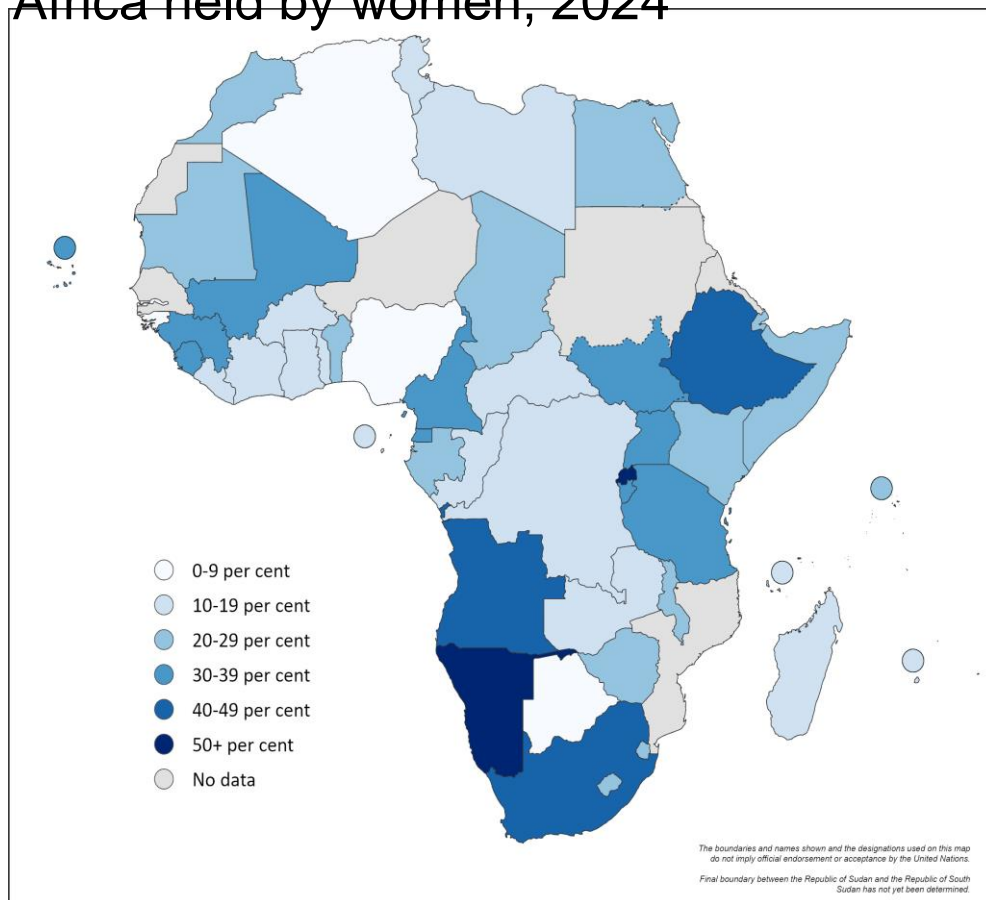
Key message

- Addressing care policy gaps and increasing government expenditure on decent care services can unlock significant opportunities for creating decent jobs and fostering inclusive growth.

5. Ensuring women's full and effective participation in leadership and decision-making



Figure 2: Percentage of seats in lower or single chambers of the legislature in Africa held by women, 2024



Slow and uneven progress in integrating women and girls in the political and public sphere



5

in women's representation in parliament from 2015 and 2023


36.3%


of women are in managerial positions despite constituting 58. of the labour force


6. Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights



Some positive trends

3.1  in modern contraceptive use among women aged 15 to 49 years in Africa from 2015 and 2024

1  in unmet demand for modern contraceptive use rate from 2015 to 2024

4.4  in satisfied demand for contraceptives among women aged 15 to 49 years in Africa from 2015 and 2024

But more needs to be done

Only **38%** of women and girls in SSA aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union can make decisions regarding their sexual health and reproductive rights

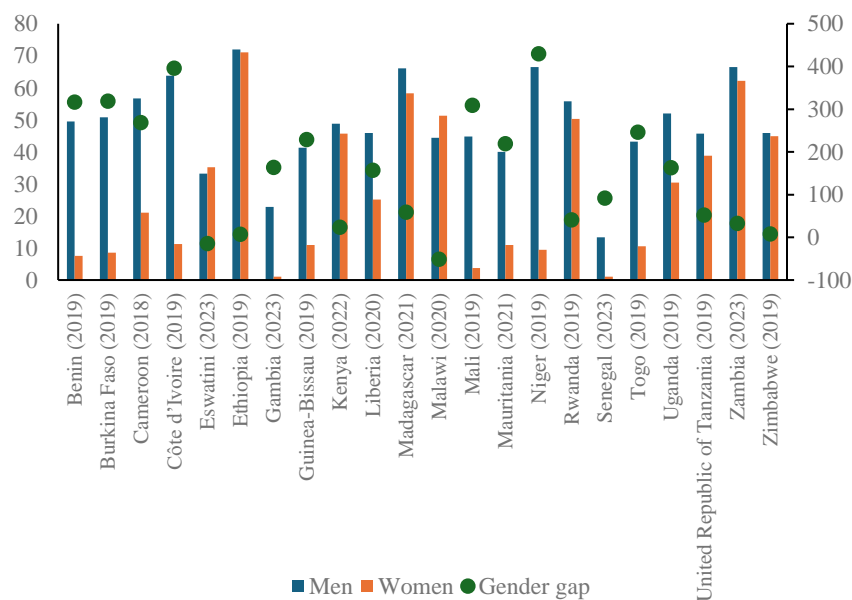
4 births per **1000** adolescent girls aged 10-14 years

