

Tracking sustainable peace through
inclusion, justice, and security for women

Inclusion

Justice

Security

SUMMARY

Women
Peace and
Security
Index

2021/22



PRIO Centre on
Gender, Peace
and Security



GIWPS

Georgetown Institute for
Women, Peace and Security

Countries and index scores by rank, 2021 WPS Index

RANK	COUNTRY	INDEX	RANK	COUNTRY	INDEX	RANK	COUNTRY	INDEX
1	Norway	.922	58	Albania	.762	115	Guatemala	.664
2	Finland	.909	59	Kazakhstan	.761	116	Zambia	.661
3	Iceland	.907	60	Turkmenistan	.760	117	Tunisia	.659
4	Denmark	.903	61	Philippines	.758	118	Botswana	.657
5	Luxembourg	.899	62	Chile	.757	119	São Tomé and Príncipe	.656
6	Switzerland	.898	63	Nicaragua	.756	120	Senegal	.655
7	Sweden	.895	64	Mauritius	.750	120	Togo	.655
8	Austria	.891	64	Moldova	.750	122	Côte d'Ivoire	.654
9	United Kingdom	.888	66	Rwanda	.748	123	Kuwait	.653
10	Netherlands	.885	66	South Africa	.748	124	Lesotho	.650
11	Germany	.880	66	Ukraine	.748	125	Iran	.649
12	Canada	.879	69	El Salvador	.747	126	Cameroon	.648
13	New Zealand	.873	69	Ghana	.747	127	Jordan	.646
14	Spain	.872	71	Dominican Republic	.746	128	Malawi	.644
15	France	.870	71	Venezuela	.746	129	Bhutan	.642
15	Singapore	.870	73	Thailand	.744	130	Burundi	.635
15	Slovenia	.870	74	Lao PDR	.741	130	Nigeria	.635
18	Portugal	.868	74	Uzbekistan	.741	132	Azerbaijan	.630
19	Ireland	.867	76	Tanzania	.739	132	Lebanon	.630
20	Estonia	.863	77	Barbados	.737	134	Myanmar	.629
21	United States	.861	77	Kosovo	.737	135	Comoros	.628
22	Belgium	.859	77	Paraguay	.737	136	Burkina Faso	.627
23	Latvia	.858	80	Brazil	.734	136	Egypt	.627
24	Australia	.856	80	Fiji	.734	138	Equatorial Guinea	.624
24	United Arab Emirates	.856	80	Suriname	.734	138	Morocco	.624
26	Croatia	.848	83	Panama	.733	140	Gabon	.623
27	Israel	.844	83	Peru	.733	141	Algeria	.616
28	Italy	.842	85	Armenia	.727	142	Haiti	.611
29	Poland	.840	85	Tajikistan	.727	143	Mali	.610
30	Lithuania	.833	85	Zimbabwe	.727	144	Angola	.609
31	Czech Republic	.830	88	Mexico	.725	145	Papua New Guinea	.604
32	Hong Kong, SAR China	.829	89	China	.722	146	Eswatini	.602
33	South Korea	.827	90	Colombia	.721	146	Guinea	.602
34	Serbia	.826	90	Kenya	.721	148	Gambia	.597
35	Japan	.823	92	Belize	.720	148	India	.597
36	Cyprus	.820	93	Cambodia	.719	150	Libya	.596
37	Malta	.815	93	Tonga	.719	151	Djibouti	.595
38	Belarus	.814	95	Namibia	.714	152	Bangladesh	.594
39	Slovakia	.811	95	Nepal	.714	152	Liberia	.594
40	Georgia	.808	97	Bahrain	.713	152	Niger	.594
41	Bulgaria	.804	97	Kyrgyzstan	.713	155	Congo	.582
42	Montenegro	.803	97	Qatar	.713	156	Madagascar	.578
43	Jamaica	.800	100	Indonesia	.707	157	Central African Rep.	.577
44	North Macedonia	.798	100	Timor-Leste	.707	157	Mauritania	.577
45	Greece	.792	102	Saudi Arabia	.703	159	Somalia	.572
46	Hungary	.790	103	Malaysia	.702	160	Palestine	.571
47	Costa Rica	.781	104	Honduras	.698	161	Sierra Leone	.563
48	Uruguay	.776	105	Sri Lanka	.697	162	Sudan	.556
49	Argentina	.774	106	Turkey	.693	163	Chad	.547
49	Bolivia	.774	107	Viet Nam	.692	163	DR Congo	.547
49	Ecuador	.774	108	Cabo Verde	.690	165	South Sudan	.541
52	Trinidad and Tobago	.771	109	Uganda	.685	166	Iraq	.516
53	Russian Federation	.770	110	Oman	.675	167	Pakistan	.476
54	Mongolia	.769	111	Mozambique	.673	168	Yemen	.388
55	Romania	.765	112	Maldives	.671	169	Syria	.375
56	Bosnia and Herzegovina	.764	113	Ethiopia	.668	170	Afghanistan	.278
56	Guyana	.764	114	Benin	.667			

Please see last page for an alphabetical list of countries and ranks.

Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security seeks to promote a more stable, peaceful, and just world by focusing on the important role women play in preventing conflict and building peace, growing economies, and addressing global threats like climate change and violent extremism. The institute pursues this mission through research that is accessible to practitioners and policy-makers, global convenings, strategic partnerships, and nurturing of the next generation of leaders. Melanne Verwee, the first U.S. ambassador for global women's issues, is the Institute's executive director. Hillary Rodham Clinton is the institute's honorary founding chair.

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) conducts research on the conditions for peaceful relations between states, groups, and people. Researchers at PRIO seek to understand the processes that bring societies together or split them apart. Founded in 1959, PRIO is an independent research institution known for its effective synergy of basic and policy-relevant research. In addition to such research, PRIO conducts graduate training and promotes peace through conflict resolution, dialogue and reconciliation, public information, and policy-making activities.

The work on the index and report was conducted by a team led by Jeni Klugman, Managing Director, GIWPS. The report team comprised Milorad Kovacevic with Michael Gottschalk (GIWPS), who were responsible for construction of the index, and Elena Ortiz, Jimena Diaz, Varsha Thebo, Isha Raj-Silverman, and Jiaqi Zhao (GIWPS), who provided extensive research analysis and support. We partnered with Siri Aas Rustad, Solomon Negash, and Kaja Borchgrevink (PRIO), who undertook statistical analysis and writing. This work was enabled by the excellent administrative and communications support of Luis Mancilla, Sarah Rutherford, and Evelyn Garrity (GIWPS).

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Preface

This third edition of the global Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index provides important insights into patterns and progress on women’s status and empowerment around the world. It reflects a shared vision that countries are more peaceful and prosperous when women are accorded full and equal rights and opportunities.

In many ways, it seems a lifetime ago since the 2019 report, and this year we seek to capture insights about the repercussions of the COVID pandemic for women’s inclusion and security. The results are sobering. The global pace of improvement in the WPS Index has slowed considerably, with widening disparities across countries. This reflects a worsening of inequalities in the status of women, as countries at the top continue to improve while those at the bottom get worse, mirroring global trends in wealth and income inequality. The COVID pandemic has triggered multiple and overlapping crises, magnifying existing inequalities. For women, major challenges have worsened on several fronts—not least juggling paid jobs and unpaid care work—and have exacerbated threats to safety.

Key innovations this year have enhanced the value of the index.

First, improvements in data availability have expanded coverage to 170 countries—encompassing more than 99 percent of the world’s population. We explore trends across regions, indicators, and time since our inaugural 2017 index rankings.

Second, with forced displacement at unprecedented levels worldwide, we constructed new indices for forcibly displaced and host community women in five Sub-Saharan African countries to illuminate the challenges facing displaced women. The results reveal deep disparities, underscoring the compounding effects of displacement on women’s status and opportunities.

Third, we investigate WPS Index performance at the provincial or state level in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States, revealing major disparities within country borders that national averages conceal. The results for Afghanistan, bottom ranked on the global index, are especially relevant at a time when Afghan women and girls face major threats to their basic rights and well-being. Our analysis reveals a precarious situation in many provinces where women and girls were already experiencing severe constraints on their opportunities outside the home and extremely high rates of violence.

Tracking the progress of women and pinpointing persistent structural gender inequalities are critical to informing equitable policymaking, especially in efforts to build back better in the wake of COVID. We see this year’s report as an important contribution to the growing evidence base underlining the importance of women, peace, and security and the Sustainable Development Goals, bringing partners together around a shared agenda for women’s inclusion, justice, and security.

*Jeni Klugman, Managing Director
Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security*



Overview

Disparities widening and progress slowing

Measuring women's inclusion, justice, and security for 170 countries

Index score rose 9 percent on average

All countries in the top dozen are developed

Women's inclusion, justice, and security are more critical than ever in the midst of a pandemic that has wreaked havoc around the world. This year's global report, the third since the inaugural edition in 2017, finds a slowdown in the pace of improvement in the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index and widening disparities across countries. The range of scores on the 2021 WPS Index is vast, with Norway at the top scoring more than three times better than Afghanistan at the bottom. The range of scores is much wider than in 2017, when the score of the top performer was about twice that of the worst performer. This widening gap reflects rising inequality in the status of women across countries: countries at the top continue to improve while those at the bottom get worse, mirroring global trends in wealth and income inequality.

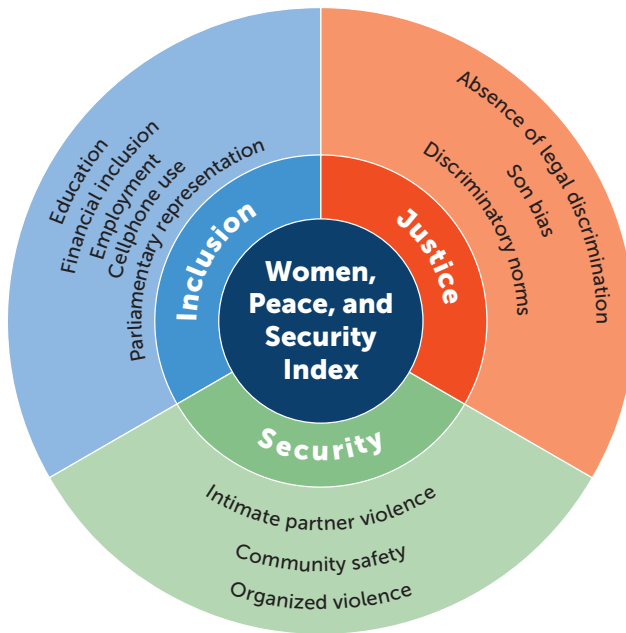
The index captures and quantifies the three dimensions of women's inclusion (economic, social, political), justice (formal laws and informal discrimination), and security (at the individual, community, and societal levels) through 11 indicators (figure 1).

Globally, WPS Index scores have risen an average of 9 percent since 2017 and at above-average rates in 31 countries. Score improved more than 5 percent in 90 countries. Six of the top ten score improvers are in Sub-Saharan Africa.¹ And current global levels of organized violence are significantly below the 2014 peak, despite a moderate uptick between 2019 and 2020.

Comparing regions and countries: A snapshot in time

The top dozen countries on the index are all in the Developed Country group (see appendix 2 in the full report for region and country groups). The differences across these 12 countries are minimal, with a range from .879 (Canada, at number 12) to .922 (Norway, at the top; figure 2). At the other end of the spectrum, there is a much wider range of performance, with Afghanistan at the bottom performing some 51 percent worse on the index than Somalia, ranked 12th from the bottom. Of the bottom 12 countries, 10 are classified by the World Bank as fragile states.

