

GAP AT A GLANCE

Women still lag in many areas, while glaring disparity emerges in the technology field

GENDER EQUALITY is not just the right thing to do—it also makes good economic sense. Yet across the world, women are still a long way off from achieving gender parity with men, according to a new report from the World Economic Forum.

The 2018 Global Gender Gap Index finds that women have reached 68 percent parity overall, leaving a gap of 32 percent. The report measures the gender gap in four main areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

When it comes to leadership, women still have a long way to go. They represent just 18 percent of ministers and 24 percent of parliamentarians globally, and they hold just 34 percent of managerial positions. In terms of broader economic power, women continue to experience large gaps with men in their control of financial assets and in time spent on housework and other unpaid tasks.

The report also flags the disturbing emergence of gender gaps in skills related to artificial intelligence (AI). It finds that only 22 percent of AI

professionals worldwide are women, while 78 percent are men. The implications of this finding are worth noting. First, this skills gap may worsen future gender gaps, as AI skills will be increasingly in demand. Second, technology across many fields is being developed without diverse talent, limiting its innovative and inclusive capacity. Third, the low integration of women in AI implies a significant missed opportunity: the world cannot afford to deprive itself of women’s talent in a field where talent is already scarce.

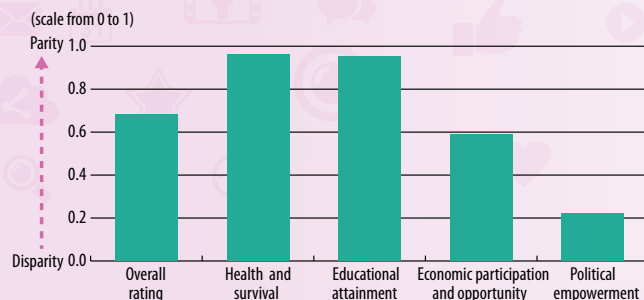
To stay competitive, then, countries must make gender equality a priority. The report points to potential role models by revealing those countries that—within their region or income group—are leaders in distributing resources more equitably between women and men, regardless of the overall level of resources. **FD**

Prepared by LIJUN LI, communications officer, IMF. Text and charts are based on the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Index 2018, available at <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-gender-gap-report-2018>.

Global snapshot

Gender gap score by area

Health and education gender gaps are closing, while political and economic empowerment gaps remain large.



Top 10 performers

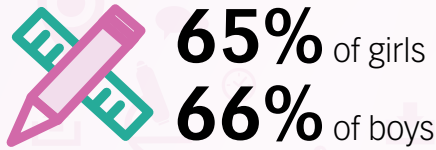
Iceland leads the way, followed by its Nordic neighbors.

Global Index		
Country	Rank	Score (0–1)
Iceland	1	0.858
Norway	2	0.835
Sweden	3	0.822
Finland	4	0.821
Nicaragua	5	0.809
Rwanda	6	0.804
New Zealand	7	0.801
Philippines	8	0.799
Ireland	9	0.796
Namibia	10	0.789

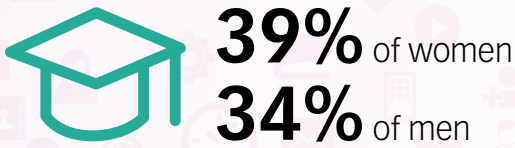
Progress has been made...

Gender parity in education is almost complete

There is high enrollment in secondary education globally...



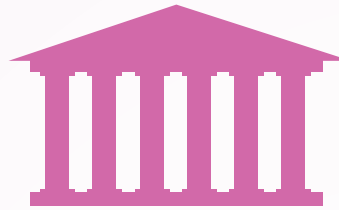
...but low attendance in college/university,



and **20%** of women are illiterate in 44 countries.

...but challenges remain

Across 149 countries assessed, there are large disparities in political empowerment...



Women represent:

- 17** heads of state
- 18%** of ministers
- 24%** of parliamentarians
- 34%** of managers

...as well as economic empowerment.



in just **60%** of countries studied, women have as much access to financial services as men.



in **42%** of countries, women have as much access to land ownership as men.



women spend **double** the time men do on housework and other unpaid activities in the 29 countries for which data are available.

And new gender gaps are emerging in the jobs of the future

Women are sorely underrepresented in AI and other careers that require science, technology, engineering, and math skills.

Even in the countries with the largest AI talent pools, there is a significant gender gap among AI professionals.

AI workforce distribution

Women make up 22 percent of AI workers, but the gender gap varies by industry.

