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

Inclusion

Justice

Security

SUMMARY

Women Peace and Security Index
2023/24

Countries and index scores by rank, 2023/24 WPS Index

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
1	Denmark	.932	60	Sri Lanka	.743	121	Philippines	.612
2	Switzerland	.928	61	Kuwait	.742	122	Honduras	.610
3	Sweden	.926	63	Cyprus	.739	122	Libya	.610
4	Finland	.924	64	Cabo Verde	.738	122	Namibia	.610
4	Iceland	.924	64	Fiji	.738	125	Lesotho	.605
4	Luxembourg	.924	64	Malaysia	.738	126	Zimbabwe	.604
7	Norway	.920	67	Saudi Arabia	.737	127	Angola	.598
8	Austria	.911	68	Chile	.736	128	India	.595
9	Netherlands	.908	69	Belarus	.733	128	Lebanon	.595
10	New Zealand	.904	70	Kazakhstan	.729	128	Togo	.595
11	Australia	.902	71	Trinidad and Tobago	.721	131	Bangladesh	.593
11	Belgium	.902	72	Maldives	.720	131	Gabon	.593
13	Estonia	.892	73	Nicaragua	.717	132	Colombia	.582
13	Ireland	.892	73	Peru	.717	134	Mozambique	.580
15	Singapore	.887	75	Oman	.715	135	Gambia	.575
16	Lithuania	.886	76	Samoa	.711	136	Côte d'Ivoire	.573
17	Canada	.885	77	Jamaica	.710	137	Guatemala	.569
18	Czechia	.884	78	Viet Nam	.707	138	Benin	.566
19	Portugal	.877	79	Lao PDR	.704	138	El Salvador	.566
20	Latvia	.872	80	Israel	.703	140	Iran	.557
21	Germany	.871	80	Qatar	.703	141	Zambia	.556
22	United Arab Emirates	.868	82	Bhutan	.700	142	Mexico	.551
23	Japan	.866	82	China	.700	143	Uganda	.544
24	France	.864	82	Indonesia	.700	144	Sierra Leone	.543
25	Croatia	.862	85	Tonga	.697	145	Guinea	.539
26	United Kingdom	.860	86	Bolivia	.696	146	Ethiopia	.521
27	Poland	.859	87	Suriname	.694	146	Malawi	.521
27	Spain	.859	88	Puerto Rico	.692	148	Comoros	.519
29	Slovakia	.856	89	Paraguay	.691	149	Kenya	.511
30	South Korea	.848	90	Tajikistan	.690	150	Congo	.507
31	Malta	.846	91	South Africa	.688	151	Mauritania	.506
32	Hungary	.835	92	Jordan	.679	152	Madagascar	.505
32	Serbia	.835	93	Mauritius	.678	153	Djibouti	.504
34	Italy	.827	94	Uzbekistan	.674	154	Liberia	.500
35	Bulgaria	.826	95	Kyrgyzstan	.673	155	Papua New Guinea	.487
36	Slovenia	.824	96	Tunisia	.669	156	Guinea-Bissau	.483
37	United States	.823	97	Azerbaijan	.667	156	Palestine	.483
38	Taiwan	.818	98	Dominican Republic	.666	158	Burkina Faso	.481
39	Georgia	.812	99	Türkiye	.665	158	Mali	.481
39	Hong Kong	.812	100	Kosovo	.664	158	Pakistan	.481
41	Montenegro	.808	100	Solomon Islands	.664	161	Cameroon	.466
42	Romania	.800	100	Timor-Leste	.664	162	Nigeria	.465
43	Seychelles	.799	103	Rwanda	.663	163	Chad	.462
44	North Macedonia	.798	104	Botswana	.659	164	Sudan	.460
45	Albania	.796	105	Belize	.657	165	Myanmar	.451
46	Mongolia	.794	106	Ecuador	.655	166	Niger	.442
47	Barbados	.779	107	Tanzania	.652	167	Haiti	.431
48	Armenia	.772	108	Ghana	.651	168	Iraq	.424
49	Guyana	.769	109	Sao Tome and Principe	.648	169	Somalia	.417
50	Argentina	.768	110	Cambodia	.645	170	Eswatini	.415
51	Greece	.766	110	Egypt	.645	171	Syrian Arab Republic	.407
52	Thailand	.764	112	Nepal	.644	172	Burundi	.394
53	Moldova	.758	112	Vanuatu	.644	173	South Sudan	.388
54	Panama	.757	114	Morocco	.637	174	Democratic Republic of the Congo	.384
55	Bosnia and Herzegovina	.754	115	Brazil	.630	175	Central African Republic	.378
56	Bahrain	.752	116	Venezuela	.628	176	Yemen	.287
56	Russian Federation	.752	117	Ukraine	.626	177	Afghanistan	.286
58	Turkmenistan	.750	118	Algeria	.622			
59	Uruguay	.748	119	Equatorial Guinea	.619			
60	Costa Rica	.743	119	Senegal	.619			

Possible scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 1.
Please see the inside back cover for an alphabetical list of countries and ranks.

Foreword

This fourth edition of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index ranks and scores 177 countries on women's status. Our results show that countries where women are doing well are also more peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and better prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In fact, these impacts are more strongly correlated with women's status than they are with GDP.

Bridging insights from gender and development with those from peace and security, the WPS Index distills performance across 13 indicators into a single comparable measure across countries. It stands alone in considering diverse pillars of women's status—ranging from economic participation, to health, to risks of violence. For example, it brings together education and perceptions of safety, parliamentary representation and maternal mortality, and legal protection and proximity to armed conflict.

With its scores, rankings, and robust data, the WPS Index offers a valuable tool for people working on issues of women, peace, and security. Policymakers can use it to pinpoint where resources are needed. Academics can use it to study trends within indicators and across regions. Journalists can use it to give context and perspective to their stories. And activists can use it to hold governments accountable for their promises on advancing the status of women.

The world today is grappling with the climate emergency, the rise of authoritarian and antidemocratic forces, large-scale forced displacement, devastating armed conflicts, and the multiple consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. These compounding and multilayered crises undermine the status of women and threaten to roll back decades of progress. The WPS Index reinforces prioritizing investment in women as essential to protecting the security and well-being of everyone in society.

The well-being of women and the well-being of nations go hand in hand. We hope that the WPS Index will advance a shared global agenda for women's inclusion, justice, and security.

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Suggested citation: Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Peace Research Institute Oslo. 2023. *Women, Peace, and Security Index 2023/24: Tracking sustainable peace through inclusion, justice, and security for women. Summary.* Washington, DC: GIWPS and PRIO.

Editing and production: Communications Development Inc., Washington, DC
Cover design: Debra Naylor, Naylor Design Inc.

Overview

The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index 2023/24, the fourth since the inaugural 2017/18 index, ranks 177 countries and economies on women's status (see box 1). As the only index to bring together indicators of women's inclusion, justice, and security, the WPS Index is a valuable measure of women's status that can be used to track trends, guide policymaking, and hold governments accountable for their promises to advance women's rights and opportunities.

The WPS Index reveals glaring disparities around the world. All countries on the index have room for improvement, and many perform considerably better or worse on some indicators of women's status than on others. These cases underline the importance of measuring women's status in its many dimensions. Societies where women are doing well are also more peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and better prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change, according to correlations between our WPS Index and other global indices. The outcomes on these global indices are more strongly correlated with women's status than they are with national income, underlining the importance of investing in women.

The structure of the 2023/24 WPS Index has been updated. Four indicators are new or different in this edition: access to justice, maternal mortality, political violence targeting women (PVTW), and proximity to conflict. The index structure, as well as these changes, are described in box 1.

Global rankings and major patterns

The range of scores on the WPS Index is vast, with Denmark at the top scoring more than three times higher than Afghanistan at the bottom (figure 1). All of the top dozen countries are in the Developed Country group, and notably, all five Nordic countries rank among the top seven. All countries in the top quintile are in the Developed Countries group or the Central and Eastern Europe and Central

BOX 1 The structure of the WPS Index

The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index captures 13 indicators of women's status classified under three dimensions: inclusion (economic, social, political); justice (formal and informal discrimination); and security (at the individual, community, and societal levels) (see figure). It combines performance across indicators and dimensions to generate a country's score, between 0 and 1, and establish its ranking.[1] The data come from recent and highly reputable sources—UN agencies, the World Bank, the Gallup World Poll, and more. Table 1.1 in chapter 1 and statistical table 1 at the end of the full report provide detailed definitions and source information. While all indicators represent the most recent values available, data collection cannot keep pace with evolving global events, so the impacts of current crises and conflicts may not be consistently accounted for across our data.

Four indicators are new or different in this edition. In the justice dimension, these include access to justice (a measure of women's ability to exercise their rights in practice, which replaces our former indicator of discriminatory gender norms) and maternal mortality. In the security dimension, these include political violence targeting women (capturing the number of events per 100,000 women) and proximity to conflict (estimating the share of women who live within 50 kilometers of armed conflict, which replaces our former indicator of organized violence, which estimated the number of battle-related deaths per 100,000 people).

Some of these changes were made because previous indicators are no longer being updated, while others respond to the emergence of better indicators since 2017, when the WPS Index was initially designed.

The WPS Index captures 13 indicators of women's status classified under three dimensions
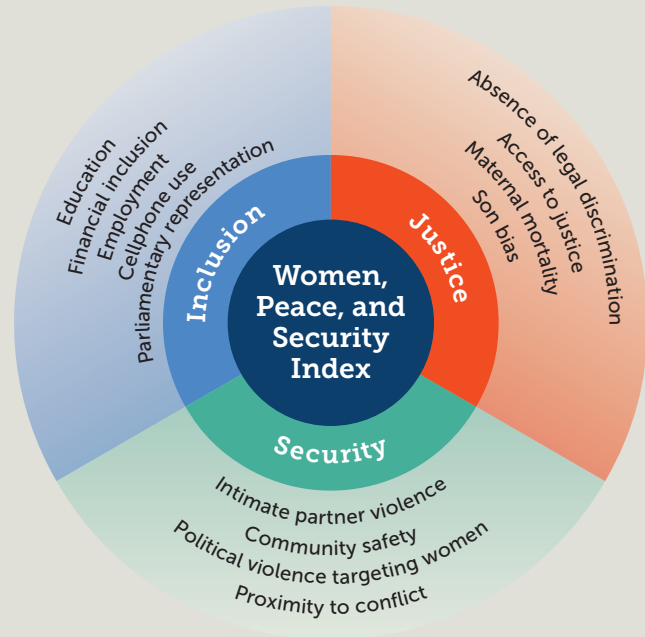
Note: See table 1.1 for indicator definitions and statistical table 1 for main data sources.
Source: Authors.

The 2023/24 WPS Index also ranks seven new countries and economies: Guinea-Bissau, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, and Vanuatu.

Note
1. See appendix 1 in the full report for discussion of the methodology.

Asia region except for the United Arab Emirates, in the Middle East and North Africa region, which ranks 22nd. At the other end of the rankings, 11 of the bottom dozen countries—all except Eswatini—are classified as Fragile States, and 7 are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen have been among the bottom dozen countries since the inaugural 2017/18 WPS Index.

Of all country groups and regions, the Fragile States group performs worst (figure 2). On average in these countries, 1 woman in 5 has experienced recent intimate partner violence, 6 women in 10 live in proximity to conflict, and maternal deaths stand at approximately 540 per 100,000 live births, more than double the global average of 212. Sub-Saharan Africa performs only slightly better overall than the Fragile States group. The Middle East and North Africa region performs third-worst overall but has the widest range of performance, with the United Arab Emirates ranking 22nd and Yemen 176th. The Developed Countries group does best, performing considerably better than the global average on all 13 indicators.

FIGURE 1 The dozen best and worst performers on the WPS Index

Best performers

Country	Score
Denmark	.932
Switzerland	.928
Sweden	.926
Finland	.924
Iceland	.924
Luxembourg	.924
Norway	.920
Austria	.911
Netherlands	.908
New Zealand	.904
Australia	.902
Belgium	.902

Worst performers

Country	Score
Afghanistan	.286
Yemen	.287
Central African Rep.	.378
Congo, Dem. Rep.	.384
South Sudan	.388
Burundi	.394
Syria	.407
Eswatini	.415
Somalia	.417
Iraq	.424
Haiti	.431
Niger	.442
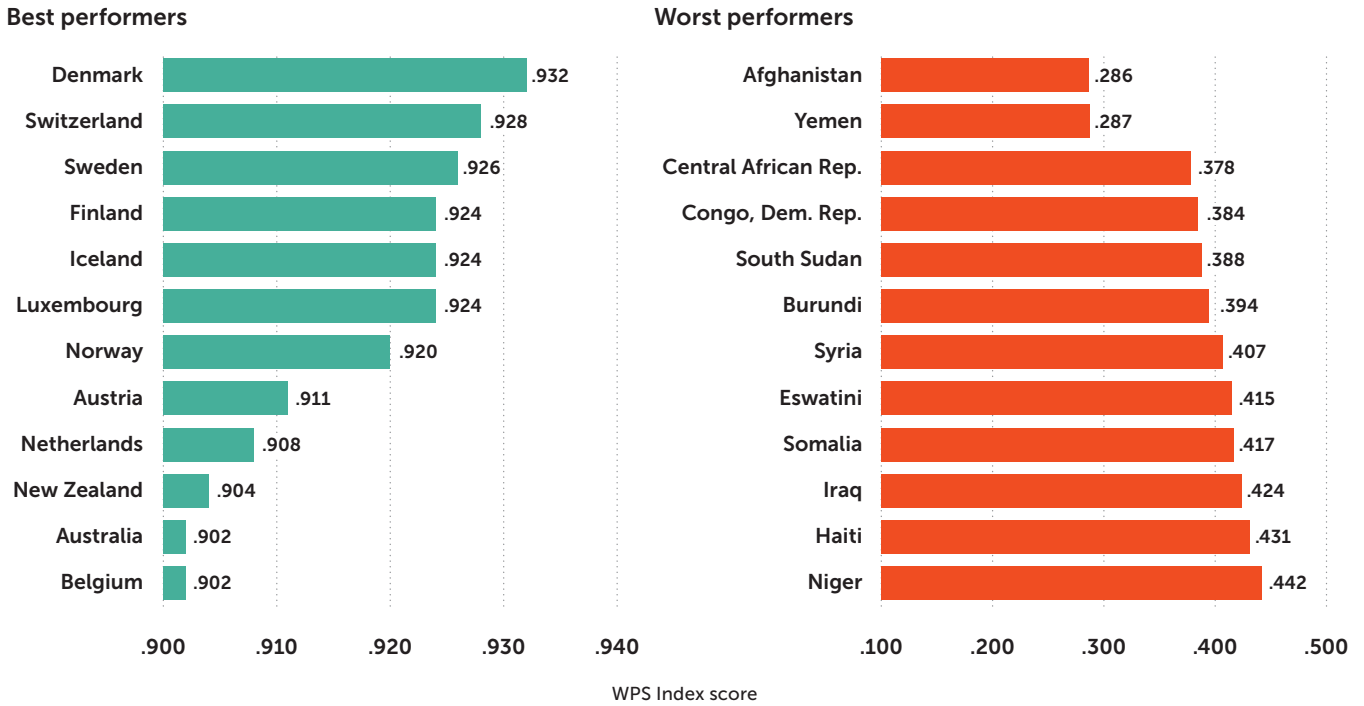
WPS Index score

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.