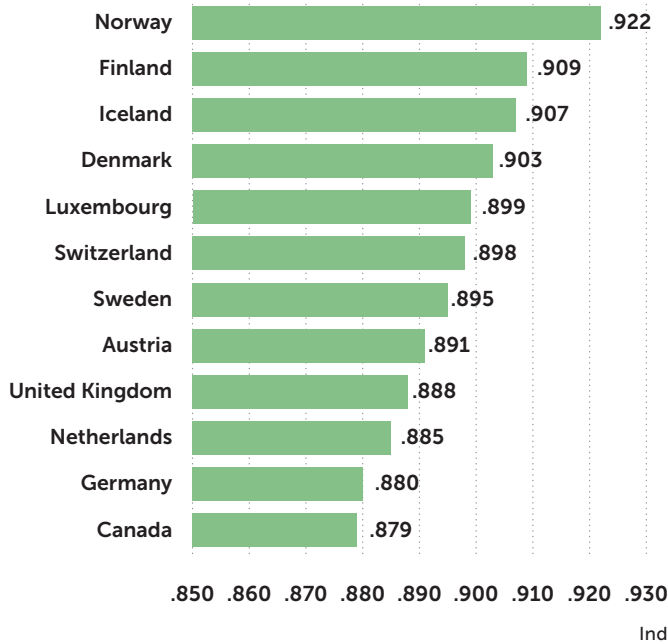
FIGURE 1 The WPS Index captures three dimensions of women’s status in 11 indicators



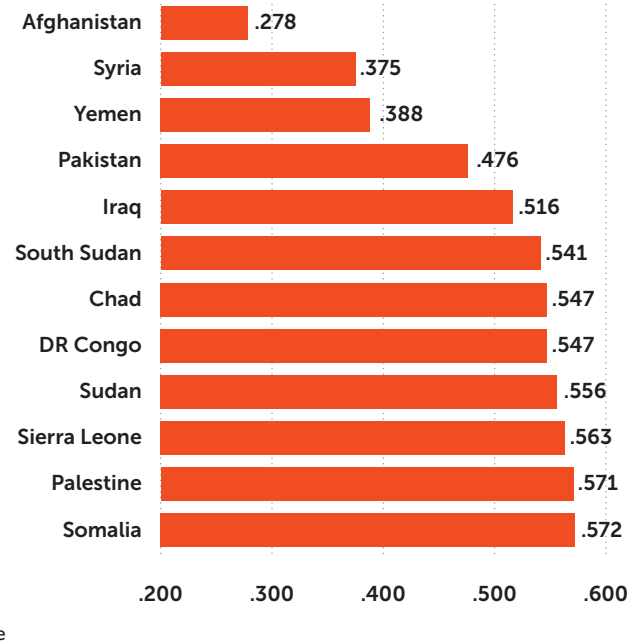
Note: See statistical table 1 for indicator definitions and statistical table 1 for main data sources.
 Source: Authors.

FIGURE 2 The dozen best and worst performers on the WPS Index 2021

Best performers



Worst performers



Note: Possible index scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 1. See statistical table 1 for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges.
 Source: Authors’ estimates.

All except Palestine (newly added to the index), Sierra Leone, and Somalia have been in the bottom dozen since the 2019 WPS Index—and 7 of the bottom 12 have been in this group since 2017. Yet some of these countries have made progress: the Democratic Republic of the Congo is among the top score improvers since 2017, rising 13 percent, while the score of Central African Republic rose 22 percent, moving the country out of the bottom dozen, to 157th place.

South Asia scores worst overall

This year, for the first time, South Asia is the worst performing region, reflecting high levels of legal discrimination, intimate partner violence, and discriminatory norms that disenfranchise women, often coupled with low levels of inclusion. Fewer than one woman in four in the region is in paid work, less than half the global average.

Comparisons reveal room for improvement

Behind regional averages, some countries perform much better or much worse than their neighbors, illustrating the scope for feasible improvements (figure 3). Unpacking the WPS Index reveals mixed performance across indicators. All countries have room for improvement. Mexico, 88th overall, is 43rd on the justice dimension but falls to 160th on the security dimension: only a third of women feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night, and rates of organized violence are the among the 10 highest in the world.

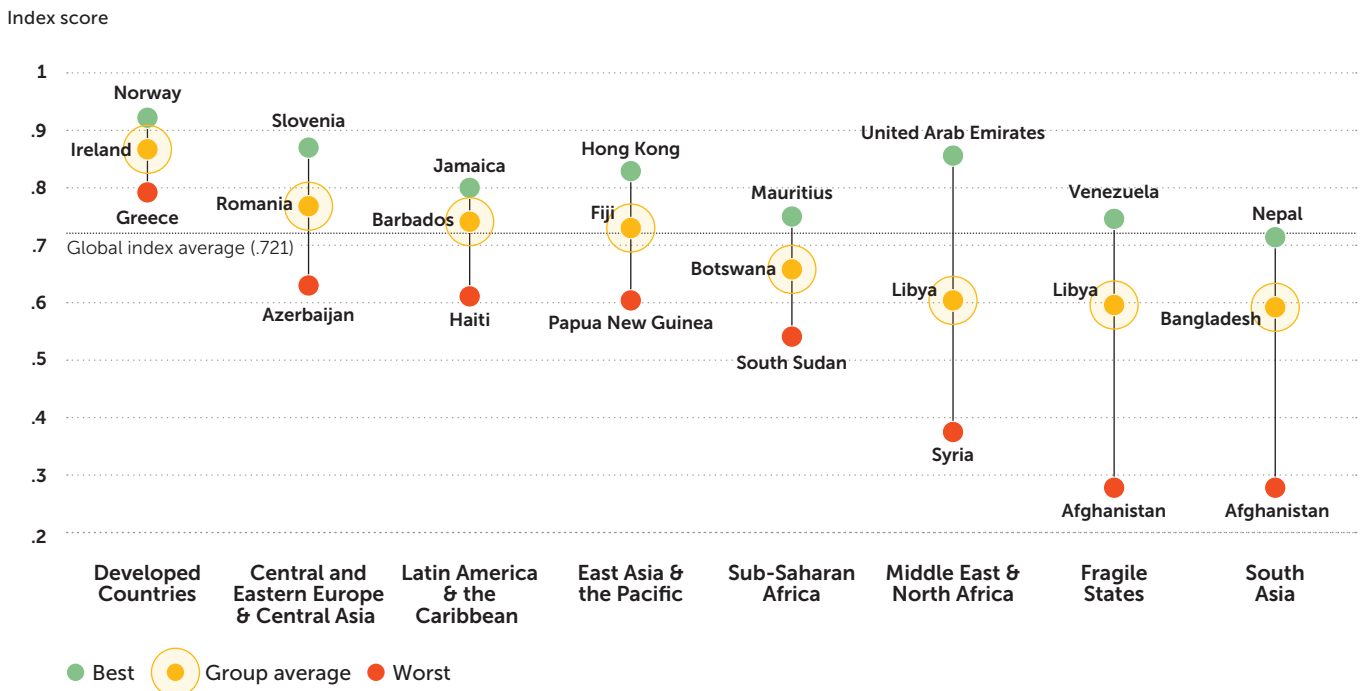
Widest ranges in employment and financial inclusion scores

The widest spectrums of performance are in employment and financial inclusion. And the COVID pandemic has undermined women’s opportunities for paid employment in much of the world. Women’s employment rates range from 92 percent in Burundi to just 5 percent in Yemen. Rates of financial inclusion range from universal in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden to fewer than 1 woman in 20 in South Sudan and Yemen.

Middle East and North Africa is the worst performing region on the legal front

On the legal front, the Middle East and North Africa is the worst performing region, averaging only 50 of 100 points, with Palestine having the worst legal score (26) globally. The share of men who believe it is unacceptable for women to have a

FIGURE 3 Widest range of 2021 WPS Index scores in the Middle East and North Africa, the Fragile States group, and South Asia regions



Note: Possible index scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 1. See statistical table 1 for data sources and scores. Countries in the Fragile States group are also included in their regional group.
Source: Authors’ estimates.

Community safety varies widely and is worst in Latin America and the Caribbean

Most of the top 10 score improvers are in Sub-Saharan Africa

The pace of progress has slowed

Some reversals as organized violence and community safety worsened

paid job outside the home if they want one—our measure of discriminatory norms—is also highest in the Middle East and North Africa. This suggests a convergence of formal and informal barriers to women’s justice in the region.

On the security dimension, Latin America performs badly on community safety, with only about one woman in three feeling safe walking alone in her neighborhood at night, although the country where women feel least safe is Afghanistan. Syria does the worst globally on organized violence and the worst regionally on community safety.

Trends in WPS Index scores between 2017 and 2021

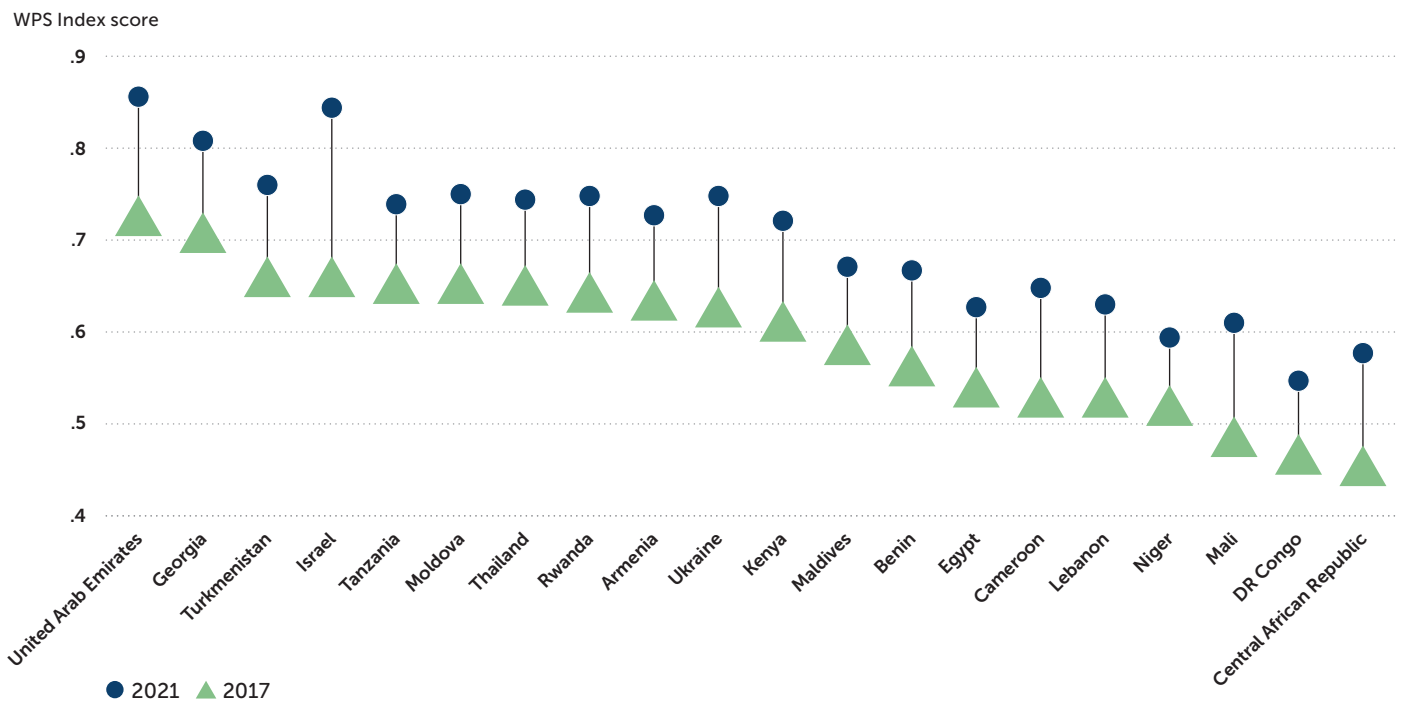
Changes in index rankings show how countries have performed relative to others,² while fluctuations in a country’s scores capture absolute changes in women’s inclusion, justice, and security.