96 births per **1000** adolescent girls and young aged 15-19 years

7. Undertaking reforms to ensure women's equal rights to economic resources, property and financial services



Figure 4: Agricultural Population with land rights by sex (left axis) and gender gap (right axis), African countries with data



1. Persistent gender disparity in landownership

2. Focus on dismantling cultural barriers and eliminating discriminatory laws to improve women's and girls' access to economic resources

8. Promoting the empowerment of women through technology



Figure 4: Mobile phone ownership in Africa by gender (left axis) and gender gap (right axis) (percentage)

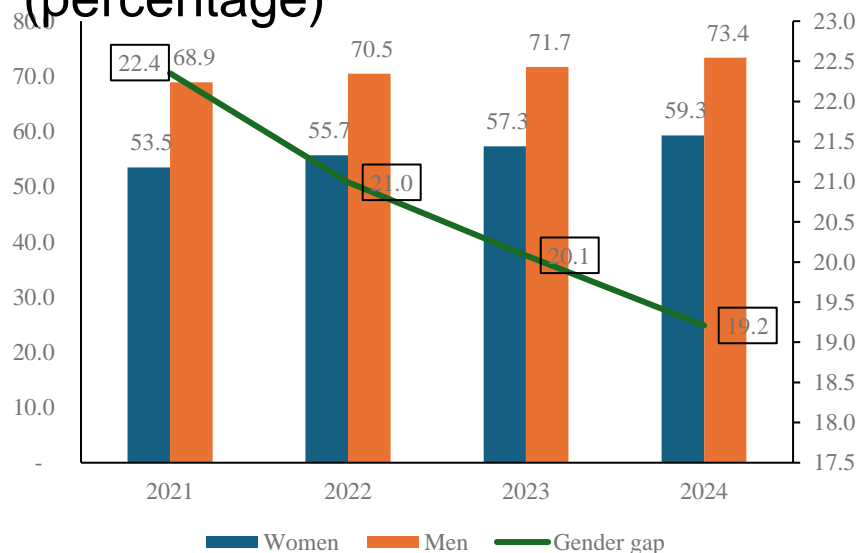
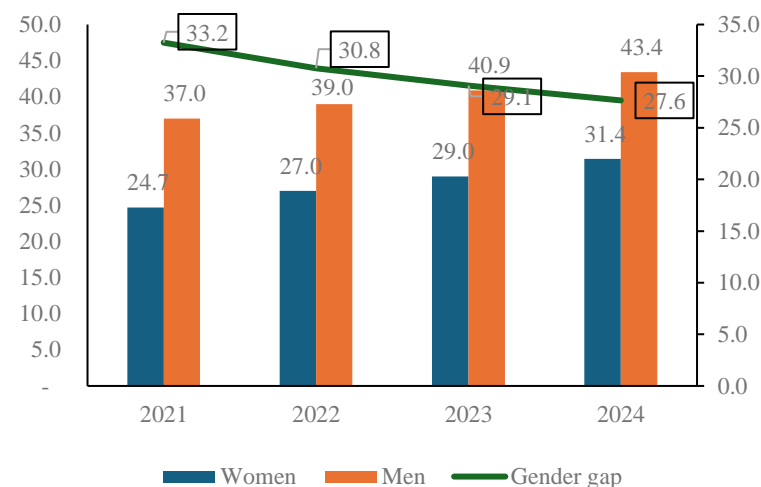


Figure 5: Internet usage in Africa by gender (left axis) and gender gap (right axis) (percentage)



How can we position women and girls to leverage technological advancements such as AI

Key messages and recommendations



- Prioritise the elimination of discriminatory laws and transform discriminatory gender norms and harmful practices
- Strengthen women's and girl's participation in the economy
- Integrate a gender perspective into statistical systems
- Increase the participation of women and girls in public and political life
- Implement gender responsive budgeting and improve resource allocation to gender responsive initiatives
- Address care policy gaps and increase government expenditure on social protection
- Improve intergovernmental coordination to meet gender equality commitments



THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action