FIGURE 2 A wide range of performance on the WPS Index across and within country groups and regions
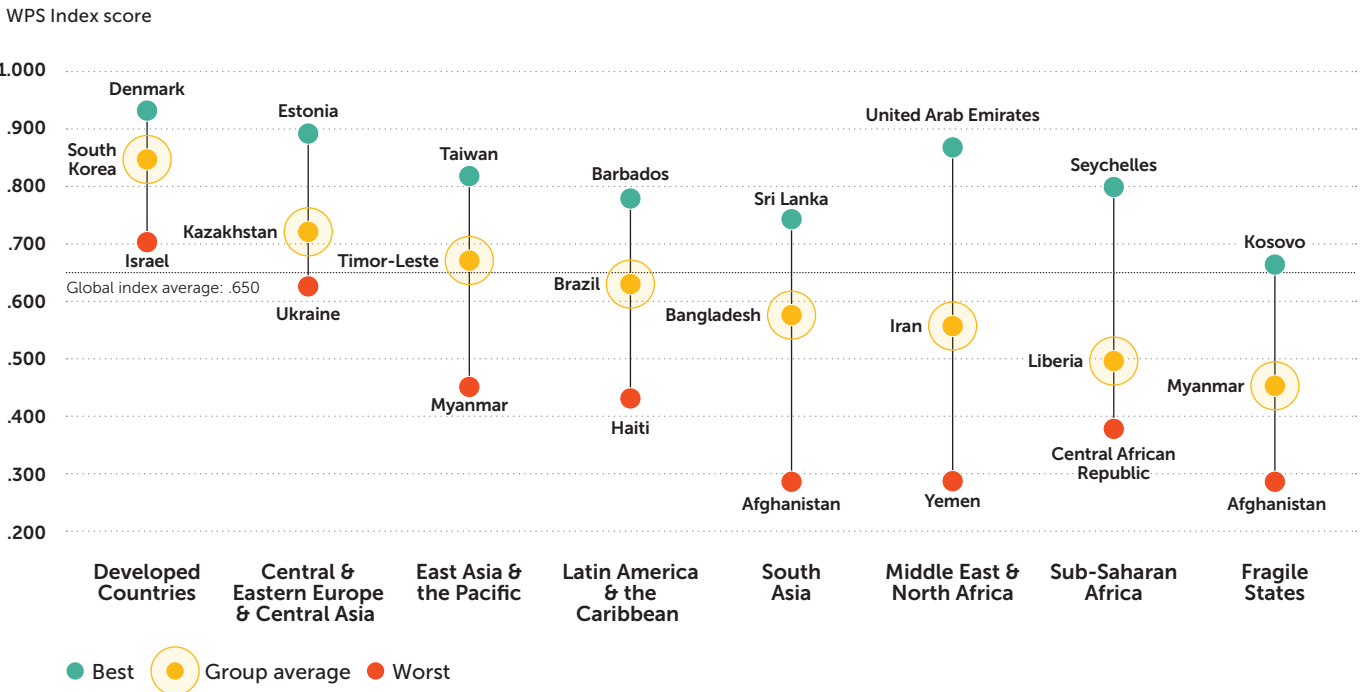
WPS Index score

Note: Possible index scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 1. The countries near the yellow dots have a WPS Index score that is closest to the average for the country group or region. See statistical table 1 for data sources and scores and appendix 2 in the full report for countries in each group and region. Countries in the Fragile States group are also included in their regional group.
Source: Authors' estimates.

Mixed performance across dimensions

A country's overall WPS Index score is determined by averaging its scores on the inclusion, justice, and security dimensions. Unpacking scores on each dimension reveals that some countries perform relatively better or worse on certain dimensions (figure 3). Viet Nam has the greatest variation across the three dimensions, ranking relatively well (24th) on security due to strong perceptions of community safety but falling to 154th on justice due to high levels of son bias and maternal mortality.

Wide disparities in indicators of women's inclusion

Within the inclusion dimension, disparities are especially stark for women's employment and financial inclusion. Although women's employment—both formal and informal—averages 53 percent globally, it ranges from 90 percent in Madagascar, Solomon Islands, and Burundi to just 6 percent in Yemen. Of the top 10 countries on this indicator, 5 are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

On women's financial inclusion, rates exceed 95 percent in 30 countries but plunge to 10 percent or lower in 8 countries. In Afghanistan and South Sudan, fewer than 5 percent of women have access to their own bank account. Globally, women's financial inclusion is on the rise, expanding from 56 percent in 2014 to 71 percent as of the most recent data for 2021.[1] Over the same period, 50 countries have seen increases of at least 10 percentage points in financial inclusion, led by

Rates of women's financial inclusion exceed 95 percent in 30 countries but plunge to 10 percent or lower in 8 countries

FIGURE 3 Countries with the most variation in rank across dimensions of the WPS Index
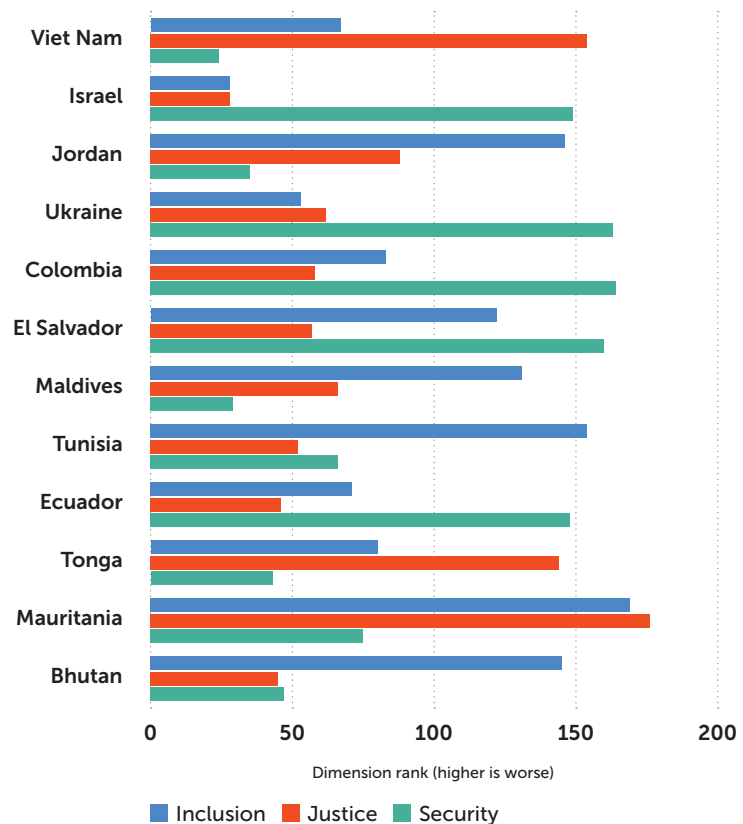
Note: Ranks range from 1 to 177, and higher is worse. Countries are ordered by highest average rank difference between dimensions. See statistical table 1 for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges.
Source: Authors' estimates.

Lesotho and Moldova, whose rates rose from less than 20 percent to more than 60 percent (figure 4). Contributing to this rise in financial inclusion is the proliferation of digital finance platforms that enable women to manage their money remotely and independently.[2] Financial inclusion is critical to women's empowerment and agency, as women without their own bank account are constrained in making decisions about their livelihoods, accessing critical resources, and leaving abusive relationships.[3]

Justice for women: Informal and formal barriers
The current index includes two new indicators within the justice dimension—women's access to justice (replacing the discriminatory norms indicator) and maternal mortality—and both reveal a wide range of performance across countries. On a scale of 0 to 4, the access to justice indicator scores countries on the extent to which women have secure and effective paths toward justice, including the ability to bring cases to court, participate in fair trials, and seek proper redress and defense measures when their rights are violated.[4]

No country has a perfect score on access to justice, though Denmark scores highest at 3.96. Afghanistan scores lowest on this indicator, with its score of 0.37 driven by the Taliban's oppressive regime that has severely restricted women's ability to safely and fairly pursue justice. Of the country groups and regions, the Developed Countries group scores highest overall in access to justice, at 3.53, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa, at 2.21 (figure 5).

While the access to justice indicator captures whether women can exercise their rights in practice, the absence of legal discrimination indicator assesses barriers in the law. Unsurprisingly, these two indicators, which together account for both informal and structural barriers to women's justice, are strongly connected: countries with weak formal protections tend to be countries where women are unable

> **The 2023/24 WPS Index includes two new indicators in the justice dimension (women's access to justice and maternal mortality), and both reveal a wide range of performance across countries**

FIGURE 4 Countries with the greatest improvement in women's financial inclusion from 2014 to 2021

Financial inclusion (%)

● 2021   ▲ 2014
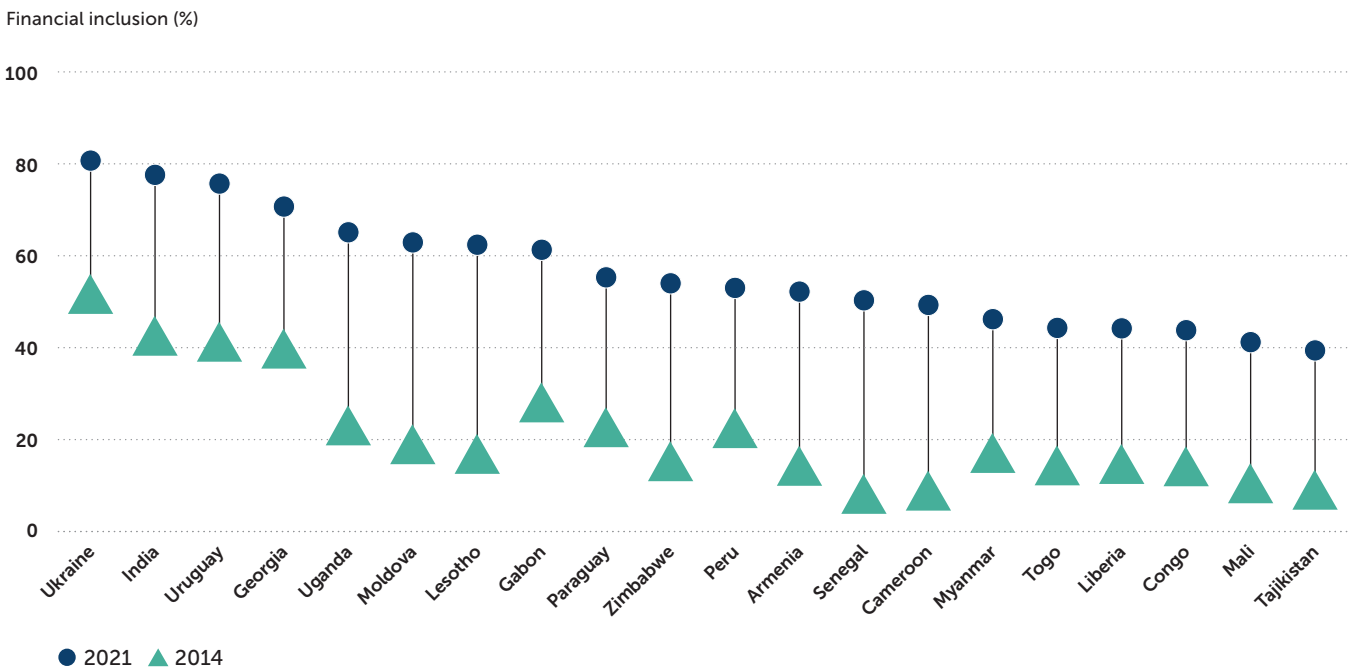
Note: Countries are ordered according to highest financial inclusion rates in 2021. See statistical table 1 for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges.
Source: Authors' estimates based on World Bank. 2022. "The Global Findex Database 2021." Washington, DC: World Bank. Accessed April 2023. https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/globalfindex.

