

# Gender Data Builds Resilient Communities



Compounding global crises are eroding decades of progress on gender equality and inclusive sustainable development.



When crises strike, women, girls, and gender-diverse groups face unique challenges.



Gender data supports community resilience by identifying the needs of those most susceptible to crisis, and documenting their unique contributions to mitigation and recovery.



But crises test gender data systems, from straining budgets for statistics to posing unique risks to in-person data collection.



And the data that currently exists is not enough.

## Examples of Gaps and Challenges That Emerge in Crisis

The Challenge	The Data Gap
<b>Economic Opportunities<sup>1</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased unpaid care and domestic work</li> <li>Transition from formal to informal sector work</li> <li>Limited access to remote work opportunities</li> <li>Fewer assets and savings to buffer against economic shocks</li> <li>Increased subsistence production</li> </ul>	<p>Women's unpaid care and domestic work increases during crises, but measuring it is challenging because time-use studies are labor intensive, expensive, and infrequently conducted.</p> <p><b>View more information on gender data gaps in economic opportunities &gt;</b></p>
<b>Education<sup>2</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heightened gender gaps in digital literacy and access</li> <li>Increased risk of school dropout</li> <li>Damage to gender-responsive school infrastructure and facilities (e.g. water, sanitation, and hygiene)</li> <li>Increased educational exclusion for girls who are marginalized due to poverty, disability, or other factors</li> </ul>	<p>Gender gaps in digital literacy and access to information and communication technology (ICT) become even more stark during crises when emergency measures like remote learning are introduced. However, most data available to quantify this gap focuses on adults over 18 years, with less information available on the gender digital divide among children.</p> <p><b>View more information on gender data gaps in education &gt;</b></p>
<b>Environment<sup>3</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diminished access and rights to land and natural resources</li> <li>Increased time required to collect household resources (e.g. water and fuel)</li> <li>Unequal participation in environmental decision-making and disaster risk management</li> </ul>	<p>Women's already unequal access to land and natural resources is further diminished during conflicts and in the aftermath of natural disasters. Yet, sex-disaggregated data is not widely available to track women's access, ownership, management, and livelihood opportunities in connection with natural resources, or the equitable distribution of benefits from those resources, such as access to and use of energy.</p> <p><b>View more information on gender data gaps in environment &gt;</b></p>
<b>Health<sup>4</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New or worse exposure to gender-based violence</li> <li>Heightened malnutrition</li> <li>Disrupted access to sexual, reproductive, and other health services</li> <li>Increased maternal mortality and morbidity</li> <li>Mobility restrictions and changes in care-seeking behavior</li> </ul>	<p>Data on gender-based violence is inherently difficult to collect and even more so during periods of crisis. Since 1995, only 40 countries have conducted more than one survey on violence against women and many do not collect data on non-intimate partner violence.</p> <p><b>View more information on gender data gaps in health &gt;</b></p>
<b>Public Participation<sup>5</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unequal participation in local and national political and decision-making bodies</li> <li>Diminished electoral participation</li> <li>Lack of national identity documentation to access key rights, services, and relief benefits</li> <li>Reinforcement of traditional gender roles that confine women to the private sphere</li> </ul>	<p>Women's participation in political and decision-making bodies is crucial to ensure their perspectives are represented, especially during crises when the stakes are highest. However, data on women's representation in local government at the sub-national level is scarce, and for nearly half of all countries it does not exist at all.</p> <p><b>View more information on gender data gaps in public participation &gt;</b></p>
<b>Human Security<sup>6</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased vulnerability to human trafficking</li> <li>Use of sexual violence as a tactic of war</li> <li>Increased early, child, and forced marriage and other harmful practices</li> <li>Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian aid workers, peace-keepers and security forces</li> <li>Unequal participation in peace and security processes</li> </ul>	<p>Data on human trafficking is innately difficult to collect. Around 130 countries regularly produce data on the number of victims of trafficking detected by national authorities, but the actual rate of human trafficking is likely much higher, especially during crises when women's vulnerability to trafficking is increased.</p> <p><b>View more information on gender data gaps in human security &gt;</b></p>

## ACT NOW

### GOVERNMENTS CAN:

- Contribute to closing the global gender data financing gap.**
- Move beyond data collection to use** in order to identify and respond effectively to the needs of women and girls during crises.
- Engage women and girls in data collection** to capture and integrate their perspectives into national strategies, plans, and policies on crisis prevention, preparation, and response.
- Adopt an intersectional approach** to ensure no one is left behind in response and recovery efforts.
- Support capacity building of national statistical offices** to monitor the gendered impacts of current crises and help prepare for future ones.

1 Clingain, C., Jayasinghe, D., Hunt, A. and A. Gray Meral. (2021). Women's Economic Empowerment in the Face of COVID-19 and Displacement: Restoring Resilient Futures. Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute, and International Rescue Committee. [https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/Covid\\_displacement\\_and\\_gender\\_inequality\\_web.pdf](https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/Covid_displacement_and_gender_inequality_web.pdf)

2 Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies. (2021). Mind the Gap: The State of Girls' Education in Crisis and Conflict. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/mind-gap-state-girls-education-crisis-and-conflict>

3 OECD. (2021). Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs. <https://www.oecd.org/env/gender-and-the-environment-3d32ca39-en.htm>

4 O'Donnell, M., Buvinic, M., Krubiner, C. and S. Bourgault. (2021). The Impacts of Health Crises on Women & Girls: How Historical Evidence Can Inform Assessment and Recovery through a Gender Lens. Center for Global Development. <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/impacts-health-crisis-women-girls-how-historical-evidence-can-inform-assessment-and>

5 Brechenmacher, S. and C. Hubbard. (2021). How the Coronavirus Risks Exacerbating Women's Political Exclusion. Carnegie Endowment For International Peace and National Democratic Institute. [https://carnegieendowment.org/files/Brechenmacher\\_Hubbard\\_Women\\_Exclusion.pdf](https://carnegieendowment.org/files/Brechenmacher_Hubbard_Women_Exclusion.pdf)

6 CARE. (2022). Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. <https://www.careemergencytoolkit.org/gender/gender-based-violence-in-emergencies/>