

UNECE Meeting on Measuring Poverty  
and Inequality



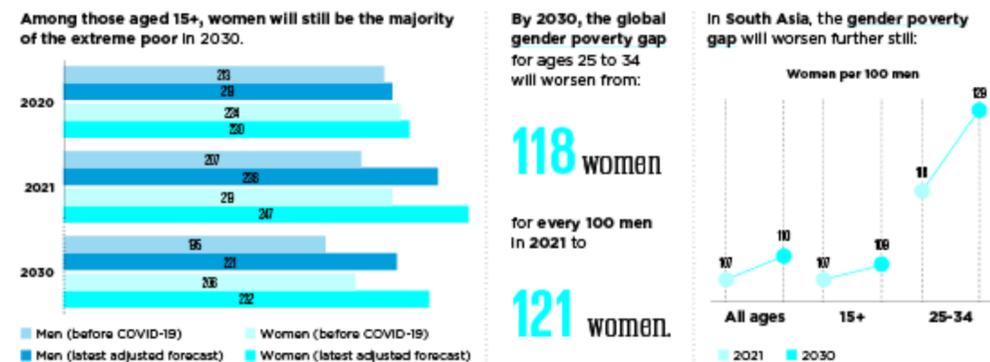
# COVID-19 pandemic and women's poverty

# Globally, COVID-19 will push millions more into extreme poverty

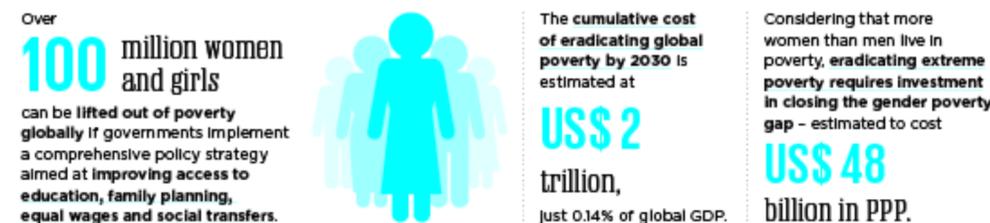
## The COVID-19 crisis will likely increase female poverty



## Gender poverty gaps will worsen by 2030



## Gender-responsive policymaking is key for closing gender poverty gaps

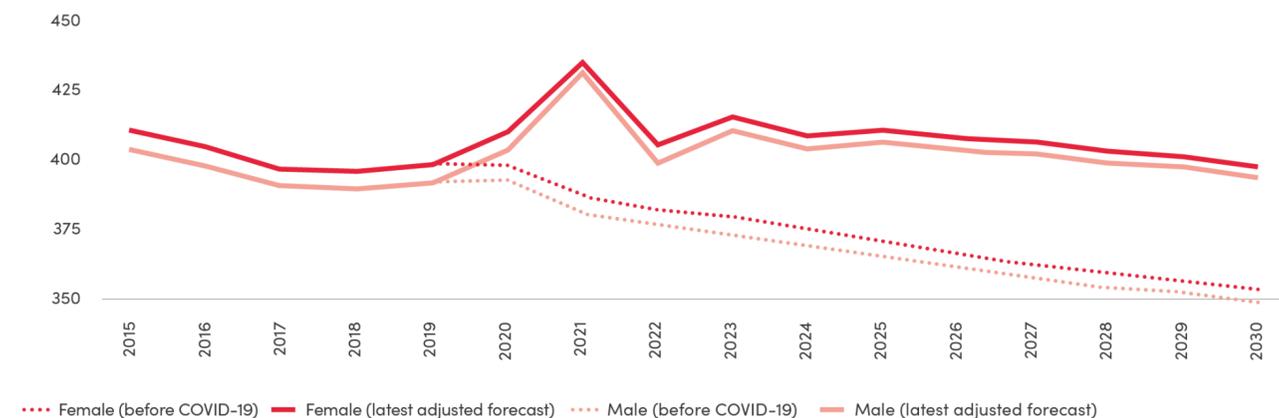


New poverty forecasts commissioned by UN Women and UNDP and conducted by the [Pardee Centre for International Futures](#) at the University of Denver, offer the **first global estimates of extreme poverty by sex and age**, taking into account the economic fallout from the pandemic.