FIGURE 5 Women's access to justice varies greatly within country groups and regions
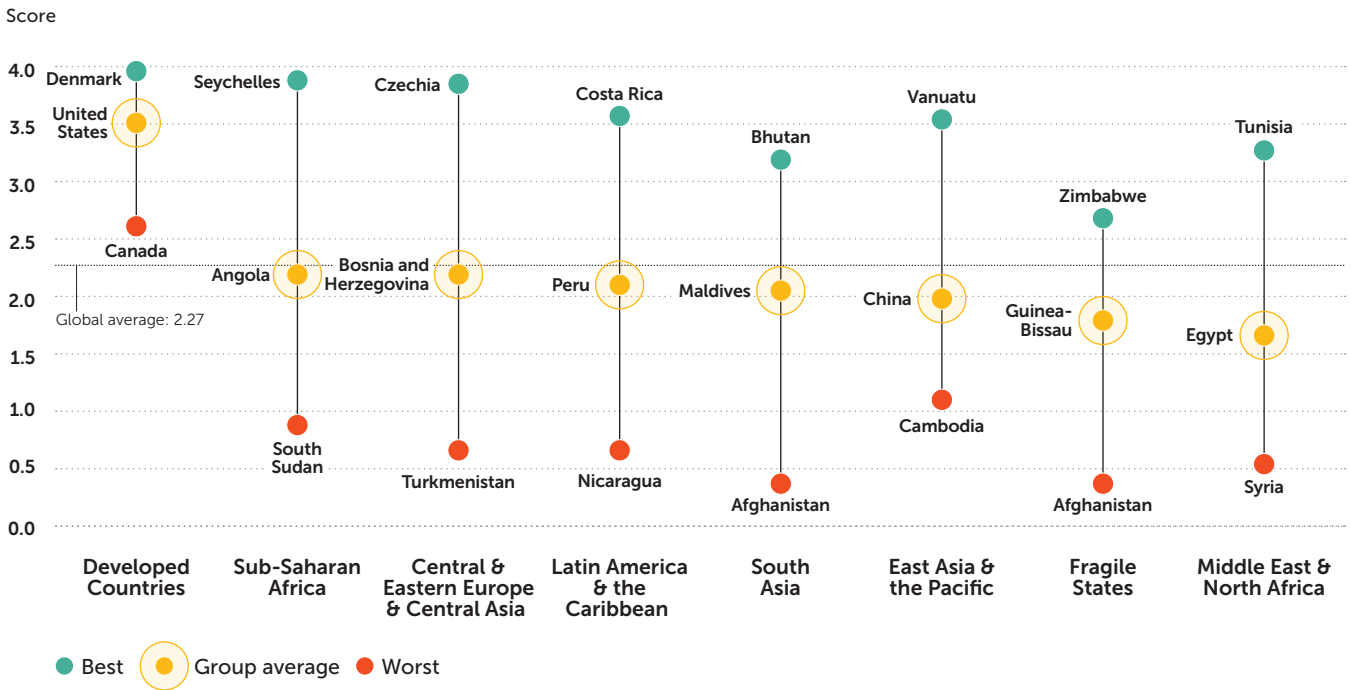
Score

Note: Possible scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 4. The countries near the yellow dots have a WPS Index score that is closest to the average for the country group or region. See statistical table 1 for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges and appendix 2 in the full report for countries in each group and region. Countries in the Fragile States group are also included in their regional group.
Source: Authors' estimates.

to seek adequate, safe, and fair paths to justice. Nine of the dozen worst-performing countries in access to justice also score below the global average on absence of legal discrimination. At the other end of the spectrum, 13 of the 14 countries with fully equal legal codes for women and men score higher than 3 points out of 4 on access to justice.

Of the country groups and regions, the Middle East and North Africa performs worst on both legal discrimination and access to justice. Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, and Yemen have no criminal penalties for sexual harassment in the workplace.[5] In 10 countries in the region, women are legally required to obey their husbands.

However, there are notable country exceptions to linked performance on the two indictors. For example, Nicaragua has relatively strong legal protections for women, scoring in the second quintile on absence of legal discrimination, but its performance on access to justice is the fourth worst in the world. Contributing to the poor performance on access to justice is Nicaragua's recent elimination of special police stations and courts serving women, as well as legal changes that now subject perpetrators of violence against women to family counseling rather than legal sanctions, fostering an environment of impunity and dissuading women from reporting crimes and pursuing justice.[6] A similar contrast is evident in Hong Kong, Lao PDR, and Mexico, underlining that laws on paper cannot ensure justice for women if systems of legal accountability and accessibility are weak.

Women's security: At home, in the community, and across society
The security dimension considers risks to women's safety at the household, community, and societal levels. Intimate partner violence, which captures violence

within the home, ranges from 45 percent of ever-partnered women in Iraq to 2 percent in Singapore and Switzerland. However, the most recent national estimates are several years old, last compiled by the World Health Organization and UN Women in 2018, before the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated intimate partner violence around the world.[7] In addition, intimate partner violence is often underestimated because of barriers to reporting, such as lack of trust in authorities and fear of shame or victim blaming.[8]

The community safety indicator captures women's perceptions of security in their neighborhood. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of women worldwide report feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night, though rates vary considerably in both directions. In Kuwait, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, China, and Turkmenistan, rates exceed 90 percent. In Gambia, Eswatini, and Lesotho, rates drop to about a quarter or less. At the regional level, women in East Asia and the Pacific report the highest perceptions of community safety, at 83 percent, while Latin America and the Caribbean has the lowest, at 40 percent. Notably, this region also has the highest rates of PVTW events and the second-highest share of women living in proximity to conflict (after the Fragile States group), highlighting the connection between instability at the societal level and feelings of safety at the neighborhood level.

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of women worldwide report feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night

Strong correlations between women's status and peace, democracy, climate resilience, and justice

Women's inclusion, justice, and security are vital in building resilient, peaceful, and sustainable societies and thus matter for everyone. As the only global index that brings together issues of women's inclusion, justice, and security, the WPS Index is a critical tool for making an empirical case for links between these dimensions and the overall well-being of society.

This is evident in the strong correlations between the WPS Index and other widely recognized global indices measuring outcomes that may seem distinct from "women's issues," ranging from human development to climate change resilience, peace, and fragility. Notably, these outcomes are more strongly correlated with women's status than they are with GDP, underlining the importance of investing in women.[9]

The strongest correlations with the WPS Index are found for the Human Development Index (.900; figure 6), the University of Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN, .900) of climate change preparedness, and the Fragile States Index (.898).

Political violence against women: Escalating risks and repercussions

Women's rights are the backbone of resilient, peaceful, and democratic societies. While women's leadership and participation in government, pro-democracy movements, and human rights campaigns have grown in recent decades, escalating risks of political violence threaten to stall and even roll back progress. Meanwhile, new and emerging threats, such as the rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence, introduce unprecedented and often incalculable gendered impacts that multiply these risks.

Political violence takes many forms, from the physical and sexual to the digital. Political violence can target women who actively participate in politics—civil servants, journalists, activists, demonstrators, and voters—as well as women who are not engaged in politics but who are attacked by political actors.

FIGURE 6 Strong correlations between rank on the WPS Index and rank on indices of human development and climate change preparedness

Human Development Index

Normalized WPS Index rank
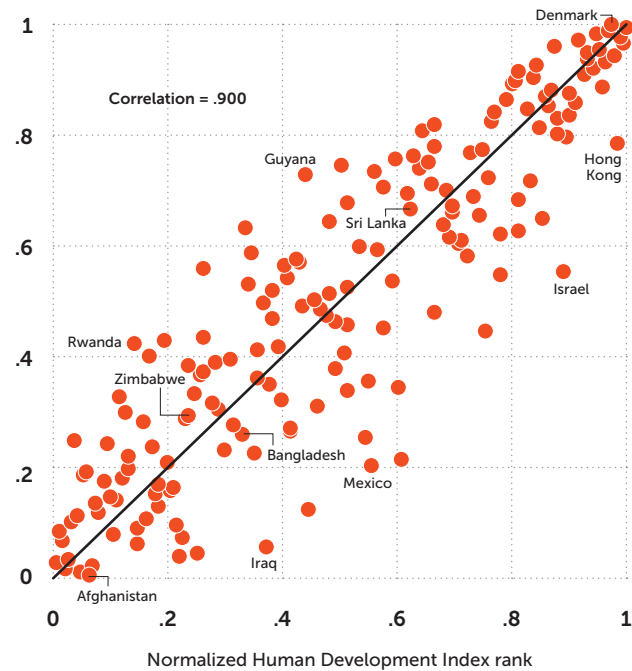
ND-GAIN Index of Climate Adaptation

Normalized WPS Index rank
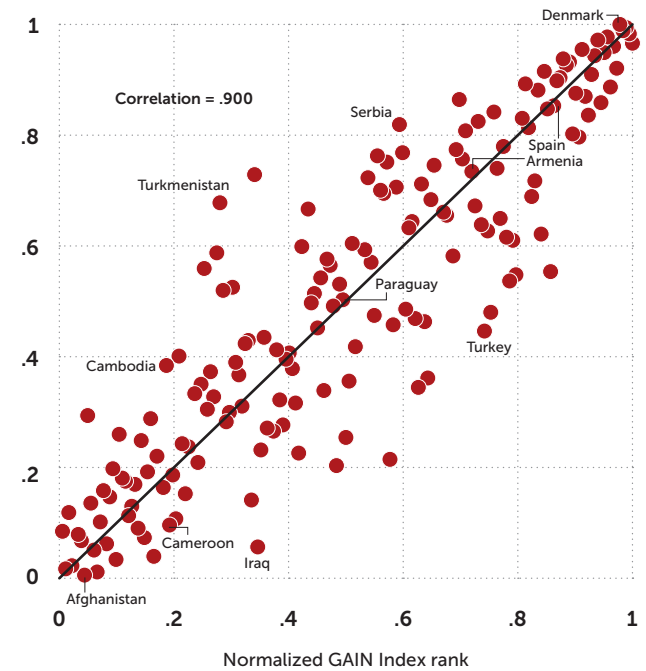
Note: The axes refer to country ranks, not index scores. Since the indices cover different numbers of countries, the ranks are adjusted for the total number of countries in the index. On both axes, 0 represents the worst-performing country and 1 the best for the respective index.
Source: Authors' estimates based on data from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2022. *Human Development Report 2021/22: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping Our Future in a Transforming World.* https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf. ND-GAIN (Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative). 2023. "Rankings." Accessed June 30, 2023. https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/.

Physical and sexual political violence against women

Physical political violence against women encompasses attacks that inflict bodily harm. These attacks can be nonsexual (gun violence, beatings, murders, abductions, mob violence) or sexual (rape, sexual harassment, forced sterilization, forced abortion). Physical attacks are often intended to scare, shame, or silence women who are participating in civic spaces.

Nonsexual physical violence: Perpetrators, forms, and targets

Perpetrators of nonsexual physical violence against women include state and non-state actors, ranging from government officials to armed rebel groups and individuals, all pursuing their own politically motivated agendas.

Physical political violence often targets women who are not actively involved in politics. In June 2023, members of the Barrio 18 gang murdered 41 inmates in a Honduran women's prison.[10] Also in 2023, a group of armed suspected jihadists with ties to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State kidnapped more than 40 women in Burkina Faso who were searching for food.[11] Attacks such as these generally attempt to instill fear and portray governments as unable to protect their citizens.[12]

Women participating in politics are also vulnerable to violence specifically because of their political activities and the causes or policies they support. For example:

• In 2023, two male colleagues harassed and beat Senegalese lawmaker Amy Ndiaye Gniby after she criticized an opposition religious figure. Ndiaye was

pregnant at the time, and the attackers kicked her in the belly, resulting in injuries requiring her hospitalization.[13]

- In 2023, an unknown assailant threw acid in the face of Lilia Patricia Cardozo, a Colombian women's rights defender. Cardozo is the director of Plataforma Feminista Boyacense, a nongovernmental organization concerned with domestic and gender-based violence.[14]
- In 2022, Taliban forces abducted, beat, and tortured Afghan women's rights defenders Parwana Ibrahimkhel, Tamana Zaryab Paryani, and three of Paryani's sisters who participated in a protest for women's rights to education, work, and freedom near Kabul University.[15]

Sexual violence: Threats within and outside conflict settings

Sexual violence, another instrument of physical political violence against women, occurs both within and outside conflict settings. While sexual violence is perpetrated against people of all genders, women are disproportionately targeted.

Conflict-related sexual violence—when armed actors within a conflict perpetrate sexual violence to assert political dominance and instill fear in opposition groups[16]—is a tactic of intimidation, results in lasting trauma, and amplifies violent patriarchal dominance in militarized conflicts, enabling ongoing violence against women.[17] In Colombia, women activists exposed the wartime use of sexual violence by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to punish outspoken, politically engaged women.[18] In the second quarter of 2021 alone, the Colombian attorney general received 43,493 reports of sexual violence, 86 percent of them perpetrated against women.[19] Today, Colombian women face continued risk of violence as conflict persists between the government and rebel forces.[20] In Myanmar, thousands of Rohingya women have been raped by members of the military as part of a broader campaign of ethnic cleansing, also highlighting how ethnic discrimination can amplify the risk of conflict-related sexual violence against women.[21]

Sexual political violence occurs in diverse political settings, including many that are unrelated to conflict. In a survey of politicians, political candidates, and party supporters participating in Uganda's 2016 and 2018 councilor elections, 80 percent of women reported having experienced rape or unwanted sexual contact compared with 20 percent of men.[22] Similarly, Kenya has seen rampant sexual violence against women politicians during election cycles. In 2022, three women presidential candidates were the targets of sexual harassment, online and offline, intended to dissuade them from running.[23] Many attacks were part of a coordinated propaganda campaign in support of the Islamic State and al-Shabaab.[24]

Restrictions on women's reproductive autonomy is another form of political violence and can be embedded within political agendas to control population demographics. For example, the Chinese government continues to forcibly sterilize Uyghur women, with reported plans to target at least 80 percent of interned Uyghur women.[25] Since 2013, the Nigerian government has forced more than 10,000 women impregnated by members of Boko Haram to have an abortion.[26]

Digital threats: Evolving forms and risk of political violence against women online

The spread of digital technologies has expanded the scope of political violence beyond the physical domain. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence is distinct from digital violence in that it targets people specifically because of their gender, especially women.[27] Attacks on women are often politically motivated; perpetrators identify women as targets because of the policies they advocate, the content they publish, the campaigns they pioneer, or the leadership positions they pursue.

