

VISUALIZE GENDER EQUALITY



Visualize Gender Equality - Viz5 - is an effort to help realize UN Sustainable Development Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

THEME 12: Perceived Obstacles to Gender Equality

This month marks Viz5's first anniversary! We are so excited to continue working with the #DataFam to grow our Viz5 community and impact. Keep an eye out for our 2021 launch for International Women's Day on March 7, 2021. At this milestone, we wanted to pause and reflect on some of the work left to be done to achieve gender equality, so we selected a dataset that explores some perceived obstacles to gender equality.

ABOUT THE THEME:

On January 28, 2021, Focus 2030 and Women Deliver unveiled the findings of [Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action](#), a first-of-its-kind international survey on public perceptions of gender equality.¹

This report was prepared for the Gender Equality Forum: "a civil society-centered, global gathering for gender equality." In the first six-months of 2021, the Gender Equality Forum will announce and support a set of audacious and transformational actions designed to achieve fast, long-term progress towards the achievement of gender equality and SDG 5.²

This forum will mark and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), which is considered to be one of the most progressive and visionary commitments to removing the systemic barriers and obstacles that prevent women and girls from equal participation in all aspects of society, and block access to their fundamental human rights. In addition to this 25th anniversary milestone, last year marked our entrance into the final decade in which global efforts and initiatives can work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

¹ [Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action: Findings from a 17-Country Public Opinion Survey on Gender Equality Prepared for The Gender Equality Forum, January 2021, Focus 2030 & Women Deliver.](#)

² [Generation Equality Forum Website.](#)

The Focus 2030 and Women Deliver Roadmap for Action has been formulated to achieve the following broad goals:

“This study is designed to broaden public participation in efforts to achieve gender equality and elevate the voices and perspectives of citizens — especially those who are too often excluded from decision-making processes. The findings will help key stakeholders in government, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and the media understand the priorities and perceptions of the public and use them to make informed decisions about how and why to invest more in gender equality.”³

The report represents a “first-of-its-kind global survey,” and is based on data and results collected from a multi-national survey of 17,160 adults - a sample of approximately 1,000 people for each of the 17 countries highlighted in the report. These countries represent 6 continents, and include a range of GDP categorizations: ⁴

Country	Region	Income Level (World Bank Classification)
Argentina	Latin America	Upper-Middle
Australia	Oceania	High
Canada	North America	High
China	East Asia	Upper-Middle
Colombia	Latin America	Upper-Middle
France	Europe	High
Germany	Europe	High
Great Britain	Europe	High
India	South Asia	Lower-Middle
Japan	East Asia	Upper-Middle
Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower-Middle
Mexico	Central America	Upper-Middle
New Zealand	Oceania	High

³ *Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action: Findings from a 17-Country Public Opinion Survey on Gender Equality Prepared for The Gender Equality Forum, January 2021, Focus 2030 & Women Deliver, p. 12.*

⁴ Ibid, p. 106.

South Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	Upper-Middle
Switzerland	Europe	High
Tunisia	North Africa	Lower-Middle
United States	North America	High

Unlike many Viz5 datasets, the data from this report comes from mostly Upper-Middle and High income countries. This is important to note, as it will have undoubtedly had an impact on the data and survey responses.

The survey was carried out with participants across the 17 countries during July - August 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic limited the survey to online data collection; “as a result, this study could not cover countries and populations with limited to no reliable internet access, and this includes people in humanitarian settings.”⁵ This requirement will have limited vast swathes of some countries' populations from participating in the survey, and thus will have affected the survey's results.

“While the impact of an online survey is minimal in more developed countries, in countries such as Argentina, China, Colombia, India, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, and Tunisia, it is inevitable that the respondents in the selected panel will be more representative of urban areas and more advantaged professional circles.”⁶

When reviewing the data, it will be important to couch its findings within the context of these survey limitations. In spite of this however, with approximately 1,000 survey respondents participating per country, the data still provides findings that can be considered representative of these countries' adult populations perceived obstacles to gender equality.