Unless measures are taken to shield the most vulnerable, **435 million women and girls** will be living on less than \$1.90 a day worldwide by 2021 – **including 47 million as a result of COVID-19**

And it gets worse with time for women aged 25-34: In 2021, it is expected there will be **118 women in poverty for every 100 poor men** globally, and this ratio could rise to **121 poor women for every 100 poor men by 2030**.

Global population living below the international poverty line, by sex, 2015-2030 projection (millions)



Source: UN Women, *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19*, 2020.

Note: This analysis is based on a sample of 129 countries and areas accounting for 89 per cent of the global population. The latest adjusted forecasts for men and women respectively are based on the International Monetary Fund's June 2020 downward revision in global economic growth.

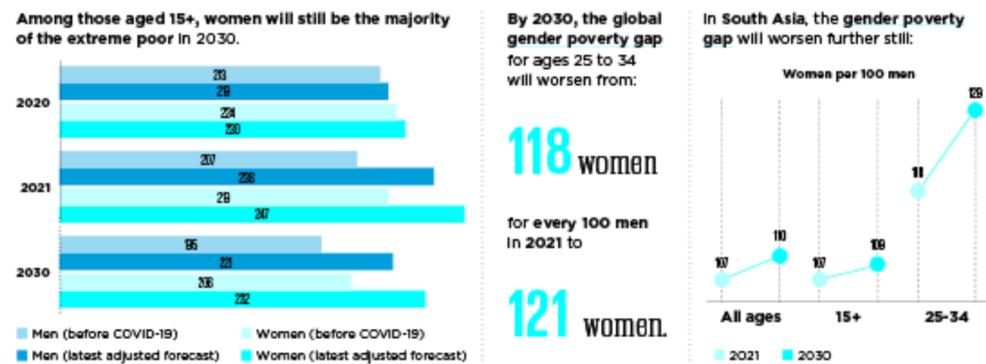
\* The term 'gender-specific indicators' is used here and in subsequent sections of the Gender Snapshot to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as an underlying objective. For a full list of gender-specific indicators by Goals, see pages 21-23 of this publication.

# Sub-Saharan Africa will see large increases in extreme poverty

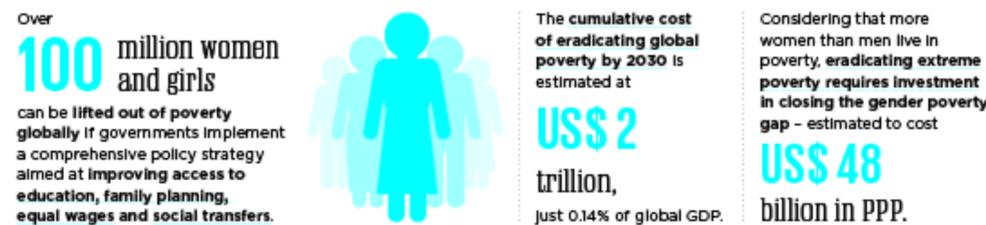
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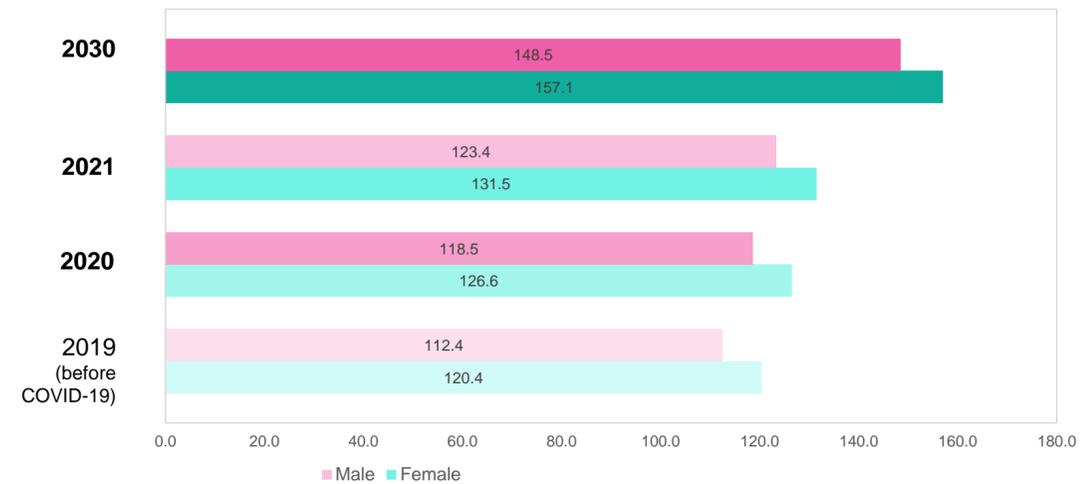
## Gender poverty gaps will worsen by 2030