Sexual violence as an instrument of physical political violence occurs both within and outside conflict settings and disproportionately targets women

Instances of online political violence are increasing. In a 2020 global survey of more than 700 women journalists by the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 73 percent of respondents reported suffering technology-facilitated gender-based violence during their career.[28] In another global survey of journalists, editors, and other news workers in 125 countries conducted by Columbia University and the ICFJ after the COVID-19 lockdowns and the subsequent rise in the use of digital platforms, 20 percent of respondents reported worsening trends in violence.[29]

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence is also increasing at the regional and national levels. In a 2020 survey of 100 East African women journalists, two-thirds of them reported experiencing worse online attacks during the COVID-19 pandemic than before it.[30] Between 2019 and 2020, the number of attacks targeting politicians in Quebec, Canada, rose 450 percent, with women enduring more targeted abuse than men.[31]

Political violence against women and the WPS Agenda

Political violence against women has direct implications for the international Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS Agenda). The agenda is grounded in four pillars—protection, prevention, participation, and relief and recovery[32]—all of which are undermined by political violence. As political violence against women increasingly shapes modern conflicts, and the consequences proliferate, addressing political violence against women must be embedded in all efforts to implement the WPS Agenda. When women are not protected from political violence and when political violence is not prevented, women cannot participate in peace processes or in relief and recovery.

Protection underlines the importance of guarding women and girls from violence, while *prevention* emphasizes strengthening strategies that reduce women's vulnerability to conflict-related violence, such as bolstering legal protections and supporting women peacebuilders. These pillars must also account for the impacts of political violence against women, which can undermine prospects for peace by amplifying security risks. For example, armed groups specifically target women peacebuilders and human rights defenders, undercutting the goals of both protection and prevention. In Libya, armed rebels murdered lawyer and human rights activist Hanan Al-Barassi for her activism against the sexual violence perpetrated by armed groups.[33]

Participation requires women's meaningful inclusion in peace and security decision making. Implementing the WPS Agenda depends on women's active engagement and leadership in formal institutions, politics, and civil society. Women's participation in reaching peace agreements is associated with fuller implementation of agreed measures and greater durability of peace.[34] Freedom from political violence is essential to these outcomes.

Relief and recovery consider the specific needs of women following conflict and the active role that women must play in guiding humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. Inclusive reconstruction efforts and institution building require women to be able to safely contribute and lead, which political violence renders impossible. For example, in early 2021, four women aid workers supporting women's vocational training were murdered in Pakistan by suspected members of the Pakistani Taliban.[35] In Afghanistan in April 2023, the Taliban banned women aid workers,[36] who have since faced harassment, intimidation, and detention.

Political violence against women undermines progress on critical global agendas yet is notably absent in the language of many international frameworks.

<div style="color:#c0392b">
Political violence against women has direct implications for the international Women, Peace, and Security Agenda: when women are not protected from political violence they cannot participate in peace processes or in relief and recovery
</div>

Policymakers must view political violence as a peace and security issue, as a sustainable development issue, as an environmental justice issue, and as a human rights issue.

No single actor can eliminate political violence against women. The constantly expanding reach and ever-evolving forms of such violence demand systemic, multipronged approaches that ensure women's immediate safety and tackle the underlying inequalities that condition and give rise to gendered risks for women. Key priorities for policymakers include:

- Deepening international cooperation on addressing political violence against women.
- Criminalizing all forms of political violence against women.
- Expanding monitoring and reporting.
- Training government officials, election management authorities, and community organizers on how to identify, report, and respond to political violence against women.
- Holding private social media companies accountable for preventing technology-facilitated gender-based violence.
- Scaling up support for survivors.

Women exposed to armed conflict in 2022

The year 2022 was the deadliest in terms of battle-related deaths from armed conflict since 1994, the year of the Rwandan genocide. Living in proximity to conflict-affected areas undermines women's inclusion, justice, and security. Multiple studies have shown that armed conflict increases maternal deaths,[37] amplifies risks of gender-based violence,[38] leads to disproportionate levels of school dropouts for girls,[39] and creates barriers to women's livelihood opportunities.[40] These consequences, among many others, threaten women's immediate safety while reducing their long-term prosperity and opportunities, thus widening gender gaps and preventing gender-equitable recovery.

In 2022, approximately 600 million women—15 percent of women in the world—lived within 50 kilometers of armed conflict, more than double the levels in the 1990s.[41] Comparing countries' rates of proximity to conflict against their overall WPS Index score reveals two main takeaways (figure 7). First, there is a negative correlation between proximity to conflict and the WPS Index score, suggesting that countries where women are doing well tend to be countries where women are not exposed to armed conflict; the reverse is also true. Second, countries experiencing the two major conflicts of 2022—the civil war in Ethiopia and Russia's invasion of Ukraine—dominate in battle-related deaths, whereas other countries, including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, and Yemen, experienced fewer battle-related deaths but had larger shares of women living in proximity to conflict. Russia's invasion of Ukraine resulted in more than 81,500 state-based battle-related deaths, while the civil war in Ethiopia, although receiving far less international attention, resulted in more than 100,000 battle-related deaths.[42] This is the highest number of state-based battle-related deaths in a single conflict year since the Iraqi government offensive in Kurdistan in 1988.[43]

Going beyond national borders: Subnational analyses of Colombia and Ethiopia

The WPS Index relies on national averages, which paint a broad picture of women's status across countries. But national averages conceal variation within country borders. This year, we explored the findings of subnational analyses for Colombia

The year 2022 was the deadliest in terms of battle-related deaths from armed conflict since 1994, the year of the Rwandan genocide, and approximately 600 million women (15 percent of all women) lived near armed conflict

FIGURE 7 WPS Index scores are related to proximity to conflict and battle-related deaths, 2021 and 2022

WPS Index score

Women living within 50 kilometers of armed conflict in 2021 and 2022 combined (%)

● Countries with women exposed to armed conflict in 2021 and 2022 (size of bubble represents number of battle-related deaths in 2022)
• Countries with women exposed to armed conflict in 2021 but not in 2022 (number of battle-related deaths is not indicated)
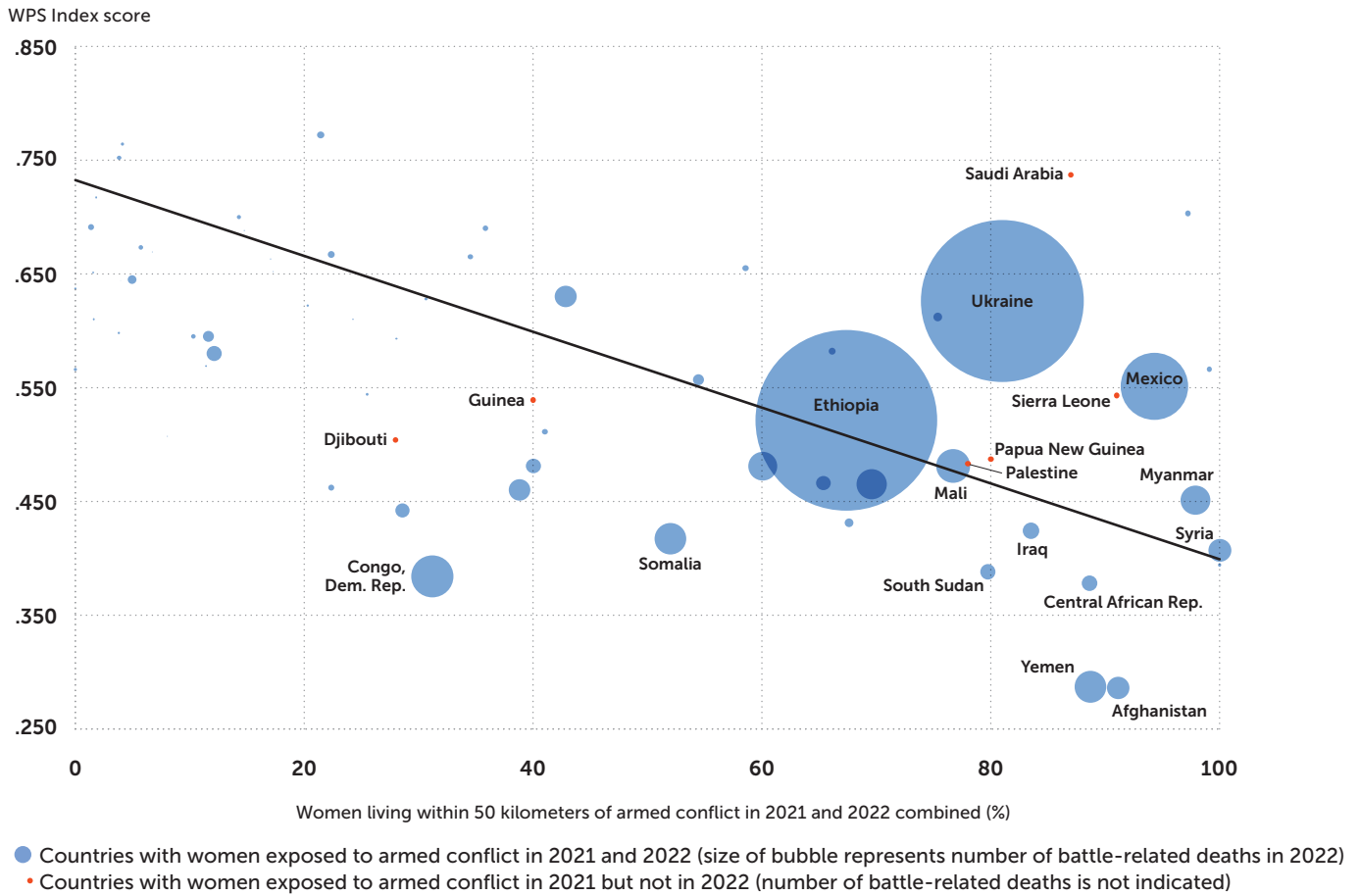
Source: Authors' estimates based on data from UCDP (Uppsala Conflict Data Program). 2023. "UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) Global Version 23.1." Accessed July 2023. Calculated by PRIO.

and Ethiopia, with subnational index scores that capture how women's inclusion, justice, and security vary by location within each country (33 departments in Colombia and 11 regions in Ethiopia). Colombia and Ethiopia were selected because both are conflict-affected countries with strong relevance to the WPS Agenda and because sufficient data were available for analysis at the subnational level. In both countries, women's status varies significantly according to their location. In Colombia, areas most affected by conflict and those with higher Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations tend to score lower. In Ethiopia, scores are low across the board, and even the best-performing regions perform poorly on some indicators.

Colombia: Decades of conflict threaten women's status

More than 8.8 million people in Colombia—approximately 17 percent of the population—have been officially registered as victims of armed conflict, most of them forcibly displaced women and children.[44] Conflict has affected women's status and security in varying and often disproportionate ways, especially through increased risks of gender-based violence and displacement. More than two women in five in Colombia have experienced some form of gender-based violence related to the conflict, though such violence is likely underreported.[45]

Insecurity of women at the national level builds on insecurity at the community and household levels. Nearly two-thirds of women nationally report not

feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night, while pervasive impunity, enabled by weak and corrupt law enforcement systems, has contributed to widespread domestic violence.[46] Conflict exacerbates this pattern.[47]

The range of subnational scores across Colombia's departments is wide, with top-ranking Santander scoring .783, and bottom-ranking Casanare scoring .534 (figure 8).[48] Santander's strong performance can be attributed to women's high rates of education, internet use, and financial inclusion, along with low rates of maternal mortality and proximity to conflict.

Casanare has the lowest life expectancy for women among departments[49] and is 1 of 11 departments with no female members in the House of Representatives. Casanare performs particularly poorly on the security dimension. It has the second-highest prevalence of intimate partner violence in the country, and 80 percent of women live within 50 kilometers of armed conflict.

Ethiopia: Continuing conflict harms women in multiple ways

Ethiopia's long history of conflict has disproportionately harmed women by restricting their access to education, creating livelihood barriers, and amplifying risks of gender-based violence. As of 2022, two-thirds of women in Ethiopia lived within 50 kilometers of armed conflict. In Tigray and Addis Ababa, every woman was exposed to armed conflict (figure 9). While the subnational index does not fully account for the impacts of the recent civil war, it nonetheless identifies areas within the country where women's inclusion, justice, and security are most under threat and where more investment in improving women's status is urgently needed.

The Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) was the best-performing region in the country, with a score of .541, and Afar was the worst performing, with a score of .389. SNNPR performs well on indicators related to employment and parliamentary representation, as well as those within the security dimension. In SNNPR, 52 percent of women are employed, and as of 2019, women made up 41 percent of SNNPR's members of the House of People's Representatives. Despite its high overall score, SNNPR performs poorly on indicators of education and financial inclusion.

Afar's low score reflects its poor performance on several indicators: on average, women have not completed even a year of school, only about one woman in four has access to her own bank account, and more than four women in five live within 50 kilometers of armed conflict. Low school completion is attributable largely to early pregnancy and to girls' disproportionate responsibility for domestic care duties. One girl in four ages 15–19 in Afar becomes pregnant,[50] and half of girls who marry while in school drop out.[51] Exacerbating the situation is women's proximity to conflict. In 2022, 84 percent of women lived within 50 kilometers of at least one conflict event.

Need data disaggregated by sex and other characteristics

Subnational index analysis offers a valuable tool for assessing and responding to disparities in women's status within national borders. Indeed, results from Colombia and Ethiopia show that the challenges facing women vary by geography and are often concealed by national averages. Data disaggregated by both sex and geography are required for subnational analysis and for guiding effective policy and programming—but are also extremely rare. Better, high-quality data disaggregated along these lines—as well as along others, such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status—are essential to identifying gaps and ensuring that no woman is left behind.

