

The cost of inaction

Leaving No One Behind Starts with Her

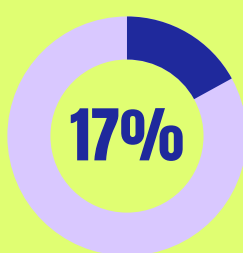
Governments are reshuffling their priorities as economic and geopolitical uncertainty reaches new heights. Despite decades of commitments to gender parity, women remain severely underrepresented and underserved—even in the most fundamental areas. This persistent inaction comes at a high cost: not only does it perpetuate inequality, but it also weakens the effectiveness, legitimacy, and accountability of the multilateral system and local governments.

Aid Shrinks, Inequalities Grow:

Women and girls hit the hardest by ODA decline, and disproportionately affected, worsening existing inequalities.



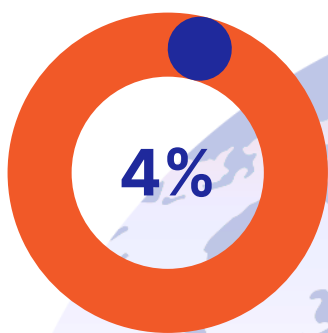
is how much official development assistance (ODA) dropped in 2024 (OECD).



of the total aid channeled will fall in 2025, compared with 2023.



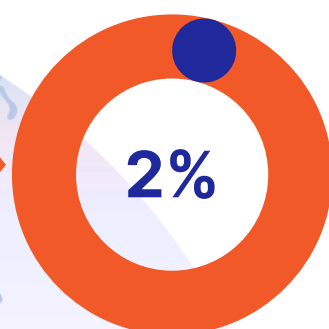
is the estimated size of the development financing gap annually.



Only 4% of mitigation ODA.

Climate finance remains deeply gender-blind:

In 2022 targeted gender equality



Only 2% of adaptation ODA.

Low-income countries received only 16.1% of ODA in 2023, despite having the greatest need.

Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Can't Wait



Due to structural inequalities, women are more likely to die in climate-related disasters than men.

The climate crisis disproportionately affects women and girls, worsening food and water insecurity, SGBV, school dropout rates, child marriage, and poverty.

Investing in Women is Climate Smart

At least
\$300B
annually for developing countries by 2035

Working towards
\$1.3T
Ensure gender-responsive financing reaches those most in need.

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The impact on women and girls

Women and girls suffer the brunt of austerity measures, when resources stop flowing towards critical areas like public services, social security, and employment protection.



**USD
\$1.7 trillion**

Is the total finance gap for women-led MSMEs.



740 million women

still do not have access to a bank account.



2.4 billion women

lack equal economic rights.



244 million

more men than women were using the Internet in 2023.

Why Should We Care About the Care Economy?

Making visible the invisible backbone of our economies and societies.

\$10.8 trillion

USD is what women's unpaid care work contributes to global economy yearly.



90%

of global GDP approx.

3X

larger than the tech industry.

Women = Smart investment

Gender-responsive investing works. Countries that integrate gender into their national budgets ensure better financing for women.

61%

Of the OECD countries had legal frameworks for gender-responsive budgeting by 2023.

20%

Could increase the global GDP by investing in gender equality.

Women Economic Empowerment: The Key to Development

Benefits of having women participating fully and on equal footing as men:



Stronger economies



Better development outcomes



Improved climate resilience



More vibrant societies

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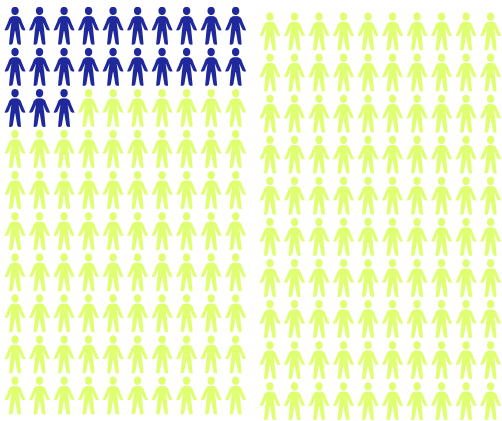
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Women's underrepresentation in finance is structural

The numbers show a stark imbalance. In a world where financial systems shape every aspect of life, women remain dramatically underrepresented in positions of economic power. This isn't just a gap in representation; it's a structural inequality that undermines the potential for inclusive and effective financial governance.

Only 23

countries have female finance ministers



Only 16%

Central banks are led by women



Women in Multilateralism 2025 report examines 12 International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Out of those:

4

have women at the helm currently.

8

have never had women leading.

Only 5

women have presided these organizations out of 106 people.