## Gender-responsive policymaking is key for closing gender poverty gaps



## SSA: Among those aged 15+, women will still be the majority of the extreme poor in 2030.



## SSA: Gender poverty gaps are deepest in the prime reproductive years.

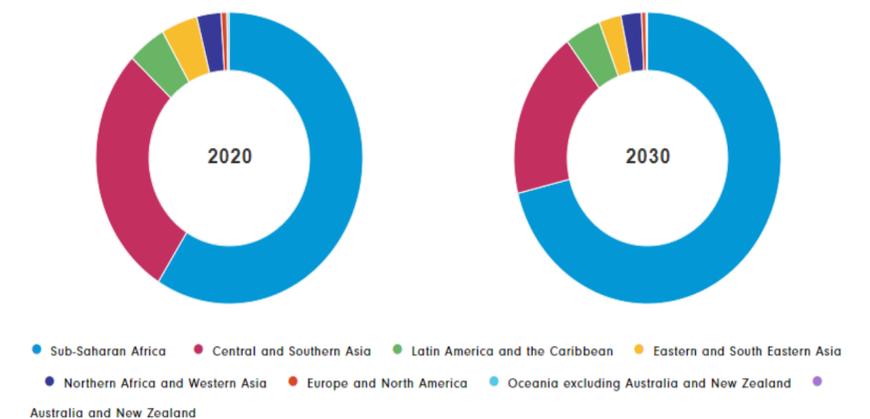
**32 million women**

aged 25 to 34, compared to

**24 million men**

are expected to live on less than 1.90 per day in 2021.