Since the inaugural 2017 WPS Index, 90 countries have improved their score by at least 5 percent—and in 31 countries scores rose at least 9 percent, surpassing the global average improvement. Six of the top ten score improvers are in Sub-Saharan Africa: Central African Republic, Mali, Cameroon, Benin, Kenya, and Rwanda, in descending order of improvement (figure 4).

Analysis of trends reveals that the pace of progress has slowed by more than half: the global average WPS Index rose about 7 percent between 2017 and 2019 but only about 3 percent between 2019 and 2021.

Worsening index scores for several countries underscore persistent challenges. Since 2017, Afghanistan’s score has deteriorated 28 percent, driven mostly by worsening rates of organized violence and perceptions of community safety, with the recent rise of the Taliban threatening further deterioration. Scores also worsened in absolute terms for Haiti, Namibia, and Yemen, with especially marked declines

FIGURE 4 WPS Index scores improved by at least 10 percent in 20 countries, 2017–21



Note: Countries are in descending order of their 2017 score. See statistical table 1 for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges and appendix 2 for region and country groups.
Source: Authors’ estimates.

in community safety (except Yemen) and rising rates of organized violence (except Namibia).

Welcome advances

Welcome improvements in many countries included new legislation to protect women from domestic violence, increases in women's cellphone use (jumping from 78 to 85 percent in the four years to 2020), and perceptions of community safety (climbing in 81 countries). Women's parliamentary representation, though rising, still averages only about one in four.

Organized violence down from its 2014 peak

A unique dimension of the WPS Index is women's security, measured by rates of current intimate partner violence, perceptions of community safety, and organized violence. The good news is that global levels of organized violence are well below their 2014 peak, despite a moderate uptick in battle deaths between 2019 and 2020. In 2020, more than 60 percent of battle deaths occurred in four countries: Afghanistan (20,836), Mexico (16,385), Azerbaijan (7,621), and Syria (5,583).

But the number of conflicts is higher

Organized violence has declined despite a rising number of conflicts: there were 56 unique state-based conflicts in 2020—the highest number since 1946—alongside 72 nonstate conflicts. This points to the presence of many low-intensity conflicts and underlines that more people now live in conflict zones. This is a major concern given accumulating evidence of the repercussions of conflict beyond the battlefield, especially for women and children, from increased food insecurity to higher risks of intimate partner violence.

Countries with high rates of organized violence rank low on the index

High rates of organized violence are strongly correlated not only with high rates of violence against women in the home,³ but also with poor performance on women's inclusion, justice, and security more broadly. Two of the four countries with the worst levels of violence in 2020—and indeed over the past decade—Afghanistan and Yemen, are also bottom ranked on the WPS Index.

COVID threatens to widen inequalities

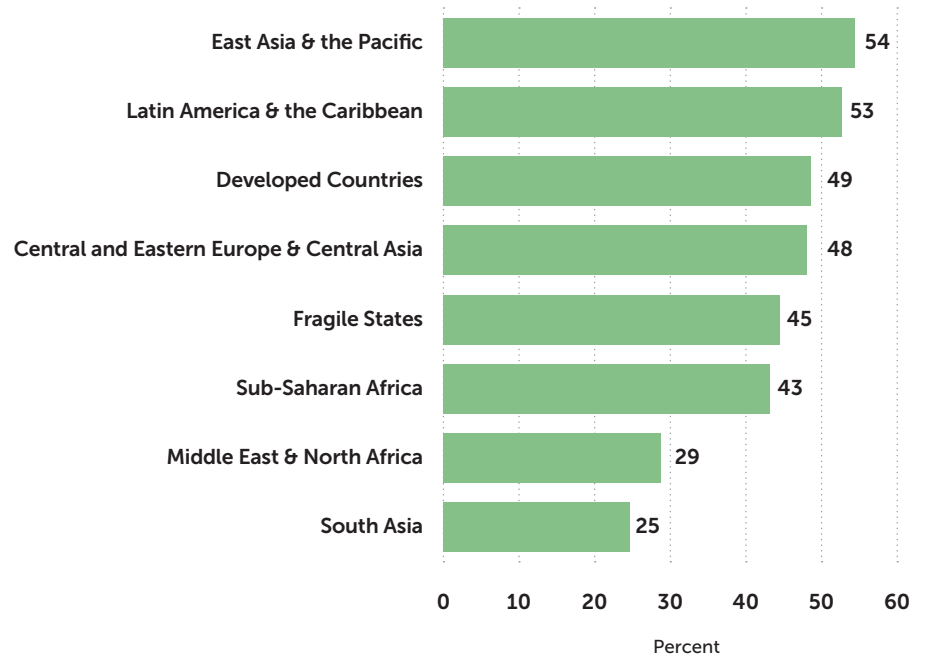
The pandemic has triggered multiple crises, and challenges for women have worsened on several fronts, not least in juggling paid jobs and unpaid care work, but also in growing threats to safety. Although comprehensive sex-disaggregated data covering the impacts are lacking, there is accumulating evidence that two of the three key dimensions of the index—inclusion and security—have been hard hit. While the gender inequalities exposed during the pandemic are nothing new, they underscore the urgent need to build equitable systems that are resilient in good times and bad.

Reversals in women's paid employment

The pandemic has triggered major reversals in rates of paid employment, a key indicator of women's inclusion. Estimated losses in paid employment for women in 2020 (5 percent) exceeded those for men (3.9 percent).⁴ In Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, 17 million women exited paid work during the pandemic, compared with 14 million men.⁵ Globally among people who lost their jobs, 9 in 10 women became economically inactive, most of them young, urban, and less educated, compared with 7 in 10 men.⁶ This has extensive repercussions, especially for pensions and savings, amplifying wealth gaps that favor men. Long-term exits of women from paid work also reduce national output and prospects for future economic growth.⁷

Women-owned businesses are closing more

There is also evidence that women-owned businesses have closed at higher rates during the pandemic due to their smaller size, greater informality, and operation in hardest-hit sectors.⁸ Surveys by the World Bank of about 45,000 firms in 49 mostly low- and middle-income countries found that in the hospitality industry, businesses led by men experienced a 60 percent fall in expected sales, compared with 68 percent for businesses led by women, which also reported higher financial risks and less cash available to cover costs.⁹ Globally, 40 percent of women worked in sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, compared with 37 percent of men,¹⁰ ranging from 25 percent in South Asia to 54 percent in East Asia and the Pacific (figure 5).

FIGURE 5 Share of women working in sectors worst hit by the pandemic, 2020

Note: Data cover 104 countries; hard-hit sectors include accommodation and food services; wholesale and retail trade; real estate, business, and administrative activities; and manufacturing.
Source: ILOSTAT database and ILO 2020.

Care burdens amplified by lockdowns and school closures

Risks of intimate partner violence worsened

Heightened risk of both first-time intimate partner violence and ongoing abuse

Many new social protection responses

Before the pandemic, an estimated 42 percent of working-age women worldwide were outside the paid labor force because of unpaid care responsibilities, compared with 6 percent of men.¹¹ National lockdowns and widespread school closures amplified these responsibilities, with gendered implications for time in paid work. In July 2021, about 36 million children lived in a country with full school closures, and another 807 million faced partial school closures.¹²

Women have faced increasing risks of intimate partner violence and greater difficulty leaving abusive relationships due to worsening economic conditions and national lockdowns. For example, survey data from more than 2,500 partnered women in Iran before the pandemic and six months into the crisis revealed that prevalence rates of current intimate partner violence soared from 54 to 65 percent and that job losses for women or their partner dramatically increased the likelihood of intimate partner violence.¹³

The pandemic has augmented the risk of both first-time and ongoing intimate partner violence. In Iran, more than a quarter of women who had not previously experienced intimate partner violence were abused during the first six months of the pandemic.¹⁴ And during the first wave of lockdowns in Nigeria, women previously experiencing intimate partner violence suffered more severe acts or new forms of violence.¹⁵

Addressing adverse impacts of the pandemic on women

The crisis has brought some welcome innovations that recognize and address inequalities. Expanding access to paid parental leave and quality childcare, alongside flexible work models, are keys to ensuring gender equality in the return to work in the short term and having good labor market opportunities in the long term (infographic 1).

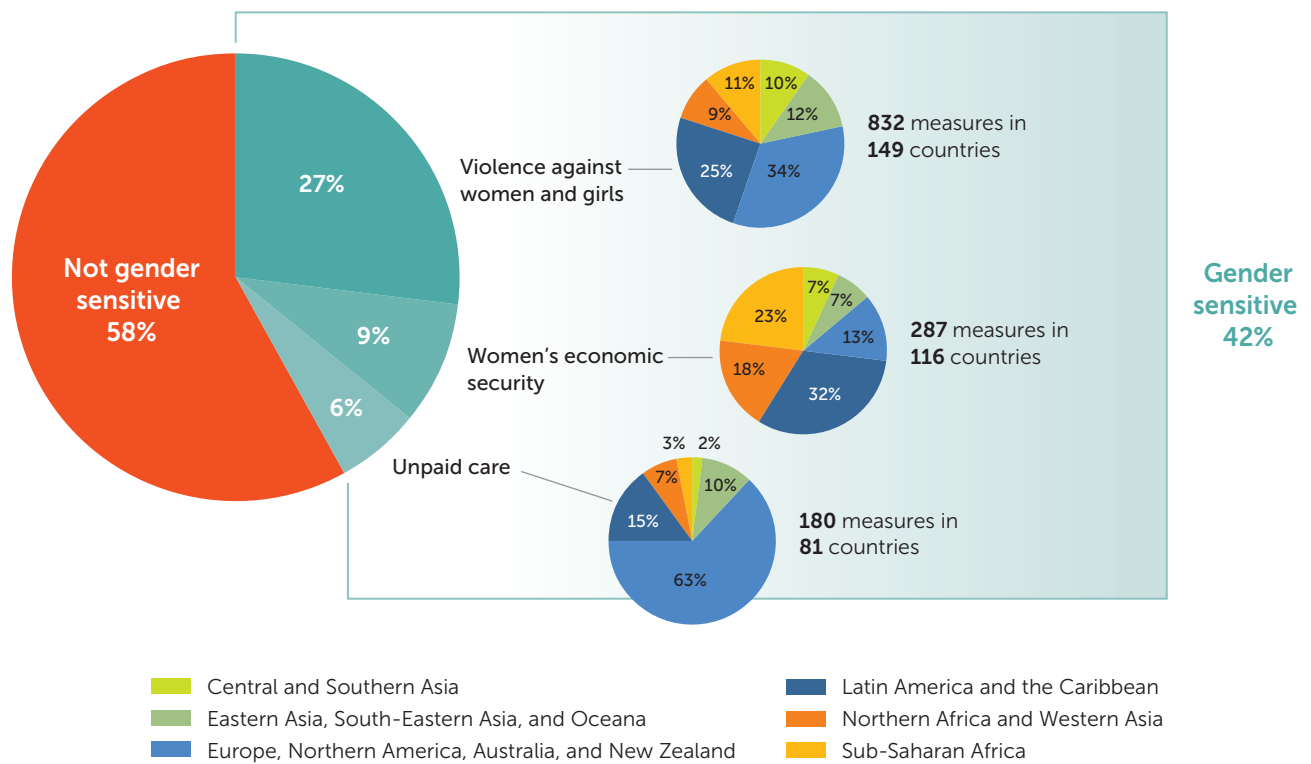
The social protection responses to the pandemic have been unprecedented in scale and scope—from labor market policies, to social assistance, to unemployment

INFOGRAPHIC 1

Of 3,100+ policy measures in response to COVID, 1,300 are gender sensitive

UNDP–UN Women have tracked the COVID responses of governments around the globe, with a focus on measures addressing threats to gender equality—from the surge in violence against women and girls to the unprecedented increases in unpaid care work and the large-scale loss of jobs and livelihoods. Many governments have taken measures to support women and girls, but the responses remain insufficient and uneven overall—across dimensions and regions.

