

# Why do we need a gender perspective to face climate change?

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**EGU Campfire: women in climate science**

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# Do we need a gender perspective?

## Key Messages

- Gender and other social inequities (e.g., racial, ethnic, age, income, geographic location) compound vulnerability to climate change impacts (*high confidence*). Climate justice initiatives explicitly address these multi-dimensional inequalities as part of a climate change adaptation strategy (Box 9.2: Vulnerability Synthesis: Differential Vulnerability by Gender and Age in Chapter 9).
- Addressing inequities in access to resources, assets and services, as well as participation in decision making and leadership is essential to achieving gender and climate justice (*high confidence*).
- Intentional long-term policy and programme measures and investments to support shifts in social rules, norms and behaviours are essential to address structural inequalities and support an enabling environment for marginalised groups to effectively adapt to climate change (*very high confidence*) (Equity and Justice box in Chapter 17).
- Climate adaptation actions are grounded in local realities so understanding links with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 is important to ensure that adaptive actions do not worsen existing gender and other inequities within society (e.g., leading to maladaptation practices) (*high confidence*). [Section 17.5.1]
- Adaptation actions do not automatically have positive outcomes for gender equality. Understanding the positive and negative links of adaptation actions with gender equality goals, (i.e., SDG 5), is important to ensure that adaptive actions do not exacerbate existing gender-based and other social inequalities [Section 16.1.4.4]. Efforts are needed to change unequal power dynamics and to foster inclusive decision making for climate adaptation to have a positive impact for gender equality (*high confidence*).
- There are very few examples of successful integration of gender and other social inequities in climate policies to address climate change vulnerabilities and questions of social justice (*very high confidence*).

# Do we need a gender perspective?

## Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022

Publication year: 2022



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The latest available [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 5](#) data show that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

[COVID-19](#) and the backlash against women's sexual and reproductive health and rights are further diminishing the outlook for gender equality. Violence against women remains high; global health, climate, and humanitarian crises have further increased risks of violence, especially for the most vulnerable women and girls; and women feel more unsafe than they did before the pandemic. Women's representation in positions of power and decision-making remains below parity. Only 47 per cent of data required to track progress on SDG 5 are currently available, rendering women and girls effectively invisible.

UN Women (2022)

# Disproportionate effects of climate change

Climate and human-made disasters are destroying the planet and affecting the lives of women and girls

On average, one disaster resulting in

# 115

**DEATHS AND LOSSES OF \$202 MILLION**

was recorded daily during 1970–2019.

**WOMEN**, especially those from poor and marginalized communities, **are disproportionately affected.**



## BANGLADESH

Recurrent disasters, such as floods, constrain the provision of reproductive health services in rural and remote areas.



## BOTSWANA

A study found that

# 56%

**OF GIRLS**

reported travelling longer distances than usual to fetch water.



## SOMALIA

When families migrated from rural to urban areas in 2018–2019 as a result of flooding, drought and conflict, **girls'** enrolment rates dropped from **45% to just 29%.**