ABOUT THE DATA

The overall premise of the report is that, while steady and continuous progress is being made, there is still a huge amount of work to be done to achieve gender equality.

“Research shows that more than half of the world's girls and women - and many as 2.1 billion - live in countries that will not reach key gender equality targets by 2030.”⁷

The survey consisted of 23 questions designed to represent the current goals and priorities of the global gender equality agenda. These questions can be viewed in full, [here](#).⁸

⁵ *Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action: Findings from a 17-Country Public Opinion Survey on Gender Equality Prepared for The Gender Equality Forum, January 2021, Focus 2030 & Women Deliver, p.15.*

⁶ Ibid, p. 105.

⁷ Ibid, p. 14.

⁸ Ibid, p. 107.

This month, Viz5 has selected data results from one of these questions for visualization. The question we selected is focused on exploring individuals' perceived reasons as to why gender inequality still exists:

Thinking about the list of reasons below, which, if any, do you personally think are the main reasons why women may not be equal to men in your country? (Please tick up to three from the options below):

- *Because women and men are not equally represented in politics*
- *Because of religion and culture that do not treat women and men as equals*
- *Because boys and girls are treated differently growing up*
- *Because women and men have different employment opportunities*
- *Because unpaid care, domestic work, and parental responsibilities are not shared equally between women and men*
- *Because women and men cannot exercise the same level of control over their bodies (for example access to contraception, delaying childbirth)*
- *Because crises (for example conflict, natural disasters, pandemics) have unequal effects on women and men*
- *Because men tend to be physically stronger than women*
- *Because girls do not receive the same access to education as boys*
- *None of these*
- *Don't know*

Viz5 selected this data and question because it covers many of the themes and issues we have explored as a Viz5 community: unpaid work, economic empowerment, women in power, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), and access to education.

As we wrap up our first year of Viz5, we thought this data would enable the community to reflect on the work we've done so far, and the work that remains to be done.

Within the data, you'll find insights from diverse groups and populations, sharing their feelings on what they perceive to be the greatest obstacles to gender equality. Across the 17 countries surveyed, the key takeaway from answers to this question, is that: "compared to other inequalities or injustices, the domestic and professional barriers women face are perceived to be the greatest obstacles to gender equality." ⁹

There are a number of surprising elements in the data collected from this question, and we're excited to see what the Viz5 community comes up!

As you visualize the data consider how these barriers to gender equality can be broken down, and what action needs to be taken globally to achieve this. Take a look at the summary "calls to action" listed in

⁹ *Citizens Call for a Gender-Equal World: A Roadmap for Action: Findings from a 17-Country Public Opinion Survey on Gender Equality Prepared for The Gender Equality Forum, January 2021, Focus 2030 & Women Deliver, p. 28.*

the report (page 9), and think about how to frame this data so that it captures the work that is urgently needed if we are to achieve SDG 5 by 2030.

ABOUT VIZ5

The ultimate goal of Viz5 is to create a space where data advocacy and insights meet impact. This work seeks to ignite a data advocacy effort with the power to not only raise awareness of extreme gender inequality, but also catalyze global action to end it.

Viz5 is led by Operation Fistula, with #MakeoverMonday and Tableau Foundation operating as critical partners.

OPERATION
FISTULA

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F O U N D A T I O N



Viz5 will mobilize the power of the #MakeoverMonday and Tableau communities, to visualize 12 data sets, over 12 months. These data sets will feature 12 themes, curated to present different areas of gender inequality. Collectively, these data sets and visualizations will begin to tell the story of where and how gender inequality is at its most extreme.

The visualizations that are produced during Viz5 will serve as advocacy tools, awareness-raising artifacts, and data-driven insight drivers for anyone working to end gender inequality.

Join us as we work to visualize a more equal world! Sign up to our community at www.viz5.org.