Only 4.7% of the time have women been at the helm of these organizations throughout their history.

Where are the women in International Financial Institutions ?

African Development Bank	
Asian Development Bank	
Asian Infrastructure Development Bank	
Caribbean Development Bank	
Central American Bank for Economic Int.	
Development Bank of Latin America	
European Bank for Reconstruction and Dev.	
European Investment Bank	
Inter-American Development Bank	
International Monetary Fund	
West African Development Bank	
World Bank Group	

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SDG Progress

With less than five years for 2030



The world is not on track to achieve gender equality.

At the current rate, it will take

140 years

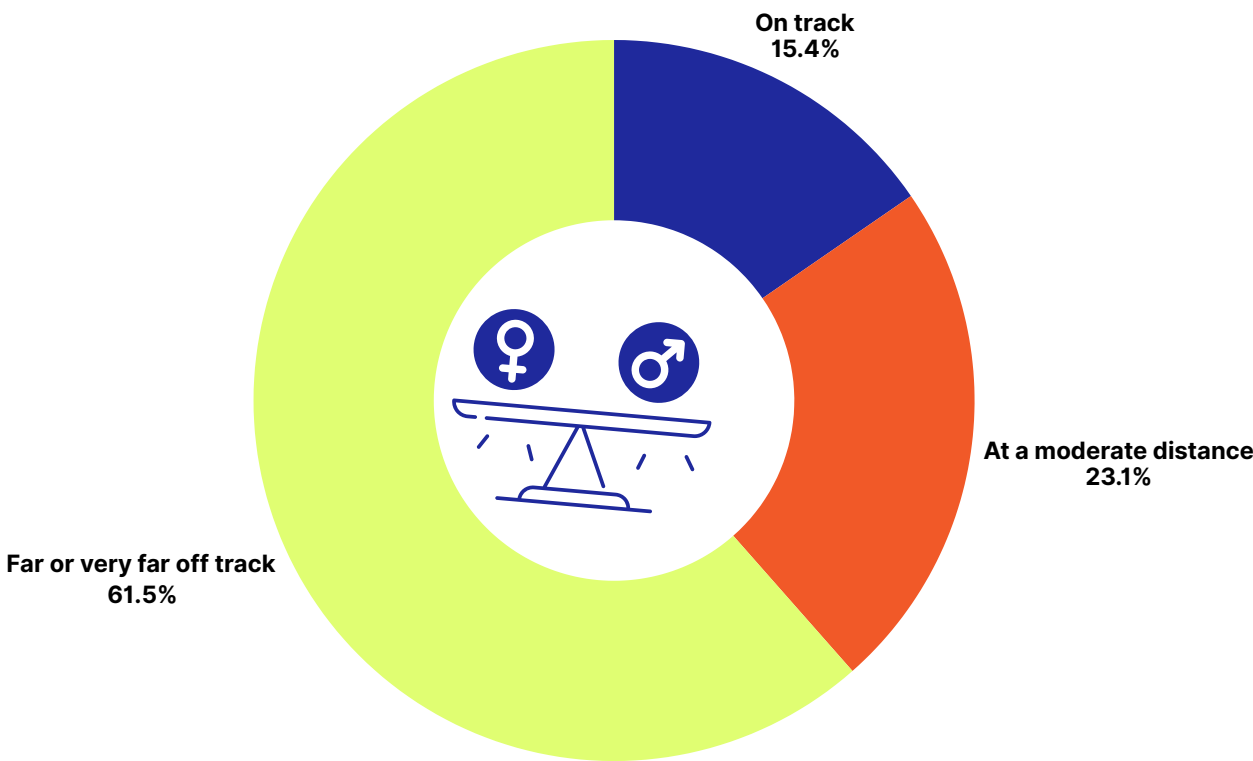
To achieve equal representation in leadership in the workplace.

On average, women spend

2.5X

More hours on unpaid domestic and care work than men.

Out of SDG 5 Indicators



SDG Tracker in Multilateral Organizations

At the current rate, achieving gender equality will take:

70 years

in the Presidency of the UN General Assembly

only if every future President elected until 2095 is a woman.

80 years

in the UN Secretariat

only if the next nine Secretary-Generals are women.

67 years

in the UN Permanent Representatives of all Member States

only if all Member States appoint just women every four years until 2092.

What Needs to Change?



More women in decision-making spaces — including in financing and high-level positions across the UN system.



Ensure the Pact for the Future and UN80 reforms reflect the impact and leadership of women in shaping global priorities.



Revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to increase accountability and compliance.



UN80 must go beyond cost-cutting — it should offer a bold vision for the next 80 years of the UN.