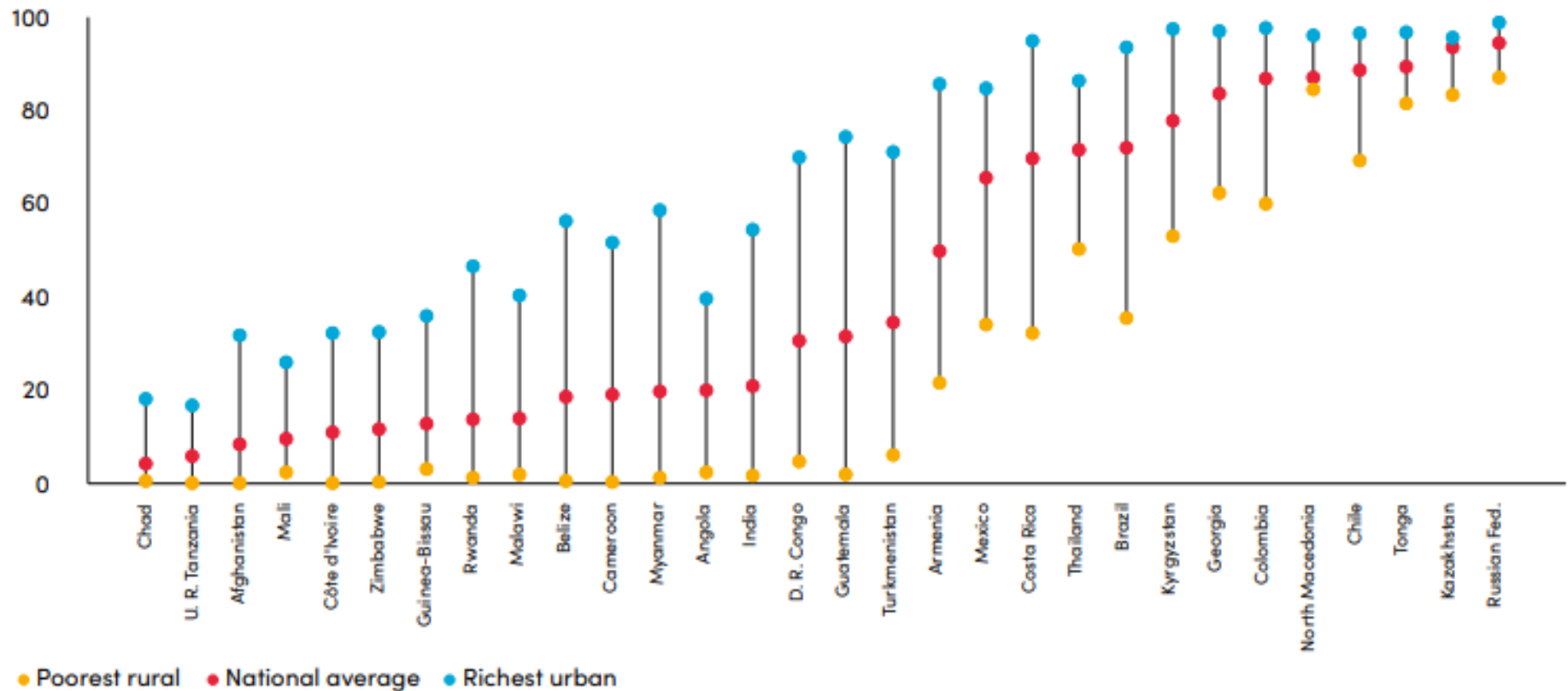
In contrast, **boys'** enrolment following displacement rose from **29% to 41%.**





# Access to education

Women aged 20-29 who have completed upper secondary school, by location and wealth, selected countries, 2015-2019 (percentage)