> **On average in Ethiopia's Afar region, women have not completed even a year of school, only about one woman in four has access to her own bank account, and more than four women in five live within 50 kilometers of armed conflict**

FIGURE 8

Performance on the subnational WPS Index varies widely across Colombia's departments

MAGDALENA 2

Women hold **more than half (60%)** of the seats in the regional parliament

More than half of women (57%) have internet access

LA GUAJIRA 11

One of three departments where **no women** live within 50 km of conflict

One of 11 departments where **no women** hold a seat in the regional parliament

ATLÁNTICO 27

Nearly all women **(99%)** live within 50 km of conflict

Third highest for women's education **(12 years)**

SANTANDER 1

90% of women have their own bank account

Nearly 70% have internet access

Women have an average of **12 years** of schooling

CÓRDOBA 3

Third-lowest prevalence of intimate partner violence in the country **(39.3 reported cases** per 100,000 women)

But **more than half of men** believe that a woman's primary role is marriage and children

ARAUCA 31

All women live within 50 km of conflict

Among the bottom third of departments for intimate partner violence **(178.2 cases** per 100,000 women)

CHOCÓ 9

Lowest rate of women's employment **(27%)**

Fifth-highest maternal mortality **(128.2 deaths** per 100,000 live births), well above the Latin America and the Caribbean average **(85.0)**

CASANARE 33

At the bottom of Colombia's subnational index

Second-highest prevalence of intimate partner violence **(254 reported cases** per 100,000 women)

GUAINÍA 23

One of the five **worst-performing** departments for women's education, internet access, parliamentary representation, and maternal mortality

CAUCA 32

All women live within 50 km of conflict

PUTUMAYO 30

Fifth-worst son bias **(106.6 boys** ages 0–4 for every 100 girls)

One of 11 departments where **no women** hold a seat in the regional parliament

VAUPÉS 14

One of three departments with **0 maternal deaths** per 100,000 live births

Third worst for women's education **(9 years** of schooling on average)

BOGOTÁ 4

Highest for women's education **(13 years)**

Only department in which **fewer than a quarter of men** believe that a woman's primary role is marriage and children

San Andrés y Providencia 8

La Guajira

Atlántico

Magdalena

Cesar 17

Sucre 12

Norte de Santander 28

Córdoba

Bolívar 20

Chocó

Antioquia 21

Santander

Arauca

Risaralda 25

Caldas 7

Boyacá 5

Casanare

Quindío 19

Cundinamarca 26

Vichada 22

Valle del Cauca 29

Tolima 15

Bogotá

Cauca

Huila 13

Meta 10

Guainía

Nariño 6

Guaviare 24

Putumayo

Caquetá 18

Vaupés

Amazonas

AMAZONAS 16

Third-highest maternal mortality **(169.6 deaths** per 100,000 live births)

Low rate of proximity to conflict **(2%)**

WPS Index score
.783

.534

Note: Numbers are each department's rank on the subnational WPS Index. See the online appendix (https://giwps.georgetown.edu/index-colombia/) for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges.
Source: Authors' estimates based on analysis in chapter 3.

FIGURE 9

Performance on the subnational WPS Index varies less in Ethiopia than in Colombia

AMHARA   **8**

Highest prevalence of discriminatory norms **(46% of men** agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife for the listed reasons)

Third-worst for women's education (average of **less than 2 years** of schooling)

TIGRAY   **9**

All women live within 50 km of conflict

Second-highest women's employment rate **(67%)**

AFAR   **11**

Among the **three worst-performing regions** for women's education, employment, and intimate partner violence

DIRE DAWA   **3**

Among the **five worst-performing regions** for maternal mortality and son bias

One of two regions where less than **40%** of women live within 50 kilometers of armed conflict

BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ   **2**

Highest rate of women's employment **(69%)**

Second-highest rate of parliamentary representation **(44%)**

HARARI   **7**

Despite ranking in the bottom five regions, has the second-highest rate of cellphone use **(84%)**

Second-highest prevalence of intimate partner violence **(1 woman in 4)**

No women hold a seat in the regional parliament

GAMBELLA   **4**

Third highest for women's education

One of four regions where women average more than **5 years** of schooling

Second-lowest maternal mortality **(0.34 death** per 1,000 women) at about half the national average **(0.67)**

SOMALI   **5**

Women average **less than 1 year** of schooling

Highest maternal mortality **(1.19 deaths** per 1,000 women)

SNNPR   **1**

Best-performing region overall (index score of **0.541**)

Yet women average only **2.1 years** of schooling

Only **about a third** of women have their own bank account

OROMIA   **10**

Highest rate of intimate partner violence **(more than 1 woman in 4)**

Second-highest maternal mortality **(0.88 death** per 1,000 women)

ADDIS ABABA   **6**

All women live within 50 km of armed conflict

Along with Dire Dawa, has the worst son bias **(122 boys** ages 0–4 for every 100 girls)

WPS Index score

.541

.389

Note: Numbers are each region's rank on the subnational WPS Index. See the online appendix (https://giwps.georgetown .edu/index-ethiopia/) for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges. Most of the data for the subnational indicators are for 2019 and so do not account for the 2020–2022 civil war; proximity to conflict data are for 2022.
Source: Authors' estimates based on analysis in chapter 3.

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STATISTICAL TABLE 1 Country performance and ranking on the Women, Peace, and Security Index and indicators

WPS Index rank 2023	Country	WPS Index score 2023	INCLUSION Education (years) 2016–2021a	Financial inclusion (%) 2021	Employment (%) 2018–2022a	Cellphone use (%) 2022	Parliamentary representation (%) 2023	JUSTICE Absence of legal discrimination (score) 2023	Access to justice (score) 2022	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) 2020	Son bias (number of sons born per 100 girls) 2022	SECURITY Intimate partner violence (%) 2018	Community safety (%) 2020–2022a	Political violence targeting women (events per 100,000 women) 2022	Proximity to conflict (%) 2021–2022
TOP QUINTILE															
1	Denmark	.932	13.2	100.0	77.0	100.0	43.6	100.0	3.960	4.7	105.7	3.0	78.0	0.000	0.0
2	Switzerland	.928	13.5	99.0	78.4	91.0	39.3	88.1	3.893	7.4	105.1	2.0	85.0	0.000	0.0
3	Sweden	.926	12.8	100.0	80.0	100.0	46.4	100.0	3.806	4.5	105.7	6.0	74.0	0.000	0.0
4	Finland	.924	13.0	99.1	77.7	100.0	45.5	97.5	3.419	8.3	105.2	8.0	78.0	0.000	0.0
4	Iceland	.924	13.9	100.0	78.6	100.0	47.6	100.0	3.344	2.7[b]	106.1	3.0	74.0	0.000	0.0
4	Luxembourg	.924	13.0	98.2[c]	73.0	94.0	35.0	100.0	3.856	6.5	105.2	4.0	88.0	0.000	0.0
7	Norway	.920	13.1	100.0	78.6	100.0	46.2	96.9	3.118	1.7[b]	106.2	4.0	86.0	0.000	0.0
8	Austria	.911	12.0	100.0	72.2	95.0	40.6	96.9	3.397	5.2	105.5	4.0	82.0	0.000	0.0
9	Netherlands	.908	12.4	99.5	77.2	92.0	37.8	100.0	3.479	4.3	105.2	5.0	72.0	0.000	0.0
10	New Zealand	.904	12.9	99.2	78.2	96.0	50.0	97.5	3.583	7.0	105.3	4.0	42.0	0.000	0.0
11	Australia	.902	12.8	100.0	75.2	94.0	44.5	96.9	3.703	2.9[b]	105.6	3.0	54.0	0.000	0.0
11	Belgium	.902	12.3	98.7	69.9	93.0	43.3	100.0	3.897	4.8	104.8	5.0	56.0	0.000	0.0
13	Estonia	.892	13.8	99.6	79.0	100.0	27.7	97.5	3.444	5.2	106.1	4.0	71.0	0.000	0.0
13	Ireland	.892	11.8	99.5	70.8	92.0	27.4	100.0	3.745	5.0	105.5	3.0	78.0	0.000	0.0
15	Singapore	.887	11.6	96.9	75.9	100.0	29.1	82.5	3.251	7.5	106.0	2.0	94.0	0.000	0.0
16	Lithuania	.886	13.6	90.4	79.3	95.0	28.4	93.8	3.721	8.7	105.2	5.0	61.0	0.000	0.0
17	Canada	.885	13.9	99.5	75.1	85.0	35.2	100.0	2.607	11.0	105.4	3.0	61.0	0.000	0.0
18	Czechia	.884	12.7	93.4	75.1	99.0	23.8	93.8	3.849	3.4[b]	105.3	4.0	67.0	0.000	0.0
19	Portugal	.877	9.6	90.2	76.7	92.0	36.1	100.0	3.177	11.8	105.5	4.0	72.0	0.000	0.0
20	Latvia	.872	13.6	97.6	74.8	100.0	29.0	100.0	3.527	18.3	106.5	6.0	62.0	0.000	0.0
21	Germany	.871	13.8	100.0	76.9	88.0	35.5	100.0	3.901	4.4	105.6	3.0[d]	71.0	0.007	0.0
22	United Arab Emirates	.868	12.5	86.7	55.7	100.0	50.0	82.5	2.107	9.3	104.6	17.9[e]	93.0	0.000	0.0
23	Japan	.866	13.3	98.8	77.0	91.0	15.5	78.8	3.614	4.3	105.1	4.0	70.0	0.000	0.0
24	France	.864	11.4	100.0	72.7	88.0	36.8	100.0	3.436	7.9	104.9	5.0	69.0	0.003	0.0
25	Croatia	.862	11.9	90.0	66.1	89.0	31.8	93.8	3.323	4.8	106.0	4.0	71.0	0.000	0.0
26	United Kingdom	.860	13.4	99.9	75.4	92.0	31.5	97.5	3.265	9.8	105.5	4.0	74.0	0.006	0.0
27	Poland	.859	13.3	95.7	70.6	91.0	27.5	93.8	2.582	2.0[b]	106.0	3.0	65.0	0.000	0.0
27	Spain	.859	10.5	97.5	64.8	96.0	41.0	100.0	3.796	3.4[b]	106.3	3.0	78.0	0.004	0.0
29	Slovakia	.856	12.9	94.0	74.1	96.0	22.0	85.0	3.426	4.8	105.4	6.0	58.0	0.000	0.0
30	Republic of Korea	.848	11.9	98.7	65.2	98.0	19.1	85.0	3.396	8.1	105.8	8.0	75.0	0.000	0.0
31	Malta	.846	12.0	95.3	71.2	97.0	27.8	91.3	3.362	2.9[b]	106.7	4.0	57.0	0.000	0.0
32	Hungary	.835	12.1	86.9	76.3	92.0	13.1	96.9	3.172	15.1	105.8	6.0	64.0	0.000	0.0
32	Serbia	.835	11.0	89.8	64.5	86.0	34.8	93.8	3.110	10.2	106.9	4.0	64.0	0.000	0.0
34	Italy	.827	10.6	97.1	55.7	97.0	33.0	97.5	3.751	4.6	105.9	4.0	64.0	0.007	0.0
35	Bulgaria	.826	11.5	84.3	72.5	89.0	24.2	90.6	3.088	7.1	106.0	6.0	54.0	0.000	0.0
SECOND QUINTILE															
36	Slovenia	.824	12.8	98.2	75.5	94.0	31.5	96.9	3.521	4.5	106.4	3.0	85.0	0.095	0.0
37	United States	.823	13.7	96.8	70.0	98.0	27.9	91.3	3.514	21.1	104.8	6.0	61.0	0.025	0.0
38	Taiwan	.818	10.2[f]	93.6	65.6	95.0	42.5[g]	91.3	3.411	44.8[f]	106.9	7.0[f]	81.0	0.009	0.0
39	Georgia	.812	12.9	70.7	60.9	94.0	18.4	88.1	2.986	27.6	106.7	3.0	74.0	0.000	0.0
39	Hong Kong	.812	11.8	98.2	66.9	97.0	17.1[h]	91.9	1.967	34.8[f]	107.7	3.0	86.0	0.000	0.0
41	Montenegro	.808	11.8	67.6[c]	51.5	95.0	28.4	85.0	2.863	6.2	107.1	4.0	80.0	0.000	0.0
42	Romania	.800	11.0	65.7	59.5	93.0	18.9	90.6	2.811	10.1	105.5	7.0	58.0	0.000	0.0