Gender-sensitive policy responses by type and region



49 COUNTRIES channel resources to female-dominated sectors

136 COUNTRIES have strengthened services for women survivors of violence

52 COUNTRIES classify violence against women and girls measures as essential services

40 COUNTRIES collect and use data on violence against women and girls during the pandemic

84 COUNTRIES have social protection measures that target or prioritize women

Source: UNDP and UN Women 2021.

Nearly a billion new beneficiaries, but gaps in digital access persist

benefits. The most common measures include liquidity support and tax relief for businesses. Among labor market policies, 60 percent were new, and 40 percent were adaptations of existing programs. About a third of developing countries have offered direct support to workers through wage subsidies, expanded unemployment benefits, or reduced income taxes.¹⁶ To expand the reach of social protection programs, countries including Kazakhstan, Lesotho, and Viet Nam sought to include informal workers.¹⁷

Many new and expanded social protection programs leveraged digital platforms, reaching nearly one billion new beneficiaries.¹⁸ Depositing government cash transfers directly into women's accounts and digitizing payments can promote gender equality in recovery.¹⁹ Argentina distributed cash transfers to households in the summer of 2020 and prioritized women as the primary recipients.²⁰ Ghana and Kenya expanded mobile cash transfers during the pandemic, reaching women in informal work and in remote areas.²¹ Digital innovations have potential advantages in speed, privacy, and reach, but gender gaps in digital access persist.

Some informal workers still excluded

Even so, informal workers, who have traditionally been excluded from social protection, risk not receiving stimulus money because they are less frequently registered by the government as employees.²² In India, more than half of the country's 326 million poor women were excluded from emergency cash transfers at the pandemic's onset because they lacked bank accounts to receive the transfers.²³

Support for family leave

Governments have taken various approaches to supporting people who are providing unpaid care. Uzbekistan extended paid leave for working parents for the duration of school and daycare closures. Similarly, Trinidad and Tobago introduced "pandemic leave" as a new classification of paid leave for working parents.²⁴

Services and access to justice for survivors of violence

Of the measures addressing gender-based violence tracked by the United Nations Development Program and UN Women, about two-thirds sought to strengthen services for survivors, including hotlines, other reporting mechanisms, and resources to enhance police and judicial responses.²⁵ According to the World Bank, 88 countries have allowed remote court operations, and at least 72 have declared family cases urgent or essential during lockdown.²⁶ Overall, however, measures to address violence against women during the pandemic have been uneven and often inadequate.²⁷

Women's groups in critical roles

Civil society organizations have played critical first-responder roles, especially in rural, remote, and marginalized communities where governments were unable or unwilling to act. Women's organizations have served in a broad range of capacities: supplying essential health and hygiene resources, distributing financial support to women-owned businesses, training women in virtual entrepreneurial skills, and supporting survivors of gender-based violence.

The pandemic underlines the need for equitable systems

The crisis underscores the urgent need to build equitable systems that are resilient during good times and bad. The crisis has also brought welcome innovations that recognize and address inequalities. The more successful policy responses tend to be associated with strong precrisis systems, broad eligibility criteria, proactive outreach efforts, and effective financing.²⁸

A new lens on forced displacement

Forced displacement has moved up the global agenda as the number of displaced people has risen to unprecedented levels, approaching 90 million at the end of 2020. About 55 million remained in their own country as internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the rest were refugees.²⁹ About 48 million IDPs were displaced by conflict and violence and about 7 million by natural disasters.³⁰

Gender inequality compounds displacement

Displaced women and girls face a higher risk of all forms of gender-based violence and economic marginalization.³¹ Public services are often disrupted or restricted in conflict-affected countries.³² Displaced women face barriers to livelihood

Displaced women do consistently worse

Performance echoes findings on multidimensional poverty

Rates of intimate partner violence and financial inclusion worse for displaced women

Gender gaps further disadvantage displaced women

The challenges facing displaced women vary

opportunities, including eligibility for cash and voucher assistance, as a result of intersecting factors affecting their rights, agency, and access to economic opportunities.

Separate indices for forcibly displaced women and host community women in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan reveal that displaced women had an average disadvantage of about 24 percent. And they generally faced much higher risks than host community women of violence at home, were less likely to be financially included, and often felt less free to move about. Displaced women's disadvantage was greatest in South Sudan, where their score (.284) fell about 42 percent below that of host community women.

The three countries with the greatest disparities in WPS Index scores between displaced and host community women—Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan—are also the countries with the widest multidimensional poverty gaps between displaced and host community populations.³³ In all five countries, refugee and IDP households headed by women were more likely than those headed by men to be poor, showing how gender inequality compounds the effects of displacement and poverty. In refugee households in Ethiopia, 58 percent of those headed by a woman were impoverished, compared with 19 percent headed by a man.³⁴ Lack of physical safety, early marriage, and absence of legal identification were the largest contributors to poverty in households headed by displaced women.

Across all five countries, displaced women fared systematically worse than host community women in financial inclusion and risk of intimate partner violence. The gaps between refugee and host community women in financial inclusion exceeded 15 percentage points in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Somalia, compared with 4 percentage points in Sudan.³⁵ In Somalia, 36 percent of displaced women had experienced intimate partner violence in the past year, compared with 26 percent of host community women, a difference of 38 percent. In South Sudan, 47 percent of displaced women had experienced intimate partner violence—a rate nearly double the national average of 27.

The gender gaps facing displaced women were greatest for employment. Across all five countries, employment rates were at least 90 percent higher for displaced men than for displaced women—nearly 150 percent higher in Nigeria, where only about 15 percent of displaced women were employed. The gaps reflect the broader reality of high labor market segregation by gender around the world, with women more concentrated in unskilled and low-paid sectors than men, a condition that makes it hard for refugee women to find jobs.³⁶ Language barriers, lower literacy rates, unpaid care responsibilities, and gender norms that limit women's mobility can compound the constraints on displaced women's economic opportunities.³⁷

Our results underline the added challenges related to inclusion, justice, and security for displaced women, highlighting the intersecting and compounding challenges of gender inequality and forced displacement. At the same time, the range of performance, both overall and on specific indicators, demonstrates the complexity of each situation. In Somalia, displaced women had relatively high rates of financial inclusion but the lowest rates of legal identification among the five countries. Nigeria had the lowest rates of intimate partner violence for both displaced and host community women, while cell-phone access for displaced women was the second worst of the five countries.

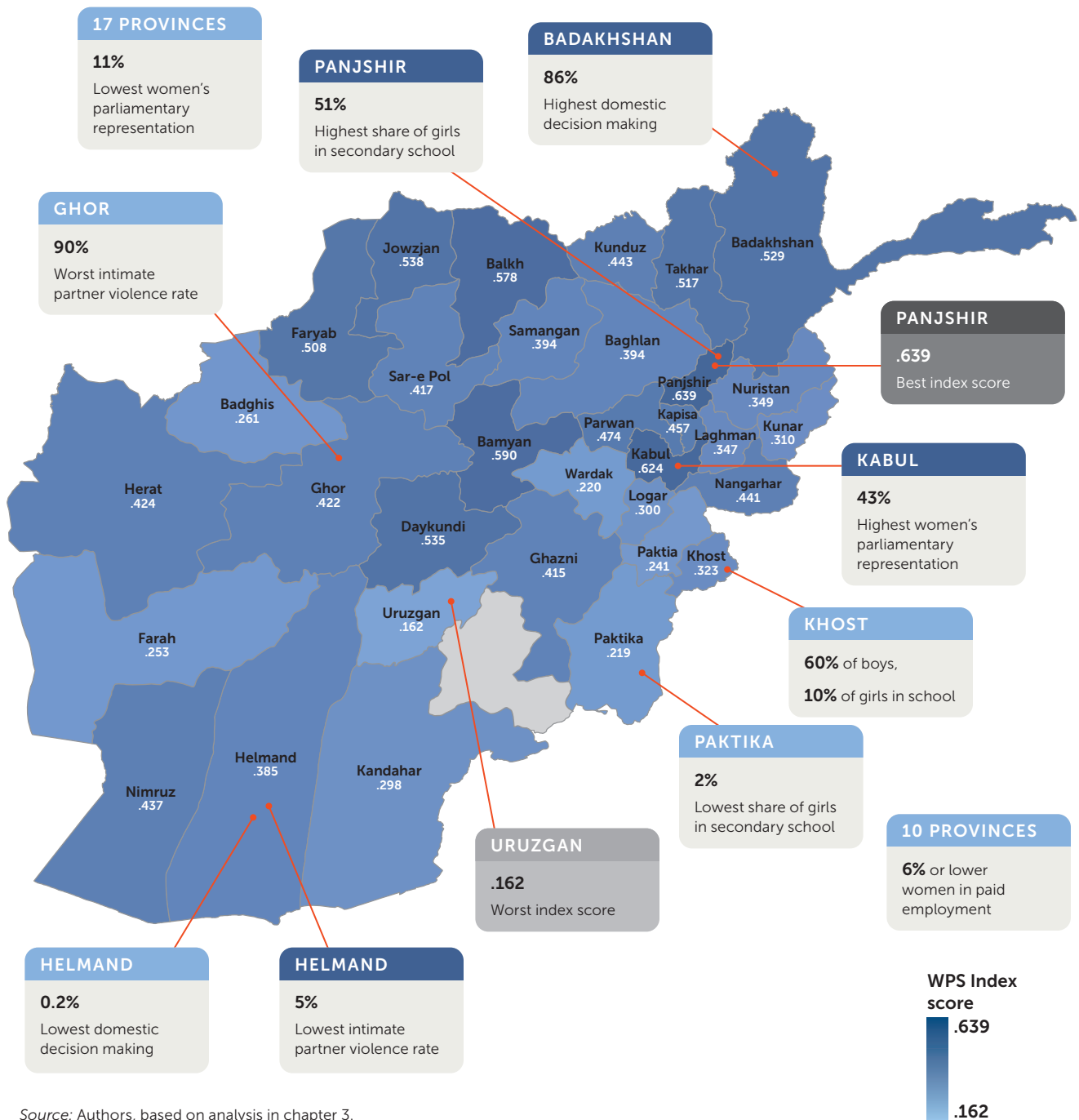
Insights from subnational disparities

This report explores variation within national borders in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States based on new subnational WPS indices created for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States. In Afghanistan, provincial index scores ranged from .639 in Panjshir to .162 in Uruzgan (figure 6), with the widest gaps for organized violence. In Pakistan, provincial index scores ranged from .734 for Punjab to .194 for Balochistan (see infographic 2). And in the United States, Massachusetts at the top scored more than four times better than Louisiana at the bottom.