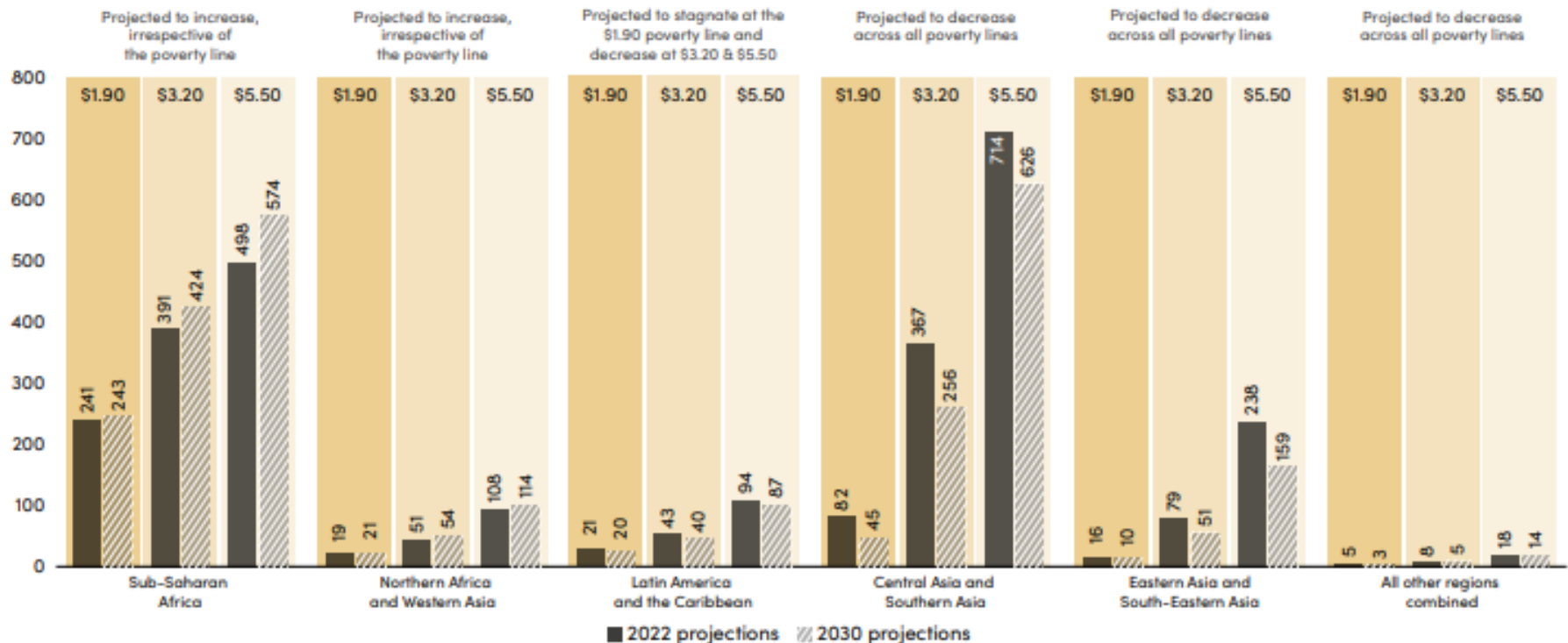


Source: UNESCO Education Monitoring World Inequality Database, 2022.

UN Women (2022)

# Poverty

**Female poverty headcount based on the \$1.90, \$3.20 and \$5.50 international poverty lines, by region, 2022 and 2030 projections (millions)**

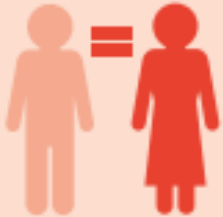


Source: UN Women, UNDP and Pardee Center for International Futures using the International Futures modelling platform 2022.

\* The term "gender-specific indicators" describes indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as an underlying objective. For a full list of gender-specific indicators by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), see pages 29–32.

# Human rights and gender/sexual-based violence

## THE PACE OF REFORM ON WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS IS FAR TOO SLOW



Constitutional provisions on gender equality, laws that prohibit discrimination against women, and laws mandating quotas and guaranteeing equal rights to confer citizenship are all key elements in ensuring women have equal legal rights and protections. But gaps remain in many countries. At the current rate, it may take up to **286 YEARS** to secure such overarching legal frameworks.

2022 2030

2308

2043



Despite progress on laws to address and prevent violence against women, at the current rate, it will take at least another

**21 YEARS** for these laws to be in place everywhere.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS REMAINS COMMONPLACE

**ONE  
WOMAN OR GIRL**

is killed by someone in  
her own family

**EVERY 11 MINUTES.**

Globally, more than  
**1 IN EVERY 10  
WOMEN AND GIRLS**  
aged 15–49 was subjected  
to sexual and/or physical  
violence by an intimate  
partner in the previous  
year (12.5%).

**1 IN 4  
WOMEN**

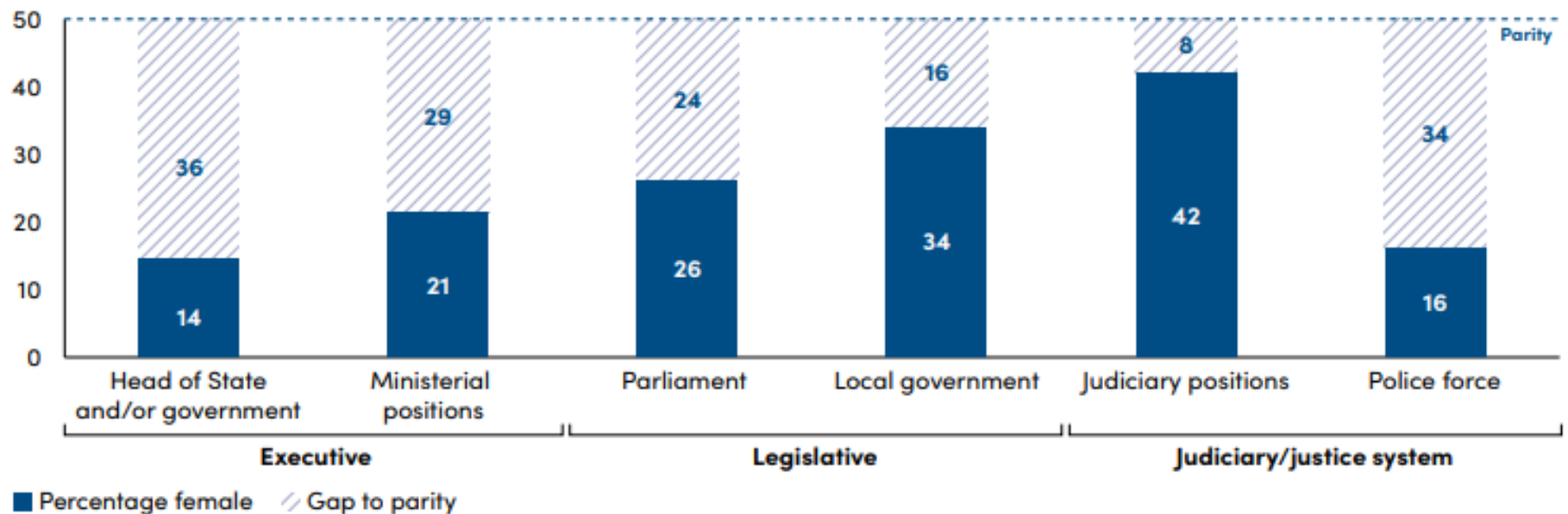
describes  
more frequent  
household  
conflicts since the  
pandemic began.