			INCLUSION					JUSTICE				SECURITY			
WPS Index rank	Country	WPS Index score	Education (years)	Financial inclusion (%)	Employment (%)	Cellphone use (%)	Parliamentary representation (%)	Absence of legal discrimination (score)	Access to justice (score)	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	Son bias (number of sons born per 100 girls)	Intimate partner violence (%)	Community safety (%)	Political violence targeting women (events per 100,000 women)	Proximity to conflict (%)
2023		2023	2016–2021ᵃ	2021	2018–2022ᵃ	2022	2023	2023	2022	2020	2022	2018	2020–2022ᵃ	2022	2021–2022
43	Seychelles	.799	10.2	70.2ᶠ	78.3	84.3ᶠ	22.9	76.3	3.877	3.3ᵇ	103.6	11.7ᶠ	63.0ᶠ	0.000	0.0
44	North Macedonia	.798	9.7	79.9	51.7	93.0	42.5	85.0	2.331	3.0ᵇ	107.7	4.0	64.0	0.000	0.0
45	Albania	.796	11.7	45.7	63.6	92.0	35.7	91.3	3.150	8.3	107.2	6.0	57.0	0.000	0.0
46	Mongolia	.794	9.9	99.0	59.7	100.0	17.1	90.6	2.584	39.5	104.5	12.0	41.0	0.000	0.0
47	Barbados	.779	10.3	72.3ᶠ	76.1	91.3ᶠ	32.7	80.0	3.106	39.1	103.5	27.0ᵈ	61.9ᶠ	0.000	0.0
48	Armenia	.772	11.3	52.2	71.4	97.0	35.5	87.5	3.116	27.2	109.1	5.0	80.0	0.000	21.5
49	Guyana	.769	8.7	72.3ᶠ	41.4	91.3ᶠ	36.6	86.9	2.554	111.9	103.7	10.0	61.9ᶠ	0.000	0.0
50	Argentina	.768	11.4	73.8	62.7	90.0	44.4	79.4	2.514	44.9	105.1	4.0	41.0	0.030	0.0
51	Greece	.766	11.1	93.4	55.0	93.0	21.0	100.0	3.365	7.7	106.4	5.0	56.0	0.038	0.0
52	Thailand	.764	8.6	92.7	74.6	94.0	14.4	78.1	1.709	28.6	106.4	9.0	54.0	0.000	4.1
53	Moldova	.758	11.9	62.9	79.1	86.0	38.6	87.5	2.754	12.3	106.3	9.0	59.0	0.058	0.0
54	Panama	.757	10.8	43.1	59.0	83.0	22.5	79.4	2.914	49.5	105.5	8.0	51.0	0.000	0.0
55	Bosnia and Herzegovina	.754	9.8	70.4	46.3	88.0	17.5	85.0	2.188	5.7	106.8	3.0	57.0	0.000	0.0
56	Bahrain	.752	10.8	75.4ᶜ	48.4	99.8ⁱ	22.5	68.1	1.399	15.9	103.9	18.1ᵉ	65.2ᶠ	0.000	0.0
56	Russian Federation	.752	12.8	90.1	73.8	96.0	17.8	73.1	1.624	13.7	105.7	6.0ᵈ	50.0	0.015	3.8
58	Turkmenistan	.750	10.9	35.5ᶜ	56.3ᶠ	89.0ʲ	25.9	78.7ᶠ	0.655	5.2	106.7	7.2ᵉ	91.0ʲ	0.000	0.0
59	Uruguay	.748	9.3	75.7	71.1	95.0	26.9	88.8	3.229	18.6	105.6	4.0	41.0	0.057	0.0
60	Costa Rica	.743	8.9	61.1	52.2	95.0	47.4	91.9	3.572	22.0	104.5	7.0	36.0	0.077	0.0
60	Sri Lanka	.743	10.8	89.3	38.7	82.0	5.3	65.6	2.507	28.8	104.4	4.0	52.0	0.000	0.0
61	Kuwait	.742	8.1	73.5ᶜ	52.4ᶠ	100.0	6.3	35.0	2.676	7.2	104.8	18.1ᵉ	96.0	0.000	0.0
63	Cyprus	.739	12.4	92.7	71.4	97.0	14.3	94.4	3.370	68.4	106.5	3.0	58.0	0.480	0.0
64	Cabo Verde	.738	6.0	55.0ᶠ	58.4	65.6ᶠ	41.7	86.3	2.318	42.2	103.3	11.0	54.9ᶠ	0.000	0.0
64	Fiji	.738	11.0	77.3ᶠ	44.4	94.3ᶠ	10.9	82.5	2.661	38.1	107.1	23.0	76.5ᶠ	0.000	0.0
64	Malaysia	.738	10.6	87.5	60.8	93.0	14.7	50.0	2.611	21.1	106.6	13.1ᵉ	48.0	0.000	0.0
67	Saudi Arabia	.737	10.7	63.5	52.4ᶠ	100.0	19.9	71.3	1.413	16.2	105.1	18.0ᵉ	82.0	0.006	3.2
68	Chile	.736	10.8	86.6	56.6	97.0	32.7	80.0	3.283	15.0	104.2	6.0	28.0	0.061	0.0
69	Belarus	.733	12.2	81.3ᶜ	79.1	88.0ʲ	34.7	75.6	0.846	1.1ᵇ	105.8	6.0	56.0ʲ	0.194	0.0
70	Kazakhstan	.729	12.4	83.6	62.5ᶠ	93.0	25.6	75.6	2.327	13.4	106.5	6.0	58.0	0.119	0.0
71	Trinidad and Tobago	.721	11.7	73.6ᶜ	58.4	91.9ᶠ	33.8	75.0	2.882	26.6	104.1	8.0	57.7ᶠ	1.031	0.0
THIRD QUINTILE															
72	Maldives	.720	7.1	74.2ᶜ	53.2	71.2ᶠ	4.6	73.8	2.015	56.7	105.0	6.0	64.4ᶠ	0.000	0.0
73	Nicaragua	.717	7.4	21.6	57.5	72.0	51.6ᵏ	86.3	0.659	77.9	103.5	6.0	50.0	0.000	0.0
73	Peru	.717	9.3	53.0	69.4	81.0	38.8	95.0	2.101	68.5	104.1	11.0	37.0	0.017	1.8
75	Oman	.715	12.1	63.5ˡ	42.9	89.9ᶠ	9.9	38.8	2.574	17.0	104.3	18.1ᵉ	65.2ᶠ	0.000	0.0
76	Samoa	.711	11.8	70.4ᶠ	43.5	84.6ᶠ	13.0	75.0	2.083ᶠ	59.1	107.6	18.0	72.6ᶠ	0.000	0.0
77	Jamaica	.710	9.7	71.6	69.9	93.0	31.0	74.4	3.299	98.9	103.9	7.0	60.0	1.123	0.0
78	Viet Nam	.707	8.0	52.8	82.0	94.0	30.3	88.1	1.748	124.3	111.1ᵐ	10.0	79.0	0.000	0.0
79	Lao PDR	.704	5.0	37.9	61.7	81.0	22.0	88.1	1.683	126.1	105.3	8.0	53.0	0.000	0.0
80	Israel	.703	13.4	91.9	74.0	96.0	24.2	80.6	3.442	2.8ᵇ	105.4	6.0	77.0	0.066	97.2
80	Qatar	.703	11.6	61.6ˡ	65.5	89.9ᶠ	4.4	29.4	2.149	7.6	103.9	18.0ᵉ	65.2ᶠ	0.000	0.0
82	Bhutan	.700	4.5	27.7ⁿ	78.9	61.8ᶠ	16.9	75.0	3.189	60.0	104.8	9.0	58.7ᶠ	0.000	0.0
82	China	.700	7.3	87.3	56.8ᶠ	100.0º	24.9	78.1	1.980	23.1	111.3ᵐ	8.0	91.0	0.008	0.0
82	Indonesia	.700	8.3	52.3	58.7	71.0	21.6	70.6	2.281	172.9	106.1	9.0	73.0	0.000	14.3
85	Tonga	.697	11.5	77.3ᶠ	64.4	94.3ᶠ	7.1	58.8	2.017ᶠ	125.6	108.1	17.0	76.5ᶠ	0.000	0.0
86	Bolivia	.696	9.2	63.3	75.8	91.0	48.2	88.8	2.008	160.9	104.2	18.0	37.0	0.066	0.9
87	Suriname	.694	9.9	72.3ᶠ	50.5	91.3ᶠ	29.4	73.8	2.686	96.5	104.0	8.0	61.9ᶠ	0.322	0.0

WPS Index rank 2023	Country	WPS Index score 2023	INCLUSION					JUSTICE				SECURITY			
			Education (years) 2016–2021[a]	Financial inclusion (%) 2021	Employment (%) 2018–2022[a]	Cellphone use (%) 2022	Parliamentary representation (%) 2023	Absence of legal discrimination (score) 2023	Access to justice (score) 2022	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) 2020	Son bias (number of sons born per 100 girls) 2022	Intimate partner violence (%) 2018	Community safety (%) 2020–2022[a]	Political violence targeting women (events per 100,000 women) 2022	Proximity to conflict (%) 2021–2022
88	Puerto Rico	.692	10.9[f]	66.1	41.9	93.0	28.2[p]	83.8	2.729[f]	34.3	104.8[f]	6.8[f]	40.0	0.873	0.0
89	Paraguay	.691	8.9	55.3	65.2	91.0	16.8	94.4	2.349	71.1	105.0	6.0	42.0	0.118	1.4
90	Tajikistan	.690	10.9	39.4	36.4	66.0	26.6	78.8	0.851	16.6	106.3	14.0	90.0	0.000	35.8
91	South Africa	.688	9.7	86.2	46.0	89.0	46.1	88.1	3.292	126.8	104.0	13.0	27.0	0.078	14.8
92	Jordan	.679	10.1	34.1	14.2	86.0	13.3	46.9	2.510	41.3	104.9	13.0	75.0	0.000	0.0
93	Mauritius	.678	10.0	89.4	46.3	89.0	20.0	89.4	2.622	84.4	103.5	18.4[d]	58.0	0.152	0.0
94	Uzbekistan	.674	11.7	38.8	44.7	79.0	30.0	70.6	1.810	30.2	108.0	7.3[e]	79.0	0.029	0.0
95	Kyrgyzstan	.673	11.6	43.8	61.2	94.0	20.0	76.9	1.896	50.4	105.7	13.0	59.0	0.148	5.7
96	Tunisia	.669	6.9	28.7	25.9	84.0	16.2	64.4	3.266	36.6	105.2	10.0	49.0	0.000	6.8
97	Azerbaijan	.667	10.2	38.8	75.8	83.0	18.6	78.8	1.527	40.8	112.2[m]	5.0	67.9[f]	0.000	22.4
98	Dominican Republic	.666	9.6	49.0	58.3	86.0	25.7	86.3	2.273	107.3	104.4	10.0	32.0	0.071	0.0
99	Türkiye	.665	7.9	62.5	34.5	95.0	17.4	82.5	1.867	17.3	105.1	12.0	48.0	0.007	34.5
100	Kosovo	.664	8.3[f]	47.4	19.5	94.0	35.8	91.9	2.327	201.9[f]	106.9	5.0	77.0	0.120	0.0
100	Solomon Islands	.664	6.5[f]	58.5[f]	90.0	72.1[f]	8.0	56.9	2.675	122.2	107.0	28.0	62.2[f]	0.000	0.0
100	Timor-Leste	.664	4.7	58.5[f]	38.2	72.1[f]	40.0	86.3	1.972	203.9	107.1	28.0	62.2[f]	0.000	0.0
103	Rwanda	.663	4.0	45.0[c]	55.2	56.8[f]	54.7[k]	83.8	2.607	258.9	102.6	23.0	75.0[j]	0.000	17.1
104	Botswana	.659	10.3	53.9	57.8	88.0	11.1	63.8	2.658	185.9	103.2	17.0	26.0	0.000	0.0
105	Belize	.657	9.0	52.3[n]	50.5	81.9[f]	23.9	79.4	2.091[f]	129.8	105.2	8.0	56.1[f]	0.496	0.0
106	Ecuador	.655	8.8	57.9	63.0	80.0	38.7	89.4	2.452	65.8	104.7	8.0	27.0	0.022	58.6
FOURTH QUINTILE															
107	Tanzania	.652	5.9	46.0	83.5	72.0	37.4	81.3	2.679	238.3	103.0	24.0	57.0	0.003	17.3
108	Ghana	.651	7.8	62.6	81.0	87.0	14.5	75.0	2.808	263.1	103.8	10.0	56.0	0.095	1.6
109	Sao Tome and Principe	.648	5.6	55.0[f]	48.7[f]	65.6[f]	14.5	83.1	2.736	146.2	102.7	18.0	54.9[f]	0.000	0.0
110	Cambodia	.645	4.4	32.5	80.0	79.0	19.3	81.3	1.103	218.0	105.2	9.0	56.0	0.012	0.0
110	Egypt	.645	9.8	24.2	17.7	80.0	22.9	50.6	1.659	16.8	105.4	15.0	80.0	0.005	5.0
112	Nepal	.644	4.2	49.9	30.5	86.0	33.9	80.6	2.793	174.4	105.0	11.0	55.0	0.088	4.0
112	Vanuatu	.644	7.0[f]	67.6[f]	45.1	75.2[f]	1.9	55.6	3.543	94.4	107.0	29.0	66.8[f]	0.000	0.0
114	Morocco	.637	5.0	32.7	25.6	88.0	21.4	75.6	3.032	71.9	104.7	10.0	59.0	0.032	0.0
115	Brazil	.630	8.3	80.9	54.5	91.0	17.7	85.0	2.209	72.2	104.5	6.0	39.0	0.298	42.9
116	Venezuela	.628	11.4	79.7	55.5	77.0	22.1[q]	85.0	1.370	259.2	105.3	8.0	40.0	0.126	30.7
117	Ukraine	.626	11.5	80.7	67.7	100.0	20.4	85.0	2.532	16.5	106.3	9.0	55.0	0.321	81.0
118	Algeria	.622	7.7	31.2	17.8	91.0	6.8	57.5	2.120	77.7	104.6	9.4[d]	46.0	0.000	20.3
119	Equatorial Guinea	.619	4.2	62.0[f]	53.2[f]	75.3[f]	27.0	51.9	1.405	212.3	103.1	29.0	58.8[f]	0.000	0.0
119	Senegal	.619	1.6	50.3	47.5	78.0	46.1	72.5	2.951	260.9	103.1	12.0	46.0	0.034	0.0
121	Philippines	.612	9.2	47.4	54.0	94.0	27.5	78.8	2.626	78.2	107.7	6.0	65.0	0.056	75.3
122	Honduras	.610	6.8	28.9	48.9	83.0	27.3	75.0	1.949	71.8	105.1	7.0	51.0	0.987	24.3
122	Libya	.610	8.5	59.6[c]	36.1	100.0	16.5	50.0	0.734	72.1	105.7	18.3[e]	57.0	0.119	1.6
122	Namibia	.610	7.5	69.3	60.1	80.0	35.6	86.3	2.917	214.6	101.1	16.0	31.0	0.075	0.0
125	Lesotho	.605	6.6	62.4	54.7	75.0	26.0	78.1	2.646	566.2[f]	102.8	16.0	21.0	0.000	0.0
126	Zimbabwe	.604	8.3	54.0	64.8	81.0	33.6	86.9	2.678	356.8	102.4	18.0	32.0	0.046	0.0
127	Angola	.598	4.2	22.3[n]	77.8	65.6[f]	33.6	79.4	2.198	221.9	102.7	25.0	54.9[f]	0.011	3.8
128	India	.595	6.3	77.6	34.6	55.0	14.7	74.4	2.396	102.7	107.5	18.0	58.0	0.018	11.6
128	Lebanon	.595	8.5	16.6	30.9	95.0	6.3	58.8	1.897	20.6	105.3	8.9[d]	46.0	0.071	0.0
128	Togo	.595	3.4	44.3	69.3	70.0	19.8	81.9	1.540	399.0	102.8	13.0	48.0	0.000	10.3
131	Bangladesh	.593	6.8	43.5	40.5	75.0	20.9	49.4	1.433	123.0	105.0	23.0	71.0	0.022	28.1
131	Gabon	.593	7.8	61.3	56.5[f]	84.0	17.6	95.0	2.978	226.6	102.1	22.0	33.0	0.085	0.0