INFOGRAPHIC 2

Where women live in Afghanistan matters greatly for their inclusion, justice, and security

The global WPS Index tallies national averages in women’s inclusion, justice, and security. Behind those averages, new provincial WPS Index estimates reveal stark disparities across Afghanistan in 2019, showing how location matters and intersects with ethnicity, forced displacement, and security in determining women’s status. The COVID pandemic and the Taliban takeover are now making the situation even worse for women and girls in the lowest-ranked country in the world.



Source: Authors, based on analysis in chapter 3.

High rates of organized violence and violence in the home in low-scoring provinces

Pakistan’s performance on the provincial index mirrors income and poverty levels

High rates of intimate partner violence and organized violence coincide in Pakistan

High variation in US state index performance

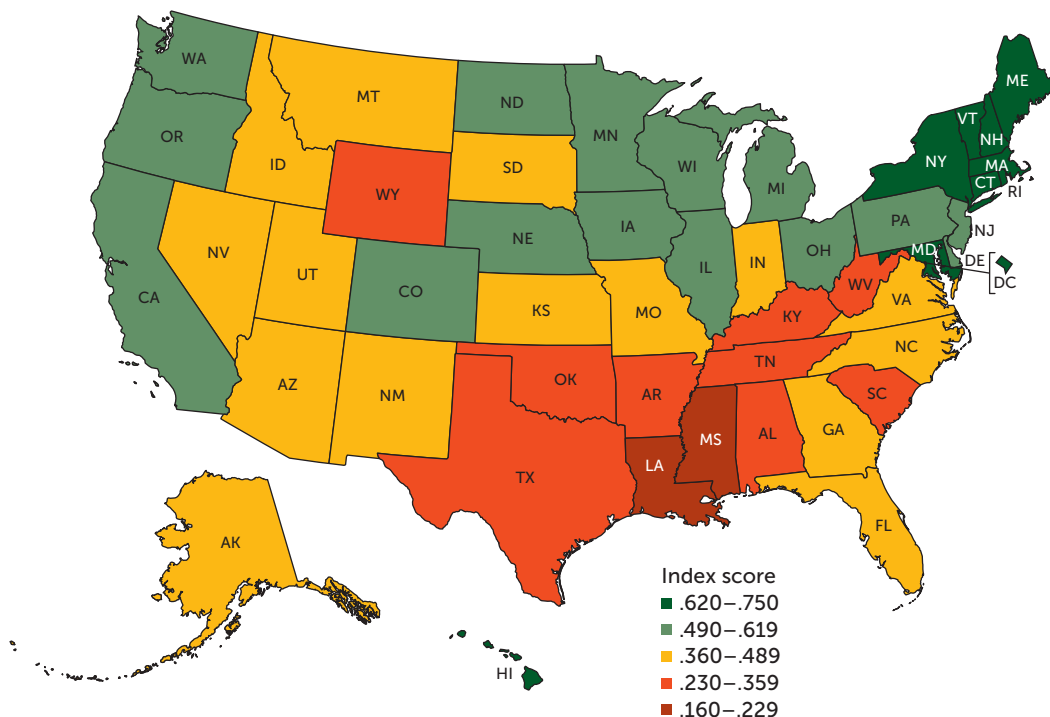
Afghanistan’s lowest-ranking provinces are mainly in the southeastern areas, where rates of organized violence and intimate partner violence were high. Acceptance of wife beating was widespread (between 67 and 97 percent), and levels of women’s participation in domestic decision making were very low (between 3 and 21 percent). High rates of violence in the home compounded the security threats facing women. Nationwide, 35 percent of Afghan women experienced intimate partner violence in the past year, and rates exceeded 84 percent in Ghor, Herat, and Wardak provinces—higher than those in any country in the global WPS Index. The return to power of the Taliban is widely expected to lead to further deterioration in the condition of Afghan women around the country.

Provincial index scores also ranged widely across Pakistan, from .734 for Punjab to .194 for Balochistan. The rankings on the provincial WPS Index mirror those for income and poverty. Punjab was the best-off, with the lowest reported rate of income poverty, at 32 percent, while Balochistan’s poverty rate approached 60 percent.³⁸

As elsewhere in the world, two key aspects of women’s security—organized violence and current intimate partner violence—are closely related across Pakistan. Women in provinces with the highest rates of organized violence also face the highest rates of current intimate partner violence, underlining the amplified risks of violence at home for women living near conflict areas. Balochistan had the highest rates of both: organized violence was at 14 deaths per 100,000, and 35 percent of women had experienced intimate partner violence in the past year.

State performance varied greatly in the United States, with top-ranking Massachusetts scoring more than four times better than bottom-ranking Louisiana. We found clear regional patterns in performance, with all 6 states in the northeast scoring among the 10 best nationally, while all 5 of the worst performing states were in the southeast (figure 6). New Hampshire was the only state that scored in the top 40 percent of countries for all 12 indicators, while Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana scored in the bottom 40 percent across the board.

FIGURE 6 A spectrum of US index scores by state



Source: GIWPS 2020.

Glaring racial injustice in the United States

Major racial disparities affected the status of women in many US states—white women typically did best. Racial gaps were most marked for college degree attainment, representation in the state legislature, and maternal mortality. On average, 38 percent of white women had completed college, almost double the rate of Native American women, and in 26 states, no Hispanic women were represented in the state legislature. Large disparities also marked maternal mortality, with Black women experiencing higher mortality rates than white women in all states with data. In New Jersey, the maternal mortality rate among Black women, at 132 deaths per 100,000 live births, was almost four times the rate among white women.

Multidimensional indices help capture complex challenges

The new subnational indices illustrate the diverse challenges and needs facing women behind national borders. The indices also underscore the importance of multidimensional measures of women’s status and opportunities.

* * *

This year’s global rankings and novel WPS Index applications underline and illustrate the diverse obstacles and needs facing women around the world. The massive challenges created by the pandemic mean that intersectional analysis and policy making are more important than ever as communities and governments strive to build back better.

Notes

1. The 10 countries, in order of largest improvement, are: Israel, Central African Republic, Mali, Cameroon, Ukraine, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Benin, Kenya, and Rwanda.
2. Overall since 2017, 18 countries improved at least 10 ranks while 59 dropped at least 10 ranks. In some cases, changes in rank are not proportional to score changes. For example, Chad, Tunisia, and Sierra Leone lost more than 20 ranks, while their scores fell by less than 1 percent. Their lower ranking reflects stagnation in relative performance while other countries improved.
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STATISTICAL TABLE 1 Country performance and ranking on the Women's Peace and Security Index and indicators

WPS Index rank	Country and group	WPS Index score	INCLUSION					JUSTICE			SECURITY		
			Education (years)	Financial inclusion (%)	Employment (%)	Cellphone use ^a (%)	Parliamentary representation (%)	Absence of legal discrimination (aggregate score)	Son bias (male to female ratio at birth)	Discriminatory norms (%)	Intimate partner violence (%)	Perception of community safety ^a (%)	Organized violence (battle deaths per 100,000 people)
TOP QUINTILE													
1	Norway	.922	13.0	100.0	58.9	99.0	45.6	96.9	1.06	0	4	89.5	0.0
2	Finland	.909	12.9	99.6	52.7	100.0	46.0	97.5	1.05	1	8	80.9	0.0
3	Iceland	.907	12.6	92.4 ^b	64.2	99.6	39.7	100.0	1.05	0	3	72.6	0.0
4	Denmark	.903	13.1	100.0	54.0	100.0	39.7	100.0	1.06	2	3	79.1	0.0
5	Luxembourg	.899	12.0	98.2	54.9	99.4 ^c	31.7	100.0	1.05	2	4	85.6 ^c	0.0
6	Switzerland	.898	12.7	98.9	58.8	93.6	39.0	85.6	1.05	2	2	81.9	0.0
7	Sweden	.895	12.7	100.0	57.3	98.5	47.0	100.0	1.06	1	6	68.9	0.0
8	Austria	.891	12.2	98.4	51.7	97.5	40.6	96.9	1.06	7	4	84.9	0.0
9	United Kingdom	.888	13.2	96.1	56.3	94.2	30.6	97.5	1.05	2	4	77.3	0.0
10	Netherlands	.885	12.1	99.8	54.8	94.9	35.1	97.5	1.05	2	5	73.7	0.0
11	Germany	.880	13.9	99.2	53.7	95.3	31.9	97.5	1.06	3	3.0 ^d	72.4	0.0
12	Canada	.879	13.4	99.9	53.5	90.6	33.9	100.0	1.06	0	3	68.8	0.0
13	New Zealand	.873	12.7	99.3	62.7	90.6	48.3	97.5	1.06	3	4	50.3	0.0
14	Spain	.872	10.0	91.6	44.3	98.9	42.6	97.5	1.06	1	3	75.1	0.0
15	France	.870	11.2	91.3	48.3	92.2	37.7	100.0	1.05	2	5	70.5	0.0
15	Singapore	.870	11.3	96.3	61.3	96.8 ^c	29.5	82.5	1.07	2	2	96.9 ^c	0.0
15	Slovenia	.870	12.7	96.9	51.9	98.8	21.5	96.9	1.06	4	3	84.9	0.0
18	Portugal	.868	9.2	90.6	52.1	96.8	40.0	100.0	1.06	4	4	77.7	0.0
19	Ireland	.867	12.9	95.3	54.1	97.7	27.3	100.0	1.06	3	3	69.9	0.0
20	Estonia	.863	13.6	98.4	54.6	100.0	27.7	97.5	1.07	2	4	71.0	0.0
21	United States	.861	13.5	92.7	52.0	94.0	26.8	91.3	1.05	1	6	70.6	0.0
22	Belgium	.859	11.9	98.8	48.7	96.4	42.9	100.0	1.05	3	5	44.4	0.0
23	Latvia	.858	13.5	92.5	54.2	100.0	29.0	100.0	1.06	7	6	66.4	0.0
24	Australia	.856	12.8	99.2	55.2	89.3	37.9	96.9	1.06	1	3	49.8	0.0
24	United Arab Emirates	.856	11.9	76.4	50.6	100.0	50.0	82.5	1.05	18	17.9 ^e	98.5	0.0
26	Croatia	.848	11.1	82.7	44.3	98.1	31.1	93.8	1.06	6	4	81.1	0.0
27	Israel	.844	13.0	93.7	58.3	96.3	26.7	80.6	1.05	14	6	74.8	0.7
28	Italy	.842	10.2	91.6	38.0	98.2	35.3	97.5	1.06	1	4	64.2	0.0
29	Poland	.840	12.5	88.0	48.7	97.6	27.6	93.8	1.06	8	3	65.6	0.0
30	Lithuania	.833	13.3	81.0	55.2	100.0	27.7	93.8	1.06	6	5	56.0	0.0
31	Czech Republic	.830	12.6	78.6	53.2	99.8	20.6	93.8	1.06	8	4	69.2	0.0
32	Hong Kong, SAR China	.829	11.8	94.7	50.3	94.6	17.1 ^f	89.0	1.07	1	3	77.5	0.0 ^b
33	South Korea	.827	11.4	94.7	54.6	99.8	19.0	85.0	1.06	6	8	76.2	0.0
34	Serbia	.826	10.8	70.1	46.5	97.0	39.2	93.8	1.07	4	4	66.0	0.0
SECOND QUINTILE													
35	Japan	.823	13.1	98.1	52.5	90.6	14.4	81.9	1.06	5	4	70.9	0.0
36	Cyprus	.820	12.2	90.0	56.7	95.8	21.4	91.3	1.07	5	3	59.9	0.0
37	Malta	.815	11.6	97.0	46.2	98.2	13.4	88.8	1.06	11	4	70.9	0.0
38	Belarus	.814	12.2	81.3	56.1	90.1 ^c	34.7	75.6	1.06	11	6	63.9 ^c	0.0
39	Slovakia	.811	12.7	83.1	52.1	98.2	22.7	85.0	1.05	26	6	66.8	0.0
40	Georgia	.808	13.2	63.6	53.7	99.8	20.7	85.6	1.06	17	3	70.7	0.0
41	Bulgaria	.804	11.3	73.6	48.7	99.0	27.1	90.6	1.06	8	6	56.5	0.0
42	Montenegro	.803	10.9	67.6	40.8	98.9	24.7	88.1	1.07	6	4	77.8	0.0
43	Jamaica	.800	10.2	77.8	59.9	93.2	31.0	68.1	1.05	9	7	60.2	0.0
44	North Macedonia	.798	9.4	72.9	36.3	97.9	39.2	85.0	1.06	13	4	58.4	0.0