In 2021, nearly 1 in 5  
women aged 20–24 were  
married before turning 18  
(19.5%, down from 25.8% in  
2001). To end child marriage  
by 2030, progress must be  
**17 times faster** than in the  
last decade.

UN Women (2022)

# Participation in decision making bodies

Participation of women in selected public sector leadership positions and occupations (percentage)

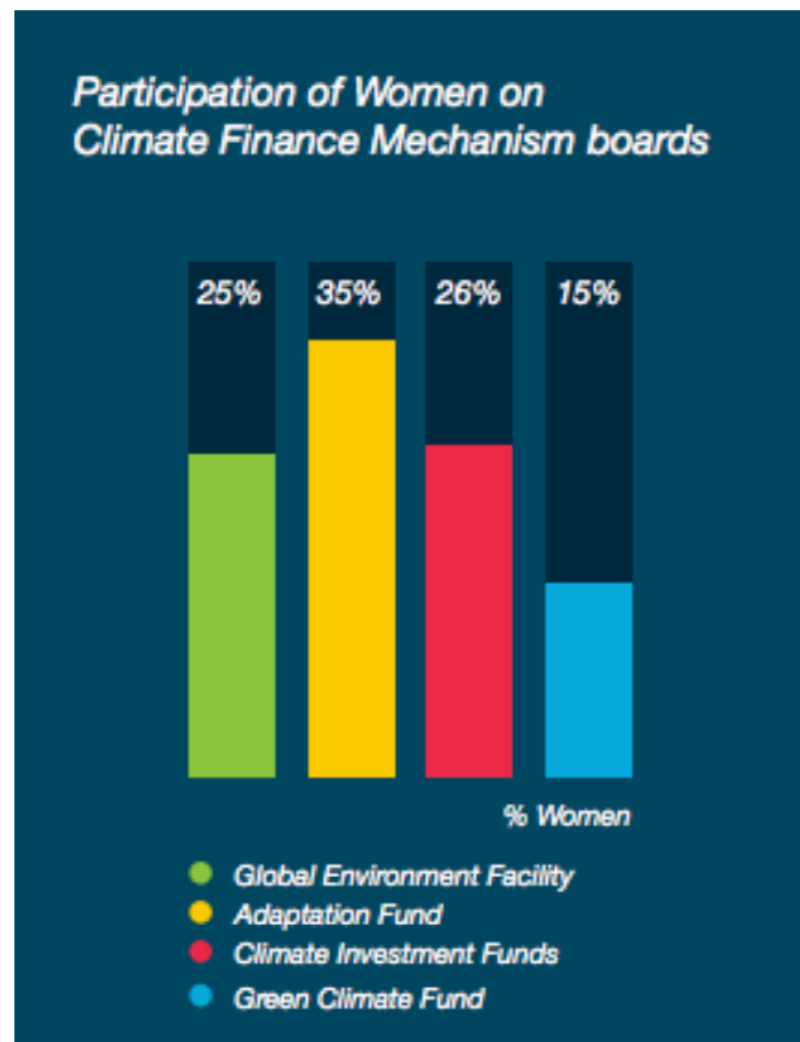
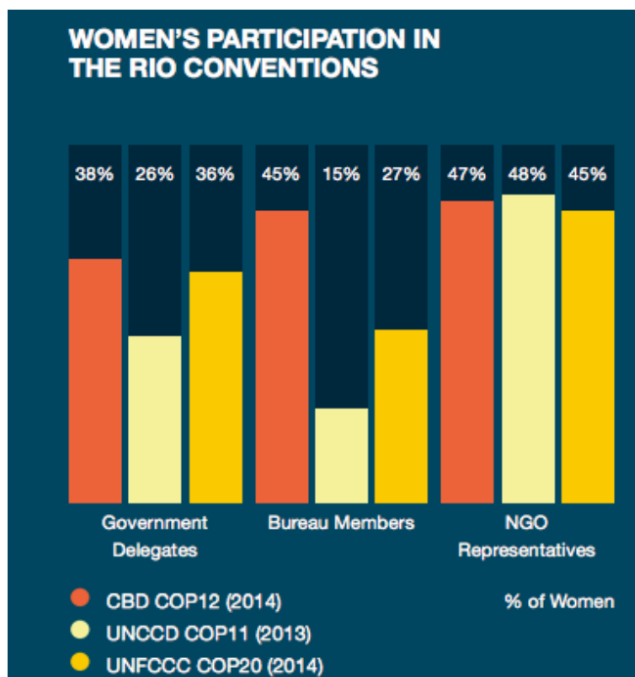


Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women, *Women in Politics 2021*, 2021; United Nations Statistics Division, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, Statistical Annex, 2022; UNODC, 2018.

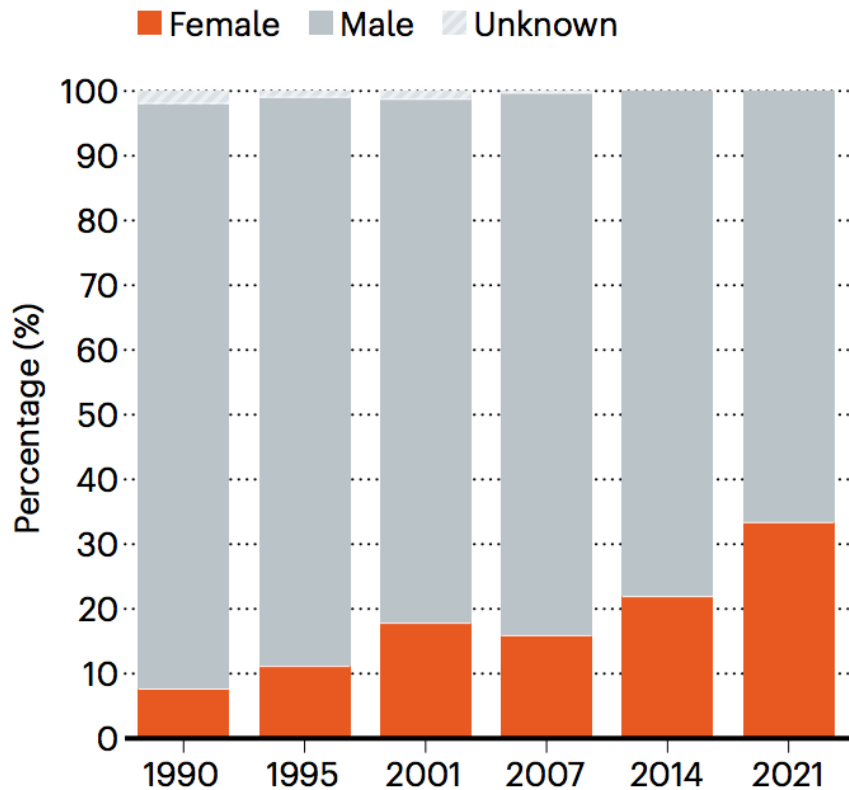
Note: Police force data are based on a simple average of 73 countries. Coverage for sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Southern Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia is limited.



# Participation in climate change bodies

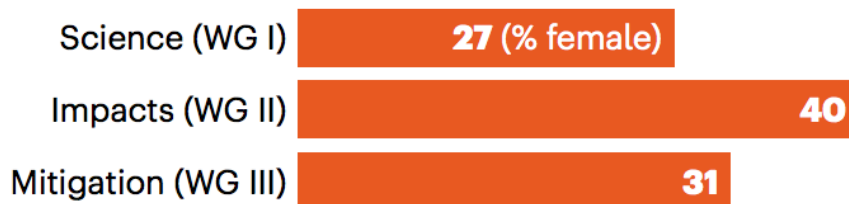


# Gender participation in the IPCC



Liverman et al. (2022)

Female participation varies across working groups (WG).