WPS Index rank 2023	Country	WPS Index score 2023	INCLUSION					JUSTICE				SECURITY			
			Education (years) 2016–2021[a]	Financial inclusion (%) 2021	Employment (%) 2018–2022[a]	Cellphone use (%) 2022	Parliamentary representation (%) 2023	Absence of legal discrimination (score) 2023	Access to justice (score) 2022	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) 2020	Son bias (number of sons born per 100 girls) 2022	Intimate partner violence (%) 2018	Community safety (%) 2020–2022[a]	Political violence targeting women (events per 100,000 women) 2022	Proximity to conflict (%) 2021–2022
132	Colombia	.582	9.0	56.2	53.3	89.0	29.4	84.4	2.430	74.8	104.5	12.0	36.0	0.475	66.1
134	Mozambique	.580	2.4	38.7	85.1	45.0	43.2	82.5	1.841	127.1	102.0	16.0	46.0	0.119	12.1
135	Gambia	.575	3.8	28.1	66.3	81.0	8.6	69.4	3.147	458.2	103.2	10.0	25.0	0.000	0.0
136	Côte d'Ivoire	.573	4.7	37.4	65.5	84.0	15.9	95.0	2.183	479.9	103.0	16.0	47.0	0.014	0.0
137	Guatemala	.569	5.2	34.3	43.0	74.0	19.4	73.8	1.433	95.5	103.9	7.0	47.0	0.510	11.4
138	Benin	.566	3.3	39.8	68.8	66.0	25.7	83.8	3.060	522.6[r]	104.1	15.0	49.0	0.135	0.0
138	El Salvador	.566	6.8	29.2	54.1	80.0	27.4	88.8	1.558	42.8	104.8	6.0	72.0	0.482	99.1
140	Iran	.557	10.6	85.1	13.7	80.0	5.6	31.3	1.458	22.0	105.3	18.0	63.0	0.123	54.5
141	Zambia	.556	7.2	45.0	63.9	69.0	15.0	81.3	1.844	134.7	101.1	28.0	41.0	0.030	0.0
142	Mexico	.551	9.1	42.3	51.4	79.0	50.1[k]	88.8	1.602	59.1	103.9	10.0	40.0	0.822	94.3
BOTTOM QUINTILE															
143	Uganda	.544	4.9	65.1	39.7	77.0	33.8	81.3	1.775	284.1	102.9	26.0	46.0	0.117	25.5
144	Sierra Leone	.543	3.5	24.8	62.6	55.0	13.0	72.5	3.069	442.8	103.3	20.0	47.0	0.000	23.0
145	Guinea	.539	1.3	24.0	49.8	79.0	29.6	73.8	1.317	553.4[r]	104.5	21.0	57.0	0.014	5.3
146	Ethiopia	.521	2.2	38.7	62.3	46.0	38.8	76.9	2.537	266.7	105.5	27.0	49.0	0.031	67.4
146	Malawi	.521	4.1	38.1	71.3	57.0	20.7	80.0	2.800	380.7	101.4	17.0	41.0	0.095	0.0
148	Comoros	.519	4.0	29.3	52.8	56.0	16.7	65.0	0.964	217.0	103.2	8.0	51.0	0.480	0.0
149	Kenya	.511	6.1	75.4	75.3	81.0	24.6	80.6	2.515	530.0[r]	102.2	23.0	43.0	0.209	41.0
150	Congo	.507	5.6	43.8	49.8[f]	62.0	15.9	78.8	1.275	282.4	102.6	33.8[e]	41.0	0.033	8.0
151	Mauritania	.506	4.6	16.1	33.9	68.0	20.3	48.1	1.072	463.8	103.3	19.7[e]	49.0	0.000	0.0
152	Madagascar	.505	4.9	25.2	90.1	38.0	17.8	69.4	1.903	391.5	103.9	35.0[d]	35.0	0.041	0.0
153	Djibouti	.504	4.3[f]	8.8[l]	16.0	56.8[f]	23.1	71.3	2.230	234.5	103.7	26.9[e]	48.4[f]	0.000	54.4
154	Liberia	.500	3.9	44.2	52.3	61.0	9.7	81.3	2.672	652.3[r]	103.9	27.0	29.0	0.038	0.0
155	Papua New Guinea	.487	4.1	58.5[f]	50.0[f]	72.1[f]	1.7	60.0	2.274	191.8	107.7	31.0	62.2[f]	0.346	22.6
156	Guinea-Bissau	.483	2.4	39.5[f]	59.0	62.0[f]	13.7	42.5	1.805	725.1[r]	104.1	19.4[f]	51.6[f]	0.094	0.0
156	Palestine	.483	9.9	25.9	15.1	87.0	21.2[s]	26.3	2.242	20.4	105.1	19.0	67.0	0.646	100.0
158	Burkina Faso	.481	1.6	30.7	44.9	70.0[o]	16.9	82.5	2.147	263.8	104.1	11.0	45.0	0.440	60.1
158	Mali	.481	2.4	41.2	56.9	76.0	28.6	63.8	2.032	440.2	103.3	18.0	75.0	0.232	76.7
158	Pakistan	.481	3.9	13.5	25.3	32.0	20.1	58.8	1.527	154.2	105.5	16.0	56.0	0.013	40.0
161	Cameroon	.466	4.8	49.3	78.0	71.0	31.1	60.0	2.006	437.8	103.0	22.0	40.0	0.264	65.4
162	Nigeria	.465	6.1	35.0	58.9	76.0	4.2	66.3	2.526	1,047.0[r]	103.8	13.0	52.0	0.179	69.6
163	Chad	.462	1.5	22.6	57.5	38.0	25.9	66.3	1.042	1,063.0[r]	104.2	16.0	47.0	0.079	22.4
164	Sudan	.460	3.4	10.0[n]	55.7[f]	58.4[f]	22.1[t]	29.4	1.480	270.4	104.1	17.0	48.4[f]	0.179	38.8
165	Myanmar	.451	6.1	46.2	52.7	90.0	15.0[u]	58.8	1.128	178.7	106.6	11.0	32.0	0.467	97.9
166	Niger	.442	1.7	10.2	17.4	46.0	30.7	56.9	2.628	441.1	104.0	13.0	56.0	0.271	28.6
167	Haiti	.431	4.6	30.0[c]	54.1[f]	74.2[f]	2.5[v]	61.3	1.035	350.4	103.0	12.0	52.5[f]	1.146	67.6
168	Iraq	.424	7.2	14.9	11.0	73.0	28.9	48.1	1.349	76.1	105.7	45.3[d]	72.0	0.212	83.5
169	Somalia	.417	4.7[f]	33.7[n]	23.0	60.3[f]	20.7	46.9	0.955	620.7[r]	104.4	21.2[d]	47.6[f]	0.182	52.0
170	Eswatini	.415	5.7	69.2	50.2	88.0	22.1	46.3	1.627	239.6	103.0	18.0	25.0	0.826	99.9
171	Syrian Arab Republic	.407	4.6	19.6[l]	41.7[f]	65.0[f]	10.8	40.0	0.540	29.9	105.2	23.0[d]	54.8[f]	1.095	100.0
172	Burundi	.394	2.5	6.7[n]	89.9	58.4[f]	38.9	76.3	1.420	494.4	102.5	22.0	48.4[f]	0.755	100.0
173	South Sudan	.388	4.8	4.2	55.7[f]	58.4[f]	32.3	67.5	0.876	1,223.0[r]	103.5	27.0	48.4[f]	1.180	79.7
174	Congo, Dem. Rep.	.384	5.6	20.5	69.2	37.0	14.8	58.1	0.993	547.4[r]	102.3	36.0	47.0	0.345	31.2
175	Central African Rep.	.378	3.1	9.7[c]	55.7[f]	58.4[f]	12.9	76.9	1.510	835.3[r]	103.3	21.0	48.4[f]	0.251	88.6
176	Yemen	.287	2.9	5.4	5.5	38.0	0.3	26.9	0.795	183.4	105.9	18.2[e]	41.0	0.234	88.7
177	Afghanistan	.286	2.3	4.7	25.1	37.0	27.2[w]	31.9	0.372	620.4[r]	105.2	35.0	39.0	0.462	91.1

Country and group	WPS Index score 2023	INCLUSION Education (years) 2016–2021a	Financial inclusion (%) 2021	Employment (%) 2018–2022a	Cellphone use (%) 2022	Parliamentary representation (%) 2023	JUSTICE Absence of legal discrimination (score) 2023	Access to justice (score) 2022	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) 2020	Son bias (number of sons born per 100 girls) 2022	SECURITY Intimate partner violence (%) 2018	Community safety (%) 2020–2022a	Political violence targeting women (events per 100,000 women) 2022	Proximity to conflict (%) 2021–2022
OTHER COUNTRIES AND ECONOMIES NOT RANKED ON THE WPS INDEX														
Andorra	..	10.5	..	..	..	46.4	..	..	..	106.2	..	..	0.000	0.0
Antigua and Barbuda	..	..	..	..	..	22.9	66.3	..	21.3	103.2	..	..	0.000	0.0
Bahamas	..	12.7	..	..	..	20.0	81.3	..	77.1	102.8	..	..	0.000	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	..	9.2	..	64.6	..	8.8	53.1	..	44.2	107.7	..	..	0.000	0.0
Cuba	..	12.6	..	..	..	53.4	..	0.721	39.3	107.2	5.0	..	0.195	0.0
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	..	..	..	17.6	..	0.428	106.7	106.0	..	..	0.023	0.0
Dominica	..	..	..	..	..	37.5	62.5	..	..	103.6	..	..	0.000	0.0
Eritrea	..	..	..	..	..	..	69.4	0.473	321.6	103.2	..	..	0.000	6.9
Federated States of Micronesia	..	..	..	49.4	..	7.1	61.3	..	74.3	107.0	21.0	..	0.000	0.0
Grenada	..	..	..	..	..	31.0	80.6	..	21.1	104.0	8.0	..	0.000	0.0
Kiribati	..	..	..	44.1	..	6.7	76.3	..	76.3	107.1	25.0	..	0.000	0.0
Liechtenstein	..	..	..	68.6	..	28.0	..	..	..	116.3	..	..	0.000	0.0
Macao	..	..	..	77.1	..	..	..	..	..	108.0	..	..	..	0.0
Marshall Islands	..	10.7	..	33.3	..	6.1	65.6	..	..	107.0	19.0	..	0.000	0.0
Monaco	..	..	..	58.8	..	45.8	..	..	..	104.8	..	..	0.000	0.0
Nauru	..	..	..	57.4	..	10.5	..	..	..	107.2	20.0	..	0.000	0.0
Palau	..	..	..	74.5	..	6.9	56.3	..	..	107.7	14.0	..	0.000	0.0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	..	..	..	..	31.3	71.3	..	..	103.7	..	..	0.000	0.0	
Saint Lucia	..	8.8	..	67.6	..	24.1	83.8	..	73.3	103.1	..	..	0.000	0.0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	..	10.9	..	..	..	18.2	68.1	..	61.8	103.3	..	..	0.000	0.0
San Marino	..	10.9	..	88.4	..	33.3	80.0	..	..	106.6	..	..	0.000	0.0
Tuvalu	..	10.4	..	42.8	..	6.3	..	..	..	107.0	20.0	..	0.000	0.0
COUNTRY GROUPS AND REGIONS														
Developed Countries	.847	12.9	98.1	71.3	94.2	33.8	92.9	3.532	11.9	105.2	4.8	67.2	0.011	0.8
Central & Eastern Europe & Central Asia	.721	11.6	77.1	62.4	93.1	24.6	81.0	2.093	17.3	106.2	7.3	57.5	0.047	14.8
East Asia & the Pacific	.671	7.6	78.4	59.0	95.0	21.2	76.9	2.013	77.4	109.1	8.5	82.9	0.022	8.5
Latin America & the Caribbean	.630	9.0	63.4	55.7	86.1	34.5	85.1	2.061	85.0	104.4	8.0	39.5	0.381	43.5
Middle East & North Africa	.565	8.6	41.2	21.6	80.5	15.3	48.8	1.694	53.8	105.3	18.3	65.5	0.126	34.2
South Asia	.581	6.0	65.8	34.1	54.9	19.3	69.2	2.163	135.3	106.7	18.3	58.6	0.028	18.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	.498	5.0	40.8	62.5	65.6	26.4	71.7	2.205	506.9	103.4	20.5	47.6	0.151	37.0
Fragile States	.453	5.4	34.3	53.5	64.6	21.9	62.2	1.791	539.7	104.1	20.8	49.1	0.268	61.0
World	.650	8.3	70.5	53.1	80.4	26.3	75.7	2.267	212.0	105.7	12.9	64.3	0.080	19.0

Notes to table

Because of updates to the structure of the WPS Index, scores for 2023/24 should not be compared with those for previous years.