WPS Index rank	Country and group	WPS Index score	INCLUSION					JUSTICE			SECURITY		
			Education (years)	Financial inclusion (%)	Employment (%)	Cellphone use ^a (%)	Parliamentary representation (%)	Absence of legal discrimination (aggregate score)	Son bias (male to female ratio at birth)	Discriminatory norms (%)	Intimate partner violence (%)	Perception of community safety ^a (%)	Organized violence (battle deaths per 100,000 people)
45	Greece	.792	10.3	84.5	37.1	99.1	21.7	97.5	1.07	10	5	61.2	0.0
46	Hungary	.790	11.7	72.2	49.0	97.1	12.6	96.9	1.06	12	6	63.2	0.0
47	Costa Rica	.781	8.8	60.9	42.1	88.2 ^c	45.6	83.1	1.05	8	7	42.0 ^c	0.0
48	Uruguay	.776	9.2	60.6	48.6	95.8	26.2	88.8	1.05	4	4	39.7	0.0
49	Argentina	.774	11.1	50.8	45.1	96.5	42.0	76.3	1.04	10	4	39.9	0.0
49	Bolivia	.774	8.3	53.9	61.3	93.7	48.2	88.8	1.05	12	18	45.4	0.0
49	Ecuador	.774	8.7	42.6	52.7	96.8	39.4	89.4	1.05	7	8	40.5	0.0
52	Trinidad and Tobago	.771	11.1	73.6	46.8	92.1 ^g	32.4	75.0	1.04	9	8	45.0 ^g	0.0
53	Russian Federation	.770	11.9	76.1	54.3	96.8	16.1	73.1	1.06	7	6.0 ^d	49.2	0.0
54	Mongolia	.769	10.7	95.0	60.4	100.0	17.3	82.5	1.03	8	12	46.4	0.0
55	Romania	.765	11.9	53.6	46.7	90.7 ^c	18.5	90.6	1.06	6	7	52.5 ^c	0.0
56	Bosnia and Herzegovina	.764	8.9	54.7	30.8	98.2	24.6	85.0	1.06	5	3	60.2	0.0
56	Guyana	.764	8.9	59.3 ^b	35.7	92.3 ^b	35.7	86.9	1.05	13.8 ^b	10	51.0 ^b	0.0
58	Albania	.762	9.7	38.1	51.1	100.0	29.5	91.3	1.08	6	6	61.5	0.0
59	Kazakhstan	.761	12.2	60.3	60.3	100.0	24.5	69.4	1.06	16	6	44.1	0.0
60	Turkmenistan	.760	9.8 ^b	35.5	46.6	94.9 ^b	25.0	76.8 ^b	1.05	34	7.2 ^e	92.6 ^c	0.0
61	Philippines	.758	9.6	38.9	49.2	93.9	28.1	78.8	1.06	16	6	69.8	0.3
62	Chile	.757	10.5	71.3	45.3	94.4	23.2	80.0	1.04	6	6	38.2	0.0
63	Nicaragua	.756	7.2	24.8	52.2	73.4 ^c	48.4	86.3	1.05	15	6	55.2 ^c	0.0
64	Mauritius	.750	9.4	87.1	42.0	83.5	20.0	91.9	1.04	7	18.4 ^d	55.4	0.0
64	Moldova	.750	11.8	44.6	37.6	100.0	24.8	84.4	1.06	10	9	49.1	0.0
66	Rwanda	.748	3.9	45.0	88.2	46.7 ^c	55.7	80.6	1.03	6	23	79.0 ^c	0.1
66	South Africa	.748	10.0	70.0	38.0	99.8	45.3	88.1	1.03	19	13	32.8	0.0
66	Ukraine	.748	11.3	61.3	43.1	99.5	20.8	79.4	1.06	11	9	45.6	0.5
THIRD QUINTILE													
69	El Salvador	.747	6.5	24.4	41.2	96.0	33.3	88.8	1.05	8	6	58.4	0.0
69	Ghana	.747	6.6	53.7	70.2	98.6	14.6	75.0	1.05	7	10	56.5	0.0
71	Dominican Republic	.746	8.8	54.1	49.4	95.7	25.7	86.3	1.05	9	10	37.3	0.0
71	Venezuela	.746	10.6	70.0	39.7	92.0	22.2	85.0	1.05	6	8	27.4	0.0
73	Thailand	.744	8.2	79.8	62.3	100.0	13.9	78.1	1.06	22	9	50.3	0.1
74	Lao PDR	.741	4.9	31.9	81.0	99.8	27.5	88.1	1.05	24.1 ^b	8	46.7	0.0
74	Uzbekistan	.741	11.6	36.0	48.7	76.5 ^c	28.7	70.6	1.06	32	7.3 ^e	85.7 ^c	0.0
76	Tanzania	.739	5.8	42.2	83.3	99.6	36.7	81.3	1.03	15	24	67.1	0.0
77	Barbados	.737	11.0	70.4 ^b	54.3	92.2 ^b	29.4	76.9	1.04	6.3 ^b	27.0 ^d	52.6 ^b	0.0
77	Kosovo ^h	.737	8.1 ^b	43.7	13.4 ⁱ	100.0	36.7 ^j	92.0	1.08 ^k	9	5	65.8	2.9 ^b
77	Paraguay	.737	8.6	46.0	58.2	84.9 ^c	16.0	94.4	1.05	14	6	43.0 ^c	0.0
80	Brazil	.734	8.2	67.5	44.7	96.3	14.8	85.0	1.05	6	6	31.5	0.9
80	Fiji	.734	11.0	67.0 ^b	39.6	87.6 ^g	21.6	82.5	1.06	19.8 ^b	23	72.4 ^b	0.0
80	Suriname	.734	9.4	59.3 ^b	37.0	87.5 ^g	29.4	73.8	1.07	13.8 ^b	8	58.6 ^g	0.0
83	Panama	.733	11.2	42.3	50.2	76.7 ^c	22.5	79.4	1.05	10	8	43.4 ^c	0.0
83	Peru	.733	9.2	34.4	56.5	78.3 ^c	26.2	95.0	1.05	7	11	39.4 ^c	0.0
85	Armenia	.727	11.2	40.9	33.8	94.5 ^c	22.7	82.5	1.10	17	5	87.3 ^c	0.2
85	Tajikistan	.727	10.8	42.1	30.2	99.0	23.4	78.8	1.07	29	14	86.8	0.0
85	Zimbabwe	.727	8.1	51.7	76.5	95.9	34.57	86.9	1.02	7	18	35.5	0.0
88	Mexico	.725	8.8	33.3	42.9	92.9	48.4	88.8	1.05	14	10	32.0	9.7
89	China	.722	7.7	76.4	59.6	100.0	24.9	75.6	1.12	19	8	84.8	0.0
90	Colombia	.721	8.7	42.5	45.6	93.8	19.6	81.9	1.05	6	12	44.2	0.3
90	Kenya	.721	6.0	77.7	82.6	99.8	23.2	80.6	1.03	19	23	48.3	0.3

