

# 7 things you need to know about the gender gap:

1. **Over 2.7 billion women are legally restricted from having the same choice of jobs as men.** There are persistent gaps in women's access to financial services, productive assets, quality employment, and markets. This is largely driven by unpaid care work, social norms; and laws that restrict women from owning productive assets (such as land) and participating effectively in the workforce, especially in Africa and some parts of Asia. ([The World Bank, 2018](#))
2. **AIDS is the number one killer of women age 15-49 around the world.** In many parts of the world, girls and young women are at a much greater risk of acquiring HIV than boys and men of the same age, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Their heightened risk often stems from factors tied to gender discrimination, including pressure to have unsafe sex, lack of information about protection, and the prominence of gender-based violence. ([UNAIDS, 2019](#))
3. **Almost half a billion women globally can't read.** Since 1990, out-of-school numbers and rates for girls have been declining at a much faster rate than those for boys, coming to equal levels around 2011. But we know the gender gap widens with higher levels of poverty. ([UNESCO, 2016](#))
4. **Women farmers produce between 13% and 25% less than their male counterparts.** Almost everywhere women farmers face more severe constraints than men in accessing productive resources, markets and services. This gender gap hinders women's productivity and reduces their contributions to the agriculture sector, and to the achievement of broader economic and social development goals. ([World Bank, 2014](#))
5. **Half of the people political leaders represent are women. But only a quarter of those leaders are women.** Women are consistently excluded, disadvantaged, and severely restricted from political empowerment at all levels: in daily life, at a national level, and in international contexts. ([Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2019](#))
6. **35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence** or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. The physical, mental and economic harm Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors experience can limit their participation in society, thereby decreasing national productivity, reducing economic growth and increasing pressure on social and health services. ([World Health Organisation, 2019](#))
7. **197 million fewer women than men own a mobile phone.** While the gender gap in internet access is closing everywhere, it is increasing in Africa. Even when women have access to the internet, that access may not be available at a quality, speed or cost that enables them to use it optimally. ([Anri van der Spuy and David Souter, 2018](#))