Percentage distribution of poor females by region

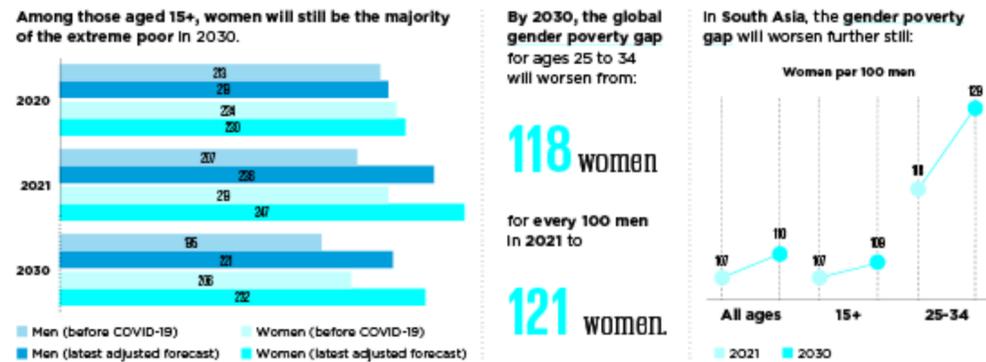


# South Asia is seeing a resurgence in poverty

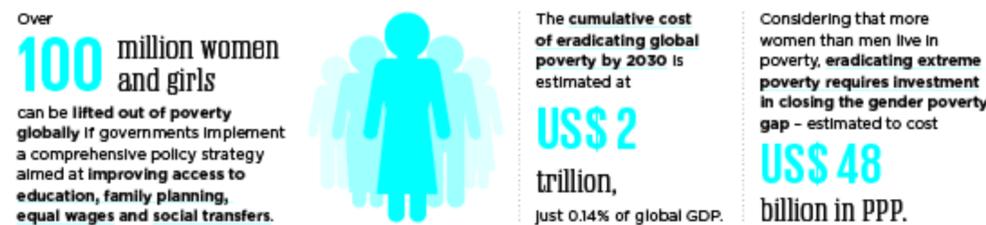
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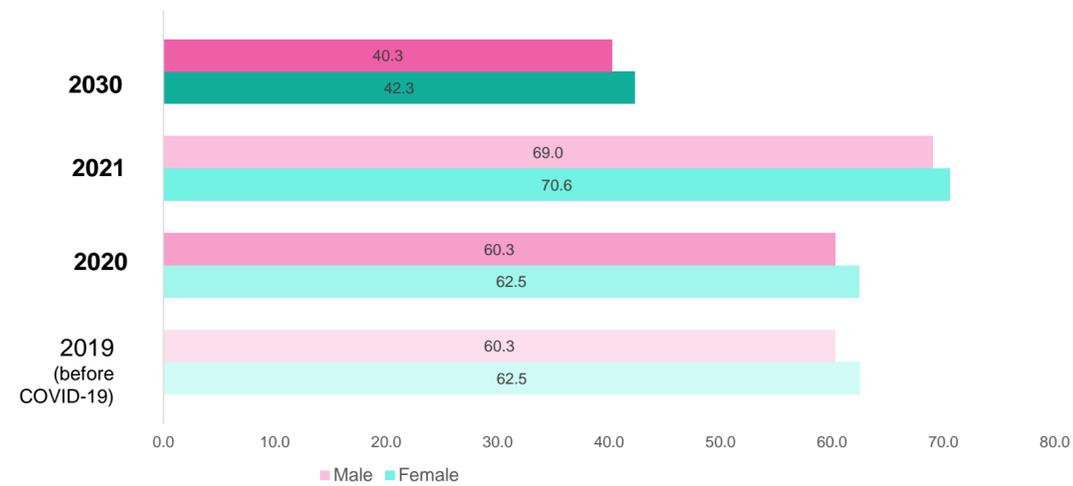
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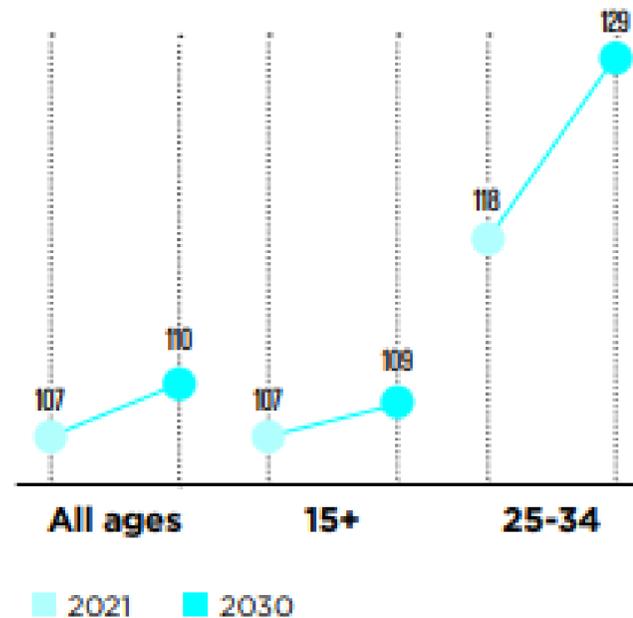


## SA: Among those aged 15+, women will still be the majority of the extreme poor in 2030.



In Central and Southern Asia, the female poverty rate, pre-COVID-19, was projected to be 10 per cent in 2021, but the figure is now projected to reach 13 per cent.

## Women per 100 men



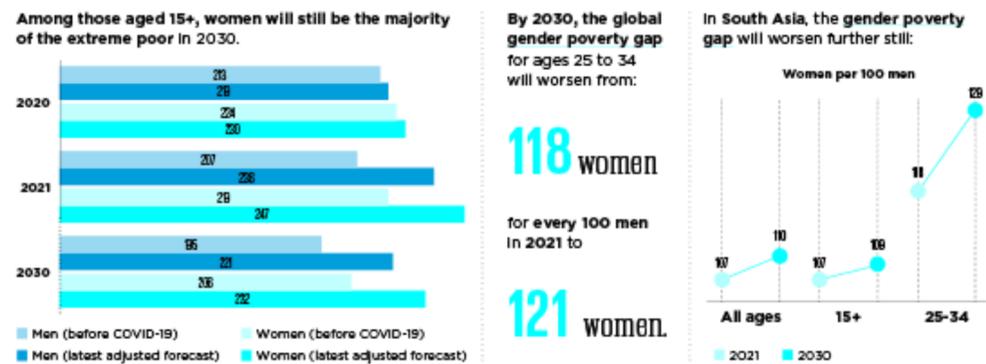
Before the pandemic, projections for the region suggested that by 2030 it would comprise only 15.8% of the world's women and girls living in extreme poverty. The revised projections now put that figure at 18.6%.