WPS Index rank	Country and group	WPS Index score	INCLUSION					JUSTICE			SECURITY		
			Education (years)	Financial inclusion (%)	Employment (%)	Cellphone use ^a (%)	Parliamentary representation (%)	Absence of legal discrimination (aggregate score)	Son bias (male to female ratio at birth)	Discriminatory norms (%)	Intimate partner violence (%)	Perception of community safety ^a (%)	Organized violence (battle deaths per 100,000 people)
92	Belize	.720	9.9	52.3	47.9	92.3 ^b	19.6	79.4	1.03	13.8 ^b	8	45.4 ^g	0.0
93	Cambodia	.719	4.2	21.5	77.0	99.3	19.8	75.0	1.05	15	9	59.8	0.0
93	Tonga	.719	11.3	67.0 ^b	41.9	94.3 ^b	7.4	58.8	1.05	19.8 ^b	17	72.4 ^b	0.0
95	Namibia	.714	7.3	80.7	56.7	99.6	35.6	86.3	1.01	17.3 ^b	16	32.0	0.0
95	Nepal	.714	4.3	41.6	73.7	81.8 ^c	33.6	80.6	1.07	18	11	52.1 ^c	0.0
97	Bahrain	.713	10.4	75.4	45.7	99.8	18.8	55.6	1.04	22	18.1 ^e	58.5 ^g	0.0
97	Kyrgyzstan	.713	11.2	38.9	42.4	100.0	17.1	76.9	1.06	28	13	61.5	0.0
97	Qatar	.713	11.3	61.6	58.6	93.4 ^g	9.8	29.4	1.05	20.7 ^b	18.0 ^e	89.0 ^g	0.0
100	Indonesia	.707	7.8	51.4	55.2	71.2 ^c	21.0	64.4	1.05	37	9	75.3 ^c	0.0
100	Timor-Leste	.707	3.8	48.6 ^b	70.9	79.8 ^b	38.5	83.1	1.05	24.1 ^b	28	59.6 ^b	0.0
102	Saudi Arabia	.703	9.8	58.2	20.1	99.6	19.9	80.0	1.03	26	18.0 ^e	72.3	0.0
FOURTH QUINTILE													
103	Malaysia	.702	10.3	82.5	53.8	83.5 ^c	14.6	50.0	1.06	20	13.1 ^e	49.1 ^c	0.0
104	Honduras	.698	6.4	41.0	44.3	71.8 ^c	21.1	75.0	1.05	11	7	53.9 ^c	0.0
105	Sri Lanka	.697	11.1	73.4	33.8	77.5 ^c	5.4	65.6	1.04	31.0 ^b	4	61.2 ^c	0.4
106	Turkey	.693	7.5	54.3	28.5	98.2	17.3	82.5	1.05	16	12	37.0	0.5
107	Viet Nam	.692	8.0	30.4	74.0	91.9 ^c	26.7	81.9	1.11	18	10	61.6 ^c	0.0
108	Cabo Verde	.690	6.0	44.2 ^b	51.3	76.4 ^b	26.4	86.3	1.03	22.3 ^b	11	51.0 ^b	0.0
109	Uganda	.685	4.9	52.7	71.7	99.8	34.9	73.1	1.03	21	26	42.9	0.0
110	Oman	.675	10.6	63.5	38.0	90.9 ^b	9.9	36.0	1.05	20.7 ^b	18.1 ^e	63.5 ^b	0.0
111	Mozambique	.673	2.7	32.9	81.5	62.2 ^c	42.4	82.5	1.02	19.1 ^b	16	47.7 ^c	2.5
112	Maldives	.671	7.0	66.3 ^b	38.7	94.6 ^c	4.6	73.8	1.07	26.1 ^b	6	45.5 ^c	0.0
113	Ethiopia	.668	1.7	29.1	71.8	98.1	37.3	76.9	1.04	14	27	43.2	1.4
114	Benin	.667	2.4	28.6	77.9	91.1	8.4	77.5	1.04	14	15	58.9	0.0
115	Guatemala	.664	6.6	42.1	38.2	57.6 ^c	19.4	70.6	1.05	13	7	46.5 ^c	0.0
116	Zambia	.661	6.3	40.3	73.0	99.4	16.8	81.3	1.03	16	28	39.7	0.0
117	Tunisia	.659	6.5	28.4	20.4	94.9	26.3	67.5	1.05	26	10	43.0	0.0
118	Botswana	.657	9.5	46.8	60.4	86.6 ^c	10.8	63.8	1.03	9	17	29.1 ^c	0.0
119	São Tomé and Príncipe	.656	5.8	44.2 ^b	39.9	76.4 ^b	23.6	86.3	1.03	22.3 ^b	18	48.0 ^g	0.0
120	Senegal	.655	1.9	38.4	36.9	76.6 ^c	43.0	66.9	1.04	22	12	39.4 ^c	0.0
120	Togo	.655	3.5	37.6	66.5	68.2 ^c	18.7	84.4	1.02	9	13	47.7 ^c	0.0
122	Côte d'Ivoire	.654	4.2	35.6	52.0	98.4	13.6	83.1	1.03	15	16	42.8	0.0
123	Kuwait	.653	8.0	73.5	48.5	99.8 ^c	1.5	28.8	1.05	47	18.1 ^e	84.1 ^c	0.0
124	Lesotho	.650	7.2	46.5	50.6	74.7 ^c	22.9	78.1	1.03	19	16	26.9 ^c	0.0
125	Iran	.649	10.3	91.6	14.8	91.2	5.6	31.3	1.05	38	18	66.1	0.2
126	Cameroon	.648	4.7	30.0	77.2	94.9	31.1	60.0	1.03	19	22	38.4	3.4
127	Jordan	.646	10.3	26.6	13.0	99.3	11.8	46.9	1.05	38	13	77.0	0.0
128	Malawi	.644	6.9	29.8	73.4	50.5 ^c	22.9	77.5	1.03	25	17	44.3 ^c	0.0
129	Bhutan	.642	3.3	27.7	64.9	67.1 ^b	15.3	71.9	1.04	31.0 ^b	9	61.7 ^g	0.0
130	Burundi	.635	2.6	6.7	91.8	33.5 ^g	38.9	73.1	1.03	19.1 ^b	22	62.6 ^g	1.0
130	Nigeria	.635	5.7	27.3	51.7	99.5	6.2	63.1	1.06	17	13	42.3	1.4
132	Azerbaijan	.630	10.2	27.7	59.6	90.6 ^c	18.2	78.8	1.12	31	5	84.7 ^c	25.1
132	Lebanon	.630	8.5	32.9	21.7	91.7	4.7	52.5	1.05	20	8.9 ^d	46.3	0.1
134	Myanmar	.629	5.0	26.0	43.9	96.6	15.0	58.8	1.03	33	11	59.6	0.6
135	Comoros	.628	4.0	17.9	39.0	70.1 ^c	16.7	65.0	1.05	22.4 ^b	8	61.9 ^c	0.0
136	Burkina Faso	.627	1.1	34.5	62.6	71.4 ^c	6.3	79.4	1.05	20	11	57.9 ^c	4.3
136	Egypt	.627	9.0	27.0	16.5	98.5	22.7	45.0	1.06	48	15	70.9	0.5

WPS Index rank	Country and group	WPS Index score	INCLUSION					JUSTICE			SECURITY		
			Education (years)	Financial inclusion (%)	Employment (%)	Cellphone use ^a (%)	Parliamentary representation (%)	Absence of legal discrimination (aggregate score)	Son bias (male to female ratio at birth)	Discriminatory norms (%)	Intimate partner violence (%)	Perception of community safety ^a (%)	Organized violence (battle deaths per 100,000 people)
BOTTOM QUINTILE													
138	Equatorial Guinea	.624	4.2	51.2 ^b	60.7	87.5 ^b	20.4	51.9	1.03	17.3 ^b	29	48.0 ^g	0.0
138	Morocco	.624	4.7	16.8	20.0	98.4	18.5	75.6	1.06	31	10	49.2	0.0
140	Gabon	.623	7.8	53.7	38.4	87.1 ^c	16.7	57.5	1.03	11	22	25.3 ^c	0.0
141	Algeria	.616	7.7	29.3	14.5	84.1 ^c	21.2	57.5	1.05	45	9.4 ^d	42.4 ^c	0.1
142	Haiti	.611	4.3	30.0	61.8	73.6 ^g	2.5 ^b	63.8	1.05	22	12	38.9 ^g	0.6
143	Mali	.610	2.3	25.7	58.3	64.8 ^c	27.3	60.6	1.05	30	18	51.5 ^c	6.7
144	Angola	.609	4.0	22.3	79.7	44.7 ^g	29.6	73.1	1.03	22.3 ^b	25	39.8 ^g	0.1
145	Papua New Guinea	.604	4.0	68.2 ^b	50.0	79.8 ^b	0.0	60.0	1.08	24.1 ^b	31	77.3 ^g	0.1
146	Eswatini	.602	6.3	27.4	45.9	89.8 ^c	18.5	46.3	1.03	22.3 ^b	18	34.6 ^c	0.0
146	Guinea	.602	1.5	19.7	66.4	70.5 ^c	16.7	76.3	1.02	11	21	50.4 ^c	0.1
148	Gambia	.597	3.3	27.7 ^b	50.3	75.3 ^c	8.6	74.4	1.03	19.1 ^b	10	31.6 ^c	0.0
148	India	.597	5.4	76.6	21.5	57.9	13.4	74.4	1.10	25	18	55.9	0.1
150	Libya	.596	8.5	59.6	30.6	100.0 ^c	16.0	50.0	1.06	52	18.3 ^e	50.4 ^c	15.9
151	Djibouti	.595	5.4 ^b	8.8	48.0	41.2 ^g	26.2	68.1	1.04	22.3 ^b	26.9 ^e	69.3 ^g	0.2
152	Bangladesh	.594	6.0	35.8	35.2	85.9	20.9	49.4	1.05	57	23	51.4	0.0
152	Liberia	.594	3.5	28.2	75.1	52.8 ^c	8.7	83.8	1.05	12	27	30.6 ^c	0.0
152	Niger	.594	1.4	10.9	66.3	43.6 ^c	25.9	59.4	1.05	33	13	58.4 ^c	1.9
155	Congo	.582	6.1	21.0	68.9	74.0 ^c	13.6	49.4	1.03	8	33.8 ^e	40.3 ^c	0.0
156	Madagascar	.578	6.4	16.3	84.7	38.7 ^c	17.2	74.4	1.03	16	35.0 ^d	38.7 ^c	0.0
157	Central African Rep.	.577	3.0	9.7	68.2	70.6 ^b	8.6	76.9	1.03	11	21	49.4 ^g	9.2
157	Mauritania	.577	3.8	15.5	30.6	72.6 ^c	20.3	48.1	1.05	21	19.7 ^e	45.5 ^c	0.0
159	Somalia	.572	4.3 ^b	33.7	23.1	63.5 ^g	24.3	47.0	1.03	28	21.2 ^d	85.9 ^g	14.8
160	Palestine ^h	.571	9.4	16.0	13.2	83.5 ^c	21.2 ^l	26.3	1.05	49	19	63.7 ^c	4.3 ^b
161	Sierra Leone	.563	2.9	15.4	66.7	45.2 ^c	12.3	69.4	1.02	12	20	45.8 ^c	0.0
162	Sudan	.556	3.3	10.0	24.7	68.1 ^g	22.1 ^b	29.4	1.04	19.1 ^b	17	64.3 ^g	1.2
163	Chad	.547	1.3	14.9	65.5	36.8 ^c	15.4	66.3	1.03	20	16	42.2 ^c	1.2
163	DR Congo	.547	5.3	24.2	68.0	43.2 ^g	14.3	78.8	1.03	25	36	37.0 ^g	3.6
165	South Sudan	.541	3.9	4.7	63.3	27.0 ^g	26.6	70.0	1.04	25	27	42.6 ^g	7.6
166	Iraq	.516	6.0	19.5	10.2	100.0	26.4	45.0	1.07	53	45.3 ^d	57.6	2.7
167	Pakistan	.476	3.9	7.0	21.1	52.3	20.0	55.6	1.09	73	16	65.4	0.2
168	Yemen	.388	2.9	1.7	5.2	53.5 ^c	1.0	26.9	1.05	53	18.2 ^e	44.0 ^c	10.9
169	Syria	.375	4.6	19.6	13.5	72.9 ^b	11.2	36.9	1.05	26.3 ^b	23.0 ^d	16.9 ^g	75.1
170	Afghanistan	.278	1.9	7.2	19.2	42.7 ^c	27.2	38.1	1.06	51	35	9.8 ^c	68.6

COUNTRY GROUPS AND REGIONS													
Developed Countries	.867	12.6	94.9	51.4	94.4	33.2	92.9	1.05	2	4.8	71.0	0.01	
Central & Eastern Europe & Central Asia	.768	11.2	65.7	47.3	96.1	23.3	80.2	1.06	12.6	7.1	55.0	0.65	
East Asia & the Pacific	.730	7.6	66.3	59.1	94.2	20.7	73.2	1.09	20.8	8.2	78.1	0.04	
Latin America & the Caribbean	.741	8.8	50.9	45.6	90.1	32.8	83.1	1.05	8.7	7.9	35.4	2.27	
Middle East & North Africa	.604	7.5	28.6	17.5	91.8	17.5	51.9	1.05	39	17.6	57.6	5.23	
South Asia	.592	5.6	64.8	23.3	61.7	17.6	67.4	1.09	33.6	18.2	56.2	1.45	
Sub-Saharan Africa	.658	4.8	34.6	63.2	80.8	24.9	71.7	1.04	17.9	20.3	46.0	1.50	
Fragile States	.598	4.9	25.7	47.8	76.2	18.8	60.9	1.05	25.6	19.7	44.9	7.49	
World	.721	8.1	63.6	46.5	84.7	25.5	74.5	1.07	20	11.7	61.9	1.07	