.. Not available or not complete.

a. Data refer to the most recent year during the period specified.

b. In calculating the WPS Index score, the maternal mortality ratio is floored at 4.

c. Refers to 2017.

d. Data are from the UN Women Global Database on Violence Against Women (http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en). Based on Demographic and Health Survey 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. Imputed value, calculated as the mean of the regional and the income group averages.

g. Based on the counts reported by the Taipei Times (https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2022/01/24/2003771965).

h. Refers to the 2016 election for the Legislative Council of Hong Kong. See Research Office Legislative Council Secretariat (2018).

i. Refers to 2020.

j. Refers to 2019.

k. In calculating the WPS Index score, parliamentary representation is capped at 50 percent.

l. Refers to 2011.

m. In calculating the WPS Index score, son bias is capped at 1.10.

n. Refers to 2014.

o. Refers to 2021.

p. Based on the counts reported for the House of Representatives at https://www.camara.pr.gov/page-team/ and the counts reported for the Senate at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_Senate_of_Puerto_Rico.

q. Venezuela's Parliament elected 2015 was suspended in March 2017.

r. In calculating the WPS Index score, the maternal mortality ratio is capped at 500.

s. Represents the female share of seats in deliberative bodies of the local councils of the West Bank (SDG 5.5.1) and refers to 2018.

t. Sudan's National Assembly (Parliament) elected in April 2015 was suspended in October 2019.

u. Myanmar's Parliament elected in November 2020 was suspended in February 2021.

v. Haiti's Parliament elected in October 2015 was dissolved in 2021.

w. Afghanistan's Parliament elected in October 2018 was dissolved in August 2021.

Definitions

Education: Average number of years of education of women ages 25 and older.

Financial inclusion: Percentage of women and girls ages 15 and older who report having an individual or joint account at a bank or other financial institution or who report using a mobile money service.

Employment: Female employment to population ratio—that is, the number of employed women ages 25–64, expressed as a percentage of the total female population in that age group.

Cellphone use: Percentage of women and girls ages 15 and older who report having a mobile phone that they use to make and receive personal calls.

Parliamentary representation: Percentage of total seats in lower and upper houses of the national parliament that are held by women.

Absence of legal discrimination: Extent (on a scale of 0 to 100) to which laws and regulations differentiate between women and men or protect women's opportunities across 35 aspects of life and work.

Access to justice: Extent (on a scale of 0 to 4) to which women are able to exercise justice by bringing cases before the courts without risk to their personal safety, participating in a free trial, and seeking redress if public authorities violate their rights.

Maternal mortality ratio: Number of deaths due to pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births.

Son bias: Extent to which the sex ratio at birth (the ratio of the number of boys born to the number of girls born) exceeds the natural demographic rate of 1.05. The table reports the number of boys born for every 100 girls born, with 105 boys being the natural demographic rate.

Intimate partner violence: Percentage of ever-partnered women who experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their intimate partner in the 12 months preceding the survey in which the information was gathered.

Community safety: Percentage of women and girls ages 15 and older who responded "Yes" to the Gallup World Poll question "Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?"

Political violence targeting women: The number of civilian-targeting events in which women or girls are the primary target of the violence, expressed as the number of events per 100,000 women. A political violence event is assumed to be targeting women when the main victims are all women or girls, a majority of victims are women or girls, or the primary target is a woman or girl.

Proximity to conflict: Percentage of women who lived within 50 kilometers of at least one armed conflict event during the period specified.

Main data sources

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

WPS Index rank: Based on WPS Index value.

Education: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (http://data.uis.unesco.org/). Accessed April 2023.

Financial inclusion: World Bank Global Findex Database (https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/globalfindex). Accessed April 2023.

Employment: International Labour Organization (ILO) (https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/employment/). Accessed April 2023.

Cellphone use: Gallup 2023 World Poll. Accessed April 2023.

Parliamentary representation: Inter-Parliamentary Union. Monthly ranking of women in national parliaments (https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking?month=3&year=2023). Accessed April 2023.

Absence of legal discrimination: World Bank Women, Business and the Law database (https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl). Accessed April 2023.

Access to justice: Varieties of Democracy dataset, version 1.3 (https://www.v-dem.net/data/the-v-dem-dataset/). Accessed April 2023.

Maternal mortality ratio: UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator database, Indicator 3.1.1 (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database). Accessed April 2023.

Son bias: United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs World Population Prospects, 2022 Revision (https://population.un.org/wpp/). Accessed April 2022. The official name of the indicator is "sex ratio at birth."

Intimate partner violence: UN SDG indicators database (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database). Accessed April 2023.

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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 177 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 177 countries.

The electronic version of the report and the report summary are available on the website, free of charge.
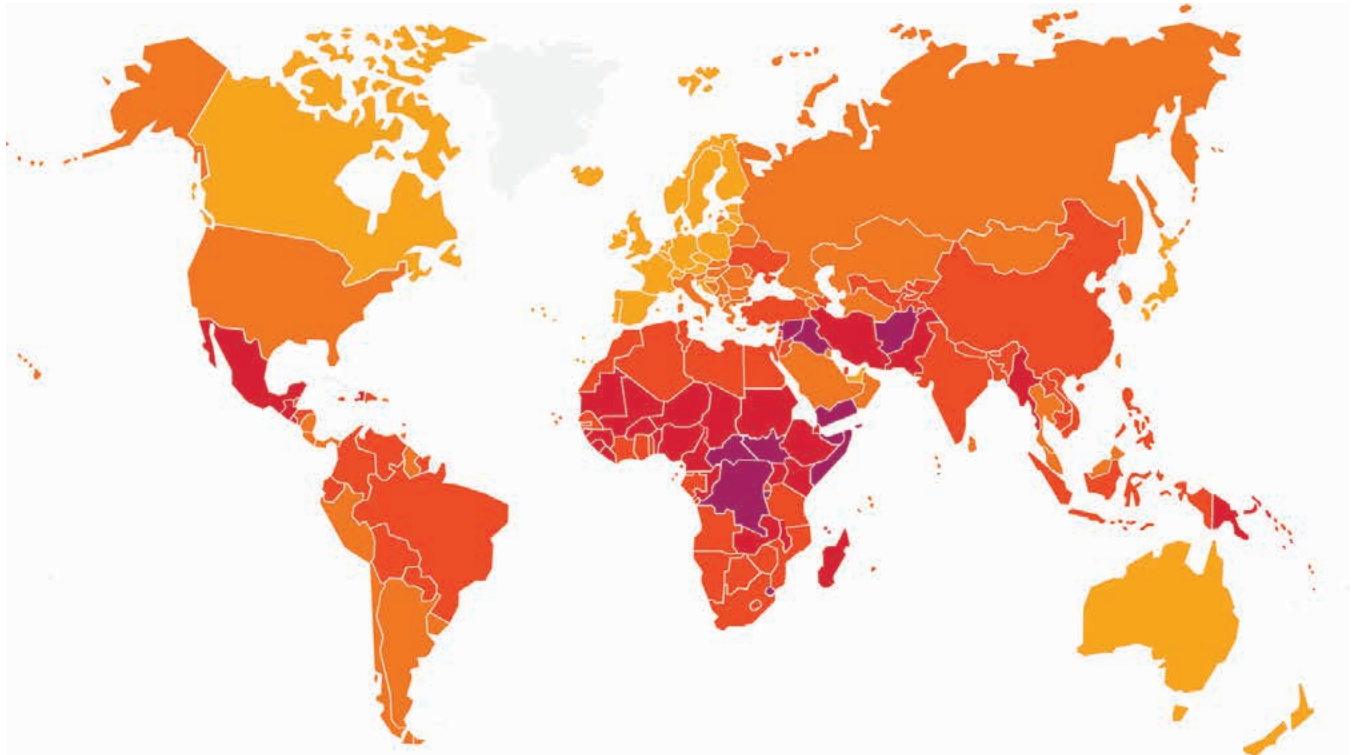
giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index

Alphabetical key to countries and ranks on the 2023/24 WPS Index

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
177	Afghanistan	0.286	51	Greece	0.766	156	Palestine	0.483
45	Albania	0.796	137	Guatemala	0.569	54	Panama	0.757
118	Algeria	0.622	145	Guinea	0.539	155	Papua New Guinea	0.487
127	Angola	0.598	156	Guinea-Bissau	0.483	89	Paraguay	0.691
50	Argentina	0.768	49	Guyana	0.769	73	Peru	0.717
48	Armenia	0.772	167	Haiti	0.431	121	Philippines	0.612
11	Australia	0.902	122	Honduras	0.610	27	Poland	0.859
8	Austria	0.911	39	Hong Kong	0.812	19	Portugal	0.877
97	Azerbaijan	0.667	32	Hungary	0.835	88	Puerto Rico	0.692
56	Bahrain	0.752	4	Iceland	0.924	80	Qatar	0.703
131	Bangladesh	0.593	128	India	0.595	42	Romania	0.800
47	Barbados	0.779	82	Indonesia	0.700	56	Russian Federation	0.752
69	Belarus	0.733	140	Iran	0.557	103	Rwanda	0.663
11	Belgium	0.902	168	Iraq	0.424	76	Samoa	0.711
105	Belize	0.657	13	Ireland	0.892	109	Sao Tome and Principe	0.648
138	Benin	0.566	80	Israel	0.703	67	Saudi Arabia	0.737
82	Bhutan	0.700	34	Italy	0.827	119	Senegal	0.619
86	Bolivia	0.696	77	Jamaica	0.710	32	Serbia	0.835
55	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.754	23	Japan	0.866	43	Seychelles	0.799
104	Botswana	0.659	92	Jordan	0.679	144	Sierra Leone	0.543
115	Brazil	0.630	70	Kazakhstan	0.729	15	Singapore	0.887
35	Bulgaria	0.826	149	Kenya	0.511	29	Slovakia	0.856
158	Burkina Faso	0.481	100	Kosovo	0.664	36	Slovenia	0.824
172	Burundi	0.394	61	Kuwait	0.742	100	Solomon Islands	0.664
64	Cabo Verde	0.738	95	Kyrgyzstan	0.673	169	Somalia	0.417
110	Cambodia	0.645	79	Lao PDR	0.704	91	South Africa	0.688
161	Cameroon	0.466	20	Latvia	0.872	30	South Korea	0.848
17	Canada	0.885	128	Lebanon	0.595	173	South Sudan	0.388
175	Central African Republic	0.378	125	Lesotho	0.605	27	Spain	0.859
163	Chad	0.462	154	Liberia	0.500	60	Sri Lanka	0.743
68	Chile	0.736	122	Libya	0.610	164	Sudan	0.460
82	China	0.700	16	Lithuania	0.886	87	Suriname	0.694
132	Colombia	0.582	4	Luxembourg	0.924	3	Sweden	0.926
148	Comoros	0.519	152	Madagascar	0.505	2	Switzerland	0.928
150	Congo	0.507	146	Malawi	0.521	171	Syrian Arab Republic	0.407
60	Costa Rica	0.743	64	Malaysia	0.738	38	Taiwan	0.818
136	Côte d'Ivoire	0.573	72	Maldives	0.720	90	Tajikistan	0.690
25	Croatia	0.862	158	Mali	0.481	107	Tanzania	0.652
63	Cyprus	0.739	31	Malta	0.846	52	Thailand	0.764
18	Czechia	0.884	151	Mauritania	0.506	100	Timor-Leste	0.664
174	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.384	93	Mauritius	0.678	128	Togo	0.595
1	Denmark	0.932	142	Mexico	0.551	85	Tonga	0.697
153	Djibouti	0.504	53	Moldova	0.758	71	Trinidad and Tobago	0.721
98	Dominican Republic	0.666	46	Mongolia	0.794	96	Tunisia	0.669
106	Ecuador	0.655	41	Montenegro	0.808	99	Türkiye	0.665
110	Egypt	0.645	114	Morocco	0.637	58	Turkmenistan	0.750
138	El Salvador	0.566	134	Mozambique	0.580	143	Uganda	0.544
119	Equatorial Guinea	0.619	165	Myanmar	0.451	117	Ukraine	0.626
13	Estonia	0.892	122	Namibia	0.610	22	United Arab Emirates	0.868
170	Eswatini	0.415	112	Nepal	0.644	26	United Kingdom	0.860
146	Ethiopia	0.521	9	Netherlands	0.908	37	United States	0.823
64	Fiji	0.738	10	New Zealand	0.904	59	Uruguay	0.748
4	Finland	0.924	73	Nicaragua	0.717	94	Uzbekistan	0.674
24	France	0.864	166	Niger	0.442	112	Vanuatu	0.644
131	Gabon	0.593	162	Nigeria	0.465	116	Venezuela	0.628
135	Gambia	0.575	44	North Macedonia	0.798	78	Viet Nam	0.707
39	Georgia	0.812	7	Norway	0.920	176	Yemen	0.287
21	Germany	0.871	75	Oman	0.715	141	Zambia	0.556
108	Ghana	0.651	158	Pakistan	0.481	126	Zimbabwe	0.604

Possible scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 1.

The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index 2023/24, the fourth since the inaugural 2017/18 index, ranks 177 countries and economies on women's status. As the only index to bring together indicators of women's inclusion, justice, and security, the WPS Index is a valuable measure of women's status that can be used to track trends, guide policymaking, and hold governments accountable for their promises to advance women's rights and opportunities.

The WPS Index reveals glaring disparities around the world. All countries on the index have room for improvement, and many perform considerably better or worse on some indicators of women's status than on others. These cases underline the importance of measuring women's status in its many dimensions. Societies where women are doing well are also more peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and better prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change, according to correlations between our WPS Index and other global indices. The outcomes on these global indices are more strongly correlated with women's status than they are with national income, underlining the importance of investing in women.