## IPCC GENDER BREAKDOWN

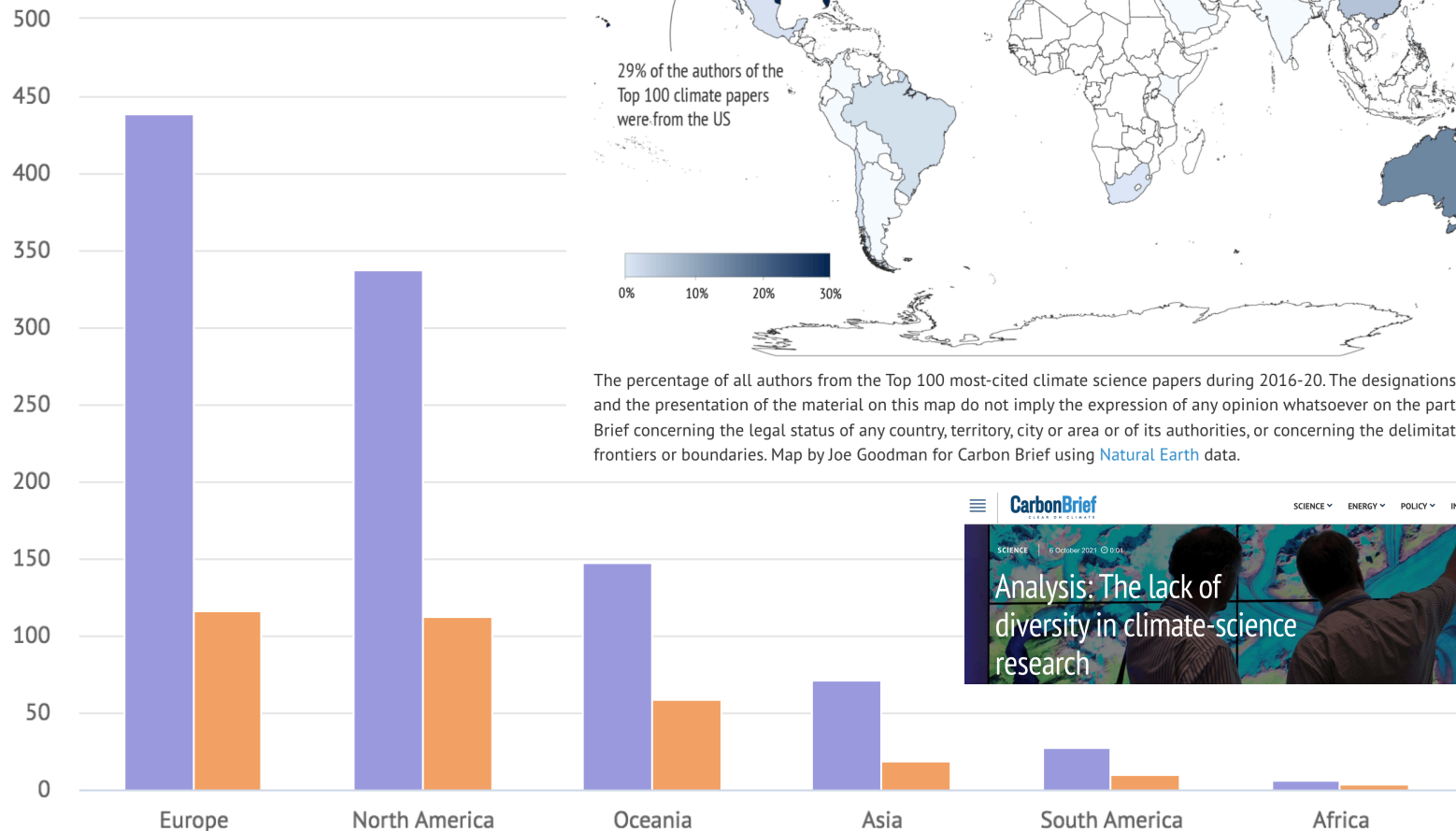
The percentage of female core authors on teams writing assessment reports has grown, from 8% in 1990 to 33% in 2021.