Country and group	WPS Index score	INCLUSION					JUSTICE			SECURITY		
		Education (years)	Financial inclusion (%)	Employment (%)	Cellphone use ^a (%)	Parliamentary representation (%)	Absence of legal discrimination (aggregate score)	Son bias (male to female ratio at birth)	Discriminatory norms (%)	Intimate partner violence (%)	Perception of community safety ^a (%)	Organized violence (battle deaths per 100,000 people)
OTHER COUNTRIES AND ECONOMIES NOT IN THE INDEX												
Andorra	..	10.5	..	..	..	46.4	..	..	..	..	..	0.0
Antigua and Barbuda	31.4	66.3	1.03	..	..	..	0.0
Bahamas	..	11.7	..	63.3	..	21.8	81.0	1.06	..	..	..	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	..	9.1	..	56.8	..	9.1	53.0	1.06	..	..	..	0.0
Cuba	..	11.2	..	38.5	..	53.4	..	1.06	..	5	..	0.0
Dominica	34.4	62.5	..	..	..	..	0.0
Eritrea	65.8	..	..	69.0	1.05	..	..	..	0.5
Federated States of Micronesia	0.0	63.8	1.06	..	21	..	0.0
Grenada	32.1	80.6	1.05	..	8	..	0.0
Guinea-Bissau	68.5	..	13.7	43.0	1.03	..	..	..	0.0
Kiribati	6.7	78.8	1.06	..	25	..	0.0
Liechtenstein	12.0	..	..	..	..	..	0.0
Marshall Islands	..	10.7	..	..	..	6.1	68.1	..	..	19	..	0.0
Monaco	33.3	..	..	..	..	..	0.0
Nauru	10.5	..	..	..	20	..	0.0
North Korea	70.1	..	17.6	..	1.05	..	..	..	0.0
Palau	6.9	58.8	..	..	14	..	0.0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25.0	71.3	..	..	..	..	0.0
Saint Lucia	..	8.8	..	57.0	..	20.7	83.8	1.03	..	..	..	0.0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	..	8.9	..	49.8	..	18.2	68.1	1.03	..	..	..	0.0
Samoa	30.7	..	10.0	80.0	1.08	..	18	..	0.0
San Marino	33.3	80.0	..	..	..	..	0.0
Seychelles	..	9.9	..	..	..	22.9	76.0	1.06	..	..	..	0.0
Solomon Islands	86.5	..	8.0	56.9	1.06	..	28	..	0.0
Taiwan Province of China	51.6	97.7	..	91.0	..	2	..	85.0	0.0
Tuvalu	6.3	..	..	..	20	..	0.0
Vanuatu	63.5	..	0.0	58.0	1.06	..	29	..	0.0

Notes to table

- .. Not available or not applicable.
- a. Data come from the most recent Gallup World Poll (2017, 2018, or 2019) available for the country.
- b. Imputed cross-group average (region, fragile states, income level).
- c. Based on the 2019 release of the Gallup World Poll.
- d. Data are from the UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women (<http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>). Based on DHS data.
- e. Modeled estimates by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (<http://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/ihme-data/global-sustainable-development-goals-sdg-intimate-partner-violence-indicator-1990-2019>).
- f. In the 2016 election, women occupied 12 seats out of 70 (17.1 percent) in the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, SAR China (Research Office Legislative Council Secretariat 2018).
- g. Based on the 2018 release of the Gallup World Poll.
- h. This designation is without prejudice to positions on status.
- i. From the 2019 Labour Force Survey.
- j. Kosovo had elections in February 2021. Women hold 44 of the 120 seats in the national parliament.
- k. Sex ratio at birth is taken from CIA World Factbook.
- l. This number represents the female share of seats in deliberative bodies of the local councils of West Bank (Sustainable Development Goal 5.5.1) and refers to 2018.

Main data sources

WPS Index value: Calculated by the authors based on the methodology outlined in appendix 1.

WPS Index rank: Based on WPS Index value.

Education: 2020 Human Development Report database (<http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/data>) updated with MYS from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (<https://uis.unesco.org>). March 2021 release. 2019 or most recent year. Accessed May 2021.

Financial inclusion: World Bank Global Findex Database, 2017 or most recent year. (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-findex>). Accessed May 2021.

Employment: Authors' modeled estimates of employment to population ratio for women ages 25 and older for 2020, based on data available from ILO (<https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer23>). Accessed May 2021.

Cellphone use: Gallup World Poll, 2020 or most recent year available (http://www.gallup.com/topic/world_region_worldwide.aspx). Accessed May 2021.

Parliamentary representation: Inter-Parliamentary Union 2021 (<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>). Accessed May 2021.

Absence of legal discrimination: World Bank, Women, Business, and the Law database (<http://wbl.worldbank.org>). Accessed May 2021.

Sex bias: UNDESA 2019 (<https://population.un.org/wpp>). Accessed May 2021. Data refer to 2020. The official name of the indicator is "sex-ratio at birth."

Discriminatory norms: Gallup Inc. and ILO 2017. Accessed May 2021.

Intimate partner violence: WHO 2021c. (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>). Accessed May 2021.

Perception of community safety: Gallup World Poll, 2020 or most recent year available. (http://www.gallup.com/topic/world_region_worldwide.aspx). Accessed May 2021.

Organized violence: UCDP n.d. c. Data refer to 2020. (<http://ucdp.uu.se>). Accessed May 2021.

Web resources

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security website provides access to all of the data used to construct the WPS Index and offers tools to allow interactive explorations of the index, both thematically and at the country and regional levels. It also provides details on methods and answers to frequently asked questions.

For each of the 170 countries in this edition of the WPS Index, users can see each country's national index score, compare it with other countries in the region, and explore performance on each of the component indicators of the index. Thematic tools highlight performance across all the dimensions and indicators in the index. A heat map displays data for 170 countries.

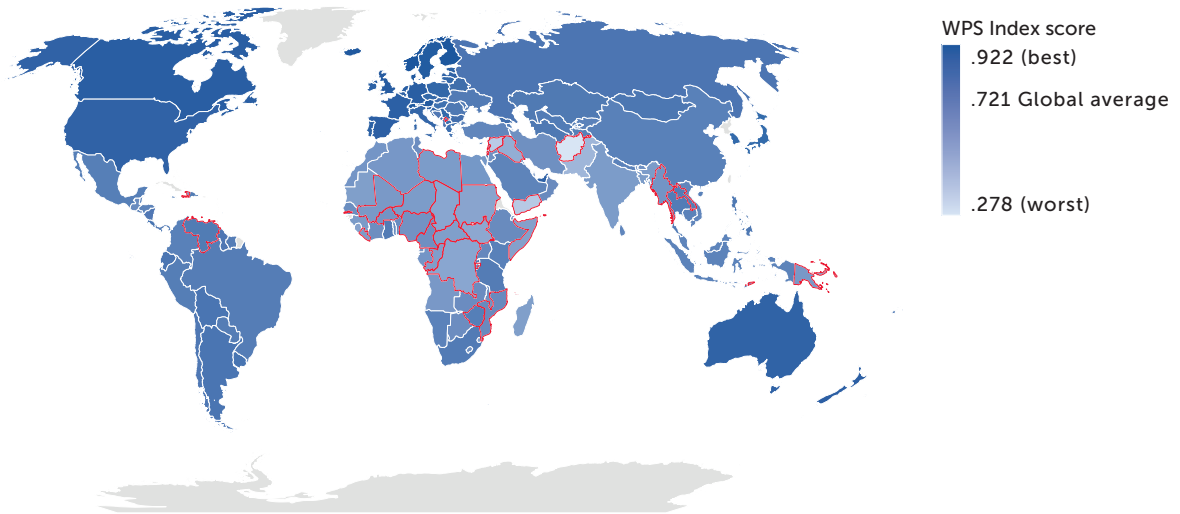
The electronic version of the report, downloadable by chapter, and the report summary are available on the website, free of charge.



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Alphabetical key to countries and ranks on the 2021 WPS Index

COUNTRY	INDEX	RANK	COUNTRY	INDEX	RANK	COUNTRY	INDEX	RANK
Afghanistan	.278	170	Germany	.880	11	Norway	.922	1
Albania	.762	58	Ghana	.747	69	Oman	.675	110
Algeria	.616	141	Greece	.792	45	Pakistan	.476	167
Angola	.609	144	Guatemala	.664	115	Palestine	.571	160
Argentina	.774	49	Guinea	.602	146	Panama	.733	83
Armenia	.727	85	Guyana	.764	56	Papua New Guinea	.604	145
Australia	.856	24	Haiti	.611	142	Paraguay	.737	77
Austria	.891	8	Honduras	.698	104	Peru	.733	83
Azerbaijan	.630	132	Hong Kong, SAR China	.829	32	Philippines	.758	61
Bahrain	.713	97	Hungary	.790	46	Poland	.840	29
Bangladesh	.594	152	Iceland	.907	3	Portugal	.868	18
Barbados	.737	77	India	.597	148	Qatar	.713	97
Belarus	.814	38	Indonesia	.707	100	Romania	.765	55
Belgium	.859	22	Iran	.649	125	Russian Federation	.770	53
Belize	.720	92	Iraq	.516	166	Rwanda	.748	66
Benin	.667	114	Ireland	.867	19	São Tomé and Príncipe	.656	119
Bhutan	.642	129	Israel	.844	27	Saudi Arabia	.703	102
Bolivia	.774	49	Italy	.842	28	Senegal	.655	120
Bosnia and Herzegovina	.764	56	Jamaica	.800	43	Serbia	.826	34
Botswana	.657	118	Japan	.823	35	Sierra Leone	.563	161
Brazil	.734	80	Jordan	.646	127	Singapore	.870	15
Bulgaria	.804	41	Kazakhstan	.761	59	Slovakia	.811	39
Burkina Faso	.627	136	Kenya	.721	90	Slovenia	.870	15
Burundi	.635	130	Kosovo	.737	77	Somalia	.572	159
Cabo Verde	.690	108	Kuwait	.653	123	South Africa	.748	66
Cambodia	.719	93	Kyrgyzstan	.713	97	South Korea	.827	33
Cameroon	.648	126	Lao PDR	.741	74	South Sudan	.541	165
Canada	.879	12	Latvia	.858	23	Spain	.872	14
Central African Rep.	.577	157	Lebanon	.630	132	Sri Lanka	.697	105
Chad	.547	163	Lesotho	.650	124	Sudan	.556	162
Chile	.757	62	Liberia	.594	152	Suriname	.734	80
China	.722	89	Libya	.596	150	Sweden	.895	7
Colombia	.721	90	Lithuania	.833	30	Switzerland	.898	6
Comoros	.628	135	Luxembourg	.899	5	Syria	.375	169
Congo	.582	155	Madagascar	.578	156	Tajikistan	.727	85
Costa Rica	.781	47	Malawi	.644	128	Tanzania	.739	76
Côte d'Ivoire	.654	122	Malaysia	.702	103	Thailand	.744	73
Croatia	.848	26	Maldives	.671	112	Timor-Leste	.707	100
Cyprus	.820	36	Mali	.610	143	Togo	.655	120
Czech Republic	.830	31	Malta	.815	37	Tonga	.719	93
Denmark	.903	4	Mauritania	.577	157	Trinidad and Tobago	.771	52
Djibouti	.595	151	Mauritius	.750	64	Tunisia	.659	117
Dominican Republic	.746	71	Mexico	.725	88	Turkey	.693	106
DR Congo	.547	163	Moldova	.750	64	Turkmenistan	.760	60
Ecuador	.774	49	Mongolia	.769	54	Uganda	.685	109
Egypt	.627	136	Montenegro	.803	42	Ukraine	.748	66
El Salvador	.747	69	Morocco	.624	138	United Arab Emirates	.856	24
Equatorial Guinea	.624	138	Mozambique	.673	111	United Kingdom	.888	9
Estonia	.863	20	Myanmar	.629	134	United States	.861	21
Eswatini	.602	146	Namibia	.714	95	Uruguay	.776	48
Ethiopia	.668	113	Nepal	.714	95	Uzbekistan	.741	74
Fiji	.734	80	Netherlands	.885	10	Venezuela	.746	71
Finland	.909	2	New Zealand	.873	13	Viet Nam	.692	107
France	.870	15	Nicaragua	.756	63	Yemen	.388	168
Gabon	.623	140	Niger	.594	152	Zambia	.661	116
Gambia	.597	148	Nigeria	.635	130	Zimbabwe	.727	85
Georgia	.808	40	North Macedonia	.798	44			