# ESEA: Extreme poverty less applicable, data on \$3.20 and \$5.50 poverty lines needed

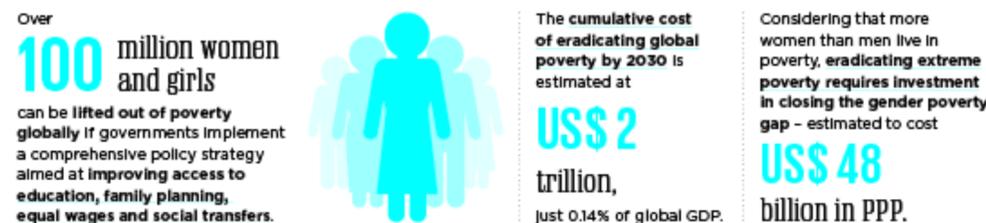
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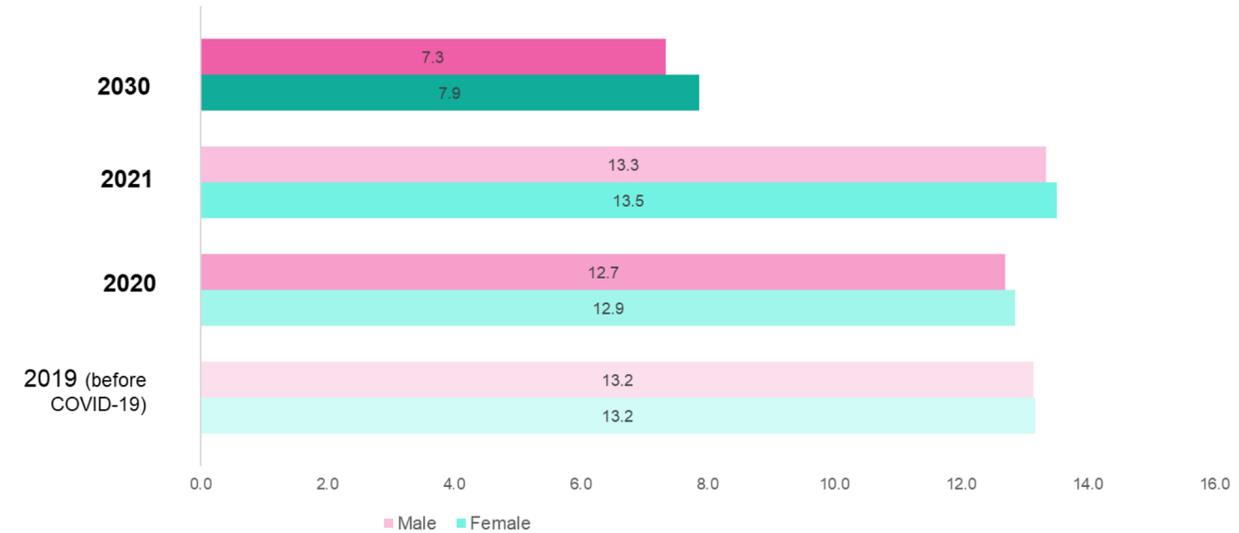
## Gender poverty gaps will worsen by 2030



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## ESEA: Among those aged 15+, women will still be the majority of the extreme poor in 2030.