# Lack of diversity in climate sciences (and STEM)

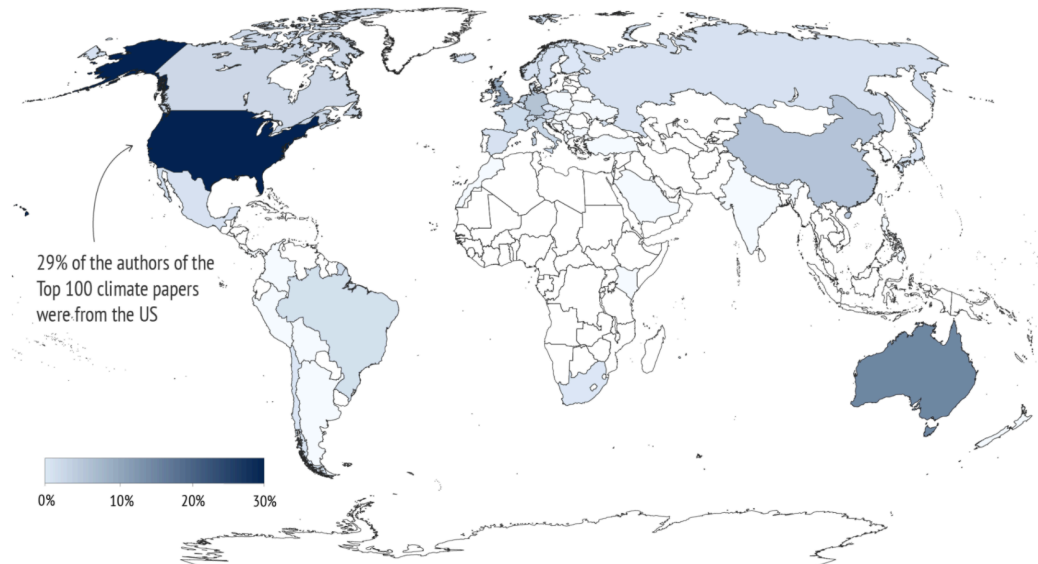
## Gender of authors by continent

From top 100 climate papers

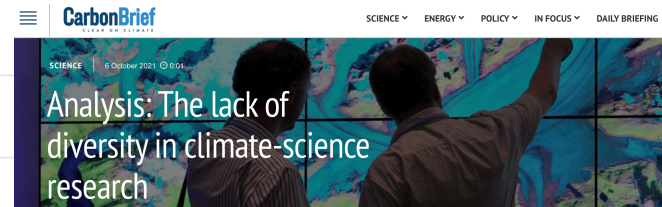
Male Female



## Authors of the Top 100 climate papers by nationality



The percentage of all authors from the Top 100 most-cited climate science papers during 2016-20. The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Carbon Brief concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Map by Joe Goodman for Carbon Brief using [Natural Earth](#) data.



# Barriers for scientific publication and citation

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## Women are Credited Less in Science than are Men

[Matthew B. Ross](#), [Britta M. Glennon](#), [Raviv Murciano-Goroff](#), [Enrico G. Berkes](#), [Bruce A. Weinberg](#) & [Julia I. Lane](#) 

[Nature](#) (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

**190** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



# Patriarchy and colonialism in climate sciences

## The Reuters Hot List

This is the Reuters list of the world's top climate scientists. To build it, we created a system of identifying and ranking 1,000 climate academics according to how influential they are.

Filed April 20, 2021, 11 a.m. GMT

This series tells the stories of the scientists who are having the biggest impact on the climate-change debate – their lives, their work and their influence on other scientists, the public, activists and political leaders.

To identify the 1,000 most influential scientists, we created the Hot List, which is a combination of three rankings. Those rankings are based on how many research papers scientists have published on topics related to climate change; how often those papers are cited by other scientists in similar fields of study, such as biology, chemistry or physics; and how often those papers are referenced in the lay press, social media, policy papers and other outlets.

### Among the 1000 scientists selected:

122 women, only 2 in the top 100

111 scientists from the Global South, only 23 if excluding China

Most from the physical, exact and natural sciences... Very few from the human and social sciences



We urgently need a gender perspective if we want to reach climate justice

World leaders posing for a “family photo” at the COP27 climate conference in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on Monday. Mohammed Salem/Reuters