## CA: Gender poverty gaps are deepest in the prime reproductive years and are expected to worsen.

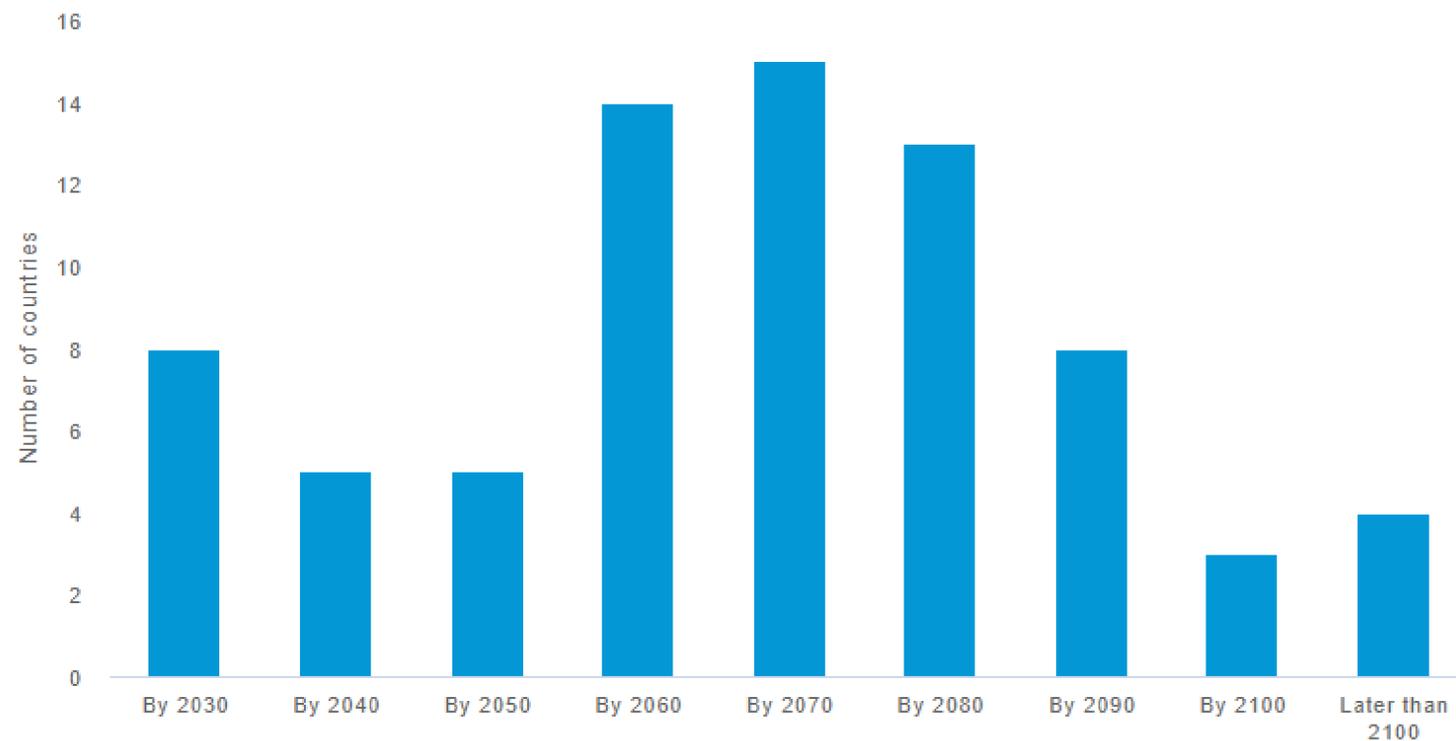
**107** poor women

aged 25 to 34, per 100 poor men are expected to live on less than 1.90 per day in 2021. By 2030, this ratio will increase to

**110** poor women

# Closing pervasive gender poverty gaps can take several decades

Number of countries by decade in which the gender poverty gap among persons aged 25–34 will be closed



- Among those aged 25–34, a gender poverty gap currently exists in 75 of 117 low- and middle-income countries.
- Only eight of these countries are expected to close this gap by 2030.
- Unless policies are adopted immediately to prevent women’s further impoverishment, the remaining 67 countries might need more than half a century to close their gender poverty gaps.

# To eradicate extreme poverty, policymakers need to act now

1. The cumulative cost of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 is estimated at US \$ 2 trillion, just 0.14% of the global GDP
2. Over 100 million women and girls, globally, can be lifted out of poverty if governments implement a comprehensive policy strategy aimed at improving access to education, family planning, equal wages and social transfers.
3. Eradicating extreme poverty must go hand in hand with addressing the pandemic's economic impacts and the devastation of jobs and livelihoods. Eliminating inequality in the labour market is more urgent than ever.
4. Addressing glaring gaps in social protection are also of paramount importance.
5. Improve gender data collection and expand research on the gendered impacts of COVID-19, particularly on those most marginalized.
6. Invest in collection of individual level poverty data by sex and age

# THANK YOU

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To access these findings:

The Gender Snapshot 2020:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2020#view>

From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/09/gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-covid-19>

Will the pandemic derail hard-won progress on gender equality:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/spotlight-on-gender-covid-19-and-the-sdgs>

COVID-19 and the Gender Monitor (database)

<https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-and-gender-monitor>

COVID-19 and Gender Policy Tracker

<https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/>